

#EVCcapital



2013 - 2023

European Volunteering Capital Competition Overview

*Strengthen, inspire and celebrate
volunteering in Europe.*



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WHAT is EVCapital?



- # A competition that strengthens, inspires and celebrates volunteering and solidarity in Europe.
- # Connects volunteering at the local level to the European context.
- # Recognizes excellence in local volunteering policies and programmes efforts.
- # Supports and strengthens partnerships as part of the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC).
- # Inspires new approaches and innovative ideas to support and encourage volunteering and solidarity.

#EVCapital 2025

WHO can apply?

ANY
municipality

FROM COUNCIL OF EUROPE COUNTRIES



#EVCapital 2025

HOW to participate?



Submit the application by **June 2nd 2023!!**



Publish a **video** showcasing Volunteering in your community!



Present your volunteering **polices and practice** at the **2023 CEV Congress!**



Jury of volunteering experts will decide!



Winner announcement

#EVCapital 2025

WHY participate?



**Recognise and thank volunteers
in your municipality.**



**Join EVCCC:
Growing unique network of European
Volunteering Capital Candidates
learning and exploring together.**

#EVCapital 2025

OPPORTUNITIES for the European Volunteering Capital 2025!

- #1 Be **the host** of the opening and closing **ceremonies**.
- #2 Give **visibility** to the **efforts of your local volunteers** all over **Europe**.
- #3 **Lead** on organising an **EU Regions Week** event.
- #4 Host a **study visit** for **EVCCC** delegations.
- #5 **Provide opportunities to young people** through European Solidarity Corps projects with other EVCCC Municipalities.
- #6 Be part of a **friendly, uplifting and rewarding process**. Shine a light on the **impact** made by existing and future **volunteers in your community!**

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION:

COMPETITION HISTORY AND EVOLUTION:

The EV Capital Competition has experienced 4 distinct phases. Each new phase being developed after evaluation of the previous implementation period and consideration of the ambitions and possibilities for future development.

PHASE 1: 2013, 2014, 2015

The competition was launched in 2013 as an initiative in the framework of the European Year of Citizens and as a follow up to EYV 2011. In this respect, it was important to link to the outcomes of EYV 2011 i.e PAVE and to demonstrate a link to the Citizens at the local level. This initiative was welcomed by Former European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding as it “clearly showed the strong link between European Years 2011 and 2013”.

2014 Competition: The European Volunteer Centre launched its first edition of European Volunteering Capital competition in 2013. The call for applicants was announced in the Spring with the deadline on the 1st October 2013. Four municipality applied for the competition Barcelona(ES), Guimarães(PT), Laval(FR) and Rennes(FR). This list of applicants was made public by CEV during the annual CEV conference the 3rd October 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. Some candidates had already done their own announcements prior to the conference. The competition was based only on the application form at this stage. The candidates said a few words of introduction and some showed videos but it was not part of the judging process.



OCTOBER 2013

Representatives from the applicant municipalities during the CEV Conference in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina)

Representatives of different European volunteering stakeholders formed the jury:

- **Eva Hambach – CEV President**
- **Marian Harkin – MEP, Co Chair of the Interest Group on Volunteering**
- **John Macdonald – European Commission EY2013 Task Force, former Head of the Task Force for the European Year of Volunteering 2011**
- **Lluís Romeu – FASVOL President**
- **Richard Dictus – UNV Executive Coordinator**
- **Pavel Trantina – European Economic and Social Committee**
- **Declan McDonnell – Committee of the Regions**
- **Jannie Haek – CEO of the Belgian National Lottery**
- **José A. Castro – Technical Assistant of the GD of Citizenship Rights, Participation and Volunteering, Andalusian Regional Government.**

Background

The jury chose the municipality that they believed to best demonstrate the implementation of the PAVE (Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe) recommendations. Additionally, during the selection process, special attention was given to the support and encouragement shown for cross border volunteering. Based on these criteria, Barcelona was named as the European Volunteering Capital 2014 on 5 December 2013 International Volunteer Day in the European Parliament.

The application form needed to be completed with information on volunteering policy and practice in the municipality. The sections reflected the four policy recommendation areas of PAVE:

- An enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering
- Quality in volunteering
- Recognising volunteering
- Valuing volunteering



DECEMBER 2013

The first European Volunteering Capital was announced in the European Parliament: Barcelona 2014

See here the video overview of the 2014 competition.

Main legacy of the 2014 competition is the Newsletter
See below for the legacy as reported by the city.



Barcelona- European Volunteering Capital 2014



Visibility and recognition: Self-esteem of volunteering within the local and regional organisations was strengthened and volunteers were more appreciated by citizens and also the media.

Growth and Development: The specific model of associations and volunteer engagement in Barcelona and more widely in Catalonia matured and developed.

"For the FCVS, the EVCapital nomination and the Market Place 2014 were a starting point and an important thrust for achieving the political support necessary for drafting the Law on Volunteering adopted in July 2015."

Learning and skills: Organisations and policymakers began to pay increased attention to volunteer training needs, the accreditation of skills and the representation of skills learnt through volunteering in CVs etc.

Communication: "Nonprofit" is a news portal in English on the third sector and volunteering that is managed by Catalan non-profit organisations. The portal aims to be a meeting point for international non-profit and third-sector leaders, professionals and other interested stakeholders.



Another follow up action was a Europe for Citizens funding application led by Rennes for network of towns and cities project. It was not successful but the collaboration to prepare the application was also beneficial.

2015 Competition: Following on the success of the first European Volunteering Capital competition, CEV launched the second edition of the competition in early 2014. Deadline for applications was 30th September 2014.

#EVCapital 2015 Candidates:

Basel (CH)
Lisbon (PT)
Naples (IT)



For the 2015 competition the innovation of the presentation of candidate certificates in Brussels was introduced. This was a way to have an interesting moment for the media to pick up, for CEV to get greater connections with National and Regional representatives in Brussels for advocacy work and to spread more visibility and knowledge about the competition through the communication channels of the representatives collecting the certificates.

The 2015 Jury was formed by the following experts:

- Eva HAMBACH – CEV President
- Jana ŽITŇANSKÁ – MEP
- Sophie BEERNAERTS – Head of Unit, Europe for Citizens Programme, European Commission
- Luca JAHIER – President of Group III of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Roger ALBINYANA – Member of the Committee of the Regions
- Joaquin DURANY – Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)



DECEMBER 2014

Lisbon, the winner of 2015 European Volunteering Capital was announced in Barcelona 2014

The legacy of 2015 in Lisbon can be summarised as follows:



Lisbon- European Volunteering Capital 2015

Municipal Volunteer Award: Award that aims to distinguish the best project / action of volunteering, that contributes, in particular, to the promotion of volunteering in the city of Lisbon.

Municipal Volunteer Program: Promoted by the Department of Social Development, gives people in Lisbon the opportunity to volunteer at the Lisbon City Council, promoting an approach to the various municipal services, to the residents and visitors of the City of Lisbon.

Mechanism for Recognition of Learning: Multi-stakeholder volunteering collaboration that developed a mechanism for recognition of learning acquired through volunteering.

Inter- Municipality Meetings: Organised by the Municipal City Councils of Lisbon, Torres Vedras and Cascais and the Portuguese Confederation of Volunteering (CPV), and consider the main problems and solutions that Local Volunteer Banks in Portugal face when implementing their activities.

Small Fund for volunteer projects: In partnership with CPV, Lisbon City Council established the Program + *Volunteering* within the framework of the Lisbon EV Capital 2015 initiative. The Programme aims to financially support volunteer projects or actions that take place in the city of Lisbon and are implemented by legally constituted social and solidarity economy organisations, headquartered in the city of Lisbon or that implement relevant activity in the city.

PHASE 2: 2016 & 2017

CEV launched the third and fourth editions of the European Volunteering Capital competition in early 2015. The deadline for applications was on 21 September 2015.

Following an extensive evaluation of the process and deliberations in the CEV of different scenarios for the development of the competition, it was agreed to launch the call for 2 years at the same time. This was in order that in the future winning municipalities would have a full year to prepare for their year instead of the single month that had been the case in the first two rounds of the competition and would indeed still be the case for the 3rd round. It was also agreed to make the announcement of candidates more prestigious and also give the opportunity for longer presentations from the candidates and the possibility to include videos. For the jury members who couldn't be present, a video of the presentations was sent to them for information but it was not part of the formal scoring at that time.

EVCapital 2016 & 2017 candidates:

Belfast (UK 2016, 2017)
Bruges (BE 2016, 2017)
Cagliari (IT 2016, 2017)
Cascais (PT 2016)
Edinburgh (UK 2016)
London (UK 2016, 2017)
Lucca (IT 2016)
Perm (RU 2016, 2017)
Rome (IT 2016)
Sligo (IE 2017)
Varese (IT 2016, 2017)
Viterbo (IT 2016, 2017)



The 2016/17 competitions jury:

- **Joaquin Durany** – (EVEN) (La Caixa)
- **Jutta Gützkow** – Head of Civil Society Division (CoE)
- **Jutta Koenig-Georgiades** – DG Home Europe for Citizens Programme (EC)
- **Fernando Medina** – Mayor of Lisbon (CoR)
- **Cristina Rigman** – CEV President
- **Ariane Rodert** – Vice President Group III (EESC)
- **Ivo Vajgl** – MEP (Slovenia)

The Candidates Announcement for the European Volunteering Capital Competitions 2016 and 2017 was done during the CEV Policy Conference “Helping-Hands Hope for Europe” in Brussels, October 2015 in the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Candidates had the opportunity to present themselves and most, took the opportunity to be present and give an introduction to their work. The announcement of the winners for both 2016 and 2017 was done during the 2015 closing ceremony for Lisbon.

CHECK HERE



Helping-hands

HOPE FOR EUROPE

Background

London #EVCapital 2016:

The 2016 Opening Ceremony was held as part of an existing planned event and the Closing Ceremony as part of a European Conference on Volunteering where they invited and covered part of the costs of guests from other municipalities connected to the competition in addition to CEV member organisations. At the closing ceremony the winner of the 2018 competition was announced.



The legacy of 2016:



London- European Volunteering Capital 2016

2 new annual events were launched in EVC 2016: 'Run to do Good & The Big Recruit' are events that encourage cross sector working between businesses in London and the volunteering sector, and an event that supports the network of 28 volunteer centres across the City to mobilise increased numbers of volunteers.

European dimension to our work: Improved connections with European counterparts and working regularly with CEV and other winning cities eg. collaboration on December 2016 European volunteering conference and "Developing European Volunteering Strategies (DEVS)" conference 6 & 7 April 2017

Leverage, recognition and engagement: Existing regular events such as the Volunteer Awards and Speed Networking events were used to spread the message about the title and volunteers became aware what they have achieved with this prestigious accolade. Volunteer organisations have been able to use the title to leverage more success for impact, volunteer recruitment and retention, visibility and fundraising and even more business employees have been encourage to volunteer.

Sharing of best practice: 4 of Team London's most successful volunteering programmes were developed into 'Blueprints' that are now freely available for volunteering stakeholders across Europe.

Background

Sligo #EVCapital 2017:

The Opening Ceremony for Sligo-European Volunteering Capital 2017 took place on 27 January 2017. Sligo also attracted a number of National Volunteering and volunteering-related events in 2017.



From the 10 -13 October EV Capital 2017 Sligo held an exhibition in the European Parliament, demonstrating the valuable contribution of volunteers and volunteering activities in Sligo. Hosted by MEP Marian Harkin the opening of the exhibition featured presentations from Commissioner Phil Hogan, Irish ambassador Helena Nolan and Cathairleacht Seamus Kilgannon. There was also a volunteering seminar on 11 October in Brussels involving a delegation of c. 30 volunteers from different local organisations and policymakers from Sligo, in Brussels as part of a study visit implemented in connection with their role as European Capital of Volunteering 2017. These events were possible with the support of MEP Marian Harkin.

The closing ceremony took place in Sligo in December 2017 in conjunction with the Irish national volunteer awards. It was there that the winner of the 2019 competition was announced.



PHASE 3: 2018 & 2019

2018 Competition

The deadline for applications was brought forward to be on 30 June 2016. Previous deadlines had always been in September but it was felt that bringing it forward earlier in the year to June would give more time to prepare the candidate certificate presentations and also the candidate presentation ceremony. In addition, the opportunity to give more visibility over a long period of time to all candidates was felt to be important and bring added value in terms of visibility in entering the competition for all candidates and not only the eventual winner. The information provided in the application form counted as 70% of the final score allocated to each candidate. 30% of the score was allocated based on the presentation of the candidature during the Candidates Reception organised by CEV and London European Volunteering Capital 2016 on 13 October 2016 in Brussels (BE). This was the first time that the presentation became part of the formal criteria.

The formal announcement of candidates was done via a press release a couple of days after the deadline. Most candidates already publicly declare themselves to candidates before this time.

The European Volunteering Capital 2018 was chosen between one of the two candidate municipalities from Denmark: Aarhus and Ringkøbing-Skjern. The ceremony awarding the candidacy certificates took place at the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union in Brussels on 14



The Jury was the following:

Cristina Rigman - CEV President
Silvia Costa - MEP
Gonçalo Lobo Xavier - EESC
Laura Brown - London #EVCapital 2016
Karin Lopatta-Loibl - EC
Kieran McCarthy - CoR
Mary-Ann Hennessey - CE
Joaquin Durany - EVEN (La Caixa)



Aarhus was chosen as the European Volunteering Capital 2018 and chose to focus during the year on four tracks to further strengthen volunteering in their municipality.

- **Legacy:** Organisations and movements are a significant part of the foundation that has formed Denmark and the Danish voluntary culture, and Aarhus EVCapital 2018.
- **Diversity:** Regardless of age, ethnicity, background, employment, social conditions etc. everyone must be represented in Aarhus EVCapital 2018.
- **Social Inclusion:** Among volunteers there is a lack of representation from the so-called socially disadvantaged citizens. But despite of the challenges that this group is facing they have many resources to offer - and they wish to include these resources in Aarhus EVCapital 2018.
- **Cooperation:** They strive to increase and improve the cooperation between citizens and the municipality to make it easier to volunteer and create content to Aarhus EVCapital 2018.

Study visit to Aarhus and Ringkøbing-Skjern (Denmark)

The first European Volunteering Capital Candidate Community (EVCCC) Study Visit took place in 3-5 December 2018, gathering over 30 participants that visited both EVCapital 2018 Candidate cities.

The conference was organised as a field trip conference offering opportunities for home-stay accommodation with local volunteers, and a multitude of learning experiences with a particular focus on volunteering in rural areas across the Central Denmark Region.

A variety of workshops were delivered and visits to local organisations showcased innovative approaches to involving volunteers in Danish communities. Volunteering Policy recommendations were delivered to key stakeholders at local, regional, national and European level.



**European Volunteering Capital Candidate Community
The EVCCC attending the Study Visit**

Aarhus #EVCapital 2018
[Check here the official website](#)



Key learnings and recommendations *[\(click here to check the full document\)](#)*

A concrete output from the knowledge gained during Aarhus' year as European Volunteering Capital is 8 recommendations on volunteering in the future. These recommendations were handed over to Mai Mercado, Minister for Children and Social Affairs, Mads Roke Clausen, chairman for the National Council of Volunteering, and Jacob Bundsgaard, chairman of Local Government Denmark, at the conference on December 5th.

The 8 recommendations:

- 1. Open up established local communities and invite new members on every occasion**
- 2. Make it easily accessible to join communities and help prevent loneliness**
- 3. Prioritize lifelong training in active citizenship**
- 4. Acknowledge diversity in volunteering**
- 5. Rethink financing and funding structures**
- 6. Create a visible gateway for volunteering and active citizenship**
- 7. Share resources, spaces and knowledge**
- 8. Be prepared to take risks**

Background

2019 Competition

The deadline for the EV Capital 2019 was on the 30 June 2017. The three candidate municipalities for the European Volunteering Capital 2019 title were: Augsburg (Germany), Cascais (Portugal), and Košice (Slovakia).



Jury for the EVCapital 2019 included:

Cristina Rigman - CEV President

Marian Harkin - MEP

Gonçalo Lobo Xavier - EESC

Seamus Kilgannon - Sligo, #EVCapital 2018

Sophia Eriksson - EC

Kieran McCarthy - CoR

Mary-Ann Hennessey - CE

Michael Evason - EVEN (IBM)



DECEMBER 2017

Košice, the winner of 2019 European Volunteering Capital was announced in Sligo 2017

Study visit to the #EVCapital 2019 (15-17 September 2019)
18 representatives of the European Volunteering Candidates Community (EVCCC) from:

- Aarhus, EVCapital 2018
- Berlin, EVCapital 2021
- Cascais, EVCapital Candidate 2016 & 2019
- Lisbon, EVCapital 2015
- Padova, EVCapital 2020
- Ringkøbing-Skjern, EVCapital Candidate 2018
- Stirling, EVCapital Candidate 2020
- Strovolos, EVCapital Candidate 2021

The EVCCC visited Košice, together with representatives from the Portuguese and Croatian Employee Volunteering Networks (EVEN) and Vipava (Slovenia), to learn about volunteering in Košice and Košice Region.

During the visit, the participants visited different organisations, exchanged views and brainstormed future projects and plans for collaboration on the topics of volunteering and solidarity.



PHASE 4: 2020 & 2021 Competition

For the 7th edition of the competition, launched in early 2018, a new application form and procedure was developed. The form was prepared in an online Google form instead of an editable pdf as previously. The form was made shorter and questions were grouped around the 5R policy priorities rather than the EYV 2011 priorities and PAVE recommendations explicitly. It was also agreed to include scope for candidates to explain what they plan to do in a particular policy area if they are not currently addressing that issue.

There were two candidate municipalities for the #EVCapital 2020 title were Padova (Italy) and Stirling (United Kingdom).



The process for the awarding of the 2020 competition winner proceeded as for 2019 with 70% of the jury score allocated to the application form contents that was already adapted in a new form giving scope for applicants to share also some plans for the future in connection to the different criteria. This modification was agreed by the Board as a result of the evaluation process. Applications were submitted at the end of June 2018. Physical presentations took place in Brussels on 25th October 2018 where some jury members were able to be present. For those that couldn't be there a recording was sent. The presentations lasted for 7 minutes each and an additional adaptation was made where a further 5 minutes of video evidence could also be submitted to the jury. These videos were disseminated online once all the jury members had submitted their scores. A total of 30% of the score was allocated for the presentation and video combined. Jury members score each application form question out of 10 in the case of a 'yes' response to the question and 5 in the case of a 'no' response to a question. For the presentation and video also out of 10. They have the possibility to give some written explanation for the level of score that they gave. These comments are then summarised as feedback for the applicants and shared in a press release as a way of disseminating good practice.

PRESS RELEASE



DECEMBER 2018

The winning municipality, Padova, was announced at the closing ceremony for Aarhus, #EVCapital 2018, based on highest total score between all the judges.

Background

The opening ceremony for Padova, EV Capital 2020, took place on 7th February with the presence of the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella and Maria Elisabetta Casellati, President of the Italian Senate. They joined the Mayor of Padova, Sergio Giordani, The President of the Veneto Region, Luca Zaia, the President of CSV Padova, Emanuele Alecci and Stefano Tabo to officially open Padova's year as European Volunteering Capital 2020.

Some artists and authoritative voices - including Lella Costa, Luca Bassanese, Gherardo Colombo, Alex Zanardi - also contributed to the event that gathered more than 5,000 volunteers and civil society representatives, imagining the future of the communities we want to build together through volunteering. CEV Director Gabriella Civico also gave a presentation and delegations from Kosice and Berlin both attended.

The event was widely reported in local and national media online, printed press and TV. [Check it out here.](#)



FEBRUARY 2020

Padova, EVCapital 2020
Opening Ceremony with the presence of the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella and Maria Elisabetta Casellati, President of the Italian Senate.

2021 Competition

The 2021 competition proceeded as for the previous year's edition. There were two applicant municipalities accepted as candidates and the EVCCC gained two new members. The activities of the EVCCC developed further in 2019 throughout the competition process.

An event was organised as part of EU Regions Week for the second year running and applications for exchanges of young volunteers between EVCCC members to be funded by the European Solidarity Corps were made. Candidates also participated in the study visit in Košice that facilitated further exchange of best practices and gave inspiration for new approaches to support volunteering at municipality level.

There were two candidate municipalities for the #EVCapital 2021 title were Berlin (Germany) and Strovolos (Cyprus).



PRESS RELEASE



The jury was comprised of the following members:

- **Cristina Rigman - CEV President**
- **Isabel Caño - EESC Vice-President**
- **Lucia Gurbaľová - Košice Deputy Mayor, EVCapital 2019**
- **Matteo Bianchi - CoR**
- **Mary Ann Hennessey - CoE**
- **Domenec Ruiz Devesa - MEP**
- **Begoña Barberá García - Iberdrola Social Projects Manager (EVEN)**
- **Jutta Koenig-Georgiades - EC Europe for Citizens**

Berlin was announced as the winning municipality to be EV Capital 2021 at the EVCapital 2019 closing ceremony in Kosice on on 9th December. As well as announcing the 2021 winner, handing over the title to Padova EV Capital 2020 and sharing all the memories of the EV Capital 2019 year & plans for the future, the evening was the occasion for the Slovakian Volunteer of the Year awards. Supported by CEV member CARDO, Slovak Aid, the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation, T-Systems Slovakia, US Steel and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak

Republic; the ceremony was an important occasion to recognise and reward volunteers not only in Kosice but from across Slovakia.



Background

On 5 December 2020 on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day 2020, with an online Ceremony organised together with Padova EV Capital 2020, the EV Capital award was passed from Padova to Berlin EV Capital 2021 and the winner of EV Capital 2022 Gdansk was announced.

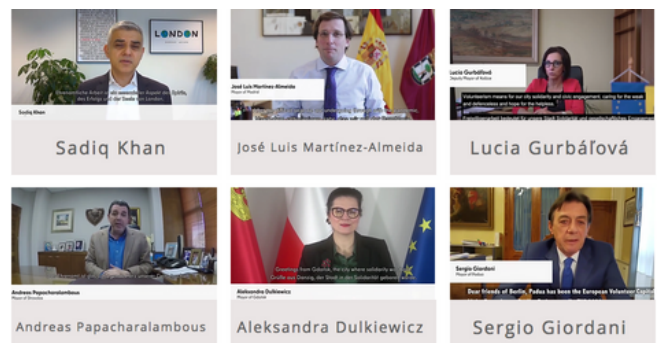
Berlin #EVCapital 2021 Campaign revolved around four themes:

- Digitalization,
- Innovation,
- Diversity,
- Europe.

A series of events and activities took place throughout the year, and the basis of all activities was the idea that civic engagement strengthens solidarity and the stability of democratic values.

The opening ceremony for Berlin EV Capital 2021 took place online 18 February accompanied by a social media campaign under the motto #EntdeckeDasWirInDir. Broadcasted from Berlin's City Hall, and moderated by Petra Gute, the event counted with the interventions of the Governing Mayor Michael Müller, the Permanent Secretary for Active Citizenship and International Relations Sawsan Chebli, the Founder and CEO of the Arne Friedrich Foundation Arne Friedrich, the Project manager Volunteering Capital Katharina Foerster, and the Project officer Volunteering Capital Katja Jäger, as well as the CEV President Lejla Šehić Relić and the European Commission Vice-President Dubravka Šuica, who delivered a speech on the values of volunteering and the European actions on volunteering.

During the event, messages of support for Berlin were received from other EVCCC representatives: Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, Mayor of Madrid José Luis Martínez-Almeida, Deputy Mayor of Kosice Lucia Gurbáľová, Mayor of Strovolos Andreas Papacharalambous, Mayor of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz and Mayor of Padua Sergio Giordani.



Background

On February 18, 2021, the campaign year started with a festive opening ceremony, accompanied by a social media campaign under the motto #DiscoverDasWirInDir. Committed people showed their faces and put their actions in relation to the big picture. During the campaign year, their faces and voices appeared in publications, radio and TV reports, on billboards and last but not least here on the website specially designed for the campaign year to show the diversity of voluntary commitment in Berlin and to get more people excited about it.

The EVCapital Berlin 2021 website collects information on all activities that took place in the 2021 campaign year: existing formats for networking and further education were disseminated further and new forms of exchange were created through discussion events, fields of action, campaigns and awards. In the course of the year, further fields of action were followed such as: Mental health, Digital innovation for commitment & neighborhood, Climate protection & environment, Migration & Participation, Education & Development, Open-source, Sports

At the end of 2021 Katja Jäger, project officer of the Volunteering Capital Berlin 2021 wrote the paper "Transformation in engagement and engagement undergoing transformation" describing the challenges, developments and outcomes of the year of Berlin as #EVCapital 2021.

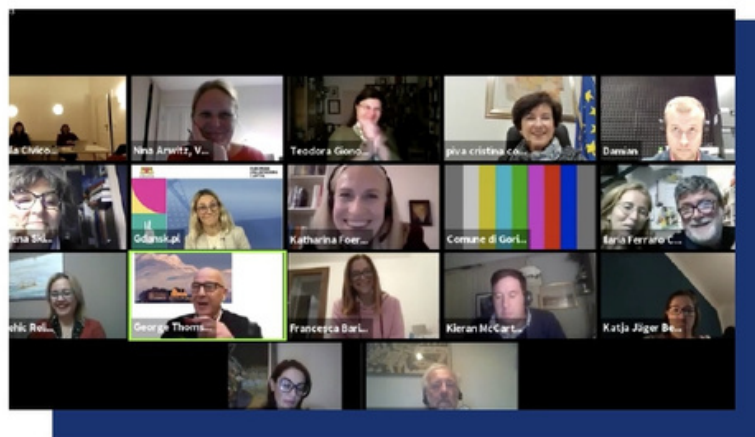


Read the "Transformation in engagement and engagement undergoing transformation" here!

PHASE 5: 2022 Competition

The deadline for the EV Capital 2022 was initially on 8 June 2020 and then, due to the situation concerning the COVID19 pandemic was extended until 22 June 2020. The four candidate municipalities for the European Volunteering Capital 2022 title were: Madrid (Spain), Izmir (Turkey), Gorizia (Italy) and Gdansk (Poland).

Due to the difficult global situation as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID19, the Candidate Presentation Ceremony could not be carried out in Padova (European Volunteering Capital 2020) as planned and had to be conducted online on 22 October 2020.



In addition to the presentations from the candidate municipalities, representatives of the #EVCapital2020 Padova and EV Capital 2021 Berlin, and the President of CSVNet Stefano Tabò spoke in the ceremony. Lejla Sehic Relic, CEV President, also joined the ceremony online, together with members of the jury and volunteering stakeholders from across Europe.

The Jury was the following:

- Michel Lefranc (CEV Board)
- Jan Verdée (CEV Board)
- Lena Karnalova (CEV Board)
- Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member)
- Cillian Lohan (EESC Vice-President for Communications)
- Irena Joveva (MEP, Renew Europe, Volunteering Interest Group Co-Chair)
- Melanie Jacobs (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre)
- Rares Craiut (Member of the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe)
- Begoña Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN))
- Cristina Piva (Padova Municipality Councillor for Volunteering)

The winning municipality, Gdansk, was announced at the online ceremony held on 5th December from Padova, #EVCapital 2020, when the title was also passed to EV Capital 2021 Berlin.



Background

Gdansk was announced as the winner on 5 December 2021 on the International Volunteer Day. In choosing Gdansk as the European Volunteering Capital 2022 the jury highlights that the city demonstrates a very impressive infrastructure for promoting and ensuring quality volunteering among all age groups and that the city has developed some innovative instruments to make volunteering more popular and better appreciated by the community, such as a portal for volunteering, a mobile application and the first employee volunteering programme in the public administration.



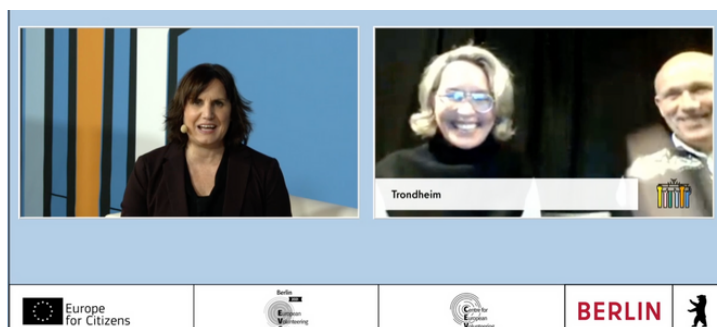
A number of initiatives are in place to recognise and reward volunteers' contributions in a public way, enabling volunteers to act as role models and provide a change-making example to others. The jury was very inspired by all the measures taken to ensure the real added value of volunteering in the city, the variety of target groups involved, and the number of stakeholders supporting these efforts and noted that Gdańsk guarantees an enabling environment for volunteering through an entire ecosystem fostering effective and cross-silo cooperation between the City Hall, the Volunteer Centre, the municipal institutions, the NGOs and the citizens.

On December 5th 2021, on the International Volunteer Day 2020, in a ceremony organised by the Berlin EVCapital 2021 held in Berlin and online, the official handover of the award between Berlin and Gdansk took place.

PHASE 6: 2023 Competition

Four municipalities candidated to be the 2023 #EVCapital. Trondheim (Norway) was announced as the winner on December 5th, the International Volunteer Day in an online ceremony. In choosing Trondheim as the European Volunteering Capital 2022 the jury highlights that the city is making outstanding efforts in prioritising quality volunteering and to publicly recognise volunteers and the contribution they make to the community.

The jury was very inspired by Trondheim which stands out for the way it has developed cross-sector collaboration, four-year strategic plans, grants and funding support for volunteering in a very comprehensive way. There is a very clear record of the achievements in stakeholder and citizen engagement embedded in values and principles. The investment in volunteer centres and professional support has supported this excellence.



Background

The Jury was composed by:

- Michel Lefranc (CEV Board)
- Jan Verdée (CEV Board)
- Lena Karnalova (CEV Board)
- George Thomson (CEV Board)
- Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member)
- Krzysztof Pater (EESC Rapporteur on "Volunteers . Building the Future of Europe")
- Predrag Fred Matic (MEP)
- Barbara Eglitis (Program officer SALTO European Solidarity Corps)
- Rares Craiut (Member of the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe)
- Begona Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN))
- Monica Lallai (Business Development for Religious and Third Sector/Non Profit Organizations Business Unit, Cattolica Assicurazioni Spa)
- Sawsan Chebli (Berlin State Secretary for Civic and International Affairs)



The jury considered that the efforts of Asti (Italy), Birgu (Malta) and Oeiras (Portugal) municipalities to support and develop volunteering in the city also deserves high recognition.



PHASE 7: 2024 Competition

Two municipalities candidated to be the 2024 #EVCapital. Trento (Italy) was announced as the winner on December 10th 2022 in Gdansk, EVCapital 2022. In choosing Trento as the European Volunteering Capital 2024 the jury highlights that the city is making outstanding efforts in prioritising quality volunteering and to publicly recognise volunteers and the contribution they make to the community.

The jury also commends Lviv as a candidate and wants to express admiration for the strength that Lviv has shown with their candidacy and strong support for the volunteering efforts of citizens who mitigate the terrible consequences of war in such a variety of ways. The jury re-affirms the determination of the community of European Volunteering Capitals and Candidates (EVCCC), as well as the whole CEV network of members and partners, to support Lviv in achieving our common goals to strengthen local volunteering infrastructure and honour volunteering as an expression of solidarity and civic engagement in building resilience and promoting peace.



Background

The Jury was composed by:

- Michel Lefranc (CEV Board)
- Jan Verdée (CEV Board)
- Lena Karnalova (CEV Board)
- George Thomson (CEV Board)
- Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member)
- Krzysztof Pater (EESC Member, Rapporteur Opinion "Volunteering - Citizens Building the Future of Europe")
- Maria Walsh (MEP, EPP Volunteering Interest Group member)
- Barbara Eglitis (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre)
- Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe)
- Begona Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN))
- Monika Chabior (Gdansk Vice Mayor)



PARTICIPATION

WHY MY MUNICIPALITY SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE **#EVCapital Competition**

- # **Strengthens volunteering at the local level** and connects its actions, policies and programmes to the European Context.
- # Enables volunteers, volunteer-involving and volunteer infrastructure **organisations to collaborate more closely with local policy makers** to *strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteers* in their area.
- Requires a **detailed audit of volunteer provision** at the local level and
- # therefore helps to **identify strengths and weaknesses** of the approaches taken and provide a catalyst for improvements.
- Enables stakeholders from different fields and sectors to come
- # together and further **develop their local volunteering policy and practice frameworks** using European standards as guidelines.
- Assists the development of volunteering and solidarity in Europe**
- # more widely as the examples shared serve as inspiration for others all across Europe.
- Provides the opportunity to **join a unique community of practice of**
- # **local and regional authorities** that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, *strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering & Solidarity*.



JUSTIN DAVIS SMITH'S ARTICLE
"Bringing volunteering home?"

*"Gdańsk Shares Good", this sentence uttered by Paweł Adamowicz - former Mayor of Gdańsk, murdered in 2019 - is still present among us. For me personally, the title of European Capital of Volunteering awarded to Gdańsk is a consequence of many years of work of dozens people and an award for all city volunteers, hundreds of coordinators and organizations - they are the foundation of this success. **It was truly visible how many people and groups were involved in promoting our EVC candidacy locally. The EVC title opens up completely new opportunities for promoting volunteering as a conscious civic attitude and involving people who have not been involved in volunteering so far.** I believe that following months will be extraordinary. Exciting times ahead but also many challenges. We have launched a dedicated website evcgdansk.pl, where we will publish events and news related to EVC. We encourage everyone to follow and keep fingers crossed for us."*

DAWID JASTRZĘBSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL VOLUNTEER CENTER IN GDAŃSK

*"When it comes to the nomination: why not Gdańsk?!? It came true !! The city has many advantages, it is: history, modernity, science, work, culture, sport and amazing people. The feeling that I belong to this place gives us strength to act, allows us to spend time usefully, meet new people, new experiences. Winning to show Europe the full range of our activities, will illustrate what we are: diverse and cards, but consistent in the implementation of assigned tasks. **We will use the window to the world to show that the power is in us and we aim high.**"*

WŁADYSŁAWA ANDRZEJEWSKA-KESSLER, GDAŃSK VOLUNTEER

*"My name is Ana Marija. I am a volunteer from Macedonia now volunteering here in Gdansk, in the Regional Volunteer Center. The competition about European Volunteering Capital took part right after I arrived here and started my service. **When winning the title I felt the excitement and the joy of my team, that previously worked very hard.** Even that the actual year of being EVC will start a few months after I finish my project and leave, now I feel very inspired and highly motivated for working on projects that will take part in that period. **For me it is an achievement being part and contributing in a way that later will help others.**"*

ANA MARIJA PETROVA, FOREIGN EXCHANGE VOLUNTEER IN GDAŃSK

QUOTES

"I would like to greet first of all the mayors of the cities of Padova and Berlin, the President of the "Centre for European Volunteering" Lejla Šehić Relić, the President of CSV Padova, Emanuele Alecci and, of course, all the volunteers, the friends who are the real protagonists of this day. I am very happy to celebrate with you - even if from a distance - the passing of the baton of European Volunteer Capital, from Padova to Berlin, two European cities united in the sign of kinship and solidarity."

2020 DAVID SASSOLI, EUROPEAN PARLAMENT PRESIDENT



*"The thought that Gdańsk is going to be the European Volunteering Capital 2022 fills me with great joy. And it is not the honours that I mean. As much as they are priceless and treasured and reward the hard work of volunteers, it is the trust and commitment that matter so much more. **The women and men of Gdańsk want to carry the message of the grand idea of volunteering, get more people to join and keep improving their efforts in action. This is going to be a fantastic adventure for all of us!***

I am a strong believer in volunteering. Back in secondary school and at university I was a volunteer myself. It helped me to learn lots of new skills, grow intellectually and make lasting friendships. We see Gdańsk as a city of freedom and solidarity. The first shots of World War II were fired at Westerplatte and the city was the birthplace of Solidarność, Europe's biggest revolution without bloodshed leading to the fall of the iron curtain. The move for independence in communist Poland was very much driven by volunteers and their unstoppable will to act, never fearing for their safety or that of those close to them. Their effort was dedicated to freedom. In December 1970 when the authorities sent out the police and tanks against ordinary people who demanded their rights, there was bloodshed. Nearly fifty people were killed among them a twenty year old zootechnics student from Gdańsk. His name was Bogdan Syпка, who did voluntary work in the zoo as a young man.

We never want to live in times when people have to die for freedom. It is clear that we can make our and other people's lives better, solve problems and give hope that no one will be left on their own. This is solidarity practised on a daily basis. Volunteers, let's all get to work!"

ALEKSANDRA DULKIEWICZ, MAYOR OF GDAŃSK (#EVCAPITAL 2022)

"We live in Europe, the continent of united countries. European Union is trying to convey values of democracy, solidarity, freedom, kindness and helping other people. Let's focus on the last trait. Volunteering is the one of the most beautiful things in our society. Many people want to help others, want to make them smile. They are mobilized to improve the quality of the functioning of individuals. Definition of centre is connecting ideas, resounding to the all over the world. For example the idea of solidarity, created by Lech Wałęsa. In the 80's when Poland was fighting with communism, they were fighting for freedom, democracy and love. That idea, delighted the whole world and changed forever the perspective of human protests. In Gdańsk we have a sentence „In Gdańsk, everything it started”. **My definition of European Volunteering Capital is capital of community, where people are motivating each other to social act, to helpness act, love act, smile act, because they want to live in a better place.**"

RANKO HOFFMANN, FOREIGN EXCHANGE VOLUNTEER IN GDAŃSK

"My name is Oscar and I'm a spanish volunteer in the city of Gdansk. After six months living the experience of being a volunteer in Gdansk, **I am aware of the enormous pride and reward that this appointment represents for all volunteers in the city.** In my case, my contribution has not been very extensive in time compared to all the people who have been helping the community for years through the multiple events and actions carried out by different volunteer organizations. However, I have been fortunate to be able to work and cooperate with many of them, from which I have learned and I have seen the selfless passion they put into their volunteer work. **Being European volunteering capital for the city of Gdansk is just one more motivation to continue working and helping the community.** This appointment is a source of pride and an award for the people who make up the great volunteer community of Gdansk. But in my opinion, the best prize is the work that volunteers do every day to make Gdansk a better place and it is something that you realize living in this incredible city. Gdansk breathes solidarity."

OSCAR VAZQUEZ MORIS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE VOLUNTEER IN GDAŃSK

“Being able to call ourselves the 2021 European Volunteering Capital is an honor for us and a splendid tribute to Berlin. **This distinction gives expression to our firm conviction that civic engagement is essential to a peaceful, open, solidarity-based sense of community, which is indispensable to a strong democracy.** Not only in Berlin, but also in Germany and the rest of Europe! That makes the title both an incentive and a mandate to do everything we can to boost active citizenship in Europe as well. With the German presidency of the EU Council and as a member of both European and international city networks, **we hope to advance the idea of a Europe supported by a strong civil society,** in the interest of strong democracies and our European values of peace and freedom.

As the European Volunteering Capital, we also stand for a strong and engaged European civil society committed to community, solidarity, tolerance, and freedom in Europe. A resilient, vigorous civil society that is ready to defend our European values when these are attacked – thereby making it clear that antisemitism, racism, anti-Muslim hostility, and the denigration of others have no place in our European society. This basic principle – a strong, democratic European community of values – is what we want to encourage. We want to persuade more Berliners to start volunteering. **We want to lower the barriers to civic engagement and strengthen volunteer infrastructure.** We want to make active citizenship visible and promote and enhance it across the board. We want to expand dialogue, networks, and exchange both regionally and nationally, thereby generating momentum for even greater cooperation. And as we do so, we want to focus on Europe as a whole and, as a city of freedom, also assist civil society organizations in our partner cities in eastern European EU member states. In other words, we have big plans, and we are looking forward to the work we’ll be doing as the 2021 European Volunteering Capital.” 2020 Michael Müller Mayor of Berlin.

2020 MICHAEL MÜLLER MAYOR OF BERLIN, #EVCAPITAL 2021

“The candidature can mark for Padua a **just recognition of the past and an incentive for the future.** It is evident to everyone, not only to insiders, that Padua has always been able to experience a concrete and at the same time visionary solidarity. From Civitas to Banca Etica, from Zancan Foundation to the Blessed Peace builders, there are many civil commitment initiatives born in Padua and become national heritage. Today, with the **6,200 realities of the third sector surveyed and the thousands of volunteers,** Padua is still the spearhead of Italian voluntary service, but needs **new motivations and a generational and cultural renewal that can be fueled by this candidacy.**”

EMANUELE ALECCI, PRESIDENT CSV PADOVA

Feedback

"The candidacy of Padua to European Capital of Volunteering is a great challenge that wants to **honor the extraordinary world of associations and volunteers who have always worked in Padua with initiatives at local, national and international level**. The third sector is a fundamental component of our community and our city is the engine of new initiatives and innovative experiences necessary to keep up with the times. The solid and profound motivations of those who volunteer, ethical, social and cultural, do not change, but change the context in which they take place. In this the Municipality of Padua is and will always be at the side of this great resource, operating in synergy with all the realities of the third sector. **The European Capital of Volunteering application is a further incentive for us to do better and more.**"

SERGIO GIORDANI, MAYOR OF PADOVA #EVCAPITAL 2020

"The **benefits** (of #EVCapital 2019 title) **will be seen for the current volunteers, future volunteers and the whole population** of Kosice. We will be able to give greater recognition to the value of volunteers in Kosice and develop ways to support them better and also facilitate more volunteering. We will do this by **developing an even greater culture of volunteering** in Kosice and in the development of a dedicated online matching service for volunteers searching for opportunities and initiatives and organisations needing volunteers."

MILOSLAV KLÍMA, KOŠICE #EVCAPITAL 2019

"The year 2019 showed us how people in Košice can unite for cleaning in the city and urban districts, which was the most noticeable in the spring 'pre-hockey' revitalizations. However, **it is very important that in the coming years the emphasis should be put on the right motivation and communication of revitalization events**, because the aim is not to create a feeling in Kosice that the part of the population that creates mess does not need to change their behavior, because volunteers will clean up that mess instead of them. **It is very important to choose a common strategy also together with KOSIT and the Pontis Foundation.**"

MIRKA AND SILVIA, EVCAPITAL 2019 FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DCKK

"We talked to a lot of people who were curious about how we do social activities for children in Aarhus, so it was **a nice boost compared to our normal recruitment meetings**, which we have once a month at the local Volunteer Center. At the same time, we talked about fundraising, about our recycling shop and networking with other associations. We will definitely use the **year to make us even more visible.**"

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, AARHUS #EVCAPITAL 2018 (OPENING CEREMONY)

"It was a perfect time for us to come out and tell about our work for mentally ill and vulnerable refugees and how we work with inclusion. We usually have 20 volunteers in the center, and they create a safe space. People were very interested and despite the fact that there were so many associations and people, **it worked well and in a good spirit for us.**"

METTE JENSBY MORTENSEN, MUHABET AARHUS.

"I was excited about the **great participation and the amazing atmosphere that the many attendees created.** What an energy the voluntary associations and organizations in Aarhus can create! There are people with good hearts, enthusiasts who make other people curious about gaining knowledge. It was clear that many **became interested in learning more and maybe even try to participate in voluntary work themselves.**"

JACOB BUNDSGAARD, MAYOR OF AARHUS #EVCAPITAL 2018

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, AARHUS #EVCAPITAL 2018 (OPENING CEREMONY)

"Having a European Volunteering Capital in Sligo was of huge benefit to Volunteer Ireland, as the national volunteer development organisation. We saw record-breaking media coverage of volunteering during the course of the year, both locally and nationally, as a result. It also allowed the local Volunteer Centre, who played a leading role in the EVC candidacy, to trial new initiatives that the national network of Volunteer Centres could learn from. And it was particularly useful having the EVC honour in a city that is not our capital, as it inspired us to put our focus outside the capital, for example hosting our annual conference and annual awards in Sligo – which in turn helped us reach a new audience."

NINA ARWIRTZ, CHIEF EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEER IRELAND

"Being a part of the European Volunteering Capital made me feel so proud. It is always vital that we all volunteer and do our role for the Sligo Community. Hopefully I would like to see Sligo, get the title once again European Capital of Volunteering. The people of Sligo, deserve this to make us all feel good and a sense of pride. I would recommend volunteering for anyone it is the feel good factor that you get."

CHARMAINE BUTTON, ACTIVE VOLUNTEER

"As the Sligo Volunteer Centre it was fantastic to be central to the hosting of the European Volunteering Capital in our town in 2017. We interacted with so many new groups and individuals, which broadens our service. We seen a 13.5 % increase in volunteers register with our service and a 20% increase of Volunteer Opportunities on offer. We are delighted to have made so many connections that we will continue to nurture to add value to community sector in Sligo."

CIARA HERITY, MANAGER SLIGO VOLUNTEER CENTRE

"The 2/3/10 Sligo Scout Group congratulate the Sligo Volunteer Centre and Sligo County Council on achieving the European Capital of Volunteering 2017 status for Sligo City. It is a great honour for Sligo and we greatly appreciate the time and effort that you committed to achieving this honour for Sligo, to follow such cities as London, Barcelona and Lisbon was a major achievement."

GROUP LEADER, ON BEHALF OF 2/3/10 SLIGO SCOUT GROUP JOE DOHERTY

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JACOB BUNDSGAARD, MAYOR OF AARHUS #EVCAPITAL 2018

"During the year we will celebrate the volunteer initiatives and together we will maintain the commitment and create lasting changes. Therefore, we must dare to make new demands – both to ourselves and to our cooperation – in order to set the right framework for volunteering and citizenship to grow. The goal of the year is to make it easy, fun and accessible to be a volunteer."

CAMILLA FABRICIUS, VICE-MAYOR OF AARHUS #EVCAPITAL 2018

*"Being a Volunteer Capital is in our opinion not about inventing new volunteer projects for a special occasion, but **celebrating the citizens of Aarhus and all the things that they already do**. And of course, we will use the title to continue **developing the strong community** and the union spirit that characterize us. By having the title of European Volunteering Capital 2018, Aarhus will also look forward to **welcoming European neighbours, exchanging knowledge, networking and thinking about potential participation in future volunteering projects across Europe.**"*

FRANCESCA PISANO, ESC VOLUNTEER AARHUS

VIDEOS



**Gdansk Candidacy
Presentation for
#EVCapital 2022**



**Gorizia Candidacy
Presentation for
#EVCapital 2022**



**Izmir Candidacy
Presentation for
#EVCapital 2022**



**Madrid Candidacy
Presentation for
#EVCapital 2022**

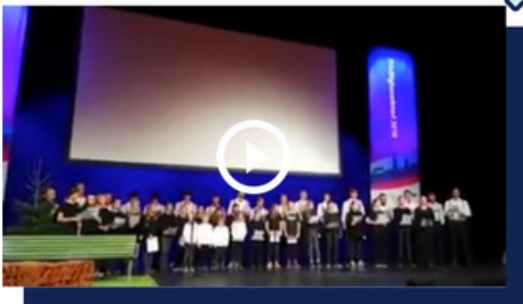




**Aarhus #EVCapital 2018
Overview**

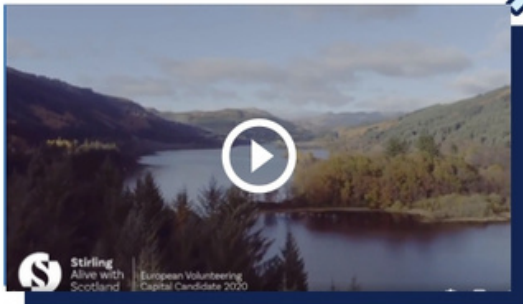


**Volunteer Host, International
Conference #EVCapital 2018**



**Volunteer Host, International
Conference #EVCapital 2018**

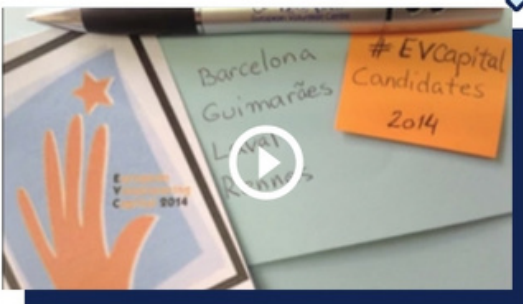




Stirling: CEV's 5R policy priorities for volunteering in Europe



Padova: CEV's 5R policy priorities for volunteering in Europe



2014 European Volunteering Capital



FAQS

? What is the EV Capital Competition?

The #EVCapital is an Europe-wide open competition that aims 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.

? Who can participate?

All European Municipalities from Council of Europe Countries can participate. The awarded municipality is chosen from the candidates by an international jury of key personalities connected with volunteering, representing civil society, the private, for-profit sector, as well as the EU institutions.

? How is the award chosen?

The Jury will be composed by CEV EV Capital Steering Group (50% of the total score) and an External Jury (the other 50% of the total score), involving representatives nominated by: the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, a Member of the European Parliament, a company member of EVEN and the Mayor of Berlin, European Volunteering Capital 2021. 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.

The award is given to the candidate municipality receiving the highest total score, taking into account the individual jury scores submitted. The experts assess the ways in which the applicant municipalities 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*.

#EVCapital



   @VolunteeringCEV - #EVCapital

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