

# Estimating the Scope and Magnitude of Volunteerism Worldwide

A review of multinational data on volunteering

Karin Gavelin and Lars Svedberg  
with Victor Pestoff

This paper was produced as part of the research process for the 2011 State of the World's Volunteerism Report. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNV, UNDP or the United Nations. All responsibility for the content, including but not limited to errors and omissions lie with the author

## **Contents**

1. Introduction	3
2. Introducing the data sources	8
3. Data on formal volunteering	30
4. Data on informal volunteering	70
5. A few preliminary recommendations	82
Annex 1: Active membership data	84
Annex 2: Nonpartisan political activity data	85
Annex 3: Studies considered but not included	87
References	90

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 About this paper

Background Paper 1 - Estimating the Scope and Magnitude of Volunteerism Worldwide with National Data is one of several working papers commissioned by the UNV to inform the forthcoming State of the World's Volunteering Report (SWVR). The purpose of the paper is to:

- Identify, review and compare existing data on formal and informal voluntary activity at national level, paying specific attention to the results from key international surveys.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of available data sources on volunteering worldwide
- Discuss volunteerism measurements issues and suggest accurate and valid volunteerism indices for future use.

The research was conducted in four stages. The first stage consisted of the identification of data sources. These were selected on the basis of three criteria. They should: (1) be multinational, (2) include data on the proportion of the population that engages in at least one type of volunteering (formal or informal), (3) provide sufficient methodological information for the research team to be able to evaluate the robustness and comparability of the data. We were assisted in the search for data sources by colleagues at the UNV and the Institute for Civil Society Studies with extensive prior knowledge of international volunteering research. Searches for additional studies were carried out through Internet search engines and in academic databases. A call for assistance was also distributed through the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) email list. This call resulted in over 20 responses from civil society researchers around the world, but failed to reveal any additional worldwide studies beyond the ones already identified by the research team and the UNV. A list of studies that were considered but did not meet the selection criteria can be found in Annex 3. In the end, the following nine studies were selected for inclusion in the review:

- World Poll (Gallup)
- Voice of the People (Gallup International)
- World Values Survey (WVS)
- Eurobarometer Special Survey 66.3 (TNS Opinion & Social)
- European Social Survey (ESS)
- European Values Study (EVS)
- Civil Society Index (Civicus)
- Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (Johns Hopkins University)
- Study on Volunteering in the European Union (Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency [EAC-EA])

The second stage of the research consisted of a review of the methodological robustness and comparability of the data sources. The findings from this stage are presented and discussed in chapter 2. In the third and most comprehensive part of the research, the data was collated and organized. The resulting presentation and discussion of the data can be found in

chapter 3. Finally, in the fourth stage, some preliminary recommendations for future volunteering research were formulated. These are presented in chapter 5.

## **1.2 The Winds of Change – Defining Volunteering in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The winds of change are blowing and with it we are changing, or at least beginning to change, our perspective on volunteering and volunteerism. This takes the form of broadening our understanding of what volunteering is, both formal and informal, as well as what volunteerism means to society. A reminder of these changes is found in the waning paradigm of the early pluralists that dominated Western social sciences and voluntary action studies for at least the first three decades after the end of W.W. II. These changes can provide an important lesson on context or embeddedness that is reinforced by the United Nations efforts to renew the definition of volunteerism.

### **1.2.1 The importance of context or being embedded**

Volunteering, both formal and informal, and membership in voluntary organizations, again both formal and informal, have long been central features of modern, Western society and attempts to understand how society functions. Already in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Alexander de Tocqueville<sup>1</sup> provided such phenomenon with a central role in explaining the strength and vivacity of democracy in the New World. The threads of his seminal 19<sup>th</sup> Century writing can be clearly seen in the early works of the post-war pluralists in the USA<sup>2</sup>, all of whom attributed great importance to the democratic functions of voluntary organizations in modern societies. Voluntary organizations were seen by pluralists as a buffer between the rulers and ruled that prevented direct access of either group to/by the other; something not found in the totalitarian societies of Eastern Europe, ruled by a single party.<sup>3</sup> Citizens of modern pluralist societies were presumed to be joiners, who belonged to numerous voluntary associations. Voluntary associations were sometimes referred to as the ‘glue that held society together’, in spite of considerable economic, political and social cleavages in these societies.<sup>4</sup> The American view on pluralism and voluntary action studies quickly spread to Europe; however, little empirical research existed on either side of the Atlantic to support pluralist ideas on the role of volunteering and volunteerism.

When empirical data was finally exposed to comparative scrutiny in the 1970s, it lent little support to the dominant American ideas and models of volunteering and volunteerism in a European multi-party context. Rather a comparative study of the Nordic democracies showed that voluntary organizations functioned quite differently in the multi-party systems than in Anglo-Saxon two-party democracies.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, this also exposed the weakness of claims of universality by many early pluralists, since they ignored the local and national embeddedness of volunteering and volunteerism in Europe and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, much of the early research on volunteering and volunteerism also expressed other limitations or weaknesses. In particular, definitional issues have always been central to this field of study, as we will see. Americans were assumed to be “a nation of joiners”. Almond and Verba’s five nation study of Civic Society,<sup>6</sup> included questions about membership and, not surprisingly, seemed to confirm that Americans were truly a “nation of

---

<sup>1</sup> de Tocqueville (1830, 1955)

<sup>2</sup> See for example D. Truman (1951 & 1971), W. Coser (1956), W. Kornhauser (1960), R. Dahl (1961), S.M. Lipset (1963), G. Almond & S. Verba (1963) and S. Huntington (1968)

<sup>3</sup> Kornhauser (1960)

<sup>4</sup> Coser (1956)

<sup>5</sup> Pestoff, V(1977)

<sup>6</sup> Almond & Verba (1963)

joiners”, compared to Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Mexico. But, differences in methods and timing of their separate studies can help explain some of these differences. Moreover, viewed in a larger context, the USA came in the middle of a group of 13 nations reporting membership in voluntary associations.<sup>7</sup> Over and above this, there were a number of other problems with the studies concerning membership, volunteering and volunteerism. Several of them only investigated more established associational life and therefore failed to capture local and communal groupings, some of which were formal, while many remained informal. Not many, besides, captured persons carrying out volunteering activities without being members in organizations.

Other early American researchers excluded certain types of organizations from their studies on the basis that they were not “truly voluntary”. Some typically excluded organizations like churches and unions, since people were “born into a church” or trade union membership was “not [always] freely chosen”.<sup>8</sup> This excluded large groups that today are normally included in research on volunteering and volunteerism.

We have now given examples of the state of research as it remained for quite a long time. It was often also one-sidedly dominated by a political science perspective. However, in the past 20-25 years civil society and volunteerism research has expanded greatly and is now found within a range of different disciplines, not least within sociology, business administration and psychology/social psychology, which has led to more interdisciplinary projects. These may focus on social movements and social activism, aid to third-world development, the role of NGOs and the rewards that stimulate people to engage in voluntary work, and so forth. Other research disciplines that have shown interest in this field are, for example, public health and cultural geography, where the focus may lie on the importance of access to social capital or the importance of civil society for the creation of local identity/solidarity.<sup>9</sup>

What has become increasingly clear from the research of recent decades is the vital role of context. There are several aspects to this, since the concepts of “civil society”, “voluntary work”, “nonprofit”, and “philanthropy” all are “embedded” in a mode of thought that builds on and revolves around the idea of liberal democracy. (For instance, that many individuals in a number of countries state that they volunteer in organizations coupled to a political party or the state does not mean a strengthening of civil society from a liberal democratic perspective). The continued strong influence of the Western world both on ideas in general and on the shaping of research has often followed a market alignment along with a one-sided and apolitical emphasis on civil society’s good sides, without the taken-for-granted “good” being placed into any wider social context. Some voluntary work is also seen as better than others.<sup>10</sup>

More recently, the well-known Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project exposes similar contextual constraints in terms of defining the sector from a narrow, culturally specific nonprofit perspective.<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Pestoff, V., 1977: Voluntary Associations and Nordic Party Systems. A Study of Multiple Membership and Cross-Pressures in Finland, Norway and Sweden; Stockholm University, Studies in Politics, No. 10.

<sup>8</sup> Gordon & Babchuk (1959); Babchuk & Edwards (1965)

<sup>9</sup> Offe (1985); Gaskin & Davis Smith (1995); Janoski (1998); Wilson (2000); Hustinx & Lammertyn (2003); Decker & Halman (2003); Kaldor (2004); Evers & Laville (2004) Della Porta & Tarrow (2005); Pichler & Wallace (2007); Musick & Wilson (2008); Taylor et al (2010).

<sup>10</sup> Donoghue (2010); Salomon & Sokolowski (2003).

<sup>11</sup> Steinberg & Young (1998); Salomon & Anheier (1998); Donoghue (2010).

Thus, much of the early research on volunteerism seems dated in the light of the current context. Yet, volunteering and volunteerism are not context-free and cannot be detached from their local or national setting. All this helps to underline the importance of current attempts to capture a broader scope of volunteering, both formal and informal, that are clearly embedded in the local and national context.<sup>12</sup>

The involvement by citizens in volunteering in organizations is regarded as a crucial dimension of civil society. The focal point is usually taken to be the organizations and activities of the voluntary sector and the role of these.<sup>13</sup> Volunteering is often described in positive terms, as a core activity in civil society, and this involvement has been seen as having potential health benefits for the volunteer and social benefits in the form of wider social support networks.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, in the literature, volunteers tend to be presented as resourceful people.<sup>15</sup> People who are volunteers are assumed to be ‘active citizens’ for whom their unpaid work has a more positive value in its own right.<sup>16</sup>

In research into volunteering in associations, there is, however, a certain tradition of including issues addressing informal work in various forms outside organizational frameworks, such as in community groups, and help-giving within the context of informal social networks. To include a wider repertoire of unpaid activities enables an analysis of ‘active citizenship’ in a broader sense.<sup>17</sup>

In the literature, unpaid work carried out by citizens in the form of informal support, help and caregiving, and also in the form of volunteering in voluntary organizations often seems to be described as connected with different spheres in society, and the two activities are more often than not addressed in divergent research discourses. Thus, informal helpers and caregivers are often viewed as being in the sphere of family or extended family, and often rather instrumentally connected to changes in the welfare state.<sup>18</sup>

### **1.2.2 The United Nations General Assembly’s definition of volunteering in 2001**

In 2001, the United Nation’s General Assembly adopted a definition of volunteering that represented a paradigm shift in the study and understanding of volunteering and voluntary associations. It shifted from the traditional approach and understanding of volunteerism based solely on philanthropic social service volunteering, and instead introduced a greatly expanded view of these phenomena, including self-help/mutual aid volunteering, conventional political advocacy/campaigning volunteering and social movement/activism volunteering, as specified by the definition adopted by the UN Assembly in 2001. This became known as the UN’s “big tent” approach.

### **1.2.3 The United Nations Volunteers’ (UNV) approach to volunteering and volunteerism in 2011**

The UNV has been given the mandate to prepare the State of the World’s Volunteering Report (SWVR). In this task, it seeks the broadest possible understanding and vision of

---

<sup>12</sup> Henriksen Skov et al (2008); Wollebaek & Sivesind (2010).

<sup>13</sup> Jeppsson Grassman & Svedberg (2007)

<sup>14</sup> Burr *et al.* (2005); Jeppsson Grassman (2006); Roland & Puymbroeck (2007); Warburton & McLaughlin (2006).

<sup>15</sup> Gaskin and Davis Smith (1995)

<sup>16</sup> Jeppsson Grassman & Svedberg (2007)

<sup>17</sup> Hinterlong (2008); Jegermalm & Jeppsson Grassman, (2009a); Jeppsson Grassman (2003); Jeppsson Grassman & Svedberg (2007); Martinson & Minkler (2006); Putnam (2000)

<sup>18</sup> Nolan *et al.* (2003); Twigg and Atkin (1994)

volunteering, consistent with the “big tent” approach taken by the UN General Assembly in 2001. No longer is the traditional paradigm based on philanthropic social service volunteering the only focus for studies of volunteering and volunteerism. There are also several other types of volunteering implied by this definition that go far beyond it. In short, the SWVR project defines volunteering as including all forms of “freely chosen, not fully remunerated [activities] of benefit to others outside one’s family in all kinds of contexts, from highly organized to quite informal and non-organized volunteering”.<sup>19</sup> This may include religious volunteering, occupation related volunteering, sports and recreational volunteering, arts and cultural volunteering, hobby volunteering, education-related volunteering, sociability association volunteering, and a wide range of other activities such as political advocacy/campaigning and social activism. It is also necessary to keep in mind the growing phenomenon of “mandatory” volunteering. Today a growing number of schools, employers and associations require a certain amount of “hours volunteered” in order to fulfill entry or other requirements to gain or retain a position in such organizations.

#### 1.2.4 The definition and categorization of volunteering used in this review

For the purpose of the selection and categorization of data for this review, we have used the SWVR definition set out above with the following additional classifications used to distinguish between formal and informal volunteering:

**Formal volunteering** is non-obligatory and unpaid actions that are undertaken in an organizational setting for the benefit of other people, a specific organization, cause or society as a whole.

**Informal volunteering** is non-obligatory unpaid actions undertaken outside a formal organizational context or the respondents’ household, providing time, help or support for the benefit of other people, a specific cause or society as a whole.

However, it should be noted that the volunteering data included in the BP-1 paper represent a more narrow range of voluntary activities than that offered in the broad SWVR definition, both with regards to formal volunteering and the activities that will here be referred to as informal volunteering. This is mainly a result of the limited data available. The focus of the review is to present multinational quantitative data on volunteering, a field of study that is currently in short supply. The situation is further complicated by the fact that volunteerism is not the primary focus of the surveys in question. Instead, the data presented in this report derives from single questions on volunteering included in large surveys that cover a wide range of issues concerning people’s values and behavioural patterns.

Moreover, many survey questions on volunteering focus on formally organized volunteering in organizational settings and thus exclude more loosely organized activities taking place in the same or other contexts, including some of the types of formal volunteering that are also covered by the SWVR definition. Whereas these more narrow approaches to studying volunteering may generally be preferable from a theoretical and analytical perspective, they are not helpful in the context of trying to capture a broader and more inclusive notion of volunteering. Another example is when the survey questions on informal voluntary activities exclude help given to “family”, without clarifying whether the term means the respondent’s immediate family, the household, members of the older generation (e.g. the respondent’s parents), extended family, and so on. Partly as a result of these limitations, the data tends to be:

---

<sup>19</sup> SWVR Background paper/chapter author guidelines.

- limited in reach (in terms of countries covered))
- limited in scope (in terms of the type of volunteering)
- limited in clarity (in terms of definition of volunteering)

## 2. Introducing the data sources

The studies selected for this review can be divided into three broad categories. We have named these *cross-country population surveys*, *aggregated studies* and *secondary studies*. The main distinctions between them are set out in the table below.

Category	Type of data	Respondents	Methodological consistency between countries	Studies
Cross-country population surveys	Primary	Citizens	Fairly high	Gallup World Poll; Gallup International Voice of the People; World Values Survey; European Values Study; European Social Survey; Eurobarometer 66.3
Aggregated studies	Primary and secondary	Organizations and/or citizens	Low	Civicus Civil Society Index; Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project
Secondary studies	Secondary	Varies	None	EAC-EA Study of Volunteering in the EU

Over the next few pages we present basic descriptions of each data source, including the questions or indicators with which the data has been collected. This is followed by a comment on the main points of difference and congruence between the sources, and a discussion about their suitability for data comparisons.



## 2.1 Descriptions of data sources

Note that the descriptions of data sources below are largely sourced from materials and websites published by the organizations responsible for the studies in question. In a few cases, these materials have been complemented by additional information provided by staff at the study organizations.<sup>20</sup>

### Cross-country population surveys

Gallup World Poll	
Link	<a href="https://worldview.gallup.com">https://worldview.gallup.com</a>
Description	<p>The Gallup World Poll aims to poll representative samples of the population in over 150 countries on a range of topics. Themes covered include business and economics, citizen engagement, education and families, environment and energy, communications and technology, and government and politics, among others. The data are commercially available but can also be accessed for free, by country and variable, from the above website.</p> <p>Note that Gallup is not to be confused with the Gallup International Association that conducts the Voice of the People study, listed below. The two organizations are not affiliated</p>
Frequency	Data is collected and published annually on the above website.
Methodology	<p><b>Target population:</b> civilian, non-institutionalized, aged 15 and older.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> The typical World Poll survey includes at least 1,000 surveys of individuals in each country. In some countries, oversamples are collected in major cities or areas of special interest. Additionally, in some large countries, such as China and Russia, sample sizes of at least 2,000 are collected. In some instances the sample size is between 500 and 1,000. (No information on gross samples, net samples or nonresponse rates is provided.)</p> <p><b>Sampling:</b></p> <p>STEP 1: In countries where face-to-face surveys are conducted, the first stage of sampling is the identification of PSUs (Primary Sampling Units), consisting of clusters of households. PSUs are stratified by population size and or geography and clustering is achieved through one or more stages of sampling. Where population information is available, sample selection is based on probabilities proportional to population size, otherwise simple random sampling is used.</p> <p>STEP 2: Selecting Households: Random route procedures are used to select sampled households. Interviewers make up to three attempts to survey the sampled household. Where telephone interviewing is used, Random-Digit-Dial (RDD) or a nationally representative list of phone numbers is used. In the developing world, an area frame design is used for face-to-face interviewing. If an interview cannot be obtained at the initial sampled household, a simple substitution method is used.</p>

<sup>20</sup> All organizations responsible for the selected studies were given the opportunity to read and comment on the descriptions between 3-9 February 2011.

	<p>STEP 3: Selecting Respondents: In face-to-face and telephone methodologies, random respondent selection is achieved by using either the latest birthday or the Kish grid method (a widely used technique in survey research, by which interviewers who have been issued with a sample of household addresses can then sample individuals on the doorstep, by following simple and rigorous rules).</p> <p><b>Translation:</b> the questionnaire is translated into the major languages of each country. The translation process starts with an English, French, or Spanish version, depending on the region. A translator who is proficient in the original and target languages translates the survey into the target language. A second translator reviews the language version against the original version and recommends refinements. There is no information about back-translations being carried out.</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> in countries where telephone coverage represents at least 80% of the population the surveys are carried out by phone, elsewhere the interviews are done face-to-face. Face-to-face interviews are approximately 1 hour and telephone interviews about 30 minutes.</p> <p>Source: Gallup World Poll Methodology:  <a href="https://worldview.gallup.com/content/methodology.aspx">https://worldview.gallup.com/content/methodology.aspx</a></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<i>"In the past month have you done any of the following, how about volunteered your time to an organization?"</i>
Question relating to informal volunteering (see comment on data sources below)	<i>"In the past month have you done any of the following, how about helped a stranger or somebody you didn't know who needed help?"</i>

Gallup International Voice of the People Survey	
Link	<a href="http://www.voice-of-the-people.net">www.voice-of-the-people.net</a>
Description	<p>A multi-national survey exploring people's views on a range of topical issues including international security, immigration, hunger, democracy and volunteerism. The data presented below are taken from the 2005 survey which covered 67 countries. The data is published in the <i>Voice of the People</i> (2006) publication.</p> <p>Note that Gallup International is not to be confused with the Gallup organization that conducts the world poll, listed above. The two organizations are not affiliated.</p>
Frequency	The Gallup International team states that "similar surveys" are conducted annually, although not all surveys leads to the publication of a book.
Methodology	<p><b>Target population:</b> Adult population over the age of 18 (there is no mention of an upper age-limit in the methodology chapter). In some countries the lower age limit was 14. Some countries limited the sample to the urban population only.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> Sample sizes (number of completed interviews) vary from 300 (Costa Rica) to 2219 (Kenya). The majority of countries surveyed less than 1000 individuals. (No information on gross samples, net samples or nonresponse rates is provided.)</p> <p><b>Sampling and translation</b> There is no information about the sampling and translation approaches in the methodology chapter. The Gallup International team states that "every country involved in the survey is responsible for its own sampling and translations. As a general practice they comply with industry norms of scientifically chosen samples."</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> Primarily face-to-face or telephone interviews. Approximately 57% of countries used face-to-face interviews. Two countries used web or paper-based self-completion questionnaires.</p> <p><i>Source: Gallup International (2006) Voice of the People. What the world thinks on today's global issues.</i></p>
Question on formal volunteering	"During the last 12 months, did you do any volunteer work - that is, devoting time to a job for a not-for-profit organization without receiving any wage or salary in exchange?"

<b>World Values Survey (WVS)</b>	
Link	<a href="http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org">www.worldvaluessurvey.org</a>
Description	<p>An ongoing longitudinal and cross-cultural survey covering public attitudes and behaviors in relation to a range of topics. The survey, which originally sprung from the European Values Study, commenced in 1981 at which time it covered 22 countries. The 1999-2004 wave, from which the data presented in this paper is taken, covered 67 countries.</p> <p>The survey findings are publicly available through the above website.</p>
Frequency	Every five years. The next wave, 2010-2011, is currently ongoing.
Methodology	<p>The notes below are based on the instructions given to the principal investigators in each participating country in the 2010 survey.</p> <p><b>Target population:</b> all residents (not only citizens) between the ages of 18 and 85.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> The minimum sample size (i.e. the number of completed interviews) is 1,000. Given that in most designs the “effective sample size” (sample size net of design effects) is lower than the actual sample size, larger sample sizes are strongly recommended. (For details of actual sample sizes and, in some cases, nonresponse rates, see <a href="http://www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I">www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I</a>. For instance, the response rate given for Denmark in the 1999-2004 survey was 57% and in Bangladesh it was 95%.)</p> <p><b>Sampling:</b> the preferred method of sampling for WVS surveys is the full probability sample. Since this is not possible in all cases (due to the high costs involved), WVS allows quota sampling provided that the following principles are adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of primary sampling units must be probabilistic.</li> <li>• Selection of first stage clusters within primary sampling units must be probabilistic</li> <li>• Quota sampling should be used only within reasonably small sized clusters that have been selected probabilistically.</li> <li>• Whether the sampling method is full probability or a combination of probability and quota, the minimum number of primary sampling units is 30.</li> <li>• Investigators are expected to make every reasonable effort to minimize non-response and a full report on non-responses is required.</li> <li>• In countries using a full probability design, no replacements are allowed: fieldworkers should plan on as many call-backs as the funding allows.</li> <li>• In countries using some form of quota sampling, every effort should be made to interview the first contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Translation:</b> the questionnaire is translated into the main languages spoken in each participating country. This includes all languages spoken by at least 15 percent of the population. Translated questionnaires are back-translated into English by someone other than the person who did the original translation. The translated version, the back-translation and the names of the</p>

	<p>persons who completed the translations are sent to the Executive Committee for approval before the fieldwork can start. When a question has been used in previous surveys, the same translation is preserved to the extent possible in order to allow over-time comparisons.</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> face-to-face interviews in the interviewees' own environment.</p> <p><i>Source: World Value Survey Rules for Principal Investigators Wave 6. For details about the methodology used by each country in the 1999-2004 wave see <a href="http://www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I">www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I</a></i></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p>In the 1999-2004 wave the following question was asked <i>"For which, if any, are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Social welfare services for elderly, handicapped or deprived people</i></li> <li>• <i>Religious or church organizations</i></li> <li>• <i>Education, arts, music or cultural activities</i></li> <li>• <i>Labor unions</i></li> <li>• <i>Political parties or groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Local community action on issues like poverty, employment, housing, racial equality</i></li> <li>• <i>Third world development or human rights</i></li> <li>• <i>Conservation, environmental, animal rights groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Professional associations</i></li> <li>• <i>Youth work (scouts, guides, youth clubs, etc.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Sports or recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Women's groups</i></li> <li>• <i>Peace movement</i></li> <li>• <i>Voluntary organization concerned with health"</i></li> </ul> <p>The questions in the most recent wave (2005) instead asked whether the respondents were active or inactive members of different types of voluntary organizations. Since active membership does not necessarily equal volunteering we have chosen to only use data from the 1999-2004 wave in this paper.</p> <p>Note that data on active membership and nonpartisan political action from the 2005-2008 survey are presented in annexes 1 and 2.</p>

<b>Eurobarometer Special Survey 66.3</b>	
Link	<a href="http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp?object=http://134.95.45.58:80/obj/fStudy/ZA4528">http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp?object=http://134.95.45.58:80/obj/fStudy/ZA4528</a>
Description	A special Eurobarometer survey for all EU member states commissioned by the Directorate-General Communication of the European Commission and conducted by TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium formed by TNS and EOS Gallup Europe. The survey focused on five topics: social reality, e-communications, Common Agricultural Policy, discrimination and the media and medical research. The first topic included a question on volunteering. The data is freely available through the above website.
Frequency	This was a one-off special survey conducted in 2006.
Methodology	<p>The methodology used for this survey was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication.</p> <p><b>Target population:</b> residents of the EU Member States, aged 15 years and over, with sufficient command of one of the respective national language(s) to answer the questionnaire.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> the regular sample size (= completed interviews) in standard Eurobarometer surveys is 1000 respondents per country, except small countries like Luxembourg, Malta and Cyprus where the sample size is 500 people. (No information on gross samples, net samples or nonresponse rates is provided.)</p> <p><b>Sampling:</b> The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density. In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (...) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) was used in those countries where this technique was available.</p> <p>For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure (...) was carried out based on this Universe description. (...) For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion &amp; Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices.</p>

	<p><b>Translation:</b> the original bilingual questionnaires (English/French) are translated into the other main languages spoken in the participating countries. Translation is a multistage process, starting from the master questionnaire finalized by TNS and translated by the local partner institutes. Proof reading and back-translation - after interim adaptation through the institutes - is performed by independent translators, followed by central checks, local changes and final approval through TNS.</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> face-to-face interviews.</p> <p><i>Source: Eurobarometer (2007) European Social Reality Report:  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_273_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_273_en.pdf</a> and  <a href="http://www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/countries-coverage/">http://www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/countries-coverage/</a></i></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p><i>"Do you currently participate actively in or do voluntary work for one of the following organizations?*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A sports club or club for outdoor activities (recreation organization)</i></li> <li>• <i>Education, arts, music or cultural association</i></li> <li>• <i>A trade union</i></li> <li>• <i>A business or professional organization</i></li> <li>• <i>A consumer organization</i></li> <li>• <i>An international organization such as development aid organization or human rights organization</i></li> <li>• <i>An organization for the environmental protection, animal rights, etc</i></li> <li>• <i>A charity organization or social aid organization</i></li> <li>• <i>A leisure association for the elderly</i></li> <li>• <i>An organization for the defense of elderly rights</i></li> <li>• <i>Religious or church organization</i></li> <li>• <i>Political party or organization</i></li> <li>• <i>Organization defending the interest of patients and/or disabled</i></li> <li>• <i>Other interest groups for specific causes such as women, people with specific sexual orientation or local issues</i></li> <li>• <i>None of these "</i></li> </ul> <p><i>*note that the question covers both active participation in organizations and voluntary work.</i></p> <p><i>Source: Eurobarometer 66.3, November-December 2006, Basic bilingual questionnaire:  <a href="http://www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/study-overview/eurobarometer-663-a-4528-nov-dec-2006/">www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/study-overview/eurobarometer-663-a-4528-nov-dec-2006/</a></i></p>

European Social Survey (ESS)	
Link	<a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org">www.europeansocialsurvey.org</a>
Description	The European Social Survey (ESS) is a repeat cross-cultural and cross-sectional survey focusing on the attitudes, beliefs and behavior patterns of Europe's populations on a range of issues. The third round, from which the data presented in this report is collected, was conducted in 2006-2008. The survey findings are publicly available through the above website.
Frequency	Every two years. Round five is currently ongoing, with the findings due to be released in October 2011.
Methodology	<p>The notes below are based on the instructions given to the participating countries in the 2006-2008 round of the European Social Survey.</p> <p><b>Target population:</b> all persons aged 15 and over (no upper age limit) resident within private households in the participating countries, regardless of their nationality, citizenship or language.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> The minimum sample size should be 1,500 after discounting for design effects (or 800 where the population is less than 2m). Thus, with the help of the sampling panel, each country should determine the appropriate size of its initial issued sample by taking into account the realistic estimated impact of clustering, eligibility rates (where appropriate), over-sampling and response rate. The sampling panel will help to calculate the actual gross achieved sample size required in order to achieve an effective sample size of 1,500 interviews. The target minimum response rate is 70% and the target maximum non-contact rate is 3%.</p> <p>Information on actual sample sizes and nonresponse rates is provided through the ESS data base:  <a href="http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=78&amp;Itemid=353">www.europeansocialsurvey.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=78&amp;Itemid=353</a> .</p> <p><b>Sampling:</b> Fieldworkers are instructed to use strict random methods. Where a sample frame of individuals is not available, countries may use a sample frame of households or of addresses. In these cases, procedures for selecting a household from a multi-household address (where appropriate), and an individual within a household will be specified and agreed in advance with the sampling panel. In any event, the relative selection probabilities of every sample member must be known and recorded, as should any remaining systematic non-coverage problems. Quota sampling is not permitted at any stage, nor is substitution of non-responding households or individuals (whether 'refusals' or 'non-contacts'). Over-sampling of certain subgroups must be discussed and agreed in advance with the sampling panel.</p> <p>To minimize non-response, fieldworkers are instructed to make at least 4 calls on different days and at different times to locate potential respondents. They are also expected to employ other ways of enhancing response rates such as using incentives, reissuing refusals and non-contacts, and so forth.</p> <p><b>Translation:</b> the questionnaire is translated into the main languages spoken in the participating countries. This includes all languages used as a first language by 5% or more of the population. The translation process includes review and adjudication stages, according to specified protocols. Minimum two translators are required per translated questionnaire. Every stage of translation is documented for future</p>



	<p>reference. The translated questionnaires are pre-tested in each participating country on a quota-controlled, demographically-balanced sample of around 50 people. (No information on back-translations are provided).</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> Face-to-face interviews of approximately one hour, plus a short supplementary questionnaire.</p> <p>Quality control back-checks (in person, by telephone or by post) are carried out and documented in a pre-specified form on at least 5% of respondents, 10% of refusals and 10% of non-contacts. Quality control back-checks of respondents involve a short interview with the respondent (whether by telephone or in person) to check that an interview was indeed conducted, that showcards were used, that a laptop was used (if applicable), the approximate length of the interview and the type of questions that were asked.</p> <p><i>Source: European Social Survey Round Three, Specification for Participating Countries. May 2005.</i></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p><i>‘In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At least once a week</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once a month</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every three months</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every six months</i></li> <li>• <i>Less often</i></li> <li>• <i>Never”</i></li> </ul>
Questions relating to informal volunteering (see comment on data sources below)	<p><i>‘Not counting anything you do for your family, in your work, or within voluntary organizations, how often, in the past 12 months, did you actively provide help for other people?’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At least once a week</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once a month</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every three months</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every six months</i></li> <li>• <i>Less often</i></li> <li>• <i>Never”</i></li> </ul> <p><i>And in the past 12 months, how often did you help with or attend* activities organized in your local area?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At least once a week</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once a month</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every three months</i></li> <li>• <i>At least once every six months</i></li> <li>• <i>Less often</i></li> <li>• <i>Never”</i></li> </ul> <p>*Note that the question covers attendance as well as participation in local activities.</p>

European Values Study	
Link	<a href="http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu">www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu</a>
Description	<p>The European Values Study (EVS) is a cross-cultural, longitudinal survey on European values and behaviors. The study commenced in 1981, when a thousand citizens in the European Member States of that time were interviewed using standardized questionnaires. In this paper, data from two EVS surveys are included. Data from the 1999 wave, which covered 33 countries, are integrated in the table showing the WVS 1999-2004 data. Data from the 2008 wave, which covered 47 countries, are presented in a separate table.</p> <p>The survey findings are publicly available through the above website.</p>
Frequency	Every nine years (as long as funding is found).
Methodology	<p>The notes below refer to the 2008 wave.</p> <p><b>Target population:</b> the adult population over the age of 18 with sufficient command of one of the respective national language(s) to answer the questionnaire. In Armenia persons 15 years or older and in Finland persons from 18 to 74 years were interviewed. In Sweden the upper age limit was 75.</p> <p><b>Sample size:</b> The number of completed interviews is 1500 respondents per country, except for some countries where it was fewer (from 500 upwards). For details of each country's sample procedures, sample sizes and response rates, see <a href="http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008/participatingcountries/">www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008/participatingcountries/</a></p> <p><b>Sampling:</b> The exact sample strategies used differed between countries. The central sampling guidance instructed that samples must be random and that the preferred hierarchy for respondent/household selection were: (1) population/individual registry data, (2) address samples, (3) random walk. To ensure a random selection of respondents within the household, the fieldworkers were instructed to use Kish Grid, last birthday method or 'closest' birthday to a randomly chosen month. Fieldworkers were further requested to make 1+3 revisits to each household. The "no substitution" principle applies. This means that the person who had been randomly selected, has to be revisited, and cannot be substituted with any other person from the same household.</p> <p><b>Translation:</b> The English master questionnaire was translated into the main languages of the participating countries. In 14 countries, more than one language was needed. A translation centre was established at CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg. This served as a help desk for the National Program Directors and was where a first check of translations took place. Three translation procedures were followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review procedure</i> to check that translations made in the past were still valid. To ensure continuity over time, as little changes as possible were allowed.</li> <li>• <i>Standard procedure</i> for new questions: two independent translators provided translations; adjudications were made by the national program director.</li> <li>• <i>Adaptation procedure:</i> Countries sharing the same language adapted from the primary translation. (For example: German: translation provided by Germany and adapted by Austria, Belgium, and Switzerland.)</li> </ul> <p>(No information on back-translations is provided.)</p> <p><b>Mode of data collection:</b> The EVS questionnaires were administered as face-to-face</p>

	<p>interviews in the appropriate national language(s). CAPI (<i>Computer Assisted Personal Interview</i>) or PAPI (<i>Pen And Paper Interviewing</i>) was used in nearly all countries. Exceptions were Finland (internet panel) and Sweden (postal survey). Quality control back-checks were made.</p> <p><b>Quality control:</b> The fieldwork guidance instructed that quality control back-checks (in person, by telephone or by post) must be carried out and documented on at least 5% of respondents, 10% of refusals and 10% of non-contacts. Quality control back-checks of respondents involved a short interview with the respondent (by telephone or in person).</p> <p>Sources: <a href="http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008.html/fieldwork/">www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008.html/fieldwork/</a>, <a href="http://info1.gesis.org/DBKSearch/SDESC2.asp?no=4800&amp;DB=E">http://info1.gesis.org/DBKSearch/SDESC2.asp?no=4800&amp;DB=E</a> and European Values Study (2010) Guidelines and Recommendations.</p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p>In the 2008 wave the questionnaire asked “Which, if any, [of the following] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work for?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social welfare services for elderly, handicapped or deprived people</li> <li>• Religious or church organizations</li> <li>• Education, arts, music or cultural activities</li> <li>• Trade unions</li> <li>• Political parties or groups</li> <li>• Local community action on issues like poverty, employment, housing, racial equality</li> <li>• Third world development or human rights</li> <li>• Conservation, the environment, ecology, animal rights</li> <li>• Professional associations</li> <li>• Youth work (scouts, guides, youth clubs, etc.)</li> <li>• Sports or recreation</li> <li>• Women’s groups</li> <li>• Peace movement</li> <li>• Voluntary organizations concerned with health</li> <li>• Other groups</li> <li>• None (spontaneous)”</li> </ul> <p>Data from the 1999 wave, using an almost identical question, can also be found in the matrix, integrated into the World Values Survey wave 3 data.</p>

## Aggregated studies

The Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project	
Link	<a href="http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&amp;view=9&amp;sub=3">www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&amp;view=9&amp;sub=3</a>
Description	The Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project is a collaborative research project carried out by 150 researchers in 46 countries. The project aims to document the scope, structure, financing and role of the civil society sector, to explain differences between countries and to evaluate the impact of civil society organizations on wider society.
Frequency	The first study took place in 1995-2000. An update of the data, with more countries included and a different survey question used, has taken place and is planned for publication during 2011.
Methodology	<p>The data on volunteering was gathered through specially commissioned standardized surveys administered by the local associates in each participating country, or was taken from existing data sources. In some countries the data was collected through population surveys, elsewhere organizational surveys were used. The nature and size of the survey population and the sampling techniques used differed between countries. Where population surveys were carried out, a representative random sample of the population (between 1000-2000 persons) was assembled and interviewed. Where organizational surveys were used, the approach depended on the quality of the nonprofit organization list frame. Where the list frame was of good quality, a representative sample was identified and interviewed. Where the list frame was not available, organizations were identified through geographical sampling and interviewed. The questionnaires were translated into the local language (no information on translation processes is provided).</p> <p><i>Source: Salamon, L.M., Wojciech Sokolowski, S. and Associates (2004) Global Civil Society Volume Two. (Additional information was provided by the Johns Hopkins CNSP team.)</i></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p>The exact question varied by country and survey, depending on, among other things, whether the survey respondents were organizational representatives or citizens. However, a common survey was given to the countries participating in the Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, with the following question suggested for collating the volunteering data: “We would like to ask you about volunteer work, volunteering and [list of commonly-used terms for volunteering in your country]. By this we mean work you do that in some way helps others outside your own family for no monetary pay. For example, people may work in a hospital for two hours a week to help patients cope with their illnesses; others may help the handicapped, clean up parks and playgrounds, or volunteer for the local volunteer fire department or the Red Cross.”</p> <p>Respondents were then shown a list of twelve fields, each with one to three lines of examples of organizations active in each field. Respondents were asked to report work they did for organizations in these fields in the previous month, others fields they participated in during the previous year, and to estimate the total number of hours volunteered in each field during the previous month. The percentages presented in section 3.1 are the estimated proportion of the population in each country who engaged in some form of voluntary activity (according to the above definition) at least once per year.</p> <p><i>Source: the question and this information were provided by a Johns Hopkins project coordinator via email.</i></p>

<b>Civics Civil Society Index (CSI)</b>	
Link	<a href="http://www.civics.org/csi/indicator-database">www.civics.org/csi/indicator-database</a>
Description	The Civics Civil Society Index (CSI) is a participatory needs assessment and action-planning tool for civil society around the world. Its purpose is to create a knowledge base and momentum for civil society strengthening initiatives. The CSI is initiated by, and for, civil society organizations at the country level.
Frequency	The first full implementation of the CSI took place from 2003-2006 with fifty-three countries participating. An interim phase using the same methodology was also implemented in early 2008, focusing on the state of civil society in six African countries.
Methodology	<p>An implementation team in each country sets up an advisory committee made up of members representing diverse civil society and other stakeholder groups. A range of other stakeholders are involved in various stages of the project.</p> <p>The CSI uses 74 indicators for its civil society assessment, each measuring an important aspect of the state of civil society. These indicators are grouped together into 25 sub-dimensions, which are grouped into four dimensions: Structure, Environment, Values and Impact. Each country's combined scores in the four dimensions are presented graphically in the form of a Civil Society Diamond.</p> <p>The data on volunteering can be found in the dimension Structure, under the sub-dimensions <i>Breadth of Citizen Participation</i> and <i>Depth of Citizen Participation</i>. The specific indicators related to volunteering are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What percentage of people undertakes volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?</li> <li>• What percentage of people has participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organized event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?</li> <li>• How many hours per month, on average, do volunteers devote to voluntary work?</li> <li>• What percentage of people has ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?</li> </ul> <p>Each indicator is given a score of 0-3 where 0 stands for a small or very small minority (typically 0-10%) and 3 stands for a large majority (typically more than 65%). The scores are compiled on the basis of a number of data sources, including secondary sources (e.g. from national statistics offices), community surveys and stakeholder consultations. In some cases the figures given are estimates made by local stakeholders, at other times they are based on citizen responses to community surveys. The survey population for these are sometimes very small (less than 500), and sampling approaches vary greatly between countries and surveys.</p> <p>The findings from the various sources are submitted to a civil society expert who compiles the draft report. In the next step, a National Index Team consisting of around 12 stakeholders meet to assign scores based on the data in the draft report. The result is then reviewed in a national workshop.</p>

	<p>Sources: Finn Heinrich, V. (ed) (2007) <i>Civics Global Survey of the State of Civil Society, Vol. 1</i>; Finn Heinrich, V. &amp; Fioramonti, L. (2008) <i>Civics Global Survey of the State of Civil Society, Vol. 2</i>; <a href="http://www.civics.org/csi">www.civics.org/csi</a></p>
Question on formal volunteering	<p>The definitions of volunteering used and the precise questions asked vary by country; and in some cases it is unclear what type of volunteering the data refers to. However, the <i>indicator</i> on formal volunteering is: <i>"What percentage of people undertakes volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?"</i></p> <p>Note that the data used for this indicator are sometimes taken from surveys using questions that are worded differently.</p>
Question relating to informal volunteering (see comment on data sources below)	<p>One indicator relates to informal volunteering: <i>"What percentage of people has participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organized event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?"</i></p> <p>One indicator relates to informal political activity: <i>"What percentage of people has ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?"</i></p> <p>Note the word "ever" rather than "within the last year" or "at least once a year" (however, some of the national surveys still specified "within the past 12 months").</p>

## Secondary studies

Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA) Study on Volunteering in the European Union	
Link	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm</a>
Description	The Study on Volunteering in the European Union was commissioned by the Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA) and carried out by the consultancy firm GHK International. The study brings together, compares and analyses data on the scale of volunteerism in the European member states as well as data on the legal and policy frameworks in place at national level. It also reviews major needs and challenges faced by volunteers and voluntary organizations across the EU-27 with a view to determine the scope of possible future policies and actions to support volunteering at EU and national level. The study includes a sector study on sport and therefore specific attention is paid to data on volunteering in sport.
Frequency	One-off report, published in February 2010.
Methodology	<p>The study gathered national statistics on volunteering from each member state. The national data sources were identified through literature reviews and consultations with stakeholders at European and member state level. Since the data sources vary significantly in focus, scope, methodology, time of study and definitions used the report warns that the “statistical analysis of the precise level of volunteering is open to interpretation and should be seen as indicative only.”</p> <p><i>Source: EAC-EA, Study on Volunteering in the European Union, <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm</a></i></p>
Question on volunteering	The definition of volunteering used and the precise questions asked vary by country and data source: some of the sources focus on formal volunteering, others on informal and some cover both formal and informal volunteering. In some cases it is unclear what type of volunteering the data refers to. The definitions of formal and informal volunteering differ by country and survey.

## 2.2 A comment on the data sources

The studies selected for this review have a number of things in common. They are all multinational and concerned with the prevalence of volunteering (formal or informal) in the studied countries. In this, they all share a comparative intent, in the sense that they aim to compare people's experiences and levels of engagement in different political, social and cultural contexts. With these comparative ambitions follow a number of common problems, many of which are exemplified in the selected studies and discussed on the pages below.

It should be noted that this review is concerned both with the comparability of data *within* studies (i.e. the comparability of survey data from different countries) and the comparability of data *from different surveys* studying the same thing. In other words, we want to be able to look at data from different countries and sources, assess their validity and compare them with each other.

### What is being studied?

A basic consideration when exploring the comparability of data from different studies is of course whether they are examining the same phenomena. As we know, volunteering is a broad and nebulous concept. It cannot easily be defined in a few words in a survey question (although we would argue that it can be done in a more considered way than in some of the surveys presented in this review). Nor can it easily be translated into different languages whilst retaining the same meaning. A number of different activities can be defined as formal or informal volunteering, without being directly comparable with each other. For example, doing unpaid work for public sector organizations in a country where citizens are expected by the state to do so, is a whole different matter to doing the same thing in a country where there are no such demands from the state. As stated in the introduction, we have made the following distinction between formal and informal volunteering:

**Formal volunteering** is non-obligatory and unpaid actions that are undertaken in an organization for the benefit of other people, a specific organization, cause or society as a whole.

**Informal volunteering** is non-obligatory unpaid actions undertaken outside a formal organizational context or the respondents' household, providing time, help or support for the benefit of other people, a specific cause or society as a whole.

How comparable, then, are the volunteering data provided by the data sources? At a glance, there appears to be *some* degree of consistency in the definitions of formal volunteering used in the selected studies. For instance, six<sup>21</sup> of the nine studies include questions specifically about volunteering in organizational settings. Yet a closer look at these questions reveals a number of variations and inconsistencies. One is the timespan explored. The nine selected studies vary widely in terms of the frequency of volunteering asked about, from volunteering "once a week" to "in the last five years", or the more unspecific "currently". Of course, such inconsistencies make the data unfit for comparisons. Some of the studies specifically ask about volunteering in non-profit or charitable organizations, while others do not specify what type of organizations is referred to. In four of the surveys, a list of different types of organizations or activities are offered as prompts or further clarification. Two of these, the affiliated World Values and European Values studies, use almost identical lists covering

---

<sup>21</sup> Gallup World Poll, Gallup International Voice of the People, World Values Survey, European Values Study, European Social Study, Eurobarometer. Most of the countries included in the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project also focused on volunteering in organizational settings, but it is unclear whether all did.



different types of organizations as well as “activities” (e.g. “education, arts, music or cultural activities”). The third and fourth, Eurobarometer 66.3 and the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector project, use different lists focusing on voluntary work only.

It would seem reasonable to assume that these differences lead to different and to some extent predictable data patterns between the sources. For instance, one might expect that surveys that *do not* stipulate a specific type of organization would capture a broader range, and thereby a larger number, of volunteers than those that do. For example, surveys asking only about volunteering for charity organizations would not be expected to capture volunteering for public sector organizations, whereas surveys asking a more generic question about “volunteering time to an organization” might do so. Among the three surveys that provide a list of organizations as prompts, one might assume that the more narrowly defined the list is, the fewer volunteers are found. By this reasoning the WVS/EVS surveys, which include “activities” as well as organizations, would be expected to unveil a larger number of volunteers than the Eurobarometer 66.3 survey, which includes only the latter. However, Eurobarometer 66.3 asks whether respondents participate actively in *or* do voluntary work for the listed organizations. Even though active participation may indeed refer to a form of volunteering, this is a broader question than that used in the WVS/EVS surveys, which focuses solely on “unpaid work”. Again, a reasonable assumption drawn from this would be that Eurobarometer would present larger percentages than the WVS/EVS surveys (an assumption which finds some support in the data tables).

As we will see over the next few pages, however, the data patterns are affected by a large number of methodological as well as social, political and cultural factors, and are rarely as straightforward as they may appear at first glance. How the topic is introduced, political conditions, the order in which questions are asked and local traditions, expressions and interpretations all affect the responses gained. We also have to consider the possibility that in some countries government bodies may intervene in the survey process, for example by selecting the organization that will conduct the survey, removing or changing survey questions and/or in other ways influencing the data collectors.

If data on formal volunteering is characterized by great diversity of concepts and definitions, this is even more true for informal volunteering. The lack of clear and consistent data in this field reflects the nebulousness of the concept. Three of the nine studies include questions on actions that may be defined as informal volunteering, although they are not labeled as such in the surveys. Consider these examples:

“In the past month have you (...) helped a stranger or somebody you didn’t know who needed help?”

Gallup World Poll

"Not counting anything you do for your family, in your work, or within voluntary organizations, how often, in the past 12 months, did you actively provide help for other people?"

ESS

“...in the past 12 months, how often did you help with or attend activities organized in your local area?”

ESS

“What percentage of people has participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organized event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?”

Civicus CSI (indicator)

Each of these activities may be defined as a form of informal volunteering, yet they are widely different and not suitable to be compared. They are also all vaguely defined; in fact it is not clear that they should be labeled as a form of volunteering at all. For instance, the second ESS question and Civicus indicator both cover *attending* activities as well as participating in them. Whereas participation could (but does not have to) take the form of a voluntary activity, simply attending an event clearly does not. Moreover, whereas the Civicus indicator sets the context as “collective community action” – something which is done for the benefit of the community – no such specification is provided for the ESS question. Its “activities organized in the local area” could in fact cover anything from a charitable project to a local farmers’ market or street festival. The Gallup World Poll question on “helping a stranger” is broader still, potentially covering anything from giving a stranger directions in the street to giving money to a beggar or helping somebody out in an emergency.

To complicate things further, even if these actions are read as a form of volunteering, which, for the purpose of this review (and with the mentioned caveats in mind) we have decided to do; it is not clear-cut whether they should be labeled formal or informal. None of the surveys specify that the activities take place outside of organizational settings; hence they could potentially cover both formal and informal voluntary activities. Yet they all clearly encompass *more than* formal volunteering, and for that reason we have decided to place them in the informal category.

To conclude, the data on informal volunteering included in this review is fragmented, largely unsuitable for comparative analysis and, for the most part, a poor fit with the definition of informal volunteering we set out in the introduction.

It should be mentioned that questions on two other types of activities: active membership in organizations and nonpartisan political activities (such as signing a petition, joining a boycott or taking part in a demonstration) also featured in some of the selected studies. Data from these questions are presented as supplements in annex 1 and 2. The reason for not including the data on nonpartisan political activity is that such activities can take place in either a formal or informal setting and do not always fit with the definition of voluntary activity set out in the introduction. Moreover, both studies that raise the question (Civicus CSI and the World Values Survey) use a highly unspecific time perspectives (“ever” or “in the last five years”), which set them apart from the other selected datasets that all focused on volunteering once a year or more. We consider active membership to be distinct from voluntary activity and therefore decided to provide this data separately, in the annex, rather than in the main report.

### **Some general methodological factors**

Besides the important issue of what is being studied, the other central question when considering the comparability of the data sources is how the surveys have been conducted. Are the studies based on primary or secondary data? Are the samples representative? What are the response rates and how are non-responses dealt with and reported? How is the data collected? Is volunteerism the primary focus of the studies or do the questions on volunteering merely constitute a small part in a large omnibus survey? These are just some of the fundamental methodological considerations that need to be taken into account when reviewing and comparing data from different studies and countries.

The basic categorization of the surveys into the three groups *cross-country population surveys*, *aggregated studies* and *secondary studies* brings into focus some of the key methodological factors that affect data-comparability. One is methodological consistency. The cross-country population surveys tend to be characterized by a higher level of methodological consistency than the aggregated studies. Whereas the former at least *aim* to put identical questions to a corresponding sample of people in each country, the latter use a more flexible approach. For example, the Civicus Civil Society Index uses indicators rather than survey questions to determine the state of civil society and volunteering in the countries studied. It is up to the people charged with conducting each national study to decide how the indicators for that country will be set; a decision which of course is affected by budgetary as well as time constraints. In some cases a new survey is commissioned to provide fresh data, at other times existing data from census studies or international surveys is used, and sometimes a group of local stakeholders simply make an estimate which determines how the indicator is set. The same is true for the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project data. This results in much less methodological consistency between countries in these studies than what is achieved in the cross-country population surveys, which aim to ensure that sampling, translation and quality control remain consistent across the surveyed countries.

### **Respondents**

Another factor affecting data-comparability is who the respondents are. As we have seen, the selected studies survey either citizens, organizations or a combination of both. Here, we can assume that the cross-country population studies based on citizen surveys will give a more accurate picture of volunteering levels than the two aggregated studies which are largely based on organizational surveys and/or estimates made by local voluntary sector representatives. Organizational surveys about volunteering are problematic in a number of ways, not least because they may double-count individuals volunteering in more than one setting. They also tend to only survey established and well-known organizations, thus failing to capture volunteering that takes place in lesser known organizations or informal networks.

### **Sampling**

The majority of the six cross-country population surveys share relatively high ambitions regarding sampling methods. However, since central population registers and similar are rarely available in the countries surveyed, a full probability sample can be hard to achieve and must sometimes be exchanged for alternative sampling methods. A commonly used method is “random walks”. This needs not be a bad choice in terms of achieving representativeness, as long as it is carried out according to methodological codes of practice.

However, it is very difficult to find published details of actual respondent numbers and non-response rates for the selected studies. Most provide no data on the number or characteristics of non-respondents or how substitutes are made; a problem which, for the purpose of this review, is both very serious and difficult to measure. The studies also provide very little information on non-response rates on individual questions, which raises further questions about the credibility of the available data.

Another issue relating to sampling is that the majority of the population surveys cover no more than around 1000 respondents per country – in some cases markedly less. These are relatively small numbers; yet it can be argued that representativeness is less determined by the size of the sample than by how prevalent the phenomenon being studied is among the population, and the randomness of the sampling process. Moreover, the margin of error reduces drastically after 2000 respondents, which is why it is rare to poll larger numbers than that. However, as we have seen, only a couple of the selected surveys come anywhere near that figure.

## **Data collection**

Another methodological issue to consider is how the data is collected. Face-to-face interviews are the primary mode of data collection in the six population surveys. In four of the studies, telephone interviews and/or postal or web questionnaires are used as alternative methods. There are pros and cons with each approach. Face-to-face interviews may provide better opportunities for both the interviewer and interviewee to explain what they mean, which can help minimize mistakes in the data collection. They tend to be longer and provide better opportunities for rapport-building, which can be conducive to more open and honest interviews. At the same time, a face-to-face interview may not be the best option for dealing with sensitive issues, where a phone- or paper based survey provide a better sense of anonymity for the respondents. Face-to-face interviews also increase the risk that the interviewer consciously or unconsciously affects the respondent.

## **Reach**

Another aspect to consider when comparing the studies are their reach. Among the selected studies are some that only focus on one world region, in this case Europe, and others that span all world regions; one study covers as many as 152 countries.<sup>22</sup> It is self-evident that the more countries and regions included in a study, the more difficult it is to ensure methodological consistency and data-comparability. What citizens in different countries and regions recognize as formal or informal volunteering can differ widely as a result of historical, political and cultural factors.

## **Translation**

Hence, a common problem in comparative cross-cultural research is the highly complex task of translating the survey questionnaires. This is not simply a case of translating the survey questions in the traditional, linguistic sense, but also of ensuring that they maintain the same meaning in the different cultural, historical and social contexts. The majority of the population surveys included in the review have in place seemingly rigorous rules and processes for translation.<sup>23</sup> Many demand back-translation and one or several checks before a translated questionnaire is approved for use. Despite these high ambitions, however, we will in the next chapter find examples where what may be unsatisfactory translations have negatively impacted on data-comparability.

## **Recurring or one-off?**

Another relevant consideration is whether the studies are recurring or one-off. Recurring, or longitudinal, studies offer the opportunity to do validity and reliability checks on the data and to observe changes over time, provided that the same questions and methodologies are maintained. Five of the nine selected studies are recurrent, though not all repeat the questions on volunteering in each survey.<sup>24</sup> Two have or are planning to repeat the original research.<sup>25</sup> Two are one-off studies, with no repeat planned.<sup>26</sup>

## **Secondary studies**

Only one study, the EAC-EA Study of Volunteering in the EU, falls into the secondary studies category, and therefore deserves a special comment. The report, which was

---

<sup>22</sup> Gallup World Poll

<sup>23</sup> The exception is the Gallup International Voice of the People Survey, which provides no information on the translation process.

<sup>24</sup> The five are: Gallup World Poll, Gallup International Voice of the People, World Values Survey, European Values Study and the European Social Survey.

<sup>25</sup> Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project and Civicus Civil Society Index.

<sup>26</sup> As far as we know. These are the EAC-EA and the Eurobarometer 66.3 studies.

commissioned by the European Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA), pulls together national statistics on volunteering from each of the 27 EU member states. The resulting data varies greatly in terms of approach and robustness, something which is acknowledged by the authors who note that the figures “should be treated with caution due to differences in definitions, methodologies and survey samples”.<sup>27</sup> Despite these weaknesses, however, the report contains data from some high-quality national studies that would otherwise not have been included in this review, and was therefore considered a useful enough source to be selected.

### **A brief illustration**

To illustrate some of the issues raised above we can point to two of the larger studies in terms of countries covered: the World Values Survey and the Gallup World Poll. These are both so-called cross-country population surveys, but they are far from comparable in terms of set-up, conduct or the definitions used in their questions on volunteering. Whereas national samples used in the two studies are of similar sizes, they survey different age groups and provide different amounts of detail about their methodologies and fieldwork. For instance, the Gallup World Poll provides no information about non-response rates, whereas the World Values Survey publishes detailed information about fieldwork, including the non-response rates in each country. The World Values Survey is carried out through face-to-face interviews, whereas the Gallup World Poll is primarily conducted through telephone interviews, and so on.

In the presentation of data in the next chapter we continue this discussion about the different studies’ comparability.

---

<sup>27</sup> GHK International (2010) Volunteering in the European Union. Brussels: Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA), p. 63.

### 3. Formal volunteering

This chapter presents data on formal volunteering. In the first section (3.1), the data from each survey is presented individually. Section 3.2 presents diagrams showing the correlations between data from different surveys asking similar questions. Section 3.3 presents the breakdown of volunteering data by age, sex and income group from two global surveys. Finally, a brief commentary on the findings is offered in section 3.4.

#### 3.1 Data tables (formal volunteering)

##### 3.1.1 Gallup World Poll

**Reference:** The data was extracted from the Gallup World Views website by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) who generously agreed to share the datafile with the Institute for Civil Society Studies for the purpose of this report. The CAF has published a summary of the data in: Charities Aid Foundation (2010) *World Giving Index 2010*.

**Data collection period:** 2006-2009

**Question:** "In the past month have you done any of the following, how about volunteered your time to an organization?"

Africa	
Angola	39%
Benin	19%
Botswana	19%
Burkina Faso	14%
Burundi	12%
Cameroon	12%
Central Africa Republic	47%
Chad	27%
Comoros	19%
Cote d'Ivoire	7%
Congo (Kinshasa)*	18%
Djibouti	19%
Ethiopia	13%
Ghana	28%
Guinea	42%
Kenya	28%
Liberia	30%
Madagascar	11%
Malawi	33%
Mali	21%
Mauritania	14%
Mozambique	14%
Namibia	17%
Niger	11%
Nigeria	37%
Congo (Brazzaville)**	18%
Rwanda	21%
Senegal	25%
Sierra Leone	45%
Somaliland (Region)	29%

South Africa	19%
Sudan	23%
Tanzania***	26%
Togo	19%
Uganda	17%
Zambia	27%
Zimbabwe	17%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>24%</b>

\* Democratic Republic of the Congo

\*\* Republic of the Congo

\*\*\* United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Afghanistan	17%
Algeria	10%
Bahrain	22%
Egypt	5%
Iran	12%
Iraq	4%
Israel	18%
Jordan	5%
Kuwait	13%
Lebanon	15%
Morocco	4%
Palestinian Territory	9%
Qatar	18%
Saudi Arabia	10%
Syria	10%
Tunisia	10%
United Arab Emirates	19%
Yemen	10%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>9%</b>

Asia (East)	
China	3%
Hong Kong	13%
Japan	25%
Mongolia	31%
South Korea*	23%
Taiwan	15%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>6%</b>

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
Bangladesh	5%
India	12%
Nepal	25%
Pakistan	8%
Sri Lanka	43%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>12%</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Cambodia	10%
Indonesia	27%
Laos*	32%
Malaysia	23%
Myanmar	40%
Philippines	37%
Singapore	15%
Thailand	18%
Vietnam	17%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>27%</b>

Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	16%
Belize	27%
Bolivia	21%
Brazil	15%
Chile	14%
Columbia	18%
Costa Rica	20%
Dominican Republic	25%
Ecuador	15%
El Salvador	16%
Guatemala	31%
Guyana	33%
Haiti	38%
Honduras	32%
Jamaica	18%

Mexico	10%
Nicaragua	21%
Panama	20%
Paraguay	23%
Peru	24%
Puerto Rico	18%
Trinidad & Tobago	25%
Uruguay	12%
Venezuela	9%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>16%</b>

North America	
Canada	38%
USA	42%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>42%</b>

Western Europe	
Austria	30%
Belgium	24%
Cyprus	16%
Denmark	20%
Finland	28%
France	27%
Germany	26%
Greece	7%
Iceland	26%
Ireland	35%
Italy	18%
Luxembourg	28%
Malta	21%
Netherlands	39%
Norway	38%
Portugal	11%
Spain	15%
Sweden	12%
Switzerland	34%
United Kingdom	29%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>24%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Albania	15%
Armenia	17%
Azerbaijan	30%
Belarus	25%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	4%
Bulgaria	3%
Croatia	6%
Czech Republic	18%
Estonia	20%
Georgia	15%
Hungary	9%
Kazakhstan	19%
Kosovo	9%
Kyrgyzstan	34%
Latvia	19%
Lithuania	12%
Macedonia*	9%
Moldova**	24%
Montenegro	6%
Poland	9%
Romania	5%
Russian Federation	20%
Serbia	5%
Slovakia	13%
Slovenia	32%
Tajikistan	40%
Turkey	7%
Ukraine	23%
Uzbekistan	40%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>17%</b>

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific	
Australia	38%
New Zealand	41%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>39%</b>

<b>Gallup World Poll Global average</b>	<b>16%</b>
-----------------------------------------	------------



### 3.1.2 Gallup International Voice of the People

**Reference:** Gallup International (2006) Voice of the People. What the world thinks on today's global issues.

**Data collection period:** May-July 2005

**Question:** *"During the last 12 months, did you do any volunteer work - that is, devoting time to a job for a not-for-profit organization without receiving any wage or salary in exchange?"*

Africa	
Cameroon	36%
Ethiopia	27%
Ghana	35%
Kenya	43%
Nigeria	47%
Senegal	29%
South Africa	15%
Togo	49%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>36%</b>

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	17%
Israel	38%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>19%</b>

Asia (East)	
Hong Kong	24%
Japan	25%
Taiwan	26%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>25%</b>

Asia (South)	
India	28%
Pakistan	15%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>26%</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Indonesia	22%
Malaysia	26%
Philippines	33%
Singapore	26%
Thailand	46%
Vietnam	48%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>31%</b>

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	22%
Bolivia	20%
Columbia	27%
Costa Rica	45%
Dominican Republic	42%
Ecuador	28%
Guatemala	26%
Mexico	24%
Nicaragua	45%
Panama	49%
Paraguay	53%
Peru	19%
Uruguay	33%
Venezuela	26%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>25%</b>

North America	
Canada	57%
USA	44%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>45%</b>

Western Europe	
Austria	17%
Denmark	35%
Finland	37%
France	30%
Germany	29%
Greece	29%
Iceland	49%
Ireland	46%
Italy	26%
Netherlands	46%
Norway	67%
Portugal	15%
Spain	11%
Switzerland	50%
United Kingdom	30%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>27%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Bosnia	14%
Bulgaria	6%
Croatia	12%
Czech Republic	23%
Kosovo	13%
Lithuania	16%
Macedonia*	9%
Moldova**	25%
Poland	4%
Romania	10%
Russian Federation	15%
Serbia	19%
Turkey	9%
Ukraine	19%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>13%</b>

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

<b>Gallup International Voice of the People - global average</b>	<b>29%</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

### 3.1.3 World Values Survey/European Values Study

**Reference:** European and World Values Surveys four-wave integrated data file, 1981-2004, v.20060423, 2006.

**Data collection period:** 1999-2004

**Question:** *"For which, if any, [of the following types of organizations or activities (see section 2.1 for details)] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"*

**Comment:** The percentages presented below are the proportions of respondents who reported volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts listed in the 1999-2004 wave of the EVS/WVS surveys.

Africa	
South Africa	50%
Tanzania*	80%
Uganda	75%
Zimbabwe	62%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>67%</b>

\*United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Algeria	45%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Asia (East)	
China	79%
Japan	16%
South Korea*	47%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>73%</b>

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
Bangladesh	62%
India	32%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>36%</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Philippines	58%
Singapore	36%
Vietnam	72%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>64%</b>

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	23%
Chile	44%
Mexico	38%
Peru	45%
Puerto Rico	47%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>37%</b>

North America	
Canada	49%
USA	68%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>66%</b>

Western Europe	
Austria	30%
Belgium	35%
Denmark	37%
Finland	38%
France	27%
Germany	19%
Great Britain	42%
Greece	40%
Iceland	33%
Ireland	33%
Italy	26%
Luxembourg	30%
Malta	29%
Netherlands	49%
Northern Ireland	21%
Portugal	16%
Spain	16%
Sweden	56%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>29%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Albania	56%
Belarus	19%
Bosnia & Hercegovina	21%
Bulgaria	19%
Croatia	24%
Czech Republic	33%
Estonia	18%
Hungary	15%
Kyrgyzstan	17%
Latvia	22%
Lithuania	16%
Macedonia*	32%
Moldova**	34%
Poland	14%
Romania	16%
Russian Federation	8%
Serbia & Montenegro	14%
Slovakia	51%
Slovenia	29%
Turkey	2%
Ukraine	13%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>13%</b>

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

<b>World Values Survey/ European Values Study - global average</b>	<b>50%</b>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

### 3.1.4 Eurobarometer Special Survey 66.3

**Reference:** Papacostas, A. Eurobarometer 66.3: Social Reality, E-Communications, Common Agricultural Policy, Discrimination and the Media, and Medical Research, November-December 2006 [Computer file].

**Data collection period:** November-December 2006

**Question:** *"Do you currently participate actively in or do voluntary work for one of the following organizations?"*\* (See section 2.1 for full list) \*note that the question covers both active participation in organizations and voluntary work.

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the proportions of respondents who reported active participation or volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts.

Western Europe	
Austria	59%
Belgium	38%
Cyprus	21%
Denmark	48%
Finland	49%
France	36%
Germany (east)	45%
Germany (west)	53%
Great Britain	29%
Greece	17%
Ireland	39%
Italy	35%
Luxembourg	46%
Malta	22%
Netherlands	55%
Northern Ireland	27%
Portugal	12%
Spain	18%
Sweden	53%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>33%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Bulgaria	10%
Czech Republic	31%
Estonia	27%
Hungary	16%
Latvia	21%
Lithuania	12%
Poland	16%
Romania	17%
Slovakia	31%
Slovenia	35%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>19%</b>

### 3.1.5 European Social Survey

**Reference:** Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) is the data archive and distributor of the ESS data. See Jowell, R. and the Central Co-ordinating Team, European Social Survey 2006/2007.

**Data collection period:** 2006

**Question:** “In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?”

	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every three months	At least once every six months	Less often	At least once (in the past 12 months)
<b>Western Europe</b>						
Austria	11%	13%	6%	6%	19%	55%
Belgium	8%	7%	6%	5%	10%	35%
Cyprus	2%	3%	5%	8%	27%	45%
Denmark	10%	10%	6%	6%	11%	43%
Finland	5%	8%	7%	10%	19%	49%
France	12%	8%	4%	4%	6%	34%
Germany	13%	14%	6%	3%	10%	46%
Iceland	9%	9%	6%	10%	14%	47%
Netherlands	18%	11%	5%	5%	10%	48%
Norway	9%	14%	10%	10%	24%	67%
Portugal	2%	3%	4%	9%	16%	34%
Spain	2%	9%	5%	6%	18%	39%
Sweden	6%	6%	4%	3%	12%	32%
Switzerland	17%	12%	7%	6%	10%	52%
United Kingdom	9%	8%	5%	7%	11%	40%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>41%</b>

<b>Eastern Europe and the CIS</b>						
Bulgaria	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%	7%
Estonia	2%	2%	2%	4%	8%	18%
Hungary	2%	2%	2%	3%	9%	17%
Poland	1%	2%	2%	3%	7%	14%
Russian Federation	1%	1%	3%	4%	8%	17%
Slovakia	2%	3%	2%	3%	14%	24%
Slovenia	5%	7%	5%	8%	10%	36%
Ukraine	2%	3%	3%	5%	7%	20%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>17%</b>

### 3.1.6 European Values Study

**Reference:** European Values Study (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Integrated Dataset.

**Data collection period:** 2008-2010

**Question:** *"Which, if any, [of the following types of organizations or activities (see section 2.1 for details)] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work for?"*

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the proportions of respondents who reported volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts.

Western Europe	
Austria	27%
Belgium	34%
Cyprus	17%
Denmark	40%
Finland	39%
France	26%
Germany	24%
Greece	16%
Ireland	52%
Luxembourg	42%
Malta	15%
Netherlands	47%
Northern Ireland	41%
Portugal	13%
Spain	13%
Sweden	30%
Switzerland	37%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>26%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Albania	20%
Armenia	7%
Azerbaijan	23%
Belarus	15%
Bosnia Herzegovina	8%
Bulgaria	13%
Czech Republic	29%
Estonia	23%
Georgia	5%
Hungary	12%
Kosovo	11%
Latvia	24%
Lithuania	16%
Moldova*	18%
Montenegro	7%
Poland	9%
Romania	13%
Russian Federation	6%
Serbia	11%
Slovak Republic	14%
Slovenia	32%
Ukraine	9%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>12%</b>

\*Republic of Moldova

### 3.1.7 Civic Civil Society Index

**Reference:** Civicus Civil Society Indicator Database ([www.civicus.org/csi](http://www.civicus.org/csi))

**Data collection period:** Differs by country and survey; though the country reports were compiled between 2003-2008

**Question:** The exact question differs between countries and surveys, though the indicator in focus for the figures below is "What percentage of people undertakes volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?"

**Comment:** Each country's data derives from one or several national surveys, which differ in scope and methodology. In some cases the presented figures are estimates made by local stakeholders. Only the figures clearly relating to formal volunteering are included below.

Africa	
Uganda	75%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	6%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Asia (East)	
China	1.2%
Hong Kong	22%
South Korea*	20%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>2%</b>

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South-East)	
Vietnam	51 - 72%*
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Chile	7 - 43%*
Jamaica	8%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Western Europe	
Cyprus (South)	7%
Germany	18 - 36%*
Greece	20%
Northern Ireland	35%
Scotland	24%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>26%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Azerbaijan	2%
Croatia	21%
Montenegro	18%
Poland	18%
Romania	7%
Russian Federation	5%
Slovenia	12%
Turkey	2%
Ukraine	8%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>6%</b>

\* The CSI data from these countries derives from different sources showing different results.



### 3.1.8 Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project

**Reference:** Salamon, L.M., Wojciech Sokolowski, S. and Associates (2004) *Global Civil Society. Volume Two*. The table is also available at:  
[www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/CNP/CNP\\_table201.pdf](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/CNP/CNP_table201.pdf)

**Data collection period:** 1995-2000

**Question:** The exact question varied by country and survey, depending on, among other things, whether the survey respondents were organizational representatives or citizens. However, a common survey was given to the countries participating in the Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, with the following question suggested for collating the volunteering data:

*"We would like to ask you about volunteer work, volunteering and [list of commonly-used terms for volunteering in your country]. By this we mean work you do that in some way helps others outside your own family for no monetary pay. For example, people may work in a hospital for two hours a week to help patients cope with their illnesses; others may help the handicapped, clean up parks and playgrounds, or volunteer for the local volunteer fire department or the Red Cross."*

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the estimated proportion of the population in each country who engaged in some form of voluntary activity (according to the above definition) at least once per year. Estimates are extrapolated from survey responses made by citizens or civil society organizations. The size of the survey population and the sampling techniques used differed between countries.

Africa	
Kenya	6%
South Africa	9%
Tanzania*	11%
Uganda	23%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>12%</b>

\* United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	1%
Israel	6%
Morocco	4%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>2%</b>

Asia (East)	
Japan	0,5%
South Korea*	3%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>1%</b>

\* Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
India	2%
Pakistan	0,2%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>2%</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Philippines	6%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	8%
Brazil	6%
Columbia	5%
Mexico	0,1%
Peru	5%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>4%</b>

North America	
USA	22%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Western Europe	
Austria	8%
Belgium	10%
Finland	8%
France	14%
Germany	10%
Ireland	11%
Italy	4%
Netherlands	16%
Norway	52%
Spain	5%
Sweden	28%
United Kingdom	30%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>14%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Czech Republic	5%
Hungary	3%
Poland	12%
Romania	2%
Slovakia	4%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>7%</b>

Pacific	
Australia	13%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### 3.1.9 Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA) Study on Volunteering in the European Union

**Reference:** GHK International (2010) *Volunteering in the European Union*.

**Data collection period:** Various

**Question:** The exact question with which the data is collected varies between countries and surveys.

**Comment:** Each country's data derives from one or several national surveys, which differ in scope and methodology. The presented figures refer to the proportion of the population that engages in some form of voluntary activity. In some cases the figures are estimates made by local stakeholders.

Western Europe	
Austria	44%
Belgium	14%
Cyprus	19%
Denmark	35%
England	44%
Finland	37%
France	26%
Germany	36%
Greece	0,3%
Ireland	16%
Italy	2%
Luxembourg	30%
Malta	12%
Netherlands	42%
Northern Ireland	21%
Portugal	12%
Scotland	31%
Spain	12%
Sweden	48%
Wales	69%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>27%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Bulgaria	6%
Czech Republic	10-14%*
Estonia	27%
Hungary	6%
Latvia	24%
Lithuania	3%
Poland	13%
Romania	6 - 13%*
Slovakia	13%
Slovenia	16%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>11%</b>

\* the data derives from different sources showing different results.

### 3.1.10 Formal volunteering – selected countries

Formal volunteering in selected countries (For the specific questions and definitions used in each survey, see section 2.1)											
	Data source	Gallup World Poll	ESS 2006-2007	WVS/EVS 1999-2004	EVS 2008	Euro-barometer 66.3	Johns Hopkins CNPSP	Civicus CSI	Gallup International Voice of the People 2006	ESS 2006-2007	EAC-EA
	Definition in short	Volunteered time to an organization	Work for voluntary or charitable organizations	Unpaid work for an organization /action	Unpaid work for an organization /action	Active participation in or volunteer work for organizations	Work that in some way helps others outside your own family for no monetary pay.	Undertake volunteer work	Devote time to a job for a not-for-profit organization without receiving any wage/salary	Work for voluntary or charitable organizations	Various
	Data collection	2006-2009	2006	1999-2004	2008-2010	2006	1995-2000	Various	2005	2006	Various
	Frequency	At least once a month	At least once a month	Unspecified ("currently")	Unspecified ("currently")	Unspecified ("currently")	Past year	At least once a year	Past 12 months	Past 12 months	Various
Region	Country										
Africa	Uganda	17%	--	75%	--	--	23%	75%	--	--	--
Middle East & Northern Africa	Egypt	5%	--	--	--	--	1%	6%	17%	--	--
Asia (East)	South Korea	--	--	47%	--	--	3%	20%	--	--	--
Asia (South)	India	12%	--	32%	--	--	2%	--	28%	--	--
Latin America	Argentina	16%	--	23%	--	--	8%	--	22%	--	--
North America	USA	42%	--	68%	--	--	22%	--	44%	--	--
Western Europe	Sweden	12%	6%	56%	--	53%	28%	--	--	32%	48%
Eastern Europe	Slovenia	32%	7%	29%	32%	35%	--	12%	--	36%	16%
Pacific	Australia	38%	--	--	--	--	13%	--	--	--	--

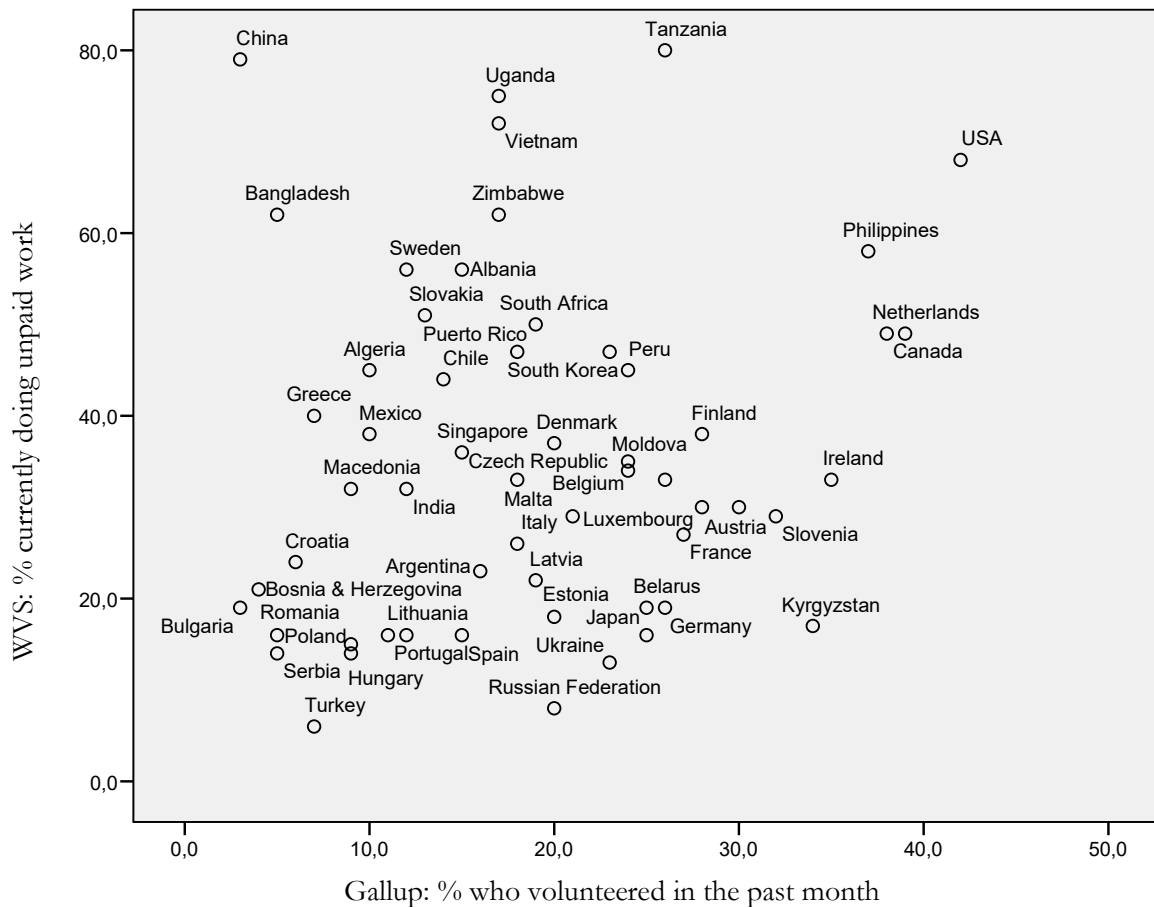
### 3.1.11 Formal volunteering – regional averages for all selected studies

	Gallup World Poll	Gallup International Voice of the People	WVS/EVS	Johns Hopkins CNPSP	Civicus	Euro-barometer	ESS 2006-2007 (at least once/month)	ESS 2006-2007 (at least once/ 12 months)	EVS 2008	EAC-EA study
Definition in short	Volunteered time to an organization	Devote time to a job for a not-for-profit organization without receiving any wage/salary	Unpaid work for an organization /action	Help, work or provide service without compensation	Undertake volunteer work	Active participation in or volunteer work for organizations	Work for voluntary or charitable organizations	Work for voluntary or charitable organizations	Unpaid work for an organization /action	Various
Africa	24	36	67	12	--	--	--	--	--	--
Middle East and Northern Africa	9	19*	--	2*	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (East)	6	25*	73*	1*	2*	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (South)	12	26*	37*	2*	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (South East)	27	31	64*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Latin America and the Caribbean	16	25	37*	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
North America	42*	45*	66*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Western Europe	24	27	29	14	26	33	10	41	26	27
Eastern Europe and the CIS	17	13	13	7	6	19	2	17	12	11
Pacific	39	--	--	13	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Notes:** To calculate regional averages the countries included were weighted by population numbers  
Values marked with (\*) are averages calculated on three or fewer countries.

## 3.2 Comparing the studies: correlations by pairs

### 3.2.1 Correlation between World Values Study (Currently doing unpaid work in an organization work) and Gallup World Poll (Volunteering time to an organization in the past month)

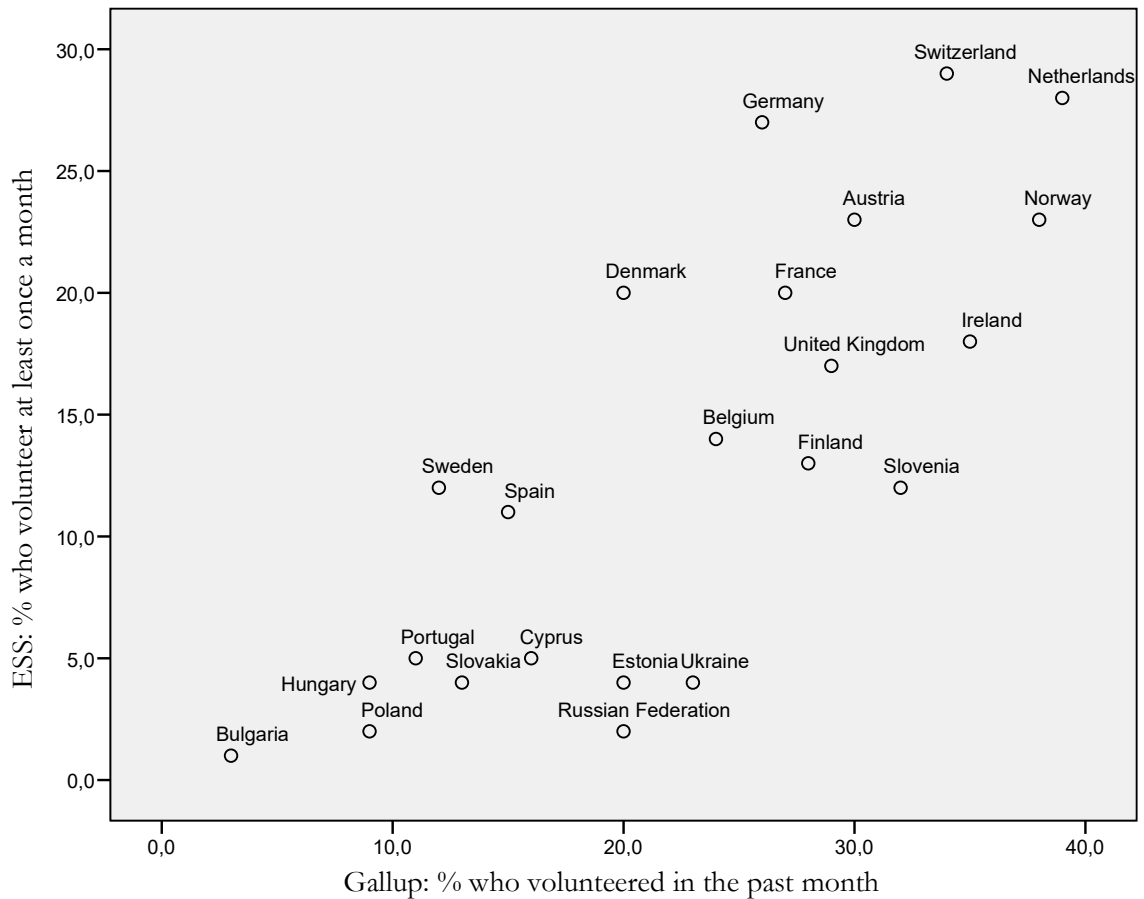


$R=0.16$

WVS: "For which, if any [of the following list of organizations, see section 2 for question in full], are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"

Gallup World Poll: "In the past month have you (...) volunteered your time to an organization?"

### 3.2.2 Correlation between European Social Survey (Volunteering at least once per month) and Gallup World Poll (Volunteering time to an organization in the past month)

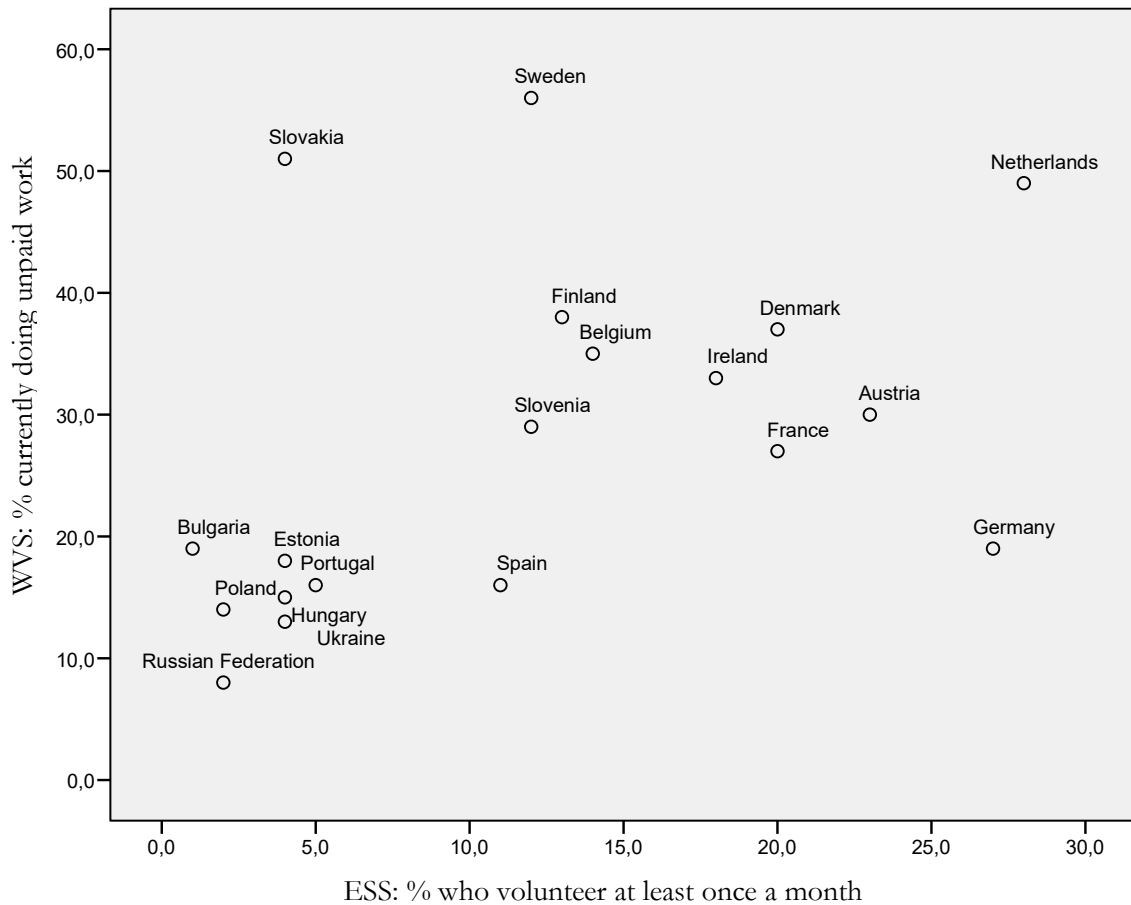


$R=0.79$  ( $t<0.001$ )

”ESS: In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?”(Displayed in the diagram are the percentage of respondents who volunteered at least once a month.)

Gallup World Poll: "In the past month have you (...) volunteered your time to an organization?"

### 3.2.3 Correlation between World Values Study (Currently doing unpaid work in an organization) and European Social Survey (Volunteering at least once in the past month)



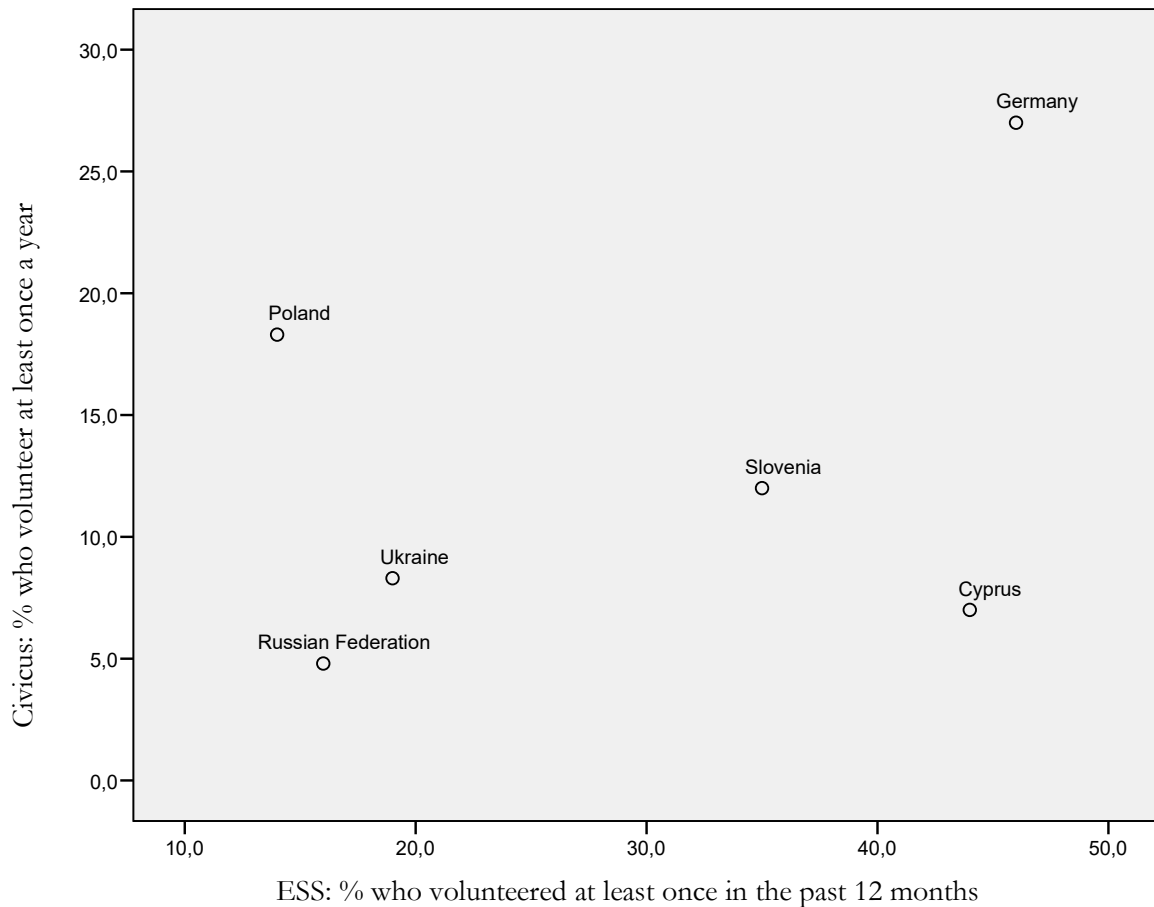
R=0.47

”ESS: In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?”(Displayed in the diagram are the percentage of respondents who volunteered at least once a month.)

WVS: “For which, if any [of the following list of organizations, see section 2 for question in full], are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?”



### 3.2.4 Correlation between Civicus Civil Society Index (Volunteering in the past 12 months) and European Social Survey (Volunteering at least once in the past 12 months)

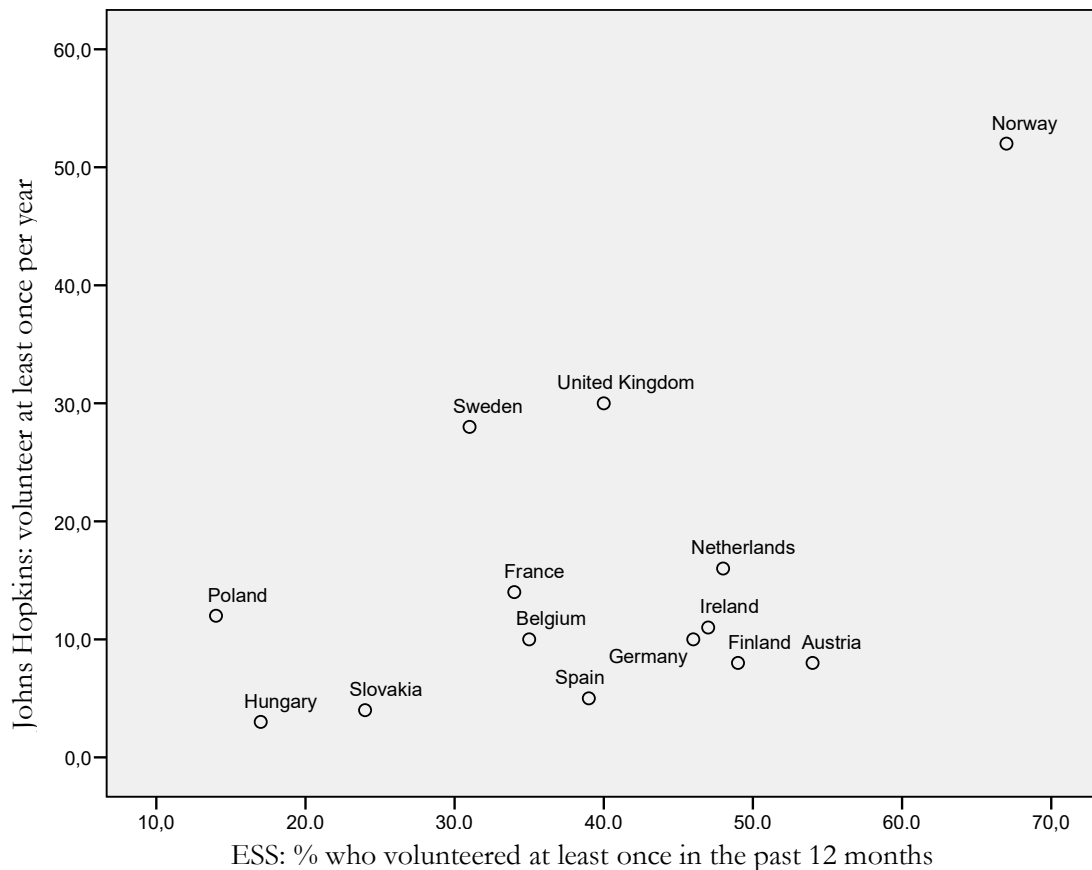


R=0.36

Civicus: "What percentage of people undertakes volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?"

ESS: "In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?" (Displayed in the diagram is the percentage of respondents who volunteered at least once in the past 12 months).

### 3.2.5 Correlation between Johns Hopkins (Volunteering in the past 12 months) and European Social Survey (Volunteering at least once in the past 12 months)

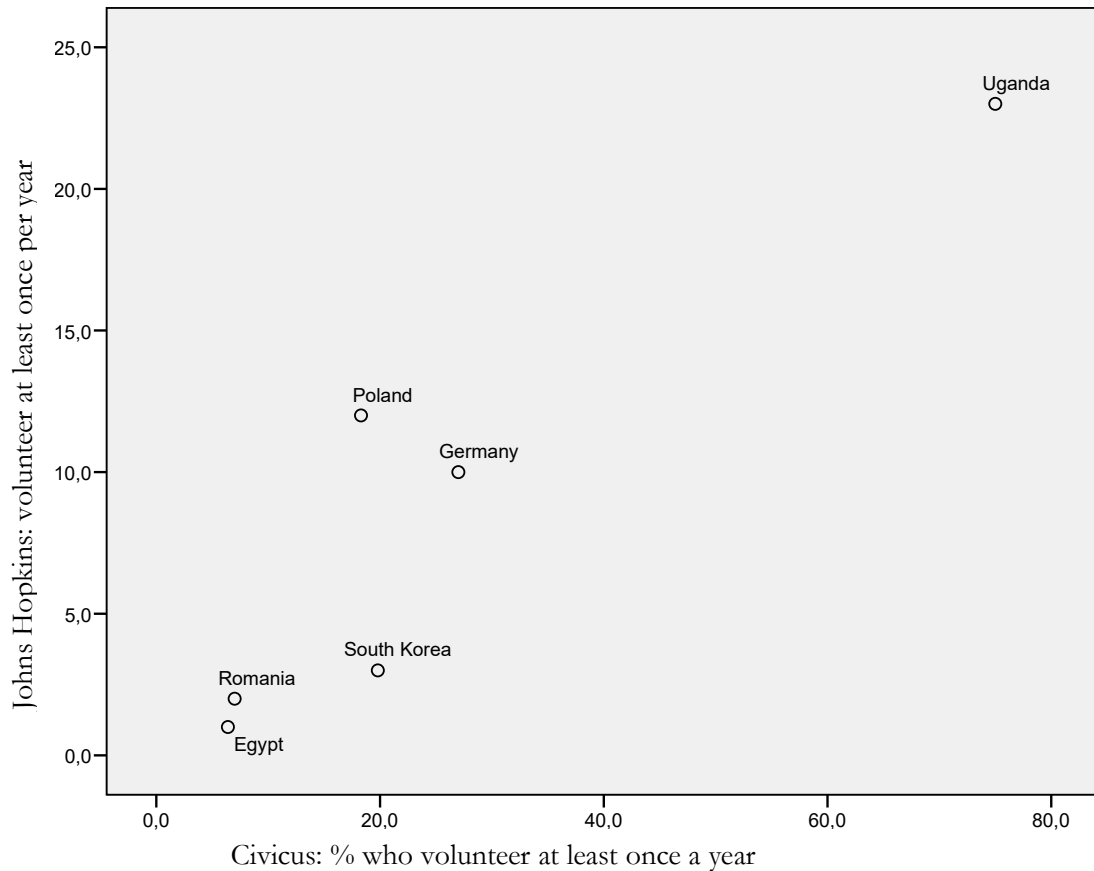


$R=0.50$  ( $t<0.01$ )

Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project: "Percentage of the population that volunteered at least once per year"

"ESS: In the past 12 months, how often did you get involved in work for voluntary or charitable organizations?" (Displayed in the diagram is the percentage of respondents who volunteered at least once in the past 12 months).

### 3.2.6 Correlation between Johns Hopkins (Volunteering in the past 12 months) and Civicus Civil Society Index (Volunteering in the past 12 months)

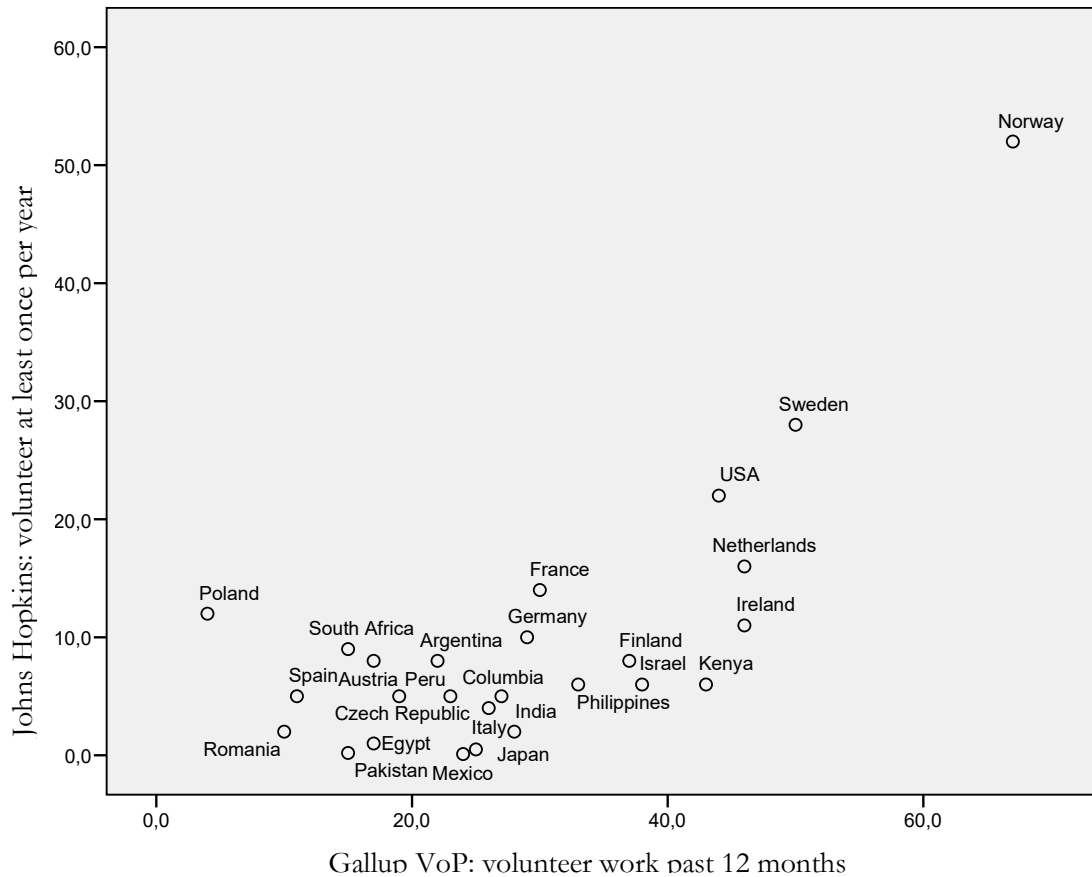


$R=0.92$  ( $t<0.01$ )

Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project: "Percentage of the population that volunteered at least once per year"

Civicus: "What percentage of people undertakes volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?"

### 3.2.7 Correlation between Johns Hopkins (Volunteering in the past 12 months) and Gallup International Voice of the People (Volunteer work in the last 12 months)



$R=0.72$  ( $t<0.01$ )

Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project: "Percentage of the population that volunteered at least once per year"

Gallup International Voice of the People: "During the last 12 months, did you do any volunteer work - that is, devoting time to a job for a not-for-profit organization without receiving any wage or salary in exchange?"

### 3.3 Volunteering by sex, age and income categories

#### 3.3.1 Gallup World Poll: volunteering by sex

**Reference:** The data was extracted from the Gallup World Views website by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

**Data collection period:** 2006-2009

**Question:** *"In the past month have you done any of the following, how about volunteered your time to an organization?"*

Africa			
	Male	Female	Total
Angola	40%	38%	39%
Benin	21%	17%	19%
Botswana	21%	17%	19%
Burkina Faso	16%	13%	14%
Burundi	15%	10%	12%
Cameroon	12%	12%	12%
Central Africa Republic	47%	47%	47%
Chad	35%	19%	27%
Comoros	24%	15%	19%
Cote d'Ivoire	9%	4%	7%
Congo (Kinshasa)*	20%	15%	18%
Djibouti	21%	17%	19%
Ethiopia	17%	10%	13%
Ghana	32%	23%	28%
Guinea	44%	41%	42%
Kenya	28%	29%	28%
Liberia	34%	26%	30%
Madagascar	11%	11%	11%
Malawi	33%	32%	33%
Mali	22%	20%	21%
Mauritania	13%	14%	14%
Mozambique	15%	13%	14%
Namibia	18%	15%	17%
Niger	12%	10%	11%
Nigeria	39%	34%	37%
Congo (Brazzaville)**	15%	21%	18%
Rwanda	20%	22%	21%
Senegal	23%	26%	25%
Sierra Leone	52%	38%	45%
Somaliland (Region)	35%	23%	29%
South Africa	19%	18%	19%
Sudan	23%	23%	23%
Tanzania***	26%	25%	26%
Togo	21%	16%	19%
Uganda	17%	17%	17%
Zambia	30%	25%	27%
Zimbabwe	15%	19%	17%

\* Democratic Republic of the Congo

\*\*Republic of the Congo

\*\*\*United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa			
	Male	Female	Total
Afghanistan	24%	9%	17%
Algeria	12%	8%	10%
Bahrain	26%	18%	22%
Egypt	7%	4%	5%
Iran	13%	11%	12%
Iraq	5%	3%	4%
Israel	17%	19%	18%
Jordan	5%	4%	5%
Kuwait	11%	15%	13%
Lebanon	18%	12%	15%
Morocco	4%	3%	4%
Palestinian Territory	11%	8%	9%
Qatar	18%	18%	18%
Saudi Arabia	11%	9%	10%
Syria	9%	12%	10%
Tunisia	9%	10%	10%
United Arab Emirates	18%	20%	19%
Yemen	13%	7%	10%

Asia (East)			
	Male	Female	Total
China	4%	3%	3%
Hong Kong	14%	13%	13%
Japan	25%	25%	25%
Mongolia	33%	29%	31%
South Korea*	21%	24%	23%
Taiwan	12%	17%	15%

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)			
	Male	Female	Total
Bangladesh	8%	2%	5%
India	13%	12%	12%
Nepal	31%	20%	25%
Pakistan	14%	1%	8%
Sri Lanka	51%	37%	43%

Asia (South-East)			
	Male	Female	Total
Cambodia	15%	6%	10%
Indonesia	29%	26%	27%
Laos*	36%	27%	32%
Malaysia	24%	22%	23%
Myanmar	44%	37%	40%
Philippines	40%	35%	37%
Singapore	14%	15%	15%
Thailand	19%	17%	18%
Vietnam	19%	16%	17%

\*Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean			
	Male	Female	Total
Argentina	15%	16%	16%
Belize	27%	28%	27%
Bolivia	23%	19%	21%
Brazil	13%	16%	15%
Chile	13%	14%	14%
Columbia	19%	17%	18%
Costa Rica	22%	19%	20%
Dominican Republic	28%	22%	25%
Ecuador	16%	15%	15%
El Salvador	16%	15%	16%
Guatemala	33%	30%	31%
Guyana	29%	36%	33%
Haiti	44%	31%	38%
Honduras	33%	31%	32%
Jamaica	16%	19%	18%
Mexico	11%	10%	10%
Nicaragua	21%	21%	21%
Panama	19%	21%	20%
Paraguay	25%	22%	23%
Peru	24%	23%	24%
Puerto Rico	20%	17%	18%
Trinidad & Tobago	29%	21%	25%
Uruguay	14%	11%	12%
Venezuela	9%	10%	9%

North America			
	Male	Female	Total
Canada	39%	37%	38%
USA	41%	42%	42%

Western Europe			
	Male	Female	Total
Austria	37%	24%	30%
Belgium	20%	28%	24%
Cyprus	15%	17%	16%
Denmark	17%	23%	20%
Finland	30%	26%	28%
France	33%	22%	27%
Germany	24%	27%	26%
Greece	7%	7%	7%
Iceland	28%	25%	26%
Ireland	35%	35%	35%
Italy	18%	18%	18%
Luxembourg	28%	28%	28%
Malta	22%	20%	21%
Netherlands	43%	35%	39%
Norway	40%	36%	38%

Portugal	11%	11%	11%
Spain	16%	14%	15%
Sweden	11%	14%	12%
Switzerland	39%	29%	34%
United Kingdom	29%	28%	29%

Eastern Europe and the CIS			
	Male	Female	Total
Albania	13%	17%	15%
Armenia	22%	13%	17%
Azerbaijan	31%	30%	30%
Belarus	25%	25%	25%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	4%	3%	4%
Bulgaria	3%	4%	3%
Croatia	6%	7%	6%
Czech Republic	17%	19%	18%
Estonia	20%	20%	20%
Georgia	15%	16%	15%
Hungary	11%	7%	9%
Kazakhstan	19%	20%	19%
Kosovo	11%	7%	9%
Kyrgyzstan	41%	29%	34%
Latvia	24%	16%	19%
Lithuania	9%	14%	12%
Macedonia*	9%	9%	9%
Moldova**	24%	24%	24%
Montenegro	6%	6%	6%
Poland	10%	9%	9%
Romania	5%	5%	5%
Russian Federation	19%	21%	20%
Serbia	5%	4%	5%
Slovakia	13%	13%	13%
Slovenia	36%	28%	32%
Tajikistan	44%	35%	40%
Turkey	10%	5%	7%
Ukraine	22%	24%	23%
Uzbekistan	49%	32%	40%

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific			
	Male	Female	Total
Australia	38%	37%	38%
New Zealand	43%	40%	41%



### 3.3.2 World Values Survey – volunteering by sex

**Reference:** European and World Values Surveys four-wave integrated data file, 1981-2004, v.20060423, 2006.

**Data collection period:** 1999-2004

**Question:** *"For which, if any, [of the following types of organizations or activities (see section 2.1 for details)] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"*

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the proportions of respondents (by sex) who reported volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts listed in the 1999-2004 wave of the EVS/WVS surveys.

Africa			
	Male	Female	Total
South Africa	49%	52%	50%
Tanzania*	80%	81%	80%
Uganda	83%	67%	75%
Zimbabwe	57%	66%	62%

\* United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa			
	Male	Female	Total
Algeria	53%	37%	45%

Asia (East)			
	Male	Female	Total
China	82%	76%	79%
Japan	17%	15%	16%
South Korea*	49%	46%	47%

\* Republic of Korea

Asia (South)			
	Male	Female	Total
Bangladesh	77%	43%	62%
India	39%	24%	32%

Asia (South-East)			
	Male	Female	Total
Philippines	62%	55%	58%
Singapore	37%	34%	36%
Viet Nam	71%	73%	72%

Latin America and the Caribbean			
	Male	Female	Total
Argentina	22%	24%	23%
Chile	45%	42%	44%
Mexico	38%	39%	38%
Peru	44%	46%	45%
Puerto Rico	45%	48%	47%

North America			
	Male	Female	Total
Canada	47%	51%	49%
USA	68%	67%	68%

Western Europe			
	Male	Female	Total
Austria	35%	27%	30%
Belgium	39%	33%	35%
Denmark	42%	33%	37%
Finland	36%	40%	38%
France	29%	25%	27%
Germany	20%	19%	19%
Great Britain	44%	41%	42%
Greece	40%	39%	40%
Iceland	35%	30%	33%
Ireland	36%	30%	33%
Italy	30%	23%	26%
Luxembourg	29%	31%	30%
Malta	33%	25%	29%
Netherlands	53%	46%	49%
Northern Ireland	22%	21%	21%
Portugal	23%	13%	16%
Spain	18%	15%	16%
Sweden	57%	56%	56%

Eastern Europe and the CIS			
	Male	Female	Total
Albania	59%	53%	56%
Belarus	19%	19%	19%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	26%	17%	21%
Bulgaria	22%	17%	19%
Croatia	31%	18%	24%
Czech Republic	39%	28%	33%
Estonia	18%	18%	18%
Hungary	17%	14%	15%
Kyrgyzstan	17%	16%	17%
Latvia	23%	22%	22%
Lithuania	16%	16%	16%
Macedonia*	37%	27%	32%
Moldova**	31%	37%	34%
Poland	17%	12%	14%
Romania	18%	13%	16%
Russian Federation	8%	8%	8%
Serbia & Montenegro	18%	10%	14%
Slovakia	54%	49%	51%
Slovenia	32%	25%	29%
Turkey	10%	3%	6%
Ukraine	14%	13%	13%

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

### 3.3.3 Gallup World Poll – volunteering by age categories

**Reference:** The data was extracted from the Gallup World Views website by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) who generously agreed to share the datafile with the Institute for Civil Society Studies for the purpose of this report. The CAF has published a summary of the data in: Charities Aid Foundation (2010) *World Giving Index 2010*.

**Data collection period:** 2006-2009

**Question:** "In the past month have you done any of the following, how about volunteered your time to an organization?"

Africa					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Angola	42%	43%	32%	33%	39%
Benin	12%	27%	19%	19%	19%
Botswana	18%	23%	11%	24%	19%
Burkina Faso	12%	19%	20%	5%	14%
Burundi	14%	9%	12%	14%	12%
Cameroon	12%	15%	12%	11%	12%
Central Africa Republic	44%	52%	46%	51%	47%
Chad	21%	28%	32%	28%	27%
Comoros	20%	22%	16%	16%	19%
Cote d'Ivoire	5%	10%	7%	5%	7%
Congo (Kinshasa)*	16%	17%	16%	25%	18%
Djibouti	16%	19%	22%	21%	19%
Ethiopia	12%	13%	14%	14%	13%
Ghana	25%	29%	29%	31%	28%
Guinea	41%	38%	49%	44%	42%
Kenya	26%	35%	30%	19%	28%
Liberia	24%	33%	40%	26%	30%
Madagascar	11%	12%	10%	9%	11%
Malawi	30%	27%	37%	48%	33%
Mali	20%	26%	20%	17%	21%
Mauritania	12%	19%	16%	7%	14%
Mozambique	15%	12%	19%	9%	14%
Namibia	16%	17%	19%	13%	17%
Niger	8%	8%	15%	14%	11%
Nigeria	30%	38%	47%	36%	37%
Congo (Brazzaville)**	17%	15%	20%	21%	18%
Rwanda	24%	21%	24%	14%	21%
Senegal	24%	26%	21%	29%	25%
Sierra Leone	42%	46%	42%	52%	45%
Somaliland (Region)	30%	36%	27%	19%	29%
South Africa	19%	22%	22%	10%	19%
Sudan	24%	21%	27%	22%	23%
Tanzania***	23%	33%	25%	20%	26%
Togo	20%	21%	17%	15%	19%
Uganda	17%	16%	16%	19%	17%
Zambia	21%	26%	30%	45%	27%
Zimbabwe	14%	22%	19%	14%	17%

\* Democratic Republic of the Congo

\*\*Republic of the Congo

\*\*\*United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Afghanistan	14%	15%	19%	21%	17%
Algeria	9%	13%	7%	9%	10%
Bahrain	17%	24%	28%	21%	22%
Egypt	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Iran	13%	7%	15%	12%	12%
Iraq	5%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Israel	19%	14%	21%	17%	18%
Jordan	4%	4%	7%	5%	5%
Kuwait	11%	13%	17%	6%	13%
Lebanon	13%	16%	17%	12%	15%
Morocco	3%	4%	7%	0%	4%
Palestinian Territory	13%	8%	8%	3%	9%
Qatar	19%	22%	17%	10%	18%
Saudi Arabia	11%	11%	9%	5%	10%
Syria	14%	11%	9%	2%	10%
Tunisia	8%	12%	10%	9%	10%
United Arab Emirates	16%	20%	20%	24%	19%
Yemen	10%	13%	12%	4%	10%

Asia (East)					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
China	8%	4%	2%	1%	3%
Hong Kong	18%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Japan	21%	13%	23%	30%	25%
Mongolia	31%	28%	40%	23%	31%
South Korea*	26%	17%	24%	24%	23%
Taiwan	8%	10%	17%	19%	15%

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Bangladesh	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%
India	11%	15%	14%	8%	12%
Nepal	27%	23%	25%	24%	25%
Pakistan	9%	10%	7%	4%	8%
Sri Lanka	34%	41%	48%	48%	43%

Asia (South-East)					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Cambodia	12%	7%	12%	6%	10%
Indonesia	23%	27%	28%	31%	27%
Laos*	28%	30%	37%	35%	32%
Malaysia	20%	20%	25%	28%	23%
Myanmar	35%	41%	43%	42%	40%
Philippines	32%	39%	41%	36%	37%
Singapore	20%	13%	13%	14%	15%
Thailand	9%	13%	26%	20%	18%
Vietnam	19%	14%	17%	19%	17%

\*Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Argentina	11%	17%	19%	16%	16%
Belize	28%	29%	25%	28%	27%
Bolivia	21%	21%	21%	22%	21%
Brazil	13%	10%	17%	18%	15%
Chile	10%	10%	15%	18%	14%
Columbia	15%	17%	21%	21%	18%
Costa Rica	18%	17%	22%	24%	20%
Dominican Republic	23%	24%	25%	29%	25%
Ecuador	14%	10%	19%	19%	15%
El Salvador	14%	16%	19%	14%	16%
Guatemala	31%	32%	31%	31%	31%
Guyana	37%	28%	34%	30%	33%
Haiti	33%	44%	43%	31%	38%
Honduras	26%	35%	36%	34%	32%
Jamaica	15%	18%	19%	19%	18%
Mexico	13%	8%	6%	14%	10%
Nicaragua	23%	21%	25%	14%	21%
Panama	20%	18%	21%	21%	20%
Paraguay	22%	25%	26%	19%	23%
Peru	24%	18%	29%	22%	24%
Puerto Rico	19%	8%	26%	18%	18%
Trinidad & Tobago	24%	25%	20%	31%	25%
Uruguay	8%	11%	18%	11%	12%
Venezuela	6%	9%	13%	9%	9%

North America					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Canada	38%	37%	37%	40%	38%
USA	47%	40%	46%	39%	42%

Western Europe					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Austria	24%	28%	36%	29%	30%
Belgium	22%	17%	26%	26%	24%
Cyprus	12%	13%	22%	14%	16%
Denmark	15%	17%	23%	20%	20%
Finland	19%	19%	37%	29%	28%
France	25%	23%	27%	31%	27%
Germany	29%	23%	27%	25%	26%
Greece	12%	6%	7%	6%	7%
Iceland	23%	22%	27%	30%	26%
Ireland	33%	32%	38%	35%	35%
Italy	21%	16%	20%	17%	18%
Luxembourg	23%	31%	32%	28%	28%
Malta	21%	16%	24%	21%	21%
Netherlands	37%	41%	41%	37%	39%
Norway	30%	28%	50%	36%	38%
Portugal	13%	8%	12%	10%	11%

Spain	20%	11%	16%	13%	15%
Sweden	13%	11%	16%	10%	12%
Switzerland	25%	25%	40%	36%	34%
United Kingdom	31%	16%	29%	33%	29%

Eastern Europe and the CIS					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Albania	25%	12%	15%	11%	15%
Armenia	18%	23%	17%	12%	17%
Azerbaijan	28%	30%	33%	29%	30%
Belarus	25%	29%	27%	21%	25%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Bulgaria	2%	6%	4%	3%	3%
Croatia	8%	10%	6%	5%	6%
Czech Republic	24%	16%	19%	16%	18%
Estonia	18%	26%	20%	19%	20%
Georgia	15%	18%	19%	12%	15%
Hungary	10%	4%	13%	8%	9%
Kazakhstan	24%	21%	20%	13%	19%
Kosovo	14%	11%	9%	4%	9%
Kyrgyzstan	41%	33%	37%	23%	34%
Latvia	22%	22%	21%	16%	19%
Lithuania	14%	10%	16%	8%	12%
Macedonia*	15%	7%	8%	7%	9%
Moldova**	28%	24%	24%	20%	24%
Montenegro	6%	8%	6%	4%	6%
Poland	10%	6%	10%	9%	9%
Romania	7%	5%	8%	2%	5%
Russian Federation	21%	18%	25%	17%	20%
Serbia	5%	8%	4%	3%	5%
Slovakia	13%	10%	16%	13%	13%
Slovenia	32%	32%	29%	34%	32%
Tajikistan	46%	45%	37%	27%	40%
Turkey	6%	9%	8%	6%	7%
Ukraine	21%	27%	27%	20%	23%
Uzbekistan	41%	45%	41%	30%	40%

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific					
	Age15-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50+	Total
Australia	30%	28%	50%	37%	38%
New Zealand	33%	40%	41%	47%	41%

### 3.3.4 World Values Survey – volunteering by age categories

**Reference:** European and World Values Surveys four-wave integrated data file, 1981-2004, v.20060423, 2006.

**Data collection period:** 1999-2004

**Question:** *"For which, if any, [of the following types of organizations or activities (see section 2.1 for details)] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"*

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the proportions of respondents (by age group) who reported volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts listed.

Africa						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
South Africa	46%	50%	52%	53%	51%	50%
Tanzania*	77%	81%	83%	81%	80%	81%
Uganda	73%	80%	72%	63%	50%	75%
Zimbabwe	58%	65%	65%	61%	60%	62%

\* United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Algeria	52%	51%	39%	37%	33%	45%

Asia (East)						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
China	88%	83%	80%	67%	83%	79%
Japan	7%	7%	12%	23%	25%	16%
South Korea*	48%	46%	49%	44%	46%	47%

\* Republic of Korea

Asia (South)						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Bangladesh	60%	60%	63%	63%	70%	61%
India	31%	33%	34%	33%	25%	32%

Asia (South-East)						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Philippines	63%	53%	58%	64%	54%	58%
Singapore	46%	30%	26%	33%	18%	32%
Viet Nam	75%	70%	74%	73%	64%	72%

Latin America and the Caribbean						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Argentina	22%	23%	25%	25%	20%	23%
Chile	44%	46%	41%	42%	51%	44%
Mexico	44%	33%	40%	39%	29%	38%
Peru	46%	41%	46%	49%	36%	45%
Puerto Rico	37%	38%	46%	52%	55%	47%

North America						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Canada	40%	45%	54%	54%	45%	49%
USA	64%	62%	72%	68%	68%	68%

Western Europe						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Austria	28%	28%	35%	35%	17%	30%
Belgium	32%	34%	40%	33%	34%	35%
Denmark	33%	34%	44%	41%	25%	37%
Finland	30%	32%	42%	44%	41%	38%
France	22%	24%	29%	33%	25%	27%
Germany	12%	20%	20%	21%	18%	19%
Great Britain	37%	39%	45%	46%	40%	42%
Greece	39%	38%	44%	38%	38%	40%
Iceland	17%	32%	40%	38%	28%	33%
Ireland	28%	28%	36%	36%	28%	32%
Italy	26%	28%	29%	27%	18%	26%
Luxembourg	33%	23%	31%	32%	30%	30%
Malta	28%	27%	25%	31%	33%	29%
Netherlands	67%	37%	52%	57%	45%	49%
Northern Ireland	18%	15%	23%	24%	21%	21%
Portugal	22%	18%	22%	15%	10%	16%
Spain	21%	16%	16%	18%	12%	16%
Sweden	55%	55%	56%	60%	51%	56%

Eastern Europe and the CIS						
	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+	Total
Albania	64%	54%	56%	56%	45%	56%
Belarus	21%	19%	22%	19%	10%	19%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	28%	22%	23%	17%	10%	21%
Bulgaria	17%	21%	23%	18%	14%	19%
Croatia	24%	24%	27%	22%	9%	24%
Czech Republic	37%	32%	33%	36%	31%	33%
Estonia	22%	18%	22%	13%	15%	18%
Hungary	11%	17%	17%	18%	11%	15%
Kyrgyzstan	16%	18%	16%	20%	8%	17%
Latvia	41%	23%	22%	18%	19%	22%
Lithuania	19%	15%	16%	14%	16%	16%
Macedonia*	41%	36%	37%	27%	9%	32%
Moldova**	42%	31%	34%	34%	30%	34%
Poland	15%	13%	15%	16%	9%	14%
Romania	16%	17%	21%	14%	9%	16%
Russian Federation	9%	10%	10%	6%	4%	8%
Serbia and Montenegro	22%	18%	14%	11%	7%	14%
Slovakia	48%	49%	54%	56%	48%	51%
Slovenia	32%	25%	31%	24%	33%	29%
Turkey	6%	7%	6%	6%	17%	6%
Ukraine	17%	12%	15%	11%	11%	13%

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova



### 3.3.5 World Values Survey – volunteering by income categories

**Reference:** European and World Values Surveys four-wave integrated data file, 1981-2004, v.20060423, 2006.

**Data collection period:** 1999-2004

**Question:** *"For which, if any, [of the following types of organizations or activities (see section 2.1 for details)] are you currently doing unpaid voluntary work?"*

**Comment:** The percentages given below are the proportions of respondents (by income category) who reported volunteering in at least one of the different organizational contexts listed in the 1999-2004 wave of the EVS/WVS surveys.

Africa				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
South Africa	49%	51%	52%	51%
Tanzania*	83%	87%	75%	83%
Uganda	80%	83%	77%	80%
Zimbabwe	58%	61%	76%	63%

\* United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Algeria	41%	47%	51%	45%

Asia (East)				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
China	75%	81%	83%	79%
Japan	16%	16%	18%	16%
South Korea*	45%	47%	50%	47%

\* Republic of Korea

Asia (South)				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Bangladesh	51%	65%	67%	61%
India	29%	25%	41%	32%

Asia (South-East)				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Philippines	55%	59%	60%	58%
Singapore	30%	36%	42%	36%
Viet Nam	71%	71%	74%	72%

Latin America and the Caribbean				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Argentina	18%	22%	30%	23%
Chile	42%	41%	51%	44%
Mexico	33%	40%	50%	41%
Peru	39%	47%	54%	45%
Puerto Rico	46%	48%	47%	47%

North America				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Canada	42%	48%	58%	49%
USA	57%	70%	82%	68%

Western Europe				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Austria	26%	31%	34%	31%
Belgium	30%	34%	42%	36%
Denmark	31%	39%	47%	38%
Finland	35%	38%	44%	39%
France	20%	32%	34%	29%
Germany	13%	22%	31%	19%
Great Britain	34%	32%	60%	42%
Greece	36%	44%	44%	42%
Iceland	24%	34%	39%	33%
Ireland	23%	34%	43%	34%
Italy	20%	27%	35%	27%
Luxembourg	25%	29%	42%	31%
Malta	24%	26%	40%	30%
Netherlands	45%	53%	51%	50%
Northern Ireland	13%	26%	31%	22%
Portugal	6%	17%	23%	17%
Spain	12%	16%	23%	17%
Sweden	56%	54%	59%	56%

Eastern Europe and the CIS				
	Low	Medium	High	Total
Albania	59%	58%	50%	56%
Belarus	15%	21%	21%	19%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14%	20%	27%	21%
Bulgaria	12%	23%	22%	19%
Croatia	15%	23%	28%	24%
Czech Republic	27%	35%	38%	33%
Estonia	12%	16%	25%	19%
Hungary	14%	15%	17%	15%
Kyrgyzstan	15%	20%	12%	17%
Latvia	20%	24%	25%	23%
Lithuania	11%	15%	19%	16%
Macedonia*	23%	33%	43%	31%
Moldova**	22%	36%	42%	34%
Poland	10%	14%	23%	14%
Romania	8%	11%	25%	16%
Russian Federation	6%	9%	9%	8%
Slovakia	45%	54%	55%	52%
Slovenia	26%	32%	34%	30%
Turkey	3%	7%	12%	6%
Ukraine	9%	12%	19%	13%

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

### 3.4 Commentary on the data on formal volunteering

It will be evident to the reader of the tables above how vitally important the specific formulation of a question/issue is for the response received. A good example of this is the Gallup World Poll, with its clear indication of only wishing to capture voluntary work carried out within an organizational framework or such efforts as both are regular and frequent (at least once in the past month). Given this point of departure, only a relatively small share of respondents will answer the question with a Yes. The World Values Survey represents quite a different way of attempting to capture involvement, through presenting the issue in a way that allows for involvement both within the framework of a more stable organization and in other more or less loose forms, or “activities”. In this case, involvement is not presumed to be either regular or frequent. Instead, the aim is to capture individuals “currently” doing something, where the meaning of this term is not more closely defined. Consequently, as we have seen, a far larger share of respondents answers affirmatively. As we shall see in the next chapter, the correlation between the data from the two studies is extremely low.

*National level.* As we have pointed out earlier, there has been a shortage of studies of volunteering, both national and multinational. Some national and a few comparative multinational studies of voluntary work and informal efforts have been carried out in the last 30-40 years, first and foremost in North America and in Western Europe, as well as in some other countries. The data we present here largely confirm what researchers generally point out, namely that involvement is high and stable in countries such as Canada and the US, Australia and New Zealand, as well as in the Nordic countries, the Netherlands and some other Western European countries. For most other countries there is very little comparative material to be found, but in certain individual African and Asian countries involvement has been shown to be relatively high. However, it is important to reiterate that in some countries organizations where voluntary work takes place are closer or more directly connected to the State than in other countries. Therefore, the conditions for and meaning of participation in voluntary activities can vary greatly.

It must also be highlighted that with regard to certain countries, the data from different surveys show remarkably contradictory results. Among these, we note especially China, Bangladesh and Sweden. In the two most important comparative studies, the Gallup World Poll and the World Values Survey, the differences can only be described as extraordinary. This undermines confidence in the topic’s applicability beyond a Western perspective, and also raises questions about its meaning in different countries. For example, in the case of Sweden, the differences presumably has to do with the translation into Swedish of the term “volunteered” in the Gallup World Poll being more narrow than that used in the World Values Survey, thus leading to the former capturing a smaller proportion of Swedish volunteering activities than the latter.

*Regional level.* Looking at the studies from a regional perspective, we can see that there are remarkably large differences in involvement, not only between regions but also within them. The most extensive prevalence of volunteering by far is found in North America. There is also extensive involvement in “formal volunteering” in the Pacific region. Let us emphasize, however, that both of these regions include only a small number of countries which happen to have high levels of involvement. Africa tends also to be positioned relatively high in the tables, but the differences between countries remain quite large there. While a high prevalence of volunteering is found in Ghana and Nigeria, levels appear considerably lower in, for example, South Africa. The Asian regions show lower involvement than most other regions, with the clear exception of some South Eastern Asian countries, notably the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, which exhibit relatively high levels of voluntary activity.

Western Europe also scores relatively high on involvement, but here, too, the differences between countries are large. On the one hand, there are a number of countries with high levels of voluntary activity, such as the Nordic countries and the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. On the other, there are some countries, notably in the Latin part of Western Europe such as France, Italy and Spain, where levels of involvement appear much lower. Eastern Europe and the CIS display far lower levels of voluntary activity, similar to the patterns shown in Latin America and the Caribbean. Yet in these regions, too, there are big differences between countries. For instance, in Eastern Europe Russia and Turkey distinguish themselves as having particularly low levels of volunteering, whereas voluntary work is considerably more common in Slovenia and the Czech Republic. In the Middle East and North Africa levels of voluntary activity also appear to be fairly low.

In these comparisons between countries and regions, we cannot emphasise enough the very different political, cultural, social and historical conditions that may apply and the extent to which these may affect the results. To express this more concretely, there are great differences—foremost between countries but to some extent also between regions—in the potential for organizing people, and acting within and influencing both the State and the society.<sup>28</sup>

Concerning the correlations between different datasets that are presented in section 3.2, we find that similar questions put to similar national samples have given quite different results in the different surveys. There are some correlations, but not particularly strong ones. With few exceptions, the degree of consensus is simply less than one might expect. This again confirms the fundamental difficulties of attempting to make direct comparisons between different studies.

In the Gallup World Poll and the World Values Survey/European Values Study, we have also examined the gender and age distribution among those who have stated that they carry out volunteering activities (section 3.3) Here we can establish that the gender distribution is strikingly even in many countries and regions. Where differences appear between the sexes, it is slightly more common to find a slightly higher share of men than women involved in voluntary activities. Only a few countries in two regions differ from this pattern. These are Afghanistan and Egypt in Middle East and Northern Africa, and Bangladesh and Pakistan in Southern Asia, where the share of women is considerably lower.

We can also conclude that the age distribution is remarkably even. The most prevalent pattern is that people in the 25-50 age group are most active, closely followed by the younger age groups. Levels of activity then fall as people age, but still remain remarkably large. This pattern is common in many countries and regions, with the exception of Eastern Europe and the CIS, where the more elderly are relatively less active and the youngest relatively more.

Altogether, we can conclude that voluntary activity seems to have an even and relatively widespread distribution over all age categories and among both sexes. This suggests that voluntary activity from a global perspective is relatively stable and not in any consistent way connected to gender or to any particular generation with specific experiences. At least in the global context, this contradicts assertions by some researchers and social commentators of a weakening involvement among the young.<sup>29</sup> However, more dedicated research is needed in order to answer questions about how and in what areas different groups are active.

---

<sup>28</sup> Salomon *et al.* (2004)

<sup>29</sup> See e.g. Putnam (2000)

The World Values Survey also provides insight into the prevalence of volunteering among different income categories (section 3.3.5). Here we see that whilst the tendency to volunteer differs between income groups, the differences are perhaps not as great as many might imagine. Naturally, there is a connection, in that when there are differences in volunteering between income groups, it almost always shows that people in the highest income group volunteers more than the less well-off people. At the same time, it is evident that the income differences between those who volunteer in Africa, Asia or Latin American and the Caribbean are not large, while the differences are much greater both in Europe and in the USA. In this last group of countries, however, the Netherlands and Sweden stand out with their small differences between income categories in terms of voluntary activity.

## 4. Data on informal volunteering

This chapter presents data on informal volunteering, loosely based on the definition provided in the introduction.<sup>30</sup> In the first section 4.1, the data from each survey is presented individually. Section 4.2 contains two correlation diagrams; the first showing the correlation between data on informal help from two different surveys and the second showing the correlation between formal volunteering and “helping strangers” from the Gallup World Poll. We offer a brief commentary on the findings in section 4.3.

---

<sup>30</sup> Note that two of the sources included in this chapter refer to activities that may also be categorized as formal volunteering (ESS: “taking part in local activities” and Civicus “participating in local community action”).

## 4.1 Data tables (informal volunteering)

### 4.1.1 Gallup World Poll – “helping a stranger”

**Reference:** The data was extracted from the Gallup World Views website by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) who generously agreed to share the datafile with the Institute for Civil Society Studies for the purpose of this report.

**Data collection period:** 2006-2009

**Question:** *"In the past month have you done any of the following, how about helped a stranger or somebody you didn't know who needed help?"*

Africa	
Angola	61%
Benin	37%
Botswana	62%
Burkina Faso	41%
Burundi	19%
Cameroon	56%
Central Africa Republic	48%
Chad	38%
Comoros	45%
Cote d'Ivoire	45%
Congo (Kinshasa)*	32%
Djibouti	55%
Ethiopia	38%
Ghana	62%
Guinea	61%
Kenya	64%
Liberia	76%
Madagascar	18%
Malawi	57%
Mali	44%
Mauritania	57%
Mozambique	35%
Namibia	49%
Niger	45%
Nigeria	65%
Congo (Brazzaville)**	51%
Rwanda	22%
Senegal	54%
Sierra Leone	75%
Somaliland (Region)	58%
South Africa	57%
Sudan	73%
Tanzania***	51%
Togo	33%
Uganda	44%
Zambia	59%
Zimbabwe	50%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>51%</b>

\* Democratic Republic of the Congo

\*\*Republic of the Congo

\*\*\*United Republic of Tanzania

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Afghanistan	50%
Algeria	52%
Bahrain	57%
Egypt	48%
Iran	38%
Iraq	59%
Israel	47%
Jordan	32%
Kuwait	72%
Lebanon	56%
Morocco	34%
Palestinian Territory	39%
Qatar	53%
Saudi Arabia	49%
Syria	69%
Tunisia	48%
United Arab Emirates	59%
Yemen	55%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>48%</b>

Asia (East)	
China	30%
Hong Kong	50%
Japan	25%
Mongolia	32%
South Korea*	36%
Taiwan	41%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>30%</b>

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
Bangladesh	29%
India	30%
Nepal	37%
Pakistan	20%
Sri Lanka	45%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>29%</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Cambodia	24%
Indonesia	35%
Laos*	53%
Malaysia	27%
Myanmar	52%
Philippines	55%
Singapore	29%
Thailand	36%
Vietnam	49%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>41%</b>

\*Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	48%
Belize	50%
Bolivia	49%
Brazil	51%
Chile	53%
Columbia	58%
Costa Rica	60%
Dominican Republic	52%
Ecuador	37%
El Salvador	48%
Guatemala	50%
Guyana	67%
Haiti	35%
Honduras	52%
Jamaica	61%
Mexico	41%
Nicaragua	52%
Panama	52%
Paraguay	40%
Peru	47%
Puerto Rico	55%
Trinidad & Tobago	60%
Uruguay	36%
Venezuela	28%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>47%</b>

North America	
Canada	66%
USA	65%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>65%</b>

Western Europe	
Austria	58%
Belgium	45%
Cyprus	29%
Denmark	45%
Finland	42%
France	32%
Germany	56%
Greece	34%
Iceland	47%
Ireland	58%
Italy	29%
Luxembourg	41%
Malta	40%
Netherlands	46%
Norway	45%
Portugal	33%
Spain	46%
Sweden	47%
Switzerland	60%
United Kingdom	58%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>45%</b>



Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Albania	31%
Armenia	58%
Azerbaijan	52%
Belarus	32%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	29%
Bulgaria	30%
Croatia	34%
Czech Republic	37%
Estonia	34%
Georgia	37%
Hungary	32%
Kazakhstan	37%
Kosovo	20%
Kyrgyzstan	34%
Latvia	33%
Lithuania	41%
Macedonia*	34%
Moldova**	53%
Montenegro	31%
Poland	35%
Romania	28%
Russian Federation	35%
Serbia	21%
Slovakia	31%
Slovenia	43%
Tajikistan	46%
Turkey	35%
Ukraine	33%
Uzbekistan	40%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>35%</b>

\*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

\*\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific	
Australia	64%
New Zealand	63%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>64%</b>

<b>Gallup World Poll "helping a stranger" - global average</b>	<b>39%</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

### 4.1.2 European Social Survey – “provide help for others”

**Reference:** Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) is the data archive and distributor of the ESS data. See R Jowell and the Central Co-ordinating Team, European Social Survey 2006/2007

**Data collection period:** 2006

**Question:** *"Not counting anything you do for your family, in your work, or within voluntary organizations, how often, in the past 12 months, did you actively provide help for other people?"*

Western Europe						
	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every three months	At least once every six months	Less often	At least once (in the past 12 months)
Austria	20%	24%	11%	9%	20%	84%
Belgium	16%	21%	13%	9%	15%	74%
Cyprus	8%	18%	10%	8%	28%	71%
Denmark	21%	33%	15%	7%	11%	87%
Finland	16%	21%	13%	12%	19%	81%
France	17%	21%	11%	8%	13%	70%
Germany	26%	29%	9%	4%	12%	81%
Iceland	16%	19%	11%	10%	15%	70%
Netherlands	16%	20%	12%	5%	14%	67%
Norway	14%	28%	16%	8%	19%	86%
Portugal	3%	6%	5%	8%	15%	38%
Spain	7%	15%	10%	9%	22%	62%
Sweden	24%	28%	9%	4%	22%	87%
Switzerland	22%	28%	11%	6%	12%	78%
United Kingdom	16%	18%	12%	8%	12%	66%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>72%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS						
	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every three months	At least once every six months	Less often	At least once (in the past 12 months)
Bulgaria	7%	10%	6%	3%	17%	42%
Estonia	9%	11%	6%	5%	11%	43%
Hungary	8%	10%	6%	7%	19%	49%
Poland	8%	13%	9%	10%	13%	52%
Russian Federation	6%	9%	8%	9%	11%	43%
Slovakia	10%	15%	10%	9%	30%	75%
Slovenia	26%	26%	13%	11%	8%	84%
Ukraine	6%	13%	8%	8%	11%	46%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>46%</b>

### 4.1.3 European Social Survey – “local activities”

**Reference:** Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) is the data archive and distributor of the ESS data. See R Jowell and the Central Co-ordinating Team, European Social Survey 2006/2007

**Data collection period:** 2006

**Question:** *"And in the past 12 months, how often did you help with or attend activities organized in your local area?"* Note that the question covers attendance as well as participation. Note also that this question may cover formal as well as informal voluntary activity.

Western Europe						
	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every three months	At least once every six months	Less often	At least once (in the past 12 months)
Austria	9%	15%	10%	8%	24%	65%
Belgium	3%	9%	11%	12%	15%	50%
Cyprus	1%	4%	5%	4%	23%	38%
Denmark	5%	11%	16%	14%	19%	65%
Finland	2%	4%	5%	8%	20%	38%
France	6%	9%	12%	11%	10%	48%
Germany	2%	9%	11%	10%	19%	51%
Iceland	8%	13%	11%	12%	16%	59%
Netherlands	3%	5%	7%	9%	14%	39%
Norway	7%	13%	12%	14%	25%	71%
Portugal	1%	2%	3%	7%	16%	29%
Spain	3%	7%	9%	11%	22%	52%
Sweden	2%	6%	8%	11%	19%	47%
Switzerland	4%	12%	14%	14%	16%	60%
United Kingdom	8%	10%	11%	9%	12%	50%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>50%</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS						
	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every three months	At least once every six months	Less often	At least once (in the past 12 months)
Bulgaria	1%	2%	2%	4%	11%	20%
Estonia	1%	5%	6%	7%	11%	30%
Hungary	2%	3%	2%	4%	13%	26%
Poland	1%	3%	3%	7%	12%	26%
Russian Federation	2%	4%	2%	6%	11%	25%
Slovakia	3%	4%	5%	8%	28%	49%
Slovenia	3%	9%	11%	12%	14%	50%
Ukraine	2%	5%	3%	7%	9%	26%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>26%</b>

#### 4.1.4 Civicus Civil Society Index – “collective community action”

**Reference:** Civicus Civil Society Indicator Database ([www.civicus.org/csi](http://www.civicus.org/csi))

**Data collection period:** Differs by country and survey; though the country reports were compiled between 2003-2008

**Question:** The exact question differs between countries and surveys, though the indicator in focus for the figures below is *"What percentage of people has participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organized event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?"* (Note that this may cover formal as well as informal voluntary activity).

**Comment:** Each country's data derives from one or several national surveys, which differ in scope and methodology. In some cases the figures are estimates made by local stakeholders. The data for this indicator were often inconclusive and sometimes combined with data about formal volunteering. Only those figures that specifically represent participation in collective community action (formal volunteering excluded) are presented below.

Africa	
Ghana	80%
Nigeria	76%
Sierra Leone	97%
Togo	33%
Uganda	83%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>77%</b>

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	9%
Bolivia	34%
Ecuador	31%
Honduras	25%
Jamaica	30%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>19%</b>

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	33%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Western Europe	
Germany	5%
United Kingdom	47%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Asia (East)	
Hong Kong	43%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Azerbaijan	22%
Bulgaria	25%
Romania	37%
Serbia	29%
Slovenia	67%
Ukraine	48%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>40%</b>

Asia (South)	
India	51%
Nepal	86%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Asia (South-East)	
Indonesia	87%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Pacific	
Fiji	38%
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### 4.1.5 Informal volunteering – regional averages

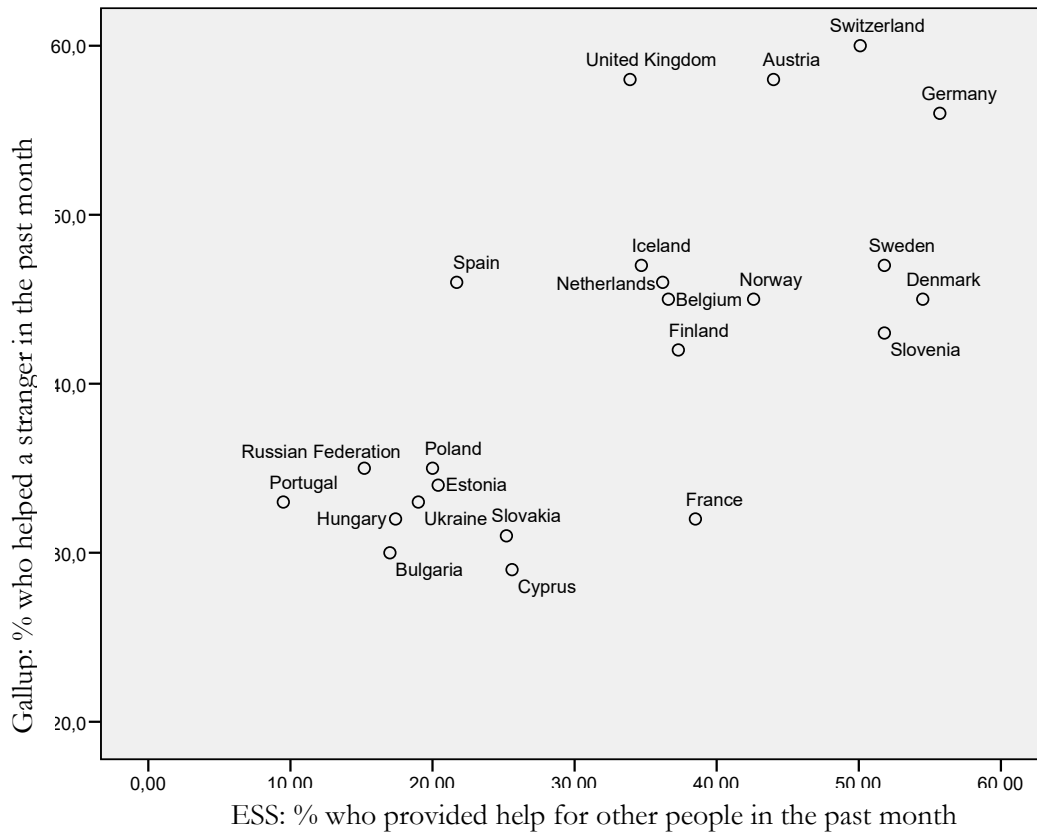
Regional averages informal volunteering (%)						
	Gallup World Poll	Civicus	ESS - 1 month	ESS - 12 months	ESS - 1 month	ESS - 12 months
Definition in short	helping a stranger	collective community action	local activities	local activities	provide help for other people	provide help for other people
Africa	51	77	--	--	--	--
Middle East and Northern Africa	48	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (East)	30	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (South)	29	--	--	--	--	--
Asia (South East)	41	--	--	--	--	--
Latin America and the Carribean	47	19	--	--	--	--
North America	65	--	--	--	--	--
Western Europe	45	--	9	50	22	72
Eastern Europe and the CIS	35	40	4	26	11	46
Pacific	64	--	--	--	--	--

**Notes:**

To calculate regional averages the countries included were weighted by population number.  
 Values marked with (\*) are averages calculated on three or fewer countries.

## 4.2 Comparing the studies

### 4.2.1 Correlation between Gallup World Poll (Helping a stranger) and European Social Survey (Providing help for other people)

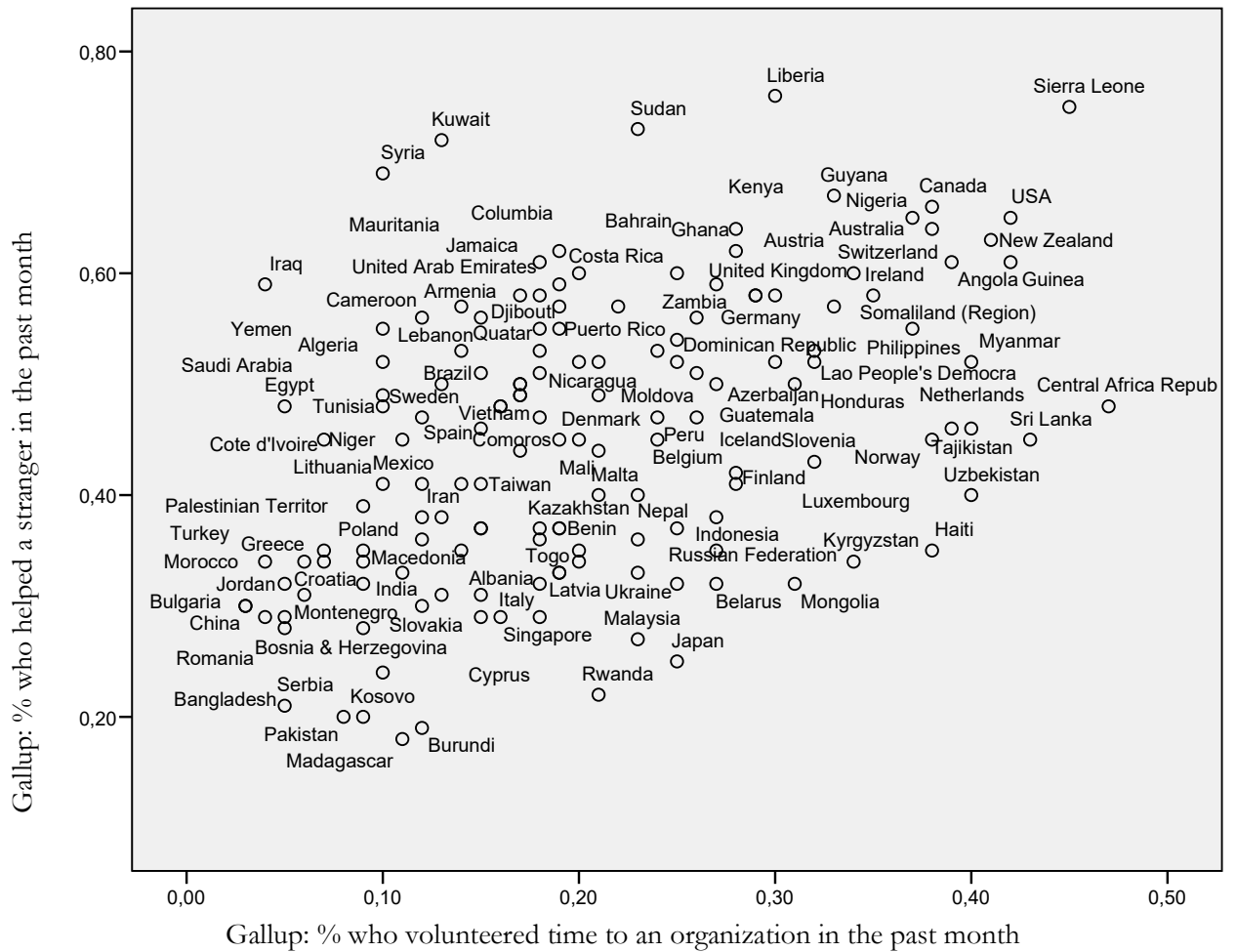


$R=0.70$  ( $t<0.001$ )

Gallup: "In the past month have you (...) helped a stranger or somebody you didn't know who needed help?"

ESS: "Not counting anything you do for your family, in your work, or within voluntary organizations, how often, in the past 12 months, did you actively provide help for other people?"

#### 4.2.2 Correlation between Gallup World Poll (Volunteering your time to an organization) and Gallup World Poll (Helped a stranger)



$R=0.46$  ( $t<0.001$ )

"In the past month have you (...) volunteered your time to an organization?"

"In the past month have you (...) helped a stranger or somebody you didn't know who needed help?"

### 4.3 Commentary on the data on informal volunteering

First and foremost we want to reiterate that the data on informal support or help, here called informal volunteering, is fragmented and on the whole unsuitable for comparative analysis. Most of the presented data fits poorly with the definition of informal volunteering set out in the introduction.

Once again, it should be evident to the reader of the tables how vitally important the formulation of the survey question is. A good example of this is the question on “helping a stranger” in the Gallup World Poll. Given that the specification “a stranger” excludes all forms of informal support and help to extended family, neighbours, workmates and friends, the data is barely relevant to a study of informal volunteering. (It must of course be pointed out that the Gallup Organization does not make any suggestions to this end – the data is presented as data on “helping strangers” and nothing else.) Despite these objections, it is interesting to note that there nonetheless appears to be a strong correlation between formal volunteering and “helping a stranger” (with a few exceptions, see section 4.2.2). This is in line with the findings of other research that has been done on the connection between formal volunteering and informal support/help on both national and individual level.<sup>31</sup> It is possible that one activity strengthens the other on both macro and micro level, but as important perhaps may be the general historical, cultural and political conditions that contribute to the varying social and material climates for different kinds of involvement.

The European Social Survey represents another attempt to capture informal support and help. While the question on “providing help for other people” excludes activities directed at family or workmates, it may well capture informal support provided to neighbours, friends and strangers. Whereas the Gallup World Poll only asks about activities carried out in the past month, the European Social Survey asks respondents to specify with some precision the frequency with which they have helped others over the past year (see section 2.1 for details).

With these considerations in mind, let us now briefly comment on the data and a few patterns that we have observed.

*National and regional level.* Compared with formal volunteering, there has been an even greater lack of studies in this field. Some national and a few comparative studies of informal support and activities have been carried out in the last 20 years, foremost in North America and in Western Europe.

Looking from a regional perspective at the Gallup World Poll data on helping strangers, we can see that the differences in involvement between and to some extent within regions are much smaller compared to formal volunteering. However, the data on helping strangers support the conclusion made in chapter 3, that involvement levels are higher in the Anglo-Saxon countries as well as in some African, Middle Eastern, Latin American and Caribbean countries along with Western Europe. Eastern and Southern Asia show only around half of the involvement levels of North America, Australia and New Zealand.

The regional patterns appear particularly stable in the European Social Survey, which shows a stark difference between levels of involvement in Western and Eastern Europe. Once again, the East European countries distinguish themselves as having low levels of informal involvement, with some exceptions such as Slovenia and Slovakia. In Western Europe some

---

<sup>31</sup> See for example Burr et al. (2005), Jegermalm & Jeppsson Grassman (2009b).



countries such as the Nordic countries, Germany; Austria and Switzerland display high levels of involvement, while other countries, in particular Southern Europe, show lower figures.

In these comparisons between countries and regions, we once again want to emphasise that different political and historical conditions may affect the data in ways which cannot be sufficiently considered and analyzed in this brief review.

## 5. A few preliminary recommendations

Building on observations made during the course of this review, we would like to offer some brief suggestions for future research on volunteering.

### Recommendations concerning contextual matters

- Firstly, it seems important to draw a clear distinction between what we here call formal and informal volunteering, as there are great differences in the factors and motivations that inform, direct and shape these different categories of volunteering
- Very strong reasons still exist to be careful with applying the manifest Western and not least Anglo-Saxon frame of reference that has shaped and largely continues to shape research on volunteering, including specific formulations of survey questions.
- Further, it is essential to set information gained on formal and informal volunteering in a wider social context and to be careful with making inferences based on volunteering data. High levels of voluntary activity may well be an expression of a well-functioning society with well-functioning welfare arrangements, but can also be found in societies without even the most basic welfare arrangements, which nonetheless have high social capital manifested as civil engagement.
- Formal and informal volunteering also need to be placed in a wider *political* context. High levels of volunteerism may be an expression of a well-functioning society with an efficient legal and economic infrastructure and high levels of personal freedom, but may also be a symptom of a society where involvement is a requirement dictated by the State or others.

### Recommendations concerning data collection.

- Recent research has shown that it is possible to investigate formal and informal volunteering within the same study. When this is done it is of course necessary to clearly define and separate the two areas of investigation. Formal and informal volunteering must always be investigated in their own right; which means that care must be taken to ensure that the research questions are specified, tested and considered in the context of the national or regional circumstances.
- With regard to informal volunteering, it is important to be very precise about what is meant with terms such as “family” and “providing help/support”. Is what is sought after a narrower or a wider definition? This is of great significance for how respondents address the issues and make distinctions between social support and social help, on the one hand, and the more purely caring tasks that often take place within the framework of the (immediate or extended) family on the other.
- In future investigations in this area and especially where the UN is involved, unequivocal methodological demands should put in place from the outset, including careful reporting of selection method, sample and non-response rates. At present, such methodological rigour is found only in some of the selected studies.

- This review highlights how crucial it is to precisely specify the time period/frequency of the activities studied. Judging from the available data, the time frames of “in the last month/in a month” and during “one year/in the last year” capture relatively well both regular and more sporadic activities of the kind discussed here. On the other hand, there is reason to be cautious with more vague terms such as “currently” or in attempting to capture activities that stretch several years back in time.
- Moreover, it is imperative to break once and for all with the research tradition that only captures well-organized activities in established voluntary organizations. Equal measures need to be made to systematically capture the ad-hoc and temporary forms of involvement.
- It is also important to consider all the new forms of involvement and expression that are emerging in the wake of the latest evolving information channels, such as online engagement and -campaigning. In future volunteering research these “new” forms of involvement must find an equal place alongside the traditional ones.

## Annex 1: Active membership data

**Source:** World Values Survey/European Values Survey 2005-2008

**Reference:** World Values Survey 1981-2008 OFFICIAL AGGREGATE v.20090901, 2009.

**Data collection period:** 2005-2008

**Question:** "Now I am going to read off a list of voluntary organizations. For each one, could you tell me whether you are an active member, an inactive member or not a member of that type of organization?" [

**Comment:** The percentages listed are the proportions of respondents who reported being active members in at least one of the different types or organizations listed in the question.

Africa	
Burkina Faso	63%
Ethiopia	88%
Ghana	69%
Mali	75%
Rwanda	64%
South Africa	70%
Zambia	78%
Regional average	76%

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	75%
Iran	63%
Jordan	0%
Morocco	61%
Regional average	68%

Asia (East)	
China	78%
Japan	61%
South Korea*	78%
Taiwan	74%
Regional average	77%

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
India	93%
Regional average	N/A

Asia (South-East)	
Indonesia	71%
Malaysia	82%
Thailand	73%
Vietnam	37%
Regional average	65%

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	61%
Brazil	50%
Chile	55%
Colombia	57%
Mexico	54%
Peru	36%

Trinidad and Tobago	61%
Uruguay	56%
Regional average	52%

North America	
Canada	63%
USA	75%
Regional average	74%

Western Europe	
Andorra	69%
Cyprus	65%
Finland	87%
France	53%
Germany	62%
Great Britain	58%
Italy	65%
Netherlands	62%
Norway	85%
Spain	54%
Sweden	90%
Switzerland	71%
Regional average	70%

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Bulgaria	63%
Georgia	62%
Moldova*	71%
Poland	53%
Romania	43%
Russian Federation	71%
Serbia	83%
Slovenia	62%
Turkey	58%
Ukraine	75%
Regional average	65%

\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific	
Australia	69%
New Zealand	71%
Regional average	69%

## Annex 2: Nonpartisan political activity data

**Source:** World Values Survey/European Values Survey 2005-2008

**Reference:** World Values Survey 1981-2008 OFFICIAL AGGREGATE v.20090901, 2009. World Values Survey Association ([www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)). Aggregate File Producer: ASEP/JDS, Madrid.

**Data collection period:** 2005-2008

**Question:** "Have you or have you not done any of these activities in the last five years? Signing a petition; Joining in boycotts; Attending peaceful demonstrations; Other"

**Comment:** The percentages listed are the proportions of respondents who reported having done at least one of the listed political activities in the last five years.

Africa	
Burkina Faso	33%
Ethiopia	56%
Ghana	13%
Mali	41%
Rwanda	23%
South Africa	24%
Zambia	33%
Regional average	38%

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Jordan	8%
Morocco	21%
Regional average	19%

Asia (East)	
China	8%
Japan	50%
South Korea*	42%
Taiwan	16%
Regional average	13%

\*Republic of Korea

Asia (South)	
India	39%
Regional average	N/A

Asia (South-East)	
Indonesia	24%
Malaysia	14%
Thailand	13%
Vietnam	8%
Regional average	18%

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	35%
Brazil	76%
Chile	30%
Mexico	33%
Peru	37%

Trinidad & Tobago	74%
Uruguay	77%
Regional average	55%

North America	
Canada	67%
USA	69%
Regional average	69%

Western Europe	
Cyprus	39%
Finland	44%
France	51%
Germany	40%
Great Britain	81%
Netherlands	44%
Norway	55%
Sweden	73%
Switzerland	73%
Regional average	56%

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Bulgaria	15%
Georgia	17%
Moldova*	23%
Poland	19%
Romania	10%
Russian Federation	17%
Serbia	35%
Slovenia	30%
Turkey	58%
Ukraine	22%
Regional average	27%

\*Republic of Moldova

Pacific	
Australia	74%
Regional average	N/A

**Source:** Civicus Civil Society Index

**Reference:** Civicus Civil Society Indicator Database ([www.civicus.org/csi](http://www.civicus.org/csi))

**Data collection period:** Differs by country and survey; though the country reports were compiled between 2003-2008

**Question:** The exact question differs between countries and surveys, though the indicator in focus for the figures below is “What percentage of people has ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?” Note the word “**ever**” rather than “within the last year” or “at least once a year” (however, some of the national surveys still specified “within the past 12 months”).

**Comment:** Each country’s data derives from one or several national surveys, which differ in scope and methodology. In some cases the figures are estimates made by local stakeholders. The data for this indicator were often inconclusive or reported in narrative form rather than in figures. Only data on the proportion of people who took part in at least one of the different non-partisan political activities are presented below.

Africa	
Ghana	15%
Nigeria	55%
Sierra Leone	20%
Uganda	26%
Regional average	45%

Middle East and Northern Africa	
Egypt	42%
Lebanon	34%
Regional average	N/A

Asia (East)	
China	5%
Hong Kong	34%
Mongolia	18%
Taiwan	10-30%*
Regional average	5%

Asia (South)	
India	50%
Nepal	79%
Regional average	N/A

Asia (South-East)	
Indonesia	13%
Vietnam	8%
Regional average	N/A

Honduras	22%
Uruguay	43%
Regional average	37%

Western Europe	
Cyprus (South)	59%
Netherlands	66%
Northern Ireland	9%
United Kingdom	65%
Regional average	64%

Eastern Europe and the CIS	
Azerbaijan	24%
Czech Republic	48%
Poland	13%
Romania	41%
Russian Federation	29%
Slovenia	46%
Turkey	18%
Ukraine	51%
Regional average	29%

Pacific	
Fiji	23%
Regional average	N/A

\*The CSI data on nonpartisan political activity in Taiwan derives from different sources that range from 10% to 30%

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Bolivia	76%
Chile	26%
Ecuador	28%

### Annex 3 Studies considered but not included in the review

The following studies were considered for inclusion in the review but discounted for not meeting the selection criteria.

#### Afrobarometer

Reference/Link [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

Description A multinational and longitudinal survey measuring the social, political and economic atmosphere in a number of African countries. The first round took place in 1999-2001 and comprised 12 countries. The most recent round, which took place in 2008-2009, covered 19 countries.

Reason for non-inclusion Only one country-survey (the South African round 2000) included a question specifically on volunteering. Later surveys asked whether respondents were “an active member, an inactive member or not a member” of different types of groups and organizations. Since organizational membership is not the primary focus of this report, and for reasons of time, we decided not to include this data.

#### Asian barometer

Reference/Link [www.asianbarometer.org](http://www.asianbarometer.org)

Description A multinational and longitudinal study of citizens’ attitudes to democracy, government and development in 18 Asian countries. Thus far, the study has been carried out twice (2001-2003 and 2005-2008).

Reason for non-inclusion The survey includes no questions specifically about volunteering. Questions on organizational membership are included, but since that is not the primary focus of this report, and for reasons of time, we decided against including this data.

#### Latinobarómetro

Reference/Link [www.latinobarometro.org](http://www.latinobarometro.org)

Description A longitudinal public opinion survey involving 18 Latin American countries. The survey has been conducted annually since 1995.

Reason for non-inclusion The survey does not ask any questions specifically on volunteering.

#### Five-country study on service and volunteering in Southern Africa

Reference/Link Patel, L., Perold, H., Elzein Mohamed, S. and Carapinha, R. (2007) *Five-Country Study on Service and Volunteering in Southern Africa - Research report*. Johannesburg: VOESA.

[www.voesa.org.za](http://www.voesa.org.za)

Description	A cross-national study exploring the role and prevalence of volunteering and civic service (defined as “an organized period of substantial engagement and contribution to local, national or world community, recognized and valued by society, with minimal monetary cost to the participant”) in five Southern African countries: Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The study consisted of a literature review, key informant interviews, focus groups and analyses of service programmes in each participating country.
Reason for non-inclusion	Only the South-African country report included data on the prevalence of volunteerism among the population.

#### Johns Hopkins Volunteering in Cross-National Perspective: Evidence From 24 Countries (Working paper)

Reference/Link	Salamon, L.M & Sokolowski, W. (2001) Volunteering in Cross-National Perspective: Evidence From 24 Countries. Working Paper of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University. <a href="http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/CNP_Working_Papers/CNP_WP40_Twentyfour_2001.pdf">www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/CNP_Working_Papers/CNP_WP40_Twentyfour_2001.pdf</a>
Description	One in a series of working papers by the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project; this one exploring voluntary social participation in a cross-national perspective.
Reason for non-inclusion	The paper presents data on volunteering and cash giving as shares of total nonprofit philanthropic income, and volunteering as a proportion of total nonagricultural employment, but none on the proportion of the population that engages in voluntary activity which is the focus of this paper.

#### Johns Hopkins UN Handbook on Nonprofit Satellite Accounts

Reference/Link	<a href="http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&amp;view=16&amp;sub=91&amp;tri=97">www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&amp;view=16&amp;sub=91&amp;tri=97</a>
Description	The UN <i>Handbook on Nonprofit Institutions in the System of National Accounts</i> is the product of a collaboration between the UN Statistics Division, the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies, the LSE Centre for Civil Society, national statistical offices and the nonprofit research community. The aim of the handbook is to help national statistical offices develop a clearer picture of the activities of nonprofit institutions. Thus far, eleven countries have published data based on the handbook guidelines on the Johns Hopkins website (see link above).
Reason for non-inclusion	Not all of the published accounts include data on volunteering. Among those that do, the majority provide no data on the proportion of the population that engages in voluntary work. Instead, the datasets provide either (1) data on the total number of people who volunteer in organizations in the country in questions. These individuals are sometimes double-counted, i.e. people who volunteer in more than one organization are counted twice. (2) The proportion of unpaid vs. paid staff in voluntary organizations. Or (3) the economic value of volunteerism in the countries in question.



### The Johns Hopkins/International Labour Organization Volunteer Measurement Project

Reference/Link [www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=12](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=12)

Description Johns Hopkins University, in partnership with the International Labour Organization and a Technical Experts Group, has developed a set of international guidelines for generating regular, reliable statistics on volunteering which will allow for comparison across countries and regions.

Reason for non-inclusion The guidance is still being worked on and no data has been published to date.

## References

### Published references

- Almond, Gabriel & Sydney Verba (1963) *The Civil Culture*, Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
- Babchuk, Nicholas & John N. Edwards, 1965; Voluntary Associations and the Integration Hypothesis; *Social Inquiry*, v. 55: 148-162.
- Burr, A. J., Choi, N. G., Mutchler, J. E. & Caro, F. G. (2005) Caregiving and Volunteering: Are Private and Public Helping Behaviors Linked, *Journal of Gerontology*, vol. 5, pp. 247-256.
- Charities Aid Foundation (2010) *World Giving Index 2010*. West Malling: Charities Aid Foundation
- Coser, Lewis (1956) *The Functions of Social Conflict*; London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd.
- Dahl, Robert (1961) *Who Governs?* London & New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Decker, P. & Halman, L. (eds) (2003) *The Values of Volunteering Cross-Cultural Perspectives* New York: Kluwer Academic.
- Della Porta, D. & Tarrow, S. (eds) (2005) *Transnational Protest and Global Activism* New York: Rowman and Littlefield.
- De Tocqueville, Alexander (1830 & 1945) *Democracy in America*; 2 vols, New York: Knopf.
- Donoghue, F.(2010) Social Origins. In Rupert Taylor (ed) *Third Sector Research* New York: Springer.
- European Social Survey (2005) Round Three, Specification for Participating Countries.
- European Values Study (2010) *Guidelines and Recommendations*. Köln: Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- European Values Study (2010): *European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Integrated Dataset*. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4800 Data File Version 2.0.0 (2010-11-30)  
doi:10.4232/1.10188
- European and World Values Surveys four-wave integrated data file, 1981-2004, v.20060423, 2006. Surveys designed and executed by the European Values Study Group and World Values Survey Association. File Producers: ASEP/JDS, Madrid, Spain and Tilburg University, Tilburg, the Netherlands. File Distributors: ASEP/JDS and GESIS, Cologne, Germany.
- Evers, A. & Laville, J-L. (2004) *The Third Sector in Europe*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Finn Heinrich, V. (ed) (2007) *Civics Global Survey of the State of Civil Society*, Vol. 1. Bloomfield: Kumarian Press
- Finn Heinrich, V. & Fioramonti, L. (2008) *Civics Global Survey of the State of Civil Society*, Vol. 2. Bloomfield: Kumarian Press
- Gallup International (2006) *Voice of the People. What the world thinks on today's global issues*. United Kingdom: Gallup International.
- Gaskin, K. & Davis Smith, J. (1995) *A New Civic Europe?* London: Volunteer Centre UK.

GHK International (2010) *Volunteering in the European Union*. Brussels: Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA)

Gordon, C.W. & Babchuk, Nicholas, 1959; A Typology of Voluntary Associations; *American Sociological Review*, v. 24: 22-29.

Henriksen Skov, L. et al. (2008) *Formal and Informal Volunteering in a Nordic Context: the Case of Denmark* Journal of Civil Society 4:193-209.

Hinterlong, J.E. (2008) Productive Engagement Among Older Americans: Prevalence, Patterns, and Implications for Social Policy, *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, vol. 20, pp. 141-164.

Huntington, Samuel P., (1968) *Political Order in Changing Societies*; London & New Haven: Yale University Press.

Hustinx, L. & Lammertyn, F: (2003) *Collective and reflexive styles of volunteering: A sociological modernization perspective*. In *Voluntas* 14:167-187.

Janoski, T. (1998) *Citizenship and Civil Society* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jegermalm, M., & Jeppsson Grassman, E. (2009a). Patterns of Informal Help and Caregiving in Sweden: a 13-year Perspective. *Social Policy & Administration*, 43, 7, 681-701.

Jegermalm, M., & Jeppsson Grassman, E. (2009b). Caregiving and Volunteering among Older People in Sweden – Prevalence and Profiles. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 21, 4, 352- 373.

Jeppsson Grassman, E. (2006) What is the role of the third sector in Nordic care for elderly people, in *Nordic civic society organizations and future of welfare services*, (Tema Nord 2006:517), ed A-L. Matthies, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen.

Jeppsson Grassman, E. & Svedberg, L. (2007) Civic Participation in a Scandinavian Welfare State: Patterns in Contemporary Sweden, in *State and Civil Society in Northern Europe, The Swedish Model Reconsidered*, ed L. Trägårdh, Berghahn Books, New York.

Jowell, R. and the Central Co-ordinating Team, European Social Survey 2006/2007:Technical Report, London: Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University.

Kaldor, M. (2004) Globalization and Civil Society in Glasius, M. et al (eds) *Exploring Civil Society* New York:: Routledge.

Kornhauser, William (1960) *The Politics of Mass Society*; London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Lipset, Symore M., (1963) *Political Man*; New York: Doubleday & Co., Anchor Books.

Martinson, M. & Minkler, M. (2006) Civic Engagement and Older Adults: A Critical Perspective *The Gerontologist*, vol. 46, pp. 318-324.

Musick M. A. & Wilson, J. (2008) *Volunteers. A Social Profile* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Nolan, M., Lundh, U., Grant, G. & Keady, J. (eds) (2003) *Partnerships in family care: understanding the caregiving career*, Open University Press, Maidenhead.

Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) is the data archive and distributor of the ESS data. R Jowell and the Central Co-ordinating Team, European Social Survey

2006/2007:Technical Report, London: Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University (2007)

Offe, C. (1985) *New Social Movements: Challenging the Boundaries of Institutional Politics* Social Research v 52:817-868.

Pestoff, Victor (1977) *Voluntary Associations and Nordic Party Systems. A Study of Overlapping Memberships and Cross-Pressures in Finland, Norway and Sweden*, Stockholm: Studies in Politics, No. 10.

Papacostas, A. Eurobarometer 66.3: Social Reality, E-Communications, Common Agricultural Policy, Discrimination and the Media, and Medical Research, November-December 2006 [Computer file]. ICPSR21523-v2. Cologne, Germany: GESIS/Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributors], 2010-06-16. doi:10.3886/ICPSR21523

Patel, L., Perold, H., Elzein Mohamed, S. and Carapinha, R. (2007) *Five-Country Study on Service and Volunteering in Southern Africa - Research report*. Johannesburg: VOSESA.

Pichler, F. & Wallace, C. (2007) *Patterns of Formal and Informal Social Capital in Europe* European Sociological Review v 23:423-435.

Putnam, R. (2000) *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Simon & Schuster, New York

Roland, C. & Puymbroeck, M. (2007) Research Update: Senior Benefit from Volunteerism, *Parks & Recreation*, pp. 26-30.

Salamon, L.M., Wojciech Sokolowski, S. and Associates (2004) *Global Civil Society Volume Two*, Bloomfield: Kumarian Press.

Salamon, L.M., Wojciech Sokolowski, S. (2003) Towards a Macro-Structural Theory of Individual Voluntary Action. In Paul Decker & Loek Halman (eds) (2003) *The Values of Volunteering Cross-Cultural Perspectives* New York: Kluwer Academic.

Salamon, L.M & Sokolowski, W. (2001) Volunteering in Cross-National Perspective: Evidence From 24 Countries. Working Paper of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University

Salamon, L. & Anheier, H. (1998) *On developing comparative nonprofit-sector theory: A reply to Steinberg and Young and Ragin*. Voluntas v 9:249-260.

Steinberg, R. & Young, D. (1998) *A comment on Salamon and Anheier's "Social origins of civil society"*. In Voluntas v 9:249-260.

Taylor, M., Howard, J. & Lever, J. (2010) *Citizen Participation and Civic Activism in Comparative Perspective* In Journal Of Civil Society 6:145-164.

Truman, David (1951 & 1971, 2<sup>nd</sup> edit.) *The Governmental Process*; New York: Knopf.

Twigg, J., & Atkin, K. (1994) *Carers perceived. Policy and practice in informal care*, Open University Press, Buckingham.

Warburton, J. & McLaughlin, D. (2006) Doing it from your heart: The role of older women as informal volunteers, *Journal of Women and Aging*, vol. 2, pp. 55-72.

Wilson, J. (2000) *Volunteering* Ann. Rev. Sociol. V 26:215-240.

Wollebaek, D. & Sivesind, K-H. (2010) *Fra folkebevegelse til filantropi? Frivillig insats i Norge 1997-2010* Oslo/Bergen: Senter for forskning på sivilsamfunn of frivillig sektor.

World Value Survey Rules for Principal Investigators Wave 6.

World Values Survey 1981-2008 OFFICIAL AGGREGATE v.20090901, 2009. World Values Survey Association ([www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)). Aggregate File Producer: ASEP/JDS, Madrid

## Web-references

Afrobarometer: [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

Asianbarometer: [www.asianbarometer.org](http://www.asianbarometer.org)

Civics Civil Society Index: [www.civics.org/csi](http://www.civics.org/csi)

Educational, Audiovisual & Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-EA) Study on Volunteering in the European Union: [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm)

Eurobarometer Special Survey 66.3:  
<http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/index.jsp?object=http://134.95.45.58:80/obj/fStudy/ZA4528>

Eurobarometer European Social Reality Report:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_273\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_273_en.pdf)

Eurobarometer methodology:  
[www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/countries-coverage/](http://www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/countries-coverage/)

Eurobarometer 66.3, November-December 2006, Basic bilingual questionnaire:  
[www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/study-overview/eurobarometer-663-za-4528-nov-dec-2006/](http://www.gesis.org/dienstleistungen/daten/umfragedaten/eurobarometer-data-service/standard-special-eb/study-overview/eurobarometer-663-za-4528-nov-dec-2006/)

European Social Survey: [www.europeansocialsurvey.org](http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org)

European Social Survey methodology:  
[www.europeansocialsurvey.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=353](http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=353)

European Values Study: [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu)

European Values Study methodology: [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008/participatingcountries/](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008/participatingcountries/)

European Values Study Fieldwork notes: [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008.html/fieldwork/](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/surveys/survey-2008.html/fieldwork/)

European Values Study 2008 Integrated Dataset:  
<http://info1.gesis.org/DBKSearch/SDESC2.asp?no=4800&DB=E>

Gallup World Poll: <https://worldview.gallup.com>

Gallup World Poll Methodology: <https://worldview.gallup.com/content/methodology.aspx>

Gallup International Voice of the People: [www.voice-of-the-people.net](http://www.voice-of-the-people.net)

Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project:  
[www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=3](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=3)

Johns Hopkins UN Handbook on Nonprofit Satellite Accounts:  
[www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=16&sub=91&tri=97](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=16&sub=91&tri=97)

Johns Hopkins/International Labor Organization Volunteer Measurement Project:  
[www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=12](http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/index.php?section=content&view=9&sub=12)

Latinobarómetro: [www.latinobarometro.org](http://www.latinobarometro.org)

Voseza: [www.vosesa.org.za](http://www.vosesa.org.za)

World Values Survey: [www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)

World Values Survey 1999-2004 methodology:  
[www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I](http://www.wvsevsdb.com/wvs/WVSTechnical.jsp?Idioma=I)