

# Volunteering in Hungary



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# Definition of Volunteering

## Contextual background

- after 1947 voluntary associations were banned or under state control
- 1989 freedom of association
- 20 000 new NGOs

## Definition

„volunteer activities with a public aim carried out within a host organization without compensation”



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# Legal framework

- **Act LXXXVIII of 2005 on voluntary activities in the public interest**
  - Legal status  
(hosting organizations have to register, set up a contract with the volunteers)
  - Taxation rules  
(tax free lodging, reward, travel cost etc.)
  - Insurance and protection  
(lack of social insurance, only accident insurance and liability insurance)



# Challenges

- Attitude towards volunteering
- Undeveloped infrastructure
- Unsustainable founding
- Low level of mobility



# How to broaden cross-border Volunteering?

- Building on EVS (European Voluntary Service)
  - Combine it with local volunteer programs- like TANDEM projects (1 EVS and 1 local unemployed)
  - Finance CB follow-up projects of ex-EVSVols
  - use this structure (database, rules) in a different framework (eg. focusing on special topics)



# Ideas for 2011 from NGOs

Complex program for the whole year

- Campaigns, conferences, web-site, prize etc.
- Preparation of a governmental strategy of volunteering, role of voluntarism
- update of our 'volunteer law' (2005)
- Research (identify demands and possibilities)
- Recognition of volunteering (higher education)



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