

## European Voluntary Service – fact sheet

1. In 2006, European Voluntary Service (EVS) celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2. EVS is Action 2 of the EU YOUTH programme (2000-2006) and allows more than 4.000 volunteers between 18 and 25 years per year to do a voluntary service abroad.
3. The total EVS budget available in 2006 is EUR 38,5 million.
4. EVS aims at enhancing active citizenship, solidarity and mutual understanding among young people through unpaid voluntary work.
5. EVS volunteers generally provide a service to a local community, but also receive regular training and a strong personal and task-related support. EVS thus is an important non-formal learning experience for young people, which is documented by means of an EVS certificate.
6. Through EVS, volunteers can increase key competences that are necessary to be active citizens and to improve their educational and employment prospects.
7. EVS is part of the Community Lisbon programme for growth and jobs.
8. EVS relies on a strong partnership between sending organisations, host organisations and volunteers.
9. Volunteers do not have to pay anything for participation in EVS. They receive a full reimbursement of travel costs, complete insurance cover and pocket money.
10. Organisations receive Community co-financing for their sending, hosting and coordinating activities.
11. Since its establishment in 1996, EVS has mostly been of individual nature, meaning that only one volunteer participates in one project.
12. Group EVS has only recently been introduced and successfully implemented at major youth, culture and sports events (Culture Capitals of Europe 1999 and 2002-2007, Special Olympics 2003, World Youth Festival Barcelona 2004, Euro 2004-European Football Championship, Recovering the Tatra Mountains 2005-2006, etc.).



13. The Commission had proposed to extend EVS under the “**Youth in Action**” programme (2007-2013) and to introduce new structuring elements. EVS thus will become more visible and effective and meet the increasing demand from young people.
14. The **new EVS** will build on achievements so far, but simplify its management and funding rules. The age range of volunteers and the geographic scope of EVS will be broader. EVS will put a strong emphasis on the services to be provided to organisations and young people.
15. Group EVS activities with up to 100 volunteers will become a regular feature in the new programme.
16. The “Youth in Action” programme has been adopted on 25 October 2006 and can enter into force as foreseen. Its total budget over 7 years will be 885 million Euro. EVS will make up at least 23% of it.

### European Voluntary Service: Key figures

Total number of volunteers 1996-2006	Approx. 30.000
Average grant amount per volunteer (2005)	Approx. EUR 7000
Annual number of volunteers (2006)	Approx. 4.500 (estimate)
Share of female / male volunteers in projects with Programme countries in Europe (2005)	female: 70%; male: 30%
Share of female/male volunteers in international cooperation projects with Partner Countries (2005)	Female: 41%; male: 59%
Number of accredited host organisations in European Programme countries in the online database <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/sos/vh_db_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/sos/vh_db_en.html</a>	Approx. 7000
Share of young people with fewer opportunities in EVS (2005)	18%
Funds committed for volunteer trainings (2005)	EUR 2 million
"success rate" of granted applications compared to the number of submitted applications (2005)	80% for projects with Programme Countries
Share of international cooperation projects with Partner Countries (2005)	Approx. 7%

Funds committed for EVS (2005)	EUR 27,9 mio. (= 30% of operational YOUTH budget)
Funds available for EVS (2006)	EUR 38,5 mio. (34,9% of operational YOUTH budget)
Funds available for EVS (2007)	EUR 37,4 mio. (= 29% of operational Youth in Action budget)

### Contact and further information

European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Youth: programmes unit: [EAC-YOUTHINACTION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-YOUTHINACTION@ec.europa.eu); tel. 0032/2/2950883.

SOS Volunteer Helpdesk at the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency in Brussels: 0032/2/296 87 24, [volunteers@ec.europa.eu](mailto:volunteers@ec.europa.eu);

National Agencies: see [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/natage\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/natage_en.html) or Programme Guide 2007.

EVS event "10 years of solidarity and active citizenship" in Brussels on 26-27 November 2006: [www.celebrateEVS.eu](http://www.celebrateEVS.eu).

Programme Guide and application forms 2007: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html) and [http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/en/overview/Youth\\_overview.htm](http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/en/overview/Youth_overview.htm) (forthcoming).