



# Annual Report 2017





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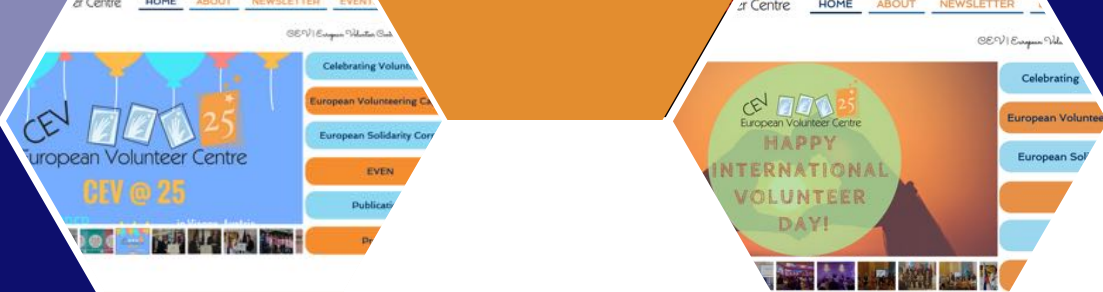
*Sole responsibility for the publication lies with the European Volunteer Centre.*



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# About CEV



The **European Volunteer Centre (CEV)** is the European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion and support to volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. Through our network we work together to achieve this through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support and adding a European dimension to their work.

CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Together with other stakeholders we exchange policy, practice and information in order to ensure effective and coherent follow up to European Year of Volunteering 2011 and ensure its legacy through the implementation of the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE) and the follow-up “Helping Hands – Hope for Europe” report. CEV’s vision is a Europe in which volunteering is central in building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship. Our mission is to contribute to the creation of an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe where the full potential of volunteering can be realised.

## Together with our members we work to:

- Be the representative voice for volunteering in Europe
- Strengthen the infrastructure for volunteering across Europe
- Promote volunteering as an expression of Solidarity & European values

## Our strategic objectives:

- Developing partnerships with EU and other institutions at different levels, civil society organisations as a member of various Alliances, and with other volunteering stakeholders
- Sharing knowledge through publications, social media, training courses, studies and other initiatives & events
- Training members and other stakeholders on volunteering related issues, especially in the framework of the annual spring capacity building conferences
- Advocating for supportive volunteering policies as a member of EU expert groups, including the European Solidarity Corps, attending and presenting at hearings & consultations, and organising CEV policy conferences





# History



**CEV's origins lie in an initiative by 7 volunteer centres:** Association pour le Volontariat (Belgium), Centre National du Volontariat (France), the National Centre for Volunteering (UK), Centro Nazionale per il Volontariato (Italy), Landelijk Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk (Netherlands) and Plataforma para la Promoción del Voluntariado en España (Spain). These organisations convened at a meeting organised in Lucca, Italy, in 1989, for the representatives of National and Regional Volunteer Centres from seven European countries. The outcome of the meeting was a joint declaration for increased **European cooperation**.

**CEV was founded in February 1990** on the basis of this declaration and **in 1992 was officially granted the status of "international non-profit organisation"** registered under Belgian law. The Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, Flemish Volunteer Centre, was granted the responsibility to put in place the new organisation.

On 5 December 1995, **CEV organised the first ever "European Day for Volunteering in the European Parliament", Brussels, Belgium**, with the active support of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and UNESCO.

CEV's initiative and facilitative role was a crucial element in the civil society campaign for the **European Year of Volunteering 2011**, together with partner networks active in volunteering at the European level. These networks formed the '**EYV 2011 Alliance**' and **CEV was mandated to host the Secretariat** for the implementation of the civil society strand of EYV 2011 from 2010 to 2012 with a **project grant from the Europe for Citizens programme**.



**Have a look at the Timeline**

2005

- \* Recognition of Volunteering as an expression of active citizenship

2006

- \* "Volunteering as a route (back) to employment" Paris

2007

- \* "Youth Volunteering Policies in Europe" Skopje
- \* "Mutual recognition skills and competencies gained through volunteering: Towards a European debate" Brussels

2008

- \* "Developing employee volunteering - a joint venture between volunteer organisation and companies" Prague

2009

- \* "Effectively communicating volunteering - the role of PR, media and raising public awareness" Valencia
- \* "Volunteering as a means of empowerment and social inclusion- a bridge between the European years 2010 and 2011" Brussels
- \* CEV Position Paper on the Economic and Financial Crisis, Brussels

2010

- \* "The future of volunteering: concepts trends visions " Tallinn
- \* "Volunteering and active citizenship two sides of the same coin?" Berlin

2011

- \* **EYV 2011 Alliance Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E)**

2012

- \* "Volunteering for stronger societies through innovation and cross-secter collaboration" Copenghagen
- \* "Symposium: We're in this together? volunteering and age - friendly societies " Cascais
- \* Volunteering Infrastructure in Europe Publication
- \* CEV celebrated 20 years of being "the voice of volunteering in Europe!"

2013

- \* "Making things EVEN" Dublin
- \* "Cross-border volunteering in the European year of citizens - what is it for?" Sarajevo
- \* **European Volunteering Capital Competition is launched**

2014

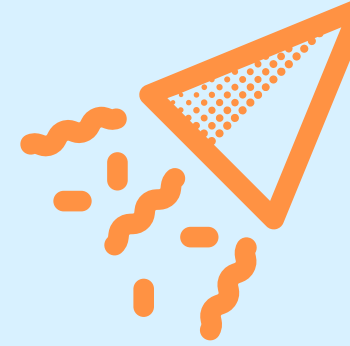
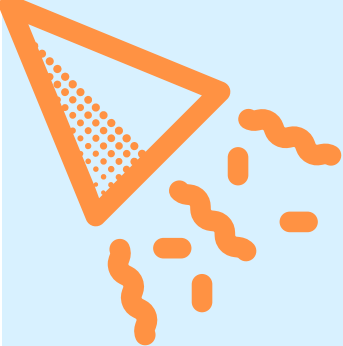
- \* Funding volunteering through the new EU programmes: What are the options? Brussels
- \* "Volunteering in European Welfare & Social Services (VIEWS)" Turin

2015

- \* Seminar on Volunteer Measurement in Europe, Brussels
- \* "A multi-perspective approach to volunteer centres" Zadar
- \* "Helping Hands" Hope for Europe! Brussels
- \* "The Volunteer Manager: Key For Excellency in Volunteer Management" Bucharest
- \* "Promoting Inclusion Preventing Extremism (PIPE)" Brussels
- \* "Developing European Volunteering Strategies (DEVS)" London
- \* Autumn Volunteering Congress and European Volunteering Conference Vienna

to be continued





**CEV@25**

**Anniversary**

**1992-2017**





# Membership



The **European Volunteering Centre Network** works to promote, support and develop volunteering & solidarity in Europe. **CEV full members** are organisations dedicated to the **promotion of, and support to, volunteering in Europe** at the European, National or Regional level.

**Associate members** are local volunteering organisations and volunteer-involving organisations without the promotion of volunteering as a main mission.

**Partners** are other stakeholders from the voluntary, business or governmental sector that subscribe to our mission and vision.

**All members must be legal entities** under the law of their respective countries and must subscribe to the aims of the European Volunteer Centre network and commit to actively support its vision and mission as well as the implementation of its strategic plan.

CEV is supported in its work by a democratically elected **Board** comprised of representatives from member organisations from across Europe, and by a **Secretariat** team based in Brussels.

Collaboration with the European Volunteer Centre is **open to any stakeholder that is willing to support CEV and its mission to contribute to the creation of an enabling political, social and economic environment for volunteering in Europe**, where the full potential of volunteering can be realised.

**Read more and apply here:**



<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/membership>



# Member Organisations



## European Networks

Confederation of European Senior Expert Services (CESES)

## Austria

Interessensgemeinschaft Freiwilligenzentren Österreich (IGFÖ)

## Belgium

Plate-forme Francophone du Volontariat  
Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk usw

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

OSMIJEH

## Bulgaria

National Alliance for Volunteer Action (NAVA)

## Croatia

Croatian Volunteer Development Centre

## Cyprus

The Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC)

## Czechia

HESTIA – Centrum pro dobrovolnictví

## Denmark

The Volunteer Centre in Denmark  
Friwilligcentre og Selvhjælp Danmark (FriSe)  
FriwilligVest

## Estonia

Estonian Village Movement Kodukant

## Finland

Citizen Forum

## France

France Bénévolat  
Tous Bénévoles  
RockCorps

## Germany

Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Bürgerschaftlichen Engagements (ARBES) e.V.  
National Network for Civil Society (BBE)  
Deutscher Caritasverband, Verbund Freiwilligen-Zentren

## Greece

Ethelon



### **Hungary**

Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering  
Volunteering Hungary – Centre of Social Innovation

### **Ireland**

Volunteer Ireland

### **Italy**

CSV Marche  
CELIVO – Centro Servizi al Volontariato della provincia di Genova  
Centro Servizi Volontariato Friuli Venezia Giulia  
Centro Nazionale per il Volontariato (CNV)  
CSV Basilicata  
CSVnet – Coordinamento Nazionale dei Centri di Servizio per il Volontariato  
Coordinamento Regionale dei Centri di Servizio per il Volontariato della Lombardia  
CSV Sardegna Solidale  
SVS Pubblica Assistenza  
Fondazione Volontariato e Partecipazione  
Volontariato Torino – Vol.To

### **Latvia**

brīvprātīgais.lv

### **Luxembourg**

Agence du Bénévolat

### **Malta**

Solidarity Overseas Service (SOS Malta)  
The National Council of Women of Malta

### **Netherlands**

MOVISIE  
Vereniging Nederlandse Organisaties Vrijwilligerswerk (NOV)

### **Poland**

Good Network Foundation

### **Portugal**

Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado (CPV)  
Conselho Nacional para a Promoção do Voluntariado (CNPV)  
Fundação Eugénio de Almeida  
Banco de Voluntariado de Tavira

### **Romania**

Pro Vobis – Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat  
VOLUM  
Centrul de Voluntariat Reșița

### **Russia**

Perm Center of Volunteerism Development (PCVD)

### **Slovakia**

CARDO – National Volunteer Centre  
Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations

### **Slovenia**

Slovenska filantropija







### **Spain**

Asociación de Voluntarios "La Caixa"

Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social

Fundación Hazlo posible

Plataforma Andaluza de Voluntariado (PAV)

Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (PVE)

Federació d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família (FOCAGG)

D.G. de Participación Ciudadana y Voluntariado (Junta de Andalucía)

Departament de Benestar Social i Família (Social Welfare and Family Department)

### **Sweden**

Forum

### **Turkey**

The Corporate Volunteer Association (ÖSGD)

### **United Kingdom**

Volunteer Scotland

NCVO

Volunteer NOW

Department for Social Development (DSD) Northern Ireland

Greater London Volunteering



**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/members>



# Board Members 2017



**Cristina Rigman**

**President**

Pro Vobis,  
The National Resource Center  
for Volunteerism (RO)



**Vicente Ballesteros Alarcon**

Spanish Volunteering  
Platform (ES)



**Alberto Cuomo**

CSVnet, the National  
Coordinating Body of  
Volunteer Support  
Centres (IT)



**João Teixeira**

**Vice President**

Portuguese Confederation of  
Volunteering (PT)



**Palle Lund**

The National Knowledge and  
Development Centre of  
Volunteering (DK)



**From October 2017:**

**Cristina Rigman (RO)**  
**João Teixeira (PT)**  
**Lejla Šehić Relić (HR)**  
**Michel Lefranc (FR)**  
**Anu Viltrop (EE)**  
**Nina Arwitz (IE)**  
**Liliane Krokaert (BE)**  
**Palle Lund (DK)**  
**Vicente Baeza (ES)**  
**Giampiero Farru (IT)**  
**George Thomson (UK)**



**Lejla Šehić Relić**

**Vice President**

Croatian Volunteer Development  
Centre (HR)



**Liliane Krokaert**

Vlaams Steunpunt  
Vrijwilligerswerk (BE)



**Mirko Schwärzel**

**Treasurer**

BBE National Network  
for Civil Society (DE)



**Nina Arwitz**

Volunteer Ireland (IE)



**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/board>



# Staff



**Gabriella Civico**  
**Director**



**Giulia Bordin**  
**EU Solidarity Corps Trainee**  
Project and Policy Assistant



**Sara Fasoli**  
**Project and Events Assistant**



**Helena Çandra**  
**EU Solidarity Corps Trainee**  
Communications and Advocacy Assistant



**Lamiae Goumri**  
**Administrative Assistant**



**Andreea Nagy**  
**Communications and Events Officer**

## Interns:

**Alyssa Anne Pek**

**Manfredi Maria Montanari**

**Francesca Cecchin**

**Rasha Zeina**

**Aigulle Sembæva**

**Tandem Volunteers:**  tandem

**Abdulkader Zarka**

**Hammad Yousef Bashir Mohammed**





Gabriella Civico (CEV Director)  
EESC Liaison Group Co-Chairs George Dossis & Conny Reuter and Federica Mogherini - High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

# Networks



CEV works towards developing partnerships and alliances with key stakeholders across all sectors to promote and secure recognition for volunteering as an expression of solidarity and active citizenship in Europe. CEV is a member of:

## Civil Society Europe



The coordination body for European networks of civil society organisations that are willing to work towards regenerating the European project around the shared values of Equality, Solidarity, Inclusiveness and Democracy.



## INGOs of the Council of Europe

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe constitutes civil society's pillar in the Council of Europe "quadrilogue" with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities.

## The EESC Liaison Group



The EESC Liaison Group, bringing together EESC Members with European CSOs and networks providing the only institutional bridge to the EU institutions, thereby establishing vertical civil dialogue, in accordance with art. 11 TEU.



## SDG Watch Europe

SDG Watch Europe is a multi-field CSO alliance including for example development, environment, social & human rights focus areas. Its goal is to hold policymakers to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

## The EQF Advisory Group



This advisory group supports European Countries to have in place NFIL validation arrangements by 2018, as agreed in the 2012 Council Recommendation on the Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning, allowing individuals to obtain a qualification (or parts of a qualification) on the basis of validated knowledge, skills and competencies gained outside the formal educational environment, such as through volunteering.



## Erasmus+ Coalition

Ahead of the next Multi Financial Framework negotiations -the Coalition established a campaign to ask decision-makers for a robust increase of the Erasmus+ budget: ten times more! The #Erasmusx10 campaign is run jointly by the Lifelong Learning Platform, the European Youth Forum, and Eurodesk.



# Outreach

## Projects

**Lever UP**



An **Erasmus+** KA2 Strategic Partnership project, Lever Up has as its main objectives to foster **the connection between the non-formal education environment (voluntary environment), the for-profit and vocational training sectors** to provide common guidelines on how to implement this model and approach. CEV's partners in this initiative are the Good Network Foundation (Fundacja Dobra Sieć); Hominem Challenge SL; Via University College; European Centre Valuation Prior Learning; Scuola Nazionale Servizi; Confindustria Lecco e Sondrio; LAVOPS and Fondazione Politecnico di Milano. The project will be implemented between 2016 and 2018. <http://www.leverproject.eu/>

**Social Atelier**



An **Erasmus+** KA1 Learning Mobility of Individuals project, the Social Atelier will engage members of the European Solidarity Corps as volunteers in order **to contribute to community development by creating infrastructure between volunteering and diverse social groups, such as migrants and refugees and to strengthen the international cooperation between partner organisations by emphasising the EU project management aspect**. This project is developed jointly with the Volonterski Centar Osijek and will run between 2017 and 2018.



**InSCULT**



An **Erasmus+** KA2 Strategic Partnership InSCULT has as its main objectives **to develop an innovative model that systematically brings together information about volunteers and their interests with volunteering opportunities locally and abroad**. The project aims to engage more than 25000 volunteers in at least 8 international sport events and promote the SCULT model. Two large scale SCULT fest networking conferences to motivate and educate stakeholders from all over the world are also foreseen as part of the project. CEV's partners are SCULT, Klubi Tartu Maraton and Haaga-Helia, the University of Applied Sciences. This project is being implemented between 2017 and 2018.

**EVS Realm**



An **Erasmus+** KA2 Strategic Partnership project, EVS Realm aims **to help build capacity for beginner ESC volunteer hosting organisations**, increase the quality of the learning experience of the ESC volunteers by developing training and resources for the mentors engaged in ESC and increase awareness of relevant stakeholders about the challenges faced by the organisations in ensuring the quality of the ESC volunteering experiences. The project is developed with Politistiko Ergastiri Cultural Workshop, ANAWOJ and Pro Vobis-National Resource Center for Volunteering between 2017 and 2019.



# Outreach



## Projects

### PREVENT

NSHC

voluntary action sheffield



The PREVENT project was funded by the **Europe for Citizens** programme. The main objectives of the project were **to contribute to further strengthening of the role of volunteers in times of crisis in modern Europe and to provide evidence-based recommendations for the improvement of the voluntary services aimed at the inclusion of refugees on the EU level**. One of the main products achieved by the project was a notebook, Volontheka, where refugees can enter their impressions on one side and the volunteers their own on the other side, helping both the volunteers and refugees to achieve a better understanding of their objectives and aims together. The project was implemented between 2016 until 2017.

### NoProfit#EUSkills



No Profit #EUSkills is an **Erasmus+ KA1** project coordinated by CSV Marche in cooperation with CSVnet and other 11 Italian volunteer centers. **It aimed primarily to increase the managerial skills of staff and volunteers of Italian third sector organizations, with particular attention to volunteer support centers (CSV) and voluntary associations**. 144 people from all around Italy were involved in the project, they had the opportunity to spend 2 weeks abroad hosted by 5 European partners: CEV - European Volunteer Centre (Belgium), Kopin (Malta), Youth Day Care Centre of Panevezys (Lithuania), Dacorum CVS (UK) and M.E.P. Europrojects Granada (Spain). The project was implemented between 2009 and 2017.



Erasmus+



Europe for Citizens

VOLCAR



VOLCAR was a project funded by the **Erasmus+ KA2** Strategic Partnership. The main objectives of the project were **to deliver guidance for volunteers to raise their employability** by being better able to identify and describe their learning outcomes gained through volunteering, a model developed upon the Ch-Q personal development method. The project produced a booklet for volunteers that helped them understand how to “translate” their learning outcomes gained through volunteering experiences into useful skills and learning outcomes relevant to the labour market, an online training programme to support the use of the booklet and a face-to-face training custom made for volunteering organisations. The project was implemented between 2015 until 2017.

### Read more here:



<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/projects>



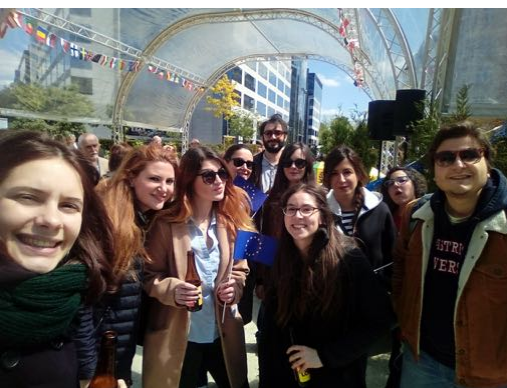
# Outreach



## Study Visits

CEV hosted **study visits** from representatives of various CSOs and volunteer-involving organisations in Europe. CEV staff provided information about the volunteering policies, programmes and infrastructure as well as on advocacy work carried out at EU level.

MEP Benifei meeting CEV study visit participants and staff



Erasmus+



Europe for Citizens

## Students' Study Visit of the Italian association TGS



## Representatives of Roma CSOs from Western Balkans (Project "Roaming")



**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/studyvisits>

10 YEARS OF  
TRANSNATIONAL  
VOLUNTEERING



End of War

Director of  
the Organisation for  
Civil International (OCI)  
International Voluntary  
Service (IVS) movement

Director of Civil  
International (CI)  
International Voluntary  
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# Capacity Building Conference



6-7  
April  
2017

## Developing European Volunteering Strategies (DEVS), London, UK

The CEV Capacity Building Conference DEVS took place on 6-7 April 2017 in London at the City Hall. Representatives from CEV member organisations from across Europe gathered together with interested UK / London -based stakeholders in order **to consider the volunteering strategies that are needed in Europe at local, regional and national administration levels and how to design and implement them with input from all sectors and stakeholders**. Workshop leaders shared their experience and practice together with participants with a view **to building capacity and developing a best practice guide** for use across Europe by governments, local authorities, volunteer centres, volunteer organisations and companies. The **DEVS Conference Report & Handbook** was produced as a follow-up, where volunteering strategies in diverse policy contexts are explored.



Access the report here:

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/devs>





Alois Stöger  
Minister of Labour, Social Affairs  
and Consumer Protection, Austria



# General Assembly and Policy Conference ★★

4-6  
October  
2017

## Autumn Volunteering Congress, Vienna, Austria



On 4, 5, 6 of October 2017 the **CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress** took place in collaboration with the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection in Vienna, Austria**. Representatives from volunteering organisations, political and administrative authorities and academia gathered in order to **exchange views and develop common strategies on current activities and initiatives in the voluntary sector**. The Congress comprised of: **research and project, presentations (IAVE and PREVENT); CEV Strategic discussions** about the current and future status of CEV and volunteering in Europe; the **EV Capital 2019 Candidate** presentations; the **CEV@25** celebrations, the **CEV General Assembly** and the **European Conference for Volunteering Vienna (ECVV)**. During the GA, there were also two important approvals, one to the **CEV statutes**, with the objective of broadening the **CEV Full membership criteria** and secondly, a new policy statement on **“Volunteering at Music Festivals and Concerts”**, aimed at creating awareness and guidelines for both organisers of events and existing and/ or potential volunteers and their broker entities to ensure quality volunteering complying with EU & national frameworks and ethical considerations.



Read more here:

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/autumn-volunteering-congress>



João Costa, the State Secretary for Education of Portugal, João Paulo Rebelo, the State Secretary for Youth and Sport of Portugal and Alison Crabb, Head of Unit E2 Skills & Qualifications DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Brikena Xhomaqi Director of Life-Long Learning Platform.



CEV Solidarity Corps Trainees, Commissioner Oettinger, Thyssen and Nauracis

## Aduvacy



### Volunteering is relevant across diverse EU policy areas:

European Solidarity Corps (ESC), European Voluntary Service (EVS), Recognition and Validation of NFIL, EU Aid Volunteers, Europe for Citizens Programme, Erasmus+, Citizenship, Citizen's Dialogue, Health and Well-being, Active Ageing, Life-long Learning, CSR, Economic Growth, Neighbourhood policies, Migration and Refugees, Work-Life balance, etc. Here are some highlights of the advocacy initiatives in which CEV was actively involved during 2017.

### European Funding for Volunteering:



EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS

EUROPEAN  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE

After the launch of the European Solidarity Corps in December 2016, CEV has been very active on the development of policies about volunteering reflected in the European Solidarity Corps and the European Voluntary Service. CEV actively participated in conferences, interviews, forums and wrote articles and press releases on the topic of the importance of quality, needs-led volunteering as part of the EU funding programmes.



### Recognition and Validation of NFIL:



European  
Qualifications  
Framework



CEV partnered with the LLLPlatform and DG EMPL to organise a Peer-Learning Activity (PLA) on "The role of non-governmental stakeholders (non-state actors) in implementing the 2012 Recommendation on Validation of Non- Formal and Informal Learning" on the 21-22 September. The PLA aimed to demonstrate how different non-state actors from the three different sectors (NGOs, Social Partners and Formal Education institutions) contribute to the process of validation of non-formal and informal learning. A report of the conference is available.





CEV Director and MEPs Žitňanská and Šojdroučová



# Advocacy



## Migration and Refugees:

CEV had a fundamental role on the topic of volunteering as a strategy for integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees. CEV partnered with the German member, BBE, to co-organise the **“Europe at the Crossroads”** Conference in Berlin on 4-5 May. The conference addressed the importance of civil society contributions to the integration of refugees in Europe and highlighted the critical role of volunteering for achieving solidarity in Europe. The role of volunteering in support of refugees, as well as evidence-based recommendations for the improvement of the volunteering at EU level, was also presented in the context of the results of the **Europe for Citizens PREVENT project** at the Autumn Volunteering Congress that took place on the 4 October in Vienna, Austria.



## Health, Sports and Well-being:

CEV has been an active advocate for the role of volunteering in relation to health, sports and well-being. Some of the most important contributions were developed as part of the InSCULT Erasmus+project which aims to engage citizens of all ages in volunteering in sports activities. Other events that included CEV's contribution on the topic include the "Volunteering in sport, education and skills" conference in Clermont Ferrand, France that took place on 19 June and the **“Social inclusion and volunteering in sports clubs in Europe”** seminar during the European Week of Sport on the 28 September where the sports chapter from the **Developing European Volunteering Strategies (DEVS)** publication was presented.







# European Solidarity Corps



The **European Solidarity Corps** is the new European Union initiative which aims to facilitate opportunities for young people to volunteer, train or work in solidarity projects that benefit communities and citizens across Europe, both in their own country and abroad. This initiative was first proposed by President Juncker in September 2016 and was officially launched in December 2016. CEV has been involved in shaping this new programme since the very beginning, by speaking at the launch event and throughout 2017 by contributing with knowledge and expertise to the various consultations about the new programme, particularly with regards to the solidarity and volunteering aspects of the programme. In 2017, CEV was also the first organisation to host ESC trainees: Giulia Bordin and Helena Gandra.

CEV has been an avid promoter of quality assurance and effective management of the European Solidarity Corps and has played a big role in communicating to different stakeholders about the pros and cons of the ESC proposal and also how it relates to existing initiatives such as the European Voluntary Service (EVS), for example in the article "European Solidarity Corps: Summarizing Opportunities and Risks of a new Initiative" and in different press releases at key moments in the proposal's journey towards full implementation in 2018. CEV's ESC trainees have also participated in different events and given several interviews for Italian, Belgian, Portuguese and German news communicating about CEV's position on the topic and their experience as the first ESC trainees and the importance of the Europe for Citizens programme funding in this regard.

In October 2017, CEV Director Gabriella Civico participated as one of the speakers on the **"What, why and how" of the European Solidarity Corps at the European Parliament** CULT and EMPL committees Joint Public Hearing on the subject. She highlighted the need for the final legislative proposal and implementing rules to defend the integrity and spirit of solidarity and volunteering activities. The need for further coordination and harmonisation of policies on volunteering at the EU level, and the importance of the guidelines included in the EYV2011 PAVE publication and CEV's 2015 "Helping Hands" 5-year review were also stressed.





MEP Harkin with  
representatives from Sligo



# European Volunteering Capital ★★

In 2013 the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital competition to promote and develop volunteering at the local level, introducing the European Dimension. Former European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding welcomed the initiative saying that it clearly showed the strong link between European Years of Volunteering in 2011 and the European Year of Citizens, 2013, and demonstrated CEV's continued support for volunteering in Europe.

The EV Capital initiative is a Europe-wide open competition that aims to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that through effective volunteering strategies, policies and programmes, support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres & volunteer-involving organisations, and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers and their organisations. All European Municipalities of whatever size 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 and CoE institutions. They assess the extent to which the recommendations listed in PAVE and CEV's "5 R" policy priorities, as identified in the PAVE 5 year review "Helping Hands", are shown to be implemented. How the European Solidarity Corps is supported and promoted is also part of the criteria.

The candidates submit a written application and present their candidacies in person to the CEV membership and other volunteering stakeholders, including the Jury at the annual CEV Volunteering Policy Conference. The winning municipality is announced each December close to the UN's International Volunteer Day, at a ceremony hosted by CEV and the incumbent EV Capital. The title is used in order to promote volunteering and raise awareness about volunteering and volunteer-related activities at local, national, regional and European level.

The **winners** from the former editions are: **Kosice 2019 European Volunteering Capital**, **Aarhus 2018 European Volunteering Capital**, **Sligo 2017 European Volunteering Capital**, **London 2016 European Volunteering Capital**, **Lisbon 2015 European Volunteering Capital** and **Barcelona 2014 European Volunteering Capital**.



**Read more here:**

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



## #EVCapital 2017

Sligo Volunteer Centre was established in 2007. There are 21 Volunteer Centres and 7 Volunteer Information Services in Ireland. Sligo Volunteer Centre and Sligo County Council decided to come together to make a bid for **European Volunteering Capital**.

The jury found Sligo to be **supportive of a volunteering infrastructure**, a priority with the centre's tenth anniversary in 2017. It also demonstrated **improved access to people from disadvantaged background**, a very strong support towards **employee volunteering**, both public and private, and that **volunteering strategies** are included as part of broader **municipality strategies**. It was therefore, no surprise that 2017 demonstrated great developments for Sligo and their volunteering infrastructure.

Two of the main achievements of Sligo have been the **"Adopt a Charity campaign"** working with charities and linking them with **corporate volunteers to meet the needs in their community** and the **clock counting the Volunteer Hours**, in order to **recognise all volunteers for their efforts**.

In October EV Capital 2017 Sligo also held an exhibition in the **European Parliament, demonstrating the valuable contribution of volunteers and volunteering activities in Sligo**. The event was hosted by **MEP Marian Harkin**. The opening of the exhibition featured presentations from Commissioner Phil Hogan, Irish ambassador Helena Nolan and Cathoirleacht Seamus Kilgannon. For the occasion, a volunteering seminar involving a delegation of c. 30 volunteers from different local organisations and policymakers from Sligo took place in Brussels as part of a study visit implemented in connection with their role as European Capital of Volunteering 2017.

The closing ceremony took place in Sligo in December, ending a year of amazing developments in terms of volunteering. **"Sligo aimed to celebrate, recognise and inspire - Celebrate where we have come to, Recognise those who are involved and Inspire others to get involved!"**

The #EVCapital 2017 candidate municipalities were: Belfast (UK), Brugges (BE), Cagliari (IT), London (UK), Perm (RU), Sligo (IE), Varese (IT), and Viterbo (IT).

**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/ev-capital-2017>





## #EVCapital 2018

**Aarhus** was chosen as the European Volunteering Capital 2018 due to the development of the 'Strategy on Active Citizenship' that involves clear and appropriate funding mechanisms for volunteer-involving organisations, even the very smallest ones, using participatory budgeting for this. The jury concluded that the robust approach to the measurement of impact and support shown for other research in order to inform evidence-based policy for volunteering was praiseworthy. In addition, the jury concluded that the way in which volunteering policy is linked to policies and strategies for employability, health and social inclusion shows an excellent example to others. It was highlighted that for the future, more emphasis and attention could be given to recognition processes for volunteers and also on raising awareness of the rights and responsibilities of volunteers. The two candidate municipalities were from Denmark: Aarhus and Ringkøbing-Skjern.

Their year as **European Volunteering Capital 2018** will emphasise four themes:

### **Legacy**

Organisations and citizens' movements are a significant part of the foundation of Denmark and the Danish voluntary culture – and thereby Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.

### **Diversity**

Regardless of age, ethnicity, background, employment, social conditions etc. everyone must be represented in Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.

### **Social Inclusion**

Among volunteers there is a lack of representation from the so-called socially disadvantaged citizens. But despite the challenges that this group is facing they have many resources to offer - and they wish to include these resources in Aarhus Volunteer Capital 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 Volunteer Capital 2018.

**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/eu-capital-2018>







Slovakian Deputy  
Permanent Representative  
to the EU Ms Petra Vargová



# #EVCapital 2019

**Košice (Slovakia) was awarded the title of European Volunteering Capital Competition 2019.** The three candidate municipalities for the European Volunteering Capital 2019 title were: Augsburg (Germany), Cascais (Portugal) and Kosice (Slovakia).

In choosing Košice as the European Volunteering Capital 2019 the jury identified a genuine interest in ensuring quality volunteering and a deep understanding of the need to focus on quality, not only with regard to the activities themselves, but also in providing sufficient funding and the required policy and strategy frameworks for this to be ensured.

The creative campaigns to motivate new volunteers and good mix of local and national awards were also seen as positive, as was the focus on research, data collection and funding & support to infrastructure organisations. Efforts to encourage corporate volunteering and sport volunteering with a focus on improving health and well-being was identified as an excellent idea, as was the “volunteer house”. Good quality standards with an appropriate toolkit were also highlighted, in addition to an extensive range of activities for formal, non-formal, and lifelong learning. The inclusive and comprehensive approach was commended and the participation of many stakeholders in the preparation of the candidature was also noted as a positive element.

## Jury:

Sophia Eriksson – EC

Michael Evason – IBM (EVEN)

Marian Harkin – EP

Mary-Anne Hennessy – CoE

Seamus Kilgannon – Sligo City Council - EV Capital 2017

Kieran McCarthy – CoR

Cristina Rigman – President of CEV

Gonçalo Lobo Xavier – EESC



**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/eu-capital-2019>



## EVEN



EMPLOYEE  
VOLUNTEERING  
EUROPEAN  
NETWORK

The **Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)** was established by the **European Volunteer Centre (CEV)** in 2013. EVEN aims to increase the number of employers and volunteer-involving organisations with the capacity and willingness to implement **good quality employee volunteering** and **give greater visibility to these initiatives**.

**Capacity building events both online and face-to-face and dedicated publications** aim to increase competencies and knowledge about **Employee Volunteering**. EVEN and CEV events also give members the opportunity to share experiences and have access to reliable and competent partners for employee volunteering projects.

### Benefits of Employee Volunteering European Network Membership:

- **Increase capacity** and willingness to implement good quality employee volunteering.
- **Increase competencies** in employee volunteering by participating in EVEN training courses.
- **Gain recognition** and credibility for the implementation of good quality employee volunteering projects.
- **Have access to reliable and competent partners for employee volunteering** & share experiences and new developments on a regular basis.

#### Founding members:



#### Corporate members:



**Read more here:**

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/even>





# EVEN



## Activities:

In 2017, CEV published the new EVEN Workbooks to assist employers and employees to implement volunteering activities. There are three different versions: Private (own time) volunteering initiatives, Volunteering Activities during Working Time and Volunteering Team Building Events. These come to complement the already existing Workbook publication dedicated to building capacity in volunteer-involving organisations to engage employee volunteers.



On the 27 April CEV Director Gabriella Civico participated at the conference held under the IPA project "**The expansion of the cooperation - corporate volunteering as an innovative form of philanthropy and resource for the development of civil society**" implemented by the Volunteer Center Zagreb (VCZ) in partnership with the Volunteer Center Osijek and Association "MI" - Split and Foundation Kajo Dadic. in Zagreb, Croatia. The aim of the project is to more strongly connect the business sector and civil society through business sector volunteering, to jointly contribute towards building stronger, more cohesive and socially conscious communities. The project was financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

CEV also supported the **Moody's Foundation** implementation of their **Employee Volunteering throughout 2017** in Germany, Cyprus, France, Italy, Russia and Spain. "**Team Up**" and "**Extra Measure**" activities engaged over 300 volunteers all over Europe in different activities and with diverse NGOs.

**Access the EVEN publications here:**

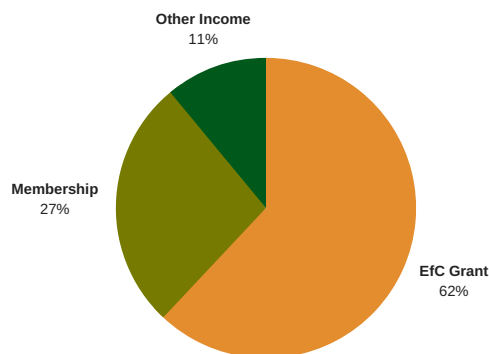
<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/evenpublications>





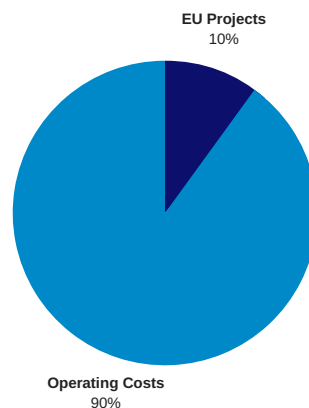


# Finances



## Income:

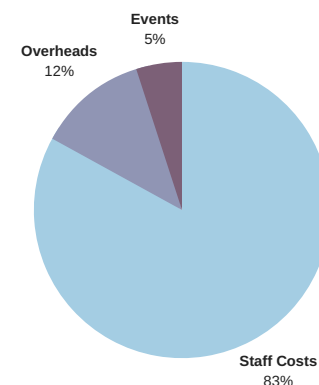
62% Europe for Citizens Grant  
27% Membership Contributions  
11% Other Income



## Total Expenditure 2017

**240.912,12**

90% Operating Costs  
10% EU Funded Projects



## Total Expenditure Europe for Citizens Grant

**193,472.90**

83% Staff costs  
12% Overheads  
5% Events

*CEV is grateful for the financial contributions of the membership, the Europe for Citizens programme, EVEN members and other donors and the vital in-kind support from London City Hall / Team London, The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection & Sligo County Council.*



