

## **Document PP1**

### **Policy Paper**

**Document Title:** Policy Paper for Volunteering  
**Organization:** Cyprus Youth Council Pool of Trainers  
**Date:** 20 / 08 / 2011

Summary / Introduction: (120 – 150 words):

#### **Benefits of Volunteering**

Today more and more people around the world engaged in voluntary activities aimed at the unconditional offer for charitable purposes. Volunteering is an expression of altruism, of disinterested work and active citizenship, fostering values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering as an institution has to offer both individual and social level. Starting from the individual benefits, it is worth the feeling of moral satisfaction felt by the volunteer after the offer. Secondly, is formed and develops the personality by acquiring experience and enrichment of knowledge and skills. Apart from the above, allow the volunteer to socialize and improve their quality of life.

In social terms the institution of voluntary help in social progress and development. Promote social tolerance and respect for diversity and develop social consciousness, the offer and understanding. Beyond this, the public awareness on various emerging problems.

Policy Positions: ( in the form of bullet point)

### **CHALLENGES**

There are several obstacles / challenges that inhibit the development of volunteering.

- Many people consider volunteering as something outdated or wasting time or underestimate.
- Modern values like growing estrangement, indifference and consumerism.
- Many people lack the leisure and reluctance to escape from everyday routine.
- Non-formal education is not recognized as from the public service
- Lack of information / promotion of volunteerism as media
- Training for voluntary purposes and values is insufficient
- The financial difficulties of unemployment and economic difficulties of volunteer organizations lack financial support and sponsorship, hindering the development of volunteering.
- Many young people have failed to match their interests with existing volunteer opportunities.
- Not everyone has equal opportunities for voluntary action as non-urban residents.

### **VOLUNTEERS AND OUTLOOK**

The Cyprus Youth Council promotes and supports the following positions and solutions to these problems and challenges in education, media, local government, European voluntary service, the alternative volunteering and recognition:

#### **EDUCATION**

The idea of volunteering as a subject of curricula

- Inclusion in schools to raise awareness at a young age, familiarity with the principles / concept of volunteering and offering general, cultivation of positive attitude.
- Liaison involvement of parents / teachers / School Board

#### **UPDATE**

- Visibility events and volunteer opportunities for employment / offer online and through media.
- Issuing monthly form on volunteerism within and outside Cyprus.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- Consolidation of links with common action / purpose to enhance their work
- Developing / promoting voluntary activities by municipalities.
- In each municipality / community / organized body to a stable and structured core of young people who seek to approach / attract more young people.
- Use of organized group

## **EU (EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS)**

- Establish a European body for volunteering to coordinate to coordinate the voluntary bodies of the European countries.
- Proper use of funds
- Networking / collaboration between voluntary bodies of the European countries, to integrate / adapt-tested regular exchange of ideas.
- Development of social planning through policies that promote volunteerism.
- Volunteering can help address the psychosocial effects of unemployment (anxiety, depression, isolation, decreased self-esteem)

## **ALTERNATIVE VOLUNTEERS**

- Alternative approach to potential volunteers.
- Targeting by promoting the interests of volunteers. (eg. organization of volunteers with a charity football match for and facilitating the conduct by themselves).
- Offer a variety of voluntary actions.

## **RECOGNITION**

- Recognition of the supply of volunteer action as an additional asset for purposes of employment / career development / rehabilitation.

**Document PP2**

**Amendments of Policy Papers**

For Secretariat use:

The policy paper approved by the General Assembly  
YES / NO

Policy Paper (Title):.....  
Organization (who has deposit the Document):.....  
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**1<sup>st</sup> Amendment:**

From Organization:.....

Text Paragraph: .....

Text Line: .....

Suggestion:

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**Approved: Yes / No**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment:**

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**Approved: Yes / No**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment:**

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**4<sup>th</sup> Amendment:**

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**5<sup>th</sup> Amendment:**

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