THE FRENCH PLATFORM OF VOLUNTEERING FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND SOLIDARITY

www.france-volontaires.org
THE FRANCE VOLONTAIRES PLATFORM

France Volontaires is the French platform of Volunteering for International Exchange and Solidarity (VIES). Founded in 2009 as an association, France Volontaires is the fruit of a cooperative effort by public sector and nonprofit sector stakeholders engaged in international solidarity. As an implementing agency of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, it brings together State, local and regional authorities and associations within the framework of a mission of general interest: the development and promotion of volunteer and solidarity commitments around the world. It is supported by its staff in France and abroad and a network of Volunteering Centers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

OUR MISSIONS

DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY
France Volontaires organizes opportunities for dialogue between volunteering stakeholders and thus promotes the formulation and implementation of public policies and multi-actor initiatives in the area of international solidarity commitment.

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE
France Volontaires ensures that the broadest possible audience (public institutions, associations, the general public, etc.) is well aware and kept up-to-date about the French and European international volunteerism activities (International Solidarity Volunteering; Civic Service Commitment; European Voluntary Service; etc.) through various channels: public information and guidance, publications, digital tools, participation in various events.

VALORIZATION
France Volontaires is working toward the recognition and valorization of volunteerism and of all forms of international solidarity commitment, particularly their acknowledgement in volunteers’ career paths.

EXPERIMENTATION
France Volontaires analyzes the dynamics of volunteerism and implements specific programs in an experimentation and capitalization perspective. Through its international network, the platform notably supports national volunteer systems and reciprocity programs (hosting of foreign volunteers in France).

COACHING AND NETWORKING
France Volontaires offers expertise and training, and assists in the capacity-building efforts of its members and partners in France, as well as worldwide. Its Volunteering Centers facilitate action, support, and networking for all volunteering stakeholders in the countries in which they are established in order to secure firmer engagement and enhance their impact.

OUR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

France Volontaires relies on a network of Volunteering Centers deployed in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Latin America/the Caribbean, and Asia. As resource centers, they inform, guide, support, and network international volunteering stakeholders (applicants, volunteers and unpaid staff, hosting and sending organizations, government agencies, etc.). France Volontaires also has territorial antennas in Lille, Nantes, Marseille, Ivry-sur-Seine, La Réunion, and New Caledonia.
THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND SOLIDARITY VOLUNTEERING CHARTER

FOR ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE VOLUNTEERING

The members of the France Volontaires platform have agreed to sign and adhere to this Charter.

“We, the associations adhering to this Charter, declare that there is, beyond the diversity of our practices, a set of common values that constitutes the basis of international volunteering and solidarity engagement.

These values—secularism, engagement, solidarity, equality, freedom, and universality—all serve as guides to enhance the quality and value of such commitments. This voluntary and responsible commitment enables any person to make himself or herself available to a nonprofit organization to contribute to an action of general interest. It is expressed through different forms of Volunteering for International Exchange and Solidarity (VIES), notably:

• Volunteering for initiation and exchange, the aim of which is to discover international realities through short-term, and often collective, voluntary actions. This relates primarily to young people or persons having their first mobility experience in the field of international solidarity.

• Volunteering for knowledge and skills exchange, the aim of which is to exchange professional know-how between members of partner organizations. This mainly concerns experienced individuals, working or retired, who wish to support specific projects through their expertise.

• Volunteering for cooperation in support of development and humanitarian action, the aim of which is to put the qualifications, competences, and experiences of an individual at the service of a partner or project for one or more years. Its human and cultural dimension involves immersion in the host country. The mission’s reciprocal commitments and operating conditions are formalized in a contract.

We affirm that the various forms of Volunteering for International Exchange and Solidarity favor the dynamics of cooperation and exchanges between countries, populations, cultures, and people. Based on human relationships, intercultural exchanges, and reciprocity, VIES initiatives constitute an original approach to international solidarity. They contribute to the strengthening of civil society, and their actions are based on the dynamics of social change. They address key development issues—particularly that of sustainable development—at the community outreach level, working closely with partners. Their experience benefits their home countries by enriching the responses to societal challenges such as social cohesion.”

Find the integral version of the Charter on our website www.france-volontaires.org
MEMBERS OF FRANCE VOLONTAIRES

Nonprofit sector stakeholders:

Public sector stakeholders:

FRANCE VOLONTAIRES IS A MEMBER OF

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