



Volunteering Equality
Rights Action
VERA



Co-funded by
the European Union

Project Number: 101104521

(Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe - REVIVE Project No. 101051131)

#REACT

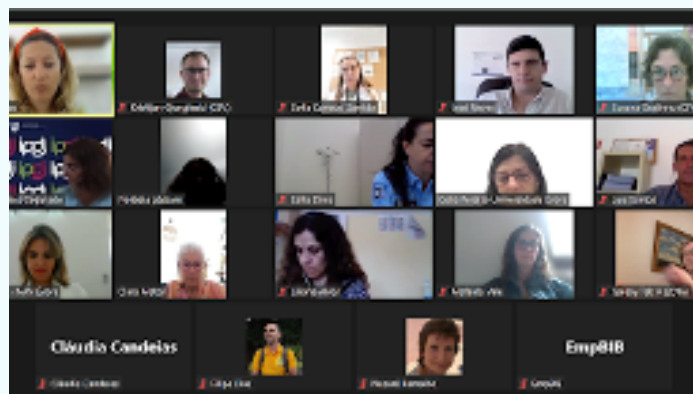
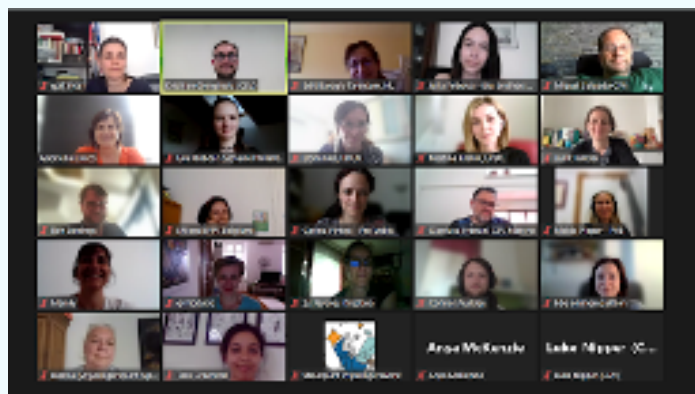
Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together

Campaign and Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 #BEV2030

Report
15 June 2023

On 15 June 2023, CEV hosted the #REACT - "Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together" Campaign and Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) Webinar, which saw the participation of **31 citizens** from all over Europe, of which 16 males and 15 females.

The meeting was facilitated by Gabriella Civico, CEV Director. The objective of the Webinar was to foster space for collaboration/exchange of best practices between CEV members, as well as to exchange and share the motivations and objectives behind the projects that are benefiting from the **VERA** 2023 sub-grants from CEV. **Sub-grants have been made on the four topics of: Volunteering, Equality, Rights and Action** and the webinar was an opportunity to explore more deeply what each of the topics involves, what the outcomes and outputs will be, and how they link to European Values.



Volunteering:

The focus of this strand of the project is on **research to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors.** Six CEV members presented proposals for actions on this topic: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria (BBBSB-Bulgaria), Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HCRV-Croatia), Talentum Foundation (Hungary), CSV Marche (Italy), Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS-Malta) and Pro Vobis (Romania). All of these project proposals focused on creating national reports on volunteering, including data on the diversity of volunteers, through research within the local community and involving both individuals and municipalities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria project's will be a national survey, which will consist of two main parts - a survey among 4,000 people in 28 municipalities throughout the country and 10 focus groups with a total of 150 participants, both activities leading to a national (BG) report on volunteering including data on diversity.

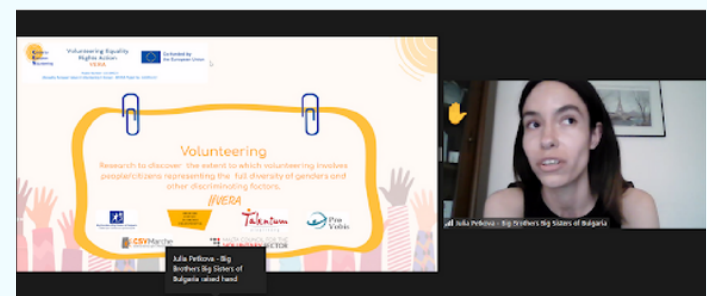
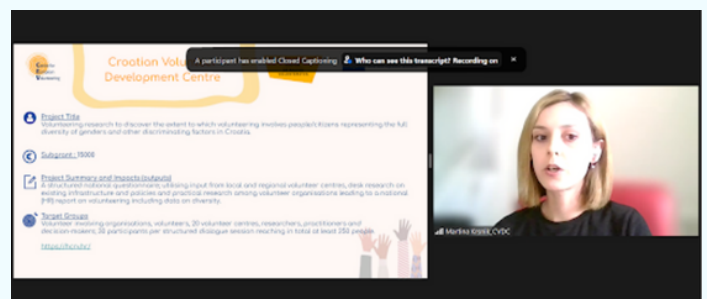
The **Croatian Volunteer Development Centre will implement** a structured national questionnaire; utilising input from local and regional volunteer centres, desk research on existing infrastructure and policies and practical research among volunteer organisations leading to a national (HR) report on volunteering including data on diversity.

Talentum Foundation will do a survey of around 60 organisations in the Southern Great Plain Region (Hungary), including approximately 120 volunteers leading to a regional (HU, Southern Great Plain) report on volunteering including data on diversity.

CSV Marche project's consist of online surveys in the Marche region of Italy involving 2400 organisations, the results of which will be processed and contribute to producing a regional (Marche) report on volunteering including data on diversity, with 4 events to disseminate the results to stakeholders.

Pro Vobis will create a national report on volunteering including data on diversity of volunteers - to collect data they aim at both the general public (through an OMNIBUS survey) as well as active Volunteer-Involving Organisations - at least 150. The data will be collected by local National Volunteering Week 2023 partners, and the results will be disseminated by a creative communication campaign (with 10 Research Ambassador Volunteers), including also a Volunteering Monitoring Kit.

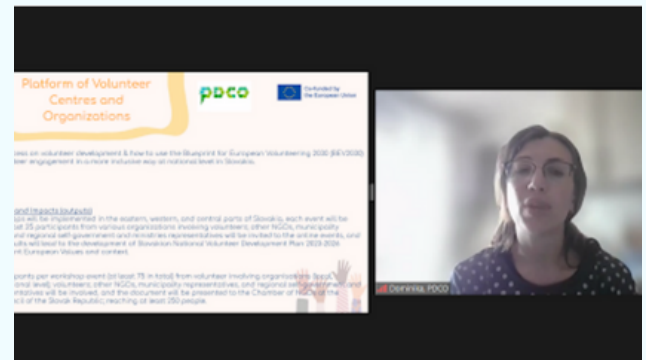
Presenters described the way in which they would gather this evidence, for example many are choosing to use questionnaires and surveys to collect data, as well as using evidence based frameworks. Some chose to focus their efforts on a national level, such as BBBSB and MCVS, however some chose to do it on a more local or regional level, such as CSV Marche and HCRV. Many of the presenters spoke of having a lack of, or even no data similar to this available before until now, describing how difficult it is to analyse the gender diversity and other aspects of diversity in their organisations and those that they partner with. They emphasised that the sub-grants would allow them to create a solid evidence base for this information.



In response to the follow up question from the **moderator on what will be the most challenging part of reaching their objectives? The replies included:** that the length and breadth of the questions within the surveys will be difficult to master - ensuring that the survey is detailed enough while at the same time making sure that the participants don't become off put by the length of the questions. As well as this, they spoke of the issue of finding individuals to answer both questionnaires and focus groups, as well as making sure that the project is accessible to all, especially older people. Finally they cited that the project must be focussed on the issue of gender diversity within the third sector which is a new and difficult topic to address for many. In spite of the challenges presented, participants felt positive about the experiences and optimistic about the data they could gather across their individual projects.

Equality:

The focus of this section of the project is on the **consultation process on volunteer development and how to use the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030)** to advance volunteer engagement in a **more inclusive way at national or regional level and so becoming more diverse**. Five CEV members presented proposals in this part: Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HCRV-Croatia), Talentum Foundation (Hungary), Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia), Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia) and Plataforma del Voluntariado (PVE-Spain).



Discussions were focused on the need to enhance policies surrounding volunteer engagement and strategies at national and regional levels. Presenters emphasised the importance of improving existing plans to effectively promote equality and inclusivity. However, concerns were raised regarding the timeline for implementing changes, considering the short duration of the projects, which must be concluded by December 2023.

The **Croatian Volunteer Development Centre will implement** a consultation process with local and regional volunteer centres, national stakeholders and public consultations leading to a redesigning of the Croatian National Volunteer Development Plan 2023-2026.

Talentum Foundation will do a translation of the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2023 into Hungarian, the implementation of 6 workshops to introduce the BEV 2023 in Southern Great Plain Region of Hungary, 2 online consultation events and planning sessions leading to the development of a Regional (HU, Southern Great Plain) Volunteer Development Plan 2023-2026.

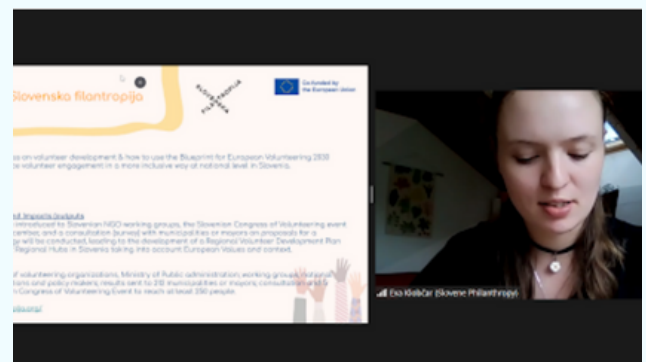
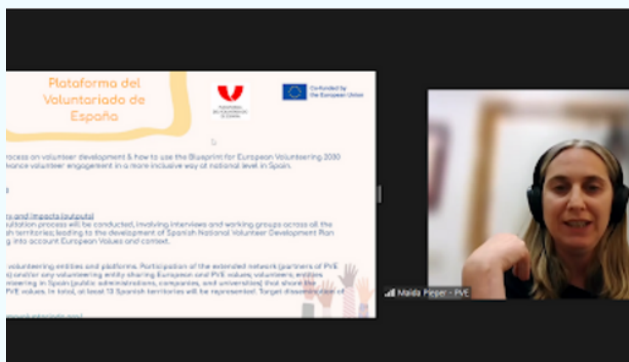
Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations project's consist of 3 full-day workshops that will be implemented in the eastern, western, and central parts of Slovakia, each event will be attended by at least 25 participants from various organisations involving volunteers, other NGOs, municipality representatives, and regional self-government and ministries representatives will be invited to the online events, and the combined results will lead to the development of Slovakian National Volunteer Development Plan 2023-2026.

Plataforma del Voluntariado will do a national consultation process, involving interviews and working groups across all the different Spanish territories, leading to the development of Spanish National Volunteer Development Plan 2023-2026 taking into account European Values and context. All National Volunteer Development Plans 2023-2026 will take into account European Values and context.

Slovenska Filantropija will introduce the BEV2030 to Slovenian NGO working groups, the Slovenian Congress of Volunteering event will be held on 5 December, and will make a consultation (survey) with municipalities or mayors on proposals for a volunteering strategy will be conducted, leading to the development of a Regional Volunteer Development Plan 2023-2026 sent to 12 Regional Hubs in Slovenia.

Several presenters expressed their viewpoints regarding the topic of improving volunteer engagement and the implementation of plans to address local needs. One presenter highlighted the importance of incorporating realistic needs into their plans, aiming to focus on achievable goals rather than lofty ambitions that may be challenging to implement. They emphasised the significance of networking and collaboration between NGOs including in projects and shared office spaces etc and to effectively address local requirements. While acknowledging that the overall implementation process would span several years, they expressed hope that the resulting documents from these sub grant projects would serve as a valuable resource and basis for future endeavours and follow up.

In response to a follow up question from the moderator on **“What is the timing to change or improve their policies, and how this is connected with the timing of the subgrant activities”**, presenters acknowledged that the timeline for the adoption of the National Volunteer Development Program by the government, could extend beyond the current year. However, there was still optimism that in some cases the programmes would be redesigned and adopted in the near future, based on assurances given by the relevant authorities. Presenters also highlighted the significance of their involvement in the whole process, recognising the opportunities for making a substantial impact in volunteer engagement and policy development, which are facilitated by collaboration between policymakers, municipalities, and the third sector. As such, this cooperation was highlighted as a further important feature of the subgranting process and activities.

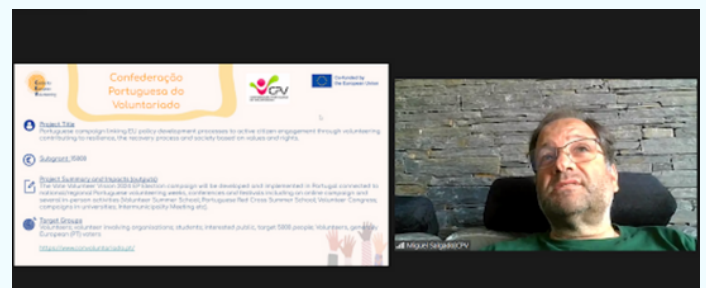


Rights:

In this section, the plan has a focus on the [VVV Campaign](#) linking EU policy development processes and the **EP elections 2024** to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights. One CEV member presented in this part:

Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV-Portugal). In Portugal, the focus on European Rights has been relatively limited compared to other regions.

Our Member emphasised the importance of promoting understanding of European ideals among young people, particularly their right to vote. The project aims to develop a two-way campaign, combining online tools to encourage voting in upcoming elections, especially by organising visits to public universities to engage with students directly. Internal meetings and collaboration with partners within the Confederation will also be utilised to promote the campaign. Additionally, the presenter highlighted the printing of the translation of the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) into Portuguese as an important added value offered by the sub grant.



Action:

The focus of this section of the project is on **activities contributing to local volunteer development strategies** and their implementation in candidate and/or winning municipalities involved in the **European Volunteering Capital Competition, including the integration and support to Ukrainian refugees**. Three CEV members presented in this part: CSV Marche (Italy), Pro Vobis (Romania) and Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia). The aim of the projects are to encourage municipalities to make volunteering more inclusive and to enhance their engagement with volunteers and volunteer organisations, particularly in supporting the integration and assistance of refugees from Ukraine and other regions.

CSV Marche will implement four participatory workshops to expand the local volunteer development strategy outlined in the context of Trento's allocation as the European Volunteering Capital 2014 as well as one participatory event leading to even better developed local volunteer development plans in Trento, Italy.

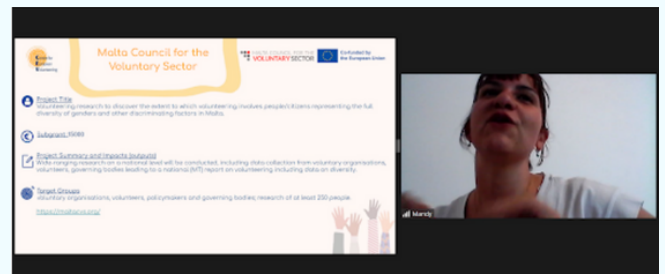
Pro Vobis project's consist of an analysis of the needs and potential regarding volunteering in Cluj - resulting in a published report on the state-of-the art of local volunteering in Cluj and a Local Volunteer Development Plan (LVDP) - showing cross-sector collaborations needed to strengthen volunteering infrastructure and leading to planned development of local urban volunteering mechanisms. A promotion campaign for the LVDP and the opportunity of the EVCapital will be implemented, with support of 5 Communication Wizards (volunteers) It was explained that they see Cluj has the right context to explore a preparation process for the EV Capital.

The Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations will hold a joint 2-day meeting with representatives of at least 6 local/regional volunteer centres, volunteer centre standards will be created that will define the basic and broader tasks of the volunteer centre.

Each of these volunteer centres will be worked with individually, and will also focus on addressing the issues of the involvement of Ukrainian refugees in volunteering. These activities will lead to local volunteer development plans in Slovakia.

Presenters highlighted the timely nature of these projects and expressed optimism about their progress. One project focuses on raising awareness about European elections and EU policy developments to encourage citizen engagement and volunteering. Another project aims to strengthen volunteer engagement and develop a local volunteer strategy in Portugal, particularly among young people. Additionally, there are discussions about sub-grants for implementing volunteer development strategies in Italy and Slovakia, with a focus on involving municipalities and establishing standards for volunteer centres.

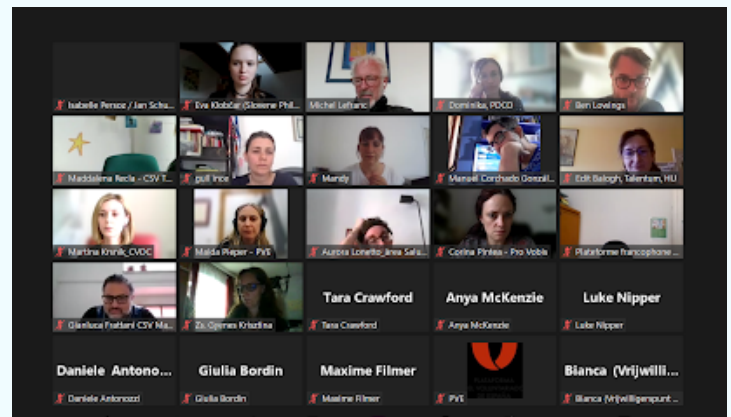
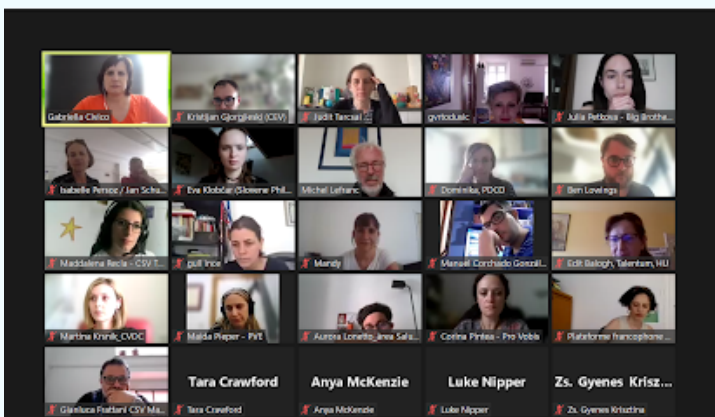
Presenters emphasised the importance of collaboration and support among organisations and expressed their commitment to achieving positive changes through these projects. Members will be implementing participatory workshops to expand the local volunteer development strategy within the context of candidacies for European Volunteering Capital. The workshops will also emphasise the perspective of young people aged 18 to 30, as their insights are crucial in understanding the changes and challenges faced by volunteering, including the difficulty of intergenerational exchange and the increasing fragmentation and occasional nature of volunteer participation. Additionally, special attention will be given to Ukrainian associations and young individuals involved in these cities where the workshops will take place.



In response to the follow up question from the **moderator about how they see the relevance of local policies as compared with national for determining how enabling the environment is for volunteering organisations? The replies included:** on a local level it is very important the relationships and connections you have in the municipality. It was underlined that if regional volunteering organisations have good relationships with the local administration or regional authorities, then it's easier to adopt policies. Also it was stressed that it was very important to create institutional linkage between the organisations and the authorities, in addition to the personal connections. It was highlighted that these personal connections between individuals and the different stakeholders, are only one aspect which should be built upon with an institutional relationship or collaboration, with joint events being one example of how this could work in practice.

Conclusion:

For the first time, CEV has had the opportunity to **allocate 240,000 EUR of subgrants to its member organisations as part of the VERA 2023 project**. The overall aim of the subgrants, made possible through the EU CERV fund allocated to CEV as part of a Framework Partnership Agreement, is to build capacity in the volunteering sector to advance gender equality and tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination, involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors. This webinar was the opportunity to showcase the different initiatives that have been made possible and encourage peer exchange and learning between the different beneficiaries. It also served as an important space to highlight the potential of being a recipient of a sub grant and in this way motivating more applicants to engage in future opportunities should they become available in subsequent years of the CERV Framework Partnership Agreement. Find more info [here](#).



15:00 - 15:10 **Welcome and introduction, CEV Director Gabriella Civico**

15:10 - 15:50 **Presentations from VERA 2023 subgrantees related to selected projects:**

Volunteering: **Research** to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors.

Presenters: Julija Petkova from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria (BBBSB-Bulgaria), Martina Krsnik from Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HCRV-Croatia), Edit Balogh from Talentum Foundation (Hungary), Gul Ince Beqo from CSV Marche (Italy), Mandy Cristina-Portelli from the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS-Malta) and Corina Pinteia from Pro Vobis (Romania).

Equality: **Consultation process** on volunteer development and how to use the Blueprint European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) to advance volunteer engagement in a more inclusive way at national or regional level and so becoming more diverse.

Presenters: Martina Krsnik from HCRV (Croatia), Edit Balogh from Talentum Foundation (Hungary), Dominika Hradiská from Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia), Eva Klobčar from Slovenska Filantropija and Maida Pieper from Plataforma del Voluntariado (PVE-Spain).

Rights: **Campaign** linking EU policy development processes and the EP elections 2024 to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights.

Presenters: Miguel Salgado from Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV-Portugal).

Action: **Activities contributing to local volunteer development strategies** and their implementation in candidate and/or winning municipalities involved in the European Volunteering Capital Competition, including the integration and support to Ukrainian refugees.

Presenters: Gul Ince Beqo from CSV Marche (Italy), Corina Pinteia from Pro Vobis (Romania) and Dominika Hradiská from Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia)

15:50 - 16:00 **Break**

16:00 - 16:50 **Discussion and questions**

16:50 - 17:00 **Wrapping up with a reflection**



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