
REPORT

Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe #REVIVE How can volunteering in Flanders foster European identity, equality, and democratic citizen engagement?

Ghent, 2 March 2023

Agenda

9:30 - 10:00	Welcome
10:00 - 11:00	Volunteers: Our contemporary girls and servants? Eva Hambach, Director of Flemish Steunpunt Volungerswerk
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-11:45	Developing leadership capacities and talents as driving Strength in Awel Yolan Steyaert, Awel's policy officer
11:45-12:15	Trajectory TOWARDS a shared vision in City of Ghent Marie Desimpaere, coordinator Volwilgerspunt Ghent
12:15-13:15	Afternoon lunch
13:15-13:45	Passionate volunteering in the House of Alijn Anne-Greet Denolf, Coordinator of Public Operation and Communication of House of Alijn
13:45-15:15	Lecture talents in volunteering Luk Dewulf is a talent whisperer, educator, talent and burn-out coach, and author of multiple bestsellers on talent and burnouts
15:15-15:25	How can volunteering in Flanders foster European identity, equality, and democratic citizen engagement? Gabiella Civico, Director of Center for European Volunteering
15:25-15:30	Closing

On 2 March 2023 CEV co-hosted one of the events of the Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk vzw Volunteer Week 2023 in Ghent under the title “Everyone wins with Volunteering” about how volunteering in Flanders foster European identity, equality, and democratic citizen engagement and in this way bringing the European context to this. A total of 87 participants joined the event of which 19 were males and 68 were females.

The aim of the event was also to underline that volunteering provides volunteers with relevant experience, fun and a good deed and it is a great added value for society. Organisations are also involving enthusiastic helping hands and are able to expand their team.

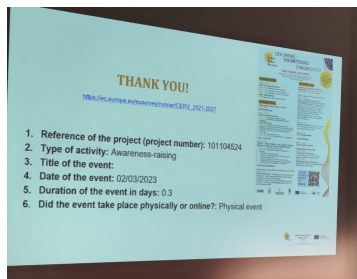


Several were the presentations surrounding this topic, from Eva Ambach, Director of Flemish Steunpunt Volongerswerk, which gave an overview on how volunteering organisations can work with volunteers to set up a sustainable voluntary activity that will continue in the future.

This presentation was then followed by three examples from different Flemish municipalities which actively involve volunteering: Awel, Ghent and Alijn.

In Awel volunteers are directly involved in the decision making process by sitting on each decision-making body and steer their own teams on and, in order to do that, they develop several skills especially through intervision.

In Ghent in 2020, the Volunteers Point Ghent took the lead to join the city services in one to develop a uniform, shared vision of voluntary policy. From the observation that more than 50 services collaborated with about 3500 volunteers without an overarching framework, there is a need for central agreements. Since then, Ghent has been working in developing this voluntary policy, capable of better monitoring, supporting and improving volunteering within the municipality area.



In Alijn at The House of Alijn, the museum of daily life from the 20th century onwards, volunteers have been crucial in developing the museum's activities and strengthened the community feeling within the municipality.

The three municipalities examples were followed by the lecture of Luk Dewulf, who addressed what talent is, how can a volunteer discover and develop it, also through volunteering.

Lastly, Gabriella Civico, CEV Director, linked the volunteering in Flanders with the European dimension, exploring what support is available for civil society, volunteering and volunteers under different EU policies to increase engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations at the European level.

