

# VOLUNTEERING IN EUROPE

*General overview and focus on 2020*

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# Volunteers are like windmills



They have different roles..



come in all shapes and sizes..  
even some that are unexpected!



Some volunteers, like some windmills, are very visible, some are hidden, but all are important!



Some act **alone**..  
And some act in **teams**



Some people love volunteers, while some people are against them!



Like windmills, volunteers are a great source of renewable energy, and they need maintenance and energy.



# VOLUNTEERING ECOSYSTEM

www.europeanvolunteercentre.org / t: @VolunteeringCEV / fb: @CEV.volunteer



Recognition



Real Value



Regulatory Framework



Resources



REFUGEES WELCOME



# The Volunteering Ecosystem in detail

Volunteering can happen in an episodic way for an event.



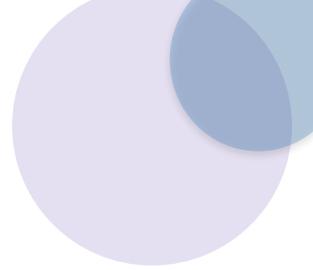
Volunteering can happen in an episodic way for a disaster relief.



Volunteering can also represent a more continuous commitment.



Volunteering is flexible, and its flexibility is a key factor in the inclusion process



## Volunteering has a value for:

- **Individuals, communities, the economy and society at large** as one of the most visible expressions of solidarity.
- **The promotion and facilitation of social inclusion**, producing a transformative effect on society.
- **The development of a thriving civil society** that can offer creative and innovative solutions to common challenges.
- **Economic growth** and as such deserves specific and targeted measurement in terms of both economic and social capital.

# BUT

There are some major societal trend in Europe that can impact on this

## Demographic Changes

- **Ageing Population**  
= More skilled Volunteers available for longer or lack of young volunteers?
- **More Diverse and Shifting population**  
= Volunteer Grandparents/Grandkids, etc.  
= Mutual support groups  
= More attention on inclusion needed

## Economic Crisis

- **Less Taxes and Reduced local Authority budgets and higher demands for services**
- **Increased poverty and need**
- **Reduced funding to Civil Society Organisations**

## Digitalisation

- **Social Media enabling citizens to self organise for “ad Hoc” Volunteering**
- **Social Media making everyone an advocate**  
The representative nature of volunteer-based civil society organisations as advocates should be protected
- **Online Volunteering**  
Are legal frameworks ready?

## This whole structure and new challenges have been put to test in all European countries with the Covid-19 pandemic

#VISCOVID19  
**#HASHTAG COORDINATION**

#VISCOVID19  
**CROSS SECTOR  
COLLABORATION**

#VISCOVID19  
**ORGANISATIONS ADAPTING**

#VISCOVID19  
**ADVICE AND SUPPORT**

#VISCOVID19  
**ONLINE MATCHING**

#VISCOVID19  
**CITIZEN-LED INITIATIVES**

[LINK](#)

CEV  
European Volunteer Centre

**Volunteers In Solidarity COVID-19**  
**#VISCovid19**

Citizens all across Europe are volunteering to support vulnerable people and each other during this crisis period.

## This whole structure and new challenges have been put to test in all European countries with the Covid-19 pandemic

Some issues increased affecting positively and negatively the volunteering dimension:

- **Demographic changes:** Less available volunteers from the aged groups of the population (fear, sickness, law regulations) Vs. more free time for some of those people working/studying from home
- **Economic crisis:** Less funding available to organisations + increased poverty Vs. increased solidarity and willingness to support
- **Digitalisation:** increasing citizens-led initiatives + new activities to cheer up and support those in need + increased networking and cross-sector collaboration Vs. increasing fake news addressing also volunteering actions

# THANK YOU!



## How did volunteering shape prison life in 2020?

*Hear from prisons and voluntary service organisations around Europe, and join us to discuss how 2020 has influenced future priorities for volunteers and volunteering in Europe's criminal justice systems.*

**December 11, 2020 10:00 am CET**

**Register here in advance for this meeting.**