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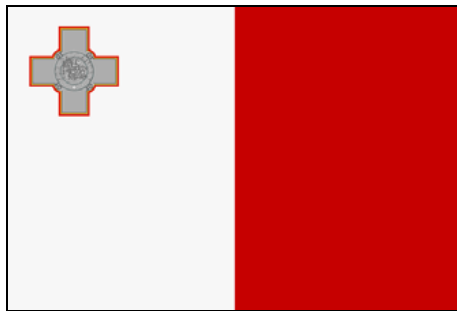
European Union
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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

INFORMATION SHEET

VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Malta



Last updated: 2011

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1. Volunteering of young people Malta

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:

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

On national level: **Y/N**

On regional level: **Y/N**

The National Youth Policy 2010-2013 states that: “Volunteering contributes to a cohesive society creating bonds of trust and solidarity as well as social capital. Youth volunteering not only contributes to personal development, but also to a cohesive society.”

In the field of Volunteering, the State recognises:

- that young people have a social responsibility towards other community members.
- that volunteering contributes to individual character building and generates a sense of solidarity.
- that through volunteering initiatives, the community benefits from the resource of young people’s creativity and innovation.

Link: <http://cdn02.abakushost.com/youthinfo/downloads/nationalyouthpolicy.pdf>

- 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?

There is no legal / financial (fiscal) / social security status for individual volunteers in Malta

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: Council for the Voluntary Sector, Commissioner for the Voluntary Organisations, Aġenzija Żgħaġżagħ

Regional: N/A

Local: Befriending Program in Mental Health Services; Inspire; Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (KKĠ); LAND Group; SOS MALTA; Third World Group; VolServ; Missions Office; Qawra AĊCESS Centre; Tgħanniqa; Ċentru San Franġisk; Independent Living Foundation; Richmond Foundation; Caritas; Down Syndrome Association; Ċentru Tbexbix; Malta Red Cross; Organisation for Friendship in Diversity; Mission Fund; The Malta Hospice Movement; Mental Health Association; Ignatian Youth Network Malta; Kare4Kenya; Salesian Pastoral Youth Services; Third World Group; Voluntary Lay Missionaries; Mission Fund; Grupp Żgħaġżagħ għal Palermo; Għaqda Maltija għat-Trasport tal-Morda f' Lourdes; AIESEC; ĊAMYouths; Malta Red Cross.

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

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

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

The legal / financial (fiscal) status of organisations promoting volunteering is regulated through the "Voluntary Organisations Act."

Link: <http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8958&l=1>

3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

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

By national policies:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education

Within the national curriculum, during the obligatory formal education, students have PSD (Personal and Social Development). The PSD's syllabus promotes volunteering, emphasising the benefits of being a volunteer both for society in general and for the individual.

- Youth information centres

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ administers a youth information portal. This Portal holds information about fourteen topics related to young people one of which is volunteering.

Link: <http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/>

- funding of NGOs
- Other: Voltour - Organised by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, the VolTours are tours of voluntary organisations that welcome young volunteers. The idea is to provide young people with the opportunity to visit various organisations in order to have a first hand experience of the work that is already being done. Besides, the VolTours also provide young people with the opportunity to meet up with other young volunteers to share and learn from their experiences on how to develop their own organisation or experiences.
- None

By NGOs:

- Advertisement campaigns

Local NGOs use various social networks as well as Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's youth information portal as a means of promotion.

- Education
- Youth information centres
- Other

Being a small island the word of mouth is an efficient means of promotion used by Maltese NGOs.

- None

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

- European Youth Pass
- Certificates

The school leaving certificate, given to every student after completion of formal education, does not only highlight academic skills but also values other extracurricular activities. During the obligatory school years, students are be assessed also on their personal values and qualities, including their altruism. Hence volunteering will be recognised as an extra credit for the student.

✓ Credits in the formal education system

The University of Malta offers the Degree*Plus*. This is a programme aimed at providing all University students at the University with the opportunity to enrich their academic studies with extra skills and experiences. The activities are intended to provide the opportunity for a more holistic approach to formal education. As part of the Degree*Plus* students can opt for a Voluntary Work Unit where they will have the opportunity to help others through your involvement in approved voluntary work projects. This will helps them to get exposure to certain social realities both in Malta and abroad. They will also get the opportunity to work in teams and to learn and develop the necessary support skills thereby enhancing their social skills and learn how to implement effective planning. At the end of their course they are awarded a Degree*Plus* certificate.

✓ Awards

OASI Youth of the Year Award: This award serves to publicly acknowledge and appraise the voluntary work in society carried out by many Maltese youths.

John XXIII Kindness Award: The annual John XXIII Gold Medal is an annual award to children and young people in Malta and Gozo who have shown kindness and generosity to less fortunate people in need of their help.

Incentives

✓ They are valued in the CV

Having volunteered is always perceived by interviewing boards as an asset during employment seeking interviews.

Other:

They are not recognised

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

There are no particular obstacles that hinder a young person's engagement in volunteering.

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.*

5. Sources of information

National Youth Policy 2010-2013

<http://cdn02.abakushost.com/youthinfo/downloads/nationalyouthpolicy.pdf>

Voluntary organisations act

<http://www.mjha.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8958&l=1>

Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ

www.agenzijazghazagh.gov.mt

Youth Information Portal

<http://www.youthinfo.gov.mt/>

OASI Foundation

<http://www.oasi.org.mt/>

Peace Lab

<http://www.peacelab.org/>

Degreeplus

<http://www.um.edu.mt/degplus>