
WHY THE FUTURE IS OURS TO MOLD

FINAL REPORT BY KAROLINA KAŃTOCH

From 12th of April to 9th of June I participated in Leszno on volunteering program called "From Animator to Embassadors to Leaders". I chose this place as I am interested in working in NGO. I took part in Polish project as I wanted to find out what are the needs of local communities in my country and to hear the voice of young people and of those who needs the most of our help nowadays.

One of my tasks was helping in a food bank called "Stowarzyszenie Leszczyński Bank Żywności" where me with other volunteers were preparing food for low-class society. This place made a great impression on me, as I was not aware of how many locals needs the support of this organization. Only a branch of the food bank in Leszno collaborates with 200 charitable foundations that donate food around this region. "Stowarzyszenie Bank Żywności" is working around Poland helping in total 3200 places such as home shelters, cafeterias, hospices, support centres for single-parents, orphanages and many more. Unfortunately for me as an outside observer I can see how much this place can be still improved.

First of all we were preparing food in a space which was at once office, kitchen, dining room and a warehouse. This place was lacking of separate rooms where the food would be prepared in better conditions.

Sadly there was so many people working at once that it was hard to say what was the responsibility of any of them, clearly there was no person in charge. In addition, this was causing chaos and lack of space for everyone to perform their tasks. Big advantage of this organization is that they are hiring local people from the low-class environment and as a salary locals receives food. As well I think that in this place are missing young people who would have fresh ideas how to use this space more creatively.

I am expressing my opinion about this organization, because I see potential in this place that is not yet fully used. I believe that future belongs to young, creative people who are not afraid to do things differently, to change with the help of experienced workers from place like this. I see how young people can be useful and use their energy to change the world. It is a heartbreaking to see how people suffer and how little we can do to help, but starting somewhere it is always a good idea.
