



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

UNITED KINGDOM



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Statistics

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

Voluntary activities	Voluntary service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> 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. 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.

England: 2007 survey of volunteering ([Helping Out: a national survey of volunteering and charitable giving](#)) found that 56 per cent of young people aged 16-24 interviewed were regular or occasional volunteers.

[Scotland](#): approx 33 per cent of young people aged 16-24 (200,000 young people) aged 16-24 volunteer each year.

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.

Not available

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.

Not available

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.

Over 268,000 young people aged 16-24 took part in the government's volunteering programme Millennium Volunteers (a part-time programme providing recognition for young people completing 100 or 200 hours' volunteering) between 1999 and 2007. Around 45,500 young people were actively volunteering on the MV programme on 31 December 2006.

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.

Not available

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

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.

Not available

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 of people involved
a. Community activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
b. Participation/self-governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
c. Emergency response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
d. Community peacekeeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
e. Social assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
f. Personal assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
g. Children and youth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
h. Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
j. Economic justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

k. Development aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
l. Humanitarian aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
m. Religious volunteering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
n. Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
o. Arts/culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
p. Sports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
q. Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

3 Finance

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

England: the baseline budget for Millennium Volunteers for 2006-07 was £15m (€21m). During 2006-07 the government allocated nearly £26m (€36m) to the national youth volunteering organisation **v** (including £7.5m (€10.5m) provided on a match funded basis with the private sector. For the financial year 2007-08, just over £39m (€55.5m) is allocated to **v**, including the transfer of the £15m (€21m) MV funding. The Higher Education Active Community Fund provides £15m (€21m) to support coordination of volunteering in higher education institutions. The Cabinet Office funds five organisations, in addition to **v**, specifically to promote volunteering by young people, with total funding of approx £1.4m (€2m) in 2007-08.

Wales: The Welsh Government Assembly announced funding of £800,000 (€1.2m) to support youth volunteering, particularly by disadvantaged young people, in November 2007.

Scotland: £16.9m (€23.6m) allocated to Project Scotland between 2004-2007.

Northern Ireland: the education department has allocated €1.07m to support the Millennium Volunteers programme between 2008-11.

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

England: The government committed itself to matching funding made by private companies to '**v**'. By mid 2007, it had secured pledges worth £21m (€30m)

Scotland: the Scottish Government has raised more than £1m (€1.43m) from corporate sponsors for its full time volunteering programme Project Scotland.

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

Volunteering is the responsibility of the devolved administrations.

England: The government department responsible for voluntary activities is the [Office of the Third Sector](#) in the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office makes strategic grants to a number of organisations promoting youth volunteering, including the [national youth volunteering organisation 'v'](#), [YouthNet](#), [Youth Action Network](#), the [National Youth Agency](#), [British Youth Council](#), and the [Citizenship Foundation](#). Other government departments support specific aspects of voluntary activities, including the DCSF (in relation to peer mentoring and volunteering in schools and volunteering in further and higher education), the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Arts and the Media, and the Department of Health.

The Millennium Volunteers programme was overseen in England by the Department for Education and Skills (now DCSF) until March 2007, when it was transferred to [v](#), which was set up in 2006 to provide a national framework for youth volunteering and increase the number of young people undertaking voluntary activities.

In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales the MV programme has been devolved to the national volunteering organisations listed below.

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

There are four national volunteering organisations (all receiving government funding): [Volunteering England](#), [Volunteer Development Scotland](#), [Wales Council for Voluntary Action](#), and [Northern Ireland Volunteer Development Agency](#), each of which supports local and regional volunteering organisations in their respective country. National organisations supporting young people's volunteering include [Student Volunteering England](#) (which merged with Volunteering England in July 2007), [Student Volunteering Scotland](#), [Youth Action Network](#) and [Changemakers](#). A range of organisations offer young people full-time volunteering opportunities, with [CSV](#) (Community Service Volunteers) as the largest provider. Part-time opportunities are offered by a wide range of local public, voluntary and

community, youth and faith organisations. There is also a network of over 400 volunteer centres throughout the UK, many of which seek to involve young people in voluntary activities.

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?)

No specific legal status, although full-time volunteers who meet certain requirements are excluded from the Minimum Wage Act.

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

Not specifically, although there is a minimum income level before individuals become eligible for tax.

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

No national standards or arrangements. Individual programmes and projects have their own arrangements for payment of expenses, living allowances for full-time volunteers, insurance, end of service awards etc.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

Unemployed young people are able to participate in voluntary activities providing they meet certain conditions. These include taking reasonable steps to find work, only receiving expenses actually incurred, and being able to attend interviews or take up employment within a given amount of time.

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

The national youth volunteering organisation **v** launched a national youth volunteering programme, **vinvolved**, for England in November 2007, for implementation from April 2008. The UK-wide Millennium Volunteers programme was set up by government in 1999 to promote and support part-time volunteering by young people aged 16-24. It now forms the basis of **v**'s part-time youth

volunteering programme in England, but continues as MV in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, [Project Scotland](#) is a government-funded programmes offering full-time volunteering opportunities to young people.

The DCSF launched a two-year national peer mentoring pilot in 2006 involving 180 schools in England, and now funds a national peer mentoring programme engaging 400 schools in England. Its Active Citizens in Schools scheme encourages 11-15 year olds to volunteer in and through schools. Many national voluntary youth organisations, such as the Scout Association, Girlguiding and the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, include a volunteering element in their programmes. These operate locally within a national framework. Award programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Trident and the Youth Achievement Awards also promote and recognise young people's volunteering. Youth services in all four countries encourage volunteering by young people, often as part of wider citizenship or participation programmes. A wide range of other organisations also support young people's volunteering, including schools, further and higher education institutions, volunteer centres, and public services such as health services, regeneration programmes and housing organisations. In some areas, young people have developed youth-led volunteering projects, and promoting youth-led volunteering is seen as an important aspect of v's work.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

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

There is no compulsory military service or civilian service in the UK. Involvement in programmes such as Millennium Volunteers is optional.

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

NA

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.

The UK has seen a focus on youth volunteering in recent years, particularly through the Millennium Volunteers scheme. v was created in 2006 in order to implement the recommendations of the [Russell Commission on Youth Action and Engagement](#), though creating an infrastructure for youth volunteering and supporting the development of new volunteering opportunities.

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

No information available

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 How is young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?

Arrangements for facilitating and supporting young people's voluntary engagement vary widely in different geographical areas, resulting in a 'postcode lottery' of provision. The National Youth Volunteering Programme seeks to rectify this by ensuring that each local authority area in England has a team of youth volunteering specialists in place. In Scotland, all volunteer centres have a youth development worker, and the Welsh Assembly Government announced plans to employ youth volunteer advisers in every local authority. In addition to specialist provision, young people's voluntary engagement is facilitated by voluntary and statutory youth organisations, local authority departments and voluntary and community groups, but again the nature of this support varies widely.

9.2 What obstacles still exist?

Research undertaken for the Russell Commission identified a range of barriers to young people's volunteering. They included competing demands on young people's time; negative peer pressure; young people's lack of access to appropriate information on volunteering; volunteering organisations' failure to reach out to young people and to offer them appropriate opportunities; administrative issues affecting volunteering organisations, including legislation, insurance and regulation, benefit arrangements which deter unemployed young people from volunteering, and specific barriers to disabled young people's involvement. Research carried out for v into factors preventing young people from volunteering identified lack of time as the main obstacle, followed by lack of information about how to get involved, and young people feeling that they did not have anything to offer. Transport, childcare and peer pressure were also identified as barriers to involvement.

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

England's national youth volunteering programme, [vinvolved](#), was officially launched on 19 November 2007, with the announcement of £75m (€105m) worth of grants to support a major expansion of volunteering by young people aged 16 to 25 from April 2008.

The Welsh Assembly announced specific funding to support organisations in developing new volunteering opportunities for young people in November 2007. In Northern Ireland, the education minister promised to enhance youth volunteering in May 2007.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

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

There are a number of organisations offering information on volunteering opportunities, including [vinspired](#) (a young people's website set up by [v](#)), [YouthNet Timebank](#) and [Worldwide Volunteering](#). The Russell Commission proposed the development of a national portal on youth volunteering for young people and practitioners.

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

[Volunteers Week](#) (1-7 June each year) and [CSV Make a Difference Day](#) (October) are the major annual promotional campaigns for volunteers. Both target people of all ages, but MADD includes a specific focus on young people. There are also a range of awards which provide recognition for young people's achievement through voluntary activities. These include The [Philip Lawrence Awards](#); Common Purpose [CHANGEit Awards](#); and the [Young Achievers Awards](#). The [National Youth Agency](#) publishes a twice-yearly magazine, *youthaction*, which promotes and celebrates young people's voluntary activities.

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

Some government funding is available for projects which increase involvement in voluntary activities by disadvantaged groups, including young people. Many volunteer-involving organisations seek to involve young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Millennium Volunteers has been successful in engaging young people who had not previously been involved in any form of volunteering, those from minority ethnic backgrounds, and disabled young people. The National Youth Volunteering Programme seeks to broaden the range of young people involved in volunteering, and highlights the

role of youth workers in involving young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in voluntary activities.

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

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

A wide range of national awards accredit young people's achievements and learning in non-formal settings, including through voluntary activities. The Awards Network has mapped these awards and their components against the nine-level National Qualifications Framework, which runs from entry level to level 8 (equivalent to a PhD). Non-formal awards have been identified as offering accreditation from entry level to level 3 (equivalent to A-level or NVQ level 3). Full details of awards schemes and contact details are contained in the National Youth Agency publication [the National Framework of Awards in Non-Formal Educational Settings](#).

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

☒ YES ☐ NO

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

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

The government and NGOs are seeking to demonstrate the skills and experiences derived from volunteering to employers, showing how it helps young people gain skills, especially relating to communication, working with others and practical experience, which improve their employability.

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

[Youth Action Network](#) (YAN) is a membership organization delivering specialist capacity building services to the youth volunteering sector in England. It has a particular focus on involving young

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people in developing their own volunteering projects locally, and also has its own projects giving young people the opportunity to volunteer at a national level. YAN works to increase the quality and quantity of Youth Action projects available to young people and offer capacity building, training, networking opportunities, grants, partnerships and events to its members and others to do this.

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

[Connect Youth International](#) and the [Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council](#) both provide funding and support for youth exchanges. In many cases these youth exchanges include a volunteering dimension.

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)

The government is working with the London 2012 Organizing Committee to look at ways of young people participating as volunteers and address the question of how citizenship developments can be built into the Olympic volunteering programme.

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

Yes. Volunteers from around the world will be involved.

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?

The Department for International Development supports a number of organizations which send volunteers from the UK to developing countries.

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

[Save the Children](#); [British Red Cross](#); [Voluntary Service Overseas](#) ; [Skillshare](#); [Progressio](#); [International Service](#)

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

The Department for International Development supports a number of organizations which send volunteers from the UK to developing countries. They include Voluntary Service Overseas; Skillshare; Progressio; International Service. While these organizations have a minimum age for volunteers of 18 to 21, in practice many are over 30.

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

The Department for Local Government and Communities' Citizenship Survey (carried out every two years) includes information on formal and informal volunteering. [Initial findings](#) from the 2007 survey were published in October 2007.

The Cabinet Office (Office of the Third Sector) published [Helping Out](#): a national survey of volunteering and charitable giving in 2007, based on interviews with people aged 16 and over previously interviewed for the Citizenship Survey.