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Be(ach) Volunteer, Be(ach) Fair!

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Project duration: 1/2020 - 12/2022

Partners:

Academic beach handball club Zagreb - Croatia

University Sports Association of Poland - Poland

EUSA Institute – Slovenia

Stichting Camelot Beachhandball Tournament - The Netherlands

1st beach handball oriented project within Erasmus+ small collaborative partnerships programme



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Main objective:

- improve the volunteer policy and enlarge the volunteer satisfaction at beach handball tournaments
- exchange best practices related to volunteering among the organizers of sports events in Europe

Main goal:

- increases the number of new volunteers
- extends the period of volunteering at beach handball courts
- **fair play** promotion as a key player in development of moral and ethical domains in children and adults

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Planned actions:





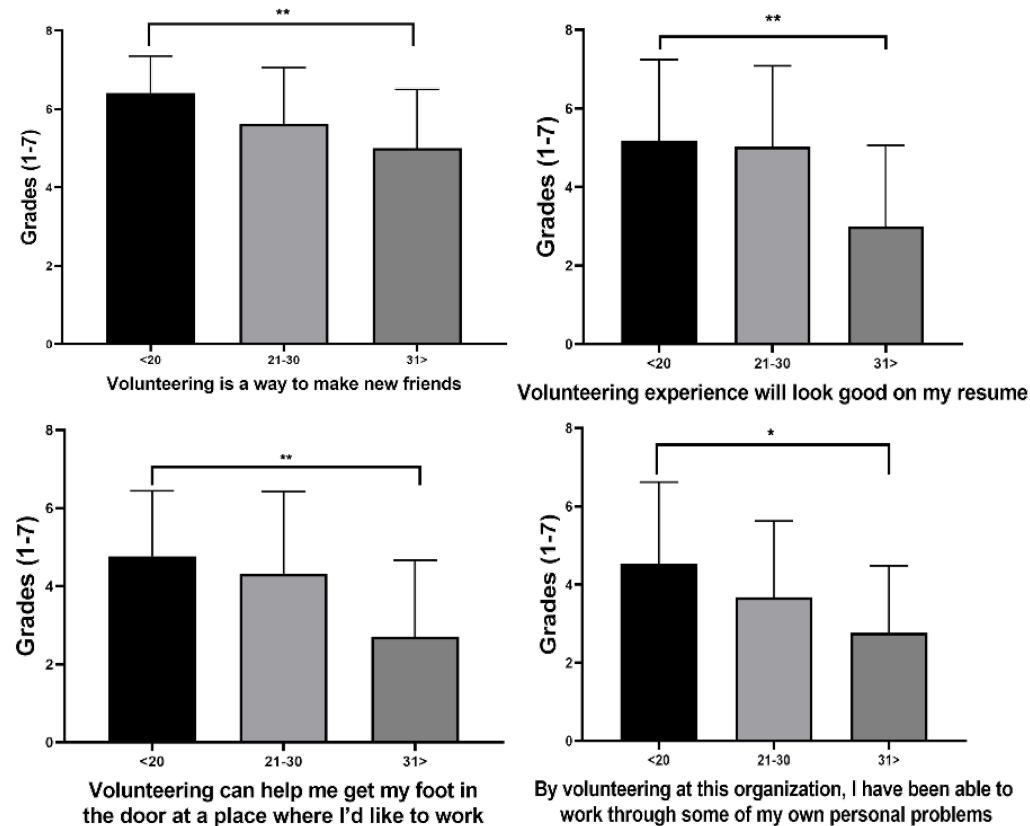
The main part of the survey consisted of a series of questions related to the main motivation for becoming a volunteer.





There were no significant differences between men and women in the responses to the questions offered.

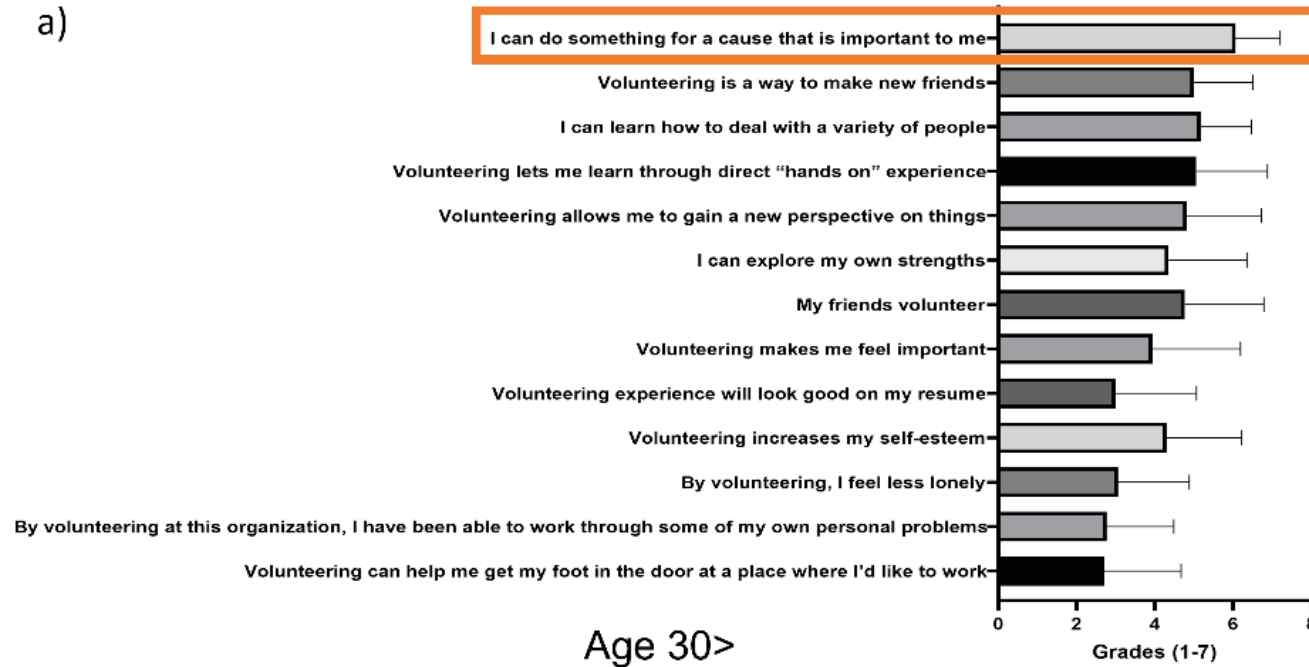
Age-specific responses differed slightly between groups (15-20, 21-30, and 31-older) (Figure 3).



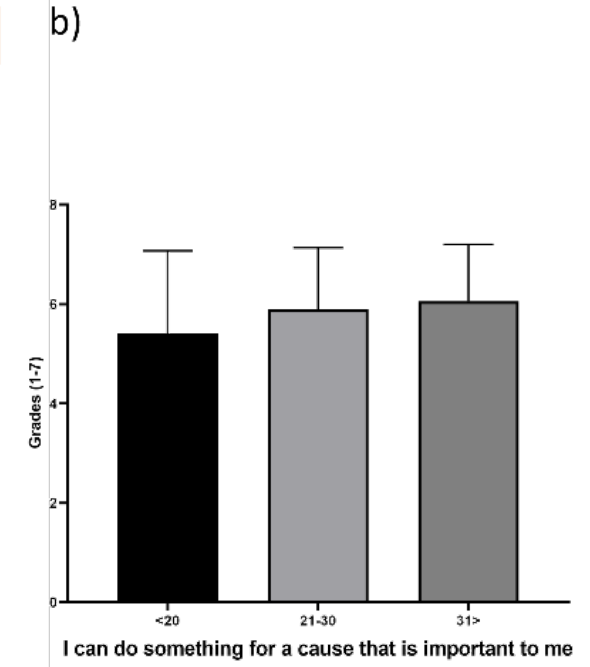


Older volunteers need new ways to maintain their interest in beach handball events. The most important reason for volunteering for the older group was related with the personal causes important for each person separately.

a)



b)



Although there were no statistically significant changes, the trend toward older volunteers and the representation of the inner cause/force that is a primary driver for the more experienced volunteers is a good starting point for future direction strategies in attracting older volunteers.



Volunteers-satisfaction

Regarding the satisfaction with volunteering at the beach events in this project, it can be noted that the average grade is higher compared to the questions related to the reasons for volunteering.

In other words, the volunteers are satisfied with the experience during the project period.



86.1% of volunteers indicated that they would volunteer at the same event again next year. **2.8% indicated that they would not volunteer at all**, while **11.1%** indicated that they would prefer to volunteer **at another organization**



Relation of volunteering and fair play

As expected, **mutual respect and respect of any kind** was one of the most frequently used words in the responses. Other important answers, such as **positive mood** and **equal distribution of tasks**, could also be used when planning future actions to recruit volunteers. Getting to know all participants is obviously very important for volunteers.





Although the majority of responses were positive, which correlates with the high scores in the satisfaction section of the survey (Figure 5), we were also able to identify some suggestions for further improvement:

- a) more tasks for the duties that volunteers find interesting
- b) think about volunteer's free time in order to have enough time to support the teams
- c) improve the communication and scheduling of the duties
- d) improvements of smaller things (coffee in the morning etc)
- e) Education for event specific duties needs to be implemented earlier (statistics, scoresheet...)
- f) outsource the food supply
- g) harder volunteering tasks should be more appreciated (cleaning, security duties etc)
- h) more non-handball related activities for the volunteers (fun zone for the volunteers)

One answer was excitingly interesting: Appreciation from the participants, I feel that my work is appreciated by the organizers, but the rest do not treat me fair. They think I am a loser that work for free.



Conclusions:






More events that promote social interaction among participants

Introduce the volunteers to the rest of the event participants to familiarize the players and officials with the tasks required to achieve the goal or organize the beach handball event.

Development of techniques required for attraction of older volunteers to the beach handball competitions.



Final project goals:

1. design and creation of the website - the final results and guidelines will be published on the official website (BeachVolunteers.com) to support the mobility of volunteers and to educate the target (sub)group.. 
2. the guidelines will be used in the future for all beach handball events organized by one of the partner federations. The guidelines will be continuously developed over time. 
3. during and after the project, the coordinators will be active in their local community by organizing courses and workshops. 
4. the possibility of disseminating the results among beach handball players through the European Beach Handball Tour should be significantly increased. **(still need to work on it)**  



●BeachVolunteers.com

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