

GDAŃSK

Feedback from the European Volunteering Capital 2022 jury

Gdańsk shows it has some great achievements and measures in place to respond to all the **5R** priority policies.

The municipality has a very-well-developed **recognition system** for both volunteers and volunteering organisations which is embedded in the city's policies and networks. The professional approach taken towards managing the city's volunteers is guaranteed by the **Gdańsk Volunteer Centre** which delivers a variety of services in training, consultancy and job placement for volunteers, NGOs and public entities working with volunteers. As a part of the systematic support, the municipality **provides permanent funding** for the Centre, for NGOs' volunteer programmes as well as for grass-roots initiatives.

Gdańsk demonstrates a very **impressive infrastructure for promoting** and ensuring quality volunteering among all age groups. The city has developed some **innovative instruments** to make volunteering more popular and better appreciated by the community, such as a portal for volunteering, a mobile application and the first employee volunteering programme in the public administration.

The jury was very inspired by all the measures taken to ensure the **real added value** of volunteering in the city, the variety of target groups involved, and an adequate number of stakeholders supporting these efforts. Gdańsk guarantees an enabling environment for volunteering through an entire **ecosystem fostering effective and cross-silo cooperation** between the City Hall, the Volunteer Centre, the municipal institutions, the NGOs and the citizens. The efficiency of this system has been proven by the huge local volunteer movement initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The jury highlighted that the municipality promotes quality volunteering which brings added value to the community and is measured by specific tools, such as the survey on 'The quality of life in Gdańsk'. The fact that the city promotes inclusion in volunteering activities, as well as European values, and ensures cooperation between various stakeholders was also especially appreciated.

The jury found the citizen-oriented approach in the key points of 'Gdańsk 2030 Plus Development Strategy' were very relevant and meaningful and was impressed that '**volunteering and civic activity**' is included among the strategy's **key developmental aspects**. With the exception of the previously mentioned financial instruments to support volunteering, the municipality enables the inclusion of volunteers **as in-kind co-funding** for grants that require co-funding by the recipient. Gdańsk shows

potential in supporting vulnerable groups such as refugees and migrants through volunteer involvement. Although a couple of examples of specific volunteer programmes demonstrate that different approaches to intervention are already in place, more concrete information is missing on topics such as inclusion.

Whilst the plan to engage with the **European Solidarity Corps** is clear, the jury recommends that the municipality becomes better acquainted with the programme so that it can be incorporated into its future plans and strategies and can be better promoted.

The municipality's strategy has been positively assessed by the jury, based on the following findings:
Volunteering is incorporated into the strategic documents;
The strategy has very clear objectives;
The main strategies for reaching these objectives are well explained.

For more details about the European Volunteering Capital Competition 2022 read [here](#)



The logo features a central orange sunburst graphic with the text "Gdansk 2022 European Volunteering Capital" overlaid. The word "Gdansk" is in a large, bold, yellow font, "2022" is in a smaller yellow font inside a banner, and "European Volunteering Capital" is in a blue font. The background consists of concentric light blue circles.

 Europe for Citizens

 GDAŃSK
Poland

Previous European Volunteering Capital Winners

2021: Berlin, Germany	2017: Sligo, Ireland
2020: Padova, Italy	2016: London, UK
2019: Košice, Slovakia	2015: Lisbon, Portugal
2018: Aarhus, Denmark	2014: Barcelona, Spain

 Centre for European Volunteering

 EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING EUROPEAN NETWORK

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 European Parliament

 European Economic and Social Committee

 European Committee of the Regions

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