Recognising volunteers: verifiable certificates for NGOs

hangel (Türkiye), IVY 2026 note

What it is. hangel (https://hangel.org) is a free volunteering and civil society platform run by Uluslararası Sosyal Fayda Derneği (Social Business Global), a nonprofit association in Istanbul. It works on the web, iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch and Android, in 12 languages, with accessibility settings.

How recognition works. 1) An association publishes an event or volunteer opportunity. 2) Volunteers apply with a single tap. 3) They check in with a QR code. 4) The host organisation approves the hours. 5) The volunteer receives a digital certificate built on Open Badges 3.0 and W3C Verifiable Credentials, with skills linked to the European Commission's ESCO classification, so that employers and universities can verify it.

Why it matters for IVY 2026. The Year asks that all forms of volunteering are recognised, measured and supported, and that barriers are removed. Verifiable certificates give small associations a free way to recognise volunteers, and accessibility settings widen who can take part.

Beyond the platform. We run social innovation trainings at 49 universities and an annual international workshop, and we publish an offline emergency page and an open-source disaster walkie-talkie (Apache-2.0). We are a participating organisation of the United Nations MCR2030 initiative.

Limits. The platform does not replace official volunteer registries or emergency channels (112). We publish figures only when they come from our own records.

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