
County Clare EV Capital Candidate 2027 - Jury Feedback

The European Volunteer Capital competition, organised by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV), recognises municipalities that demonstrate strategic leadership and commitment in supporting and strengthening volunteering. In the 2027 edition, County Clare has presented a comprehensive and ambitious vision for further advancing volunteering across the region.

The jury has observed that the County Clare volunteering strategy is built on a clear, inclusive, and values-driven vision, developed through extensive community consultation and firmly aligned with national and European volunteering frameworks. It outlines well-defined five-year priorities focusing on accessibility, diversity, and quality, while embedding strong ethical and participatory principles. Importantly, this vision is fully integrated across municipal planning and policy, demonstrating a deep institutional commitment to volunteering.

A particularly valuable aspect of the support shown by Clare County Council is the recognition of volunteer time as eligible in-kind co-financing. This not only acknowledges the economic value of volunteering but also encourages broader participation and sustainability of community initiatives.

While the strategy does not explicitly reference the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the jury notes that strong links can be identified between the main objectives and key SDG themes such as community wellbeing, inclusion, environmental sustainability, and active citizenship.

The Clare Volunteer Centre is enabled to provide strong operational support through a wide range of initiatives and programmes that address well-defined target groups, and are achieved through effective collaboration with civil society organisations. The inclusion of migrant volunteers is particularly commendable and reflects a proactive approach to community cohesion and diversity. The jury is also positive that many initiatives are guided by clear objectives and measurable outcomes, and that the volunteer matching platform is functioning effectively within the local context.

Areas for future development include a stronger strategic engagement with the business sector, as well as increased visibility and involvement of young people in volunteering beyond school-based activities. Enhancing these two dimensions would further strengthen the long-term sustainability and innovation capacity of the volunteering ecosystem in Clare.

Overall, the jury recognises that County Clare demonstrates a mature, coordinated, and ambitious approach to supporting volunteering and civic participation. The strong leadership from Clare County Council, combined with the dedication of the Volunteer Centre and community organisations, positions County Clare as a powerful role model for municipalities

across Europe.

The jury has observed that the County Clare volunteering strategy is built on a clear, inclusive, and values-driven vision, developed through extensive community consultation and firmly aligned with national and European volunteering frameworks. It outlines well-defined five-year priorities focusing on accessibility, diversity, and quality, while embedding strong ethical and participatory principles. Critically, this vision is well-integrated across various municipal plans. A valuable aspect of support shown to volunteering by Clare County Council is that volunteer time can be counted as in-kind co-financing. Although the strategy doesn't specifically name the SDGs, links between the strategy's main objectives and some SDGs are evident in the application. Areas for development include the visibility of business cooperation and the youth sector in the volunteering sphere. The Volunteer Centre is enabled to provide good support through various initiatives and programmes with clear objectives and addresses well defined target groups and demonstrates good collaboration, including with migrant volunteers. The jury is positive that the various initiatives are marked by clear objectives and measurable targets and that the volunteer matching platform is functioning effectively within their context.