

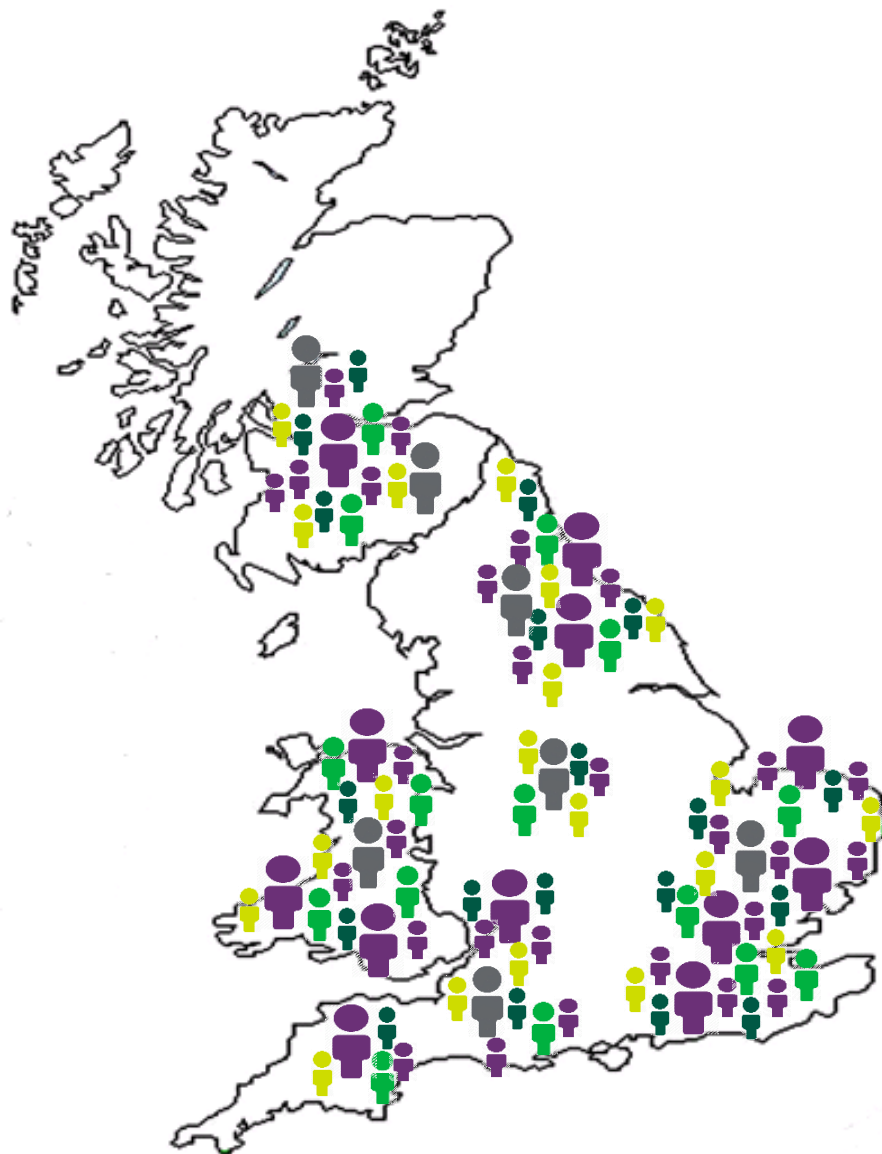
# EuroVIP – European Volunteer Inclusion Programme

*Final Conference, 26 April 2018, Brussels*

Youth engagement and participation through volunteering –  
strengthening active citizenship, building stronger communities,  
recognising skills

Piotr Sadowski

Head of European Affairs and FTV Strategy, Volunteering Matters  
Secretary General, Volonteuropa



## Volunteering Matters - leading UK volunteering in policy and practice

We engage more than 30,000  
volunteers every year. We have  
more than 180 volunteering  
programmes across the country, in  
four pillars of work:

- Young People
- Older People
- Disabled People
- Families

## Volunteering Matters – in the business of volunteering for over 60 years

Our vision is of a society where everyone can participate in their local community through volunteering and social action.

We focus strongly on young people to help them, through volunteering, find their direction in life.

One of our flagship areas of youth engagement is through offering full-time volunteering placements.

We also work with the corporate sector, for over 25 years, through our Employee Volunteering Team.



## Volunteering Matters gives a platform for its volunteers' voices



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlfonLravi4>



## VolontEurope

An international network promoting volunteering, active citizenship and social justice in Europe and beyond.

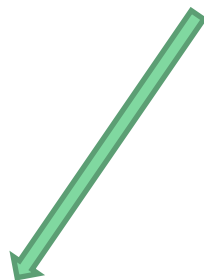
We facilitate exchange, foster collaboration and carry out research and advocacy, at national and European levels.



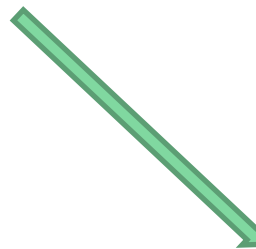


volont**europe**

Established in the Netherlands in 1981



**London**



**Brussels**

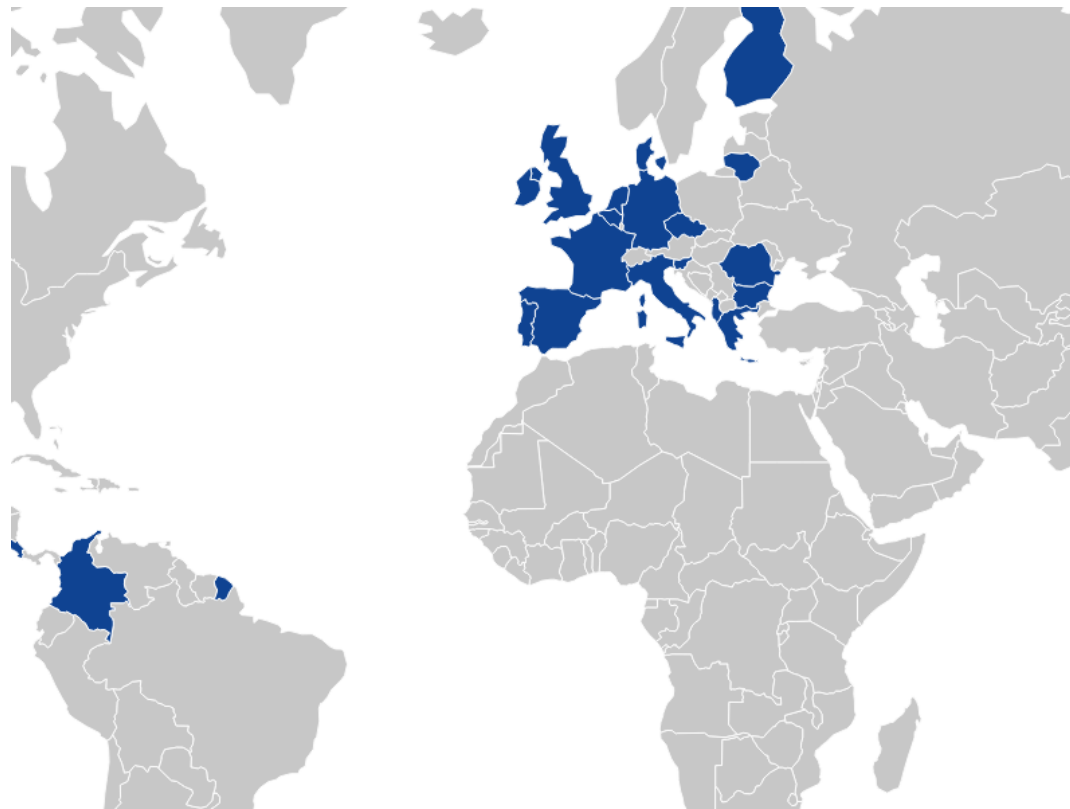
**VOLUNTEERING MATTERS**



volont**europe**

## Our members

Currently, 61 members in 21 countries



## A selection of our work

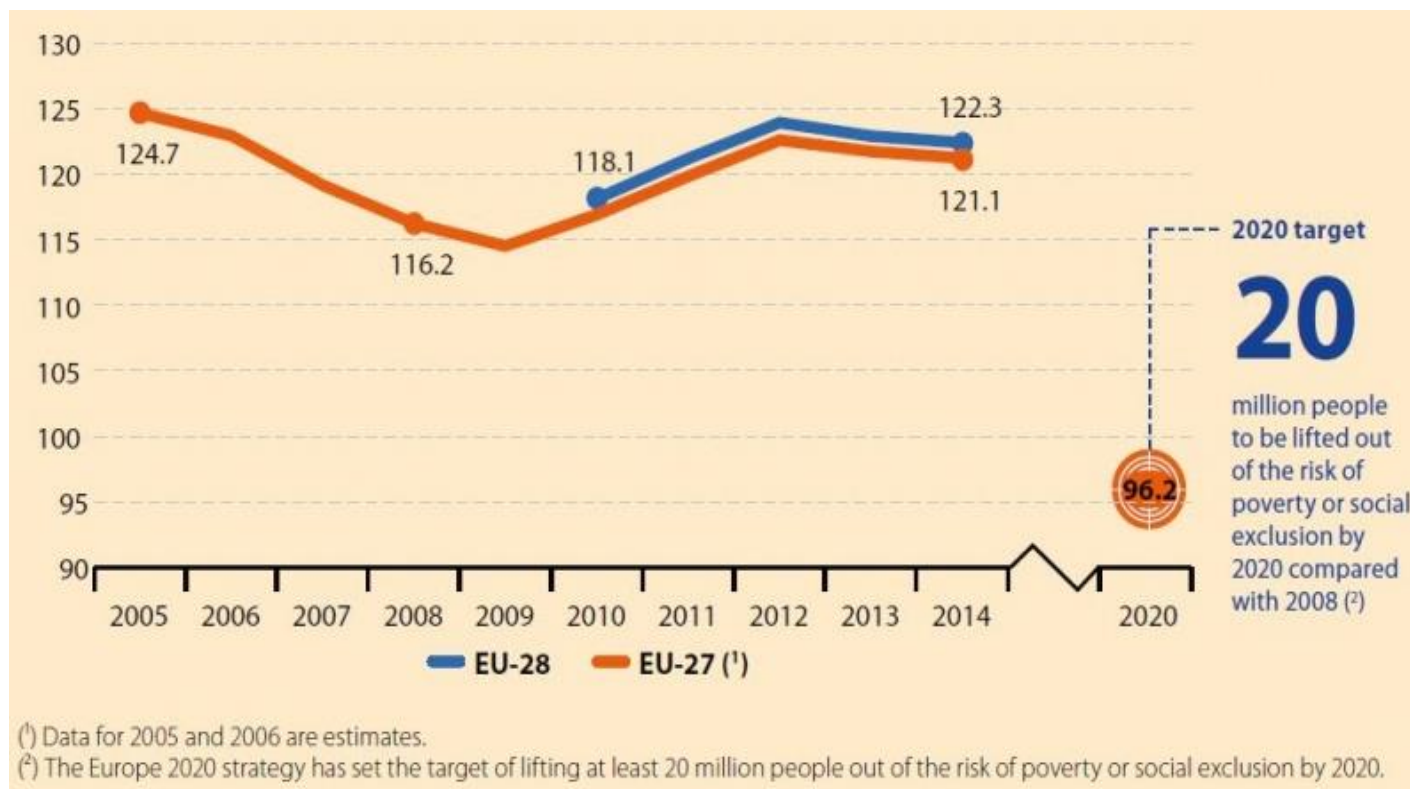
- Active Citizenship Footprint
- Valuing Volunteering
- Youth Engagement & Rights
- Erasmus+
- EU Aid Volunteers
- European Citizenship Awards
- Collaboration with or membership of: Social Platform, LLLP, SOLIDAR, European Civic Forum, Civil Society Europe, ECAS, European Youth Forum
- Institutional dialogue and advocacy in Brussels





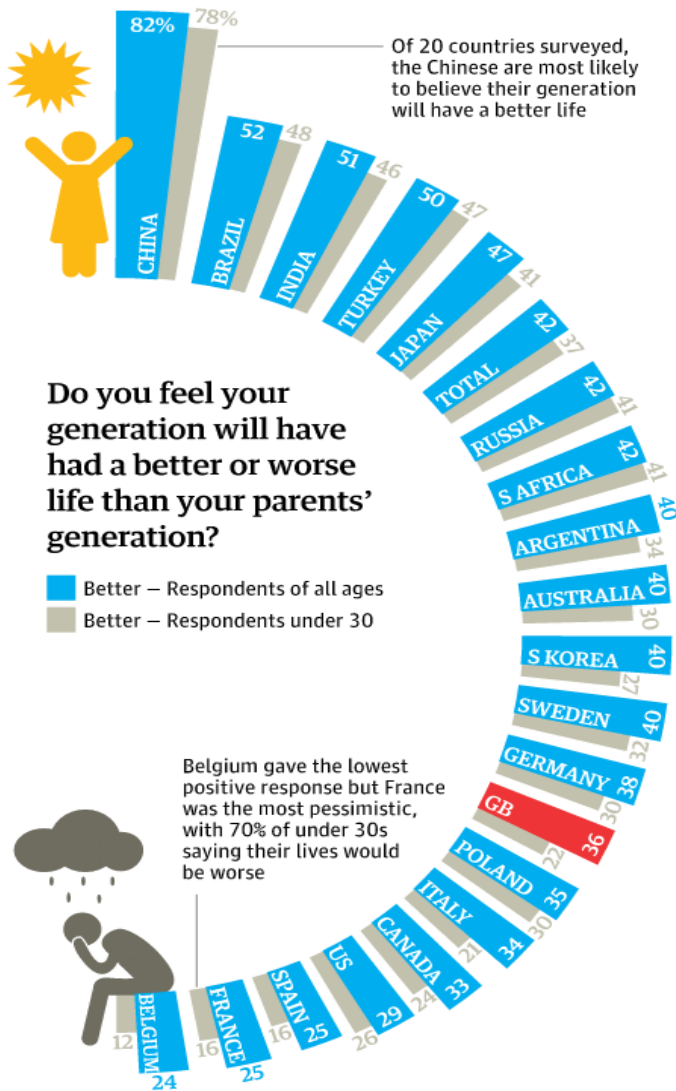
## Our Report “Apathy or Action: Young Europeans Take a Stand”, 2017

Number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU-28 and EU-27 countries, 2005-2014



Source: Eurostat 2016

## Will your life be better than your parents'?



Source: Sedghi and Arnett 2014

General assumptions and traditional measures of youth engagement indicate young people are apathetic and disinterested in civil and political engagement

In fact, most young people are unhappy with the political offer rather than disinterested in politics in general

Young people are engaging in the social life of their communities in other ways that is often missed out or goes unnoticed in data reporting, media, politics...



## New – and not so new – forms of youth engagement

- Non-conventional networks
- Grassroots social movements
- Social media
- Civil Society Organisations
- **VOLUNTEERING**

Around 92-94 million Europeans over the age of 15 volunteer, so that's around 23% of the EU population

Youth volunteering is incredibly rich, diverse and widely-occurring, in charity, humanitarian and development aid, education, training and sport

Volunteering engagement for European youth is a pathway to personal and professional skills development

Growing as a person

Acquiring professional skills

Being an active citizen

## However, there continue to exist barriers to youth engagement

- Prejudicial narratives about and representation of youth
- Material and psychological poverty
- Normative assumptions around what constitutes legitimate social participation
- **Lack of, or different levels, of using tools and methodologies for recognising, validating and promoting personal and professional skills gained through volunteering**

That's why the EuroVIP Project has been so important for the partnership, in order to raise awareness of and promote the integration of employability of young people through recognising their skills developed through volunteering



## Volunteering – developing personal and professional skills and benefiting others



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tn0oKtcb7Q>

## European Solidarity Corps

- An initiative with great potential but needs to be properly managed and have a concerted action across the EU Institutions and all sectors
- Needs to prominently involve the voluntary sector, particularly in the volunteering strand, in the design and delivery of the programme
- To reach the ambitious targets of 100,000 ESC participants in 2020, major engagement of all relevant stakeholders and especially the civil society and voluntary sector in the co-production, implementation and monitoring of ESC is required
- So far, more than 58,000 young persons have registered their interest in ESC
- Just over 4,100 placed in projects since December 2016

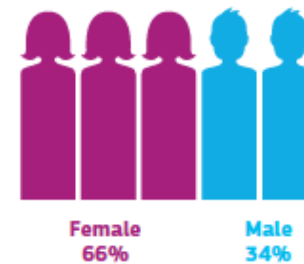


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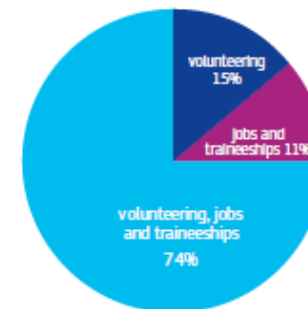


**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

REGISTRATIONS BY GENDER



REGISTRATIONS BY STRAND



## European Solidarity Corps & EuroVIP

- Volunteering needs to be defined in a way which reflects the vast diversity of volunteering in Europe, something that was showcased so strongly already back in the 2011 European Year of Volunteering
- Volunteering should describe all types of volunteering, in different settings, formal, informal and non-formal
- This would help create a further and stronger distinction from the employment strand placements
- The use of excellent tools such as the Portfolio based on ProfilPass developed by the EuroVIP Project should be really encouraged and incorporated into ESC

**EURO  
VIP**  
EUROPEAN  
VOLUNTEER  
INCLUSION  
PROGRAM



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We need a strong European volunteering infrastructure for young people in Europe (and for volunteers of all ages!), which recognises and validates the personal and professional skills acquired through this most visible expression of active citizenship

So that every young person in Europe can start their “REVOLUTION”!

<https://youtu.be/E9lB4jnsi6E>

