

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

LITHUANIA



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1 Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people, explain the different fields of activities and if possible give numbers of how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender?

At the moment the *program of children and youth public spirit, morality and voluntary activities stimulation* is being framed, in which one of the tools is to make out the types of voluntary activities.

2 Which kind of voluntary service exist in your country and how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender.

On national level the voluntary activities are not legally regulated, the same situation is with voluntary service. But still there exists different forms of voluntary services in Lithuania. Most of them are based on international voluntary service (Red Cross, Caritas, Saltes, EVS and etc.). The others are organized for different types of activities, such as psychological help (Youth Psychological Aid Centre), the prevention of various forms of dependence (Kaunas Youth Narcology Centre) and etc.

3 Financial and legal status of voluntary activities

At the moment voluntary activities are not defined in legal acts. But the program of children and youth public spirit, morality and voluntary activities stimulation is being framed, in which there are predicted to examine the legal basis of voluntary activities and to create new ones, which will state the status of voluntary activities, etc.

4 Name the main actors of voluntary activities of young people on national, regional and local level in your country

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5 Social protection of young volunteers in the country and compatibility of voluntary activities with social benefits

There is no social protection for volunteers right now in the country.

6 Programmes and plans in the country on volunteering

The *program of children and youth public spirit, morality and voluntary activities stimulation* is being framed at the moment.

7 Strategy (plan) or specific measures for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country?

In the programme of youth policy development in municipalities, which was approved in August of 2007, one of the tools is to create and implement the conception of open youth spaces and centres. At the moment the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour is organising programme for getting finance for the work of such centres and also the centres get support of techniques for their work. If getting support youth centres are able to attract more and more young people and to get them involved in different type of activities, which might lead to voluntary activities development.

Also there are many types of programmes for youth, youth organisations and organisations working with youth. While getting finance for such activities, young people become more involved in youth organisations activities. That promotes to become volunteers and to work for society more and more.

8 Obstacles and measures that have been taken to remove them?

Lithuania lacks volunteer-friendly environment: the legislation does not provide proper regulation of voluntary activities, there are no favourable economic conditions for the development of volunteer activities, the public opinion concerning volunteer activities is not favourable, the public lacks information about opportunities and modes of volunteer activities and how these opportunities can be used.

The *program of children and youth public spirit, morality and voluntary activities stimulation* is being framed at the moment. This program will solve many problems related to voluntary activities.

9 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

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10 Recognition of young people's voluntary activities

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11 Existing co-operations, networks and exchange programmes for supporting voluntary activities of young people?

The Agency of International Youth Cooperation administrates the implementation of EU Youth in Action Programme in Lithuania. Action 2 of the Programme provides an opportunity for young people aged 18-30 to participate in voluntary service in a project implemented in some European countries. Projects of sending young volunteers to another country and accepting volunteers from another country in Lithuania are supported.

12 Collective volunteering projects

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13 Recent survey or research carried out on the topic of voluntary activities

The recent survey was held in March of 2007. This survey was orientated to youth and its situation in Lithuania. A part of this survey was about the voluntary activities in the country. Young people were asked to give information about their attitude