SEVR2026 Country Profile: France (based on the information available in April 2026)

France has a volunteering framework for part-time / free-time volunteers (Benevol) assembled from general civic law rather than dedicated volunteering legislation. The 1901 Association Act, case law and the CESE define the volunteer relationship, while the High Council for Associative Life issues mandatory opinions on legislation affecting associations via a strong co-creation mechanism. Funding flows through the responsible ministry and the FDVA, recognition is documented but considered "insufficient and inadequate" for volunteering, and volunteering is "structurally integrated into the French crisis-management chain" through the municipal civil-protection reserve. National platforms such as Jeveuxaider.gouv.fr provide accessible reference points, and civic education is delivered through mandatory Moral and Civic Education. France is mature and coherent, its provisions distributed rather than codified in one place. The case for full-time volunteers in France (*voluntariat*) is different to that of *benevol* and is not included in the provided data.

The main documented limitation is insurance, which is mandated only for specific high-risk activities. Volunteering "decline" is framed as a fall in hours rather than in volunteers as the number of volunteers is roughly stable but each gives less time having an impact on other trends in the field. Youth and senior volunteering move in opposite directions to one another with the youth rise impacting positively for associations and education but the senior decline hitting informal volunteering hardest as its "backbone" erodes. Occasional volunteering is the clearest fault line: positive for informal volunteering but negative for both associations and the public organisers.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: France
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of occasional volunteering with a positive impact on informal volunteering but negative for both associations and the public organisers.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Decline/falling volunteer numbers	Decline framed as a fall in hours rather than in volunteers, the number of volunteers being roughly stable but each giving less time.
	Ageing/loss of older volunteers	Loss of older volunteers, the senior decline hitting informal volunteering hardest.
	Professionalisation/skills-based management	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Widening inequality barriers to access	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Corporate / employee / CSR volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Rising youth/student participation	Rising youth participation, positively impacting associations and education.
	Skills/employability-driven motivation	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Crisis-driven engagement	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Recruitment & retention difficulty	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.

	Public-institution partnership/socialisation	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Formalisation/legal recognition	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
BEV2030 indicators 1.3.2 Volunteer time that does not replace paid jobs can be used for the co-financing/ co-resourcing of grants.	1.3.2 Co-financing with volunteer time	**Partial/emerging.** Accounting for volunteer hours lets associations demonstrate self-financing and meet co-financing caps, but requires specific administrative mechanisms.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Partial/emerging.** Government funding via the responsible ministry and the FDVA (funds for the development of associative life) (2018) finances associations and volunteer development, but dedicated funding "remains modest".
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.	1.5.2 Co-creation of public policies	**Established.** A strong consultative mechanism is available. The High Council for Associative Life (HCVA) issues mandatory opinions on bills affecting associations and can self-refer.
2.1.4 Suitable and sufficient public support is provided to volunteer infrastructure organisation to have the capacity to support and guide these **new forms** of volunteering.	2.1.4 Suitable & sufficient support to 5 volunteering contexts: informal groups, local administrations, national public authorities, educational institutions, business sector actors.	**Partial/emerging.** Support is documented for national public authorities (HCVA) and businesses through skills sponsorship. Support provided to the five contexts is unevenly developed and documented. Support distribution across the five contexts is uneven.
2.3.3 Every volunteer has a suitable and accessible point of information or reference point to channel their questions and suggestions.	2.3.3 Accessible point of information	**Established.** National platforms Jeveuxaider.gouv.fr, tousbenevoles.org and francebenevolat.org provide accessible reference points for volunteering. The Guid'Asso network supports the local level.
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.	3.1.1 Education: Civic / Service Learning	**Partial/emerging.** Mandatory Moral and Civic Education (EMC) and curricular recognition of engagement (ECTS), strong civic education without a named service-learning system.
3.3.2 Suitable volunteering development strategies that are crosscutting and transversal for different policy fields and sectors are developed.	3.3.2 Strategy	**Partial/emerging.** There is no single centralised strategy, but there are dispersed measures (civic service, civic reserve, sector reserves).
3.4.1 Legal frameworks for volunteering are adapted and evolve to take this, 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	3.4.1 Legal framework	**Partial/emerging.** There is no dedicated volunteering law, but the 1901 Association Act plus case law and CESE (*Conseil économique, social et environnemental*) define the volunteer relationship.

currently the case, unlocking further potential.		
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.	4.1.2 Recognition	**Established.** Recognition through documented acknowledgements, medals and a Young Volunteer Award.
5.2.1 Volunteering is included as an integral part of the community planning for crisis prevention and response.	5.2.1 Crisis prevention & response	**Established.** Volunteering is structurally integrated into the French crisis management chain, via the municipal civil-protection reserve (RCSC) and approved associations.
5.4.2 Volunteers are provided with the necessary support and protection through suitable accident and third party liability insurance.	5.4.2 Insurance	**Absent.** The 1901 Act imposes no general insurance obligation. Insurance coverage is legally required only for specific high-risk activities, otherwise highly recommended but not mandated.