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

Portugal has one of the oldest codified volunteering frameworks in Europe. There is a three-instrument legal base — Law 71/98, Decree-Law 389/99 and Resolution 50/2000, which establishes volunteers' rights, including insurance. The trajectory for volunteer development has changed over time — decline (2012–18), stability (2020–25), expected growth (2025–28). Contemporary policy developments have been stalled for several years and a national strategy for 2027–2030 is under preparation from 2026. The online platform "Portugal Voluntário" provides a national information platform, supported by municipality-managed local Volunteer Centres.

The evidence points to the observation that the 1998 law "no longer reflects how citizens volunteer. Professionalisation of volunteer management is highlighted as a gain for public coordination and accountability but it is also noted how this presents a structural difficulty for informal groups. The question of digitalisation is seen as positive concerning recruitment outreach, yet negative where virtual volunteering remains under-developed and under-resourced. The decline in the numbers of volunteers from the 65+ age group is singled out as hitting informal volunteering the hardest.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Portugal
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic volunteer engagement in Portugal.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	Growing digitalisation of the volunteering sector, including increased use of digital recruitment tools.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Decline/falling volunteer numbers	Overall decline in number of volunteers.
	Ageing/loss of older volunteers	Loss of volunteers due to an ageing population.
	Professionalisation/skills-based management	Reported professionalisation of the volunteering sector, including through the professionalisation of management.
	Widening inequality barriers to access	Reported widening of inequality and barriers to access to volunteering.
	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	Reported difficulties in the recruitment and retention of volunteers.
	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	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	**Partial/emerging.** No specific budget for volunteering is identified; resources exist, but their adequacy is uncertain.
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	**Absent**. Public policies on volunteering are not systematically co-created; support has been described as fragmented by sector.
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.** There has been national infrastructure since 1999 in the form of the National Council for the Promotion of Volunteering (CNPV), which was replaced by CASES in 2017. And CPV since 2007. 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	**Partial/emerging.** Information is available nationally through the online portal Portugal Voluntário and regionally through Volunteer Centres, but coverage is uneven.
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.** Inclusion of volunteering as a component of civic education in the curricula remains a partial provision rather than a nationally established practice.
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.** A national volunteering strategy is currently being developed.
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**. A three-instrument framework: Law 71/98, Decree-Law 389/99 and Resolution 50/2000 creating the National Council for the Promotion of Volunteering.
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 Municipality Volunteer Award and related recognition of local government roles are established forms of 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	**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	**Established.** The legal framework (Law 71/98, Decree-Law 389/99) sets insurance among volunteers' rights, with funding to cover accident and civil-liability cover.