

SERVICE CIVIQUE: THE FRENCH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE



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"A LITTLE REPUBLICAN MIRACLE..."

▲ **ABBÉ PIERRE**, founder of Emmaüs. “It is false to say that the young have lost the sense and taste of sacrifice [...] If governments in each country are not capable of daring to call up, that is to say, making an appeal for voluntary Service, similar to Military Service, to accomplish peace-building tasks [...], what’s the use of talking about justice, reason or faith?”

– **JEAN-MARC AYRAULT**, Deputy and Mayor of Nantes, Théâtre du Rond-Point, Paris, 16th February 2010. “Service Civique” is an act of trust in the young, in the words of Jean Jaurès. An act of trust, what an extraordinary thing! An act of confidence! That is extraordinary! We often talk about the problems. Sure, there are problems, but there is still hope, which resides in the young people themselves, their generosity, and their commitment.

– **FRANÇOIS BAYROU**, Deputy, May 2008. “It is not an accessory or subsidiary program, but one of the key elements of a project for our society.”

– **JEANNETTE BOUGRAB**, Secretary of State for Youth and Community Life. “Through Community Service, France expresses all the confidence it places in its youth. With this program, the State encourages, accompanies, and values a decisive stage towards civilian and professional life for its youth.”

– **LUC CHATEL**, Minister of Education, Youth and Community Life. “Service Civique” is an ambitious program that we created supports and fosters commitment among our youth. [...] I am pleased that, thanks to them, “Service Civique” stimulates community life, not only by allocating important means, but also by providing a breath of fresh air.

– **YVON COLLIN**, Senator, Senate debate, June 10th, 2009. “By way of a symbolic reminder to citizens of the rights and duties towards their country, the expression of “Service Civique” perfectly translates the bond between the concept of citizenship and that of a civic spirit.”

– **GÉRARD COLLOMB**, Senator and Mayor of Lyon. “The town is committed to “Service Civique”. Our objective is to combine the creation of innovative social-utility programs intended to children and the elderly with a civic commitment, through which the volunteers acquire new skills.”

– **JEAN-FRANÇOIS COPÉ**, Deputy and Mayor of Meaux, 2011. “I am in favour of a four-month mandatory Community Service for all people between 18 and 25. The objective being that each young person commits himself/herself to others and their country.”

– **BERTRAND DELANOË**, Mayor of Paris. “I wanted Paris to be the pioneer among the local authorities to allow young Parisians to share a unique training experience at the service of others. The Town of Paris offers a large host of assignments to build new solidarities between Paris’ inhabitants and various generations.”

– **CHRISTIAN DEMUYNCK**, Senator and Mayor of Neuilly-Plaisance, June 2011. “In Seine-Saint-Denis, we wanted young people in difficulty to be able to enroll. They left for Madagascar to look after a dispensary and a maternity ward. When they returned, they were no longer the same.”

– **MICHEL DESTOT**, Deputy and Mayor of Grenoble. “Service Civique” is not a “second-rate job”. A springboard into landing a job or a training, a manner of opening to the world and playing a key part in it. A true win-win contract.

– **MICHEL DINET**, President of General Council for Meurthe-et-Moselle. “Service Civique” presents a positive challenge and confidence to our collective future. Through multiple commitment and

creativity places opened in Meurthe-et-Moselle, the general council affirms that “to act is to become”. **“ – JEAN DIONIS DU SÉJOUR**, *Deputy and Mayor of Agen*. “Service Civique” is a genuine independent program which gives liberty and flexibility to the communities [...] and which gives a chance to our young people! **“ – FRANÇOIS FILLON**, *Prime Minister, Matignon Hotel, 1st October 2009*. “Volunteer work is often about beautiful stories of men and women off to discover the world and at the same time, their own destiny. [...] I want to say how much I believe in this inner willingness to serve our fellow-citizens with passion, as opposed to the mandatory nature of this Service. **“ – JANINE GUINANDIE**, *Vice-President of the Charente General Council*. “To me, “Service Civique” proceeds from the principle of solidarity. In committing to this voluntary and civil initiative, each young person has the possibility of giving a little, but most importantly, of receiving a lot! **“ – CLAUDE GREFF**, *Deputy, National Assembly, May 2010*. “This involvement in civil life is a moral obligation and a way of learning about society and national cohesion. This “win-win” approach must be developed and developed so that the young can train themselves while serving our country. **“ – STEPHAN HESSEL**, *Diplomat, Théâtre du Rond-Point, Paris, 16th February 2010*. “[...] Back in my days, commitment was something natural as we were faced with the horror of Fascism, Nazism, and Totalitarianism before our very eyes. [...] It is extremely important that these young people, as young as they may be, know about what they are committing themselves to, the world in which we live needs a new vision. [...] You, the young people, do not have the same immediate enemy as we had, you have something very important to continue with for the rest of our century: observe what is going wrong and how it can be changed. **“ – MARTIN HIRSCH**, *High Commissioner for Youth, National Assembly, 4th February 2010*. “To serve and show good citizenship. To recognize, after a long eclipse, that our country a need for commitment, especially coming from the young. Rejuvenate the republican melting pot and offer new prospects to the youth of today and tomorrow. That is what it is about. **“ – FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE**, *Deputy, President of the General Council of Corrèze, Grenoble, January 2012*. “At the beginning, I was doubtful about “Service Civique”. Mandatory? Not mandatory? I had a few reservations about it, but I no longer do. “Service Civique” cannot be mandatory. It must be voluntary and controlled. The objective is to have at least 15% of a certain age bracket, i.e. a hundred thousand people. **“ – FRANCOISE HOSTALIER**, *Deputy, National Assembly debate, January 2010*. “I hope that growing importance will allow “Service Civique” to become standard moral practice, and that in a few years, every young person will feel bound to give to society. **“ – ALAIN JUPPÉ**, *former Prime Minister, Minister of State, and Mayor of Bordeaux*. “Every year, on the occasion of the Community Service award ceremony, I discover, from the testimonies of young people, how much “Service Civique” strengthens and reinforces social links, all thanks to them. **“ – JACQUES LEGENDRE**, *Senator, President of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Senate debate, 27th October 2009*. “Sometimes, there are small republican miracles. This evening, we are delighted to be living one of them. **“ – MARTIN MALVY**, *President of the Midi-Pyrenees Region*. “It is a duty for local authorities. We are responsible for our young people. We need strong initiatives. “Service Civique” makes it possible for young people to discover what professional life is about, and to carry projects through a successful conclusion. **“ – PIERRE MÉHAIGNERIE**, *former State Minister, Deputy and Mayor of Vitry*. “I believe in it passionately because it is a way of integrating young people with various types of education and backgrounds. It is also the meeting place for cultures and a response to a need of generosity from young people. For these reasons, it’s in the interest of all cities and towns to mobilize the young. **“ – SÉGOLENE ROYAL**, *President of the Poitou-Charentes Region, February 2011*. “The authorities will get involved through a set of concrete actions such as hosting young Community Services volunteers carrying their assignments as part of a regional Pact for the Employment of the Young. [...] It is through the effort of all that we will give a future to our young people as well as to the whole population. **“ – NICOLAS SARKOZY**, *President of the Republic, “Acting for Youth”, Avignon, 29th September 2009*. “I want a generation that aims to be recruited and which has the capacity to do so, a supportive generation which is mobilized for a cause or an ideal, a generation which is fully involved in community life, unions, politics, a generation which reasons not only in terms of rights, but in terms of duties as well. **“ – MANUEL VALLS**, *Deputy and Mayor of Évry*. “Our society was strongly influenced by the military service; it was a key stage of education and a symbolic system towards citizenship and social cohesion. [...] I believe that a new service accomplished by all citizens, a community work service, would be a genuine device for living together. **“ – SIMONE VEIL**, *former Minister of State, former President of the European Parliament, Théâtre de Rond-Point, Paris, 16th February 2010*. “On several occasions, I have seen attempts at a local scale. A certain number of associations, town halls, authorities, tried to introduce “Civil Service” convinced that a lot of young people wanted to commit themselves. However, these attempts lacked the framework that you are now constructing. This gives hope to young people, as it paves the way for their future. What will be achieved will be truly grand. **“ – MUHAMMAD YUNUS**, *founder of the Grameen Bank, Nobel Peace Prize, Paris, February 2010*. “See that everyone can live together in harmony is something doable, challenging and exciting. And for the young, it is even more exciting. [...] We have the possibility to create the world we want, everyone can contribute to it. Together, we can change the world. **“**

LAW OF 10th MARCH 2010

JOURNAL OFFICIEL – EXTRACTS

The National Assembly and the Senate have adopted, The President of the Republic enacts the law of which content follows:

[...]

ARTICLE 7 – ART. L. 313-8. The Code of Education– The public service for lifelong guidance and all organizations that participate in it on a regional and local level agree to enable all young people aged between 16 and 18, without initial training diplomas or employment, to enroll in a training course, to assist or to exercise an activity such as community work enabling him/her to prepare their professional career.

ARTICLE 8 – ARTICLE L. 120-1. -I. “Service Civique” aims at reinforcing national cohesion and social diversity and offers the opportunity provides to all volunteers the opportunity to uphold the values of the Republic and to get involved in a collective project by participating in a community work assignment with an approved legal entity. In the framework of Community Service, the missions carried out may have a philanthropic, educational, environmental, scientific, social, humane,

sporting, family or cultural nature, or may contribute to civil security and defense assignments, to the prevention and promotion of the French language and the French-speaking culture or to raising awareness of French and European citizenship.

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“II. “Service Civique” is a voluntary commitment whose duration can be from six to twelve months, with a State-provided allowance, open to people aged between 16 and 25, where the community work assignments are recognized as a national priority. The assignment is carried out with approved legal entities [...]

The approved legal entity is a French non-profit-making organization or a legal body governed by public law. Organizations that are religious, political, congregational, company foundations or workers unions cannot receive approval to organize “Service Civique”.

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“ III. At the end of the assignment the state awards a “Service Civique” certificate to the volunteer and a document which describes the activities that were carried out and evaluates the skills, the knowledge and the competences acquired throughout “Service Civique”. [...]

“Service Civique” is promoted in the secondary school curriculum and in establishments certifying the successful completion of a training program leading to a higher education diploma in accordance and within the terms laid down by Decree.

*

ART. L. 120-2. – A “Service Civique” Agency shall be established and entrusted the following missions: 1° defining strategic organizations and priority assignments [...];

2° ensuring management of approved legal entities and the financial support allocated by the State [...]; 3° promoting and develop “Service Civique” [...]; 4° ensuring equal access to “Service Civique” for all citizens; 5° facilitating connection for interested individuals [...]; 6° controlling and evaluating the implementation of “Service Civique”; 7° implementing and monitoring the conditions ensuring social diversity of “Service Civique” volunteers. [...]

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ART. L. 120-18. [...] If a commitment is made to “Service Civique”, an allowance is paid on a monthly basis to the volunteer on behalf of the “Service Civique” Agency.

HISTORY

On 22nd February 1996, the President of the Republic, Jacques Chirac, announced his decision to professionalize army and to suspend national Service, a decision which becomes effective as of the following year and by the law of 28th October 1997. In 1998, the Preparation and Call to Defense Day (JAPD) was established. It was addressed to all young girls and boys from 16 to 18 years of age.

President Chirac's initiative marked the end of the century-old tradition of mandatory conscription, on the basis of which laid the organisation of national defense.

In many French minds, this universal conscription had contributed to national cohesion and social and cultural diversity, in making young people feel part of the nation and to a political community life, awareness of national and state membership to a political community of citizens.

But over the years, the social diversity which was deemed to make national service a republican melting pot, and a founding phase for citizenship, became hardly more than theoretical. The "Conscripts" who had studied did not carry out their service in the same conditions as those who left school without any qualifications or diplomas. Exclusively reserved for boys, the national service was sometimes regarded as a useless obligation, leading some to express their need for an alternative solution. This started progressively, initially at the end of the Algerian War, in 1963, with the law that introduced the concept of conscientious objection, authorizing young people to carry out an alternative service to the army. Then, in 1994, three young women who referred to the American a volunteer service – AmeriCorps created an association named Unis-Cité to develop a volunteer service in France.

It took another fifteen years before "Service Civique" was included in the Code of National Service.

22nd FEB.
1996

**ANNOUNCEMENT
MADE FOR THE
SUSPENSION OF
MANDATORY
MILITARY SERVICE**

Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic, promises the creation of a voluntary "Service Civique".

14th NOV.2005

THE SUBURBS ABLAZE. The President of the Republic declares that: *"The duty of the Republic is to offer the same chances to everyone, everywhere. [...] As we all know, discrimination can undermine the very foundations of our Republic. [...] This fight can only be won if each and every one of us truly commit themselves personally [...]. To help young disadvantaged people who are trying to get employment, I decided to create a Voluntary 'Service Civique' associating support and training. It will involve fifty thousand young people in 2007".*

17th NOV.2005

THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE "LA VIE" ISSUES THE "MANIFESTO FOR A MANDATORY 'SERVICE CIVIQUE'". Launched on the initiative of Max Armanet, it declares that *"it is urgent to create a mandatory 'Service Civique' based on implementing the idea of fraternity and solidarity. A "Service Civique" in which everyone accepts to participate and gives their time for the common good of the community".* The "La Vie" manifesto will win the approval of thousands of people, including three hundred deputies and a hundred and twelve senators.

31st MARCH
2006

**THE EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES**

ACT aims at making equal opportunities a reality for everyone. It is comprised of five areas: education measures, employment and economic development, measures relative to equal opportunities and the fight against discrimination, measures aimed at helping parents exercise their parental authority, giving Town Hall authorities the power to fight against incivility and the creation of a Voluntary "Service Civique". The National agency for social cohesion and equal opportunities (ACSe) was created. It has the responsibility of coordinating "Service Civique", without having the financial means necessary for its development.

6th MAY
2007

**DURING THE SECOND
ROUND OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION,**

100% of the electors vote for "Service Civique", since it is on the program of both contenders.

29th SEPT.
2008

In the **"SERVICE CIVIQUE" REPORT** that Luc Ferry gave to the President of the Republic, he recommends implementing voluntary "Service Civique", to be progressively available to sixty thousand young people, with the following three objectives: "to re-evaluate our sense of duty, [...] to encourage social diversity [...], to offer a passionate and useful experience, developing personal talents and the meaning of community work for each individual."

JULY
2009

THE GREEN BOOK

"Recognize the value of the young"; this is the fruit of the hard work and cooperation of the Consultative Commission chaired by Martin Hirsch, who was previously the High Commissioner for Youth. He proposes to set up "a 'Service Civique' on a voluntary basis, where the vocation is intended to regard 10% of a certain age bracket within a five-year time period and perhaps becoming systematized later".

29th SEPT.
2009

**NICOLAS SARKOZY,
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC, PRESENTS
THE "ACTING FOR THE
YOUTH" PROGRAM,**

in Avignon. The creation of "Service Civique" is one of the pillars for guidance and reform, for accessibility to the RSA (active solidarity subsidy or earned income supplement from the government) for young people below the age of 25 and the tenth month grant payment for students.

27th OCT.
2009

**THE PROPOSAL FOR
A LAW ISSUED BY
YVON COLLIN,**

the RDSE Senator of Tarn-et-Garonne, is adopted at the Senate with a large consensus.

10th MARCH 2010

PROMULGATION OF THE "SERVICE CIVIQUE"


LAW. Creation of a "Service Civique" for young people aged between 16 and 25 which harmonizes the different existing programs and introduces the Defense and Citizenship Day which replaces the JAPD. (Preparation and Call to Defense Day).

14th MAY
2010

**CREATION OF THE
"SERVICE CIVIQUE"
AGENCY.**

MARCH
2012

Since the law of march 10th 2010, **MORE THAN 22,000 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY VOLUNTEERED** for "Service Civique".

A person with dark hair, seen from the back, wearing a dark blue jacket. They are standing in front of a brick wall. The image is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the text.

**“ ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’
WAS A BRIDGE BETWEEN
MY STUDIES AND
A PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.
IF I HAD DO IT AGAIN,
I WOULD DEFINITELY.”**

THE VOLUNTEERS



"I WAS A CHILD WHO WAS ALWAYS DOING STUPID THINGS, WAS ALWAYS FIGHTING. THROUGH BOXING, I LEARNT THAT FIGHTING WAS COMPLETELY STUPID AND GOT YOU NOWHERE. YOU CAN LEARN A LOT DURING 'SERVICE CIVIQUE', YOU CAN BECOME A GOOD PERSON."

JAOUAD, 17.

"FOR ALL THE YEAR, I DEDICATED MY TIME TO SHARE AND GIVE, TO CHANGE ENVIRONMENTS, TO SEE SOMETHING ELSE." THIBAULT, 23.

"THE ASSOCIATION 'CLOWNENROUTE' OFFERS CLOWN-THEATRE WORKSHOPS FOR PEOPLE WITH A HANDICAP. I AM THERE TO ASSIST THE PRESENTER AND TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED. I AM ACCOMPANIED BY PROFESSIONALS. IT IS AN VERY ENRICHING EXPERIENCE."

SIMON, VOLUNTEER WITH THE LEAGUE OF EDUCATION FOR THE 'CLOWNENROUTE' ASSOCIATION.

“Service Civique” is a voluntary commitment. Its aim is to reinforce national cohesion and social diversity. The volunteers choose to carry out a community work assignment for at least six months; they are at the service of others. In return, they receive an allowance and are recognized as having a certain number of rights, one being, social security paid for by the State. “Service Civique” is accessible to everyone from 16 to 25. Since the 10th March 2010 law was enacted, there have been six thousand volunteers in 2010 and fifteen thousand in 2011. This year, twenty-five thousand young people will be able to volunteer; there could be as many as seventy-five thousand in 2014.

A great diversity of assignments

The assignments proposed by “Service Civique” can be accomplished in many fields: in sectors like solidarity, social issues, humanitarian action, health, environmental protection, popular education, dissemination of sciences, culture, defense, civil security, the promotion of Francophone and European citizenship...

Assignments beyond national borders

Since 2010, the assignments that were offered to the volunteers have mainly been carried out in Metropolitan France. However, today, more and more assignments are taking place abroad, and many

young volunteers applying for a foreign experience. Globally, since 2010, several hundreds of volunteers have chosen to commit themselves in more than fifty countries.

IN TWO YEARS, UNDENIABLE RESULTS WITH REGARD TO DIVERSITY

Successful diversity is ensuring that the volunteers represent an image of the French youth in all its diversity, be it age, sex, social origins, level of education, place of residence and that they can meet around common projects and share their experiences.



“WHEN I READ THE ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ VOLUNTEERS CHARTER, I HAD THE IMPRESSION, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT I WOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR WHAT I AM. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT I WAS GOING TO BE GIVEN A CHANCE.”

BOYE, 19.

THE CHARTER OF “SERVICE CIVIQUE” VALUES

EXTRACT

Article 1: respect – listening – sharing

“I believe in the virtues of respect, listening and sharing. Through the diversity of situations and individuals that I met, I am learning how to share my knowledge with everyone and to get to know each individual. In my everyday life, I promote these values with energy and conviction”.

Respect, listening, solidarity, enrichment, diversity, willingness, initiative, recognition, citizenship, reciprocity, direction, commitment, confidence...

In 2011, at their request, about thirty volunteers drafted a charter of “Service Civique” Values. In order to encourage the widest possible adhesion for the charter of values, the text was published online. The charter is sent to all the volunteers at the beginning of their assignment so that they develop the sentiment of belonging to “Service Civique”, whatever their host organization.



“THIS IS THE SORT OF ASSIGNMENT I WAS EXPECTING. FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BE IN CONTACT WITH ANIMALS, IT’S AN AMAZING AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. I FEEL INCREDIBLY FREE, I AM ALWAYS OUTSIDE! AND THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEBODY TO CONFIDE IN.”

CINDY, 23 YEARS, HOLDER OF A DEGREE IN BIOLOGY OF ORGANISMS AND ECOSYSTEMS:
VOLUNTEER WITH THE “VOL DE PIAF” ASSOCIATION.

“... I BECAME MORE RESPONSIBLE AND MATURE, YOU RECEIVE AS MUCH AS YOU GIVE.” TOBIAS, 18.

A majority of the population is feminine

Exempt from military service, female volunteers have now become involved since the creation of “Service Civique”, they represented 57% of the volunteers in 2011. This slight over representation of females is often noticed in activities which involve altruism and commitment.

“Service Civique” integrates young inhabitants from priority neighbourhoods.

In 2011, 17,7% of the volunteers resided in these districts, whereas young people in the same age bracket represent 16,6% of the population. Far from excluding the young people from areas, “Service Civique” fully integrates them.

No one should be left aside

Everyone can enroll as a volunteer whatever their education or qualification level, whether they have just left university or dropped out of school, if they want to re-orientate themselves or have a break to think about their future. It is a fundamental principle of “Service Civique”.

59% of the young volunteers in “Service Civique” have an education level equivalent to or lower than the baccalaureate (A levels). This rate is strictly comparable with that of young people in the whole of the French population. This distribution underlines the fact that “Service Civique” arouses interest in young people having had very varied types of schooling. All parties involved in “Service Civique” development

LEARN LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES

For all volunteers, a first aid course is included during the training for “Service Civique”, and it must be offered systematically by all the host organizations.

The level 1 (PSC1) - Prevention and Assistance training which takes approximately ten hours was entrusted to firemen in 2011. In a country where few adults are trained in first aid, all former members of “Service Civique” have received this training.

**"IT BROUGHT ME SO MUCH AND IT WILL
BRING ME EVEN MORE, I MEET PEOPLE
THAT I MIGHT WORK WITH LATER ON,"**
MATHILDE, 25.



**"L'ESCALE IS A MEETING PLACE WHERE
FAMILIES CAN GATHER. WHILE THEY DO,
WE LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN. IT GIVES
THEM A LITTLE RELAXING TIME. WE ALWAYS
WORK AS A TEAM, AND WE LEARN HOW TO
WORK TOGETHER. I DON'T WAKE UP FOR
NOTHING ANYMORE. AFTER A DAY IN THE
SOCIAL GROCERY SHOP, I FEEL GREAT. I FEEL
HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL."**

THIBAUT, 18, CAP IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, VOLUNTEER FOR "UNIS-CITÉ" WITH THE
SOCIAL GROCERY SHOP "L'ESCALE", SAINTE GENEVIÈVE-DES-BOIS.

have committed themselves to continuing their efforts in making progress for volunteers who stopped their schooling before the baccalaureate. For these young people, "Service Civique" must represent a means of access to acquire vocational training and knowledge.

In this way, "Service Civique" distinguishes itself from programs focusing on young people without opportunities or, on the contrary, on young people with diplomas or a first working experience.

Volunteers are present throughout the French Territory

The number of volunteers by department is proportional to that of the young people from 15 to 24 years of age, including rural areas. In highly populated urban areas, like Ile-de-France, one observes an inferior proportion of young volunteers present in these

departments. At the same time, many volunteers have enrolled in French overseas departments. In 2010, they were particularly mobilized in Martinique and Guadeloupe in the fight against breakbone fever. They will soon be participating in the reforestation of the Réunion National Park.

**"I AM NOT A SOLDIER; I DO NOT WEAR
A UNIFORM BUT AN ARM-BAND. I GO TO
SCHOOLS AND TO SKATE PARKS TO DISCUSS.
MY APPROACH TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS IS
FAR BETTER WITHOUT A UNIFORM AND
THERE IS A CERTAIN COMPLICITY BECAUSE
OF MY AGE."** SYLVAIN, 24.

**“I WANTED TO GET INVOLVED,
TO BE USEFUL, AND TAKE THE TIME
TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.”**

HUGO, 23.



PROMOTING DIVERSITY

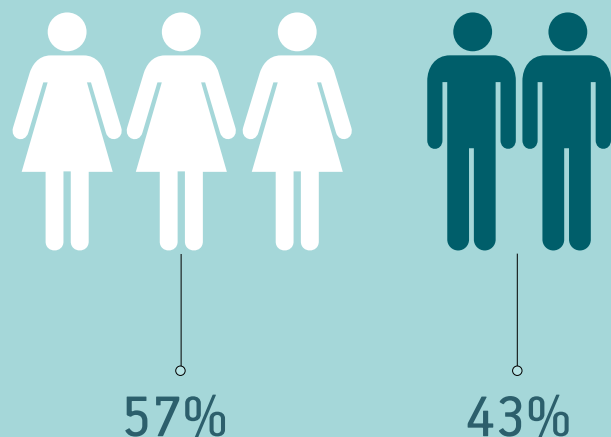
Access to “Service Civique” for disabled young people must be encouraged. This objective, listed in the “Service Civique” strategic guidelines in 2011, was reaffirmed by the Prime Minister. To encourage it, the law provides that the “Service Civique” allowance may be cumulated with the allowance for handicapped adults. Thus, “Service Civique” allows young people to help disabled people and the young person with disabilities can contribute on the same basis as the others to community work activities.

“WHAT I LIKED MOST ABOUT ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ WAS THE COMMITMENT. THE IDEA OF BEING A VOLUNTEER, AN AMBASSADOR, AND SOMEONE HELPFUL TO OTHERS. BEFORE THAT, I WAS LABELLED AS A ‘JOB SEEKER’. NOW, I FEEL THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED IN SOCIETY, I HAVE OBJECTIVES.”

LYTINA, 23, BACCALAUREATE IN MEDICO-SOCIAL SCIENCES, SUFFERING FROM BRITTLE BONE DISEASE, VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE “GROUPEMENTS DE CRÉATEURS EN SEINE & MARNE” ASSOCIATION

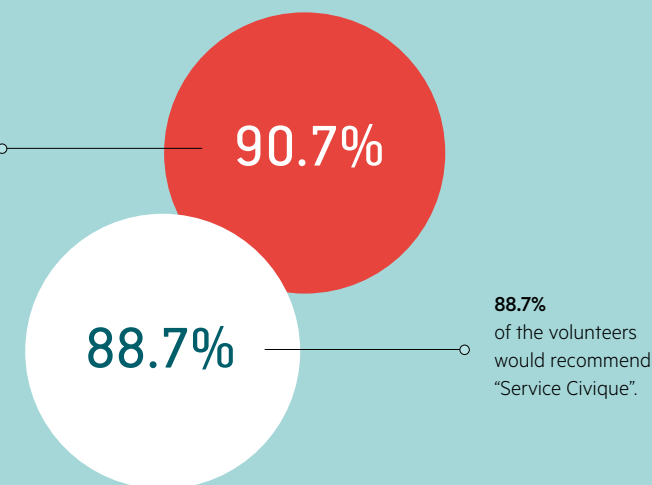
IN 2 YEARS, OVER 22,000 VOLUNTEERS

DISTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS



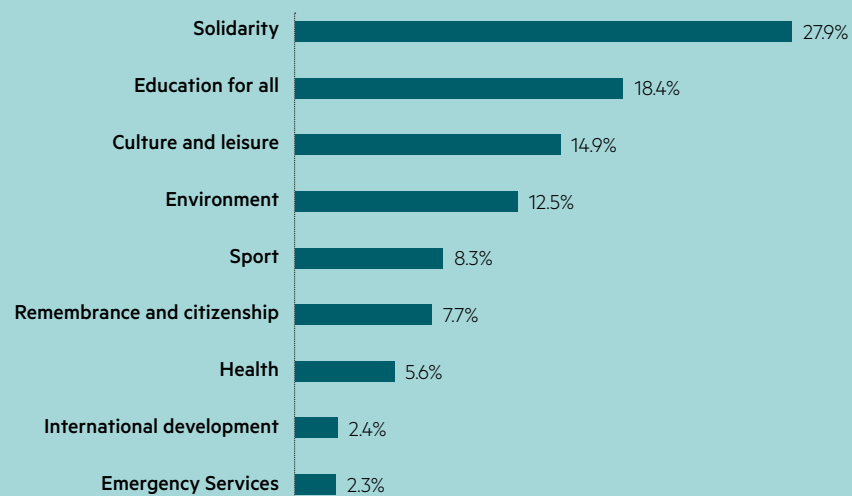
A VERY POPULAR EXPERIENCE

90.7% of the volunteers have a very positive or positive opinion of "Service Civique".

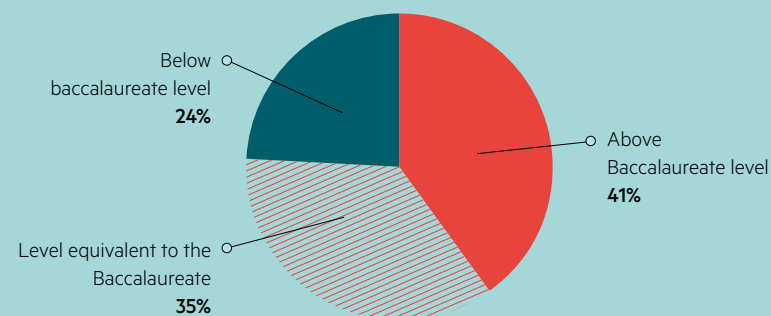


Satisfaction survey conducted on young people having accomplished their "Service Civique" since July 2011.

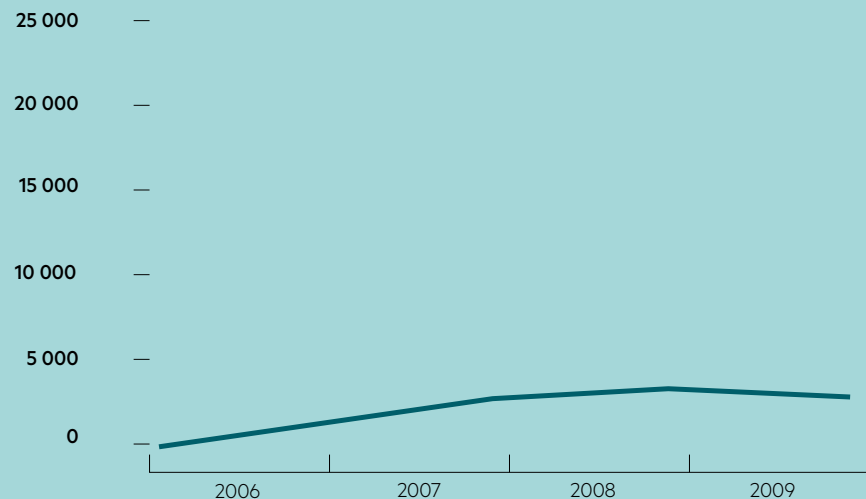
DISTRIBUTION OF "SERVICE CIVIQUE" ASSIGNMENTS IN 2011



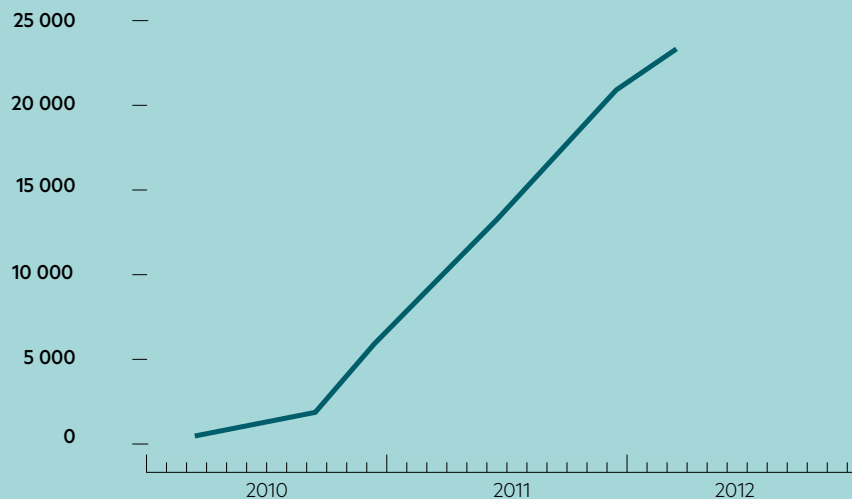
VOLUNTEERS EDUCATION LEVEL



EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN "SERVICE CIVIQUE" BETWEEN 2006 AND 2009



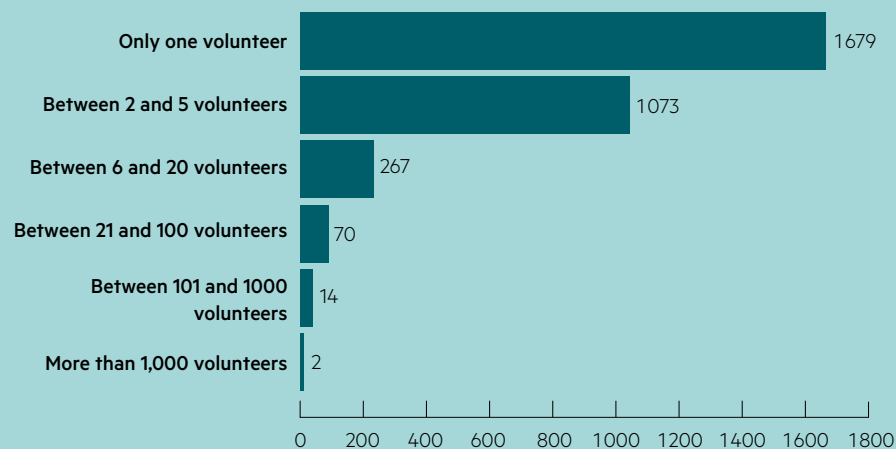
CUMULATIVE EVOLUTION GROWTH FOR NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN "SERVICE CIVIQUE" BETWEEN 2010 AND 2012



"SERVICE CIVIQUE" ABROAD SINCE 2010



DISTRIBUTION OF THE 3,000 APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS BY NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED



"I HAD NO IDEA WHERE I WAS GOING IN LIFE. I WAS SEARCHING FOR MY IDENTITY, ON A PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LEVEL. 'SERVICE CIVIQUE' GAVE ME THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING A BREAK AND BROADENING MY HORIZONS."

THE PARTNERS





“YOUNG PEOPLE IN ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ REPRESENT A UNIQUE HUMAN RESOURCE FOR ALL THESE STRUCTURES WHO STRUGGLE EVERY DAY FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL. THEY GIVE THEIR TIME, THEIR ENERGY, THEIR CREATIVITY, DURING SEVERAL MONTHS OF THEIR LIFE. THEY CAN SOMETIMES CAST A DOUBT OR QUESTION A CERTAIN PRACTICE THANKS TO THEIR “YOUNG” NON-PROFESSIONAL OUTLOOK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR USUAL ENVIRONMENT AND LIVE THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE OF BEING USEFUL TO OTHERS. THOSE WHO HAD LOST ALL SELF-CONFIDENCE BECAUSE THINGS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED AT SCHOOL REGAIN IT AS IF BY MAGIC, AND THEY REALIZE WHAT HUGE CAPACITIES THEY HAVE. THEY LEARN HOW TO ADAPT TO (SOMETIMES DIFFICULT) ENVIRONMENTS, AND TO INTEGRATE A TEAM, AND FOLLOW THEIR COMMITMENT RIGHT THROUGH TO THE END.”

MARIE TRELLU-KANE, PRESIDENT OF UNIS-CITÉ

“A LOT OF YOUNGSTERS FIND THEY ARE FAIRLY REMOTE FROM VOLUNTARY WORK, IN PARTICULAR BECAUSE OF FAMILY CULTURE, BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO ENROL. ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ GIVES THEM THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS AS WELL AS HUMAN AND SOCIAL SKILLS.”

CAROLINE SOUBIE, DIRECTOR FOR THE FRENCH RED CROSS YOUTH SERVICE

“RIGHT FROM THE START, WE WANTED TO LET YOUNG PEOPLE DO AN ASSIGNMENT WITH HOMELESS PEOPLE. IT IS A VERY EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE. THIS ASSIGNMENT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR VOLUNTEERS TO TRULY DISCOVER A SECTOR OF ACTIVITY AND TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREER BY GUIDING THEM TOWARDS PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE. THE APPROACH TOWARDS THE OTHERS CHANGED THE VOLUNTEERS’ OUTLOOK ON SOCIETY AND MADE THEM FEEL LIKE AN ACTUAL PART OF IT.”

CHRISTOPHE LOUIS, DIRECTOR, “LES ENFANTS DU CANAL”

“Service Civique” was created by the law. However, in its history, elaboration, management and development, it relies on a close relationship numerous partners and revolves around the State, which supports the volunteers’ allowance, social protection and civic training, while calling on its various bodies and services for the approval and control of the host organizations which recruit young Community Service volunteers.

Commitment from the non profit organizations

Associations provide the greatest part of the assignments offered to young volunteers; nearly three quarters since 2010. They can be small local associations which take on one or two young people (sporting clubs, cultural associations in rural envi-

ronments, local community centers ...) or larger organized associative networks capable of managing hundreds of volunteers.

More than three thousand associations were approved in two years; “Service Civique” volunteers find their place which is distinct from that of the employees and other voluntary workers. These volunteers often pursue their voluntary work after the term of their mission, which contributes to the renew of associative life; they can be called back associations when there are opportunities of paid employment.

Sometimes, associations, like “Unis-Cité” or the “Ligue de l’Enseignement” (League of Education), develop their own intermediation partnership entrusting their volunteers with assignments within

local confiding assignments with local authorities or small associations to their volunteers.

In certain programs, associations from the same sector join forces to offer common training to volunteers participating on the same subject or topic: for example, this is what enables social workers to gather hundreds of volunteers to support homeless people (with the “Red Cross”, “Emmaüs”, “Les Enfants du Canal” (Children from the Canal), and the ‘Secours Catholique’ in particular).

Associations participate actively in the work of “Service Civique”, civic training, and regional meetings with “Service Civique” volunteers.



**“WE LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM EACH OTHER.
IT PUTS THE VOLUNTEER IN CONNECTION WITH
THE WORLD OF WORK AND WE TRY TO TEACH
HIM OUR VALUES.”**

A TUTOR

THE INSTITUTE OF ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’

The Institute of “Service Civique” was conceived to accelerate the recognition of “Service Civique”. It brings together higher educational establishments (universities, business schools, professional schools...), companies and foundations to guarantee access to training courses, employment or creation of their own activity for applicants from the institute.

In 2012, the very first promotion will comprise from 100 to 150 graduates. The ambition of the Institute of “Service Civique” is to help volunteers each year gain access to responsibilities in the civil, economic and social life of our country whilst using the skills they demonstrated during their “Service Civique”. For more information:

www.institut-service-civique.fr



“IT IS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS. FOR HOST ORGANIZATIONS, IT IS A WAY OF REINFORCING THEIR PROJECTS, IT GIVES THEM MORE AMBITION; IT OPENS DOORS AND WINDOWS TO NEW POINTS OF VIEW AND IS A LEVER FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT. IT IS ESPECIALLY, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, PUTTING THE FOCUS ON THE FUTURE, PREPARING TOMORROW'S SOCIETY TODAY! WITH THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT THESE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE NOT ON ASSIGNMENTS, WILL KEEP THE HABIT OF PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY LIFE.”

AHMED EL KHADIRI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANIMAFAC

“YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COME TO JOIN ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ HAVE VARIOUS MOTIVATIONS; IN THE SAME WAY, THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT WELCOME THEM DO NOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS TO BUILD AN ASSOCIATION NETWORK LIKE OURS WITH GENUINE MEETING CONDITIONS. FOR US, A SUCCESSFUL ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ IS A SERVICE OCCURS WHEN A YOUNG PERSON DISCOVERS THE REASONS FOR ACTING IN THE LONG-TERM AND WHERE THE ASSOCIATION CAN RELY ON A NEWCOMER TO GO FURTHER”.

NADIA BELLAOUI, NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE “LIGUE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT”

Commitment from Local Authorities

The local authorities can receive approval to host young people. The big cities are gradually increasing the number of assignments entrusted to volunteers and are diversifying the responsibilities they are entrusted with.

Regions and general councils can set up programs for young people in “Service Civique”, sometimes in an original manner, by encouraging them to present their own personal projects, which they define and develop within the framework of a local approved authority.

Regions, departments and communities are increasingly numerous in supporting young people in “Service Civique”, giving them reductions for trans-

port, grants at the end of their “Service Civique” or even access to vocational training. They can also accompany associations when developing and preparing their projects. Iconic programs were created in Agen, Bordeaux, Évry, Grenoble and Tourcoing, to help young people define and plan their own matured projects, while welcoming volunteers with no qualifications or coming from so-called rough neighbourhoods.

Commitment from Universities and Higher Education Establishments

The law provides the obligation for higher educational establishments to take into account “Service Civique” as part of the students’ course. This reco-

gnition of “Service Civique” ardently wished for by the legislator, still needs to become reality in every establishment. But some are already pioneers: this is the case of the HEC Business School (Hautes Études Commerciales, Paris, France) with the Soli-dariFrance program or establishments who are partners of “Service Civique” Institute.

Commitment from companies

“Service Civique” cannot be carried out within a company in order to avoid that volunteers, who are mainly supported by the State, replace employees. Commitment from companies may take other forms: some are partners with the “Service Civique” Agency and offer volunteers advantages such as fare ...

“WITH THE ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ PROGRAM SOLIDARIFRANCE, STUDENTS CAN ACQUIRE PRICELESS OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE. AT A TIME WHERE BUSINESSES AND ASSOCIATIONS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE LIKE, WITH THE FIRST INTEGRATING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES AND THE SECOND ADOPTING VIABLE BUSINESS MODELS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH COMPANIES, THIS DOUBLE CULTURE TURNS OUT MORE THAN NECESSARY.”

ELOÏC PEYRACHE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE HEC

“THROUGH THE PROGRAM ‘PASSEURS DE MÉMOIRE’, SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIAL ACTION OF MALAKOFF MÉDÉRIC, ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ MAKES AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS.”

HUGUES DU JEU, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL ACTION - MALAKOFF MÉDÉRIC

“GDF SUEZ SUPPORTS ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ AND ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE CIVIC INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY, BUT ALSO BY FOSTERING THE INTEGRATION OF VOLUNTEERS INTO THE WORLD OF WORK.”

JEAN-PIERRE HERVE, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS FOR GDF SUEZ.

“IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREER, THE YOUNG REAP REAL BENEFITS OF THE SKILLS THEY ACQUIRED DURING THE MISSIONS THEY CARRIED OUT AS PART AS THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE.”

YVES DESJACQUES, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR CASINO GROUP

privileges (telephone, house insurance, health insurance...) throughout the period of their appointment. Others mobilize their employees to take part in teaching young people and to take into account experience acquired during “Service Civique” in their recruitment policy.

Commitment from International Partners

Requests for assignments abroad are very high. We were able to develop these further thanks to the privileged partnership with “France Volontaires”, who is a member of the “Service Civique” Agency and based in many countries. Conventions with the France-German Youth Office, the Quebec-France

Youth Office and the Agency for French Teaching Abroad benefit to a growing number of young volunteers every year. The possibility of reciprocal agreements was experimented with exchanges between volunteers from France, Tunisia and South Africa.

Young French people who commit themselves through the European Voluntary Service or the International Volunteer for Solidarity, or the Economic International Volunteers can now develop this experience in the same conditions as those who performed their “Service Civique”.





**“ ‘SERVICE CIVIQUE’ HELPED
ME OVERCOME MY SHYNESS AND
GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE. IT WILL
TURN USEFUL FOR THE FUTURE.”**

**DIRECTIONS
FOR USE**



Helping pupils in difficulty.



Protect the environment.



Reconstructing disaster-stricken populations.



Helping homeless people.

The recruitment campaign 2011-2012

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

To become a volunteer in “Service Civique”, you must be between 16 and 25, have French nationality – or nationality from a Member State of the European Union or European Economic Area – or justify legal residence in France of more than one year.

The applicants often hear about “Service Civique” from the radio or the internet, sometimes by close relations and, more and more often, from former volunteers. They search for the necessary information on the “Service Civique” site or enquire for details from their local mission or Youth Information Point. They have access to a lot of suggested assignments (four thousand assignments available online on average). Those who register on the website join the “Service Civique” community” (more than one hundred and ten thousand young people in February 2012) and regularly receive a newsletter which informs them about the assignments available in their area. They can then decide to submit an application form and apply directly on line with an organization. They apply for one or several missions, even without having a diploma. For most of the assignments, motivation and social skills are what count.

ONCE YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER

When the volunteer is recruited, the individual signs a contract with the organization that is hosting him/her. This contract stipulates the place, the working hours and tasks which will be performed during the mission. It is not a work contract. The relationship between the volunteer and the host organization is

a relation of collaboration, not subordination.

The volunteer discovers the assignment which can last from six to twelve months and will devote at least twenty-four hours per week to it. As is the spirit of “Service Civique”, the assignment must be the volunteer’s principal activity, even if he/she is allowed to have additional activities (studies, employment, etc.). The volunteer receives an allowance of €559 per month, including €103 financed by the hosting structure and is entitled to complete social protection (illness, retirement, etc.) paid for entirely by the State. In this way, a year of “Service Civique” gives the same pension rights as one year of work. If the volunteers’ family receives the RSA (active solidarity subsidy or earned income supplement from the government), or if a different grant is attributed, the individual can, in certain cases, receive an additional €103. The individual receives a “Service Civique” card designed with the collaboration of the volunteers, and the Charter of “Service Civique” Values.

THE HOST ORGANIZATION

Recruitment of the volunteer takes place within an organization approved by “Service Civique” Agency or its regional representatives. It can be an association, a recognized public-community/utility foundation, a public service establishment, or a local government authority.

In order to host volunteers for the “Service Civique”, the organization needs to obtain a two-year approval period from the “Service Civique” Agency, the

regional prefects, or local organizations.

The organization must take into consideration the diversity of profiles of the young people it recruits. It must appoint a tutor to ensure the preparation of the assignment and to assist the volunteer in fulfilling the assignment. It must also provide civic training for the volunteer and accompany the candidate in the development of his/her future project.

All these obligations are frequently and regularly monitored by the “Service Civique” Agency and its regional correspondents.

Finally, the host organization must allow the volunteer to take part in meetings organized on a local or national level. In 2011, more than ten events (Chambéry, Arles, Mont-de-Marsan...)

were organized which means that several thousands of volunteers were able to cross paths and exchange experiences about voluntary work.

WHEN THE MISSION IS COMPLETED

In order for “Service Civique” to be validated, the assignment must have lasted at least 6 months. The volunteer receives a certificate by post from “Service Civique” a month before the end of the assignment. It includes a document which describes the activities, aptitudes, knowledge and skills acquired during the assignment.

At the end of the assignment, the host organization has the responsibility of assessing the volunteer and guiding and assisting the candidate in achieving his/her goal.

“SERVICE CIVIQUE” MANAGEMENT

The “Service Civique” Agency has determined, since its creation, and in agreement with its board of direction and the strategic committee, the main direction and major programs. These are implemented in close connection with local referents from the “Service Civique” Agency, with Local authorities for sports and social cohesion (DRJSCS) and the interdepartmental Directorate Department for Youth. In the continuation of traditional activities by the State Services for youth, who are constantly involved in popular education, “Service Civique” has become one of their most emblematic missions.

From the creation of the “Service Civique” Agency in May 2010 to the 20th March, the Strategic committee, which brings together the host organizations, decentralized departments, members of Parliament and the volunteers, will have met eight times. The Board of directors has met thirteen times. The “Service Civique” Agency team consists of about twenty people.

A STATE OF MIND

The impact of “Service Civique” is goes way beyond statistics. Throughout these pages, we have endeavored to share the idea that this is not just another program; it is, above all, a state of mind.

Life without commitment is a life without salt, risk, cause, challenge. The young have a spontaneous need for commitment. Young people need to feel useful, to discover other horizons, to gain experience, to take part in joint projects. In short, they need to be fully-fledged citizens.

“Service Civique” was created to make commitment easier and and help it gain recognition for the values it conveys.

It can be achieved with or without a diploma, between studies or before seeking employment, in France or abroad, but always for the community and for the benefit of others. It is a project that involves the whole society. Designed beyond political differences, it unites the State, the local authorities and associations who mobilize volunteers, voluntary workers, employees and pensioners.

After two years, testimonies already prove that it features many advantages and that it has a vital role to play. Today, we have the responsibility of shaping “Service Civique” so that it can meet with the expectations it brought about.

Plan for the next fifteen years

On the first floor of a country restaurant. The table was booked by a group of forty year olds full of happiness to be present at these gathering every year, preserving friendships that have been forged during their “Service Civique”, or from the regiment or the circles of former marine commandos. Diversity as well!

In the refreshment bar in Parliament. Among the deputies, there are already fifty who have accomplished “Service Civique”. Their friendship club will have more members than the Tintin Club or Cigar Friends club soon. Their political commitment came about after their period as volunteers.

In the office of a Director of Human Resources for a large company.

This is one of the first applicants of the “Service Civique” Institute. Since then, the Group recruits five each year. Two of them chair the management committee.

In an emergency service. The doctors comment on the decrease in sudden deaths of adults. This is due to the first aid education program taught each year by two hundred young people in “Service Civique”. They teach the actions to be used in case of emergency and how to operate a cardiac defibrillator.

In Port-au-Prince. The program has never been interrupted since the earthquake. There are around a hundred volunteers each year who participate in the “Service Civique” program in Haiti.

From now on, the Haitian and French volunteers work together in the schools and training colleges.

The Education Authority. Outcome of the program against dropping out of school is even better than last year. Half of the “dropouts” resumed studies after accomplishing “Service Civique” at 16. There are a lot amongst the apprentices and first year university students.

Daily Newspaper Headlines. A publisher has unearthed the results of an investigation in 2011 and compares it with mischievousness to his own survey. From now on, the general public associates youth with “good citizenship” and “commitment”, referring to an era that is now over, of when the young scared the rest of the French society...

On the Champs-Élysées. On the 14th July, the “Service Civique” volunteers will march behind the university graduates, or maybe in front ...

At the Community Life Conference. The average age of volunteers has decreased by 15 years as the majority of volunteers in “Service Civique” continue their commitment in another form in different associations. For a number of years, these no longer deplore a voluntary work crisis.

In a recruitment firm. Here, taking a year off for a commitment is no longer an anomaly, a peculiarity, or something seen as suspicious or eccentric, but as easy as breathing. It’s simply an advantage.

The “Service Civique” is vulnerable as it is still young and new. But the values which it conveys will give it a strong future.

MARTIN HIRSCH, President of the “Service Civique” Agency.

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– All the host organizations.

– All the State Services and public partners.

– All the companies and private partners.

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– All the members of the “Service Civique” Agency strategic committee:

Admiral Alain Béreau, member of the society ana-

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city interdepartmental committee mission; **Claude Greff**, member from the 18th May 2010 to June 2011, date when he was elected to the Government, Deputy of Indre-et-Loire, current Secretary of State for the Minister of solidarity and social cohesion, and family affairs; **Celine Guilbert**, administrator of the National federation of firemen of France; **Veronique Hespel**, General inspection for finance; **Didier Himène**, Vitré Community; **Antoine Hubert**, deputy treasurer of the National federation of the firemen of France; **Régis Koetschet**, ambassador for civil society relations mission, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs; **Eva Sabine Kuntz**, general secretary of the Franco-German Office for youth; **Bernard Lesterlin**, Deputy of Allier; **Christophe Louis**, director of the “Enfants du canal”; **Jean-Philippe Maurer**, deputy of Bas-Rhin; **Jacques Martinet**, mayor of Saint-Denis-en-Val; **Philippe Meirieu**, regions of France association; **Michel Meunier**, president of the young leaders center; **Rojan Mohammed Ahmed Hassan**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011; **Christiane Nuissier**, treasury directorate-general; **Colonel Vincent Pasquief**, in charge of mission partnerships and liaisons at the national service directorate and ministry of defense; **Pauline Réault**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011; **Cyrille Renard**, France Nature Environment; **Sophie Rochard**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011; **Eric Rouyez**, ministry for foreign and European affairs; **Eric Sapin**, coordination committee for the Civil Service - Volunteers; **Thomas Scuderi**, deputy mayor of the Town of Metz; **Georges Serre**, ministry for foreign and European affairs, deputy director general of globalization, development and partnerships; **Mathieu Spaak**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011; **Michel Thierry**, general inspection of social affairs; **Eric Verdier**, psychologist, psychotherapist; **Richard Vignon**, president of the National federation of the firemen of France; **Mathilde Vivier**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011; **Xavier Voisin**, ADT Quart_Monde; **Teddy Weber**, “Service Civique” volunteer in 2011.

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YOU AND "SERVICE CIVIQUE"



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