



PLATAFORMA
DEL VOLUNTARIADO
DE ESPAÑA



Centre for
European
Volunteering

Volunteering Equality
Rights Action
VERA



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project Number: 101104021

(Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe - REVIVE Project No. 101051131)

FACT SHEET ON VOLUNTEERING IN SPAIN

May 2024

General Information

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT SPAIN

Capital: Madrid

Official Language: Spanish

Population: 48.592.909 (as of 2024)*

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Calling Code: +34

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP per capita: 28,162€ (as of 2022)**

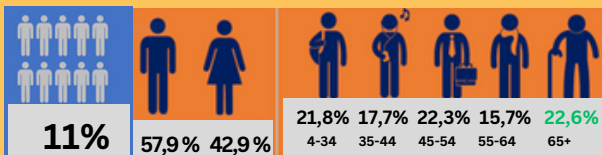
Real GDP growth in 2022: 12,5%**

Unemployment rate in the last quarter of 2023: 11.76%***



Statistics and Demographics *****

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



According to the level of education, volunteer experience at least once in a lifetime was reported by 56.9% employed, 23.4% retired, 7.8% unemployed without previous work experience, 6.2% engaged in unpaid household work, 5.6% students not working, and 0.2% seeking their first job.

In 2023, there were 4.5 million people volunteering in Spain.

In 2022, an estimated 730,000,000 hours per age; 221.2 hours per age. The average volunteer in Spain, a person who has been involved in volunteering at least once in their life, is more likely to be female (57.9%), of old age (65+ years, 22.6%), with secondary education (58%) and employed (56.9%).

DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING ****

According to **Law 45/2015** in Spain, volunteering is understood to be the set of activities of general interest carried out by natural persons, provided that they meet the following requirements: a) That they have a solidarity nature, b) That its realization is free, without its cause being a personal obligation or legal duty and is assumed voluntarily, c) That they are carried out without economic or material compensation, without prejudice to the payment of reimbursable expenses that the performance of the voluntary action causes to the volunteers in accordance with the provisions of article 12.2.d), d) That they are developed through volunteer entities in accordance with specific programs and within or outside Spanish territory without prejudice to the provisions of articles 21 and 22."

SOCIAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTEERING *****

Volunteering in Spain plays a crucial role in strengthening the social fabric, promoting solidarity, and supporting the most vulnerable. Volunteering in Spain has experienced significant growth, establishing itself as an important engine of positive change in society. According to data from the Spanish Volunteering Platform, in 2023, the number of volunteer individuals in the country rose to 4.5 million, representing 11% of the population over 14 years old residing in Spain. This increase reflects a growing interest among Spaniards in dedicating their time and effort to social causes. Its impact goes beyond immediate aid, fostering inclusion, education, and social awareness, making it a fundamental pillar for the development of a more equitable and solidary

Types of Volunteer Activities *****

According to Law 45/2015 in Spain, there are ten areas of volunteering. In 2023, in terms of participation, the breakdown of volunteering by these areas was as follows: Social Volunteering (50.4%); Socio-sanitary Volunteering (15.2%); Educational Volunteering (14.5%); Leisure and Free Time Volunteering (12.9%); Cultural Volunteering (11.4%); Environmental Volunteering (10.5%); Community Volunteering (10.4%); Development Cooperation Volunteering (8.4%); Sports Volunteering (7.8%); Civil Protection Volunteering (2.8%); Others (5.6%).

Motivation for Volunteering

In Spain in 2022, the highest-rated reasons for volunteering on a scale of 1 to 4 were as follows: Helping other people (Mean=3.7); Personal values (Mean=3.6); Contributing to the development of a fair, sustainable, and equal society (Mean=3.5); The organization's effectiveness in achieving its goals (Mean=3.1); Learning something new and/or doing something different (Mean=3.0); Geographic proximity (Mean=2.9); My relationship with people facing similar issues as the organization serves (Mean=2.7); Using free time (Mean=2.6); Meeting new people and/or building new relationships (Mean=2.5).*****

**** Source: Official State Gazette. (<https://dgs.gov.hr/vijesti/broj-zaposlenih-u-rujnu-2023-u-odnosu-na-prethodni-mjesec-pao-za-0-6/1685>)

***** Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain: <https://biblioteca.plataformavoluntariado.org/pdf>

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* Source: National Institute of Statistics (https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736177095&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735572981)

** Source: National Institute of Statistics: (https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736167628&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735576581)

*** Source: National Institute of Statistics (https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/en/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176918&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976595)

Impact of Volunteering*

In 2023, a qualitative study revealed that the recipients of volunteer assistance had a favorable opinion of the volunteer personnel. They highlighted qualities such as altruism, commitment, and empathy in the volunteers. The recipients considered the volunteers to be competent and skilled in their responsibilities, although sometimes tasks were assigned to them that didn't align with their abilities. Regarding their satisfaction with volunteering, the recipients valued the support, attention, and care they received, as well as the personal growth they experienced through interactions with the volunteers. The relationship between recipients and volunteers was described as close and egalitarian. For more information, consult the source.

Quality Standards in the Field of Volunteering

- The Volunteer Platform of Spain has developed the Vol+ program, a tool for evaluating and certifying the skills acquired during volunteering. Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. *****
- In a less formal manner (not leading to certification), the Volunteer Platform of Spain has developed the Volunteer Management Cycle Manual, which clearly outlines the phases and processes for such management. Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. *
- Following the same line, the Volunteer Platform of Spain has developed a Self-Diagnosis Tool for Quality Standards of the Volunteer Management Cycle that allows entities to measure suitability and identify areas for improvement in their volunteer management.

Challenges to the Development of Volunteering in Spain**

- On one hand, Law 45/2015 on Volunteering conveniently articulates volunteer action in Spain. However, this law lacks regulatory development, which sometimes creates areas of ambiguity when developing volunteer programs. Source: Official State Gazette. (Available in: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2015-11072>)
- On the other hand, a challenge for entities is to attract young people, who according to our data, show a great propensity towards volunteering, but little real action

Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

No data available for the moment

National E-platform for Volunteering**

No data available for the moment.



Institutional and Legal Framework for Volunteering in Spain

The legal framework is structured around the Volunteer Law. In addition to this, almost all the Autonomous Communities have their own legislative development. Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. ***

Under this legislative framework, Spanish Public Administrations delegate the **promotion and management** of volunteering to non-profit entities; the general formula is the granting of subsidies for programs, which leads these entities to great financial uncertainty. For national entities, the most substantial funding is the one convened annually from 0.7% of the income tax collection (IRPF)



Financial Support for the Development of Volunteering in Spain

The European Volunteering Plan 2030: commitments in Spain 2023 exists, developed by the PVE within the context of the Vera Funds. ****

The Autonomous Communities and local administrations, within the scope of their competencies, carry out various programs to promote volunteering, generally in coordination with non-profit entities. With regard to civic service programs, there are civil protection programs in regional and local administrations where volunteers are mobilized. *****

Trends in the Development of Volunteering in Spain*

The intention to participate in volunteering is high, especially among students (39.1%) and unemployed individuals looking for their first job (31.6%). Regarding gender, there is a higher level of interest among women than men. Concerning age, young people between the ages of 14 and 24 are the most interested in volunteering for the upcoming year, while those aged 65 or older are the least interested. However, actual data shows that young people participate less in volunteer activities compared to older individuals, possibly due to a lack of organization as they age. Additionally, research was conducted to determine which areas of volunteering would interest those who are currently not involved in volunteering. The majority expressed interest in activities related to environmental protection.

Key Stakeholders in the Development of Volunteering

- Volunteer Platform of Spain and its 80 partner entities. *****
- Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030.

Research in the Field of Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

* Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. (<https://biblioteca.plataformavoluntariado.org/>)

****Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. (<https://biblioteca.plataformavoluntariado.org/>)

*****Source: <https://plataformavoluntariado.org/vol-plus/>

**Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. (<https://biblioteca.plataformavoluntariado.org/pdf>)

****Source: Civil Protection Spain. (<https://www.proteccioncivil.es/que-hacemos-en-proteccion-civil/voluntariado-proteccion-civil/>)

*** Source: Volunteer Platform of Spain. (<https://biblioteca.plataformavoluntariado.org/pdf>)

*****Source: <https://plataformavoluntariado.org/nuestra-red/>