

Youth Partnership

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



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INFORMATION SHEET

VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LUXEMBOURG



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1. Volunteering of young people in Luxembourg

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

Yes, in the 1996 guidelines for youth policy "For the young, with the young" ("*Pour les jeunes, avec les jeunes. Lignes directrices de la politique du Ministère de la Jeunesse*") the European Voluntary Service (EVS) is cited as a programme which has to be promoted, fostering thus exchange of experiences, contacts, best practices and cooperation between all actors of the youth domain (Ministère de la Jeunesse, 1996, p.24).

In the 1999 action plan about youth work, voluntary action and partnership ("*Travail de jeunesse, bénévolat, partenariat. Plan d'action N°3*") the Ministry of Youth firmly supports volunteering (*bénévolat, volontariat*) and defines the following objectives:

- support organisations which work with volunteers,
 - acquire better knowledge about volunteering and its social and economic stake,
 - recognise volunteering and its importance for society,
 - take into account the evolution of volunteering, i.e. offer possibilities of volunteering for persons which are not attracted by the classical forms of volunteering,
 - make volunteering easier by facilitating volunteering activities of persons engaged in an association on the one hand and reduce hurdles for those who want to engage voluntarily by founding an association,
 - at an international level, take advantage of existing structures in the bordering countries.
- (Ministère de la Jeunesse, 1999, p.46)

In the 2004 guidelines for youth policy "Youth and society" ("[Jeunesse et société. Deuxièmes lignes directrices pour la politique de la jeunesse](#)") the Ministry stresses that the emergence of new forms of commitment of young people has to be taken into account: The development of a new form of volunteering in the frame of well defined projects would offer new opportunities for participation for instance for young people which are less involved in organisations but could be interested in the objectives of a project. These forms of volunteering activities would probably better address specific target groups (Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la

Jeunesse, 2004, p.39). Furthermore, volunteering has to be recognised, for instance by validating competences acquired in non-formal education activities (p.41).

The 2008 Youth Act ([Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#)) describes one of the missions of the National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) being to support volunteering of young people and to organise programmes of the voluntary service (2008 Youth Act, Art 7 c)) as well as to support the quality of youth work, to promote non-formal education and to commit themselves to the recognition of experience of young people acquired in voluntary activities (2008 Youth Act, Art 7 i)). Procedures concerning the training of youth workers (animateurs, aide-animateurs) as well as conditions concerning the recognition of volunteering experiences of young people are fixed by a grand-ducal regulation (2008 Youth Act, Art 7; 2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth, Art.13-17). The Youth Act further states that authorities enhance volunteering by contributing to supporting of organisations (2008 Youth Act, Art 15 (4)).

On regional level: Y/N

N/A

- Is volunteering usually paid? Y/N

No, volunteers usually are not paid. However, some of their expenses may be covered by allowances. The Luxembourg charter of volunteering gives the following definition of volunteering (*bénévolat*): "The volunteer engages of completely free will, without being paid in terms of money, into an action serving another person or the community. Volunteering is a commitment of free will and unpaid, offered by persons which act for the interest of other persons or for general interest in the frame of a structure going beyond mutual aid in family or the circle of friends." (translation from French, from <http://www.benevolat.public.lu/fr/charte-benevolat/charte-contenu/index.html>)

- Is there any National voluntary service? Y/N

Yes, a voluntary guidance service (*Service volontaire d'orientation*, SVO), a European voluntary service, being part of the European programme "Youth in action" (*Service volontaire européen*, SVE) and a voluntary service of cooperation (*Service volontaire de coopération*, SVC) are implemented by the National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) (cf. http://www.snj.public.lu/organisations/service_volontaire/index.html).

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

One must distinguish at least two kinds of volunteering activities: volunteers working in the frame of an organisation and volunteers participating in voluntary service:

Persons participating in **voluntary activities** in organisations usually are not paid. This voluntary activity often is a secondary occupation next to a paid job with social security. Special holidays (*Congé jeunesse, Congé culturel, Congé des volontaires des services d'incendie, de secours et de sauvetage, Congé de la coopération au développement*) may be granted for volunteering activities in some domains (e.g. youth, culture, first aid, fire fighting, economic aid to Third World countries) (2011 Labour Legislation, Art. 234-1 to 234-42). Accident insurance is granted for volunteers participating in first aid and rescue actions (concerning third party) and training exercises in these domains, if these activities take place in the frame of an association which normally provides this kind of actions voluntarily (2010 Accident Insurance Act, Art. 91(4)), and for volunteers working in the social, socio-educational, medico-social or therapy domain for an organisation recognised by the State (Art. 91(9)). Third-party insurance or accident insurance is also granted for instance for volunteers working in the domain of sports activities (2005 Sports Act, Art. 12). In other domains too, associations should sign an insurance which protects their volunteers.

The **voluntary service** is a full time activity, which is not paid, which is of general interest and which is a personal decision of free will of the volunteer. Voluntary service excludes having another paid job (2007 Act on Voluntary Service, Art. 2(3)). Legislation confers on young volunteers benefits like pocket money (Art. 5(2) 9° and Art. 6(4)), subsistence allowance (Art. 6 (6)) and third-party and social insurance (Art. 5 (3) 1° and 2° and Art. 6 (5)). Voluntary service addresses young people below 30 years, having accomplished mandatory school (Art. 4 (1)), and who want to engage in a project of general interest with a duration of 3-12 months (Art. 5 (2) 1°). (cf. <http://www.snj.public.lu/services/unite-transition/coordination-sv/index.html>)

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:

The main actors on the national level promoting volunteering in general and volunteering of young people in particular are the **Ministry of Family and Integration** ([Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration](#)) and its public administration, the **National Youth Service** ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ). SNJ implements voluntary service (*Service Volontaire d'Orientation, Service Volontaire Européen, Service Volontaire de Coopération*) for young people below 30 years.

The **Youth Merit Luxembourg** foundation ([Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg](#)) supports the development of young people (aged 14-25 years) according to the principles of the international association "The Duke of Edinburgh's Award" and confers every year the youth merit award ("*Prix du mérite jeunesse*") to a group of committed young people.

The International Year of Volunteers (2001) gave an important impetus to volunteering in Luxembourg: A voluntary agency, a higher council for voluntary work and a website for volunteering were created in the following years. 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, provides a platform for exchange and training (competence centre) and informs and sensitises the public to create favourable conditions for volunteering in civil society (resource centre). The **association for volunteering Luxembourg** (*Association du Bénévolat Luxembourg asbl*) aims at promoting voluntary work, especially by running the voluntary agency described above. Numerous associations working with volunteers are members of this coordinating association. The **higher council for voluntary work** (*Conseil Supérieur du Bénévolat*) is a national institution promoting volunteering and acts as an advisory body to the government in the field of voluntary work. The website for volunteering ([Le portail du Bénévolat](#)) provides information and hints.

In the frame of the European Year of Volunteering (2011), the National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) initiated a campaign on volunteering of young people ("[Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?](#)") promoting volunteering and recognising the work of young people who engage for others. In the frame of this campaign SNJ supports youth organisations in their efforts to mobilise more young people to engage in volunteering. (cf. <http://www.benevolat.public.lu/fr/actualites/2011/12/fraiwell-ech/index.html>)

Local:

Many organisations work with young volunteers on a local level, in the domains of local activities, citizenship, integration and social action, culture, human rights and peace, education, environment, humanitarian relief and international solidarity, youth, religion, health, assistance, sports and tourism. Some of these organisations, which are members of the association for volunteering Luxembourg (*Association du Bénévolat Luxembourg asbl*), may be found at <http://www.benevolat.public.lu/fr/associations-activites/index.html>

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

Yes, the National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) and especially the 2011 campaign on volunteering of young people ("[Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?](#)") target young volunteers. The website www.fraiwellechwell.lu gives examples of organisations looking for young volunteers: [FNEL Scouts et guides](#), [Croix-rouge luxembourgeoise](#), the students' organisation [Lisel](#) (*Lieu d'initiatives et de services des étudiants au Luxembourg*), [Radio Graffiti](#), the rural youth association [Lëtzebuerger Landjugend asbl](#), the young Christian students [Jeunesse étudiante chrétienne](#) (JEC), [Lëtzebuerger Guiden a Scouten](#) (LGS), the youth fire brigade [Lëtzebuerger Jugendpompjeeën](#), [Young Caritas](#), the European youth [Jeunesse Européenne Luxembourg](#).

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

Yes, the aforementioned campaign "[Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?](#)" initiated by the National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) promotes volunteering of young people together with partners like [FNEL Scouts et guides](#), [Lëtzebuerger Guiden a Scouten](#) (LGS) and [Young Caritas](#).

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

The organisations promoting volunteering mainly are ministries, public administrations, non-profit organisations, foundations etc.

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: "Bénévolat des jeunes" in 2007 by the Ministry of Family and Integration; campaign "Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?" in the frame of the European Year of Volunteering in 2011 by the National Youth Service

Education

Youth information centres

Funding of NGOs

Other: special websites: website by the National Youth Service for young people doing voluntary service (<http://www.volontaires.lu>); website by the National Youth Service for young volunteers in the frame of the campaign "Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?" (<http://www.fraiwellechwell.lu>).

None

By NGOs:

Advertisement campaigns

Education

Youth information centres: information on volunteering by the Youth Information Centre ([Centre information jeunes](#), CIJ)

Other: a website for volunteering (<http://www.benevolat.public.lu>) providing information and hints

None

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

European Youth Pass: 243 Youth Pass certificates delivered in 2010 (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2011, p.252)

Certificates: volunteering experiences of young people are recognised by certificate (*Attestation de l'engagement*), as stated in the 2008 Youth Act (Art 7) and fixed by the 2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth (Art.13-17); a brochure published by the Ministry of Family

and Integration and the National Youth Service describes the certificate and its portfolio ("[Portfolio de l'engagement](#)"); 69 certificates have been delivered in 2010 (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2011, p.250)

- Credits in the formal education system: a (voluntary) activity of at least three years linked to the domain of studies may be recognised as an experience certifying knowledge and abilities required for a diploma or title (*Validation des acquis professionnels*) (2003 University Act, Art.9)
- Awards: the Youth Merit Luxembourg foundation ([Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg](#)) confers every year the youth merit award ("*Prix du mérite jeunesse*") on a group of young people and badges of merit in bronze, silver and gold ("*Insignes du mérite*") on individual young people
- Incentives: the youth card "[TeamK8](#)" for young volunteers, which offers many advantages as cut price offers or free tickets and gifts
- They are valued in the CV
- Other:
- They are not recognised

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

An obvious obstacle is that in the frame of voluntary service not all applications could be accepted, mainly due to shortage of supporting staff. The government launched a two years pilot project in the frame of the voluntary guidance service (*Service volontaire d'orientation, SVO*) to be able to offer more opportunities to young volunteers. (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2011, p.237, 239)

Administrative hurdles hinder young people to engage straightforward in some of the programmes. The National Agency implementing voluntary service (being part of the National Youth Service) has made efforts to reduce administrative complexity, above all concerning the European voluntary service (*Service volontaire européen, SVE*), to make it more accessible for young people (cf. Da Silva Santos, 2010, p.10-11, 38-39).

4. Mobility of young volunteers _____

- *Is there any national monitoring of how mobility of young volunteers takes place? Y/N*

No, but there is a reporting about participation in voluntary service. The National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ) reported the following figures for 2010:

- There were 16 young volunteers participating in a development project abroad in the frame of the voluntary service of cooperation (*Service volontaire de coopération*, SVC).

- There were 13 young volunteers from Luxembourg participating in a project abroad and 35 young volunteers from 14 different countries doing voluntary service in Luxembourg in the frame of the European voluntary service (*Service volontaire européen*, SVE).

(Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, 2011, p.239, 252)

- *What are these monitoring mechanisms? If yes, please explain.*

N/A

5. Sources of information

Websites:

Ministry of Family and Integration ([Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration](#))

National Youth Service ([Service national de la jeunesse](#), SNJ)

Youth Information Centre ([Centre information jeunes](#), CIJ)

Youth Merit Luxembourg ([Mérite Jeunesse Luxembourg](#))

Website for young people doing voluntary service ([Service volontaire](#))

Website for volunteering ([Le portail du Bénévolat](#))

Campaign on volunteering of young people ([Fräi, well ech wëll! An du?](#))

Youth card for volunteers ([TeamK8](#))

References and sources:

[Code du travail \(7e mise à jour: 2 juin 2011\)](#) (2011 Labour Legislation)

[Da Silva Santos, C. \(2010\). Évaluation intermédiaire du programme « Jeunesse en action » \(2007 – 2013\) au Luxembourg. Luxembourg: Université du Luxembourg. \(INSIDE-Contexts and Structures of Growing Up\)](#)

[Loi du 12 août 2003 portant création de l'Université du Luxembourg](#) (2003 University Act)

[Loi du 12 mai 2010 portant réforme de l'assurance accident](#) (2010 Accident Insurance Act)

[Loi du 3 août 2005 concernant le sport](#) (2005 Sports Act)

[Loi du 4 juillet 2008 sur la jeunesse](#) (2008 Youth Act)

[Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration \(2011\). Rapport d'activité 2010.](#)

[Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration, Service national de la jeunesse \(2009\). Portfolio de l'engagement. Description générale.](#)

[Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse \(2004\). Jeunesse et société. Deuxièmes lignes directrices pour la politique de la jeunesse.](#)

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Ministère de la Jeunesse (1999). Travail de jeunesse, bénévolat, partenariat. Plan d'action N°3.

[Texte coordonné au 27 juillet 2010 de la loi du 31 octobre 2007 sur le service volontaire des jeunes](#) (2007 Act on Voluntary Service)

[Texte coordonné au 6 juillet 2011 du règlement grand-ducal modifié du 9 janvier 2009 sur la jeunesse](#) (2009 Grand-ducal regulation on youth)