Volunteering

This information dossier has been prepared for the public hearing on “Volunteering” on 10 November 2009 at the European Parliament.

Table of contents

EU LEGISLATION.............................................................................................................................................. 2

1. LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW / GENERAL INFORMATION (WHERE APPROPRIATE) ...................................................... 2
2. LEGISLATION IN FORCE....................................................................................................................................... 2

EU INSTITUTIONS............................................................................................................................................. 3

1. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.................................................................................................................................... 3
2. COUNCIL OF THE EU........................................................................................................................................... 4
3. EUROPEAN COMMISSION.................................................................................................................................... 4
4. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE................................................................................................................. 5
5. COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ............................................................................................................................. 6

EU MEMBER STATES....................................................................................................................................... 6

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ........................................................................................................... 6

1. UNITED NATIONS................................................................................................................................................ 6
2. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (UNV) PROGRAMME........................................................................................ 7
3. COUNCIL OF EUROPE .......................................................................................................................................... 7

RESEARCH, NGOS............................................................................................................................................. 8

1. RESEARCH INSTITUTES, THINK TANKS, UNIVERSITIES ........................................................................................ 8
2. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ............................................................................................................ 8

GENERAL .......................................................................................................................................................... 10

1. EP LIBRARY BRIEFING ..................................................................................................................................... 10
2. MONOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES AVAILABLE IN THE EP LIBRARY ................................................................. 10
3. FURTHER READING ........................................................................................................................................... 10
4. LINK COLLECTIONS ........................................................................................................................................... 11
5. CONFERENCES .................................................................................................................................................. 11
EU LEGISLATION

Legislative overview / General Information (where appropriate)

Common objectives for voluntary activities, Summaries of EU Legislation, 19 Sept 2008 Full text access. "The Commission proposes to promote the importance of voluntary activities in order to enhance active citizenship and solidarity among young people."

Mobility for students, persons undergoing training, young volunteers, teachers and trainers, Summaries of EU Legislation, 3 May 2007 Full text access. "Free movement for students, persons undergoing training, young volunteers, teachers and trainers in the Community is still impeded by numerous administrative, regulatory and cultural obstacles. The European Parliament and Council wish to encourage Member States to remove all such obstacles to mobility..."


Mobility of young volunteers. Summaries of EU Legislation, 24 Feb. 2009. Full text access. "With this recommendation, the Council encourages Member States to promote the cross-border mobility of young volunteers. It provides a framework for intensifying Member States’ cooperation, on the basis of which new opportunities for mobility may be created."

Youth in Action 2007-2013, Summaries of EU Legislation 28 January 2009. Full text access. "The 'Youth in Action' programme for the period 2007 to 2013 aims to develop and support cooperation in the field of youth in the European Union (EU). It is designed to encourage young people, especially the most disadvantaged and the disabled, to participate in public life and to promote their sense of initiative, entrepreneurial spirit and creativity." This programme includes the European Voluntary Service.

Legislation in force


access.


**EU INSTITUTIONS**

**European Parliament**

Legislative procedures

European Year of Volunteering 2011, CNS/2009/0072 [OEIL procedure file](#).

The role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion, INI/2007/2149. [OEIL procedure file](#).

Active European citizenship: Citizens for Europe, 2007-2013 programme, COD/2005/0041. [OEIL procedure file](#). Discusses active support for civil society organisations including voluntary organisations.

European youth: opening up decision-making process to young people. White paper, COS/2002/2050. [OEIL procedure file](#).

Third-country nationals: migration for the purpose of studies, vocational training or voluntary service CNS 2002/0242 [Oeil procedure file](#).

Written declarations

Declaration on announcing 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering, DCE/2008/2194, 2 September 2009. [OEIL procedure file](#).

Parliamentary questions

Volunteering H-0370/09, 6 Oct. 2009 Marian Harkin. [Full text access](#).

Voluntary work H-0629/08, 15 July 2008 Armando França. [Full text access](#).

European Year of Volunteering H-0429/08, 3 June 2008. Marian Harkin. [Full text access](#).

Contribution towards projects (voluntary work) undertaken by consumer organisations E-2390/05 4 July 2005 Zuzana Roithová. [Full text access](#).
No to the amendment of Framework Law No 266/91 and the ensuing cuts in funding for the voluntary sector E-1622/05, 3 May 2005. Antonio De Poli. Full text access.

Notes

Youth Policy and Participation in the EU. PE408.968 16 March 2009. Full text access. "This note provides an introduction to the current status of the European Union's Youth Policy, in the context of the debate over its reform. It focuses in particular on the theme of the political and civic participation of young people." It includes a brief discussion of volunteering in relation to youth. Also available in DE and FR.

Council of the EU


Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship. Full text access.

Council Decision of 26 January 2004 establishing a Community action programme to promote active European citizenship (civic participation), 2004/100/EC. Full text access.

Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers, 13258/1/00REV 1 ADD 1. Full text access.

Common Position adopted by the Council on 19 February 2001 with a view to the adoption of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers, 13258/1/00 REV 1. Full text access.

European Commission


Proposal for a Council recommendation on mobility of young volunteers across Europe,
Communication from the Commission to the Council on European policies concerning youth participation and information - Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth: Implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship, COM (2006)417 final. Full text access.

Projects

European voluntary service
This site provides information on the European Voluntary Service. See, in particular, the EVS Guide.

Portal
The European Commission maintains a "Volunteering / exchanges" page with links to other sites as part of the Youth policy portal.

Studies

Study on volunteering in Europe.
The Commission is funding a study on volunteering in Europe (see Call for tender) to better understand the national, regional and local realities of volunteering in the 27 EU Member States, including critical issues and challenges related to the volunteer, the voluntary organisation and services provided by them. The contract award was published in May 2009 and according to one source should be complete in November/December 2009.

Press releases

Volunteering: Ubuntu Winners have been announced IP/09/1393 30 Sept. 2009. Full text here.

Going abroad to learn - Commission launches a public consultation on mobility opportunities for young people IP/09/1096 8 July 2009. Full text here.


Economic and Social Committee

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the European Civic Service (exploratory opinion) 2009/C 218/01 3 March 2009 Full text access.

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on Voluntary activity: its role in European society and its impact, 2006/C 325/13 13 December 2006. Full text access.

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Role of civil society organisations in the implementation of EU cohesion and regional development policy (2006/C 309/26) Full text access.
Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Communication from the Commission to the Council on European policies concerning youth — Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe — Implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship (COM(2005) 206 final) Full text access.


Committee of the Regions


EU MEMBER STATES

Information on volunteering in different EU Member States is available from different sources, e.g. see; under NGOs below, the CEV Facts and Figures reports and You::Vol publication as well as the AVSO Legal Status of Volunteers country reports.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

United Nations

In November 1997, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV). United Nations Volunteers (UNV) was designated as the international focal point. 2011 will be the 10th anniversary of this event.

Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers. Resolution 63/153, 11 Feb. 2009. The General Assembly decided that on or around 5 December 2011, two plenary meetings of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly would be devoted to follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary Full text access.

Follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers: Report of the Secretary-General. A/63/184, 28 July 2008. Full text access (Click on button to select language version). Includes proposals on possible ways to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers 2001.

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development Resolution
A/RES/40/212, 17 December 1985. Full text access. "Governments, the UN system and civil society organizations have successfully joined volunteers around the world to celebrate International Volunteer Day on 5 December."

**United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme**

UNV is entrusted with raising awareness of volunteerism and its contribution to development, providing technical assistance to develop volunteerism, and mobilizing volunteers nationally and internationally. It is the focal point for activities related to the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering 2001 (sometimes referred to as IYV+10). A Fact Sheet presents basic information on the programme; another presents information on the International Day of Volunteering.


**World Volunteer Web**

World Volunteer Web site is produced by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme in partnership with other organisations including the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and OneWorld.net. It serves as a global clearinghouse for information and resources linked to volunteerism and organised by sector, country and volunteering issue.

Volunteering and Social Activism : Pathways for Human Development / World Volunteer Web; CIVICUS; International Association for Volunteer Effort. Presents the key findings of a study undertaken by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) and United Nations Volunteers programme in 2007/2008 on volunteering and social activism. Full text access.

**Council of Europe**


Study


Also available in EP Library Shelfmark S 28.12.28 CHA 05
RESEARCH, NGOs

Research Institutes, Think Tanks, Universities

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies - Center for Civil Society Studies

The Center for Civil Society Studies engages in research and activities designed to improve understanding of the role that philanthropy and nonprofit organizations play in modern society. It provides findings by country and data sets from both the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project and the United Nations Nonprofit Handbook Project.

Measuring Civil Society and Volunteering: Initial Findings from Implementation of the UN Handbook on Nonprofit Institutions / Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies, 2007. This report analyzes the initial findings of a global effort to promote the implementation of the UN Handbook on Non Profit Institutions, concerning eight reporting countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States). Full text access.

Institute for Volunteering Research

The Institute for Volunteering Research is an initiative of Volunteering England in association with the Centre for Institutional Studies at the University of East London. It aims to develop knowledge and understanding of volunteering in a way that is relevant to practitioners and policy makers. It provides lists of Research Summaries and Publications.

Non-Governmental Organisations

European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is a European umbrella association of 43 National and Regional Volunteer Centres across Europe, that together work to support and promote voluntary activity. It produces a number of research CEV publications and other publications including:

CEV 2009 - 2014 European Parliament Manifesto: Do you engage for those who engage?  
CEV launched this manifesto with suggestions how the Members of the European Parliament can contribute to recognise, to promote and to support volunteering and the efforts of volunteers all over Europe. Full text access.

Bibliography on Volunteering Research in Europe 2007. Research papers on volunteering contributed by CEV members, partners and supporters in order to assess the state of the art of volunteering research in Europe. Full text access.

Facts and Figures Reports are the result of an on-going project carried out by the CEV since 2003 aiming to provide comprehensive statistical data and information about volunteering and volunteers in the different European countries. Full text access.
You::Vol -- Youth Volunteering Policies in Europe / CEV. 2007. The YOU::VOL project was set up to give an overview of experiences, realities and practises in the participating countries regarding youth volunteering policies and action from volunteer organisations. This report presents in part a panorama of youth volunteering policies in Europe prepared by the 17 represented countries. Full text access.

FranceBénévolat

France Bénévolat est une association d'intérêt général qui développe ses actions grâce à un réseau de 260 points d'accueil en France et à son Conseil d'Administration composé de représentants de grandes associations françaises, de membres de son réseau et de personnalités qualifiées.

La France bénévole / FranceBénévolat. 6e édition. 2009. La France Bénévole dessine un panorama précis du bénévolat en France aujourd'hui, grâce notamment aux résultats du « Baromètre d’Opinion des Bénévoles »... qui a permis d’interroger près de 7 000 bénévoles. Full text access.

V

V (http://www.vinspired.com) is an independent charity aiming to inspire a new generation of young volunteers by funding and supporting voluntary organisations all over England to create inspiring and diverse opportunities. Their web site presents a number of recent surveys and studies on youth volunteering, e.g. employers' attitudes and youth perceptions.

Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO)

AVSO promotes and facilitates long term voluntary service by lobbying at a European level against barriers to long term volunteering and the mobility of volunteers.

Legal Status of Volunteers: country reports This publication aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current legal position of individuals engaged in voluntary activities and volunteer programmes across Europe. Full text access.


International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE)

IAVE was founded in 1970, is a global network of volunteers, volunteer organisations, national representatives and volunteer centres, with members in over 70 countries; the majority of IAVE members are in developing countries. Their Universal Declaration on Volunteering was adopted in 2001.
**GENERAL**

**EP Library Briefing**

The European Year of Volunteering 2011 / Guillaume Ragonnaud, October 2009. [Full text access](#).

**Monographs and articles available in the EP Library**

Works on volunteering in the EP Library.

**Further reading**


International volunteering for development and sustainability: outdated paternalism or a radical response to globalisation? / Devereux, Peter Development in Practice vol. 18 no. 3 (2008), p. 357 - 370. [Full text access](#).

Volunteering for all? Explaining patterns of volunteering and identifying strategies to promote it / Hardill, Irene; Baines, Sue; Perri Policy and Polities vol. 35 no. 3 (2007), p. 395-413 . [Full text access](#).


Outlook The Future Challenges for Volunteers, Major Organisations and the International Community / Lamb, Christopher Refugee Survey Quarterly vol. 25 no. 4 (2006) p. 173 [Full text access](#).

Le bénévolat dans le secteur associatif (y compris "Dix propositions pour encourager le bénévolat") / Murat, Bernard. Rapports du Sénat Française N° 16, (12 octobre 2005), p. 1-81. [Full text access](#).

Available in the EP Library - Shelfmark BRU - 5D - NP.


Available in the EP Library - Shelfmark BRU - 5D - PER.FR.

Bénévolat et volontariat en France et dans le monde / Halba, Bénédicte. Notes et études (La Documentation Française), N° 5169 (avril 2003), pp. 1 à 143. Available in the EP Library - Shelfmark BRU - 5D - COMP 3


**Link collections**

**EurActiv**

Volunteering and Sport, 17 September 2009 [Full text access.]

**Conferences**

CEV (The European Volunteer Centre) is sponsoring a [conference on senior volunteering and active ageing] following the "Think Future, Volunteer Together" project, Brussels, 19 November 2009 - European Parliament.

**Disclaimer:**

The information contained in this document is supplied to you in the context of a public hearing of the European Parliament and is mainly intended for internal use. It is carefully examined and regularly updated. However, no liability is incurred as to the completeness and correctness of the information given. This holds especially for all links to other websites referred to directly or indirectly. Parliament will not be held responsible for any damage resulting from the handing on to third parties of information protected by copyright or any other improper use of this material.

******************************************************************************************************

**Evaluation Form**

The above information dossier was put together by the library of the European Parliament for the public hearing on Volunteering on 10 November 2009. We hope that it has been useful for you. However, we would like to improve this service and would therefore like to know your opinion. We would be grateful if you could answer the following two questions.

**Which of the following describes your position?**

- [ ] Official
- [ ] Trainee
- [ ] Assistant
- [ ] MEP
- [ ] Other

WWWW.LIBRARY.EP.EC

library@europarl.europa.eu
Tel +32 2 284 81 00 - Fax +32 2 230 65 81
B - 1047 Brussels
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DG:</th>
<th>Political Group:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**How would you rate the information given in this information dossier?**

- Very good □
- Good □
- Fair □
- Poor □

**How could we improve?**

...............................................................................................................................................
...............................................................................................................................................

Please send the questionnaire to the Library of the European Parliament (ASP 05D63 or email library@europarl.europa.eu) - Thank you for helping us to serve you better!