



## CALL FOR APPLICANTS

**Deadline for Applications 7 June 2021.**

**10th edition of the European Volunteer Capital Competition.**

As a candidate to be the **#EVCapital 2023** your municipality will gain **European-wide visibility** for excellence in policies and programmes that **support volunteers and volunteering**. As a candidate and potential winner, you will be **rewarded with recognition** for your existing practices, and for your ambitious, credible and quality-focused plans for future growth and development in the field of volunteering. In joining the competition, you will play a key role in motivating, inspiring and encouraging other municipalities to improve their **provision of supportive and facilitatory policies and programmes for quality volunteering**.



Once accepted as a candidate municipality, you will **join a 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*, the **European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC)**.

In applying to be the European Volunteering Capital 2023 you will be able to **strengthen volunteering** in your area by **connecting present and future local volunteering actions, strategies, policies and programmes to the European Context**.

The application and candidate process will enable you to collaborate more closely with volunteers, volunteer-involving and volunteer infrastructure organisations in a common cause to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteers in your area.

We invite you to step forward into a friendly, uplifting and rewarding process to be the best you can be and go for **European Volunteering Capital 2023**.

### What is the purpose of the competition?

- a) **Recognise and reward municipalities** who are doing well to support their volunteers and volunteering and have ambitious, credible and quality-focused plans for future growth and development in the field of volunteering.
- b) **Motivate, inspire and encourage** other municipalities to do better in their provision of supportive and facilitatory policies and programmes for quality volunteering.

The competition aims to strengthen volunteering at the local level and connects present and future local volunteering actions, strategies, policies, and programmes to the European Context. It enables volunteers, volunteer-involving and volunteer infrastructure organisations to collaborate more closely with local policy makers in a common cause to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteers in their area. Participation as a candidate requires a **detailed analysis and assessment ('Audit') of volunteer provision** at the local level, therefore helping to **identify strengths and weaknesses of the approaches** taken, as well as acting as a catalyst for improvements. Participation enables stakeholders from different fields and sectors to come together and further **develop their local volunteering policy and practice frameworks and strategies, using European standards as guidelines**. It also assists the development of volunteering and solidarity in Europe more widely as the examples shared serve as inspiration for others all across Europe. Finally joining the competition as a candidate municipality provides the opportunity to join a unique community of practice of municipalities "European Volunteer Capital Candidates Community" (EVCCC) (and other levels of local and regional authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating VOLUNTEERING and SOLIDARITY.

### Who is Eligible to apply?

**Municipalities of any size** from a member state of the Council of Europe.

### What is required of the winner?

1. **Organise and fund prestigious opening and closing ceremonies.**
2. **Organise actions** taking place during the year of the awarded title **that will contribute to the growth and development of quality volunteering opportunities** available in the municipality and ensure greater impact of the volunteers on their communities as a legacy of the title.
3. **Lead on an application for an event in EURegionsWeek** during their year as Capital together with other members of the "*European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community*" (EVCCC), involving candidates, winners, and future candidates for the title with the support of the CEV secretariat.
4. **Maintain close contact with the CEV secretariat** providing timely and suitable information for online and other media in order to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteering in their municipality and across Europe.

## What are the opportunities available for participant municipalities?

1. **Participate in applying for funds for hosting and sending European Solidarity Corps Volunteers.**
2. **Participate in a study visit for members of the “European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community” (EVCCC) and other interested stakeholders** in order to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the local volunteering policies and programmes in place in the winning municipality.
3. **Liaise with CEV secretariat to consider possible hosting of a CEV event** during their year as winner or in the following year as part of the legacy actions.
4. **Contribute to, and participate in, CEV events and other activities and opportunities** that become available throughout the year.
5. **Participate in, and organise, other initiatives** in the framework of the “European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community” (EVCCC).

## What are the application criteria?

Applicant municipalities are required to **demonstrate their strategies, policies, and programmes in connection to the PAVE recommendations, the CEV 5R policy priorities and to the CEV Volunteering Policy Statements.** Evidence about their engagement with, and support for, the European Solidarity Corps, and actions related to supporting volunteers in the COVID-19 response is also required. Applicants are also asked to indicate if they are signatories of the [Integrating Cities Charter](#).

Successful applicant municipalities will be announced by CEV as Candidate Municipalities and will be presented with the candidacy certificate in Brussels. All Candidate Municipalities can become full members of the “European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community” (EVCCC).

Applications consist of:

- **70%:** An online application form with specific questions focussed on **current performance and existing practice** around volunteering (worth 70% of the total score for the written part) and an attachment of maximum four sides of A4 to describe the municipality's “**Strategy for future growth as concerns the access to, and impact of, quality volunteering, and the legacy of the EV Capital title for volunteers and solidarity locally, nationally and on a European level**” (worth 30% of the total score for the written part).
- **30%:** A **video** of maximum of 5 minutes to demonstrate volunteering in the municipality & a **physical presentation in Berlin, EV Capital 2021, in September 2021** (Date and Venue - Online/Offline TBD) (maximum 10 minutes).

The **video should contribute to demonstrating in a visual way how volunteering policies and programmes are implemented in the municipality.** It should provide complementary information to that provided in the application form and during the physical presentation but at the same time be understandable in isolation having in mind that it will be shared online.

## How is the winner decided?

**70%** allocated score on the **basis of the written application form** and **30%** allocated score on the physical presentation at the CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress and video combined.

**The Jury:**

**50% of the total score:** Allocated by the **CEV EV Capital Steering Group**.

**50% of the total score:** Allocated by the **External Jury** involving representatives nominated by:

1. The Council of Europe.
2. European Commission.
3. European Economic and Social Committee.
4. Committee of the Regions.
5. A Member of the European Parliament.
6. A company member of EVEN.
7. The Mayor of Berlin, European Volunteering Capital 2021.

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In the event of a tie, the deciding score will lie with the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) EV Capital Steering Committee. The Jury's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into by CEV or individual Jury members with candidates in relation to that decision. A short summary of the opinion of the Jury concerning the merits of each candidate municipality will be published following the announcement of the winner close to December 5th 2021, the International Volunteer Day. The precise membership of the Jury will be defined once the candidate municipalities are known. This is in order to avoid conflicts of interests, in particular concerning the countries or regions from where the EP, EESC and CoR representatives are from.

**Competition Timeline:**

- 10 February**    **Open call** for applications.
- 7 June**            **Deadline** for written applications from Applicant Municipalities.
- 14 June**          **Candidates announcement** on social media.
- July**                **Presentation of a certificate of candidacy** in Brussels to an appropriate representative from the National and/or Regional representation to the EU or Belgium and signing of the **Memorandum of Understanding** for EV Capital Candidates.
- July/August**    **Appointment of the Jury.**
- 6 September**   **Deadline** to receive a maximum of 5 minute video.
- September**     **Presentation of Candidatures** as part of the CEV Volunteering Congress in Berlin. Maximum 10 minutes per candidate.
- Around  
5 December**    **Announcement of the European Volunteering Capital 2023 Winner** in Berlin.

## How to Apply:

The link to the official online application form is found at the end of this document. For your convenience, the questions can be accessed [here](#). **Videos are to be submitted before 6 September (via suitable file sharing App) and they will be published on receipt.**

## Deadline for online application: 7 June 2021

The **application form needs to be completed in English** providing information on ***existing*** volunteering policy and practice in your municipality. The sections in the application form reflect the [CEV 5R policy priority](#) fields and other criteria as mentioned above:

- **Recognition:** The learning achieved by volunteers needs to be properly recognised and accredited when desired. The roadmap for the implementation of the recommendation on the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning should be fully implemented.
- **Real Value:** The evidence base for volunteering policies should be improved whereby the contribution of volunteering to the economy and social cohesion and convergence be measured and better understood.
- **Regulatory Framework:** Europe still requires a co-ordinated volunteering policy with a single contact point in the EU institutions. Local volunteering strategies need to be rewarded when they are well developed in line with 5R policy priorities and the PAVE recommendations, and supported to improve when they are not, in order to continue to ensure quality volunteering standards.
- **Resources:** Volunteers and their organisations, including infrastructure organisations providing advice, support and training for volunteering, deserve to be properly funded and supported at the local level, including through employee volunteering.
- **Refugees & Social Inclusion:** Volunteers are the backbone to the support being offered to people seeking sanctuary in Europe. It is a current example, and visible symbol, of the importance of volunteers and the way that they embody European values, contribute to resilience, and are available to offer flexible and pragmatic solutions to shared challenges.

You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with these 5R policy priorities as it will assist in making your application. You are also encouraged to liaise with relevant stakeholders in preparing your application such as Volunteer Centres, volunteer organisations and businesses organising employee volunteering opportunities.

The [Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe \(PAVE\)](#) document in various languages is available on the CEV website [here](#). If the language needed is not there please enquire with the CEV office. The [“Helping Hands” EYV2011 5 Year Policy Review detailing the 5R policy priorities](#) and the [CEV Policy Statements](#) are also available.

Please distinguish between support and /or situations that exist only in your municipality or when it is the case nationally or regionally.

**NB:** Only information provided directly in the form, the maximum four sides of A4 attachment as requested, the video and the physical presentation, will be taken into account by the Jury. Other information provided via hyperlinks or other email attachments will not be considered for the purpose of the application.

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### **Good to know:**

- The Candidate municipalities will be required to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** with CEV reflecting the agreed framework for cooperation and adherence to communication and visibility guidelines, in particular: the use of the European Volunteering Capital logo that CEV will provide to the winning municipality; and due recognition be given to the co-financers for the competition, namely the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV), the Europe for Citizens Programme and any other future co-financing entity.
- CEV is not liable for any damage, loss or disappointment suffered by applicant and/or candidate municipalities or any connected individuals for taking part, or not being able to take part, in this competition.
- In the event of unforeseen circumstances, CEV may alter, amend or cancel the competition without prior notice.
- Municipalities that have been awarded the title of “European Volunteer Capital” cannot apply for the next 5 years after having received this recognition.
- CEV reserves the right to change these terms at any time.

**Submission:** Online, followed by confirmation email to be sent to [gabriella.civico@cev.be](mailto:gabriella.civico@cev.be)

### **Additional requirements:**

1. **Video:** a link to the 5 minutes video on how volunteering policies and programmes are implemented in the municipality to be sent to [gabriella.civico@cev.be](mailto:gabriella.civico@cev.be) (before **6 September 2021**).
2. **Scanned signature** of the legal representative attached to the form.
3. **Scan of the official stamp** of the municipality (where available) attached to the form.
4. **Proof of payment:** An application fee of EUR 500 should be paid by every candidate municipality and the proof of payment should be attached to the form. Details are:

<b>Please use the reference:</b>	“name of Municipality” V. Capital Application
<b>Account Holder:</b>	CEV, Rue d’Edimbourg 26, 1050, Bruxelles, Belgium
<b>Bank:</b>	BNP Paribas Fortis
<b>Account Number IBAN:</b>	BE83210007455615
<b>SWIFT:</b>	GEBABEBB

## **European Volunteering Capital 2023 Competition**

# **OFFICIAL ONLINE FORM**



**Jury:** For an up to date list of jury members please follow the link:

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/ev-capital>.

**Candidates Announcement:** Candidate municipalities will be announced in June 2021.

**Decision:** Jury decision is final and will be announced close to December 5th 2021, the International Volunteer Day.

**Useful Resources:**

- The [PAVE communication Tool Kit](#);
- The [Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe](#);
- The [“Helping Hands” EYV2011](#), 5 Year Policy Review detailing the 5R policy priorities;
- The [Developing European Volunteering Strategies \(DEVs\) Report](#).
- The [CEV Policy Statements](#).
- The [“Step up a Gear”](#) Policy Statement 2020

**Questions:** [gabriella.civico@cev.be](mailto:gabriella.civico@cev.be)



**REMEMBER:**

If the jury selects your municipality as the 2023 European Volunteering Capital you will have the opportunity, under the EV Capital framework, to organise different actions that will contribute to the growth and development of quality volunteering opportunities available in your municipality and ensure greater impact of the volunteers on their communities.