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

The Netherlands achieves volunteering policy and practice outcomes through practical infrastructure rather than dedicated law or strategy. There is “no specific legal framework for volunteering” and “no national strategy or shared vision”, yet recognition is established through national, provincial and local awards. Volunteers are covered by a secondary insurance arranged via the Association of municipalities, and accessible information is strong with a national e-platform plus a support centre in “practically every municipality”. Fragility and localism or the sector is highlighted with funding noted as “hardly ever really durable”, and co-creation and the use of volunteer hours as co-financing exist only in “certain municipalities” and are “not widely common”. Education is approached through volunteering-acquired skills-registration tools such as Europass rather than curricular embedding.

The Netherlands is infrastructurally capable but lacks a codified legal and strategic frame, with the durability of funding and the unevenness of local practice its main concerns. Overall measurement of volunteering rates and trends is a challenge due to the fact that the same population may be volunteering as much as ever, but fewer identify with the word ‘volunteer’, so identity, not activity, is what associations are losing. That identity shift is read as a transfer rather than a disappearance: what associations lose to declining identification, informal volunteering is said to gain. The ageing demographic presents as a challenge that leads to shrinking the base across associations, informal volunteering and the public organisers alike. The rising demand for recognition, guidance and professionalisation favours skills-oriented organisers (education, business) while pressing associations and informal groups to build structures they have historically lacked.

| | Indicator | SEVR2026 Country Profile: Netherlands |
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| **Emerging Volunteering Patterns**<br>**Source: Trends section of CFS** | Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement | Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic engagement. |
| | Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Rise/dominance of informal volunteering | Rise of informal volunteering, read as a transfer: what associations lose to declining identification, informal volunteering is said to gain. |
| | Decline/falling volunteer numbers | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Ageing/loss of older volunteers | Loss of older volunteers, shrinking the base across associations, informal volunteering and the public organisers alike. |
| | Professionalisation/skills-based management | Professionalisation and skills-based management, favouring skills-oriented organisers while pressing associations and informal groups to build new structures. |
| | Widening inequality barriers to access | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | 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, raising demand for recognition and guidance. |
| | Crisis-driven engagement | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |

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| | 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**<br><br>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.** Grantmaking foundations and some local authorities practise co-financing, but it is not widely common. |
| 1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding. | 1.4.1 Sufficient funding | **Partial/emerging.** Funding is not durable. Support exists but is precarious. |
| 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.** In certain municipalities co-creation exists, but it is not common practice. It is localised and uneven. |
| 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.** National corporate-foundation collaboration and local volunteer partnerships are documented, but the picture is thin across most contexts. |
| 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.** A national e-platform (vrijwilligerswerk.nl) exists. Practically every municipality has a volunteer support centre at the local tier. |
| 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.** Many skills-registration materials exist (Europass, LeverUp, MDT). Infrastructure-oriented rather than curricular embedding. |
| 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.** No national strategy or shared vision on the why, how and what of volunteering. A documented absence. |
| 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 | **Absent.** There is no specific legal framework for volunteering, though many general laws touch it. A documented absence. |

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| 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.** National Volunteer Awards and many local and provincial awards provide 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 | **Not reported.** No evidence reported on the inclusion of volunteering as part of community planning for 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.** Through the Association of municipalities, there is a secondary insurance for volunteers, an established, if secondary, mechanism. |