

## Survey on Volunteer Work

2018

### **In 2018, 695 thousand people, with 15 years or more, engaged in volunteer activities**

The volunteer rate in 2018 was 7.8%, with nearly 695 thousand people from the resident population, aged 15 or more, participating in, at least, one formal and / or informal volunteer activity. The female volunteer rate was higher than the male rate (8.1% vs. 7.6%). The predominant age group was 15-24 years (11.3%). Participation in volunteer work increased progressively with the level of education (15.1% in individuals with tertiary education). The volunteer rate was higher in the unemployed (10.5%) and single (9.1%).

On the occasion of the publication of the Social Economy Satellite Account (2016), Statistics Portugal also presents the results of the Survey on Volunteer Work (SVW 2018).

The SVW 2018 was a module of the Labour Force Survey, carried out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018. It focuses on key variables for characterizing volunteering, namely the number of volunteers, sociodemographic characteristics, institutional framework, type of task and number of working hours spent.

It should be remembered that in 2013, Statistics Portugal released the results of the 2012 Survey on Volunteer Work (SVW 2012), which was a pilot survey.

The results of both surveys (SVW 2012 and SVW 2018) are not fully comparable, mainly due to changes in the international reference methodological framework (see methodological notes). In fact, the concept of (informal) volunteer work no longer includes activities for individuals with a family relationship.

This press release is organized as follows:

1. Main results;
2. Socio-demographic analysis;
3. Analysis of the activity domains and organizational context;
4. Regional analysis;
5. International comparisons (formal volunteer work);
6. Hours worked and estimated economic value of volunteer work;
7. Volunteer work in Social Economy entities.

In addition to this press release, a set of tables with additional information on SVW 2018, as well as an infographic, are available on the Statistics Portugal website, in the area dedicated to National Accounts (Satellite Accounts Section).

## 1. Main results

In 2018, the volunteer rate, which corresponds to the percentage of the resident population, aged 15 or more, who participated in, at least, one formal and / or informal volunteer work activity was 7.8%, the equivalent to around 695 thousand volunteers. The formal volunteer rate was 6.4%, while the informal volunteer rate was 1.5%.

The female volunteer rate was higher than the male volunteer rate (8.1% vs. 7.6%).

The age group with the highest volunteer rate was the group of 15-24 years (11.3%), followed by the 25-44 years group (8.6%), 45-64 years (8.3%) and over 64 years (4.6%).

Participation in volunteer work increases progressively with the level of education, and the volunteer rate among individuals with tertiary education was 15.1%.

The volunteer rate was higher in the unemployed population (10.5%), followed by the employed population (8.8%) and inactive population (6.3%).

Tracing a synthetic sociodemographic profile of the volunteers, it can be stated that, in formal volunteer activities, the younger, unemployed individuals with higher levels of education, female and single were dominant. Whereas in informal volunteer activities prevailed older individuals, with high educational levels, unemployed, female and divorced / separated.

Regional volunteer rates ranged from 5.5% in the Região Autónoma dos Açores to 8.9% in Centro.

Formal volunteering was mainly directed towards social services (36.2%), culture, communication and recreational activities (15.7%) and religion (15.7%).

While in formal volunteering the main tasks were equivalent to those of technicians and associate

professionals (34.5%), the informal volunteering tasks were mainly equivalent to those of personal service, protection and safety workers and salespersons (49.3%).

It is estimated that the hours dedicated to volunteer work corresponded to about 2.9% of the total hours worked, in 2018.

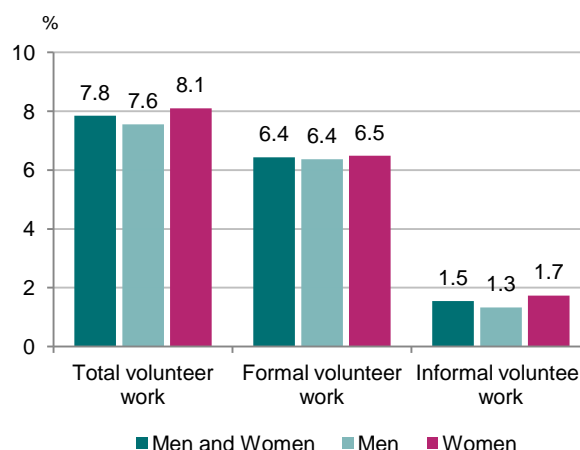
Applying different methodologies commonly used internationally for estimating the value of volunteer work, results ranged from 0.4% to 0.8% of national GDP in 2018.

## 2. Socio-demographic analysis

In 2018, 7.8% of the resident population, aged 15 or more, participated in, at least, one formal and / or informal volunteer activity, representing approximately 695 thousand volunteers.

About 82% of all volunteers worked through an organization or institution, that is, they participated in formal volunteer work activities, representing 6.4% of the resident population aged 15 or over.

**Picture 1 – Volunteer rate (%), by sex and type of volunteer work**



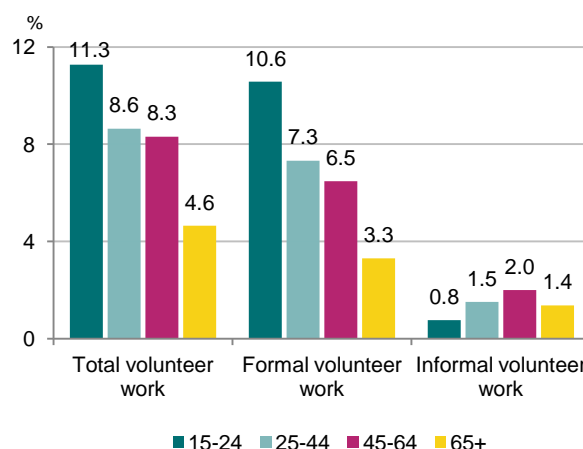
The percentage of women who performed volunteer work was higher than that of men (55.0% vs. 45.0%), corresponding to approximately 382.3 thousand women involved in at least one volunteer work activity.

Women's volunteer rate (8.1%) was higher than that of men (7.6%), both in the formal context (6.5% vs. 6.4%) and in the informal context (1.7% vs. 1.3%).

However, men dedicated more hours to volunteer work than women (50.7% vs. 49.3%). Nevertheless, the relative importance of women's volunteering hours was dominant in informal volunteer work (71.7%).

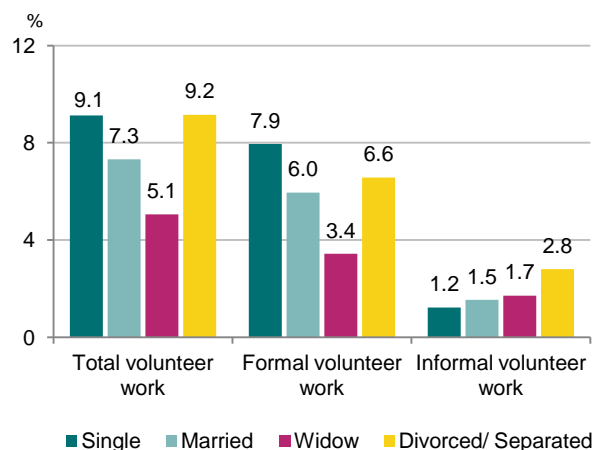
The formal volunteer rate, which was not affected by the above-mentioned change in concept, increased from 5.9% in 2012 to 6.4% in 2018. This growth was more marked in the formal male volunteer rate (5.7% in 2012 vs. 6.4% in 2018) than in the female rate (6.2% in 2012 vs. 6.5% in 2018).

**Picture 3 – Volunteer rate (%), by age group and type of volunteer work**



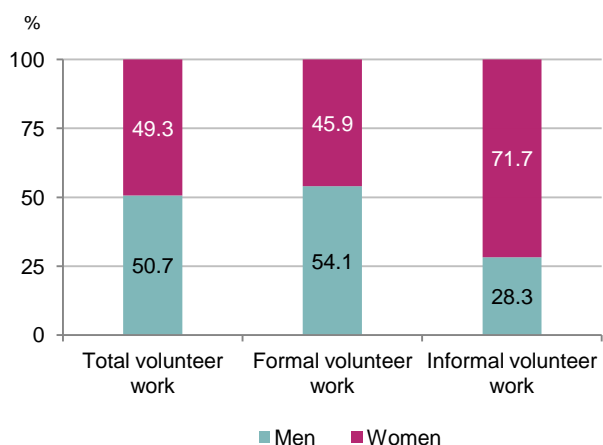
The volunteer rate by marital status was higher in divorced or separated individuals (9.2%), followed by single (9.1%), married (7.3%) and widowed (5.1%).

**Picture 4 – Volunteer rate (%), by marital status and type of volunteer work**



In general, volunteer rate increased with the level of education, particularly with regard to formal volunteer work. The lowest rate was observed in volunteers with no level of education (1.7%). In the opposite side, the highest rate was observed in individuals with tertiary education (15.1%).

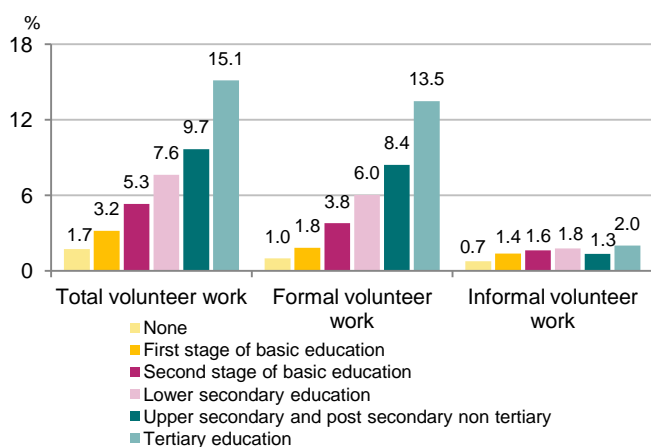
**Picture 2 – Distribution (%) volunteer work hours, by sex and type of volunteer work**



Volunteer rate decreased with age: 11.3% in the 15-24 years group, 8.6% in the 25-44 years, 8.3% in the 45-64 years, and 4.6% in the 65 and more years. This trend reflects the distribution observed in formal volunteer work, since in informal volunteer work the rate was higher in the 45-64 years group.

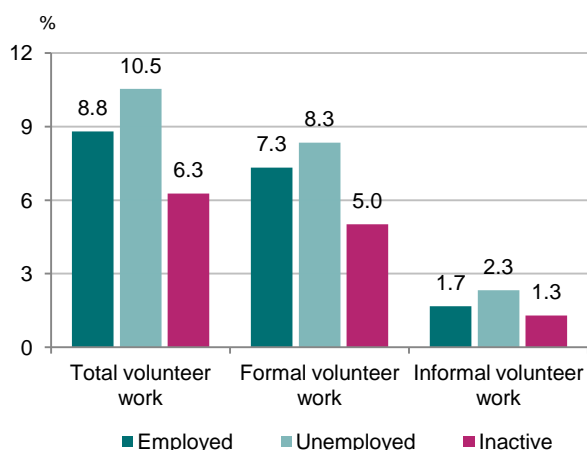
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**Picture 5 – Volunteer rate (%), by level of education and type of volunteer work**



Volunteer rate was higher in the unemployed population (10.5%), followed by the employed population (8.8%) and the inactive population (6.3%).

**Picture 6 – Volunteer rate (%), by Labour Force Status and type of volunteer work**



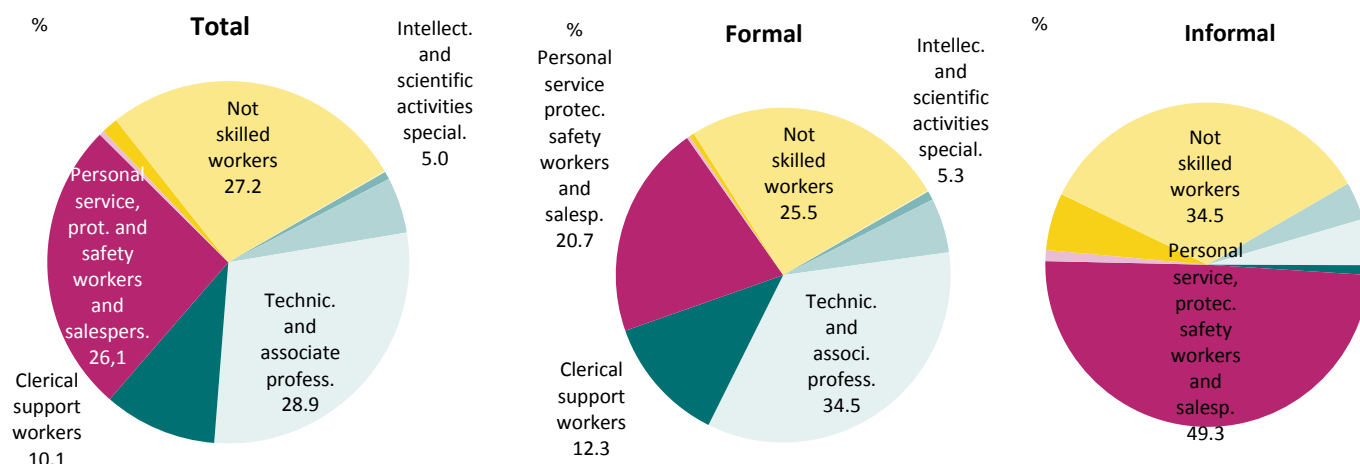
### 3. Activity domains and organizational context

Considering the Portuguese classification of occupations (2010) as a reference it is possible to group the activities performed by the volunteers according to the different tasks performed.

The volunteers' main tasks focused on activities equivalent to those of the following professions:

- Technicians and associate professionals (28.9%), which includes tasks equivalent to those of conference and event planners, commercial sales representatives and members of religious orders and religious support technicians, among other examples;
- Not skilled workers (27.2%), which includes tasks equivalent to those of manufacturing hand packers (ex: volunteering in food (re)collection campaigns), messengers, luggage porters and deliverers and domestic cleaners and helpers, among other examples;
- Personal service, protection and safety workers and salespersons (26,1%), which includes tasks equivalent to those of companions and valets, child care workers, home-based personal care workers, pet groomers and animal care workers and fire-fighters, among other examples.

**Pictures 7, 8 and 9 - Distribution (%) of volunteering tasks according to the Portuguese classification of occupations**

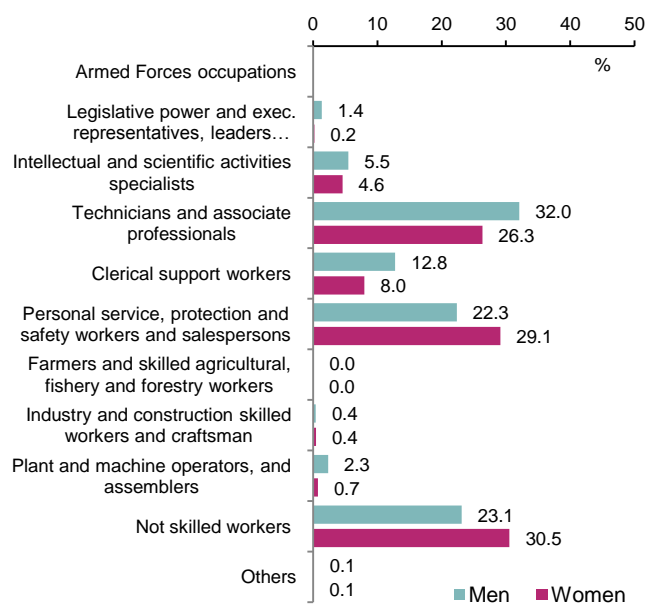


Considering only formal volunteer work, there was a significant relevance of tasks equivalent of technicians and associate professionals (34.5%). Only in this type of volunteering work were registered activities equivalent to those of legislative power and executive bodies representatives, leaders, directors and executive managers (0.9%).

In informal volunteer work, almost half of all reported tasks were equivalent to those of personal service, protection and safety workers and salespersons (49.3%).

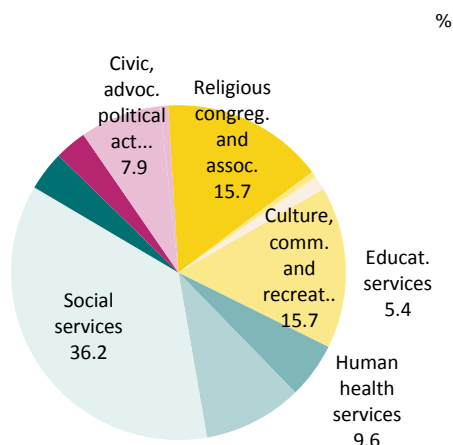
Analyzing the type of task by sex, it was observed that the majority of tasks performed by women were concentrated in activities equivalent to those of non-skilled workers (30.5%), while in men prevailed the tasks equivalent to those of technicians and associate professionals (32.0%).

**Picture 10 – Distribution (%) of volunteer tasks, by sex and according to the Portuguese classification of occupations**



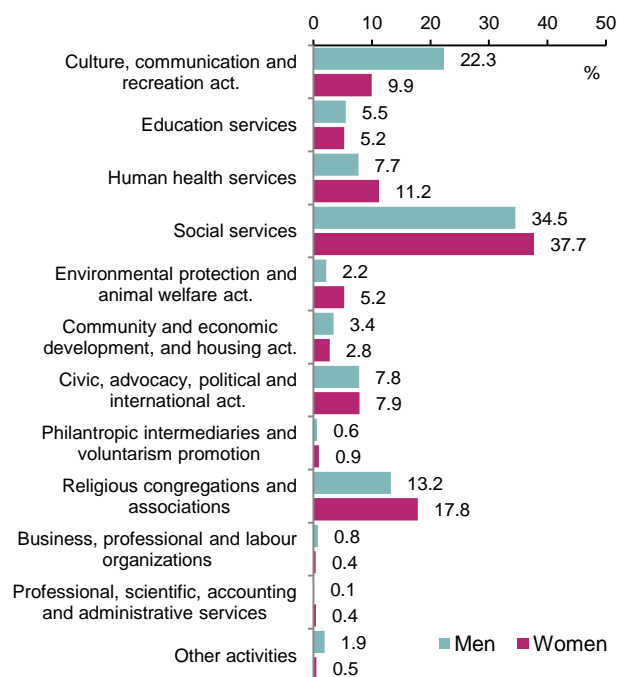
In terms of organizational context, formal volunteer focused on organizations working in the area of social services (36.2% of all formal volunteers), culture, communication and recreational activities and religion (each of these categories congregating about 15.7% of all formal volunteers).

**Picture 11 – Distribution (%) of formal volunteers, according to the International classification on non-profit and third sector organizations (ICNP/TSO)**



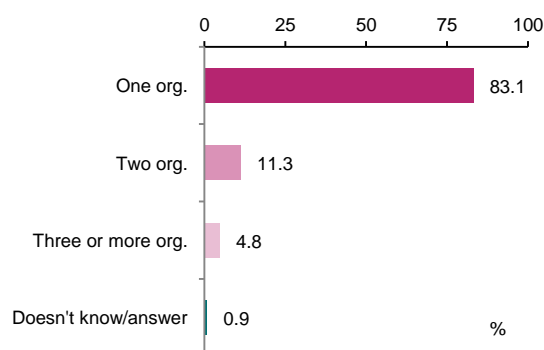
Analyzing the distribution of volunteers by type of organization and by sex, formal volunteer work of men and women took place in different organizational contexts and areas: in the female case, the focus was mainly on social services (37.7%), religion (17.8%) and health services (11.2%). Whereas, men were also directed to social services (34.5% of all formal volunteers), followed by culture, communication and recreational activities organizations (22.3%) and religious congregations and associations (13.2%).

**Picture 12 – Distribution (%) of formal volunteers, according to the International classification on non-profit and third sector organizations (ICNP/TSO) and by sex**



The vast majority of volunteers who performed formal volunteer work only worked in one organization (83.1%).

**Picture 13 – Distribution (%) of formal volunteers, according to the number of organizations for which they volunteered**

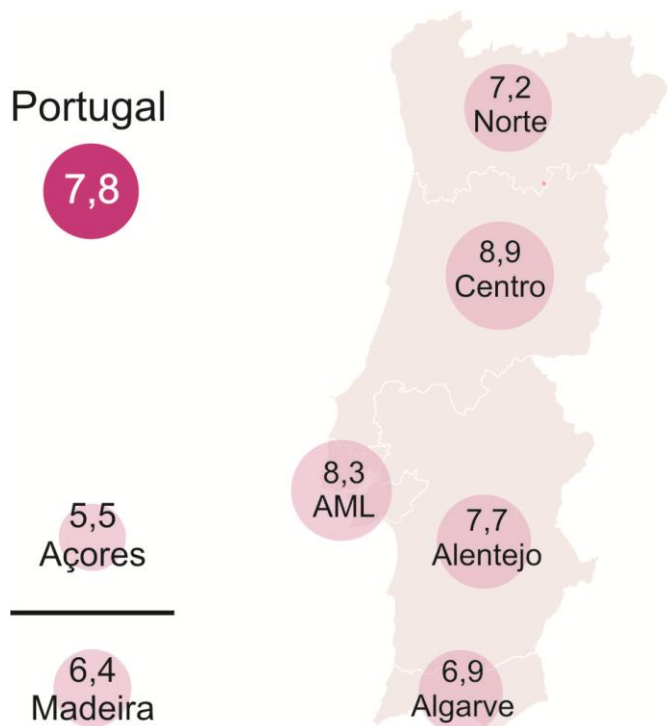


#### 4. Regional analysis

Reflecting to a large extent the regional distribution of the population, the Norte region concentrated almost one-third of the total number of volunteers (32.4%), followed by Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (28.3%), Centro (25.1%), Alentejo (6.8%), Algarve (3.7%), Região Autónoma da Madeira (2.0%) and, with the lowest concentration, Região Autónoma dos Açores (1.6%).

In the NUTS 2 region, it was observed that two regions presented volunteer rates above the national average (7.8%): the Centro region (8.9%) and the Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (8.3 %). The lowest volunteer rates were observed in the Regiões Autónomas dos Açores (5.5%) and Madeira (6.4%).

**Picture 14 – Volunteer rate (%), by NUT 2**



#### 5. International comparisons

The international comparability of data on volunteer work is complicated by the lack of harmonized methodologies and updated information for the same reference year.

In 2015, the Survey on income and living conditions (SILC) included a module on social and cultural participation, which questioned participation in volunteering activities and active citizenship.

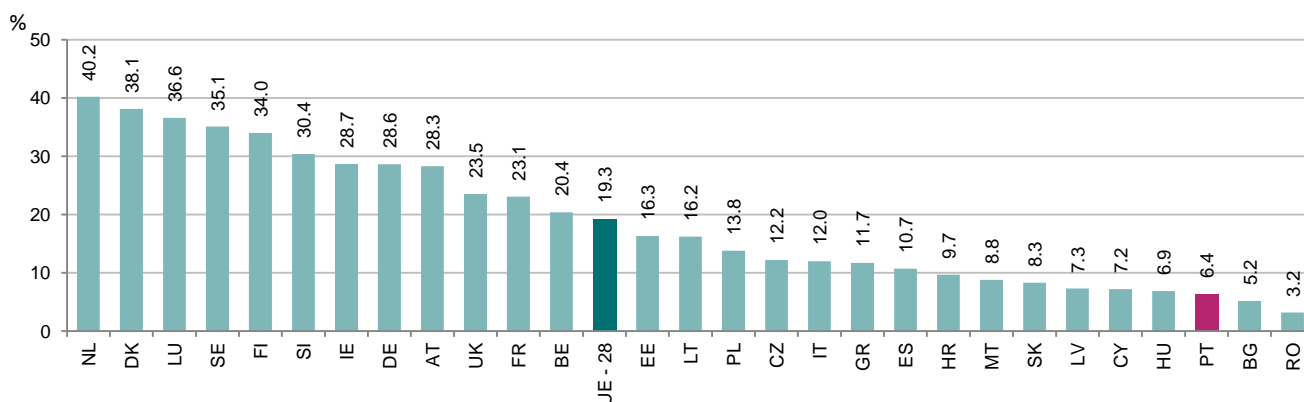
This data source was considered as a possible reference for the international comparison of the formal volunteer rate, due to its comprehensiveness and timeliness.

The highest formal volunteer rates were observed in northern Europe, in the Netherlands (40.2%) and Denmark (38.1%). In the opposite side were Romania (3.2%) and Bulgaria (5.2%).

Portugal, considering SVW 2018<sup>1</sup> data, preceded Bulgaria, with a formal volunteer rate of 6.4%, distant from the EU 28 average (19.3%).

<sup>1</sup> In SILC 2015, the formal volunteering rate was 9.0%.

**Picture 15 – Volunteer rate (%) in European Union countries (UE-28)**



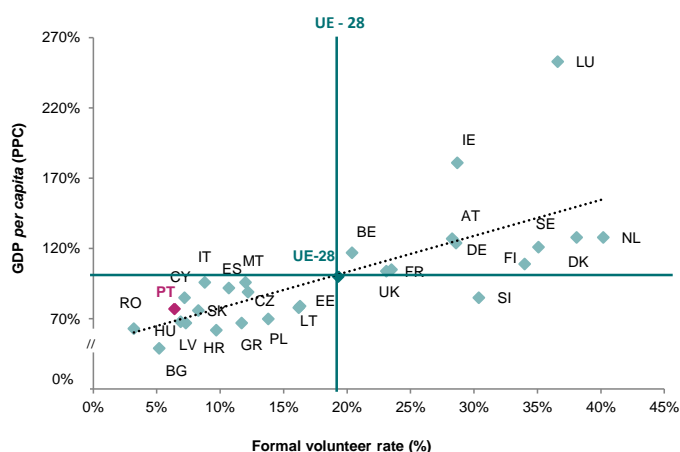
Sources: Statistics Portugal (PT) and Eurostat (other countries)

This relative position of the country may be explained, in part, by the culture of participation in volunteer work activities collectively organized and by the socio-economic conditions. It should be noted that, as previously stated, volunteer work does not include helping/ supporting activities for neither family members nor domestic services performed for one's household.

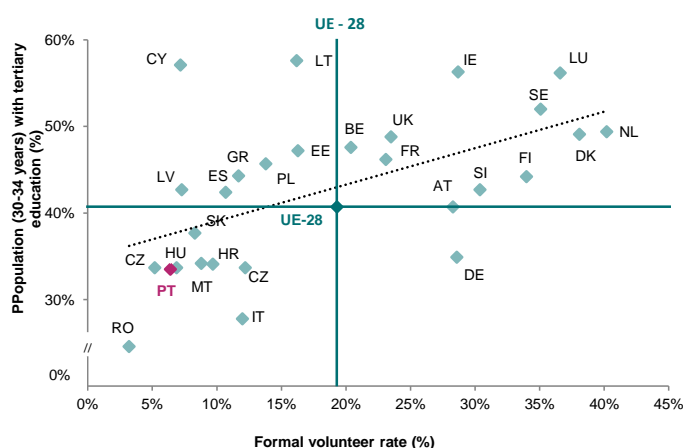
Picture 16 shows the positive correlation between the degree of economic development of the country and its formal volunteer rate.

On the other hand, the relationship between the level of education and the formal volunteer rate is not so evident. Indeed, in countries such as Cyprus (7.2%) or Lithuania (16.2%), completion of tertiary education does not necessarily appear to be associated with higher formal volunteering rates.

**Picture 16 – Formal volunteer rate (%) and GDP per capita PPC (% facing EU 28) in EU 28**



**Picture 17 – Formal volunteer rate (%) and percentage of the population (30-34 years) with attained tertiary education (%) in EU 28**



Data sources: Statistics Portugal (PT) and Eurostat (other countries); Eurostat (PPC and Tertiary Education)

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## 6. Hours worked and economic value

It is estimated that, in 2018, 263.7 million hours were dedicated to volunteer work. Using National Accounts as reference, volunteer work hours amounted to 2.9% of total hours worked in Portuguese economy.

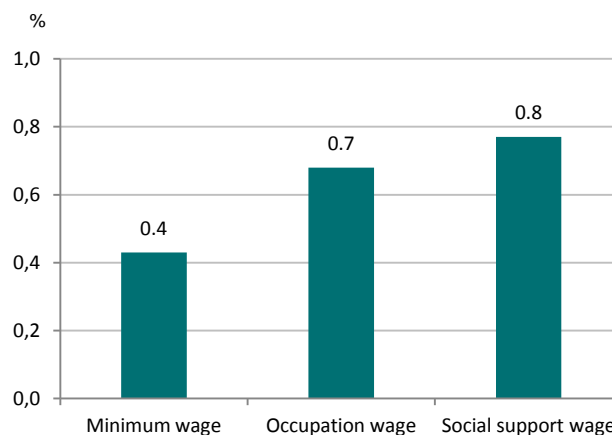
On average, the total resident population, aged 15 or more, spent approximately 32 hours per month on volunteer work, with the monthly average of formal volunteering (34 hours) being higher than that observed in informal volunteering (21 hours).

In order to obtain an economic valuation of total hours of volunteer work, different scenarios were estimated based on internationally recommended methodologies. These scenarios were based on the following hypothesis: national minimum wage; "occupation wage"; and "social support wage" (see methodological notes).

The valuation of the total hours of volunteer work presented the following results:

- Minimum wage: 870.2 million euro, representing 0.4% of national GDP in 2018;
- "Occupation wage": 1,366.8 million euro, corresponding to 0.7% of national GDP in 2018;
- "Social support wage": 1,555.8 million euro, or the equivalent to 0.8% of national GDP in 2018.

**Picture 18 – Economic value of volunteer work (% of GDP)**



## 7. Volunteer work in Social Economy

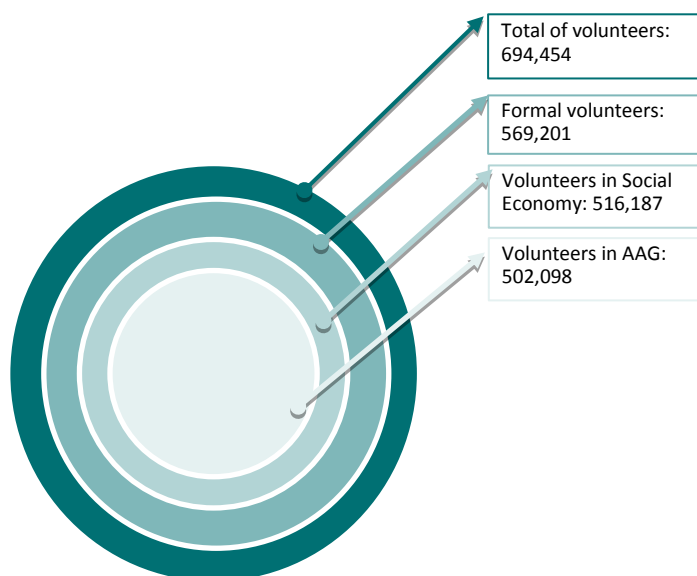
Volunteer work is a key resource for Social Economy (SE) entities.

Considering that the reference periods of the SVW and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Social Economy Satellite Account are different (2018 and 2016, respectively), the analysis of volunteer work within the SE is based on the hypothesis that the structure of SE has not changed significantly.

Under this hypothesis, it is estimated that, in 2018, approximately 516 thousand individuals have performed volunteering activities in SE entities, which corresponds to approximately 90.7% of the total formal volunteers and 74.3% of the total volunteers. The 2012 SVW estimated around 483 thousand individuals (about 90% of formal volunteer work).

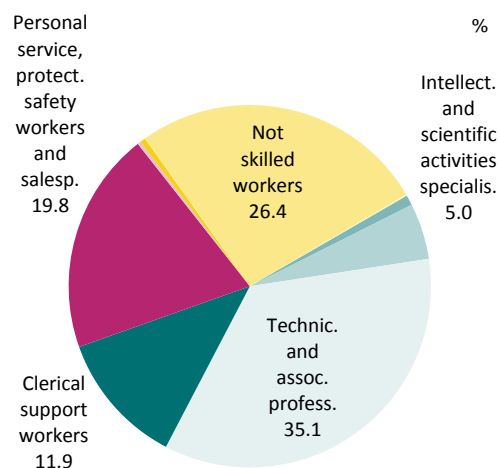
Of these 516 thousand individuals, about 502 thousand may have engaged in volunteering activities in Associations with altruistic goals (AAG).

**Picture 19 – Number of volunteers: total, formal, in Social Economy entities and in Associations with altruistic goals (AAG)**



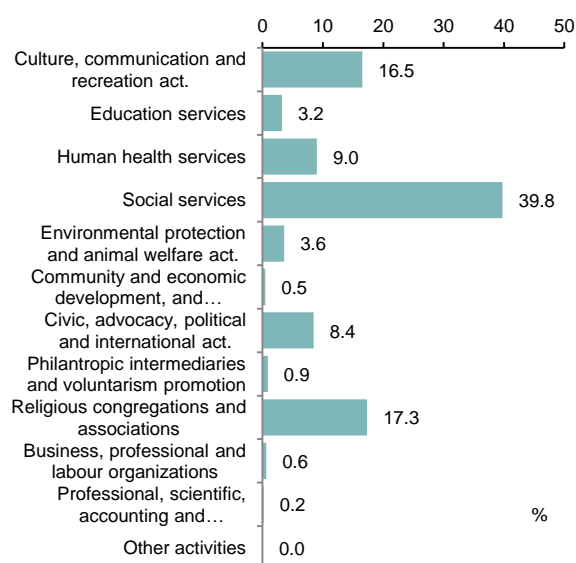
Given the weight of SE in formal volunteer work, the distribution of the performed tasks in SE is similar: the main tasks reported by volunteers in SE entities concentrated on jobs equivalent to those of technicians and associate professionals (35.1%), followed by those equivalent to the not skilled workers (26.4%), and also to those of personal service, protection and safety workers and salespersons (19.8%).

**Picture 20 – Distribution (%) of volunteering tasks in Social Economy entities, according to the Portuguese classification of occupations**



The largest number of volunteers in SE entities concentrated mainly on social services (39.8%), followed by religion (17.3%) and culture, communication and recreational activities (16.5% %), registering an increase in the weight of these organizations, compared to the values observed in the total of formal volunteering.

**Picture 21 – Distribution (%) of volunteering in Social Economy entities, according to the ICNP/TSO**



In 2018, it is estimated that 214.5 million hours were dedicated to volunteer work in SE entities, which accounted for approximately 2.3% of total hours worked nationwide.

Considering as a reference the total number of hours worked in the National Accounts and the associated full-time equivalents (FTE), it was possible to estimate that volunteer work, expressed in FTE, represents 45.9% of SE FTE, illustrating, thus, the relevance of this resource to the SE organizations.

Using a different variable to estimate the economic value of volunteer work in SE entities (comparing with the SE GVA and not with the national GDP) the following results were obtained:

- Minimum wage: 707.8 million euro, representing 14.7% of SE GVA estimated by the Social Economy Satellite Account (SESA) 2016;
- "Occupation wage": 1,152.5 million euro, corresponding to 23.9% of SE GVA estimated by the SESA 2016;
- "Social support wage": 1,265.4 million euro, or the equivalent to 26.3% of SE GVA estimated by the SESA 2016.

**Picture 22 – Economic value of volunteer work (% of GVA) in Social Economy entities**



## Methodological Notes

### 1. Methodological framework

The SVW 2018 main methodological framework was the "*Handbook of National Accounting: Satellite Account on Nonprofit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work*" (2018), of the United Nations, which includes the "*Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*" of the "2013 International Conference of Labour Statisticians" (2013 ICLS Resolution I), and the *International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations* (ICNP/TSO). This manual was the basis for the elaboration of a simplified version of the recommended questionnaire, for the formulation of the specific definitions, as well as for the questions of the module for collecting information, a process carried out in articulation with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 Labour Force Survey.

It should be noted that SVW 2012 used as its main methodological reference the International Labor Organization's (ILO) "*Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*", which aimed for the creation of an homogeneous system for collecting information on volunteer work among different countries.

Both surveys were implemented in articulation with the Labour Force Survey, abiding by its rules and methodological principles.

### 2. Concepts

According to previous ILO definition, volunteer work should correspond to "unpaid non-compulsory work; that is, time individuals give without pay to activities performed either through an organization or directly for others outside their own household." Therefore, volunteering is regarded as: (i) A form of work; which produces value for a specific period of time (at least one hour) in a given reference period (in this specific survey, one year); (ii) Performed non-compulsively; (iii) Unpaid, although some forms of reimbursement of expenses (ex: food or travel), gifts or other expressions of gratitude may be allowed - provided they do not exceed the market value of the task in question; (iv) Directed from organizations (non-profit institutions or others) or from individual initiative to other individuals, as long as they do not belong to the volunteer's household.

According to the "*Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*" from the "2013 International Conference of Labour Statisticians" (2013 ICLS Resolution I), "persons in volunteer work are defined as all those of working age who, during a short reference period, performed any unpaid, non-compulsory activity to produce goods or provide services for others, where:

- (a) "any activity" refers to work for at least one hour;
- (b) "unpaid" is interpreted as the absence of remuneration in cash or in kind for work done or hours worked; nevertheless, volunteer workers may receive some small form of support or stipend in cash, when below one third of local market wages (e.g. for out-of-pocket expenses or to cover living expenses incurred for the activity), or in kind (e.g. meals, transportation, symbolic gifts);
- (c) "non-compulsory" is interpreted as work carried out without civil, legal or administrative requirement, that are different from the fulfilment of social responsibilities of a communal, cultural or religious nature;
- (d) production "for others" refers to work performed:
  - (i) through, or for organizations comprising market and non-market units (i.e. organization-based volunteering) including through or for self-help, mutual aid or community-based groups of which the volunteer is a member;
  - (ii) **for households other than the household of the volunteer worker or of related family members** (i.e. direct volunteering)."

This last criteria has contributed to the decrease of the volunteer rate observed in SVW 2018, in comparison to the results of the SVW 2012.

Two different types of volunteer work were considered:

- Formal or organizational volunteer work, which is understood as all unpaid and non-compulsory work that has been performed through an organization (ex: volunteering as a teacher or tutor in an organization, participation in campaigns of a Food Bank, volunteering in culture, sports and recreation associations);

### Methodological Notes (cont.)

- Informal or direct volunteer work, which is considered to be all volunteer work done directly by an individual to other individuals not residing in the accommodation, not belonging to the household and with whom he/she does not maintain a family relationship (ex: unpaid extra lessons for the child of a neighbor, friend, etc., take care of elderly neighbors, take care of the domestic animals of a friend, neighbor, colleague, etc. while the latter is absent for holidays).

Given the characteristics described above, all volunteer activities resulting from judicial decisions, compulsory as part of a prison sentence, unremunerated internships that integrate an academic curriculum, and other forms of "forced" volunteering are excluded. The work of mutual aid, that is, the work done in a business, farm or professional office, by a relative (who does not live in the accommodation) or a friend, in return for other work rendered, should not be understood either as a volunteer work.

Similarly, all entrepreneurial volunteer activities when carried out during working hours or, in general, all activities carried out simultaneously with a 'paid job' are excluded. However, if these activities are based on workers' initiatives, generally occurring outside of working hours and where there is no financial consideration for the participants, they should be considered as volunteer work. Finally, any kind of monetary or non-monetary aid in the form of loans, gifts or donations to institutions or individuals should not be considered as volunteer work activity, although this does not apply to participation in fund raising actions that may be translated into donations.

It should also be noted that, although less detailed and more focused on formal volunteer activities, the definition of volunteering embodied in the legal framework of volunteering (Law No. 71/98, of 3 November) is coherent with the one used in the SVW 2018: "*a set of actions of social and community interest carried out in a disinterested way by people, in the context of projects, programs and other forms of intervention at the service of individuals, families, community, developed non-profit by public or private entities.*"

### 3. Volunteer work estimated economic value

In order to value economically the hours of volunteer work carried out, the "Handbook of National Accounting: Satellite Account on Nonprofit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work" (2018), of the United Nations, suggests the approach described on the "Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work", thus, a cost replacement methodology was used, which resulted in an attempt to assign an equivalent market value to the volunteering hours.

This method implicitly assumes that there are "equivalent market substitutes" and that the quality and productivity of substitutes is identical to that of professionals, which is a very strong assumption. Thus, the application of this methodology and, in particular, the choice of salary / wage to be applied may be questionable, and it is therefore important to analyze the results obtained with some caution.

In order to minimize some of the problems discussed above, three variants were used in the application of the "substitution cost":

- National minimum wage: an equitable valuation was assumed independently of the activity provided by applying the guaranteed minimum monthly remuneration (average per hour);
- "Occupation wage": the number of hours dedicated to a particular activity was multiplied by the average hourly wage associated with the equivalent professional occupation. The report "*Quadros de Pessoal. Coleção Estatísticas. 2016*", from Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social (Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento) was used as a data source;
- "Social support wage": an average hourly wage resulting from the average of the hourly wages of the most frequent occupations in the scope of volunteer work was attributed to the hours of volunteer work. The report "*Quadros de Pessoal. Coleção Estatísticas. 2016*", from Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social (Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento) was used as a data source.

The use of a more generalist (minimum wage) method resulted in the lowest estimate for the value of volunteer work, while the use of a more specific method resulted in higher estimates.

## Methodological Notes (cont.)

### 4. Comparing results with the SVW 2012

The results of the 2018 SVW are not directly comparable with those of the 2012 SVW, given that:

- The concept of volunteer work has been revised, which, according to the "*Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*" from the "*2013 International Conference of Labour Statisticians*" (2013 ICLS Resolution I) is now defined as "unpaid and non-compulsory work, that is, time spent by individuals in unpaid activities carried out through an organization or directly to non-household members with whom they do not share a family relationship".

Thus, the concept of volunteer work (informal) no longer includes all activities for individuals with a family relationship, which was considered more appropriate to the Portuguese reality than the definition previously used, by the main national entities with attributions related to volunteer work which were consulted by Statistics Portugal.

- It was used the *International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations* (ICNP/TSO), which corresponds to the first revision of the *International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations* (used in the SVW 2012) which was established by the "*Handbook of National Accounting: Satellite Account on Nonprofit and Related Institutions and Volunteer Work*", (2018), from the United Nations;
- The methodological changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, since the SVW 2012, were incorporated.

With regard to ICNP / TSO, the main changes compared to the previous classification used in SVW 2012, were the following:

- Transfer of social clubs (examples: numismatics, philately, automobile fan clubs, dogs fan clubs, etc.) from the scope of culture, communication and recreation activities to civic, advocacy, political and international activities;
- Transfer of scientific research from the field of education to professional, scientific, accounting and administrative services;
- Transfer of activities classified under ISIC Rev. 4 code 87 (corresponding to NACE Rev.2 division 87 and section 87 of CAE Rev.3) from the scope of social services to human health services.

The main methodological changes introduced in the Labour Force Survey, since the completion of SVW 2012, were as follows:

- New sample selected from the national accommodation file (based on the 2011 Census);
- Changes in the "Education and Training" module of the questionnaire resulting from the introduction of new questions for the fulfillment of European Union criteria and the operationalization of the ISCED 2011;
- Alteration in the national educational system with the introduction of higher technical professional degrees.