



Volunteering Equality Rights Action 2024

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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 2024, 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” 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 - Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - BEV2030” and “Vote Volunteer Vision” (VVV) 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 Plus, increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives and promoted EU values.

Through **toolkits and training courses**, “VERA 2024” increased the capacities of organisations to create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality and tackling multiple and intersecting discrimination, in particular for people with disabilities. With the support of 115 volunteers contributing 775 days, CEV **increased capacity to directly reach over 10,000** citizens and entities and **indirectly over 4 million citizens** interested in volunteering and bringing the European context to their activities, especially in the framework of **12 National and Regional volunteering weeks, festivals and conferences in 11 EU Member States**.

Thanks to the coordination of the CEV secretariat, leadership of the CEV Board and the commitment of CEV member organisations: Confederation of European Senior Expert Services - CESES (BE); Plateforme francophone du Volontariat - PFV (BE); Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk (BE); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association - BBBSB (BG); Federació Catalana de Volontariat Social - FCVS (ES); Volies Association (ES); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España - PVE (ES); Tous Benevoles (FR); France Benevolat (FR); United Vision (FI); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre - CVDC (HR); Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation - ÖKA (HU); Talentum Foundation for the support of volunteering (HU); Volunteer Ireland (IE); CSV Padova and Rovigo (IT); CSV Marche (IT); CSV Net (IT); CSV Sardegna Solidale (IT); CSV Trentino (IT); CSV Vicenza (IT); CSV Venezia (IT); Marche a Rifiuti Zero - MRZ (IT); Ente Pro Loco - EPLI (IT); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector - MCVS (MT); Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado - CPV (PT); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida - FEA (PT); Pista Mágica - Associação (PT); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (RO); Masterpeace Ro (Romania); Slovenska Filantropija (SL) & Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK), as well as other partners: Elegast (BE); Mayo Volunteer Centre (IE); Compromissum - Maia Volunteer Centre (PT); Estrada Rzeszowska (PL); SCI Italia (IT); Frivilligcenter Aabenraa (DK); Participación Ciudadana - Avilés (ES); Czech Ministry of the Interior; means that through “VERA 2024” **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**.



EVCCC Event - Trento

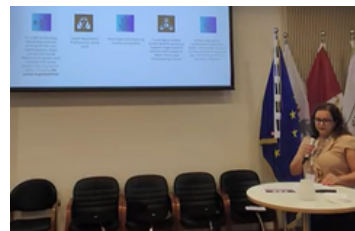


Exchange of Good Practice

European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC)

The EVCCC is an unique community of practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering and Solidarity. In 2024 the EVCCC gathered on two occasions together with CSO and other partners, engaging a total of **197 participants** from **20 countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine). Among them 119 were females, 76 were males and 2 non-binary:

- The **first EVCCC event** on May 14th-16th 2024 in Trento (IT) included the Trento Volunteer Fair Inauguration Ceremony; Study Visits and Network Next Steps Exchange meeting, and EVCapital @10 Celebration & Legacy session. At the opening ceremony, approximately 100 organisations gathered in Piazza Duomo to present the strength and variety of volunteer activities at local level to more than 1000 people. Network members reiterated the importance of the competition and its enduring legacy. Representatives of local authorities, CEV Members and other organisations had the opportunity to visit the different organisations from Trento, asked questions and shared best practices. At the Exchange meeting CEV Board Members joined the municipality representatives to reflect on the network's current state and future plans. The discussion emphasised the critical role of the EVCapital Competition in promoting volunteering at the local level as an expression of EU values, and the EV Capital Candidates Community in sharing best practices. The session "EVCapital @10 Celebration & Legacy" marked the culmination of 10 years of the European Volunteering Capital initiative. It celebrated the vital role that volunteering plays in society at all levels, from the local to the international level.
- The **second EVCCC event** on September 10th 2024 in Brussels (BE) included Trento EV Capital 2024 and Mechelen EV Capital 2025 presentations, "EVCapital 2026 Candidates presentations from Ballina (IE), Maia (PT), Rzeszów (PL) " and interventions from the jury. The candidate videos were shown and they shared more details about their approaches and strategies for supporting volunteers and volunteering and how they align with the priorities in the Blueprint for European Volunteer 2030 and support and defend European values and democracy in the face of rising tensions and polarisation. Jury members shared their impressions about the outstanding quality of the policies and strategies to support and promote volunteering in evidence in all three candidate municipalities. All candidates demonstrated how, having been launched in 2013 in the European Year of Citizens, as a legacy of the European Year of Volunteers 2011, the European Volunteering Capital Competition serves to promote and develop volunteering and EU values, rights and equality at the local level.



"I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the opportunity to meet with you all during our recent visit. It was a pleasure to connect with such talented and welcoming people."
EVCCC Representative

"Thank you once again for making my visit so productive and enjoyable. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's any way I can support you. I look forward to staying in touch and hope to cross paths again."
EVCCC Representative

"Our conversations left me inspired energised even more enthusiastic. I truly appreciated the time you took to share your insights, as well as your hospitality throughout my trip."
EVCCC Representative



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Exchange of Good Practice

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 **2024 Trento (IT)** was **#EVCapital2024**. Reaching more than 500 organisations, more than 4,000 volunteers were activated in over 300 events. 10 co-creation workshop sessions involving citizens were organised, more than 200 meetings have been held between the Municipality and CSV Trentino, CEV Member, and more than a 100 Working Groups for Strategy Implementation took place. 18 working groups were created on various topics to implement the extensive volunteering strategy, many of which will continue their activities in the coming years. A youth support space dedicated to people under 35, who are interested in learning more about the Third Sector and who wish to receive information or contribute locally, was opened.

Key moments in 2024 included:

- **Open Ceremony:** On February 3rd the EVCapital 2024 Trento held its opening Ceremony gathering 2500 attendees: President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella, Mayor of Trento Franco Ianeselli, President of the Autonomous Province of Trento Maurizio Fugatti, Mayor of Lviv (EVCapital Candidate 2024) Andriy Sadovyj, Vice-Deputy Mayors of Lviv Andriy Moshkalenko and Serhiy Kiral, CSV Trentino President Giorgio Casagranda, CSVNet President Chiara Tommasini, CEV Director Gabriella Civico, more than 1000 volunteers, 400 students, Mayors of Trentino's municipalities, representatives of the University and the cultural sector. A livestream of the ceremony was shown on a big screen in the Piazza Duomo open to all citizens.



- **CEV Spring Volunteering Congress:** On May 15th-16th gathering in total more than 100 participants from all over Europe.



- **Validating Trentino Volunteer Talent:** Trento EVCapital 2024 in collaboration with CEV organised the project "Validating Trentino Volunteer Talent". The project aimed at validating skills, including soft and transversal skills, acquired through volunteering for young volunteers living in Italy mainly in Trentino region, aged 15 to 24 including those with disabilities. It foresaw strategic interventions such as one-on-one coaching, group activities and workshops around active citizenship, personal reflection, and assessment.



- **Closing Ceremony:** Trento held the closing ceremony of EVCapital 2024 on November 29th. EVCapital 2026 Maia (PT) was announced. The title of EVCapital 2025 formally passed to Mechelen (BE), symbolically represented by the presentation from the Mayor of Trento Franco Ianeselli to Alderman for Culture and Tourism of Mechelen Björn Siffer, of the image of the "Burning Eagle of Saint Wenceslaus".



Exchange of Good Practice

EVCapital2025

Mechelen (BE) has been named as the **#EVCapital2025** and during 2024 preparatory activities, 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 Mechelen **#EVCapital2025**. They organised 3 steering committees, 7 visits to different advisory boards of the City Council, 2 inspiration workshops for volunteers for the opening ceremony, 2 brainstorm activities with organisations about the opening ceremony, and an inspiration and participation workshop for organisations about the volunteering festival.

Key moments in 2025 will include:

- Opening Ceremony on January 18th.
- Flemish Regional Volunteer Congress on April 27th.
- Mechelen Volunteering Fair on May 9th-10th.
- CEV Spring Volunteering Congress, from April 2nd to 4th.
- Closing Ceremony on December 5th.



EVCapital2026

Maia (PT) was awarded the title of **European Volunteering Capital 2026** on November 29th 2024, at the EVCapital Trento 2024 Closing Ceremony. The **other candidates, Ballina (IE)** and **Rzeszów (PL)** were recognised for their achievements and their vital support to volunteers and volunteering. The competition included the following steps:

Call for Candidatures

Launched on February 10th with a deadline June 3th 2024.



Announcement of the EVCapital 2026 Candidates

The Candidate Certificates for Ballina (IE), Maia (PT), Rzeszów (PL) were presented in Brussels in July 2024.



Aingéal O'Donoghue
Permanent Representative of Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels;
Gabriella Civico, CEV Director



Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Czyż Kamil, Rzeszów - Stolica Innowacji; Ewa Strug-Swiderska, Podkarpackie Region Representative



Paulo Cunha, MEP; Maria Manuel Leitão Marques, MEP; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Mafalda Roriz and Liliana Moutinho, Camara Municipal da Maia

Announcement of the Jury

On July 16th 2024 the jury members were announced. The jury was composed of Michel Lefranc (CEV Board), Jan Verdée (CEV Board), Daniele Antonozzi (CEV Board), Tine Radinja (Mayor of Škofja Loka, Slovenia & EU Committee of the Regions member), Giulia Barbucci (EESC Member, Group II), Marc Angel (MEP), Barbara Eglitis (SALTO European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Piotr Sadowski (Vice-President of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Begoña Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)) and Sabrina Redolfi (Municipality of Trento, Director of Welfare and Social Cohesion Department).

Presentation of the Candidates in Brussels

During the EVCCC event on September 10th 2024.



Winner Announcement

On November 29th 2024, at the EVCapital Trento 2024 Closing Ceremony, Maia was announced as the European Volunteering Capital 2026.

In choosing Maia (PT) as the European Volunteering Capital 2026 the jury have noted that the city is an outstanding 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 impressed by the winner's far-reaching initiatives to foster an inclusive society, spanning from local to international levels. These efforts align well with the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).



Exchange of Good Practice

European Volunteering Capital Impact Measurement Methodology

Being able to better assess the competition's impact will help show the effect of participation in the competition and allow the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) as the competition organisers, as well as the municipalities and other stakeholders involved such as local and regional volunteer centres, to make critical decisions about the future of volunteering and the competition itself. This document was developed based on consultations with: previous winners; previous candidates; CEV Board Members and CEV Staff.

"The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Volunteering"

This publication showcases the volunteering actions and responses developed in **12 European Municipalities** that are part of the EVCCC to support and promote inclusion of people with disabilities through volunteering.

"NGOs are vital in ensuring volunteer opportunities are inclusive and free from discrimination."
EVCCC Municipality

"The Municipal Volunteer Office works diligently to provide participation opportunities for everyone, without exception."
EVCCC Municipality

"We provide essential volunteer training, and adapt educational materials to make them inclusive."
EVCCC Municipality

The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Volunteering

October 2024

Participating municipalities:

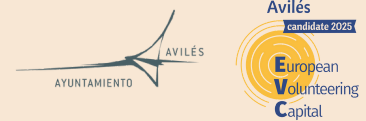
AARHUS EV Capital 2018



AUGSBURG EV Capital Candidate 2019



AVILÉS EV Capital Candidate 2025



CASCAIS EV Capital Candidate 2015 & 2019



EDINBURGH EV Capital Candidate 2016



GDAŃSK EV Capital 2022



MAIA EV Capital 2026



MECHELEN EV Capital 2025



RZESZÓW EV Capital Candidate 2026



SALAMANCA EV Capital Candidate 2025



TRENTO EV Capital 2024



TRONDHEIM EV Capital 2023



Exchange of Good Practice

#REACT - Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together Campaign - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - BEV2030

The two #REACT Campaign/BEV2030 events further disseminated and raised awareness on active citizenship and the relevance it has in rights and equality improvement, supported by the **Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 #BEV2030**, involving a total of **226 participants** from **20 countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine). Among them 141 were females and 85 were males.

- The **first seminar** on May 16th 2024 in Trento (IT) involved CEV members, other organisations and individuals actively contributed and put discussions connected to the "Vote Volunteer Vision" (VVV) campaign within the context of the upcoming EU elections, including how CEV would continue to use what is discussed and bring this forward through to the EU institutions.



"Uniting our data to map the volunteering landscape contributes to creating a foundation for evidence-based policies and programmes that truly reflect the spirit and diversity of our communities, uncovering our common strengths."

Speaker

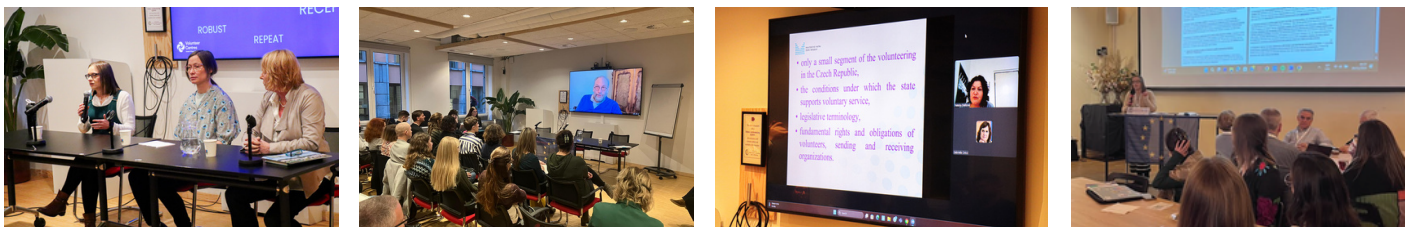
"The value of volunteers to the SDGs and peace and development was recognised through the increasing number of Member States reflecting the contribution of volunteers in their Voluntary National Reviews".

Speaker

"By treating corporate volunteering with a professional approach, organisations can enhance the value of employee contributions, improve its triple impact on community, volunteers and company and ensure the efficient and sustainable operation of volunteering programmes."

Speaker

- The **second seminar** on November 19th 2024 in Brussels (BE) gathered CEV members, other organisations and individuals actively contributed and put discussions connected to the future of volunteer centres and their role in unlocking the potential of volunteers in Europe.



"Volunteer centres are unique actors to talk to all the stakeholders of the ecosystem, they can bring together all these people who don't see themselves as all being involved in volunteering."

Speaker

"Volunteering has to be recognised for its significant impact, bringing meaning and fostering community engagement. Encouraging sustainable volunteering is also seen as a way to address climate anxiety by creating spaces for dialogue and collective action."

Speaker

"Regional volunteer centres have a central role in the design and delivery of a national volunteering strategy"

Speaker



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"European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence & Research" (ECVER)

On March 7th 2024, 23 people (11 male and 12 female) were involved in the first "European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence & Research" (ECVER) meeting in Brussels, bringing together academics specialised in volunteering research from across Europe. They focused on what is needed to have more timely and up to date resources and data available to support capacity building, mutual learning and exchange of best practice between volunteering stakeholders and policymakers.



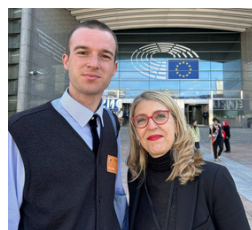
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Dissemination and Communication

“Job shadowing” with Volunteers & MEPs

Throughout the year the VERA 2024 activities were supported by a strong collaboration with the European Parliament (EP) through meetings of the European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group. CEV also implemented together with **10 MEPs “job shadowing” days with 13 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 and by spending time in the EP the volunteers understand better the connection between EU policy-making and volunteering.

Michaela Cauchi, VO Home volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Cyrus Engerer** (S&D) and he went to VO Home away in Malta, otherwise known as Salesian Youth Center, and gave an inspiring speech to the Salesian youths, encouraging them to face challenges with bravery and perseverance.



Guillem Recanses, Spanish Volunteering Platform (PVE) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Eugenia Rodríguez Palop** (GUE/NGL) and she went to Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (PVE) office to shadow for a day witness first hand their important activities promoting and supporting volunteering across Spain.

Katarina Slovakova, Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisation (Slovakia) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Michal Wiezik** (RENEW Europe) attending the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Petitions and students' study visit from Slovakia. The MEP went to Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations office to shadow for a day in her volunteering activities.



Dominik Dujčák, Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisation (Slovakia) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Miriam Lexmann** (EPP) attending the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. The MEP went to Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisation and shadowed Dominik for a day in his volunteering activities.

Annachiara Banzoli, Amici del Villaggio Association (Italy) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Achille Variati** (S&D) and visited the Committee on Transport and Tourism and Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. The MEP went to Amici del Villaggio Association and shadowed Annachiara for a day in her volunteering activities.



Mariana Marques, Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado - CPV (Portugal), & **Maria Nunes**, Eugénio de Almeida Foundation - FEA (Portugal), volunteers, spent the day at the EP with **MEPs Paulo Cunha** (EPP), **Sérgio Humberto** (S&D) and **Hélder Sousa Silva** (EPP). The MEP Sérgio Humberto went to Evora and shadowed Maria Nunes - FEA for a day in her volunteering activities.

Susana Magalhaes and **Mafalda Fernandes** from the Maia Municipal Volunteer Centre (Portugal) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Sérgio Humberto** (S&D) attending the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Transport and Tourism.



Dissemination and Communication



Aleksandra Kot and Karolina Kapustynska, Estrada Rzeszowska (Poland) volunteers spent the day at the EP with **MEP Dariusz Joński** (EPP) attending the Committee on Transport and Tourism and the Committee on Petitions.

Lisa Hallinan and Leo Loughney, Mayo Volunteer Centre (Ireland) volunteers spent the day at the EP with **MEP Maria Walsh** (EPP) attending the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.



MEP Irena loveva (RENEW Europe) shadowed **Sophia Luttmann**, Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia) volunteer, for a day in her volunteering activities and discusses with Sloveska Filantropija's staff Erasmus+ and ESC Programmes funds.

"I will bring back what I experienced here, I will share it with my colleagues to improve what we do."
Volunteer

"This helped me understanding how EU policies and legislation are being made."
Volunteer

"I was already interested in the EU institutions but this helped me understanding more about the European democracy."
Volunteer

"It's a wonderful experience just to be in the same environment where MEPs take decisions."
Volunteer

"In the MEP's office I read the quote <<If you want to bring change, you need to do things differently>> - when I will go back home I will try to do things differently."
Volunteer



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Updated European Volunteering Ecosystem

In 2024 CEV produced and shared an updated "European Volunteering Ecosystem" image. The previous edition produced in 2018 was found to be a successful, succinct, and versatile method to share an overview of the volunteering ecosystem in Europe, thereby raising awareness and generating conversation on the trends, developments, and important contributions in the sector. The 2024 Ecosystem Picture was developed to incorporate the developments and changes which have impacted volunteering, and more widely European Civic engagement, since 2018, while strengthening the link between the ecosystem and Equality, Rights, and Values in Europe.



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Dissemination and Communication

European Volunteering Ambassadors

In February CEV announced three 2024 Ambassadors: Edona Shehaj, Wannes Huybrechts and Lotte Rens. As Ambassadors they had a crucial role to disseminate the value and recognition of volunteering across Europe and connecting to the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2024.

In July CEV announced other two 2024 Ambassadors: Izabella Csordás and Máté István Kerekes. As Ambassadors they had a crucial role to disseminate the value and recognition of volunteering across Europe and connecting to the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2024.



Vote Volunteer Vision (VVV) National launch events / Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together (REACT) National events

CEV Members implemented **22 Vote Volunteer Vision (VVV) national events**, engaging a total of **1154 participants in 14 countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain), where they presented the VVV Toolkit and the Campaign. Among them 823 were females, 329 were males and 2 non-binary. The main objective of this VVV campaign was to contact candidates for the European Parliament elections to promote volunteering as part of their electoral programme. It aimed for an increased investment and development of partnerships with volunteering organisations. The VVV Campaign aimed for an increased investment and development of partnerships between policy makers and volunteering-involving organisations and volunteer infrastructure organisations and also involved two activities taking place post election in Romania and Czechia, in order to continue and expand the dialogue.



"I've never thought volunteering could guide my political decisions but now I totally see the point, since we need government's support."
Participant

"The Vote Volunteer Vision Toolkit clearly emphasises the importance of active engagement in social and political processes, encouraging us to not only vote but also volunteer to support our communities."
National Event Organiser

"The emphasis on vision prompted me to think long-term about how we can shape a better future for all of us."
Participant



Dissemination and Communication

“Vote Volunteer Vision” (VVV) Campaign follow up event

On September 10th 2024, CEV co-hosted with SALTO European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre the "Unlocking the Potential of Volunteering and Solidarity in Europe" Seminar involving **92 participants** from across Europe, of which 40 were male, 50 female and 2 non-binary. The seminar offered a platform for participants to exchange views on how to further enhance volunteering and solidarity efforts in Europe, with a focus on the role of the European Solidarity Corps, and the need for a comprehensive European Civic Engagement and Volunteering Strategy. The seminar featured exchanges between civil society and key policy makers, including Members of the European Parliament (MEPs): Sérgio Humberto (EPP), Diana Riber Giner (Greens), Laurence Farreng (RENEW), Marcos Ros (S&D) and Hannes Heide (S&D), a representative of the European Commission, DG EAC Pierre Seailles, Barbara Eglitis, SALTO European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre, representatives of Erasmus+ and ESC Programmes National Agencies: France, Germany, Austria, YFJ representative and other policymakers at various levels, enabling key experts in the field to engage in meaningful dialogue, and explore innovative approaches to unlocking the full potential of volunteering in Europe, along with those with the power to enact policy change.



Lejla Šehić Relić,
CEV President



Gerhard Mosshammer,
Erasmus+ Youth, Sport &
ESC National Agency Austria



Mathieu Roumegous,
Erasmus+ & ESC National Agency France



Gabriele Pedrini,
EU Liaison Office Trento Province



Marcos Ros,
MEP (S&D)



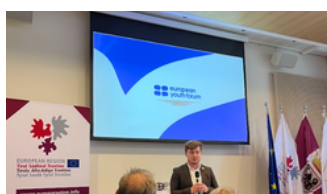
Laurence Farreng,
MEP (RENEW)



Sérgio Humberto,
MEP (EPP)



Barbara Eglitis,
SALTO ESC Resource Centre



Caillum Hedderman,
European Youth Forum



Jan Verdee,
CEV Board



Amy Woods,
CEV Board



Pierre Seailles,
DG EAC Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and
Traineeship Office



Hannes Heide, MEP (S&D);
Manfred von Hebel, National Agency
Erasmus+ Youth Germany;
Gabriella Civico, CEV Director



“The ESC is a flagship programme, it plays a vital role in upholding democracy and European values.”
CSO Representative

“The ESC has contributed significantly to building and fostering social cohesion.”
NA Representative

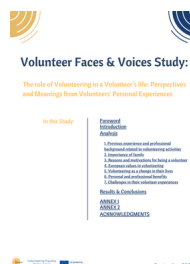
“With my political group, I will fight to make sure that Erasmus+ and ESC programmes fundings will be strengthened.”
MEP



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Volunteer Faces & Voices Study

CEV published “The role of Volunteering in a Volunteer’s life: Perspectives and Meanings from Volunteers’ Personal Experiences”. The study analyses the **150 Volunteer Faces and Voices from 10 European countries that were collected in 2023**, sharing insights and perspectives by listening to the volunteers' oral recordings and giving us food for thought on the thoughts and feelings shared.



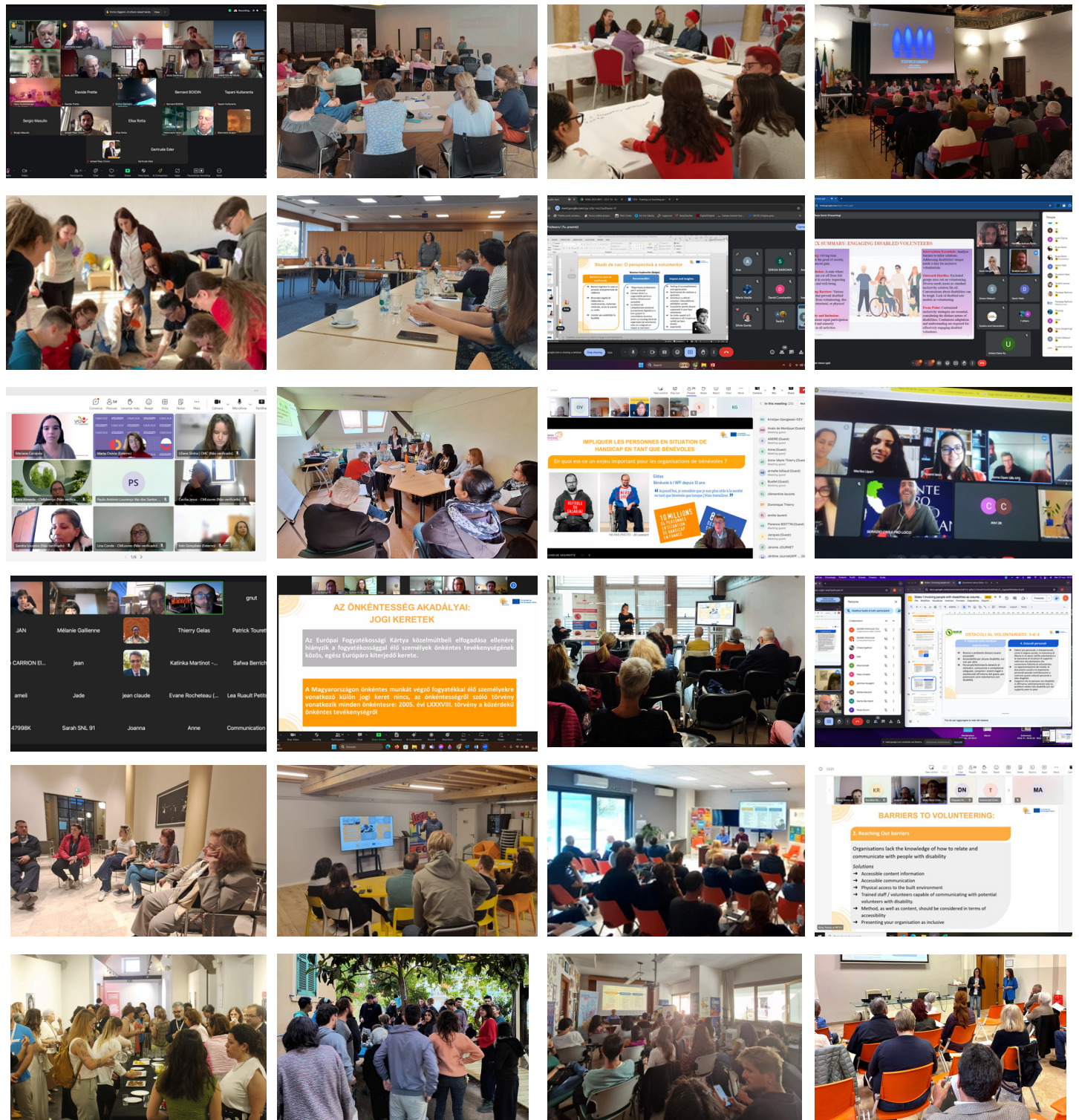
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Capacity Building

The online training for trainers session introduced all the materials needed to deliver the training modules on the two priority topics in 2024 to volunteer managers and coordinators. 29 trainers from 25 organisations took part, of which 18 were females and 11 were males in order to have the necessary capacity to deliver the cascaded training opportunities across Europe.

Training - “Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers”

The **40 training sessions** involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders. There were **1024 participants** - 311 male, 712 female and 1 non-binary in **15 countries**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. The training materials (manual and two presentations) are available in 14 different European languages.



Capacity Building



“How to increase civil society impact through better diversity in leadership, as concerns gender balance” Pilot Training

31 people were involved in giving their feedback and improving the draft training framework and materials to be used across Europe in 2025, of which 14 were females, 16 were males and 1 non-binary from 10 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.



Membership Growth

CEV welcomed new Members in 2024: CSV Venezia - Full Member, Ente Pro Loco Italiane - Full Member, Marche a Rifiuti Zero - Full Member, Masterpeace Ro - Full Member, United Vision - Associate Member. FEA became a Full Member.



Volunteering Equality Rights Action VERA 2024



Sub-granting

Sub-Granting (FSTP) - 179,600 EUR euros

After a Call for proposals published on January 15th 2024, that closed on March 15th 2024, an independent awarding committee of experts assessed the proposals against the criteria specified in the Call. CEV granted **15 applications from 13 organisations from 12 EU Member States** with project activities taking place between April 1st 2024 and December 10th 2024 in two VERA priority areas involving 7797 direct participants and 52 volunteers contributing 553 days. Read the full FSTP report here.

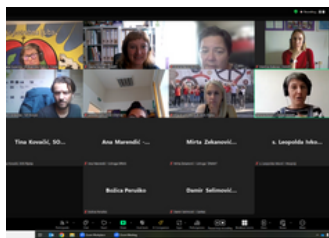
Volunteering & Equality

Research & Consultation to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors, in particular people with disabilities.

Organisations & Member States involved: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BG); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HR); France Bénévolat (FR); Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social (ES); Plate-forme Francophone du Voluntariat (BE); Pista Mágica - Associação (PT); Slovenska Filantropija (SL); Volunteer Ireland (IE). (11 225 euros per organisation).



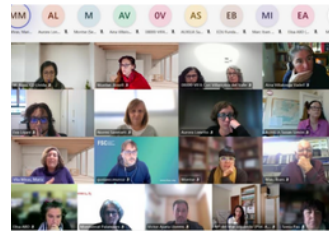
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association



Croatian Volunteer Development Centre



France Bénévolat



Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social



Plate-forme Francophone du Voluntariat



Pista Mágica - Associação



Slovenska Filantropija



Volunteer Ireland

Rights & Action

Events, Campaigns & Activities linking EU policies that facilitate the involvement of people with disabilities to volunteer, such as the European Disability Card, to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights.

Organisations & Member States involved: Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HR); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MT); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (HU); Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK); Pro Vobis (RO); Volunteer Ireland (IE); (11 225 euros per organisation) Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (ES) (22 450 euros).



Croatian Volunteer Development Centre



Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector



Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering



Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations



Pro Vobis



Volunteer Ireland



Plataforma del Voluntariado de España





Autumn General Assembly - Brussels

"It's a wonderful experience just to be in the same environment where people who day to day make decisions that have an impact on our lives."
Volunteer, Job Shadowing



Study Visit, EVCCC Event - Trento

"The materials, which serve as a support to generate an in-depth debate on the subject in question, are very positive."
VVV National Event Organiser



Spring General Assembly - Trento

"We want to share what we are already doing in our community and to collaborate on how to strengthen our knowledge."
Volunteer Coordinator



#REACT - Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together Campaign - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - BEV2030 - Trento

"Our conversations left me inspired energised even more enthusiastic. I truly appreciated the time you took to share your insights, as well as your hospitality throughout my trip."
EVCCC Representative



CEV Staff, EVCCC Event - Brussels

"Through volunteering I feel useful"
Volunteer, Disability Training

"Encouraging young people to imagine themselves as an active part of their community by expressing their talents through volunteering is a duty of a community that wants to call itself educating."
VVV Launch Event Participant

"I love bringing constituents around the EP because it's your EU. MEPs are your voice, but there's always a big reaction when people get to see it and experience it for themselves."
MEP



#REACT - Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together Campaign - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - BEV2030 - Brussels

"I learnt a lot about how the world of volunteering works and the future of volunteers."
Volunteer, Study Visit



CEV Board - Brussels

"It was so enlightening to see how much volunteers with disability can mean to the community."
European Volunteering Ambassador 2024