



**CEV is pleased to announce that the winner of the European Volunteering Capital Competition 2020, is the municipality of Padova, Italy.**

In choosing Padova as the European Volunteering Capital 2020 the Jury have noted: *“Padova shows specific and multiple examples of how they support and encourage volunteers from diverse groups and backgrounds, as well as a wide variety of volunteering organizations. It has a positive focus on how to contribute to the social inclusion and well-being of vulnerable groups through volunteering. Padova has an agreement to offer asylum seekers the chance to volunteer, which includes training, and also shows a great organizational support of the European Solidarity Corps through the Youth Project’s Office. The Volunteer Centre, that they support, plays a key role in the implementation of volunteering projects, whether that be through funding, or providing space free of charge for volunteers who wish to carry out a program or project.”* Read the full feedback [here](#).

The second candidate for the 2020 European Volunteering Capital also received high praise from the Jury: *“Stirling shows that volunteering has an important value to to city - both as a municipality and community - and demonstrates strong efforts to recognise volunteering and assess its impact. The municipality not only has an established base and engagement of the public for volunteering, but its future plans will continue to do the same on a larger scale.”* Read the full feedback [here](#).

CEV launched the [European Volunteering Capital Competition in 2013](#) to celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen volunteering, especially through partnerships with stakeholders from different sectors such as volunteer centres, volunteer-involving organisations and the for-profit sector. The judging criteria are the recommendations in the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE), CEV’s 5R recommendations and the planned engagement with the European Solidarity Corps.

The awarded municipality is chosen from the candidates by an international jury of key personalities connected with volunteering, representing civil society, the private, for-profit sector, as well as the EU institutions : Cristina Rigman, CEV President | Cristian Pirvulescu, European Economic and Social Committee | Jacob Bundsgaard, Mayor of Aarhus, European Volunteering Capital 2018 | Kieran McCarthy, Committee of the Regions | Mary Ann Hennessey, Council of Europe | Michaela Sojdrova, European Parliament | Paula Guimarães, Montepio Bank, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN) | Szilvia Kalman, European Commission

The previous winners are: Kosice 2019 - Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017- London 2016 -Lisbon 2015 & Barcelona 2014

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is the European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. Through our network we work together to promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work.

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