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

Slovakia pairs an established legal and infrastructural base with resourcing and systemic weakness. The Law on Volunteering defines volunteers and accreditation, PDCO acts as the national volunteering centre and runs a national online platform together with "8 regional volunteer centres, one in each regional capital", and the national "Heart in the Palm" award has anchored recognition for over two decades. Fragility is a defining feature of the sector with public funding for infrastructure "insufficient and unstable", participatory policy-making reflecting an individual office's working culture "rather than a systemic norm". Co-financing with volunteer time exists "only through the Ministry of Education", and suitable volunteer insurance products are "largely unavailable on the Slovak market". There is no standalone national volunteering strategy as volunteering sits within Youth and Civil Society strategies and service-learning education awaits a 2027 concept. Slovakia has dependable law and regional infrastructure, with its impact concentrated in stable funding, market provision and systemic embedding.

Slovakia presents as a clear case of the political environment driving the volunteering picture with a hostile climate and cancelled public subsidies hitting organised volunteering hardest of all. Business is cast in an unusual role: as the state withdraws, companies are described as stepping up funding and solidarity with the nonprofit sector, making businesses a positive organiser. Informal volunteering is shielded by its independence from formal structures and subsidies, though not immune to post-crisis fatigue. A documented, historic drop in organised volunteering (roughly halving) gives Slovakia an unusually concrete decline signal rather than a diffuse trend.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Slovakia
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of episodic volunteer engagement.
	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	A documented, historic drop in organised volunteering, an unusually concrete decline signal.
	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	Corporate volunteering, with companies stepping up funding and solidarity as the state withdraws, making businesses a positive organiser.
	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	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.** Co-financing with volunteer time is available only through the Ministry of Education, with expansion planned and NGO awareness low, narrow and emerging.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Absent.** Public funding for volunteering infrastructure remains insufficient and unstable, a documented shortfall despite some grant schemes.
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.** The Government Plenipotentiary's office prepares materials in a participatory manner, but this is not a systemic norm.
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, education (regional centres cooperate with universities), and businesses via Nadácia Pontis. Informal and local context are 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.** PDCO acts as the national centre. At the regional level there is a strong network of 8 regional volunteer centres, one in each regional capital.
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.** Civic education and service learning are not yet systematically embedded in education. A concept is expected in 2027, led by PDCO.
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.** Slovakia does not have a standalone national volunteering strategy. It sits within Youth and Civil Society strategies. A strategy for volunteering is embedded in other thematic 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	3.4.1 Legal framework	**Established.** The Law on Volunteering defines volunteers, hosting and sending organisations and accreditation under the Ministry of Interior.

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.** The Heart in the Palm award has recognised volunteers for over two decades, among several national initiatives.
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.** Importance grew via COVID-19 and Ukraine. Importance via increased engagement rather than documented 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	**Partial/emerging.** The Volunteering Act allows insurance by agreement, but suitable insurance products are largely unavailable on the Slovak market, with a product under development in 2026.

Updates

Date	Source	Data/ Evidence / Information
November 2026	PDCO	By 2025, age became a significant differentiator (p=0.014): participation dropped across all groups, most sharply among older adults (65+: 10.2%), while the youngest group (18–24: 26.2%) retained the highest engagement. https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/_files/ugd/3ec99c_03dae18f18d2471c82539f77af8a3f58.pdf