State of European Volunteering Report 2026

SEVR 2026

Report by

Centre for European Volunteering (CEV)

2026

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1. Context & Acknowledgements

The State of European Volunteering Report 2026 (SEVR2026) is a flagship initiative developed by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) for International Volunteer Year 2026 (IVY2026). It establishes a lasting legacy for IVY 2026 across Europe, laying the groundwork for subsequent biennial publications beginning in 2028. As a dedicated network encompassing National and Regional Volunteer Centres, alongside other organisations supporting the mission, CEV strives to foster a supportive environment throughout Europe where volunteers play a pivotal role in shaping an inclusive, sustainable, and cohesive society grounded in active citizenship and solidarity.

CEV has facilitated the convening of the European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence and Research (ECVER) since 2024 and has co-edited the Voluntaris special Edition "Contemporary Volunteering Study and Research in Europe" in 2025. The measurement of volunteering was selected as one of the five topics to be explored. The resulting article by Fonović et al. (2025) highlighted the inherent weakness in the fact that there is no comprehensive, up-to-date EU-wide data framework for harmonising sources on volunteers and their activities. The very same problem affects the other prioritary topics analysed in the journal by writing teams composed of academics and practitioners: also legal frameworks and infrastructural support are inadequately mapped, which limits the visibility of volunteering's contribution to EU objectives and weakens the evidence base for policy development. SEVR 2026 has been developed to address this deficit and harness the expertise and knowledge from the CEV members as well as the academic and research community.

This report, authored by CEV, will contribute to a more comprehensive and complete understanding of volunteering in Europe. It is not intended to be an index of country rates or types of volunteering, but rather a self-reflection exercise of the CEV members that builds on existing work to sustain future action. The already available information in the CEV European Volunteering Country Factsheets and the "Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe" country reports, compiled largely by CEV member organisations, represent the primary sources. Data and evidence on volunteering trends has been analysed, together with information about progress in different European countries towards a selection of the envisaged outcomes in the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).

This report would not have been possible without the outstanding contribution, as well as the financial and in-kind support, from CEV members and other volunteering experts who were instrumental in the preparation of the **Volunteering Factsheets and the BEV2030.** We

express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this collaborative effort. The knowledge, expertise and dedication of the CEV Research team composed of CEV Director Gabriella Civico; Policy and Project Officer Rita Marques and Research Trainee Reka Szalacsi-Tóth, constantly supported, encouraged and inspired by the external expert consultant, Dr. Ksenija Fonović, has been essential in the planning, drafting and publication of SEVR 2026. We also thank the members of the Scientific Committee (Dr. Karin Y. Biermann, Dr. Jakub Dostál, Dr. Stuart Fox, Dr. Jurgen Grotz, Dr. Iwona Nowakowska) for their insightful comments and invaluable support in conceptualising SEVR 2026 and ensuring a rigorous approach to its development. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (CGF) & Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV), without which this report would not have been possible.

About this publication

- **HOW TO CITE THIS REPORT**

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- **HOW TO CITE THE SEVR2026 COUNTRY PROFILES**

Citation guidance for each SEVR2026 Country Profile is provided in Annex III.

- **HOW TO CITE THE CEV EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING COUNTRY FACTSHEETS**

Citation guidance for each CEV Country Factsheet is provided in Annex III.

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Country Factsheets

COUNTRY	FACTSHEET COMPILED BY (AS AVAILABLE IN APRIL 2026)
Belgium	**Plateforme francophone du volontariat** (French- speaking Platform for Volunteering) **Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk** (Flemish Centre for voluntary work)
Croatia	**Hrvatski centar za razvoj volonterstva** (Croatian Volunteer Development Centre)
Czechia	Ondřej Hrubeš, CEV PhD Student Researcher (Charles University)
Denmark	CFSA Danish Institute for Voluntary Effort Frivilligcentre og Selvhjælp Danmark (FriSe)
Finland	**Kansalaisareena** (Citizen Forum)
France	France Bénévolat
Germany	**Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement: BBE** (National Network for Civil Society)
Greece	Tsampika Ntouroutli, CEV Turing Trainee
Hungary	**Önkéntes Központ Alapítvány** (Volunteering Hungary – Centre of Social Innovation)
Ireland	Volunteer Ireland
Italy	CSV Trentino

COUNTRY	FACTSHEET COMPILED BY (AS AVAILABLE IN APRIL 2026) (CONT.)
Lithuania	SAVA platforma
Malta	Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector
Netherlands	**Vereniging VrijwilligerswerkNL** (NOV association)
Poland	The National Institute of Freedom – Centre for Civil Society Development
Portugal	**Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV)** (Portuguese Volunteer Confederation) Pista Mágica
Romania	MasterPeace Ro Association
Scotland	Volunteer Scotland
Slovakia	**Platforma dobrovoľníckych centier a organizácií** (Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations)
Slovenia	**Slovenska filantropija** (Slovene Philanthropy)
Spain	**Plataforma de Voluntariado de España** (Spanish Volunteering Platform)
Sweden	Ideella Sverige

2. How to read the report

SEVR2026 builds on the expertise of CEV members and information collected, compared and discussed over years. The primary sources are the CEV European Volunteering Country Factsheets (CFS), the 2026 updates (April 2026), additional Country Factsheets supplied, as well as the "Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe" country reports, compiled largely by CEV member organisations. The references to specific country evidence in the report relates to the information gathered per country in this process as available in April 2026. Data and evidence on volunteering trends gathered from these sources, together with information about progress in different European countries towards a selection of the envisaged outcomes in the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030), has been analysed. Illustrative examples showcase responses to some of the identified volunteering trends and provide information about tangible steps that are being taken across Europe to reach the BEV2030 outcomes. Tapping into this existing practitioner knowledge provides a "picture of the whole" with useful benchmarks and indicators (the envisaged outcomes from BEV2030), that are needed for the design of the policy responses that will enable volunteering across Europe to truly flourish.

The CFSs identify different definitions and legal and cultural understandings of volunteering in the respective countries. The report is written, and the data and evidence presented in this context of the variety of definitions and understanding of what volunteering is, and what it is not, across Europe. Furthermore, in a situation where there is a lack of consensus amongst stakeholders concerning a number of volunteering related concepts. In compiling this report, CEV has been mindful of the European reality of the diversity of languages used across Europe and the meanings that are given to specific key words, phrases and concepts in the volunteering domain. Regarding the concept of "volunteering" itself, Annex I provides an overview of the different words and notions used to refer to volunteering across the different languages that are used in the countries under consideration in this report. Care has been taken to ensure that words and concepts from the different languages and countries represented in the report have been accurately translated into English so that comparisons are made on a sound language and word- usage foundation.

This 2026 edition of the SEVR is the foundational document which will be updated every two years. It should be read in conjunction with the individual SEVR 2026 Country Profile documents. The interim years will be used for further analysis and exploration of information presented. The outcomes will also be used to shape subsequent editions and inform policy developments and advocacy efforts.

3. Foreword

Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President

Making sense of volunteering across Europe, and of the forces shaping it, is an important part of what the Centre for European Volunteering exists to do. The State of European Volunteering Report 2026 gathers knowledge, evidence and experience from across the continent to offer a shared picture of where volunteering stands today. This matters because volunteering grows within societies that are themselves changing quickly, and understanding those changes gives us firmer ground for thinking about the voluntary engagement we will need in the years ahead.

The way we relate to one another is shifting. More of our communication, participation and sense of belonging now passes through digital spaces. At the same time, democratic life is under strain, shared facts are harder to hold on to, and public life is pulling apart into ever smaller pieces. Against this backdrop, places where people can meet, act together and experience cooperation, reciprocity and support become more precious.

Volunteering is one of those spaces.

It is a person who shows up week after week for someone they were never obliged to help; a group of strangers who become neighbours over a shared task; a young person who discovers, perhaps for the first time, that their action changes something. Voluntary engagement brings together people who might otherwise never meet, and opens room to work across differences, take responsibility and act alongside others. Trust, belonging and the capacity for collective action grow from such experiences.

This is why knowing what is happening to volunteering matters. SEVR 2026 shows a landscape in transition. Flexible, short-term and episodic engagement is becoming more prominent, alongside digitalisation, informal and community-based volunteering, demographic change, shifting motivations and new actors. It also shows that policies, infrastructure and support systems do not always keep pace, and that provisions on paper do not necessarily become enabling conditions in practice.

These developments raise questions of values: what brings people together, and what do they consider worth their time and energy? Here the report opens important ground, showing motivations shift as skills and employability appear alongside community- and value-oriented ones. How these balance out will shape not only how many people volunteer but what volunteering comes to mean, a thread worth following well beyond these pages.

We need to preserve what remains valuable, change what no longer works, and create new possibilities for engagement. Flexibility should widen participation without thinning out meaningful connection. Digital opportunities should broaden access without making human encounters beside the point. Professionalisation should strengthen quality without closing the door on spontaneous civic action.

SEVR 2026 gives us the knowledge to look at today's realities and choose more deliberately what comes next. The future of volunteering matters because the spaces in which people meet and act together matter and preserving them is part of preserving our capacity to take part, to build trust, and to shape our common future.

Lejla Šehić Relić

President
Centre for European Volunteering (CEV)



4. Executive summary

The State of European Volunteering Report (SEVR) 2026 is the foundational edition of a biennial exercise by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV). It is not an index of national volunteering rates but a self-reflection exercise drawing on the practitioner knowledge held in the CEV European Volunteering Country Factsheets (CFS), their 2026 updates, and the "Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe" country reports. The report reads this evidence against a selection of outcomes (benchmarks and indicators) from the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) as well as judgements about how different volunteering trends impact a range of volunteering contexts, aiming to give a "picture of the whole" that can inform future policy, advocacy and the post-2030 agenda. Because definitions and legal and cultural understandings of volunteering differ across Europe, the analysis is presented mindful of that diversity.

Methodologically, the report focuses on the "trends in the development of volunteering" sections of the CFSs and analyses how those trends affect six organisational modalities: associational, informal, and four "third party" organisers — local administrations, national public authorities, educational institutions and businesses. Eleven of the BEV indicators were selected for closer analysis, chosen for broad cross-country coverage and topical relevance. The CFSs are treated as reliable sources. AI tools, guided by expert-designed prompts subject to critical supervision by the SEVR Scientific Committee, were used at the first analysis stage to handle the volume of evidence within budget and time constraints, with all content checked in person by the research team before publication.

The cross-country analysis identifies the shift toward flexible, short-term and episodic engagement as the single most widespread trend (14 of 22 countries, 64%), followed by digitalisation/e-volunteering (41%) and the rise of informal, community-based volunteering (36%). Decline in numbers and ageing/demographic loss each appear in 32% of countries, with professionalisation, widening inequality of access and corporate/CSR volunteering each at 27%. A recurring finding is that shared European trends take divergent local forms: corporate volunteering, crisis-driven engagement and professionalisation are each read as a benefit in some countries and a strain in others, depending on national context. The drivers that "professionalise" and "formalise" volunteering, such as corporate involvement, skills-based management, digitalisation, tend, on the same trends, to disadvantage the least formal forms, largely because of the coordination burden they create in a context of shrinking resources.

The indicator analysis, scored on a four-category metric (Established, Partial/emerging, Absent, and a strictly separated Not reported), shows Europe strongest in public recognition of volunteering (documented awards, weeks or festivals in 20 of 22 countries) and in legal frameworks (14 countries with a dedicated volunteer law). Volunteering strategies present a volatile, evenly split picture of establishments, absences and expired or unfunded cases. The co-financing of grants with volunteer time (indicator 1.3.2) is both the least advanced and least reported aspect. The report's central cross-cutting finding is that in at least 16 of 22 countries a documented legal, strategic, funding or protection provision is qualified by the evidence as poorly known, expired, unenforced, unfunded or organisation-dependent, resulting in formal existence consistently overstating real progress, most visibly in legal frameworks, strategy, funding, co- creation and insurance.

The report closes by inviting researchers and practitioners to explore the SEVR 2026 materials further. Deeper analysis of the collated data, including its tensions and contradictions, is expected to yield a more comprehensive understanding of volunteering in Europe and support the development of more "fit for purpose" policies, strategies and legal frameworks that bring Europe closer to the outcomes envisaged in BEV2030.

5. Research design / Methodology

The Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) approved the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) in 2021. Since then it has been the guiding policy and advocacy document for the network. Stakeholders from across the volunteering field also frequently use the document and its identified indicators. The BEV indicators provide a common, pre-established framework for assessing the state and progress of volunteering across European countries. Developed by CEV and its member organisations, they serve as benchmarks that enable consistent evaluation and comparison of national volunteering ecosystems. As an existing assessment framework, the BEV indicators offer a structured way to examine how different countries are responding to the trends identified in the Country Factsheets (CFSs) and to identify both strengths and areas for further development. 11 out of a total 86 indicators have been chosen as the focus of this report. The choice was based on a combination of the availability of a large coverage of available information across countries and the most topical issues and challenges for volunteering currently being discussed and addressed.

The country factsheets on volunteering have been written by member organisations of the CEV network and other experts. The headings in the factsheets were chosen as the result of in depth discussions concerning what are the main features of the volunteering ecosystems and landscapes that can be determinants in how volunteering can thrive and volunteering impact reach its potential. One such heading was “trends in volunteering” and this was chosen as the focus for the SEVR report. For SEVR, these trends have been considered concerning the impact of these observed, documented and experienced trends on different organisational modalities. The CFSs are treated as reliable data sources for the purpose of this report as they are based on the most recent data as well as observations from the most expert people and organisations in the field of volunteering in each country. Additional information concerning how the evidence concerning the impact of these trends on the different modalities was obtained can be found in Annex II – SEVR 2026 Methodology Dossier.

All materials provided to the SEVR 2026 team were in English, translated when necessary by the contributing organisations and experts individually in a reliable and informed manner. AI tools have been used to analyse the data supplied by each country. Details about this process are contained in the SEVR 2026 Methodology Dossier. AI was given well-considered and documented prompts prepared by the research team and revised by the experts of the SEVR Scientific Committee. AI was a pragmatic choice given the volume of data being processed and the budget, resources and time of CEVs research team (or similar term) available. The use of AI has enhanced interpretation of the different pieces of evidence by making it more coherent and easier to interpret. All content included in this report has been expertly checked and updated by the SEVR team prior to publication.

6. Cross-country analysis of volunteering trends

The “Trends” sections of the 22 CFSs have played the central role in enabling this cross-country analysis. The evidence provided there has revealed which are common and diverging trends and the extent to which they occur. A central component of the analysis has been to consider the extent to which the trends impact on six organisational modalities for volunteering: Associational; Informal; “third party” actors – Local Administrations / National Public Authorities / Educational Institutions / Businesses.

A. Recurring trends across countries

The single most widespread trend is the shift towards flexible, short-term and episodic engagement: **14 of 22 countries (64%)** record it. Digitalisation of volunteering follows at **9 of 22 (41%)**, then the rise of informal, community-based volunteering at **8 of 22 (36%)**. Decline in overall numbers and ageing/demographic loss each appear in **7 of 22 (32%)**, and professionalisation, widening inequality of access, and corporate volunteering each in **6 of 22 (27%)**.

TREND THEME	COUNTRIES	MEMBERS & WORDING NOTES
Flexible / short-term / episodic engagement	**14 (64%)**	BE, HR, CZ, DK, FI, FR, GR, IT, NL, PL, PT, SK, SI, SE — wording ranges from 'occasional' (FR) to 'episodic' (DK, SK) to 'theme over organisation' (FI)
Digitalisation / online / e-volunteering	**9 (41%)**	HR, DK, GR, IT, PL, PT, SK, ES, SE — from 'e-volunteering' (PL) to 'systemic digitalisation' (ES) to digital recruitment tools (DK, PT)
Rise / dominance of informal volunteering	**8 (36%)**	BE, HR, CZ, HU, IE, IT, NL, PL — framed as 'dominance' (HU, PL) or as engagement 'outside formal labels' (NL)
Decline / falling volunteer numbers	**7 (32%)**	FR, DE, IE, PT, SCO, SK, SI — from a 'historic decline' (SK) to decline reframed as fewer hours (FR), to unconfirmed (IE)
Ageing / loss of older volunteers	**7 (32%)**	FR, NL, PT, RO, SCO, SI, SE — often tied to the loss of the 'backbone' of community activity
Professionalisation / skills-based management	**6 (27%)**	DK, HU, NL, PT, RO, SE — from 'skills-based volunteering' (HU) to 'professionalisation of management' (PT)
Widening inequality / barriers to access	**6 (27%)**	DK, MT, PT, RO, SCO, SE — from focusing on diversity outreach (DK) to cost-of-living erosion of pathways (SCO)
Corporate / employee / CSR volunteering	**6 (27%)**	BE, CZ, HU, RO, SK, SI — from 'gaining ground' (CZ) to one-off events (SK)
Rising youth / student participation	**5 (23%)**	CZ, FR, GR, HU, RO — a 'massive increase' (RO) vs steady youth strength (CZ)
Skills / employability-driven motivation	**5 (23%)**	HU, NL, PL, RO, SE — explicitly labour-market-linked in RO and PL
Crisis-driven engagement	**5 (23%)**	CZ, LT, PL, SI, SE — Ukraine-war mobilisation (LT, PL) and pandemic/refugee spikes (SE)
Recruitment & retention difficulty	**4 (18%)**	DE, IE, PT, SE
Public-institution partnership / socialisation	**3 (14%)**	BE, DK, IT
Formalisation / legal recognition	**3 (14%)**	GR, HU, RO

Note. Three trends appear for only single countries but are not generalised into a Europe-wide trend.

1. The instrumentalisation/commercialisation of volunteering (Belgium)
2. Rising recognition of the volunteering sector (Malta)
3. Difficult political environment for volunteering stemming from a hostile environment for civil society in general (Slovakia).

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 1 Showing an example of **Flexible / short-term / episodic engagement**			
TITLE	**Voluntiera Malta – Flexible and Episodic Volunteering Model**		
COUNTRY	**Malta**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Associative
ORGANISATION	Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector	MODALITY	Live
DESCRIPTION	Voluntiera Malta is a national initiative for accessible, short-term and episodic volunteering, letting people take part without long-term commitments. It lowers barriers for young people, working professionals and first-timers, and acts as a gateway into more sustained volunteering.		
IMPACT	Organisations may need to adapt with rapid matching, event-based coordination and retention strategies suited to non-linear participation.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 2 Showing an example of **Digitalisation / online / e-volunteering**			
TITLE	**volunteers.mt – A National Digital Ecosystem for Volunteering**		
COUNTRY	**Malta**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Associative
ORGANISATION	Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector	MODALITY	Online
DESCRIPTION	volunteers.mt is a central national hub connecting would-be volunteers with organisations seeking support in a single space. It reduces fragmentation and is becoming a source of sector data for more strategic engagement.		
IMPACT	Volunteer Centres are becoming digital facilitators and ecosystem managers, needing investment in digital tools, data and user experience.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 3 Showing an example of **Digitalisation / online / e-volunteering**			
TITLE	**Verif!co – Digital tools for the Third Sector**		
COUNTRY	**Italy**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Associative
ORGANISATION	CSVnet	MODALITY	Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	Verif!co is a CSVnet digital platform helping organised volunteering with administrative, organisational and digital management. Its free Freemium tier extends basic tools to smaller organisations, reducing inequalities in access without distorting their voluntary mission.		
IMPACT	For CSVs it strengthens consultancy and digital capacity-building and, via Freemium, widens their reach to less structured organisations in peripheral or under-resourced areas.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 4 Showing an example of **Digitalisation / online / e-volunteering**			
TITLE	**Online matching actions for volunteering promoted by Volunteer Service Centres**		
COUNTRY	**Italy**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Informal
ORGANISATION	CSVnet	MODALITY	Online
DESCRIPTION	Online matching actions promoted by Volunteer Service Centres are digital orientation services that connect citizens with organisations seeking volunteers. They lower entry thresholds and enable flexible, proximity-based participation, acting as a bridge that brings new people into volunteering informally without replacing organised forms.		
IMPACT	For CSVs these tools are a community-organising instrument that helps them reach new audiences, widen the volunteer pool and boost organisations' visibility. They reinforce the role of CSVs as territorial infrastructures for civic activation.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 5 Showing an example of **Corporate / employee / CSR volunteering**			
TITLE	**Employee Volunteering**		
COUNTRY	**Spain**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	■ Third Party
ORGANISATION	Allianz	MODALITY	📍 Live
DESCRIPTION	Allianz runs a well-established employee volunteering programme with 75% staff participation, treating corporate volunteering as core to its culture and a way to integrate young employees. A volunteer activity is built into onboarding, with year-round opportunities and a dedicated activity for interns.		
IMPACT	Staff participation rate of 75% and is a key mechanism for integrating young employees and interns embedding them in the company's corporate social responsibility values.		

B. Similarities and differences across trends for different countries

Most similar country profiles

Similarity of country profile trends are assessed on two counts: how far two countries share the same impact (skew) across the six modalities, and how far they record the same themes in their trends. The pairs and groups below are ranked from the most robust — those combining strong skew agreement with genuine thematic overlap — to the more partial. Pairs resting on superficial data are highlighted.

MOST ROBUST SIMILARITIES (STRONG ON BOTH BASES)

A. **Hungary & Romania:** the closest thematic pair in the dataset (theme overlap 0.62). Both pair a youth-and-formalisation growth story, state-backed or legally-recognised volunteering, professionalisation, skills/employability, with informal volunteering as the most-affected modality in both, 'pushed into the background' (HU) or disadvantaged by formalisation (RO).

B. **Poland & Sweden:** high thematic overlap (0.44) around flexible/short-term engagement, crisis-driven engagement, digitalisation and skills motivation. Both record Associative volunteering being under challenge and informal volunteering as the most resilient modality, with crisis mobilisation seen constructively.

C. **France & Portugal:** strong agreement (0.80) with theme overlap (0.38) on volunteering decline, ageing and increasing demand for flexible engagement. Both reframe 'decline' as a question of hours and demographics rather than headcount, and in both, informal volunteering loses its older demographic 'backbone'.

D. **Netherlands & Portugal / Netherlands & Romania:** show agreement 0.83 with shared themes around ageing, professionalisation and informal growth. Community modalities are active in every trend, with the shift towards skills-based volunteering favouring education and business.

CLEAR REGIONAL / STRUCTURAL PAIRINGS

A. **Italy, Finland, Ireland (the 'challenge-Associative / positive-Informal' trio):** all three highlight Associative volunteering as a challenge and highlight informal volunteering as positive on the flexible-engagement and informal-growth themes.

B. **Belgium & Netherlands (on businesses):** both record Businesses as the one positive-skewing organiser while public organisers are challenged on the same Commercialisation and flexibility trends. The business-positive / public-strained signature, though Belgium's instrumentalisation framing is unique.

C. **Czech Republic & Hungary:** shared emphasis on corporate volunteering and youth, with education skewing positive in both; they diverge on whether corporate volunteering substitutes (CZ negative for community) or simply adds (HU).

D. **Spain, Hungary, Slovenia (institution-positive):** all three skew positive across the public organisers and education, reflecting evidence where professionalisation, digital infrastructure or state schemes lift the institutional modalities. Spain's match is partial, it is uniformly positive but does not consider informal modality at all due to the legal form for volunteering applicable in Spain.

C. Same phenomenon, divergent local forms

Three recurring phenomena demonstrate how one shared European trend takes different local forms.

Corporate volunteering

It is framed almost everywhere as positive for businesses, but its meaning for the rest of the ecosystem varies sharply. In Slovakia, the notes cast rising corporate involvement as a lifeline: as the state withdraws funding, companies 'step up support for civil society', so the trend is positive even for associations. In Slovenia, growing corporate social responsibility is

similarly read as bolstering a strained sector. The Czech and Romanian notes take the opposite view: corporate volunteering 'takes the focus away from traditional ways of volunteering' and 'may take over', making it negative for both associative and informal volunteering. Belgium sits between the two, identifying it as a challenge for designing meaningful tasks, while the Romanian notes add a further twist — a values-driven desire for community impact 'fits less well with instrumental corporate volunteering', turning the trend negative for Businesses on that particular metric.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 6
Showing an example of **Corporate volunteering**

TITLE	**A national framework for Employer Supported Volunteering**		
COUNTRY	**Scotland (UK)**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Third Party
ORGANISATION	Volunteer Scotland	**MODALITY**	Online
DESCRIPTION	Launched in 2026, the National Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) Framework offers toolboxes, a development network, a pledge and quality-standard pilot, responding to the Volunteering Action Plan and to declining working-age volunteering.		
IMPACT	Third Sector Interfaces are central, offering brokerage, matching and locally tailored support to employers and organisations, and are highlighted in the framework itself.		

Crisis-driven engagement

This is recorded in five countries but read through markedly different lenses. In Lithuania, the Ukraine-war 'wave' of over 150,000 ad-hoc volunteers is identified uniformly as a challenge and a system-wide mobilisation that every modality must absorb. Poland reads the same war-driven surge more favourably for the public organisers, which 'benefit from mobilising volunteers quickly for crisis response'. The Czech perspective is the most constructive of all: crises are credited with building durable civic infrastructure — 'permanent university volunteer hubs' and 'agile' municipal networks — making the trend positive for local administrations and education. Sweden frames crisis and issue-driven engagement as self-reinforcing, with initial involvement converting into continued volunteering. The same phenomenon is thus a strain in some cases and a capacity-builder in others.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 7
Showing an example of **Crisis-driven engagement**

TITLE	**Community Volunteers Programme**		
COUNTRY	**Ireland**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Associative
ORGANISATION	Volunteer Centres / DRCDG	**MODALITY**	Live
DESCRIPTION	The Community Volunteers Programme recruits, screens and trains local volunteers to respond to urgent local needs and to support local one-off events.		
IMPACT	During recent extreme weather events, Community Volunteers assisted with local humanitarian responses including helping at Community Support Centres. Community Volunteers have also supported hundreds of community and local cultural events across Ireland in recent years by providing trained and screened volunteers in a number of vital roles. Lastly, the Community Volunteers Programme has proven to be an excellent method for building community cohesion and meaningful integration, and for facilitating structured episodic volunteering.		

Professionalisation of volunteering

A clear dividing line runs through the six countries that record it. For the public organisers it is consistently a gain: Portugal calls professionalised management 'accountable and measurable volunteering', positive for local and national authorities. But for informal volunteering it is just as consistently a loss. Portugal again notes that informal groups in Portugal 'may struggle because professionalised systems are harder to implement informally', and Hungary records skills-based, impact-oriented volunteering as 'less suited to measurable outcomes' for informal modes, which 'might be pushed into the background'. Denmark frames the same trend as professionalisation 'pressure' on associations and a structural problem for informal volunteering that 'would struggle with lack of structure'. Where a country emphasises accountability it reads professionalisation positively; where it emphasises grassroots spontaneity it reads it as a threat.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 8
Showing an example of **Professionalisation of volunteering**

TITLE	**Cantiere Terzo Settore**		
COUNTRY	**Italy**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Associative
ORGANISATION	CSVnet	**MODALITY**	Online
DESCRIPTION	Cantiere Terzo Settore is a CSVnet project, with the National Third Sector Forum, that helps volunteering and Third Sector organisations interpret and apply Third Sector legislation. Through a portal, editorial content and tools, it strengthens associations' organisational and managerial capacity.		
IMPACT	For CSVs it is a system-level tool that shares content and reduces fragmentation, reinforcing their role as infrastructure and as mediators between organisations, law and public administration.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 9
Showing an example of **Professionalisation of volunteering**

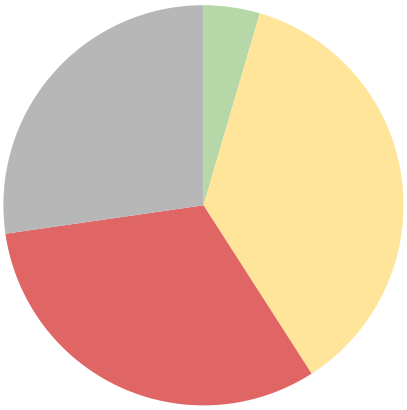
TITLE	**VALIKKO Network**		
COUNTRY	**Finland**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Something different or not clear
ORGANISATION	Citizen Forum (Kansalaisareena ry)	**MODALITY**	Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	The VALIKKO Network links over 40 independent groups of volunteer coordinators from NGOs, municipalities, parishes and companies. Through peer support, training, publications and joint development, it strengthens coordinators' competence and improves the quality, accessibility and visibility of volunteering.		
IMPACT	Working together saves individual effort — a single joint course rather than many separate ones. In a dispersed country, such networks help the same resources reach coordinators everywhere, and matter more as funding structures change.		

7. Analysis per BEV2030 indicator

The eleven selected indicators have been measured against a four-category metric. 'Established' can mean a dedicated statute (e.g. Croatia's volunteer law), a welfare duty (e.g. Denmark's funding), a tax route (e.g. Spain), a banking-foundation base (e.g. Italy). 'Partial' collects paper- versus-practice cases whose obstacle differs — legal scope, market supply, affordability, durability. 'Absent' refers to a documented 'no' and 'Not Reported' is where a country provides no data for that BEV2030 indicator. For this reason 'Not reported' is kept strictly separate from 'Absent' so a blank is never mistaken for a documented 'no'. The best-covered indicators (3.4.1 legal framework, 4.1.2 recognition, 1.4.1 funding) can be considered to support firm claims yet the indicators with thinner cross-country coverage of provided evidence e.g. co-financing (1.3.2) should be considered in need of additional data for more reliable results.

1.3.2 "Volunteer time that does not replace paid jobs can be used for the co-financing/ co-resourcing of grants"

Whether volunteer time (without replacing paid jobs) can be used to co-finance or co-resource grants is one of the least reported indicators.



Established SI	**1** · 4.5%
Partial / emerging HR, FI, FR, IT, LT, MT, NL, SK	**8** · 36.4%
Absent BE, DK, IE, RO, ES, SE, SCO	**7** · 31.8%
Not reported CZ, DE, GR, HU, PL, PT	**6** · 27.3%

Established — a single codified case. Only Slovenia reaches Established, and by statute: the notes confirm "the Slovenian Volunteering Act provides the legal basis for recognising volunteer work" as an in-kind contribution in publicly funded projects. It is the one country where the mechanism is written into law rather than left to individual funding calls.

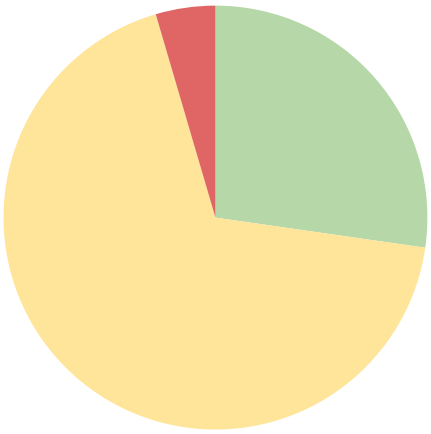
Partial/emerging — permitted, but call-by-call. The Partial group shares a theme: co-financing is possible but discretionary. France's note describes accounting for volunteer hours to demonstrate self-financing and meet co-financing caps; Italy's says it is "generally not mandatory … but may be allowed within funding calls"; Malta's that hours "may be accepted as an in-kind contribution"; Lithuania's that contracted volunteer hours are "one of the recognized ways to meet that in-kind portion" under EU-project rules, though "still rare".

Absent — documented 'no'. Seven countries record negative on this issue. Romania's note is blunt — "This doesn't exist"; Denmark and Spain both state there is "no general/national rule" allowing volunteer hours as co-funding; Belgium reports the practice "not widely developed"; Ireland, Sweden and Scotland follow this same pattern of documented absences.

Not reported. Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and the Czech Republic don't record information on this indicator which is the largest 'Not reported' count of any indicator.

1.4.1 "Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding"

The question of whether not-for-profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding is reported by each country so the interest lies less in coverage than in the recurring split between whether funding exists and whether it is adequate and durable.



Established DK, FI, IT, RO, SI, HU	**6** · 27.3%
Partial / emerging BE, HR, CZ, FR, DE, GR, IE, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, SK, ES, SE	**15** · 68.2%
Absent SCO	**1** · 4.5%
Not reported —	**0** · 0.0%

Established — but 'funded' means different things. The Established countries reach the category by very different funding architectures. Denmark's rests on a statutory duty — the Social Services Act "imposes an obligation on local authorities" to fund volunteering; Italy's

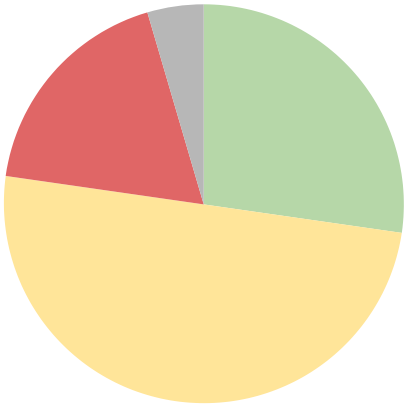
on banking-foundation money required by the state rather than directly the state; Hungary's on a mix of state, EU and international sources, including the National Cooperation Fund. The category 'Established' covers a statutory duty, a philanthropic base, a mixed central system and a dedicated fund alike.

Partial/emerging — 'exists but precarious' pattern. The Partial group is defined by adequacy, not existence. The Netherlands' note is the clearest: funding is "hardly ever really durable". Slovakia's is "insufficient and unstable"; the Czech observation is 'not really', with financing pressures on small NGOs; Sweden's is "not clear"; Germany's asks "is it sufficient?"; Belgium's regional centres are funded by their regional authorities but "the needs exceed the level of support that can be provided with the current resources".

Absent — documented shortfall, not silence. Scotland's note explains infrastructure bodies are funded but volunteering itself has no dedicated, secure funding stream. These are reasoned negatives grounded in the evidence and data gathered, not blanks. This is a reasoned negative grounded in the evidence and data gathered, not a blank.

1.5.2 "The co-creation of public policies becomes the norm and the opportunities offered by participatory decision making processes are fully explored and exploited"

Whether co-creation of public policy is becoming the norm and participatory decision-making is fully used remains under question with the evidence highlighting recurring instances of "consultation" that should not be called "co-creation".



Established DK, FI, FR, DE, HU, LT	**6** · 27.3%
Partial / emerging BE, HR, CZ, IE, IT, NL, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE	**11** · 50.0%
Absent GR, MT, PT, SCO	**4** · 18.2%
Not reported PL	**1** · 4.5%

Established — structured, standing mechanisms. Where co-creation is established, it rests on a permanent body or statutory channel: France's High Council for Associative Life issues mandatory opinions and can self-refer; Finland's KANE (Advisory Board on Civil Society Policy) and Denmark's policy advisory landscape are embedded in law and funding. These are co-creation- by-institution rather than by goodwill.

Partial/emerging — the 'consultation, not co-decision' pattern. This is the largest category and the most internally consistent: the notes repeatedly acknowledge that consultation happens but deny it amounts to shared decision-making. Romania — NGOs are consulted "but their role stays in the consultancy area"; Sweden — involvement is "often consultative rather than … co-creation"; Croatia — "co-creation is not yet the standard practice". Belgium is qualified more sharply still, its mandatory consultation "not always respected" and dialogue "not effective".

Absent. Portugal's absence is the bluntest: "in reality, no public policies are co-created and implemented in volunteering". Scotland's response is that co-created volunteering policy "is not the norm". Greece records a "lack of recognition and support from the state". These are documented negatives, distinct from the consultation-limited Partial cases.

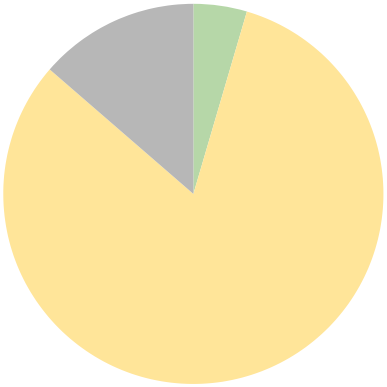
ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 10
Showing an example of **co-creation of public policies**

TITLE	**Regional Operations Planner**		
COUNTRY	**Finland**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	■ Something different or not clear
ORGANISATION	Kansalaisareena ry	MODALITY	⟳ Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	Founded amid the early-1990s recession, Kansalaisareena is an independent forum for voluntary and self-initiated civic action that set up the cross-party Parliamentary Support Group for Volunteering in 2009. Today it is an umbrella body for around 150 organisations, doing advocacy, peer support and development work.		
IMPACT	It supports members with up-to-date, research-based information and works to keep volunteering accessible and its conditions safeguarded in Finland.		

2.1.4 "Suitable and sufficient public support is provided to volunteer infrastructure organisations to have the capacity to support and guide these *new forms* of volunteering"

The question of whether or not volunteer-infrastructure bodies are properly financially supported to guide new forms of volunteering must be considered across five volunteering contexts that need to be particularly supported in this regard (informal groups, local administrations, national public authorities, educational institutions, business sector

actors). The placement reflects the country's overall partner/context-support picture and almost no country is uniform across all five.



Established IT	**1** · 4.5%
Partial / emerging BE, HR, CZ, DK, FI, FR, IE, LT, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, SCO, GR	**18** · 81.8%
Absent –	**0** · 0.0%
Not reported DE, HU, PL	**3** · 13.6%

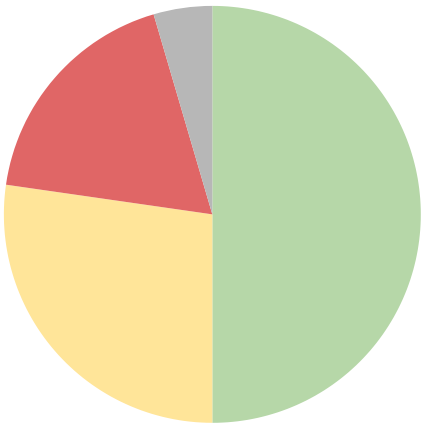
Almost universally Partial. This indicator is the most uniform with eighteen of the reporting countries falling in the Partial category. The reason is structural rather than coincidental as support reliably reaches national public authorities and, often, education and business, while informal groups and local administrations are poorly served by the volunteering infrastructure organisations. A country counts as Partial because the support for new forms of volunteering in different contexts pull in different directions, not because it is mid-ranked.

Within Partial — the informal-sector gap recurs. Sweden and Lithuania note their infrastructure is *mainly designed to support formal civil society organisation*; Scotland's support "focuses on formal volunteering"; Malta channels support "through their respective Local Councils". Two 'Partial' countries can therefore look alike overall while differing entirely on which partner type
is missing.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 11 Showing an example of a **publicly funded initiative that facilitates fundraising to enable support for new forms of volunteering**			
TITLE	**SimplyGiving Malta – Digital Civic Participation through Fundraising**		
COUNTRY	**Malta**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Something different or not clear
ORGANISATION	Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector	MODALITY	Online
DESCRIPTION	SimplyGiving Malta is a digital platform for supporting voluntary organisations with transparent online fundraising. It lets people contribute even without giving time – useful for those facing time, mobility or other constraints – and broadens the idea of participation.		
IMPACT	Volunteer Centres may need to treat digital and indirect participation as volunteering, integrating fundraising and online engagement into their support.		

2.3.3 "Every volunteer has a suitable and accessible point of information or reference point to channel their questions and suggestions"

Whether every volunteer has an accessible reference point reveals contrasting experiences between a single official platform and a networked or absent one.



Established BE, HR, DK, FI, FR, IE, IT, NL, SK, SE, SCO	**11** · 50.0%
Partial / emerging CZ, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI	**6** · 27.3%
Absent GR, HU, LT, ES	**4** · 18.2%
Not reported DE	**1** · 4.5%

Established — platform vs network/ national vs regional. The established countries divide by model: a single national portal (Denmark's Frivilligjob.dk with 9,000+ listings, Sweden's Volontärbyrån, the Netherlands' vrijwilligerswerk.nl, Scotland's volunteer.scot) versus a multi-platform or centre-based model (France's three national platforms; Belgium's support

centres across three language communities). All deliver an accessible national point, by different means. Slovakia has a national platform dobrovolnictvo.sk run by PDCO together with regional centres and in Italy "each region has an active Volunteer Support Centre" and the national digital, collaborative platform Gluo.org.

Partial/emerging. Slovenia — a national platform whose regional points are "unevenly distributed". The partiality is about lack of evenness, not absence.

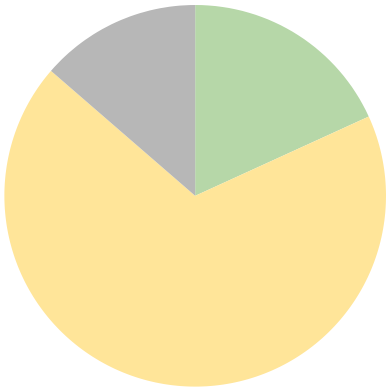
Absent, and a youth-focussed edge case. Greece records "no such platform currently exists" and Spain "no official national e-platform" despite the Act envisaging one. Lithuania is the instructive edge case: a reference point exists but is limited to the Youth Voluntary Service, so it does not serve all volunteers. Germany alone is blank ('Not reported').

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 12
Showing an example of **an accessible source of information**

TITLE	**Barómetro del Voluntariado: La acción voluntaria en 2025**		
COUNTRY	**Spain**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Associative
ORGANISATION	Volunteering Platform of Spain	**MODALITY**	Online
DESCRIPTION	The Barómetro del Voluntariado is PVE's annual study, this edition based on 1,203 surveys and covering the response to the Valencia DANA emergency. It finds volunteering consolidating at over 4.4 million people, with room to grow and with emergencies acting as a catalyst – 12.6% of DANA volunteers began formal volunteering as a result.		
IMPACT	For Centres and NGOs it points to clear needs: better transparency and communication, crisis plans that position NGOs as coordinators, and equality and accessibility measures.		

3.1.1 "Civic education and Service Learning are introduced more widely into the formal education systems to increase awareness of volunteering and civil society not only for children and young people but also their wider networks of families and friends"

Whether civic education and service learning are introduced more widely into formal education reveals overwhelmingly Partial implementation. Civic education is common, but the evidence rarely lets it count as a systematic, embedded national service-learning system.



Established CZ, DK, FI, IT	**4** · 18.2%
Partial / emerging BE, HR, FR, HU, IE, LT, MT, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SCO, SE	**15** · 68.2%
Absent –	**0** · 0.0%
Not reported DE, GR, PL	**3** · 13.6%

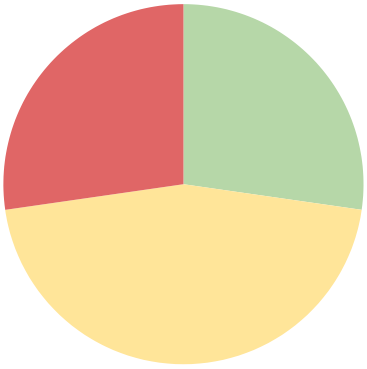
Established — civic education as a system, not an add-on. The four Established countries treat civic learning as structural: Finland's notes place it as "the main subject" of Social Studies in the core curriculum; the Czech Republic is "structurally shifting toward active civic engagement"; Denmark has "strong civic education and many examples of school/civil society" collaboration. Italy has civic education in schools by Law (2019, 2024) and volunteering programmes in schools are provided by Volunteer Support Centres. Provision is embedded rather than aspirational.

Partial/emerging — present but not embedded. The large Partial group shares a caveat: the activity exists but is not yet systematic. Ireland's notes say volunteering appears "in small elements of the school curriculum — as information, not an activity"; Slovakia's civic/service learning is "not yet systematically embedded"; France reaches Partial despite compulsory Moral and Civic Education but without a focus on volunteering. Scotland's data explains that the work is "in progress" and not delivered "in a consistent way across the nation". Sweden confirms "no national framework for service learning", yet documents high youth engagement and civic learning in schools.

Not reported. Germany, Greece and Poland carry no substantive education evidence and are not reported. The Netherlands has skills-registration tools rather than curricular embedding.

3.3.2 "Suitable volunteering development strategies that are crosscutting and transversal for different policy fields and sectors are developed"

Whether a cross-cutting, transversal volunteering development strategy exists is evidenced with highly volatile data – establishments, absences and paper-vs-practice cases in almost equal measure.



Established	CZ, IE, MT, SI, ES, SCO	**6** · 27.3%
Partial / emerging	BE, HR, DK, FI, FR, DE, PL, PT, RO, SK	**10** · 45.5%
Absent	GR, HU, IT, LT, NL, SE	**6** · 27.3%
Not reported	–	**0** · 0.0%

Established — but 'current and adopted' takes several forms. Slovenia (Strategy to 2030, adopted 2025), Malta (National Volunteering Strategy 2025–2030) and Ireland (2021–2025, with a successor imminent) have dedicated, in-date strategies. Spain reaches 'Established' differently — not through one strategy but by embedding volunteering "as a crosscutting and transversal tool" across many national strategies. Scotland's is a documented Action Plan (2022–2032).

Partial/emerging — building, dispersed, or lapsing. This category spans three distinct states. Portugal's strategy is explicitly "being built" for 2027–2030; Croatia has a strong basis but "no clearly adopted" strategy; France disperses the function across civic-service and civil protection reserve schemes by design; and Denmark's 2017 strategy was funded only to 2021 and has since dissolved into sectoral strategies.

Absent vs Not reported. Hungary is the sharpest 'Absent': the CFS itself records the 2012–2022 strategy as expired with "no officially adopted 2023–2030 strategy". Italy is a notable 'Absent' despite its strong legal code: "the government has no national strategy on volunteering."

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 13
Showing an example of **cross cutting and transversal volunteer development strategies**

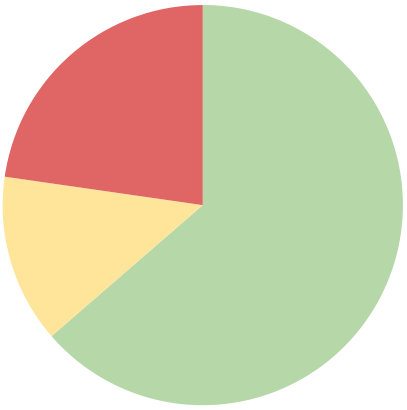
TITLE	**National Volunteering Strategy 2025–2030 – Strengthening the Voluntary Sector through a Strategic Framework**		
COUNTRY	**Malta**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Third Party
ORGANISATION	Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector	**MODALITY**	Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	The National Volunteering Strategy 2025–2030 sets Malta's direction for developing the voluntary sector, shaped by stakeholder consultation. It targets stronger organisations, wider participation, better collaboration and greater visibility, with an eye to innovation, inclusivity and sustainability.		
IMPACT	Volunteer Centres are central to delivery as facilitators of engagement, capacity building and coordination, reinforcing their role and demanding closer alignment with national priorities.		

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 14
Showing an example of **cross cutting and transversal volunteer development strategies**

TITLE	**Intermunicipal Volunteering Meeting (Encontro Intermunicipal de Voluntariado)**		
COUNTRY	**Portugal**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Third Party
ORGANISATION	Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV)	**MODALITY**	Live Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	The Intermunicipal Volunteering Meeting (EIV) is an annual event run by the Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV) that brings together around a hundred municipal volunteering coordinators and Local Volunteering Banks from across Portugal to assess the state of local volunteering, reflect on shared themes and challenges, and exchange ideas, resources and support.		
IMPACT	It strengthens the network of municipal coordinators, letting them identify common problems and effective solutions and improving the quality and consistency of local volunteering management. It has generated lasting structures, notably the Working Group for a Local Volunteering Agenda and a CPV fund supporting quality, innovative community volunteering.		

3.4.1 "Legal frameworks for volunteering are adapted and evolve to take changes in volunteering, and other societal and behavioural changes into account. In this way, in addition to the more formal and structured engagement that legal frameworks are frequently focused on, they will be more suitable to facilitate and enable different forms of voluntary engagement, rather than restrict engagement as can be currently the case, unlocking further potential"

Whether a dedicated legal framework for volunteering exists and evolves is the best-reported indicator — every country carries CFS text on this issue which makes the differences in form especially visible.



Established	BE, HR, CZ, DK, HU, IT, LT, MT, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES	**14** · 63.6%
Partial / emerging	FR, GR, SE	**3** · 13.6%
Absent	FI, DE, IE, NL, SCO	**5** · 22.7%
Not reported	–	**0** · 0.0%

Established, but by very different instruments. Most established countries rest on a single dedicated statute — Belgium's 2005 Volunteer Law, Croatia's and Slovenia's Volunteering Acts, Poland's 2003 Act, Spain's Ley 45/2015. Yet the mechanism varies: Italy's framework is a consolidated Third Sector Code that combines in insurance and transparency, Lithuania's law carries a distinctive mandatory child-safeguarding clearance, and Denmark has no single volunteer act at all — two supporting laws (Social Services Act §18 and the Act on Popular Education) suffice. 'Established' does not mean 'applied'. Belgium's is "not enough known or respected", and Romania's is accurate on paper but the "government doesn't seem very willing to get involved", with NGOs carrying the load.

Partial/emerging frameworks. France and Sweden regulate not through a volunteering law but through general civic law: France via the 1901 Association Act, case law and the CESE; Sweden via a constitutional freedom of association treated as functionally equivalent. Greece is Partial for the opposite reason — a framework the CFS calls "still lacking", with recent movement via the 2021 law rather than an established base.

Absent — documented 'no', not silence. The five absences are all documented, not blank: Germany records "no legal framework … on a federal level", Ireland "no explicit legislation relating to volunteers", the Netherlands "no specific legal framework".

4.1.2 "Opportunities for public recognition for the action of volunteers, citizens and associations through awards, volunteer weeks and festivals etc. are provided and increased"

Whether opportunities for public recognition — awards, volunteer weeks, festivals — are provided and increased is the most widely established Blueprint condition; the interest is in how uniform 'Established' really is.

Established	BE, HR, CZ, FI, FR, DE, HU, IE, IT, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, SCO	**20** · 90.9%
Partial / emerging	DK, GR	**2** · 9.1%
Absent	—	**0** · 0.0%
Not reported	—	**0** · 0.0%

Established — a national award, by many designs. Twenty countries reach "Established", but the instruments differ. Some rest on a single flagship state award (Croatia's State Award, Germany's Volunteering Award, the Czech Křesadlo); others on a recognition week or festival (Ireland's National Volunteering Week, Slovenia's state honours plus the MSS scheme); some on long-running civil-society awards (Finland's decade-old Volunteer of the Year). 'Established' here spans government medals, NGO prizes and annual celebration events alike. Scotland reaches Established but the evidence shows its Saltire Award is youth-scoped (ages 11–25), with Volunteers' Week filling the wider gap. Romania and Lithuania add a functional twist: recognition doubles as a route to university admission points, a use-case absent elsewhere.

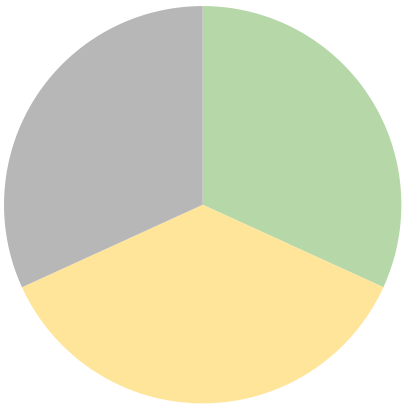
Partial — recognition without a national anchor. Denmark's note records "no national award, but many municipalities have awards" and "a long tradition of publicly recognising" volunteers, recognition that is real but decentralised. Greece has "no recognised State Award for Volunteering", with only non-institutionalised recognition. Both are Partial by absence of a national instrument, not absence of recognition.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 15
Showing an example of **public recognition**

TITLE	**Italian Volunteering Capital**		
COUNTRY	**Italy**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Third Party
ORGANISATION	CSVnet	**MODALITY**	Live · Hybrid
DESCRIPTION	The Italian Capital of Volunteering, promoted by CSVnet with ANCI and others, awards an annual title to a city or territory with a structured commitment to volunteering. Inspired by the European Capital of Volunteering, it runs a year-long programme and gives particular attention to inner areas and small municipalities.		
IMPACT	CSVs are mandatory partners in applications and coordination, which strengthens their role as network infrastructures for public–private co-design and balanced territorial development.		

5.2.1 "Volunteering is included as an integral part of the community planning for crisis prevention and response"

The answer to the question as to whether volunteering is an integral part of community crisis prevention and response planning reveals key distinctions between crisis volunteering planned into the system and crisis volunteering that spikes around events.



Established	BE, HR, DK, FI, FR, GR, IT	**7** · 31.8%
Partial / emerging	CZ, LT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, SCO	**8** · 36.4%
Absent	–	**0** · 0.0%
Not reported	DE, HU, IE, MT, NL, PL, PT	**7** · 31.8%

Established — crisis volunteering built into the system. The Established countries share planned, documented integration rather than mere activity. The case in Croatia is that local and regional authorities are "legally required to plan, finance, equip, train and coordinate civil protection capacities, including the organised participation of volunteers", with Red Cross, firefighters and Mountain Rescue "recognised as operational forces". Denmark calls volunteering "an integral part of Denmark's emergency preparedness"; Volunteering is "structurally integrated into the French crisis-management chain"; Finland's and Belgium's run through standing Red Cross structures; and Greece's rests on volunteers being "pivotal during the refugee crisis and the continuous wildfires". In Italy volunteers are an integral part of the civil protection system.

Partial/emerging — visible but episodic. The Partial group is defined by the 'spikes, not structure' pattern. The Czech Republic describes "come and go" trends; Lithuania, Sweden and Spain show COVID-19, Ukraine and DANA-flood mobilisations framed as amplification rather than embedded planning; Scotland's case is much reduced on this figure at 3% of activity. Slovenia highlights how volunteer firefighters and mountain rescue are "integrated directly into civil protection command", but that the wider civil-society structure of collaboration "is still evolving".

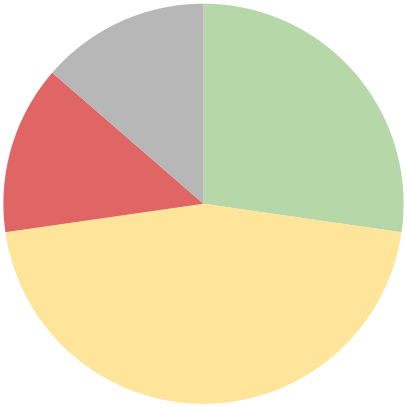
Not reported. Seven countries carry no usable country-specific crisis evidence. This silence is a coverage gap, not a documented absence.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 16
Showing an example of **volunteering as an integral part of crisis prevention and response**

TITLE	**Why call on volunteers**		
COUNTRY	**Belgium**	ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY	Associative
ORGANISATION	Plateforme francophone du Volontariat	MODALITY	Live
DESCRIPTION	Télé-Accueil is a non-profit running a 24/7 volunteer helpline that has been running for over 65 years. It studied how volunteering shapes the support it provides and concluded that it's an individual journey of personal commitment and skill as well as a collective endeavour of mutual support and shared purpose to support people in times of crisis.		
IMPACT	Télé-Accueil plays a crucial role in the mental health network, providing a safety net for people in distress.		

5.4.2 "Volunteers are provided with the necessary support and protection through suitable accident and third party liability insurance"

Whether volunteers are protected through suitable accident and third-party liability insurance shows a fragmented picture with a statutory duty in some countries and an organisation-by- organisation matter in most.



Established BE, IT, NL, PT, SI, ES	**6** · 27.3%
Partial / emerging HR, CZ, DK, FI, IE, LT, MT, PL, RO, SK	**10** · 45.5%
Absent FR, SE, SCO	**3** · 13.6%
Not reported DE, GR, HU	**3** · 13.6%

Established — a statutory obligation. The six established countries share a legal mandate: Spain's Volunteer Law makes insurance compulsory as does Italy's Third Sector Code, but only for volunteers in registered third sector organisations. Slovenia's Act (Article 29) obliges organisations to arrange cover, and Belgium imposes a liability-insurance duty with free cover for small organisations. The form is consistent here as the law requires it.

Partial/emerging — cover that 'depends'. The largest group is defined by conditionality. Croatia is mandatory only for higher-risk volunteering; the Czech Republic guarantees cover only for accredited organisations; Slovakia's Act permits insurance by agreement but suitable products are "largely unavailable on the Slovak market"; Ireland's cover exists but rising costs are "prohibitive for many organisations". The same category reveals very different obstacles — legal scope, market supply, and affordability respectively.

Absent vs Not reported. France, Sweden and Scotland record documented absences of any general requirement. Germany, Greece and Hungary are blank — 'Not reported', and must not be read as 'no', which makes the overall Europe-wide picture of this indicator weaker than it first appears.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE 17
Showing an example of **volunteer insurance provision**

TITLE	**Free volunteer insurance as a protection net for volunteers of vulnerable organisations**		
COUNTRY	**Belgium**	**ORGANISATIONAL MODALITY**	Associative · Informal · Third Party
ORGANISATION	Flemish Support Centre for Volunteering (Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk), funded by the Flemish Government	**MODALITY**	*Insurance is not linked to a specific volunteering modality*
DESCRIPTION	Flanders provides a free volunteer insurance scheme for financially vulnerable volunteer organisations, including both formal and informal organisations. The free insurance is administered by the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteering and is funded by the Flemish Government, with coverage for up to 1,000 volunteer hours per organisation per 12-month period.		
IMPACT	The free insurance lowers the financial and administrative threshold for vulnerable organisations to organise volunteering and provides a protection net for volunteers of smaller or occasional initiatives. It complements the Belgian legal obligation for the formal organisations to insure volunteers against civil liability; volunteers themselves also benefit from legal civil-liability immunity in many circumstances.		

8. Closing and main takeaways

The environment for volunteering in Europe is changing across several parameters:

- The shift to flexible, short-term and episodic engagement
- New forms, new organisers: informal, corporate and digital
- Professionalisation and the focus on skills
- Demographic change
- Crisis-driven and youth mobilisation

The drivers responsible for "professionalising" and "formalising" European volunteering (corporate volunteering, skills-based management, digitalisation) tend, on the same trends, to disadvantage the least formal forms of volunteering. The recurring rationale in the gathered evidence concerns the coordination burden in a context of shrinking resources.

An important cross cutting finding is that in at least 16 of 22 countries, a documented legal, strategic, funding or protection provision is qualified by the gathered evidence as poorly known, expired, unenforced, unfunded, or organisation-dependent. Across Europe, formal existence consistently overstates real progress and the pattern is not confined to one indicator. It recurs wherever a provision can exist on paper and fail in practice. This is most visible in the areas of legal framework, strategy, funding, co-creation and insurance.

INDICATOR	EXAMPLE COUNTRIES	INDICATIVE NATURE OF THE GAP
3.4.1 Legal framework	BE, RO	A dedicated law exists but is documented as poorly known or weakly owned — Belgium "not enough known or respected"; Romania accurate on paper but the government "not very willing to get involved".
Example	BE	A 2005 volunteer law exists, but the notes record it is "not sufficiently known or respected", with misuse of volunteering in commercial settings and a High Council that is "often ignored or not consulted".
1.4.1 Sufficient funding	BE, NL, SK, SCO	Support centres or bodies exist but the notes record funding as precarious, insufficient or not dedicated. Netherlands "hardly ever really durable"; Slovakia "insufficient and unstable".
Example	SK	Public Funding exists but it is reported as "insufficient and unstable". Reviewers state that "only dedicated state funding scheme is the Ministry of Education's Programmes for Youth, which supports volunteering-related activities but is limited to youth target groups and disbursement of grants is frequently delayed, with funds often not allocated until mid-year".
1.5.2 Co-creation of public policies	BE, HR, RO, SE, PT, SCO	Consultation mechanisms exist but the notes deny they amount to shared decision-making. Romania "stays in the consultancy area"; Portugal "no public policies are … implemented".
Example	PT	It is documented that "in reality, no public policies are created and implemented in volunteering in Portugal", despite the legal groundwork laid in 1998 and the Local Volunteer Banks established in 2001.

INDICATOR	EXAMPLE COUNTRIES	INDICATIVE NATURE OF THE GAP (CONT.)
3.3.2 Strategy	HU, DK, SCO, SK	A strategy is documented but expired, unfunded, or embedded elsewhere — Hungary's 2012–2022 strategy expired with no successor; Denmark's 2017 strategy funded only to 2021; Scotland's Action Plan noted as unfunded.
Example	HU	The Country Factsheet documents the gap: the National Volunteer Strategy 2012–2022 "has expired", and "as of today, there is no officially adopted 2023–2030 strategy" — formal provision that has lapsed into a void.
5.4.2 Insurance	SK, IE, CZ	A basis for insurance exists but coverage is undercut in practice. Slovakia's products "largely unavailable on the market"; Ireland's costs "prohibitive for many organisations".
Example	CZ	Volunteer insurance rules depend on Ministry of the Interior accreditation. Accredited entities must supply liability insurance and enable state health coverage for long-term volunteers working over 20 hours weekly. Unaccredited entities face no legal mandate to provide insurance, leaving coverage dependent on arrangements between the organisations and their volunteers.
3.1.1 Education: civic / Service Learning	BE, HU, PT	Civic education or service learning is present but not embedded — Belgium a "methodology, often mandatory"; Hungary's compulsory service "can limit intrinsic motivation".
Example	SK	Civic education and service learning are not yet systematically embedded in the Slovak formal education system. The Ministry of Education is currently developing, in cooperation with PDCO, a concept for volunteering education in formal and non-formal settings, expected to be adopted in 2027, which aims to establish conditions for scaling the service learning approach across more schools and educational institutions.

Europe is strong in the field of recognition of volunteering with documented awards, weeks or festivals in 20 of 22 countries. Legal frameworks are the next strongest aspect with 14 countries documenting a dedicated volunteer law. On the question of volunteering strategies the situation represents as volatile and evenly split between documented absences (6), establishments (6), and several expired or unfunded cases. Additional development and attention in Europe is needed in relation to the issue of the co-financing of grants with volunteer time. This is both the least advanced and least reported aspect in the gathered evidence.

There is a clear need for further and more extensive exploration and analytical review of the SEVR 2026 materials. Researchers and practitioners alike are invited to investigate and analyse these outcomes further. By exploring these insights, identifying tensions and contradictions as well pursuing additional analysis of the collated data, a more complete and comprehensive picture of volunteering in Europe will emerge. In reaching this greater understanding it will be possible to develop improved, more comprehensive and "fit for purpose" volunteering policies, strategies and legal frameworks. This should lead to enhanced volunteer impact and engagement, bringing Europe closer to the outcomes foreseen in the Blueprint for European Volunteering (BEV2030) as well as inform the post 2030 agenda.

Centre for European Volunteering

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