



Education and Culture DG



Skills for Sport Volunteers: why Europe needs projects like EURO-VOL-NET

Jacob Kornbeck, Sport Unit,
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Medway Campus, Chatham Maritime, 6 May 2011

This year's sport volunteering projects

- **Association for the European Capital of Sport (ACES): "European Cities for Volunteering in Sport."**
- **Führungs-Akademie des Deutschen Olympischen Sportbundes e.V. (DOSB Leadership Academy): "Training 4 Volunteers"**
- **International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA): "EuroVolNet: A network for developing voluntary competence in sport organisations."**
- **Vlaamse Sportfederatie (VSF): Dynamo Project: "PROMOTING and securing volunteering in sport."**

The Aarhus Declaration on Voluntary Work in Sport

1. The Ministers responsible for sport in the 15 Member States of the European Union assembled on 21-22 November 2003 in Aarhus at the invitation of Mr Brian Mikkelsen, Danish Minister for Culture, and in the presence of Ms Viviane Reding, Member of the European Commission.
2. Welcoming the Community initiatives Youth for Europe and the European Year for Education through Sport in 2004.
3. Convinced that voluntary sports clubs and voluntary work play a significant role in social and cultural life in Europe, and it is therefore important to ensure that their role be maintained
4. Recalling the Presidency conclusions from the European Council in Nice in December 2000 on the specific characteristics of sport and its social function in Europe, the Ministers affirmed their strong belief in the fundamental values of voluntary sport and their intention to protect and support these values.

Commission's priorities

Aarhus Declaration 2003

- EU Sport Ministers (Danish Presidency, informal meeting)
- Follow-up expected under Polish Presidency (2nd half 2011)

White Paper on Sport (2007):

- Skills for volunteers
- Sustainable funding *)

Article 165 TFEU

- Reference to voluntary structures in the sport sector
- This is the only Treaty reference to "volunteering"!

***) See: Green Paper on the future of VAT– Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system : open consultation**

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/consultations/tax/2010_11_future_vat_en.htm



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Green Paper on the future of VAT– Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system

Title

Consultation on the 'Green Paper on the future of VAT– Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system'

Policy fields

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Target groups

The Commission invites all interested parties to submit their contributions in response to the questions raised in the 'Green Paper on the future of VAT– Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system'.

All stakeholders affected by this initiative – all citizens, organisations, businesses, public authorities, tax practitioners, tax experts and academics - are invited to provide their views on this matter

Period of consultation

From **01.12.2010** to **31.05.2011**

Objective of the consultation

Value added tax (VAT) constitutes a major source of revenue for national budgets of the Member States of the European Union. However, the VAT system, which is based on legislation adopted at European level and applied at national level, suffers from numerous shortcomings which do not make it fully efficient and compatible with the requirements of a true single market.

The aim of this consultation is to launch a broad based debate with all the stakeholders on the evaluation of the current VAT system and the possible ways forward to strengthening its coherence with the single market and its capacity as a revenue raiser while reducing the cost of compliance.

The Green Paper covers in particular the treatment of cross border supplies, as well as other key issues addressing tax administration, the degree of harmonisation required in the single market and reducing "red tape" whilst ensuring VAT revenues for Member States.

How to submit your contribution

We welcome contributions from citizens, businesses, organisations and public authorities.

Commission's priorities (*continued*)

European Year of Volunteering (EYV)

- Sport an important element
- Communication on Volunteering expected (atumn 2011)
- Evidence given by Director G. Paulger to House of Lords (Feburary 2011)

Commission's priorities (*continued*)

Communication on Sport (2011):

“Commission and Member States: support the inclusion of sport-related qualifications when implementing the European Qualifications Framework. In this context, promote the validation of non-formal and informal learning gained through activities such as voluntary activity in sport.”

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0012:FIN:EN:PDF>

European Year of Volunteering 2011

The EU will use the Year to work towards four main objectives:

1. To create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU;
2. To empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering;
3. To reward and recognise volunteering activities; and
4. To raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/focus/focus840_en.htm

 Focus

European Year of Volunteering 2011

The EU has designated 2011 as the "European Year of Volunteering".

In the European Union, almost 100 million citizens of all ages invest their time, talents and money to make a positive contribution to their community by volunteering in civil society organisations, youth clubs, hospitals, schools, in sport clubs, etc. For the Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation which strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering also provides important learning opportunities, because involvement in voluntary activities can provide people with new skills and competences that can even improve their employability. This is especially important at this time of economic crisis. Volunteering plays an important role in sectors as varied and diverse as education, youth, culture, sport, environment, health, social care, consumer protection, humanitarian aid, development policy, research, equal opportunities and external relations.

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The Commission expects that the European Year of Volunteering will lead to an increase in volunteering and to greater awareness of its added value, and that it will highlight the link between voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context.

The aim is to involve all levels – European, national, regional and local, but the emphasis is very much on a bottom-up approach. In this way the ownership of the European Year shall remain as much as possible with the volunteers and the volunteer organisations.

Activities:

There are many interested parties who are getting involved in the Year. The European Commission is also planning a range of activities. These include communication and awareness-raising measures (EYV Tour, EYV Relay, EYV Website, Thematic conferences).

Target groups:

- Volunteers (current and potential)
- Policy makers

More information

[Council decision of 27 November 2009 on the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship \(2011\) \(2010/37/EC\)](#)

[en](#) [fr](#) [de](#)

CALL FOR PROJECTS (deadline 12/11/2010)

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Annual work programme 2011

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other languages
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[Citizens' summary](#)

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[Ex ante evaluation](#)

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Study on volunteering in the EU (EN)

- Executive summary

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IV

(Acts adopted before 1 December 2009 under the EC Treaty, the EU Treaty and the Euratom Treaty)

COUNCIL DECISION**of 27 November 2009****on the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship (2011)****(2010/37/EC)**

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Voluntary activities have the potential to contribute to the well-being of individuals and the harmonious development of European societies.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 308 thereof,

- (5) Having due regard to the particularities of the situation in each Member State and all forms of volunteering, the term 'voluntary activities' refers to all types of

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

objectives of the European Year shall be to:

work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU
 in order to anchor volunteering as part of promoting civic participation and people-to-people activities in an EU context and address existing obstacles to voluntary activities, where appropriate and necessary;

empower organisers of voluntary activities to improve the quality of voluntary activities in order to facilitate voluntary activities and help organisers to implement new types of voluntary activities and to encourage networking, mobility, cooperation and synergies within civil society and between civil society and other sectors in an EU context;

recognise voluntary activities in order to encourage appropriate incentives for individuals, companies and volunteer-development organisations and gain recognition for volunteering at EU level and in the Member States by policymakers, civil

(d) concrete initiatives in the Member States aimed at promoting the objectives of the European Year; at least 25 % of the total budget of the year will be used for this purpose;

(e) information and promotion campaigns to disseminate the messages.

Details of the measures referred to in the first subparagraph shall be set out in the Annex.

2. Community funding for projects may be given through existing Community programmes.

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Cooperation with the Member States

By 28 February 2010 each Member State shall designate a

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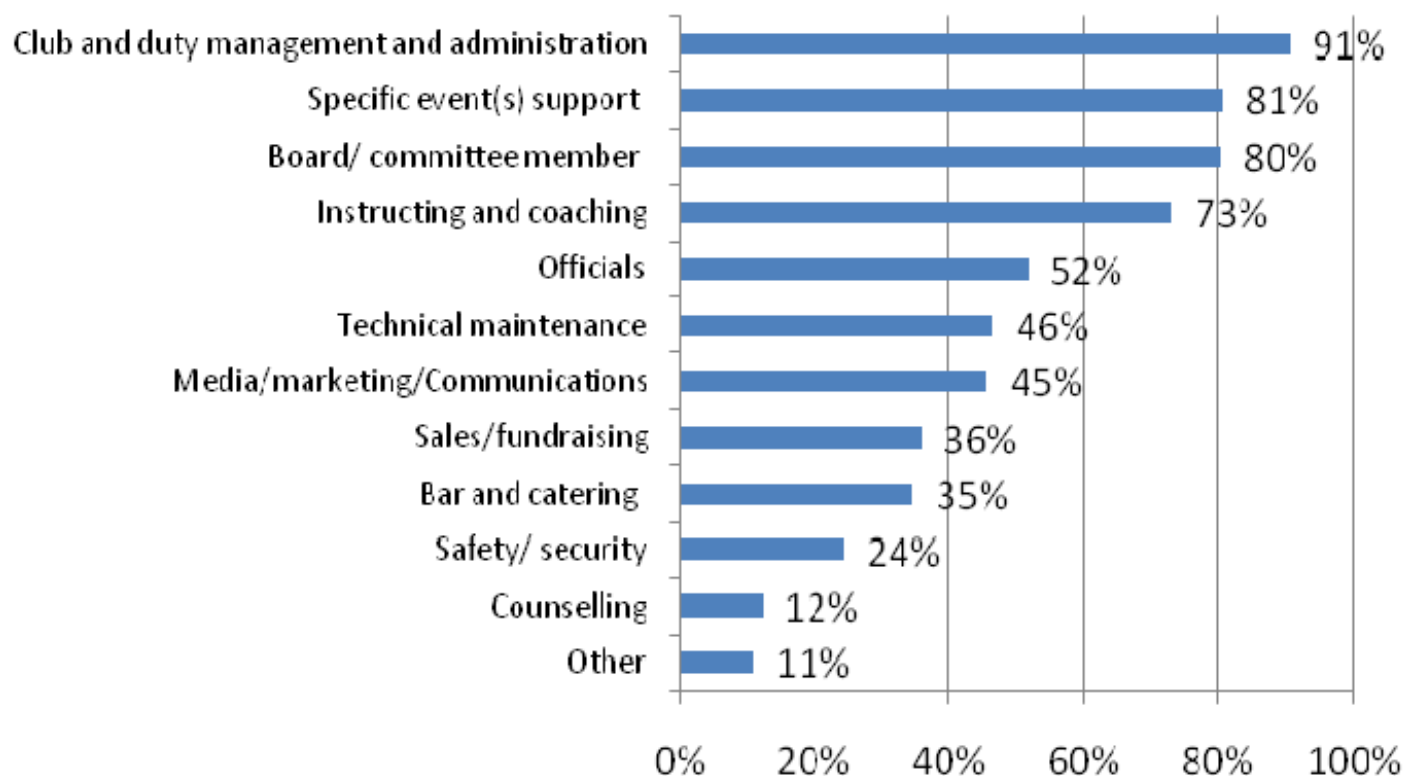
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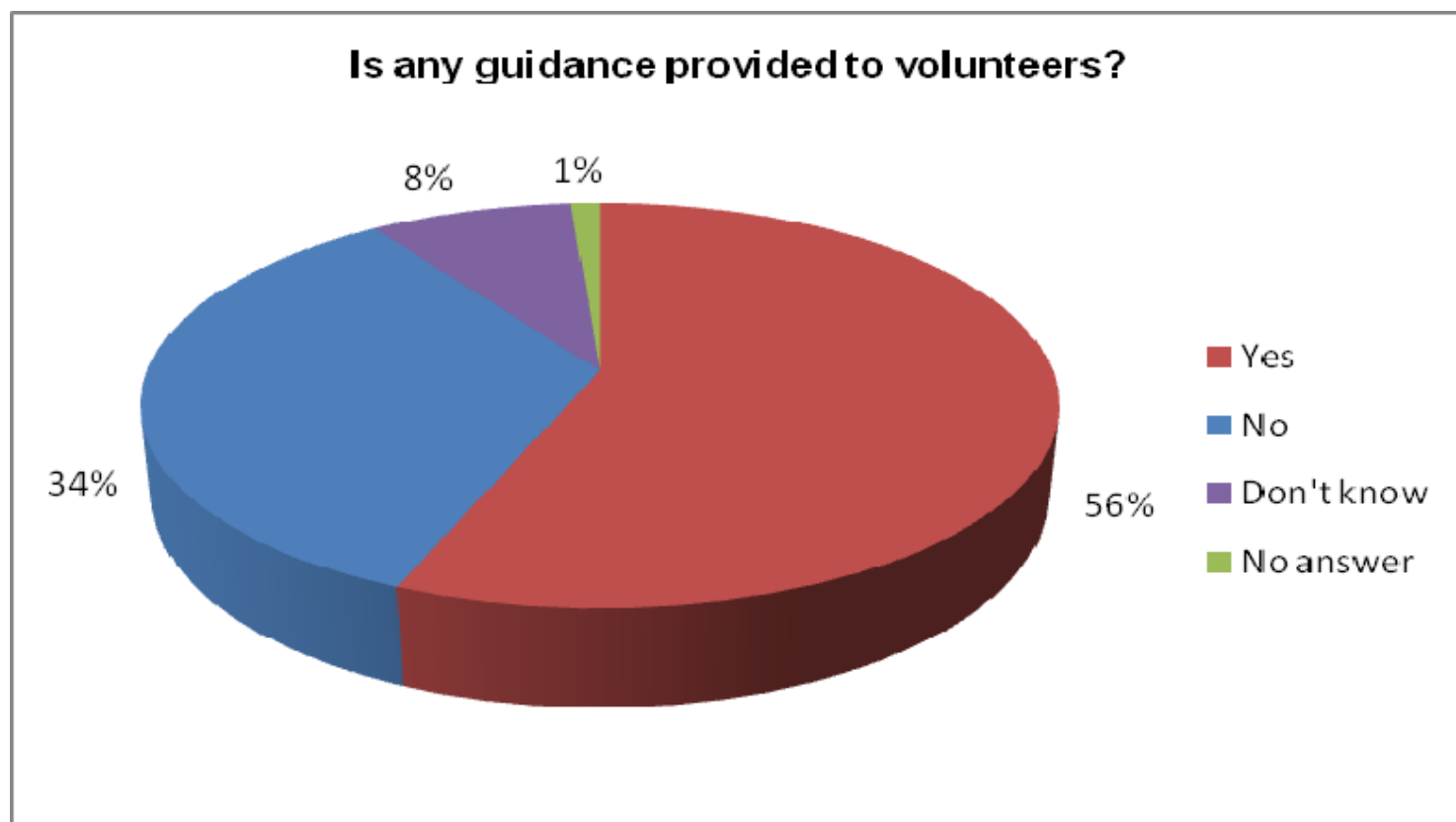
Some evidence

GHK (2010): Volunteering in the European Union, final report,
<http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/eyv2011/doc/Volunteering%20in%20the%20EU%20Final%20Report.pdf>

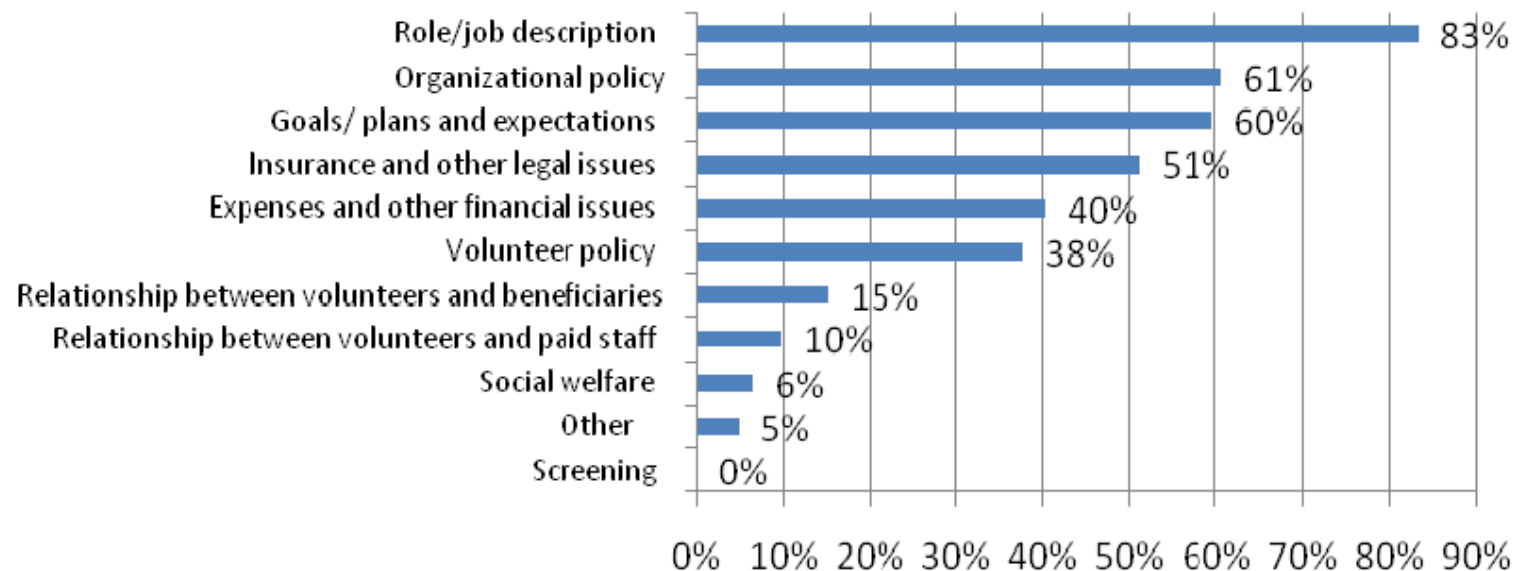
- Includes first-ever all-round survey of sport volunteering in all 27 MS.
- Survey disseminated with help from ENGSO.
- Describes different traditions, sociological background, etc.
- Focuses on different legal arrangements and sources of financing.
- Points to the need for training volunteers.

Types of activities carried out by volunteers

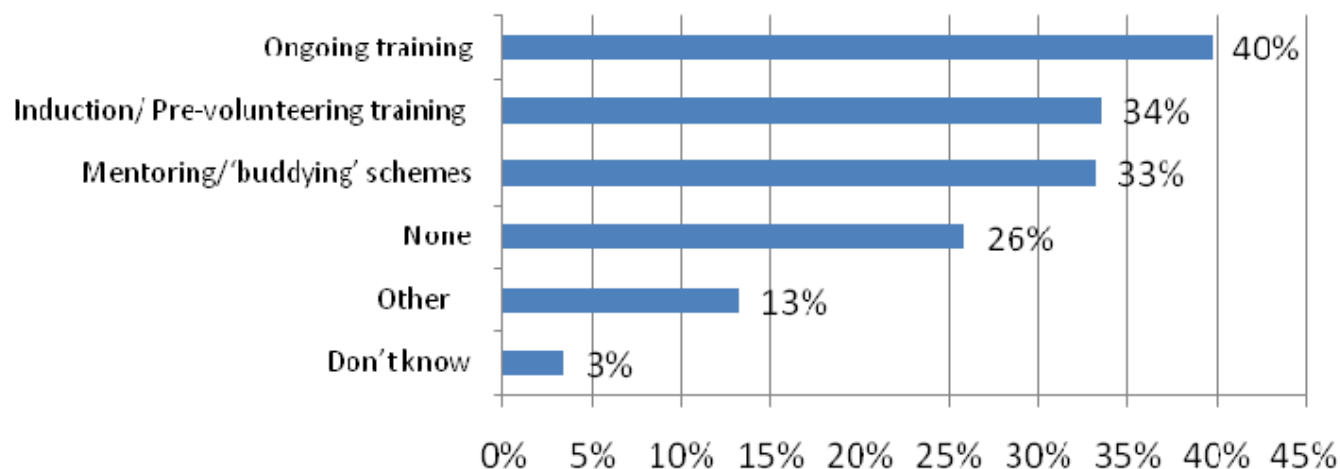




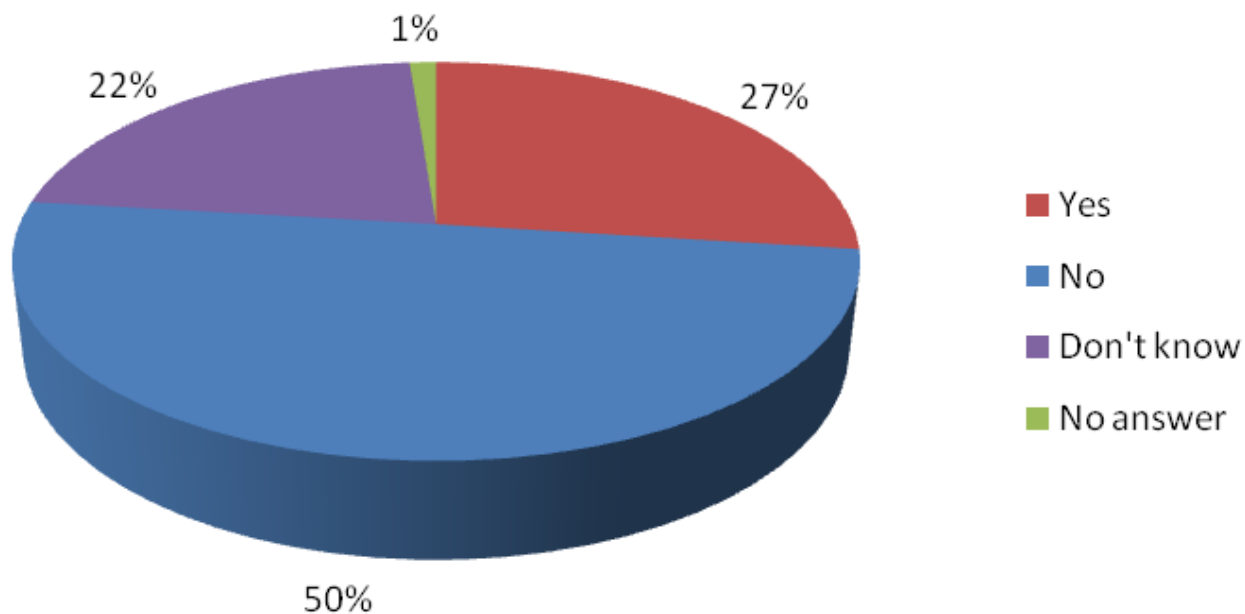
Issues on which guidance is provided to volunteers



Type of training provided to volunteers



Does your organisation benefit from a specific tax regime, tax exemptions or reduced rates (e.g. VAT) applying to the sport sector in your country?





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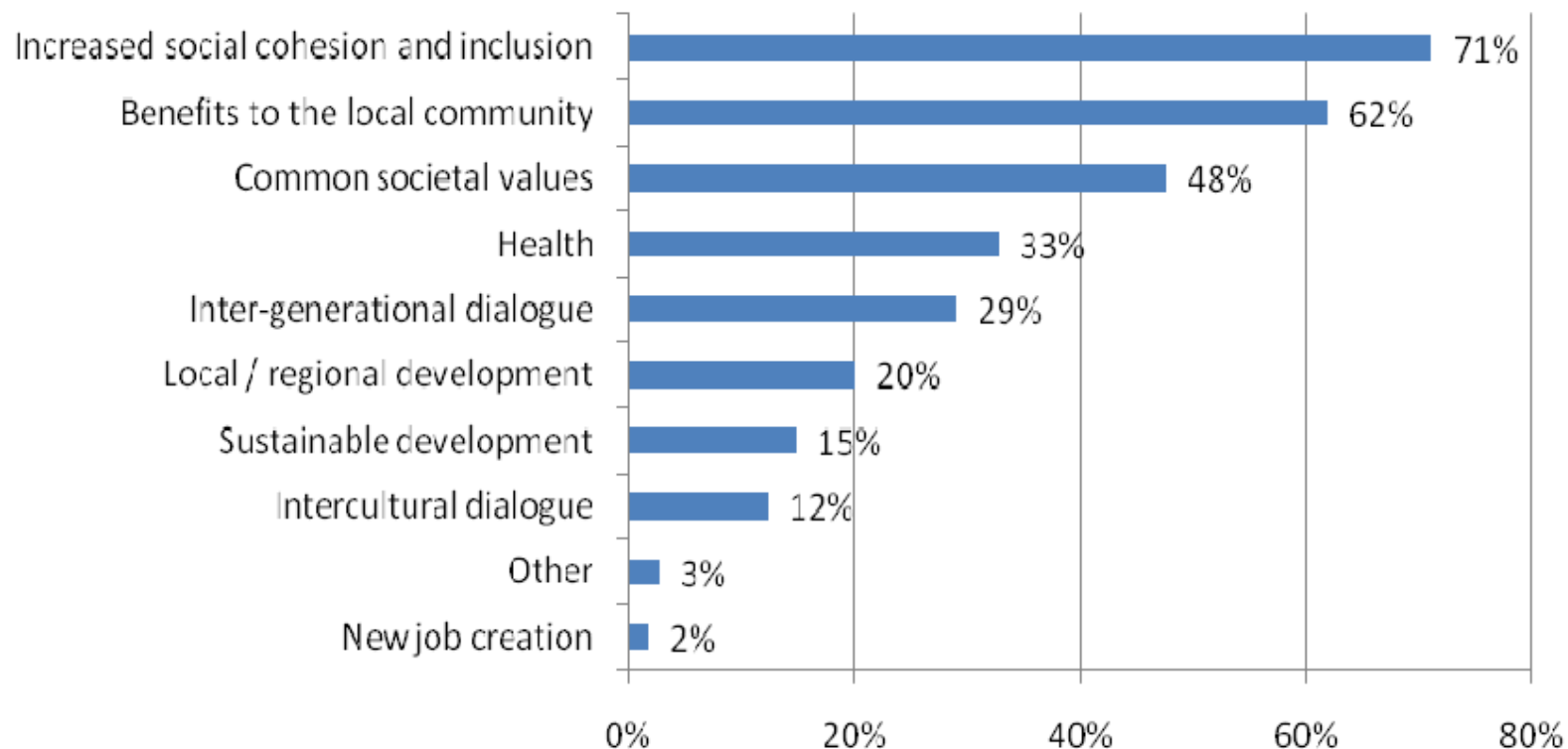
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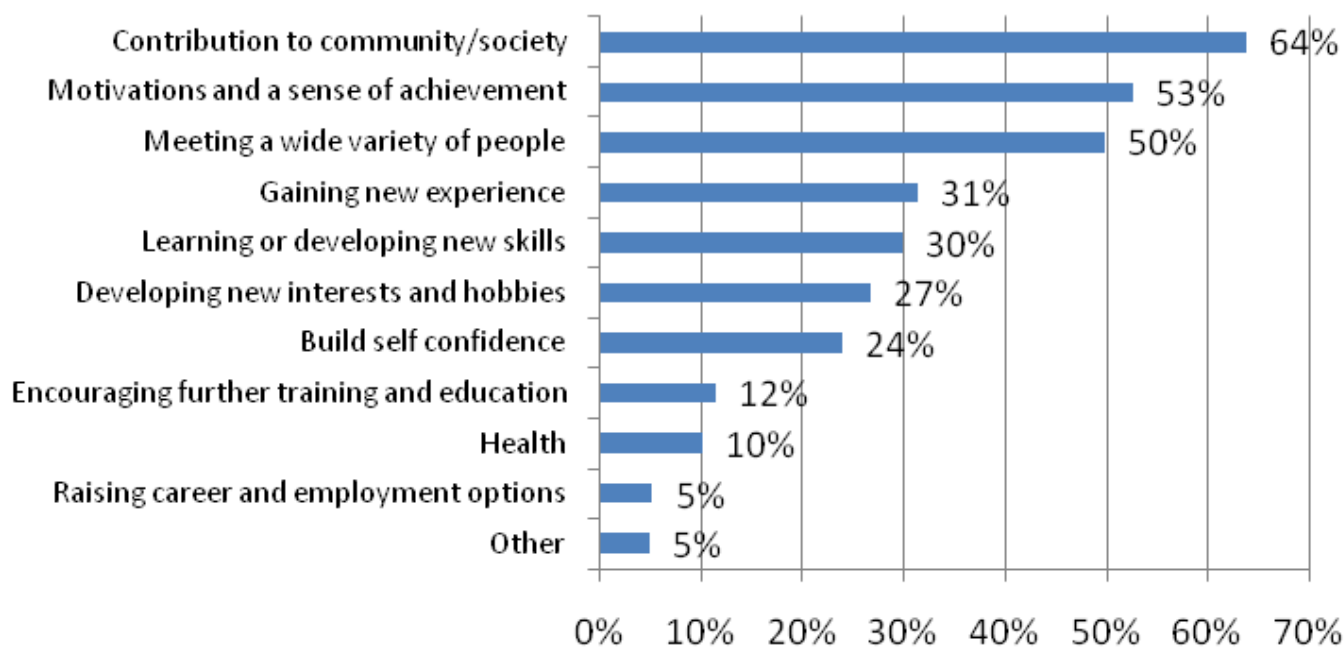
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Main benefits of volunteering for the wider society



Benefits of volunteering in sport from the volunteer's perspective



Evidence

“In some Member States sport is very high on the political agenda, something which is in most cases correlated to the existence of a sport/health policy.

However, this does not necessarily mean that significant focus is placed on volunteering in this sector or that specific policies exist to promote and support volunteering.

In about ten Member States, volunteering in sport can be considered to be medium to high on the political agenda whereas in other Member States it does not feature on political agenda. On the other hand, in three Member States, there, seems to be a recent growing attention to volunteering in sport at the political level.

In several Member States, specific reference is made in recent policy papers, or in their national strategy for sport, to volunteering in this sector. However, the vast majority of Member States does not have a separate national strategy or framework for volunteering in sport.”

(GHK, 2010, p. 195)

“Regarding volunteers in sport, the data gathered indicates that volunteering in sport represents a significant share of the adult population in Finland (16%), Ireland (15%), the Netherlands (12-14%), Denmark (11%), Germany (10.9%) and Malta (9.2%). Conversely, in Estonia (1.1%), Greece (0.5%), Lithuania (0.1%), Latvia and Romania (less than 0.1%) volunteering in sport does not appear to be a common practice.”
(GHK, 2010, p. 8)

Where the skills agenda and the funding agenda converge:

Your objective:

"Foster exchange of best practices regarding legal, fiscal and funding related aspects of voluntary activity in sport."



Conclusion

Sport volunteering is crucial

- The sector needs volunteers.
- But volunteers need training

What kind of support

- Better recognition and validation
- Better mobility within the EU
- Better skills: not only “people skills”, but also skills to handle paper work...





Preparatory Actions

Call for Proposals

2011 Preparatory Action in the field of sport (Open call EAC/18/2011)

This call for proposals serves to implement the Preparatory Action in the field of sport in accordance with the Commission Decision adopting the 2011 annual work programme on grants and contracts for the Preparatory Action in the field of sport and for the special annual events.

The main objective of the Preparatory Actions in the field of sport is to prepare future EU actions in this field, on the basis of priorities set in the 2007 White Paper on Sport and the 2011 Communication on Developing the European Dimension in Sport.

This call for proposals will support **transnational projects** put forward by public bodies or not-for-profit organisations in order **to identify and test suitable networks and good practices** in the field of sport, in the following areas:

- (a) Prevention of and fight against violence and intolerance in sport
- (b) Promoting innovative approaches to strengthen the organisation of sport in Europe

The Commission department responsible for implementation and management of this action is the Sport Unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

Texts relating to the 2011 call for proposals (EAC/18/2011)

- **Announcement**

The call for proposals was published in the Official Journal of the European Union, 2011/C 131/09 of 03 May 2011:

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