

# European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC) Seminar “Collaborative Communities”

How volunteering reflects European Values, promotes diversity and defends rights: Cooperation of the public and volunteering sectors to meet future challenges

2 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

<b>17:00 - 17.10</b>	<b>Introduction and welcome:</b> Helge Klouman Marstrander, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway and CEV President Lejla Šehić Relić
<b>17:10 - 18:00</b>	<b>Best practice for Collaborate Communities presentations:</b> Natasza Kozłowska - State Volunteer Agency Berlin Maj Morgenstjerne - Aarhus Municipality Trygve Fætten and Tanja Plasil - Trondheim Municipality Ilana Gotz - Trento Municipality
<b>18:00 - 19:00</b>	<b>Panel Discussion - What is the future and role of volunteering in building collaborative communities?</b> Moderator: Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President Speakers: Gabriella Civico - CEV Director Damian Kuźmiński - Gdańsk Municipality Friedemann Walther - Berlin Municipality Jurgen Grotz - Institute for Volunteering Research
<b>19:00 - 20:00</b>	<b>EV Capital 2025 Candidates presentations</b> Avilés - Pelayo García García, Councillor Citizen Participation Mechelen - Bas Dhoey, Coordinator of Social Cohesion and Hanne Heuts, Project Officer Salamanca - María Almudena Parres Cabrera, First Deputy Mayor



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# Lejla Šehić Relić

## CEV President



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# Helge Klouman Marstrander

## Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway



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# Best practices for Collaborative Communities presentations



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# Natasza Kozłowska

## Project Coordinator, State Volunteer Agency Berlin



## Welcome to the “CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023”

- ▶ Exchange of experience
- ▶ Mastering challenges together
- ▶ Change of perspective
- ▶ Obligation
- ▶ Human relations and commitment
- ▶ Connecting different structures
- ▶ Lateral transfer as a process to develop

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Landesnetzwerk  
Bürgerengagement Berlin



## Development of Berlin Network of Civil Organisations (Landesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches

- Engagement, LNBE) ▶ 2001: Start as a participation initiative in the International Year of Volunteering, first conference → SenSoz + the first Berlin Volunteer Agency  
(Landesfreiwilligenagentur e.V., LFA)
- ▶ 2002: Continuation of the meetings/ at the request of the participants (150 organisations) by LFA → Round Tables of Berlin Civil Society  
(Runde Tische Zivilgesellschaft Berlin)
- ▶ 2004: Berlin Charter for Civil Engagement → Consensus on Basic Values
- ▶ 2005: Foundation of Landesnetzwerk Bürgerengagement Berlin, LFA as providing supporter
- ▶ 2010: Statutes and non-profit status
- ▶ 2020: Berlin Engagement Strategy calls for funding
- ▶ 2022: Process of organisational development

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## Relevant goals for the Berlin Network of Civil Organisations (LNBE)



- ▶ Partnership
- ▶ Principle of „eye level“
- ▶ Engagement policy with vigilance and initiatives
- ▶ Mutuality
- ▶ Increase diversity

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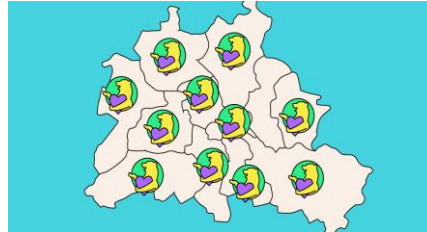
# Bildungshaus Engagement

Ein Projekt der  
Landesfreiwilligenagentur Berlin



## LFA und volunteer management structure in Berlin

- ▶ Professional circles of the LFA
- ▶ Volunteer agencies in the districts



- ▶ Volunteer management departments of welfare organisations
- ▶ Since 2015, **volunteer coordination** has been obligatory in the contracts with the providers of refugee shelters.

Consultative Forum of Volunteering  
project of the LFA

Professional support by the  
(Beratungsforum Engagement (BfE), a

- ▶ **Berlin Volunteer Agency (LFA)**

Volunteer Exchange and Foundation Day at the Red City Hall  
Advises on association structure and organisational development  
Projects since 2015: BfE, LeNa (vibrant neighborhood projekt) and since 2022 BfE  
2024 cooperation with Civic Science

LFA (since 1988)

Lagfa  
(e.V. since 2022)

LNBE  
(e.V. since 2023)

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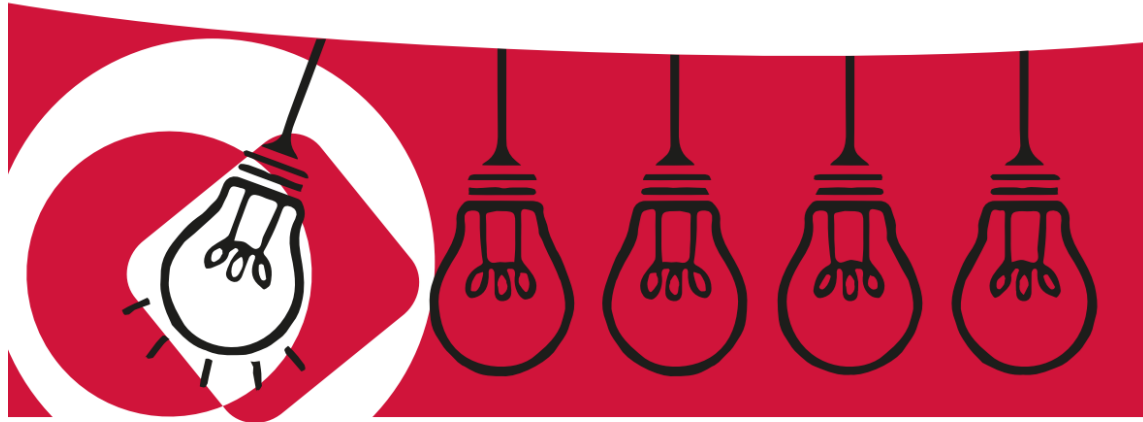


# Bildungshaus Engagement

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A project for a **One-Stop-Agency and Home**  
for Education for volunteering structures



Bildungshaus Engagement

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# Bildungshaus Engagement

Ein Projekt der  
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- ▶ Networking and counselling = Own qualifications of LFA
- ▶ Education and Mapping = Education Atlas
- ▶ Digital landscape and including diversity = Knowledge repository
- ▶ Strengthening democracy = Cooperation
- ▶ = Exchange and Global Learning

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## Significant role of volunteer coordination



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# Bildungshaus Engagement

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Policy papers in cooperation with

Landesfreiwilligenagentur Berlin  
Entwicklungs- und Kompetenzzentrum für Engagement



## Recommendations for action in policy and administration :

1. Develop the infrastructure

2. Commitment needs a full time office

3. Unbureaucratic financing

4. Forms of recognition

5. Increase diversity

6. Social-ecological sustainability

7. Find Purpose of artificial intelligence

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## What do we need to strengthen volunteer work?

- ▶ **Democracy Promotion Act** in Berlin
- ▶ Updating the **Berlin Engagement Strategy** as a joint process of evaluation of State planning and civil society (position paper)
- ▶ Further **development and learning** (BEB, TtT- further training series and educational atlas)
- ▶ **Checking needs and taking them seriously** (BfE und LeNa)
- ▶ Long breath (like the Berlin Network of Civil Organisations, LNBE)

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# Bildungshaus Engagement

Ein Projekt der  
*Landesfreiwilligenagentur Berlin*



## Welcome to the Engagement Education House (BEB)!

<https://www.bildungshaus-engagement.berlin/>

# Thank you for your attention!

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# Maj Morgenstjerne

## Head of Civil Society and Co- Creation, Aarhus Municipality





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**Tanja Plasil**  
Project Leader,  
Trondheim Municipality  
&  
**Trygve Fættten**  
Volunteer Coordinator,  
Trondheim Municipality



TRONDHEIM KOMMUNE  
Tråanten tjielte



TRONDHEIM  
KOMMUNE

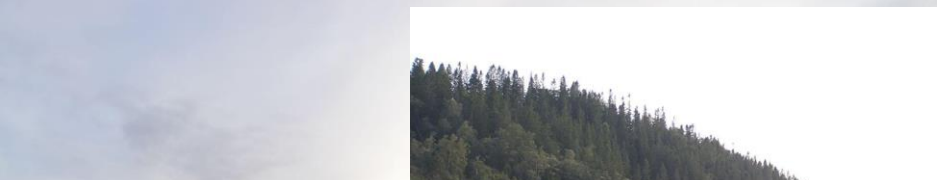


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# Collaborative Communities

Examples from Trondheim

Tanja Plasil and Trygve Fættén, Kulturenheten, Trondheim Kommune



<b>Month</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Collaborators and number participants</b>
February	Diversity and Inclusion	JM Norway (25)
March	Input volunteer plan	Trøndelag Fylkeskommune (75)
April	How to motivate and mobilize youth in volunteer work	Red Cross, ActBelongCommit Network (70)
May	Recruiting and professionalization	Frivillighet Norge (25)
<b>June</b>	Business and voluntary sector - how to collaborate	Sparebank, Business Association (70)
<b>August</b>	(Social) sustainability	Dype Røtter, Reppe Søndre, Climate and Environmental Department TK (30)
September	Students, volunteering and democracy	Sociological Polyclinic, student organizations (100)
October	Save and smart use of social media	Youth council of Trøndelag Fylkeskommune (Webinar)
November	Staying healthy at home	Housing association, Ergotherapy Department of TK

# a new form of collaboration.....



Research



Volunteer  
organisations

Trondheim  
Municipality



## Temaplan for frivillighet 2023 - 2027



Foto: Sjetne Frivilligsentral, Ila Frivilligsentral,  
Saupstad Frivilligsentral, Løkken Frivilligsentral

# Volunteer Policy Plan 2023-2027

- Trondheim municipality will strengthen interaction and co-creation with volunteers, based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Trondheim municipality must ensure a good framework and structure for volunteering
- Trondheim municipality must promote volunteering (increase knowledge and interest)



# Volunteer Centers



- Trondheim's 14 voluntary centers have a cooperation agreement with Trondheim municipality.
- The agreement ensures continuous operation and development of the volunteer centres
- Ensures predictability and stability
- Manifests the role of volunteer centers in Trondheim
- Ensures constructive collaboration based on equality between partners
- Raises awareness for the importance of volunteering and volunteer centers among employees of Trondheim Municipality in particular and citizens in general

# Breidablikk

Tenants: Tillerbyen Frivilligsentral,  
International organization Verdige Smil,  
TV action, Midtnorsk narrative forum,  
Trøndelag amateur geological  
association

Regular users: bands, fiddler's team, art  
and craft group, senior dance, painting  
club, Rabalderdans

Activities: music, dance, food distribution,  
language courses, baking, theater and  
much more

Operating model: freedom with  
responsibility!





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Tråanten tjielte

Takk for oss!



TRONDHEIM  
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# Ilana Gotz

## EV Capital Strategy Team Member, Municipality of Trento

# TRENTO

2024

## Capitale Europea del Volontariato

European Volunteering Capital

## CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress

Dubrovnik

2 October 2023



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# Building from a strong foundation

Trento - a hub for collective action and participatory community engagement:

- Strong sense of civic engagement and history of collective action
- The municipality of Trento takes particular interest and care in supporting volunteers
- Active Volunteer Support Center (CSV Trentino) with strong collaboration with the municipality
- Trento is a laboratory of new ways of collaboration between civil society and the public sector
- In particular Trento was one of the first Italian cities to adopt the regulation for the care of urban commons, providing the opportunity to establish collaboration pacts for general interest issues

# Regulation for the care of urban commons

What is it:

- 2001: Italian constitution recognizes the principle of **horizontal subsidiarity**: The State, Regions, Metropolitan Cities, Provinces and Municipalities must promote the **autonomous initiative of citizens – individuals and groups – to act in the general interest** on the basis of subsidiarity
- **Regulation for shared management** - The Municipality and citizens work together to share in the care and regeneration of the city, now in nearly 300 cities
- Enables citizens and the administration to collaborate and **share resources and responsibilities for the collective good through the signing of Collaboration Pacts**
- Urban commons (“beni comuni”): material, immaterial, digital

# Regulation for the care of urban commons

How it works:

- **Collaboration Proposal:** spontaneous ideas, within a defined category proposed by the Municipality, or open call from the Municipality
- **Pre-defined categories** (adopt a green space, I care for my neighborhood/school too, Urban touch-ups)
- Informal or formal groups and partnerships, including private, public, and for-profit entities
- The “active citizens” and the Municipality **co-design the intervention**, evaluating the feasibility, timing, and resources engaging various departments and opening a call to interested parties



**Collaboration Pact**



# 8 Years of shared management

Since the 2015 adoption of the regulation in Trento:

- 104 **Collaboration Pacts** signed from 2016-2023
  - Care and regeneration of public spaces – 72
  - Social innovation and collaborative services – 29
  - Urban creativity and digital innovation - 03
- The Municipality further promotes engagement through public calls for contributions to specific projects: community gardens, activities in public parks, other city-wide initiatives
- “Active citizens” involved in pacts are children, adults, senior citizens and sign as individuals, committees, informal groups, associations, schools, cooperatives....

# “Giardino degli aromi” Herb garden

Collaboration between a **middle school**, a **social cooperative working with disabled individuals**, and the **Municipality** to care for an urban area, creating an herb garden in a city park:

- Creation of a **multi-functional space for the community**, open air classroom
- Highlights the role of both the **youth** and the **disabled volunteers**



*“La parte più bella per me era quando i bambini arrivavano a chiedermi come fare qualcosa e io glielo spiegavo” Andrea Decaminada (disabled youth)*



# Canova Soccer Pitch

Informal group “Friends of the Canova Pitch”, 2 social cooperatives, and the Municipality to care for and open/close the pitch

- Since 2019 a pitch at the service of the community, a place for gathering
- Communication and visibility with the surrounding community, highlighting the value



## “Collaboration Park”

Over **20 entities including 9 individual citizens** to add value to the public park, raise awareness of its history, enhance relationship building

- Preserve the uses and life of the park and increase usage through activities and events for all ages

# Continuing to build

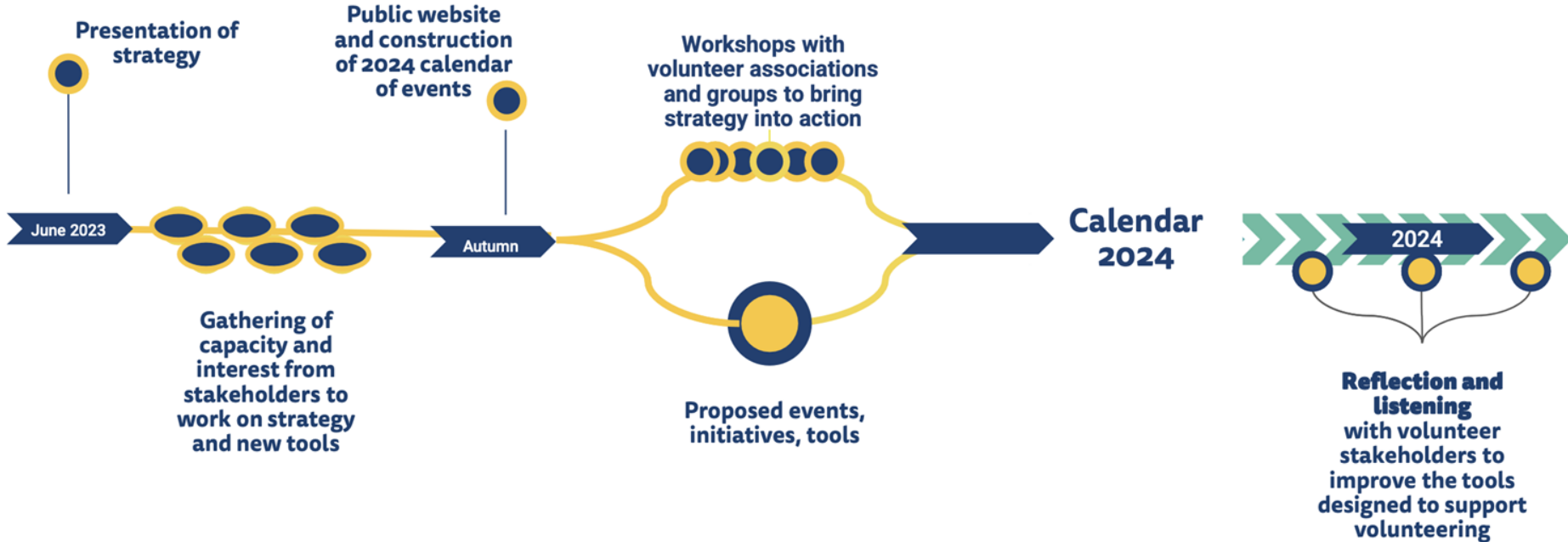
Our candidacy was motivated by the goal to further activate the volunteer world of Trento and highlight the new forms of volunteerism and civic engagement:

- Constructed through a participatory process continuing now that Trento has been designated the 2024 capital
- Continue to value Trento as a laboratory of practices to promote and enhance the quality of participation and collective action
- Development of actions and initiatives derived from the 5-year strategy that emerged from the participatory process
- Supporting and raising awareness also of new forms of volunteerism





# Participatory planning for 2024 and beyond



1// ○  
Create  
opportunities  
for personal  
growth.

2// ○  
Create  
opportunities  
for collective  
growth.

3// =  
More livable  
and  
sustainable  
cities.

4// ○  
Co-design of  
public  
policy.

5// =  
Enliven  
spaces.

6// →  
Promote  
solidarity and  
inclusion.

7// →  
Promote  
European  
values of  
democracy and  
participation.

TRENTO  
2024  
Capitale Europea  
del Volontariato  
European Volunteering Capital



# TRENTO

2024

## Capitale Europea del Volontariato

European Volunteering Capital

Contact  
[info@trentovolo.capital](mailto:info@trentovolo.capital)



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Project Number: 101194527  
(Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe - REVOLVE Project No. 101051131)

# What is the future & role of volunteering in building collaborative communities?

**Moderator:** Lejla Šehić Relić

**Speakers:**

Gabriella Civico - CEV Director

Damian Kuźmiński - Gdańsk Municipality

Friedemann Walther - Berlin Municipality

Jurgen Grotz - Institute for Volunteering Research



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# Gabriella Civico

## CEV Director



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# Damian Kuźmiński

## Unit of Local Cooperation and Social Innovations, Gdańsk Municipality

## Everyday Life



Communities

++

NEC TEMERE NEC TIMIDE

++

On my watch



The way we think

++

NEC TEMERE NEC TIMIDE

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# Friedemann Walther

## Head of Division for Civic Engagement and Democracy Promotion, Municipality of Berlin



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## Director of Institute for Volunteering Research



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# Gabriella Civico

## CEV Director





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# Damian Kuźmiński

## Unit of Local Cooperation and Social Innovations, Gdańsk Municipality

## Community centers



Map of the Neighbourhood Houses



Network



## Gdańsk - our success story

### Priorities:

1. Explore the dialog / representation
2. Development strategy
3. Partners
4. Financing
5. Tools

### Volunteer Spirit of the city of solidarity:

- Volunteer Center,
- Grants for NGO
- Tools
- Events
- Local volunteer center
- Special volunteering programs



Volunteer

## Everyday life – on my watch



Collaborative communities



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## Head of Division for Civic Engagement and Democracy Promotion, Municipality of Berlin



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# Jurgen Grotz

## Director of Institute for Volunteering Research



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# What is the future & role of volunteering in building collaborative communities?

**Moderator:** Lejla Šehić Relić

**Speakers:**

Gabriella Civico - CEV Director

Damian Kuźmiński - Gdańsk Municipality

Friedemann Walther - Berlin Municipality

Jurgen Grotz - Institute for Volunteering Research



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# EV Capital 2025 Candidates presentations







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# Pelayo García García

## Councillor Citizen

### Participation,

## Municipality of Avilés

<https://prezi.com/view/sn6k0NlvjBd0UZjRQscr/>



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# EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL 2025

## MECHELEN (BE)

### CANDIDATE PRESENTATION VIDEO



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**Bas Dhoey**  
Coordinator of Social Cohesion &  
Project officer,  
Municipality of Mechelen

&

**Hanne Heuts**  
Project Officer,  
Municipality of Mechelen



**MECHELEN**



**EVCapital**  
**2025?**

‘When people help each other, they create opportunities for others and for themselves’

*Rina Rabau Nkandu*



Neighbourhood party



Individual and organizational  
growth  
Volunteering fair



Empowering



Jogging together with newcomers

VRIJWILLIGERSPUNT MECHELEN

Volunteer support center

A close-up shot of a woman with brown hair, wearing large black mouse ears with pink interiors and a red nose. She has black whisker-like lines drawn on her cheeks and is laughing heartily, showing her teeth. She is wearing a dark blue and white patterned sweater. The background is an outdoor festival setting with a brick building, white tents, and other people in the distance.

**Building strong and happy communities**  
Mouse festival

Talent based

Summerschool



Inclusive and participative



Special Olympics

# Cooperation

The people make the city





Social cohesion  
Mechelen community festival



- [www.mechelen.be](http://www.mechelen.be)
- [www.mechelen.be/vrijwilligerspunt](http://www.mechelen.be/vrijwilligerspunt)
- [www.mechelen.be/ontmoeting](http://www.mechelen.be/ontmoeting)
- [www.youtube.com/volunteerfacesandvoices](http://www.youtube.com/volunteerfacesandvoices)

MECHELEN 







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# María Almudena Parres Cabrera

First Deputy Mayor,  
Municipality of Salamanca

## SURVEY TIME!

### EVCCC Seminar



#### 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: EVCCC Seminar (VERA)
4. Date: 02/10/2023
5. Duration: 0.5
6. Type of event: Physical Event

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



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Centre for European Volunteering CEV

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

## “Collaborative Communities”

3 October 2023 - Dubrovnik, Croatia



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# AGENDA



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Project Number: 101104621  
(Renewing European Values In Volunteering in Europe - REVIVE Project No. 1011031121)

9:30 - 10:00	<b>Introduction and welcome:</b> Lejla Šehić Relić - CEV President Jelka Tepšić - Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Keynotes from European Volunteering Ambassador 2023:</b> Lidija Pavić-Rogošić - Vice - President of Civil Society Organisations' Group & Mohammed Azahaf
10:30 - 11:30	<b>Plenary Presentations</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Volunteering &amp; Resilience in the Balkans</b> - Richard Allen: DG NEAR TASC0 3 &amp; Simona Mladenovska: Balkan Civil Society Development Network</li><li><b>1. 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>2. Demographic changes and healthy societies</b> - Nada Roshevaska: NR Sport Volunteering Solutions &amp; Mirko Schwarzel: Diakonie Germany</li><li><b>3. Lifelong Learning- European Year of Skills 2024</b> - Sanja Posavec: Croatia National Agency for Mobility and EU programmes</li><li><b>4. 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>5. E-Volunteering</b> - Aleksandra Vidanovic: Connect International</li></ol>
11:30 - 14:30	<b>World Cafe</b>
14:30 - 16:00	<b>Networking lunch</b>
16:00 - 17:00	<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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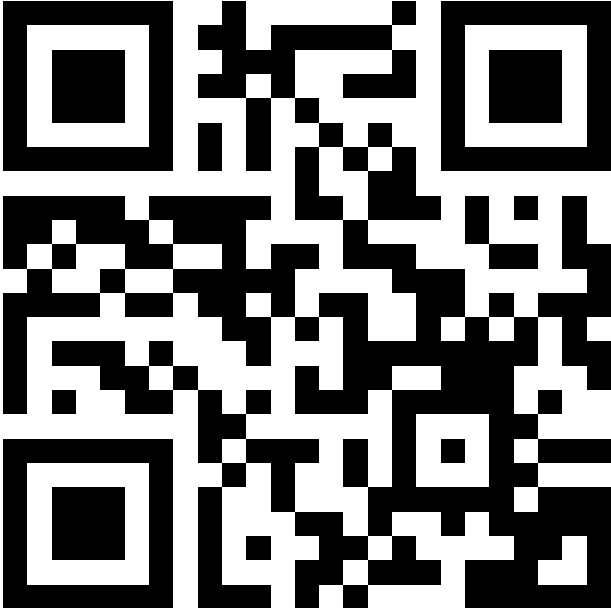
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# Mohamed Azahaf

## 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

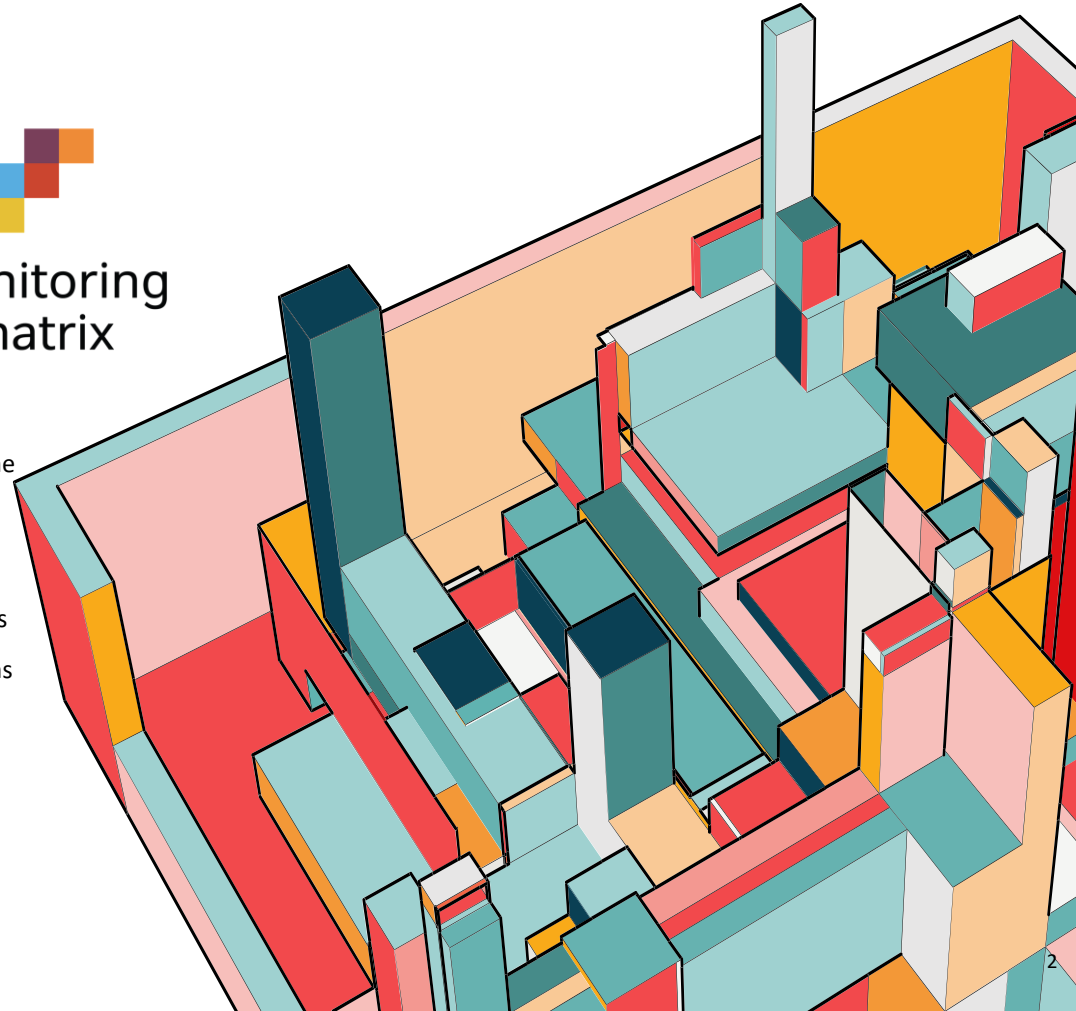
# ABOUT THE DATA AND THE NETWORK



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?



---

## Incentivize Volunteerism

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



---

## Public Awareness

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



---

## 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

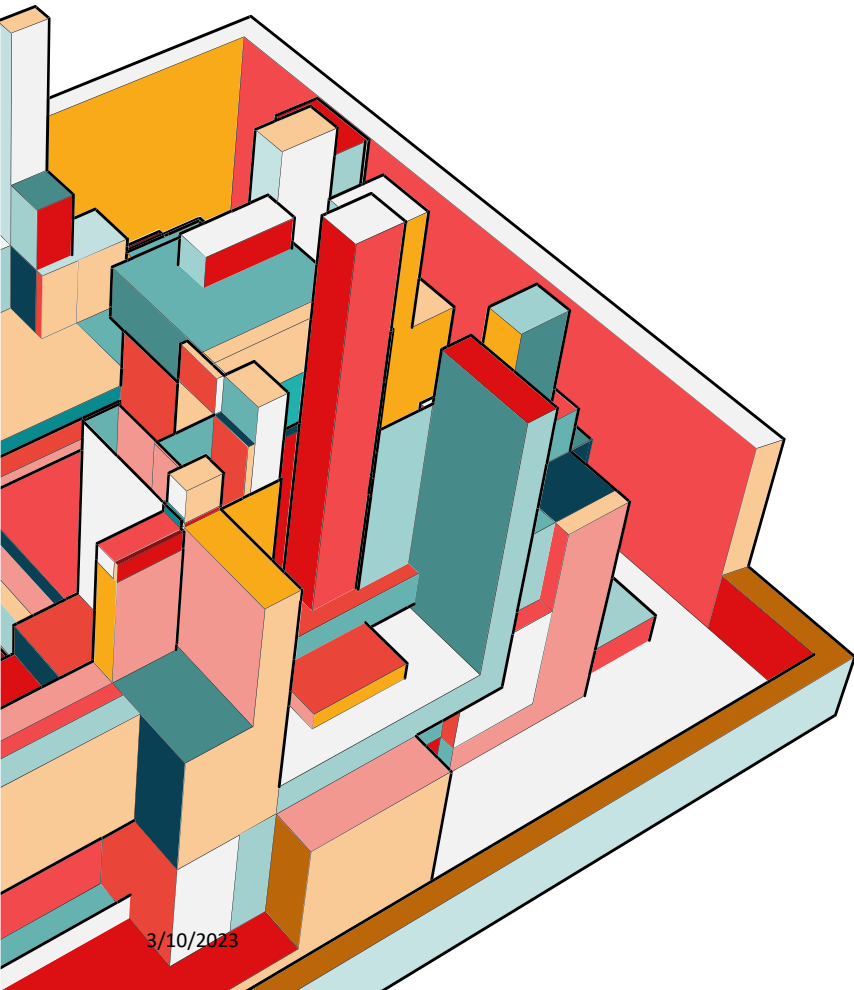
Simplify administrative requirements for volunteers and organizations to encourage participation and reduce the burden of paperwork.



---

## 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.

# THANK YOU

Simona Mladenovska

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[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)



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New!

SALTO Green (FR)

SALTO Digital (FI)

Participation & Information (Greece)

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)

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

*Visit us!*

[www.salto-youth.net/solidarity/](http://www.salto-youth.net/solidarity/)

[Talkingsolidarity.eu](http://Talkingsolidarity.eu)





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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

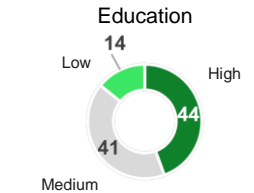
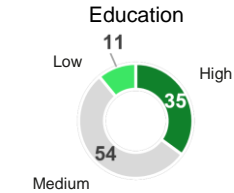
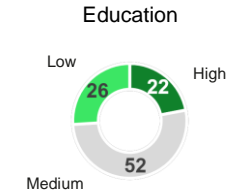
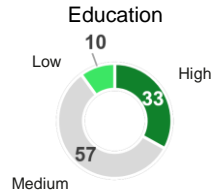
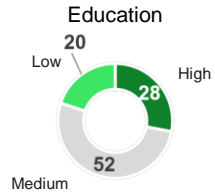
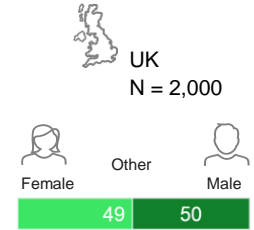
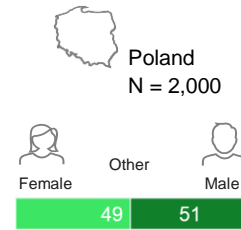
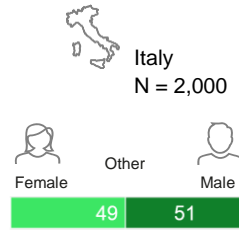
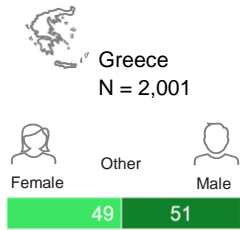
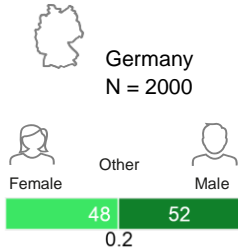
 Greece

 United Kingdom

 Italy

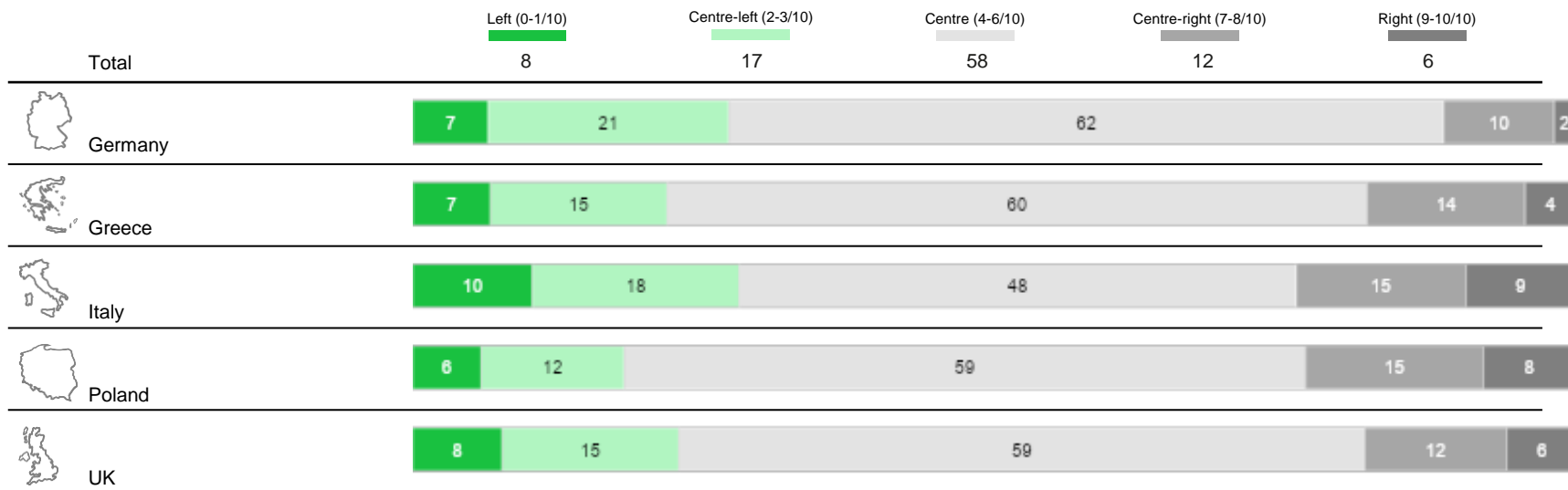
**ALLIANZ  
FOUNDATION**

# 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.





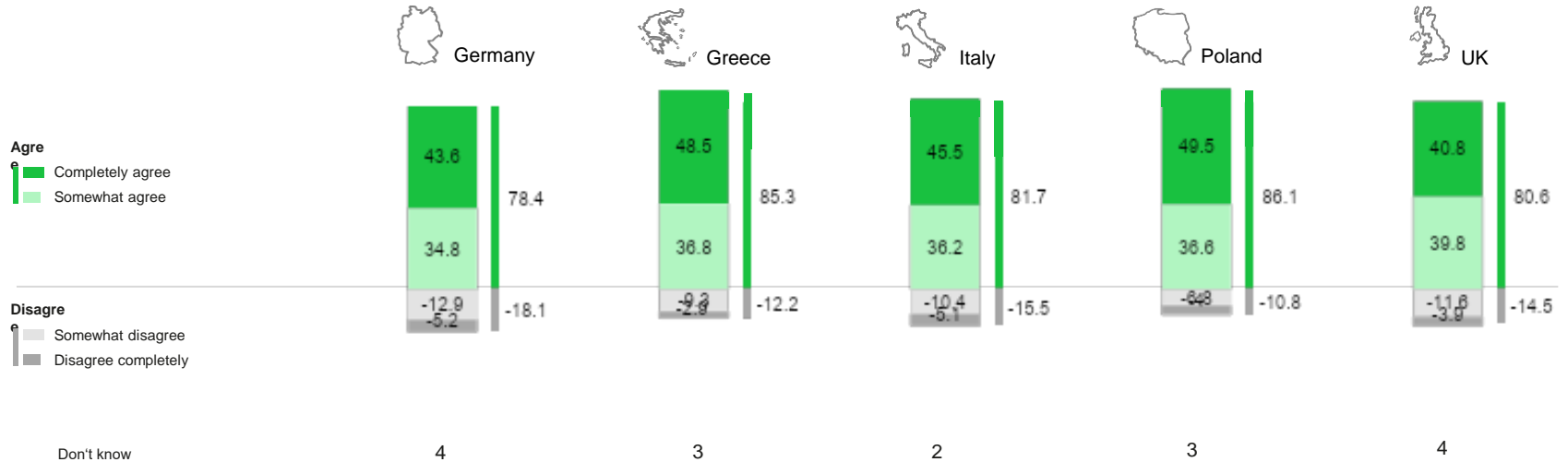
**2**

## **Young adults in Europe:**

**The future we want,  
the future we expect**

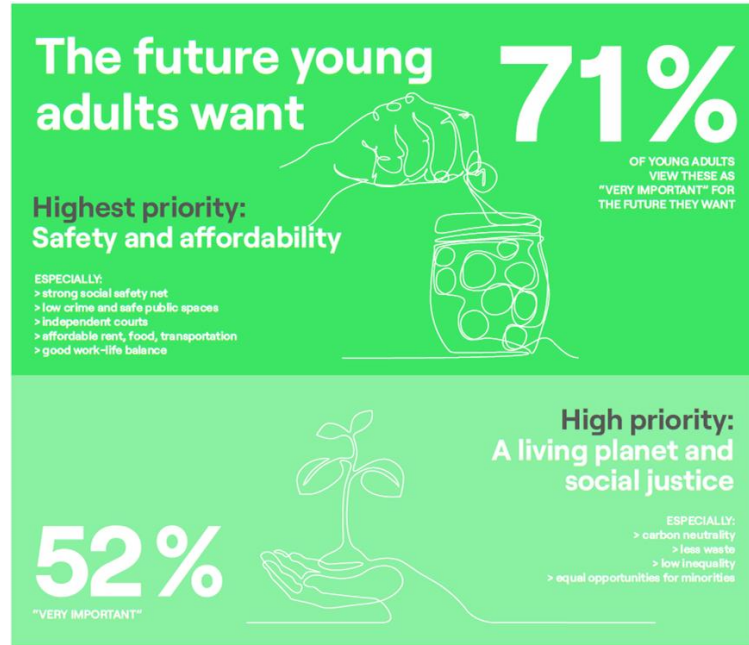
# Young adults sense the impact of overlapping crises

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

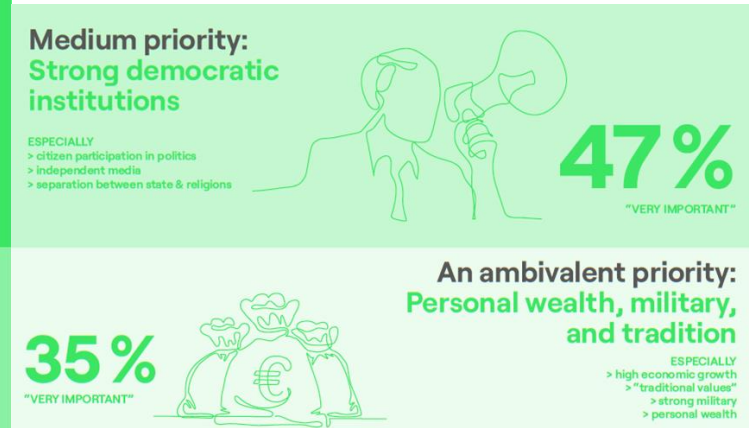


# The future young adults want to live in

## Top Priority:



## Medium Priority:



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



...green yet unequal.

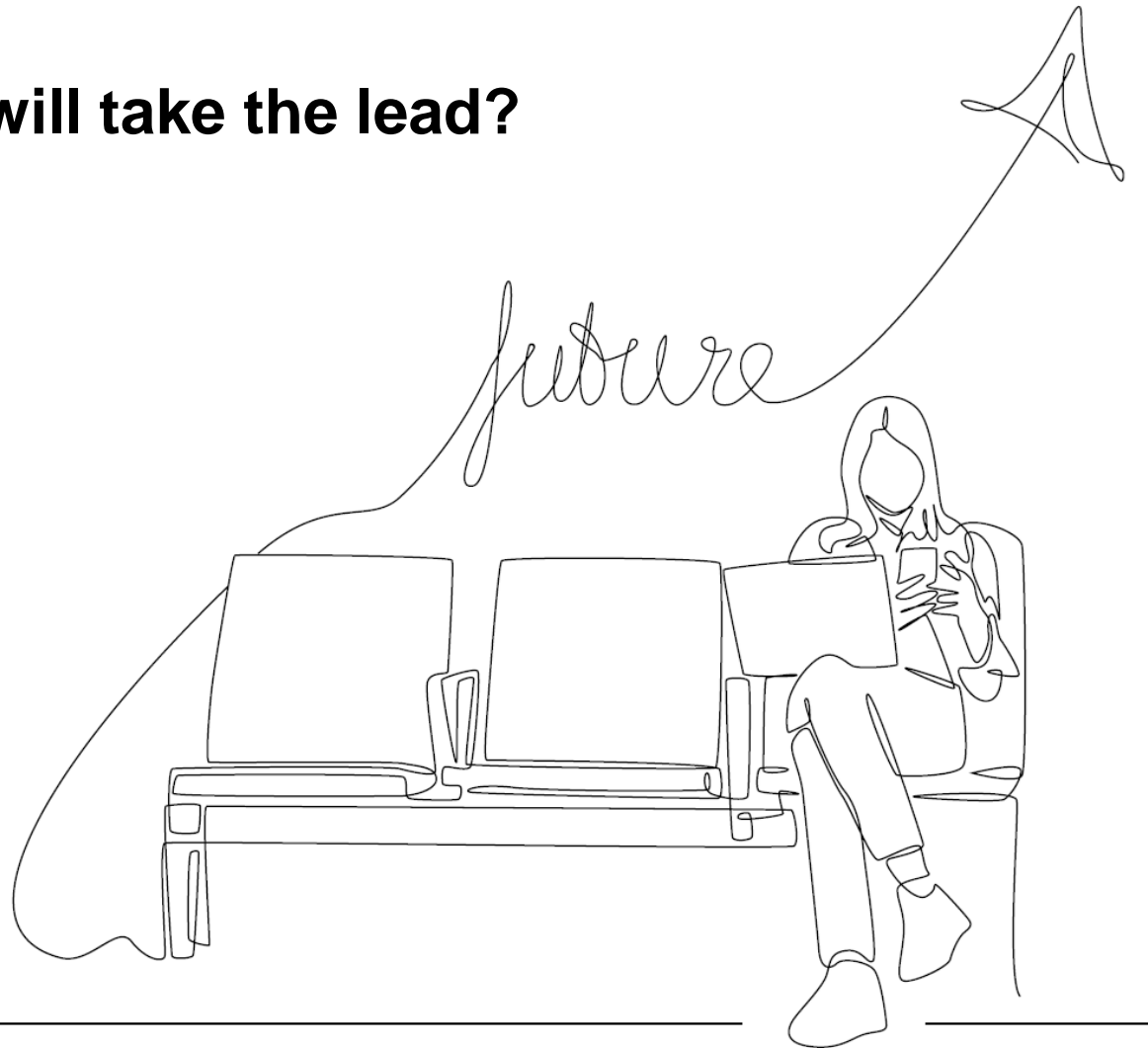


...diverse yet divided.



...militarized yet unsafe.

# Who will take the lead?





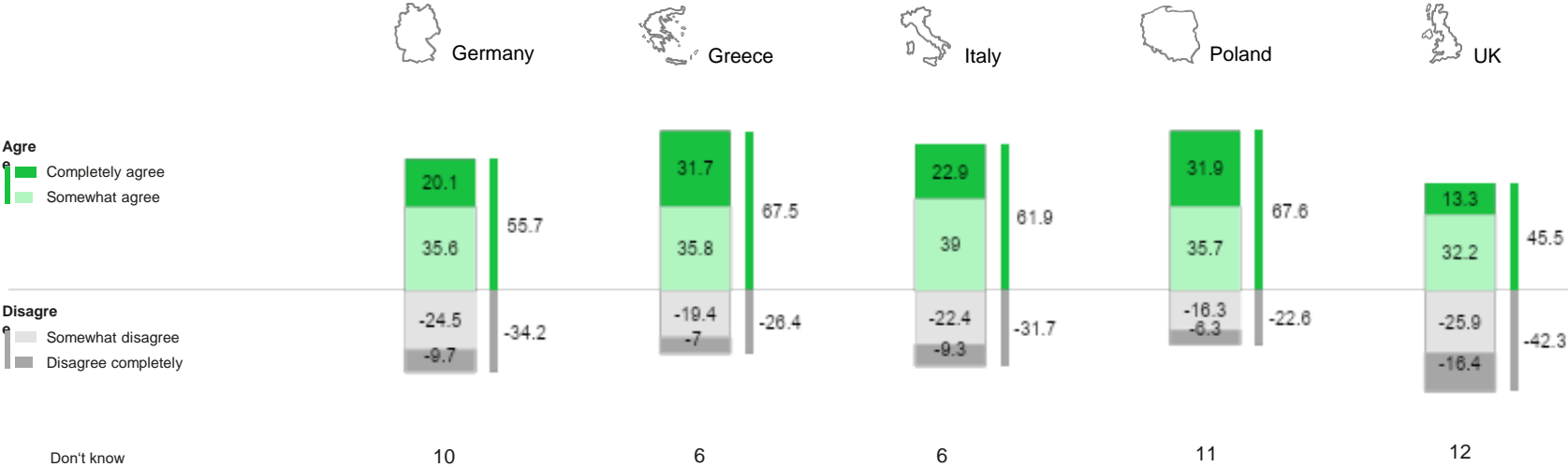


3

**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.”



122 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

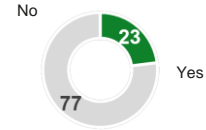
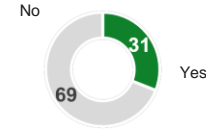
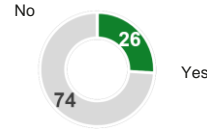
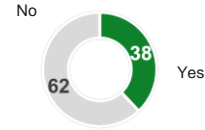
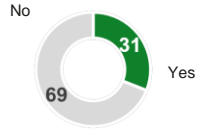


Poland

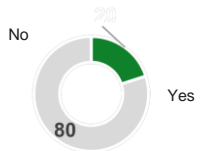
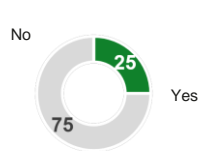
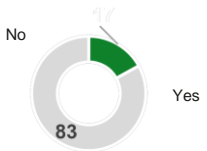
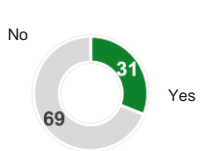
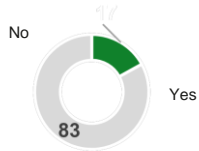


UK

Marching in a protest



Non-violent civil disobedience



Scores in %

Source: Allianz Foundation (2022)

N=10,001, 18- to 39-year-old population

# Civic engagement is often individual & low-barrier



Germany



Greece



Italy

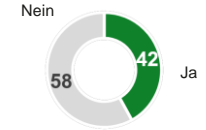
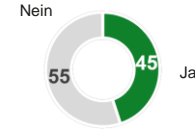
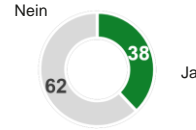
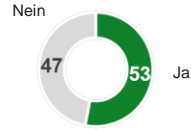
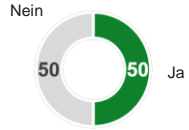


Poland

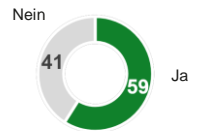
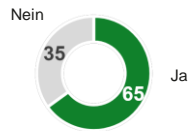
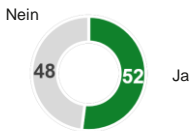
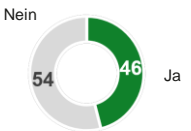
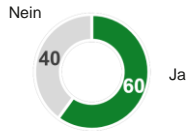


UK

Boycotting products



Signing a petition (online)



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



Germany



Greece



Italy

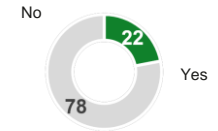
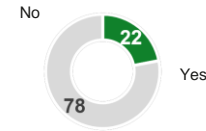
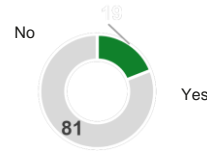
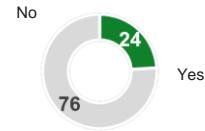
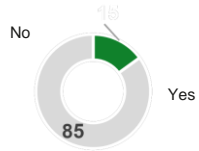


Poland

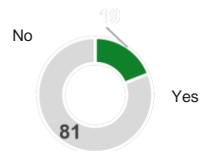
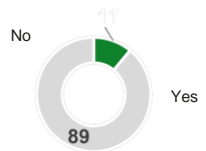
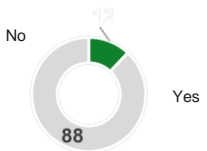
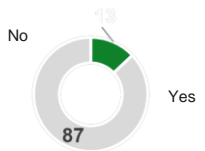
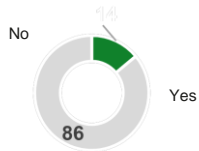


UK



Organizing a political event



Joining/actively working with a political party or movement



# 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)

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

# 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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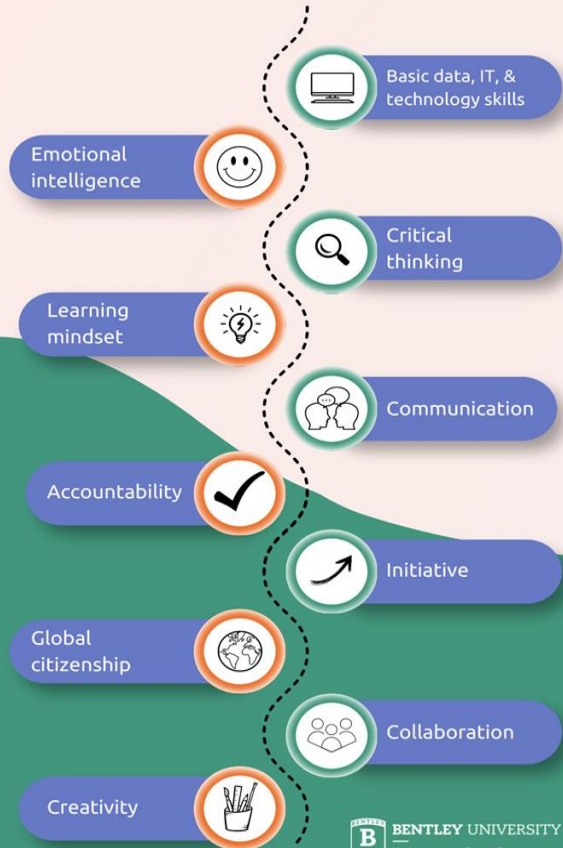
Project Number: 101104521

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

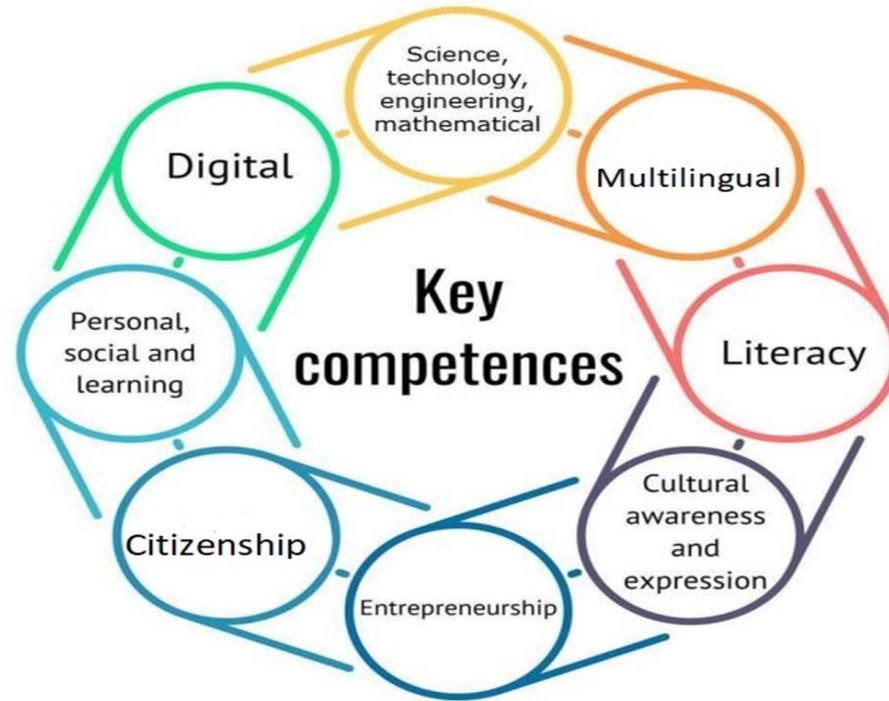
# Sanja Posavec

## 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



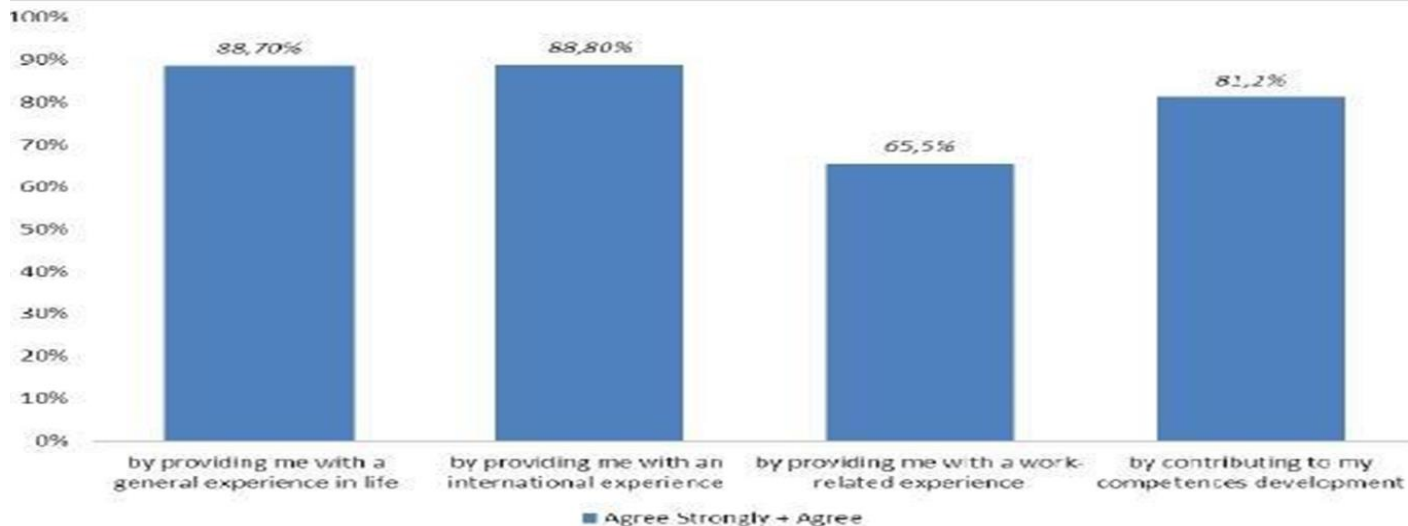
Erasmus+ alumni tend to find their first job faster and earn 25% more

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?



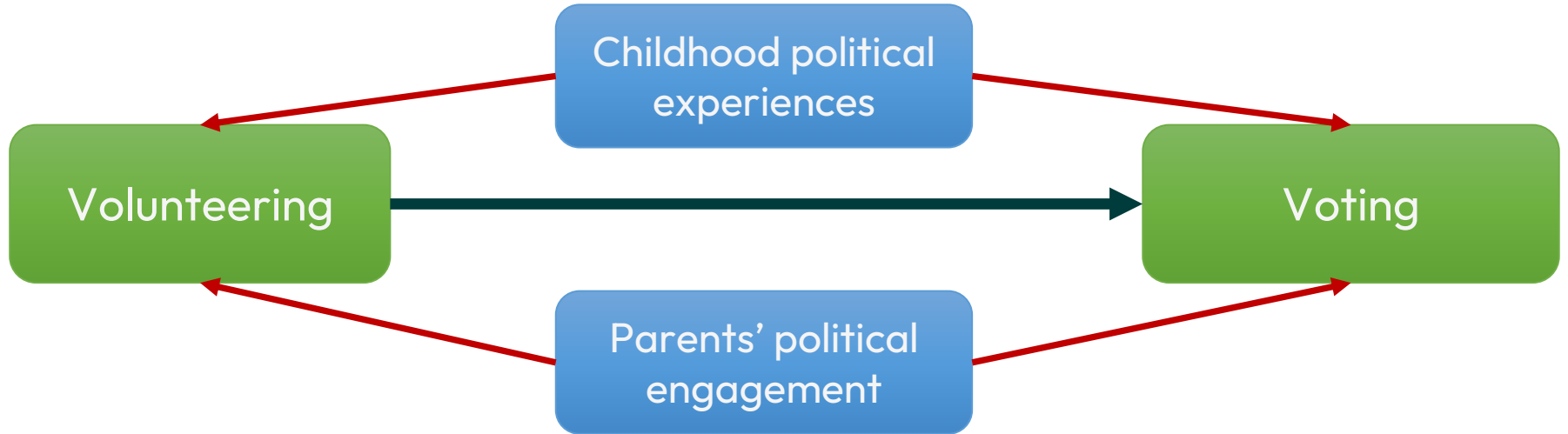
University  
of Exeter

# 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

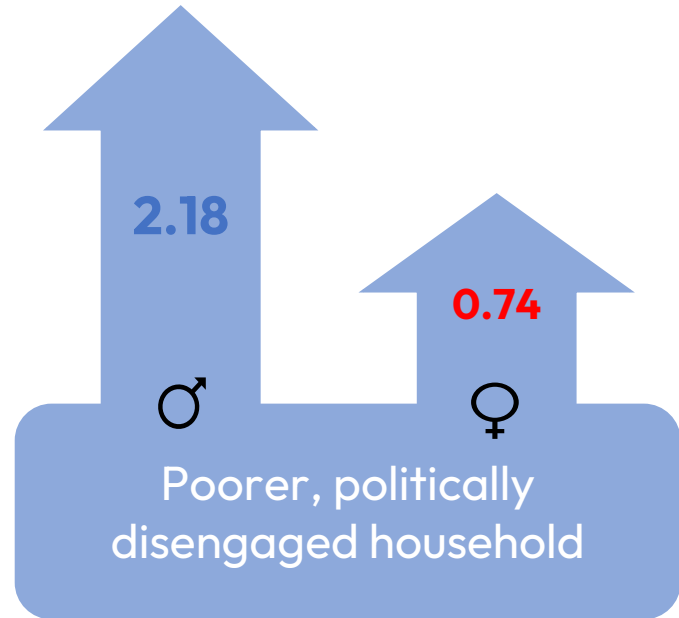
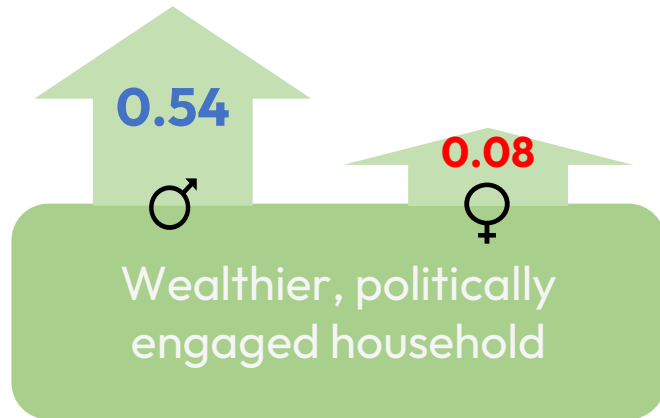
1.24

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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# E-Volunteering



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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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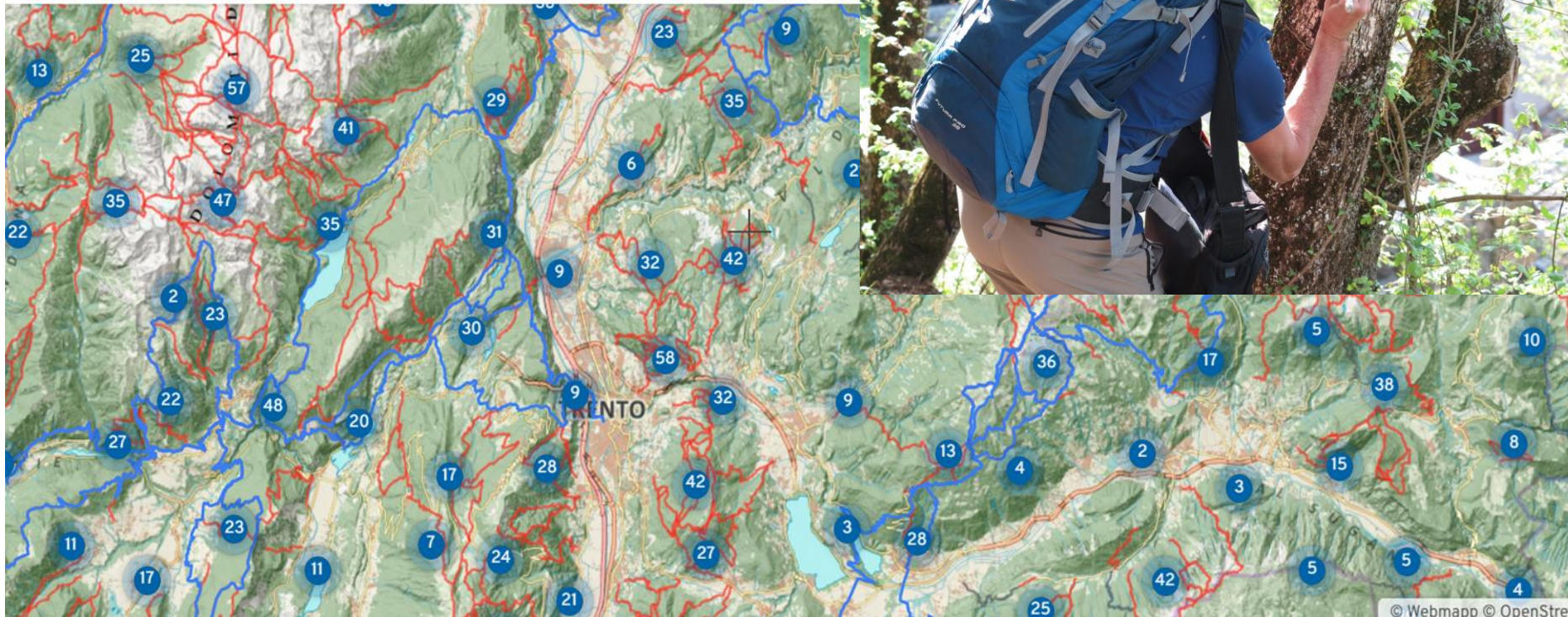


**Come visit us in Trento,  
a city of beauty and  
culture surrounded by  
nature. And while  
you're here....**





Società  
Alpinisti  
Tridentina

















**PROTEZIONE CIVILE  
A.N.A. - TRENTO**









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





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# THANK YOU!

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