

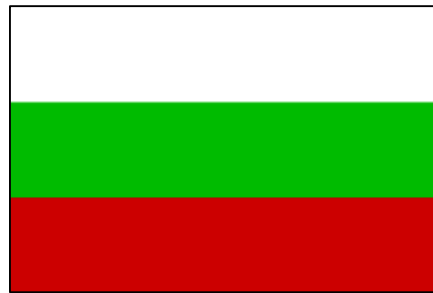


YouthPartnership

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **“VOLUNTARY**

## **ACTIVITIES”**



# **BULGARIA**

**YouthPartnership**  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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## **1. Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?**

EVS could be individual or group and the types of activities are specified depending on the project. Since there are diverse themes of the projects and they have very different priorities, the different fields of activities could not be explained, not could the exact number of men and women be specified.

## **2. Which kind of voluntary service exist in your country and how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender.**

There are several organisations, such as the Bulgarian Red Cross, which work on voluntary principle and have their Statutes, By-laws and other structural documents. The number of volunteers depends on the number of projects submitted for each Programme deadline. Another factor on which the number of volunteers who come and depart abroad within one year depend is whether certain project is individual or for groups. The proportion between men and women also varies. In 2007 – 32 men and 48 women have realized voluntary activities in the country and abroad.

## **3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities**

In the draft Law on Development of Youth there is a specific article concerning voluntary activities with which the legal status of volunteers in Bulgaria will be regulated.

## **4. Main actors of voluntary activities of young people on national, regional and local level in your country**

The institutions and organisations dealing with voluntary activities are very different. We don't have relations with all of them. Some of them could be and are potential beneficiaries to EC Youth in Action Programme (Action 2 EVS.)

Bulgarian Red Cross – [www.redcross.bg](http://www.redcross.bg); IMKA – Bulgarian Christian Association, Town of Gabrovo; National Association for work with volunteers – [www.nava-bg.org](http://www.nava-bg.org); Bulgarian Association of Former European Volunteers – Sofia, contact person: Diana Ivanova +359 878 121 185, [diddy.ivanova@yahoo.com](mailto:diddy.ivanova@yahoo.com); CVS – Bulgaria- <http://cvs-bg.org/bg>

The Bulgarian authorities in relation to Action 2 of the Youth in Action programme is the European Youth Programmes and Initiatives National Centre which acts as National Agency of Youth in Action Programme for Bulgaria – [www.youthbg.info](http://www.youthbg.info)

**5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits?**

Not applicable for the programme

The volunteers have international health insurance - AXA

**6 Programmes and plans in the country on volunteering?**

- Draft Law on Development of Youth;
- Bulgarian Red Cross – Strategy for development of volunteering
- EVS Charter
- Others that we are not in charge of

On the Youth in Action programme there are different activities with which the volunteering is bound and the action plans of the respective volunteers could be national, regional or local, depending on the project they take part in.

**7. Does a strategy (plan) or specific measures for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country?**

- Draft Law on Development of Youth;
- Bulgarian Red Cross – Strategy for development of volunteering
- EVS Charter
- Others

**8. Please, describe which obstacles to volunteering of young people do still exist in your country and which measures are taken to remove them?**

- Lack of information for volunteers' opportunities
- Lack of legal basis and protection of volunteers
- Lack of legal definition of the term "Volunteering" in Bulgaria
- Insufficient financial incentives for the volunteers
- others

**9. How are voluntary activities of young people promoted in your country, particularly among young people with fewer opportunities? Please give an example of good practice if possible**

- thanks to the good communication between the experts working in the European Youth Programmes and Initiatives National Centre and the priority for development of voluntary activities under Action 2 – EVS, ever more Bulgarian organisations express their will to implement projects under this Action and to include volunteers in their work, and more and more young people wish to serve as volunteers in other countries.
- involvement of young people with fewer opportunities in more projects
- by issuing certificates for recognising the informal education acquired.

**10. Explain how (by which means) voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country. Name certificates and other measures used for that purpose.**

- YOUTHPASS
- Certificates submitted by the above mentioned voluntary organisations
- The existing membership cards (Bulgarian Red Cross, National Alliance for Work with Volunteers).

**11. Which co-operations, networks and exchange programmes do exist in your country for supporting voluntary activities of young people?**

The EVS itself provides possibilities for cooperation, youth exchange, youth initiatives  
 Different programmes and projects of the above mentioned organisations, for which information could be found on the internet

**12 Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?**

No information

**13 Which recent survey or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?**

Survey among the volunteering organisations and institutions dealing with youth issues, in relation to the preparation of Draft Law on the Development of Youth.