



**Youth**Partnership

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”**

### **ITALY**



**Youth**Partnership  
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](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

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# 1 Statistics

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

*GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF VOLUNTEERISM:* refers to all forms of voluntary activity, whether formal or informal, full-time or part-time, at home or abroad. It is undertaken of a person's own free-will, choice and motivation, and is without concern for financial gain. It benefits the individual volunteer, communities and society as a whole. It is also a vehicle for individuals and associations to address human, social or environmental needs and concerns. Formal voluntary activities add value, but do not replace, professional, paid employees.

*VOLUNTEERING:* can occur informally (for example neighbourly "helping-out"), or within the structures of a non-profit organisation. It is often (but not always) of a part-time nature. It may occur over one day or many years in a range of different fields. It is good practice to ensure that formal volunteers are covered by appropriate accident, health-care and third party liability insurance, that they receive appropriate training and management, as well as the reimbursement of all out-of- pocket expenses.

*FULL-TIME VOLUNTARY SERVICE:* refers to specific, full- time project-based voluntary activities that are carried out on a continuous basis for a limited period of time. Voluntary-service activities may occur at home and abroad. It is good practice to ensure voluntary service volunteers are afforded appropriate social protection, such as accident, health-care and third party liability insurance. Volunteers should also receive appropriate training and management, reimbursement of out-of- pocket expenses as well as appropriate accommodation and subsistence allowances as agreed between the volunteer and the non-profit organisation (and the State as appropriate).

The National Civic service allows young Italian citizens aged 18-28 to devote one year to solidarity, in Italy or abroad.

Source of definitions: AVSO / CEV Report on the "Legal Status of Volunteers in Italy", 2003

**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.**

The statistical information covers an age group of 18-28 years old

Year	Number of volunteers
2001	181
2002	7.865
2003	22.743
2004	32.211
2005	45.175
2006	45.890
Total	154.065

Source: SCN, 2006.

**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**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>2006</b>	
		%
18 - 20	9157	19.95
21 - 23	15481	33.74
24 - 26	15018	32.73
27 - 28	6234	13.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	45890	100
Male	13935	30.37
Female	31955	69.73

Source: SCN, 2006.

The total amount represents 6,3% of total population aged between 18-28

**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.**

<i>Region</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>%</i>
Africa	81	19.71
Latin America	99	24,08
Central America	24	5,84
Asia	29	7,07

Western Europe	71	17,27
Eastern Europe	107	26,03
Total	411	100

Source: SCN, 2006

<i>Volunteers abroad by Region</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>%</i>
Africa	133	30.30%
Latin America	93	21.18%
Central America	19	4.33%
Asia	62	14.12%
Western Europe	80	18.22%
Eastern Europe	52	11.85%
Total	439	100.00%

Source: SCN, 2007.

**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.**

(only number) information unavailable

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

<i>Number of volunteers abroad by AGE</i>	<i>2006</i>	
		<i>%</i>
18 - 20	6	1.37%
21 - 23	67	15.26%
24 - 26	199	45.33%
27 - 28	167	38.04%
TOTAL	439	100.00%

(only number) Source: SCN, 2006.

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

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.*

(only number)

## **2 Range of voluntary activities: Tick the voluntary activities engaged in by young people and then indicate the approximate number of people involved.**

Range of voluntary activities for year 2005 and 2006.

<i>Range of activity</i>	2005 %	2006 %
Environment	8.24	6.78
Welfare	45.7	50.57
Education and Culture	27.24	26.17
Arts	10.04	11.41
Security and Civic protection	6.45	5.06
Abroad Civic Service	2.33	0.97

Source: SCN, 2005.

## **3 Finance**

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

*The finance that is available for voluntary activities is not always clear, as some organisations support voluntary and commercial or public services at the same time. In other cases the financial reporting is non-public or considered as a trade secret.*

- *Indicate with a 'star' ('\*') if the financial data is also used for other (e.g. commercial) services.*
- *Indicate with a 'plus' ('+') if the financial data doesn't cover all voluntary activities.*
- *Explain the calculation method in the comments field*
- *Describe other (commercial and public) services that are also covered by this money*
- *In case the financial data doesn't cover all types of voluntary activities describe which activities are covered by this data*

(only number)

### **3.2 Main public and private sources of finance**

Since there are very different organizations operating in the voluntary field, the source of finance varies dramatically depending on the type of organization considered. The table below shows the main private and public sources of finance.

<b><i>Sources of Finance</i></b>
Agreements/Conventions with public bodies
Oblations and private/voluntary contributions
Shares
Legacies/Devises
Self-financing
Contributions from local authorities
Income from property
Fund-Raising
Membership
Contributions from state

Source: Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali e Osservatorio Nazionale per il Volontariato, 2002.

**4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people (all levels: national, regional, local, e.g. Ministries, organisations, etc...with description of main activity, contact person, address, telephone and fax number, e-mail, website)**

**4.1 Governmental actors**

The **Ministry of Social Solidarity**, set up with law decree n.118/2006, turned into law n. 233/2006, is competent in the fields of social policies and welfare, for the control of migration flows of immigrant workers from Third and new Community countries, and for the coordination of integration policies for foreigners; the policies concerning drugs, formerly a competence of the Presidency of Ministers' Council, as well the management of the financial resources of the Monitoring centre on youth problems due to drug addiction fall under its competences; the Ministry is also in charge of the National Civil Service. The Ministry of Social Solidarity has the task to develop, together with the Municipalities, the Provinces and

the Regions, a network of services capable of granting the basic right to a decent life to all the citizens on an equal base, starting from the battle against poverty and social exclusion. With the comprehensive perspective of a universalistic welfare, the Ministry addresses its activities towards the people suffering for specific problems, such as poor, disabled and migrant people, but also towards any person that faces or might face a difficult situation or that is in need.

Address: Via Fornovo, 8 – 00192 Rome  
 Tel. ++39.06.36751 Contact Centre 800.196.196  
 Website: <http://www.solidarietasociale.gov.it>

#### 4.2 Nongovernmental actors

There are 2802 organizations involved in the voluntary activities in Italy. These organizations operate at different levels (both local and national) and from 2001 to 2006 conveyed a voluntary service to 154065 young people. All the organizations within the National Civic Service are registered in a database available at the National Civic Service (<http://www.serviziocivile.it/Enti/BancaDati/Default.aspx> ). In the table below are summarized the characteristics of a small group who (we believe) played an important role in the youth and voluntary fields and constitute the “Conferenza Nazionale degli Enti per il Servizio Civile” (CNESC):

<i>Organization</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Phone</i>
ACLI	<a href="mailto:serviziocivile@aclit.it">serviziocivile@aclit.it</a>	<a href="http://www.aclit.it">www.aclit.it</a>	3965840276
AIMS	<a href="mailto:aism@aism.it">aism@aism.it</a>	<a href="http://www.aism.it">www.aism.it</a>	391027131
ANPAS	<a href="mailto:serviziocivile@anpas.org">serviziocivile@anpas.org</a>	<a href="http://www.anpas.org">www.anpas.org</a>	3955303821
ARCI SERVIZIO CIVILE	<a href="mailto:parliamone@arciserviziocivile.it">parliamone@arciserviziocivile.it</a>	<a href="http://www.arciserviziocivile.it">www.arciserviziocivile.it</a>	39641734392
CARITAS	<a href="mailto:segreteria@caritasitaliana.it">segreteria@caritasitaliana.it</a>	<a href="http://www.caritasitaliana.it">www.caritasitaliana.it</a>	39666177001
CENASCA	<a href="mailto:cenasca@cisl.it">cenasca@cisl.it</a>	<a href="http://www.cenasca.cisl.it">www.cenasca.cisl.it</a>	3968412226
CNCA	<a href="mailto:serviziocivile@cnca.it">serviziocivile@cnca.it</a>	<a href="http://www.cnca.it">www.cnca.it</a>	39644230395
FOCSIV	<a href="mailto:focsiv@focsiv.it">focsiv@focsiv.it</a>	<a href="http://www.focsiv.it">www.focsiv.it</a>	3966877796
LEGA COOP	<a href="mailto:servizio.civile@legacoop.coop">servizio.civile@legacoop.coop</a>	<a href="http://www.legacoop.coop">www.legacoop.coop</a>	396844391
MISERICORDIE D'ITALIA	<a href="mailto:serviziocivile@misericordie.org">serviziocivile@misericordie.org</a>	<a href="http://www.misericordie.org">www.misericordie.org</a>	395532611
SCS - CNOS	<a href="mailto:serviziocivile@federazionescs.org">serviziocivile@federazionescs.org</a>	<a href="http://www.federazionescs.org">www.federazionescs.org</a>	3964940522
WWF	<a href="mailto:p.ranieri@wwf.it">p.ranieri@wwf.it</a>	<a href="http://www.wwf.it">www.wwf.it</a>	396844971

Source: CNESC, 2005.

## **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 (students, workers, trainees etc?)**

There is not a specific legal status for volunteer. Under current legislation, a volunteer is defined as a person who freely commits himself/herself to carry out volunteerism.

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

Volunteers of the National Civic Service receive a daily net salary of 14,46 Euro (a monthly net salary of 433,80 Euro). The length of the National Civic Service is one year and may not be prolonged or renewed. This income is not directly taxed. However, it increases the amount of taxable income.

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

Volunteers have social and health insurance although access to public health is a universal right in Italy, which does not depend upon the specific legal, labour or economic status of the beneficiaries. The period of National Civic Service is valid for the old-age pension.

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

*How is the legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities*

According to the Italian law, "volunteer" is not an "employee". In this sense, a volunteer is a person who carries out a work without economic gain, despite the right of the volunteer to be reimbursed for any expenses s/he may incur while fulfilling their tasks. Moreover, a volunteering work must be of an altruistic and solidarity character.

## **6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering (national, regional, local)**

The National Civic Service involves 2802 non profit organizations and is a national governmental institution. The organizations operate at different levels (both local and national) and from 2001 to 2006 conveyed a voluntary service to 154065 young people.

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

The organizations must have the following prerequisites:

- a non profit organization;
- 3 years of experience;
- correspondence between the objectives of the organization with those of NSC (as stated in the law 64/2001);

capacity to organize and manage the activities of volunteers

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

Until 2005, compulsory Military Service and alternative Civic Service (called in Italian “obiezione di coscienza”) existed in Italy. Within this framework, alternative civic service could be performed either within public administrations or in authorised non- governmental organisations according to the law regulating volunteering. In reality, this meant that young men could perform “voluntary activities” as a substitute for Military Service.

This choice is no longer available, as compulsory military service has ended in Italy since 2006.

### **7.2 If a voluntary civic service does not exist, are there plans to create one? Please provide a description.**

(10 lines)

## **8 Title 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.**

(10 lines)

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

(12 lines)

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

**9.1 How is young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?**

The national civic service is targeted specifically to young people whose age is between 18 and 28 years. Social and economic incentives are provided to facilitate the engagement. Volunteers of the National Civic Service receive a monthly net salary of 433,80 Euro and this income is not taxed. Moreover, public campaigns on national television are carried out almost every year to inform young people about the voluntary activities and about the rewards of the voluntary service.

**9.2 What obstacles still exist?**

Since the creation of the National Civic Service, Italy has witnessed a steady increase in engagement in voluntary action. High rates of unemployment, especially among young people, and the current restructuring of the economy in many areas, may be seen as contributing to the volunteer "boom" phenomenon currently underway in our country.

If this is the case, action is needed in order to stabilise this process and ensure continuation of progress to all those engaging in voluntary activities.

**9.3 What recent (this year) measures have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering? (legal, administrative measures, etc...)**

(10 lines)

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

Measures to foster volunteering foreseen by the law include the provision, by the state, of technical assistance, training programmes, information services and campaigns to raise awareness of volunteering. The law also provides some financial support measures directly to volunteers in the form of price reductions for public transports.

### **10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people (organisations, links, contact persons, etc...)**

The national civic service has a webpage available at <http://www.serviziocivile.it/> containing all the information needed to volunteers and organizations about the main aspects of the service and the rules to apply for the service. In particular, the webpage contains news, a searchable database of registered organization within the social civic service, useful publications, laws and other legal documents, announcements of examination and FAQ (frequently asked questions),

### **10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities (events, support for promotion actions, contact persons)**

*Describe what type promotion activities for voluntary activities are used and the way these activities are implemented.*

*Additionally describe which types of promotion are used to promote which types of voluntary activities, if applicable.*

Public campaigns on national television are carried out almost every year to inform young people about the voluntary activities and about the rewards and benefits of the voluntary service.

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

*Describe what type promotion activities for voluntary activities are used and the way these activities are implemented.*

*Additionally describe which types of promotion are used to promote which types of voluntary activities, if applicable.*

(15 lines)

## **11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people**

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

(8 lines)

### **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**

National Civic Service Office

### **11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people? If so how (by which means)?**

(15 lines)

## **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 (international, European, national, regional, local) with short description of the networks, their members and activities; description of how they enhance the development, facilitation, promotion and recognition of young people's voluntary activities**

Within the national civic service, it is possible to perform voluntary activities also in international organizations. The projects are carried out in collaboration with the European Union jointly with other international institution whose aim is cooperation and development among developing countries.

For year 2007, 51 projects have been planned with 543 volunteers employed in 66 different countries.

### **12. 2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities). Give information and contact addresses**

There several web sites who collect information on the international voluntary activities of the national civic service. More information is available at the website <http://www.antennedipace.org/> as well as at the national civic service website <http://www.serviziocivile.it/>

### **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)**

*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)*

Please describe collective volunteering projects that take place this year.

For year 2007, 51 projects have been planned with 543 volunteers employed in 66 different countries.

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

*Please describe.*

(6 lines)

### **12.4 International solidarity volunteer service**

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

Within the national civic service, it is possible to perform voluntary activities also in international organizations. The projects are carried out in collaboration with the European Union jointly with other international institution whose aim is cooperation and development among developing countries.

For year 2007, 51 projects have been planned with 543 volunteers employed in 66 different countries.

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

Among other organizations, the so-called “caschi bianchi”, an organization promoted by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Caritas italiana, Volontari nel mondo - Focsiv, and Gavci, in 2006 realized projects of solidarity in the following countries: Tanzania, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ruanda, Benin, Cameroun, Etiopia, Sudan, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Equatoriale, Madagascar, Equador, Cile, Bolivia, Guatemala, Brasile, Venezuela, Perù, El Salvador, Albania, Romania, Moldavia, Kossovo, Israele, Territori Palestinesi, India, Bangladesh.

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

(15 lines)

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

As illustrative of what the Italian arena of volunteerism looks like, a survey carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in 2002 serves as a useful starting point. According to the survey, 16,7% of young people aged between 18 and 29 years old spent time on social participation or volunteer activities. Those who did engage in these activities, notwithstanding, spent a minimum of 5 hours, one day per week.

The reasons of this success may range from historical to contemporary to personal reasons. In particular, volunteering is generally viewed in Italy as an important space for integration, socialisation and creation of a spirit of citizenship among young people.

