



This project is funded
by the European Union



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE
FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA



PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

The enabling environment for volunteering in the Western Balkans countries - Albania Case

National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania is implemented in partnership
with Albanian Centre for Population and Development and European Movement in Albania



QENDRA SHQIPTARE PER POPULLSINE DHE ZHYLLIMIN
ALBANIAN CENTER FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



EUROPEAN MOVEMENT ALBANIA

Enabling Environment

KEY to volunteer infrastructure!



Enabling environment

Policies, laws and other key legal instruments that define, regulate, protect and/or incentivize voluntary action.



Operational structures

Volunteer schemes, volunteer-involving organisations, agencies that support volunteering, networks and coordinating bodies such as volunteer centres, umbrella organisations, and related networks.



Implementation Capacities

Key resources that support volunteering such as funding mechanisms, institutionalised consultation/mechanism with policy makers, mechanisms to collect and share data and good practice standards.

Enabling Environment

KEY to volunteer infrastructure!



Enabling environment

Operational structures



Implementation Capacities

Taken together, they are designed to **CATALYSE** effectively engaging, mobilizing, supporting, and managing volunteers and volunteer opportunities.

! Not all three aspects necessarily need to be implemented simultaneously, and they can exist separately, or in sequence.

! When there is no enabling environment, when the legal framework is hindering and not enabling, it is determinant and hinders the development of other aspects.

Regulation of Volunteerism

Why regulate volunteerism?

Against

- An increased burden for CSOs is discouraging
- Potential basis for inspections and threats
- Loss of benefits

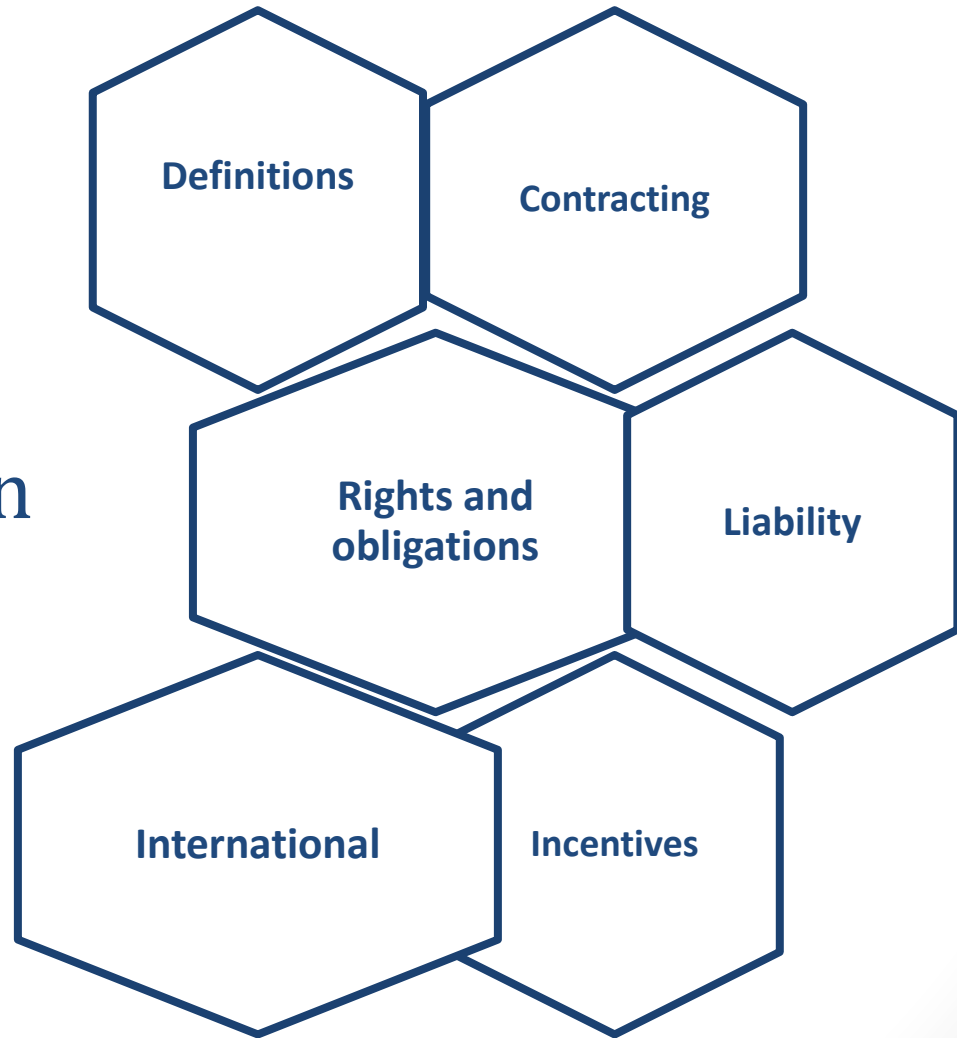
For regulation

- Volunteers treated as paid employees (rights and obligations)
- Liability
- Incentives are provided
- Support cross-country cooperation
- Establish disaster response mechanism

Providing framework without over-regulating

Do we need to regulate volunteering?

Scope of regulation



Legal Framework on Volunteerism

Western Balkans Countries

Albania	Law on Volunteerism, 2016
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Law on Volunteerism, 2013
Kosovo	- Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth, 2009 - Administrative Instruction on youth volunteering, 2016
Montenegro	Law on Volunteerism, 2010
North Macedonia	Law on Volunteerism, 2007
Serbia	Law on Volunteerism, 2010

Legal Framework on Volunteerism

Implementation and Efficiency?

How to Monitor?

Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development
(2013 – ongoing)

Area 2.

Framework for CSOs' Financial Viability and Sustainability

Sub-area 2.2.: State support

Principle: State support to CSOs is provided in a transparent way and spent in an accountable manner

Sub-area 2.3: Human resources

Principle: State policies and the legal environment stimulate and facilitate employment, volunteering and other engagements with CSOs

Legal Framework on Volunteerism

Implementation and Efficiency?

How to Monitor?

Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region 2021-2027”

Specific Objective 1

A conducive environment for civil society to carry out its activities is in place.

SO 1.10

The policies and legal environment provide incentives and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSO.

Legal Framework on Volunteerism

Implementation and Efficiency?

- The legislative framework on volunteering in CSOs is still not considered stimulating across the region. It tends to over-regulate it without taken into consideration the nature of CSOs and their organisation.
- Inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the involvement of volunteers exist in many of the countries.
- The laws are not supportive enough and provide a lot of bureaucratic requirements resulting into a lack of their application in practice.
- The legislative frameworks of the countries still remains short of a strategic approach for regulating, facilitating and stimulating both employment and volunteering in CSOs (only in few countries dedicated Strategies for development of volunteering).
- The approach to human resources gravitating in the civil society sector both in the form of employment and volunteering, should become more strategic.
- Still, in most of the countries, there is no updated/reliable public data neither on the number of volunteers engaged, nor the voluntary hours spent in CSOs.

Legal Framework on Volunteerism

Implementation in Albania

- Many years after the adoption of Law 45/2016 "On Volunteerism", which should regulate the field and voluntary activity in the country, **the legal framework is not implemented.**
- **The recognition and understanding** of the Law, **remain problematic** by both civil society organizations and institutions responsible for its implementation.
- This as **consequence of the lack of involvement and consultation** of civil society organizations, other stakeholders, and experts.

Law on Volunteerism in Albania

Main problematic and challenges

- The Law tends to over-regulate volunteering, without considering the nature and functioning of civil society organisations.
- The law aims to legally regulate volunteering, in order to increase civic engagement and participation of individuals in social life to improve the quality of life in the community, but the law itself does not enable such a thing.
- 2016-2022 not a very good period for volunteerism and its development
- The recognition, understanding, and implementation of the law remain problematic, by both civil society organizations and institutions responsible for its implementation.
- Contracting; Volunteers' insurance costs; Volunteers registration; responsible institutions; are key problematic issues.

On the development of Volunteerism in Albania

- The initiative started in 2020, by National Resource Centre, Partners Albania and Beyond Barriers Association, in cooperation with a group of organisations.
 - Assessment with CSOs
 - Facilitation of a series of meetings with organisations around the country who works with volunteers
 - Open Letter to the Government, Donors, International Institutions, etc. to start the dialogue with the institutions on the revision of the legal framework (signed by over 120 CSOs and networks of CSOs)
 - Preparation of legal opinion by NRC/PA and sharing with Government, Donors, International Institutions,
 - National Study “Volunteerism in Albania and Policy paper “Recognition and promotion of volunteering in Albania through the improvement of the existing legal framework” (BBA)

On the development of Volunteerism in Albania

In 2022 started the *DIALOGUE WITH THE INSTITUTIONS!*

- Meetings with high level government representatives and institutions
 - Ministry of Finance and Economy State
 - Ministry for Youth and Children
 - National Employment and Skills Agency
- Establishing of a joint working group with institutions and NPOs
- Meetings and discussions with the working group on legal framework issues
- Draft proposal of the amended Law
- Facilitation of a large discussion with civil society organisations and experts for feedback (in process)
- Discussion of the draft proposal in the joint working group (in process)

Thank you!

Ariola Agolli

Director of Programs, Partners Albania

Manager, National Resource Centre for Civil Society

aagolli@partnersalbania.org

info@resourcecentre.al

www.resourcecentre.al