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

Croatia combines a comprehensive legal foundation with uneven implementation. The Law on Volunteering defines rights, an Ethical Code and a competence certificate, continuous public funding reaches volunteer centres, a State Award provides recognition, and national and regional information points exist. Crisis response is embedded through civil-protection structures.

However, the evidence repeatedly describes strong foundations that are not yet fully delivered: formal co-creation mechanisms that stop short of shared decision-making, a transversal policy basis without an adopted strategy, civic education present but "project-dependent", and co-financing permitted but "not systematically applied". Insurance is mandatory only for higher-risk volunteering. Croatia's standing is therefore mature in law and infrastructure, the outstanding work in consistent, system-wide application rather than in the existence of provisions. Informal volunteering is rising as formal structures weaken and, in the face of shrinking programme availability, is largely seen as positive, casting community self-organisation as the system's shock absorber.-Declining decision-maker interest and falling programme availability are significant weaknesses, placing the strain in institutional support rather than in public willingness.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Croatia
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic volunteer engagement.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	Growing digitalisation of the volunteering sector, including online and e-volunteering.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	Rise of informal volunteering as formal structures weaken, largely seen as positive and casting community self-organisation as the system's shock absorber.
	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 Co-financing with volunteer time	**Partial/emerging.** The Law on Volunteering prevents misuse of volunteering as paid-work

1.3.2 Volunteer time that does not replace paid jobs can be used for the co-financing/ co-resourcing of grants.		replacement and some funding schemes allow volunteer hours as in-kind, but this is not systematically applied.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Partial/emerging.** The Ministry provides continuous funding via dedicated calls and lottery-revenue funding; public funding for volunteer centres exists but "cannot yet be considered fully sufficient or sustainably secured".
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.** Formal mechanisms exist (e-Savjetovanja portal, mandatory consultations, advisory bodies), but co-creation is not yet the standard practice, and is often reduced to online consultation on finished drafts.
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 (partially), education and businesses. Support provided to the five contexts is unevenly developed and documented. National support
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.** National and regional volunteer centres provide accessible information, though access is not fully equal across all local communities.
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 is a cross-curricular topic, and the Law links education with volunteering, but implementation is uneven and project-dependent.
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 strong legal and institutional basis and a National Programme are under preparation, but there is no clearly adopted and fully implemented current 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	**Established.** The Law on Volunteering defines volunteering, rights, an Ethical Code and a competence certificate.
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.** There is the State Award for Volunteering, awarded by the Government, as well as legally grounded recognition of volunteers and organisations.

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.** Authorities are legally required to plan, finance, equip, train and coordinate civil protection capacities, including the organised participation of volunteers. Red Cross, firefighters and Mountain Rescue are recognised as operational forces.
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.** Accident insurance is mandatory for high-risk or contractual volunteering but not a universal statutory requirement for all volunteers.