

# Transnational youth volunteering in the Czech Republic

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**mládež**  
česká národní agentura



GŘ pro vzdělávání a kulturu  
Program „Mládež v akci“



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# Context of Volunteering in the CZ - History

- ➔ Long tradition going back to the 19th century and the First Czechoslovak Republic
- ➔ Disruption during the WW2 and during the Communist Regime till 1989
- ➔ Low credit of volunteering in the 1990s

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# Context of Volunteering in the CZ – Legal framework

- ➔ Law on Voluntary Service 2002
- ➔ Quality: Accreditation of sending organisations
- ➔ Short term x Long term service
- ➔ Benefits for the volunteers and organisations
- ➔ The Law applies only to the accredited voluntary service  
– most of the volunteering activities happen outside this legal framework

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# Context of Volunteering in the CZ - Scope

- ➔ 900.000 volunteers (CSO 2008) with an economic value of more than 5.8 billions CZK (230 mil. EUR)
- ➔ 10.000 volunteers per year in the accredited regime – economic value of min. 50 mil. CZK (2 mil. EUR)
- ➔ EVS – approx. 150 volunteers per year (sent and hosted)

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# Volunteering of foreign EU Citizens in CZ

- ➔ Law on Vol. Service applies only to Czech citizens
- ➔ For Long term voluntary service no health and social insurance provided by the state, no commonly used instrument for recognition
- ➔ Exception EVS – insurance, hosting, travel and training costs covered by EU grant awarded to the hosting or sending organisation

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# Transnational volunteering opportunities - YiA

- ➔ Youth in Action – European Voluntary Service (Action 2) - individual or group service, typically 3-12 months, accredited hosting and sending organisation, board and lodging, insurances and training (incl. language course) covered by EU grant, extra support for youth with fewer opportunities, Youthpass
- ➔ Transnational Youth initiatives (Action 1.2) – typically 12 months, groups of at least 4 people cooperating with partners groups abroad, travel and activity costs covered by EU grant up to 10.000 EUR

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# Transnational volunteering opportunities – cooperation with DE

- ➔ Yearly Programmes in NGOS in Germany in social field, environment or cultural heritage
- ➔ Conditions similar to EVS (programme provides board, lodging, training, insurances, pocket money)
- ➔ Limited number of places and hosting organisations

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# Transnational volunteering opportunities - Workcamps

- ➔ Workcamps – typically 2-3 weeks abroad or in the home country, international groups, wide geographic scope, fees, visa, insurance and travel costs payed by the volunteers, no common recognition tool, most of the WC take place during the summer months, limited number of sending organisations (3 in CZ)

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# Transnational volunteering opportunities – Development aid

- ➔ long-term projects (3 and more months) mostly in developing countries
- ➔ e. g. GLEN (Global Education Network of Young Europeans) – aims at multiplication of global education, small international teams of volunteers from 11 participating EU countries, emphasis on training and multiplication, travel, hosting and insurance costs covered by the programme

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# Transnational volunteering opportunities – Challenges

- ➔ Limited number of places
- ➔ Limited capacities of hosting/sending organisations
- ➔ Qualification requirements on the volunteers (language skills, expertise etc.)
- ➔ High fees and activity costs often without reimbursement
- ➔ Weak recognition
- ➔ Only voluntary **service** (full time engagement)
- ➔ Low potential for inclusion of YPLO

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**for your attention!**

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