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

Sweden is the clearest example of maturity achieved without formal scaffolding. There is no specific volunteering law and the constitutional right of freedom of association and a strong autonomous civil-society tradition are treated as functionally equivalent. Sweden has "no national volunteering strategy", "no general framework" accepting volunteer time as co-financing, "no national framework for service learning", and "no legal requirement" to insure volunteers. Yet, participation is high, recognition is established through the annual Volunteer of the Year award, a national platform (Volontärbyrån) connects volunteers and organisations, and consultative involvement of civil society is well established, if "often consultative rather than co-creation". Funding is available through targeted grants and Sweden reaches many outcomes through civic culture rather than dedicated provision, its formal absences being largely deliberate rather than deficiencies of capacity.

Sweden's headline is stability with changing texture with overall volunteering levels holding steady while the ways and causes people engage with shift, creating adaptation challenges rather than decline. Crisis and issue-driven engagement are treated as self-reinforcing with evidence showing that initial crisis involvement tends to convert into continued volunteering. The community modalities (associative and informal) move together, sharing both the positives and the adaptation challenges rather than trading off against each other. There is a lack of information about third-party organisers of volunteering, so the picture is about citizens and associations, not about how public bodies or businesses organise volunteering.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Sweden
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic engagement, with the ways and causes people engage shifting.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	Growing digitalisation of the volunteering sector.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Decline/falling volunteer numbers	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Ageing/loss of older volunteers	Loss of older volunteers.
	Professionalisation/skills-based management	Professionalisation and skills-based management.
	Widening inequality barriers to access	Widening inequality and barriers to access.
	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	Skills and employability-driven motivation.
	Crisis-driven engagement	Crisis and issue-driven engagement treated as self-reinforcing, with initial crisis involvement converting into continued volunteering.
	Recruitment & retention difficulty	Recruitment and retention difficulty.
	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.** There is no general framework in Sweden allowing volunteer time to be counted as co-financing.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Partial/emerging.** Public funding is available through targeted grants but not as a comprehensive, dedicated stream.
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.** There is a well-established tradition of consultation (remiss, inquiries), but participation is not systematic, and it's often consultative rather than co-creation.
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 local administrations (through municipal partnerships), businesses (through employee volunteering). However, volunteer infrastructure is reported as mainly designed for formal organisations. Support provided to the five 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.** Volontärbyrån connects individuals and organisations nationally. At the regional level, it is variable.
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	**Absent.** There is no national framework for service learning or systematic education about volunteering, despite high youth engagement.
3.3.2 Suitable volunteering development strategies that are crosscutting and transversal for different policy fields and sectors are developed.	3.3.2 Strategy	**Absent.** There is no national volunteering strategy. Policies are "spread across different areas.
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	**Partial/emerging.** There is no specific volunteering law, but a constitutional freedom of association and a strong civil-society tradition treated as functionally equivalent.

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.** Volunteer of the Year (Årets Volontär) is an annual award, established 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.** Crisis-driven engagement is growing, with spikes during the refugee situation, COVID-19 and Ukraine, but not documented as planned integration.
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.** There is no legal requirement for organisations to provide accident or third-party liability insurance to volunteers. Insurance coverage varies by organisation.