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of the European Union



# VOLUNTEERING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA REGULATION AND SUPPORT



## LAW ON VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering in Bosnia and Herzegovina is regulated on an entity level by [the FBiH Law on Volunteering](#) and the [RS Law on Volunteering](#). These laws clearly define the rights and obligations of volunteers, but also, as the law says, the Organizer of volunteering.

In the FBiH, volunteering is considered a voluntary investment of personal time, effort, knowledge and skills that provide services or activities for the common good in the Federation of BiH free of charge. In the RS, volunteering is defined as an activity of general interest to the Republika Srpska that contributes to improving the quality of life, active involvement of citizens in social processes and the development of a more humane and equal democratic society.



## NGOS AND VOLUNTEERING

The strengthening of NGOs in BiH has led to an increase in initiatives for young volunteers at all levels, including exchanges at the state and international level and local programs. However, the volunteering rate in the country, officially, remains low; in 2009 it was only 4.5 percent of the population. In 2002, people under the age of 34 made up 70 percent of all volunteers in BiH, according to the United Nations Volunteers. In 2009, a UNDP survey found that "most volunteers are young, ie. students and high school students."



In 2005, the NGO established the first local volunteer service (LVS) in BiH in Banja Luka – the Youth Communication Center (KCM). LVS provides a basic structure to encourage citizens to volunteer, helps organize and coordinate local volunteer work, and gains public recognition for contributing to local development. In partnership with NGOs, KCM has established several more local volunteer services in BiH.

rganizations and Volunteering and sets out measures that will contribute to NGOs and voluntary organizations as one of key building blocks of civil society, contribute to the implementation of the principles of pluralism and democracy in society.



## ANNUAL STATE AWARD AND RECOGNITIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

The Minister of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Srpska presented them with awards and medals for volunteer work in 2020. She said that the best volunteers were awarded a medal and a sum of two average salaries in RS, while the best volunteering organizer was awarded a medal and a sum of four average salaries.

## EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

### HEROES OF THE STREET - TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

A team of volunteers that consists of 15 mobile teams that help the elderly and infirm and those who should not move during the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. Volunteers (mostly young people) performed all the necessary tasks – buying groceries, medicines, paying bills, ...



### VOLUNTARY ACTIONS IN A TIME OF NATURAL DISASTERS

In great floods in 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina was struck severely. Thousands of volunteers from Sarajevo, Zenica, Mostar, Konjic, Banja Luka and many other cities helped the citizens of Maglaj to clean and rehabilitate buildings and streets after the catastrophic flood that literally flooded the city.

### LET'S DO IT - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

As part of the global action "Let's Do It – a million seedlings in 1 day", over 700 volunteers from B&H, planted more than 6,000 white pine seedlings in one day on Bjelasnica mountain.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? VOLUNTEER!

[ERAS - EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT](#)

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