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INFORMATION SHEET

VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

FRENCH SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM



Last updated: 21/03/2011

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1. Volunteering of young people in French speaking Community of Belgium

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

See « le Conseil supérieur du volontariat » (the Higher Council of volunteering): <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/vrijwilligers.htm>

On regional level: Y/N

The **Associative Charter** reaffirms the complementarity between associations and public authorities.

« To ensure professionalization of the actors, the public authorities commit themselves to support volunteering, alongside the salaried employment, like an act of solidarity or militancy in the action and the management of associations as well as its development, through in particular information on the responsibility for volunteers, administrative simplification, administrative support for the volunteers and associations in which they are involved, eligibility with the subsidies of the insurance premiums covering the risks of civil responsibility or accidents undergone by volunteers or the training of volunteers and managers. »

The declaration of Community policy 2009-2014 plans to support and to develop volunteering and devotes to it a specific chapter:

“The Government will pay more attention to the place of volunteering in the dynamism of the non-profit sector.

In relation to the commitments made in the Associative Charter, and within the limit of the budgetary means available, the Government commits itself to support volunteering, alongside the salaried employment, in particular with regard to administrative simplification, administrative support for the volunteers and associations in which they are involved, eligibility with the subsidies of the insurance premiums covering the civil responsibility or the accidents undergone by the volunteers or the training of volunteers and managers.

Within the framework of the European year of volunteering 2011, the Government will take initiatives to support and develop volunteering within the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, in dialogue with the representative actors, particularly regarding what is done in Belgium or abroad”

Source : Declaration of Community policy, p.198

Regarding volunteering of young people :

Intention note of the Youth Plan: The Government of the French-speaking Community of Belgium took note, on December 23rd 2010 of the 7 strategic objectives contained in the transversal note of intention of the youth plan developed by the Minister for Youth. These objectives reflect the priorities as regards youth and will be submitted to the Interdepartmental Conference which has been set up within this framework. The note of intention is currently submitted to the various sectors for opinion.

The strategic primary goal is “To support the capacity of action and joint commitment of the young people”, in particular by encouraging the participation of the young people in their places of life and their capacity to undertake projects, by reinforcing information and the participation, supporting the youth organisations and the centres of young people.

Source: Note of intention “For an ambitious Youth Plan in the French-speaking Community of Belgium” - version of December 14th, 2010, pages 2 and 3.

- *Is volunteering usually paid?* ✘/N

An allowance can however be paid as refundment of the costs caused by the voluntary activity. This allowance is regulated by the law of May 6th, 2009 - Law concerning various provisions - Articles 61/62- Allowances perceived within the framework of volunteering - publication date: 2009-05-19

Topicality

Indexation of the allowances planned for the volunteers

The federal legislation that has been into force as regards volunteering, mentions that the volunteers who meet all the conditions, can perceive some indexed amounts fixed per day and calendar year, without these allowances – that are in addition exonerated fiscally within the same limits - causing a constraint with the social security of the salaried workers. (*)

An indexation of these amounts is expected, in case of going beyond the trigger index, from January 1st of the year following that of going beyond (S) of the aforesaid index. The trigger index having been exceeded in August 2010, the applicable amounts from January 1st to December 31st 2011 will be the following: 30.82 € per day and 1232.92 € a year.

(*) Source : SPF Sécurité sociale, www.socialsecurity.fgov.be

Practical Guides

[Droits et obligations des volontaires](#) – published by the Roi Baudouin Foundation and available on their website.

[http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05\) Pictures, documents and external sites/09\) Publications/PUB_1564_LaLoi.pdf](http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05) Pictures, documents and external sites/09) Publications/PUB_1564_LaLoi.pdf)

- *Is there any National voluntary service?* ✘/N

A Platform gathering 29 organisations has been set up around the creation project of a voluntary citizen service. Through actions of communication, of research, lobbying, the Platform for the Citizen Service intends to develop and consolidate the principle of citizen service through the law.

Between February and August 2011, the Platform for the Citizen Service will be experienced a pilot project of Citizen Service while allowing a hundred volunteers aged between 18 and 25 years to commit themselves for 5 months to the missions that are useful for the community (assistance with the people, environment, solidarity, humanitarian action,...): See : <http://www.service-citoyen.be/description>.

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

The minimum age is 15 years, provided that the young man/woman celebrates his/her 16th birthday in the same calendar year.

Legal texts

Legislative course

3rd July 2005 (Belgian official journal 28.08.05): Adoption of the legal text by the Chamber ;

27th December 2005 (Belgian official journal 30.12.05): Modification of articles 5. (responsibility), 6. (insurances) and 10. (allowances) ;

7th March 2006 (Belgian official journal 13.04.06) : Modification of the article 24 concerning the date of coming into force of the law (from 1st February 2006 to 1st August 2006) ;

19th July 2006 (Belgian official journal 11.08.06): Modification of the articles 4 (organisation note), 5 (responsibility), 6 (insurances), 10 (allowances), etc. and extension of the date of coming into force of the articles 5 (responsibility) and 6 (insurances) to 1st January 2007 ;

6th May 2009 (Belgian official journal 19.05.09): Modification of article 10 (allowances) to introduce a limited plurality in refunding of the costs.

In short, the law concerning the rights of volunteers came into force on 1st August 2006 except for the articles 5 (responsibility) and 6 (allowances) which came into force on 1st January 2007.

« Law of 3rd July 2005 concerning the rights of volunteers.

Law of 27th December 2005 modifying the law of 3rd July 2005

Law of 7th March 2006 modifying the law of 3 July 2005

Law of 19th July 2006 modifying the law of 3rd July 2005 concerning the rights of volunteers

Law of 6th May 2009 –Law concerning various provisions – Articles 61/62- Allowances perceived within the framework of volunteering – date of publication "2009-05-19" »

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:

Regional:

Institutional actors

the BIJ (Bureau International Jeunesse) - <http://www.lebij.be/> is an organisation or “national agency” of the French-speaking Community partner for the service for European volunteering ([INTERNATIONAL - Europa : Volontariat et échange de jeunes, SVE](#)).

Conseil de la jeunesse (Youth Council)

CCOJ – conseil consultatif des organisations de jeunesse (Advisory council of youth organisations)

Associative actors

-> In the French-speaking Community of Belgium:

Approved within the framework of the youth policies or as actors in the field of permanent education, they are varied: the whole of the youth organisations (among which youth movements but also associations focused on activities of volunteering abroad) as well as the Centres of young people. Volunteering is part of the daily life of these actors who function, for a large part, thanks to actors invested in this way.

-> Volunteering abroad :

http://www.dynamoweb.be/dynamo_international/fr/index.html#jeunesse

[Quinoa](#)

[JAVVA - Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs](#)

[SCI Service Civil International](#),

[ASMAE](#)

[AFS Intercultural Programs](#)

YFU

Service Protestant de la Jeunesse

Compagnons bâtisseurs

...

Some of these initiatives are supported in the framework of the EVS.

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

Most Youth organisations call on volunteers for the everyday action. Some on a very large scale (more than 3000 volunteers), others, only timely (organisation of festivals,...) and more limitedly (1 to 2 volunteers a year).

See Youth organisations on the site www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be

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

Plate-forme francophone du volontariat - YAQUA – French-Language Platform for Volunteers

The Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat is a pluralistic structure constituted of 27 associations representing the great sectors of the associative life and of volunteer activities : humanitarian action and international solidarity, social welfare, culture and leisure, environment, training and teaching, Young people and seniors, health care, sport, philosophical trends, family,... and represents about 300,000 volunteers in the French Community.

Association pour le volontariat : <http://www.volontariat.be> (Association for volunteers)

Created in 1974, the Association pour le Volontariat is a pluralistic organisation for coordinating and promoting Volunteering. The Association brings together about one thousand associations in Brussels and Wallonia.

Plateforme pour le Service citoyen : <http://www.service-citoyen.be/accueil> (Platform for a Citizen Service)

On the occasion of the European Year of Volunteering, the member associations of the Platform intend to set up a pilot project of Citizen Service.

+ Les Fédérations d'organisations de jeunesse (Youth Organisations Federations):

COJ

CJC

Relie-F

RésOJ

Jeunes et Libres

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

The BIJ is a public interest institution.

The associations have a status of NGO and/or are acknowledged within the framework of the decree of 17 July 2003 related to the support to associative action in the field of permanent education, of the decree of 20 July 2000 regarding Youth Centres or further the decree of 26 March 2009 relating to Youth Organisations.

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 centres
- funding of NGOs
- Other:
- None

Miscellaneous:

Salon du volontariat : <http://www.provincedeliege.be/volontariat/social/> (Volunteering Fair)

Other actions are led in the framework of the eyv by the French Community (Permanent Education, Youth Department ...) See: <http://www.eyv2011.be>

By NGOs:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centres
- Other:
- None

Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.

Expositions

« *Toi + Moi + Nous... 52 portraits de volontaires en mouvement* »

Visible during all 2011 in the French Community of Belgium, the exhibition, realised by the Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat and supported by the Service général de la Jeunesse et de l'Education permanente, will visit more than fifty places in Wallonia and at Brussels in 2011.

This exhibition will illustrate through 52 faces, 52 tenures and domains of volunteering. This exhibition aims at involving local associations and institutions calling on volunteering as well as sensitizing a large audience to the diversity of volunteering.

For further information go to the official site: www.levolontariat.be/2011

Outils

« Boite à outils du cadre pour soutenir et valoriser les volontaires" realised by the Conseil de la Jeunesse Catholique (Catholic Youth Council)

Further information : <http://www.cjc.be/-Presentation-de-la-campagne-.html>

Campaigns and colloquia

“Tapis rouge pour les jeunes volontaires » : Information and sensitizing campaign including a colloquium Jeunes et Volontaires (Young and Volunteers), organised in 2009 by Conseil de la Jeunesse Catholique (CJC)

More information: <http://www.cjc.be/-Presentation-de-la-campagne-.html>

Other colloquia are being announced in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering:

Among others by the Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat;

A colloquium shall evoke the problems linked to the evolution of commitment forms in the associative sector and the recruiting, accompaniment, welcoming mode of volunteers. In the presence of representatives of the associative sector, academic and political actors, this colloquium shall aim at drawing the health balance of volunteering from the local level to the European one, and thereafter take stock, sector by sector and also across sectors, by the exchange of good practices and analyses, to finally identify new needs and priorities.

The results of this colloquium will be deepened during the second meeting proposing, on the one hand, an analysis of the way media perceive the associative world and volunteering in society and, on the other hand, a retrospective of what will have been achieved during the European Year of Volunteering...The Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat shall take full advantage of it by delivering a message to politicians on the achievements – or not – during 2011 and determine perspectives and activities for the subsequent years.

The full programme of the activities organised in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering can be viewed online: www.levolontariat.be/2011

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

- European Youth Pass
- Certificates
- Credits in the formal education system
- Awards
- Incentives
- They are valued in the CV
- 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 ?*

- Legal obstacles (insurance cover ...) -> answer via the law on volunteering and the support to institutions defending volunteering

- Obstacles to job-finding (linked to FOREM – ONEM – outside competences French Community)

- Acknowledgement of the activity of volunteers in youth associations (via "OJ" et "CJ" decrees), support to the training of volunteer animators for the youth.

- Valorisation of competences in CVs

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

YAQUA - Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat www.levolontariat.be/2011

Association pour le volontariat : <http://www.volontariat.be>

<http://www.lebij.be/>

<http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS->

[FRB/05\) Pictures, documents and external sites/09\) Publications/PUB_1564_LaLoi.pdf](http://www.kbs-frb.be/uploadedFiles/KBS-FRB/05) Pictures, documents and external sites/09) Publications/PUB_1564_LaLoi.pdf)

<http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/hoge-raad-vrijwilligers/hoge-raad-vrijwilligers.htm>

[www.servicejeunesse](http://www.servicejeunesse.be)