Reciprocity in international volunteering acts as a lever for promoting mobility and solidarity in territories here and there. In young people’s home territories and associations, the study highlighted the emergence of new leaders. On their return from France, international volunteers get back involved in the associations in which they were active (50% of them) or volunteers get back involved in the associations (65% of them, some of which they were active in new associations). This commitment often takes a new dimension, with young people reinvesting the skills they acquired during their experience and becoming even setting up new associations. This leads to new leaders, not all of them are illegal migrants trying to reach Great Britain.

Extract from an interview with a French host organisation

In France, the major impact is in the driving forces in taking on new responsibilities. For example, here it is important to show that there are differences among Africans, that not all of them get involved. The presence of international volunteers also makes it possible to better embody ECIS’ actions conducted in the territory and to give concrete expression to the cooperation partnerships that local authorities and associations may have. However, these effects are also limited by reality of flows: the number of volunteers hosted remains small and the practice of hosting is fragile because it depends on the personal commitment of a limited number of individuals and on external funding.

Reciprocity in international volunteering acts as a lever for promoting mobility and solidarity in territories here and there. In young people’s home territories and associations, the study highlighted the emergence of new leaders. On their return from France, international volunteers get back involved in the associations in which they were active (50% of them) or volunteers get back involved in the associations (65% of them, some of which they were active in new associations). This commitment often takes a new dimension, with young people reinvesting the skills they acquired during their experience and becoming even setting up new associations. This leads to new leaders, not all of them are illegal migrants trying to reach Great Britain.

Extract from an interview with a French host organisation

France is committed to fostering more balanced and reciprocal cooperation relations. In several countries, including Senegal, Togo and Ecuador, French diplomacy has made the principle of reciprocity in international volunteering an important line of its partnership. In terms of decentralized cooperation, the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEEAF) encourages these reciprocal partnerships every year through its “Youth” calls for projects designed to support youth-related projects between local authorities here and there. Through these exchanges of young volunteers between two territories, and the hosting of international volunteers “for the basis of reciprocity”, the cooperation relationship is embedded in a more concrete and tangible way.

Word cloud characterising effects of reciprocity based on verbatims

A cross-analysis of the effects on the career paths of young people who left to volunteer in France generally shows positive and major transformations both at a personal and professional level, as well as in the commitment. These effects are described by the volunteers themselves and corroborated by their tutors who observe significant progress between the time international volunteers arrive and the time they leave.

The particularity of hosting international volunteers in France – as opposed to sending them – lies particularly in the effects generated on the people concerned, organisations and territories in France. Indeed, volunteers hosted in France are offered an intense and rich intercultural experience, even if it is not always easy, with many positive effects: deconstruction of prejudices, cultural enrichment, questioning of one’s own practices in order to improve them, remobilisation of teams, etc.

The presence of international volunteers also makes it possible to better embody ECIS’ actions conducted in the territory and to give concrete expression to the cooperation partnerships that local authorities and associations may have. However, these effects are also limited by reality of flows: the number of volunteers hosted remains small and the practice of hosting is fragile because it depends on the personal commitment of a limited number of individuals and on external funding.

Volunteering helps in strengthening the synergies between actors working on the same issues in each territory. Volunteers are “ambassadors” for cooperation, helping to establish partnerships. The City’s approach to cooperation is generally based on reciprocity: the aim is to get two territories to work together on joint actions.

Extract from an interview with a host local authority in France

Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering: The effects of reciprocity in international volunteering

SUMMARY:
Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering

France Volontaires
www.france-volontaires.org
6, rue Truillot
94200 Ivry-sur-Seine

Service civique
www.service-civique.gouv.fr
35, avenue de France
75013 Paris

F3E
www.f3e.asso.fr
17, rue de Château-d’Eau
75009 Paris

OCTOBER 2023

StudY

RENEWED PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION STRATEGIES IN THE TERRITORIES

France is committed to fostering more balanced and reciprocal cooperation relations. In several countries, including Senegal, Togo and Ecuador, French diplomacy has made the principle of reciprocity in international volunteering an important line of its partnership. In terms of decentralized cooperation, the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEEAF) encourages these reciprocal partnerships every year through its “Youth” calls for projects designed to support youth-related projects between local authorities here and there. Through these exchanges of young volunteers between two territories, and the hosting of international volunteers “for the basis of reciprocity”, the cooperation relationship is embedded in a more concrete and tangible way.

Word cloud characterising effects of reciprocity based on verbatims

A cross-analysis of the effects on the career paths of young people who left to volunteer in France generally shows positive and major transformations both at a personal and professional level, as well as in the commitment. These effects are described by the volunteers themselves and corroborated by their tutors who observe significant progress between the time international volunteers arrive and the time they leave.

The particularity of hosting international volunteers in France – as opposed to sending them – lies particularly in the effects generated on the people concerned, organisations and territories in France. Indeed, volunteers hosted in France are offered an intense and rich intercultural experience, even if it is not always easy, with many positive effects: deconstruction of prejudices, cultural enrichment, questioning of one’s own practices in order to improve them, remobilisation of teams, etc.

The presence of international volunteers also makes it possible to better embody ECIS’ actions conducted in the territory and to give concrete expression to the cooperation partnerships that local authorities and associations may have. However, these effects are also limited by reality of flows: the number of volunteers hosted remains small and the practice of hosting is fragile because it depends on the personal commitment of a limited number of individuals and on external funding.

Volunteering helps in strengthening the synergies between actors working on the same issues in each territory. Volunteers are “ambassadors” for cooperation, helping to establish partnerships. The City’s approach to cooperation is generally based on reciprocity: the aim is to get two territories to work together on joint actions.

Extract from an interview with a host local authority in France

Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering: The effects of reciprocity in international volunteering

SUMMARY:
Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering

France Volontaires
www.france-volontaires.org
6, rue Truillot
94200 Ivry-sur-Seine

Service civique
www.service-civique.gouv.fr
35, avenue de France
75013 Paris

F3E
www.f3e.asso.fr
17, rue de Château-d’Eau
75009 Paris

OCTOBER 2023

StudY

RENEWED PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION STRATEGIES IN THE TERRITORIES

France is committed to fostering more balanced and reciprocal cooperation relations. In several countries, including Senegal, Togo and Ecuador, French diplomacy has made the principle of reciprocity in international volunteering an important line of its partnership. In terms of decentralized cooperation, the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEEAF) encourages these reciprocal partnerships every year through its “Youth” calls for projects designed to support youth-related projects between local authorities here and there. Through these exchanges of young volunteers between two territories, and the hosting of international volunteers “for the basis of reciprocity”, the cooperation relationship is embedded in a more concrete and tangible way.

Word cloud characterising effects of reciprocity based on verbatims

A cross-analysis of the effects on the career paths of young people who left to volunteer in France generally shows positive and major transformations both at a personal and professional level, as well as in the commitment. These effects are described by the volunteers themselves and corroborated by their tutors who observe significant progress between the time international volunteers arrive and the time they leave.

The particularity of hosting international volunteers in France – as opposed to sending them – lies particularly in the effects generated on the people concerned, organisations and territories in France. Indeed, volunteers hosted in France are offered an intense and rich intercultural experience, even if it is not always easy, with many positive effects: deconstruction of prejudices, cultural enrichment, questioning of one’s own practices in order to improve them, remobilisation of teams, etc.

The presence of international volunteers also makes it possible to better embody ECIS’ actions conducted in the territory and to give concrete expression to the cooperation partnerships that local authorities and associations may have. However, these effects are also limited by reality of flows: the number of volunteers hosted remains small and the practice of hosting is fragile because it depends on the personal commitment of a limited number of individuals and on external funding.

Volunteering helps in strengthening the synergies between actors working on the same issues in each territory. Volunteers are “ambassadors” for cooperation, helping to establish partnerships. The City’s approach to cooperation is generally based on reciprocity: the aim is to get two territories to work together on joint actions.

Extract from an interview with a host local authority in France

Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering: The effects of reciprocity in international volunteering

SUMMARY:
Reciprocity in international exchange and solidarity volunteering

France Volontaires
www.france-volontaires.org
6, rue Truillot
94200 Ivry-sur-Seine

Service civique
www.service-civique.gouv.fr
35, avenue de France
75013 Paris

F3E
www.f3e.asso.fr
17, rue de Château-d’Eau
75009 Paris

OCTOBER 2023

StudY

RENEWED PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION STRATEGIES IN THE TERRITORIES

France is committed to fostering more balanced and reciprocal cooperation relations. In several countries, including Senegal, Togo and Ecuador, French diplomacy has made the principle of reciprocity in international volunteering an important line of its partnership. In terms of decentralized cooperation, the Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEEAF) encourages these reciprocal partnerships every year through its “Youth” calls for projects designed to support youth-related projects between local authorities here and there. Through these exchanges of young volunteers between two territories, and the hosting of international volunteers “for the basis of reciprocity”, the cooperation relationship is embedded in a more concrete and tangible way.

Word cloud characterising effects of reciprocity based on verbatims

A cross-analysis of the effects on the career paths of young people who left to volunteer in France generally shows positive and major transformations both at a personal and professional level, as well as in the commitment. These effects are described by the volunteers themselves and corroborated by their tutors who observe significant progress between the time international volunteers arrive and the time they leave.

The particularity of hosting international volunteers in France – as opposed to sending them – lies particularly in the effects generated on the people concerned, organisations and territories in France. Indeed, volunteers hosted in France are offered an intense and rich intercultural experience, even if it is not always easy, with many positive effects: deconstruction of prejudices, cultural enrichment, questioning of one’s own practices in order to improve them, remobilisation of teams, etc.

The presence of international volunteers also makes it possible to better embody ECIS’ actions conducted in the territory and to give concrete expression to the cooperation partnerships that local authorities and associations may have. However, these effects are also limited by reality of flows: the number of volunteers hosted remains small and the practice of hosting is fragile because it depends on the personal commitment of a limited number of individuals and on external funding.
EFFECTS ON YOUNG PEOPLE’S CAREER PATHS

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

Increased personal skills
1. Improved self-confidence and ability to build relationships. 83% of the participants in the survey felt that their self-confidence has increased “a lot”, and 78% have greatly improved their ability to build relationships.

2. Again in autonomy and greater responsibility. Young people experience independence by moving away from their families and managing their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.

3. A greater openness and an understanding of their own day-to-day material and financial affairs, which is not always easy at first.