



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY

ACTIVITIES”

AUSTRIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

Table of contents

1 Statistics	3
2 Range of voluntary activities.....	4
3 Finance	4
4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people.....	5
5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular	6
6 Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering	6
7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services	7
8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities	7
9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement.....	8
10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people.....	8
11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people	9
12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation	9
13 Recent surveys or research carried out on the topic of voluntary activities.....	10

1 Statistics

1.1 Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?

Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

1.2 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary activities per year, totals and by gender. In case the statistical information covers a different age group than 13 to 30 years old, please indicate the source and which age group is covered.

Total: 681 800

Male: 372 800

Female: 309 000

The numbers presented here are from the study: STRUKTUR UND VOLUMEN DER FREIWILLIGENARBEIT IN ÖSTERREICH from Statistik Austria. The age group represented is 15 to 30.

1.3 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary services in your country per year, in totals and by gender

Information not available

1.4 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service), totals and by gender.

Information not available

1.5 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in national voluntary civic service, where it exists. Provide total and gender specific numbers.

Information not available

1.5.1 Number of young people from the ages of 13 and 30 who carry out their service abroad. Provide total and gender specific numbers.

Information not available

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

☒ YES ☐ NO

1.5.3 If yes, provide total and gender specific numbers of young people (13-30 years old) from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service.

Information not available

2 Range of voluntary activities

	Exists	Number of people involved
a. Community activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	12 260
b. Participation/self-governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
c. Emergency response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	126 069 (including rescue service)
d. Community peacekeeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
e. Social assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	39 655 (incl. health)
f. Personal assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
g. Children and youth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
h. Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	29 745
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	37 156
j. Economic justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
k. Development aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
l. Humanitarian aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
m. Religious volunteering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	78 339
n. Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	29 588
o. Arts/culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	139 046 (incl. entertainment, recreation)
p. Sports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	115 143
q. Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	139 046 (incl. arts, culture, entertainment)

3 Finance

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

Total : N/A

Explanation: The amount spent for voluntary activities can not be estimated since a big volume of voluntary activities are set in NGOs like youth organisations which are funded and supported through different public structures.

Due to the federal organisation of youth policy an estimation of financial support could not be done.

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

Main sources of finance are the Ministry for Health, Family and youth and the Ministry for Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Furthermore sources for finance are the Departments for youth policy and for social affairs in the federal states of Austria. But also big national and international companies and the chamber of commerce and industries fund voluntary activities

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

4.1 Governmental actors

Main Actor/National:

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection – Department of voluntary work - <http://www.bmsk.gv.at/> - 01/71100-0

Actors in the youth field:

National Level – financial support, youth programs

Federal ministry for health, family and youth – Department II/5 (youth politics) – www.bmgfj.gv.at - 0043/1/711003327

Austrian Development Agency www.ada.gv.at 1010 Wien, 0043/1/903990

Regional Level – federal state youth units

Vienna – Federal state government - MA 13 (Education and extracurricular youth services) – Department of youth and education - 0043/4000/84341

Lower Austria: Federal state government – Department of youth 0043/2742/9005/13267

Upper Austria: Federal state government – Department of education and Society - 0043/732/7720/15501

Burgenland – Federal state government – Department 2 0043/2682/6002902 -

Styria – Federal state government – Department 6A (youth, women, family and generation) – 0043/316/877/2647 -

Carinthia – Federal state government – Department of youth - 0043/50/536/41361

Salzburg – Federal state government - Department 2/07 (youth) - 0043/662/8042/2117

Tyrol – Federal state government – Department of education, culture and sports – JUFF 0043/512/508-3560

Vorarlberg - Federal state government – Department of youth and family – 0043/5574/511/24125

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

There are many different nongovernmental actors in every field of voluntary activities of young people in Austria, which range from emergency response to sports.

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

5.1 Specific legal status of volunteers

Currently volunteers have no specific legal status.

5.2 Taxation of volunteers and volunteer organisations

Organised on the basis of the private law relating to associations, they have special tax grants because of their public usefulness and non-profit-making. Compensations for voluntary activities are liable to taxes as all other income.

5.3 Social protection or/and health insurance of volunteers recognition by the pension system.

In many cases if volunteers are working for organisations these organisations have special insurance for accidents in the time of their voluntary work.

For the volunteers, doing the "Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr" www.fsj.at, exists the same social protection system as for all workers.

Otherwise no social security system exists for volunteers.

A legislative solution for the problem of social protection of volunteers is aimed for.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

Compensations for voluntary activities are liable to taxation as other income. Unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities are treated in the same way as other volunteers.

6 Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering

On the basis of the need for action analysed by the working groups in the International Year of Volunteers 2001 and summarised in the "Volunteers' Manifesto, these four committees have now drawn up specific recommendations for its implementation. This was unanimously approved as the "Voluntary work action programme" by the Austrian Council for Voluntary Work at its second meeting on 20 October 2004.

The "Voluntary work action programme" is structured according to three categories. First of all, it is necessary to create a legally valid definition of voluntary work and honorary office. On

this basis, the legal safeguarding of voluntary work can take place, particularly through personal liability and accident insurance, but also within the framework of employment legislation. As soon as the recommended measures for the improvement of the framework conditions for voluntary work have been implemented, an image campaign to increase the perceived value of voluntary work is to be carried out with the objective of finding new activists, young and old.

For the implementation of this "Voluntary work action programme", concerted cooperation is required at the level of the federal government, the provinces, the towns/cities and municipalities, interest groups and the NPOs themselves, in order to then be able to find new activists for all areas of voluntary work via the above-mentioned image campaign to raise the perceived value of voluntary work.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

N/A

7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in the country

All males at the age of 18 are to go to military service (for 6 month) or do civilian service instead. There is no possibility to use civic service or voluntary service as a replacement of this mandatory service.

7.2 Plans to create voluntary civic service if not existing

N/A

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

8.1 Strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people

See 6.

8.2 Other means, measures and instruments applied in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people

N/A

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 Facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

- Enhancing the status of volunteering in autonomous school areas (particular in school project work)
- Focus on volunteering by young people in extracurricular youth education
- Development of student and youth initiatives and projects
- Integrating the values of practised civil society in teacher training and continuing education
- Development of "citizens" centres for Young and Old to regional volunteers exchanges for linking supply and demand
- Qualification of volunteers through the extension of basic and advanced training
- Cooperation and interface between paid staff and volunteers
- Standards, harmonisation and EU-wide recognition of courses and certificates in the field of voluntary work
- Curriculum for volunteer management Improvement of the legal framework of associations in 2002 (facilitating and accelerating official procedures for associations).

9.2 Obstacles

Still no nation wide curricula for trainings exist.

The problems of the legal status and the social protection of volunteers are not completely solved.

9.3 Recent measures that have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering

N/A

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

1. Austrian Council for Voluntary Work (Dr. Erika Winkler): Federal ministries, governments of the provinces, association of communities and cities, social partners, NGOs representing all sectors of voluntary commitment
2. www.freiwilligenweb.at
3. Youth information centres in the Federal States.
4. www.infoup.at
5. Youth information of the Ministry for Health, Families and Youth

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

Development of a national strategy for enhancing the status of voluntary work in public opinion (annual “Volunteers Award”) Integration of and cooperation with media in enhancing the status and recognition of voluntary work.

For volunteering a certificate that is accepted in the labour market exists: the “Freiwilligenpass”.

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

N/A

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 Ways to enhance recognition of young people's voluntary activities

Annually the “Volunteers Award” is given for all kinds of voluntary activities not just in the youth field. The winners of the awards are presented on the IT platform www.freiwilligenweb.at.

[Freiwilligenpass](#)

11.2 Do certificates on the voluntary activities of young people exist?

☒ YES ☐ NO

11.3 Recognition of the voluntary activities of young people

- Freiwilligenpass issued by the Ministry for Health, Families and Youth

11.4 Degree of recognition by the society as such regarding voluntary activities of young people

- “Volunteers Award”
- Informations, Articals, etc. in Media

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

12.1 Co-operations and networks in favour of voluntary activities of young people at all levels

Youth information centres in the 9 provinces inform about possibilities.

For the Youth in Europe Programme the regional offices in the 9 provinces are in charge.

The umbrella organisations of youth organisations (BJV) and of open youth work (KOJE) are also engaged in voluntary activities and their promotion.

12.2 Possibilities for exchanging young volunteers: at all levels

12.3 Collective volunteering projects

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

“72 Stunden ohne Kompromiss”: every second year the Catholic Youth organises this project where groups of 5 to 20 young people engage voluntarily for 72 hours to work in different local projects. Without compromise means that the young volunteers do not know what task they should fulfil in the following 72 hours. In the year 2006 5.000 youngsters participated in this event.

12.3.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects

If they are interested they can apply to be part of one of the projects in the frame of 72 Stunden ohne Kompromiss

12.4 Existence of an international solidarity volunteer service (e.g. in human/natural disaster situation, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development, assistance, capacity-building etc.)

12.4.1 Please list some major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Austrian Red Cross, Caritas, Nachbar in Not,

12.4.2 Involvement of the government/state administration in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.

no information available

13 Recent surveys or research carried out on the topic of voluntary activities

The last research was held in 2006 on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumerism (BMSG) - Bundesministerium für soziale Sicherheit, Generationen und Konsumentenschutz.

Statistik Austria: Struktur und Volumen der Freiwilligenarbeit in Österreich (Structure and Volume of voluntary work in Austria). Vienna, 2007

Bases on the Mikrozensus 2006, age group calculated: 15 to 29