

# #REACT - “Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together” - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030)

## “Collaborative Communities”

3 October 2023 - Dubrovnik, Croatia



Volunteering Equality  
Rights Action  
VERA

Project Number: 101104521

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



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# AGENDA



Volunteering Equality  
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<b>9:30 - 10:00</b>	<b>Introduction and welcome:</b> Lejla Šehić Relić - CEV President Jelka Tepšić - Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik
<b>10:00 - 10:30</b>	<b>Keynotes from European Volunteering Ambassador 2023:</b> Lidija Pavić-Rogošić - Vice - President of Civil Society Organisations' Group & Mohammed Azahaf
<b>10:30 - 11:30</b>	<b>Plenary Presentations</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Volunteering &amp; Resilience in the Balkans</b> - Richard Allen: DG NEAR TASC0 3 &amp; Simona Mladenovska: Balkan Civil Society Development Network</li><li><b>Young people and the future of Civic Engagement &amp; Volunteering in Europe</b> - Barbara Eglitis: ESC Resource Centre &amp; Simon Morris-Lange: Allianz Foundation</li><li><b>Demographic changes and healthy societies</b> - Nada Roshevaska: NR Sport Volunteering Solutions &amp; Mirko Schwarzel: Diakonie Germany</li><li><b>Lifelong Learning- European Year of Skills 2024</b> - Sanja Posavec: Croatia National Agency for Mobility and EU programmes</li><li><b>Volunteering, Role of Gender, and Political Participation: Examining the Influence on Volunteering and over Voting Turnout</b> - Stuart Fox: Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University of Exeter</li><li><b>E-Volunteering</b> - Aleksandra Vidanovic: Connect International</li></ol>
<b>11:30 - 14:30</b>	<b>World Cafe</b>
<b>14:30 - 16:00</b>	<b>Networking lunch</b>
<b>16:00 - 17:00</b>	<b>Concluding Plenary - Recommendations for empowering volunteering to create more democratic, collaborative and inclusive communities</b>



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# Lejla Šehić Relić CEV President



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# Jelka Tepšić

## Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik





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# Keynotes from European Volunteering Ambassadors 2023



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# Lidija Pavić-Rogošić

## Vice-President of Civil Society Organisations' Group, EESC





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# Lidija Pavić-Rogošić

## Vice-President of Civil Society Organisations' Group, EESC



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# Mohamed Azahaf

## CEV Ambassador 2023

English translation





CONFIANZA

ORGULLO





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# Plenary Presentations





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# Volunteering & Resilience in the Balkans



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# Richard Allen

## Team Leader, DG NEAR

### TASCO 3



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# Simona Mladenovska

## Policy and Advocacy Officer, Balkan Civil Society Development Network



# VOLUNTEERING IN THE BALKANS

Simona Mladenovska  
Balkan Civil Society Development Network  
3 October 2023, Dubrovnik

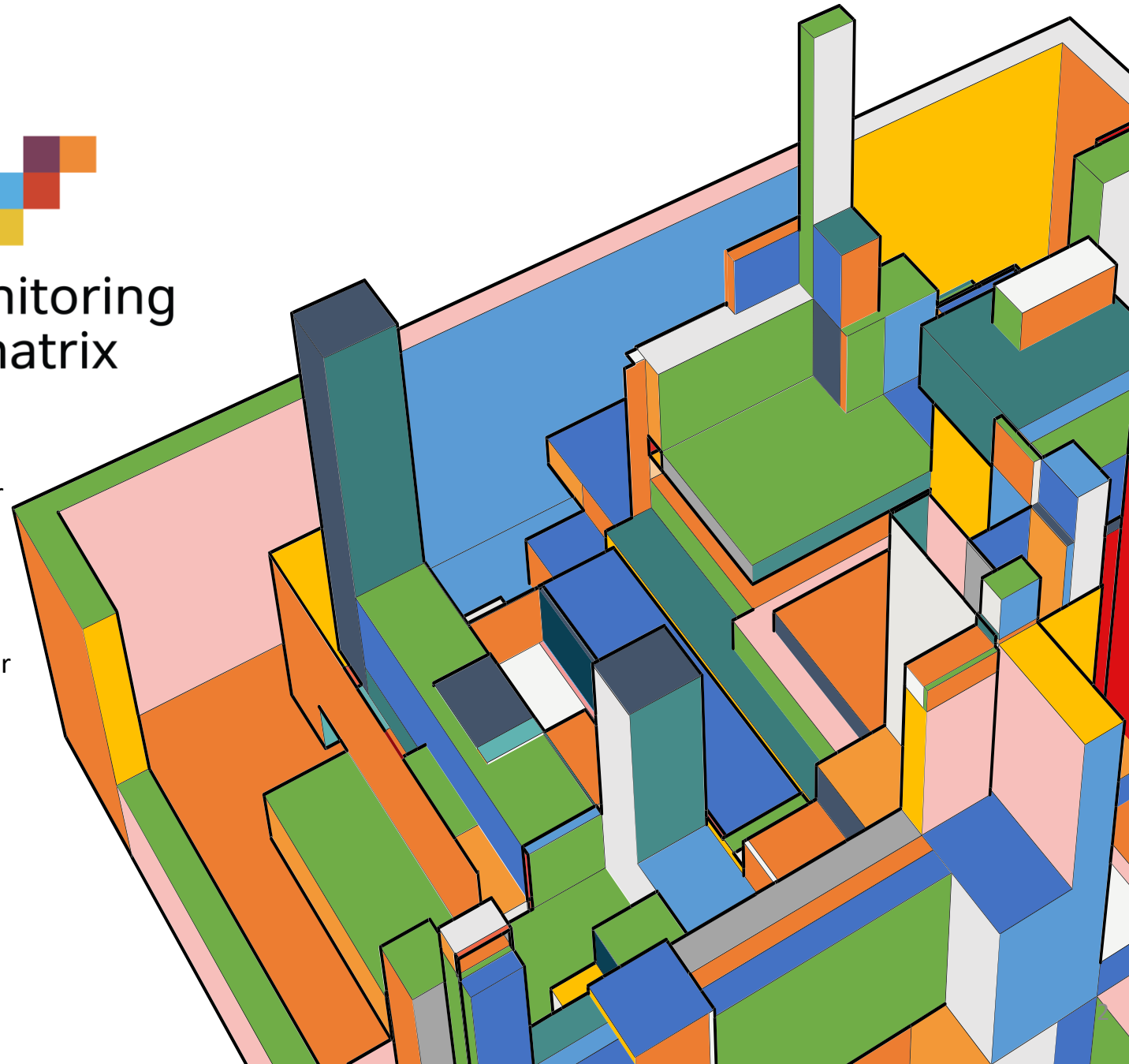
# ABOUT THE DATA AND THE NETWORK



monitoring  
matrix

We are a regional network of 14 CSOs from Southeast Europe making joint efforts towards a more enabling environment for the development of civil society. Our flagship annual regional report “**Monitoring Matrix** on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development: Western Balkans and Turkey” each year highlights the challenges and obstacles that CSOs face, including restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of association, assembly, and expression, the cooperation between the government and civil society, and the broader legal framework for civil society operations.

3/10/2023





## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

In the realm of human resources within CSOs, employment and volunteering present a complex landscape across several countries in the region. While some of the countries have made strides in legislating and promoting volunteerism, others face challenges in creating an enabling environment for this essential form of civic engagement.

In this overview, we will highlight the state of volunteering in several countries, shedding light on their legislative frameworks and progress towards fostering volunteerism.

# LET'S SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

How environment for Volunteering has been shaped during last year

## Albania

- The law on voluntarism faces challenges and hasn't been applied due to problematic issues.
- Advocacy efforts by CSOs have led to discussions for law revision.

## Kosovo

- A lack of progress in finalizing the concept document on volunteering.
- Existing legislation primarily focuses on youth volunteering, leaving other age groups unsupported.

## Montenegro

- The law defines voluntary work as unpaid, with the requirement of signed contracts.
- Restrictions on volunteering for children under 15 may hinder the development of a volunteer culture.

# LET'S SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

How environment for Volunteering has been shaped during last year

## Serbia

- Current legislation treats volunteering as unpaid labor and lacks incentives.
- A Draft Law on Volunteering was put up for public debate but remains unadopted.

## North Macedonia

- Offers tax-free reimbursement for volunteers, incentivizing participation.
- Adoption of changes in the Law on Volunteerism in 2021 to clarify provisions and establish a National Council for Volunteering.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Organizations must register volunteers and submit reports on volunteering hours.
- A lack of clarity in when to use volunteering contracts, leading to alternatives like scholarship contracts.



# WHAT TO DO?



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## Incentivize Volunteerism

There are incentives and state-supported programs for the development and promotion of volunteering that are transparent and easily available to CSOs



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## Public Awareness

Increase awareness and recognition of volunteer work through public campaigns to encourage more individuals to engage in voluntary activities.



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## Harmonize Legislation

Countries should work towards aligning their legislation with international standards, recognizing volunteering as a valuable social contribution rather than unpaid labor.

# WHAT TO DO?



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## Streamline Administrative Procedures

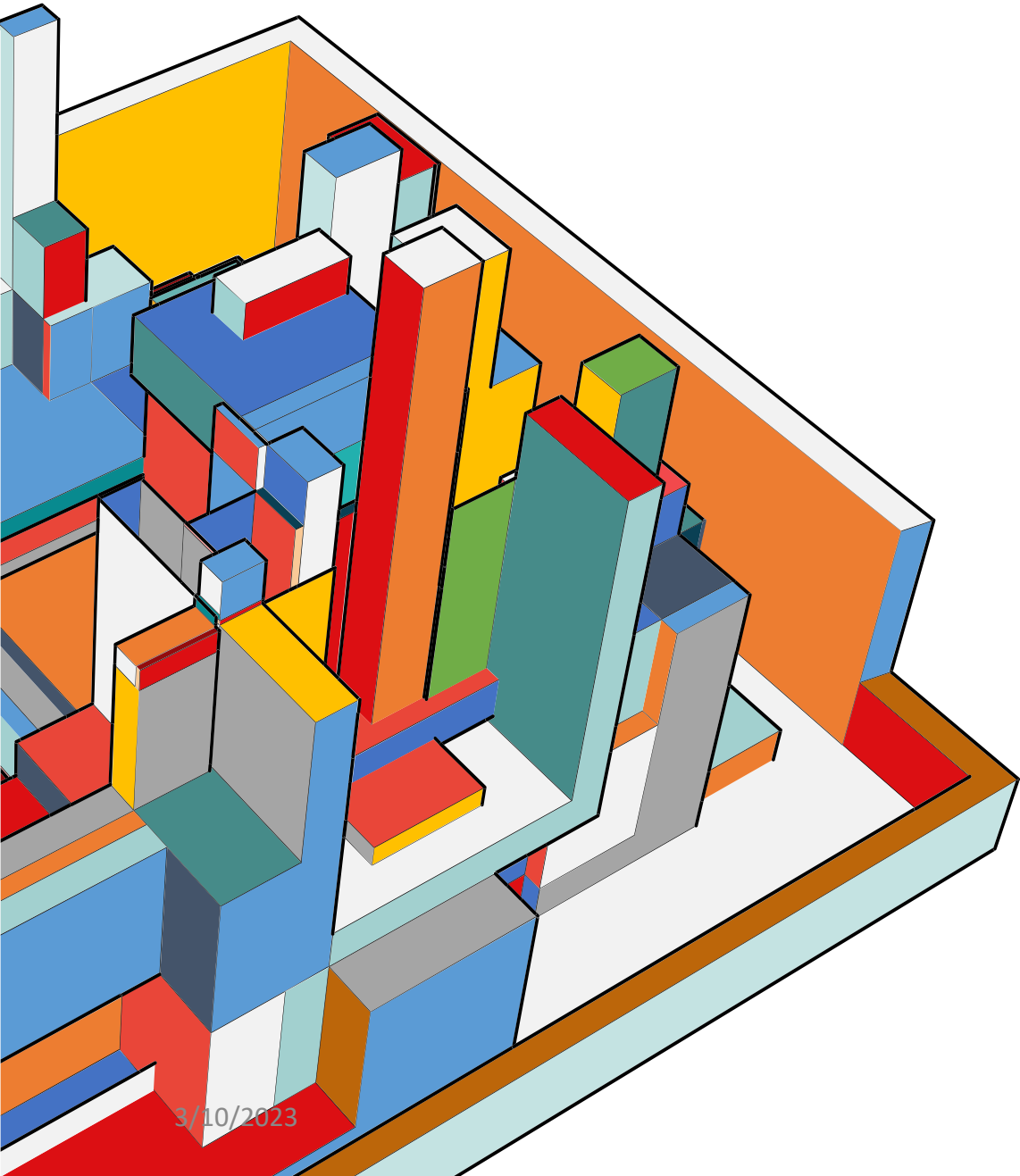
Simplify administrative requirements for volunteers and organizations to encourage participation and reduce the burden of paperwork.



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## Expand Age Groups

Extend support for volunteering beyond youth to encourage participation across all age groups, fostering a more inclusive volunteer culture.



# SUMMARY

In conclusion, while progress has been made in some countries, there is a need for greater legislative alignment and support to fully realize the potential of volunteering within the civil society sector across the region. The path forward involves a concerted effort to streamline procedures, incentivize participation, and create a more inclusive environment for volunteers of all ages.

The background features a collection of 3D-style rectangular blocks in various colors including orange, teal, yellow, grey, blue, and white, arranged in a complex, overlapping structure. A large white rectangular box with a black border is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.

# THANK YOU

Simona Mladenovska

+38977965565

[sml@balkanbsd.net](mailto:sml@balkanbsd.net)

[www.balkanbsd.net](http://www.balkanbsd.net)



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# Young people and the future of Civic Engagement & Volunteering in Europe



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# Barbara Eglitis

EU-Programme Officer,  
ESC Resource Centre

# SALTO

EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY CORPS



## Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

Barbara Eglitis | SALTO European Solidarity Corps  
[barbara@salto-youth.net](mailto:barbara@salto-youth.net)





# in EUROPE

We promote and support youth work by offering trainings, tools and strategies

**11 Resource Centres across Europe** (9 for youth)

Resources focused on learning in the **EU Youth** programmes

All contacts of all eleven centres [here](#)

## SALTO RESOURCE CENTRES

Find our network and useful youth work tools:

[salto-youth.net](https://salto-youth.net)

Read more about the European Union youth programmes

**Erasmus+**

[ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus)

**European Solidarity Corps**

[ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps_en)



FOLLOW US ON



New!

**SALTO Green (FR)**

**SALTO Digital (FI)**

Participation & Information (Hungary)

Eastern Europe & Caucasus (Poland)

Training & Cooperation (Germany)

Inclusion & Diversity (Belgium/Flanders)

EuroMed (France)

European Solidarity Corps (Austria)

South-East Europe (Slovenia)



# SALTO European Solidarity Corps

We develop **strategic** and **innovative** actions in the European Solidarity Corps to ensure an overall **quality approach** to activities by the programme network in the solidarity field, including through:



**Shaping** solidarity



Strengthening European **volunteering**



**Embedding** solidarity



**Supporting** implementation



**Community** of practice





# Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

## Voluntary projects

Individual volunteering  
&  
Volunteering teams  
18-30 years

## Solidarity projects

Youth-led  
local  
voluntary  
initiatives  
18-30 years

## Humanitarian strand

Volunteering  
Opportunities  
  
18-35 years

European  
Solidarity Corps  
programme  
since 2018



# Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

**3 wishes for the future:**

**safeguarding civic spaces;  
invest in community building,  
exploring new volunteering formats**







# Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

- Open and safe civic spaces serve as unique **safe havens for young individuals** from diverse backgrounds to participate and build the competence they need to **fully participate in various realms of public life**. (inclusive)
- Given that the participation of citizens is important in the functioning of a healthy democracy, there is a **concern that a disengagement of young people from the political system will negatively impact on the governance of society**. Additionally, **the potential for youth civic engagement** activity to contribute to the personal development of young people, to promote their welfare and to challenge injustice in society also provides an **impetus for greater focus on civic engagement** as a component of youth work and youth action
- Importance of **capacity building opportunities for volunteering organisations**
- [Study of the European Youth Forum](#)

**Safeguarding  
civic space for  
young people in  
Europe**



# Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

- Many studies prove positive effect of volunteering on communities and on community building
- Volunteering is solidarity in action. Young people have proven that they do care and are actively contributing to positive changes within communities.
- Fighting loneliness and mental health issues by using volunteering as a tool to engage actively
- Being part of a community automatically strengthens democratic participation in communities
- **How open are our communities truly?**

-> [German study](#) of Das progressive Zentrum on the relation between feeling lonely and democratic participation of young people

**Supporting  
community  
building –  
strengthen  
democratic  
participation**



# Young people and the future of civic engagement and volunteering in Europe

- Young people engage differently (#Generation Gen Z)
- Exploration of online communities
- Exploration of digital volunteering & activism
- Safeguarding quality and guidance in online volunteering activities to be discussed



Exploration of new formats of volunteering



## THE POWER OF TOGETHER.

*Contact us!*

[solidarity@salto-youth.net](mailto:solidarity@salto-youth.net)

*Follow us!*

[@SolidarityCorpsRC](https://twitter.com/SolidarityCorpsRC)

*Visit us!*

[www.salto-youth.net/solidarity/  
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Simon Morris-Lange  
Head of Research, Allianz  
Foundation



CEV Autumn Congress  
3 October 2023

# THE MOVERS OF TOMORROW?

The Allianz Foundation  
Next Generations Study 2023

 Germany

 Poland

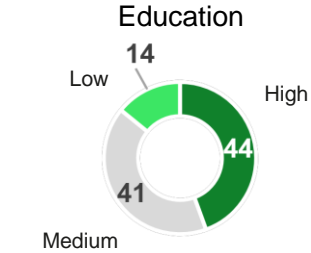
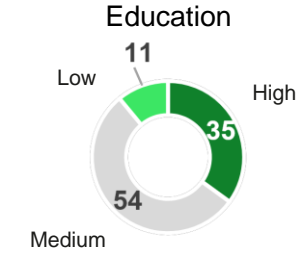
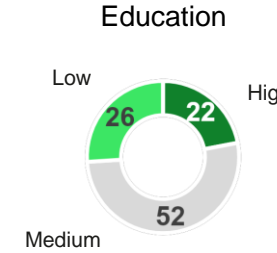
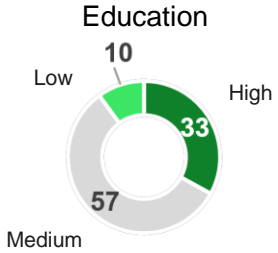
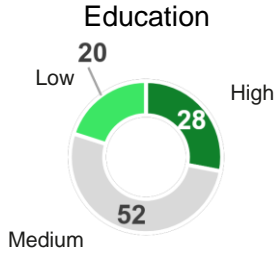
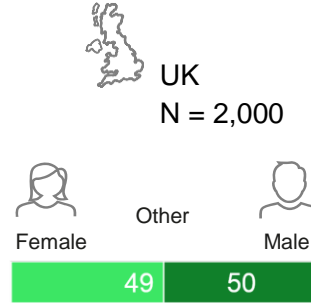
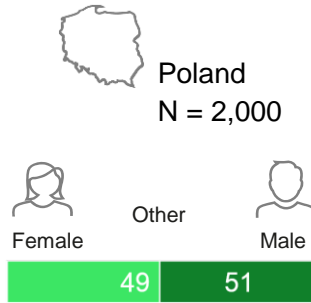
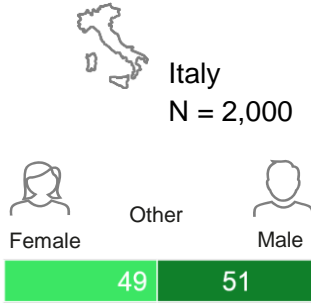
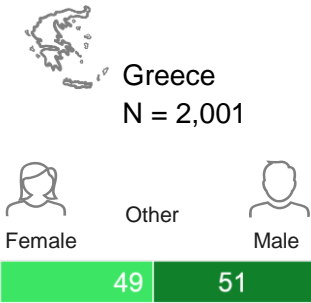
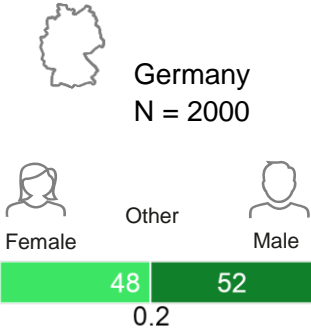
 Greece

 United Kingdom

 Italy

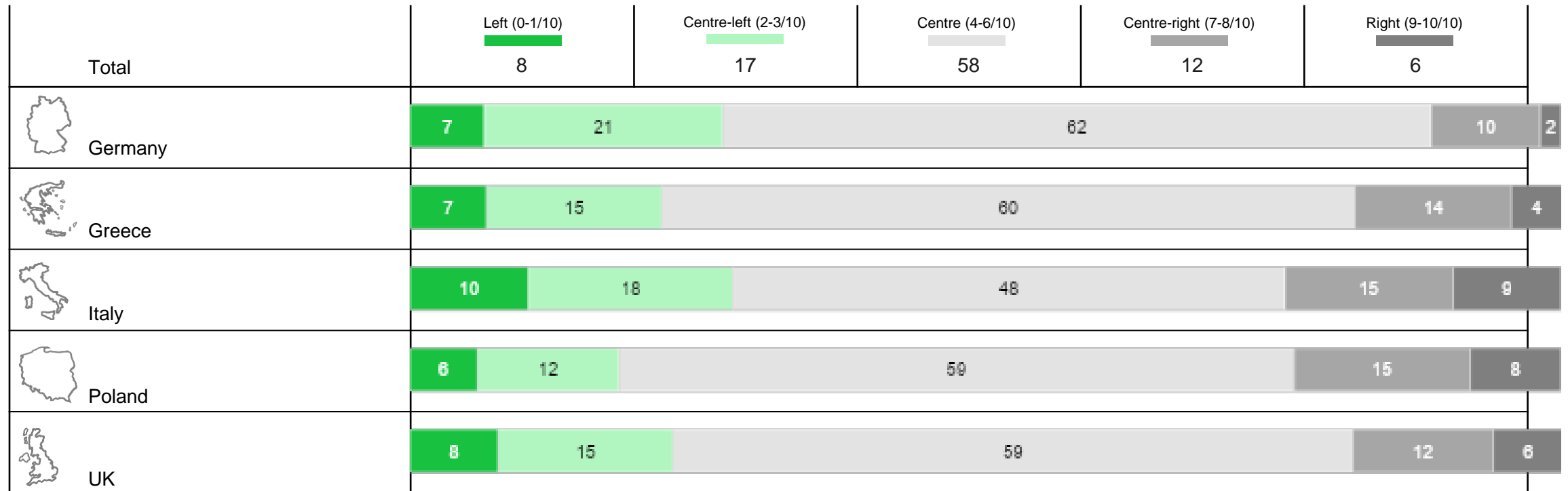
**ALLIANZ  
FOUNDATION**

# Representative sample



# Our sample: No “liberal bias”

In Germany and Italy, there is a tendency toward the left, whereas in Poland, there is a slight tendency to the right.



Scores in %  
 Source: Allianz Foundation (2022)  
 N=10,001, 18- to 39-year-old population



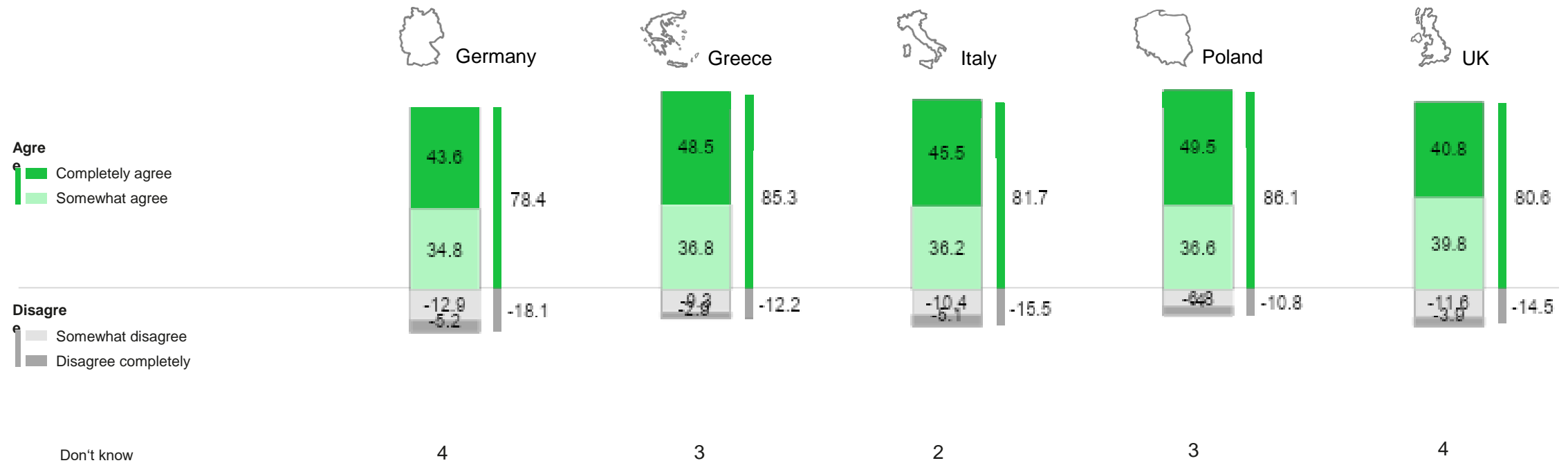
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## Young adults in Europe:

The future we want,  
the future we expect

# Young adults sense the impact of overlapping crises

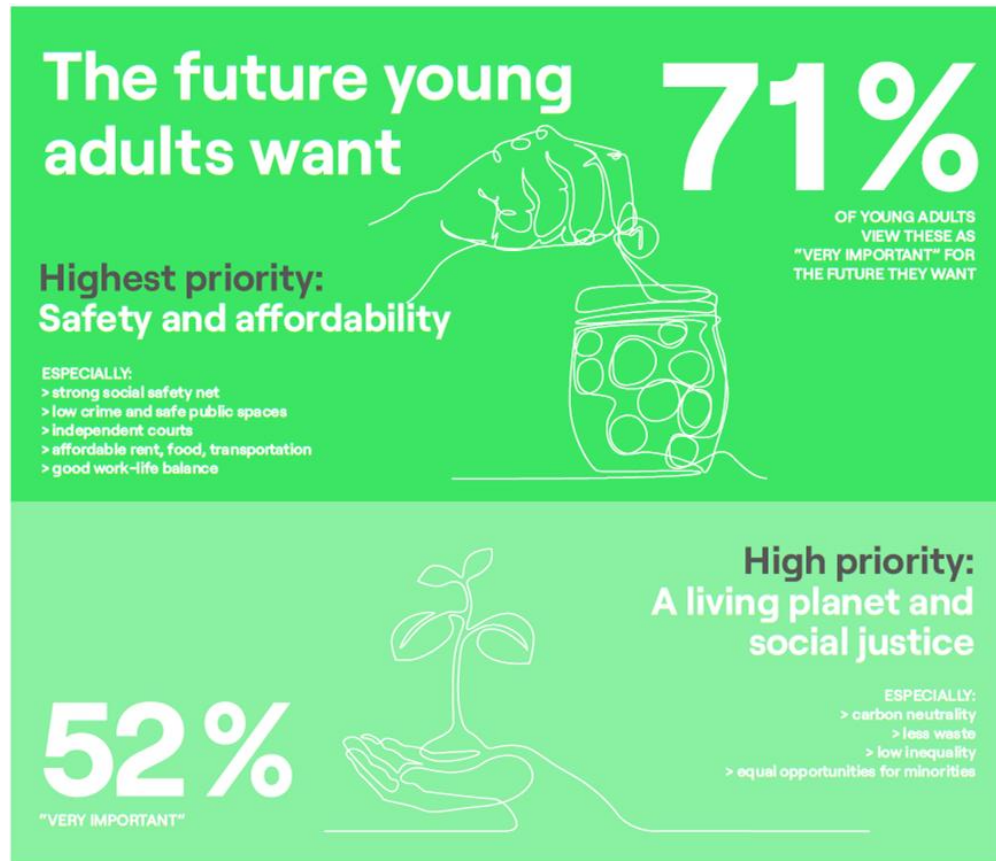
“In times like these, I understand when people hesitate to have children.”





# The future young adults want to live in

## Top Priority:



## Medium Priority:



Simply put: “In 10 years, my country will be...”



...green yet unequal.

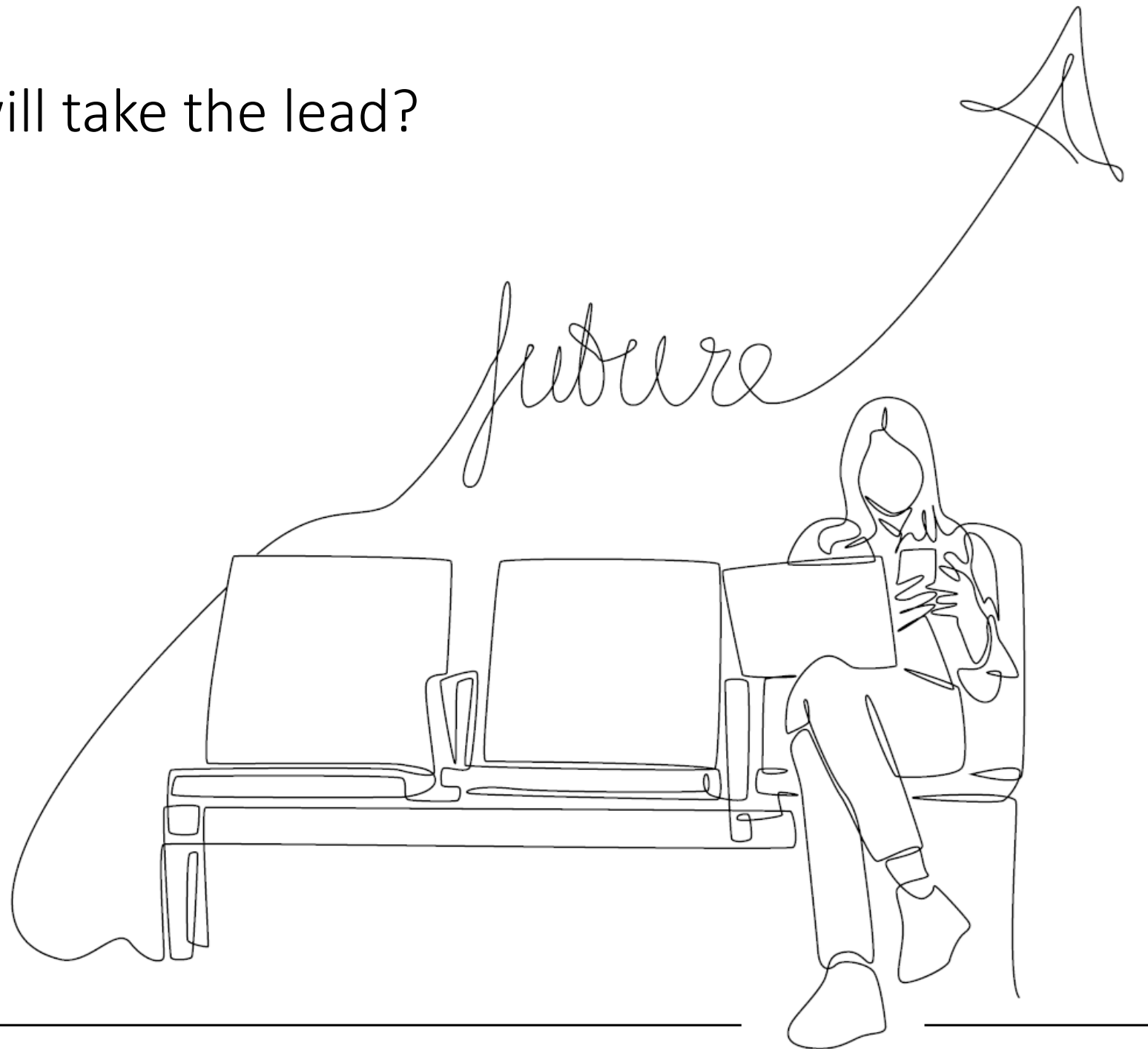


...diverse yet divided.



...militarized yet unsafe.

Who will take the lead?





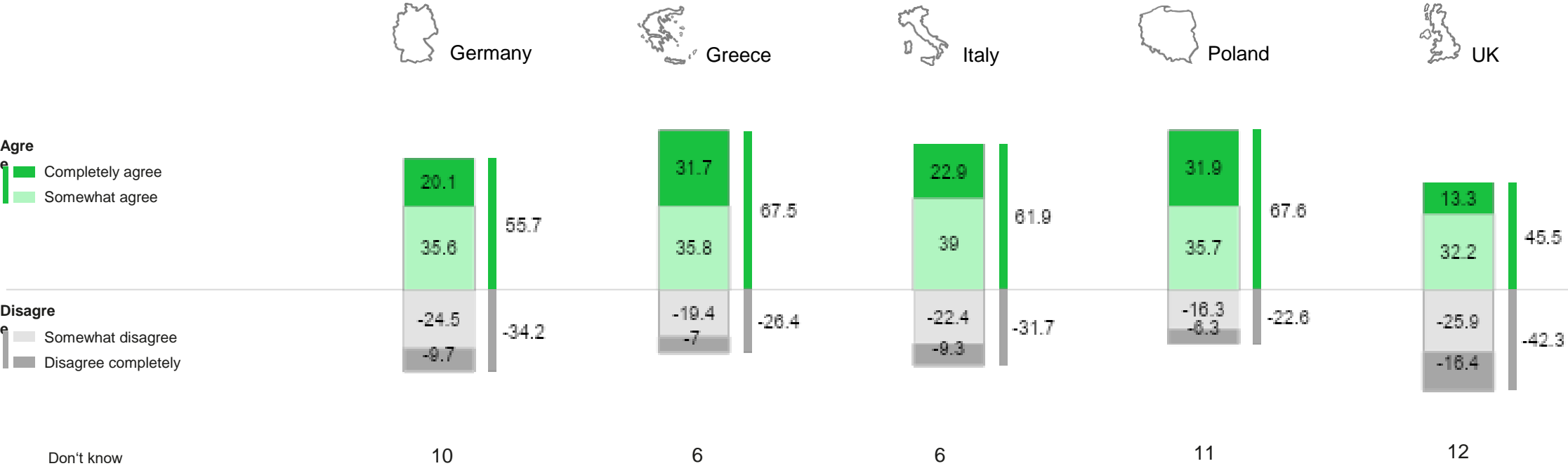


3

What tools do **young Europeans** know and use to **push for change**?

# Many say: protest is a viable option

“In times of crisis, everyone should take to the streets.”



Scores in %  
 Source: Allianz Foundation (2022)  
 N=10,001, 18- to 39-year-old population

# But only a few have taken to the streets

Percentages denote the share of young adults who have already performed said action.



Germany



Greece



Italy

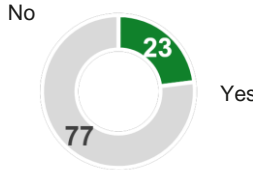
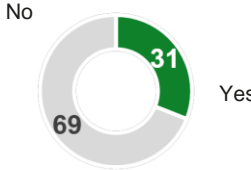
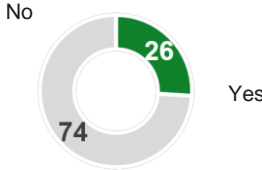
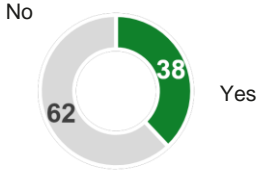
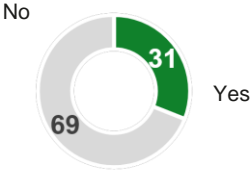


Poland

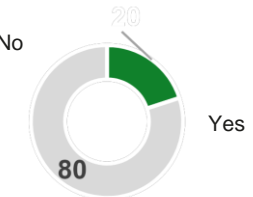
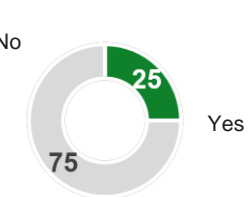
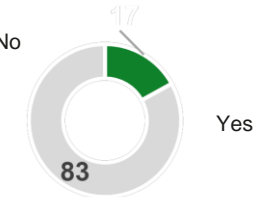
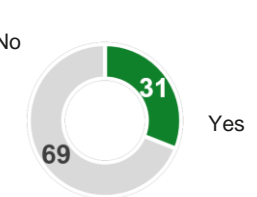
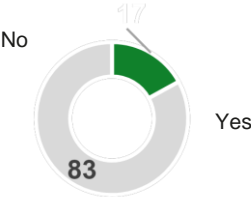


UK

Marching in a protest



Non-violent civil disobedience



# Civic engagement is often individual & low-barrier



Germany



Greece



Italy

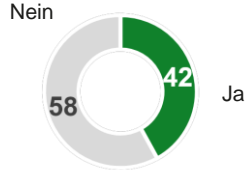
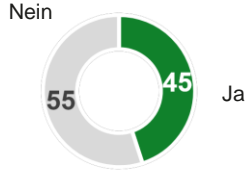
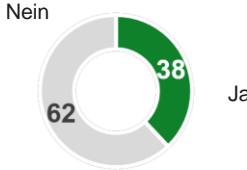
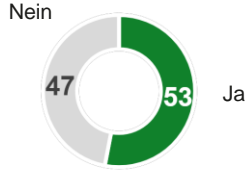
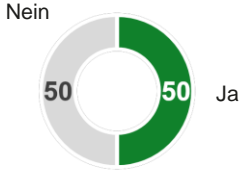


Poland

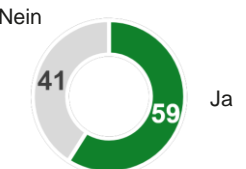
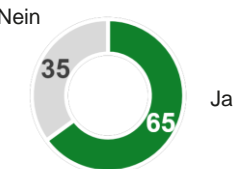
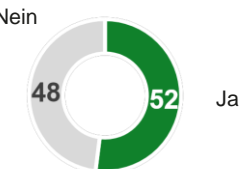
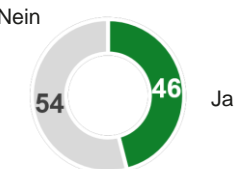
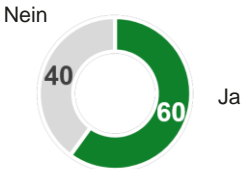


UK

Boycotting products



Signing a petition (online)



Scores in %  
Source: Allianz Foundation (2022)  
N=10,001, 18- to 39-year-old population

# Less popular: Tried-and-tested modes of engagement



Germany



Greece



Italy

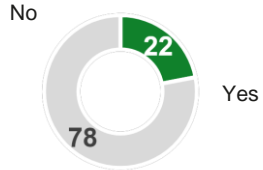
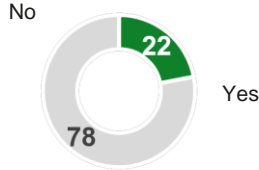
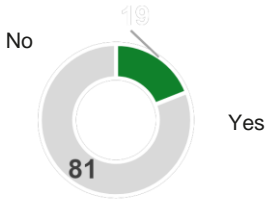
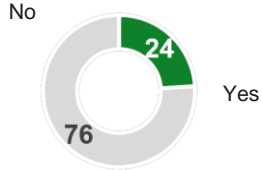
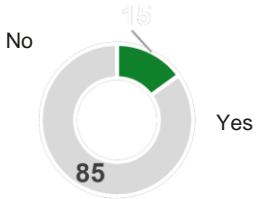


Poland

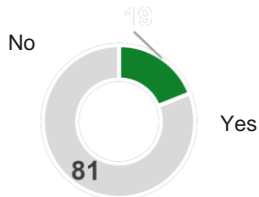
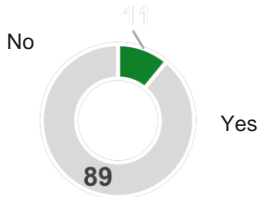
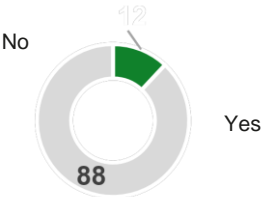
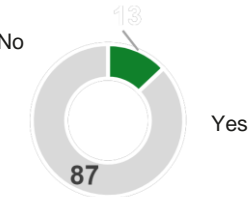
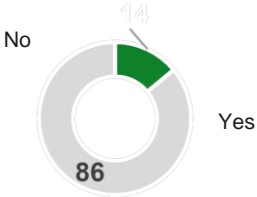


UK

Organizing a political event





Joining/actively working with a political party or movement



Scores in %  
 Source: Allianz Foundation (2022)  
 N=10,001, 18- to 39-year-old population

# Who has taken collective action? Who else is willing?

 Have already taken the action  
 Have not taken the action,  
but would consider it



**28% + 24%**  
**Street-level protest**

**27% + 26%**  
**Citizen's initiatives**

**20% + 20%**  
**Non-violent civil  
disobedience**

# Let's talk!

Dr. Simon Morris-Lange

Head of Research

[simon.morris-lange@allianzfoundation.org](mailto:simon.morris-lange@allianzfoundation.org)

**ALLIANZ  
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# Demographic changes and healthy societies





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# Nada Roshevaska

## Founder and CEO of NR Sports Volunteering Solutions



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Inclusion of people with  
disabilities in the society  
through sports volunteering  
“How sport and volunteering  
changed my life?”



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# Mirko Schwarzel

## Diakonie Germany



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# Lifelong Learning European Year of Skills 2023



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# Sanja Posavec

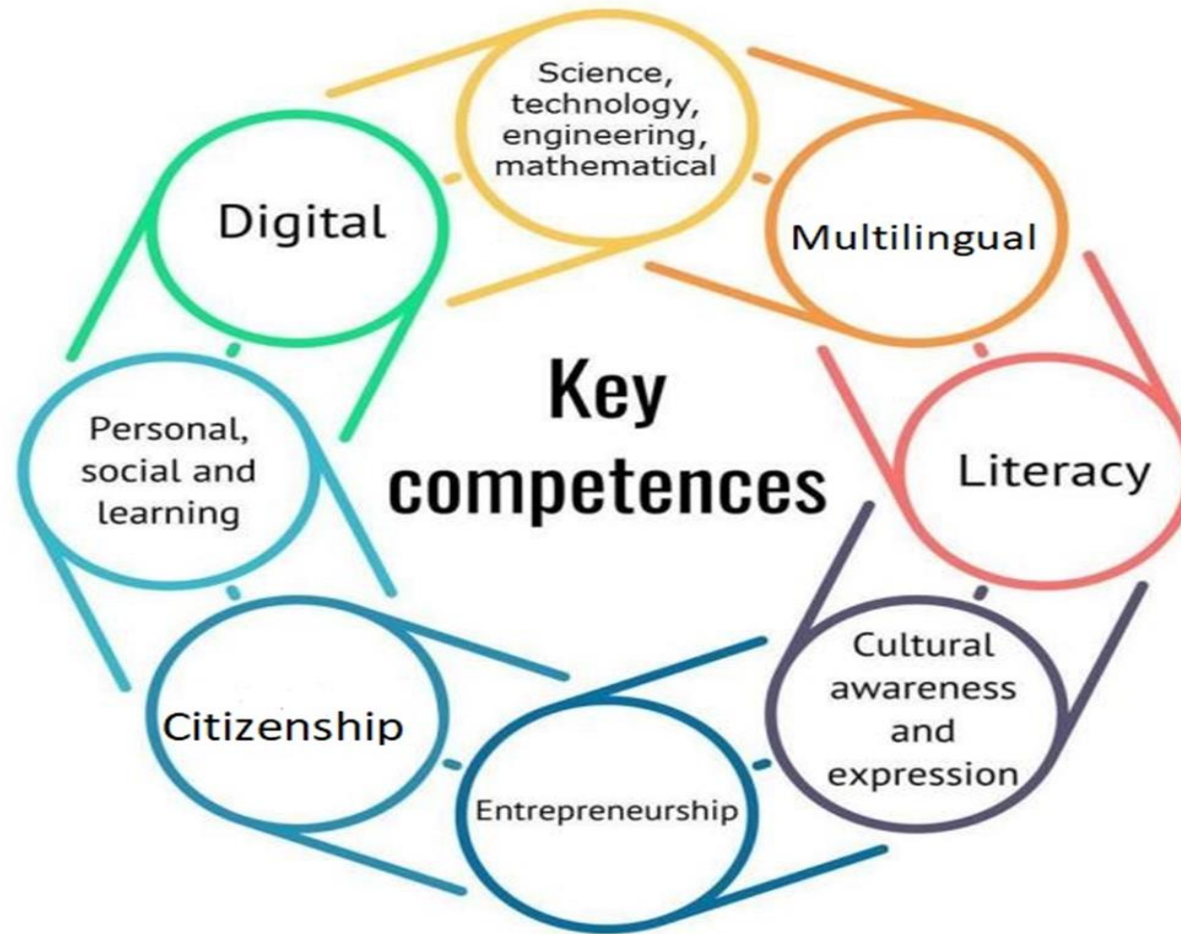
## Assistant Director, Croatian National Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes

# Important Skills for Businesspeople in 2023





# ERASMUS+ / EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



# Erasmus+ helps you get a job



Erasmus+ alumni double their chances of employment a year after graduation

HIGHER EDUCATION



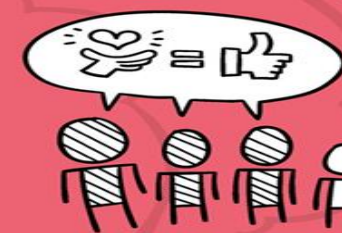
1/3 of Erasmus+ trainees are offered jobs in the company where they worked

HIGHER EDUCATION



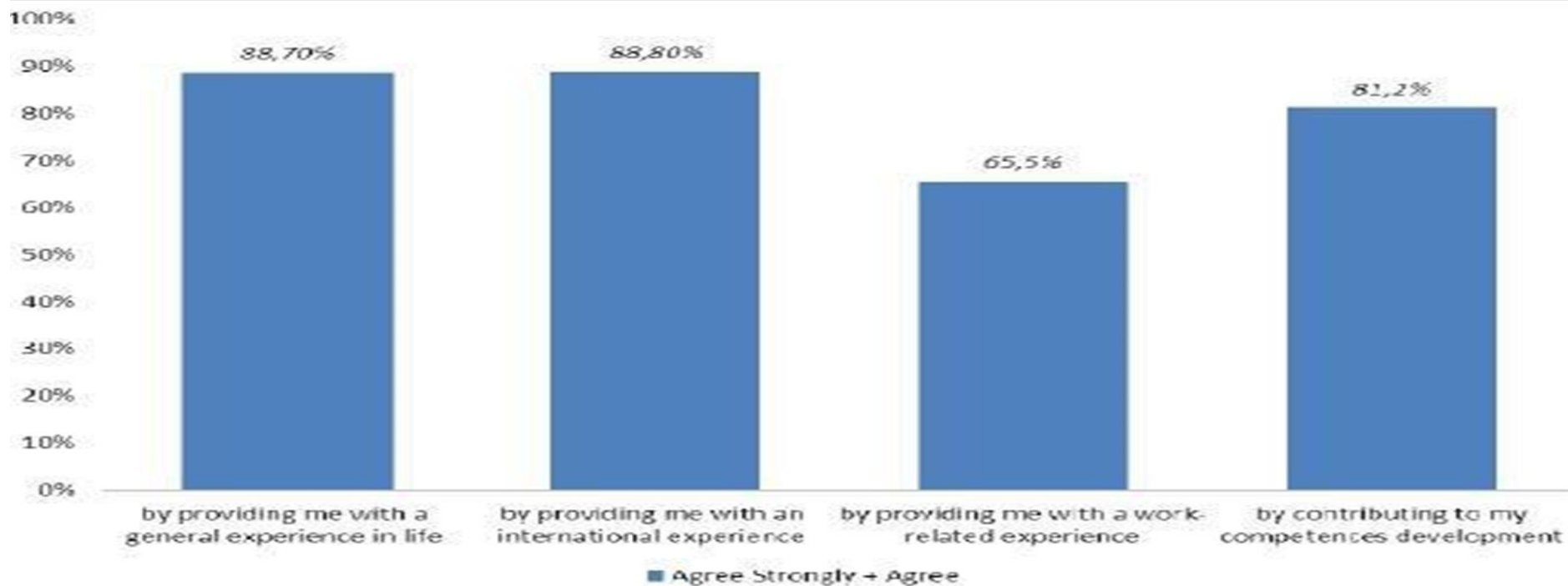
Erasmus+ alumni tend to find their first job faster and earn 25% more

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



3/4 of employers say volunteering is a + for job seekers

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE





# What can we do better?

Is non formal learning  
recognized enough?

CAN WE WAIT FOR THE SCHOOL'S TO  
BE THE ONLY ONE TO GUARANTEE THE  
EDUCATION?

It is no longer a question of knowing how to read,  
COUNT and write...



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# Volunteering, Role of Gender, and Political Participation: Examining the Influence on Volunteering over Voting Turnout



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# Stuart Fox

Senior Lecturer in Politics,  
Faculty of Humanities, Arts and  
Social Sciences, University of  
Exeter



University  
*of* Exeter

# Social Action as a Route to the Ballot Box

*Dr Stuart Fox*

University of Exeter, UK

[S.Fox2@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.Fox2@exeter.ac.uk)

# Challenge: Falling Youth Voter Turnout

Younger generations **are less likely to vote** – especially young people from **poorer households and more deprived communities**

Younger generations **are not socialised into engaging with politics** as effectively as previous generations

## **Social Action as a Route to the Ballot Box: Can Childhood Volunteering Help?**

- 1) If young people volunteer, **are they more likely to vote** in their first elections?
- 2) Can volunteering reduce **socio-economic inequalities** in turnout?
- 3) Can volunteering reduce **gender gaps** in turnout?



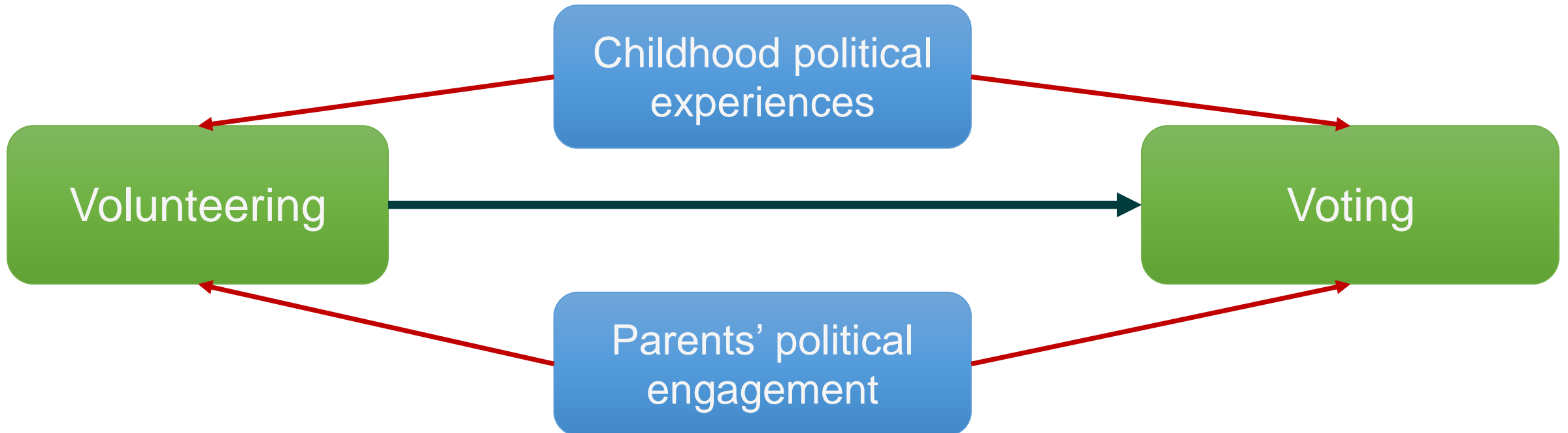
University  
of Exeter

# Volunteering as a Route to the Ballot Box

Most research **exaggerates the positive effect of volunteering**

**Most, who volunteer in childhood, vote** in adulthood...

...but is that because they volunteered, or **because they were socialised into both volunteering in childhood and voting** in adulthood?



# Volunteering as a Route to the Ballot Box

**Data:** UK-based household panel surveys: interview same households repeatedly

*How likely children were to vote in their first general election from 0 (min) to 10 (max)*

**If they volunteered in the year before, their average score increased by...**

**0.24**

Wealthier, politically engaged household

**1.24**

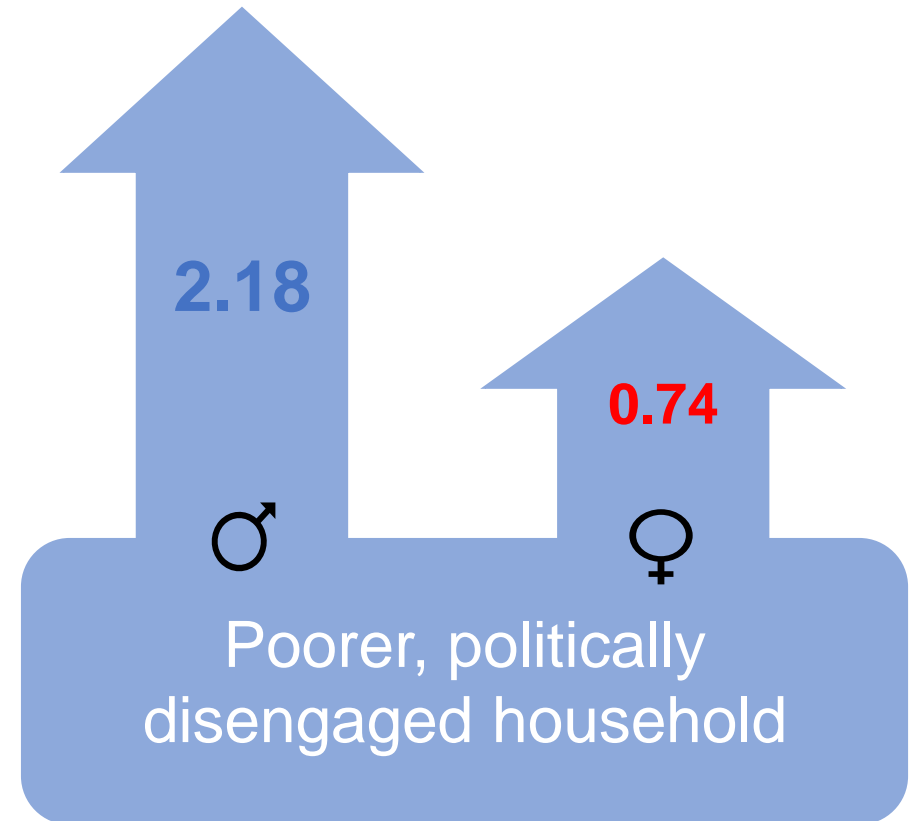
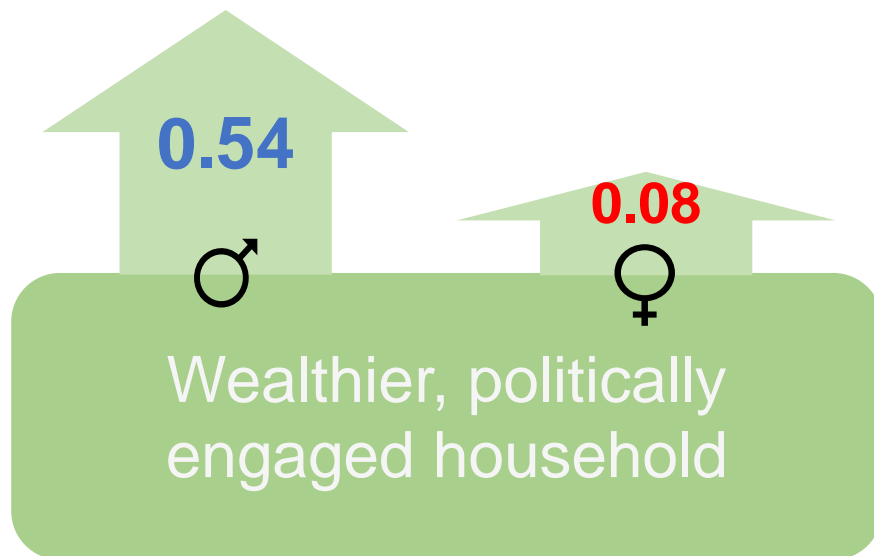
Poorer, politically disengaged household

Youth volunteering **does** increase likelihood of voting – **especially for young people from poorer, politically disengaged households...**



# Volunteering as a Route to the Ballot Box

...but there is a **gender gap** – volunteering helps **young men to vote much more than young women**



# Can volunteering help increase youth turnout?

Volunteering **helps young people to vote in their first elections**, especially if they come from **poorer, politically disengaged** households

**BUT...**

- Most volunteers are from wealthier, politically engaged households
- Volunteering **widens the gender gap** in youth turnout – especially between young men and women from poorer, politically disengaged households

**WHY?** □ **Types of volunteering favoured by young men more likely to encourage voting**

# Questions...

- 1) What are the **most effective forms** of volunteering for **boosting turnout**?
- 2) How can we engage more young people from **politically disengaged and poorer households** with youth volunteering?
- 3) How can we ensure more **young women from politically disengaged and poorer households** engage with those more effective forms of volunteering?





University  
*of* Exeter

## To find out more:

- Email me: [S.Fox2@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.Fox2@exeter.ac.uk)
- Sign up to my newsletter (drop me an email)
- Find my paper '[Social Action as a Route to the Ballot Box](#)' in the European Journal of Political Research (open access)

Thank you  
for listening!



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Aleksandra Vidanovic  
Consultant,  
Connect International

# World Cafe

Leadership and Good Governance

Community Resilience

Beyond Borders - Supporting Western Balkans what support is needed to promote best practices beyond EU borders?

Social Innovation

The potential of young people

Impact for more value

Volunteering and well being - Co-production of services

Diversity, inclusion and Social Cohesion

Lifelong Learning - European Year of Skills 2023

Multisector, interdisciplinary, intergenerational cooperation



## SURVEY TIME!

### REACT Seminar - BEV2030



#### Answers to the first 6 questions:

1. Reference of the project (project number):  
101104521
2. Type of activity: Mutual Learning
3. Title of the event: REACT Seminar - BEV2030  
(VERA)
4. Date: 03/10/2023
5. Duration: 1.0
6. Type of event: Physical Event

AND THE ANSWER TO THE REMAINING  
QUESTIONS ARE ALL YOURS!!



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Concluding Plenary -  
Recommendations for empowering  
volunteering to create more  
democratic collaborative and  
inclusive communities

# TRENTO

2024

## Capitale Europea del Volontariato

European Volunteering Capital

### Trento Study Visit

May 15-17, 2024



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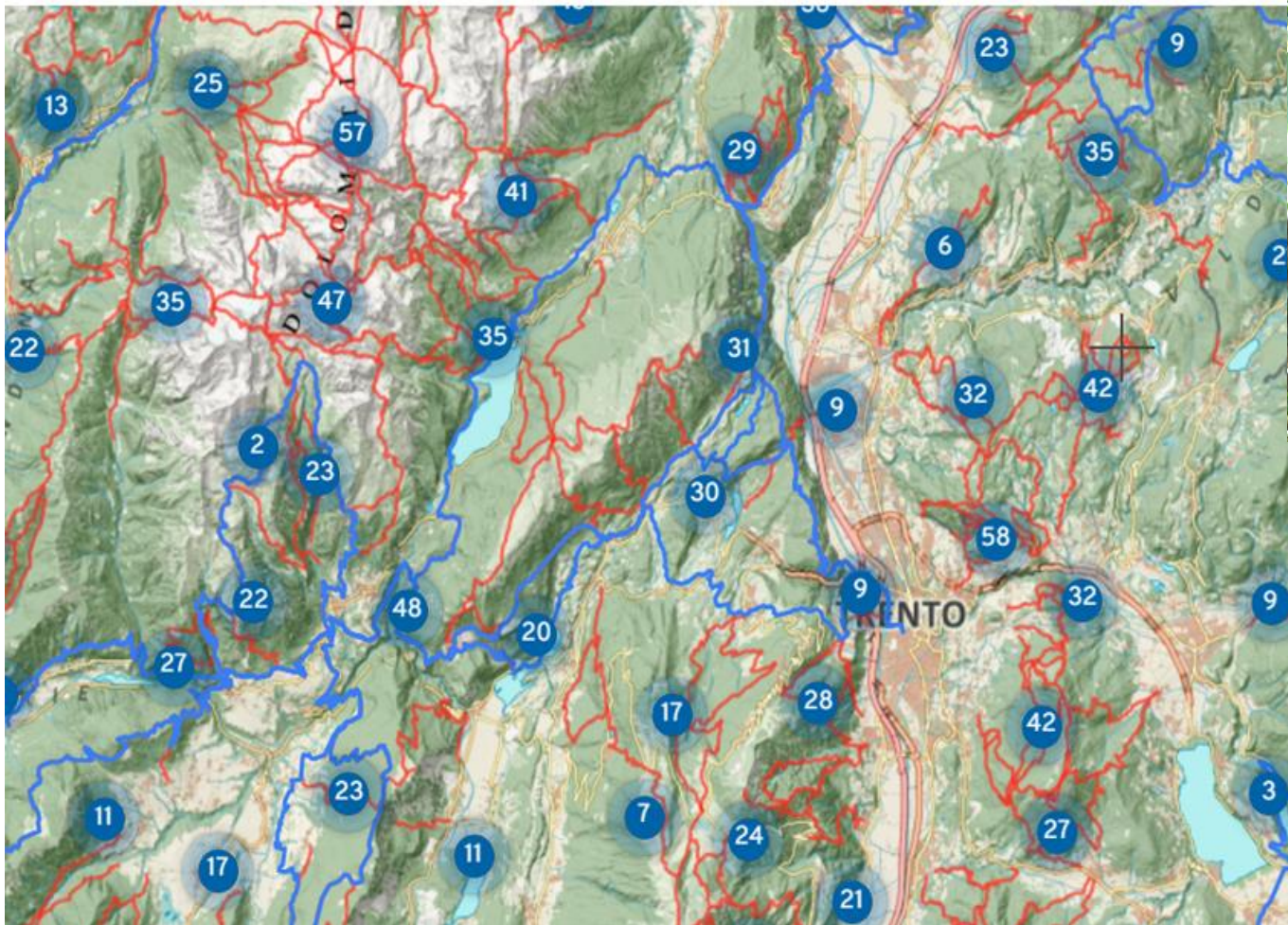


**Come visit us in Trento,  
a city of beauty and  
culture surrounded by  
nature. And while  
you're here....**

















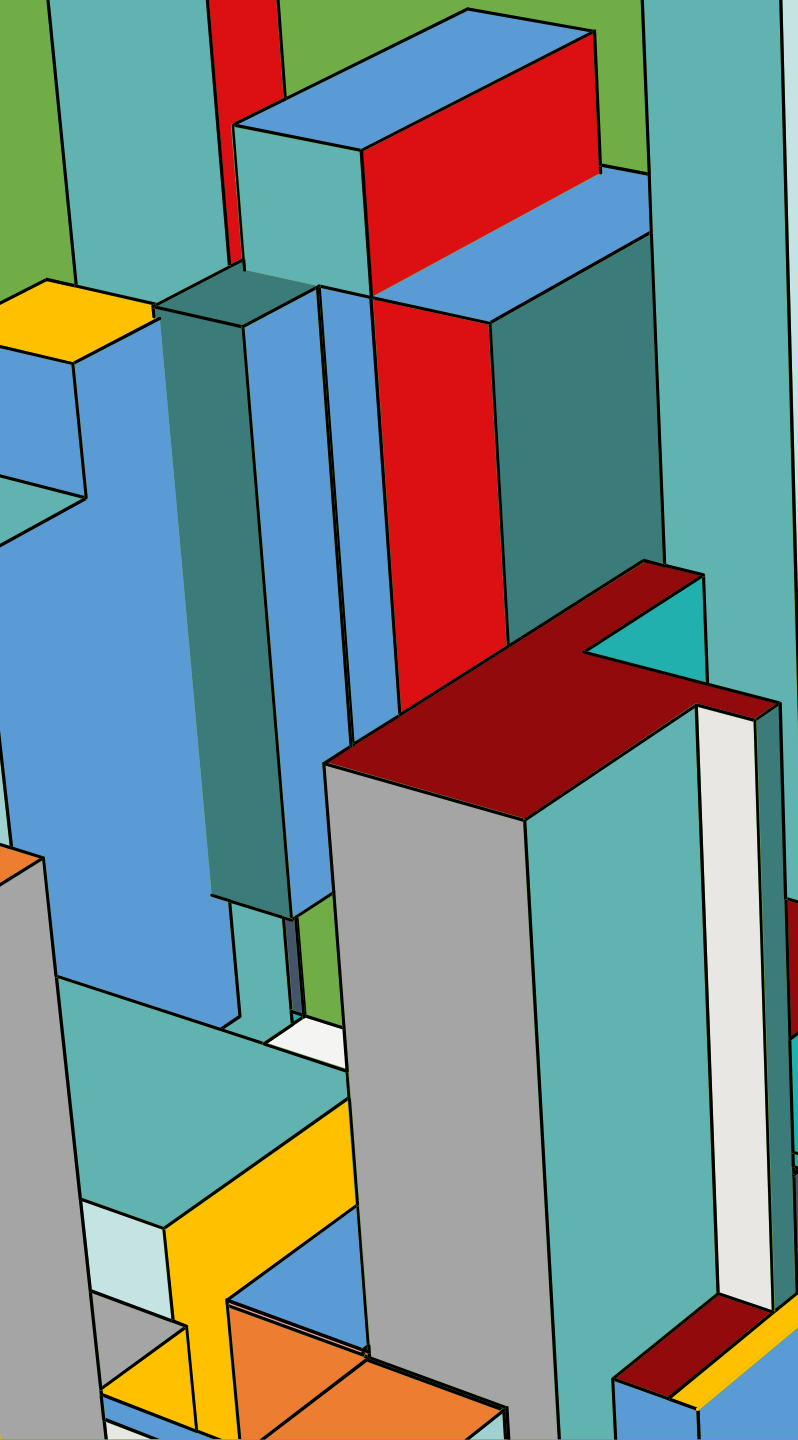




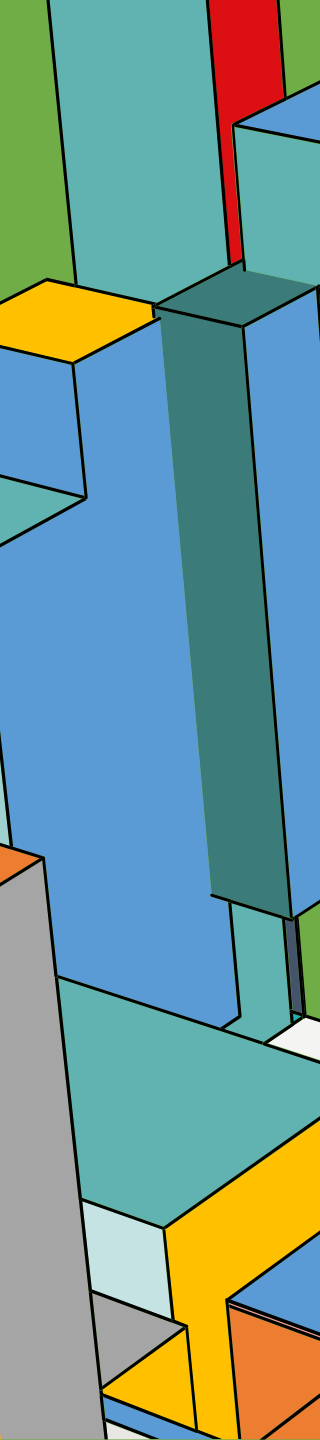








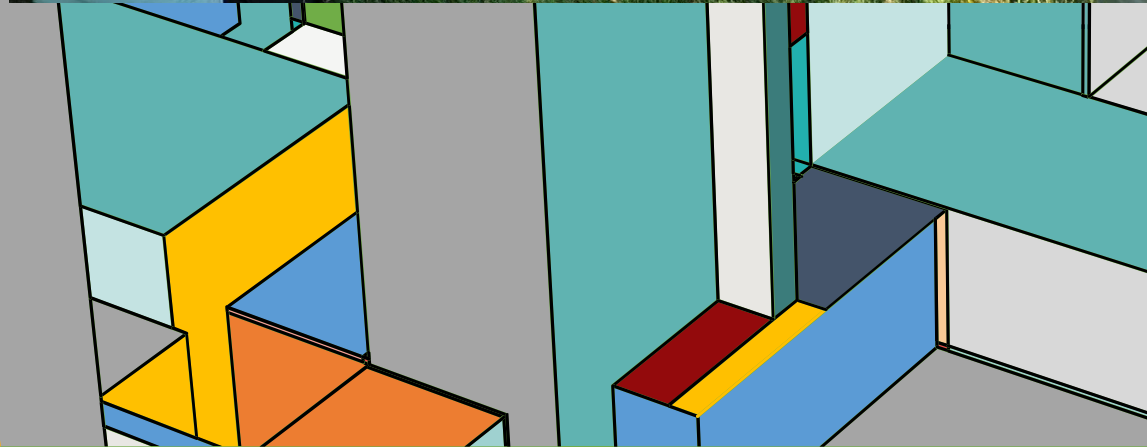




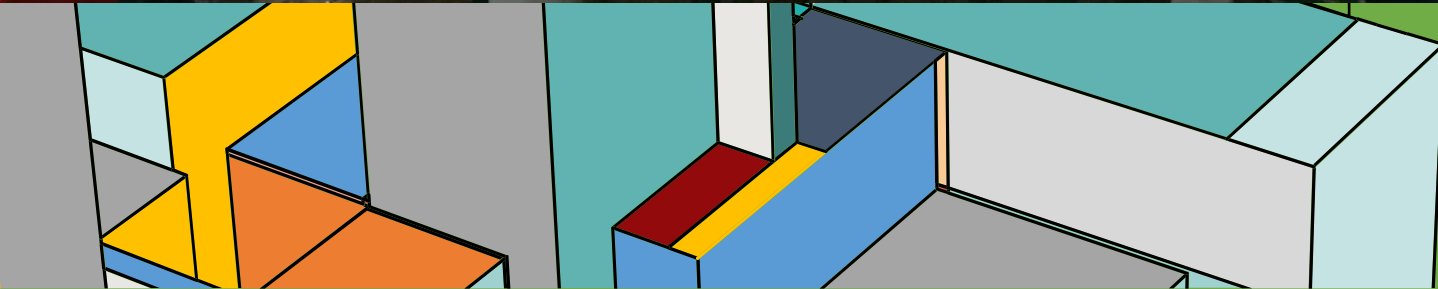












**We're looking forward to seeing  
you in Trento!  
15-17 MAY, 2024**







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# THANK YOU!

## Follow us on Social Media for more from CEV



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[www.europeanvolunteercentre.org](http://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org)



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