

„Educating Volunteers in Polish Non-Governmental Organizations. Preparation for Work in the Global South”

Summary

Every year, volunteers from Polish non-governmental organizations travel to the so-called Global South. In their work environment, they face numerous challenges. Meeting these challenges requires prior preparation. In this paper, I address the issue of what volunteer education looks like, of which the pre-departure preparation process is a part. Based on qualitative research involving the volunteers themselves as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, I found that educational activities vary across different foundations and associations. Evaluations and opinions of these activities also differ. However, there is a shared understanding that proper pre-departure preparation has a significant meaning for the safety and effectiveness of volunteer work. Accordingly, based on the collected research material and my own experiences, I have formulated a number of recommendations for non-governmental organizations and volunteers. I anticipate that the research I have conducted will serve as a basis for further exploration of the issue of volunteering in the Global South and will contribute to positive changes in the everyday work of selected third-sector entities in Poland.

Key words:

volunteering, volunteer education, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Global South, sustainable development