Analysis of the functioning of public benefit organizations in the Podkarpackie and Pomorskie voivodeships acting for environmental protection

Krzysztof Jamroży¹, Alicja Micał¹, Dagmara Migut²

¹University of Rzeszów, Faculty of Sociology and History, Institute of Sociology, Rejtana 16c, Rzeszów, Poland
²University of Rzeszów, Faculty of Biology and Agriculture, Department of Agricultural and Food Production Engineering, Cwiklińskiej 1, Rzeszów, Poland

Corresponding author: krzysztofjamrozyur@gmail.com

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Introduction
Organizations acting for environmental protection are often referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGO) (Lonc & Kantowicz, 2005). They are considered one of the oldest and strongest branches of NGOs in Poland (Smolnicki, 2002). In connection with a wide range of entities that can act to protect the environment and the role they play in civil society, it was decided to include the Podkarpackie and Pomorskie public benefit organization (PBO) (Act of 24 April 2003 on public benefit and voluntary work, 2003) scientific research in order to compare their functioning

Materials and Methods
The research used the method of desk research, which is based on analyzing the records of available data sources, including in particular their compilation, mutual verification and processing (Bednarowska, 2015). The research tool used in the analytical process were substantive reports of public benefit organizations, available on the website of the National Institute of Freedom (“Sprawozdania OPP - Narodowy Instytut Wolności,” n.d.). Their use allow to obtain the latest publicly available data (for 2017) on the functioning of the Pomeranian and Podkarpackie NGO and their mutual compilation.

The research sample was selected in a targeted manner, which means that all public benefit organizations working for environmental protection having headquarters in the Podkarpackie or Pomeranian Voivodeships were selected for the research.

Results
The surveyed NGO having their headquarters in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship most often operate in the area of the commune (5 - 41.7%). Seven analyzed PBO (58.3%) stated that as part of their activities it does not cross the border of several poviats, which may indicate the local nature of the impacts of the discussed PBOs.

Public benefit organizations having their headquarters in the Pomorskie Voivodeship most often operate throughout the country (4 - 30.8%). 9 of analyzed PBOs (69.2%) operate at least on the area of the voivodeship, which proves the regional coverage of the PBOs studied. The average number of members of the analyzed NGOs organization in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship is 24 people, and in Pomeranian - 19. While analyzing the examined PBO in terms of the number of volunteers, it can be noted that in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship their average number is 15 people, and in the Pomorskie Voivodeship - 9. The obtained results may indicate greater public involvement in the activities of ecological non-profit entities in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. It may be influenced by the local nature of the impacts of the discussed NGOs.

The average number of people who work on employment contracts and civil law contracts in the studied PBO is about 14 (Podkarpackie province) and 16 (Pomorskie Voivodeship). There is no significant difference between the studied regions in this matter.

Discussion
Research results related to the range of local NGOs activities in the case of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship are confirmed (Gumkowska & Herbst, 2005). However, the situation is different in the Pomorskie Voivodeship, where PBO usually operate at the regional level.

According to the research carried out by P. Adamiak, B. Charycka and M. Gumkowska (Adamiak, Charycka, & Gumkowska, 2018), it follows that on average, an association has 30 members. Analyzed organizations has average 24 members of the organization in the Podkarpackie voivodeship and 19 in the Pomernian. This may means that fewer people are involved directly in the activities of environmental NGOs than in other branches of the third sector.

Nationwide research on the average number of volunteers in NGOs showed that it is usually 8 people. In the case of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, these results are convergent (9 people), however, in the context of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship it is almost twice as large (15 units involved) (Przewlocka, Adamiak, & Herbst, 2013).
Analyzes carried out by Przewłocka et al., 2013 indicate that the average number of employees in the organization of the third sector is 3 people. In the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, NGO employs an average of 14 people, and in Pomorskie - 16. Explanation of this phenomenon requires the use of in-depth studies that could show the reason for this condition. It may be assumed that this is related to NGO's finances.

References


