

Voluntary service for immigrants

Refugee and Repatriates Counselling Centre
Polish Humanitarian Action

Copenhagen, 2012





Voluntary Service in Poland (CBOS survey, 2011):

- 80 % of the surveyed declared their commitment to free-of-charge activities to the benefit of others in a previous year
- 36 % claims they helped strangers
- 20 % worked for the benefit of the environment or a local community
- 24 % of the surveyed were active in some kind of a social organisation
- 19 % lack of any social activity



Voluntary Service in Poland (CBOS survey, 2011):

- voluntary service in Poland has a low social esteem.
- only 20% of the respondents think that voluntary work is popular in their communities.
- the Poles view a voluntary as a young, well-to-do person that is well-educated and religious, and down-to-Earth.
- above average activity (29%) is observed among pupils/students.



Voluntary Service in Poland (CBOS survey, 2011):

Senior citizens seldom identify themselves with voluntary service (only one out of ten voluntary is a pensioner)

- they have negative connotations from the communist time
- they claim they "have already did their job"
- They care about their own grandchildren (not enough kindergarten facilities in Poland)
- Attitude towards family relations, not local communities



NGO and voluntary service in Poland – before and after the changes

- communism:
 - community service existed (not really voluntary)
 - governmental and religious organisations still existing today e.g.: Volunteer Fire Department, Polish Red Cross, Caritas
- 7th April 1989, the Association Law Act, several independent organisations founded
- the Benefit Act of 2003 sees voluntary service as a gap filler on the job market, hence e.g. voluntary service contracts, an opportunity to acquire work experience.



Voluntary Service at the PAH 1992-2002

400-450 voluntaries annually worked at that period of time

- early activities of the PAH were event actions and relied almost exclusively on voluntary work (donations in kind and money collections, event organising, transport preparation, convoying goods).
- the Voluntary Service tried to meet the expectations of the awakened Awareness to do something for the benefit of all.
- the voluntary service at the PAH enabled the people to help others beyond the borders of our country.



Voluntary Service at PAH 2002-2011

- event-like activities of the PAH have been replaced with long-term, thoroughly planned projects and actions.
- such activity require different qualifications and skills from the employees and voluntaries.
- we sign approx. 140 voluntary service contracts annually
- every adult may apply to become a voluntary at the PAH.



Voluntary service at the PAH

Since 19th of March 2004 the Polish Humanitarian Action is a public benefit organisation registered at the National Court Register under the number: 136833

The voluntary activity at the public benefit organisations is specified in the **Public Benefit Organisation and Voluntary Service Activities Act** of 24th April 2003, ammended on 22nd of January 2010.



Recruitment

job posts
on the
Internet

meetings / events

leaflets

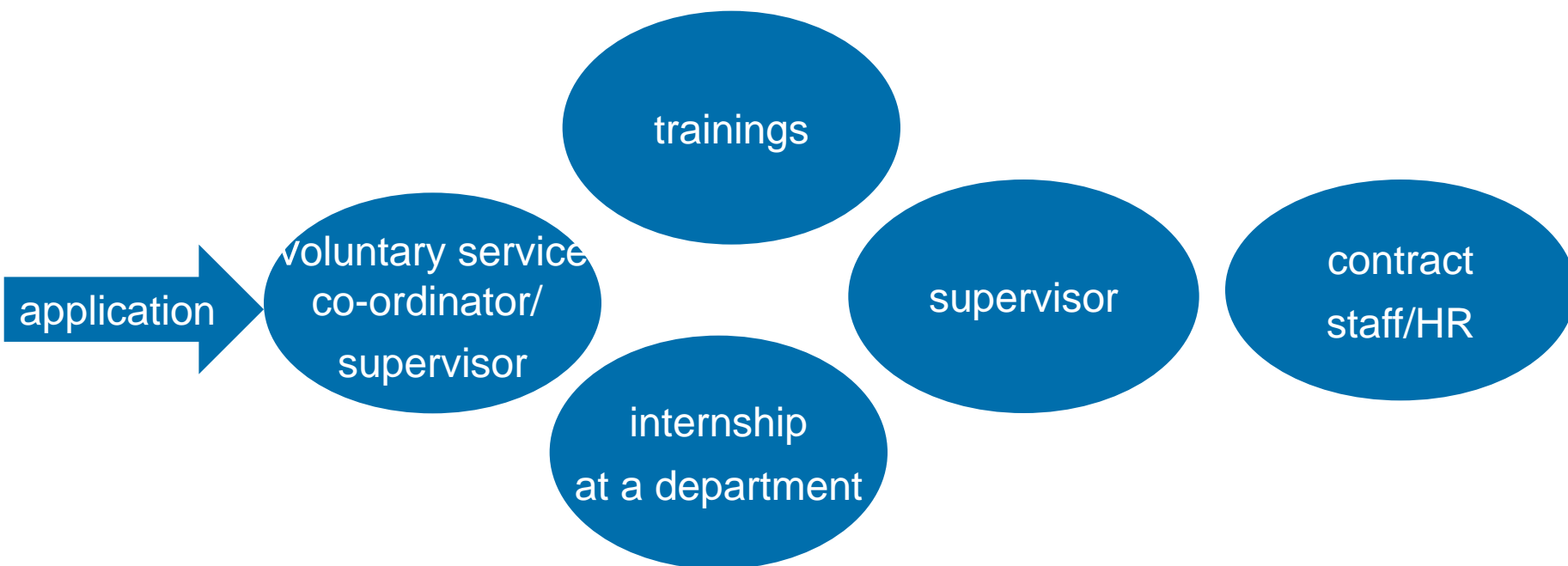
application 

wolontariat@pah.org.pl

personal contact



30-day trial period





Voluntaries sign voluntary service contracts, their work is recorded in their work files and the value of their work is estimated.

At any time, a voluntary can receive a certificate specifying the work he did and the time.

A voluntary at the PAH has the same rights and obligations as an employee, besides those resulting from the employment relationship.

in 2011

- 261 voluntary service contracts
- 78 people worked for the benefit of immigrants
- 28 777 EUR – estimated value of the voluntary's work for the benefit of immigrants

contract
staff/HR

Internal trainings:

Every voluntary is trained (commitment and goal of the PAH)





Voluntary's **Supervisor** is a key person in the system, and it is up to him whether a voluntary is satisfied or not; and whether he/she stays with the PAH.

Not every employee is good at being a supervisor.

Co-operation with voluntary trainings
for employees



supervisor



Voluntary Service for Immigrants in PAH:

- Refugee.pl editorial team – journalists and translators – portal and printed newspaper
- secretary's office of the CPUiR – where beneficiaries are met
- Polish language teaching – teachers
- help with organising the Refugee Day and the Refugee Review
- help with organising clothes markets for beneficiaries
- help at meetings and integration events
- office work



Voluntary Service for Immigrants in PAH:

- trainings adjusted to a specific job:
 - multiculturalism and Chechen culture
 - journalist's trade and ethics
 - secretary's office service of the CPUiR
 - Polish as a foreign language teaching + methodologist's consulting
- meetings and occasional gifts for voluntaries
 - the Voluntary Day
 - books, T-shirts



2011 – volunteers at the CPUiR:

78 voluntary service contracts have been signed, not everybody wishes to sign a contract.

- Refugee , journalists - 20 persons
- Refugee, translators - 20 persons
- labour clubs/consultancy/fundraising – 7 persons
- teachers – 21 persons
- Refugee Review (film) in Wrocław – 4 persons
- office work – 6 persons

2011– volunteers at the CPUiR:

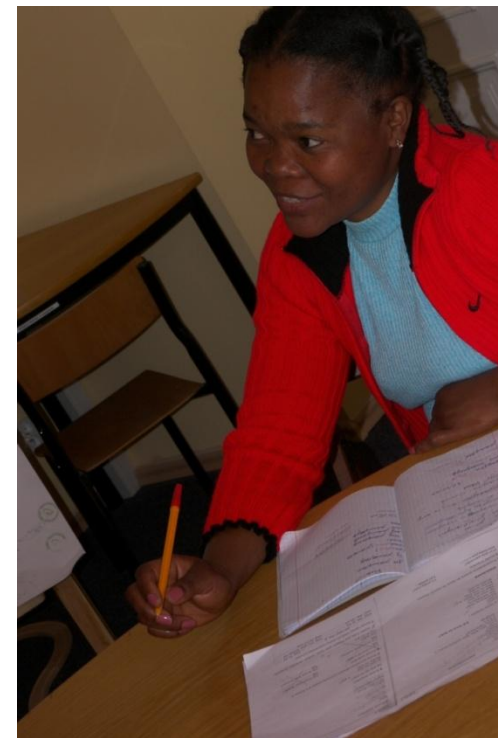
- most of the volunteers are young
- only 3 people are over 40



Work at the Secretary's Office of the CPUiR:



Polish Language Teaching:



Hospitality Events

- meetings with the culture and history of the Republic of Poland
- children events



Event Participation

- The Refugee Day
- Warsaw Street Party



Meetings and Occasional Gifts for Voluntaries



Christmas Party – Refugee.pl's premises



Contact

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dziękujemy za uwagę