

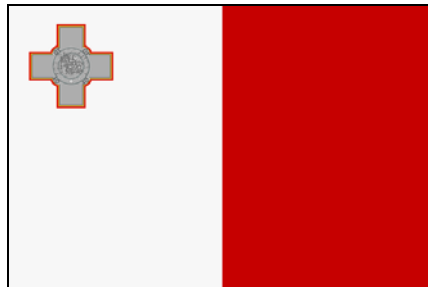


**Youth**Partnership

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

## ***“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”***

### ***MALTA***



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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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?**

Type of activities: European Voluntary Service – environmental projects, work with children, non-formal education, work with disabled people, project management, work in youth centres and local councils, work with children under care.

2007

Outgoing volunteers – 4 [all short term] , 2 males, 2 females

Incoming volunteers – 21 [all long term], 4 males, 17 females

2008 (till R3)

Outgoing volunteers – 4 [3 long, 1 short term], 2 males (1 short term), 2 females

Incoming volunteers – 25 [all long term], 2 males, 23 females

Other Voluntary service is offered by Church organisations which encourages young people to do voluntary work abroad within the community

The countries mainly visited are the following:

Europe – Italy, Albania, Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria

Africa – Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa

South America – Peru, Brazil

Asia – India, Pakistan

Young people are also involved in some local organisations and do voluntary work such as

- Children and youth
- Environment
- Advocacy and politics
- Religious volunteering
- Education
- Arts/culture

however there are no formal structures set up for this kind of service.

**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.**

European Voluntary Service:

Under the framework of the Youth in Action Programme, Action 2.1 figures provided for Question 1 refer.

No figures exist for the other voluntary service described about.

### **3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities**

Legal status: no special status

Tax exemption: Subsidiary Legislation 123.56 Youth Centres (Exemption) Order (The income of a youth club or youth centre, which is organised and operated exclusively for pastoral purposes shall, upon the approval of the Minister of Finance, be exempt from tax, provided no part of its income is available for the personal benefit of any proprietor or member thereof. The provisions do not exempt such youth club or youth centre from the filling of income tax returns.)

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

The European Union Programme's Agency (EUPA)'s is the National Agency responsible for the management of the Youth in Action Programme (YiA) in Malta. The EUPA provides support to volunteers who wish to go on EVS abroad and also to incoming volunteers. Moreover, the YiA staff ensures that good communication and support is maintained with the host and sending organisations while striving in finding more organisations willing to host and send volunteers. The YiA NA also takes care of helping volunteers in finding a sending organisation for projects especially when they are not members of any organisation.

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## **5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits (e.g. unemployment benefits)?**

Unemployed young people who embark on EVS experiences abroad keep receiving the unemployment allowance and other benefits. Other benefits of EVS include the provisions of insurance, monthly allowance amounting to €95.00, and if in possession of an E111/European Health Card they can make use of public hospitals as Maltese citizens at no additional charges, should the need arise.. Moreover the host organisation receives a fixed amount per volunteer per month amounting to €450.00 to cover host activity costs such as transport, communication, food, lodging etc, while the sending organisation receives a lump sum per number of volunteers amounting to €450.00 as well.

## **6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering (national, regional, local)?**

In the past twelve months the Youth in Action National Agency has increased the promotion EVS with very successful results registering a significant interest in EVS proposals and a higher rate of absorption of the funds made available for this type of activity. Moreover, the NA has placed considerable attention on organisations which are already established with the sending of groups of volunteers on short term volunteering (especially in Neighbouring Partner Countries of the EU and 'Other partner countries of the world') so that they too can start maximising the opportunities offered through EVS for the benefit of their volunteers.

In 2007 the NA succeeded in supporting the hosting of a volunteer from neighbouring partner countries of the EU (Palestine), to this effect the NA shall seek to promote this further. Moreover, through its Training and Cooperation Plan (TCP), the NA shall increase cooperation with partner countries to increase the number of quality projects as well as strengthen its cooperation with other NAs.

As mentioned above with regards to its promotion campaign, the NA is regularly organising group meetings and workshops in order to provide specific information to specific groups of young people and organisations with the aim to increase the effectiveness of the provision of information, the visibility of the programme and to successfully attract groups of young people and youth organisations which are more likely to make best use of the support provided under Action 2 and be interested in submitting a good quality proposal to undertake a European Voluntary Service. The NA also plans in the very near future to organise meetings for young people who do not form part of youth organisations but who may still be interested in undertaking an EVS experience. In this regard the NA shall provide the

necessary guidance on how to proceed with an EVS. On a national level the NA aims to continue its cooperation with:

- Employment and Training Corporation;
- Higher Education Institutions;
- National Youth Council;
- Youth organisations.

The NA shall also initiate a consultation process with:

- Degree Plus – a new scheme at the University of Malta for students wishing to undertake a voluntary experience covering cultural, entrepreneurial, ICT and linguistic aspects. Thus exploring the possibility to increase the interest in EVS through the Degree Plus scheme;
- Ex-volunteers to assist host or sending organisations in partner search and development of good quality EVS projects.

The success of the implementation of the information/promotion strategy will come about as a result of higher quality proposals addressing the programme's permanent and annual priorities, national priorities and objectives detailed above. Particular consideration is given to intercultural dialogue. Furthermore, the NA distributes questionnaires requesting feedback from attendees at information/valorisation activities. This exercise shall permit for the quality assessment of the information provided and the organisation of the activities themselves. The NA is very confident that in 2008 most of the funds made available by the EC for EVS shall be utilised on good quality projects.

The National Agency targets to increase the number of funded projects by an average of 10% annually (with respect to 2007 figures).

## **7. Does a strategy (plan) or specific measures (link to the glossary) for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country?**

European Voluntary Service works as a very good tool for the implementation and support of voluntary activities of young people within and with-out the Maltese borders.

No plans in place yet to encourage young people engaged in volunteering

## **8. Please, describe which obstacles to volunteering of young people do still exist in your country and which measures are taken to remove them?**

Many young people find it difficult to leave the island for longer terms – even when say there's possibility of a gap time – right before or after studies (MCAST/University) –

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especially being voluntary work that gives minimal income. Promoting EVS through best practice projects, through ex-volunteers and also as an alternative opportunity that can enhance future employability is a step towards removing these obstacles, which very often are mentality-ingrained. Moreover, by working closely with organisations which are constantly identifying motivated young volunteers is increasing.

The agency is also working closely with organisations who send volunteers to neighbouring partner countries and elsewhere in groups who do not yet benefit from EVS so that they can avail from funds too. In 2008, two applications for such groups were not granted because of ineligibility, but the future is promising.

## **9. How are voluntary activities of young people promoted in your country, particularly among young people with fewer opportunities?**

### **Please give an example of good practice if possible**

The agency works closely with the Employment and Training Corporation in Malta who is an accredited sending organisation and is about to apply to send two unemployed young people for a long term EVS.

Organisations working with disabled people also avail a lot of the benefits of EVS. This also led to a best practice project, where Domenico Vetere, a physically challenged volunteer, spent 3 months at Razzett tal-Hbiberija and was an inspiration not only to the hosts but to the agency itself, and a very good opportunity of personal development for *Mimmo* himself.

This project is being given a good public promotion also as it was chosen as a best practice project by the European Commission, will feature in this year's European Youth Week in Malta, and also on PR campaigns by the agency.

The church organisations continuously promote volunteering through the parishes and the Diocese Youth Council.

## **10. Explain how voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country. Name certificates and other measures used for that purpose.**

Participants/volunteers of European Voluntary Service (Action 2.1) of the Youth in Action Programme as with other Actions within the programme are given a Youth Pass Certificate which is issued by the applicant organisation for the volunteers through an online system ([www.youthpass.eu](http://www.youthpass.eu))

Non-formal recognition is given to voluntary service outside EVS.

**11. Which co-operations, networks and exchange programmes do exist in your country for supporting voluntary activities of young people?**

The officer in charge of EVS at the agency is also responsible for Eurodesk which is a mobility information portal/network for young people. This helps in disseminating opportunities for young people more and on a wider scale.

**12. Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?**

So far, locally no. But can't exclude any such future activities.

In the past local volunteers from Employment Training Corporation have participated at the Yachting World Championship in 2006 in Vienna.

**13. Which recent survey or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?**

Some information can be taken from the EVS factsheet available at:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/library/documents/evs/Facts\\_on\\_EVS.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/library/documents/evs/Facts_on_EVS.pdf)

A survey is to be carried out in the coming months by the EC

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/procurement/2008/07/call\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/procurement/2008/07/call_en.htm)