

## General Information



## KEY INFORMATION ABOUT SLOVENIA

**Capital:** Ljubljana

**Official Language:** Slovenian

**Population:** 2,133,852 (as of 2025)\*

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Calling Code:** +386

## KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS\*\*

**GDP per capita:** € 33,062 million (as of 2025)

**Real GDP growth in 2025:** 1.1 %

**Unemployment rate in September 2023:** 4.1 %\*\*\*

## Statistics and Demographics

## Volunteering rate of population in 2024



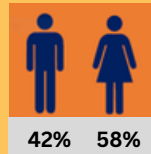
**10.4%**

Another info (based on a survey - formal+informal volunteer work combined): 30% of people aged 15 or more (as of 2022)\*\*\*\*\*

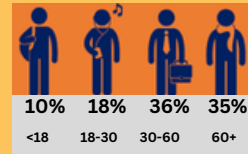
**Total number of volunteers in 2024:** 203.786\*\*\*\*

**Annual economic value of volunteering:** € 84,972,928\*\*\*\*

## Volunteer experience per gender and age group (percentage of the total population)\*\*\*\*



**42% 58%**



**10% 18% 36% 35%**  
**<18 18-30 30-60 60+**

## Education Levels and Volunteering

No data available for the moment

## Motivation for Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

## DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING\*\*\*\*\*

**Article 2 Volunteering Act:** (1) Volunteering is a socially beneficial free-of-charge activity of individuals whose work, knowledge and experience contribute to the improvement of the quality of living of individuals and social groups and to the development of a society based on solidarity, human wellbeing and equal opportunities. (2) Volunteering strengthens solidarity, promotes the development of human abilities and lifelong learning, and ensures social cohesion and cooperation in resolving the problems of individuals and society.

## SOCIAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTEERING\*\*\*\*\*

Volunteering has a long-standing and rich tradition in Slovenia, making a notable impact on numerous areas of social life for many years. It is a central value of modern society as it contributes significantly to strengthening social cohesion and solidarity, promotes active citizenship and supports sustainable community development.

## Types of Volunteer Activities\*\*\*\*

From the reports for the year 2024, it again appears that the most volunteer hours are spent in the **field of social activity**. In 2024, 3.936.033 volunteer hours or 46% of all volunteer hours were completed in this area (in 2023: 3.829.885 hours or 47,4%, in 2022: 5.371.038 hours or 58,1 %). Among the areas specified by the regulations, in 2024 many volunteer hours were also spent in the **field of education**– 1,303,517 hours, or 15.2% (in 2023: 1,096,493 hours, or 13.6%, in 2022: 1,016,577 hours, or 11%), in the **field of culture and arts** – 714,809 hours, i.e. 8.4% (in 2023: 628,365 hours, i.e. 7.8%, in 2022: 612,538 hours, i.e. 6.6%) and in the **field of recreation** 625,850 hours, i.e. 7.3% (in 2023: 609,851 hours, i.e. 7.6%, in 2022: 505,214 hours, i.e. 5.5%).

\* Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/Field/Index/17>)

\*\*Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/statweb/en/field/index/1/29>)

\*\*\*Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/Field/index/3>)

\*\*\*\*Source: Joint Annual Report on Volunteering in the Republic of Slovenia for 2024 (<https://www.gov.si/novice/2025-07-10-skupno-poroclilo-o-prostovoljstvu-v-republiki-sloveniji-za-letu-2024/>)

\*\*\*\*\*Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/News/Index/11333>)

\*\*\*\*\*Source: Volunteering Act (<https://pisrs.si/Aktualno/zakonodaja-v-angljescini>)

\*\*\*\*\*Source: Volunteering Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/strategija-razvoja-nevladnih-organizacij-do-2030-in-strategija-razvoja-prostovoljstva-do-2030/>)

## Impact of Volunteering\*

A total of 84,972,928 euros worth of organized volunteer work was carried out in 2024, which undoubtedly shows the great contribution of volunteer work to general social welfare in the Republic of Slovenia. On the other hand, the aim of the study Being a volunteer Changes you: The effects of volunteering on the volunteer and the role of mentorship was to investigate positive and negative effects of volunteering on volunteers. They wanted to find out which changes volunteers perceive in their lives as consequences of volunteering, and if volunteers who had a mentor perceive more positive change than those without one. 721 volunteers responded. The results show that on average volunteers perceived positive changes more often than negative ones. Moreover, more positive changes were reported in the group of volunteers who had a mentor. Almost every volunteer reported they felt more useful because of volunteering. More than 80 % reported positive changes with regard to experiencing positive emotions, along with greater satisfaction with their lives and social networks.

## Quality Standards in the Field of Volunteering

The Slovene Network of Volunteering organizations has developed quality standards for volunteering organizations in Slovenia with aim to raise the quality of volunteering and to ensure the quality of volunteer programmes. It developed also the quality standards Young volunteer friendly organisation for organisations that include young volunteers. Moreover, it developed also the quality standards Confirmed quality of organised volunteering for organisations that have long-standing quality volunteer programs.\*\*\*

## Challenges to the Development of Volunteering

Many volunteer organisations may struggle with limited financial resources, hindering their ability to organise and support volunteer activities effectively. Clarifying the legal aspects of volunteer work, including insurance coverage and liability issues, can be a significant hurdle.\*\*\*

## National E-platform for Volunteering

### SLOVENSKA MREŽA PROSTOVOLJSKIH ORGANIZACIJ

The Slovenska Filantropija Organisation through its own website has the Slovene network of volunteering organisations.

## Trends in the Development of Volunteering in Slovenia

No data available for the moment.

## Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

## Institutional and Legal Framework for Volunteering in Slovenia\*

Organised volunteering is regulated by the Volunteering Act, which was adopted in 2011 and amended in 2015. Pursuant to the Act, volunteering is a socially beneficial unpaid activity of individuals who, through their work, knowledge and experience, contribute to improving the quality of life of individuals and social groups, and to the development of a society of solidarity, humanity and equality.

Recognising the importance of volunteering, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in 2025 adopted a Strategy for the Development of Volunteering until 2030. It emphasises volunteering as a key social value and fundamental pillar of solidarity. It aims at creating a stable environment for volunteer organisations, increasing the visibility of volunteering, and developing programs that will respond to the challenges of current times.\*\*\*\*



## Financial Support for the Development of Volunteering\*\*\*\*\*

The Slovenian Network of Volunteer Organisations received funding from the Ministry of Public Administration for supporting volunteering. Their program, **The Slovenian Philanthropy program**, aims to enhance volunteer organisations' capacities for quality volunteering, organisational development, and knowledge sharing. They achieve this through training, counseling, mentoring, and information dissemination to NGOs and organisations with volunteer programs, helping to build their capabilities. They also focus on connecting organisations and providing guidance on volunteering development.

## National award and recognitions for volunteering

Annually, the Committee of the Republic of Slovenia awards state award and state recognitions for volunteering to deserving volunteers. The President of Slovenia presents the awards at a special ceremony. Additionally, The Slovene Network of Volunteering organisations and The Slovene Philanthropy annually organise a special competition for different titles in the field of volunteering, such as "Volunteering-Friendly Municipality," "Best Volunteer in Public Administration," "Best Mentor of Volunteers," "Heroes of Our Time" (for primary in secondary school), and "Best Volunteer Story" (for media). The titles are presented at a Ceremonial Volunteer Day, which is a part of National Volunteer Week.\*\*

## Key Stakeholders in the Development of Volunteering\*\*\*\*

- The central organisation for volunteering is Slovene Philanthropy, which coordinates the Slovenian Network of Volunteer Organisations. It provides support to volunteer organisations in establishing volunteer programs, recruiting volunteers, cares for the development of volunteering, transfers good practices, and introduces new forms of volunteering. Prepares and conducts training for volunteers and mentors, Advocates
- The Sector for Non-Governmental Organisations at the Ministry of Public Administration systematically monitors the field of volunteering.
- The Institute Movit, which acts as the National Agency for EU programs in the field of youth, European Solidarity Corps.
- The Voluntariat Institute promotes ideas of solidarity through voluntary work and projects. It is the go-to source for information related to volunteering abroad.
- The Youth Council of Slovenia encourages volunteering among young people and organising the "Best Volunteer of the Year" competition since 2002.

## Research in the Field of Volunteering\*\*\*\*\*

The Joint Report on Volunteering for 2024 reveals that Slovenian volunteers, both within organizations and public institutions, contribute over 8.5 million hours of volunteer work. This voluntary effort is valued at almost 85 million euros for social welfare. Additionally, there are 2,675 registered volunteer organizations in Slovenia. The report compiles data on volunteer work, including the number of agreements made, hours volunteered, and the estimated social welfare contribution. It also highlights that voluntary work is done without payment or material benefits, purely for the benefit of others or the community.

\*Source: Being a Volunteer Changes you: The effects of volunteering on the volunteer and the role of mentorship (Kmetič, Lauč, Okretič, 2021) (chrome-extension://efadnmbmmnibpcjggciefndmka/https://ebooks.uni-lj.si/ZalozbaUL/catalog/download/310/452/6745?inline=1)

\*\*Source: <https://www.prostovoljstvo.org/priznanje-nagrade-natecaji> and <https://pils.si/pregledPredpisa?id=URE05698>

\*\*\*Source: <https://www.prostovoljstvo.org/>

\*\*\*\*Source: <https://www.prostovoljstvo.org/> and websites of all listed organisations

\*\*\*\*\*Source: Volunteering Act (<https://pils.si/aktualni/zakonodaja-v-anglescini>) and Volunteering Development Strategy in the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/strategija-razvoja-nevladnih-organizacij-do-2030-in-strategija-razvoja-prostovoljstva-do-2030/>)

\*\*\*\*\*Source: <https://www.prostovoljstvo.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*Source: Joint Annual Report on Volunteering in the Republic of Slovenia for 2024 (<https://www.gov.si/novice/2025-07-10-skupno-poroclilo-o-prostovoljstvu-v-republiki-sloveniji-za-leto-2024/>)