

A listing of trends affecting volunteerism as identified by the Dutch Foundation for Volunteer Management (sVM) and the Dutch National Volunteer Center, and presented at the 16th International Association for Volunteer Effort Conference on Volunteering, Amsterdam, January 2001.

Are You Trendy?¹

The Dutch Foundation for Volunteer Management

The following 10 trends affecting volunteerism in the Netherlands were identified by the two national organizations in the Netherlands that support volunteer work: The Dutch Foundation for Volunteer Management (sVM) and the Dutch National Volunteer Center. These trends were presented at the 16th International Association for Volunteer Effort Conference on Volunteering, Amsterdam, January 2001.

1. Hedonism and consumerism are growing, but there is also a growing need for reciprocity and collective experiences.
2. The lifelong fixed identity disappears, but the need to find something of your own grows.
3. Information: All knowledge is becoming available at anytime, anywhere. The passing on of information is no longer dependent upon local organizations.
4. Higher demands for quality from governments, volunteers and customers. Does this lead to growing professionalism and are volunteers willing to go along?
5. Is there a growing gap between rich and poor in the volunteer community, between possession of knowledge and not having access to knowledge? Will volunteer work be only for those excluded?
6. Globalization leads also to localization: To keep people involved, volunteer work is transformed into close-to-home pieces and bits.
7. There will be more intertwining of volunteer work and other sectors: politics, commercial sector and others.
8. The physical forms of organizations will disappear; organizations will be more and more brokers between people with the same field of interest.
9. Time becomes more fluid: clear separations between time to work, time to care, free time and volunteer time disappear.
10. The growing recognition of diversity of people requires skills in dealing with difference. At the same time people look for orderly organizations with likeminded people.

ENDNOTE

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