

Characteristics of Volunteers and their Activities

Italy and the Czech Republic in Comparison

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Who volunteers? **IT&CZ** in comparison

Characteristics of volunteers: *individual level determinants*

- Volunteers by level of **educational attainment**
- Volunteers by economic activity - **occupation**

Characteristics of the volunteering environment: *ecological determinants*

- Volunteers by degree of urbanisation - **territories**

Total volunteer rates by education

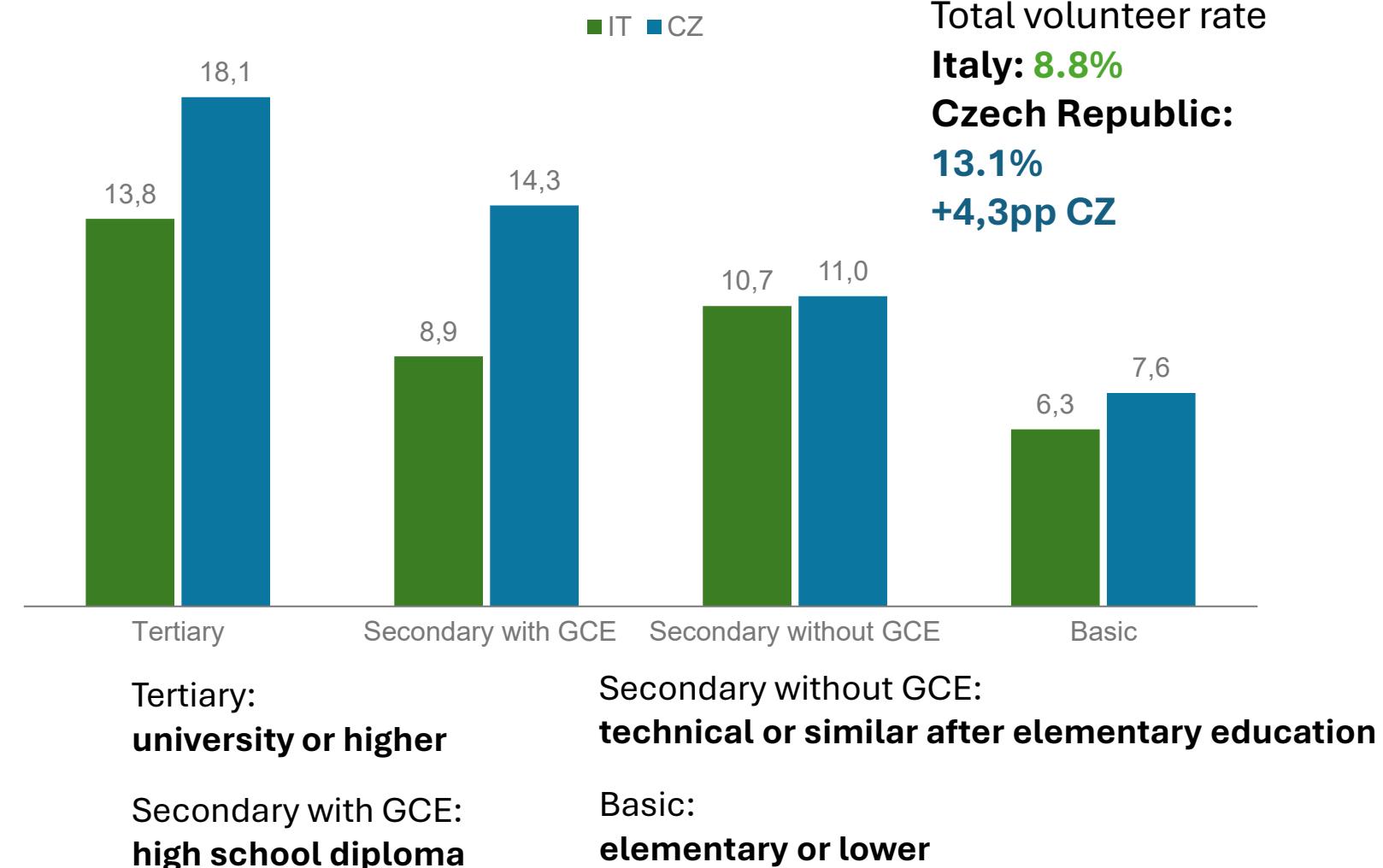
- Among persons with higher education, more people volunteer

in Czechia than in Italy.

Tertiary +4,3pp

Secondary GCE +5,4pp

- Among persons with lower education, volunteer rates are quite similar between Czechia and Italy.



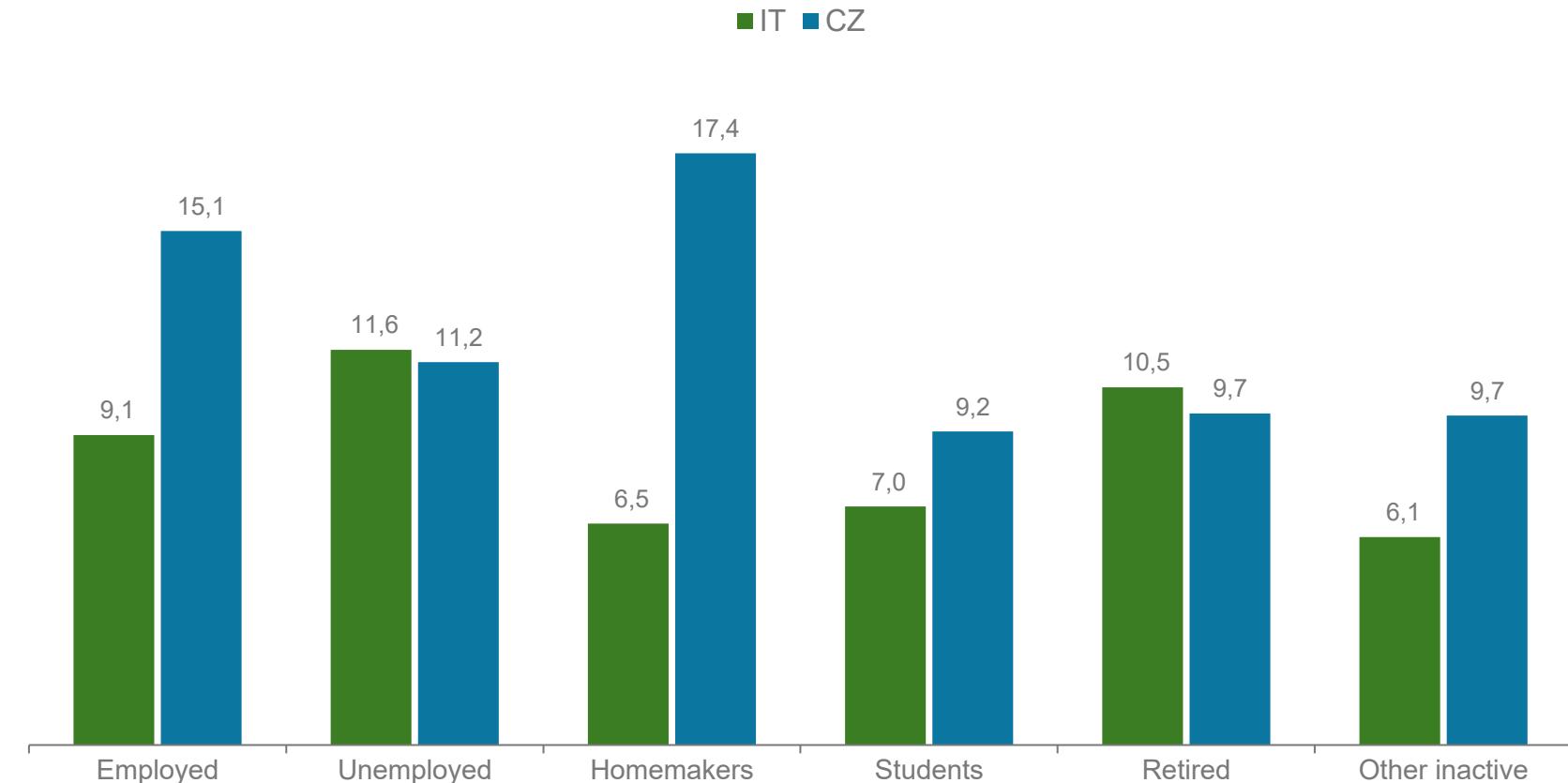
Occupation: Life outside volunteering

- **Homemakers** – all women both in Italy and in Czechia – show a striking difference
+10,9 pp CZ

- **Homemakers**: the highest participation rate in **CZ**

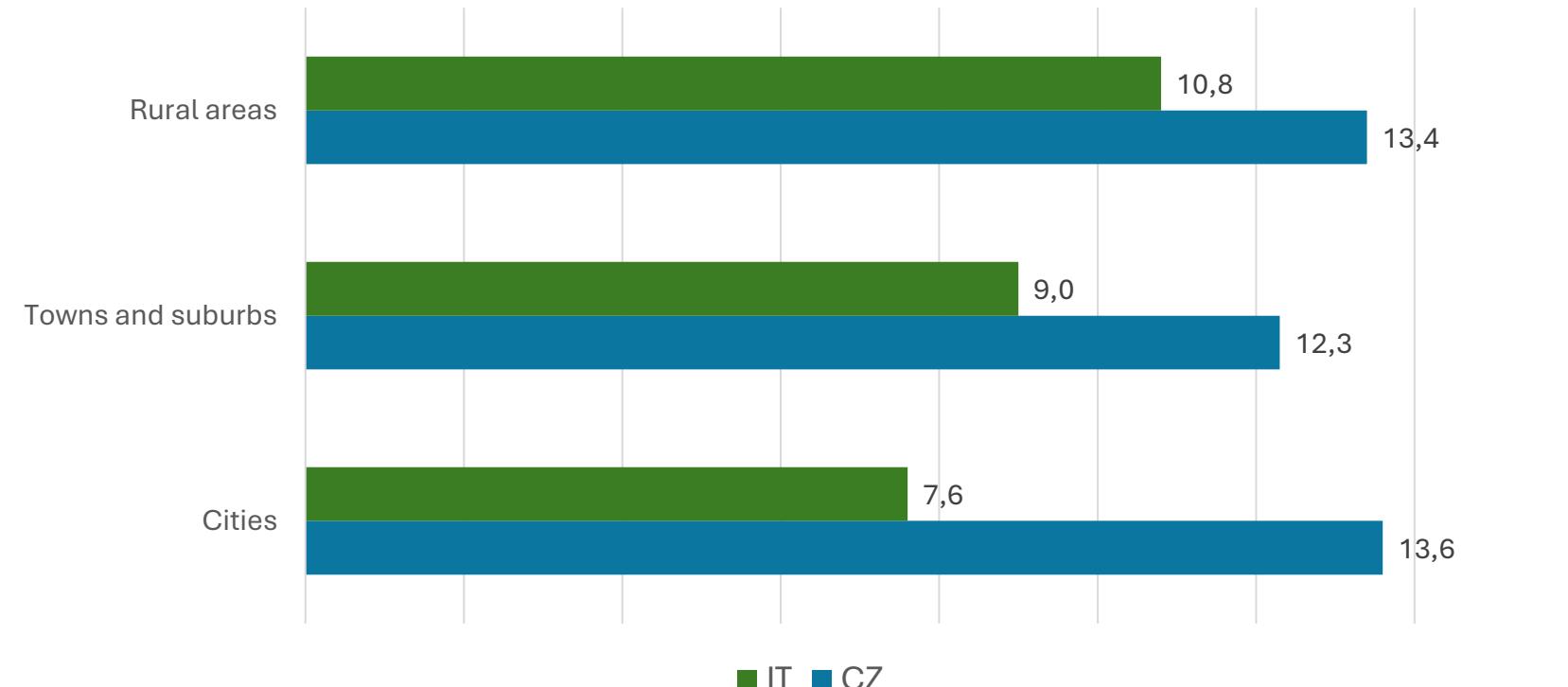
- **Unemployed and retired**: similar participation rate in IT&CZ

- **Unemployed and retired**: the highest participation rate in IT



Volunteer rates by territories

- **CZ:** similar participation rate, only slightly less volunteers in towns and suburbs
- **IT:** participation decreases as the degree of urbanisation increases: rural areas express most volunteers, big cities the least



What volunteers do?

- Volunteers by sector – *field of voluntary activities*
- Voluntary occupations – *activities classified as volunteer work*

Similarities:

- **Social care: common core**

IT (19,1%)

CZ (18,4%)

- Expressive volunteering engages biggest numbers of volunteering

IT: Culture

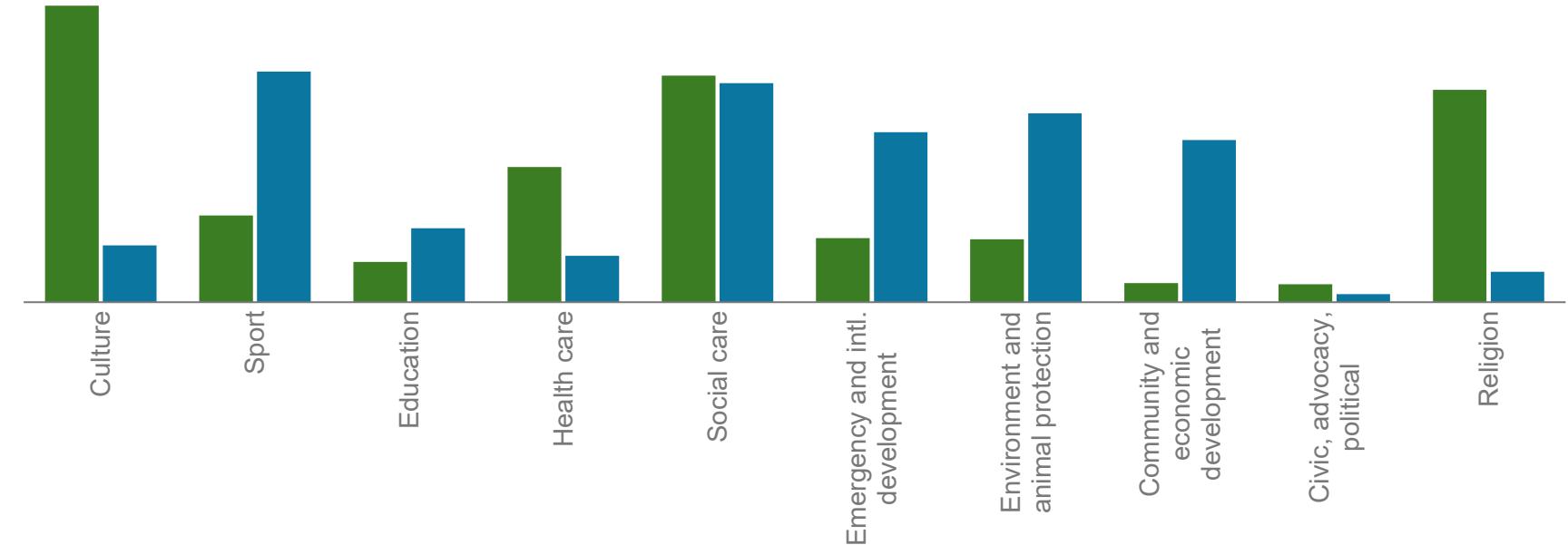
CZ: Sport

Differences:

- **IT:** Religion and Health
- **CZ:** Environment, Emergency, Community development

Sector: fields of voluntary activity

■ IT ■ CZ



- Men prefer expressive volunteering fields: Culture in Italy and Sport in Czechia
- The largest number of women in CZ volunteer in Social care, where very few men are engaged: 1 men for 5 women
- Sectors engaging most women in Italy show more gender balance: Social care (women +6,2 pp) and Religion (+8,6pp)

Voluntary occupations: classification of volunteer work

- ILO definition of «work»: activity that produces goods or provides services - time spent to generate something meaningful, for own use or for others
- Work is not only profession in the formal job market: Voluntary work is one of the forms of unpaid work
- Question to the person: *What did you do? Describe exactly.*
- Statisticians code it in ISCO - International Standard Classification of Occupations: classifies and organizes jobs and occupations based on the tasks, duties and competences they involve.
- Coding can arrive to be extremely detailed (nobody worked on this yet for volunteer work)

Voluntary occupations: classification of volunteer work

ISCO Group	Typical voluntary activities
1. Managers : legislators, entrepreneurs and senior management	<i>board members; managing a non-profit organization, association, union, etc.</i>
2. Professionals : intellectual, scientific, and highly specialized professions	<i>doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, psychologists, designers, journalists, artists, restorers, translators, etc</i>
3. Technicians : technical professions	<i>teaching, coaching, tutoring; event organizers; nurses; social media managers; etc.</i>
4. Clerical support workers: executive professions in office work	<i>administrative tasks, technical assistance during an event, etc.</i>
5. Service and sales workers: skilled professions in commercial and service activities	<i>assisting children, elderly or sick people; preparing and serving meals, taking care of animals, etc.</i>
6. Craft and related workers	<i>repairing and maintaining bicycles, building or renovating homes, etc.</i>
7. Skilled agricultural , forestry and fishery workers	<i>taking care of public green spaces, planting trees, safeguarding forest animals, etc.</i>
8. Plant and machine operators and assemblers	<i>social and ambulance drivers, firefighters, etc.</i>
9. Elementary occupations: unskilled professions	<i>cleaning, fixing, stocking, etc.</i>

Voluntary occupations

IT ≈ CZ

■ **Similar composition:**

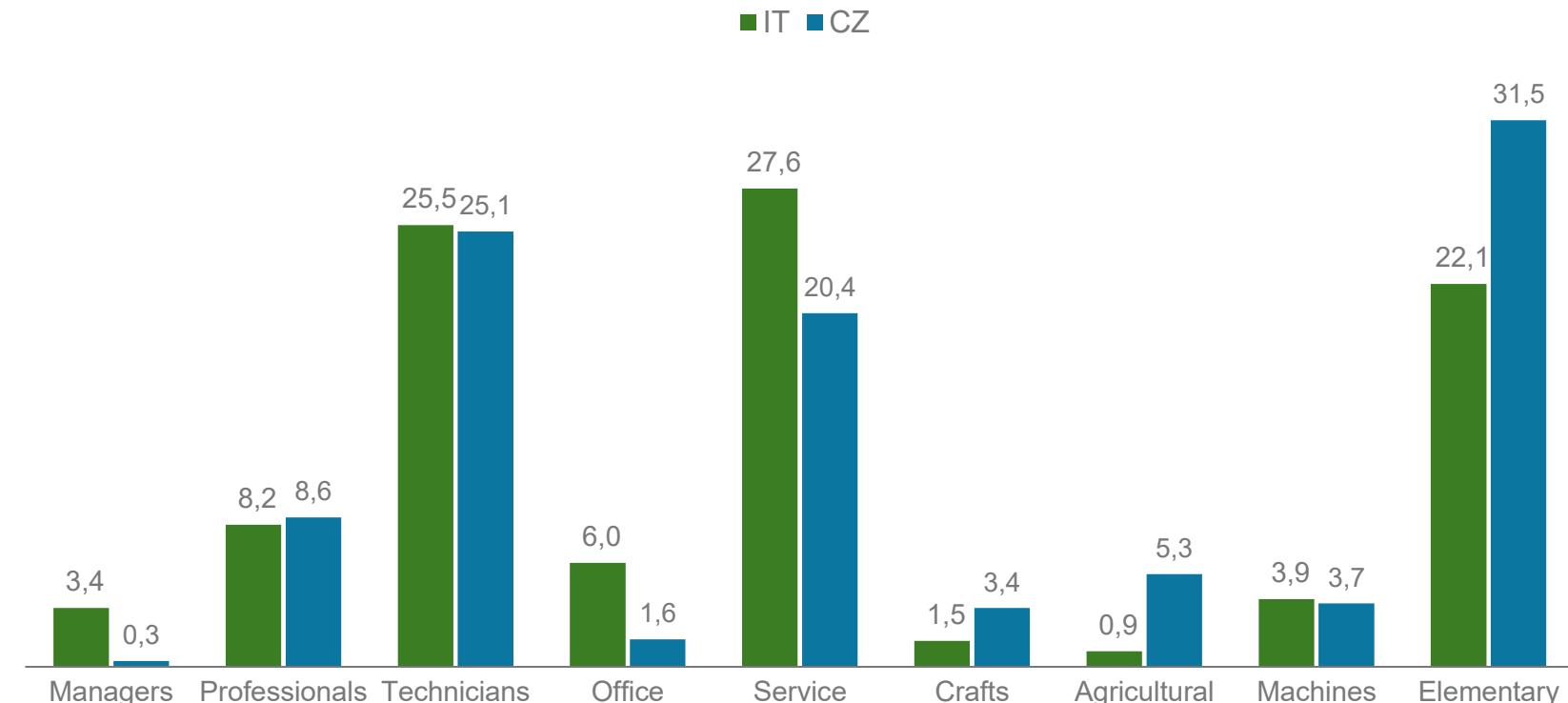
predominance of helping at all scales
of competence – from unskilled
through assistance to highly skilled

■ **High skills component is equal**

TECHNICIANS: *teachers, nurses*

PROFESSIONALS: *doctors, lawyers*

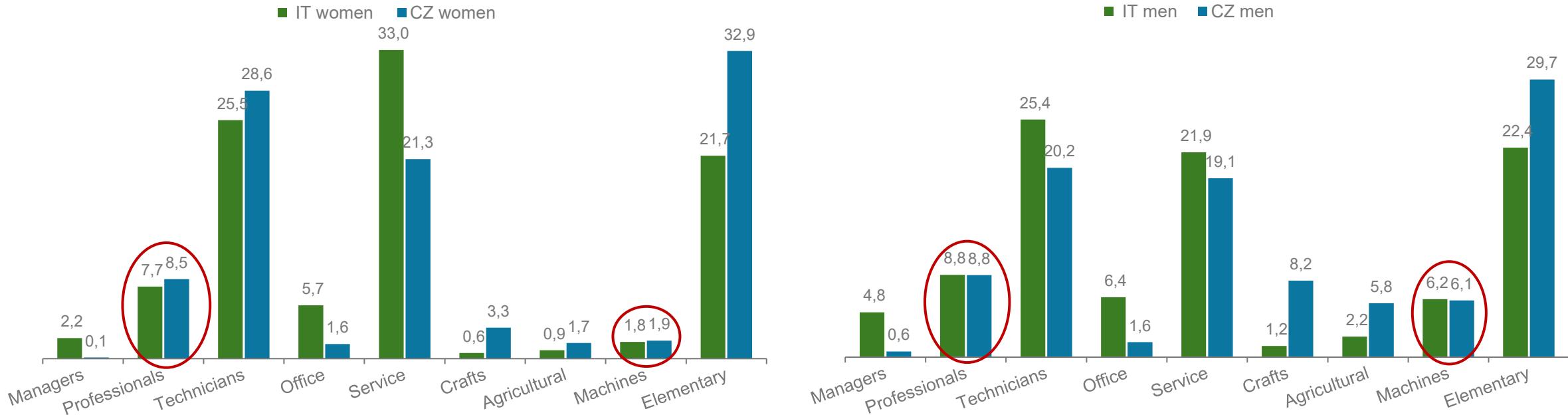
MACHINES: *drivers, firefighters*



- **IT** (61,0% associations) more in:
SERVICE: *assistance*
MANAGERS: *board members*

- **CZ** (48,2% individual) more in:
ELEMENTARY: *cleaning*
AGRICULTURAL: *green spaces*
CRAFTS: *repairing*

Gender-unequal voluntary occupations

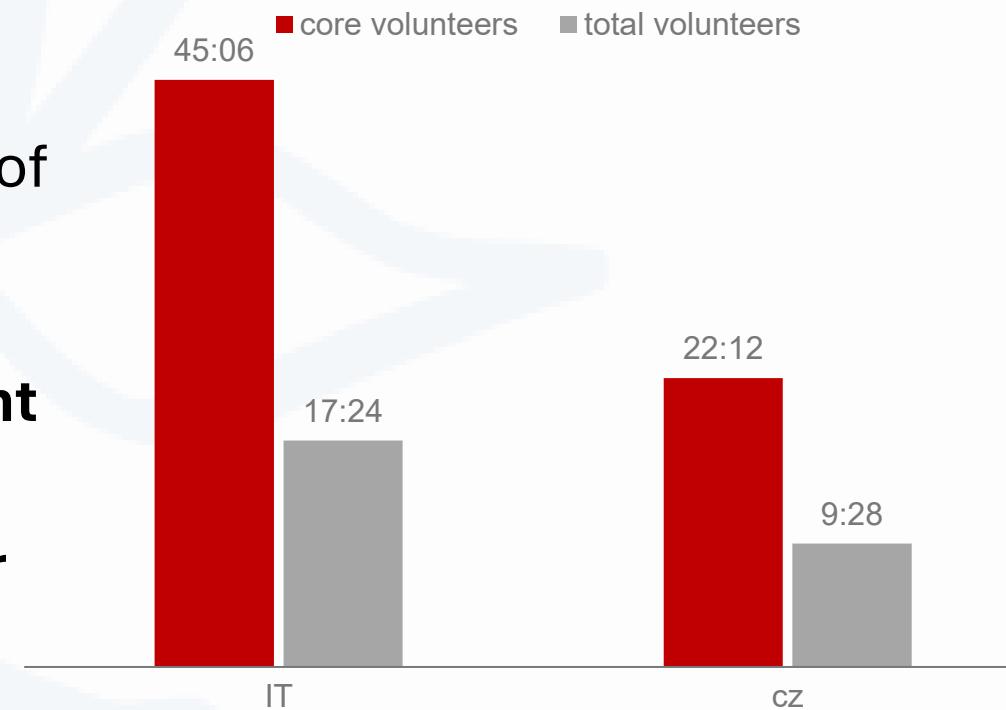


- **IT ≈ CZ**: Similar participation rates for both genders in two countries for **highly specialized volunteers**
PROFESSIONALS: *doctors, lawyers*
MACHINES: *drivers, firefighters*
- Men predominate – similar **IT ≈ CZ**: **AGRICULTURAL, CRAFTSMEN, MACHINES** operators
- Women predominate - different:
IT: **SERVICE**: *assisting children, elderly or sick people; preparing and serving meals, taking care of animals, etc.*
CZ: **TECHNICIANS**: *teachers, nurses and ELEMENTARY*: *cleaning*

Core volunteers

- Core volunteers are those who dedicate **the most time** to voluntary work.
- They are defined as the **top 25%** of volunteers — the **upper quartile** of the distribution by number of hours spent on voluntary activities.
- In other words, they are the **most engaged volunteers**, for whom volunteering is a **significant part of everyday life**.
- They account for a **large share of total volunteer hours** and represent the **backbone** of volunteering.

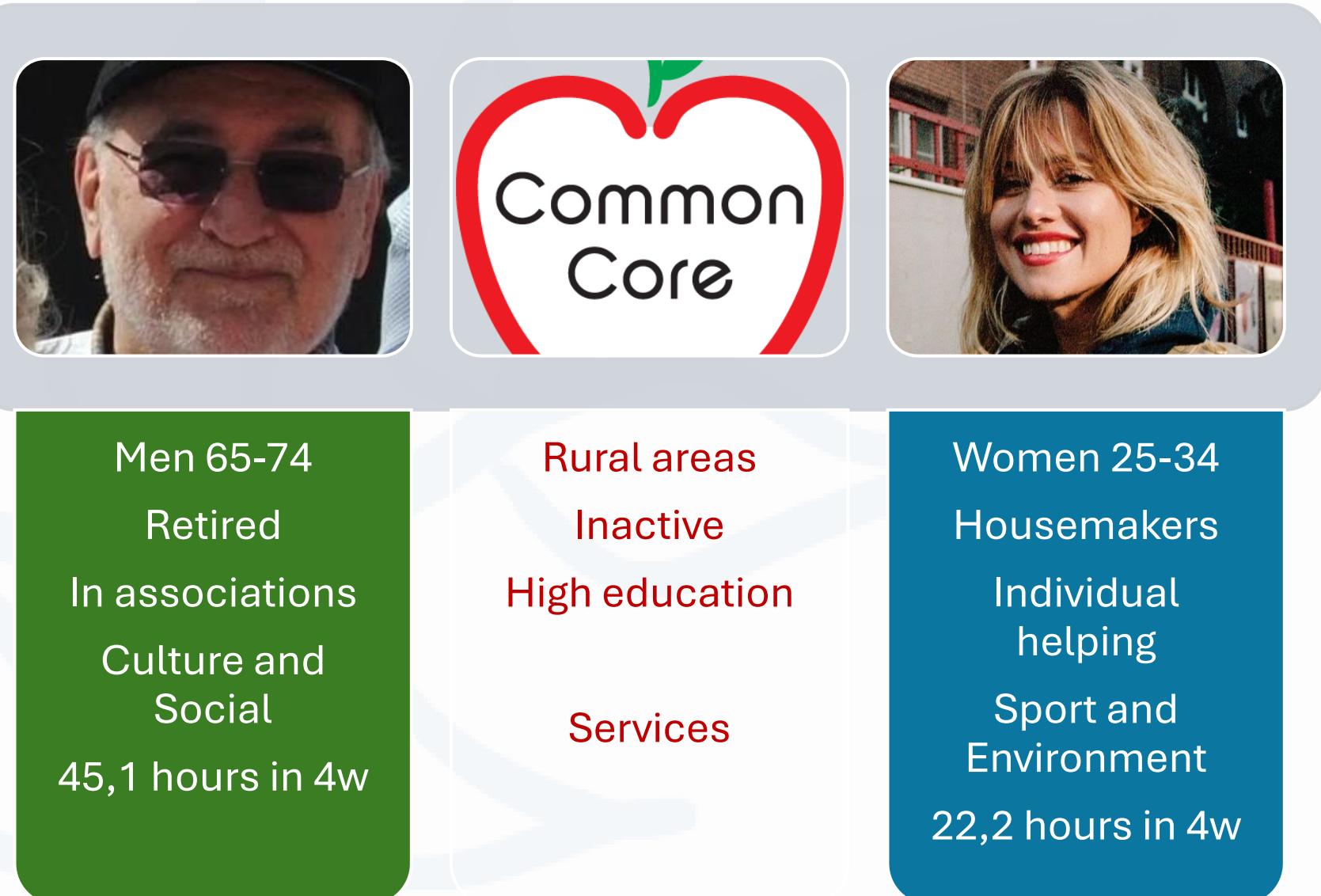
Average number of hours spent on main activity



Core volunteers: profiles

- **IT ≈ CZ similarities:**
live in villages and scarcely populated areas; are not employed; have at least a university degree; their voluntary engagement is to provide assistance

- **IT ≠ CZ differences:**
gender; age; modality of engagement; sector of activity;
number of hours



Next steps in comparative work

- Study more in detail: analyses on specific topics
 - Enlarge wider: include other countries
- Delve deeper: contextualise with other data sources
- Share and discuss: *time for discussion*

Thank you and let's keep working together on volunteering in Europe

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