

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ
UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS



Erasmus+

ACTIVITY 2 "DESK AND FIELD RESEARCH"

Primary and Secondary Research analysis in the field of EU Youth Volunteering

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PRIMARY SURVEY ON EU YOUTH VOLUNTEERING BEST PRACTICES



INTRODUCTION

This presentation is about our research study on "EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices," a cornerstone project within the "Volunteering In Action" initiative, generously supported by the Erasmus+ Programme.

The landscape of youth volunteering is vast and diverse, dotted with myriad experiences, challenges, and success stories. As we endeavor to explore this realm, we believe it is critical to understand it from the vantage point of those who are its very essence – the volunteers, coordinators, organizations, and every individual or entity who has been touched by youth volunteering.

Our primary objective is to chart the course of EU youth volunteering, identifying best practices, understanding obstacles, and recognizing success stories.

These insights will not only fortify our database but will also pave the way for more informed strategies, policies, and programs in the future, ensuring that youth volunteering remains dynamic, impactful, and relevant. As part of this quest, we've developed a questionnaire designed to capture a snapshot of the current state of EU youth volunteering.





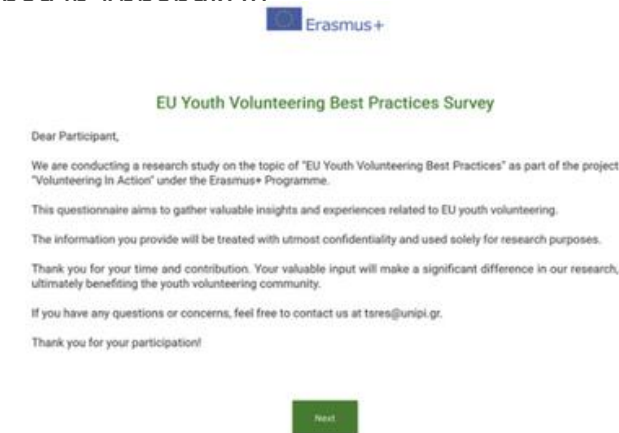
PRIMARY SURVEY ON EU YOUTH VOLUNTEERING BEST PRACTICES



METHODOLOGY

To ensure a comprehensive understanding of EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices, an online research study was employed as the primary method of data collection. Utilizing the platform SurveyMonkey, a user-friendly online survey tool, participants were invited to share their insights on the subject matter. This digital approach was selected to take advantage of its widespread accessibility, ensuring that geographical limitations were minimized and that participants from diverse locations could contribute to the study.

The formulation of the questionnaire was grounded in an extensive review of both academic research and relevant recommendations from EU bodies and organizations active in the field. Drawing upon a wealth of scholarly articles, studies, and institutional guidelines pertaining to youth volunteering, we ensured that the survey questions were both comprehensive and pertinent. By integrating insights from academia with the practical considerations of European and organizational recommendations, the questionnaire was meticulously designed to capture a holistic understanding of EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices. The link of the online questionnaire is the following: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/euyouthvolunteering> (the questionnaire is also attached in Appendix III).

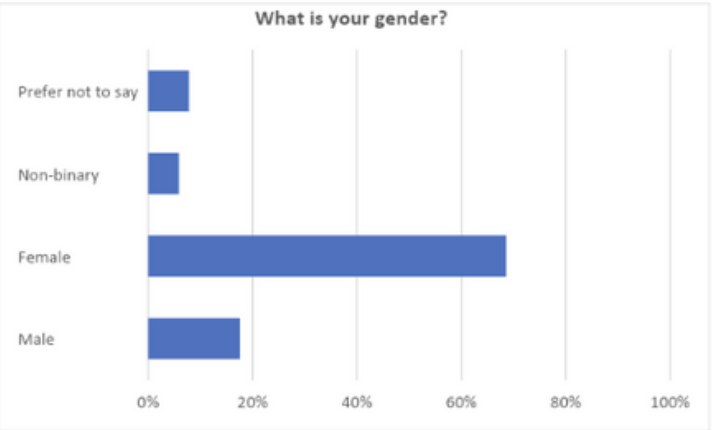
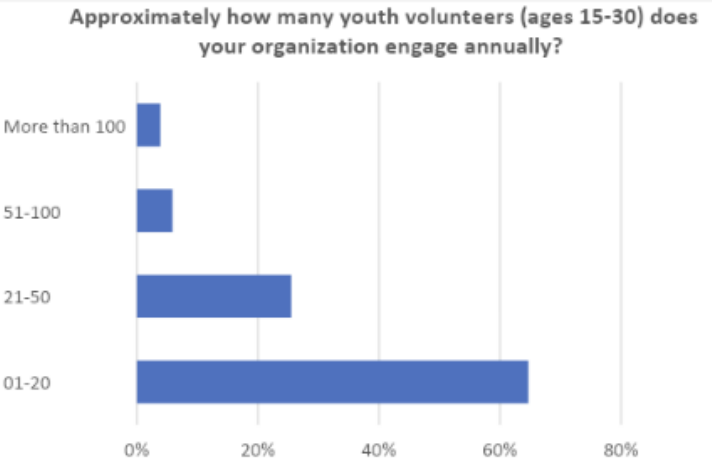
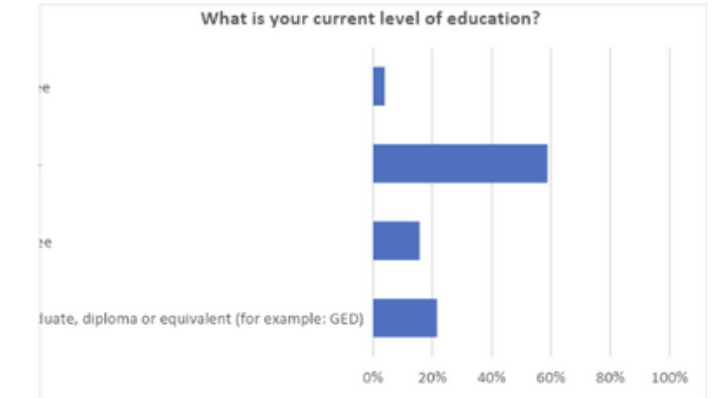


In conclusion, this methodology, grounded in online research, enabled an inclusive, expansive, and nuanced exploration of EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices, with the results serving as a testament to the diversity and depth of experiences in the realm of youth volunteering across the European Union.

Once the survey period concluded and all responses were collected, the data underwent a rigorous process of analysis. Initial stages involved the categorization of answers to identify common themes, patterns, and notable outliers. Following this, the categorized data was then interpreted within the context of EU Youth Volunteerings. The interpretative phase aimed to draw meaningful conclusions and insights, further enhancing our understanding of youth volunteering best practices in the EU.



Sample Profile



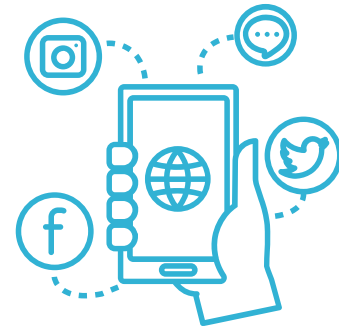
The survey successfully garnered a total of **153 responses from managers and members of EU Youth Volunteering Centers** . This sample size was deemed substantial enough to ensure that the findings would provide a rich, in-depth view of the current state of EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices.

The organizations that participated in the survey hail from a **multitude of EU countries**, ensuring a broad perspective. Significantly, there is a pronounced representation from Belgium, accounting for 11.76% of the total responses, closely followed by Portugal at 9.80%. This geographical distribution emphasizes the inclusivity of the survey in capturing varied European contexts.

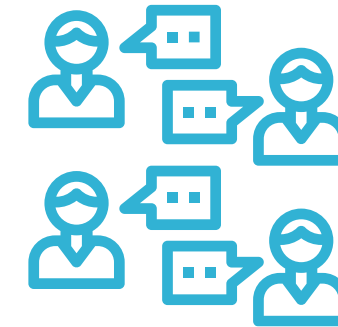
Furthermore, the educational attainment of our participants is notably high, with a significant **58.82% holding a Master's degree**. This underscores the expertise and informed perspective that our respondents bring to the table.

In summary, the broad representation and diversity in our sample - from geographical distribution to gender and educational backgrounds - ensure a rich, multifaceted insight into EU Youth Volunteering Best Practices.

Recruitment Methods for Youth Volunteers:



Social media is the most popular method at 84%



Word of mouth 59%



Schools/Universities 31%

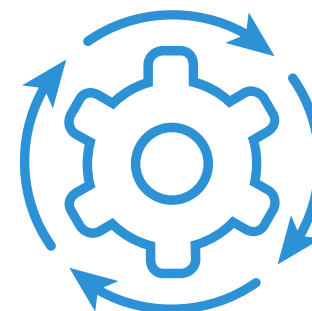


Online job platforms and other methods are less frequently used

Roles Filled by Youth Volunteers::



Support roles
65%



Operational roles
29%



Leadership roles
2%

Targeted Programs & Volunteer Opportunities:



86%

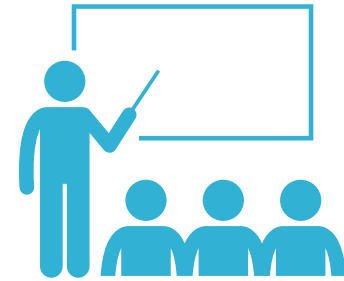
Have specific programs aimed at youth volunteers.



92%

Adapt volunteering opportunities to be appealing to the youth

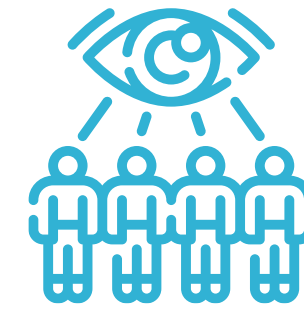
Training and Support:



**Provide
training/orientation for
new volunteers
96%**



**Mentorship programs
63%**



**Regular supervision
82%**



**Lead and Peer support
59%**

Motivation & Retention:



90%

Skill-building opportunities



55%

**Recognition/awards are the
primary motivators.**

Challenges

:



84%
**Face challenges in
engaging youth
volunteers**



47%
Recruitment



41%
Lack of interest



37%
Funding

EU volunteering best practices



69%
Promote Mobility



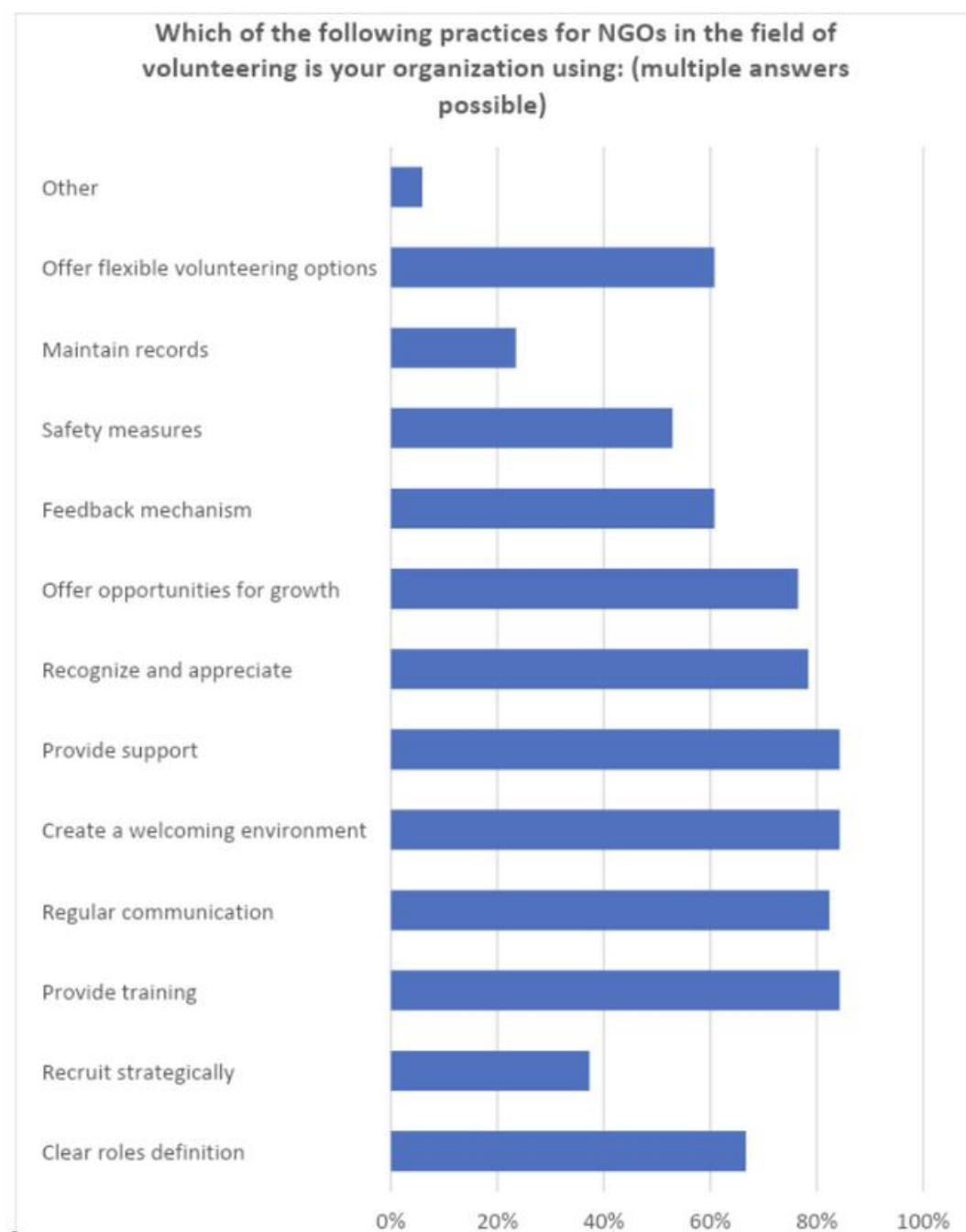
69%
Inclusion



63%
Transparent Communication



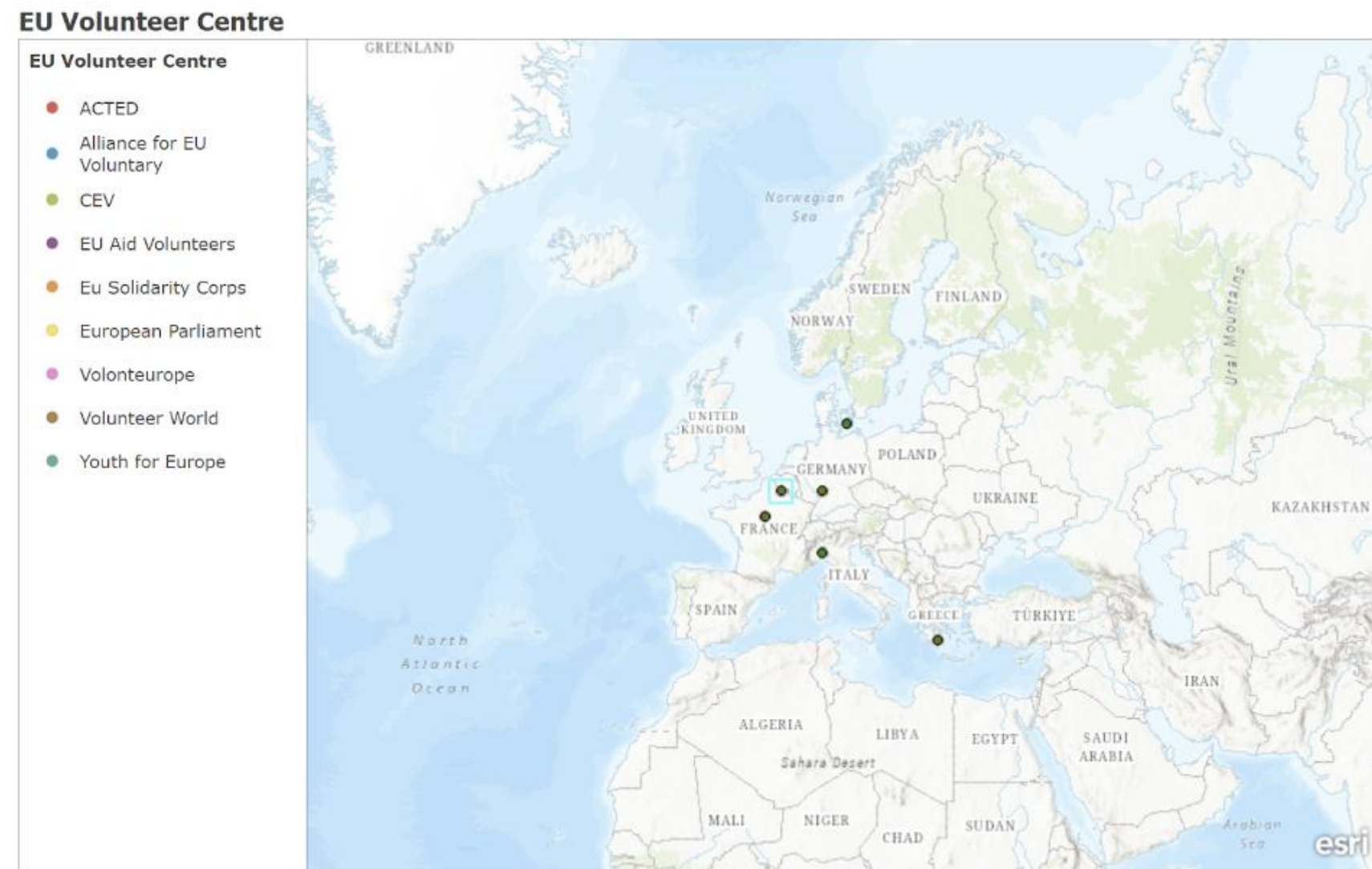
59%
**Sustainability and
Long-Term Planning**





Volunteer Management Actions	Research Findings	Recommendations
Recruitment Methods	Most organizations rely on social media and partner with educational institutions for recruitment. Social media is the predominant recruitment channel, closely followed by partnerships with schools and universities.	Diversify recruitment platforms. While digital platforms like social media are powerful, consider partnerships with local institutions.
Roles Filled	Majority of youth volunteers fill support roles, with fewer in operational and leadership roles. The lion's share of youth volunteers serve in support roles, with a smaller segment in operational roles, and very few in leadership.	For roles, offer clear pathways for progression to retain and motivate youth volunteers.
Programs & Opportunities	Organizations frequently adapt opportunities tailored for youth. A significant number of organizations have youth-targeted programs and adapt their volunteering opportunities to be youth-relevant.	Innovate in program design. Youth interests evolve, so stay in tune with their changing preferences.
Training and Support	Training is emphasized, and regular supervision and mentorship are common. Nearly all organizations provide orientation or training. Regular supervision, mentorship programs, and peer support are the primary support systems.	Emphasize mentorship. A strong mentor-mentee program can bridge the gap between new volunteers and organization's culture.
Challenges & Evaluation	Many organizations face challenges with youth volunteer engagement but also recognize their impact. Recruitment and a perceived lack of interest are primary challenges. Still, the majority evaluate the impact of youth volunteers and communicate these impacts back.	Address recruitment challenges with dedicated campaigns. Use impact assessments to show potential volunteers the value of their contribution.
EU Best Practices & Collaboration	Most organizations align with key EU best practices, especially in promoting mobility, stakeholder collaboration, and ensuring transparent communication.	Stay updated with EU volunteering guidelines and best practices. Regularly evaluate your alignment with these.
Demographics	There's diverse representation from various EU countries. The respondent organizations hail from various EU countries, with Belgium, Portugal, and Poland being notably represented. Most engage a modest number of youth volunteers annually.	Customize strategies based on the demographics of both your volunteers and the communities you serve.

Comprehensive directory of volunteering organizations across the EU, based by the directory provided by the European Union at



Volunteer in Europe and discover a continent full of history, diverse landscapes and culture. From the icy north of Iceland to the Mediterranean gems that are Italy, Greece or Spain, there are many volunteer projects that are perfect for a short-term

Esri, USGS | GeoBasis-DE / LGB, Esri, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

[Access the Interactive Web Map Here](#)

A decorative teal leaf graphic is positioned on the left side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom. It features several pointed leaves with white veins, creating a stylized, organic border.

Best Practices Recommendations

1. Foundation and Program Design:

Designing Volunteer Positions: The cornerstone of an effective volunteering program is clearly defined roles.

Job Descriptions: Aligning each description with EU best practices will ensure both clarity and compliance.

Crafting a Compelling Message: The emphasis should be on the aspirations and motivations of the youth demographic.

2. Omni-channel Recruitment:

Recruitment Strategy Development: A modern approach to recruitment involves a blend of digital methods and traditional channels. Engaging with previous affiliates, collaborations with educational institutions, and leveraging platforms ensure a diversified reach.

3. Application & Onboarding Process:

Comprehensive Application: The application process should be streamlined yet comprehensive. Incorporating questionnaires allows for a more targeted selection process, aligning with organizational objectives.

Screening & Selection: Beyond just the role-specific requirements, it's essential to ensure the safety and integrity of the organization through thorough background checks.

Informal Interviews: These interactions help provide clarity on the organization's goals and ensure alignment with the applicant's motivations.

4. Training, Development, and Support:

Orientation: A comprehensive orientation ensures that they're well-integrated and fully understand the broader mission.

Specialized and Continuous Training: As roles evolve, so should the training. Offering both specialized and general training.

Mentorship & Support: Mentorship plays a vital role in ensuring newcomers are well-guided. Support platforms and feedback mechanisms are essential to retain volunteers and address any concerns they might have.



Best Practices Recommendations

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Feedback:

Regular Supervision: Regular interactions ensure that any challenges faced by volunteers are addressed promptly. These sessions also provide opportunities for feedback, ensuring the program's continuous improvement.

Record-Keeping: Structured record-keeping ensures that volunteers' contributions are recognized and leveraged for future strategies and reporting.

6. Recognition, Compensation, and Engagement:

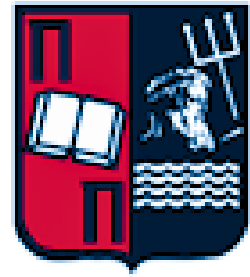
Celebrate Volunteer Achievements: Recognizing volunteers boosts their morale and emphasizes the importance of their contributions.

Compensation & Fairness: While volunteers don't work for a salary, ensuring they don't incur out-of-pocket expenses is pivotal. A fair compensation system ensures inclusivity and diversity in the program.

7. Aligning with EU Best Practices:

EU Guidelines Adherence: Regular updates from the EU should be monitored to ensure compliance and alignment with best practices.

Collaborative Engagement: Collaborating with other organizations helps share insights and ensures the effective implementation of best practices.



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