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

Ireland shows an operationally active volunteering system without a dedicated legal base. There is no explicit volunteer legislation, but a current National Volunteering Strategy (2021–2025, with a successor imminent), a concrete 2025 funding allocation of over €7.3 million, an established set of awards with National Volunteering Week, and national information infrastructure through I-VOL and Volunteer Ireland. The evidence points to the fact that policy consultation happens but its guidelines "are not always followed", volunteering features in the curriculum "as information, not an activity", and while insurance cover is available, rising costs, particularly for volunteer drivers, are "prohibitive for many organisations". Co-financing with volunteer time is not practised.

Ireland is well-resourced and infrastructurally strong, with its principal gaps in legal recognition, co-financing possibilities and the affordability of protection rather than in delivery capacity. The rise of informal volunteering is read as a possible drain on formal participation but there is a lack of available hard data to underpin the manifestation and reasons behind this perceived trend. Recruitment and retention difficulties are presented as a shared pressure, treated as a design problem organisations can act on with flexibility and inclusion framed as part of the route to recovery.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Ireland
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	Rise of informal volunteering, read as a possible drain on formal participation, though hard data to underpin the trend is lacking.
	Decline/falling volunteer numbers	Decline or falling volunteer numbers, though unconfirmed in the evidence.
	Ageing/loss of older volunteers	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	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	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	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	Recruitment and retention difficulty, presented as a shared pressure and a design problem organisations can act on.
	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	**Absent.** No co-financing in relation to volunteers/volunteer hours in Ireland.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Partial/emerging.** DRCDG (Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht) allocated €7,334,000 in 2025 to support volunteering, a concrete, current funding commitment but "funding remains a major constraint, limiting the capacity of volunteer infrastructure to expand and sustain services."
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	**Partial/emerging.** Consultation without guaranteed co-creation. New policies involve public consultation processes, but departmental guidelines are not always followed in practice.
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.** Corporate-volunteering support and guidance to informal groups are delivered. Support provided to the other contexts is unevenly developed and documented.
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.** A national reference point is in place at national level through I-VOL and Volunteer Ireland.
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.** Volunteering appears in small elements of the school curriculum, as information, not an activity, with Transition Year and university supports.
3.3.2 Suitable volunteering development strategies that are crosscutting and transversal for different policy fields and sectors are developed.	3.3.2 Strategy	**Established.** A live, continuous strategy exists. National Volunteering Strategy 2021–2025 published, with a second strategy due to be published at the end of 2026.
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 currently the case, unlocking further potential.	3.4.1 Legal framework	**Absent.** There is no explicit legislation relating to volunteers, with inconsistent recognition across government policy.

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.** The 12 awards across categories, and the National Volunteering Week each May provide established public recognition.
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	**Partial/emerging.** Irish-specific crisis integration is not clearly evidenced, treated as partial and uncertain.
5.4.2 Volunteers are provided with the necessary support and protection through suitable accident and third party liability insurance.	5.4.2 Insurance	**Partial/emerging.** Volunteers can be covered under insurance, but rising costs, especially insuring volunteer drivers, are prohibitive for many organisations.