Ministry of Public Administration is the key actor in promoting volunteering in Slovenia. Based on the Volunteering Act which gives an important emphasis to the promotion of volunteering, the Ministry till 2012 published a yearly call for financing networks of non-governmental organizations and promoting volunteering with the following objectives: development and enforcement of various models for the promotion of volunteering in the economy, public administration and non-governmental organizations, setting up a system of networking with businesses and NGOs, promoting e-volunteering (introducing new models of e-volunteering, promotion of e-volunteering, etc. For this purpose, European social funds are also used.

The main organisation that promotes volunteering in Slovenia is the Slovene Philanthropy (Slovenska Filantropija), which is an NGO. It aims to promote and develop voluntary work and, in general, solidarity among people. In addition to promoting voluntary work, its core activities include helping individuals to get in touch with organisations in need of volunteers, training volunteers and supporting civic organisations. Furthermore, it organises the following events:

- Volunteering Forum (every second year);
- Slovenian Volunteering Congress (every second year, lasting two days);
- Seminars and trainings for organisers of voluntary work;
- National Volunteering Week.

Since 2004, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs has supported programme “Development and Promotion of volunteering in Slovenia”. The programme is implemented by Slovene Philanthropy and is also verified by the Social Chamber. The programme aims to provide professional support for quality volunteering, encourage recognition of volunteering, develop new forms of volunteering with regards to society needs and enhance professionalization of mentors and organisers of voluntary activities. For people in need, this programme offers support to find suitable help from volunteers and it also helps voluntary organisations to find volunteers. Moreover, with professionalization and
recognition of volunteering, the programme particularly helps humanitarian and social protection organisations which run voluntary activities. At the same time the programme offers citizens an opportunity to be actively involved in social activities, provides greater social inclusion of individuals, in particular of vulnerable groups, promotes solidarity and empowers an individual who gains new skills and experiences through voluntary engagement.

Slovene Philanthropy also leads a Slovenian network of more than 1300 voluntary organisations. The Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations was formed to promote volunteering, identify the value of voluntary activities and create an environment fertile for its development.

The portal http://www.prostovoljstvo.org helps voluntary organisations to connect with each other across the country. Inclusion in the network and information system is open to all interested voluntary organisations. The portal offers promotion of vacant voluntary activities and helps volunteers to find an activity.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Public Administration, the Centre for the Promotion of Voluntary Work serves as an “administrator”, providing voluntary organisations and volunteers with various forms of support, such as:

- Information and counselling;
- Educational opportunities and exchange of experience;
- Participation in joint promotion of volunteering; and
- Cooperation in strengthening civil dialogue and systemic regulation of volunteering.

Other organisations that promote volunteering directly or indirectly include the following organisations (the list is not exhaustive):

- **The Youth Council of Slovenia** is an umbrella organisation of national youth organisations. Since 2002 and on yearly basis, the Youth Council organises a well-received event “Volunteer of the Year”. The volunteers of the year receive the award from the Ministry of Work, Family and Social Affairs.
- **MOVIT - Institute for Promotion of Youth Mobility** performs the tasks of national agency under the European Community programme Erasmus+:Youth in Action.
- **Network of youth centres MaMa** which encourages youth volunteering among youth centres and on local level. Youth centres enable young people to obtain information on various possibilities for carrying out voluntary work, organise different voluntary work projects, offer training to volunteers and in many cases also act as operators of voluntary work programmes at schools, in social work centres and other public institutions.
- **CNVOS - Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs**. It was established in early 2001 as an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisation. The aim of 27 organisations who founded CNVOS is to empower NGOs in Slovenia, promote their role in the civil society, and ensure the realisation of their objectives.
- **Institute Voluntariat** is an organisation that offers various opportunities for international voluntary work.
- **MISSS** - Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia.
- **SLOGA** - The Association of Slovenian Societies, whose members are numerous societies that work with volunteers, organises an important promotional event every year under the framework of the Global Youth Service Day.
Key initiatives

“National Awards for Special Achievements in Volunteering” (Državna nagrada za izjemne dosežke na področju prostovoljstva [13])

The awards have the aim to increase the recognition of volunteering in the Slovene society. Committee of the Republic of Slovenia gives out awards for special achievements in volunteering. Each year the nominees are selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the in the Volunteering Act (Official Gazette of RS, No. 10/11, 16/11 amendments and supplements and 82/15) and Regulation on detailed arrangements to grant awards and recognitions of the Republic of Slovenia for volunteering (Official Gazette of RS, No. 62/11)

“Volunteer of the Year [14]” (Prostovoljec leta [15])

Youth organisations significantly contribute to the stimulation of young people to be involved in voluntary work. Every year, the Youth Council of Slovenia organises a well-received event “Volunteer of the Year”, in which several organisations take part. The volunteers of the year receive the awards from the Minister of Work, Family and Social Affairs.

“National Volunteering Week” (Nacionalni teden prostovoljstva [16])

During the National Volunteering Week, before the Festival of Volunteering, two main events are organised:

- Ceremonial Volunteer Day, where awards “Hero of Our Time” are granted to school children who, through their volunteer work, contributed significantly to the quality of life at school or in the local community.
- Happy Volunteering Day is the main event organised in the capital of Ljubljana where more than 100 voluntary organisations present themselves. Among them, one third come from youth or school sector.
- Beside the two main events in Ljubljana, local events are organised throughout Slovenia, traditionally in Maribor and Nova Gorica but also elsewhere.

“Youth-Friendly Voluntary Organisation [14]” Award (Mladim prijazna prostovoljska organizacija [17])

An award provided by the Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations can be granted to all organisations which provide a quality mentorship to young volunteers under the age of 18. The list of organisations who obtained this award is available on the volunteer platform www.prostovoljstvo.net [18].