

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

LUXEMBOURG



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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?

Types of voluntary activities in Luxembourg:

- local activities (area committees, activities in the areas, local solidarity, leisure activities, mobility, urban planning),
- citizenship, integration, social action (activities leading to pluralism, tolerance, respect of diversity, non-discrimination and solidarity, political, social and cultural participation, living together, inclusion, intercultural and intergenerational relations),
- culture (cultural heritage, literature and arts, music, media techniques, documentation and library, socio-cultural activities, philosophy),
- human rights, peace (children's rights, equal rights, fight against racism and intolerance, peace movement),
- education (activities aiming at increasing quality, offer and access to education for everybody),
- environment (nature conservation, protection of endangered species, town planning, ecology),
- humanitarian relief, international solidarity, Third World (cooperation for development, micro finance, responsible agriculture),
- youth (youth movements, assistance, education and training, youth initiatives, activities, coordination of activities outside of schools, organisation of socio-cultural activities),
- religion (ethics and society, economy and social justice, peace),
- health (family planning, HIV prevention, promotion of health, public health),
- assistance (first aid worker, ambulance man/woman, fire brigade, psychological support group, Humanitarian Intervention Team),
- sports (integration by sport, sports and handicap, sports clubs),
- and tourism (activities aiming at the creation and maintenance of local touristic infrastructures, embellishment of villages, marketing of local tourism, conservation of local cultural heritage, touristic activities on camping sites).

2. Which kind of voluntary service exist and how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender.

Currently, three kinds of voluntary service for young volunteers are provided by the National Youth Service (*Service National de la Jeunesse, SNJ*):

- Voluntary guidance service (*Service Volontaire d'Orientation, SVO*):

SVO addresses young inhabitants (16-30) who have completed their compulsory education and who are motivated to engage into socio-cultural, socio-educational, cultural or environment protection projects. Its duration is 3-12 month. SVO helps young people acquire practical competences and provides personalised support to develop a school or professional integration project. The service especially focuses on young people with fewer opportunities, who are not registered in employment agencies and aims at reintegrating them into society.

Participants in 2008: 96 volunteers started SVO in 2008, 7 have been redirected.

- European Voluntary Service, part of the European programme "Youth in Action" (*Service Volontaire Européen, SVE*):

SVE allows young people (18-30) to live an exceptional experience during 2-12 month by engaging into a beneficial project abroad (environment, arts and culture, activities for children, young or elderly people, cultural heritage, sports...).

Participants in 2008: 10 participants were sent from Luxembourg to an accredited organisation in another country and 32 volunteers (25 female and 7 male) have committed themselves to an SVE project in a hosting organisation in Luxembourg.

- Voluntary service of cooperation (*Service Volontaire de Coopération, SVC*):

SVC offers a frame for young people (18-30) who are interested in the issue of developing countries. They may engage in a cooperation project during 3-12 month. SVC was only launched in March 2009 in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Luxembourgish cooperation circle of development NGOs (*Cercle de Coopération des ONG de Développement de Luxembourg*).

3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities

Voluntary activities in Luxembourg take place to a large extent in the frame of community life (*vie associative*). Thus legislation to be applied is on one hand the

specific legal framework for voluntary activities as well as the laws concerning associations.

Voluntary activities:

- September 27, 2002: Governmental order creating the higher council for voluntary work ([Arrêté du Gouvernement en Conseil du 27 septembre 2002 portant institution d'un Conseil Supérieur du Bénévolat](#))
- November 17, 2006: Act approving the European convention on the promotion of a long term transnational voluntary service for young people ([Loi du 17 novembre 2006 portant approbation de la Convention européenne sur la promotion d'un service volontaire transnational à long terme pour les jeunes, faite à Strasbourg, le 11 mai 2000](#))
- October 31, 2007: Act on voluntary service for young people ([Loi du 31 octobre 2007 sur le service volontaire des jeunes](#))
- December 18, 2007: Grand-Ducal regulation concerning the financial participation of the State in the expenses caused by receiving and sending volunteers ([Règlement grand-ducal du 18 décembre 2007 relatif à 1° la participation de l'Etat aux dépenses occasionnées par l'accueil ou l'envoi d'un volontaire, 2° la composition et les modalités de fonctionnement de la Commission d'Accompagnement](#))

Associations:

- April 21, 1928: Act on non profit making associations and enterprises of public interest ([Loi du 21 avril 1928 sur les associations sans but lucratif et les établissements d'utilité publique](#))
- May 11, 1936: Act assuring right of association ([Loi du 11 mai 1936 garantissant la liberté d'association](#))
- March 2, 1953: Ministerial order concerning tourist offices ([Arrêté ministériel du 2 mars 1953 concernant les Syndicats d'Initiative](#))

Moreover the 2008 Youth act ([Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#)) sets the framework for youth policy and establishes another basic element in the development of national voluntary activities of young people.

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

- Voluntary agency (*Agence du Bénévolat*):

The voluntary agency (*Agence du Bénévolat*) provides information and guidance in the field of voluntary work. It serves as an interface between volunteers and associations working with volunteers (clearing), provides a platform for exchange and training (competence centre) and informs and sensitizes the public to create favourable conditions for volunteering in civil society (resource centre).

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- Association for volunteering Luxembourg (*Association du Bénévolat Luxembourg asbl*):

This association aims at promoting voluntary work, especially by running the voluntary agency described above. Numerous associations working with volunteers are members of this coordinating association.

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- Higher council for voluntary work (*Conseil Supérieur du Bénévolat*):

The higher council for voluntary work (*Conseil Supérieur du Bénévolat*) is a national institution promoting measures in the interest of volunteering and acts as a consultative body advising the government in the field of voluntary work. It was established in September 2002. The missions of the council are among others the promotion of recognition, support and coordination of volunteering initiatives and to foster exchange between volunteers by regional, European and international projects. In 2008, the council met three times to discuss upcoming projects, events and activities. There were thematic working groups discussing for instance insurance issues, a recognition card for young volunteers, organisation of workshops and action weeks.

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The programmes for young volunteers (*Service Volontaire d'Orientation, Service Volontaire Européen, Service Volontaire de Coopération*) are implemented by the National Youth Service.

[Service National de la Jeunesse \(SNJ\)](#)

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

Legislation in Luxembourg confers on young volunteers participating in voluntary service benefits like pocket money, subsistence allowance and social insurance. Participants in voluntary activities (in associations) are insured (in case of harm or damage) by way of the associations' insurance.

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

The programme "Youth Merit" ([Mérite Jeunesse](#)), which is a follow-up of the "Duke of Edinburgh's Award", wants to encourage young people between 14 and 25 years to invest in a variety of activities enabling them to develop their personal abilities and confirm their role in society.

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

The ministry in charge of voluntary work is the Ministry of Family and Integration ([Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration](#)). In the frame of The International Year of Volunteers (2001) the ministry has given an important impetus to the organisational structure and visibility of volunteering in Luxembourg. Some of the strategies to develop and encourage voluntary work are:

Websites:

- The volunteering portal ([Le Portail du Bénévolat](#)), with many information and hints,
- The site for young volunteers ([Volontaires](#)), an internet community for volunteers.

Other measures:

A campaign aiming at the promotion of voluntary work of young people ("[Bénévolat des jeunes](#)") has been launched in September 2007 by the Minister of Family and Integration. The objective is to inform young people about voluntary work, to show what the profit out of their engagement may be, to give practical information, to motivate young people by making the approach easier and to motivate organisations to adapt to young people's pattern of living.

A card for young volunteers (14-26) offering formal and visible recognition, has been launched in January 2009 by the Ministry of Family and Integration, the Youth Information Centre ([Centre Information Jeunes, CIJ](#)) and the voluntary agency (*Agence du Bénévolat*). The TEAMK8 (*Teamkaart*) offers to young volunteers many advantages, as cut price offers or free tickets for concerts, cinema, restaurants etc. Information concerning all the advantages and news about the TEAMK8 is published on the [TEAMK8-Website](#).

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

An evaluation of the European Voluntary Service in Luxembourg has shown that young people's wish is to improve the information system and bring information nearer to the target group. Another request addressed to the organisations is a higher acceptance of young people as self-confident actors in the field of the European Voluntary Service.

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

An example of good practice, although not aiming especially at young people with fewer opportunities, was the participation of young volunteers in the organisation of the "Luxembourg and Greater Region, European Capital of Culture 2007". 21 young

people, coming from different parts of Europe and taking part in the collective European Voluntary Service - organised by "Luxembourg and Greater Region, European Capital of Culture 2007" - supported the general coordination team. Already in the past, volunteers were active for the capitals of culture, but this was the first time European volunteers accomplished tasks directly under the authority of the direction in this kind of event.

The national voluntary guidance service (*Service Volontaire d'Orientation, SVO*) can be considered another example of good practice. It aims at encouraging young people with fewer opportunities, who are not registered in employment agencies. Its objective is the reintegration of this young people into society and their support by providing a learning and experience platform. The service also offers guidance and practical assistance, consultation and reflection.

10. Explain how (by which means) voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country.

A certification of attendance is given for young people taking part in the national voluntary guidance service (*Service Volontaire d'Orientation, SVO*) as well as in the European Voluntary Service (*Service Volontaire Européen, SVE*). These instruments (like Youthpass for the European Voluntary Service) intend to foster the recognition of non-formal learning in order to support the employability of young people and youth workers, the reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process and the social recognition of youth work.

The national voluntary agency (*Agence du Benevolat*) issues a certificate of attendance for participants in voluntary projects. From 2006 on a youth merit award (*Prix du Mérite Jeunesse*) is awarded annually to a group of young people who have performed a voluntary project together. Finally the TEAMK8 is also a formal recognition for young volunteers.

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

An interdepartmental workgroup on volunteering (*Groupe de travail interministériel "bénévolat"*) is composed by representatives of the Ministry of Family and Integration, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministerial Department of Sports

and the Ministry of Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing. It was established on request of the Prime Minister who announced support measures for volunteering activities in his speech concerning the state of the nation (2008).

Networks and structures of cooperation are set up by the National Youth Service (*Service National de la Jeunesse, SNJ*) in the field of voluntary service.

12. Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?

Such projects only exist occasionally. One example is the organisation of international work camps (*Chantiers internationaux*). The target group of these work camps are young people from 16 to 26 years from different countries. They meet to live together for two to four weeks in a camp and to work in a non-profit project. They receive no wages but free accommodation and meals. Thus they get to know each other with their different ways of life, traditions and cultures.

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

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