

Civil engagement and volunteering in the crisis? Importance for municipalities and Europe

Põhja-Sakala municipality, Estonia





Volunteering in our community

People in our community are engaged in these voluntary clubs:

- Voluntary Defence Organisation - Kaitseliit
- Volunteer rescuers
- Assistant police officers
- Pilistvere noored – for youth social entrepreneurship

Volunteering is also done without belonging in any club:

- Estonian Food Bank
- Blood donors
- Environmental volunteering - The Let's Do It collective action (Teeme ära!)
- Foundations like:
 - cancer treatment foundation "The Gift of Life" etc
- One-off project



Environmental volunteering



- ▶ Teeme ära! cleanup day - is traditionally held on the first Saturday in May. The aim of the campaign is to promote entrepreneurship and an active lifestyle, thereby improving our common living environment and strengthening local communities.
- ▶ Animal Rescue Group - main goal is to ensure the rapid transport and treatment of animals and birds involved in accidents and / or in need of emergency veterinary assistance. Another priority is the transfer, treatment, socialization and finding new owners of abused animals in cooperation with the VFB and the police.
- ▶ Estonian Fund for Nature - mission is to preserve endangered species and their habitats, natural landscapes and natural associations typical of Estonia.
- ▶ Estonian Green Movement



Mental and physical health

- Estonian Red Cross
- Estonian Food Bank - mission is to gather edible food that otherwise would have been destroyed from the retail and food industry and then distribute this food to people in need
- Victim support volunteers - the aim is to help persons who have fallen victim to criminal offence, negligence or mistreatment or physical, mental or sexual abuse. The Estonian National Social Insurance Board supervises victim support volunteers and organises training for such volunteers.
- **Abitaja** is a phone-based counseling-and communication service to elderly and people with special needs. This service connects the person in need and a volunteer willing to help in order to help people who feel lonely to have a pleasant conversation and feel more included in the community



For Ukraine!

- **For Ukraine!** is organized by three Estonian NGOs to help internally displaced people in Ukraine.
 - Estonian Refugee Council
 - Mondo
 - Ukrainian Cultural Centre
- Singing to support Ukraine

In our community:

- collecting and donating items
- companion

A large, dense crowd of people, mostly women, are shown from the chest up, filling the frame. They are all looking in the same direction, presumably towards a stage or speaker, and many have their mouths open as if singing or shouting. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. The background is a solid blue color. The text "Thousands Sing for Ukraine" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom of the image.

**Thousands
Sing for Ukraine**



Volunteering web sites

- **Helpific** is a web-based support network enabling the elderly and people with special needs to find both volunteer assistance and paid services. It is a person-to-person solution aiming to strengthen communities.
- **Volunteer Gate** there you can find out everything about becoming a volunteer or to find volunteers.
- **I Love to Help** donation environment is the most extensive page for non-governmental organisations in Estonia – you can donate to 60 capable and trustworthy NGOs.

Thank you for your
attention!

