

EFOP-5.2.2-17-071

ALL-LOCAL:
EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE SENIOR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

SZÉCHENYI 2020



MAGYARORSZÁG
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BEFEKTETÉS A JÖVŐBE

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

- **Statistics**

There are no official statistics, but on researches of NGO - 13-46% of population is involved in volunteering in Slovakia

- **Number of volunteers**

25 thousands

- **Number of hours volunteered**

2 millions hours

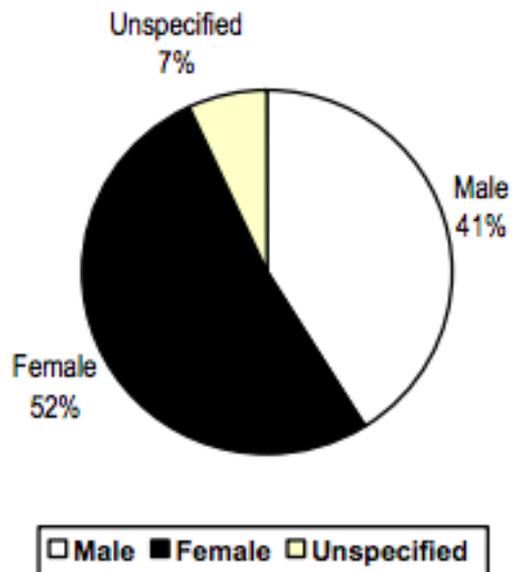
- **Institutional background for volunteering**

Institutions, which provide volunteering opportunities, the most active were non-governmental organisations consisting of civic associations, not for profit organisations, foundations and non-investment funds (25 percent of volunteers). Followed by state and municipalities administration offices (17 percent) and finally churches and other religious institutions (14 percent).

- Based on the results from a small survey done by the civic association C.A.R.D.O. among organisations registered at the web-page www.dobrovolnictvo.sk (Slovak virtual voluntary centre), in 2007 there were **25 133 volunteers** actively involved into regular or temporary activities of these organisations. They all together volunteered **for 2 115 572 hours**. If we multiply this amount of hours by the average salary in Slovakia which is 124,26 Slovak crowns (4,12 Euros) per hour, we reach 262 880 977 Slovak crowns (**8 726 049, 82 Euros**). This number represents a contribution of so called formal volunteering (exercised through the NGOs) to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It does not, however, include the value of informal volunteering exercised outside the non-governmental organisations. Moreover, it does not take into account the contributions that volunteering makes to personal development of volunteers. This pure mathematic calculation of the hours that volunteers devote to the society does not and can not reflect **value of knowledge, skills and competences learnt by volunteers, of the social capital built and finally, of simply good feelings that people gain thanks to volunteering.**

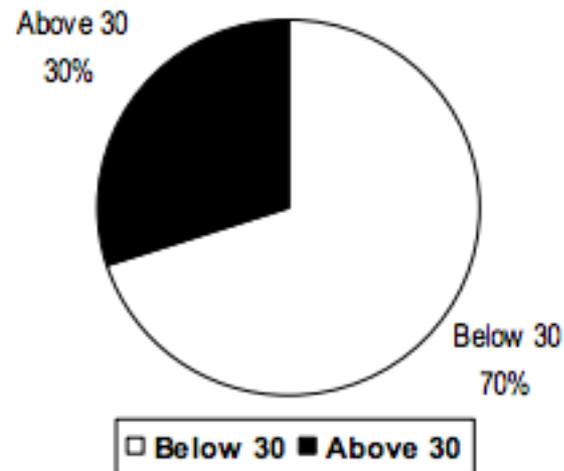
GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

Figure 1: Volunteering and gender distribution



Source: Author, based on information quoted in: Brozmanová Gregorová and Mračková 2008.

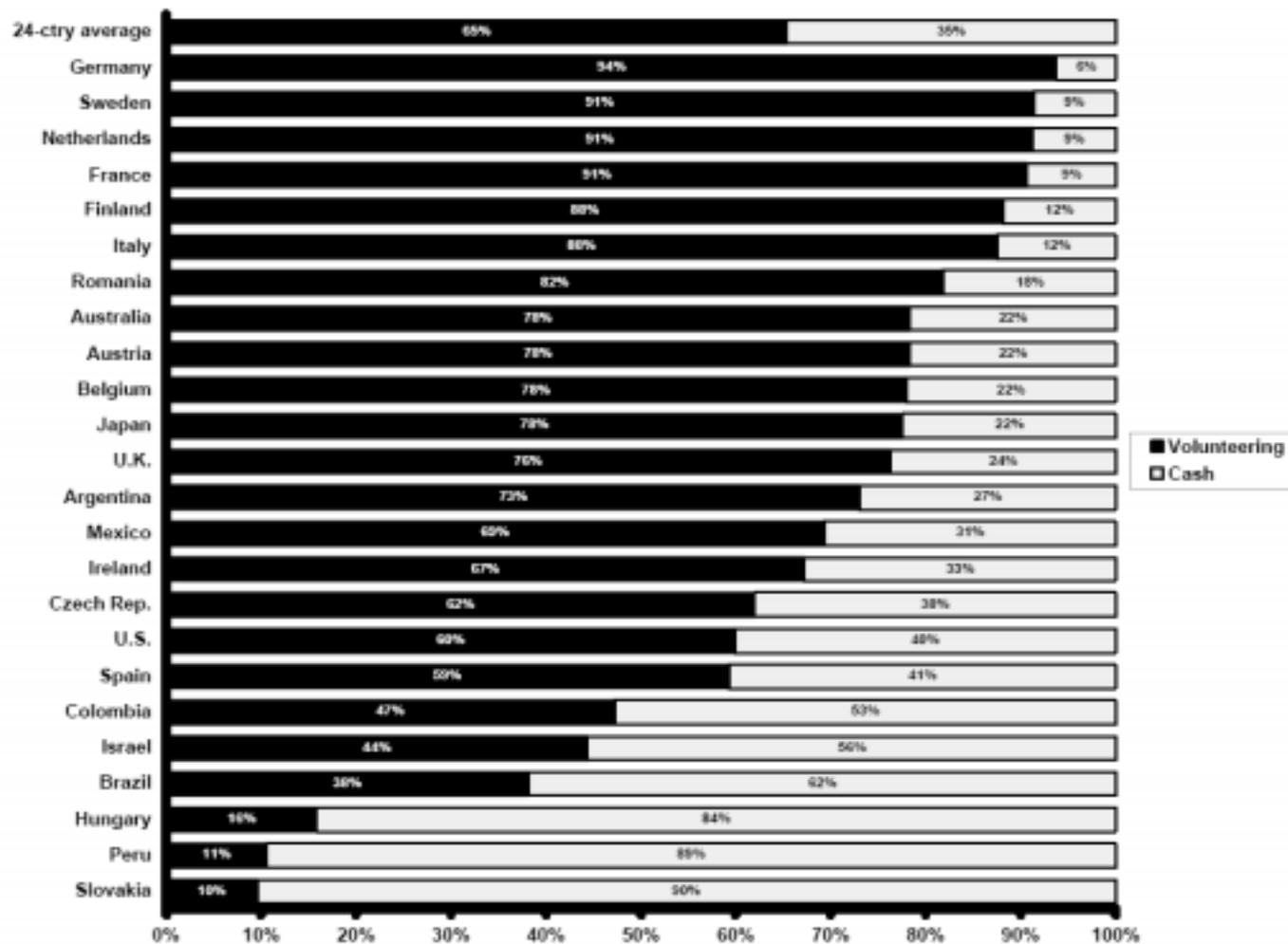
Figure 2: Volunteering and age groups



Source: Author, based on information quoted in: SME 2008b.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

Figure 3: Volunteering and cash giving as shares of total non-profit philanthropic income



Source: Salamon and Sokolowski 2001, 4.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

Regarding the fields of voluntary activities and involvement, according to the study conducted in 2004 by S.P.A.C.E., most of the activities focus on:

- education and training,
- followed by social care and services
- and leisure time activities.

Sectors of Activity	Total score in %
Education, training	39,3
Social care and service	32,3
Leisure time activities	29,6
Art and culture	18,9
Advocacy of civil rights	17,2
Environment	13,3
Charity	11,7
Health care and services	9,5
Regional development and housing	9,0
Foundations and funds	9,0
Sports	7,4
Research, analysis, expertise	7,3
Exchange of volunteers	6,4
Recreation	5,6
Other sectors of activity	6,9

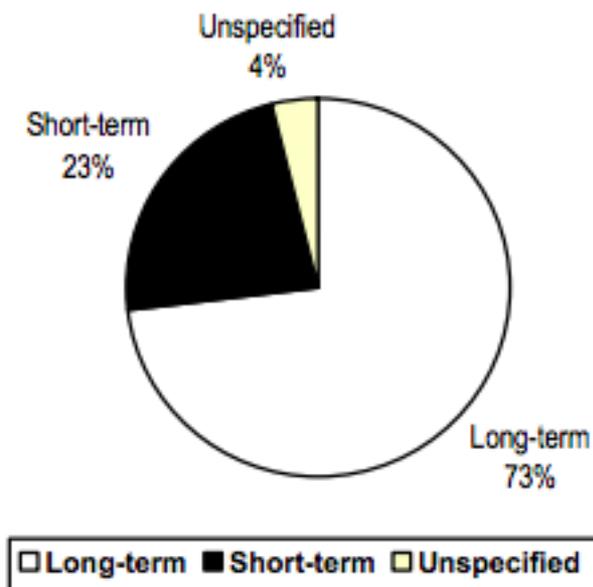
Source: Mračková and Vlašicová 2008, 101.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN SLOVAKIA

Based on the results of a survey undertaken in 2007 regarding the type of activities from a time perspective, volunteers in Slovakia prefer:

- long-term, repeating volunteer activities (73 percent)
- rather than short-term, one-off, activities (23 percent)

Figure 4: Volunteer activities from the time perspective



Source: Author, based on information quoted in: C.A.R.D.O. 2007.

VOLUNTEERING IN TENENET (NGO) - POWERTY AND EMPLOYMENT

Project description:

- The project is funded by the EU programme – Erasmus + through Iuventa. Runs from 1.9.2014 to 31.8.2016.
- **The mission of this project** is to find innovative approaches to tackling **youth unemployment** with special needs, **disabled**, at risk of poverty and social exclusion, in accordance with their needs and expectations in the context of the real possibilities of the labor market, through the use of participatory approaches and methods.



VOLUNTEERING IN TENENET (NGO) - TARGET GROUPS

One part of the project is the involvement of volunteers - **students of occupational psychology and social work.**

They will perform tandem group work and field social work under supervision, and will assist in the development of methodologies and forms reflected in the electronic case filing system of social client. The involved volunteers will be issued at the end of the project with Youthpass

Employers who are obliged to employ persons with disabilities from corporate and municipal councils, we will provide advice on creation of innovative business models and efficient use of supplementary fulfillment by addressed support of selected sheltered workshop and their specific disabled young workers from the region, or by the creation of new jobs for young people with special needs directly at them in the workplace. At least, in the

National project partners are the **public institutions** (Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Pezinok and Senec, Bratislava Municipal Region, municipal authorities Pezinok and Senec, Special primary and vocational schools for disabled children and youth , Department of Social Work PdFUK Bratislava, Institute of Applied psychology FSEV UK Bratislava etc.), representatives of the **social non-profit organizations** (assisted housing Pezinok and Senec, Betánia n.o., Merema, n.o. DSS Integra, Association of Supervisors and social Advisors, EPIC n.o., SÚPZ etc.) as well as **private sector representatives**

VOLUNTEERING IN TENENET (NGO) - METHODS AND RESULTS

Mentioned partners by their individual focus are contributing to this project by their activities. They provide **assistance** in the selection of young disabled people from their own clients, assist in setting methodologies and forms of counseling process with clients, of field social work counseling for employers, in contents of career counseling at special primary schools, help with the **plan and preparation of work experience** for students with disabilities, **supervision**, **active participation in workshops** to produce regional inter-sectorial networks through supported employment, together with an assessment of the draft **model of employment** of disabled young people directly in the open labor market and expression of **feedback** and lecturing, and expertise in education, participation in

In the project **we employed two graduates**, particularly of psychology and social work, whose wages are partially reimbursed by state through active labor market measures (NP XXXVII-2) in the period from September 2014 to August 2015. In addition, we employed a **graduate for 6 - month experience**, another graduate social work from UPSVR Trnava and since we were satisfied, signed with her an employment contract, so

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

History	In respect of the historical context, regrettably there were times in history when the NGO sector was repressed and could not develop freely - namely during the Slovak Republic times during World War Two and during communist rule between 1947 and 1989. As new generations are coming, the society should finally recover and move on with the new challenges of today's reality. Legislation - Act on Volunteerism in 2011.
Legal infrastructure	The voluntary organisations should unite and together with experts in the field agree on what law regarding volunteering in Slovakia should be novelised. It is in their own interests to cooperate with the political representatives in order to ensure that volunteering becomes better managed and more efficient. There are many issues, which a law on volunteering should take into account such as status of volunteers, reimbursement methods, and social benefits covering both health and accident insurance, retirement benefits etc. Volunteers' responsibilities should be compensated by equality in rights. Providing them with good conditions and benefits is one of the easiest ways to recognise their efforts, promote volunteerism and increase the participation of people in it. However, this should not be an obligation imposed on volunteering organisations, but rather shared with other actors such as public authorities or stakeholders. Thus, the law should also empower voluntary organisations in their work and it should not impose on such organisations unnecessary regulatory constraints, which could hinder people's volunteer engagement.
Financial issues	Further, the financial mechanism should be improved in order to eliminate any financial uncertainty in the NGO sector. Lack of targeted financial assistance is considered as one of the largest difficulties because under this system voluntary organisations "cannot do strategic planning and cannot implement their visions without knowing the real amount of financial support". ⁶² There is a need for better planning, scheduling and clear rules of grant awards in this area. With regard to the state system of financing the NGO sector, it should become not only stable and independent from political programmes of each governments.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cooperation	<p>A better cooperation and networking among NGOs is required. The voluntary organisations should be clearer and transparent in their structure and work . The organisations themselves should cooperate effectively, place effort into common strategies, campaigns and unite their power for the common good of the whole NGO sector. An improved volunteer infrastructure with one umbrella organisation or united coordination could be helpful in Slovakia.⁶³ Further, the voluntary organisations should set (national and international) cooperation with other public sectors of society and all relevant stakeholders such as business, public authorities, local administration representatives and academia etc. Under unfavourable 62 Mračková and Vlašicová 2008, 126. 63 There is not general agreement on this need and especially on the will to make it real. Mrs. Jana Vlašicová from C.A.R.D.O. thinks that there is no will for such an umbrella organisation in Slovakia. It would be accepted by other voluntary organisations only if it represented a source of systematic funding, but this is not realistic at the moment. It is therefore improbable that the NGO sector, which is in general very fragmented, would unit on this idea and would accept such hierarchical structure. 18 (economic) conditions, the NGOs should develop innovative ideas for their activities - one example of such an innovative action is the project of virtual national volunteer centre. The network of NGOs needs to look for solutions and ways how to ‘achieve the impossible’.</p>
Challenges	<p>In relation to the social and political context of volunteering in Slovakia, there are many challenges ahead. There is a need to raise public awareness on volunteerism, promote volunteering and recover its status in the society. Involve more people, make it a priority, research it and spread the knowledge about it among the general public. Furthermore, volunteerism should be put on the political agenda of governments. This needs to be done for and on behalf of the general public. Politicians themselves are unlikely going to put such an issue on the agenda unless there is a strong demand from the public.</p>
Similarities to EU countries	<p>Slovakia has many similarities with other central-Eastern European countries as with regard to its historical, economic, social and political contexts. It is a young democracy which has had to overcome many unfavourable historical circumstances. However, its civic participation in public life and the level of volunteering is lower then among its neighbours. Despite this fact, one can hope that thanks to work of thousands of Slovak volunteers and voluntary organisations, the future of volunteering in Slovakia is bright</p>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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