

[andreea.nagy@cev.be](mailto:andreea.nagy@cev.be)

19 April 2018

## PRESS RELEASE

### VOLUNTEERING IN CULTURE

#### CEV CAPACITY BUILDING CONFERENCE | 19-20 APRIL 2018 | RIJEKA | CROATIA

European Volunteer Centre (CEV), Croatian Volunteer Development Centre, Rijeka 2020 - European Capital of Culture and the City of Rijeka are organising the international conference "Volunteering in Culture" on 19 - 20 April, at the Croatian Cultural Center Sušak in Rijeka. Over 120 representatives of volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations from across Europe and other stakeholders will participate in the event.

A press conference was held at the Rijeka Cortil Gallery by Lejla Šehić Relić, vice-president of the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) and member of the Executive Board of the Croatian Volunteer Development Centre, Marta Hauser, Head of the Volunteer Center of Association SMART, Jolanda Todorović, Head of the Program Coordination Unit at Croatian Cultural Centre and Filodrammatica and Irena Kregar Šegota, Director of the Development and Strategic Partnership TD RIJEKA 2020.

This Capacity Building Conference, co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the EU in the European Year of Cultural Heritage will seek to identify what are the specificities of volunteering in culture, where the beneficiaries of the activities are not as visible as in other kinds of volunteering e.g. in social service provision or youth work. It will also consider how these cultural projects promote intercultural dialogue, human rights, social values etc.

Participants will learn how the well-being of volunteers in culture can be protected and how the question of their skills development can be best approached. The motivation of volunteers in culture, that is often related to their passions and interest in art or history, will be discussed and how this aspect needs to be addressed when managing volunteers engaged in the cultural field will be examined.

The Conference will kick off by addressing the question what are the European Capital of Culture and the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

Plenary interventions will be followed presenting case studies covering the specificities of volunteering in institutions at the State and local levels in non-profit organisations and in events. The following parallel workshops will focus on volunteering in large-scale events, "voluntourism" in the cultural sector, on volunteer management, validation of skills acquired through volunteering and volunteering to promote and facilitate intercultural dialogue.

In addition, the exhibition "Volunteers for ECoC" will be opened at the Cortil Gallery, showcasing the process of work on the program directions of the Rijeka 2020 - European Capital of Culture Project, and will remain open until 30 April. It is conceived as a working atelier and a space to talk with current and future volunteers.

\*\*\*

The development of volunteering in culture is part of the heritage that will be the project Rijeka 2020 - European Capital of Culture, so the conference will serve as an excellent platform for discussion and deepening of topics of volunteering, culture, intercultural dialogue, considering the rights and welfare of volunteers in the field of culture and social values.

Namely, many European capitals of culture left their mark on the memory of their citizens by the volunteer programs that they implemented in the year of the EcoC title in their city. It is through volunteering that the largest number of citizens will be directly involved in the Program of the 2020 European Capital of Culture, so it is important to discuss in advance what are the specific challenges and reasons for volunteering in culture.

\*\*\*

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is the European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. CEV reaches out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work.

Contact: [communication@cev.be](mailto:communication@cev.be)

\*\*\*