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

Denmark exemplifies a decentralised, welfare-embedded approach to volunteering rather than a dedicated statutory one. There is no single volunteer law, but the Social Services Act and the Act on Popular Education enable and fund local volunteering, obliging municipalities to cooperate with and finance civil society. Advisory bodies such as FriSe, DIVE and, until January 2026, the Danish Volunteer Council give the sector a strong voice. Crisis volunteering is "an integral part of Denmark's emergency preparedness", and Frivilligjob.dk plus a network of local centres provide accessible information.

The absence of an overarching strategy and a national award can be understood in the context of decentralisation rather than weakness. The clearer limitations are structural: volunteer hours are generally not accepted as co-financing, and insurance is assessed case by case rather than guaranteed. Denmark reaches many outcomes through general civic and welfare infrastructure, with resourcing and coverage handled locally with a defining axis being structure versus flexibility: professionalisation, training and school integration strengthen the formal and public organisers while consistently disadvantaging informal volunteering. Public-voluntary partnership is treated as a genuine strength bolstering both associations' legitimacy and the coordinating role of administrations. Episodic volunteering is the one clear cross-cutting strains on continuity, as it suits informal modes.

| | Indicator | SEVR2026 Country Profile: Denmark |
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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 volunteer engagement, the one clear cross-cutting strain on continuity as it suits informal modes. |
| | 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 | 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 | Professionalisation, training and school integration strengthen the formal and public organisers while disadvantaging informal volunteering. |
| | Widening inequality barriers to access | Widening inequality and barriers to access, addressed through diversity outreach. |
| | 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-voluntary partnership treated as a genuine strength, bolstering associations' |

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| | | legitimacy and the coordinating role of administrations. |
| | 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 | **Absent.** There is no general national rule allowing voluntary hours as co-funding. It depends on the funding body and is not a widespread practice. |
| 1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding. | 1.4.1 Sufficient funding | **Established.** The Social Services Act obliges local authorities to fund local voluntary work, with central block-grant compensation. |
| 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 advisory landscape, including organisations such as FriSe, DIVE, and the Danish Volunteer Council (until January 2026), advises the government on volunteering matters. The Social Services Act mandates local cooperation. |
| 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 local administrations and national public authorities. Support provided to the five contexts is unevenly developed and documented. Support concentrated on the local-authority relationship. |
| 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.** Frivilligjob.dk is a large national portal. Additionally, a well-established network of local volunteer centres covers the regional 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 | **Established.** Schools integrate volunteering, and there is strong civic education, but it is not a systematic or mandatory national approach across all levels. |
| 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 2017 Strategy for a Stronger Civil Society was funded only until 2021. Volunteering is now carried in sectoral strategies, not one overarching 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.** Two supporting laws (Social Services Act §18 and the Act on Popular Education) enable volunteering at local level, rather than a single dedicated statute. |

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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 | **Partial/emerging.** There is no national award, but a long tradition of publicly recognising volunteers via national and local means. Recognition without a single national award. |
| 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.** Volunteering is an integral part of Denmark's emergency preparedness, with the Emergency Management Agency, Civil Defence Association and Red Cross coordinating volunteers. |
| 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.** Volunteers are not automatically covered by insurance. Occupational-injury and liability cover depends on the work and organisation, a case-by-case duty rather than a blanket requirement. |