

# COMPARING VOLUNTEERING IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

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# Comparing Culture Guide projects: what do we learn?

- Transfarebility: Is a successful volunteer project in one country also successful in another?
- Successfactors: Which national factors influence success or failure of volunteer projects?

My Phd-research:

- analyses the motives of governments/NPOs in 8 countries to promote and support volunteering
- finds explanations for differences between the volunteer landscapes in the 8 researched countries

Can these findings contribute to better understanding of the Culture Guide project performances?

# Why governments/NPOs promote and support volunteering

Analysis of 40 years volunteering policies reveals four different motives for promoting and supporting volunteering.

- **Instrumental:** volunteers provide services
- **Democratic:** citizens raise their voice
- **Participation:** the importance of work/inclusion
- **Community:** self organisation/cohesion/reciprocity

These 4 motives are recognisable in the Culture Guides project

# INSTRUMENTAL USE OF VOLUNTEERS

- NPOs use volunteers for organisational goals
- Who does not comply with the profile is excluded
- Motive for volunteering: altruism, doing for
- Main field: social health
- Aim: support, well being
- Emphasis: provision

GUIDES project: UK, Netherlands, Slovenia

# PARTICIPATION

- Volunteers use NPOs for personal goals
- Nobody is excluded, organisations offer jobs that fit the volunteer
- Motive: volunteering as means for inclusion, development or employment
- Emphasis: innovation
- Aim: employment
- GUIDES project: Slovenia, UK, Netherlands

# CITIZENS RAISE THEIR VOICE

- Citizens express their belief, commitment, passion, ideal, conviction or protest in voluntary organisations
- Volunteers own their organisation and – if desired - contract out tasks to staff (bottom up)
- Every member is welcome to contribute the best of his ability to the realisation of the organisation goals
- Motive for volunteering: shared interests, active citizenship
- Emphasis: advocating
- Aim: influence, expression
- GUIDES project: Denmark

# STRONG COMMUNITIES

- Focus: social integration, mutual trust, safe neighbourhoods
- Community members own their organisation and – if desired - contract out tasks to staff (bottom up)
- Inclusive organisations: each member/resident is welcome to contribute the best of his ability to the goals of the social network, association or neighbourhood
- Motive: proximity, reciprocity, doing with & for each other
- Aim: creating ties
- Emphasis: value, trust, guardian
- GUIDES project: Hungary, Denmark

# VOLUNTEERING & CIVIL SOCIETY

- Volunteering is main feature of civil society and an expression of active citizenship
- Each society divides responsibilities among private world, civil society, market and government
- Each political regime influences the performance of civil society, through supporting, ignoring or frustrating active citizenship
- Political regimes that support civic engagement i.e. volunteering have their preferences amongst the 4 motives that can be realised by volunteers



# Preferences nonprofit-regimes by motive

Regime	Motives			
	Instrumental	Voice	Participation	Community
Liberal	X			
Social democratic		X		X
Corporatist	X		X	X
Statist				

# FOUR NONPROFIT REGIMES

(Salamon and Anheier, 1998, 241)

- **Liberal** (USA, England)
  - Low government spending on social-welfare, large NP-sector
- **Social democratic** ( Sweden, Norway)
  - High government spending on social-welfare, small NP-sector
- **Corporatist** (Germany, Netherlands, Italy)
  - High government spending on social-welfare, large NP-sector  
Government finds common ground with NP-sector
- **Statist** (Japan)
  - Low government spending on social-welfare, small NP-sector