



**France**  
**Bénévolat**  
— *Du coeur à l'action* —

# The place of seniors in formal volunteering in France

- I. The commitment and engagement of seniors compared to the whole of population: situation

	2010	2013	2016
15/35 years old	16%	20%	21,3%
36/64 years old	21%	22%	23,3%
65 years old and more	38%	36%	34,6%
Total of French people	23%	24.5%	25%

- The proportion of French volunteers under the age of 35 volunteering in associations has been growing steadily over the course of the three surveys.
- The proportion of those over-65s regularly decreases and thereby confirms the misconception that there would be only retirees among volunteers, even if the "retirement effect" leads to an increase in the commitment rate of about 10 points, starting at the age of 65 and even if a large proportion of the association leaders are retirees

# Four possible explanations

- the mechanical effects of **the law of diminishing returns**;
- **The consequences** of the hardening the conditions of retirement ... and a more difficult entry into the job market
- "**Some kind of competition**" between external solidarity and family solidarity ... or the need to continue working to compensate pensions, considered as being too weak judged;
- **An extremely weak** or even **nonexistent** collective answer about the place of senior citizens in society

## II. Volunteer involvement of seniors: a reminder of the issues

- **A need for social usefulness**

The involvement of retirees in socially useful activities has a **double positive effect** :

- for them, by maintaining or reworking social links, this contributes to developing what pension institutions/structures now call "**global social prevention**";
- for the community, by the effects of solidarity, especially intergenerational solidarity, through associative volunteering. When volunteers express themselves, we often find the idea that "giving time to others means receiving back".
- **Volunteering, a way to "age well", therefore an economic challenge to limit the cost of social protection**

■

### III. Raise awareness about the volunteer commitment of future new retirees: specific targets

- **six major groups of distinct populations, characterised by different approaches regarding volunteering:**



# The six major groups

- **The insiders**
- **The undecided**
- **The terrorised**
- **The preoccupied**
- **The weakened**
- **Those who refuse to be volunteers**

## IV. The need for a strong and sustainable collective action plan

- **France Bénévolat recommends the following actions:**
  - **1) The need for a strong public speech**
  - **2) A word relayed by local authorities**
  - **3) The necessary involvement of companies**
  - **4) A relay through European approaches**
  - **5) For potential volunteers who want to take action, proven schemes created by France Bénévolat**





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**MERCI !**