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

Finland has robust general civic structures rather than dedicated volunteering legislation. Voluntary activity is deliberately left to several general laws, yet civic education is a statutory part of the core curriculum. A broad ministerial and advisory architecture funds and co-creates with the sector, recognition runs through a decade-old Volunteer of the Year award, and crisis engagement is well organised through the Red Cross and others. The national portal Vapaaehtoistyo.fi offers an accessible reference point. There is no dedicated strategy, only network coordination to share good practice and co-financing with volunteer time is possible but only in some grants.

Within a mature system that reaches its outcomes without volunteering-specific law, remaining gaps can be characterised as codification rather than capacity. For example, volunteer protection rests on duty-of-care principles rather than a specific insurance mandate. Finland's two trends point in one direction: engagement is migrating from organisations to themes, creating a challenge for entities that depend on sustained institutional loyalty. Informal volunteering is the natural beneficiary of this theme-based flexibility.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Finland
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic engagement, with engagement migrating from organisations to themes.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	No evidence of this trend has been recorded.
	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	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	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	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 possible in some grant applications. Application is limited and unsystematic.

1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Established.** A mixed system with central Ministry of Social Affairs and Health funding, functioning across sectors.
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.** A dense ministerial and advisory structure (justice, social affairs, education and culture, economic affairs and employment) funds and cooperates with volunteer organisations. Citizen Forum acts as an umbrella.
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 and informal groups. 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	**Established.** The national portal Vapaaehtoistyo.fi provides an accessible reference point for volunteers.
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	**Established.** Civic education is a statutory part of the national core curricula, with extensive coverage through Social Studies and transversal competences.
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.** Citizen Forum coordinates a network to share strategies and policies, but this is network coordination rather than an adopted national strategy.
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.** Voluntary activities are not governed by a single law of their own but by several general laws, a documented absence of a dedicated framework.
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.** Citizen Forum has awarded Volunteer of the Year for a decade. Many organisations also run their own awards around Volunteers' Week.
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	**Established.** Several organisations (Finnish Red Cross, Martha Organisation) run crisis prevention and response efforts. Parishes and individuals contribute to supply aid.

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.** There is no separate Volunteering Act, but quality is framed through occupational safety, safeguarding and a duty of care, protection without a dedicated insurance mandate.