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INFORMATION SHEET

VOLUNTEERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

BULGARIA



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Volunteering of young people in Bulgaria _____	2
2. Main actors and networks _____	4
3. Promotion of volunteering of young people _____	6
4. Mobility of young volunteers _____	9
5. Sources of information _____	10

1. Volunteering of young people in Bulgaria

Give an overview on volunteering of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) concerning volunteering of young people?

On national level: Y

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science following the EU Youth Strategy 2010 – 2018, European Youth Pact and the White Paper on Youth draw a draft National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in Bulgaria on the 6th October 2010.

The National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 is focused on the building and implementing of a unified, consistent and sustainable, youth policy in Bulgaria based on the sectoral approach, intersectoral cooperation and co-management with the young people at local, regional and national level. The National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 is aimed to the young people from the aged of 15 to 29 and it is prepared in accordance with the international and European standards for youth work.

The National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 was prepared after an extensive study and analysis of the needs and interests of the young people in the country.

One of the main chapters in the National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 is the “Youth Volunteering”.

This chapter includes:

The strategic objective is the development of the volunteering among the young people as a driving force for personal development, mobility, learning, competitiveness, social cohesion, solidarity between the generations as well as for active citizenship.

The first Operational objective is to create more volunteering opportunities for the young people especially the cross-border mobility through better use of the funds from the “Youth in Action Programme”.

The second Operational objective is to guarantee the rights of the young volunteers.

The third Operational objective is the promotion of the volunteering.

On regional level: Y

The regional governors as well as the mayors support the activities of the youth organizations in the field of the youth volunteering.

Regional public authorities

For ensuring the implementation of national youth policy in the territory of each regional province the regional governors:

1. work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and the young people on issues related to the National Youth Policy;
2. analyze the youth situation in the regional province and formulate priorities, specific goals and measures for development of the young people as well as the youth volunteering.

Local public authorities

The Mayors of the municipalities are responsible for conducting the Municipality Youth policy in accordance with the National Youth Strategy 2010-2020.

The Mayors of the municipalities:

1. work in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, the regional governors and the young people on issues related to the National Youth Policy;
2. analyze the youth situation in the municipalities and formulate priorities, specific goals and measures for development of the young people as well as the youth volunteering.

- Is volunteering usually paid? Y/N

Under the programme “Youth in Action”, Action 2 – European Voluntary Service, the volunteers are being reimbursed for the incurred expenses.

The incurred expenses of the volunteers under national youth programmes are not being reimbursed.

- Is there any National voluntary service? Y/N

There is an expert in the “National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – the National Agency for Youth in Action programme” who is responsible for the coordination of the youth volunteering organizations as well as for the young volunteers.

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

Currently there is no legal framework defining the rights of the volunteers in Bulgaria which means that they can't take advantage of financial, fiscal, social or social security benefits.

2. Main actors and networks

- Who are the main actors (institutional and NGOs) in the field of volunteering of young people on the different levels?

National:

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Science;
- Ministry of Culture;
- National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – the National Agency for Youth in Action programme.

Regional:

- Regional governors;

Local:

- Mayors;
- Municipality councils.

NGOs

- Bulgarian youth red cross;;
- Association for democratic education – “PHAR”;
- Foundation “Tulip”;
- CVS - Bulgaria;
- YMCA - Gabrovo;
- Foundation „Charity Aid in Bulgaria”;
- Association “My Voice”;
- National Scout organization in Bulgaria;
- Foundation „Together – Communication for Support and Development”;
- Youth Information and volunteering center;
- Association "Youth for Understanding";
- “Children and Youth center”;
- Foundation "Don Bosko Bulgaria";
- Center for Culture and Debate “Red House”;
- Association “Art in Action”;
- Youth center for Development “Mutual Aid”;
- Association "IDEA”;
- Association “Porta BG”;
- Association „Focus – European center for development”;
- Association „Youth tolerance”;

- Public center for Environmental and Sustainable Development.

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

All the organizations and institutions mentioned in this report are targeting the young people. All of the members of the NGOs are young people and the projects which are being implemented by the organizations are aimed at developing and promotion of youth volunteering.

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

National Alliance for work with volunteers.

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

Currently there is no legal framework defining the rights of the youth volunteering organization in Bulgaria which means that they can't take advantage of financial, fiscal, social or social security benefits.

3. Promotion of volunteering of young people

- Which methods among the one listed below are the most used to promote volunteering of young people in your country?

By national policies:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centres
- funding of NGOs
- Other:
- None

By NGOs:

- Advertisement campaigns
- Education
- Youth information centres
- Other:
- None

Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.

Advertisement campaigns – The NGOs advertise their voluntary campaigns through advertising materials, media, Internet or web sites. The way of the advertisement campaigns is selected according to the target group and the financial resource. Recently, the most common and preferred method is via Internet and web sites.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science, the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – the National Agency for Youth in Action programme as well as the other institutions involved in the youth volunteering publish on their web pages an information about different campaigns, initiatives and best practices.

Youth information centres – 37 Youth Information and Consulting centers were established through the National Youth Programme “Youth Information and consulting centers” 2007 – 2010. They provide youth services in 28 districts of the country. 3 centers are established in the biggest

cities and in Sofia there are 5 centers. One of the main task of these centers is the promotion of the youth volunteering.

Funding of NGOs – The funding of the NGOs project is the main method for promotion the youth volunteering. The youth NGOs submit call for proposals under the Youth in Action programme” and the national youth programmes to the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives and after approval they receive funding. This financial support allows more and more young people to get involved in the volunteering.

Other –

Ministry of Education, Youth and Science is the co-organizer of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

In the regard of the celebration of the European Youth Week and the European Year of Volunteering the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives announced the beginning of a national volunteering campaign. The idea of the initiatives was that together we can create a better world. The campaign is conducted in the social network “Facebook” and it was launched on 21st April and it will end on 31st December 2011. The campaign is aimed at the young people in the country and to provoke them to generate ideas and to exchange them using the social networking. Another objective of the campaign is the exchange of good practices in the youth volunteering.

The different causes in the campaign “The change starts from you” are:

- Give a book!
- Plant a tree!
- Cheer up and hug a friend!
- Reject the polyethylene pouches!
- Help the old people!
- Donate your free time and efforts!
- Save the monuments!
- Accept the different!
- Do not be aggressive!

Under the “Youth in Action programme” and the National Youth Programme “Youth Information and Consulting Centers 2007-2010 a lot of trainings of young people and youth leaders as well as different activities like “Free zone” have been carried out in order to support the development of local communities through youth participation in voluntary activities.

Under the priority “Youth volunteering” of the National Youth Activity Programme 2008 – 2010 a campaigns for supporting the youth volunteering have been carried out for the period October 2010

– May 2011. Different trainings of young volunteers, discussions, forums, round tables and photo exhibitions have been implemented for this period. The different ways in which the young people can become a volunteers and the place where they can obtain further information for the volunteering as well as the knowledge and the capacity for the values of the volunteering have been increased as a whole. A lot of films for promoting the volunteering have been directed and after that broadcasted in the local and regional Medias. The public awareness of the young people from the communities for participation in voluntary activities has also been increased.

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

European Youth Pass

Certificates

Credits in the formal education system

Awards

Incentives

They are valued in the CV

Other:

They are not recognised

Explain and provide examples for each of the box ticked.

European Youth Pass – is being issued to the young people who participate in projects under the “Youth in Action programme” which is administrated by the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives.

Certificates – as well as other documents certifying the youth participation in volunteering have been issued by different institutions, companies and NGOs where these activities have been conducted. Currently there is no unified paper for certifying the volunteering in Bulgaria.

Awards – According to the different activities which have been carried out awards are given to the youth volunteers, youth NGOs and etc as a first prize for the best film, paintings and etc.

They are valued in the CV – The participation of young people in different voluntary activities have been more and more assessed by the state institutions and the companies.

4. Mobility of young volunteers

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

Under the programme “Youth in Action” the mobility of the young volunteers can be traced by the National agency for the “Youth in Action programme” which is using the database of the Youthlink as well as the Youthlink Report module. The database is similar to the application form of the beneficiaries.

Under the National youth programmes the mobility of the young volunteers can be traced through spot checks carried out by experts from Youth directorate of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science or from expert of the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – the National Agency for Youth in Action programme

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

5. Sources of information

1. Web page of the European Voluntary Service - www.ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_en.cfm;
2. Web page of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science – www.mon.bg;
3. Web page of the Ministry of Culture - www.mc.government.bg;
4. Web page of Youth Directorate of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science - www.youth.mon.bg;
5. Web page of the National center European Youth Programmes and Initiatives – the National Agency for Youth in Action programme - www.youthbg.info;
6. Web page of the Youth information and consulting centers in Bulgaria - www.mikc.bg ;