

Volunteering Equality Rights Action 2023

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Volunteering, Equality, Rights, Action

In the context of a 4-year framework agreement grant under the European Union “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” fund (CERV) - “REVIVE” (Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe - 2022-2025), in 2023, the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) has implemented a series of activities and initiatives aimed at promoting Citizen Engagement and Equality through volunteering - connecting volunteering to EU Values.

Through the **European Volunteering Capital Competition**, “VERA 2023” enabled volunteers & staff of volunteer-involving & volunteer infrastructure organisations, as well as local authorities and other policymakers, including at the EU level, to engage in mutual learning and exchange good practices on the role of volunteering as active citizen engagement and an expression of democracy and European values.

The #REACT, and “Vote Volunteer Vision” campaigns gave visibility to, and raised awareness about, the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers that are enabled under different EU policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan and programmes such as CERV, the “Next Generation EU” funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus Plus, increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives and promoted EU values.

Through **toolkits and training courses**, “VERA 2023” increased the capacities of organisations to create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality and tackling multiple and intersecting discrimination and, as a result, provide more and better quality inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors. CEV **increased capacity to directly reach over 13,000** citizens and entities and **indirectly over 6 million citizens** interested in volunteering and bringing the European context to their activities, especially in the framework of National and Regional volunteering weeks, festivals and conferences in **6 EU Member States**. We shared **150 individual volunteer portraits and stories** from 12 cities in 10 countries showing the diversity of volunteers and volunteering, and in this way inspired and activated even more citizens as volunteers.

Thanks to the coordination of the CEV secretariat, leadership of the CEV Board and the commitment of CEV member organisations: Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk (BE); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association - BBBSB (BG); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España - PVE (ES); France Benevolat (FR); Kansalaisareena - Citizen Forum (FI); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre - CVDC (HR); Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation - ÖKA (HU); Talentum Foundation for the support of volunteering (HU); CSV Padova and Rovigo (IT); CSV Marche (IT); CSV Net (IT); CSV Sardegna Solidale (IT); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector - MCVS (MT); Vereniging Nederlandse Organisaties Vrijwilligerswerk - NOV (NL); Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado - CPV (PT); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida (PT); Pista Mágica - Associação (PT); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (RO); Slovenska Filantropija (SL) & Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK), as well as other partners: Amazing Youth - Greece (GR), Hellenic Youth Participation (GR), Association pour le Volontariat en Europe - AVE (FR), Beit (BE) means that through “VERA 2023” **volunteering is now better understood in society as a key tool of citizen engagement and expression of solidarity contributing to the future of Europe and equality based on EU Values and active citizen engagement**.



CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik



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Exchange of Good Practice

European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC)

The EVCCC is an unique community of practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional public authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering and Solidarity. In 2023 the EVCCC gathered on two occasions together with CSO and other partners, engaging a total of 198 participants from 20 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine). Among them 123 were females, 73 were males and 2 non-binary.

- The EVCCC event on March 20th-21st 2023 in Brussels (BE) included **“Getting to know Mid - Norway and Trondheim: How volunteering reflects European Values, promotes diversity and defends rights. Cooperation of the public and the volunteering sector to meet future challenges”** and **“Role of civil society and volunteering in Re-building Ukraine especially at the local level”**.



Ivanna Malchevska, Programme Manager at CCL in Ukraine; Martin Mühleck, EU Commission DG NEAR; Dariia Zhdanova, Volunteer Coordinator at Centre for Environmental Initiatives “Ecoaction”; Marta Barandiy, Founding Chair of Promote Ukraine; Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President; Tetyana Khabibrakhmanova, Head of the External Relations and Promotion Office, Lviv Municipality; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director

- The EVCCC event on October 2nd 2023 in Dubrovnik (HR) included **“Best practice for Collaborate Communities”** presentations from municipalities, Panel Discussion **“What is the future and role of volunteering in building collaborative communities?”**, and **“EVCapital 2025 Candidates presentations** from Aviles, Mechelen, Salamanca”.



Friedemann Walther, Head of Division for Civic Engagement and Democracy Promotion, Municipality of Berlin; Jurgen Grotz, Director of Institute for Volunteering Research; Damian Kuźmiński, Unit of Local Cooperation and Social Innovations, Gdańsk Municipality; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Lejla Šehić Relić, CEV President

EVCapital2024

In 2013, the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers. In 2023 Trondheim (Norway) was #EVCapital2023. Trento (Italy) has been named as the #EVCapital2024 and during 2023 preparatory activities, such as 6 public meetings, have been taking place to ensure the maximum outreach to bring the European Volunteering Capital and European framework closer to the citizens and update about volunteering activities and resources as Trento #EVCapital2024.

Key moments in 2024 will include:

- Opening Ceremony on February 3rd in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella.
- CEV Spring Volunteering Congress, from May 14th to 17th.
- Closing Ceremony on November 29th. The EVCapital 2026 will be announced and the title of EVCapital 2025 formally passed to Mechelen (BE).



COMUNE
DI TRENTO



Exchange of Good Practice

EVCapital2025

Mechelen (BE) was awarded the title of European Volunteering Capital 2025 on December 5th, at the EVCapital Trondheim 2023 closing ceremony. The other candidates, Aviles (ES) and Salamanca (ES) were recognised for their achievements and their vital support to volunteers and volunteering. The competition included the following steps:

Call for Candidatures

Launched on January 27th 2023 with deadline June 2nd 2023.



Announcement of the EVCapital 2025 Candidates

The Candidate Certificates for Aviles (ES), Mechelen (BE) and Salamanca (ES) were presented in Brussels in July 2023.



Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Remedios Bordiu Cienfuego-Jovellanos, Representative of Asturias Region delegation in Brussels



Pierre Cartuyvels, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium in the EU; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director



Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Clara San Damian, Head of the Delegation of the Region of Castilla Y León in Brussels

Announcement of the Jury

On September 8th 2023 the jury members were announced. The jury was composed of Daniele Antonozzi (CEV Board), Begoña Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN), Michel Lefranc (CEV Board), Brando Benifei (Member of the European Parliament, S&D), Barbara Eglitis (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Lena Karnalova (CEV Board), Tine Radinja (Mayor of Škofja Loka, Slovenia & EU Committee of the Regions member), Krzysztof Pater (EESC Vice President, Rapporteur Opinion "Volunteering - Citizens Building the Future of Europe"), Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Morten Wolden (Trondheim Municipal Director).

Presentation of the Candidates in Dubrovnik

During the CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress on October 2nd 2023, the candidates' videos were shown and representatives from each municipality gave presentations to motivate their candidacies.



Pelayo Garcia Garcia, Councillor Citizen Participation, Municipality of Aviles



Bas Dhoey, Coordinator of Social Cohesion & Project officer; Hanne Heuts, Project Officer, Municipality of Mechelen



Maria Almudena Parres Cabrera, First Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Salamanca

Winner Announcement

On December 5th 2023, at the EVCapital Trondheim 2023 closing ceremony, Mechelen was announced as the European Volunteering Capital 2025.

In choosing **Mechelen as the European Volunteering Capital 2025** the jury have noted that the city is an excellent example of harnessing volunteering for inclusion, diversity and participation of all its inhabitants, symbolising the European values of connection, diversity and progress. The jury was also impressed by their strategy for future growth in volunteering that focuses on accessible and talent-oriented volunteering, organisational growth and research, social relevance and impact with a permanent focus on training, cooperation and networking.



Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Björn Siffer, Deputy Mayor of Mechelen

The jury felt that the accomplishments of **Aviles and Salamanca** municipalities to support and develop volunteering in the cities also deserves high recognition. The efforts undertaken in creating social awareness actions on the positive impact of volunteering activities and encouraging citizens' participation in this area has been seen by the jury as a fundamental element of the overall support shown to volunteers and volunteering by the candidates.



Kent Ranum, Mayor of Trondheim; Sabrina Redolfi, Manager of the Municipality of Trento; Franco Ianeselli, Mayor of Trento; Francisca Pancher, Communication PR & Advertising Specialist, Municipality of Trento; Björn Siffer, Deputy Mayor of Mechelen; Francisca Ciudad Rodriguez, Manager of Local Volunteer Office of Aviles; Gabriella Civico, CEV Director; Tanja Plasil, Project Leader, Trondheim Municipality



Exchange of Good Practice





"The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Gender Equality through Volunteering" Publication



This publication showcases the volunteering actions and responses developed in 8 European Municipalities that are part of the EVCCC to support and promote gender equality through volunteering.

Participating municipalities:



AVILÉS
EV Capital Candidate 2025



SALAMANCA
EV Capital Candidate 2025



TRONDHEIM
EV Capital 2023



GDĄŃSK
EV Capital 2022



PADOVA
EV Capital 2020



KOŠICE
EV Capital 2019

AARHUS
EV Capital 2018

LISBON
EV Capital 2015



Membership Growth

CEV welcomed three new members in 2023: Beyond Barriers (AL), CSV Trentino (IT), Volies (ES) and one new Observer: Ukrainian Centre for Volunteering (UA).



CSV TRENINO



Exchange of Good Practice

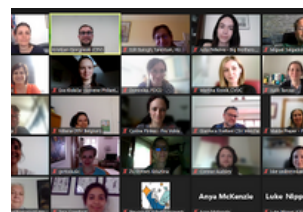
#REACT Campaign & BEV2030

The three #REACT (“Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together) Campaign events expanded the scope of VERA 2023 by further disseminating and raising awareness on active citizenship and the relevance it has in rights and equality improvement, supported by the [Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 #BEV2030](#) document. Involving a total of 211 participants from 20 countries. Among them 125 were females, 84 were males and 2 non-binary.

- The #REACT - “Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030” Seminar on March 20th 2023 in Brussels (BE) involved CEV members, other organisations and individuals to discuss the following topics: BEV 2030 at the National Level; Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers; Volunteer Responses to domestic violence and gender violence as a result of war; Funding Volunteer through participatory budgeting.



- The **Webinar** on June 15th 2023 focussed on the projects of the VERA 2023 subgrantees (FSTP) and their plans to: research the diversity and inclusivity of volunteering; integrate EU values into National and/or Regional Volunteer Development Plans; promote the “Vote Volunteer Vision” Campaign for the EU Parliamentary Elections, and contribute to local volunteering plans in specific cities such as those participating in the EVCapital Competition with a special focus on integration of Ukrainian refugees and other minorities.



- The “Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 - Collaborative Communities” Seminar on October 3rd 2023 in Dubrovnik (HR) gathered CEV members, other organisations and individuals to explore the following topics: Volunteering and Resilience in the Balkans; Young People and Future of Civic Engagement & Volunteering in Europe; Demographic changes and healthy societies; Lifelong Learning - European Year of Skills 2023/2024; Volunteering, Role of Gender, and Political Participation: Examining the influence on Volunteering over Voting Turnout; E-volunteering.



Dissemination and Communication

“Job shadowing” with Volunteers & MEPs

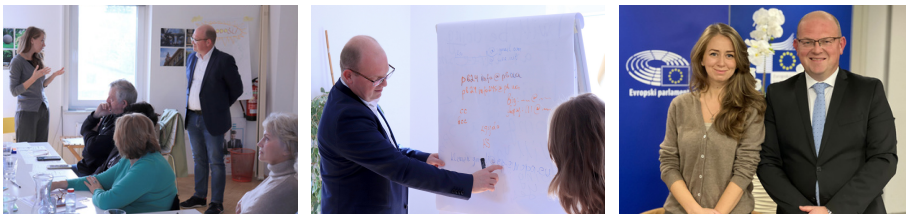
CEV implemented 5 MEP “job shadowing” days with volunteers. By shadowing the volunteers in their activities, the MEPs involved are better suited to support, advocate and value volunteering in their daily work at the EP & the volunteers understand better the connection between EU policy-making and volunteering.

Viktor Kollar, Slovenska Filantropija volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Irena Joveva** (RENEW Europe) and she went to Slovenska Filantropija’s office and was teaching Slovenian to Ukrainian refugees.



“I’m glad that I can be a part of your stories. Your lives are anything but easy, and your willingness to learn is enviable”
MEP Joveva

Kateryna Sydorenko from the same member organisation spent the day at the local office in Ljubljana with **MEP Klemen Groselj** (RENEW Europe) and he went to their office to follow the volunteer’s digital literacy workshop attended by elderly individuals from Ukraine.



“It was an incredible experience, it was very interesting to attend the conferences with the MEP”
Volunteer

Beatriz Coelho, Pista Magica volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques** (S&D) and she went to Pista Magica office to shadow for a day.

“I definitely discovered many new things about the work of an MEP”
Volunteer



“The MEP work is something that I definitely didn’t imagine to be this complex”
Volunteer

Marta Herrera Morello, Spanish Volunteering Platform volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Monica Silvana Gonzalez** (S&D) attending the Committee on Development (DEVE) meeting, Delegation for relations with Mercosur (DMER) meeting and coordination meeting in preparation of the plenary session to happen in Strasbourg. The MEP will go to Madrid and shadow Marta for a day in her volunteering activities.



“Programmes like this are very good because it allows volunteers to understand what MEPs do in the EP”
MEP Gonzalez

Jana Mracnova, Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisation (SK) volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Michal Wiezik** (RENEW Europe) attending the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety for an exchange of views with Dr Sharon McGuinness, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The MEP went to the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations office to shadow for a day.

“It is very impressive to visit the Parliament from the inside and to talk to the MEP”
Volunteer



Dissemination and Communication

#REACT (Rights and Equality - Active Citizens Together) Storytelling Workshops & Podcasts

CEV implemented workshops in 12 locations in 10 EU countries (Belgium-Antwerp, The Netherlands-Utrecht, Belgium-Mechelen, France-Paris, Hungary-Budapest, Slovenia-Ljubljana, Croatia-Zagreb, Italy-Trento, Italy-Padova, Poland-Warsaw, Portugal-Faro and Spain-Jerez). **Portrait photos and voice recordings were gathered from 150 volunteers** (59 male, 90 female and 1 non-binary) **and compiled in 12 podcasts**. 2 webinars were held to reflect on the experience and the results, one on 21 June with 35 participants (11 male and 24 female) and on 22nd November 2023 with 38 participants (16 male and 23 female).





Dissemination and Communication

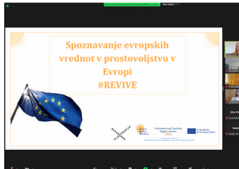
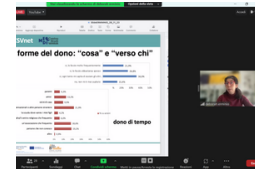
#Revive Seminars / Webinars

The 17 "Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe Seminars" / Webinars, fostered European identity, equality, and democratic citizen engagement, involving 938 participants, of which 680 females, 255 males and 3 non-binary.

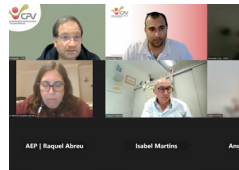
They were co-organised on: March 2nd with Volonteuropa and EESC SOC with 61 participants (19 males and 42 females); March 2nd with Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk vzw in Belgium with 87 participants (39 men and 68 women); May 17th with Pro Vobis in Romania with 54 participants (22 males and 32 females); September 16th with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Centre (MCVS) in Malta with 44 participants (15 male and 29 female); September 28th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 14 participants (female); Talentum in Hungary with 50 participants (8 male and 42 female); October 17th with the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations in Slovakia with 85 participants (16 male and 69 female); October 27th with Plataforma del Voluntariado de España in Spain with 115 participants (42 male and 72 female); November 10th with the Croatian Volunteer Development Centre in Croatia with 109 participants (9 male, 99 female and 1 non-binary); November 22nd September 27th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 13 participants (1 male and 12 females); November 24th with FEA in Portugal with 57 participants (17 males, 39 females); November 27th with CPV in Portugal with 21 participants (17 male and 4 female); November 28th with Slovenska Filantropija in Slovenia with 13 participants (3 males and 10 females); November 28th with CSVNet in Italy with 29 participants (14 male and 15 female); December 5th with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria in Bulgaria with 52 participants (14 male and 38 female); December 5th with Kansalaisareena in Finland with 45 participants (8 males and 37 females) and on December 6th with OKA in Hungary with 89 participants (31 male and 58 female).



"The impact of volunteering was a quite new thematic to most of the participants"
REVIVE Organiser



"The REVIVE webinar was an opportunity to discuss European values within the framework of volunteer action"
REVIVE Organiser



"... volunteering is a tool for change... but it is way easier when you have the unconditional support of an organisation that believes in and supports the ideas of its volunteers"
Volunteer



"Being a mentor changed my perspective. As we grow older, we tend to view things more negatively. This experience taught me to look on the bright side"
Volunteer

"There is still a misunderstanding on what volunteering exactly is, since there is no official definition, nor framework or legal regulation in the country"
REVIVE Organiser



Dissemination and Communication

European Volunteering Ambassadors

On March 21st 2023 CEV announced during the #REACT - "Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together" - Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 Seminar in Brussels, the two 2023 Ambassadors: Lidija Pavić-Rogošić and Mohammed Azahaf. Their role as ambassadors was to further promote the essential contribution of volunteers to the future of Europe and to support CEV's advocacy to make 2025 the European Year of Volunteers.

On December 5th 2023, International Volunteer Day, they each published a statement about the importance of the day and of the 2025 European Year of Volunteers Campaign.



A statement on the eve of the International Volunteer Day 2023

Dear friends,

Some of you already know me, but many others do not, and I wanted to take this opportunity to address you and share a few words.

For many years, volunteering has been an experience that has contributed to my personal development.

At present, I hold responsibilities within the government of Spain in the field of migration policy. As a child of immigrants who came to Spain, I wish to contribute to the development of our common society and embrace the diversity of its citizens in whatever way I can.

My most significant thought on volunteering is that, for activities like this, we need to act together towards strengthening our societies, creating environments where equality and inclusion become a reality for all.

My volunteering experiences have also helped me take awareness within institutions about the needs of many people that contribute diversity and equality.

As an immigrant volunteering throughout the world, I have been able to offer support from institutions at both the national and European levels, as well as from numerous civil organizations for a comprehensive European Civil Engagement and Volunteering initiative as well as to have 2025 declared as the European Year of Volunteers.

With these words, I want to thank you for your support, your daily engagement and efforts, and above all, encourage you to continue advocating tirelessly regarding the contribution to and dignify the efforts of all volunteers.



A statement on the eve of the International Volunteer Day 2023

Make the change. Be a Volunteer!

Greetings to all volunteers and those who will become volunteers!

My name is Lidija Pavić Rogošić, director of CIVDC Sustainable community development from Croatia and a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). In both of these roles, I promote volunteering together with my colleagues. I am also a member of the Supervisory Body of the Croatian Volunteer Development Center.

I have been volunteering for many years, starting most actively in my local community when I came to the United Kingdom to study for my degree. In my opinion, it is the best way to meet people and to experience a series of activities for children and youth. Some of them are also volunteers today. For me, it is about personal motivation, not only related to the curiosity, desire for knowledge and personal development, but also to the desire to provide or help other human beings. The part of that motivation comes from my personal upbringing and education. However, we need to transfer our experiences and knowledge to other people, showing them benefits, beauty and challenges of being volunteers. We also have to advocate and fight for legal support and infrastructure in local communities to make a space for young people, but also for all other age groups, to actively get involved in volunteer activities.

For the last ten years, I have been volunteering in an association that supports women and girls. We run volunteer activity teams to design and implement a grant supporting women entrepreneurs. It is particularly difficult to fight for social and the European model. Working in CIVDC, a civil society organization that was established by me and my colleagues, we often volunteer for different projects that have a social impact being active in our society.



Warm regards from Madrid

2025
 Let's work together to make the European Year of Volunteers 2025 a reality!

Mohammed Azahaf
 European Ambassador 2023



I would like to emphasize the work of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which I have just completed. I have been a member of the committee since 2018. During other things, we adopted an Opinion on volunteering and have organized a whole series of events, like the conference on volunteering last year in Madrid, where CEV actively participated, as well. We also called on the EU to declare 2025 the European Year of Volunteers. I certainly strongly support this idea.

This year the Centre for European Volunteering chose me as European Volunteering Ambassador. I received a lot of support from the local organizations which I visited, which is connected to me, developed bonds and networks among people, within and outside the country. This is our shared responsibility, but we should not neglect it. We should be strong there are also collective action. It is a matter that sustains us and should be built and preserved.

At the end, I would like to remind ourselves why volunteering is important? Volunteering is important because it helps to create positive impact in local and wider community.

From my past experience I have learned that local communities actively help others, which is connected to me, developed bonds and networks among people, within and outside the country. This is our shared responsibility, but we should not neglect it. We should be strong there are also collective action. It is a matter that sustains us and should be built and preserved.

Volunteering on a personal level provides a healthy boost to our self-confidence, self-esteem and the well-being. We do good for others and the community, which gives us a sense of purpose. The spirit of volunteerism also gives us a sense of pride and identity. It gives us a chance to meet people who share the same values as you do. It is not just about the work, but about the people who are volunteering at our side. The areas in which you can volunteer are only limited, but we should not let that stop us from trying.

We can together help and inspire others to leave their comfort zone and get over the fear zone, to try the good things, where they can find their purpose, set new goals and feel their own sense of achievement, because we are all here to help each other.

2025
 Let's work together to make the European Year of Volunteers 2025 a reality!

Lidija Pavić Rogošić



Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign Launch

The VVV Campaign, launched on March 21st 2023 in the European Parliament in collaboration with the EP Volunteering Interest Group Co-Chairs, aimed at CEV members and other volunteer-involving organisations to discover and develop the European Parliament candidates' opinions on volunteering for 2024 EP Election, with reference to the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).



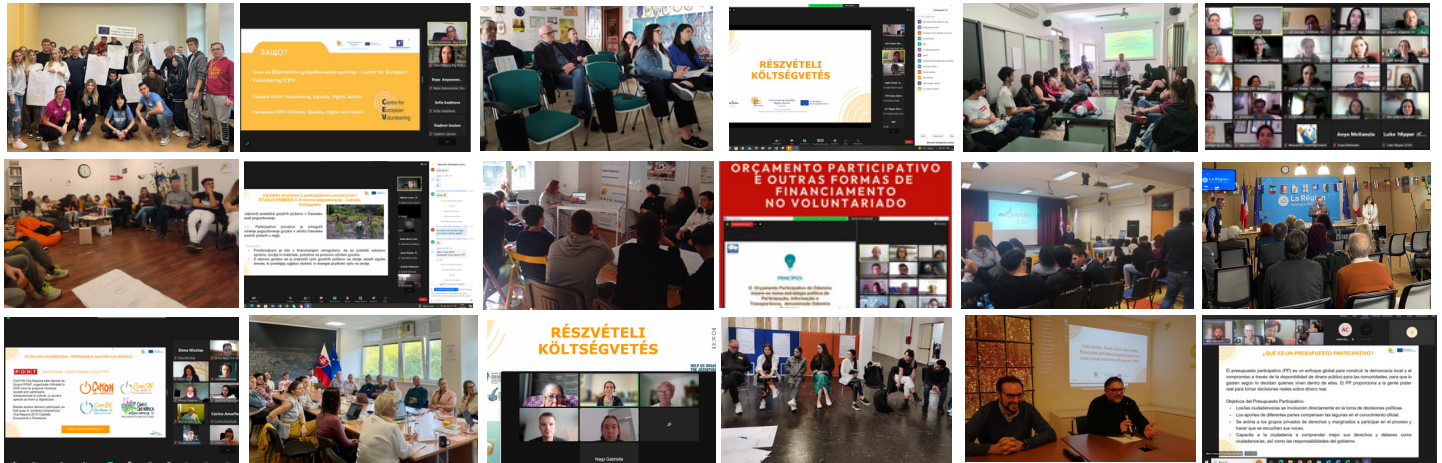
Capacity Building

The online training for trainers session introduced all the materials needed to deliver the training modules on the two priority topics in 2023 to volunteer managers and coordinators. 16 trainers from 16 organisations took part, of which 12 were females and 4 were males in order to have the necessary capacity to deliver the cascaded training opportunities across Europe.

Trainings

"Funding Volunteering through Participatory Budgeting"

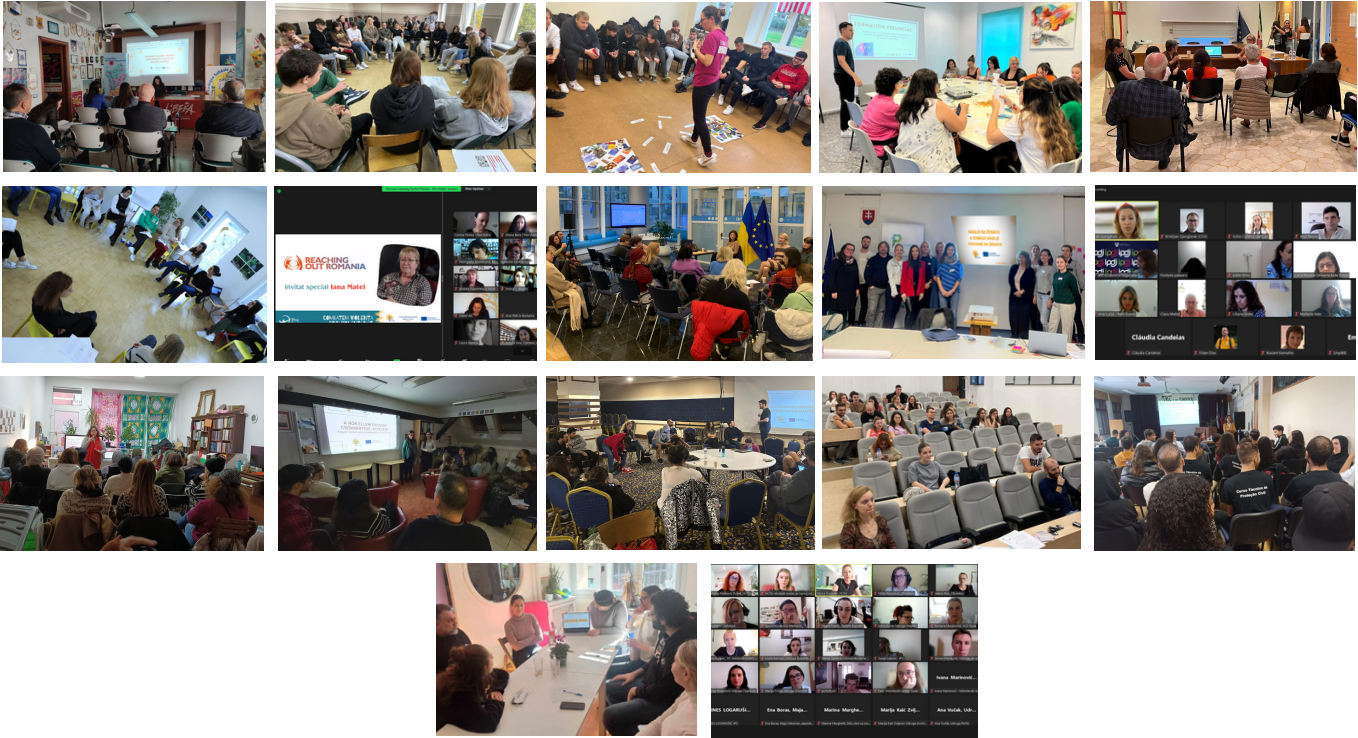
The 18 training sessions involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders. There were 399 participants - 128 male, 268 female and 3 non-binary in 12 countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Romania, France, Poland, Belgium and Croatia. The training materials (manual and two presentations) are available in 14 different European languages.



Capacity Building

“Combating & Preventing Domestic Violence and Gender Violence as a Result of War Via Volunteering”

The 17 training sessions involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders. There were 405 participants - 118 male, 283 female and 4 non-binary from 12 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Belgium. The training materials (manual and two presentations) are available in 16 different European languages.



Pilot Training - “Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers”

27 people were involved in giving their feedback and improving the training framework and materials to be used across Europe in 2024 of which 12 were females and 15 were males from 9 countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Malta, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.



"Financial resources are not everything but more better targeted income can help volunteers bring more impact in the community, I hope that know more about PB will help us "
Participant

"It was nice to meet people with disabilities like me, I have understood I'm not alone"
Participant

"The materials were just right to explain the topic to non-experts and having it in our own language was great!"
Trainer

"The training impressed me deeply due to the topic addressed"
Participant

"Volunteers are so important to support women experiencing violence and I hope that after this training we will get a few more"
Training organiser

"I learnt many new things on how to be actively involved in my community activities"
Participant



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Subgranting

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) - 240,00 euros available

After a Call for proposals published on February 13th 2023, that closed on April 14th 2023, an independent awarding committee of experts assessed the proposals against the criteria specified in the Call. CEV granted 15 applications from 10 organisations from 10 different EU Member States with project activities taking place between May 1st 2023 and December 10th 2023 under one of the four VERA priority areas.

Volunteering

Research to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors. Target groups involved included policymakers, national and regional volunteer-involving organisations, volunteer centres, volunteers and the general public.

Organisations & Member States involved: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (Bulgaria); The Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (Croatia); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (Hungary); CSV Marche (Italy); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (Malta); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntaria (Romania). (15,000 euros per organisation).



Equality

Consultation process on volunteer development - how to use the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) to advance volunteer engagement in a more inclusive way at national or regional level. National Regional Volunteer Development plans and Programmes were developed and/or redesigned taking into account European Values and the European context. Target groups involved included policymakers, national and regional volunteer-involving organisations, volunteer centres, volunteers, official thematic working groups, academia and the general public.

Organisations & Member States involved: Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (Croatia); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (Hungary); Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia); Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia) - (15,000 euros per organisation). Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (Spain), (30,000 euros).



Subgranting

Rights

Campaign linking EU policy development processes to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights in preparation for the European Parliament elections 2024 using the CEV Vote Volunteer Vision campaign materials. Target groups included volunteers and future volunteers particularly those aged 18-30, volunteer-involving organisations, students and the general public.

Organisations & Member States involved: Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (Portugal). (15,000 euros per organisation).



Action

Activities included contributing to local volunteer development strategies and their implementation in candidate and/or winning municipalities involved in the European Volunteering Capital Competition, including the integration and support to Ukrainian refugees. Target groups for this project included local associations, member associations particularly those providing services to Ukrainians, external stakeholders, local volunteers and members of the general public, particularly those with fewer opportunities and young people aged 18-30.

Organisations & Member States involved: CSV Marche (Italy); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (Romania); Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (Slovakia). (15,000 euros per organisation).



"It is helping us provide more inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors"

Organisation

"The research identifies challenges such as attracting new volunteers, connecting volunteering efforts with active citizenship, and strengthening the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations"

Organisation

"The voluntary sector would benefit from training on the different forms of discrimination"

Organisation

"We would like to thank you again for the grant, which allowed us to implement our projects and implemented several new products and contacts."

Organisation

"We better understood how we can implement inclusive modes of working by learning from examples of good practice"

Organisation



Click/Scan it



General Assembly, CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

"I think, through volunteering, I've already gained a lot of constant confidence and know how to talk and deal with other people"
#REACT Storytelling Workshop Volunteer



CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik

"Participants showed the desire to bridge the gap between European Institutions and EU citizens, building a more participatory and direct dialogue"
Organiser



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

"The volunteering of the future will be open for everyone! When we make things together we are already very close to achieving this mission"
Volunteer Manager



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

"I participated the Youth Volunteer Festival. I decorated the festival hall and held a speech about youth volunteering. The day was awesome!"
Participant

"Volunteers are directly involved in the decision making process by sitting on each decision-making body and steer their own teams on and, in order to do that, they develop several skills especially through intervision"
REVIVE Organiser

"Volunteering is a real gift"
Volunteer



CEV Staff, CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik

"Volunteering changed me, it helped me to better deal with my own problems"
#REACT Storytelling Workshop Volunteer



CEV Spring Volunteering Congress 2023 - Brussels

"It was a very enriching experience. I really enjoyed this opportunity. It is something I will always remember"
Volunteer

"What was strongly expressed by all the participants, is the need to treat all volunteers equally"
REVIVE Organiser



CEV Board, CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2023 - Dubrovnik