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# VOLUNTEERING IN BULGARIA REGULATION AND SUPPORT



## THE BULGARIAN LAW ON VOLUNTEERING

A draft law on volunteering has been submitted for discussion in 2018 before the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria. This law provides a framework for the basic concepts of volunteer and volunteering and provides for social and health insurance of volunteers, the compilation of a register, a volunteer identification card, financial relief, legalization of acquired knowledge and skills.



## NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

The National Youth Strategy (2021-2030) strongly advocates volunteering as a way to develop active civic participation. It foresees the official recognition of the competencies acquired by the volunteers, as well as the provision of real opportunities for the participation of young people in the formation, development, and implementation of youth policies at national, regional, and local levels.



## REGISTER OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

The draft law provides for the creation of a register of volunteers, which describes the type of volunteering and the activities performed. Each registered volunteer is issued an identification card and a volunteer booklet, with a description of the acquired knowledge and skills, which are also respected by the state.

## ANNUAL STATE AWARD AND RECOGNITIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

The Ministry of Youth and Sport in Bulgaria organizes annual awards for volunteers, mission, and organization. The initiative aims to promote the good practices of prominent young people and organizations in the field of volunteering.



## SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERING:



Volunteering activities are supported and encouraged by the state through tax, financial and economic benefits for the volunteer. Volunteers are also provided with health insurance and social security.

## BULGARIAN VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

There several voluntary networks in Bulgaria, which are not under the governmental hat. Their field of activities is in the promotion of civic participation and dialogue, development of social skills, and promotion of solidarity values among young people.



## REGIONAL HUBS FOR NGOS

The aim of the Regional voluntary centers is at promoting voluntarism in Bulgaria through campaigns and initiatives; to change community attitude towards volunteering, and expanding and strengthening the network of volunteer centers in Bulgaria.

## FINANCIAL BENEFIT FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

In the development of volunteering and the belonging law in the Bulgarian context at the moment, there is no financial support envisaged for disadvantaged people through voluntary activities.

## DATA:

7%

young people participating in voluntary activities for 2017

30%

volunteers who received a certificate, diploma, or other formal recognition for their participation in voluntary activities for 2014



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? VOLUNTEER!