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CASE STUDIES

Volunteering And Rugby Inclusion Engaging Dreams
(VARIED)

Analysis of the results obtained from the
observatory for the inclusion of people with
functional diversity - THE CASE OF
AUSTRIA

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INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS OBTAINED	3
2.1 DATA EXTRACTED FROM THE STUDY OF VOLUNTEERS	3
2.2 DATA EXTRACTED FROM THE PLAYERS' STUDY.	20

1. INTRODUCTION

The VARIED project (Volunteering And Rugby Inclusion Engaging Dreams) of inclusive rugby is a project financed with 200,000 euros from European funds and a pioneering program involving five countries (Spain, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria and France) coordinated by the City Council of Cullera through the European Office of the Department of Economic Promotion of the City Council. The partners that have formed this project are the University of Valencia, CUS Rome Tor Vergata (Italy), Rugby opens borders (Austria), Trust Rugby International Spain (Spain), Fondatsia Europeiski Center Za Inovatsii obrazovanie Nauka I Culture (Bulgaria) and, as lead partner, the City Council of Cullera.

After a system of indicators transferable to future editions of this same project, as well as to other similar projects through a bibliographic study of secondary sources and projects with themes similar to VARIED, and having created this system, a series of questionnaires were sent to each of the participating countries. The members of these teams responded to these surveys, from which a series of data were obtained that have made it possible to determine the socioeconomic impact of the project. After analyzing the results at European level and comparing them between countries in the final report to which this report belongs as an annexed document, we will proceed in the following pages to analyze in detail the specific case of Austria.

2. RESULTS OBTAINED

2.1 DATA EXTRACTED FROM THE STUDY OF VOLUNTEERS

The analysis of this first survey focuses on the answers provided by the Austrian volunteers, 100% of whom stated that they have participated or are participating in the VARIED project. In addition, among the volunteers currently participating in the VARIED project, 88% have participated as volunteers in other NGOs, associations or projects and 12% are living their first volunteer experience with the VARIED project.

A. Volunteers who have been involved in NGOs

Regarding volunteers who have been involved in other NGOs, associations or projects, 57% say they have been involved in 1-2, 14% in 3-5 and 29% in more than 5, with the former being predominant (Figure 1).

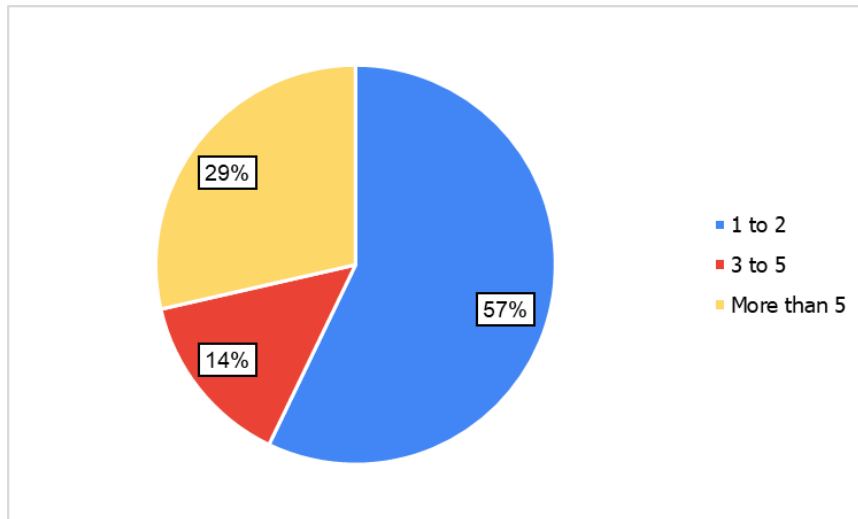


Figure 1. Number of NGOs, associations or projects in which you have been involved as a volunteer

Source: Own elaboration

B. Duration as a volunteer

The length of time respondents have been volunteering is concentrated in the 1-3 years range (50% of respondents), followed by 3-5 years and over 5 years in the same proportion (25% each) (Figure 2).

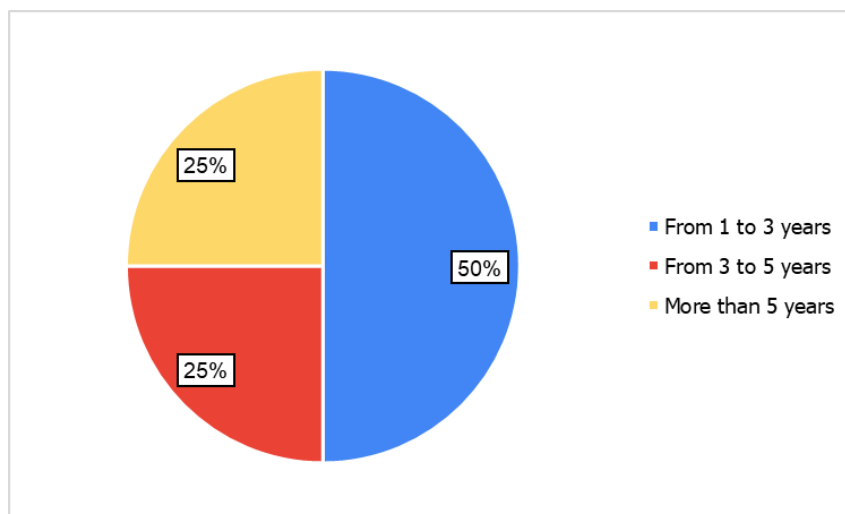


Figure 2. Time spent volunteering

Source: Own elaboration

C. Projects in which volunteers have participated

In order to obtain more specific information about the projects in which the volunteers have been involved, they were asked specifically about the type of volunteering they have done:

Volunteering with children	26%
Sports volunteering	26%
Volunteering with people with functional diversity	9%
Environmental volunteering	9%
Social aid volunteering	9%
Volunteering in education	9%
Volunteering with refugees	9%
Volunteering with the elderly	3%

Figure 3. Type of volunteering carried out

Source: Own elaboration

Figure 3 shows that the most common types of volunteering are: volunteering with children and sports, both with 26%. The other types of volunteering account for 9% each and only 3% have ever volunteered with older people.

In order to find out whether the participation of family or friends has a relevant influence when choosing to take part in this type of project, they were asked whether they have any acquaintances who participate as volunteers in the VARIED project or in other projects. 88% answered in the affirmative. Furthermore, when specifying the relationship they have with these acquaintances, 75% of the respondents indicated that they are friends and 25% that they are family members.

D. Results

In order to explore the characteristics of the Austrian volunteers in more detail, a series of statements were presented to them to indicate their degree of agreement with these statements, resulting in the following data:

- **"Volunteering can help me to get into a job where I would like to work"**

Thirty-seven percent of the volunteers indicate agreement with this statement, but not many agree completely (only 13%). To a lesser extent, but accounting for 24%, are those

who hold a neutral position. Fewer volunteers indicated that they disagreed (13%) and strongly disagreed with this statement (13%) (Figure 4).

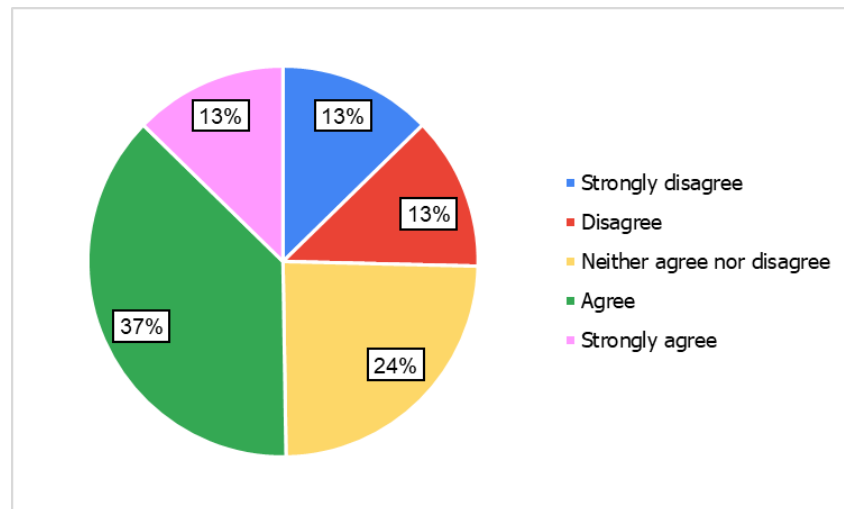


Figure 4. Degree of agreement: “Volunteering can help me to get into a job where I would like to work”

Source: Own elaboration

- **"My friends/family are volunteers"**

Thirty-seven percent neither agree nor disagree with this statement, followed closely by 24% who strongly agree. Among the least selected responses were those who agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed, with 13% each. Thus, the proportion of volunteers expressing agreement is higher than those expressing disagreement that their friends and/or family members are volunteers (Figure 5).

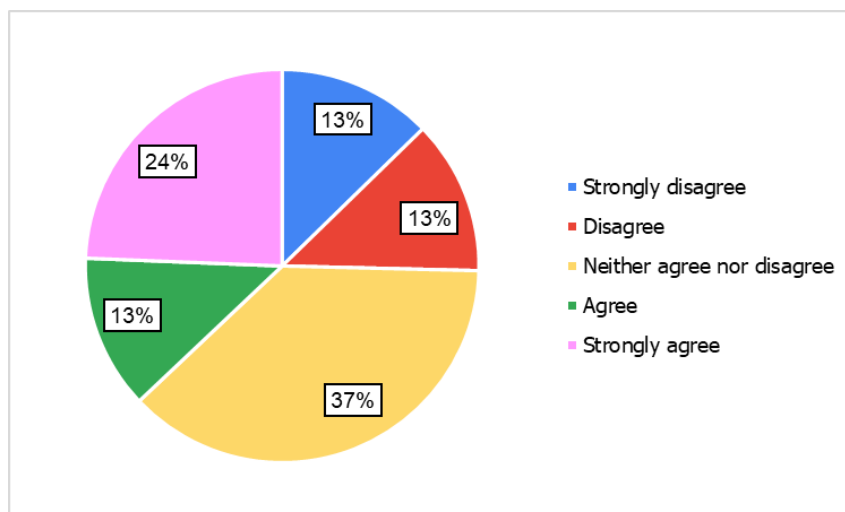


Figure 5. Degree of agreement: “My friends/family are volunteers”

Source: Own elaboration

- **“I am a person who cares for the underprivileged”**

In this case, the volunteers express clear agreement with the above statement, with 75% strongly agreeing and 25% agreeing (Figure 6).

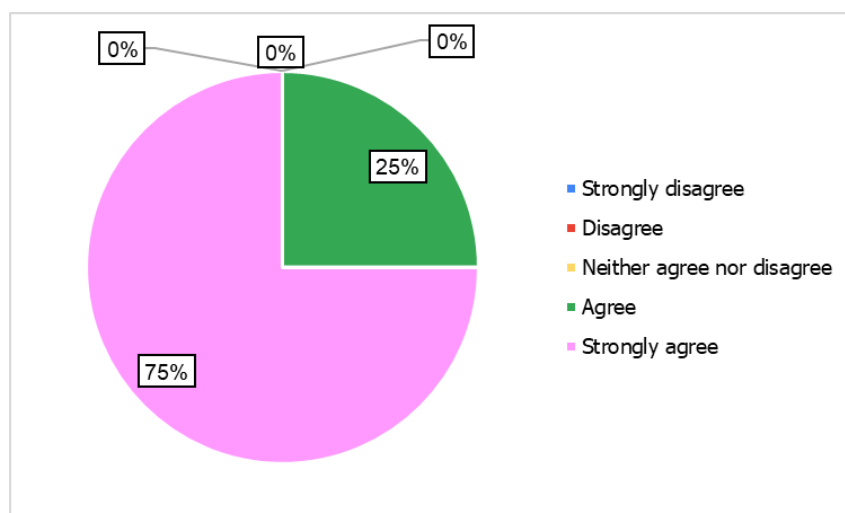


Figure 6. Degree of agreement: “I am a person who cares for the underprivileged”

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering makes me feel important"**

Responses reflecting agreement on the part of respondents predominate. In other proportions, there were those who neither agree nor disagree and those who disagreed (12% each). Thus, it is noteworthy that no one indicated that they strongly disagreed that volunteering makes them feel important (Figure 7).

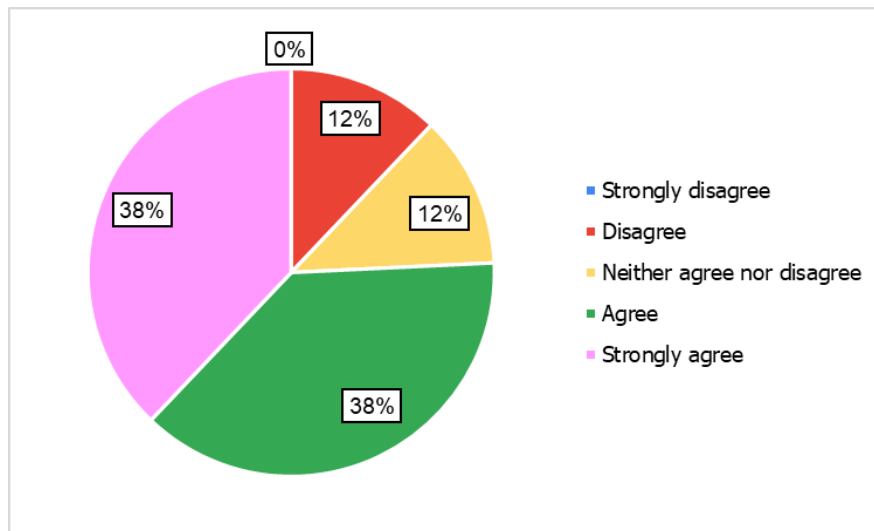


Figure 7. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering makes me feel important"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering helps me to forget my problems"**

In this statement, there is a disparity in the degree of agreement/disagreement. Although the proportion of volunteers expressing agreement accounts for half of the recorded responses (25% agree and 25% strongly agree), 13% do not agree with either position and 25% disagree that the volunteer helps them to forget problems together with the volunteer. Thirteen percent did not agree with either position and 25% disagreed with the volunteer helping them to forget problems, with another 13% strongly disagreeing (Figure 8).

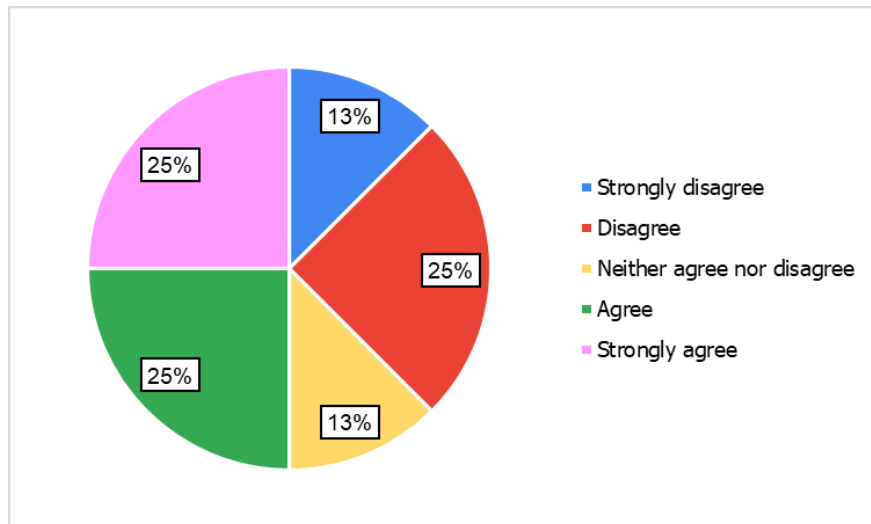


Figure 8. Degree of agreement: “Volunteering helps me forget my problems”

Source: Own elaboration

- **“I’m really concerned about the particular group I’m working with”**

The majority of volunteers, 74%, stated that they were concerned about their group. Only 13% indicated that they were not concerned about their group and disagreed with this statement, although it should be noted that none of the volunteers said that they were not concerned about their group at all (Figure 9).

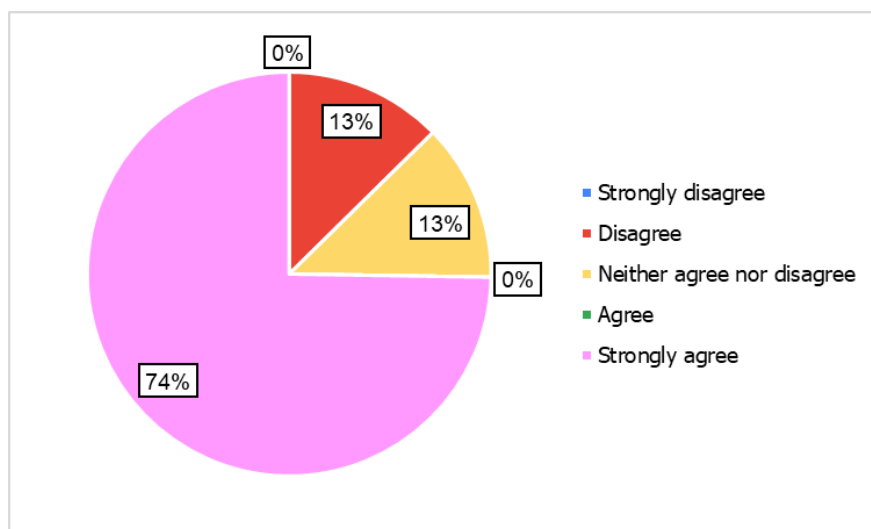


Figure 9. Degree of agreement: “I’m really concerned about the particular group I’m working with”

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering makes me feel less lonely"**

More volunteers (37%) strongly agree with the statement, followed by 24% of respondents who neither agree nor disagree. The rest of the opinions remain neutral. Therefore, grouping these percentages together, there is a higher number of respondents who consider that volunteering makes them feel less lonely (Figure 10).

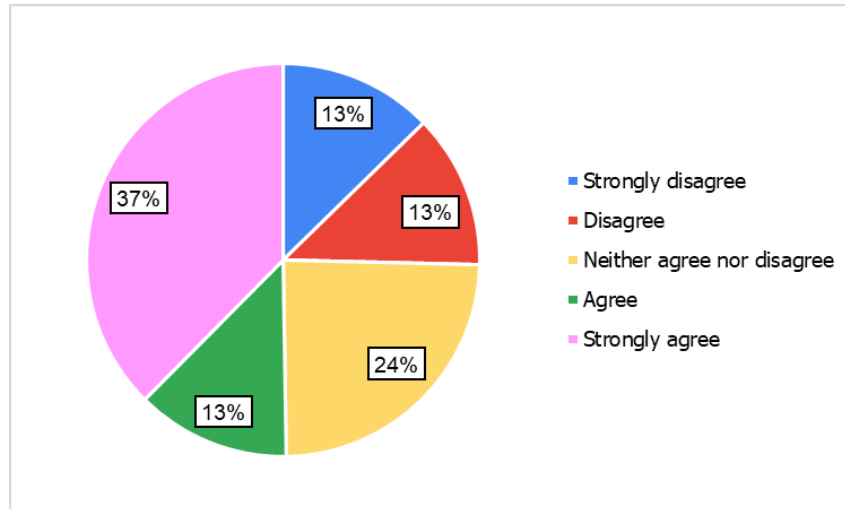


Figure 10. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering makes me feel less lonely"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering helps me to feel less guilty about being more fortunate than others"**

The majority of the volunteers (61%) strongly disagreed with this statement and the remaining opinions were divided with 13% each (neither agree nor disagree, agree and strongly agree). No one expressed only disagreement with the above statement, they directly indicated that they strongly disagreed (Figure 11).

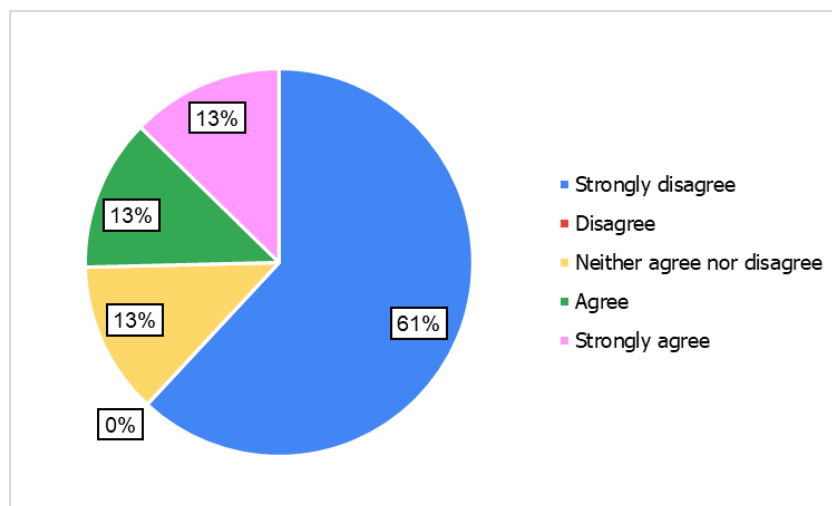


Figure 11. Degree of agreement: “Volunteering helps me to feel less guilty about being more fortunate than others”

Source: Own elaboration

- **“Volunteering helps me to learn more about the cause I’m working on”**

62% of volunteers gave a positive response to this statement, as can be seen in the Figure. It is also worth noting the neutral stance, which accounts for 38% of the responses. However, no one expressed disagreement, to a greater or lesser extent, which shows that no one considers that volunteering does not help to learn more about the cause they are working on (Figure 12).

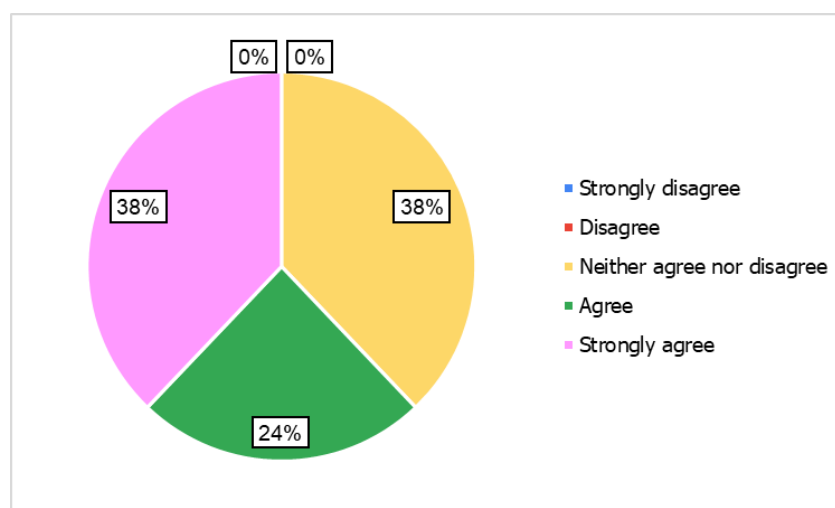


Figure 12. Degree of agreement: “Volunteering helps me to learn more about the cause I’m working on”

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering helps me to improve my self-esteem"**

50% of the volunteers agree that volunteering helps them to improve their self-esteem and 25% strongly agree with that. The remaining 25% neither agree nor disagree.

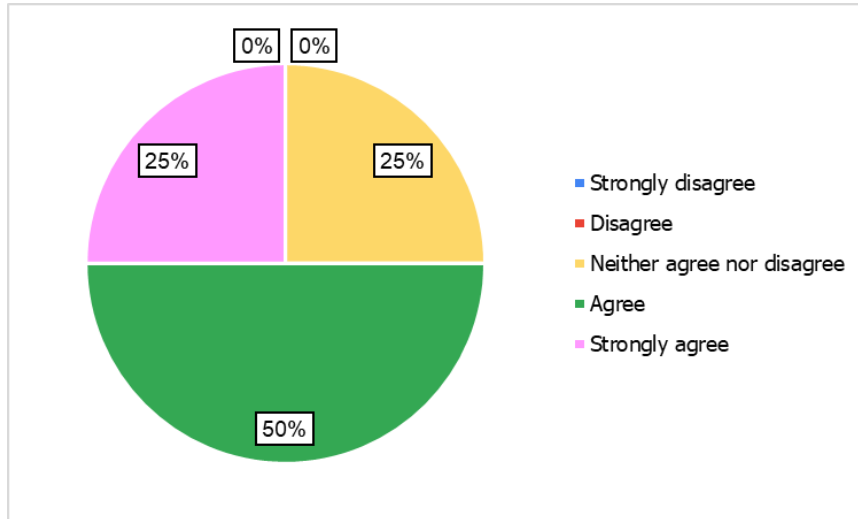


Figure 13. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering helps me to improve my self-esteem"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering helps me to have a new perspective on things"**

In this case, volunteers express clear agreement with the above statement, with 88% strongly agreeing and 12% agreeing. Nobody considers that volunteering does not help them to have new perspectives on things (Figure 14).

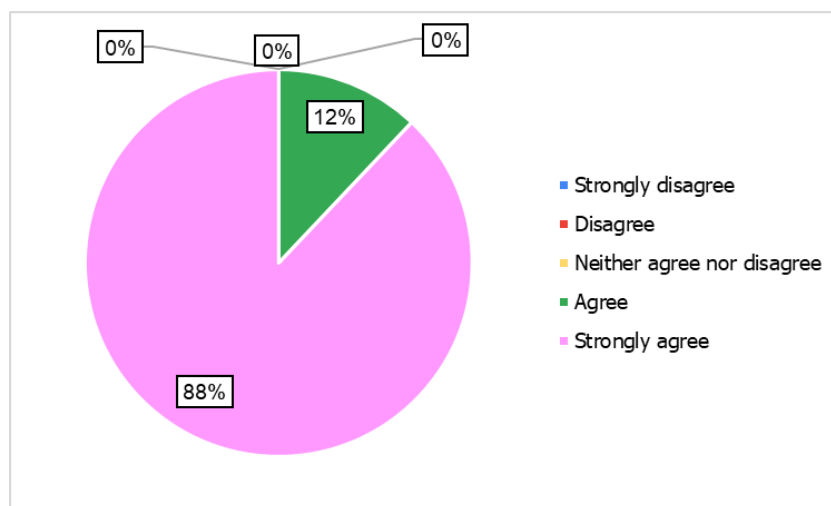


Figure 14. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering helps me to have a new perspective on things"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"I feel it is important to help others"**

Again, the volunteers clearly agree with the statement put to them, with 71% strongly agreeing and 29% agreeing. Therefore, everyone feels it is important to help others, no one feels otherwise (Figure 15).

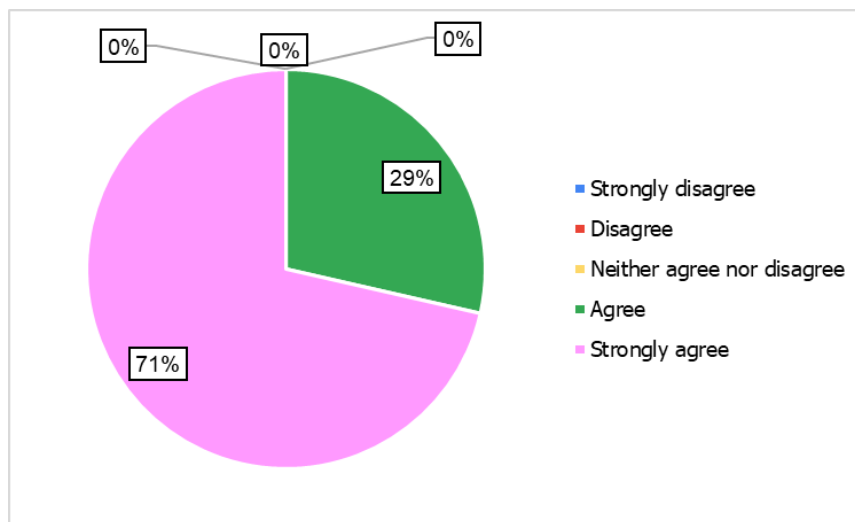


Figure 15. Degree of agreement: "I feel it is important to help others"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering will help me to succeed in my chosen profession"**

43% of respondents believe that volunteering will help them to be successful in their chosen profession and 14% strongly agree with this. 29% do not think volunteering will help them and 14% do not have a clear opinion (Figure 16).

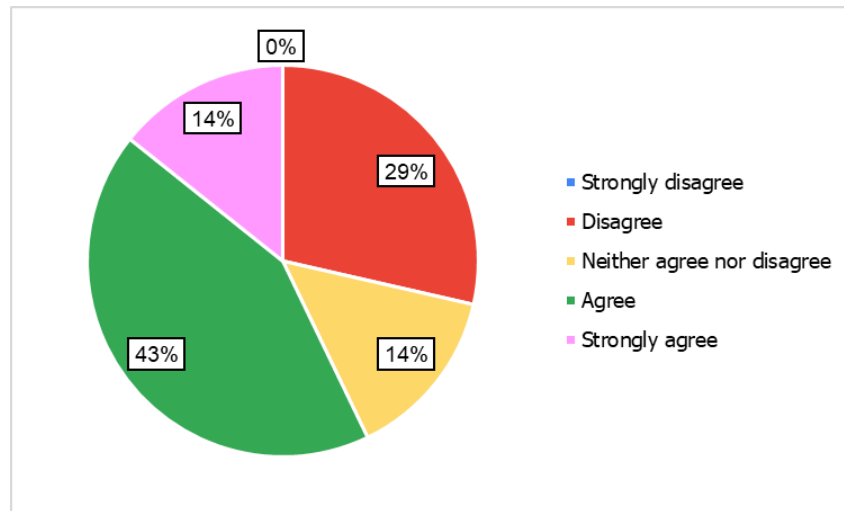


Figure 16. Degree of agreement: “Volunteering will help me to succeed in my chosen profession”

Source: Own elaboration

- **“I can do things for a cause that is important to me”**

More volunteers, 37%, strongly agree with the statement and 13% agree with the statement. Of these, 24% have a neutral opinion on this issue. 13% disagree and another 13% strongly disagree, thus denying that volunteering allows them to do things for a cause that is important to them (Figure 17).

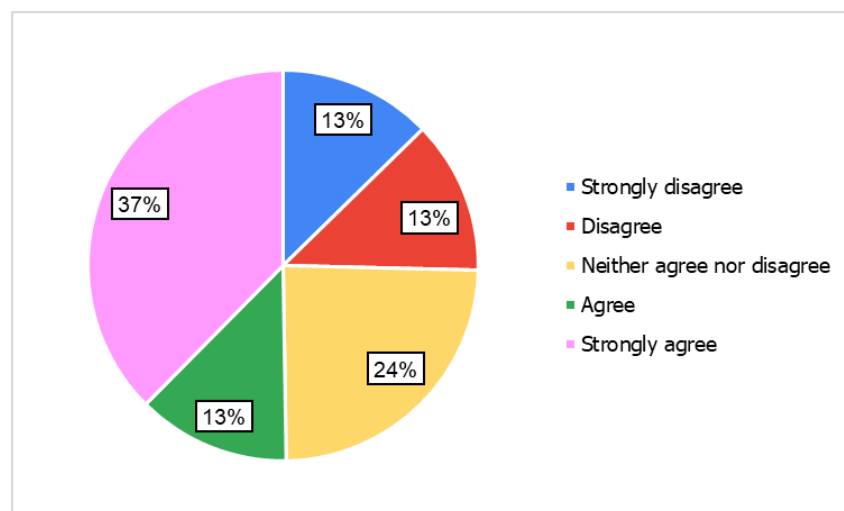


Figure 17. Degree of agreement: “I can do things for a cause that is important to me”

Source: Own elaboration

- **"I can learn how to deal with different kinds of people"**

The volunteers clearly agree with this statement (88%), reflecting that 88% strongly agree and 12% agree (Figure 18).

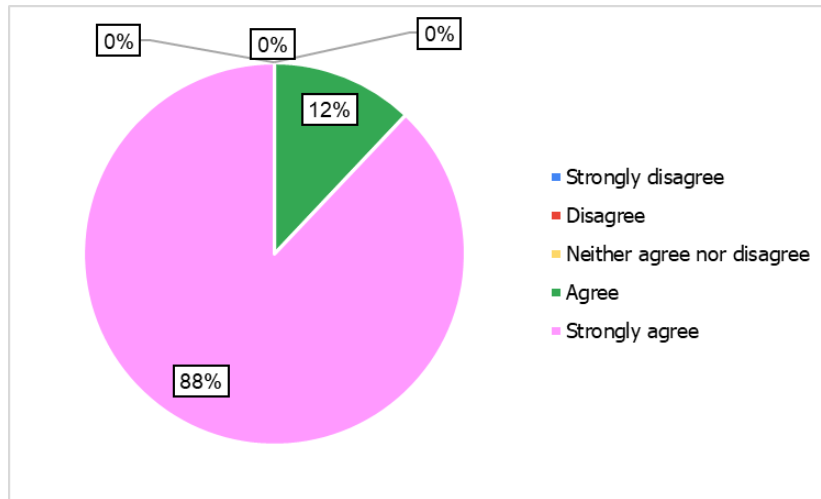


Figure 18. Degree of agreement: "I can learn how to deal with different kinds of people"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering makes me feel better about myself"**

In this case, there is a noticeable disparity in the responses provided by the respondents, with 38% strongly agreeing that volunteering makes them feel better about themselves and 38% disagreeing. In addition, 24% neither agree nor disagree. Therefore, there is no clear conclusion in this respect as volunteers have different opinions (Figure 19).

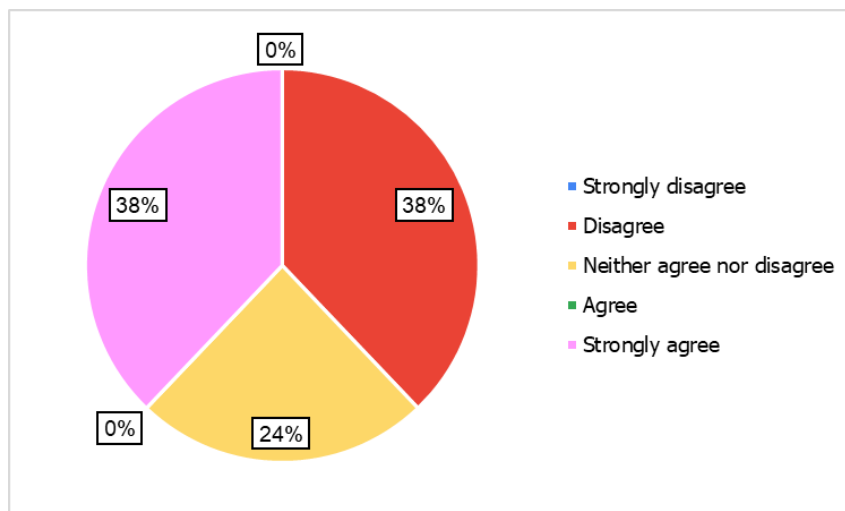


Figure 19. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering makes me feel better about myself"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"The volunteering experience will look good on my CV"**

The majority of volunteers value positively the impact of the volunteering experience on their CV. Thirty-eight percent of volunteers strongly agree and another 38% agree with this statement. On the other hand, only 12% of the respondents disagreed and none strongly disagreed. The remaining 12% expressed no clear opinion (Figure 20).

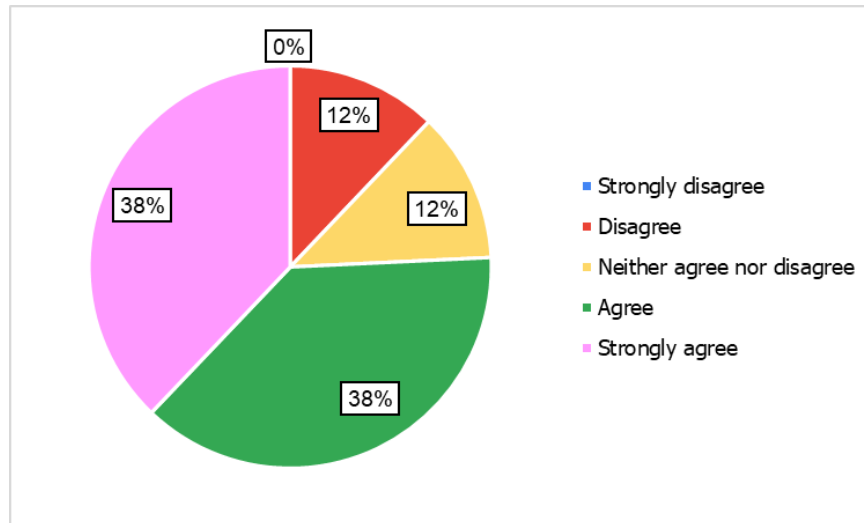


Figure 20. Degree of agreement: "The volunteering experience will look good on my CV"

Source: Own elaboration

- **"Volunteering is a way to make new friends"**

In this case, the majority opinion is that volunteering is a way to make new friends, with 63% of volunteers strongly agreeing with this statement and 25% agreeing with it. In contrast, only 12% disagreed and none strongly disagreed or were indifferent (Figure 21).

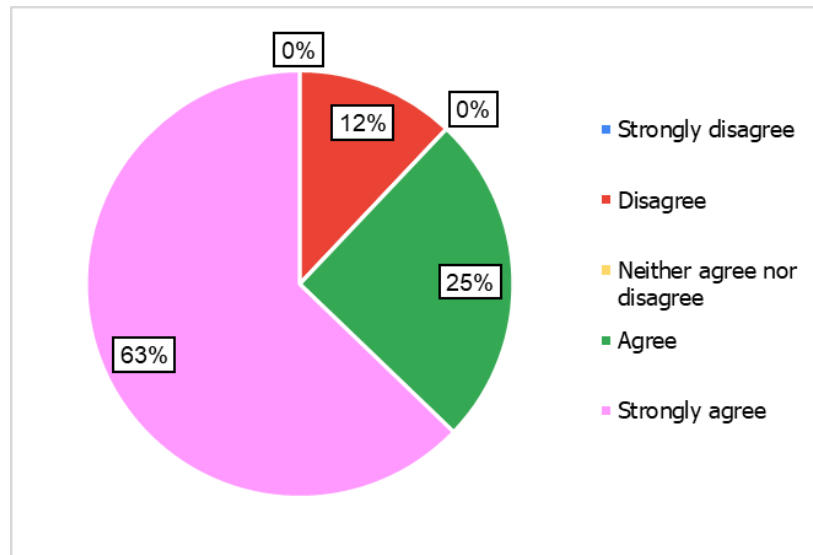


Figure 21. Degree of agreement: "Volunteering is a way to make new friends"

Source: Own elaboration

- **Regarding the age, gender and educational level of the Austrian volunteers:**

- 75% of the volunteers are between 25 and 34 years old, while 25% are between 18 and 24 years old. This indicates that the majority of volunteers are young adults and that there is little presence of people over 35 years old (Figure 22).

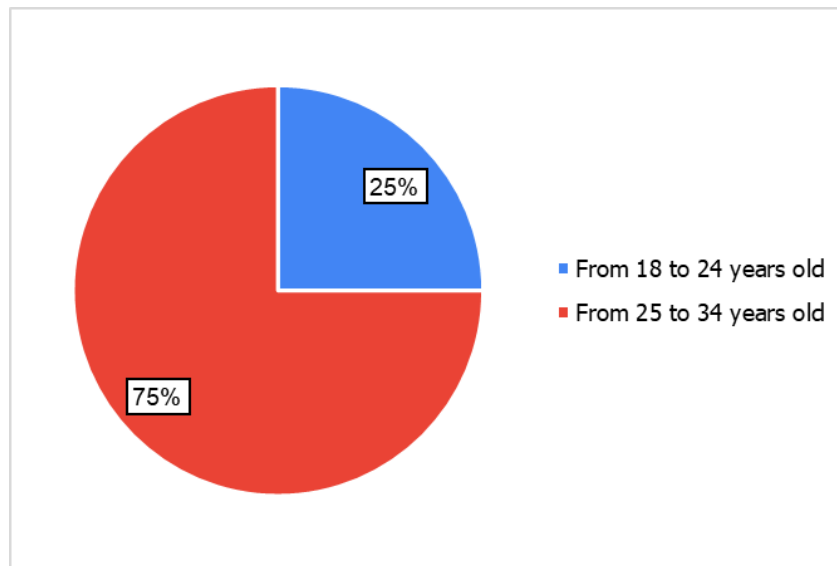


Figure 22. Age of volunteers

Source: Own elaboration

- Seventy-five percent of the volunteers are women and 25% are men. This shows a clear predominance of the female gender among the Austrian volunteers (Figure 23).

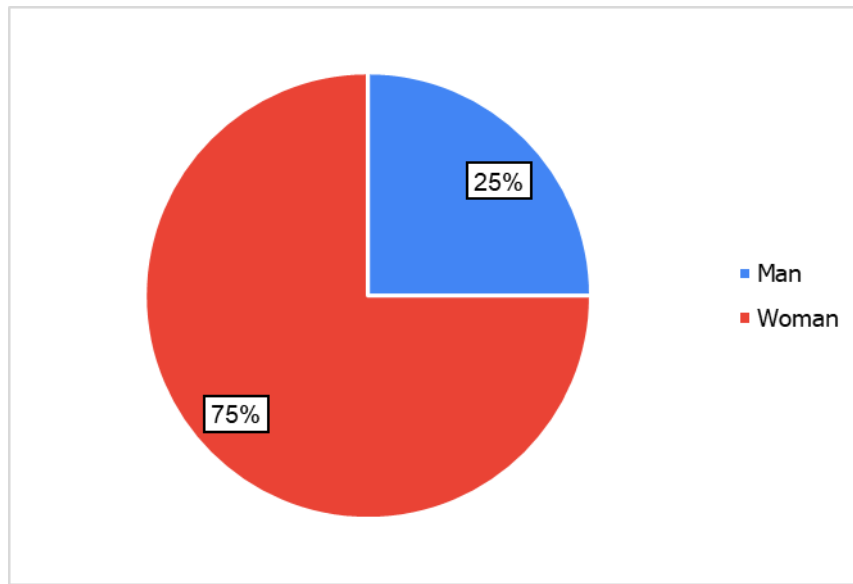


Figure 23. Gender of volunteers

Source: Own elaboration

- 50% of the volunteers have secondary education and 50% have tertiary education. Therefore, all volunteers in Austria are educated (Figure 24).

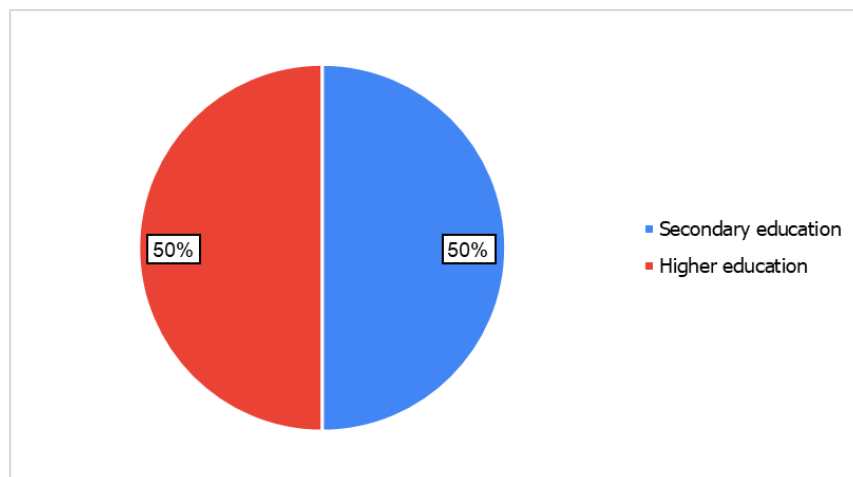


Figure 24. Volunteers' level of education

Source: Own elaboration

- **Current situation of volunteers**

Regarding the volunteers' current situation (Figure 25) and their current and/or last occupation (Figure 26), they indicated the following:

Only work	63%
Mainly work as well as study	25%
Study only	12%

Figure 25. Current situation of volunteers

Source: Own elaboration

Director / Manager	29%
Professional, scientific and intellectual	29%
Singer	14%
Work in tourism	14%
Trainer	14%

Figure 26. Current/last occupation of volunteers

Source: Own elaboration

Therefore, most of them only work at the moment (63%) and the occupations they have done the most are those of director/manager (29%) and professional, scientific and intellectual, being occupations that require responsibility and knowledge.

Finally, with regard to the volunteers' average monthly net household income, 38% of them have between €2001 and €3000, 25% between €1501 and €2000, another 25% between €1001 and €1500 and 12% less than €500 (Figure 27).

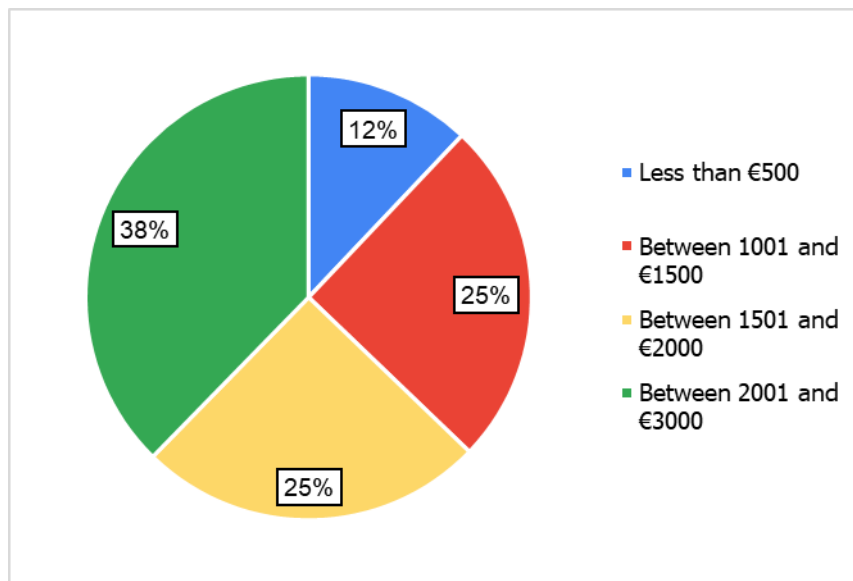


Figure 27. Average household net income per month

Source: Own elaboration

2.2 DATA EXTRACTED FROM THE PLAYERS' STUDY.

It has not been possible to report on this country due to the fact that no players were available to answer the surveys.