

Impulses for further developing volunteering in Europe The Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union: Recommended actions for policy and practice

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Abstract

This article looks at the Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers adopted by the European Council in 2022. Since the first Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers in 2008, many changes and developments have taken place in the voluntary sector at European and national level. Priority themes have been redefined, such as digitalisation or sustainability, or further deepened, such as inclusion and participation. The framework conditions for volunteering changed due to global transformations. Young people's lives have been shaken by multiple crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic or Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and their impact on the cost of living and energy. An update of the 2008 Council Recommendation was therefore urgently needed. The Council Recommendation and the accompanying Staff Working Document identify the developments of recent years and link them to recommendations for action for actors at European, national and civil society level. The article presents an overview of the thematic areas of the Council Recommendation, shows its potential in the national and European context and establishes links between the recommendations of the Council document and the German and European context. In this way, the relevance of the Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers as a European impulse and impetus for discussing the further development of the voluntary sector becomes clear. An impulse that needs to be taken up and disseminated by the diverse actors of the voluntary sector in order to have an impact and that can be used for jointly shaping voluntary activities in Europe.

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