

General Information



KEY INFORMATION ABOUT SLOVENIA

Capital: Ljubljana

Official Language: Slovenian

Population: 2.116.972 (as of 2023)*

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Calling Code: +386

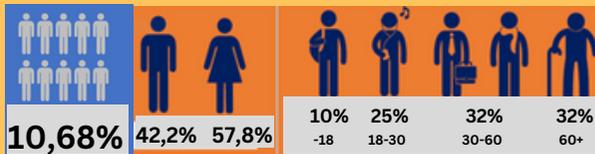
KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP per capita: EUR 57,038 million (as of 2022)**

Real GDP growth in 2022: 9.1%**

Unemployment rate in September 2023: 4.2%***

Statistics and Demographics****

Volunteer experience at least once in a lifetime
(percentage of the total population)

The total amount of volunteers in 2022 was 226.106 and the average volunteer in Slovenia is more likely to be a person who has been involved in volunteering at least once in their life, is more likely to be a female (57,8%) and of middle age (30 to 60 years, 64%).



9.245.305 hours volunteered annually and 41 hours are the average volunteered per volunteer.



Education level and employment status

No data available for the moment

Motivation for Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING

Article 2 Volunteering Act: (1) Volunteering is a socially beneficial free-of-charge activity of individuals whose work, knowledge and experience contribute to the improvement of the quality of living of individuals and social groups and to the development of a society based on solidarity, human wellbeing and equal opportunities. (2) Volunteering strengthens solidarity, promotes the development of human abilities and lifelong learning, and ensures social cohesion and cooperation in resolving the problems of individuals and society.

SOCIAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

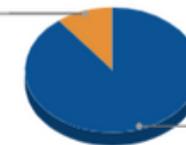
Volunteering has a long tradition in Slovenia and is an important social corrective in society, it helps bring together organisations and people in local communities, and enables people to gain invaluable experience through volunteering.

Types of Volunteer Activities****

From the reports for the year 2022, it again appears that the most volunteer hours are spent in the field of **social activity**. In 2022, 5,371,038 volunteer hours were completed in this area (in 2021: 5,601,033 or 58.9%, in 2020: 4,331,288 or 58.8%). Among the areas specified by the regulations, in 2022 many volunteer hours were also spent in the field of **education** - 1,016,577 hours, i.e. 11% (in 2021: 978,789, i.e. 10.3%, in 2020: 874,436, i.e. 11.9%), in the field of **culture and art** - 612,538 hours, i.e. 6.6% (in 2021: 702,355 hours, i.e. 7.4%, in 2020: 433,891) and in the **field of recreation** 505,214 hours, i.e. 5.5% (in 2021: 472,104 hours, i.e. 4.7%, in 2020: 313,440 hours, i.e. 4.3%).

Organisations with a volunteer programme

10.6%

Volunteer organisations
89.4%

2094 Volunteering Organisations
247 Organisations with volunteering programs

* Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/11052>)** Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/News/Index/11537>)*** Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/News/Index/11558>)**** Source: Report on volunteering in Slovenia for 2022 (<https://www.gov.si/teme/prostovoljstvo/>)

Impact of Volunteering

A total of 92,625,736 euros worth of organized volunteer work was carried out in 2022, which undoubtedly shows the great contribution of volunteer work to general social welfare in the Republic of Slovenia. On the other hand, the aim of the study *Being a volunteer Changes you; The effects of volunteering on the volunteer and the role of mentorship* was to investigate positive and negative effects of volunteering on volunteers. They wanted to find out which changes volunteers perceive in their lives as consequences of volunteering, and if volunteers who had a mentor perceive more positive change than those without one. A total of 721 volunteers responded. The results show that on average volunteers perceived positive changes more often than negative ones. Moreover, more positive changes were reported in the group of volunteers who had a mentor. Almost every volunteer reported that they felt more useful because of volunteering. More than 80 % reported positive changes with regard to experiencing positive emotions, along with greater satisfaction with their lives and social networks.

Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

No data available for the moment.



Institutional and Legal Framework for Volunteering in Slovenia*

- Organised volunteering is regulated by the **Volunteering Act**, which was adopted in 2011 and amended in 2015. Pursuant to the Act, volunteering is a socially beneficial unpaid activity of individuals who, through their work, knowledge and experience, contribute to improving the quality of life of individuals and social groups, and to the development of a society of solidarity, humanity and equality.
- Recognising the importance of volunteering, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a **Strategy for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations and Volunteering** in 2018, setting the strategic objective of high-quality organised and sustainable volunteering that is to be widely recognised as a value and contributing significantly to social well-being.

Quality Standards in the Field of Volunteering****

The Slovenian Network of Volunteering organizations has developed **quality standards for volunteering organizations** in Slovenia with aim to raise the quality of volunteering and to ensure the quality of volunteer programmes. It developed also the quality standards **Young volunteer friendly organization** for organizations that include young volunteers.

SLOVENSKA MREŽA PROSTOVOLJSKIH ORGANIZACIJ

National E-platform for Volunteering**

The Slovenska Filantropija Organisation through its own website has the Slovene network of volunteering organisations.

Challenges to the Development of Volunteering in Slovenia*

- Many volunteer organizations may struggle with **limited financial resources**, hindering their ability to organize and support volunteer activities effectively.
- Clarifying the **legal aspects** of volunteer work, including insurance coverage and liability issues, can be a significant hurdle.

Trends in the Development of Volunteering in Slovenia

No data available for the moment.

Key Stakeholders in the Development of Volunteering

- The central organization for volunteering is **Slovenian Philanthropy**, which coordinates the Slovenian Network of Volunteer Organizations. It provides support to volunteer organizations in establishing volunteer programs, recruiting volunteers, cares for the development of volunteering, transfers good practices, and introduces new forms of volunteering. Prepares and conducts training for volunteers and mentors, Advocates
- The **Sector for Non-Governmental Organizations** at the Ministry of Public Administration systematically monitors the field of volunteering.
- The Institute Movit**, which acts as the National Agency for EU programs in the field of youth, European Solidarity Corps.
- The Voluntariat Institute** promotes ideas of solidarity through voluntary work and projects. It is the go-to source for information related to volunteering abroad.
- The Youth Council of Slovenia** encourages volunteering among young people and organizing the "Best Volunteer of the Year" competition since 2002.

Research in the Field of Volunteering***

The Joint Report on Volunteering for 2022 reveals that Slovenian volunteers, both within organizations and public institutions, contribute over nine million hours of volunteer work. This voluntary effort is valued at more than 92 million euros for social welfare. Additionally, there are 2,341 registered volunteer organizations in Slovenia. The report compiles data on volunteer work, including the number of agreements made, hours volunteered, and the estimated social welfare contribution. It also highlights that voluntary work is done without payment or material benefits, purely for the benefit of others or the community.



Financial Support for the Development of Volunteering in Slovenia

The Slovenian Network of Volunteer Organizations received funding from the Ministry of Public Administration for supporting volunteering. Their program, **The Slovenian Philanthropy program****, aims to enhance volunteer organizations' capacities for quality volunteering, organizational development, and knowledge sharing. They achieve this through training, counseling, mentoring, and information dissemination to NGOs and organizations with volunteer programs, helping to build their capabilities. They also focus on connecting organizations and providing guidance on volunteering development.



National award and recognitions for volunteering

Annually, the Committee of the Republic of Slovenia awards national recognition for volunteering to deserving volunteers and organizations. These awards, such as "Volunteering-Friendly Municipality," "Best Volunteer in Public Administration," "Best Mentor of Volunteers," "Heroes of Our Time," and "Best Volunteer Story," are presented by the President of Slovenia at a special ceremony.

* Source: <https://www.gov.si/en/topics/volunteering/> **** Source: <https://www.prostovoljstvo.org/mladim-prostovoljcem-prijazna-organizacija>

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