

EYV 2011: Italy Figures on Volunteering in Italy¹

General information about Italian volunteers

Total number of volunteers within voluntary, third sector and active citizenship organisations: 3,3 million volunteers².

Time dedicated to volunteering (volunteers operating in organisations disciplined by Law n. 266 of 1991): 57,3% of all volunteers work on average 5 hours per week (in total 3,2 million hours a week, in 2006³).

There are 235.232 third sector units (they were 61.376 in 1991) employing over 488.000 employees, which add up to over 100.000 term-contract workers (s.c. "co.co.co") and **3,3 million volunteers**.

Age / Gender breakdown

Age / percentage of volunteers within a certain age group (2003)⁴:

Under 30 yrs: 22,1%	30-54 yrs: 41,1%	Over 54 yrs: 36,8%
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These data, compared with the results from a 1995 survey, reveal that the number of people aged 30 and over undertaking voluntary activities has increased between 1995 and 2003.

Gender (2003):

Female volunteers: 45,6%	Male volunteers: 54,4%
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Employment / education status⁵

Education status / percentage of volunteers involved (2003):

Upper school degree: 44,4%	Lower school degree: 42,8%	University degree: 12,8%
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Employment status / percentage of volunteers involved (2003):

Employed: 52,2%	Retired: 29%	Other (students, housewives, unemployed, etc.): 18,3%
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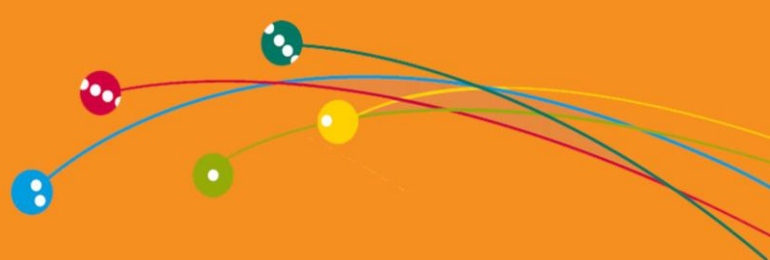
¹ Ministry of Employment and Social Policies DG Volunteering – National Observatory for Volunteering, IV Biennial Intermediate Report (2008-2012), 2011.

² Istat, 8th General census of industry and services (data of 2001, made public during 2010).

³ FEO-FIVOL Survey, 2006.

⁴ Study on volunteering in the European Union, Country report Italy, p. 4.

⁵ Country report Italy, pp. 4-5.



Distribution per sector

Voluntary activity in Italy by sector area is not calculated in terms of percentage of volunteers per sector, but by percentage of voluntary organisations operating in those sectors.

Number of voluntary organisations and distribution per sector:

Health: 28%	Civil protection: 9,6%	Protection of rights: 2,8%
Social assistance: 27,8%	Education: 3,2%	Sports: 2%
Leisure/Culture: 14,6%	Environment: 4,4%	Other sectors: 7,6%

Motivations

Factors that motivate individuals to volunteer⁶:

Altruism: 55,3%	Participation: 48,2%	Socialising: 27,9%	Religion: 13,8%
Personal growth: 51,1%	Values: 45,1%	Sensitisation: 17,1%	

Economic and social value of volunteering

Volunteers dedicate approximately 3,2 million hours per week to voluntary activities, the equivalent of the work produced weekly by **80.600 full-time workers**.⁷

According to the *Study on volunteering in the EU*, in 2006 the value of voluntary activities corresponded to 0,11% of GDP⁸. The survey used the “replacement cost method”, which considers the value of an hour of voluntary activity based on the amount of money that the organisation benefitting of such activity would pay if it were to hire staff to perform the job carried out by volunteers.

The National Coordination of the Voluntary Service Centres in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University is carrying out an in-depth study on measuring voluntary activities, while the Ministry of Employment and Social Policies - Directorate General for Volunteering and the National Observatory for Volunteering are carrying out a study on measuring voluntary activities in the health sector⁹.

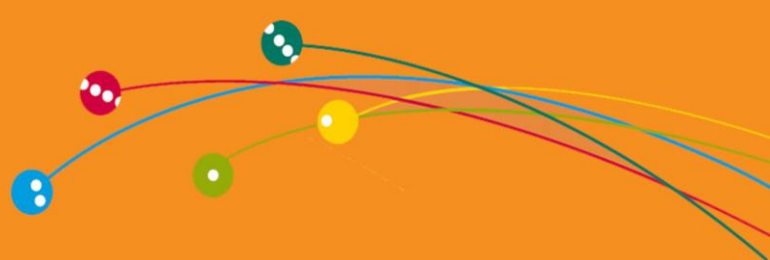
The total revenues of voluntary organisations range from 675 million euro in 1997 to 1.630 million euro in 2003 (corresponding to 1.426 million euro at constant prices on 1997 basis). Similarly, the average amount of revenues per organisation increases from 58.000 euro in 1997 to 77.000 euro in 2003 (67.000 euro at 1997 prices). As a consequence, the organisation distribution on the basis of revenue class shifts to higher levels, if compared to 1997 values. In 2003, 65,7% of organisations declared revenues below 25.000 euro (70,1% in 1997), 21,5% between 25.000 and 100.000 euro (19,2% in 1997), 7,4% between 100.000 and 250.000 euro (6,4% in 1997), 5,4% revenues equal or above 250.000 euro (4,4% in 1997). Despite these variations, we can confirm that the revenue breakdown is still unbalanced toward smaller

⁶ Country report Italy, p. 21.

⁷ Frisanco R., FEO-FIVOL 2006.

⁸ Source: European Commission – DG EAC, 2010. *Study on volunteering in the EU*, p. 135.

⁹ Several other studies and research initiatives are currently being undertaken by Universities, public and private research institutions.



organisations, thereby showing that there is a concentration of financial resources in a restricted amount of units.

Revenues are concentrated in organisations located in central regions (mainly Tuscany) which make up less than a fifth of the entire population, but can count on almost a third of total revenues available. Organisations in Southern Italy (20,7% of the total) collect 13,4% of revenues, while those in Northern Italy reach percentages that do not differ much from the respective quota in terms of registered organisations. In 2003, average revenues per organisation amount to approximately 97.000 euro for units located in the Centre, 44.000 euro for those located in the South and 67.000 euro for those in the North (East and West). Lastly, voluntary organisations tend to access private financing (both exclusive and prevailing) on a more frequent basis than public financing, as compared to previous surveys. In 2003, 29,8% of units have private funds as exclusive financial resources (24,9% in 1997), 35,1% have private funds as main financial resources (33,7% in 1997), 29,9% use mainly public resources (35,8% in 1997) and 5,2% use exclusively public resources (5,7% in 1997¹⁰).

Sectors of activities, services offered and users

Health (28,0%) and social assistance (27,8%) are confirmed as sectors where the highest number of voluntary organisations operate. However, between 1995 and 2003 the percentage of organisations decreases by 14,4 percentage points in health and by 2,7 in social assistance. Sectors such as leisure and culture, civil protection and environmental protection witness an increase, respectively, from 11,7% points to 14,6%, from 6,4% to 9,6% and from 2,2% to 4,4%. Organisations dealing mainly with education, protection of rights and sports maintain a constant presence, while other sectors (such as philanthropy and the promotion of volunteering, cooperation and international solidarity, economic development and social cohesion, religion) hold 7,6% of share. In 2003, 35,5% of voluntary organisations declared to operate in only one sector of activity, 24,4% in two sectors, 15,7% in three sectors and 24,2% in four or more sectors. Since 1995 there has been an increase in the number of organisations operating in two sectors (from 21,5% to 24,4%), of those operating in three sectors (15,0% to 15,7%) and of those operating in four or more sectors (14,1% to 24,2%). Organisations offering only one service moved from 29,0% in 1995 to 34,7% in 2003 (in absolute terms they move from 2.419 to 7.289 units), while those offering at least four decreased (from 41,2% to 35,3%).

¹⁰ Istat, voluntary organisations registered as of 31 12 2003, in *III Biennial Report on Volunteering, 2006* – Ministry of Employment and Social Policies DG Volunteering and National Observatory for Volunteering.