

# Centre for European Volunteering

## Annual Report 2023



The Centre for European Volunteering (CEV), established in 1992, 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 aim to be the **leading voice in the values-based volunteering debate in Europe**, influencing and sharing the current trends & challenges and those predicted for the future, developing and providing policy advice and expertise for European Policymakers so that volunteering policies and programmes developed at European level are effective and fit for purpose. Network members are also supported to further their own objectives at national/regional & European level by the protection and support for a free and enabling civil society space, advocating for suitable European funding support, and by developing supportive policy statements at the European level on pertinent volunteering issues. In this way, reaching out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support in bringing the European dimension to their work and strengthen links between them.

CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Together with other stakeholders we exchange policy, practice and information in order to reach the outcomes envisaged in the **Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030)**.

CEV's **vision** is a Europe in which volunteers are central in building a **cohesive, sustainable and inclusive society** based on **solidarity** and **active citizenship**.

CEV is a European network of organizations dedicated to the promotion of and support to volunteers and volunteering. Our **mission** is to provide **collaborative leadership** to create an enabling environment for **volunteering** in Europe.

## CEV Members

### EUROPEAN NETWORKS

- Confederation of European Senior Expert Services (CESES)
- World Organisation of the Scout Movement in Europe (WOSM)
- South East European Youth Network (SEEYN)

### ALBANIA

- Beyond Barriers

### AUSTRIA

- Interessensgemeinschaft Freiwilligenzentren Österreich (IGFÖ)

### BELGIUM

- Plate-forme Francophone du Volontariat
- Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk

### BULGARIA

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BBBSB)

### CROATIA

- Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (CVDC)

### CYPRUS

- The Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC)

### DENMARK

- The Danish Institute for Voluntary Effort (DIVE)
- Frivilligcentre og Selvhjælp Danmark (FriSe)

### ESTONIA

- Estonian Village Movement Kodukant
- Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organisations (NENO)

### FINLAND

- Citizen Forum

### FRANCE

- France Bénévolat
- Tous Bénévoles

### GERMANY

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Bürgerschaftlichen Engagements (ARBES)
- National Network for Civil Society (BBE)

### HUNGARY

- Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering
- Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation (OKA)

### IRELAND

- Volunteer Ireland

### ITALY

- Centro Nazionale Per il Volontariato (CNV)
- CSV Basilicata
- CSV Friuli Venezia Giulia
- CSVnet Lombardia
- CSVnet
- CSV Marche
- Sardegna Solidale
- CSV Padova&Rovigo
- CSV Trentino
- CSV Vicenza

### LUXEMBOURG

- Agence du Bénévolat

### MALTA

- The National Council of Women of Malta
- Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector

### THE NETHERLANDS

- Vereniging Nederlandse Organisaties Vrijwilligerswerk (NOV)

### PORTUGAL

- Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV)
- Fundação Eugénio de Almeida (FEA)
- Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (CASES) (Partner)
- Pista Mágica - Associação

### ROMANIA

- Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat
- Centrul de Voluntariat Reșița

### SLOVAKIA

- Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations

### SLOVENIA

- Slovenska Filantropija

## AS A NETWORK OF MEMBERS, WE WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE 4 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 1

The value of quality volunteering as an expression of Solidarity and European values is understood, supported and celebrated.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 2

Policies & programmes together with the European social environment, inspires, encourages and supports quality European Volunteering.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 3

Individuals and organisations that are active in the volunteering and civil society sphere share, learn and are inspired from one another in the framework of CEV.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY NO. 4

CEV is a well-run and effective organisation.

## MEMBERSHIP

### FULL MEMBERS

Organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteering in Europe and European, National or Regional level.

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Local volunteer organisations. Volunteer-involving organisations without the promotion of volunteering as a main mission.

### PARTNERS

Other stakeholders from the voluntary, business or governmental sector that subscribe to our mission and vision.

## WE ARE THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING NETWORK PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERING & SOLIDARITY IN EUROPE!

### SPAIN

- Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social
- Fundación Hazloposible
- Plataforma Andaluza de Voluntariado (PAV)
- Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (PVE)
- Departament de Benestar Social i Família (Social Welfare and Family Department) (Partner)
- Volies Asociación

### SWEDEN

- Forum-idéburna organisationer med social inriktning

### TÜRKIYE

- System & Generation Association
- SosyalBen Foundation

### UKRAINE

- Ukrainian Centre for Volunteering

### UNITED KINGDOM

- Volunteer Scotland



Co-funded by the European Union

# EVCapital 2023



In 2013, the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers. In 2023 Trondheim (Norway) has been nominated #EVCapital2023. Key moments in 2023:

## • EVCAPITAL 2023 OPENING CEREMONY:

On January 31st 2023 the event saw the participation of Rita Ottervik, (Mayor of Trondheim), Ola By Rise (Director of Culture and Sport at Trondheim Municipality), Tanja Plasil (Project Leader Trondheim European Capital of Volunteering 2023), Gerd Åberg (Trondheim Volunteer of the Year), & Gabriella Civico (CEV Director). Accompanied by music from Schola Sanctae Sunniva, Petra Bjørkhaug, Svartlamon Hardkor, Children's choir Musikalfabrikken, Øyvind Weiseth with band and dances of Cissi Klein School, over 750 people attended, including representatives from CEV and members of the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community #EVCCC.

## • EVCAPITAL 2023 CLOSING CEREMONY:

In Trondheim, Norway, for the closing ceremony of EVCapital 2023 on December 5th 2023, EVCapital 2025 Mechelen was announced, and the title of EVCapital 2024 formally passed to Trento (IT).



## FINISHED IN 2023



"Young Europeans Volunteering for Europe" supported young people, especially with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds, to acquire relevant knowledge and competences in order to become active and engaged citizens and become actors of change particularly for the context of the EP 2024 elections. It saw the participation of seven CEV Members.



"Analysing and making visible the skills acquired through volunteering in sport in Europe" raised the profile of sport volunteers and the skills they gain, to increase volunteer recruitment and retention, and to facilitate smooth transition from volunteering to paid employment when that is the wish of the volunteer together with twelve partners.



"Community Urban Farming Lifestyles" enabled European Solidarity Corps Team Volunteers to tackle prevention, promotion, and support in the field of physical and mental health especially for vulnerable young people, including refugees from Ukraine. It saw the participation of two CEV Members and five other partners in connection with the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC).



"Combating Loneliness & Isolation with Volunteers in Europe" enabled 66 European Solidarity Corps Team Volunteers to combat the increasing loneliness that has emerged as a result of Covid lockdowns. It saw the participation of two CEV Members and six other partners in connection with the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC).

## Projects



### ONGOING

#### POWERED BY V

"Engaged Volunteering for the Future of Europe Project" aims to encourage better understanding of cultural, social, political context of relations between youth engagement through volunteering and EU values. It sees the participation of four CEV Members and one other partner.

#### EVI-DEMS

"Volunteer Impact - Developing European Management Standards" aims to improve knowledge, skills, qualifications of volunteer managers and make their training and qualifications available across Europe with specific components in relation to those active in the field of Disaster Prevention, preparedness and Recovery. It sees the participation of one CEV Member and four other partners.

#### SLSV

"Stop Loneliness, start Volunteering!" aims to link volunteering to situations of social marginalisation as a tool to counteract loneliness. It sees the participation of three CEV Members and two other partners.

### NEW STARTED IN 2023

#### V-CALC

"Volunteering Impact Measurement Training in Europe" aims to enable 800 volunteer managers and coordinators of all ages & diversity to measure and understand the impact of their volunteers. It sees the participation of two CEV Members and three other partners.

#### EQUAL

"European Quality Standards in the Validating the Learning Outcomes from Volunteering" aims to develop organisational standards for the validation of skills and competencies acquired through volunteering. It sees the participation of three CEV Members and three other partners.

#### MAB

"Mentoring Across Borders" aims to support, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people by developing, testing and validating an intergenerational, cross-border mentoring programme between older, experienced people (mentors, 50+) and young mentees (18-30y.o.) at risk of marginalisation. It sees the participation of two CEV Members and ten other partners.

#### TEAM IV

"Training European Active Mentors for Inclusive Volunteering" aims to contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities by training 250 mentors specialised in supporting people with disabilities who are volunteers or wish to be volunteers. The project intends to create a platform that can be used for training and for matching mentors and mentees, with training materials in different languages. It sees the participation of four CEV Members and one other partner.

#### SLIPSTREAM

"Service-learning in fostering youth civic engagement, diversity, and social inclusion in the CEE region" aims to strengthen Service Learning in the CEE region, particularly through the creation of tools, including a learning-reflection app, SL training, and the implementation of national Service Learning awards. It sees the participation of one CEV Member and five other partners.

## COMING UP IN 2024

#### SLIPS

"Service Learning in Primary Schools" will build on the previous project "SLUSIK" and upscale an existing Service Learning programme for secondary level for primary school pupils. An online platform, service learning methodology and training activities, as well as policy advocacy will enable transformation and change at individual, organisational and sectoral level. It sees the participation of two CEV Members and four other partners.

#### TEAM MY PROMISE

"Team My Promise" aims to promote the social impact of volunteering in sports and healthy lifestyles. The project intends to develop a marketing analysis of the viability and potential of an app that links sports events and volunteers interested in the field. It sees the participation of five partners.



# Advocacy



## THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP

Assists the European Commission in the implementation of the EQF & follows up on the Council Recommendation on the Validation of Non Formal and Informal Learning with CEV focusing learning acquired through volunteering.



## EUROPASS EUROPEAN UNION EUROPASS ADVISORY GROUP

The Advisory Group assists the European Commission with the implementation of the revised Europass Decision. CEV works to ensure that Europass is suitable for volunteers who want to be able to demonstrate their skills & competencies acquired whilst volunteering, including soft and transversal skills.



## DG EMPL CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP

CEV participates in the civil dialogue group to ensure that the role of volunteers and their needs are taken into account when dealing with the topic of employment and social affairs.



## THE ESC RESOURCE CENTRE ADVISORY GROUP

CEV is one of 17 experts from civil society, E+/EuSC National Agencies, the European Commission, EACEA and other experts, researchers and trainers convened to provide guidance to the work of the EuSC Resource Centre based in Vienna.



## INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CEV is part of the INGOs of the Council of Europe as a way to contribute to the social pillar in the 'quadrilogue' between the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities.



## EESC LIAISON GROUP

CEV is a member of the EESC Liaison Group which provides a framework for political dialogue and cooperation between the EESC and the European organisations and networks.

# Networks



The coordination body for European Networks of civil society organisations. CEV Director Gabriella Civico is the President.



This coalition aims to contribute to policy debates related to the current Erasmus+ programme revision as well as the MFF Mid Term Review and the next Generation of EU programmes.



SDG Watch Europe reaches out to CSOs (in the EU and other European countries, non EU member states) to raise awareness, promote engagement and to help build the capacity towards the implementation of the SDGs at all levels.

# Communication

## CEV NEWSLETTER & VIDEOS



Every month CEV publishes its newsletter with news from CEV's, CEV members and Institutional activities. The news are available also in video format.

## CEV SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



CEV has been present in 2023 on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Mastodon) and YouTube channels as part of its communication strategy.

## UPDATE OF CEV POLICY STATEMENTS



CEV published the CEV Policy Statements: Volunteering & European Civic Service, Volunteering & Social Enterprises (both approved by the CEV General Assembly 2 October 2023).

## CEV CONTRIBUTION TO EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS



CEV contributes to its members and partners publications, newsletters, materials, etc, bringing the European perspective of Volunteering in the topics

# CEV Spring and Autumn Volunteering Congresses 2023

On 19-22 March 2023 CEV held the **Spring Volunteering Congress 2023** in Brussels with the **CEV General Assembly**; #REACT - "Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together" - BEV20302030 Seminar; European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC) Seminar; the Launch of CEV Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign and the V-Calc Erasmus + Kick Off Conference.

On 2-3 October 2023 CEV held the **Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023** in Dubrovnik under the title "Collaborative Communities", with the CEV General Assembly; REACT - "Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together" - BEV2030 Seminar; European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC) Seminar including the EV Capital 2025 Candidates presentations.

The 2023 CEV Congresses were supported by the CERV and Erasmus+ programmes. Volunteers and representatives of civil society organisations, municipalities, and EU institutions participated.

## EVEN



FOUNDING MEMBERS: Telefonica FUNDACIÓN intel Voluntarios de "La Caixa" CORPORATE MEMBERS: IBERDROLA Montepio

The **Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)** was established by CEV in 2013. In 2023, EVEN and CEV saw partnerships with Amazon Web Services and Repsol through "Voluntariado y Estrategia", providing the opportunity to share experiences and have access to reliable and competent partners for employee volunteering projects. Iberdrola contributed to the Jury for the EV Capital 2023.



## European Year of Volunteers 2025

2025 should be declared by the EU as the **European Year of Volunteers**. This would be a fitting tribute to the efforts and impact of volunteers during the COVID19 crisis and the crises caused by the war in Ukraine where people's lives and well being have been in grave danger. The EY 2025 will shine the spotlight on the essential collective actions of volunteers leading to increased health and well being in Europe and provide a suitable framework to better celebrate and reinforce positive recognition of volunteers in Europe.



# CEV Board



**Lejla Šehić Relić (HR)**  
President  
Croatian Volunteer  
Development Centre



**Daniele Antonozzi (IT)**  
CSVMarche



**Lena Karnalova (BG)**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Bulgaria



**Emmeline Orban (BE)**  
Vice President  
Plate-forme Francophone  
du Volontariat  
(until October 2023)



**Nina Arwitz (IE)**  
Volunteer Ireland  
(until October 2023)



**Michel Lefranc (FR)**  
France Bénévolat



**George Thomson (UK)**  
Vice President  
Volunteer Scotland



**Gian Piero Farru (IT)**  
CSV Sardegna Solidale



**Víctor Quirós Oyaguez (ES)**  
Plataforma del  
Voluntariado de España



**Jacques Van Egten (BE)**  
Vice President  
CESES  
(since October 2023)



**Robert Farrugia (MT)**  
Malta Council for the  
Voluntary Sector  
(until October 2023)



**Jan Verdée (BE)**  
Vlaams Steunpunt  
Vrijwilligerswerk



**Catalina Parra (ES)**  
Treasurer  
Hazloposible



**Mauro Pace Parascandalo (MT)**  
Malta Council for the  
Voluntary Sector  
(since October 2023)



**Franci Zlatar (SI)**  
Slovenska Filantropija  
(since October 2023)



**Amy Woods (IE)**  
Volunteer Ireland  
(since October 2023)

# CEV Staff



**Gabriella Civico**  
Director



**Connor Audsley**  
Project Officer  
(Previously Administrative Assistant)



**Yuliia Styran**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Rita Marques**  
Policy and Project Officer  
(since August 2023)



**Lamiae Goumri**  
Office Manager



**Miriah Conte**  
Policy and Communication Officer  
(Previously Policy and Communication  
Assistant)



**Sara Fasoli**  
Membership and Corporate Relations  
Manager  
(until March 2023)



**Joseph Rojas**  
Events and Campaigns Officer  
(Previously Project Assistant)



**Giulia Bordin**  
Policy and Communication Officer  
(until September 2023)



**Filipa Cabral**  
Eurodysey Trainee  
(Until May)



**Kristijan Gjorgjieski**  
Project Manager



**Manuel Corchado Gonzalez**  
Volunteer



**Ben Lowings**  
Project and Sub-Granting Officer



**Alejandro Cantero**  
ESC Volunteer  
(since November 2023)

## UEA University of East Anglia Trainees

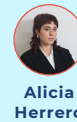
Six Turing Programme trainees from East Anglia University (UK) joined CEV in 2023, focusing on different research projects, publishing the articles: **Environmental volunteering as a tool for integrating refugees and asylum seekers in host countries** by Annabelle Brunton; **Evaluating The Impact of Digital Technologies on Volunteer Engagement** by Luke Nipper; **Comparative Analysis of Volunteer Organizations and EU Policy Campaigns in Addressing Gender-Based and Domestic Violence Against Women in Ukraine, Belgium, and Spain** by Anya McKenzie; **Accessibility to volunteering opportunities: an investigation into the barriers to volunteering for people with a disability** by Tara Crawford.



**Luke Nipper**



**Tara Crawford**



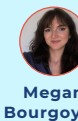
**Alicia Herrero**



**Annabelle Brunton**



**Maxime Filmer**



**Megan Bourgoyne**



**Anya McKenzie**

## Erasmus+ Trainees

One Erasmus+ Trainee from the University of Bologna (IT) joined CEV in 2023 who wrote his thesis **Volunteering as a Driving Force for the Participation of Young People in the 2024 European Elections**.



**Luca Chieti**

# FINANCES



Co-funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS



European Parliament



EMPLOYEE  
VOLUNTEERING  
EUROPEAN  
NETWORK



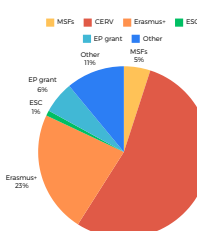
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KOMMUNE



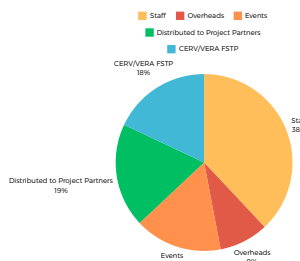
Trondelags Europakontor  
Mid-Norway European Office

CEV is especially grateful for the financial and in-kind contributions of the membership, 397 days of volunteer support, the CERV, Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, European Parliament, EVEN members, the Municipality of Trondheim, Mid-Norway European Office, COFRA Foundation and other donors.

Income: € 1,333,561



Expenditure: € 1,333,497



## Follow us!



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CEV-Centre for European  
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www.europeanvolunteercentre.org



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# Volunteering Equality Rights Action 2023

## In this VERA 2023 Report

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# Volunteering, Equality, Rights, Action

In the context of a 4-year framework agreement grant under the European Union “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” fund (CERV) - “REVIVE” (Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe - 2022-2025), in 2023, the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) has implemented a series of activities and initiatives aimed at promoting Citizen Engagement and Equality through volunteering - connecting volunteering to EU Values.

Through the **European Volunteering Capital Competition**, “VERA 2023” enabled volunteers & staff of volunteer-involving & volunteer infrastructure organisations, as well as local authorities and other policymakers, including at the EU level, to engage in mutual learning and exchange good practices on the role of volunteering as active citizen engagement and an expression of democracy and European values.

The #REACT, and “Vote Volunteer Vision” campaigns gave visibility to, and raised awareness about, the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers that are enabled under different EU policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan and programmes such as CERV, the “Next Generation EU” funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus+, increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives and promoted EU values.

Through **toolkits and training courses**, “VERA 2023” increased the capacities of organisations to create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality and tackling multiple and intersecting discrimination and, as a result, provide more and better quality inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors. CEV **increased capacity to directly reach over 13,000** citizens and entities and **indirectly over 6 million citizens** interested in volunteering and bringing the European context to their activities, especially in the framework of National and Regional volunteering weeks, festivals and conferences in **6 EU Member States**. We shared **150 individual volunteer portraits and stories** from 12 cities in 10 countries showing the diversity of volunteers and volunteering, and in this way inspired and activated even more citizens as volunteers.

Thanks to the coordination of the CEV secretariat, leadership of the CEV Board and the commitment of CEV member organisations: Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk (BE); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association - BBBSB (BG); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España - PVE (ES); France Benevolat (FR); Kansalaisareena - Citizen Forum (FI); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre - CVDC (HR); Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation - ÖKA (HU); Talentum Foundation for the support of volunteering (HU); CSV Padova and Rovigo (IT); CSV Marche (IT); CSV Net (IT); CSV Sardegna Solidale (IT); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector - MCVS (MT); Vereniging Nederlandse Organisaties Vrijwilligerswerk - NOV (NL); Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado - CPV (PT); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida (PT); Pista Mágica - Associação (PT); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (RO); Slovenska Filantropija (SI) & Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK), as well as other partners: Amazing Youth - Greece (GR), Hellenic Youth Participation (GR), Association pour le Volontariat en Europe - AVE (FR), Beit (BE) means that through “VERA 2023” **volunteering is now better understood in society as a key tool of citizen engagement and expression of solidarity contributing to the future of Europe and equality based on EU Values and active citizen engagement.**



CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik



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# Exchange of Good Practice

## European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC)

The EVCCC is an unique community of practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional public authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering and Solidarity. In 2023, the EVCCC gathered on two occasions together with CSOs and other partners, engaging a total of 198 participants from 20 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine). Among them 123 were females, 73 were males and 2 non-binary.

- The EVCCC event on March 20th-21st 2023 in Brussels (BE) included **"Getting to know Mid-Norway and Trondheim: How volunteering reflects European Values, promotes diversity and defends rights. Cooperation of the public and the volunteering sector to meet future challenges"** and **"Role of civil society and volunteering in Re-building Ukraine"** especially at the local level.



Ivanna Malchevska, Programme Manager at CCL in Ukraine; Martin Mühleck, EU Commission DG NEAR; Dariia Zhdanova, Volunteer Coordinator at Centre for Environmental Initiatives "Ecoaction"; Marta Barandiy, Founding Chair of Promote Ukraine; Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President; Tetyana Khabibrakhmanova, Head of the External Relations and Promotion Office, Lviv Municipality; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director

- The EVCCC event on October 2nd 2023 in Dubrovnik (HR) included **"Best practice for Collaborate Communities"** presentations from municipalities, Panel Discussion **"What is the future and role of volunteering in building collaborative communities?"**, and **"EVCapital 2025 Candidates presentations"** from Aviles, Mechelen and Salamanca.



Friedemann Walther, Head of Division for Civic Engagement and Democracy Promotion, Municipality of Berlin; Jurgen Grotz, Director of Institute for Volunteering Research; Damian Kuzmiński, Unit of Local Cooperation and Social Innovations, Municipality of Gdańsk; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President



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## EVCapital2024

In 2013, the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers. In 2023, Trondheim (Norway) was #EVCapital2023. Trento (Italy) has been named as the #EVCapital2024 and during 2023 preparatory activities, such as 6 public meetings, have been taking place to ensure the maximum outreach to bring the European Volunteering Capital and European framework closer to the citizens and update about volunteering activities and resources as Trento #EVCapital2024.

Key moments in 2024 will include:

- Opening Ceremony on February 3rd in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella.
- CEV Spring Volunteering Congress, from May 14th to 17th.
- Closing Ceremony on November 29th. The EVCapital 2026 will be announced and the title of EVCapital 2025 formally passed to Mechelen (BE).



COMUNE DI TRENTO



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# Exchange of Good Practice

## EVCapital2025

Mechelen (BE) was awarded the title of European Volunteering Capital 2025 on December 5th, at the EVCapital Trondheim 2023 closing ceremony. The other candidates, Aviles (ES) and Salamanca (ES) were recognised for their achievements and their vital support to volunteers and volunteering. The competition included the following steps:

### Call for Candidatures

Launched on January 27th 2023 with deadline June 2nd 2023.



### Announcement of the EVCapital 2025 Candidates

The Candidate Certificates for Aviles (ES), Mechelen (BE) and Salamanca (ES) were presented in Brussels, in July 2023.



Gabiella Civico, CEV Director; Remedios Bordiu Cienfuego-Jovellanos, Representative of Asturias Region Delegation in Brussels



Pierre Cartuyvels, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium in the EU; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director



Gabiella Civico, CEV Director; Clara San Damian, Head of the Delegation of the Region of Castilla Y León in Brussels

### Announcement of the Jury

On September 8th 2023 the jury members were announced. The jury was composed of Daniele Antonozzi (CEV Board), Begoña Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network - EVEN), Michel Lefranc (CEV Board), Brando Benifei (Member of the European Parliament, S&D), Barbara Eglitis (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Lena Karnalova (CEV Board), Tine Radinja (Mayor of Škofja Loka, Slovenia & EU Committee of the Regions member), Krzysztof Pater (EESC Vice President, Rapporteur Opinion "Volunteering - Citizens Building the Future of Europe"), Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Morten Wolden (Trondheim Municipal Director).

### Presentation of the Candidates in Dubrovnik

During the CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress on October 2nd 2023, the candidates' videos were shown and representatives from each municipality gave presentations to motivate their candidacies.



Pelayo Garcia Garcia, Councilor for Citizen Participation, Municipality of Aviles



Bas Dhoey, Coordinator of Social Cohesion & Project officer; Hanne Heuts, Project Officer, Municipality of Mechelen



Maria Almudena Parres Cabrera, First Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Salamanca

### Winner Announcement

On December 5th 2023, at the EVCapital Trondheim 2023 closing ceremony, Mechelen was announced as the European Volunteering Capital 2025.

In choosing **Mechelen as the European Volunteering Capital 2025** the jury have noted that the city is an excellent example of harnessing volunteering for inclusion, diversity and participation of all its inhabitants, symbolising the European values of connection, diversity and progress. The jury was also impressed by their strategy for future growth in volunteering that focuses on accessible and talent-oriented volunteering, organisational growth and research, social relevance and impact with a permanent focus on training, cooperation and networking.

The jury felt that the accomplishments of **Aviles and Salamanca** municipalities to support and develop volunteering in the cities also deserves high recognition. The efforts undertaken in creating social awareness actions on the positive impact of volunteering activities and encouraging citizens' participation in this area has been seen by the jury as a fundamental element of the overall support shown to volunteers and volunteering by the candidates.



Gabiella Civico, CEV Director; Björn Siffer, Deputy Mayor of Mechelen



Kent Ranum, Mayor of Trondheim; Sabrina Redolfi, Manager of the Municipality of Trento; Franco Ianeselli, Mayor of Trento; Francisca Pancher, Communication PR & Advertising Specialist, Municipality of Trento; Björn Siffer, Deputy Mayor of Mechelen; Francisca Ciudad Rodriguez, Manager of Local Volunteer Office of Aviles; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Tanja Plasil, Project Leader, Trondheim Municipality





# Exchange of Good Practice





## "The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Gender Equality through Volunteering" Publication



This publication showcases the volunteering actions and responses developed in 8 European Municipalities, that are part of the EVCCC to support and promote gender equality through volunteering.

Participating municipalities:



**AVILÉS**  
EV Capital Candidate 2025



**SALAMANCA**  
EV Capital Candidate 2025



**TRONDHEIM**  
EV Capital 2023



**GDAŃSK**  
EV Capital 2022



**PADOVA**  
EV Capital 2020



**KOŠICE**  
EV Capital 2019

**AARHUS**  
EV Capital 2018

**LISBON**  
EV Capital 2015



## Membership Growth

CEV welcomed three new members in 2023: Beyond Barriers (AL), CSV Trentino (IT), Volies (ES) and one new Observer: Ukrainian Centre for Volunteering (UA).



CSV TRENINO



Volunteering Equality Rights Action  
**VERA**



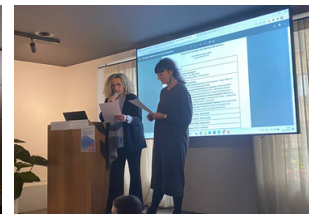
Co-funded by the European Union

# Exchange of Good Practice

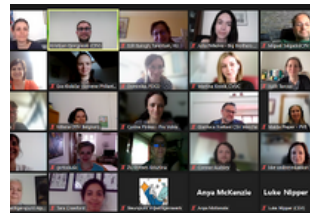
## #REACT Campaign & BEV2030

The three #REACT (“Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together) Campaign events expanded the scope of VERA 2023 by further disseminating and raising awareness on active citizenship and the relevance it has in rights and equality improvement, supported by the [Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 #BEV2030](#) document. Involving a total of 211 participants from 20 countries. Among them 125 were females, 84 were males and 2 non-binary.

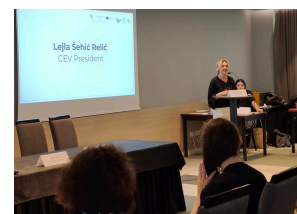
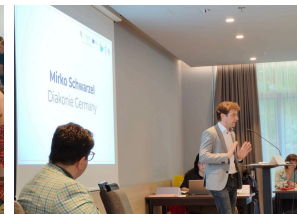
- The #REACT - “Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030” Seminar on March 20th 2023 in Brussels (BE) involved CEV members, other organisations and individuals to discuss the following topics: BEV 2030 at the National Level; Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers; Volunteer Responses to domestic violence and gender violence as a result of war; Funding Volunteer through participatory budgeting.



- The **Webinar** on June 15th 2023 focussed on the projects of the VERA 2023 subgrantees (FSTP) and their plans to: research the diversity and inclusivity of volunteering; integrate EU values into National and/or Regional Volunteer Development Plans; promote the “Vote Volunteer Vision” Campaign for the EU Parliamentary Elections, and contribute to local volunteering plans in specific cities such as those participating in the EVCapital Competition with a special focus on integration of Ukrainian refugees and other minorities.



- The “**Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - Collaborative Communities**” Seminar on October 3rd 2023 in Dubrovnik (HR) gathered CEV members, other organisations and individuals to explore the following topics: Volunteering and Resilience in the Balkans; Young People and Future of Civic Engagement & Volunteering in Europe; Demographic changes and healthy societies; Lifelong Learning - European Year of Skills 2023/2024; Volunteering, Role of Gender, and Political Participation: Examining the influence on Volunteering over Voting Turnout; E-volunteering.



# Dissemination and Communication

## “Job shadowing” with Volunteers & MEPs

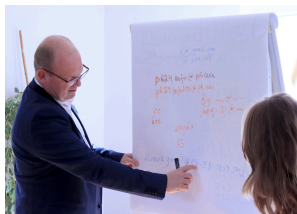
CEV implemented 5 MEP “job shadowing” days with volunteers. By shadowing the volunteers in their activities, the MEPs involved are better suited to support, advocate and value volunteering in their daily work at the EP & the volunteers understand better the connection between EU policy-making and volunteering.

**Viktor Kollar**, Slovenska Filantropija volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Irena Joveva** (RENEW Europe) and she went to Slovenska Filantropija’s office and was teaching Slovenian to Ukrainian refugees.



*“I’m glad that I can be a part of your stories. Your lives are anything but easy, and your willingness to learn is enviable.”*  
**MEP Joveva**

**Kateryna Sydorenko** from the same member organisation spent the day at the local office in Ljubljana with **MEP Klemen Groselj** (RENEW Europe) and he went to their office to follow the volunteer’s digital literacy workshop attended by elderly individuals from Ukraine.



*“It was an incredible experience, it was very interesting to attend the conferences with the MEP.”*  
**Volunteer**

**Beatriz Coelho**, Pista Magica volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques** (S&D) and she went to Pista Magica office to shadow for a day.

*“I definitely discovered many new things about the work of an MEP.”*  
**Volunteer**



*“The MEP work is something that I definitely didn’t imagine to be this complex.”*  
**Volunteer**

**Marta Herrera Morello**, Spanish Volunteering Platform volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Monica Silvana Gonzalez** (S&D) attending the Committee on Development (DEVE) meeting, Delegation for relations with Mercosur (DMER) meeting and coordination meeting in preparation of the plenary session to happen in Strasbourg. The MEP will go to Madrid and shadow Marta for a day in her volunteering activities.



*“Programmes like this are very good because it allows volunteers to understand what MEPs do in the EP.”*  
**MEP Gonzalez**

**Jana Mracnova**, Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisation (SK) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Michal Wiezik** (RENEW Europe) attending the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety for an exchange of views with Dr Sharon McGuinness, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The MEP went to the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations office to shadow for a day.

*“It is very impressive to visit the Parliament from the inside and to talk to the MEP.”*  
**Volunteer**



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# Dissemination and Communication

## #REACT (Rights and Equality - Active Citizens Together) Storytelling Workshops & Podcasts

CEV implemented workshops in **12 locations in 10 EU countries** (Belgium-Antwerp, The Netherlands-Utrecht, Belgium-Mechelen, France-Paris, Hungary-Budapest, Slovenia-Ljubljana, Croatia-Zagreb, Italy-Trento, Italy-Padova, Poland-Warsaw, Portugal-Faro and Spain-Jerez). **Portrait photos and voice recordings were gathered from 150 volunteers** (59 male, 90 female and 1 non-binary) **and compiled in 12 podcasts**. 2 webinars were held to reflect on the experience and the results, one on 21st June 2023 with 35 participants (11 male and 24 female) and on 22nd November 2023 with 38 participants (16 male and 23 female).





Photo Credit:  
George Thomson  
<http://linkedin.com/in/george-thomson-1331662>



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Volunteering Equality  
Rights Action  
VERA



Co-funded by  
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# Dissemination and Communication

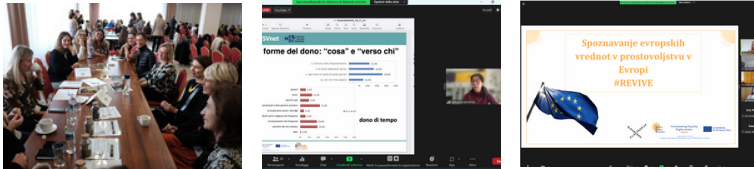
## #Revive Seminars / Webinars

The 17 "Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe Seminars" / Webinars, fostered European identity, equality, and democratic citizen engagement, involving 938 participants, of which 680 females, 255 males and 3 non-binary.

They were co-organised on: March 2nd with Volonteuropa and EESC SOC with 61 participants (19 males and 42 females); March 2nd with Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk vzw in Belgium with 87 participants (39 men and 68 women); May 17th with Pro Vobis in Romania with 54 participants (22 males and 32 females); September 16th with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Centre (MCVS) in Malta with 44 participants (15 male and 29 female); September 28th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 14 participants (female); Talentum in Hungary with 50 participants (8 male and 42 female); October 17th with the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations in Slovakia with 85 participants (16 male and 69 female); October 27th with Plataforma del Voluntariado de España in Spain with 115 participants (42 male and 72 female); November 10th with the Croatian Volunteer Development Centre in Croatia with 109 participants (9 male, 99 female and 1 non-binary); November 22nd September 27th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 13 participants (1 male and 12 females); November 24th with FEA in Portugal with 57 participants (17 males, 39 females); November 27th with CPV in Portugal with 21 participants (17 male and 4 female); November 28th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 13 participants (3 males and 10 females); November 28th with CSVNet in Italy with 29 participants (14 male and 15 female); December 5th with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria in Bulgaria with 52 participants (14 male and 38 female); December 5th with Kansalaisareena in Finland with 45 participants (8 males and 37 females) and on December 6th with OKA in Hungary with 89 participants (31 male and 58 female).



*"The impact of volunteering was a quite new thematic to most of the participants."*  
**REVIVE Organiser**



*"The REVIVE webinar was an opportunity to discuss European values within the framework of volunteer action."*  
**REVIVE Organiser**



*"... volunteering is a tool for change... but it is way easier when you have the unconditional support of an organisation that believes in and supports the ideas of its volunteers."*  
**Volunteer**



*"Being a mentor changed my perspective. As we grow older, we tend to view things more negatively. This experience taught me to look on the bright side."*  
**Volunteer**

*"There is still a misunderstanding on what volunteering exactly is, since there is no official definition, nor framework or legal regulation in the country."*  
**REVIVE Organiser**



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# Dissemination and Communication

## European Volunteering Ambassadors

On March 21st 2023 CEV announced during the #REACT - "Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together" - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 Seminar in Brussels, the two 2023 Ambassadors: Lidija Pavić-Rogošić and Mohammed Azahaf. Their role as ambassadors was to further promote the essential contribution of volunteers to the future of Europe and to support CEV's advocacy to make 2025 the European Year of Volunteers.

On December 5th 2023, International Volunteer Day, they each published a statement about the importance of the day and of the 2025 European Year of Volunteers Campaign.



## Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign Launch

The VVV Campaign, launched on March 21st 2023 in the European Parliament in collaboration with the EP Volunteering Interest Group Co-Chairs, aimed at CEV members and other volunteer-involving organisations to discover and develop the European Parliament candidates' opinions on volunteering for 2024 EP Election, with reference to the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).



## Capacity Building

The online training for trainers session introduced all the materials needed to deliver the training modules on the two priority topics in 2023 to volunteer managers and coordinators. 16 trainers from 16 organisations took part, of which 12 were females and 4 were males in order to have the necessary capacity to deliver the cascaded training opportunities across Europe.

## Trainings

### "Funding Volunteering through Participatory Budgeting"

The 18 training sessions involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders. There were 399 participants - 128 male, 268 female and 3 non-binary, in 12 countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Romania, France, Poland, Belgium and Croatia. The training materials (manual and two presentations) are available in 14 different European languages.



# Capacity Building

## “Combating & Preventing Domestic Violence and Gender Violence as a Result of War Via Volunteering”

The 17 training sessions involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders. There were 405 participants - 118 male, 283 female and 4 non-binary from 12 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Belgium. The training materials (manual and two presentations) are available in 16 different European languages.



## Pilot Training - “Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers”

27 people were involved in giving their feedback and improving the training framework and materials to be used across Europe in 2024 of which 12 were females and 15 were males from 9 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Malta, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.



*"Financial resources are not everything but more better targeted income can help volunteers bring more impact in the community, I hope that know more about PB will help us."*  
**Participant**

*"It was nice to meet people with disabilities like me, I have understood I'm not alone."*  
**Participant**

*"The materials were just right to explain the topic to non-experts and having it in our own language was great!"*  
**Trainer**

*"The training impressed me deeply due to the topic addressed."*  
**Participant**

*"Volunteers are so important to support women experiencing violence and I hope that after this training we will get a few more."*  
**Training organiser**

*"I learnt many new things on how to be actively involved in my community activities."*  
**Participant**





# Subgranting

## Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) - 240,000 euros available

After a Call for proposals published on February 13th 2023, that closed on April 14th 2023, an independent awarding committee of experts assessed the proposals against the criteria specified in the Call. CEV granted 15 applications from 10 organisations from 10 different EU Member States with project activities taking place between May 1st and December 10th 2023 under one of the four VERA priority areas.

### Volunteering

Research to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors. Target groups involved included policymakers, national and regional volunteer-involving organisations, volunteer centres, volunteers and the general public.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (Bulgaria); The Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (Croatia); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (Hungary); CSV Marche (Italy); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (Malta); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntaria (Romania). (15,000 euros per organisation).



### Equality

Consultation process on volunteer development - how to use the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) to advance volunteer engagement in a more inclusive way at national or regional level. National Regional Volunteer Development plans and Programmes were developed and/or redesigned taking into account European Values and the European context. Target groups involved included policymakers, national and regional volunteer-involving organisations, volunteer centres, volunteers, official thematic working groups, academia and the general public.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (Croatia); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (Hungary); Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia); Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia) - (15,000 euros per organisation). Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (Spain), (30,000 euros).



# Subgranting

## Rights

Campaign linking EU policy development processes to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights in preparation for the European Parliament elections 2024 using the CEV Vote Volunteer Vision campaign materials. Target groups included volunteers and future volunteers particularly those aged 18-30, volunteer-involving organisations, students and the general public.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (Portugal). (15,000 euros per organisation).



## Action

Activities included 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. Target groups for this project included local associations, member associations particularly those providing services to Ukrainians, external stakeholders, local volunteers and members of the general public, particularly those with fewer opportunities and young people aged 18-30.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** CSV Marche (Italy); Pro Vobis – Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (Romania); Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia). (15,000 euros per organisation).



*"It is helping us provide more inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors".*  
**Organisation**

*"The research identifies challenges such as attracting new volunteers, connecting volunteering efforts with active citizenship, and strengthening the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations".*  
**Organisation**

*"The voluntary sector would benefit from training on the different forms of discrimination".*  
**Organisation**

*"We would like to thank you again for the grant, which allowed us to implement our projects and implemented several new products and contacts."*  
**Organisation**

*"We better understood how we can implement inclusive modes of working by learning from examples of good practice".*  
**Organisation**



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# My ideas for promoting Equality, Rights and European Values:

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Find online all the VERA 2023 activities in the VERA 2023 webpage



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General Assembly, CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

*"I think, through volunteering, I've already gained a lot of constant confidence and know how to talk and deal with other people."*  
**#REACT Storytelling Workshop Volunteer**



CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik

*"Participants showed the desire to bridge the gap between European Institutions and EU citizens, building a more participatory and direct dialogue."*  
**Organiser**



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

*"The volunteering of the future will be open for everyone! When we make things together we are already very close to achieving this mission."*  
**Volunteer Manager**



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

*"I participated the Youth Volunteer Festival. I decorated the festival hall and held a speech about youth volunteering. The day was awesome!"*  
**Participant**

*"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."*  
**REVIVE Organiser**

*"Volunteering is a real gift."*  
**Volunteer**



CEV Staff, CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik

*"Volunteering changed me, it helped me to better deal with my own problems."*  
**#REACT Storytelling Workshop Volunteer**



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

*"It was a very enriching experience. I really enjoyed this opportunity. It is something I will always remember."*  
**Volunteer**

*"What was strongly expressed by all the participants, is the need to treat all volunteers equally."*  
**REVIVE Organiser**



CEV Board, CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik