

# MINISTERSTWO EDUKACJI NARODOWEJ

**Situation in Poland  
of cross-border  
volunteering  
opportunities  
for young people**



# Situation in Poland of cross-border volunteering opportunities for young people

1. institutional framework
2. rights of volunteer
3. main sectors of activities
4. needs & challenges
5. opportunities & ideas for future
6. cross-border volunteering?



# Volunteering in Poland

Main Actors involved in the „volunteering policy” in Poland:

- the government - Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Sport and Tourism)
- volunteer organisations - national and regional centres

## Legal basis

**Act of law** of April 24 th 2003 on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work – (last amended on 22 January 2010)

Strategy of Support for the Development of Civil Society for the years 2007-2013



# Volunteering in Poland

## **volunteer**

a person who voluntarily, and with no remuneration provides services based on regulations specified in the law

## **volunteer work**

is a voluntary, free-of charge, conscious activity to the benefit of other people, going beyond family or friendly ties



# Volunteering in Poland

## rights of volunteer (Poles & foreigners)

a volunteer is eligible for...

- agreement;
- confirmation & opinion
- compensations
- reimbursement of travel expenses and per diems
- training
- health care benefits (optional)
- access to the information on his / her rights !

# Volunteering in Poland

## agreement

- basis of cooperation with a volunteer,
- defines the scope, the manner, and the timeframe of providing benefits,
- contains a clause of allowing for the termination,
- In case of benefits provided for more than 30 days, the agreement should be prepared in writing.

## areas & main sectors of activities

### Volunteers can work in...

- **Non-governmental organisations**
  - Organisations that provide assistance to the poor
  - Religious organisations and movements
  - Organisations and groups working in the area of education and upbringing
  - Emergency / rescue services
- **Public administration units**

# Volunteering in Poland

## needs & challenges

- lack of national strategy to support the recognition of volunteering throughout the different levels of education;
- only recently, voluntary experience is becoming recognised and promoted at schools on individual basis;
- no key national policies/programmes that stimulate volunteering directly (but good practices on regional/local level);
- limitation of financial resources in the disposal of NGOs dealing in the field of volunteering;

## opportunities & ideas for future

- extensive range of volunteering programmes at local levels –typically organised through voluntary organisations;
- growing interest in corporate volunteering;
- students and pupils stay the most active group;
- **Volunteer Centres Network** – a main organisation providing specific training for volunteers;
- **volunteering as part of the organisation of sports and cultural events...**

# Cross-border volunteering?

## opportunities

- Important number of EVS volunteers : 142 projects realized / 442 **foreign volunteers** hosted in Poland in 2009 mainly from Turkey, Germany, France & Italy
- **Bilateral cooperation** : Deutsch-Polonische Jugendwerk
- **Multilateral cooperation** : International Visegrad Fund, Central European Initiative

## challenges

- Creating / Mapping of **opportunities** of short-term and short-distance projects accesible for youth with fewer opportunities
- **Funds** for specific needs of foreing volunteers (travel costs, training, language support)



# Volunteering in Poland

useful links:

[www.pozytek.gov.pl](http://www.pozytek.gov.pl)

[www.wolontariat.ngo.pl](http://www.wolontariat.ngo.pl)

[www.wolontariat.org.pl](http://www.wolontariat.org.pl)