



The Social Impact of Volunteering

summary of the research

Ratio

On July 2016 the Italian Government has set up the basis of the 3rd sector (NGO) reform, this law conducts all social organizations and the civil service in Italy.

In article 7°, they establish the importance of having systems to measure the social impact of the activities made by the 3rd sector organizations.

The Law say social impact measurement means the qualitative and quantitative assessment, in the short, medium and long term, related to the effects of the activities carried out on the community in reference to the objective identified.

Research activity

The greatest work done has been not to create an abstract system of measurement but experimented using a methodology that can be managed autonomy and automatically by the organizations.

Results

It was possible to measure the social impact of organized volunteering in terms of added social value produced by individual organizations operating in the area.

A first element of consideration with respect to the social value it is presence ... have been present and active in the area since the second half of the nineteenth century.

A second one, thinking on resources are the volunteers, during the research has increased in a 35%.

Indicators created

1. opening towards specific users: willingness to assist particular users
2. open to citizenship: easy to reach accessible

3. external communication: visibility on the territory
4. territorial planning: implementation of initiatives
5. social responsibility: transparency and sharing
6. openness to volunteering: citizens
7. working with the institutions: conviviality, coordination tables, provision of services or interventions

The marked characterization of values, the ever-present voluntarist component, the variety of services and interventions offered ...have represented a huge challenge through the identification of synthetic measures of analysis and understanding of a very complex phenomenon such as the change produced at a social level.

When do we have social impact?

1. NGO take charge of the users on an individual level, based on a relationship with personal recipients and never standard.
2. NGO do not include a cost for the recipient but are paid free.
3. NGO offer a direct service aimed at responding to a social demand or acting in the form of protection of social rights, or by modifying the recipient's economic condition or by contributing to improving the quality of life of people.
4. the contribution of the volunteers it is protect by the whole organization that provides training opportunities, moments of support, support to the action and to the project in a collective and shared way.
5. NGO publicize their own initiatives, their own results.
6. NGO do not provide for the use of paid staff, except for professional skills.
7. NGO are those in which the action is carried out favoring both the exchange between generations and the overcoming of differences
8. are those that actually share and participated with local authorities, with other non-profit organizations, with the volunteer service center.
9. Are those not limited to engaging volunteers but, by producing aspects of a cultural nature (information, awareness, dissemination), they actually develop (or present) mechanisms that increase the level of social cohesion and solidarity in the territory.