



**PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR THE NATIONAL REPORTS  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON OBJECTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**1. CONTEXT**

- By adopting the Resolution of 15 November 2004 on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people<sup>1</sup> (enclosed), the Member States committed themselves to submitting reports on the national contributions to the implementation of these common objectives by the end of 2006.
- By adopting the Resolution of 15 November 2004 on common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth<sup>2</sup> (enclosed), the Member States also committed themselves to:
  - Inform the Commission of the concrete achievements resulting from the implementation of the two first common objectives<sup>3</sup> of a greater understanding and knowledge of youth concerning voluntary activities of young people by the end of 2006.
  - Inform within these reports of the steps taken in order to fulfil the third and fourth common objectives<sup>4</sup> of a greater understanding and knowledge of youth in the context of voluntary activities.
- The national reports should allow the Commission to evaluate the achievements of the Member States in the implementation of the common objectives for voluntary

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people, 13996/04, of 15. November 2004

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth, 13997/04, of 15 November 2004

<sup>3</sup> Identify existing knowledge at national, local and regional level and measures to supplement, update and facilitate access to this knowledge. In a second stage identify - including at local and regional level - existing knowledge in further priority areas of interest to the youth field such as autonomy, non-formal learning, the fight against discrimination, education & training, employment, entrepreneurship, creativity, transition from education to employment, social inclusion and health, and implement measures to supplement, update and facilitate access to it.

<sup>4</sup> Ensure quality, comparability and relevance of knowledge by using appropriate methods and tools. Facilitate and promote exchange, dialogue and networks to ensure visibility of knowledge and to anticipate future needs.

activities of young people and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth in this field.

- On the basis of the reports of the Member States, the Commission will draw up a synthesis report by mid-2007.
- Further to the request of the Directors-General for a Commission proposal for a common structure for the national reports the Commission proposes the structure described in point 2. below.
- Young people should be consulted on the reports.

## **2. PROPOSED STRUCTURE**

### **2.1. Nature and aims of the proposed structure**

- The proposed structure is based on the experiences with the structure for the participation and information reports and takes the specificities of the priority of voluntary activities of young people into account.
- The proposed structure tries to be as clear as possible about which information Member States are required to provide.
- To this end different levels of questions are proposed. Major questions (which are marked in bold) are declined in guiding questions.
- The questions aim at guiding Member States through the task of reporting.
- The structure allows for national solutions in the implementation of the common objectives.
- The proposed structure aims at:
  - Facilitating the drawing up of the national reports by the Member States;
  - Facilitating the analysis of the national reports and the drawing up of a synthesis report by the Commission;
  - Allowing for an evaluation of the implementation of the common objectives;
  - Completing and updating the existing knowledge on voluntary activities of young people.

### **2.2. Common objectives covered by the proposed structure**

(1) Encourage the development of voluntary activities of young people with the aim of enhancing awareness of the existing possibilities, enlarging their scope and improving their quality.

(2) Make it easier for young people to carry out voluntary activities by removing existing obstacles.

(3) Promote voluntary activities with a view to reinforcing young people's solidarity and engagement as responsible citizens.

(4) Recognise voluntary activities of young people with a view to acknowledging the value of their personal skills thus acquired and their engagement for society and the role that voluntary activities play in terms of facilitating the transition from education to work and adult life.

### **2.3. Questions**

#### Introduction

Member States are invited to provide two sorts of information:

1. To describe the actions taken to implement the four common objectives.

2. To describe best practices concerning one or more common objectives.

- As far as point 1. (description of actions taken) is concerned, the information provided should ideally follow the action lines described in the Annex to the Resolution of 15 November 2004 on voluntary activities.

- Member States are also invited to indicate whether a strategy for the development of young people's voluntary activities has been adopted and which of the common objectives this strategy covers.

- Member States are also encouraged to include, if possible, in the report the number of young people who carry out voluntary activities (total number and percentage of all young people residing in the Member State) in order to allow a comparison with the figures provided by Member States at the time of the adoption of the common objectives.

- The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy might prove useful when answering of the questions.

Objective 1: Encourage the development of voluntary activities of young people with the aim of enhancing awareness of the existing possibilities, enlarging their scope and improving their quality

**Q1: Describe briefly the national situation at the moment of the adoption of the common objectives on voluntary activities of young people (starting point).**

**Q2: How have voluntary activities of young people been developed since the adoption of the common objectives?**

-Which types of voluntary activities and of organisations that provide opportunities for voluntary activities of young people have been (further) developed in the past two years?

**Q3: How are the different types of voluntary activities and organisations that provide opportunities for volunteering of young people supported?**

- You are invited to refer to aspects like quality of volunteering and of organisations providing volunteering opportunities as well as to inform about possible transnational cooperation and exchange of volunteers.

Objective 2: Make it easier for young people to carry out voluntary activities by removing existing obstacles.

**Q4: Which obstacles to volunteering do young people encounter?**

- Please list the nature of obstacles: e.g. administrative obstacles, legal obstacles, etc.

**Q5: How are these difficulties tackled?**

- You are invited to refer to possible (legal or practical) measures as well as to the cooperation between authorities and to the exchange of experience, good practice and information.

Objective 3: Promote voluntary activities with a view to reinforcing young people's solidarity and engagement as responsible citizens

**Q6: How was the volunteering of young people in your country promoted during the past two years?**

- Were the phenomena that lead to the exclusion of certain groups of young people from volunteering analysed and if so what were the findings?

Objective 4: Recognise voluntary activities of young people with a view to acknowledging the value of their personal skills thus acquired and their engagement for society and the role that voluntary activities play in terms of facilitating the transition from education to work and adult life

**Q7: What was done to enhance the recognition of voluntary activities of young people?**

- Which actions were taken – by society, public authorities, employers, educational institutions, young people themselves - to acknowledge the engagement, skills, knowledge and competences as well as the added social value linked to volunteering?

**Q8: Were the common objectives useful? Did they help to enhance the voluntary activities of young people?**

- What were the key-milestones and targets in the implementation of the common objectives for voluntary activities of young people?

A better understanding and greater knowledge of youth

**Q9: Which actions were taken in order to identify existing knowledge on the voluntary activities of young people at national, regional and local level?**

- Which measures were taken to supplement, update and facilitate access to this knowledge?

- What was done to ensure quality, comparability and relevance of knowledge by using appropriate methods and tools?

- How were exchange as well as dialogue and networks facilitated and promoted to ensure visibility of knowledge and to anticipate future needs?

**Q10: Were difficulties met in the implementation of the common objectives and in establishing the report?**

If so, which kind of difficulties (administrative difficulties, lack of means, lack of infrastructure, etc.)?

**Q11: In view of a strategic forward looking perspective: should the direction defined by the common objectives continue or should it be changed (if so, how)?**

**Q12: Were young people consulted?**

- in the implementation of the common objectives
- throughout the drafting of the report.

Please describe:

- the type(s) of consultation
- the number of young people reached by the consultations
- at which stage the young people were consulted - how the young people's views were taken on board.

### **3. TIMETABLE**

- Proposed structure sent to Member States by mid 2006
- Member States replies by December 2006
- Analysis and synthesis report by the Commission by the end of 1st semester 2007
- Response from the Council by the 2nd semester 2007.

Annexes: Council Resolution of 15 November 2004 on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people

Council Resolution of 15 November 2004 on common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth