This article aims to analyze the performance of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in tourism development in Blumenau (SC). Tourism as a socio economic activity implies the relation of the tourists with the social actors who experience the destinations visited. Due to this characteristic, the development of this activity involves a wider social participation. Therefore, the involvement and commitment of public and private organizations, is essential, however, the participation of civil society organizations with their representative organizations (third sector) becomes very relevant. In this context, this article presents the results of an exploratory qualitative research shows that the participation of NGOs in the tourism development in Blumenau (SC).

KEY WORDS: third sector, non governmental organizations (NGOs), tourism.