

# 2009

## Annual Report European Volunteer Centre (CEV)





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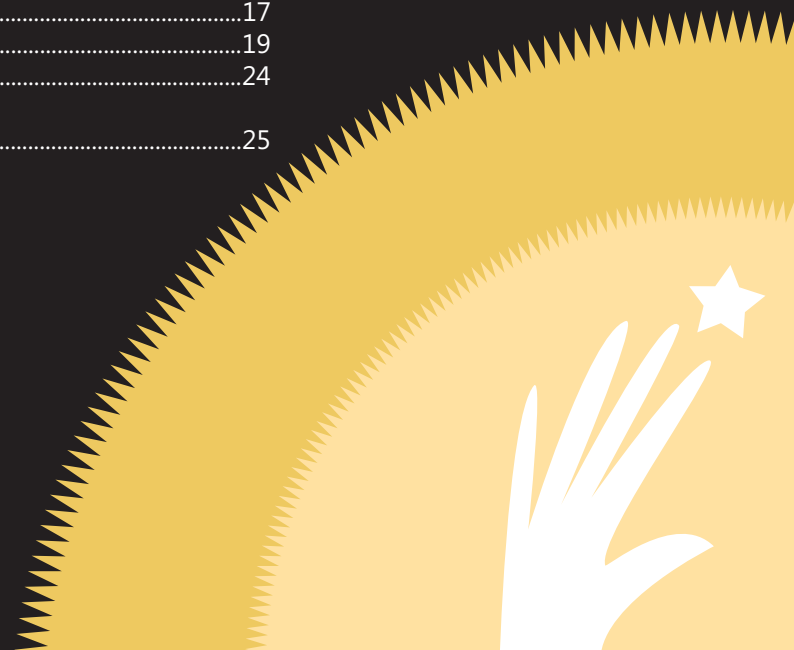
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## Milestones – 2009 from a CEV perspective

What a year! 2009 will certainly remain in the annals both of CEV and the EU. It was early February when we received a very small – then still informal – note with far-reaching consequences: Commission President Mr. Barroso had given green light for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 to go ahead. What a success of civil society! The relentless efforts of CEV, its members and its partners from the “EYV 2011 Alliance” had finally convinced the EU decision makers that over 100 million volunteers in Europe do deserve that their engagement for our societies be recognised, celebrated, facilitated and further developed. It then took the EU machinery until November for the final decision on the “European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship” to be adopted – actually a record given the usual timeframe for this kind of decisions at European level, showing that the Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers were all eager to strengthen the crucial role of volunteering in building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship.

After a couple of glasses of Champagne, the work started. Not only did we together with our partners from the EYV 2011 Alliance accompany the process of adoption of the final decision. But as we are all keen to make this Year a real success, we started planning the activities for 2011: mobilising volunteers, building capacity in the voluntary sector and developing a policy agenda for an enabling environment for volunteering Europe – those are our priorities that will guide our work in the months to come. May this Year, its preparations and implementation have a lasting legacy! This is what we will strive for together with our members and the volunteer movement all over Europe.

It is hard to believe – but yes, we at CEV did have a life in addition to the excitement around the Year 2011. We continued our series of our bi-annual conferences, focusing this year on employee volunteering and successful collaboration between companies and volunteer organisations, meeting in

the splendid city of Prague; and on the development of an enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe at our conference in Malmö, in the framework of the Swedish EU Presidency. CEV also was active in many interesting European project collaborations, notably the “Think Future - Volunteer Together” project that has been instigated by a group of CEV members as a pilot to promote exchanges between senior citizen volunteers. Admittedly, we at CEV were particularly proud of this project as it shows that our network does provide its members with inspiring opportunities of collaboration.

CEV has kept on growing again in 2009: we have welcomed 9 new members and partners, counting now 74 member organisations from 30 different countries reaching out to some 17,000 organisations at local level. This membership expansion enhances CEV’s ability to reach out to a critical mass of volunteer support centres and volunteer involving organisations across the continent (and beyond!). In order not only enlarge but also to deepen the collaboration with our members, we have organised a first Job Shadowing experience for colleagues of the CEV network – and following the enthusiastic feedback of the participants we will repeat and extend this capacity building initiative in 2010.

Finally, 2009 was also a year of change in the Board of Directors and the Secretariat’s staff. After two years of Presidency, Dr. Marijke Steenberg, stepped down and handed over to the newly elected President Eva Hambach, director of the Flemish Volunteer Support Centre in Belgium. We truly thank Marijke for her leadership over the last years – and congratulate Eva on her election. It is Eva’s declared objective to further develop our thriving network and to strengthen direct participation of CEV members in our activities. And we had to say good-bye to our policy and project officer Kamila Czerwinska, who has taken up an exciting opportunity to manage a major volunteer programme after two years of enthusiastic service to CEV and its membership. We wish her all the best in her next career steps.

Looking ahead, we are quite confident that challenges will not lack in 2010: the European Year 2011 only months away; a newly elected Parliament and the fresh new “Barroso II” Commission to establish relationships with; and not least the finally adopted Lisbon Treaty, mentioning for the first time in EU history “volunteering” in the Treaties; only to give a taste... Let us use them as opportunities to firmly inscribe volunteering on the policy agenda of the EU and its Member States!



Eva Hambach  
CEV President



Markus Held  
CEV Director



## 1. Who are we and what do we stand for

### Mission

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV<sup>1</sup>) is the European network of currently 74 national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies, reaching out to some 17,000 organisations at a local level. CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union and it acts as a central forum for the exchange of policy, practice and information on volunteering. CEV is recognised by the EU as the voice of volunteering in Europe, in the framework of an operating grant through the Europe for Citizens Programme. Our **mission** is to create an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe for the full potential of volunteering to be realised.

More than 100 million volunteers all over Europe give their time in local communities to benefit others and society at large and engage out of their free will, choice, and motivation entirely without concern for financial gain. Volunteering, whilst freely given, is not cost free – support from all stakeholders, including business and government is crucial to make Europe a “volunteer friendly” continent. Our **vision** is a Europe in which volunteering is central to building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship. CEV works to strengthen the volunteering infrastructure in Europe and to create an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish.

### Vision

#### CEV General Assemblies...

... are organised twice a year in different European countries and hosted by CEV member organisations. Next to the statutory business of approving and monitoring CEV's work plan and budget, this is where CEV's heart beats: our members get together to exchange experiences and good practices at our thematic conferences. In 2009, these conferences focused on „*Developing Employee Volunteering – A joint venture between volunteer organisations and companies*“, Prague, May 2009, and „*An enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe – Situation, trends, outlook*“, Malmö, October 2009

### General Assembly



## 2. How do we work

#### CEV Board of Directors...

... is the managing body elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. The current Board of Directors was elected during the General Assembly in Ljubljana (April 2008). After two years as President of CEV, Dr. Marijke Steenberg (MOVISIE, Netherland) has handed over this position to Eva Hambach (Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, Belgium), who was elected CEV President at the General Assembly in Malmö in October. András F. Tóth (ÖKA, Hungary) was elected at the same time as a new Board member. The Board of Directors meets six times a year to provide political guidance to CEV's work and to further develop its network.

### Board of Directors

“Over the last few years, CEV has developed in big leaps and the legacy of my predecessors, particularly Christopher Spence and Marijke Steenberg, is a thriving organisation that looks ahead. It is exciting to see what we have achieved together - with the European Year of Volunteering 2011 being the most visible success. We need to focus now on the internal strengthening and deepening of our network in order to allow all members to contribute - notably those that face challenges and barriers when willing to get involved in European and CEV affairs. In order to pave the way for an enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe and to ensure that our highest expectations in EYV 2011 are met, we must ensure active commitment as much on our own part as from all stakeholders. I will have an open ear to our members and encourage you to send me your suggestions and comments on the challenges ahead: CEV belongs to its members and only together can we make our organisation a voice of volunteering in Europe.”

**Eva Hambach, CEV President since October 2009**  
**Director of Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, Belgium**





Eva Hambach  
President  
Director of Vlaams Steunpunt  
Vrijwilligerswerk  
Belgium



Renzo Razzano  
Vice-president  
President of SPES  
Italy



Susana Szabo  
Vice-president  
Director of France Bénévolat  
France



Andras F. Toth



Dr Marijke Steenbergen  
CEO of MOVISIE  
The Netherlands



Karl Monsen-Elvik  
Treasurer  
Volunteer Development Scotland  
UK



Cristina Rigman  
Director of ProVobis  
Romania



Gisela Lucke  
ARBES  
Germany



Elaine Bradley  
CEO of Volunteering Ireland  
Ireland



Nwadi Okereke  
Volunteering England  
UK



Olga Sozanská  
President of Hestia  
Czech Republic

### The CEV Secretariat...

... is situated at the heart of the "European district" in Brussels, a stone's throw away from the European Parliament. The CEV team is now composed of a Director, a Policy and Project Officer, a Project Officer, a Policy and Communication Assistant, a European Liaison Officer from the Italian federation of the volunteer support centres, and two EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteers.

The secretariat runs CEV's activities on a day-to-day basis, in particular providing information for CEV members on EU matters and volunteer-related issues, developing policy and responses to consultations from a volunteer organisations' perspective, giving assistance to the members and organising CEV's conferences and seminars.



### The CEV Secretariat in 2009:

- Markus Held, CEV Director
- Kamila Czerwińska, CEV Policy and Project Officer (until August)
- Katarína Nikodemová, CEV Policy and Project Officer (as of September)
- Cândida Salgado Silva, CEV Policy and Communication Assistant (until July) and Project Officer (as of August)
- Aurélië Storme, CEV Policy and Communication Assistant (as of August)
- Stefania Macchioni, CSVnet Liaison Officer

### CEV EVS volunteers:

- Georgios Antonopoulos, EVS Volunteer (January - June)
- Rebekka Opfermann, EVS volunteer (as of December)

### CEV trainees:

- Jozef Less (February - May);
- Rebekka Opfermann (July - October)



Team-building activity - April 2009



### The CEV Membership...

... expanded in 2009 with 9 new members and partners

CEV full member organisations are national or regional volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies throughout Europe whose main mission is the promotion of volunteering. CEV also has associate members such as local volunteer centres and organisations who work on a range of issues amongst which volunteering is one priority. Partnership with CEV is open to any stakeholder that is willing to support CEV and its mission. CEV does not have individual members.

During 2009 CEV widened its membership: the network welcomed 2 new full members from Spain, 5 new associate members from the UK, Turkey, Spain, Moldova, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 2 new partners from Greece and Spain. CEV now counts 74 member organisations and partners from 30 different countries. Please find a complete list of CEV member organisations in the annex (page --)



■ = Countries with CEV member organisations  
✋ = CEV member organisation



### 3. Where does CEV's heart beat: General Assembly Conferences 2009

CEV General Assemblies (GA) constitute a forum for CEV members to meet and discuss issues and recent developments related to volunteering - and to exchange success stories and challenges. These meetings bring together representatives of volunteer centres, volunteer development agencies, volunteer organisations and associations, governments and business, as well as European institutions and international organisations, providing an opportunity to exchange policy, practice and information on volunteering.

**The spring CEV General Assembly 2009 was organised in May in Prague (Czech Republic)** in collaboration with our member organisations HESTIA National Volunteer Centre and Dobrovolnické Centrum Ústí nad Labem. The conference focused on „**Developing Employee Volunteering – A joint venture between volunteer organisations and companies**“.



More than 150 participants from 22 countries - representing local, regional and national volunteer centres and organisations; small, medium and big companies; United Nations Volunteers; Czech universities; several research institutes; local authorities and the Czech Presidency of the EU - discussed the questions of what do the private and voluntary sector need to do to make CSR and employee volunteer programmes valuable; why introduce employee volunteer programmes and how to support them so they make a real difference; and is collaboration between companies, volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies a key to making the programmes successful and beneficial to all the stakeholders – companies, employees and the community? The main conclusions were that employee volunteer programmes should be created in partnership between the private, voluntary and public sectors; they must be based on needs-assessment and must be employee-owned; CSR, of which employee volunteer programmes should be an active part, must be an element of any company's overall business strategy and vision and the role of research in supporting the development and meaningfulness of employee volunteer programmes has to be taken into account. The GA final report presents these conclusions into more details.

„CSR without HR is only PR“

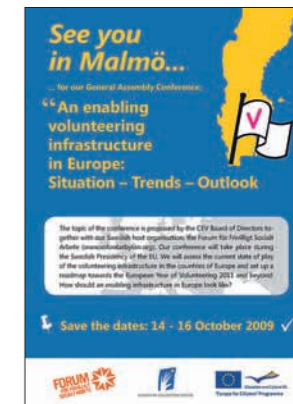
#### CEV General Assembly Conferences



**Our Second 2010 General Assembly took place in Malmö (Sweden) in October.** It was hosted by our member organisation the Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete, and it addressed the topic „**An enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe: Situation – Trends – Outlook**“. The conference gathered over 120 stakeholders, including representatives of CEV member organisations and other civil society actors; EU institutions; the Swedish EU Presidency; and national and local governments as well as business. High-level speakers – such as Johan von Essen, Professor at the Ersta Sköndal University College; Pierre Mairesse, from DG Education and Culture of the European Commission; Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament; Lester M. Salamon, from the Johns Hopkins University – discussed the situation, trends and outlook in terms of volunteering infrastructure in Europe and its perceived roles, while representatives of 19 countries displayed at an ongoing exhibition a panorama of volunteering infrastructure in different European countries. On the basis of the different good practices presented in workshops and the panel debates, the participants concluded the conference by discussing the elements of a common enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe; the CEV Secretariat will now produce a specific publication on enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe and the “Malmö Agenda” towards the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and beyond.

„The volunteering infrastructure is not an end in itself but it is there to serve a purpose: To create an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe for the full potential of volunteering to be realized.“

Both General Assemblies' final reports will be available on [www.cev.be](http://www.cev.be)



At the statutory business part of this General Assembly, CEV members elected a new member and the new President of CEV, and approved the new Statutes which introduce new admission criteria for members; new voting procedure for full members and modified voting balance per countries.





## 4. CEV... the voice of volunteering in Europe... Campaigning, policy and lobbying

### 4.1 A success story ... Towards the European Year of Volunteering 2011

2009 has been a decisive year in the campaign conducted by CEV, its members and the Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV 2011 Alliance), as it has marked the official declaration of 2011 as the "European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship" by the Council of the European Union. We are proud to see that the European Commission has taken up a civil society initiative. This constitutes a huge achievement after more than two years of intensive campaigning, and it marks the beginning of the concrete preparation of the activities of the Year. At European level, this preparation will mainly be carried out by the EYV 2011 Alliance, while national coordinating bodies will now be appointed to coordinate the activities in the different European countries.

**February** was the first landmark in the process towards the nomination of the Year: **the European Commission, DG Education and Culture, announced on 18th February the launching of the preparation of a proposal for EYV 2011.** In reaction to this declaration, the EYV 2011 Alliance published a press release, which was widely disseminated in various media.



In **April**, the European Parliament's political parties Greens/EFA Group and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) organised in Brussels a seminar on "A Roadmap for 2011 as European Year on Volunteering". The meeting was chaired by MEPs Marian Harkin, Gisela Kallenbach and Elspeth Attwooll, and gathered around 150 participants to discuss objectives and recommendations for the EYV 2011. CEV director Markus Held was invited as a keynote speaker; he used this opportunity to underline the importance of ensuring that the Year is owned by local volunteering actors and not only a European event.



In **May**, CEV organised a strategic meeting on the European Year of Volunteering, as an ad-hoc event to its General Assembly in Prague. The state of play concerning the formal decision of the European Commission, as well as concerning the activities of the EYV 2011 Alliance were presented, and CEV members had the chance to discuss plans and action for the adoption and preparation of the Year in working groups.

In **June**, the European Commission officially proposed the declaration of 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering. The EYV 2011 Alliance issued a press release to welcome this formal proposal.

In **August**, the EYV 2011 Alliance, entrusted by the European Commission to propose logos and slogans for the EYV 2011, launched the "**Let's Slogo**" competition to pre-select 20 logos and 20 slogans to shape the visual identity of the Year 2011. Citizens were invited to submit proposals from August to September through a new website, [www.eyv2011.eu](http://www.eyv2011.eu), from which the general public and an online jury of volunteers from the different networks of the EYV 2011 Alliance made a pre-selection. 1259 logos and slogans were sent. More than 17,000 individuals visited the website between 6th August and 27th October. 3500 people cast their vote over the two weeks of the Public Online Voting. The winning proposals are now to be chosen by the European Commission.



In **November**, the Culture and Education Committee (CULT Committee) of the European Parliament organised a Public Hearing on Volunteering. CEV vice-president Renzo Razzano and CEV director Markus Held were invited as keynote speakers. The discussion touched upon the preparations and challenges of the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. The EP Report on the proposal for a Council decision on the European Year of Volunteering was voted at a CULT Committee meeting on 23 November.



This EP proposal led to the final step towards the Year on **27th November: the Council of the European Union adopted the Decision on the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship 2011**, with a budget of 8 million Euros in addition to 3 million for the preparatory actions.



In **December**, the European Commission organised a first conference towards the preparation of the Year: "**Participation through Volunteering**". The EYV 2011 Alliance was involved in planning this conference and was invited to propose speakers for the panel session. In conjunction with this event, CEV organised, together with its partners from the EYV 2011 Alliance, a follow-up meeting for the members of the networks of the Alliance, to allow volunteer organisations from all over Europe to exchange latest news on preparations of the Year, ideas of activities and possibilities for common projects.



To achieve these successful results, CEV, together with its members and partners from the EYV2011 Alliance, invariably kept the momentum by holding regular coordination meetings, collaborating with the responsible officials in the various EU institutions, lobbying to the national representatives in the European Parliament and Council of the EU.



## 4.2 EU institutions

Throughout 2009, CEV has continued its advocacy work with regard to the institutions of the European Union to channel the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations.

### The European Commission...

is the motor of EU policy-making as it has the power of initiative in terms of EU legislation. Our main interlocutor for policy and advocacy work within the Commission in 2009 remained the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), as the DG responsible for the "Europe for Citizens" Programme and "Active European Citizenship" policies. CEV's main advocacy activities towards the Commission in 2009 were:



- ✦ CEV, as one of the stakeholders of the Active European Citizenship group, has participated in the three meetings of the Group in 2009;
- ✦ CEV participated in a stakeholder meeting on the follow-up of the European Year 2008 on Intercultural Dialogue; it participated in the co-drafting of a paper on the lessons learnt from the Year and the recommendations for the elaboration of the new „Europe for Citizens“ programme (March);
- ✦ After consultation of its members, CEV made a contribution to the consultation on the Commission communication 'Solidarity in Health', by stressing the role of volunteering in reducing health inequalities (March-April);
- ✦ In June, CEV registered with the Register of Interest Representatives, which was set up by the European Commission in the context of the European Transparency Initiative. The Register counts all entities engaged in activities carried out with the objective of influencing the policy formulation and decision-making processes of the European institutions.
- ✦ CEV President Marijke Steenberghe was a member of the jury of the European Commission Golden Stars Award 2009, which gives special recognition to projects which have been particularly successful in the field of Active European Citizenship.
- ✦ CEV, together with its members and the Social Platform, has contributed to the consultation of DG Budget on the review of the Financial Regulation. CEV members were the biggest group in Europe to respond to the consultation: 90 individuals from the CEV network have sent to the Commission the template prepared by CEV to call for a formal recognition of volunteering as match funding to European project grants.

✦ Policy fact sheets on volunteering (December 2009): CEV has conducted a research on the role of volunteering in different policy areas. The result – 17 fact sheets on volunteering – has been disseminated to the future Commissioners from the respective Directorates-General (DGs), who will work within the Barroso II Commission, before their hearings at the European Parliament. The fact sheets present the important role played / to be played by volunteering in the different policy areas and set recommendations for volunteering to be better acknowledged and strengthened in these different fields. These fact sheets will be an efficient tool for setting up fruitful cooperation with the new Commission and to streamline our policy work in the next 5 years of their mandate.

### The European Parliament ...

... forms, together with the Council of the EU, the legislative branch of the EU; it is the only directly elected body of the EU and it has been playing a growing role over the last years in the formulation of EU legislation. The European Parliament also counts strong supporters of CEV and its vision, which makes it a crucial strategic partner.



- ✦ EP elections campaign: CEV prepared, in consultation with its members, a Manifesto addressed to the Members of the European Parliament in view of the elections of June. The European Parliament Manifesto „Do you engage for those who engage?“ was launched in April with 10 recommendations on how the MEPs can contribute to recognise, promote and support volunteering and the efforts of volunteers all over Europe. It was published in 18 languages.
- ✦ In September, CEV organised a reception in the European Parliament together with the EYV 2011 Alliance and MEP Marian Harkin, to introduce MEPs to volunteering in Europe, the upcoming European Year of Volunteering, and the initiative to put in place an Intergroup on Volunteering for the new Parliamentary term.
- ✦ CEV and its members advocated the establishment of a Volunteering Intergroup. Unfortunately, not enough support could be gathered to obtain such a group at this stage. CEV will seize the opportunity again at the mid-term of the current EP's mandate. Although the Intergroup could not be established, CEV has identified key supporters in most of the political groups for further cooperation across political affiliations and committees.

### The Committee of the Regions ...

... (CoR) is an advisory body, which brings together regional and local authorities and provides the other institutions with a political input into the decision making process. In October, CEV was asked for advice by the CoR on an opinion on the European Year of Volunteering 2011.



### The European Economic and Social Committee ...

... (EESC) is an EU advisory body that represents the interests of economic and social groups. It sends opinions to the three main EU institutions.



- ✦ In November 2009, the Economic and Social Committee has issued an opinion on the European Year of Volunteering 2011, in which it welcomes the EC proposal, advocates for an appropriate volunteering infrastructure to be established in EU member states, and urges fast and appropriate financial and substantive decisions on the Year from the EP and the Council. Markus Held, CEV Director, was an external advisor to EESC Rapporteur Soscha zu Eulenburg.
- ✦ In December 2009, the Economic and Social Committee hosted the civil society conference organised by the EYV 2011 Alliance to prepare the activities of the Year.

### 4.3 EU Presidencies ...

...are the driving force of the legislative and political decision-making process as they define the priorities of EU policy action. Each Member State presides in turn over the Council of the EU over a period of 6 months. The inclusion by incoming Presidents of volunteering as a priority in their work programme is advocated by CEV. In 2009, the Czech Republic and Sweden successively held the Presidency of the EU. CEV has also already been in contact with Spain, in view of the Spanish Presidency during the first half of 2010



Together with its Czech member Hestia, CEV had the opportunity to meet the **Czech Presidency** represented by Vice Minister Dürr (Education, Youth, Culture) in Prague in January, who affirmed the support of the Czech Presidency to the EYV 2011. CEV was also invited to participate in an event on Promoting Mobility of Young Volunteers organised by the Presidency.



The **Swedish Presidency** has also strongly demonstrated its support for the announcement of 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering. Mr Henrik Selin, from the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU, has participated as a speaker in the opening plenary of CEV General Assembly in Malmö in October, and has expressed support for 2011 at the Public Hearing on volunteering of the EP Culture and Education Committee. The Council decision on the Year was taken during the Swedish Presidency.



CEV established contact in December with the upcoming **Spanish Presidency**, in the person of Mr Mató, Director General at the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, to discuss possibilities of collaboration during the Spanish Presidency, especially in view of the preparation of the EYV 2011 and CEV General assembly in Valencia, in April 2010.

## Lobbying



## 5. Projects

... informing policy and developing innovative practice ...

### VALUE - Volunteering and Lifelong Learning in Universities

VALUE is a Grundtvig network<sup>2</sup> focusing on the question of how volunteer skills / volunteer learning and university studies can be brought together. The network is managed by the University of Liverpool for the period 2008-2011 together with the Institute of Volunteering Research (IVR) and comprises 20 partner organisations such as the Universities of Graz, Hamburg, Barcelona and Ankara as well as CEV member organisations such as ProVobis (RO), CSV.net (IT), C.A.R.D.O. (SK) and Volunteering England (IVR). CEV serves as the European policy and dissemination partner ensuring a link between the European policy in this area and the work of the project.



### Think Future, Volunteer Together

„Think Future, Volunteer Together“<sup>3</sup> was a two year project promoting senior volunteering through international exchanges of senior volunteers in 5 European countries, co-financed in the framework of the EU ENEA pilot programme. This project recognised volunteering as one of the tools to promote active ageing and mobilise the full potential of older people to the benefit of society. The project involved five CEV member organisations: SPES – Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio (Italy); C.A.R.D.O. (Slovakia); ÖKA - Önkentes Központ Alapítvány (Hungary); Pro Vobis Centrul National de Voluntariat (Romania); and Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia). CEV was responsible for policy advising, and promotion and dissemination of the project results at EU level. The final project results were presented at the final conference organised by CEV at the European Parliament in Brussels on 19 November 2009. The final report, „Promotion of senior volunteering through international exchanges, practical and policy recommendations“, and the Portrait Book, which gathers stories and pictures from all seniors involved in the exchanges, were published in November 2009 and distributed at the conference.



<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cev.be/114-value\\_volunteering\\_and\\_lifelong\\_learning\\_in\\_universities-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/114-value_volunteering_and_lifelong_learning_in_universities-EN.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cev.be/101-think\\_future\\_volunteer\\_together\\_\(senior\\_volunteering\)-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/101-think_future_volunteer_together_(senior_volunteering)-EN.html)

## Two Minds Project

CEV is a partner in the project „Two Minds”, which is coordinated by its member Centro Nazionale per il Volontariato (CNV, Lucca, Italy). This project is funded by the EU Daphne Programme to combat violence against children, young people and women. It focuses on family mediation as a tool to prevent and manage family conflicts, in which children, minors and other vulnerable groups can become the primary victims of violence. The project intends to build a network of people involved in family mediation, including voluntary organisations, to share experiences encouraging non-violent relationships in the family and promote positive parental skills.



## EVS – European Voluntary Service

In the framework of the Youth in Action Programme of DG Education and Culture, the European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans aged 18 to 30 with the opportunity to get experience and skills and express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. After being accredited in April 2008 as EVS hosting organisation, CEV welcomed its first EVS volunteer - from January to June 2009 - who mainly worked to support CEV in the advancement of its communication strategy. CEV welcomed a new EVS volunteer - in December 2009 - mainly to work on the assessment, evaluation and development of new communication tools such as Facebook, which can contribute to the enhancement of communicating volunteering. Another EVS will complete the CEV team as of January 2010 to work on the process of reinforcing the exchange of good practices on volunteering between the European and the local levels by gathering the experience of the local level organisations and spreading them through new technologies.



## Job shadowing – study visit for CEV members in Brussels

In the framework of the EU Lifelong Learning programme, the CEV secretariat organised in September a 5-day study visit for 11 representatives of CEV member organisations in its headquarters in Brussels. This visit aimed at giving a closer and more tangible overview of the work CEV does at EU level. In this framework, the participants had the chance to visit some of the European institutions, to meet EU officials working in the respective fields, including their representatives in the European Parliament and regional representations, and to get an insight into relevant EU policies and programmes.



## 6. Spreading the word...



### CEV publications



#### Facts and Figures on Volunteering in the Western Balkans (March 2009)

This publication provides an overview of the evolution of the non-for profit sector in general and volunteering in particular, the volunteering infrastructure and figures and attitudes towards volunteering in this specific region.



#### CEV 2009 - 2014 European Parliament Manifesto : Do you engage for those who engage? (April 2009)

CEV launched this manifesto with suggestions how the Members of the European Parliament can contribute to recognise, promote and support volunteering and the efforts of volunteers all over Europe. It was first produced in 6 languages in April, and then in 18 languages in June.



#### “CEV and corporate partners: A joint venture for volunteering in Europe” (September 2009)

In September, CEV published an introductory brochure for potential business partners about the advantages of a partnership with CEV



#### General Assembly Conference Report Volunteering and Intercultural Dialogue (December 2009)

The report highlights and showcases how volunteering can foster intercultural dialogue and the practical challenges civil society organisations face to become actors of intercultural dialogue and how to deal with these challenges. It also puts forward a set of recommendations in relation to civil society organisations, governments and individuals.

Most of these publications can be downloaded on [www.cev.be](http://www.cev.be).  
Hardcopies can be ordered at the CEV secretariat.

## The CEV news...



... is a monthly newsletter providing information on CEV activities, CEV members' projects, EU policies, relevant calls for proposals, events and any other relevant information for the volunteer community within CEV membership and beyond.

In 2009, the CEV News included special features on the European Parliament elections of June 2009, and the International Volunteer Day (December). Since March, in addition to being published on the CEV website in PDF format, the CEV News has been sent out through a new electronic html format.

### www.cev.be

The CEV website provides visitors with the possibility to learn more about CEV's organisational structure (Board of Directors and Secretariat), CEV's work and vision, and the projects it is involved in at European level; it provides basic information and links to all its member organisations' websites and it is regularly updated with CEV's new publications (General Assembly reports, project reports, press releases, research papers, CEV News), information about its activities and events, and any other information relevant for the volunteer community. About 375,500 visits were counted in 2009, which represents a significant increase compared to the previous year.



CEV now also manages, together with the other members of the EYV 2011 Alliance, the website of the European Year 2011, [www.eyv2011.eu](http://www.eyv2011.eu), which until now has mainly served as a platform to collect proposals of slogans and logos in the framework of the „Let's Sloggo" competition. Since its creation in August, over 28,000 visits were counted in 2009.



Finally, CEV is also managing the website [www.involve-europe.eu](http://www.involve-europe.eu) - which presents the results of the European INVOLVE project on integration of migrants through volunteering.



## 7. CEV's external relations

### SOCIAL PLATFORM

CEV is a full member of the **socialplatform**, the platform of European Social NGOs



Markus Held, CEV director, was a member of the Management Committee of the Social Platform until April 2009;



CEV is part of the Communication and Administration Networks of the Social Platform. During 2009, it has participated in several Skills Sharing Sessions of both networks.

### IAVE



CEV is a member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), which is a global network of volunteers, volunteer organisations, national representatives and volunteer centres, with members in over 70 countries, and in all world regions.



CEV congratulates its member, Volunteering Ireland, which has been chosen to host the 2012 IAVE World Conference in Dublin, Ireland. The theme for this conference is "Volunteering and Human Rights: working for the noblest aspirations of humankind - the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people through volunteer effort." CEV strongly supported the application of Volunteering Ireland in this process.

### The Council of Europe in Strasbourg



The Council of Europe (CoE)<sup>4</sup> is an international organisation with 47 Member States whose activities focus mainly on the promotion of democratic stability, human rights and cultural identity and diversity. CEV was granted participatory status at the end of 2008 and is part of the International Non-Governmental Organisations Group (INGOs).

<sup>4</sup> Not to be mistaken with the Council of the European Union and European Council – political bodies of the European Union

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the UN focal point for promoting and harnessing volunteering for effective development and a strategic source of knowledge and advice about the role and contribution of volunteering.

CEV was invited to a stakeholder meeting of UNV in Bonn, in October, on preparing the IVY+10 (International Year of Volunteers 2001 + 10) activities of the UN. The CEV Director used this opportunity to present background on the EYV 2011.



**Johns Hopkins University/Centre for Civil Society Studies (JHU/CCSS)**



Throughout the last 6 years, JHU/CCSS has developed efforts to include surveys on the contribution of the volunteering sector and volunteering to national economies in the system of national accounts. CEV has been active in the JHU/CCSS initiative, this year by inviting Lester M. Salamon as a keynote speaker at CEV General Assembly in Malmo, to present the new „Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work“, which was developed by JHU/CCSS in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation.



**EY 2010 END POVERTY NGO Coalition**

CEV is a member of the coalition of NGOs of the European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion, which is coordinated by EAPN, the European Anti-Poverty Network. CEV participated in several meetings of the coalition and submitted a contribution to a joint document which will be launched in January 2010 on the role of volunteering in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

**Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011**

Throughout 2009 CEV has been facilitating the Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, which is composed of the main European NGO networks active in volunteering. The members of the alliance are CEV, the Social Platform, the World Scouts Movement, the European Youth Forum (YFJ), The Confederation of European Senior Expert Services (CESES), the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO), the Red Cross/European Union Office, Caritas Europa, Volonteuropa, AGE, Solidar, ENGAGE, Johanniter International, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organization (ENGSO and ENGSO Youth), the Euclid Network of third sector leaders, EURAG, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), the European Council of Associations of General Interest (CEDAG), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the Conservation Volunteers Alliance (CVA) and Eurodiaconia. (page 10-11)

“Since volunteers contribute to so many EU policies, we welcome this move to acknowledge, celebrate and promote their engagement. We want the European Year of Volunteering 2011 to make an impact at every level and we are ready to support the Commission in its efforts to organise and deliver a meaningful and successful Year.”  
The EYV 2011 Alliance, 19 February 2009



**Business**

- CEV is a partner of ENGAGE, the international employee community engagement programme.
- In the framework of its General Assembly on employee volunteering in Prague, CEV has invited business representatives from Vodafone, Unive Insurance company, the Fortis Foundation, SODEXO, Citi Handlowy and Citibank Europe to speak and present workshops.



## CEV in action ...

### Some of the meetings CEV contributed to in 2009

#### Meetings in Brussels:

- ~ 6 CEV Board of Directors meetings (January, March, May, July, September, December)
- ~ 10 EYV 2011 Alliance meetings (February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, December)
- ~ Strategic meetings with the European Commission on the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (January, February, March, May, June, July, October, November)
- ~ Working group on the follow-up of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (February, April)
- ~ 3 Stakeholder meetings of Active Citizenship Group at European Commission (March, June, October)
- ~ 4 Meetings of the NGO Coalition for the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion coordinated by EAPN (March, June, October, December)
- ~ CEV stakeholder in the meeting preparing 2012 Year on Intergenerational Solidarity and Active Ageing (March)
- ~ European Parliament's conference on a Roadmap towards EYV 2011 (April).
- ~ CEDAG conference on Civil Dialogue in Europe "Beyond strategies for participatory democracy: it's now time to build a coalition for an EU charter for civil dialogue" (May)
- ~ Job shadowing week at CEV for CEV members (September)
- ~ Think Future Volunteer Together final conference (November)
- ~ Public Hearing on Volunteering in the light of establishing the EP's report on the European Year (November)
- ~ EC conference "Participation through Volunteering" and Golden Stars Award Ceremony (December)
- ~ EYV2011 civil society conference: "Towards a successful European Year 2011: Ideas - initiatives - next steps" (December)



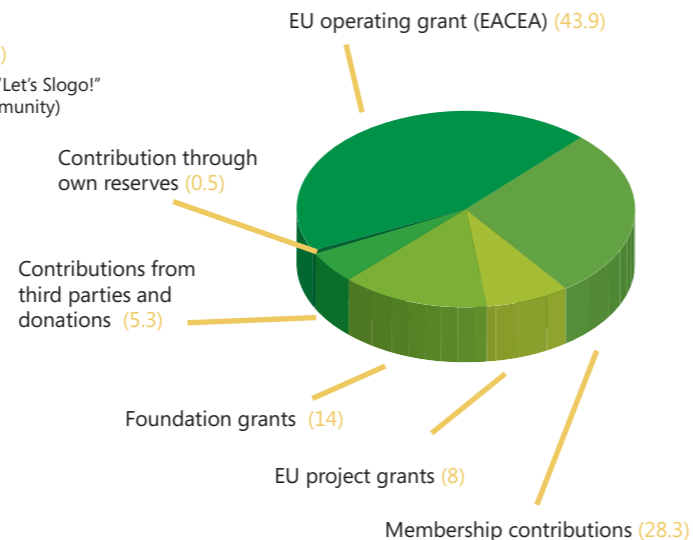
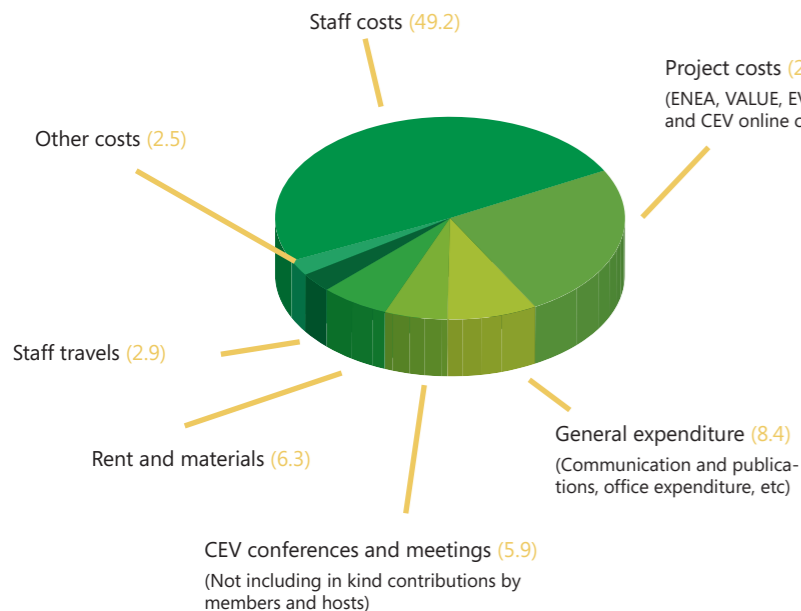
## 8. CEV in figures...

### How much does it cost?

#### Expenditure and income of CEV in 2009

CEV expenditure in % of total 250,704.59 €

CEV income in % of total 250,704.59 €



## Annex – CEV members across Europe and elsewhere

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Portuguese Volunteer Confederation  
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☎: +35 1 218 454 221  
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Conselho Nacional para a Promoção do Voluntariado  
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(National Council for the Promotion of Volunteering)  
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(Foundation Integrar)  
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Fax: +34 917581864  
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✎ Plataforma Andaluza de Voluntariado  
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Fax: +34 952602192  
Email : info@voluntariadoandaluz.es  
Website: www.voluntariadoandaluz.es

✎ FEVOCAM - Federación de Entidades de  
Voluntariado de la Comunidad de Madrid  
(full member)  
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28013 Madrid  
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Email : info@fevocam.org  
Website: www.fevocam.org

✎ Fundació Privada Catalunya Voluntària  
(associate member)  
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Tel: +34 934124493  
Fax: +34 934120761  
Email : rrii@catalunyavoluntaria.cat  
Website: www.catalunyavoluntaria.cat

✎ Agencia Andaluza del Voluntariado  
Andalusian Agency for Volunteering  
(partner)  
Plaza Nueva 4 - 4a planta  
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Fax: +34 955041180  
Email : voluntariado.cogob@juntadeandalucia.es  
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### SWEDEN

Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete  
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☎: +41 22 800 14 37  
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### TURKEY

✎ Corporate Volunteer Association (OSGD)  
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☎: +90 0216 524 52 34  
Email: osgd@osgd.org  
Website: www.osgd.org

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☎: +44 20 7520 8910  
E-mail: volunteering@  
volunteeringengland.org  
Website: www.volunteering.org.uk

North West Network (full member)  
Albert House  
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☎: +44 161 228 6137  
E-mail: info@nwnetwork.org.uk or  
Website: www.nwnetwork.org.uk

Volunteer Development Scotland  
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☎: +44 1786 849767  
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Website: www.vds.org.uk

Wales Council for Voluntary Action  
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British Trust for Conservation Volunteers – BTCV  
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### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## Messages from our supporters ...

Volunteering needs and deserves the support of outstanding personalities in Europe. We are delighted that Elton John and Márta Szebestyén have agreed to be Ambassadors for CEV and our cause. The German Federal President Horst Köhler has also declared his support for our mission. Their support is expressed in the following messages ...



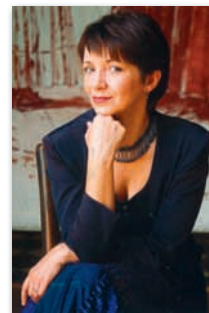
“Voluntary Engagement is the lifeblood of our societies based on freedom. Those who engage as volunteers contribute with a sense of citizenry to community life and deserve our recognition and support. The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) contributes through fostering the transnational dimension of voluntary action in a very practical way to European integration. I very much welcome the activities of CEV and wish you all success.”

**Horst Köhler,**  
President of the Federal  
Republic of Germany



“I am delighted to have been invited to become the United Kingdom’s Ambassador of CEV and volunteering at the European level. As a volunteer myself in the field of HIV/AIDS, I know that volunteering is central to European ideals of democracy and to the building of strong, cohesive communities. Millions of citizens throughout Europe are actively involved in giving their time to make society work in human terms. It is vital that this contribution is recognised and supported by both the European institutions and by national governments and I wholeheartedly support CEV in its role as advocate for volunteering in Europe.”

**Sir Elton John, singer**  
UK



“It is a big pleasure for me to be CEV’s Ambassador for Hungary. Your mission to promote an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish and for citizens to actively engage for the issues they care for is most important - and it is close to my heart. Indeed, as a musician, I do share with you the passion of bringing citizens together and of bringing joy to their lives - this will make a difference to our societies that are more and more characterized by individualism and mistrust. I am pleased to join you to support active European citizens, as they are the human face of our European values putting them into living practice!”

**Márta Sebestyén, singer,**  
Hungary

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