

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Mobility of Young Volunteers across Europe

Citizen's Summary

This initiative is addressed to young people in the European Union who wish to volunteer in a country other than their own. Its scope covers voluntary activities conducted abroad during a limited period of time, typically several months, in areas such as civil protection, social inclusion, cultural preservation, regional development and environment.

This proposal will be part of the EU's "Renewed Social Agenda: Opportunities, Access and Solidarity in 21st century Europe" in contributing by opening up new opportunities for mobility, non-formal education and solidarity.

What is the problem?

Voluntary activities of young people have gained importance at national and European level in recent years. Cross-border volunteering has proven to have a particularly strong impact on young people's personal and professional development.

Young Europeans are increasingly interested in volunteering, and the benefits of participating in voluntary activities are becoming gradually more recognised. Yet the demand notably for cross-border volunteering opportunities is considerably higher than the offer.

Why at EU level? The proposal/solution

The main objective of the initiative is to promote youth mobility by inviting Member States to further develop the interoperability of national schemes for voluntary activities and to address remaining obstacles to cross-border volunteering.

Interoperability will be achieved by:

- Improving the knowledge of national youth volunteering schemes and cross-border opportunities of volunteering for young people
- Increasing exchange opportunities for young volunteers
- Assuring a reasonable level of quality in cross-border volunteering activities
- Promoting skills and competence acquired by young volunteers
- Assuring targeted cross-border support for youth workers and for young people with fewer opportunities

The degree of the ambition of the proposal is not radical change but an evolution of already existing mechanisms in the field within Member States.

The beneficiaries

The goal is that every young person should have the opportunity to volunteer in Europe if he or she wishes to do so.

The terms and scope of application

The proposal is aimed at policy-makers in the Member States as well as stakeholders in the field.