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

Hungary combines a detailed legal architecture with a pronounced strategic gap. Act LXXXVIII of 2005 (described as the "Gold Standard") together with the 2011 Civil Act and a network of county civil centres provides a comprehensive legal base, funding draws on state, EU and international sources, and the ÖKA Volunteering Award has anchored recognition since 2009. Yet the National Volunteer Strategy 2012–2022 has expired with no adopted 2023–2030 successor, leaving a documented strategic void amid a noted change of government. In education, the compulsory School Community Service raises youth participation but can lead to limited intrinsic motivation. Nationally, volunteering infrastructure is "decentralised and fragmented" with no single reference point.

There is a lack of information on several indicators including co-financing, crisis volunteering and insurance. Hungary is strong in law and recognition, with strategy renewal its most visible outstanding need. Professionalisation is perceived almost entirely as a gain in Hungary and the defining feature is a state-backed civic-service scheme (IKSZ): compulsory school volunteering that channels young people into formal organisations, lifting NGOs, schools and public authorities at once. Informal volunteering is paradoxically dominant yet disadvantaged being the larger field in practice, but pushed to the background by professionalisation and skills-focused, measurable models.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Hungary
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	Dominance of informal volunteering, paradoxically the larger field in practice yet pushed to the background by professionalisation and skills-focused models.
	Decline/falling volunteer numbers	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Ageing/loss of older volunteers	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Professionalisation/skills-based management	Professionalisation and skills-based management, perceived almost entirely as a gain and channelling young people into formal organisations.
	Widening inequality barriers to access	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Corporate / employee / CSR volunteering	Corporate volunteering shaping policy and funding through documented channels.
	Rising youth/student participation	Rising youth participation via the state-backed compulsory School Community Service (IKSZ).
	Skills/employability-driven motivation	Skills and employability-driven motivation, explicitly linked to measurable, impact-oriented models.
	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	Formalisation and legal recognition anchored by a detailed legal architecture.
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	**Not reported.** No evidence reported on mechanisms for recognising or co-financing volunteer time.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Established.** Funding comes from a mix of state, including the National Cooperation Fund (NEA), EU funding schemes, and other international sources.
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.** Government bodies, the corporate sector, municipalities and European actors shape volunteering policy and funding through documented channels.
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.	**Not reported.** All five contexts are not reported.
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	**Absent.** Infrastructure is decentralised and fragmented, with no national reference point. Regional tier not reported.
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.** The compulsory School Community Service (IKSZ, 50 hours) boosts youth participation, but its compulsory nature can limit intrinsic motivation.
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.** The National Volunteer Strategy 2012–2022 has expired, with no officially adopted 2023–2030 strategy, a documented strategic void amid a change of government.
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	**Established.** Act LXXXVIII of 2005 (the "Gold Standard") on Public Interest Volunteer Activities, plus the 2011 Civil Act and a network of county civil centres, providing a detailed legal architecture.
4.1.2 Opportunities for public recognition for the action of volunteers, citizens and associations through awards, volunteer weeks and	4.1.2 Recognition	**Established.** Volunteering Hungary (ÖKA)'s Volunteering Award has run annually since 2009.

festivals etc. are provided and increased.		
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	**Not reported.** No evidence reported on the role of volunteering in crisis prevention and response.
5.4.2 Volunteers are provided with the necessary support and protection through suitable accident and third party liability insurance.	5.4.2 Insurance	**Not reported.** No evidence reported on insurance.