

Volunteering in Europe - A General View

Eugen Baldas

European University for Volunteering

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Volunteering in Europe

1. Basics: Definition / Statistics
2. Models of volunteering in Europe
3. Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe
4. Cooperation between Universities and NGO: The EUV - European University for Volunteering

1. Basics: **Volunteering encompasses:**

- All forms of voluntary activity (formal, non-formal, informal)
- Undertaken of a person's own free-will, choice and motivation
- Without seeking financial gain
- Is a journey of solidarity and provides a way to address human, social or environmental needs and concerns
- Is often carried out in support of a non-profit organisation or community-based initiative.

P.A.V.E. - Definition



Volunteering landscape in the EU

92 to 94 million adults involved in volunteering; 23% of Europeans

- **Very high** in Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK as over 40% Vol
- **High** in Denmark, Finland, Germany and Luxembourg: 30%-39% Vol
- **Medium high** in Estonia, France and Latvia: 20%-29% Vol
- **Relatively low** in Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia and Spain: 10%-19% Vol
- **Low** in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Lithuania: where less than 10% Volunteers, aged over 15years

Study on Volunteering in the EU (2010)

Volunteering landscape in Germany

80 m inhabitants; 23 m Volunteers in Germany, 15 years old and more

40% men; 32% women; older than 65: 33%; older than 75: 38%

More volunteers in Western than in Eastern part of Germany

More volunteers in rural area

66% of all tasks: Planning and realising events

59% of all volunteers using internet (2004: 44%)

Caritas-Volunteer Survey (2006): Important is:
81%: To help the poor, to act on solidarity!

Volunteers in Baden-Württemberg: 41% ■

in Sachsen: 26% ■

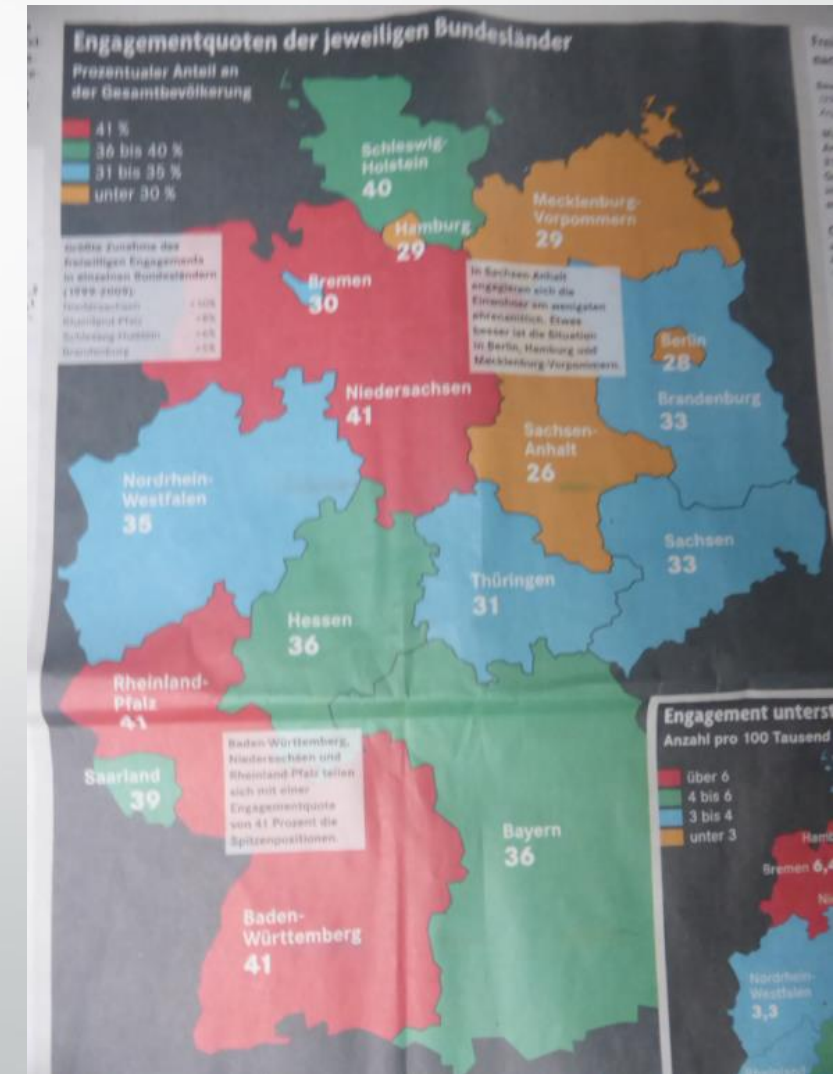
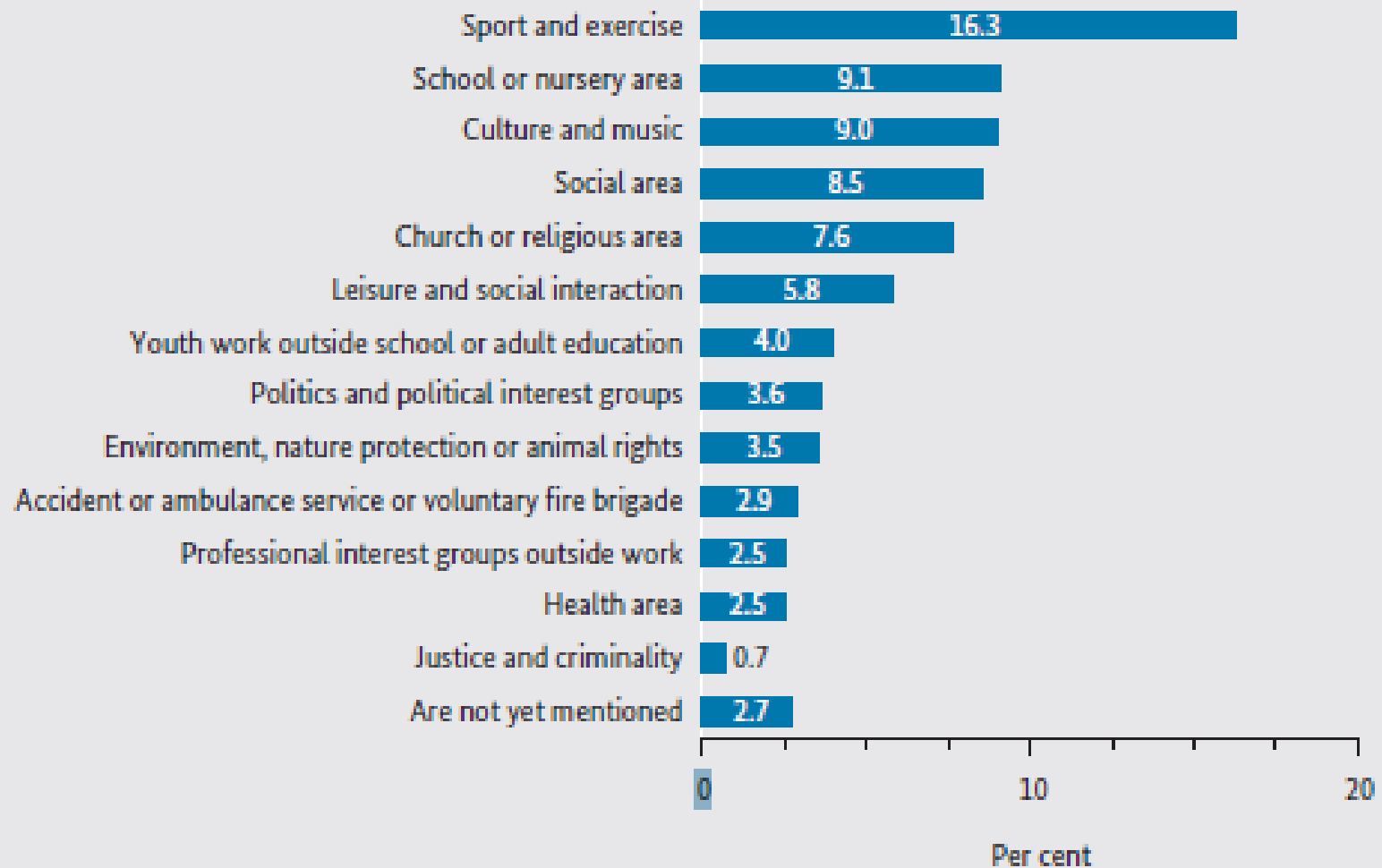


Figure 10: Rates of volunteering in societal areas, 2014



Source: FWS 2014, weighted, own calculations (DZA). Base: All respondents (n = 28,689).

Rates of volunteering have increased over the past fifteen years in the majority of societal areas

2. Models of volunteering

1. Volunteer Groups - informal
2. Volunteer Associations – formal, often recognized by law
3. Association with low staff and high number of volunteers
4. NGO / social institutions, Welfare Organisations – staff and volunteers
5. Spontaneous Volunteers (refugee crises 2015)
6. Corporate Volunteering / Employee Volunteering
7. Power of one

Leadership and structures

- A real challenge for volunteer associations is to find persons to take responsibility as president, treasurer, secretary a.o.
- To solve the leadership lack, associations pay for staff to coordinate volunteers, to do the bookkeeping or other tasks
- To offer suitable training facilitates leadership
- Working together with others in similar situation facilitates leadership

3. Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe

P.A.V.E

- are recommendations for a more efficient and effective European policy framework
- **to support and promote** volunteers, volunteering, volunteer-involving organisations and their partners.
- **to support and support Volunteering** as a demonstration of European Values providing a vehicle for active citizenship and contributing to economic and social-capital growth.
- Volunteer Centers play a specific role

P.A.V.E. was presented to European Commission, Warsaw, 1.12.2011



European Year of Volunteering 2011



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P.A.V.E. highlights the following aspects:

1. Quality Volunteering
2. Legal Framework
3. Volunteering Infrastructure
4. Recognition Tools
5. Value of Volunteering
6. Employee Volunteering

Volunteer Centers strengthen all these aspects!



Volunteering Infrastructure

Key roles which make it fundamental for further development of volunteering:

- Provision of quality volunteering opportunities
- Support for volunteers (training, good practice exchange, evaluation)
- Matching the supply and demand of volunteering
- Capacity building and good practice exchange
- Removal of barriers to volunteering
- Awareness-raising with regard of the values
- Influencing policy environment



The New Faces of Volunteering in the Digital Age: 8th Session of the European University for Volunteering

1. THE POWER OF CONNECTED CITIZENS TO CHANGE THE WORLD. Digital transformation in volunteering



Tehnology: a powerful tool to end social gaps

We are cybervolunteers, we are cyberooptimistic because we live a historical moment thanks to the assumption of technology, wich is the key to end social gaps. Gaps related to education, work, participation, gender, health... things that got to do with human development.



EUV - European University for Volunteering

- **Itenerant University in Europe**
 - to strengthen volunteering,
 - to deepen questions on volunteering,
 - to initiate research on volunteering and to discuss results
- 1st session: 1993 Barcelona // 1995 Lyon // 1999 Santiago de C.
- 4th session 2001 Freiburg: Cooperation in Theory and Practice
- 2005 Luzern // 2011 Basel // 2014 Rolduc
- 8th session 2016 Strasbourg: Volunteering in the digital age
- 9th session, May 2019, Moscow



European Year of Volunteering EYV2011

The UN year 2001+10: basic goals

1. Work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU
2. Empower organizations of voluntary activities to improve the quality of voluntary activities
3. Networking: Strengthen partnership; exchange experiences
4. Recognize voluntary activities
5. Raise awareness of the value and the importance of volunteering.



Thankyou for your attention!

Further information:

- www.euvolunteering.org
- www.iave.org

Eugen Baldas: baldaseum@googlemail.com