

REPORT

Civil Society Days 2023 Workshop 5: Volunteers and Resilience 2 March 2023 - 11.20 – 12.50

EESC, Brussels, 2 March 2023

Agenda

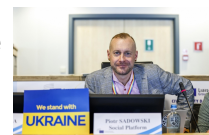
11:20 - 11:25	Welcoming and introduction
11:25 - 11:35	Krzysztof Pater - Volunteers – Citizens building the future of Europe, EESC Opinion What does it tell us about Volunteering and Resilience?
11:35 - 11:45	Andris Gobiņš - European Year of Volunteers 2025 - a critical contribution to boosting associative life in Europe
11:45 - 12:00	Volunteering & Resilience in Europe - Michaela Sojdrova , MEP, Co-chair of the Volunteering Interest Group at the EP (EPP)
12:00 - 12:40	Q&As - Discussion
12:40 - 12:50	Closing - Gabriella Civico and Piotr Sadowski - Volunteering & European Values: What next?

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On 2 March 2023 CEV hosted, together with Volonteuropa and EESC SOC, a REVIVE seminar during the Civil Society Days 2023 addressing the topic of “Volunteers and Resilience”, dealing with volunteers’ motivation and their impact on health and well-being, as well as their contribution to resilience and in bringing prosperity in Europe. We also discussed how to make 2025 the European Year of Volunteers. A total of 61 participants joined the event of which 19 were males and 42 were females.

The workshop included contributions from three speakers and was moderated by Piotr Sadowski, Volonteuropa Secretary General, and Gabriella Civico, CEV Director.

Piotr Sadowski began the session with interactive questions for the audience.



Gabriella Civico gave an opening introduction presenting the speakers, talking more broadly about the contribution of volunteers and the value of volunteering to civil society.

Following this, EESC member Krzysztof Pater presented the EESC Opinion on "Volunteers - Citizens Building the future of Europe".



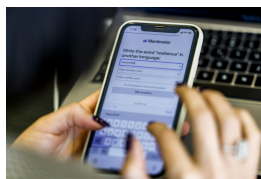
A written statement from MEP Irena Joveva (RENEW Europe) was read.

MEP Michaela Sojdrova (EPP) shared her thoughts and experiences on the European Solidarity Corps, stating "I am glad that the programme reflects it in its latest policy priority for 2023: Relief for a person fleeing armed conflicts and other victims of natural or man-made disasters. The budget for 2023 was increased by 3 million EUR, totalling 144,2 million EUR. As laid out in the regulation: 94% goes for volunteering under the 'participation of young people in solidarity activities' strand and for solidarity projects."



EESC Member Andris Gobiņš shared his reaction on the European Year of Volunteers 2025 proposal, pointing out that this would be a fitting tribute to the efforts and impact of volunteers during the COVID19 pandemic and the crises caused by the war in Ukraine, where people's lives and wellbeing have been put in grave danger.

The workshop discussions confirmed that volunteering plays a key role in the lives of current and future generations by providing opportunities to express solidarity as well as intercultural exchange, non-formal learning and skills development, while, and in this way, supporting rights such as active citizenship and social inclusion. Volunteering is a



main agent of a true social transformation. It supports social inclusion and solidarity; it underpins active citizenship, community resilience and social engagement; and it promotes shared responsibilities & European values. The war in Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted how communities come together to support each other at times of crisis, through the emergence of organised and spontaneous volunteering to help people to protect themselves.