



INSTITUTE FOR  
**GLOBAL EDUCATION**  
**EXCHANGE AND INTERNSHIP**

THE INSPIRATION OF YOU  
RESEARCH ON BEST PRACTICES ACROSS DIFFERENT  
MODELS OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN DIFFERENT  
SECTORS  
—  
ARGENTINA  
NATIONAL REPORT



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Surveys have been carried out to examine the interest of Argentine young people regarding volunteering work, trying to focus on the vocation of service.

Our institution has been working in this direction for many years and we aim to transmit our experience to the young people of our local community.

The activity is part of the project The Inspiration of You, financed by European Union through Erasmus+ program, Capacity Building for Youth in ACP countries, Latin America and Asia. The project involves organizations from Argentina - Center for Education and Consulting Structural Instruments, Italy - MV International, Philippines - Institute for Global Education Exchange and Internship – IGEEI, Peru - Brigada De Voluntarios Bolivarianos Del Peru, Argentina - Circulo Italo Argentino Raices Sardas Buenos Aires Norte, and Viet Nam - Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment. The project aims to enhance the development of volunteering in the partner countries by assisting youngsters to maximize their potential through the provision of high-quality volunteer management education, training and exchange activities.

This report is not intended to reflect the thoughts and opinions of the entire country, as it is a study developed at small scale, this is why the results cannot be

generalized to a larger population. However it can help us to identify specific topics and key ideas that can help us to develop actions that lead to an enhanced recognition of voluntary activities with a view to acknowledging the added social value that volunteering offers to the society. In addition, it leads us in the elaboration of learning material in order to build a strong structure of voluntarism inside the organization.

The goal is to improve aspects related to volunteering and to encourage young people from local communities to take part in these activities.

The results of the surveys conducted with the youths and the focus groups are attached hereto. The report has two parts: The first part develops a qualitative research about the knowledge and experience of argentine young people about volunteering activities and the second one allows us to know statistical data on volunteer management of argentine organizations.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – SPANISH-**

### **RESUMEN**

Las encuestas se han realizado para examinar el interés de los jóvenes argentinos en el trabajo de voluntariado, tratando de centrarse en la vocación de servicio.

Nuestra institución trabaja en esta dirección desde hace muchos años y nuestro objetivo es transmitir nuestra experiencia a los jóvenes de nuestra comunidad local.

Esta actividad es parte del proyecto **The Inspiration of You**, financiado por la Comunidad Europea a través del programa Erasmus+, Desarrollo de las capacidades de los jóvenes en los países ACP (Estados de Africa, del Caribe y del Pacífico), America Latina y Asia. El proyecto involucra organizaciones de Rumania - Center for Education and Consulting Structural Instruments, Italia - MV International, Filipinas - Institute for Global Education Exchange and Internship – IGEEI, Peru - Brigada De Voluntarios Bolivarianos Del Peru, Argentina - Círculo Italo Argentino Raíces Sardas Buenos Aires Norte, and Vietnam - Center for Development of Community Initiative and Environment.

El proyecto tiene por objeto mejorar el desarrollo del voluntariado en los países asociados ayudando a los jóvenes a maximizar su potencial mediante la prestación de servicios de educación, capacitación e intercambio de voluntarios de alta calidad.

Este informe no pretende reflejar los pensamientos y opiniones de todo el país, ya que se trata de un estudio desarrollado a pequeña escala, por lo que los resultados no pueden generalizarse a una población más amplia. Sin embargo, puede ayudarnos a identificar temas específicos e ideas clave que pueden ayudarnos a desarrollar aquellas acciones que conduzcan a un mayor reconocimiento de las actividades de voluntariado con miras a reconocer el valor social agregado que el voluntariado ofrece a la sociedad. Asimismo, nos conduce a la elaboración de

material de estudio a fin de construir una fuerte estructura de voluntariado dentro de la organización.

El objetivo es mejorar los aspectos relacionados con el voluntariado y alentar a los jóvenes de las comunidades locales a participar en estas actividades.

Se adjuntan los resultados de las encuestas realizadas con los jóvenes y las organizaciones. El informe consta de dos partes: La primera parte desarrolla una investigación cualitativa sobre el conocimiento y la experiencia de los jóvenes argentinos sobre las actividades de voluntariado y la segunda permite conocer datos estadísticos sobre la gestión de los voluntarios de las organizaciones argentinas.

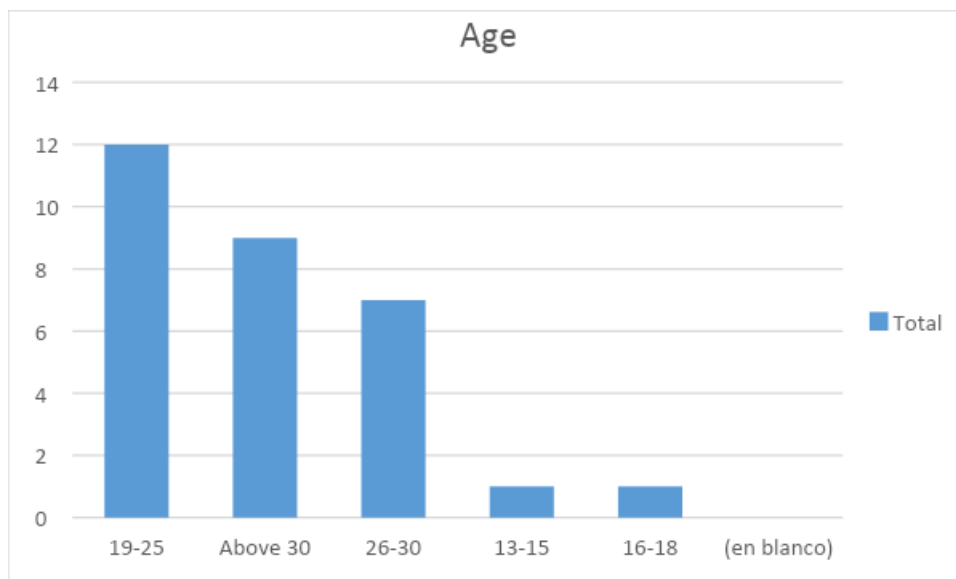
## **1. CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT MODELS OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN ARGENTINA**

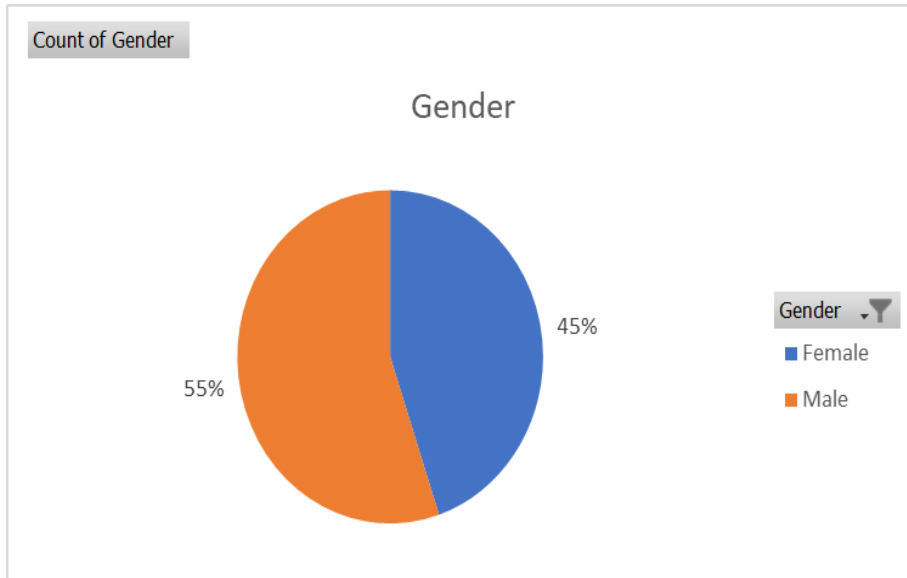
### **1.1. The legal definition of youth**

We have requested the volunteers to give the legal definition of youth in Argentina. Out of 30 respondents, 10 of them defined youth as people between the ages 14-29, while others mentioned different age limits up to 35 years old. Other results talk about independence, a person with right and duties, or the period between childhood and adult age.

### **1.2. Age and Gender**

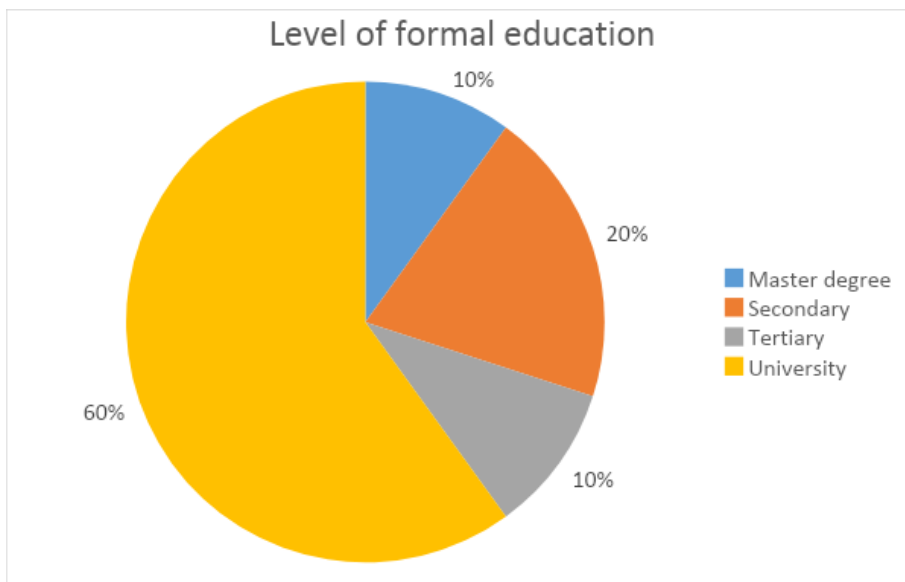
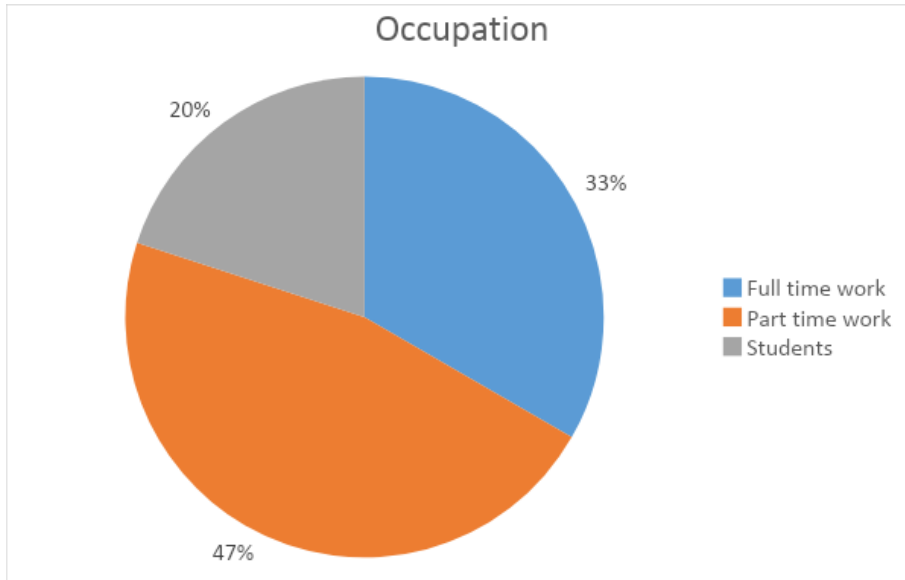
The age and gender of the respondents are shown in the figures below:



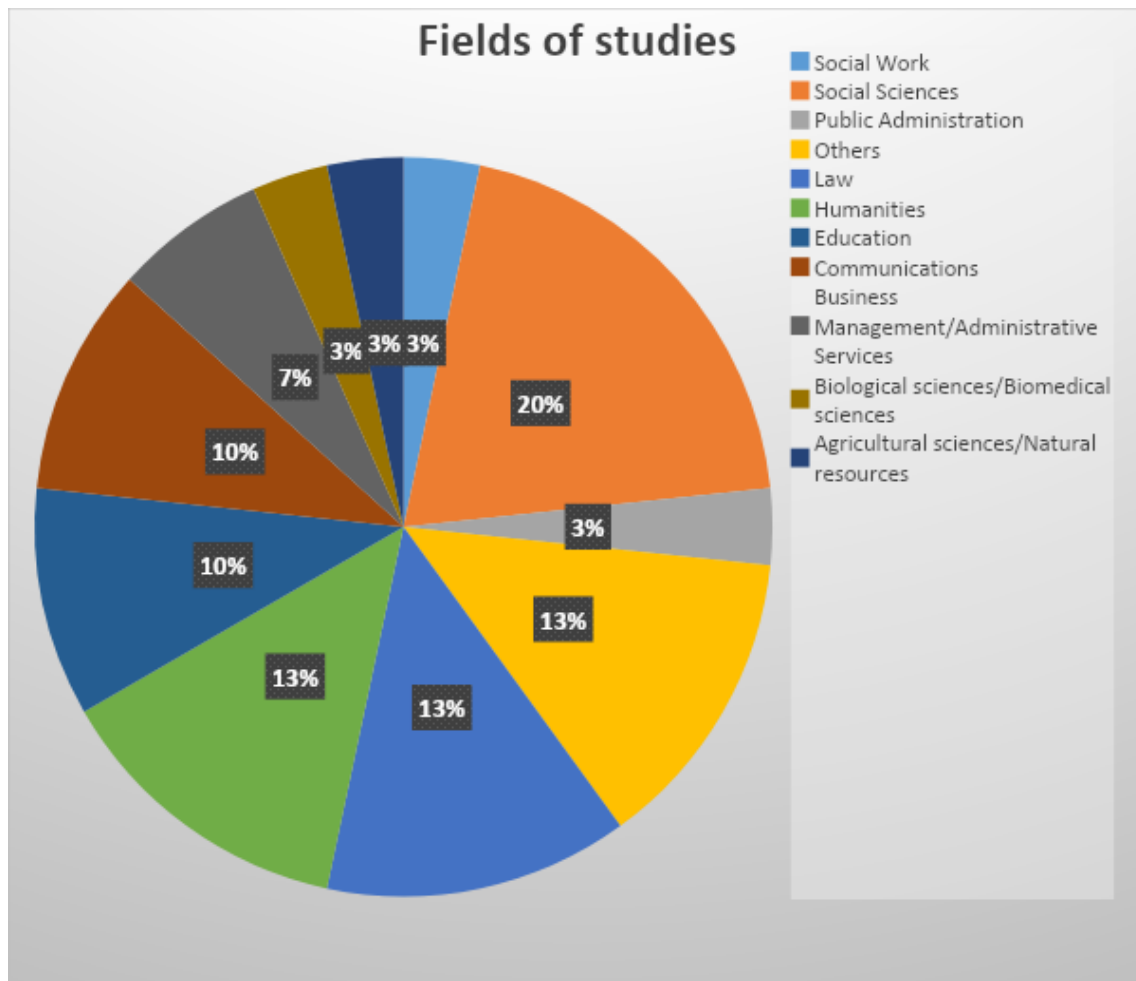


### **1.3. Current occupation, level of formal education and major fields of studies.**

The responses we got for current occupation are mainly divided into 3 categories: students, part time work and full time employed. Most of the respondents (47%) have a part-time work, 33% have a full-time work and 17% are students, when it comes to level of formal education the most common responses are University and Secondary.



We also asked about their field of studies, the answers were very different but most of them (20%) on Social Sciences

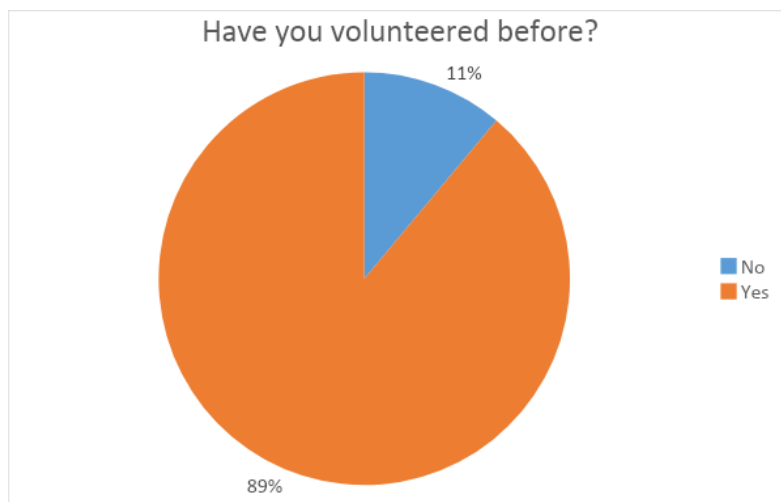


## **2. LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE IN YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN ARGENTINA**

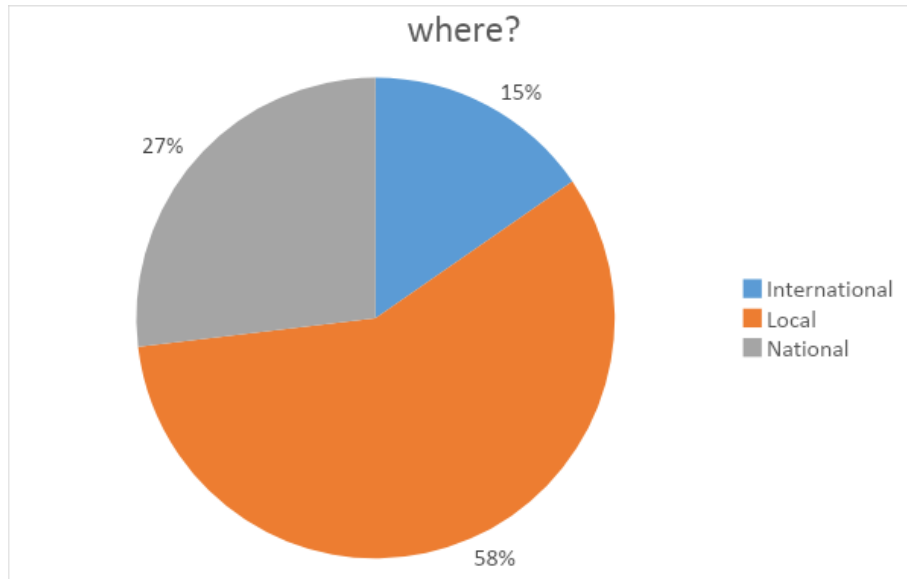
### **2.1. Volunteering and interest in volunteering**

When questioned about the experience in volunteering 27 out of 30 respondents declared that they have already volunteered before.

Lack of opportunities was the main reason why the respondents have not been involved in any of the volunteering activities.



Most respondents to our questionnaires have identified as local the geographic scope of their volunteering activities.

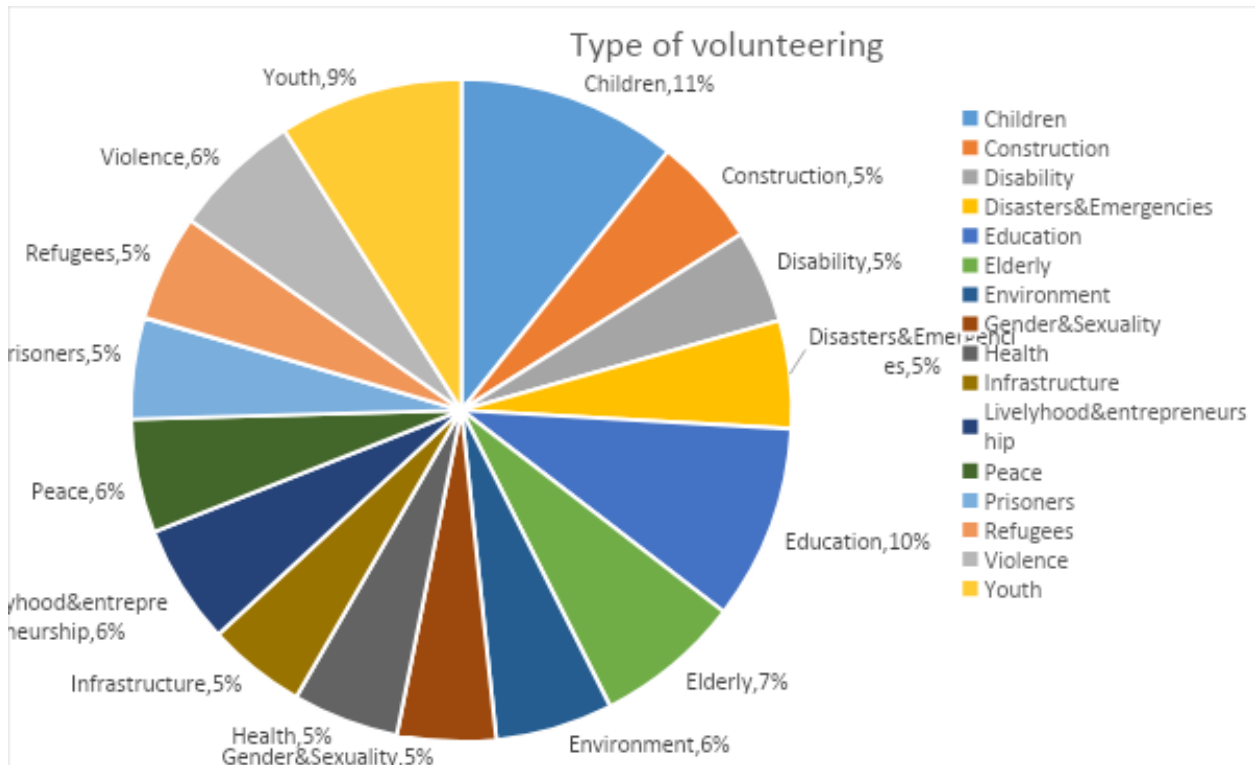


## **2.2. The main motivation to volunteer**

We have requested our respondents about their main motivation in volunteering based on their personal experience. More than half of the answers were helping the others. Other answers are related to teaching.

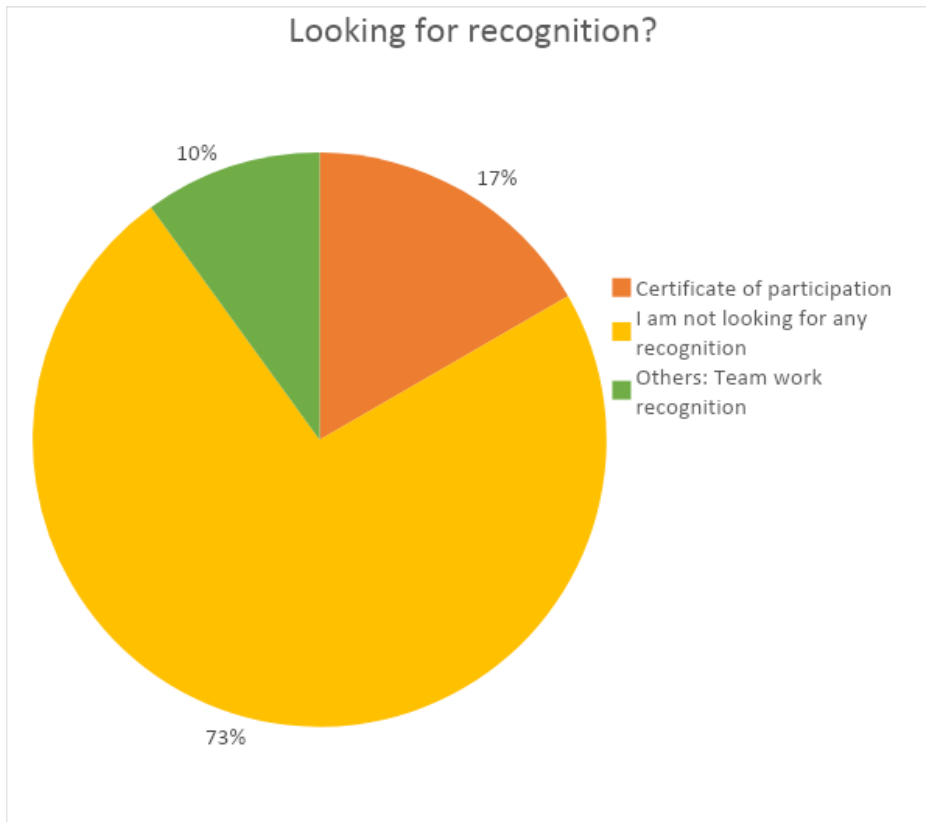
## **2.3. Types of volunteering**

For the purpose of our research we wanted to investigate the types of volunteering activities the respondents have an interest in. The findings show a variety of activities with a focus on children, youth and education.

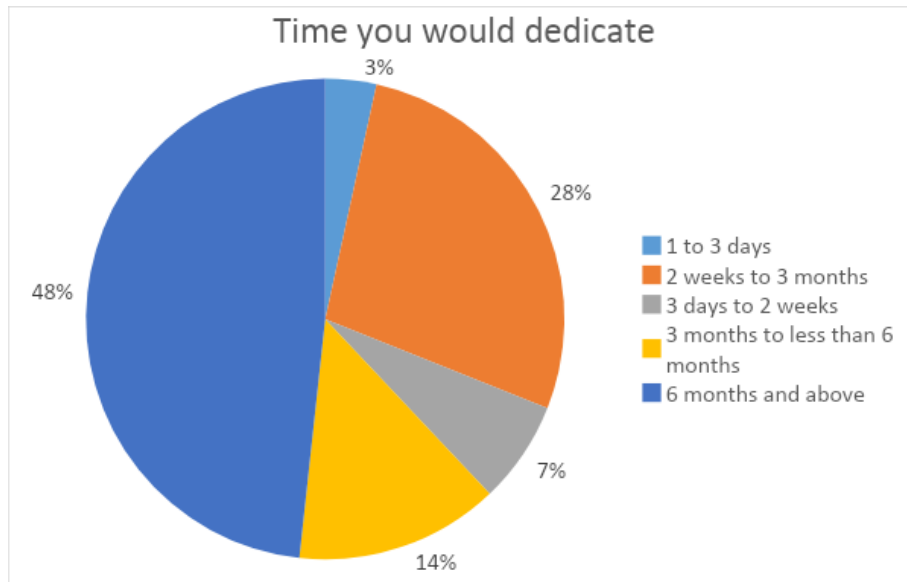


## 2.4 Time and recognition

When asked about the type of recognition the volunteers are interested in, the figure below shows that 73% is not looking for any recognition.

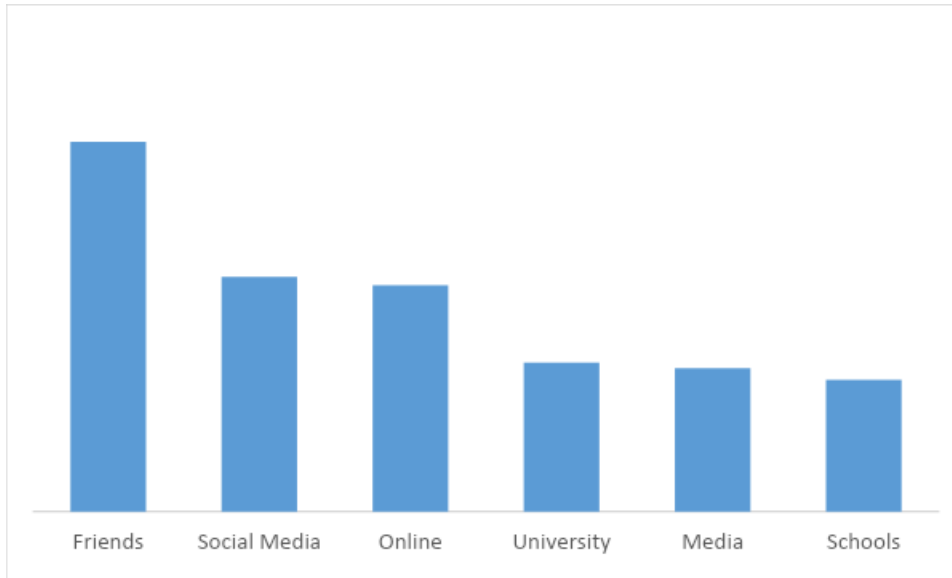


The respondents were required to indicate the time they would dedicate in volunteering, the most common answer was 6 months and above.

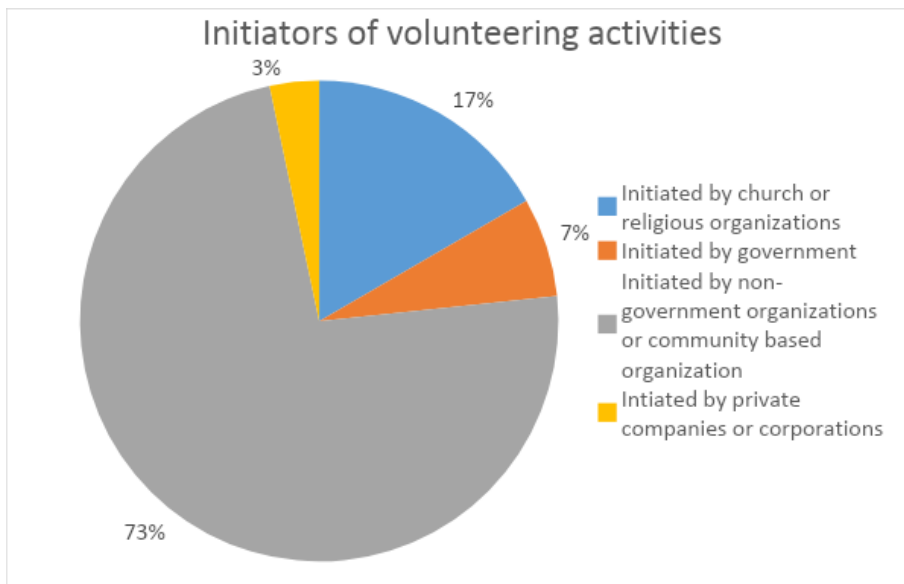


## 2.5 Volunteer opportunities and initiators

The respondents were required to identify which are the most reliable sources when choosing the volunteering activities. The findings show that Friends, Social Media and Online are the main providers of this type of activities.



We have requested our respondents to mention which are the initiators or organizers of the volunteering activities in our country, 73% of the respondents identified the Non-government or community based organizations, as being the main pillar in advocating for volunteering, followed by church and religious organizations.



### **3- RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUPS IN ARGENTINA**

This part reflects the results of the interviews of the three organizations chosen for the survey which are involved in volunteering programs. This report is not intended to reflect the thoughts and opinions of the entire country, as it is a study developed at small scale, this is why the results cannot be generalized to a larger population. However it can help us to identify specific topics and key ideas that can contribute in improving the volunteer management practices.

The questions were focused on the following aspects:

- Context of the organizations, legal definition of youth in their country, years of experience of the organizations, nature of the organizations.
- Experience in volunteering, type of support offered to volunteers, financing volunteering activities, volunteering policies in the country, implementation of volunteer activities, preparations of volunteers, involvement of volunteers in planning volunteering activities. Best practices.
- Challenges and problems encountered in volunteering management process and strategies applied to solve them.

All the organizations interviewed are NGO's. All of them operating at local/regional level, they focus mainly on children, youth, education and human

rights. Questioned about the years of experience they have been operating from 3 to over six years.

There is no legal definition of youth in the country, and the age range answered by the organizations goes from 13 to 35.

All the organizations are part of a volunteer network, and have experience in hosting volunteers, both national and international.

The most common types of support offered to volunteers are: mentoring, coaching, language training and in some cases they also offer accommodation, transportation and food.

As regards incentives for financing volunteering activities the majority of the respondents state that they come from fundraising, sponsors, private companies, self-financing, and to a lesser extent from the government.

When asked about a specific policy on volunteering in the country they all answered that there is no specific law, however there is in Argentina a Social Volunteer Law (Act 25.855).

The purpose of the law is to promote social volunteering in nonprofits activities and to regulate the relationship between social volunteers and the organizations where they carry out their activities.

The main characteristics of volunteering are as follows:

Volunteering is done without receiving any salary, remuneration or consideration. You can only receive reimbursement of expenses upon receipt of proof.

Volunteering cannot constitute isolated actions and must be carried out within the framework of an organization.

The organizations where volunteering is practiced must be non-profit and have a legal form.

The activities carried out must be for the common good or general interest.

Volunteering is carried out by free choice and in a supportive or altruistic manner.

Volunteering is presumed to be outside of labor and social security relations.

For the volunteer relationship to be formed, the law requires the adherence of the volunteer to a basic agreement, which must be concluded between the parties in writing prior to the start of activities within the organization.

As regards organizational policies on managing volunteers the main aspects focus on:

Giving a presentation speech and introduction of the team, establishing a work agenda, forming work teams, setting goals, provide a safe environment and help them to develop their human and professional potential.

Preparations of volunteers include a personal interview where they can talk about their expectations in volunteering. The organizations present their working rules, and let the volunteers know that they are part of the team. They also establish tools for a communication network.

When asked about the best practices in youth volunteering, they responses include: to define clear rules and goals, to create clear assignments, to develop strategies, team work and networking, to engage with the organization and to share time and

experiences. These practices result in a healthy relationship, the volunteers get involved while they enjoy and learn from the experience.

Challenges and problems experienced in volunteering management process are related to: language, some teams did not understand our language, in this case, English language was used to communicate and they taught them some Spanish words. The experience of having insecurity cases while having volunteers, has limited certain activities.

To sustain volunteering activities they agree that teamwork is the best strategy as well as clear goals. Success is a result of effort and perseverance.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS:

As a result of the interviews we can see that young people have shown a strong vocation and spirit of service, they are willing to help the others specially children, without looking for any recognition.

Volunteering is also an important learning opportunity, because getting involved in voluntary work provides young people with new skills and heightens their sense of belonging to the society.

It's important to create digital learning material , and best practices on volunteer work available on a website for organizations and volunteers, offering them

resources and tools to improve their knowledge and skills and to strengthen the management practices.