



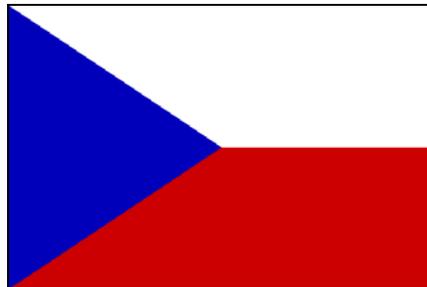
YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY

ACTIVITIES”

CZECH REPUBLIC



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

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1 Statistics

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

Based on Act No. 198/2002 Coll., on volunteer service

Volunteer service provides assistance to the unemployed, the socially handicapped, the disabled, the elderly, members of national minorities, immigrants, persons returning from prison, drug addicts, victims of home violence, and also help in care for children, youth and families in their free time, assistance during natural and environmental disasters or humanitarian crises, in protection and improvement of the environment, in care for the preservation of cultural heritage, in organizing of cultural events, charity fund-raising or collections of clothing and other items for charitable purposes, and assistance in materialization of the development programmes as well as operations, projects and programmes of international organizations and institutions, including international non-governmental organizations.

Outside the jurisdiction of the act on volunteer service, there is a number of other programmes in the Czech Republic which are provided methodologic assistance and supervision by HESTIA National Volunteer Centre and which are carried out by organizations grouped in the Coalition of Volunteer Initiatives (see www.hest.cz). Among others, we can list for example the following programmes, in which a number of young people take part:

“Program Pět P” (the national version of Big Brothers, Big Sisters), “Dobrovolníci v nemocnicích” (Volunteers in Hospitals), “Program Pro seniory” (Programme For the Elderly), “Dobrovolnictví nezaměstnaných absolventů škol” (Volunteering of the Unemployed School Graduates) and many others.

Other volunteering programmes for young people, in which cross-border aspect or focusing on workcamps is involved, are managed by such organizations as Česká národní agentura (Czech National Agency), INEX-SDA and others.

Numerous other young volunteers carry out their activities elsewhere or help those in need without being registered in any of the programmes mentioned above.

1.2 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary activities per year, totals and by gender.

According to the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, which is responsible for issuing accreditations to the organizations willing to participate in “volunteering activities”, there are no compulsory statistics. The data about the numbers of volunteers are provided by these organizations on their own will, and they usually do not distinguish their volunteers as to the age or gender.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic estimates that approximately two thirds of the volunteers are students of secondary schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities and

relatively young women taking their maternity leave, i.e. young people up to the age of 35 years. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

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

In view of the information stated in the preceding section, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic has available only approximate data on the numbers of volunteers reported by the non-profit organizations accredited under the act on volunteer service. These data do not allow for precise determination of the number of young volunteers up to the age of 30 years.

In 2006, there were about 9.350 volunteers. Approximately two thirds of this number could be people from 15 to 35 years of age. It is not possible to distinguish these numbers by gender. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

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.

As regards volunteer service abroad, the situation with the statistical data is similar to that related to volunteer service in the Czech Republic, as discussed in the preceding sections. It is only necessary to point out that due to the difficulties involved in meeting all the statutory requirements for sending volunteers abroad, only 5 % of all the accredited sending organizations are accredited for volunteering projects abroad. All the statistical data available are therefore derived from this relatively small proportion.

In 2006, some 770 persons took part in the volunteer service projects abroad, outside EU (the act on volunteer service does not cover EVS).

It is not possible to distinguish these numbers by gender. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

1.5 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in national voluntary civic service, where it exists.

National voluntary civic service does not exist in the Czech Republic. In the past, it was possible to enter the compulsory alternative military service (also called civilian service) instead of compulsory military service in armed forces. Nevertheless, this practice only involved young men and it has been already abolished together with the whole concept of compulsory military service in armed forces. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

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.

Not applicable (see section 1.5).

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

Not applicable (see section 1.5).

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.

Not applicable (see section 1.5).

2 Range of voluntary activities:

- Assistance provided to the unemployed – 160 volunteers
- Assistance provided to the socially handicapped – 300 volunteers
- Assistance provided to the disabled – 1,900 volunteers
- Assistance provided to the elderly – 550 volunteers
- Assistance provided to members of national minorities – 30 volunteers
- Assistance provided to immigrants – 80 volunteers
- Assistance provided to drug addicts – 20 volunteers
- Help in care for children, youth and families in their free time – 1,100 volunteers
- Assistance provided during natural and environmental disasters or humanitarian crises – 280 volunteers
- Assistance provided in care for the preservation of cultural heritage – 200 volunteers
- Assistance provided in organizing of cultural events, charity fund-raising or collections of clothing and other items for charitable purposes – 4,500 volunteers

(Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

These figures reflect only the numbers of volunteers registered under the act on volunteer service, the numbers of other, unregistered volunteers are much higher; volunteers registered under the act on volunteer service are estimated to form some 5 to 15 % of the total number of volunteers in the Czech Republic. (Source: Hestia o.s.)

3 Finance

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

Specific-purpose grants from the state for volunteer service in 2007 (grants awarded on the basis of applications) are as follows:

CZK 14,880,000.-

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic emphasizes the fact that these funds are assigned only for the organizations having valid accreditation from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic issued under Act No. 198/2002 Coll.

This act stipulates that the funds from the grants awarded by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic can be exploited only for covering the expenses related to the insurance of the volunteers and also for covering a part of the costs of registering the volunteers and preparing them for carrying out the volunteer service, as well as a part of the costs of the providing of the volunteer service itself. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic supports volunteering in some 10 to 20 health care facilities by awarding annual grants from the programme entitled "Program vyrovnávání příležitostí pro občany se zdravotním postižením" (Programme of Equalizing Opportunities for the Disabled Citizens).

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

- State budget of the Czech Republic (public finance)
- Contributions from other entities (private finance)

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people (

4.1 Governmental actors

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

Crime Prevention Department – Volunteer Service Unit

Contact:

Nad Štolou 3

170 37, Prague 7

Tel.: +00420974833797

Fax: +00420974833504

Head: Mgr. Radek Jiránek (jiranek@mvcv.cz)

Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic

Department of Health and Welfare Services

Contact:

Palackého náměstí 4

P.O. Box 81

128 01, Prague 2

“Program vyrovnávání příležitostí pro občany se zdravotním postižením” (Programme of Equalizing Opportunities for the Disabled Citizens)

This programme is based on the Government Decree No. 1004 of 17th August 2005

“Národní plán podpory a integrace občanů se zdravotním postižením na období 2006 – 2009” (National Plan of Support and Integration of the Disabled Citizens into the Society for the Years 2006 to 2009).

Programme Code: PVP

IV. Programme Topics within the Competence of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic

4.1 [It is necessary to] support forming of volunteer centres and development of volunteering activities in health care facilities, and especially to support the cooperation of the organizations of the disabled citizens with the facilities providing subsequent and long-term treatment and care.

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

Sending organizations

An accredited sending organization is an artificial person, seated in the Czech Republic, which recruits, selects, registers, and prepares volunteers for voluntary service and concludes agreements with them on the carrying out of volunteer service (and sends them to the respective receiving, or host, organizations). It also concludes agreements with the host organizations. Only an unincorporated civic association of citizens, a general welfare association, a church or a religious community, or a religious artificial person formed by a church or a religious community may apply for being accredited.

(For the list of accredited sending organizations in the sphere of volunteer service see:

http://www.mvcr.cz/prevence/dobrovol/akreditace/rok_2007.html)

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

5.1 Is there a specific legal status for volunteers or are they assimilated to other categories of people ?

Volunteers do not have any special statute. Under the act on volunteer service, a volunteer is a natural person over 15 years of age (in case of volunteer service within the territory of the

Czech Republic) or 18 years of age (in case of volunteer service abroad), respectively, who, based on his/her own qualities, knowledge and skills, decides on his/her free will to provide volunteer service. If such a person is an employee, a civil servant, a member of an entity or a pupil/student, he/she carries out his/her volunteer service outside his/her employment, civil service duty, membership or educational/study programme, without any entitlement to remuneration.

5.2 How are volunteers and volunteer organisations taxed? Are they conceded tax exemption?

A volunteer is not entitled to any remuneration for carrying out volunteer service, and therefore this activity is not taxable.

Volunteering organizations are taxed depending on their legal form.

Nevertheless, volunteering activities carried out by individuals can be granted to the host organization as a gift, and in that case the volunteer may, provided he/she is an independent taxpayer, deduct the respective amount from his/her tax base. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

5.3 Describe if volunteers are protected by social or health insurance, or if their activities are recognised by the pension system.

- **Retirement pension insurance**

The sending organization may make an agreement with a volunteer that it will pay retirement pension insurance contributions for him/her in case of long-term service of at least 20 hours a month.

- **Health insurance**

Before sending a volunteer abroad, the sending organization will arrange for his/her health insurance in the host country based on the nature of the volunteer service and the conditions governing health insurance in the host country. Then it can apply for a government grant from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic for covering the related costs. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

The volunteers of EVS have their health insurance provided for on the basis of the collective contract between EK and AXA insurance company. Nevertheless, if the volunteer service abroad is shorter than 6 months, Czech health insurance institutions refuse to deregister the volunteers from the insurance plan, and therefore the volunteers have to pay their health insurance contributions themselves or the contributions are paid by their sending

organizations. In consequence, such volunteers have double health insurance contributions paid unnecessarily.

Czech volunteers of EVS can deregister from the social insurance, or they can pay the contributions themselves, or again, the contributions can be paid by their sending organizations, but only on condition that it is accredited as a sending organization by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and it applies for a government grant to cover the costs of the insurance contributions for the volunteers it sends abroad. In practice, many of the sending organizations of EVS are not registered with the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and thus the volunteers must pay their insurance contributions themselves. Recommendation: The present situation is unsatisfactory and the public administration should take such measures as to ensure that health and social insurance contributions for all the long-term volunteers carrying out their volunteer activities both in the Czech Republic and abroad are paid by the state, similarly as for students.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

One of the aims of Act No. 198/2002 Coll., on volunteer service and on amending of some acts (“act on volunteer service”) was to contribute to the creation of suitable conditions for engaging the unemployed, registered with the employment offices, and making them participate in volunteer activities. Already in the opening part of the act on volunteer service, namely in section 2 (1) a), the list of spheres in which volunteers play their role includes the assistance to the unemployed. Further support of the unemployed is provided by the act on volunteer service in section 14, which amends Act No. 1/1991 Coll., on employment, as subsequently amended, and which stipulates that in case of volunteers carrying out long-term volunteer service (i.e. service lasting for more than 3 months and comprising more than 20 hours in a calendar week) who are registered with the employment office as applicants for a job the period for which they carry out the volunteer service should be included in the period of preceding employment for the purposes of calculating their subsistence allowances. Several regions of the Czech Republic (Hradec Králové, Kroměříž, Přerov, Ústí nad Labem and others) run the programme entitled “Dobrovolnictví nezaměstnaných absolventů škol” (Volunteering of the Unemployed School Graduates), usually – in consideration of the benefits mentioned above – in an accredited mode under the act on volunteer service.

6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering

Based on the information available from the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, only the most common types of accredited programmes can be listed:

Volunteering of the Unemployed, Volunteering in Hospitals, Retirement Homes or Other Facilities for the Elderly,

Individual Preventative Programme for Youth “Pět P” (similar to “Big Brothers, Big Sisters”),

Group Preventative Programme for Children and Youth “Kompas”, programmes aimed at the support of the integration of foreigners into the society, etc.

There are also short-term and long-term programmes outside the territory of the Czech Republic, such as:

- Workcamps – short-term volunteering projects outside the territory of the Czech Republic, EVS – short-term volunteering projects
- Other programmes include: Make a Connection, [Bussines in the Community](#), ENGAGE, GLEN – see www.inexsda.cz
- Participace (Participation)– see www.duha.cz
- Mládež v akci (Youth in Action) – viz. www.youth.cz
- Volunteers also participate in the programme entitled “Program vyrovnávání příležitostí pro občany se zdravotním postižením” (Programme of Equalizing Opportunities for the Disabled Citizens) supported by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic.

Anybody can also become a volunteer by offering their abilities and services to any of the numerous non-governmental non-profit organizations. See www.dobrovolnik.cz

At present, HESTIA o.s. – Národní dobrovolnické centrum (National Volunteer Centre, see www.hest.cz), in cooperation with Národní institut dětí a mládeže (National Institute of Children and Youth), ADRA o.s. (a humanitarian organization) and other partners, has been preparing a system project aimed at leisure-time activities of children and youth, one of partial objectives of which is volunteering, too.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

7.1 What is the relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in your country?

Civilian service, meant as the compulsory alternative military service, does not exist in the Czech Republic. Military service is only professional, but a soldier can be a volunteer in his/her free time.

Volunteers are most engaged in the “citizen involvement sector”, i.e. in non-governmental non-profit organizations. Non-profit organizations are involved in a wide range of human activities: culture, science and technology, upbringing, education, health care, social welfare, sports, care for the environment and many others. The typical features of non-profit organizations include the following aspects:

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they exist independently of the state and its bodies, they can be supported by the state, but they are independent of the state as regards legal and organizational levels;
they do not divide profits: any profits gained from their activities are exploited for the development of the organization itself;
they are self-governing, they have their own control mechanisms, they consist of a certain group of people who have determined their common objectives, rules and guidelines, and sometimes also the organizational structure;
they are based on the principle of volunteering;
they serve public welfare, although they can be divided into two categories: (a) organizations whose main aim is to serve the interests of their own members (mutually beneficial organizations) and, (b) organizations whose main aim is to provide services for the general public welfare (generally beneficial organizations).
State administrative bodies and their organizational components as well as local self-government bodies and their organizational components can also make use of the volunteer service within the scope of their jurisdiction and for the designated purposes (see section 1.1).

**7.2 If a voluntary civic service does not exist, are there plans to create one?
Its reintroduction is not likely.**

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

8.1 Does a strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country? If yes, please give a short description.

The development of volunteering is contained in the state policy towards the non-profit sector and it is also discussed for example in the advisory body of the Czech government, the Government Council for Non-State Non-Profit Organizations.

The strategy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic is the top-quality application of the act on volunteer service and its possible amendment aimed at making the act more accessible for a larger group of users.

Some of the non-governmental non-profit organizations which participate in volunteer service, such as HESTIA – NDC (National Volunteer Centre), Česká rada dětí a mládeže (Czech Council of Children and Youth), INEX-SDA, Duha, etc.

HESTIA – NDC has been implementing – with the support from foundation Nadace OSF and from Mott Foundation (since 1998), and also with the support from foundation Nadace Via

(since 2000) – “Program rozvojem dobrovolnictví” (Volunteering Development Programme) in the Czech Republic with the following main objectives:

Own volunteering programmes – aimed at solving the problems of the community, e.g. preventative programmes for children and youth, for the elderly and the disabled, for the unemployed, etc.;

Educational and training activities – nation-wide specialized conferences, workshops and training sessions for non-governmental non-profit organizations; the centre encourages and supervises the work of the students of colleges, polytechnics and universities;

Public relations in the sphere of volunteering – cooperation with media, non-governmental non-profit organizations, municipalities, regional authorities, self-government and state administration bodies aimed at rehabilitation and support of volunteering in the eyes of the general public, incl. management of websites;

International cooperation – contacts to international volunteering organizations, taking part in conferences, membership in boards and providing of information; all of these are important for improving the image and professionalism of volunteering;

Services for non-governmental non-profit organizations – cooperating with regional partners for whom the centres seek and provide volunteers a keep the registers of volunteers and organizations;

Participation in projects and programmes of other non-governmental non-profit organizations – close cooperation during PR events, fund-raising, collections, etc.

8.2 Which other means, measures and instruments does your country apply in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people?

Every year since 2001, Hestia – NDC, together with regional partners, organizes in about ten cities or regions the ceremonial awards of the Křesadlo (Strike-a-Light) prize to selected volunteers. These ceremonial awards also help to promote the non-profit sector and to enhance its interconnection with the public and commercial sectors.

9 Removing obstacles to young people’s voluntary engagement

9.1 How is young people’s voluntary engagement facilitated?

9.2 What obstacles still exist?

Limitations under the act on volunteer service

Age limit

A volunteer can be a natural person

- over 15 years of age (in case of volunteer service within the territory of the Czech Republic)

or

- over 18 years of age (in case of volunteer service abroad)

Persons under 18 years of age may become volunteers only on the basis of an officially certified approval of their parents or guardians.

A volunteer under 18 years of age may not be appointed to carry out volunteer service that would be inadequate to the anatomic, physiologic and psychic characteristics typical for the given age group, or in which they would be exposed to increased risk of injury or other influences likely to be detrimental to their health.

Note: These age limits are not considered by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic to be a real obstacle for volunteering in its real sense, because age limitation applies only to the volunteers sent by accredited sending organizations under the act on volunteer service, and these form only a minority of all volunteers. Younger people can act as volunteers outside the scope of the act on volunteer service.

Beside the limitations set forth above, there are also other aspects hindering the development of volunteering, especially an unclear legal situation of volunteers and also relatively low appreciation of voluntary activities by the society.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

Every organization carries out its own promotion activities. These consists mainly in lectures at schools, distribution of leaflets, and references to websites.

For example, in 2007, ČNA Mládež (Czech National Agency “Youth”) organized a series of seminars in 10 regions of the Czech Republic to inform the potential host and sending organizations about the possibilities within the framework of EVS. ČNA, using its own website and that of EURODESK, as well as using various leaflets, brochures, information campaigns and training sessions tries to promote the cognizance of EVS and volunteering among young people and those who work with children and youth.

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

For the list of accredited sending organizations in the sphere of volunteer service for the year 2007, kept by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (containing the links to the different sending organizations) please visit

http://www.mvcr.cz/prevence/dobrovol/akreditace/rok_2007.html

Other organizations active in the sphere of volunteering are:

www.youth.cz – state organization, www.dobrovolnik.cz – web portal for intermediation of volunteer service, www.dobrovolnici.cz – database of opportunities for volunteers.

Among non-governmental non-profit organizations focused on volunteering at least the following ones should be mentioned: www.hest.cz, www.duha.cz, www.inexsda.cz, www.clovekvtisni.cz, www.adra.cz.

There are also a number of other organizations...

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic organizes presentations aimed at supporting the application of the act on volunteer service and designated mainly for non-governmental non-profit organizations and other entities in the roles of host organization on the regional level, in cooperation with regional authorities.

Other activities are carried out by the central offices – coalitions, umbrella organizations. See also sections 8.2 and 10.

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

Engaging handicapped young people is one of the main priorities of the programme of EVS. Therefore, ČNA Mládež provides special attention and support to the target group of handicapped young people. During all the promotional events and especially during the accreditation training for new sending and host organization, as well as during meetings of experienced and novice organizations participating in the programme, great emphasis is placed on the information and sharing of experience regarding the integration of handicapped volunteers. In 2007, ČNA published the translation of booklet entitled “Use Your Hands to Move Ahead” (originally published by SALTO Inclusion Resource Centre), which it distributes free of charge and exploits during its training activities.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic does not have any targetted programme for promoting the recruitment of volunteers from among persons coming from unfavourable environments, but it supports – and in its presentation events and printed materials emphasizes – the possibility of engaging volunteers for working with (assisting) handicapped groups of people, especially children.

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 How (by which means) are voluntary activities of young people recognised?

Volunteer activities are appraised every year by ceremonial awards of the Křesadlo (Strike-a-Light) prize to selected best volunteers. These ceremonial awards are usually organized by regional volunteering centres (non-governmental non-profit organizations) and regional authorities.

In July 2007, the European Commission officially launched a new certificate called “Youth Pass“, which represents a long-prepared tool for acknowledging participation of young

people in the programme entitled “Youth in Action”. Within EVS, it has replaced the original certificate proving the participation in EVS. Youth Pass is issued to the volunteer by the host and it contains the description of the development of his/her key competences during the volunteer service. Youth Pass is fully compatible with EURO-PASS.

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

Yes.

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

Youth Pass, to be received by every EVS participant, is issued by the host organization. This document contains parts to be filled in by the volunteer himself/herself based on his/her self-assessment.

In 2007, Národní institut dětí a mládeže (National Institute of Children and Youth) commenced structured negotiations, in which all main actors (employers, schools, public administration, non-governmental non-profit organizations) are involved, aimed at developing a generally accepted national tool for acknowledging learning outcomes from informal education, including volunteer activities.

11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people?

N/I

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

- AVSO – Association of Voluntary Service Organisations
- EVS – European Volunteer Service
- Vysokoškolské katolické hnutí (University Catholic Movement)
- Regional charities
- Unincorporated civic associations
- HESTIA – NDC initiated the origination and coordinates the activities of the national network entitled “Koalice dobrovolnických iniciativ” (Coalition of Volunteering Initiatives), which today has more than 50 members.

12.2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers ?

Except from the list of accredited organizations which organize international volunteering projects:

- Duha, o.s. – Association of children and youth for leisure, nature and rag – workcamps, Senovážné nám. 24, 116 47 Prague 1:

Very wide range of activities, cooperation of small groups of young people (up to 30 persons) coming from various nationalities, cultural and social environments – common small projects, often aimed at assisting local communities and trying to perform one particular task together.

- INEX – Sdružení dobrovolných aktivit, o.s. – Senovážné nám. 24, 116 47 Prague 1:

Also this organization has a very wide range of activities, it sends volunteers to short-term and long-term stays even in very distant destinations in the so-called countries of the Global South – formerly also called developing countries. Long-term stays last from 6 months up to 2 years.

- Slezská diakonie – Religious organization, Na Nivách 7, 737 01 Český Těšín:

In accredited volunteering projects it focuses mainly on social welfare services and working with children from national minorities and from socially weak families. It receives volunteers from the U.S.A. sent by the U.S. charity organizations – individually in 2006 – 2007 (one or two volunteers a year).

- SADBA, o.s. – Salesian association of Don Bosco, Kobylišké nám. 640/11, 182 00 Praha 8:

It has a network of centres for preventative work with endangered and socially weak youth all over the Czech Republic. It builds upon the cooperation with the Salesian provinces and facilities abroad, including the countries of the so-called Third World. It sends volunteers for long-term service (up to 1 year) for example to Mexico, India and some African countries.

Arcidiecézní charita Praha – One of the largest church charity organizations having hundreds of accredited volunteers for activities in the Czech Republic, Londýnská 44, 120 00 Praha 2:

It makes use of its contacts to the local charities in the Third World countries. It is the main organizer of the programme entitled Adopce na dálku (Adoption at Distance) in which donors in the Czech Republic (both institutions and individuals) send money for covering the tuition fees and school utensils for gifted children in poor countries of the Third World (Uganda, Kazakhstan, Thailand) who would otherwise have no chance to get proper education.

Volunteers participate in arranging the correspondence and looking for suitable children as well as in managing the programme in the particular foreign countries. It is a long-term volunteer service lasting no less than one year.

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

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12.3.1 Collective volunteering projects

Typical projects of this kind are workcamps (described earlier in this document), which take place both in the Czech Republic (with participation of foreign volunteers) and abroad (with participation of young volunteers from the Czech Republic). The scope of activities is described earlier in this document.

Among other projects it is worth mentioning fund-raising activities during the Twelfth-Night collection and similar fund-raising events of this type organized by various charity organizations.

There are also sports events and summer camps for children from children's homes or for children from programmes "Pět P" (individual preventative programmes for youth – similar to "Big Brothers, Big Sisters"), etc., where volunteers play an important part in organizing these events.

Accredited volunteers also participate in various projects aimed at the protection of the environment and preservation and salvation of cultural heritage (incl. measures taken in case of damages caused by natural or environmental disasters), e.g. numerous activities within the framework of programmes and projects organized by the environmental association of the Brontosaurus movement.

ADRA organization has a nation-wide network of volunteers ready to provide help in emergency situations and natural disasters. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

Approximately twice a year, HESTIA – NDC organizes group volunteering activities in cooperation with commercial companies within the framework of the programme entitled "Společenská odpovědnost firem" (Social Responsibility of Firms).

12.3.2 Are there any possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects?

The act on volunteer service treats any foreign citizen carrying out volunteer service within the territory of the Czech Republic and sent by a Czech accredited organization in the same way as a citizen of the Czech Republic. This means that all the activities described above are also available for participation by foreigners. (Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic)

12.4 International solidarity volunteer service

12.4.1 Does an international solidarity volunteer service (e.g. in human/natural disaster situation, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development, assistance, capacity-building etc.) exist?

N/I

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

N/I

12.4.3 Please describe in how far the government/state administration is involved in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.

N/I

13 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

In 2007, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic 2007 made a public survey focused mainly on accredited organizations (but also others) and their opinions regarding the contents of the act on volunteer service and its possible amendments that they find necessary.

HESTIA – NDC has about 50 papers written by students, which deal with the topics of volunteerism and non-profit sector – for the list please visit

<http://www.hest.cz/knihovna.shtml>.