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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**

### **ROMANIA**



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# 1. Volunteering of young people in Romania

*General recommendations on volunteering: Voluntary Law from 2001<sup>1</sup>*

There are recommendations only at national level

Voluntary work is not paid

There is no National Voluntary Service in Romania

## *Volunteer's legal status*

Romanian and foreign citizens are considered volunteers if they carry on their own activities organized by public legal entities and private legal entities, not for profit, in the spirit of civic solidarity.

## *Voluntary agreement*

Voluntary activity must be conducted under a written contract between the volunteer and the beneficiary of volunteering within which there must be specified both obligations and rights. The contract states that the volunteer will actively participate in the proper development of the programs he is involved in. The tasks assigned to the volunteer must be consistent with his abilities, professional knowledge and physical skills, so that his physical and mental health is not affected. The volunteer is responsible for any moral damages and material damages caused to the host-organization by his own fault.

The volunteer must fulfill the duties imposed by the beneficiary, maintain the confidentiality of information he has access to. He is obliged to attend the training sessions organized by the beneficiary for a better process of acquiring knowledge in the specific field.

The Voluntary agreement cannot be signed in order to avoid signing an individual employment contract or a civil services contract. Otherwise, the contracts are void.

The voluntary agreement has also to include at least the following rights of the volunteer:

- Providing the beneficiary, as provided by the law, insurance against risks of accident and disease arising from the nature of the activity; in case of no medical insurance costs are covered entirely by the beneficiary;
- Issuing, by the beneficiary, of a nominal certificate to certify the quality of volunteers;
- Repayment by the beneficiary, under conditions agreed in the contract, according to the law, of the expenses made in carrying out the activity;
- Working-time duration, established under the provisions of the law, not to affect the volunteer's health and psycho-physical well-being;
- Possibility to receive honorary degrees, medals, awards, according to the law.

## *Professional benefits for volunteers:*

At competitions for filling of the posts, if two or more candidates obtain equal scores, the authorities and public institutions as well as private individuals may give additional points to those candidates that have one or more nominal voluntary certificates which recognize the volunteer's work and experience acquired, provided that these are within the selection criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://legislatie.resurse-pentru-democratie.org/195\\_2001.php](http://legislatie.resurse-pentru-democratie.org/195_2001.php)

## 2. Main actors and networks

### *National actors*

Pro Vobis, Red Cross Romania, APEC & Emil Alexandrescu Foundation

### *Regional*

no data

### *Local*

no data

### *Organisations in this field specifically targeting youth (as participants in voluntary activities and voluntary services)*

Save the Children Romania, Tineri pentru Tineri (Youngsters for Youngsters ), Dan Voiculescu Foundation, BYP (Beyond Youth Potential) , SCI Romania

### *Networks and/or co-operations for supporting volunteering of young people*

ProVobis national network, with 12 Volunteering Centres

APEC & Emil Alexandrescu Foundation website with information concerning volunteering opportunities ([http: www.voluntar.ro](http://www.voluntar.ro))

### *Legal / financial (fiscal) status of organisations promoting volunteering*

no special legal or financial status

### 3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

#### *Methods used in national policies*

There is no very clear national policy to promote volunteering, but some organisations are promoting volunteering:

- Voluntary Fair / 2009 - <http://www.stiriong.ro/pagini/participati-la-targul-voluntariatului-bu.php>  
National Voluntary Week (April 2010);
- Volunteer's Portrait booklet, which is issued yearly, being at the 4th edition in 2010. In this latest number there are presented 89 portraits of volunteers (most of them youngsters);
- Civil Society Gala - a project that annually awards the best projects undertaken by non-governmental organizations, initiative groups, individuals. Organizer Millennium People (<http://www.galasocietatiicivile.ro/index.php>);
- website made by a students group that aims to raise awareness about projects and people that produce a positive change in society and in their lives. <http://www.lumbuna.ro/2008/10/09/flash-mob-pentru-promovarea-voluntariatului/>.

#### *By national policies:*

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- x Youth information centres : Youth Center "Mansarda" from Reșița promotes youth volunteering
- X funding of NGOs : national program supporting youth organisations, local projects (National Agency for Sport and Youth)
- Other:
- None

#### *By NGOs:*

- x Advertisement campaigns : campaigns during the European Volunteering Year / 2011
- x Education : many websites explain what volunteering is, and what the main advantages are for young volunteers
- x Youth information centres
- Other:
- None

#### *Methods of recognition of young people volunteering*

- X European Youth Pass
- x Certificates : Certificates are given upon request.
- Credits in the formal education system
- X Awards :
  - Contest "volunteer of the year" organised by SCI Romania ( [www.sci.ro](http://www.sci.ro) )
  - Civil Society Gala / a very popular event organised every year by Millennium People

Incentives

x They are valued in the CV: Volunteer activities are valued more in the cv when youngsters apply for a scholarship / summer school. For employers experience counts, so if youngsters have done volunteer work in that specific domain, then that will be an advantage.

Other:

They are not recognised

*Obstacles to young people's engagement in volunteering*

There is still a negative perception about volunteering, especially amongst older generations- due to the Communism period. Therefore, somewhat discouraged youngsters have to engage in unpaid activities.

There are no national policy to counter such mindsets.

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

There is no national monitoring of young volunteers.

There are no monitoring mechanism for young volunteers, except EVS participants.

## 5. Sources of information

[http://legislatie.resurse-pentru-democratie.org/195\\_2001.php](http://legislatie.resurse-pentru-democratie.org/195_2001.php)

<http://www.galasocietatiicivile.ro/index.php>

<http://www.lumbuna.ro/2008/10/09/flash-mob-pentru-promovarea-voluntariatului/>