



VOLUNTEERING IN PORTUGAL REGULATION AND SUPPORT



WHAT IS VOLUNTEERING?

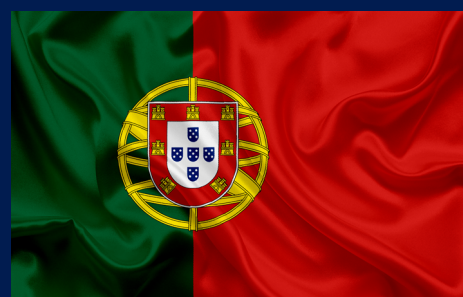
(Article 2 of Law No. 71/98 of 3 November)

It is the set of actions of social and community interest, carried out in a selfless way by people, within the scope of projects, programmes and other forms of intervention at the service of individuals, families and the community, developed on a non-profit basis by public or private entities.

SUPPORT MEASURES FOR VOLUNTEERING

Three essential measures for the consolidation, stimulation and qualification of voluntary work:

1. An IT Platform, Portugal Voluntário, which aims to facilitate, in a flexible way, the meeting between those who want to participate in a voluntary action and the organisations promoting it;
2. Financial support aimed at organisations that promote voluntary work - which develop continuous voluntary actions in the area of social action - to pay for the costs of personal accident insurance and civil liability insurance for the volunteers they manage;
3. A line of funding for training and awareness actions in the area of volunteering, for the qualification of volunteer work, in the capacity building component of volunteers and of promoting entities that develop volunteering actions.



PORTUGAL VOLUNTARY PLATFORM

Portugal Voluntário (www.portugalvoluntario.pt) is a platform that aims to facilitate the meeting between those who want to participate in a voluntary action and the organisations promoting it.

ORGANISATIONS PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING

(Article 4 of Law No. 71/98 of 3 November)



Promoter organisations are considered to be public entities of central, regional or local administration, or other collective persons of public or private law, legally constituted, that meet the conditions to integrate volunteers and coordinate the exercise of their activity.

The activity referred to must be of social and community interest and may be developed in the civic, social action, health, education, science and culture, heritage and environmental protection, consumer protection, development cooperation, employment and vocational training, social reintegration, civil protection, development of associative life and the social economy, promotion of voluntary work and social solidarity, or in others of a similar nature.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER BANKS

Local Volunteer Banks (VLBs) are a meeting place for people who express their willingness and desire to volunteer and the organisations promoting them, which are interested in including volunteers in their projects and coordinating their activities.

Portugal currently has 172 active Local Volunteer Banks and Volunteer Fellowships. The BLVs are local structures which, acting in subsidiarity and taking advantage of proximity and knowledge of the characteristics of each community, contribute to the promotion, organisation and deepening of volunteering.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? VOLUNTEER!