

REPORT

Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign Launch



On 21 March 2023, in Brussels, CEV launched the Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign in the European Parliament with the participation of **97 citizens** from all over Europe, of which there were 32 males, 64 females, 1 non-binary person.



Participants at the VVV Campaign Launch

This event took place at the European Parliament, supported by the Co-chairs of the Volunteering Interest Group, MEP Domenech Ruiz Devesa and MEP Irena Joveva. **CEV President Lejla Šehić Relić** welcomed the participants and gave an introductory speech focusing on volunteering and launching the Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign 2024 for the 2024 European Elections.



She was followed by **CEV Director Gabriella Civico** who presented the campaign, the VVV 2024 Toolkit and the VVV Template and Pledge, explaining that the campaign supports Volunteer-Involving Organisations to discover the candidates' opinions on volunteering for 2024 EP Elections, with reference to the BEV2030 (Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030). Co-host of the event, **MEP Irena Joveva (RENEW Europe)** sent her apologies and provided a written statement¹ that was read to the participants by CEV Director, Gabriella Civico.

Afterwards, Co-host **MEP Domenec Ruiz Devesa (S&D)** supported the CEV campaign for the EU Elections and gave an intervention on relevant EU policies for volunteering, such as the EU Elections 2024, European Year of Volunteers 2025, European Civic Education, the European Solidarity Corps and the follow up of the COFOE.



Finally, **Pierre Seailles** from the European Commission presented the new possibilities within the European Solidarity Corps for Humanitarian Aid volunteering activities. They are implemented by volunteers aged between 18 and 35 in support of humanitarian aid operations, contributing to projects that facilitate the transition from the humanitarian response to long-term sustainable and inclusive development, and contributing to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.



At the end **CEV President Lejla Šehić Relić** thanked the speakers and the participants for their participation and contribution and closed the event.

Presentations from the seminar are available [here](#), while more pictures are accessible [here](#).

The Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign Tool Kit is available [here](#).

¹ Annex 2

Annex 1

AGENDA

P7C050 European Parliament, 21 March 2023, 8:30 - 09:30

08:30 - 09:30	<p>Welcome from CEV President Lejla Šehić Relić</p> <p>Presentation and Launch of the “Vote Volunteer Vision” Campaign for the EP Elections 2024, Gabriella Civico - CEV Director</p> <p>MEP Domenec Ruiz Devesa (S&D) EP Volunteering Interest Group Co-chair</p> <p>Presentation on EU policies relevant for Volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• European Year of Volunteers 2025• European Solidarity Corps• Proposed European Civic Service• Erasmus+• Validation Guidelines & European Year of Skills• Future of learning mobility Consultation• European Care Strategy• Future of Welfare report• Platform for Older People Volunteering• Citizens panels CoFoE follow up <p>Presentation latest ESC Updates: Pierre Seailles, Project Manager, DG EAC, Erasmus+, Youth and European Solidarity Corps Unit (EAC.B.3.001)</p>
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Annex 2

Letter from MEP Irena Joveva (RENEW Europe)

Dear guests,

Welcome to the European parliament to all of you- colleagues, staff from the CEV, volunteers, friends and a big thanks to my colleague Domenec for managing to be there in person.

Unfortunately, I could not be with you today but I wish to share some of my thoughts about a topic very close to my everyday work and life.

Volunteering for me is at the core of our societies. It is a gesture to offer support, work, and energy to our communities. The gift we get in return is a priceless smile, gratitude and a sense of commitment and belonging. Volunteering creates resilient communities. We saw through various crises of the past years how volunteers kept the societies going and truly returned trust into humanity. It is a remarkable, tremendous job which is often in the shadow as volunteers do not get the praise and admiration they deserve. Together with my colleagues and co-chair of the Volunteering interest group, I am a strong supporter of marking the year 2025 as the European year of volunteers. We need to strengthen the volunteering sector, make it more resilient and work wherever we can to improve the conditions and regulations for volunteers. The year should also bring a focus to those people who volunteer, hear the voices and promote them and really recognize and see them. This would also bring a momentum to inspire more people to volunteer, empower and inspire them. We can connect the European volunteering programs, most notably the European Solidarity Corps, which truly encompasses the European definition and experience of diversity, internationalism, learning and solidarity. A strong society depends on its active people. A resilient Europe relies also on volunteers who selflessly helped through so many crises. The least we can do is to dedicate a year to these, oftentimes invisible heroes, to you. Programs such as Erasmus also are a synonym for many young people for their best time of their student days. It is a learning experience, which offers a transformative experience, a life changing opportunity to study and live abroad, to see another culture, to experience what Europe is truly about and to build lifelong friendships and memories. If you have not yet taken this chance, I warmly invite you to take the step and embark on this adventure.

With every day, we are also coming close to the next European elections. We are aware that we need a stronger Europe. A Europe that listens to its entire people. A Europe that leaves no one behind. I am strongly supporting bringing Europe closer to the people. I have done so through my first opinion in the CULT committee where we advocated a bottom up approach and bridging the gap between Brussels and the people around Europe. Especially the marginalised young, elderly, those whose voices are not heard. But I want to say clearly that the elections matter to all the people as decisions taken in this building affect the lives of

every single one of us. We need to find ways to reach out to people to vote and decide on matters close to them. We need to mobilise people to believe that their voice does make a difference. This is not done only months before the elections. For me personally it is about young people, it is about making voices of people heard and demonstrating that we are here because of you.

That is why I will be happy to support the vote volunteer vision pledge and will continue advocating for volunteers, better visibility, better conditions, more opportunities and more inclusion.

Thank you for being here and sharing your stories.

I wish you a successful conference.