

Through volunteering experience to better business competencies 2023/24

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Abstract. *Volunteer experience is extremely valued today. The benefits of an individual's work are felt by the whole community. Volunteer work is not paid work; however, it does contribute to the general satisfaction of the entire community. In the course of volunteer work, one acquires experience as well as develops both on a personal and professional level. Research aims to examine which skills one develops in the course of one's volunteer work and to determine the most developed skill according to the sample. Research also aims to examine how volunteer work boosts networking opportunities. Lastly, research aims to investigate whether one acquires experience during volunteering and if the individual develops on a personal level.*

Data was collected by means of the Volunteer Experience questionnaire that was made exclusively for the purpose of research. The respondents' answers were collected by means of an online tool, Google forms. Collected data was analyzed by statistical methods analysis to obtain valid answers to the research questions. The questionnaire contained 21 items. The sample consisted of 97 respondents of various age with volunteer experience.

Results show that empathy is the most developed competence among respondents, teamwork comes second and cultural awareness third. Results show that it is easier for young people to enter the labor market, as they have acquired a greater number of acquaintances during volunteering work and as such differentiated themselves as better candidates from others. Results of research may be used to encourage young people to start volunteering and to make them understand that both them and the community may benefit from their work.

Key words: Personal development, Business competences, Business idea, Experience, Differentiation

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