

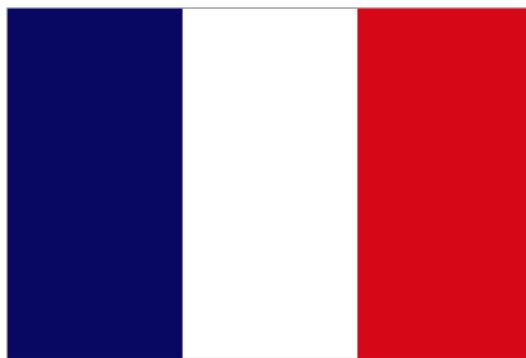


**Youth**Partnership

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

## ***“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”***

### ***FRANCE***



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France  
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: [youth-partnership@coe.int](mailto:youth-partnership@coe.int) :: [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

## Table of contents

1. Types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people .....	3
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.....	3
3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities .....	3
4. Name the main actors of voluntary activities of young people on national, regional and local level in your country .....	4
5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits? .....	5
6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering? .....	6
7. Does a strategy (plan) or specific measures for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country? .....	6
8. Please, describe which obstacles to volunteering of young people do still exist in your country and which measures are taken to remove them?.....	6
9. How are voluntary activities of young people promoted in your country, particularly among young people with fewer opportunities? .....	7
10. Explain how voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country. Name certificates and other measures used for that purpose. ....	8
11. Which co-operations, networks and exchange programmes do exist in your country for supporting voluntary activities of young people? .....	8
12 Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?.....	9
13 Which recent survey or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities? .....	9

## 1. Types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people

There are many types of voluntary activities and in particular in the fields of culture and leisure (28,1%), of sports (20,4%), of social, and humanitarian actions (17%), of protection of rights (14,6%) of religion (8,3%) and of education (6,1%) - (sources: *INSEE, Institut National de l'Economie et de la Statistiques, INSEE Première* n° 373 2004).

Seventeen per cent of volunteers are enrolled in non-associative institutions, and for most at the local level (municipal actions, schools...) - (source: *INSEE Première*, n° 946 February 2004).

The activities involved may concern:

- Helping and coaching people facing difficulties due to their age, handicap or bad health;
- Protection and improvement of environment;
- Protection of the national historical heritage;
- Actions of mediation and dispute settlement;
- Prevention and combat against social exclusion ;
- Actions of prevention and social reintegration of young offenders;
- Actions in the fields of education;
- Prevention, information and education on public health.

## 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.

Since 31 th May 2006 there is a "Service Civil volontaire" (Voluntary service) including different kinds of voluntary services such as: volontariat civil de cohésion sociale, volontariat civil à l'aide technique, volontariat international en administration, volontariat civil de prévention de sécurité et de défense civile, contrat de volontariat de solidarité internationale, contrat de volontariat associatif.

Since the setting up of the "Service civil volontaire" only 4000 young people were involved. In June 2008 it was only 2800 (Dominique Dubois, directeur de l'ACSE, Audition Senat juin 2008). The objective is to reach the number of 70 000 persons involved by 2015.

## 3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities

The department dedicated to Youth, people education and associative life earmarked **18.24 million Euros** for the development of associative life in 2008. This includes assistance to associative

voluntary participation, volunteers' training, promotion and development of voluntary participation and departmental actions led by the representatives of associative life.

There is no specific legal status for volunteers.

The volunteers usually don't get any tax cut. However, under certain conditions, and in case the amount of costs involved in their volunteer activity cannot be refunded by the association the volunteers can be eligible to tax reduction (66% or 75% of the amount of costs).

The volunteers' associations are mainly exonerated from taxes, unless their administration is lucrative and/or if they have competitive activities, which are developed in conditions similar to lucrative companies.

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

##### **Governmental actors:**

- The Department for Youth, People Education and Associative Life is mainly concerned with young people's voluntary activities, action towards young people and development of associative life. Those missions are allotted by the President of the French Republic. Contact details: 95 avenue de France – 75650 – PARIS cedex 13 – tel: 00 33 (0) 1 40 45 90 00 - [www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr](http://www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr).
- The **CNVA** (Conseil National de la Vie Associative) is a consultative institution under the supervision of the Prime Minister. Its main missions are:
  - To ensure a permanent dialogue between the CNVA and the various ministries concerning associations' ongoing projects;
  - To study and follow up of all the matters dealing with associative life;
  - To give advice on legislative or legal drafts;
  - To propose useful measures in order to foster the development of associative life;
  - To draft a global report on the associative life and its evolution on a regular basis.

##### **Non governmental actors**

- The **CNAJEP** (Conseil National des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Education Populaire) and its regional and departmental representatives;
- The **CRAJEP**, (Conseil Regional des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Education Populaire) ;

- The **CDAJEP** (Conseil Départemental des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Education Populaire): a group of associations, unions, federations and national movements for Youth and People education which work is dedicated to the fulfilment of a democratic ideal;
- The **CNAJEP** acts for and with children, young people and adults voluntarily placed at the heart of the process, through education, innovation and social intervention. Contact details: 15, rue du passage de la main d'or –75011–PARIS– tel : 00 33 (0)1 40 21 14 21 fax : 00 33 (0)1 40 21 07 06 website: [www.cnajep.asso.fr](http://www.cnajep.asso.fr);
- The **CNOSF** (Comité National Olympique et Sportif France) and its regional and departmental representatives (CROS, Comité Regional Olympique et Sportif/CDOS, Comité Départemental Olympique et Sportif) represent the whole sports movement. Although their missions have mainly been concerned with the development of sports at all levels in the last few years, the CNOSF has committed itself to support associative life and voluntary work.  
Contact details: 1, avenue Pierre de Coubertin – 75640– PARIS cedex 13 –  
Tel 00 33 (0)1 40 78 28 00 fax : 00 33 (0)1 40 78 28 34 website: [www.franceolympique.com](http://www.franceolympique.com);
- The **CPCA** (Conférence Permanente des Coordinations Associatives) and its regional and departmental representatives gathers the infrastructures representing the various fields of associative activity. It represents an independent scene for political dialogue. It aims at recognizing the value and the interests of the associative world in French society. Website: [www.cPCA.asso.fr](http://www.cPCA.asso.fr)

## 5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits?

Generally speaking, volunteers are not covered by social insurance. However, the volunteers who take part in the running of social orientated organizations which are governed by a legislative text or a specific regulation can be eligible.

Also, associations of general interest may subscribe to a voluntary insurance in order to cover risks of work accidents and work diseases. Volunteer work is not acknowledged by the pension scheme.

Young unemployed people may take part in volunteer work without losing their right to unemployment benefits but only if this activity does not prevent them to look for a job and if this activity is not covering for an existing job.

## **6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering?**

Training and valorisation of volunteers is particularly supported by the High Commissioner for Youth. Besides financial help, some tools are made available to them such as a handbook for associative volunteer work and a website including advice and information.

Around 100 Information Centres for volunteers (CRIB, Centres de Ressources et d'Information aux Bénévoles) can be used by them and are free of charge.

Furthermore, a great number of associative organisations are considered as real partners for the State on questions relating to associative life and its development; they take an active part in the drafting of public policies at national, regional and departmental levels.

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

There are two main guidelines for governmental action:

First of all a guideline for the development and the implementation of existing devices, particularly aimed at volunteers who enrolled after the national service reform and are taking part in the support programme for young people initiatives ("Envie d'agir")

And secondly, a guideline for innovation drafting on the reform of the international volunteer work and of the setting up of the voluntary civil service and associative voluntary contracts. Some examples of the innovative guidelines include the development of associative volunteer work; the development of training in associative management, meant to help young people, including minors to take responsibilities; the integration of students' volunteer work within their school path; the ccreation of a national directory of volunteers.

Furthermore, voluntary activities of young people are vastly supported and encouraged within the framework of single individual or collective projects such as the ones supported by "Envie d'agir". The support policy on associative life is boosted by the possibility for associations to get subventions. This helps them develop volunteer activities for young people and to promote the recognition of volunteer work. The development of new forms of commitment such as junior associations is promoted. It offers the opportunity to minors to develop associations.

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

- Young people often justify their lack of volunteer activities by a lack of time;

- If older people often regret the weak commitment of young people, young people on their side deem that adults do not trust them enough and do not encourage them to take initiatives;
- Volunteer activities are still socially selective.

Young people often mention a lack of information as a reason for their lack of commitment in volunteer activities. However, numerous resources are available, whether governmental, territorial or associative. It seems that young people have difficulty finding the right people to talk to.

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

### **They are promoted by:**

- The creation of information portals for young people;
- The creation of a national directory of volunteers;
- The creation of the week of public spiritedness, with as a high point the international day for volunteer work;
- The development of various events aimed at promoting volunteer work at regional or departmental levels.

### **They are also promoted by:**

- Encouraging the integration of students' volunteer work within their school path (this measure is under way). The aim of this action is to integrate volunteer work in their life plan and get recognition in the framework of the scheme "VAE" (validation des acquis de l'expérience), a scheme that validates all experimental knowledge acquired;
- Creation of a national label given by the Commissioner for Youth, People education and Associative life granted to organisations and associations;
- A wide distribution of the "commitment booklet";
- A wide distribution of the "volunteer handbook".

### **For people with fewer opportunities:**

- The civil voluntary work for social cohesion and solidarity: is a tool aiming at encouraging volunteer work among young people from underprivileged backgrounds. Twelve Ministries are involved. As far as activities are concerned it includes among other things: the prevention and the fight against exclusion, the assistance and support for people having difficulties due to their age, their handicap or their health, prevention, education, information concerning public health, participation in actions led in the framework of city policies, action aiming at encouraging social

insertion and integration of migrant populations, prevention and social reintegration actions for young offenders mediation and dispute settlement actions, humanitarian actions...” (Decret instituant le Service civil volontaire/ N°20106-828 -12 juillet 2006. Journal Officiel 12/7/2006)

- The VVV.SI program: its objective is to enable young people coming from underprivileged districts to take part to international solidarity actions in Southern countries and especially in Africa:

- By encouraging partnerships between members of associations;

- By giving to underprivileged young people, especially those coming from immigration opportunities to improve their social and professional integration and facilitate their participation, as well as the participation of their associations in international solidarity projects with a view to encouraging exchange and mutual understanding;

- By offering the *districts targeted by the cities' policies* opportunities to implement actions focussed on education or development and training in international relations (within the preparation of these actions and the use of their results).

The voluntary civil service was created after the urban riots in 2005, as one of the means to tackle social and political exclusion while offering the opportunity for young people in difficulty to experiment a public spirited commitment.

The program “A Will to Act!” has for ambition to encourage young people commitment and initiative and contribute to the revalorisation of their image in our society. Several sections were distinguished: “commitment”, “challenge”, “voluntary work”, “entrepreneurism” but also “fashion” and “actions in the cities” in order to valorise projects in sensitive urban areas.

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

- They can only be recognised within the validation of the VAE scheme (acquired experimental knowledge) and only if the degree corresponds to the volunteer activity;
- Issuing of a certificate of voluntary civil service;
- Creation of a “volunteer history form” by the national Olympic and sports committee, which enables young people to register and validate their voluntary activities that can be used in the VAE scheme at a later stage.

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



There are many networks supporting voluntary activities of young people. They are pooled at national level in the CNAJEP ([www.cnajep.asso.fr](http://www.cnajep.asso.fr)).

We can particularly point out juniors associations ([www.juniorassociation.org](http://www.juniorassociation.org)), Animafac ([www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net)), AFEV ([www.afev.org](http://www.afev.org)), ANACEJ ([www.anacej.asso.fr](http://www.anacej.asso.fr)) and the governmental program “Envie d’agir” ([www.enviedagir.fr](http://www.enviedagir.fr)).

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

There are no collective volunteering projects in France.

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

No recent survey or research is available but a good summary by Valérie Becquet can be mentioned : “L’engagement des jeunes aujourd’hui” in Bernard Roudet **Regards sur les jeunes en France**, Presses de l’Université Laval et INJEP (2009) pp 104 à 122. See also Valérie Becquet and Chantal de Linares (dir.), **Quand les jeunes s’engagent**, L’Harmattan, 2005 and the survey for the Fondation de France, <http://www.fdf.org>, “15-35 ans”, des individualistes solidaires”. About voluntary service see Agora Débats Jeunesses, n° 47, 1 trimestre 2008, Volontariats civils: dispositifs publics, expériences juvéniles.