

Council of Europe  
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European Union  
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# INFORMATION SHEET

## VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### CROATIA



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By: Sandra Car

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Volunteering of young people in [Croatia]	2
2. Main actors and networks	3
3. Promotion of volunteering of young people	4
4. Mobility of young volunteers	6
5. Sources of information	7

# 1. Volunteering of young people in [Croatia]

*Give an overview on volunteering of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:*

\*A person under 15 years of age can not conclude a contract on volunteering.

A person under the age of 15 can volunteer only if a job he/she is doing is making a contribution to his/her development/education/socialization. In that case, a written permission from a parent or other legal agent must be enclosed.

A person who is 15-17 years of age can conclude a contract on volunteering but it must be signed by a parent or other legal agent.

There are also several principles that aim to protect juvenile volunteers.

(The law on volunteering, articles 12 and 13)

A person who is 18 – 30 years old is considered an adult and is therefore a subject to the same conditions and regulations of volunteering as the rest of an adult population.

*- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) concerning volunteering of young people?*

On national level: Y/N

The law on Volunteering (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/298299.html>)

Ethical codex for volunteers (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/339404.html>)

There are also:

National Committee for the Development of Volunteering - an advisory body of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (<http://www.mobms.hr/ministarstvo/uprava-za-medugeneracijsku-solidarnost/volonterstvo/nacionalni-odbor.aspx>)

National Committee for Marking the International Year of Volunteers

On regional level: Y/N

- Is volunteering usually paid? Y/N

- Is there any National voluntary service? Y/N

-What is the legal / financial (fiscal) / social security status of volunteers ?

Reimbursement of expenses related to volunteering.

## 2. Main actors and networks

- *Who are the main actors (institutional and NGOs) in the field of volunteering of young people on the different levels?*

### **National:**

There is no national centre.

### **Regional:**

Volunteers' Centre Zagreb (VCZ) (<http://www.vcz.hr/english-info/>)

Volunteer Centre Osijek (<http://www.osvolonteri.hr/english/>)

Volunteer Centre Split (<http://www.vcst.info/>)

Volunteer Centre Rijeka

([http://www.smart.hr/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=157](http://www.smart.hr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=157))

### **Local:**

Additional data gathering in process; will be provided as soon as possible.

Volunteer Centre Dubrovnik (<http://www.volonterskicentar.com/>)

- *Are any organisations in this field specifically targeting youth (as participants in voluntary activities and voluntary services)?*

All of them are primarily targeting youth.

- *Do networks and/or co-operations exist for supporting volunteering of young people in your country?*

Already mentioned advisory body of the Government of the Republic of Croatia: National committee for the development of volunteering (<http://www.mobms.hr/ministarstvo/uprava-za-medugeneracijsku-solidarnost/volonterstvo/nacionalni-odbor.aspx>)

- *What is the legal / financial (fiscal) status of organisations promoting volunteering?*

Financial support from the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity – 3-year contract with the 4 Volunteer Centers.

### 3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

- Which methods among the one listed below are the most used to promote volunteering of young people in your country?

#### By national policies:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centers (already mentioned Financial support from the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity – 3-year contract with the 4 Volunteer Centers.
- funding of NGOs (when evaluating NGOs' projects the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity devotes attention to the number of young volunteers included and their activities)
- Other:
- None

#### By NGOs:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centers (information on volunteering provided in YIC or online)
- Other:
- None

*Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.*

- Which among the followings are methods of recognition of volunteering of young people in your country?

- European Youth Pass (Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes - for the volunteers who participated in a programme 'Youth in action' )
- Certificates (by NGOs)
- Credits in the formal education system
- Awards
- Incentives
- They are valued in the CV (by NGOs and some public administration institutions)
- Other:
- They are not recognised

*Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.*

*- What obstacles to young people's engagement in volunteering do exist and how are these faced by national policies ?*

In the "Public Attitudes towards Volunteering" survey (Ledić, 2007), 23.1% responders with volunteering experience are persons under the age of 20, and 41.7% persons at the age from 21 to 35. However, young people are not sufficiently informed about places for volunteering and sometimes they report insufficiency of established mechanisms for appreciating voluntary work, so the space for better informing young people and making them familiar with voluntary work is still open.

#### **4. Mobility of young volunteers**

- *Is there any national monitoring of how mobility of young volunteers takes place? Y/N*
- *What are these monitoring mechanisms? If yes, please explain.*

Working group for the elimination of boundaries and reinforcement of international mobility in education (within the Ministry of science, education and sports).The group is a platform for the discussion between users – participants in international projects that have mobility as an integral part – and public administration representatives from the bodies which are responsible for the law regulations and procedures linked to international mobility.

Plan of action for the elimination of boundaries and reinforcement of international mobility in education for the period 2010-2012 (pdf document enclosed).

## 5. Sources of information

Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes ([http://www.mobilnost.hr/index\\_en.php](http://www.mobilnost.hr/index_en.php))

Ethical codex for volunteers (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/339404.html>)

Ledić, J. (2007) Zašto (ne) volontiramo? Stavovi javnosti o volonterstvu. Zagreb: Academy for Educational Development.

Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity (<http://www.mobms.hr/>)

National committee for the development of volunteering  
(<http://www.mobms.hr/ministarstvo/uprava-za-medugeneracijsku-solidarnost/volonterstvo/nacionalni-odbor.aspx>)

Plan of action for the elimination of boundaries and reinforcement of international mobility in education for the period 2010-2012 (pdf document enclosed).

Regional volunteer centres:

Volunteers' Centre Zagreb (VCZ) (<http://www.vcz.hr/english-info/>)

Volunteer Centre Osijek (<http://www.osvolonteri.hr/english/>)

Volunteer Centre Split (<http://www.vcst.info/>)

Volunteer Centre Rijeka  
([http://www.smart.hr/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=157](http://www.smart.hr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=157))

The law on Volunteering (<http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/298299.html>)

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