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# Volunteering system in Poland

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# Volunteering in Poland

Volunteering in Poland is legally standardized through the Act on Public Benefit Activity and Volunteerism passed on 24 April 2003. The document contains definitions of such concepts as 'volunteer', 'non-governmental organization' and 'public benefit activity'. The legislator also described in detail the rights and obligations of volunteers, as well as the benefits they are entitled to.



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Volunteering in Poland has been booming in recent years.

According to data from the Central Statistical Office (GUS), already every third adult in Poland devotes his or her time to unpaid assistance to another human being.

Volunteering was more often done individually (26.5%) than within an organization or institution (5.0%).

Volunteers in Poland gave direct help to their acquaintances, friends and neighbors (22.0%) than to strangers (5.8%).

◦ Own elaboration based on data GUS/Poland.



Volunteers most often performed simple jobs, like cleaning snow, sweeping, throwing rubbish, as a chaperone, followed by jobs corresponding to their qualifications, e.g. providing information, promoting knowledge, legal advice, organizing and conducting sporting and cultural events, providing support to people unable to cope with life problems and providing care (i.g. for children, the elderly, the sick).



The highest number of people involved in volunteering was recorded in the period including the first weeks of the war in Ukraine.

For refugees in need, 60% of the society were involved.

Organisations, social and cultural institutions worked for war refugees related to, among other things, legal advice, information provision, therapeutic talks, psychological support, as well as collections of clothes and food.

Own elaboration based on data GUS/Poland.

A person in a red and blue plaid shirt is clapping their hands in the foreground. In the background, a person in a grey suit is also clapping. On a wooden table in the foreground, there is an open notebook with a black smartphone resting on it. Behind the notebook is an open laptop. The text "LEARN DISCOVER VOLUNTEER AND HELP EACH OTHER" is overlaid on the laptop screen in white, serif, all-caps font.

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