



EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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CHAPTER



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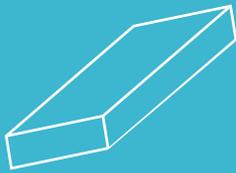


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FRENCH-SPEAKING
COMMUNITY

G I

VOLUNTEERING
INFRASTRUCTURE
IN EUROPE



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1. VOLUNTEERING INFRASTRUCTURE

CONCEPT DEFINITION

Infrastructure can be considered as the physical facilities, structures, systems, relationships, people, knowledge and skills that exist to support, develop, co-ordinate, represent and promote front-line organisations, enabling them to deliver their missions more effectively. Volunteering infrastructure involves any voluntary organisation whose primary purpose is the provision of infrastructure functions, support and development, co-ordination, representation and promotion, to front-line voluntary and community organisations.

Volunteering infrastructure, a mirrored public structure with voluntary sector bodies at local, regional and national level, fulfils the following functions:

- Reach a common understanding of volunteering and a shared appreciation of its value,
- Establish and nurture an enabling environment,
- Adopt a diversity of approaches to mobilise and facilitate volunteering,
- Try to find sustainable funding for volunteer involving organisations
- Coordinate with stakeholders involved in or linked to volunteering activities,
- Promote and support volunteering,
- Offer individuals appropriate opportunities; management support,
- Help organisations make volunteering attractive; community support,
- Gain public recognition,
- Provide supporting preconditions,
- Create an inviting climate for private investments and new forms of partnerships.



2. VOLUNTEERING LANDSCAPE

Definition

The Belgian law, dated 3 July 2005 defines volunteering as follows:

“Volunteering is any activity:

a) which is performed without compensation or obligation;

b) which is exercised for the benefit of one or more persons, group or organisation or the community as a whole;

c) which is organised by an organisation other than family or private person who engages in the activity;

*d) that is not exercised by the same person and for the same organisation as part of an employment contract, a contract of service or a statutory designation”.*¹

The law highlights two main aspects, that volunteering must be a free act and for others.

This law contributes to creating an enabling environment for volunteers by providing protection (such as insurance). The main responsibility regarding the implementation of the provisions of this law lies with the Belgian Government. In 2002, the Ministry of Social Affairs created the

1. <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/geldende-wetgeving.htm>

High Council for Volunteers (Conseil supérieur des volontaires). The High Council is an advisory board, consulted on matters concern volunteering, when statements are being issued or laws are being drafted. The Council is composed by Belgian NGO representatives.

In a study made by the King Baudouin Foundation, two researchers established another definition of volunteering:

“Volunteering is an activity:

- *Of nonbinding character to other people or to the benefit of a community*
- *Performed for free*
- *Performed in a more or less formal structure*
- *By an individual.*”²

Outside of these two definitions, it seems to be very difficult to define volunteering, just as it is difficult to define the concept of work.

Research on volunteering

Specific research and statistics focused on the profile of volunteers and volunteering in Wallonia in particular and in Belgium in general are rather limited. A small amount of literature is produced by some universities, such as the Centre for Social Economy in the University of Liège³, the University of Gent⁴ and research about non-profit organisations started in 2011 at the Free University of Brussels.⁵

The King Baudouin Foundation finances some research on volunteering.

Plate-forme Francophone du Volontariat, the platform for volunteer organisation of the French-speaking community in Belgium, encourages decision-making bodies to finance research on the system of existing indicators concerning voluntary activities and their role in relevant Belgian policies; taking into account the gender dimension, and considering, where appropriate, to look at the implementation of statistical tools, such as the methodology proposed in the Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), to ensure comparable data; indicating current or new areas of voluntary activities which require closer cooperation at the national level and with the European Union.

Volunteer profile

According to a Special Eurobarometer report issued by the European Commission in 2007, 37% of people in Belgium declared to actively participate in voluntary work for an organisation.⁶

According to the Centre for Social and Economy of the University of Liège⁷, a series of publications, following many individual surveys, provide guidance on the importance of voluntary work in terms of percentage of respondents. However, these data are relatively disparate and sometimes contradictory. Nationally, there were around 1.4 million, which represents at least 14% of the Belgian population⁸.

It seems to be very difficult to define volunteering as it is difficult to define the concept of work.

2. M. D'hondt et B. Van Buggenhout, Statuut van de vrijwilliger. Knelpunten en oplossingen, Fondation Roi Baudouin, Bruxelles, 1998.

3. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/fr_FR/services/analyses-statistiques/benevolat

4. Researches are made by Lesley Hustinx (<http://www.ugent.be/ps/sociologie/nl/onderzoek/onderzoeksgroepen/cst/research-staff/overzicht.htm#lesley-hustinx>)

5. Research is made by Marc Jegers and Roland Pepermans (“Management of non-profit organisations: the interaction between rewards, managerial behaviour and efficiency”). The details about it available at : http://www.researchportal.be/en/projects.pdf?classifications=S266_iwDisciplineCode&page=1&pageSize=10&ordering=enddate&descending=true

6. European Commission, 2007. “European Social Reality” Special Eurobarometer No. 273 Report, pp. 34-37. http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_273_en.pdf

7. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/fr_FR/a-propos-du-ces/missions and http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/fr_FR/services/analyses-statistiques/benevolat

8. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/uploads/Dujardin___Maree___2007___La_mesure_du_volontariat_en_Belgique.pdf

Nearly half of the hours worked for social involvement represent volunteering: the equivalent of 150,000 full time workers.

Concerning age, Godemont and some other researchers established in 2006 that the most active age group in volunteering is 40-70⁹, followed by the 15-24 age group. A 2007 study carried out by the Centre for Social Economy of the University of Liège confirms this information, showing that there are two important groups of volunteers, the one aged between 16 and 24, and the other over 40¹⁰.

According to the 2000 survey (Vlaamse Studiedienst Regering, 2000), men predominate among volunteers in the age group 35-54, while it is mainly women who are engaged in voluntary activities between the ages 54-65¹¹.

Concerning the importance of volunteering, Boulanger and Defeyt, in 2004, conducted a study on social involvement and estimated that volunteers represent an important work force: the total of hours worked for social involvement is estimated to 200,000 full-time workers, and for volunteering, it is about 150,000 full time workers. On average, volunteering is assessed between 76,000 and 249,000 full time workers (per week, it varies between 7 hours/week and a half day)¹².

In conclusion, volunteering grows from year to year. Nevertheless it is important to link this growth with the expansion of the NGO sector. It should though be noted that it is hard to be exhaustive in this area because there is limited data on volunteering in Belgium despite the recent Eurobarometer.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTEERING AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The 2005 Belgian Law on volunteering came into force between 2006 and 2007¹³. The law includes a set of guidelines concerning the following topics¹⁴:

- the definition of volunteering activity,
- the obligation of the organisation to inform volunteers about: what it stands for: social goals, legal statute; the insurance covering them; the possible allocations; the obligation of an liability insurance and the possible accident insurance,
- the obligations of the volunteer and the organisation,
- the insurances linked to volunteering,
- the rules of application of the labour law,
- the authorised indemnities, reimbursements of the expenses incurred during volunteering,
- specific situations: unemployed, pre-retired, workers in situation of incapacity, people entitled to a social integration income, elderly people receiving special guaranteed income, family benefits.



9. GODEMONT, J., GOYVAERTS, K. et MARYNISSEN, R. (2006) *De vergrijzing verzilverd? Een verkennend onderzoek naar ouderen in het Vlaamse vrijwilligerswerk*, Steunpunt Gelijkekansenbeleid, Antwerpen, 217 p.

10. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/uploads/Dujardin_Maree_2007_La_mesure_du_volontariat_en_Belgique.pdf, pp. 32-33

11. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/uploads/Dujardin_Maree_2007_La_mesure_du_volontariat_en_Belgique.pdf, pp. 32-33

12. http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/fr_FR/services/cles/notes-de-synthese/volontariat-chiffres-cles/valorisation-monetaire-du-travail-volontaire-dans-les-associations

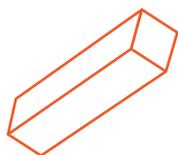
13. DUMONT D. & CLAES P., 2006. " Le nouveau statut des bénévoles, commentaires de la loi du 3 juillet 2005 relative aux droits des volontaires et réflexions sur le droit social et la gratuité", Les Dossiers du journal des tribunaux, 217 pp.

14. Ibidem

More regulations have been created by some public institutions. The Federal Public Service/ Ministry Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, and the Ministry of Finance, respectively, regulate the authorisation for the unemployed, retired or pre-retired, people excluded from unemployment, and the self-employed to volunteer, and indemnities free of taxes for the volunteers when it goes over expenses made for their volunteer activities¹⁵.

The importance of a specific law for creating an enabling environment for volunteering:

The introduction of a specific legal framework for volunteers is considered as a necessity for creating an enabling environment for volunteering in Belgium, particularly since this gives volunteers a recognised status and provides rights and obligations within the volunteering sphere. Legislation on volunteering is important for those who volunteer but also for the organisations they volunteer for and for the clients of the organisations, since it provides guidance, protection and accountability. Nevertheless, specific improvement of legislation on volunteering is required to provide for:



- the rights and duties of volunteers, including codes of conduct and volunteering principles,
- the rights and obligations of volunteering organisations in regard to volunteers,
- the right for all to do volunteering, such as for foreigners or disabled people,
- the establishment of a national volunteer centre aimed at promoting and supporting volunteering,
- data collection and research on volunteering,
- economic and social recognition of volunteering, including in the national budget

This notwithstanding, it is important that legislation on volunteering does not lead to over-regulation, which would hamper the flexibility that volunteering implies. Indeed, legislation should facilitate volunteering and not hinder it.

Public responsibility for supporting volunteering in Belgium

The only public body is the High Council of Volunteers (French: *Conseil supérieur des volontaires*, Dutch: *Hoge Raad voor Vrijwilligers*, German: *Hohen Rates der Freiwilligen*). The High Council is an advisory board, at the federal level, consulted on matters concern volunteering, when statements are being issued or laws are being drafted. The Council is composed by Belgian NGO representatives and is responsible for:

- collecting, systemising and analysing information concerning volunteers and volunteering¹⁶,
- examining the specific issues volunteers and volunteering can be confronted with¹⁷,
- giving advice or making propositions concerning volunteers or volunteering, on its own initiative or on requirement of competent Ministers¹⁸.

In order to successfully achieve its tasks, the Council has contacts with organisations, institutions and authorities that, considering their goal, work or competences are linked to volunteers or volunteering¹⁹.

This public body meets around four times a year and is composed of 25 effective members

15. <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/hoge-raad-vrijwilligers/hoge-raad-vrijwilligers.htm>

16. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2002100230&table_name=loi

17. Ibidem

18. Ibidem

19. http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2002100230&table_name=loi

nominated by the King, which are the representatives of the volunteering across Belgium. The composition of the Council reflects the diversity of volunteering. The social sphere of activities has thus been divided into 10 categories, each one represented in the Council²⁰:

1. *Training and learning*
2. *Youth and elderly*
3. *Healthcare*
4. *Social and judicial help*
5. *Sport*
6. *Culture (artistic heritage, sciences) and hobbies*
7. *Humanitarian actions and international solidarity*
8. *Religion, philosophical streams, politics*
9. *Environment, nature, animals well-being, ecology*
10. *Family and others*

Unlike in its first mandate, where members of the Council were physical people, members of the High Council are currently organisations that are mainly working with volunteers. These members designate a representative for the organisation in the High Council. The Council is composed by 25 effective members²¹:

- 10 effective members from the French-speaking community
- 10 effective members from the Dutch-speaking community
- 1 effective member from the German-speaking community
- 2 members from the French-speaking community, nominated because of their scientific expertise on volunteers and volunteering
- 2 members from the Dutch-speaking community, nominated because of their scientific expertise on volunteers and volunteering
- The Council has also 10 substitute members from the French-speaking community, 10 substitute members from the Dutch-speaking community and one substitute member from the German-speaking community²².

The High Council for Volunteers is therefore the official body intended to support volunteering in Belgium. However, this national body has limited resources. At the regional level, there are volunteering Platforms in both the Dutch-speaking and the French-speaking communities.

It's important that legislation does not lead to over-regulation, which would hamper the flexibility that volunteering implies - legislation should facilitate volunteering and not hinder it.

20. <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/hoge-raad/samenstelling.htm>

21. <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/hoge-raad/samenstelling.htm> [cited January 19, 2012]

22. Ibidem



4. STRUCTURE OF THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING

There is no national volunteer centre or resource centre for volunteering in addition to the consultative body described above. Following the administrative structure of the country, there are two platforms that bring together voluntary organisations, one from Flanders/the Dutch-speaking community and the other from Wallonia and the French-speaking community, both acting as umbrella organisations for volunteering NGOs in Belgium. Within the Ministry of Culture of the German-speaking a staff member has been designated as a focal point for the support of volunteering.



French-speaking structure

In 2002, the French-speaking Platform for Volunteering (Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat) was set up as a non-profit organisation which aims to promote volunteering and represent volunteers' interests in the French-speaking part of Belgium (French Community, Walloon Region, and Brussels Region). Composed of 31 organisations representing the main branches of the associative and volunteering sectors, the Platform acts like an umbrella for French-speaking organisations involved in volunteering. It works to develop policies and practices to promote and assist volunteering organisations, to facilitate communication between them, and to lobby on issues that are of concern to them.

The following activities are carried out by the Platform:

- *Lobbying*, policy monitoring and providing a space for dialogue between members, for them to agree on common policy messages to be conveyed through different fora such as the Social Affairs Commission, the High Council of Volunteers, the European Volunteer Centre, the King Baudouin Foundation
- *Information*: Website and newsletter, management of the websites www.levolontariat.be and www.yaqua.org with the aim of informing civil society and the NGO sector on volunteering, and for volunteer engagement
- *Exchanges*: organisation of working groups, seminars, symposiums etc with the aim of advancing aspects of volunteering and volunteer engagement
- *Providing services*: using our expertise to inform or support NGOs and advise public institutions and political bodies
- *Visibility actions*: carrying out communication activities in order to raise awareness of volunteering and its value.

French-speaking volunteer involving organisations cooperate among themselves through this platform.

Nowadays, the support provided to volunteers generally derives from volunteering organisations themselves²³.

23. <http://www.levolontariat.be/>

Volunteer centres

For the French-speaking part, an organisation acts in some towns in Belgium and in Brussels as a bank of volunteers. They match the supply and demand of volunteers and give some training on volunteering²⁴. There is also a website, which acts like a volunteer centre: www.yaquasengager.org.

The biggest volunteer involving organisations in Belgium

As explained before, there is no significant recent study on volunteering in Belgium but we can assume that the biggest volunteer involvement sector could be sport organisations. But it is impossible to be more precise.

5. OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Public bodies and private organisations involved in volunteering

The *national lottery* is involved through the money given to cover costs for volunteers' insurance in small NGOs.

Provinces have the role of providing support for volunteers' insurance for small NGOs. Some of them go further. The province of Liege and the province of Namur organise a Volunteer Fair²⁵, have set up times to help associations and volunteers, and conduct information sessions with the help of platforms.

Some *municipalities* set up Volunteer Platforms (Liege²⁶, Etterbeek²⁷), Volunteer days to thank volunteers (Bastogne or Ottignies), or a Consultative council of associations (Auderghem²⁸). Some public bodies are involved in promoting volunteering to their employees. However, these initiatives could be one-off, linked to the European Year of Volunteering (EYV) 2011.

Foundations and cooperatives, such as the King Baudouin Foundation²⁹, invest money in studies and research.

Corporate volunteering

Although the Belgian law does not recognise corporate volunteering, there are some initiatives of promoting volunteering among employees, generally in the case of larger businesses. The degree of corporate volunteering in Belgium is rather limited and the initiatives consist of fund-raising activities and short-term, hands-on activities. HUBU, Business and Society, and some others act as a link between associations and business. There is a need for rules to prevent exploitation and abuse around these relations between the businesses and associations.

Volunteering in school

There is no compulsory civic education subject taught in schools in Belgium. However education decrees consider school a key element in building responsible citizens³⁰. Various schools implement volunteering programmes like volunteer class representatives. Furthermore, many

24. <http://www.volontariat.be/>

25. <http://www.dhnet.be/regions/namur-luxembourg/article/367835/premier-salon-du-volontariat.html>

26. <http://www.liege.be/social/famille/seniors/plate-forme-du-volontariat>

27. <http://www.hospichild.be/associations-et-services/social/transports/item/1079-commune-etterbeek-service-volontariat.html>

28. http://www.auderghem.be/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=29&id=111&Itemid=241&lang=fr#%20apprentissage%20et%20citoyennet%C3%A9

29. <http://www.kbs-frb.be/index.aspx?LangType=1033>

30. <http://www.defre.be/defre/PDF/Citoyennet%C3%A9.pdf>

schools have parent associations which involve some degree of volunteering effort by parents and teachers.

The relation between stakeholders and volunteering is usually project based.

6. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There is very limited information that can provide a comprehensive and reliable picture of the main sources of funding for volunteering in general in Belgium.

There are no specific funding mechanisms in Belgium that aim at promoting and supporting volunteering initiatives and sustaining volunteering structures. National funds targeting the volunteering sector are missing.

Lifelong learning decree

Administered by the French-speaking Community (Federation Wallonie- Bruxelles)

The objectives of this decree¹ are to support actions and organisations for lifelong learning and cultural activities, centres of expression and creativity, community life and development of citizenship, by various means:

- subsidising structural recognised associations and the one-time subsidising of projects and associations that are not recognised
- subsidising of cultural training settings
- developing citizenship and democracy through cultural activities, and issues related to the cultural dimension of social phenomena
- considering issues of multiculturalism and interculturalism
- confronting issues related to the solidarity between generations
- addressing of gender issues and male / female equality
- producing publications
- developing partnerships and networks.

The National Lotteries Good Causes Fund

Administered by the Ministry of Finance

This fund² has the main scope of helping out various individuals, agencies or organisations that have social, cultural, educational, sports, philanthropic or religious activities. The Fund generates its income through a percentage contributed from the amount of tax payable from gaming activities and unclaimed prizes. The fund supports projects and initiatives proposed by individuals, NGOs. A part of this fund, for instance, is used to cover insurance for small NGOs.

Private funds, donations, fund-raising events

Several foundations, Banks or companies such as CERA³, King Baudouin Foundation⁴, Electrabel, Le Soir etc. give grants to associations.

Each ministry through decrees and grant/subsidy linked to its competences

For instance, the Ministry of Sport and the Ministry of Youth give funds to support actions of associations with volunteers. It is also a project-based. If an association sets up a project with all the municipalities of Wallonia, it can try to be sustained by the ministry of municipalities and local authorities.

1. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.educationpermanente.cfwb.be/index.php?>

2. <http://www.levolontariat.be/>

3. <http://www.cera.be/>

4. <http://www.kbs-frb.be/index.aspx?LangType=2060>

Nevertheless, there are various funds allocated by the Government and others for organisations within the voluntary sector.

However, the reliability of these funds for the voluntary sector is questionable, particularly since funds are revised on an annual basis and voluntary organisations need to submit applications every year. This hinders, to a certain extent, the degree of long-term planning that voluntary organisations can do. Furthermore, these grants are often characterised by uncertainty due to delays in the money being actually transferred to the organisations.

It is important to set up reliable funding to help the effectiveness of the volunteering sector and to offer a good environment for volunteers.

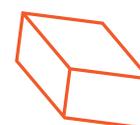
7. REGULAR AND SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH

There is very limited research and information on volunteering in Belgium. Statistics are few and far between. Data related to volunteering is still not systematically registered.

There is no data currently available on the impact (economic or other) of volunteering in Belgium. To date, no research has been undertaken to measure such impacts.

The first well-known study on volunteering in Belgium was “*The measurement of volunteering in Belgium*” by the Centre for Social Economy of the University of Liège, published for the King Baudouin Foundation. The study focused on the framework of volunteering in Belgium, volunteers’ profile, and types of organisations within the third sector. Other studies on volunteering in have been presented under the “Volunteering landscape” section of this chapter.

The lack of reliable data and research on volunteering in Belgium significantly limits the degree to which national and organisational policies and services aimed at promoting and supporting volunteering can ever be developed in an appropriate, effective and efficient manner. Furthermore, political recognition and public awareness about the added value which volunteering can render to society can be significantly enhanced and substantiated through systematic and reliable research, including an indication of the socio-economic value and income generated through volunteering.



8. ETHICS AND QUALITY STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING

There are no specific tools available in Belgium to assure ethics and/or quality standards for volunteering in Belgium. However, generally organisations have taken the initiative to set up procedures and policies for volunteering.

During EYV 2011, the French-speaking volunteering platform organised two conventions³¹ about necessary conditions for volunteering: one more specific for the volunteering sector and the other about recognition.

Many collective bodies organise events around these topics. The Belgium Red Cross published a guide about volunteering management in which the question of ethics and quality standards for volunteering are central³².

One important issue for ensuring quality of volunteering is related to training for volunteers. Training is particularly important in certain areas, e.g. healthcare, where volunteers have to be well prepared before they can work by themselves. The definition of a basic training methodology for volunteers, assumed and recognised by all, is essential. There are no such comprehensive training standards in Belgium, but some training exists: Introduction to Volunteer Management³³ by the Socialist Life-long Learning Centre, or training of volunteering management by volunteering associations.

Furthermore, organisations hosting volunteers are subject to general health, safety and insurance regulations provided by law.

In turn, volunteers' activities in particular sectors, such as health, environment, culture, are generally required to observe general codes of ethics and quality standards applicable in those sectors.

9. AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The French-speaking Volunteering Platform (FVP) runs a website where a database of volunteer involving organisations exists to help potential volunteers identify suitable volunteering opportunities and choose the most appropriate one, according to individual interest and skills and matching the needs of the organisations. This database has around 1000 registered volunteer involvement organisation offers daily³⁴. This matching service is also available through volunteering association local points, but only in some municipalities of Belgium³⁵.

FVP staff often participates in seminars, conferences, meetings, radio and television

31. Find more information about these events on the website: <http://www.levelontariat.be/2011/colloques-et-evenements>.

32. http://www.croix-rouge.be/UserFiles/File/Publications/guide_volontariat_crb_imp.pdf

33. Training set up by FORMAPEF, a special training organization for the employee of the third sector. " Catalogue des formations pour les travailleurs du non-marchand - Accédez facilement à des formations de qualité ! », Octobre 2011-Juin 2012 », pp. 199

34. <http://www.yaquesengager.org>

35. <http://www.volontariat.be/centres-association-volontariat.html>

programmes, informing and promoting volunteering. To celebrate 5 December International Volunteer Day, FVP organises a volunteering week. Public messages are launched on this occasion through outdoor electronic display facilities.

Besides resources made available by FVP for promoting volunteering, organisations active in the field also use their own promotional tools such as personalised websites, publications, studies, research reports, etc.

www.yaquasengager.org registers
1000 offers for volunteering daily

Media is a very good tool for promoting volunteering; staff of FVP and other volunteer involving organisations participate in TV and radio programmes and give interviews to magazines and newspapers.

10. ADDITIONAL COUNTRY SPECIFICITIES

None, other than that already stated above.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

At the national level, in view of facilitating the creation of an enabling volunteering infrastructure in Belgium, it is recommended that:

- *A volunteer centre promoting and supporting volunteering is established.*
- *Volunteering funds and sustainable financial means aimed at supporting the promotion, research and development of new opportunities for volunteering in Belgium are established.*
- *Systematic and regular research on volunteering, including focused data collation and analysis, is conducted by a public body purposely appointed to do so.*
- *A national mechanism accounting for the contribution which volunteering makes to the country's national economy is developed.*
- *New training programmes for volunteers and volunteer managers are introduced and the accreditation of such training programmes is promoted.*
- *Means are given to help the platforms and the High Council for Volunteers to act as multi-stakeholder networking platforms, with the aim of promoting volunteering structures, schemes, and initiatives within the community, the corporate sector and the educational sector, among others*

It is recommended that these measures be incorporated within a national strategy on volunteering.

At the European level, in view of enhancing the recognition and support for volunteering at this level, it is recommended that the European Union (EU) institutions consider:

- *Introducing legislation aimed at promoting and safeguarding the rights and obligations of volunteers within EU Member States.*
- *Establishing funding programmes at the European Commission level which are aimed at promoting and developing sustainable volunteering structures.*
- *Promoting the recognition of unpaid voluntary work by all managing authorities as eligible in-kind contributions for co-financing purposes related to structural funds.*

Resources

Belgian Red Cross, 2011. *Gestion du Volontariat - guide pratique*. Available at: http://www.croix-rouge.be/UserFiles/File/Publications/guide_volontariat_crb_imp.pdf

Centre for Social Economy of the University of Liège, 2007. *Statistical studies on volunteering in Belgium - Listing of recent researches carried in Belgium on the measurement of volunteering: 2007, The measurement of volunteering in Belgium - Report for the King Baudouin Foundation*

2000-2001, *The satellite account of non-profit institutions (this document, which was published by the Belgian Institute of National Accounts includes an appendix on the monetary assessment of volunteering in Belgium*. Available at: http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/fr_FR/services/analyses-statistiques/benevolat

High Council for Volunteers, 2005. *Belgian Law about volunteering*. Available at: <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/geldende-wetgeving.htm>

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European Commission, 2007. *European Social Reality Special Eurobarometer No. 273 Report*, pp. 34-37. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_273_en.pdf

J. Godemont, K. Goyvarts & R. Marynissen, 2006. *De vergrijzing verzilverd? Een verkennend onderzoek naar ouderen in het Vlaamse vrijwilligerswerk, Steunpunt Gelijkekansenbeleid*
M. D'hondt et B. Van Buggenhout, 1998. *Statuut van de vrijwilliger. Knelpunten en oplossingen, Fondation Roi Baudouin, Bruxelles*

Association pour le Volontariat <http://www.volontariat.be/>

Business and Society <http://www.businessandsociety.be/>

Centre for Social Economy, University of Liège <http://www.ces.ulg.ac.be/>

High Council for volunteers <http://www.socialsecurity.fgov.be/fr/specifieke-info/vrijwilligers/hoge-raad.htm>

Hubu <http://www.hu-bu.be/?lang=en>

King Baudouin Foundation <http://www.kbs-frb.be/index.aspx?LangType=2060>

Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat <http://www.levolontariat.be/>

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