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

Italy's profile is defined by the consolidated Third Sector Code (Legislative Decree 117/2017), which in a single instrument defines volunteers, mandates insurance, imposes transparency through RUNTS and introduces co-programming and co-design with public authorities. Funding is established through banking foundations and public sources, recognition runs through the Capitale italiana del volontariato scheme, and a regional network of Volunteer Support Centres (CSVs) provides accessible information and capacity-building. Policy co-design mechanisms exist in law but there is a "need for stronger collaboration with public authorities", and, despite the strong code, "the government has no national strategy on volunteering". Crisis volunteering is culturally prominent but not documented as planned integration, and co-financing is permitted only within specific funding calls.

Italy is legislatively mature, with its gaps concentrated in strategy and in applying its own participatory provisions. A notable distinctive frame is hybridisation: formal volunteering is not declining but blending with informal and digital forms, so almost everything reads as a challenge to adapt rather than a threat. Informal volunteering is cast positively and generatively - spontaneous, community-rooted, and expanding the overall pool - rather than as a residual category. Formal partnership agreements between public bodies and citizens are seen as a mechanism for legitimising informal engagement.

	Indicator	SEVR2026 Country Profile: Italy
Emerging Volunteering Patterns **Source: Trends section of CFS**	Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement	Increasing prominence of flexible, short-term, episodic engagement, reading as a challenge to adapt rather than a threat.
	Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering	Growing digitalisation of the volunteering sector, blending with formal and informal forms.
	Rise/dominance of informal volunteering	Rise of informal volunteering, cast positively and generatively as spontaneous, community-rooted and expanding the overall pool.
	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	Public-institution partnership, with formal partnership agreements seen as a mechanism for legitimising informal engagement.

	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 is generally not mandatory by law but may be allowed within certain funding calls. Volunteering recognised as in-kind, especially in regional programmes, but variable by call.
1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding.	1.4.1 Sufficient funding	**Established.** The main funding comes from banking foundations and specific public and governmental sources.
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.** Co-creation mechanisms exist but are underapplied. There is a need for stronger collaboration with public authorities; also through co-programming and co-design.
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.	**Established.** Support is documented for national public authorities and informal groups, with CSVs providing training and capacity-building. 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.** Each region has an active Volunteer Support Centre (CSV) at the local tier. National networks provide reference points, and national tools (CSVnet's Gluo) exist, but there is no single government-run platform.
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.** Education on volunteering falls within the framework of civic education promoted in schools. It is present but not a distinct service-learning system.
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.** The government has no national strategy on volunteering. A documented absence, despite strong sectoral law.
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 Third Sector Code (Legislative Decree 117/2017) defines volunteers, mandates insurance, sets transparency via RUNTS, and introduces co-programming and co-design.

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 annual Capitale italiana del volontariato nomination (CSVnet with the Forum) provides established public 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	**Partial/emerging.** Emergencies are a leading motivation, and volunteering is traditionally associated with emergency response, but not documented as 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	**Established.** The Third Sector Code makes insurance for volunteers a legal requirement, with transparency via RUNTS.