

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

SWEDEN



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1 Statistics

1.1 Types of voluntary activities existing in the country for young people

Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
✓ YES NO	✓ YES NO	YES ✓ NO

1.2 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary activities per year, totals and by gender.

Total number of young people between 16 and 29 that are engaged in voluntary activities.	631 000* (41%)
Women	324 000* (43%)
Men	307 000* (39%)

The figures are from 2005. Source: <http://www.sweden.gov.se>

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

N/I

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/I

1.5 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in national voluntary civic service, where it exists.

N/A

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

N/A

1.5.2 National voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country

N/A

1.5.3 Total and gender specific numbers of young people (13-30 years old) from outside the country participating in the national voluntary civic service.

N/A

2 Range of voluntary activities:

	Exists		Number of people involved
a. Community activity	✓ YES	NO	N/I
b. Participation/self-governance	✓ YES	NO	N/I
c. Emergency response	YES	✓ NO	N/I
d. Community peacekeeping	YES	✓ NO	N/I
e. Social assistance	✓ YES	NO	N/I
f. Personal assistance	✓ YES	NO	N/I
g. Children and youth	✓ YES	NO	N/I
h. Environment	✓ YES	NO	N/I
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	✓ YES	NO	N/I
j. Economic justice	YES	✓ NO	N/I
k. Development aid	✓ YES	NO	N/I
l. Humanitarian aid	✓ YES	NO	N/I
m. Religious volunteering	✓ YES	NO	N/I
n. Education	✓ YES	NO	N/I
o. Arts/culture	✓ YES	NO	N/I
p. Sports	✓ YES	NO	N/I
q. Recreation	✓ YES	NO	N/I

3 Finance

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

Financial support for the popular movements amounts to about 780 million Euros on an annual basis. In 2007 approximately 22 million Euros was specifically set aside for national youth organisations.

Source: <http://www.regeringen.se>

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

Public sources:

- The Swedish Inheritance Fund (*Allmänna arvsfonden*). Website: <http://www.arvsfonden.se>
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida (*Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete*). Website: <http://www.sida.se>
- The National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*). Website: <http://www.socialstyrelsen.se>
- Swedish Arts Council (*Statens kulturråd*). Website: <http://www.kulturradet.se>

- The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*). Website: <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>

Private sources:

- The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange – CIU (*Centrum för internationellt ungdomsutbyte*). Website: <http://www.ciu.org>
- Folke Bernadottes Minnesfond. Website: <http://www.folkebernadottesminnesfond.se> (in Swedish)
- Idéer för livet. Website: <http://www.skandia.se/ideer> (in Swedish)
- The King Gustaf V 90th Anniversary Foundation (*Konung Gustaf V:s 90-årsfond*). Website: <http://www.gv90.a.se>
- The Olof Palme Memorial Fund (*Olof Palmes minnesfond*). Website: <http://www.palmefonden.se>
- Petrus och Augusta Hedlunds Stiftelse. Website: <http://www.hedlundsstiftelse.se> (in Swedish)
- Stiftelsen Karin och Ernst August Bångs Minne. Website: <http://www.bangs-stiftelse.se> (in Swedish)
- Stiftelsen Kronprinsessan Margaretas Minnesfond. Website: <http://www.margaretas-minnesfond.org> (in Swedish)
- Stiftelsen Lars Hiertas Minne. Website: <http://user.tninet.se/~kkz878e> (in Swedish)
- Stiftelsen Prins Gustav Adolf och prinsessan Sibyllas minnesfond. Website: <http://www.gafonden.com> (in Swedish)

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

4.1 Governmental actors

- The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality (*Integrations- och jämställdhetsdepartementet*) is responsible for the coordination of the Government's youth policy, issues affecting youth organisations and international cooperation in the youth field.
Contact details: Fredsgatan 8, 103 33 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 405 10 00.
E-mail: registrator@integration.ministry.se. Website: <http://www.sweden.gov.se>
- The Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) is the government agency responsible for the follow up of the objectives set for the national youth policy by the Swedish Parliament. The Board produces and communicates knowledge about young people's living conditions and supports municipalities in the development and implementation of local youth

policy. It also distributes funds to and supports methods development in young people's leisure and associative activities and in international youth cooperation.

Contact details: Box 17 801, 118 94 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 566 219 00.

E-mail: info@ungdomsstyrelsen.se. Website: <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>

- The National Board of Health and Welfare (*Socialstyrelsen*) is the governmental authority that follows voluntary work in the field of social care and distributes grants to organisations with social aims.

Contact details: Rålambsvägen 3, 106 30 Stockholm. Tel. +46 75 247 30 00

E-mail: socialstyrelsen@socialstyrelsen.se. Website: <http://www.socialstyrelsen.se>.

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida (*Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete*) is the governmental agency responsible for international development assistance projects. It contributes project grants to NGO activities in developing countries and to information activities in Sweden.

Contact details: Valhallavägen 199, 105 25 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 698 50 00

E-mail: sida@sida.se. Website: <http://www.sida.se>

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

- The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – LSU (*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*), is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

Contact details: Gammelgårdsvägen 38-42, 112 64 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 672 6670

E-mail: info@lsu.se. Website: <http://www.lsu.se>.

- The Swedish Sports Confederation (*Riksidrottsförbundet*) is the umbrella organisation of the Swedish sports movement. About half of all young voluntary workers are involved in voluntary sport activities.

Contact details: Idrottens Hus, Fiskartorpsvägen 15 A, 114 73 Stockholm.

Tel. +46 8 699 60 00. E-mail: riksidrottsforbundet@rf.se. Website: <http://www.rf.se>.

- The National Forum for Voluntary Social Work (*Forum för frivilligt socialt arbete*) is an umbrella organisation for voluntary social work in Sweden. It has 32 member organisations.

Contact details: Hantverkargatan 3F, 112 21 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 651 07 21.

Website: <http://www.socialforum.se>.

- The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange – CIU (*Centrum för Internationellt Ungdomsutbyte*) is a non-governmental organisation with 30 member organisations active in the field of international youth exchange, voluntary work etc. CIU organises youth exchanges, support young people wanting to get involved in voluntary activities and develop methods within the area.

Contact details: Ludvigsbergsgatan 22, 118 23 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 440 87 80.

E-Mail: info@ciu.se. Website: <http://www.ciu.org>

- Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 Swedish non-governmental organisations working with international development assistance and the forming of opinion on global issues.

Contact details: Katarinavägen 20, Box 15407, 104 65 Stockholm.

Tel. +46 8 506 370 00. E-mail: forum.syd@forumsyd.org.

Website: <http://www.forumsyd.org>.

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

5.1 Specific legal status of volunteers

There is no particular legislation regarding volunteers. Neither are they assimilated to other categories. In certain cases volunteers are treated as being equivalent to either students or to employees.

5.2 Taxation of volunteers and volunteer organisations

Taxation of volunteers is an area that is not specifically defined in Swedish fiscal legislation. The Swedish National Tax Board (*Skatteverket*) has however decided that benefits for foreign European Voluntary Service volunteers and their pocket money are to be regarded as scholarships and thus exempt from tax. Swedish volunteer organisations would normally be covered by the tax laws establishing tax exemptions and other privileges for non-profit organisations. There are both exemptions of income, payroll and wealth taxes and also regarding inheritance and gift taxes.

(Source: <http://www.sweden.gov.se>)

5.3 Social protection or/and health insurance of volunteers recognition by the pension system.

Due to the unclear formal status of volunteer programmes, young people participating in these experience formal problems regarding their role in the security systems such as social insurance,

unemployment insurance, and the pension system. Other components of social insurance such as parental insurance etc. are also affected.

(Source: <http://www.sweden.gov.se>)

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

There is no specific legislation covering volunteers. Neither is this group assimilated to other categories with defined status in the unemployment insurance system.

6 Programmes and plans in the country on volunteering

Voluntary work has a long tradition in Sweden, especially within leisure and sports associations. Slightly more than 50 per cent of the population takes part in some form of voluntary work. Among young people aged between 16 and 29, 39 per cent of the men and 43 per cent of the women are involved in voluntary activities. On average the individual Swede who is active in these areas contributes about 14 hours per month or 3.5 hours per week in voluntary work (Source: <http://www.sweden.gov.se>).

The Swedish government encourages and supports voluntary work mainly through providing financial support to non-profit organisations and associations. This support amounts to about 780 million Euros on an annual basis, including support to popular adult education and to sports. A special part of the grant, which in 2007 amounted to around 22 million Euros, is directed to voluntary youth organisations. These involve around half a million children and young people, and account for a large part of voluntary work amongst the young. The youth organisations are even able to apply for financial support from county councils and municipalities.

In Sweden volunteer work in the form of full-time involvement over a limited period has traditionally been provided within the framework of the comprehensive activities of development aid organisations. The term "volunteer" in Sweden has thus come to be connected with this type of activity. As a result of the European YOUTH programme and the European Voluntary Service, volunteer activities have increased in scope and more young people are today interested in this area.

Today there are approximately 250 organisations which send or receive volunteers within the framework of around 25 different voluntary service programmes. In a report on volunteer activities among young people in Sweden, the total number of such places has been estimated at approximately 1 000 for Swedish young people working in Sweden or abroad, and between 250 and 300 for foreign volunteers coming to Sweden (Source: as above).

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

7.1–Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in the country

With the exception of civilian service, which is an alternative to compulsory military service, there is no relationship between these. A voluntary civic service does not exist.

7.2 Plans to create voluntary civic service if not existing.

N/A

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

8.1 Strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people

The development of voluntary activities of young people does mainly take place within the youth NGOs and NGOs working with young people. Hence the governments main focus is at encouraging and supporting the development of voluntary work mainly through providing financial support, enabling the NGOs to carry out their own development plans.

The Government has however even supported projects aiming at developing certain areas of importance for young people's voluntary engagement. One example is the development of methods for the recognition of non-formal learning, e.g. within the youth NGOs.

During the last year the government has taken several initiatives to develop and deepen the relation between the governmental and the non governmental sector. A Swedish Government Official Report (SOU 2007:66) has been produced on the future policies in the area of popular movements with special attention to the situation of young people and youth organisations. The Government has initiated a dialogue with the NGOs operating in the social policy field and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities. The dialogue aims at establishing a joint understanding of how the relation between the governmental and the non-governmental sector can be developed in this field.

8.2–Other means, measures and instruments applied in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people

The youth organisations take responsibility for the development of voluntary activities of young people. Governmental efforts are normally limited to providing financial support for the organisations own development work, and to focus on obstacles (socio-economic, formal, social or administrative) to voluntary engagement.

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 Facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

The voluntary engagement of young people mainly takes place within the framework of the youth organisations and the sports movements. The Government's main efforts to facilitate voluntary engagement has therefore focused on the situation of NGOs; providing generous financial support for their activities, establishing a fiscal framework taking account of the specific nature of NGOs, developing a policy for NGOs in a dialogue with the NGOs, etc.

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (<http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>) is responsible for managing the governmental support for youth organisations. It is the National Agency for the European Youth in Action programme, including the European Voluntary Service. The Board has a continuous dialogue with different actors in the field of voluntary work to facilitate their work and the involvement of young people.

9.2 Obstacles

- Studies (see <http://www.sweden.gov.se> for more detailed information) find that obstacles limiting opportunities for young people to work as volunteers may be socio-economic, formal, social or administrative in their nature. For example; it is primarily young people with good socio-economic positions who take part in volunteer programmes. Furthermore, young people who become involved in volunteer activities as their main occupation do not fit into any of the groups that are entitled to social security benefits. This is a formal problem that concerns most security systems, such as social insurance, unemployment insurance, and the pension system. In some cases these issues also affect those who are involved in voluntary work in addition to their regular work or studies.
- Young people who come to Sweden on volunteer programs encounter some specific problems. These mainly concern practical questions, such as having access to a personal identification number or a bank account. Volunteers coming from outside Europe may in some cases encounter difficulties when trying to obtain a residence permit to stay in Sweden.
- Administrative obstacles may spring from extensive bureaucracy within the sending or receiving organisations or within any contributor involved. Social difficulties are, for example, problems getting into the togetherness at the place of work, homesickness etc.

9.3 Recent measures that have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering

In January 2007 the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality presented the national report concerning the implementation of the common objectives for voluntary activities of young people. The report pointed out several areas which need to be followed up in a close future to facilitate young people's volunteering.

The Swedish Government Official Report (SOU 2007:66) on the future policies in the area of popular movements (see even 8.1) points out further areas that need to be addressed. Obstacles to voluntary work, in general but even concerning young volunteers, will be included in the government's dialogue (see 8.1) with the NGOs operating in the social policy field and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

- The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – LSU (*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*), is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

Contact details: Gammelgårdsvägen 38-42, 112 64 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 672 6670

E-mail: info@lsu.se. Website: <http://www.lsu.se>.

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Tel. +46 8 506 370 00. E-mail: forum.syd@forumsyd.org.

Website: <http://www.forumsyd.org>.

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

The NGOs are the main actors when it comes to promoting voluntary activities in Sweden. Being dependent on the contribution of thousands of volunteers they are constantly trying to reach new potential volunteers that would like to be involved in their work. The methods of promoting voluntary activities vary from organisation to organisation. A number of NGOs and municipalities organise activities during the UN International volunteer day 5 December, focusing on the positive contribution to society by volunteers in Sweden.

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

Swedish NGOs involve young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in a broad spectre of activities. The methods of these organisations vary, depending on their field of work and which group of disadvantaged young people they work with. Some of the organisations working with voluntary service programmes have developed strategies for reaching disadvantaged youth in particular. Examples are The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange – CIU (*Centrum för internationellt ungdomsutbyte*) (working with youth centres/dialogue with parents) and Service Civil International Sweden (*Internationella arbetslag*) (working towards employment offices). Within European Voluntary Service – EVS (*Europeisk Volontärtjänst*) there is the explicit goal of addressing young people with fewer opportunities, and the Swedish National Agency (the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs) is actively working to encourage more organisations to use EVS as a tool for recruiting young people from this target group.

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 Ways of recognition of young people's voluntary activities of young people recognised

In Sweden work is proceeding on finding methods for recognising non-formal and informal learning in a number of areas. The Government has established a special authority, the Swedish National Commission on Validation (*Valideringsdelegationen*) to carry out development and dissemination of measures with a view to raising quality, strengthening legitimacy and increasing equivalence concerning validation of competence and knowledge acquired outside the formal education system. As a part of this work, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – LSU (*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*) has developed models and methods for recognition of competences acquired by non-formal and informal learning. The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange - CIU (*Centrum för internationellt ungdomsutbyte*) has with state funding developed a new method for the recognition of international competences; ELD (experience, learning, description). Youthpass, the European Commission's instrument for validation of non-formal learning within the European Youth in Action programme, is used by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs as an integrated part of the programme in Sweden.

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

✓ YES NO

11.3 Recognition of the voluntary activities of young people recognised

The aim is that the efforts mentioned in 11.1 shall give greater attention to the learning process in voluntary youth work and raise the status of voluntary activities.

11.4 Degree of recognition by the society as such regarding voluntary activities of young people

Voluntary activities of young people are generally recognised by society as highly valuable, leading to enrichment of young people's lives and to personal development, offering them meaningful leisure time activities, training of a variety of skills and the development of a broad range of competences, etc. To what extent this general recognition as well has resulted in formal recognition in educational institutions, by employers, etc, varies.

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

- The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – LSU (*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*), is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

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E-mail: info@lsu.se. Website: <http://www.lsu.se>.

- The Swedish Sports Confederation (*Riksidrottsförbundet*) is the umbrella organisation of the Swedish sports movement. About half of all young voluntary workers are involved in voluntary sport activities.

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Tel. +46 8 699 60 00. E-mail: riksidrottsforbundet@rf.se. Website: <http://www.rf.se>.

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E-Mail: info@ciu.se. Website: <http://www.ciu.org>

- Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 Swedish non-governmental organisations working with international development assistance and the forming of opinion on global issues. Contact details: Katarinavägen 20, Box 15407, 104 65 Stockholm.

Tel. +46 8 506 370 00. E-mail: forum.syd@forumsyd.org.

Website: <http://www.forumsyd.org>.

12.2 Possibilities for exchange for young volunteers

Most Swedish organisations involved in the exchange of volunteers receive international volunteers from their international network of cooperating organisations. Volunteers wanting to go to Sweden would therefore normally need to start with contacting the national branch in their own country. The Swedish branch of Service Civil International (*Internationella arbetslag*), website <http://ial.se>, is an

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example of an organisation that could be contacted directly. The European Voluntary Service (*Europeisk Volontärtjänst*) requires that a potential volunteer establish contact with a sending organisation and a hosting organisation before submitting an application to the National Agency in her/his own country. A list of National Agencies can be found at the European Commission's website <http://ec.europa.eu>.

12.3 Collective volunteering projects

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)

Cultural or sporting events with a large number of volunteers involved are normally organised by NGOs, occasionally with financial support from the national, regional or local government. There would however normally be no formal registration by national authorities with the result that there is no national overview over projects of this kind. Humanitarian/natural disaster situations would, if and when they occur, normally not be organised as traditional collective volunteering projects.

12.3.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects

N/I

12.4 Existence of an international solidarity volunteer service (e.g. in human/natural disaster situation, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development, assistance, capacity-building etc.)

The Government provides funding for international solidarity projects by NGOs. Two important actors in this field are:

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida (*Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete*) is the governmental agency responsible for international development assistance projects. It contributes project grants to NGO activities in developing countries and to information activities in Sweden.

Contact details: Valhallavägen 199, 105 25 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 698 50 00
E-mail: sida@sida.se. Website: <http://www.sida.se>

- Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 Swedish non-governmental organisations working with international development assistance and the forming of opinion on global issues. Contact details: Katarinavägen 20, Box 15407, 104 65 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 506 370 00. E-mail: forum.syd@forumsyd.org.

Website: <http://www.forumsyd.org>.

12.4.1 Major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 Swedish non-governmental organisations working with international development assistance and the forming of opinion on global issues.

Contact details: Katarinavägen 20, Box 15407, 104 65 Stockholm.

Tel. +46 8 506 370 00. E-mail: forum.syd@forumsyd.org.

Website: <http://www.forumsyd.org>.

12.4.2 Involvement of the government/state administration in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida (*Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete*) is the governmental agency responsible for international development assistance projects. It contributes project grants to NGO activities in developing countries and to information activities in Sweden.

Contact details: Valhallavägen 199, 105 25 Stockholm. Tel. +46 8 698 50 00

E-mail: sida@sida.se. Website: <http://www.sida.se>

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

During 2006 the research unit at Ersta Sköndal University College (*Ersta Sköndal Högskola*) produced a report on the situation of voluntary service programmes in Sweden. The report presented a survey of Swedish organisations working with voluntary service programmes and listed a number of areas where further action might be needed to remove obstacles.

In January 2007 the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality presented the national report concerning the implementation of the common objectives for voluntary activities of young people (please see <http://www.sweden.gov.se> for more information). The report pointed out several areas which need to be followed up in a close future to facilitate young people's volunteering.