

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

NORWAY

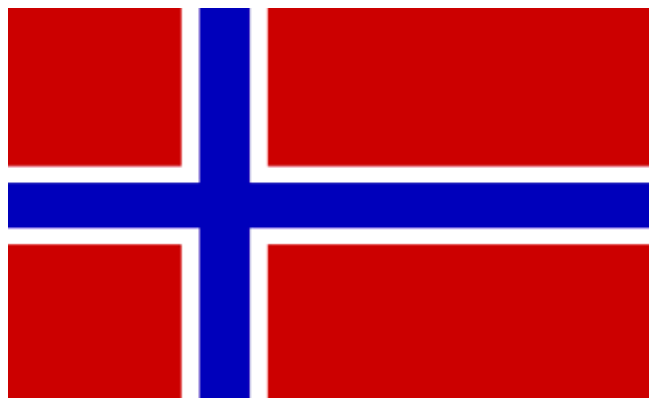


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1 Statistics

1.1 Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?

There are a large number of organisations that are mainly based on voluntary work from children, youths and adults. Voluntary organisations provides a broad range of activities within the following areas:

sports

culture

religion

recreation

hobby

politics

humanitarian work

environment protection

1.2 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary activities per year, totals and by gender. In case the statistical information covers a different age group than 13 to 30 years old, please indicate the source and which age group is covered.

61% of youth aged 13 – 19 are engaged in voluntary youth organisations (Source: Young in Norway 2002).

1.3 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary services in your country per year, in totals and by gender

N/A

1.4 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service), totals and by gender.

N/A

1.5 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in national voluntary civic service, where it exists. Provide total and gender specific numbers.

N/A

1.5.1 Number of young people from the ages of 13 and 30 who carry out their service abroad.

Provide total and gender specific numbers.

N/A

1.5.2 Is the national voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country?

N/A

1.5.3 If yes, provide total and gender specific numbers of young people (13-30 years old) from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service.

N/A

2 Range of voluntary activities: Tick the voluntary activities engaged in by young people and then indicate the approximate number of people involved.

	Exists	Number
a. Community activity		
b. Participation/self-governance	Y	30000
c. Emergency response	Y	9000
d. Community peacekeeping		
e. Social assistance	Y	
f. Personal assistance	Y	
g. Children and youth	Y	
h. Environment	Y	3600
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Y	
j. Economic justice		
k. Development aid	Y	
l. Humanitarian aid	Y	
m. Religious volunteering	Y	114000
n. Education	Y	
o. Arts/culture	Y	88000
p. Sports	Y	370000
q. Recreation	Y	83000

3 Finance

3.1 Amount of finance that is annually available for voluntary activities and allocation of this finance

The Ministry of Children and Equality provides approximately EUR 11 million in annual administrative funding to more than 70 non-governmental youth organisations.

The Ministry of Culture has a comprehensive grant scheme which supports local-level activities of non-governmental child and youth associations, called Frifond. In 2007, approximately EUR 13 million was distributed to finance local cultural activities through non-governmental youth organisations as well as to independent groups.

Furthermore, the Norwegian Confederation of Sports received EUR 22 million to child and youth sports associations (organising children and youth aged 6 – 19 years) over the fiscal budget for 2007.

In addition to these funding mechanisms at the national level, the municipalities and countries also provide financial support to child and youth associations.

Most voluntary child and youth organisations also receive financial support through membership fees, private donations and lotteries. The amount of money that comes from these sources is not known.

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

Public founding is provided over the state budget and comes from profits generated by various national lotteries. In addition to the public funding, most voluntary youth organisations receive financial support from membership fees, private donations, and lotteries.

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people (all levels: national, regional, local, e.g. Ministries, organisations, etc...with description of main activity, contact person, address, telephone and fax number, e-mail, website)

4.1 Governmental actors

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs

Department of Sports: Tel: +47 22 24 80 89

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Department of Culture: Tel: +47 22 24 80 01/03

P.O. Box 8030 Dep, N-0030 Oslo, Norway

E-mail: postmottak@kkd.dep.no

www.regjeringen.no/en

The Ministry of Children and Equality

Department of Child and Youth Policy

Contact person: Bjorn Jaaberg Hansen, Senior Adviser, tel +47 22 24 26 12

P.O. Box 8036 Dep, N-0030 Oslo, Norway

E-mail: postmottak@bld.dep.no

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

Norwegian Children and Youth Council

President: Mr Bjarne Dæhli

Øvre Slottsgate 2B, N-0157 Oslo

Tel: (47) 23 31 06 00

E-mail: lnu@lnu.no

www.lnu.no

The Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports

Serviceboks 1 Ullevål Stadion, 0840 Oslo, Norway.

Tel: +47 21 02 90 00

E-mail: fellesadm@nif.idrett.no

www.idrett.no

5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular

5.1 Is there a specific legal status for volunteers or are they assimilated to other categories of people (students, workers, trainees etc?)

N/A

5.2 How are volunteers and volunteer organisations taxed? Are they conceded tax exemption?

A system is in place in which non-governmental and volunteer organisations are conceded tax exemption. However, the system is complex, and the government is currently (as of August 2007) in a process of revising and improving the system.

5.3 Describe if volunteers are protected by social or health insurance, or if their activities are recognised by the pension system.

Voluntary activities are not recognised by the pension system. Volunteers are protected by social and health insurance like all other inhabitants.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

Unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities do not lose the right to unemployment benefits or social security benefits.

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

There are no specific programmes on volunteering apart from the European Voluntary Service (part of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission). Several non-governmental organisations offer voluntary work camps.

However, Norway has a high density of non-governmental organisations and it is very common for Norwegians to involve themselves in voluntary organisations and voluntary work.

6.1 Is there a specific legal status for volunteers or are they assimilated to other categories of people (students, workers, trainees etc?)

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

National organisations are gathered in umbrella organisations that speak their interests in dialogue with the ministry and other governmental organisations.

7.1 What is the relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in your country?

Norway has a system of mandatory military service for men. However, anyone called in for military service can apply to substitute military service with civil service on grounds of conscientious objection. Civil service is of 12 months' duration.

7.2 If a voluntary civic service does not exist, are there plans to create one? Please provide a description.

A voluntary civic service does exist.

8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities

8.1 Does a strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country? If yes, please give a short description.

No

8.2 Which other means, measures and instruments does your country apply in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people?

Norway has a long tradition of promoting voluntary work among young people through supporting non-governmental children and youth organisations and providing financial support to young people's own activities.

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 How is young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?

Local, regional and national government supports voluntary organisations financially and by giving them access to premises free of charge. Voluntary youth organisations are also used as consultative bodies in political matters concerning youth.

9.2 What obstacles still exist?

Obstacles are still faced in terms of:

- reaching out to and involving young people who are not involved in non-governmental children and youth associations or other organised children and youth activities/groups;
- different ministries applying different rules and procedures for funding schemes for NGOs (i.e. a lack of streamlining and common practices among ministries);

- setting up a system of tax exemption for voluntary organisations that they find easy and unbureaucratic to comply with;

9.3 What recent (this year) measures have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering? (legal, administrative measures, etc...)

1. In 2007 the government has carried out a process that will result in new and improved regulations governing the distribution of administrative grants to non-governmental children and youth organisations by the Ministry of Children and Equality. The NGOs have been consulted in the process, and the regulations will come into effect in 2008.
2. A government commission has been appointed by the Ministry of Finance to look into the system of tax exemption for voluntary organisations, and will publish its report in autumn 2007.
3. A government commission has been appointed by the Ministry of Education with a mandate to find ways of improving the system of non-formal education through voluntary and non-governmental organisations. Its report will be submitted by the end of 2007.
4. The Ministry of Culture issued a Report to the Storting (stortingsmelding) on 8 August 2007, outlining measures on how the government will continue to promote the non-governmental voluntary sector.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

This is primarily the responsibility of the various voluntary organisations.

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people (organisations, links, contact persons, etc...)

Different organisations use different information channels. Widely used channels include websites and internal magazines.

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities (events, support for promotion actions, contact persons)

This is done by the various voluntary organisations.

10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

Organisations that are seen as important to their constituencies (for instance ethnic minority youth organisations or organisations for the physically handicapped) can qualify for extra funding (both administrative and project funding) to secure their existence.

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

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11.1 How (by which means) are voluntary activities of young people recognised?

Voluntary work is generally recognised by society and government, and is seen as important for developing democratic skills among youth. There is no formal recognition of voluntary activities.

11.2 Do certificates on the voluntary activities of young people exist?

No

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

In Norway, recognition of voluntary activities is closely linked to the recognition of the work of non-governmental organisations. The fact that financial support is given by local, regional and national government to non-governmental children and youth organisations indicates that voluntary activities are recognised by government at all levels.

11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people? If so how (by which means)?

Society at large recognises voluntary work as important and as a way of gaining experience that may be considered important when applying for work.

12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

12.1 Co-operations and networks in favour of voluntary activities of young people at all levels (international, European, national, regional, local) with short description of the networks, their members and activities; description of how they enhance the development, facilitation, promotion and recognition of young people's voluntary activities

N/A

12.2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities). Give information and contact addresses

Contact details for international exchange of young volunteers:

The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU)

Øvre Slottsgate 2B, N-0157 Oslo, NORWAY

Tel: +47 23 31 06 00

European Voluntary Service

Youth in Action

[Barne-, ungdoms- og familiedirektoratet](#) (Bufdir)

Post Office Box 8113 Dep. N-0032 Oslo

Tel: +47 24 04 40 00

12.3 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

12.3.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Please describe collective volunteering projects that take place this year.

No such programmes exist. However, work camps are organised by Internasjonal Dugnad (the Norwegian branch of Service Civil International), which organises 3-6 voluntary camps in Norway and sends 20-30 volunteers abroad annually. Contact details:

Internasjonal Dugnad

Nordahl Brunsgate 22, N-0165 Oslo, Norway

Tel. +47 22 11 31 23

12.3.2 Are there any possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects?

Please describe.

Yes

12.4 International solidarity volunteer service

12.5 Does an international solidarity volunteer service (e.g. in human/natural disaster situation, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development, assistance, capacity-building etc.) exist?

Databases of expert staff who are available to go to disaster areas etc at short notice do exist (NORSTAFF and NORDEM), but they are specialised services and do not recruit volunteers in the ordinary meaning of the term.

12.5.1 Please list some major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Norwegian Red Cross (www.rodekors.no)

Norwegian People's Aid (www.folkehjelp.no)

Save the Children Norway (www.reddbarna.no)

Internasjonal Dugnad

Nordahl Brunsgate 22, N-0165 Oslo, Norway

Tel. +47 22 11 31 23

12.5.2 Please describe in how far the government/state administration is involved in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs channels much of its international foreign aid through non-governmental organisations. Among the most important are:

Norwegian Red Cross

Norwegian Church Aid

Norwegian Refugee Council

Norwegian People's Aid

Save the Children

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) also provides financial support to Norwegian non-governmental organisations that have international solidarity projects.

13 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

Young in Norway (2002) and Young in Oslo (2006) are two large scale surveys (10 000 or more informants) conducted by Norwegian Social Research (NOVA). The surveys include a large number of questions on various themes, for instance participation in voluntary activities.