



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 20.10.1997
COM(97) 512 final

European Voluntary Service for young people
Second Report of Work in Progress

(presented by the Commission)

INTRODUCTION.....	2
<u>I. DECENTRALISED STRAND.....</u>	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
HOSTING PROJECTS.....	3
SENDING PROJECTS.....	4
VOLUNTEERS.....	5
COMPLETE PROJECTS AND MATCHMAKING.....	5
OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED AND SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED.....	6
MONITORING OF PROJECTS.....	7
<u>II. CENTRALISED STRAND.....</u>	8
A. FLAGSHIP NETWORKS.....	8
B. VOLUNTARY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.....	9
C. THIRD COUNTRIES.....	11
<u>III. MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM EVS PROJECTS.....</u>	12
<u>IV. HORIZONTAL ISSUES.....</u>	14
A. FINANCIAL ISSUES.....	14
B. INFORMATION.....	15
C. TRAINING, PREPARATION AND SUPPORT.....	16
D. EVALUATION.....	18
CONCLUSIONS.....	19
ANNEX 1 - GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT.....	21
ANNEX 2 - STATISTICS.....	23
ANNEX 3: DECENTRALISED STRAND - PROJECT VISITS AND EXAMPLES.....	28
ANNEX 4 OVERVIEW OF FLAGSHIP PROJECTS (JULY 1997).....	31

INTRODUCTION

The European Commission launched the pilot action of European Voluntary Service for young people in 1996, on the basis of the new budget line B3-1011. 15 MECU were allocated to this budget line in 1996; a further 9.4 MECU were set aside in the 1997 budget for the second year of the pilot action.

European Voluntary Service intends to open a space for young people to get involved, to take responsibility and to participate actively in the making of society. By engaging in voluntary service, young people develop a feeling of solidarity and tolerance. In the light of a culture very different to their own, they learn to better understand the values of their own culture as well as their roles and responsibilities as European citizens in the world. In this way, EVS can provide young Europeans with an opportunity to understand themselves and European societies as being part of a wider context.

The pilot action of European Voluntary Service is also designed to test a new approach to the implementation of voluntary service activities for young people in a European context. The operational lessons learnt through the pilot action will be taken into account in the implementation of a multiannual European Voluntary Service programme, which is due to be launched in 1998. (The Commission adopted its proposal for a Council and Parliament Decision establishing this programme on 6.12.96¹.)

The launch of European Voluntary Service has received an additional impetus from Mr Hans Koschnick, who has been appointed as a special advisor to the European Commission. Mr Koschnick has made a valuable contribution to the development of this initiative through his numerous field visits and meetings with Members of the European Parliament, the media, non-governmental organisations, local and regional authorities, decision-makers and other interested parties. He has also chaired a group of personalities that aims to promote the idea of European Voluntary Service in its members' respective countries and organisations.

The Commission has made a commitment to ensure ongoing monitoring and reporting on the pilot action of European Voluntary Service². A first Report of Work in Progress was duly published by the Commission in November 1996³. This Report provided an account of the initial stages of the implementation of the pilot action.

The second Report of Work in Progress provides updated information and statistics. It identifies a number of trends and challenges that have emerged from the experience acquired so far. It also highlights a series of issues that should be taken into account in the future development of European Voluntary Service.

As this is a pilot phase, several approaches have been tested and this report deals in turn with the different 'strands' developed under European Voluntary Service. Firstly, it looks at the decentralised approach where National Structures are responsible for matching young volunteers, sending projects and hosting projects. The report then examines

¹ COM(96)610

² See SEC(95)2268, p.18

³ The First Report was annexed to COM(96)610

projects proposed by European youth and voluntary service organisations, as well as 'Flagship projects' which have been encouraged by the Commission to develop particularly innovative approaches. The final chapter of this report deals with horizontal issues and outlines the main conclusions which can be drawn at this stage.

I. DECENTRALISED STRAND

Introduction

One of the main innovative aspects of the operational strategy adopted for the European Voluntary Service pilot action is the decentralised approach to implementation. This model is particularly designed to facilitate the participation of local organisations and to respond effectively to the needs and realities of projects and volunteers.

The Commission's decentralised approach is based on a network of National Structures appointed to assist with the implementation of the pilot action. This network has now been operational for almost one year. Another key element of this strategy is the Structure of Operational Support set up at European level to assist the National Structures.

The National Structures have undertaken an extensive campaign of information distribution and awareness-raising (see Section III.B of this report). This campaign has produced results. Over 1000 organisations from across the European Union have expressed an interest in hosting a young volunteer from another Member State. Several thousand young people who would like to participate in a European Voluntary Service project have also contacted the Commission and National Structures.

The challenge now is to capitalise on this significant level of interest by finalising project applications and selections. The National Structures, together with the Commission and the SOS, are currently supporting match-making between hosting projects, sending projects and volunteers. This is a complex and time-consuming process, particularly since many of the partners concerned do not have previous experience of transnational voluntary service, and because long-term voluntary service projects require significant commitments and responsibilities from all of the partners concerned.

Solutions are now being found to some of the challenges presented by the match-making process, and more than 1000 young people are now actively participating in projects. Several hundred more young people will begin their period of voluntary service within the next few months.

Hosting projects

The call for expressions of interest which was sent to National Structures in May 1996 for distribution in each Member State continues to generate hosting projects and a total of 1290 have been collected.

The National Structures distributed the call for expressions of interest in a variety of ways. For example in Sweden and Portugal, a rather stream-lined approach was taken and the call was sent to organisations known to the National Structure. In other countries such as Finland and Austria a wider distribution was made and the National Structures made public announcements via radio and the youth press. Now organisations are discovering

the EVS on a larger basis and from a number of sources.

The National Structures continue to collect the expressions of interest at national level and then forward them to the Commission for assessment and approval at European level. No project is approved at European level without prior assessment by the National Structure. This system is to be upheld as it ensures that the hosting projects conform to the philosophy of the European Voluntary Service and that there is a certain degree of qualitative evaluation of the hosting project before they receive a volunteer. Hosting projects must receive the green light from the Commission before receiving a young volunteer within the framework of the EVS.

The assessment of projects is based on the summary of the expression of interest provided by the National Structures and their comments on the project. Although the majority of hosting projects are approved, or asked for further information, some are rejected. The principal reasons for rejecting projects are that the activities proposed to the volunteer constitute job substitution, are routine (e.g. cleaning, maintenance or care duties) or there is limited access for young people. Annex 2, Table 1 gives a full breakdown of the number of projects per country and the results of their assessment.

The accepted projects are put on to a database of hosting project « DIFFUS » in which it is possible to search for hosting projects by country and by sector of activity. This database is distributed to the National Structures who then use it to help sending projects and/or volunteers find an appropriate partner. It also indicates how many volunteer places there are in each project, how many of these places are booked and how many are still available. This database, along with other information about the European Voluntary Service, has been made available on the Internet as of August 1997. Annex 2, Table 2 summarises the number of volunteer places available per country and how many of these places are currently booked. It is important to note that, as for the number and classification of hosting projects, this is not a static figure, but changes regularly as partnerships are established.

The pilot action is aimed at projects active in the social, cultural and environmental field. Within these three fields, a series of more precise themes have been identified. The hosting projects are also classified according to theme. According to the nature of the project it may have more than one theme. Annex 2, Table 3 gives an overview of the number of projects per theme.

Sending projects

The responsibility of preparing the grant application lies with the sending project. Finding sending projects has been a major obstacle for a number of National Structures and as a result they have had to find alternative solutions. It is a particular problem in cases of « individual volunteers » who have no sending project, but would like to participate in the EVS. National Structures recommend that these young people try to find a sending project and give them some contact addresses to help them find a suitable organisation. If the young person is not successful other arrangements are made. Notably, the National Structures of Luxembourg and Portugal have decided to assume the role of sending project themselves and Austria and Italy have designated larger organisations as « sending agencies » to send multiple volunteers. In France, some regional youth information centres have become sending projects.

Although these solutions enable the volunteers to participate in the European Voluntary

Service they are not ideal. Sending agencies cannot offer the same kind of commitment to and investment in young volunteers as a local sending project in the volunteer's own community. In the future, an effort will be made to encourage volunteers to promote closer contacts between larger sending agencies and projects at local level.

Each National Structure has drawn up a list of sending projects. These sending projects are the result of a call for expressions of interest and hosting projects are systematically asked whether they would like to be sending projects. Some countries have set up a checklist of criteria which need to be fulfilled before being eligible as a sending project (e.g. Ireland and the UK). These criteria include financial viability, legal status, recruitment of volunteers, training and support facilities, follow-up arrangements). Some National Structures also hold selection meetings at national level to approve sending projects.

The National Structures have been requested to forward the information about sending projects in their country to the European Commission in order to have a centralised database of sending projects as well as hosting projects. This will serve to give an estimate of the potential number of volunteers to be sent and to assist in the matchmaking process.

Volunteers

Young people interested in participating in the EVS either take contact with the National Structures or with an organisation at local level involved in the EVS. The reaction of National Structures to information requests from young people includes forwarding them directly to an organisation in their area, sending basic information and meeting them to give fuller details, to help them select a hosting project which may interest them and a sending project who will take them on board.

The degree of interest from young people in the European Voluntary Service varies between countries depending on the situation of voluntary service and the level and type of information distributed.

The number of disadvantaged young people participating in the decentralised strand is limited at this stage. Ireland has made a special effort to recruit several volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Portugal has a sending project which works specifically with disadvantaged young people and is willing to send 15 volunteers, but as yet has not recruited any. It is more difficult to recruit disadvantaged young people due to their personal circumstances and the conditions imposed by the pilot action (period of stay and complementary funding). Also, sending projects are not always aware that the extra costs resulting from the added preparation, training and support required by this target group may be taken into account by Commission funding. The Commission and National Structures are attempting to find effective solutions (additional funding, complementary preparation and support etc...) in order to facilitate the participation of young people who face particular obstacles.

Complete projects and matchmaking

Partnerships in the decentralised strand are based on existing contacts or matchmaking. If hosting and sending projects know each other from previous experiences they use this

basis to create an EVS partnership.

The matchmaking procedure depends solely on the database of hosting projects. Sending projects define the theme or country which interests them or their volunteer and the database provides a list of project which satisfy these parameters. After consideration of the details of the individual projects the sending project will select several which are the most appropriate and contact them to try and create a partnership. About 40% of the EVS partnerships which are completed or in preparation are a result of existing partnerships and 60% are a result of the matchmaking process.

Grants have been awarded through the decentralised strand to projects involving a total of 1142 young volunteers with funding from the 1996 EVS budget. These grants were allocated to projects by National Structures before the 31 July 1997 deadline which was set for spending 1996 credits. The majority of these young volunteers left to join their projects in August/September 1997. Some sending projects have been allowed an additional period to finalise arrangements with a hosting project. Annex 2, table 4 provides details of the young volunteers participating in projects financed through the decentralised strand.

Obstacles encountered and solutions developed

The National Structures responsible for the decentralised part of the program are rapidly progressing in concluding complete project applications with volunteers. A team from the Commission and the SOS visited all Structures in May to see their operations in practice, to find out how the planned implementation procedure was working, and to provide them with any support they might need. The overall situation is encouraging, although there are a few specific areas where progress has been slower than expected.

Some countries have difficulties in finding sending projects. The reasons are diverse, but the tasks of these projects would be considerable and often it is difficult to convince organisations to take them on. To improve the situation, the Commission has provided examples of good practices adopted in other National Structures. The solutions proposed include establishing a framework contract with organisations about sending a defined number of volunteers, mobilising national sources of co-financing, and using hosting projects also as sending projects.

Many National Structures have highlighted the fact that the matching of sending and hosting projects has proven to be rather slow. Besides technical and communications difficulties, many organisations are reluctant to sign agreements with partners they do not know.

A lack of information on the availability of hosting projects has led to problems in the efficient functioning of the system. Sending projects must know if there are no places left or if a project has withdrawn from the EVS. It is impossible for the database to be updated if this information is not forwarded to the National Structures or to the Commission. If there are changes in the contact details these should also be forwarded or the sending projects cannot reach the hosting project. This is frustrating and demotivating for the sending project and may result in the young volunteer pulling out because the process of finding a hosting project is too slow.

The preparation of a common budget has proved to be an obstacle for the partners. As the Community funding only covers 50% of the costs, complementary funding must be

found. Despite the possibility to make contributions in kind, projects are finding it difficult to raise the remaining 50%. The distribution of funding between the sending and hosting projects has also created complications and often requires much discussion before an agreement is reached. This in turn delays the submission of the grant application and the departure of the volunteer.

Some hosting projects delay before answering sending projects because they are unsure of how to reply and want to hear from other volunteers before making their selection. Even if they respond immediately it takes a long time to put together a complete project due to their reluctance to enter into a contract with an unknown partner. The difference in languages has created barriers between small, local projects which do not have a second working language.

Efforts are being made, at national and European level, to address the problems mentioned above. In particular it has been suggested that a time limit of 4 weeks be imposed on hosting projects to respond to proposals made by sending projects and contact is taken directly with the projects to help accelerate the matchmaking process. The National Structures can organise and support meetings between sending and hosting projects, and the sending projects can also visit the hosting projects. The application procedure has been simplified and improved communications channels, including an e-mail based discussion forum, have been set up.

Monitoring of projects

Hosting projects in the decentralised strand are being monitored by the National Structures and the Structure for Operational Support. Initially the visits were made to examine how a volunteer would be integrated into the hosting projects and their capacity to cater for the needs of a volunteer from another country and the requirements of the EVS. Now that a number of volunteers are already in place, the monitoring visits are to projects with EVS volunteers.

These visits have proved invaluable for the SOS and the European Commission in the implementation of the pilot action at European level and for the hosting projects and National Structures and local and national level. By going into the field the SOS has been able to identify issues of concern within the hosting projects which are not evident on paper, observe their good practice and gain a better understanding of the reality in the different Member States. This has helped to fine tune certain aspects of the implementation of the decentralised strand. For the National Structures it has been useful to visit the projects to improve contacts with the people responsible for the expression of interest and the mentor for the volunteer once he or she is in place, and to explain the proceedings for their Member State.

The National Structures also appreciate conferring with the SOS during these visits and take the opportunity to consult them on questions or doubts about the EVS. The hosting projects enjoy the monitoring visits because they can explain their activities in person and show the monitors some of these activities in practice, as well as the fact that they can address all their questions directly to the people responsible for the decentralised action and receive full explanatory answers to their queries. The visits also make the European dimension of the scheme more tangible. A list of the projects visited so far is attached as in Annex 3 to this Report.

II. CENTRALISED STRAND

A. Flagship Networks

Introduction

At the outset of the pilot action, the Commission clearly stated its intention to conduct an “experiment within an experiment” with a series of transnational networks active in various sectors linked with social development and willing to take on board the concept of a European voluntary service for young people. It is intended that these ‘Flagship Networks’ should provide the basis for testing specific approaches in terms of the type of activities covered, the target public involved and the methodologies used. These approaches should help to provide concepts and models which can be transferable to the wider development of European Voluntary Service.

With this in mind, the Commission has now engaged 10 Flagship Projects active chiefly in the following areas:

- participation in active social and professional life
- the environment
- art, culture and heritage
- social exclusion of youth

Full details of the Flagship Projects are provided in Annex 4 of this Report. Taking part in European Voluntary Service has encouraged the networks involved in the Flagship Projects to reorganise themselves in an extremely positive way. It has opened up new possibilities for them to expand their scope of activities, providing new opportunities to widen the net of their partnerships and resulting in a tightening-up and improvement of the operational efficiency.

Experimentation

Because of their specialised experience and their unique approach, these networks are fertile testing grounds for the concepts and operational methods developed by the pilot action, and can promote innovative practices, principally where the following areas are concerned:

- * recruitment of young volunteers
- * specific roles and functioning of sending/hosting sites
- * match-making/partnerships between sending/hosting projects and the young volunteers
- * preparation and training of young volunteers, and youth trainers
- * follow-up of young volunteers after their period of voluntary service
- * interaction with local actors, including, among others, the world of

enterprise and commerce

Each of the Flagship Projects will convene a pilot group. These groups will be composed of different interlocutors implicated in the pilot action - non-profit making associations, social partners, representatives of voluntary service organisations, the world of enterprise and commerce...

Broader implications for EVS

This particular strand of the pilot action must be considered in tandem with the other strands (projects submitted by youth NGOs at a centralised level, and bilateral European projects at a decentralised level). In effect, the explicit goal of the Commission is to put the experience acquired through the pilot networks to work for the benefit of all the actors in the European Voluntary Service arena, and not to create parallel structures to initiatives developed at decentralised level.

The level of expertise which these networks will achieve and the learning experience they will provide for the Commission can be utilised by:

- * future EVS projects
- * the National Structures
- * other potential national and local actors

Moreover, the actions undertaken by these networks will have a fanning-out effect in terms of creating a reservoir of experienced hosting and sending projects in the fields covered by the networks. These projects will be reintroduced at a decentralised level.

The starting-up of this strand of the pilot action has required a running-in period. This period having now been completed, 6 of the 10 networks already have volunteers engaged in voluntary service activities at various host projects throughout Europe. The other 4 will have volunteers in action by the autumn. A total of 76 young volunteers are already taking part in the Flagship Projects. A further 153 volunteers should join their projects by the end of 1997.

The Commission has vigorously encouraged close contact and a full exchange of information between the networks and the National Structures in order to ensure that statistical information concerning volunteers and sending and hosting projects is readily available and accessible. In the longer term, the Flagship projects should provide a pool of organisations and resource persons with relevant experience which will be invaluable to the future development of European Voluntary Service activities.

B. Voluntary service organisations and youth organisations

Background

During the first year of the pilot action, the Commission decided to establish a direct working relationship with a small number of European organisations which have previous experience of organising transnational voluntary service activities. These organisations are grouped together in AVSO (Association of Voluntary Service Organisations).

This direct working relationship was intended to allow these organisations to contribute

their experience to the launching and implementation of the pilot action. For example, AVSO helped to coordinate a study on 'Support and training mechanisms for longer term volunteering' which was made available to EVS National Structures and to other interested organisations, projects etc....

The Commission also encouraged member organisations of AVSO to propose voluntary service activities which met the conditions set out for European Voluntary Service. The Commission addressed two calls for projects to AVSO members in 1996. Following consultation with the EVS National Structures, the Commission approved a total of 229 projects.

Overview of projects in 1996

The first volunteers supported through the European Voluntary Service pilot action went to projects coordinated by AVSO members in August/September 1996. A total of 177 volunteers were active in projects by June 1997. A further 28 were due to be placed by August/September 1997 following an extended period of volunteer selection and matching with appropriate hosting projects.

Table 5 (see Annex 2 of this Report) provides an overview of the countries hosting the 177 volunteers in AVSO projects by June 1997. It confirms the significant hosting capacity in the United Kingdom (59 volunteers) and in France (36 volunteers). Table 6 (see Annex 2 of this Report) indicates the origin (sending country) of the 177 young volunteers. The high number of German volunteers (117) is striking. This reflects the fact that several of the AVSO members are involved in long-standing programmes sending volunteers from Germany to other Member States (Diakonisches Werk, Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, EIRENE).

The number of projects submitted by AVSO member organisations was lower than the Commission had expected. This indicated that, even for organisations with previous experience in this area, the development of European Voluntary Service projects presented a number of challenges. This was confirmed by the fact that it took longer than originally anticipated for the organisations to get many of the projects approved up and running.

Projects coordinated by AVSO members provided young volunteers with the opportunity to undertake a broad range of activities in the social, cultural and environmental fields. Initial feedback from organisations hosting volunteers and from the volunteers themselves has confirmed that this can be a rewarding experience both for the hosting projects and for the young people involved. This feedback has also reinforced the Commission's prudent approach to certain activities in the social field, particularly with regard to mainstream social care activities. There is a real danger of job substitution in this area. Integration into the broader environment of the host country is clearly difficult for young people volunteering and often living in large social institutions.

New approach for 1997

On the basis of the experience of the two calls for projects in 1996, the Commission decided to broaden its approach for the second year of the pilot action. This broader approach was designed to increase the range of organisations involved in the centralised strand of EVS, and specifically to encourage European youth organisations to play a more active role. It also aimed to broaden and reinforce the quality and content of projects

and to stimulate the development of new partnerships and new activities rather than simply supporting the continuation of existing programmes.

A call for multilateral EVS projects was therefore sent to more than 80 European youth organisations and to the member organisations of AVSO in April 1997. This call invited organisations to submit projects involving partners in 4 countries and offering voluntary service activities to 6-12 young people. It also stressed the need to demonstrate a coherent thematic content and methodological approach. 10 multilateral EVS projects submitted by European voluntary service and youth organisations were approved by the Commission. A total of 75 young people should have the opportunity to take part in these projects as volunteers.

In addition, the Commission has encouraged the member organisations of AVSO to become more directly involved with the decentralised strand of EVS. From 1997, these organisations were advised to submit applications for bilateral projects via their National Structures. More than 250 expressions of interest in hosting volunteers had been received in this way from national branches of AVSO organisations by June 1997. These organisations had also begun to take a more active role in the sending of volunteers in the framework of the decentralised strand.

C. Third Countries

The approach for EVS in third countries

In the same way as the other strands of European Voluntary Service, EVS projects in third countries provide young people with an informal educational experience. In addition, they aim to promote solidarity, intercultural understanding and tolerance. "Third countries" in this context may include developing countries besides other countries, but EVS does not pretend to be a tool for development cooperation. EVS seeks to promote co-operation between people and to allow young people to participate in the shaping of societies - the societies of the EU but also societies of third countries. Their contribution should be seen as an act of active citizenship and solidarity with other countries. Voluntary service of young people has to do with active citizenship, the building of democratic societies and the support of grass-roots, community-based initiatives, and not with know-how transfer and technical assistance which are usually associated with "development cooperation".

Overview of activities in 1996 and 1997 supported through the pilot action

In 1996, the Commission supported projects in 12 countries outside the EU allowing a total of 90 young people from the EU to participate in European Voluntary Service activities.

In the first half of 1997 three projects in three countries for 24 young volunteers have been preliminarily approved. A number of other projects is under preparation (Mediterranean, Central&Eastern Europe...). The geographical distribution of these projects is set out in Table 7 (see Annex 2 of this Report).

Type of activities/project themes

The EVS pilot action '96/97 has supported a wide range of voluntary service activities in the social and environmental field, e.g. support for the homeless in Debrecen, Hungary; work with emotionally disturbed children in Romania, organisation of international summer youth camps in Palestine, helping street children in Luanda, Angola, environmental awareness-raising activities in Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica ... Most of these voluntary service activities have a duration of 6-12 months.

In order to also test the potential benefits of short-term voluntary service, the pilot action also supported a 3-week voluntary work camp activity in South Africa involving young European volunteers in school renovation and conservation work in Nature Reserves. Another short-term project in Bénin aims at allowing a group of young people of African origin residing in the EU to get a positive image of Africa by participating, together with local youths, in the construction of an agricultural school.

Thanks to the cooperative relationship struck up through the Interservice Group on European Voluntary Service, DGXXII has collaborated with some of the Commission's external relations DG's (DGIA, DGIB and DGVIII). DGXXII has awarded funding to allow young European volunteers to participate in projects supported by the RELEX DG's in the PHARE and TACIS countries, in the Mediterranean region and Latin America and in Africa. The Commission is also exploring the possibility of cooperating with other partners, including the United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

Ex-ante Evaluation for the future multiannual programme

The Commission has launched an ex-ante evaluation relating to the third country aspects of the proposal for a Decision concerning the establishment of a multiannual programme of European Voluntary Service for young people. The ex-ante evaluation aims to examine the underlying assumptions of the proposal and to evaluate the potential for activities in this field as well as potential difficulties with view to the multiannual programme.

Preliminary conclusions summarised in a first intermediate report suggest that there is likely to be a demand from young EU citizens as well as from sending organisations, whereas the interest of hosting countries may vary according to the region (more interest in Central Europe than in CIS; strong interest in e.g. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, etc.). The conditions under which young people from third countries may participate in projects require further review, since "reciprocity" appears problematic due to various legal and institutional constraints.

III. MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM EVS PILOT ACTION PROJECTS

A number of key issues and overall trends have emerged from the EVS pilot action projects which are currently underway or in preparation through all of the different strands described above. The most important of these issues are outlined below. The Commission is taking careful account of these lessons in preparations for the multiannual programme.

The importance of adequate pre-departure preparation and information

Sound preparation of the volunteers, the hosting projects and the hosting communities is a precondition for the success of EVS projects. All of the partners need to receive detailed

and accurate information about the practical arrangements regarding the project (activities assigned to the volunteer, arrival dates, pocket money and other financial arrangements, board and lodging arrangements etc...) before the period of voluntary service begins. Practical and cultural information on the hosting country, including legal and administrative issues, is also important.

The recruitment and selection of volunteers

Careful attention must be paid to the selection of volunteers and the matching of volunteers to appropriate hosting projects. Misunderstandings have caused frustration on both sides and, in some cases, volunteers have dropped out or projects have been cancelled because of problems in this area.

Benefits for projects and for volunteers

Initial feedback from hosting projects and volunteers has been positive. Volunteers feel that they have learnt a lot through the experience and that this will be useful to them with their future plans (employment, training, education, volunteering etc...) when they return to their home country. Projects seem generally to have been satisfied with the volunteers and to consider that they have made a useful contribution to their activities.

Importance of the supportive role of National Structures

National Structures clearly have an essential role in supporting projects and volunteers. European Voluntary Service appears to be working most effectively in countries where the National Structures take a proactive approach to this task, although this it is clearly more difficult to have direct contacts in the larger Member States. National Structures should stay in contact with the hosting projects in their country in order to keep track of any developments, places booked, changes in contact details etc....

Legal and administrative obstacles

Some difficulties exist with regard to legal and administrative questions (right of residence, social security, taxation). These problems have been highlighted by the Commission in its Green Paper on Obstacles to Mobility⁴. However, in most cases so far solutions to these problems have been found. Some Member States have adjusted their national regulations to facilitate the participation of young unemployed people in EVS, without the risk of them losing eligibility for unemployment and other benefits. However, taxation arrangements in some countries may continue to cause problems for some volunteers and some projects.

Avoiding delays in circulation of information and the processing of applications

Some delays in circulation of information between the Commission, National Structures, the relevant regional or intermediary bodies (in some countries) and projects have caused frustrations. Delays in decisions on grant applications and in making payments have also been a problem for a small number of projects, particularly third country projects involving co-financing from different Community budget lines. The Commission and the National Structures are considering how to minimise these delays.

⁴ 'Education, training, research: obstacles to transnational mobility' - COM(96)462

Gender balance

Annex 2, table 9 provides information on the gender balance of volunteers participating in projects supported through the European Voluntary Service pilot action. It appears that these projects are currently attracting a majority of young women. This tendency will be analysed in the ongoing evaluation and addressed in the implementation of the proposed multiannual programme.

IV. HORIZONTAL ISSUES

A. Financial Issues

General budgetary framework

The amount allocated by the budgetary authority to the European Voluntary Service pilot action in 1997 has been significantly reduced in comparison with 1996. Against this background of budgetary restriction, the Commission has continued, as far as possible, to give priority to the decentralised approach adopted since the first year of the pilot action. Table 8 (see Annex 2 of this Report) gives the breakdown of the allocation of funds under the pilot action in 1996 and 1997.

Due to the time necessary to put the operational framework for the management of the pilot action into place at decentralised level (appointment and creation of National Structures, definition of procedures, distribution of calls for expressions of interest and collection of replies, match-making procedure between project partners) most of the activities financed under the 1996 budget will in fact take place in 1997. 31 July 1997 was set as the deadline for the allocation of 1996 funds by National Structures. 1997 funds became available from 1 August 1997.

The Commission has distributed the funding available for projects through the decentralised strand to Member States. In 1996, this distribution of between Member States was calculated solely on the basis of the key used for Youth for Europe (which takes into account a number of factors, including the number of young people per Member State, GDP, geographical location etc...). The method adopted in 1997 is different. It takes into consideration the actual results obtained⁵ and anticipated in each country so as to adjust the distribution of funds to the real capacity and needs in each Member State.

Financing of projects

Procedures for financing projects are one of the major challenges facing the implementation of the European Voluntary Service pilot action, particularly with regard to the decentralised strand.

The main problem is the necessity for small organisations at local level to build a long term transnational partnership without the previous existence of a relationship of understanding and trust. This partnership must produce a grant application, which is submitted to the National Structure by the partner responsible for sending the volunteer ('sending project'). The sending project has this important role in the financial framework

⁵ Number of sending projects and hosting projects approved, number of volunteer places offered.

in order to guarantee an overall balance at European level with regard to number of volunteers per country. This balance underpins the distribution of Community funds between Member States.

It is quite normal to experience some problems in the implementation of this funding mechanism. For all of the partners concerned (sending projects, hosting projects, National Structures, Commission) this is a new mechanism which has to be tested, run in and adjusted before becoming fully operational. Moreover, project promoters, the National Structures and the Commission do not yet have reliable data on costs. These figures will be put together once a sufficient number of projects has been approved at decentralised level. They will be extremely useful in order to help projects to establish their budgets and to allow National Structures to evaluate them (particularly with regard to contributions in kind which represent one of the main sources of co-financing for projects but which must be controlled). This should help to simplify and accelerate the procedures.

A working group made up of the Commission and representatives of the Irish, French, German and Portuguese National Structures has been set up to examine these issues and to develop funding mechanisms which can facilitate the access of organisations to the programme.

In addition to the funding mechanisms themselves, the first data relating to decentralised projects provided by National Structures largely confirm the Commission's calculations and first estimates of the average cost of projects. The total budget of a European Voluntary Service project is between 7500 - 13,000 ECU depending on the duration (6 to 12 months). The Community contribution (50%) amounts to approximately 3800 to 6500 ECU. For a 9-month project the total budget is around 10,000-10,500 ECU and the Community contribution approximately 5000-5250 ECU. This fits in with the figures put forward by the Commission to date, particularly in the Financial Statement relating to the proposal for a multiannual EVS programme.

Some projects have experienced problems raising co-financing to complement the Community grant. The Commission has addressed this problem by allowing organisations to count 'contributions in kind' (mainly the volunteers' board and lodging and staff time spent on support and follow-up) as a source of co-financing. The Commission is looking at the possibility of setting up a reserve fund for hosting projects which have particular problems raising funds at local or national level. The Commission is also investigating other potential sources of co-financing (public and private) for European Voluntary Service projects.

B. Information

Information distribution and awareness-raising activities have proved to be extremely important in the implementation of the pilot action, particularly in view of the lack of tradition and experience in this area in most Member States. A number of initiatives have been taken in order to explain the basic objectives of European Voluntary Service, to clarify the practical arrangements and procedures, and to encourage a wide range of organisations, young people and other actors to get involved.

The Commission has produced a short general information brochure on European Voluntary Service, which is available in all Community languages. More than 75,000 copies of this brochure have now been distributed. The Commission has also begun producing a bi-monthly newsletter on the pilot action, which is distributed to a mailing list

of 2000 addresses. Information on EVS has been made available on a web page, via the Commission's Europa server⁶.

The National Structures also have an important role in the distribution of information, with a view to ensuring that, as far as possible, details of EVS reach those at the local and regional level who would potentially be interested in participating. National Structures have also produced complementary written information material (leaflets, posters etc...). In total, approximately 50,000 documents of this kind have been distributed by National Structures.

In addition to the distribution of written information, the Commission and National Structures have organised and/or attended numerous seminars and conferences during the last year. Features and articles on European Voluntary Service have appeared in regional and national newspapers and magazines. Reports have also been broadcast on radio and television. Face-to-face contacts between the Commission, the SOS, National Structures, projects and volunteers have been extremely important.

Generally speaking, this general information has been sent to a fairly broad target public including young people, youth organisations, voluntary service organisations, local authorities, the media etc.... However, the National Structures and the Commission have been obliged to control the flow of information in order to avoid provoking a level of interest which could be out of proportion with the resources available in the framework of the pilot action. Initial evidence seems to indicate a response rate of about 10% to the general information distributed.

The Commission is also looking at the possibility of providing training for those responsible for youth information services at local level, and greater involvement of youth information centres.

C. Training, preparation and support

Objectives

Participation in the European Voluntary Service pilot action is a challenging experience both for the young volunteers and for those involved in supervising them and in managing projects. The Commission is trying to ensure that appropriate preparatory training and support are provided in order to ensure the quality and success of European Voluntary Service projects. These training activities reinforce the educational value of the experience for young volunteers and facilitate access to European Voluntary Service from young people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Implementation

The National Structures have an important role in the implementation of training activities. A seminar bringing together the National Structures and resource persons with relevant experience in this field took place in Sweden in November 1996. This seminar helped to develop a common model with regard to the objectives, content, methodology, practical arrangements and financing of training activities.

⁶ <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg22/youth/youth.html>

This model is based on a comprehensive framework for preparation, support and follow-up for volunteers including the following activities:

1. Pre-departure orientation session
2. On-arrival linguistic and intercultural seminar
3. Training related to host project
4. Ongoing learning opportunities during the period of voluntary service
5. Mid-term evaluation meeting
6. Final evaluation meeting/follow-up

Particular stress is placed on the linguistic and intercultural seminar, which aims to bring together groups of volunteers for approximately three weeks on arrival in the host country. This seminar is intended to provide volunteers with basic language and communication skills, to enable them to 'tune in' to their new environment and to put their own cultural background in perspective.

National Structures began to develop training activities on the basis of the model described above from the beginning of 1997. The first activities took place in May 1997, but many National Structures were obliged to postpone training events due to the low number of volunteers joining projects during the first half of the year. The first major on-arrival seminars are due to take place in August/September 1997.

The financial implications of training activities are causing some problems. Firstly, the on-arrival seminar is proving to be rather expensive, particular in countries hosting small numbers of volunteers and in countries with less-widely spoken languages. Secondly, the inclusion of all training costs in project budgets has been a dissuasive factor for many organisations that are potentially interested in participating in European Voluntary Service. This arrangement has been seen as a requirement for organisations to hand back a substantial part of the Community grant to National Structures in order to cover training activities organised by the National Structures of the sending and/or hosting countries.

Perspectives

The first experiences of organising training activities in the framework of European Voluntary Service have already provided some lessons for the future.

The importance of coordinating departure and arrival dates for volunteers in order to facilitate the organisation of group training activities has been clearly demonstrated. A system which allows better coordination of training activities while keeping enough flexibility to satisfy the requirements of different projects and countries will have to be found for the multiannual programme.

The organisation of the intensive three-week on-arrival linguistic and intercultural seminar for volunteers has proved complex in practice. In addition, it does not seem to be able to cope easily with the different needs of different volunteers. Some volunteers do not require such extensive preparation, for example because they already have a reasonable command of the language of the host country. Other volunteers may need extra training

and individual attention.

It may be more effective in the future to apply a more flexible model, which gives more direct responsibility for preparation - including the organisation of language classes where necessary - to the host project. This would mean that the group training activities coordinated by National Structures (pre-departure, on-arrival, mid-term and final evaluation meetings) could be shorter, simpler and cheaper. The use of autonomous language learning methods involving new technologies (CD-ROM etc...) may provide solutions for some volunteers.

The Commission and National Structures will have the opportunity to review progress with the implementation of EVS training at a seminar in Italy in September 1997. This seminar will make a first evaluation of activities developed on the basis of the model developed at the Stockholm seminar. It will also focus in greater detail on the issue of support for volunteers and projects. In addition, a small working group has been set up to allow ongoing evaluation of training activities.

D. Evaluation

Purpose

All programmes of the European Community such as the proposed EVS multiannual programme, are evaluated to ensure that they achieve their goals, are well managed and are cost-effective. In the case of pilot actions, evaluations have a more fundamental role since their main objective is to experiment with alternatives and to design new and appropriate systems. The evaluation of the EVS pilot action will therefore seek to clarify decisions about how best to implement future programme activities, and to set up suitable evaluation criteria and information systems for the multi-annual programme. For this reason an evaluation plan is being implemented for the pilot action of the EVS.

The evaluation plan will provide useful information and begin to identify good practices for all the main stakeholders in the new programme, including project initiators, National Structures and the Commission. The dissemination of information and good practices between different Member States, among programme participants and between National Structures is one of the aims of this evaluation exercise.

Organisation

The evaluation process will be organised at European and national level. At European level, evaluation activities will be undertaken by both Commission and SOS staff. A small central team of independent experts will contribute to overall co-ordination and provide additional evaluation expertise. At national level and in co-operation with National Structures, the evaluation will first concentrate its efforts in five Member States (UK, France, Italy, Austria, Finland). Part-time, free-lance consultants will work in these countries with their respective National Structures and with those responsible in Brussels. These nationally based evaluation consultants will concentrate on about 20 pilot action projects in each Member State.

Focus

To give the evaluation focus, a number of priority themes will be selected. These themes might include, for example, the educational approaches chosen by projects, follow-up of

volunteers, the participation of marginalised groups, validation of volunteers' experience and the impact of projects on local development. For each theme, particular evaluation questions will be identified (e.g. what is the best way of implementing language preparation; do returning volunteers find that their experience of voluntary service has brought them benefits). Pilot action projects will be encouraged to experiment with alternative approaches and evaluate the results achieved to answer such questions and to identify good practice for the multi-annual programme.

The evaluation plan for the EVS pilot action envisages that the different Member States will be able to choose different priority themes and evaluation questions, but within a common and agreed evaluation framework to ensure coherence and comparability. All the evaluation activities within the pilot action including the activities of nationally based consultants will be similarly co-ordinated within a common framework.

Evaluations require substantial and carefully collected information. Basic statistical information will therefore be collected from all projects and volunteers in all countries. A selected sample of projects will provide more detailed information. In some of these projects a number of volunteers will be interviewed in depth. Information collected from projects and in particular socio-economic and attitudinal information from volunteers, must always be regarded as sensitive and confidential. The pilot action evaluation will produce agreed principles and procedures to guarantee confidentiality and to limit access to sensitive data. The first results of this ongoing evaluation will be available during the first half of 1998, before the adoption of the multiannual programme.

CONCLUSIONS

The Commission's main arguments for proposing the establishment of a European Voluntary Service multiannual programme have been confirmed by progress to date with the implementation of the pilot action. A significant level of interest from young people and from organisations interested in hosting volunteers has been recorded in all Member States. Initial feedback from projects has confirmed that European Voluntary Service can bring benefits to all of the partners concerned. It offers learning opportunities to young people and allows organisations to add a new dimension to their activities and to develop contacts with partners in other Member States.

The pilot action has also provided an important opportunity to test a completely new model of decentralised implementation. The network of National Structures appointed to assist with the European Voluntary Service pilot action is now beginning to work effectively. This model will allow European Voluntary Service to respond as closely as possible to the real needs of local projects and individual volunteers, while maintaining a strong central European identity and coordination.

The European Voluntary Service pilot action is also demonstrating how initiatives launched at European level can provide an added dimension to policies and programmes at national level. The pilot action has proved that it can offer a complementary contribution to existing actions in this field. European Voluntary Service has also clearly provided inspiration for policy initiatives which are currently being considered or implemented in a number of Member States (Italy, Luxembourg, France, United Kingdom etc...).

The European Council again underlined the usefulness of promoting the involvement of

young people in voluntary service at European level during its meeting in Amsterdam in June 1997. A Declaration approved by the European Council recognised the important contribution made by voluntary service activities to social solidarity.

However, it is also true to say that the practical implementation of the European Voluntary Service pilot action has proved to be extremely challenging. The unfamiliarity of this kind of activity in most of the Member States has necessitated a relatively long period of preparation and awareness-raising before projects can be launched effectively. Due to the complex administrative and social framework in the Member States, it sometimes seems easier to send volunteers to third countries rather than to organise exchanges of volunteers between the Member States of the European Union. Additional preparation and support has also been needed to achieve the ambitious objective of involving small local organisations with little or no previous experience in this field. The process of partner-finding and matchmaking has proved complex but is beginning to bring results. A significant effort has also been made in order to find ways of involving young people who face particular obstacles or who do not have the backing of an organisation. The simplification of procedures is currently being considered.

The pilot action is now capitalising on the huge potential to develop European Voluntary Service projects which clearly exists across the European Union. The solutions found to the challenges encountered in the implementation of this pilot action will prove invaluable when designing the operational model for the multiannual programme referred to above.

ANNEX 1 - Glossary of terms used in this report

EVS : European Voluntary Service ; its two primary objectives are to provide a new kind of learning experience for young people and a helping hand for local development.

DG XXII : Directorate-General for Education, Training and Youth - European Commission

S.O.S. : Structure for Operational Support which provides DGXXII, projects and National Structures with the necessary support to implement the pilot action of the EVS.

National Structures : a National Structure has been set up in each Member State to assist with the implementation of the pilot action.

EVS project : an EVS project is a partnership between a sending project, a hosting project and a volunteer. They are projects which promote the common good and are non-profit making. These projects may be run by private associations, NGO's, local authorities or communities.

Volunteer : European Voluntary Service is open to young men and women who are aged 18-25 and are nationals of or resident in one of the EU Member States, Norway or Iceland. A volunteer is a person who takes part in a full-time activity engaging in a personal, social and/or intercultural learning process and contributing to the development of society. The volunteer is part of an agreement setting the details and responsibilities for the overall EVS project.

Hosting project : the hosting project agrees to involve one or more young volunteers in non-profit making activities in the social, environmental and cultural fields. It also agrees to offer appropriate guarantees of support during the period of voluntary service. Hosting projects contribute to local development in a wide range of ways, and are set up by any type of non-governmental organisation or association, a local authority or local initiative.

Sending project : a sending project takes on the responsibilities (pre-departure preparation, follow-up on return...) linked to sending one or more young volunteers to a hosting project in another Member State. It enters into a partnership with the volunteer and an appropriate hosting project and is responsible for submitting the grant application.

Preparatory training : training activities will be designed to meet the needs of young people with different levels of skills and different learning abilities, in order to facilitate access to European Voluntary Service for young people from a wide range of backgrounds. These activities will include intercultural training, a task-oriented training, and a general linguistic training.

Follow-up : the sending project will help young volunteers validate and use their experience to the benefit of themselves and the sending community, providing guidance on these subjects.

Personal support : the volunteer should receive moral support during his/her period of voluntary service, provided by a mentor, person directly involved in the project.

Technical support : the volunteer should receive pedagogical support directly related to the tasks to be performed from a competent person to show him/her how to most efficiently realise these activities, to ensure it is an educational experience.

Linguistic support : the volunteer will receive some basic courses, a language seminar on arrival in the hosting country, and a continuous linguistic support during the voluntary service.

Mentor : support person who will be directly responsible for looking after volunteers in host projects.

Third countries : they are the countries which are non-EU members, (see list of eligible third countries in the chapter VI).

Flagship projects : existing networks which have been chosen to be experimental projects during the pilot action.

NGO's : Non Governmental Organisations which can introduce grant applications forms directly to the European Commission.

Grant application : a form should be filled in by the three partners of the EVS project, to make a grant application for the overall project. This application states all the financial and general conditions of the period of voluntary service.

Pilot action : experimental action, limited in time, which can be followed by a multiannual programme.

ANNEX 2 - STATISTICS

Table 1: Decentralised strand - hosting projects assessed by the Commission (24.9.97)

Country	To be assessed	Requiring further clarification	Rejected	Approved	Total
Austria		1		48	49
Belgium (D)		1		7	8
Belgium (Fr)				8	8
Belgium (NI)		1	1	20	22
Denmark		2	2	16	20
Finland		1	2	31	34
France		26	12	159	197
Germany	20	14	36	262	332
Greece			1	10	11
Iceland		1	2	8	11
Ireland		9	2	23	34
Italia		13	4	110	127
Luxembourg		1	1	5	7
Netherlands		8		15	23
Norway				2	2
Portugal		2	1	24	27
Spain		14	2	72	88
Sweden		5	6	34	45
United Kingdom	2	30	94	119	245
Total	22	129	166	973	1290

Table 2: Decentralised strand - number of volunteer places per country and their availability (24.9.97)

Country	Number of volunteer places	Number of places booked	Number of places left
Austria	79	32	47
Belgium (D)	7	1	6
Belgium (Fr)	10	7	3
Belgium (NI)	32	13	19
Denmark	29	17	12
Finland	41	21	20
France	290	73	217
Germany	346	37	309
Greece	71	24	47
Iceland	8	6	2
Ireland	59	33	26
Italia	246	62	184
Luxembourg	6	5	1
Netherlands	29	9	20
Norway	2	2	0
Portugal	45	22	23
Spain	103	41	62
Sweden	62	21	41
United Kingdom	486	119	367
Total	1951	545	1406

Table 3: Decentralised strand - hosting projects classified by theme (24.9.97).

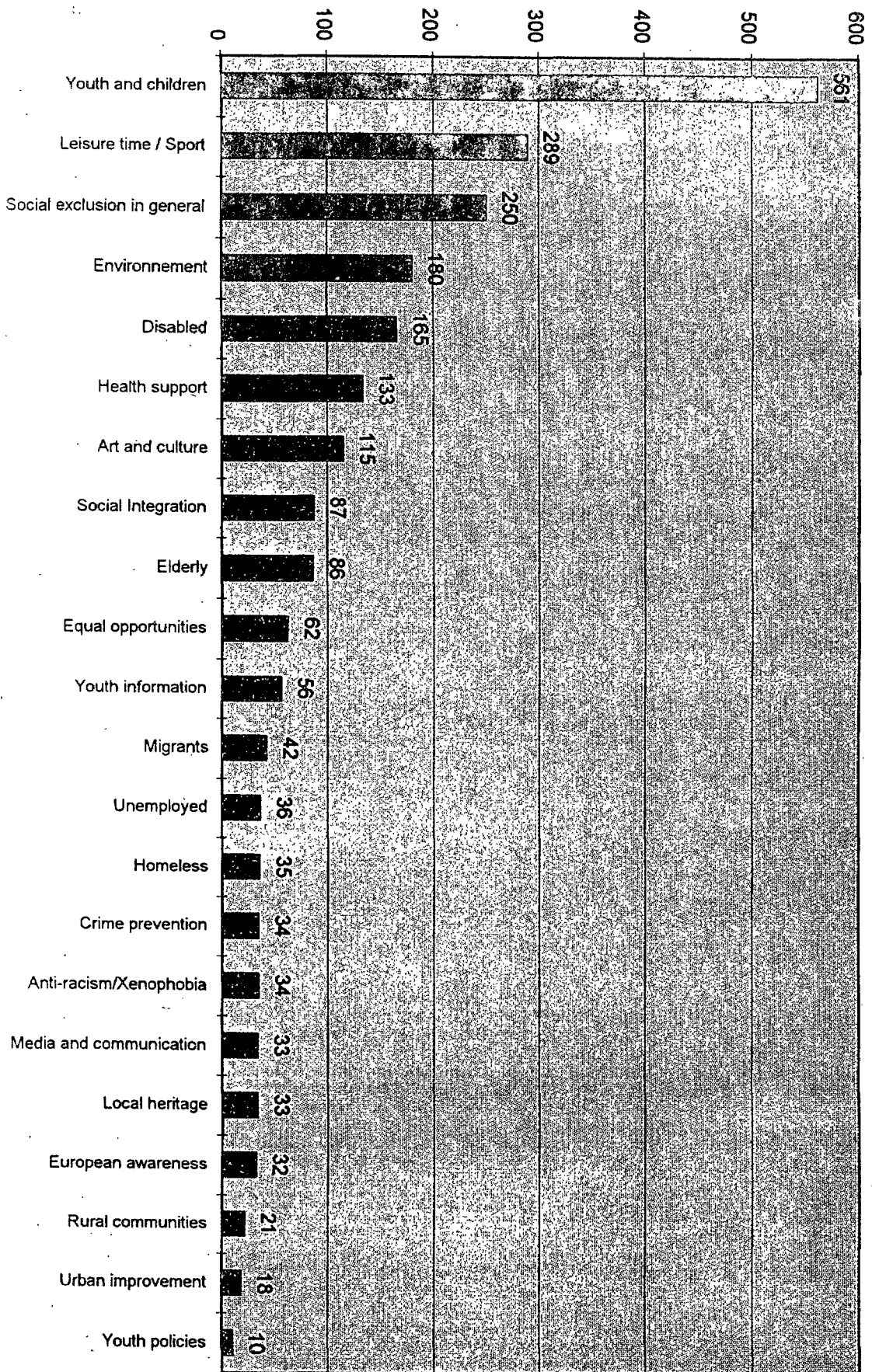


Table 4: Decentralised strand - number of young volunteers participating in EVS projects approved by 31.7.97 (1996 credits)

Austria	47
Belgium (Fr)	7
Belgium (D)	4
Belgium (NI)	21
Denmark	29
Finland	40
France	167
Germany	279
Greece	91
Ireland	27
Italy	172
Luxembourg	5
Netherlands	8
Portugal	32
Spain	60
Sweden	30
United Kingdom	123
TOTAL	1142

Table 5: Centralised strand - volunteers/hosting country (projects run by AVSO members in 1996)

AUSTRIA	1
BELGIUM	8
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	2
FRANCE	36
GERMANY	12
ICELAND	5
IRELAND	4
ITALY	14
NETHERLANDS	13
NORWAY	5
PORTUGAL	4
SPAIN	10
SWEDEN	3
UNITED KINGDOM	59
TOTAL	177

Table 6: Centralised strand - volunteers/sending country (projects run by AVSO members in 1996)

AUSTRIA	1
BELGIUM	3
DENMARK	8
FINLAND	3
FRANCE	19
GERMANY	117
ICELAND	4
IRELAND	1
ITALY	3
NETHERLANDS	6
NORWAY	1
PORTUGAL	0
SPAIN	5
SWEDEN	5
UNITED KINGDOM	1
TOTAL	177

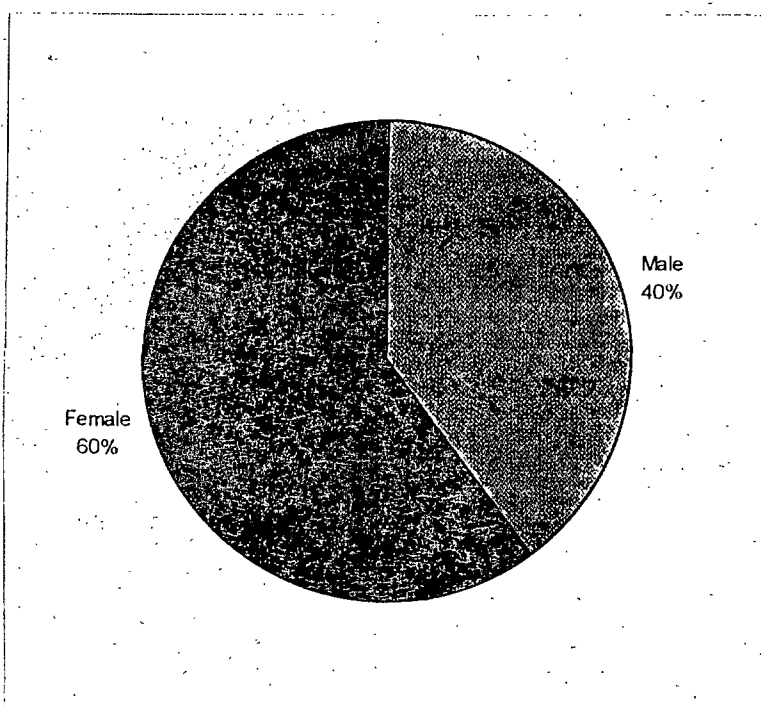
Table 7: Centralised strand - EVS projects in third countries

Country of the hosting project	Volunteers in place or returned	Total volunteer places	Regional distribution	
			Region	No. of volunteers
Angola	3	3	CEEC	10
Benin	20	20	MED	4
Bosnia	2	2	ACP	27
Brazil	2	2	South Africa	68
Costa Rica	1	1	LA	5
Czech Republic	2	2		
Dominican Republic	2	2	TOTAL	114
Hungary	1	1		
Moçambique	4	4		
Morocco	2	2		
Palestine	1	2		
Poland	1	1		
Romania	2	2		
South Africa	25	68		
Yugoslavia	2	2		
TOTAL	70	114		

Table 8: Financial breakdown of EVS pilot action 1996/1997

Budget heading	Committed in 1996	%	1997 forecast	%
Horizontal measures	1.413.243	9,4%	1.017.320	10,6%
<i>Support</i>	1.191.519	7,9%	837.320	8,8%
<i>Évaluation</i>	79.500	0,5%	120.000	1,3%
<i>Information</i>	142.224	0,9%	60.000	0,6%
Centralised strand	1.852.340	12,3%	2.050.000	21,4%
<i>European NGOs</i>	1.048.289	7,0%	400.000	4,2%
<i>Flagship projects</i>	804.051	5,4%	1.650.000	17,2%
Decentralised strand	10.659.050	71,1%	6.100.000	63,8%
<i>Member States</i>	9.008.081	60,1%	4.600.000	48,1%
<i>National Structures</i>	1.650.969	11,0%	1.500.000	15,7%
Third country reserve	600.757	4,0%	400.000	4,2%
Not committed	474.610	3,2%		0,0%
TOTAL	15.000.000	100,0%	9.567.320	100,0%

Table 9: Gender balance of young volunteers in EVS projects (based on information available 29.9.97)



ANNEX 3: Decentralised strand - project visits and examples

1. The following are some examples of completed EVS projects approved through the decentralised strand:

AKZENTE (A) ➔ Ideella Föreningen Rainbows (S) : a " sending agency " sent a young volunteer to an environmental/youth information project near Stockholm. A group of unemployed young people are using recycled materials to renovate and decorate an old public bus. The bus will then tour schools and youth clubs in the area to stage information events and cultural activities.

Jeugd Rote Kruis' (BEnl) ➔ Universita Autonoma de Barcelona (E) : the local Red Cross is planning to send a volunteer to help the department of social affairs in the university which has set up a programme for handicapped students e.g. they have made a map of the best routes within the university building for wheelchair users, a minibus takes handicapped students to and from lectures, blind students are guided between lectures).

Centre parc naturel Botrange (BEde) ➔ Alcance (P) : the natural park will send a volunteer to an environmental/local heritage project in the Algarve. The volunteer will help in local investigations into the history of land use in the area and archaeological findings such as old metal tools and in the planning of a route marking sites of terms of archaeology and local cultural and ethnic heritage.

Kontulan nuorisotalo (SF) ➔ Flüchtlingsheim Rudolfstraße (A) : the volunteer from a youth centre in Helsinki is helping in a home for refugees in Linz. She organises activities for the children living in the home and assists the refugees in dealing with daily problems and their seek for asylum.

Chapito (P) ➔ Circustheater Ellboog (NL) : a cultural centre in Lisbon which is based on artistic theatre and circus will send 2 volunteers to a similar centre in Amsterdam. The hosting project organises workshops and performances in different circus skills and theatre. Both centres encourage the participation of disadvantaged youth and the unemployed in their activities.

Suffolk County Council (UK) ➔ ARCTUROS (G) : a county council is sending a local young person to a sanctuary for the protection of bears in Northern Greece. ARCTUROS has a veterinary station for injured and abused brown bears and a sanctuary where a number of bears live in a protected area. Once the bears have been treated in the veterinary station they are transferred to the sanctuary. The volunteer will assist in the running of the two projects and the establishment of a visitors' centre.

2. The EVS Structure for Operational Support has visited the following projects:

Belgie

Federatie Kinder-, Jeugd- & Gezinsboerderijen : city farm, Dilbeck
Merkenveld V.V.K.S.M. v.z.w., Loppem
Ombres et silhouettes, Bruxelles
Sister called Mary Jane, Ostende

Belgique

Convivence, Bruxelles
VIDES, Bruxelles

Belgien

Centre du parc naturel Botrange, Robertville
Haus Fabiola, Eupen
ZAMO, Eupen

Danemark

AOF - Education centre, Give
Asserbohus Efterskole, Frederiksvaerk
Dansk ICYE - Glumso Skole - og Fritidsordning, Glumso
Dansk ICYE - Krumso Fri - og Kostskole, Krumso

Deutschland

Jugendclub Courage, Oberhausen
Motiviva e.V., Bonn
Netzwerk Friedenskooperative, Bonn

Umwelt- und Verkehrszentrum, Cologne

Ellas

DEKKA-E, Thèbes

C.V.G-Conservation Volunteers Greece, Mt Pelion

Municipality of Nestorio

Arcturos, Nimfeon

Organisation for the Cultural Capital of Europe, Thessaloniki

España

AJA : Expresion teatral, Animacion para el empleo, Animacion sociocultural, Madrid

Madreselva : AMAM, Centro Don Bosco, Madrselva en Pan Bendito Madrid

Casa de la Juventud de Alcobendas Et Consejo de la Juventud de Alcobendas, Alcobendas

AEC (Actividades Educativas Culturales) : Granja Escuela " La Limpia ", Guadalajara

CIJCA : Casal de Jovenes Bordeta, Lleida

Universitat autonoma de Barcelona : PIUNE, Barcelona

Coordinadora infantil y juvenil de tiempo libre de Vallecas, Vallecas (Madrid)

France

Fédération des centres sociaux du Bas Rhin : Projet de Bischwiller, Projet de Koenigshoffen, Strasbourg

CIARUS, Strasbourg

Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse (CRIJ), Poitiers

ECHÉL, Pesmes

Foyer de Jeunes Travailleurs " l'Atlantique ", Niort

MJC des Renardières, Châtellerault

Unis-Cité, Paris et région parisienne

Flagship Networks :

CEIL : Université Populaire Rurale, Mormoiron (Carpentras)

Ireland

Glencree reconciliation centre, Glencree, Co. Wicklow

L'Arche Kilkenny, Kilkenny

Merchant's Quay project, Dublin

Simon Community, Dublin

Youthreach Transition centre, Dublin

Italia

Associazione " Viale K ", Ferrara

Centro di Solidarietà de Reggio Emilia, Reggio Emilia

Comunità di Capodarco, Roma

Caritas Diocesana di Roma, Roma

Federazione delle chiese evangeliche in Italia, Roma

Casa Famiglia Il Girotondo, Roma

Comune de Modena, Modena

VIDES, Rome

Luxembourg

Société de la Croix Rouge luxembourgeoise : Aidsberodung, Luxembourg

SESOPI - Centre communautaire asbl : Classes Interculturelles, Luxembourg

Inter-Actions Faubourg, Luxembourg

Nederland

ATTAK, Tilburg

Popcluster, Tilburg

Scholieren tegen racisme, Eindhoven

Milieucentrum Amsterdam and Platform Autovrij, Amsterdam

Circustheater Elleboog, Amsterdam

Don Bosco Jonathan, Amsterdam

Österreich

Europazentrum Wien, Vienna

Verein Wiener Jugendzentren - Jugendzentrum Margareten, Vienna

Flüchtlingsheim Rudolfstraße/SOS Mitmensch Oberösterreich, Linz

Institut Hartheim, Hartheim

Verein Schloß Hartheim, Hartheim

Literaturhaus Salzburg, Salzburg

Evaluation :

Freunde der Pferdeisenbahn, Rainbach

Institut-Harteim, Alkoven

Akzente, Salzburg

Lebenshilfe-Arbeit Eichstraße, Salzburg

Portugal

Grupo Amigos do Alandroal, Alandroal

Azinheira, Redondo

Centro de Jovens da Cruz da Picada, Evora

Alcance, Alcoutim

Câmara Municipal de Loulé, Loulé

A Rocha, Cruzinha

Associação Cultural Moinho da Juventude, Lisboa

Instituto de Solidaridade e Cooperação Universitária - ISU, Lisboa

Flagship Networks :

CEIL : Fondation CEBI, Alverca (Lisboa)

Schlesische Straße 27 : Chapito, Lisboa

Suomi

The Finnish 4H Federation, Helsinki

SINNENVERSTAS, Helsinki

The Aland Islands Peace Institute, Mariehamn

Jyväskylän kaupungin sosiaali-ja terveystalvelukeskus, Jyväskylä

Talma Kindergarten, Talma

Viitakiven Opisto, Hauho

Evaluation :

Sirkkulanpuist/Oma ToimiOpisto, Kuopio

Youth Department of the municipality of Turku, Turku

Helsingin kaupungin nuorisoasiainkesku/jParjestöyksikkö (City of Helsinki), Helsinki

Nuorten Työpaja (Workshop for Youth), Tampere

Pohjois-Savon 4H-piiri ry, Kuopio

Sverige

DKSN Ungdomsråd - The youth council of DKSN, Stockholm

Lättings, Gävle

Skafferiet : Idella föreningen Rainbows, Stockholm

Xist, Stockholm

United Kingdom

Third Wave Centre, Derby

YMCA Stoke-on-Trent

Black Country Partnership College, Wolverhampton

Croxteth and Gilmoos Community Federation, Liverpool

Sustainable Village Charitable Trust, Edinburgh

ANNEX 4 Overview of Flagship Projects (July 1997)

Project name	Aims and objectives	Dates	Number of volunteers	Countries involved
ENVOL	Social integration of young people.	October 96 - March 98	120	DK/F/GR/IRL/I/NL/P/D/UK
ECOGUIDES SANS FRONTIERES	Environmental protection and nature conservation.	June 97 - December 98	12	FR/I/D/NL/B
AGAINST SOCIAL EXCLUSION	Involving young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.	May 97 - April 98	14	B/IRL/UK/GR/F
CREATIVE COOPERATIONS	Artistic and cultural activities.	May 97 - March 98	20	GR/P/SW/E/NL/UK/F/D
DIALOGUES	Cultural activities and urban regeneration.	May 97 - February 98	7	NL/I/FIN/A/D/UK
LEARNING BY DOING (RED CROSS)	Social assistance and development.	June 97 - May 98	30	A/F/UK/I/D/E/NL/GR/DK/B/SW
ART AND ENVIRONMENT	Revitalisation of urban and rural areas through artistic initiatives.	October 97 - June 98	15	I/E/UK/A/L/D
ARTISTS AGAINST EXCLUSION	Promotion and development of young artists.	Sept 97 - Sept 98	9	F/D/IRL
HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT	Restoration, heritage conservation, environmental education.	October 97 - April 98	30	UK/GR/F/I/E
LODI	Involvement of towns and local authorities in voluntary service.	October 97 - April 98	15	GR/E/UK/D

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(97) 512 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

16 04 05

Catalogue number : CB-CO-97-530-EN-C

ISBN 92-78-25867-9

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

L-2985 Luxembourg