

EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY YOUTH MOVEMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: MODELS OF VOLUNTARY MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

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Abstract

In the article experience of development of volunteerism among young people as one of the institutions of civil society in the countries of the European Union, Describes the various foreign models of activities of voluntary agencies and describes their advantages and disadvantages. The volunteer movement gained its mass development in the 90-ies of the last century. By 1998 it was already implemented more than 2,000 projects in 84 countries around the world. There were various volunteer camps, which have provided different assistance to people in need, it was a kind of charity. The camps were attended by all - pupils, students, University professors, people of different professions. This article emphasizes the importance of systematic work of all state agencies in creating a comprehensive support program volunteers, outlined main areas of volunteering. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, assistance to orphans, animals, the prevention of anti social phenomena, online volunteering and more. The article detailed the code, a volunteer described his basic qualities and principles of the volunteer structure. Special attention is paid to the problem of adequacy of the legislative framework for the development of the volunteer movement in the countries of the European Union, making it vulnerable both from the state structures and of society itself.

Keywords: Volunteering, volunteer camp, humanitarian aid, charity, legislation volunteer activities, youth movement, Europe, European Union, civil society.

1 INTRODUCTION

The representatives of the Renaissance and the great educators dreamed the XXI century became the era of mercy, but now it is not. The twentieth century with its two world-largest and local wars is over, but this martial spirit is still there. There is still a thunder caused by local wars. There is a global terrorism on the global stage that is full of cruelty, criminality and lack of mercy. Everyday people have to be involved in

thousands of man-made disasters: from car to industrial accidents. All these factors cause numerous victims, whose quantity is more than ten thousands of people.

Voluntary donation of the time, knowledge and skills, good feelings in the name of helping people in need became very important and necessary both for the individuals and for the society as a whole under such conditions. Understanding the experience of the country as well as the experience of others countries particularly the European Community's experience is quite important.

2 VOLUNTEERING IN EUROPE

2.1. The volunteering movements' history

The history of volunteering in Europe originates from the volunteer soldiers emergence. There were people who had been acting under the banner of various European rulers, gaining volunteers for their armies (Loktionova, 2012, p.267–269). Military glory and the spoils of war were the only reward for them. The army of Wallenstein, who was commander of the Austrian Habsburgs during the Thirty years war (1618-1648), was famous by such volunteers. Wallenstein's volunteers had not received salaries and were fed only at the expense of the civilian population and the occupied lands (a private property of the Habsburgs). Violence, robbery and looting were the symbol of those years. However, during the time the word "volunteer" started to acquire positive meaning. The word "volunteer" meant a person who sacrificed himself for his homeland. Until the First world war in Europe a lot of military units were staffed by volunteers.

The first volunteer organization "Christian Association of young people" (CAYP) was formed in the UK in 1844. Its aim was the development of mental, intellectual and physical qualities of people on the basis of Christian morality.

In 1863 in Switzerland the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded on the initiative of the banker Henry Dunant, who witnessed the bloody battles of the Franco-Italian army against the Austrians. This organization aimed to help victims of the armed conflicts and internal disturbances all over the world.

The emergence of such organizations was the beginning of volunteer activities, which has become a significant factor in the development of civil society in Europe over the time.

The volunteer organization has already approved itself in the conflicts of the late XIX – early XX centuries. It is referred to the Second Boer War (1899-1902), the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and the World War I (1914-1918). At that time, the women participation in the volunteering movement was predominant. These women were the sisters of charity who helped the wounded.

After the World War I volunteering began to acquire the features of a social phenomenon with the comprehensive coverage. French and German youth in the 1920's carried out the first volunteer project through the rehabilitation of war-damaged farms in the former front line of the city of Strasbourg. These volunteers did not receive salary but they received local assistance in the form of shelter, food and medicines for their work. This project established the basic principles of contemporary youth movement:

- it is better to work together than to fight;
- food, shelter and food were payment for volunteering.

A particular need for voluntary help appeared during the World War II (1939-1945) and after its completion, when the peoples of Europe had to rebuild their country after the cruel destruction.

In the 1960s the volunteer projects' development was associated with the desire to reconcile Eastern and Western Europe. After the student protests of May 1968 in France, which led to the resignation of President Charles de Gaulle, and the student riots in Germany, there is a need for understanding of volunteerism as an important direction of youth policy for states. Goals and tasks of voluntary movement were formed exactly at this time. Volunteer organizations began to provide assistance within countries (in hospitals, for homeless people and people in need) and outside (for the starving people in Africa and Asia). Such famous organizations as the ICRC and the Doctors Without Borders were founded on this basis.

Ecological voluntary projects were widespread in Europe in 1980s with the growth of the environmental movement and the movement for nuclear disarmament.

The fundamental documents which were defining the voluntary movement's activity appeared in the beginning of the 90s of XX century. The Universal Declaration of Volunteering was adopted in Paris at the XI World Conference of the Volunteer Movement in 1990. This Declaration proclaimed that volunteerism is the foundation of civil society.

The European Voluntary Center was founded in 1992. More than 80 national and regional centers across Europe and beyond were involved there. It supports priority activities of volunteer organizations and their interests. The Universal Declaration of volunteering was adopted at the XVI World Conference of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) in Amsterdam in 2001 (Danilova, 2015, p.10-15).

Today volunteering is a form of civic participation in public utility cases, it is a way of collective interaction as well as the opportunity of gaining experience from the real work, developing their leadership skills and sense of social responsibility. That is why the voluntary movement in the EU is growing rapidly and steadily. In some European Community countries are included in this movement.

The state support plays a critical part in the volunteering development. For example, the state institutes of voluntary movement's support are established in Germany. The Federal Ministries, agencies, network organizations which supervise the voluntary movement's activity, its projects, initiatives and events can be referred to this list. Support system of the volunteer movement also exists in the Federal Republic of Germany. Beyond the support at the level of Federal and land-use Ministries there are also network organizations, for example, "Federal network on civic engagement" manages interaction between different volunteer organizations. Another major network in Germany is the "National organization of voluntary agencies".

The government of the United Kingdom supports and regulates voluntary organizations work in a different way. Volunteering is the responsibility of the Cabinet Third Sector Administration. However, main voluntary activity is regulated by nongovernmental organizations: «Voluntary Work of England», «Voluntary Action Development in Scotland», «Wales Council for Voluntary Action» and «The Northern Ireland Agency for Voluntary Action Development». «The National Centre for Volunteering» protects the interests of voluntary organizations.

2.2. Functions of voluntary organizations

Volunteer activities can be classified according to extent of organization and sphere of influence.

According to extent of organization there are organized volunteering (nonprofit, governmental and private sectors, this activity is implemented more systematically and regularly) and disorganized volunteering (exertion of spontaneous and episodic help, for example, childcare, assistance in repairing, run errands).

According to sphere of influence there are volunteering in education (voluntary raids in schools, development of young people creativity, support of young researchers and scientists, education in the law for young people, preventive actions on antialcoholic and anti-drugs addiction), volunteering in environmental protection (realization of environmental programs, animal welfare), volunteering in social sector (assistance to people with disabilities, older people, low-income families; child protection and assistance to orphans), organization of volunteer activities (involvement of new volunteers and their training, coverage of own activity in mass media, organization of psychological mutual help).

Primarily, it is work with socially deprived groups of population: assistance to older people in nursing homes, to orphans, to beggars, to homeless people and to refugees. Volunteers should be specially trained in these spheres.

One more activity of voluntary organizations in the EU countries is prevention of asocial behavior. It is work in the so-called "risk groups" and assistance to people with entrenched social diseases (alcoholism, drug abuse).

Another area of activity is voluntary organizations work on rehabilitation and preservation of cultural and environmental monuments. The government itself is interested in preservation of the historically great EU countries cultural heritage. Besides, work on rehabilitation and preservation of cultural and environmental monuments allows volunteers to enrich their knowledge in the sphere of cultural studies, to experience beauty.

Environmental protection is the important area of modern volunteering. It involves clearing of natural objects from garbage, work in public parks, participation in campaigns on tree planting, etc. This also includes assistance to animals. Work in animal shelters is one of the popular areas of voluntary activities in this sphere.

Methods of volunteering vary too. These are actions, preventive work and trainings, questionnaire, telephone helplines (regularly working lines), information campaign (development and production of informative and educational materials), consulting, posters, work in mass media.

Certainly, volunteering in every European country has own peculiarities. Nongovernmental organizations take care of volunteer activities In Great Britain. During the 1990s, 27% of population was volunteers. Volunteering in this country is developed in social, cultural, political, economic and environmental spheres. However, social work is traditionally the main area of activity, as well as fund raising, work in commissions and committees and in the sphere of teaching. One of the new areas of volunteer activities is sport volunteering (the peak was attained in 2012 during summer Olympic Games in London) as well as volunteering in the sphere of ecology. The UK volunteers also take part in different actions of civic initiative and cooperative groups and participate actively in public life.

French people can do volunteer activities independently from the age of 16. Nationals, citizens of other EU countries, and other legal residents living in the French Republic at least a year can be volunteers. Volunteers can have full-time work. This work can be organized in countryside, in the framework of voluntary association or fund, within the mission. Volunteers also work in social, charitable, educational spheres, participate in scientific and humanitarian activity. In recent years due to a wave of refugees from Eastern and African countries volunteers actively take part in work with refugees. According to statistics, more than 20% of French people participated in voluntary activities for once in their life.

Despite great governmental support of volunteering in Germany, it is hard to say about nationalization of its activity. About 70 000 noncommercial organizations work in this sphere. On the average more than 2 million people take part in the work of these organizations each year. After graduation from school young people can be legally engaged in volunteering during the next year. This normative solution allows young people to seek employment easier in the future. System of Volunteer Centres unites German voluntary organizations, harmonizes their cooperation with volunteers. These centres are almost in every town. German government created all conditions for active participation of people in volunteering. Voluntary activities are considered as necessary and important work both in production and in family. Voluntary work is considered as employee tenure. Longstanding voluntary activity is taken into account in calculating of pensionable service. Voluntary organizations insure their members. The state offsets the costs of the volunteers incurred during volunteer work. Public and non-governmental organizations are focused on training and consulting to volunteers (Gabdrakhmanova, 2012, p.119-131).

In Italy law on volunteering was adopted only in 1991. The largest Italian volunteer movement organization is Italian Fund for Volunteering established on the initiative of Rome Savings Bank. Fund provides advice and education for volunteers. It has created awards for volunteering which allows to support the most perspective directions of voluntary sectors activity. Also Italian Fund for Volunteering has its own press organ named *Volunteer's journal*. 2 million people are volunteers in the Italian Republic as well as in Germany. There is a large organization named Italian Volunteer Movement. Activity directions of volunteers are similar to the activity of volunteers from other European countries.

3. CONCLUSION

Summing up, voluntary action in the EU countries has quite a long history and it has built up considerable expertise which is successfully used today in our country where the volunteer movement is still very young. Significantly, many citizens of the EU countries have participated and are participating in voluntary activities, which contributes to civil society's and its institutions' development and improvement. It is important that the state understands the significance of such activity and in very possible way provides for volunteering both material and legislative support.

Volunteering is a rod that holds a civil society. It can be considered that a volunteer is no less a patriot than a soldier who defends his homeland. International declarations on volunteerism have set out the principles of the volunteer movement which today constitute the basis of the Russian volunteering:

- voluntary principle. Only those people of their own free will take part in the volunteer movement. No one can be forcefully compelled to volunteer;
- volunteer movement is based on gratuitous participation. Volunteers are not paid, and they provide grant aid and carry out pro-bono work;
- volunteer work is based on responsibility, that is work started by a volunteer must be completed;
- any voluntary action cannot contradict the current legislation of the EU countries, so one of the volunteering principles sounds like legitimacy;
- volunteer activity is based on respect for the dignity, culture and peculiarities of all people;

- volunteers must stand with the purposes and principles of volunteer organizations;
- volunteering is based on the principle of equality that is on the recognition of equal opportunity of every volunteer movement participant;
- a volunteer realizes self-improvement through his voluntary activities, that is he acquires new knowledge and skills, shows his capacity and ability, he engages in self-realization;
- volunteerism is based on the principle of morality – volunteers by their own example contribute to the formation and spreading of moral and spiritual and humanistic values in society.

Thus, the volunteer movement based on unselfishness and altruism provides the basis for the development of a genuine civil society, increases understanding between individuals and diverse peoples. Involvement in volunteering does not have religious, racial, age and political boundaries. Volunteering and active participation of a large number of people give a chance to mankind in the future to achieve the era of mercy, to renounce wars and internal conflicts, to eliminate hatred and discord.

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