

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Voluntary Activities**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **GREECE, 2006**

### **1 Statistics**

#### **1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people**

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
<b>Exists?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

#### **1.2 Number of young people who engage in voluntary activities**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

#### **1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

#### **1.4 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service)**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

#### **1.5 Number of young people who engage in national voluntary civic service**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

##### **1.5.1 Number of young people who carry out their service period abroad**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

### 1.5.2 Is the national voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country?

Yes ~~No~~

### 1.5.3 If yes, number of young people from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service

Total Number	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

### 1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

N/A

## 2 Range of voluntary activities

### 2.1 Voluntary activities engaged in by young people and approximate number of people involved

	Exists?	Number
a. Community activity	Yes	N/A
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/A
c. Emergency response	Yes	N/A
d. Community peacekeeping	Yes	N/A
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/A
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/A
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/A
h. Environment	Yes	N/A
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	N/A
j. Economic justice	Yes	N/A
k. Development aid	Yes	N/A
l. Humanitarian aid	Yes	N/A
m. Religious volunteering	Yes	N/A
n. Education	Yes	N/A
o. Arts/culture	Yes	N/A
p. Sports	Yes	N/A

	Exists?	Number
<b>q. Recreation</b>	Yes	N/A

Other voluntary activities

Other voluntary activities: -Feminist issues and gender equality -Animal Welfare -Blood and Human Organ Donations -Support for immigrants, minority groups and repatriated Greeks

## 3 Finance

### 3.1 Amount of finance that is annually available for voluntary activities and allocation of this finance

**Total** : 72020000

Explanation

1.An amount of 70000000 Euros is offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2005 (this amount supports programmes of voluntary activities in the field of development cooperation). 2.An amount of 900000 Euros is offered by the General Secretariat for Youth in 2005. Its allocation is as follows: -150000 Euros for the Volunteering Project #Time Bank# -450000 Euros for the Volunteering Programme 'Holidays and Voluntary Work' -100000 Euros for a National Survey on Volunteerism in Greece, conducted by the University of the Peloponnese -200000 Euros for other Voluntary Activities and Programmes 3. An amount of 1120000 Euros will be offered to environmental NGOs for voluntary activities by the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in the framework of the Operational Programme #Environment# 2000-2006. There are no data for finance offered by other public authorities or the private sector.

### 3.2 Sources of finance

-International Development Cooperation Department (Hellenic Aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
-Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity -Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works -General Secretariat for Youth, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs -Local Authorities -The Greek Church -EU programmes -World Bank Group -Companies Donations  
-Members# Contributions -Charitable Collections -Donations Bequests

## 4 Main Actors

### 4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

Governmental actors

-General Secretariat for Youth, Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs. Address: 417 Acharnon Str., Athens-11143, Greece. Tel: +30 210 25.99.300, Fax: +30 210 25.31.420, e-mail: eurodesk@neagenia.gr, website: www.neagenia.gr and www.volunteers.neagenia.gr -General Secretariat for Adult Education, Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs. Address: 417 Acharnon Str., Athens-11143, Greece. Tel: +30 210 25.30.286, Fax: +30 210 25.84.808, e-mail: one can contact the General Secretariat for Adult Education through its website www.gsae.edu.gr



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using the appropriate electronic form). -International Development Cooperation Department (Hellenic Aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Address: Citizens Information Office, 30 Akademias Str., Stoa Davaki, Athens, Greece. Tel: +30 210 36.82.700, Fax: +30 210 36.82.474, e-mail: [cio@mfa.gr](mailto:cio@mfa.gr), website: [www.mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr) -Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity (website: [www.ypyp.gr](http://www.ypyp.gr)) -The Hellenic Fire Service, Ministry of Public Order. Address: Hellenic Fire Service Headquarters, Address: 4 Mourouzi Str., Athens-10554, Greece. Tel: +30 210 72.42.211-17, Fax: +30 210 72.11.441-43, website: [www.fireservice.gr](http://www.fireservice.gr) -General Secretariat for Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization. Address: 2 Evangelistrias Str., Athens-10563, Greece. Tel: +30 210 33.59.002-3, Fax: +30 210 33.59.935, e-mail: [info@civilprotection.gr](mailto:info@civilprotection.gr), website: [www.civilprotection.gr](http://www.civilprotection.gr) -Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. Address: 15 Amaliados Str., Athens-11523, Greece. Tel: +30 210 64.15.700, Fax: +30 210 64.47.608, e-mail: one can contact the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public works through its website [www.minenv.gr](http://www.minenv.gr) using the appropriate electronic form)

### Non governmental actors

The list below is indicative only. -Municipality of Athens, e-mail: [info@cityofathens.gr](mailto:info@cityofathens.gr), website: [www.cityofathens.gr](http://www.cityofathens.gr) -Hellenic Red Cross, e-mail: [ir@redcross.gr](mailto:ir@redcross.gr), website: [www.redcross.gr](http://www.redcross.gr) -Action Aid Hellas, website: [www.actionaid.gr](http://www.actionaid.gr) -Medecins Sans Frontieres-Greek section, e-mail: one can contact Medecins Sans Frontieres through its website [www.msf.gr](http://www.msf.gr) using the appropriate electronic form -Medecins du Monde-Greek section, e-mail: [info@mdmgreece.gr](mailto:info@mdmgreece.gr), website: [www.mdmgreece.gr](http://www.mdmgreece.gr) -Friendship Bridges-Institute of Social Solidarity, e-mail: [instphil@hol.gr](mailto:instphil@hol.gr), website: [www.friendship.gr](http://www.friendship.gr) -oneEARTH, e-mail: one can contact oneEarth through its website [www.oneearth.gr](http://www.oneearth.gr) using the appropriate electronic form -Centre of Strategic Planning for Development DIMITRA, e-mail: [kessa@dimitra.gr](mailto:kessa@dimitra.gr) website: <http://kessa.dimitra.gr> -Solidarity-NGO of the Greek Church, e-mail: one can contact Solidarity through its website [www.solidarity.gr](http://www.solidarity.gr) using the appropriate electronic form -Greenpeace-Greek section, e-mail: [gpgreece@diala.greenpeace.org](mailto:gpgreece@diala.greenpeace.org), website: [www.greenpeace.org/greece/](http://www.greenpeace.org/greece/) -WWF-Hellas, e-mail: [support@wwf.gr](mailto:support@wwf.gr), website: [www.wwf.gr](http://www.wwf.gr) -Arcturos environmental organisation, e-mail: [vpetridou@arcturos.gr](mailto:vpetridou@arcturos.gr), website: [www.arcturos.gr](http://www.arcturos.gr) -Archelon environmental organisation, e-mail: [stps@archelon.gr](mailto:stps@archelon.gr), website: [www.archelon.gr](http://www.archelon.gr) -SCI-Social Civil Service International-Hellas, e-mail: one can contact SCI through its website [www.sci.gr](http://www.sci.gr) using the appropriate electronic form -Hellenic Rescue Team, e-mail: [ops-center@rescue.gr](mailto:ops-center@rescue.gr), [liamos@hrt.org.gr](mailto:liamos@hrt.org.gr), website: [www.hrt.org.gr](http://www.hrt.org.gr) -KETHEA- Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals, e-mail: [admin@kethea.gr](mailto:admin@kethea.gr), website: [www.kethea.gr](http://www.kethea.gr) -Mediterranean S.O.S.-Environmental and Social NGO, e-mail: [medsos@medsos.gr](mailto:medsos@medsos.gr), website: [www.medsos.gr](http://www.medsos.gr) -Hellenic Ornithological Society, e-mail: [birdlife-gr@ath.forthnet.gr](mailto:birdlife-gr@ath.forthnet.gr), website

## 5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular

### 5.1 Legal status of volunteers

Until now there is no comprehensive legal framework for volunteerism in Greece; hence,



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volunteers in Greece do not have a specific legal status but they are assimilated to other categories of people depending on the case (eg: students, workers, etc). However, there are some national laws which refer to particular types of volunteerism. More specifically: -Law 2646/20.10.1998 regarding the Institution of the National Social Care System and, in particular, article 12, refers to the development of volunteerism and anticipates the establishment of an independent Department for the Development of Volunteerism within the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity. -Law 2731/5.7.1999 regulates issues related to development cooperation/aid and to NGOs; in addition, it refers to the international organizations of development aid which are financed and monitored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. -Law 3013/1.5.2002 regarding the Upgrading of Civil Protection regulates issues related to the development of voluntary civic service. -Law 1951/1991 establishes the institution of the volunteer fireman.

### **5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations**

None at present. However, donations to public benefit organizations are tax-exempt up to a certain level.

### **5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers**

There are no national standards or arrangements. Individual programmes and projects have their own arrangements regarding expenses, insurance, living allowances, etc. However, as far as European Voluntary Service (EVS) is concerned, participant volunteers in the programme are subject to the EU provisions.

### **5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities**

N/A

## **6 Programmes**

### **6.1 Programmes and plans on volunteering (national, regional, local)**

## **7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services**

### **7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service**

In Greece, military service is obligatory for all male citizens over 18 years old. However, the state gives the possibility of an alternative service to those people who do not wish to join the army for ideological or religious reasons. Alternative service can be either #unarmed# military service or civic (social) service.

### **7.2 Perspectives for the creation of a voluntary civic service in countries**



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### where it does not exist

As mentioned above, voluntary civic service does exist in Greece.

## 8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities

### 8.1 Recent (this year) developments in the area of voluntary activities

-The General Secretariat for Youth is planning the foundation of a National Organization on Volunteerism under the name #The House of Volunteerism#. This organization will constitute an #umbrella# that will function as a #bank# of volunteers, will connect various other organizations and informal groups of volunteers, will promote the idea of volunteerism and develop the necessary supporting structures. -The Ministry of Culture founded a new organisation, the so-called #Citizens# Work#, which will be responsible for the development of volunteerism in Greece. This organisation will occupy 31 persons and its annual budget will be 900000 Euros.

### 8.2 What are the trends concerning the range of voluntary activities?

Increasing ~~Decreasing~~ ~~Stable~~

Explanation

According to recent surveys and articles on volunteerism in Greece, the volume and the range of voluntary activities is increasing.

### 8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

N/A

### 8.4 Description of measures to improve the quality of voluntary activities for young people

N/A

## 9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

### 9.1 The facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

Young people's voluntary engagement is facilitated through a better dissemination of the relevant information. In particular, this constitutes one of the main aims of the Youth Information Centres. In addition, the General Secretariat for Youth portal includes a #Time Bank# which helps young people allocate efficiently any spare time they want to devote to voluntary engagements.



## **9.2 Recent (this year) measures to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering**

N/A

## **9.3 Existing obstacles**

-Absence of a comprehensive legislative framework which will cover rights and responsibilities of volunteers and organisations. -Young people's lack of access to appropriate information on voluntary activities. -Obstacles to the involvement of the disabled and of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

# **10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people**

## **10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people**

-General Secretariat for Youth, [www.neagenia.gr](http://www.neagenia.gr) and [www.volunteers.neagenia.gr](http://www.volunteers.neagenia.gr) -Greek Centre for the Promotion of Volunteering, [www.anthropos.gr](http://www.anthropos.gr) -Citizens' Union Paremvassi, [www.paremvassi.gr](http://www.paremvassi.gr) -Volunteering Organizations Initiative, [www.simetexo.gr](http://www.simetexo.gr) -General Secretariat for Adult Education, [www.ethelontismos.gr](http://www.ethelontismos.gr) and [www.gsae.gr](http://www.gsae.gr) -Youth Information Centres -Municipality of Athens, [www.cityofathens.gr](http://www.cityofathens.gr) -Hellenic Federation of Voluntary Non-Governmental Organisations, [www.ngofederation.gr](http://www.ngofederation.gr) -Panhellenic Network of Ecological Organizations, [www.eco-net.gr](http://www.eco-net.gr)

## **10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities**

-Department of Youth Information and Hellenic National Agency for the EU Programmes Youth and Eurodesk, General Secretariat for Youth: Regular seminars on the European Programmes Youth and Eurodesk for the employees of the Youth Information Centres; an integral part of these seminars is the promotion of the European Voluntary Service (Contact: Ms Dora Bei, Head of Youth Information Department & of Hellenic National Agency, General Secretariat for Youth, Tel: +30 210 25.99.402, Fax: +30 210 25.31.879, e-mail: [dbei@neagenia.gr](mailto:dbei@neagenia.gr) ). -Friendship Bridges-Institute of Social Solidarity, [www.friendship.gr](http://www.friendship.gr). The institute regularly organises a panhellenic festival of humanitarian, development and environmental volunteering organizations (Tel: +30.210.9021111, Fax: +30.210.9016144, e-mail: [instphil@hol.gr](mailto:instphil@hol.gr)). It also publishes the magazine Philanthropist. -Volunteering Organizations Initiative, [www.simetexo.gr](http://www.simetexo.gr) . This is an informal union of nine volunteering organisations which organises an annual event on volunteerism that includes audiovisual presentations on voluntary activities as well as a musical concert.

## **10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds**

N/A



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## 11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

### 11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

N/A

### 11.2 Measures of societal recognition

-The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity organises annually a social event in order to present awards to volunteer organisations and individual volunteers from all over Greece for their services in the sectors of Health and Social Care. -Many volunteers have received honours by local authorities for their voluntary activities. -The President of the Hellenic Republic has presented awards to citizens for their voluntary services.

## 12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

### 12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people

-Volunteering Organizations Initiative. Informal union of nine volunteering organisations. The members of the union are the following: Arkturos, Aegee-Athens, GEA (Group of Ecological Action), EKPIZO-Consumers# Association #The Quality of Life#, Greek Social and Ecological Action, Merimna-Life Care Against Addiction, 9 Muses-Cultural Volunteering Organisation, New Acropolis- International Cultural Organisation, WWF Hellas. Since 2001, the Volunteering Organizations Initiative organises an annual event on volunteerism which includes audiovisual presentations on voluntary activities as well as a musical concert. -Hellenic Federation of Voluntary Non-Governmental Organisations, [www.ngofederation.gr](http://www.ngofederation.gr). This is a network of seventy-eight (April 2004 data) voluntary non-governmental organisations (e-mail: [info@ngofederation.gr](mailto:info@ngofederation.gr)). It publishes the quarterly magazine Volunteering Expression (Ethelontiki Ekfrasi). -Youth Information Centres. Network of 60 youth information points which provide free information on issues of interest to young people, including voluntary activities initiated or sponsored by the General Secretariat for Youth and other governmental or non-governmental organisations.

### 12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

N/A

### 12.3 Exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities)

European Voluntary Service: A long-term action of the EU Youth Programme, aimed at young people aged between 18 and 25 and legally residing in an EU Member State or an associated country. There are two parts in this action of the Youth Programme (Action 2): programmes offering support to Greeks who aim to volunteer abroad and hosting programmes for Europeans who aim to volunteer in Greece. As far as 2005 is concerned, 97 young people have participated in



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the programme up to now. (Contact Person: Ms Dora Bei, Head of Youth Information Department & of Hellenic National Agency, General Secretariat for Youth, Tel: +30 210 25.99.402, Fax: +30 210 25.31.879, e-mail: dbei@neagenia.gr). There is no data available regarding exchanges initiated by NGOs.

### 12.4 Collective volunteering projects

#### 12.4.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Description of projects (including future projects)

N/A

Details of programme/project

N/A

#### 12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects

N/A

### 12.5 International solidarity volunteer service

#### 12.5.1 International solidarity voluntary service in the EU and the world (e.g. in human/natural disaster situations, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development assistance, capacity-building etc.)

There is a great variety of Greek programmes on international solidarity voluntary service in the EU and the world. The list below is indicative only.

Details of programme/project

-Development Programme in Pakistan run by the Centre of Strategic Planning for Development DIMITRA. Duration: 24 months (2004-2006). -Development programme in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan, implemented by the Centre of Strategic Planning for Development DIMITRA. Duration: 18 months (2004-2006).

#### 12.5.2 Major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

-Action Aid Hellas ([www.actionaid.gr](http://www.actionaid.gr)) -Medecins Sans Frontieres-Greek section ([www.msf.gr](http://www.msf.gr))  
-Medecins du Monde-Greek section ([www.mdmgreece.gr](http://www.mdmgreece.gr)) -Solidarity (NGO of the Greek Church) ([www.solidarity.gr](http://www.solidarity.gr)) -Greek Committee of International Democratic Solidarity ([www.eeda.gr](http://www.eeda.gr))  
-oneEARTH ([www.oneearth.gr](http://www.oneearth.gr)) -Centre of Strategic Planning for Development DIMITRA (<http://kessa.dimitra.gr>) -Development and Education Centre European Prospect ([www.helping.gr](http://www.helping.gr))  
-World Engineers ([www.wen.gr](http://www.wen.gr)) -Friendship Bridges-Institute of Social Solidarity



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([www.friendship.gr](http://www.friendship.gr)) -SCI-Social Civil Service International-Hellas ([www.sci.gr](http://www.sci.gr)) -Hellenic Rescue Team ([www.hrt.org.gr](http://www.hrt.org.gr))

### 12.5.3 The degree of involvement of the government/state institutions in supporting international solidarity service in non-EU countries

The role of the government/state administration in the organization, support and implementation of international solidarity service is vital. In particular, the International Development Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the planning and implementation of the national policy on development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The International Development Cooperation Department has a variety of tasks: -It co-ordinates and facilitates the work of humanitarian and development cooperation NGOs. -It promotes volunteerism, and especially the foundation of new humanitarian and development cooperation NGOs in Greece. -It facilitates the cooperation between the Greek humanitarian and development cooperation NGOs and those of the other EU member states. -It allocates the national funds on development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

## 13 Studies & Surveys

### 13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

-A Lyberaki and C. Paraskevopoulos, #Social Capital Measurement in Greece#, paper presented at the OECD-ONS International Conference on Social Capital Measurement, (London: September 2002). -C. Anthopoulos, Ethelontismos, Allilegii kai Dimokratia (Volunteerism, Solidarity and Democracy), General Secretariat for Youth, (Athens: 2000). -General Secretariat for Youth, Meleti Ethelontismou stin Ellada (Study of Volunteerism in Greece), University of Peloponnese, (Athens: 2005). -General Secretariat for Youth, H Nea Genia stin Ellada Simera (Youth in Greece Today), University of Athens (Institute of Applied Communications), (Athens: 2005). -General Secretariat for Youth, Oi Neoi tou Kairou mas. Axies, Staseis kai Antilipseis tis Ellinikis Neolaias (Youth in Our Times. Values, Attitudes and Beliefs of the Greek Youth), Papazisis, (Athens: 2000). -I. Panayotidou/Paremvassi, The Society of Volunteers in PAREMVASSI webpage ([www.paremvassi.gr](http://www.paremvassi.gr)). -K. Tsoukalas, A. Koronaïou, Ethelontismos kai Elliniki Empeiria (Volunteerism and the Greek Experience), Vol. 2, ETEVA, (Athens: 2000). -Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Volunteerism, (Athens: 2002). -National Centre for Social Research, Environmental NGOs, A study commissioned by the Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Work. -R. Panagiotopoulou, #The Notion of Voluntarism in Modern Greek Society and the Challenge of the Olympic Games#, paper presented at the Symposium Volunteers, Global Society and the Olympic Movement, (Lausanne: 24-26 September 1999). -R. Panagiotopoulou, Ethelontismos kai Olympiakoi Agones: Diethnis Empeiria (Volunteerism and Olympic Games: The International Experience), Vol. 1, ETEVA, (Athens: 2000). -Volmed Hellas 1997, A Report of the VOLMED Study in Greece, KEKMOKOP, Panteion University, (Athens: 1997). -General Secretariat for Youth, Epikoinonia kai Ethelontismos (Communication and Volunteerism), Hellenic Management Association (Athens: 2005).



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