Country	Language	Term	Meaning / Nuance	Register / Legal status
Belgium	Flemish	vrijwilligerswerk	Standard term for volunteering / voluntary work.	Standard, everyday and legal
	French	bénévolat	Unpaid, freely chosen civic engagement. Standard term for volunteering.	Standard, informal/associative. Standard, everyday and legal : even if the 2005 law uses "volontariat/volontaire", the law applies to "volontariat" and "bénévolat". These terms are considered synonymous in Belgium. In both cases, people/organizations must comply with the 2005 law.
	French	volontariat	More formal or structured engagement, e.g. state-framed civic service. Standard term for volunteering, officially used in 2005 volunteering law	Standard, everyday and legal (Belgium's 2005 Volunteering Act uses both volontariat and vrijwilligerswerk)
	German	Freiwilligenarbeit	Voluntary work (general term).	Standard
	German	Ehrenamt	An 'honorary office' — a long-standing, socially recognised unpaid role.	Formal/traditional
	German	ehrenamtliche Tätigkeit	Honorary/voluntary activity.	Formal
Croatia	Croatian	volontiranje	The act of volunteering.	Standard, everyday
	Croatian	volonterstvo	Volunteering as a phenomenon/practice; the term used in Croatia's Volunteering Act.	Legal / policy term
	Croatian	dobrovoljni angažman	Voluntary work — listed as a synonym of volontiranje.	Standard synonym (EU multilingual thesaurus, GEMET)
	Croatian	volonterski angažman	Volunteer work — listed as a synonym of volontiranje.	Standard synonym (EU multilingual thesaurus, GEMET)
Czech Republic	Czech	dobrovolnictví	Volunteering, from dobrá vůle ('good will').	Standard, everyday and legal
	Czech	dobrovolnická činnost	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	Czech	dobrovolnická služba	Voluntary service — used for organised & accredited volunteering programmes (Zákon o dobrovolnické službě, the Voluntary Service Act).	Formal / legal
Denmark	Danish	frivilligt arbejde	Voluntary work.	Standard, everyday and the EU-glossary standard term
	Danish	frivillighed	Voluntariness / the volunteering ethos.	Standard, conceptual
	Danish	frivilligt socialt arbejde	Voluntary social work — common phrase for volunteering within the social-welfare/associational sector.	Sector-specific
Finland	Finnish	vapaaehtoistyö	Voluntary work.	Standard
	Finnish	vapaaehtoistoiminta	Voluntary activity — broader term now often preferred over vapaaehtoistyö.	Standard, increasingly preferred
	Finnish	vapaaehtoispalvelu	Voluntary service.	Formal (EU multilingual thesaurus term)
	Swedish	frivilligarbete	Voluntary work.	Standard
	Swedish	frivilligverksamhet	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	French	bénévolat	Unpaid, informal/associative volunteering, freely given.	Standard, no legal status attached

Country	Language	Term	Meaning / Nuance	Register / Legal status
France	French	volontariat	Formalised, often full-time, indemnified engagement, e.g. Service Civique. Legally and substantively distinct from bénévolat.	Formal / legal
	French	engagement bénévole / engagement associatif	Voluntary or associative commitment — the phrase used in policy and civil-society discourse alongside bénévolat.	Policy language
Germany	German	Freiwilligenarbeit	Voluntary work.	Standard
	German	Ehrenamt	An 'honorary office' — long-standing, socially recognised unpaid role.	Formal/traditional
	German	bürgerschaftliches Engagement	Civic engagement — the policy-level umbrella term.	Policy/legal umbrella term
	German	Freiwilligendienst	Formal voluntary service, e.g. Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr (FSJ), Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr (FÖJ).	Formal / state-recognised programme
	German	Bundesfreiwilligendienst	Federal Voluntary Service — a specific state programme open to all ages, colloquially shortened to 'BFD' (volunteers: 'Bufdi').	Formal, government programme
Greece	Greek	εθελοντισμός (ethelontismós)	Volunteering as a concept.	Standard, everyday
	Greek	εθελοντική εργασία (ethelontikí ergasía)	Voluntary work.	Standard and the EU-glossary term
Hungary	Hungarian	önkéntesség	Volunteering — the state/quality of being a volunteer.	Standard, conceptual
	Hungarian	önkéntes munka	Voluntary work.	Standard
	Hungarian	önkéntes tevékenység	Voluntary activity — the legal term.	Legal
	Hungarian	iskolai közösségi szolgálat	School community service — a mandatory volunteering scheme for secondary-school students.	Formal, education-policy specific
Ireland	Irish	obair dheonach	Voluntary work.	Standard
	Irish	saorálaíocht	Volunteering.	Standard
	English	volunteering	Standard English term.	Standard
Italy	Italian	volontariato	Volunteering — the standard and legal term (e.g. in the Third Sector Code).	Standard and legal
	Italian	attività di volontariato	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	Italian	servizio civile	Civil service — a formal, state-run scheme (Servizio Civile Universale) distinct from volontariato, involving a fixed-term paid placement.	Formal, government programme
Lithuania	Lithuanian	savanorystė	Volunteering, from savanoris ('volunteer').	Standard, everyday
	Lithuanian	savanoriška veikla	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	Lithuanian	savanoriškas darbas	Voluntary work — the EU multilingual glossary's standard descriptive term.	Formal / EU-glossary term

Country	Language	Term	Meaning / Nuance	Register / Legal status
Malta	Maltese	volontarjat	Volunteering.	Standard
	Maltese	xogħol volontarju	Voluntary work.	Standard
	English	volunteering	Standard English term.	Standard
Netherlands	Dutch	vrijwilligerswerk	Voluntary work — the standard term.	Standard
	Dutch	vrijwilligheid	Voluntariness.	Standard, conceptual
	Dutch	Vrijwillige Inzet	Broader concept that also contains less organized forms of voluntary work	Standard, conceptual. Policy umbrella term.
	Dutch	bewonersinitiatief	Volunteer work specifically concentrated on neighbourhood improvement, initiated by residents.	Policy/civil society term
	Dutch	actief burgerschap	Similar to bewonersinitiatief but promoted by municipalities	Policy terms
	Dutch	medewerkersvrijwilligerswerk	Voluntary work through and supported by employers	Sector-specific
	Dutch	maatschappelijke stage	Introduction to volunteering through secondary school	Formal, education policy specific
Poland	Polish	wolontariat	Organised/formal volunteering — the term used in the 2003 Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work.	Formal / legal
	Polish	ochotnictwo	Older/broader term for voluntary willingness, less used today.	Dated / literary
	Polish	e-wolontariat	E-volunteering — an emerging term reflecting recent trends.	Emerging usage
	Polish	praca wolontariuszy	Literally 'volunteers' work' — the descriptive form used in EU multilingual glossaries.	Formal / EU-glossary term
Portugal	Portuguese	voluntariado	Volunteering — standard and legal term.	Standard and legal
	Portuguese	trabalho voluntário	Voluntary work.	Standard
Romania	Romanian	voluntariat	Volunteering — standard and legal term.	Standard and legal
	Romanian	activitate de voluntariat	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	Romanian	muncă voluntară	Voluntary work — the EU multilingual glossary's standard descriptive term.	Formal / EU-glossary term
Scotland/UK	English	volunteering	Standard English term.	Standard
	English	voluntary service	often full time but can be part time, usually time limited voluntary engagement similar to the French voluntariat	Standard
Slovakia	Slovak	dobrovoľníctvo	Volunteering, from dobrá vôľa ('good will').	Standard, everyday
	Slovak	dobrovoľnícka činnosť	Voluntary activity.	Standard
	Slovak	dobrovoľnícka práca	Voluntary work — the EU multilingual glossary's standard descriptive term.	Formal / EU-glossary term
Slovenia	Slovenian	prostovoljstvo	Volunteering — the term used in the Volunteering Act, from prosto ('free') + volja ('will').	Legal / policy term

Country	Language	Term	Meaning / Nuance	Register / Legal status
	Slovenian	prostovoljsko delo	Voluntary work.	Standard
Spain	Spanish	voluntariado	Volunteering — standard and legal term, e.g. Ley 45/2015.	Standard and legal
	Spanish	acción voluntaria	Voluntary action.	Standard
	Catalan	voluntariat	Volunteering.	Standard
	Catalan	acció voluntària	Voluntary action.	Standard
	Basque	boluntariotza	Volunteering.	Standard
	Basque	borondatezko lan	Voluntary work.— alternate form used in EU multilingual glossaries.	Formal / EU-glossary term
	Galician	voluntariado	Volunteering.	Standard
Sweden	Swedish	frivilligarbete	Voluntary work.	Standard
	Swedish	volontärarbete	Volunteering — often carries a nuance of organised, placement-based, or international volunteering.	Standard, more formal nuance
	Swedish	ideellt arbete	Non-profit / idealistic work — the most common everyday term in Sweden for engagement in associations.	Standard, everyday (most common)