

## **Recommendations of the CPU on the consultation on mobility of young volunteers in the European Union**

In its recommendation of the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2008, the Council of the European Union defined a frame to promote cross-border mobility of young volunteers across Europe. As part of the consultation of the EC on the mobility of young volunteers in the European Union, the French Rectors Conference (CPU), which represents about 100 universities and higher education institutions, wishes to bring its contribution and make proposals.

Universities are also stakeholders of the mobility of young volunteers. For several years, some of them have developed a device called "year off" allowing students who wish to benefit from a year of mobility to carry out a personal project without breaking the connection with the institution of origin. This personal project can enroll in a voluntary work carried out in the following areas : art and culture, environment and heritage protection, media and youth information, racism and xenophobia, health, social economy, sport, cultural diversity, future of Europe, and mainly driven by the association sector.

### **Recommendation 1 : for a mobility of young volunteers framed in higher education**

The French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research issued a circular on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015<sup>i</sup> in order to extend the "year off " devices experienced in some universities and to secure the student as well as the institution of registration in the implementation of this course. With this circular, the student wishing to make a voluntary action for 6 months or a year, for example, maintains its status during this period.

- The CPU wishes an exchange of best practices at the level of higher education institutions in order to make a state of the art / assesement of existing devices and to maintain, where possible, the student's status during his voluntary international mobility.

The CPU wishes the mobility of young volunteers in the higher education institutions to be framed.

- The CPU wishes that, at the end of this mobility of the international voluntary, the institutions realise an assessment of the acquired skills for future socio-professional integration, discover a new culture, practice a foreign language, etc. which could result in a validation under the form of ECTS credits to be asserted the following year.
- The European Commission could organize an exchange of good practice between higher education institutions on the frame of this mobility in higher education.

### **Recommendation 2: Strengthen information on volunteering in the European Union within institutions**

- Universities may, in the frame of this "year off", contribute to informing students about opportunities to exercise voluntary activities abroad, and the provision of information on

rights and opportunities stemming from the provisions in force in the European and national levels in cross-border volunteering activities (Recommendation 3 of the Council).

### **Recommendation 3: avoid institutionalized causalization**

Mobility in the frame of volunteering in the European Union is defined in its conditions (limited time, compensation ..).

- These conditions must be framed and defined.
- Universities can contribute to ensure the framing of the "year off" in the European Union so that it is not accompanied by an institutionalization of causalization.
- Particular attention should also be paid to the fact that this device does not increase inequality between students.

### **Recommendation 4: inadequate compensation.**

The CPU notes the terms of financial compensation to cover travel and living expenses as described in the "European Voluntary Service" device.

- The CPU would like a specifically devoted budget to this program. A part of the funding should be paid as a scholarship to young volunteer mobility, and another part should allow the institution of origin to implement the promotion and accompanying devices. The development of European financial support for this new form of mobility within the EU is necessary.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid20536/bulletin-officiel.html?cid\\_bo=91567&cbo=1](http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid20536/bulletin-officiel.html?cid_bo=91567&cbo=1)