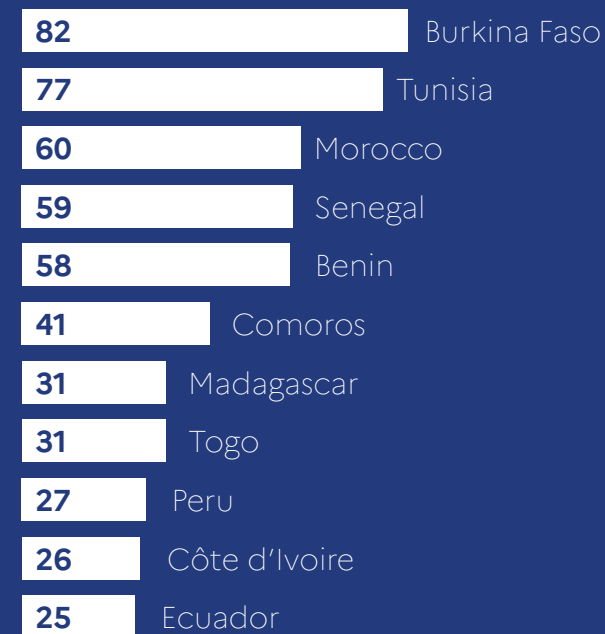
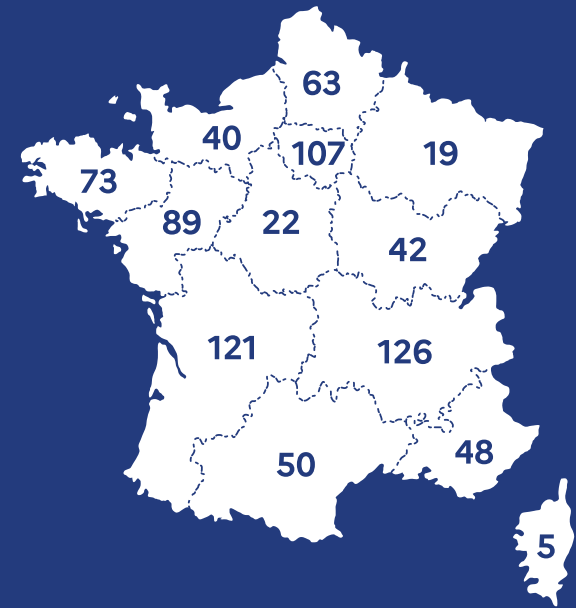


Profile of international volunteers hosted on the basis of reciprocity



Profile of civic service volunteers in general

Map of the hosting of international civic service volunteers in France by region (2017-2022)



Number of international civic service volunteers hosted in France by nationality between 2017 and 2022 (cumulative) for the 11 main countries of origin of the volunteers



Share of total number of hosting structures



Share of total number of hosted volunteers

- The "subscribers" (20 or more volunteers hosted)
- The "regulars" (between 6 and 19 volunteers hosted)
- The "occasional" ones (between 2 and 5 volunteers hosted)
- The "one-offs" (1 volunteer hosted)

Types of hosting structures according to the international volunteers hosted in France between 2017 and 2022

3 TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Developments. Between 2017 and 2022, France received **860 young** international civic service volunteers coming from **61 different countries** (outside the EU). The trend was upward until 2019 (+66%), when it came to a halt due to the global health crisis.

Profile. Civic service volunteers hosted in France on the basis of reciprocity **are more qualified and older** than civic service volunteers in general. Also, compared to the latter, the **proportion of women is slightly lower**.

Geography of origin. 11 countries of origin (out of 61) of the international volunteers hosted in France, listed here in ascending order, stand out as they account for **60% of the international volunteers** (517) hosted in France.

Host geography. The types of structures for volunteer assignments also vary from region to region. For example, in Brittany region, private educational establishments played a major role, hosting around 40% of the region's international civic service volunteers, while in Burgundy-Franche-Comté, there has been a major involvement of local authorities, who received around 45% of the region's international civic service volunteers.

Balance the flow. For the civic service scheme alone, the number of international volunteers hosted in France between 2017 and 2022 represents 22% of the number of volunteers sent abroad in 2021, i.e. for every 4 volunteers sent, just under one is hosted. Before the COVID-19 crisis, in 2019, this share was lower: around 11%. France is one of the few countries to have adopted a reciprocal approach to volunteering, along with Germany and Norway in particular, with the latter devoting a larger proportion of their volunteers.

Hosting structures. The analysis shows that the majority of volunteers are hosted by **"experienced" hosting structures**, mainly associations: 7% of organisations (the "subscribers") host 55% of international civic service volunteers in France.

Hosting framework. Implementing reciprocity through **partnership programmes** enables a greater number of international volunteers to be mobilised and seems to be the preferred way of guaranteeing development in terms of both volume and quality.

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Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering

SUMMARY:
PANORAMA OF RECIPROCITY IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING IN FRANCE



STUDY
OCTOBER 2023



1 HISTORY

Rooted for several decades in the practices of international or European volunteer exchange networks, reciprocity is an **intrinsic principle of the encounter between peoples and individuals concerned by volunteering and international solidarity**.

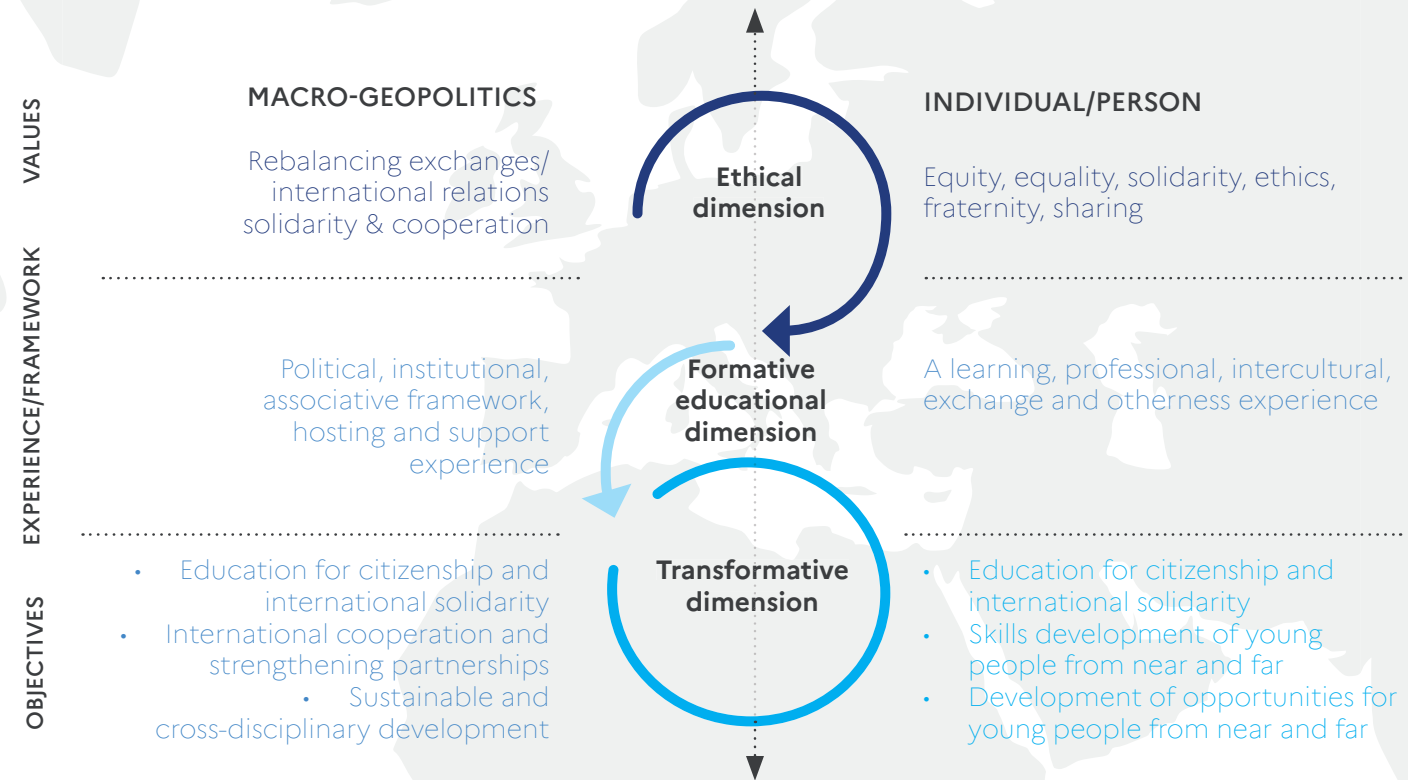
In France, reciprocity was included in the founding texts of France Volontaires in 2009. It is thus supported jointly by associations, local and public authorities. In March 2010, the law on civic service was enacted, providing the first structural framework for hosting international volunteers.

The growing number of partnerships with national volunteering institutions and agencies in third countries, and the gradual institutionalisation of reciprocity, enshrined since 2021 in the programming law on solidarity-based development and the fight against global inequalities, provide a new framework for action based on the International Solidarity Volunteering (VSI) scheme.



2 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY RECIPROCITY IN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING?

Although there is no collective definition shared by the French actors and their international partners, they all agree that it should be understood in the context of a partnership relationship that **implies a dynamic of exchange and mobility giving rise to the hosting and sending of volunteers between countries**. Reciprocity in international volunteering can be simultaneous or staggered, with varying degrees of equivalence in the number of volunteers.



The reciprocity places individuals at the heart of the modern challenges facing our societies

*"Through international reciprocal volunteering, we aim to **develop young citizens** who are committed to and qualified for the sustainable development of their communities and countries."*
The National Volunteering Agency in Togo

*"This offers the opportunity to build new ways of conceiving development, **strengthens people and positions them as actors of change**."*
Public institution in Peru

The reciprocity strengthens partnerships in the territories

*"Voluntary work helps **strengthen the synergies between actors working on the same issues in each region**. (...) Volunteers are "ambassadors" for cooperation, helping to establish partnerships."*
Local authority in France

*"The reciprocity is there **to serve a dynamic of togetherness, and co-construction** with the partners, which is opposed to a unilateral logic."*
Association in France

Purposes with high added value on the condition of seeking greater equality

*"The principle of reciprocity must be based on a **vision of equality and quality of assignments** in order to hope for added value for the community."*
Association in Togo

*Through reciprocity, "the values we defend are not to fall into the traps of domination [...]. There is a **search for equality at all levels**. We keep a close eye on the framework, and on the values of solidarity to be conveyed."*
Association in Tunisia

