

Strengthening, Inspiring and Celebrating
VOLUNTEERING & SOLIDARITY since 1992!

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 5 December 2020 | European Volunteering Capital 2022 WINNER

CEV is pleased to announce that **Gdansk, Poland** has been awarded the title of
European Volunteering Capital 2022

In choosing Gdansk as the European Volunteering Capital 2022 the jury highlights that the city demonstrates a very **impressive infrastructure for promoting** and ensuring quality volunteering among all age groups and that 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 the number of stakeholders supporting these efforts and noted that 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 jury felt that the efforts of **Gorizia, Izmir and Madrid** municipalities to support and develop volunteering in the cities also deserves high recognition. The efforts to ensure quality volunteering based on inclusive engagement processes, and to gather data on volunteering and active citizenship were highlighted by the jury as outstanding elements of the overall support shown to volunteers and volunteering by the candidates. The engagement with, and interest in volunteers and volunteering, from the highest level in the administrations was also particularly appreciated by the jury.

All four candidates have demonstrated that they are working to enable young people from their cities to engage as part of the European Solidarity Corps (EuSC) and to host EuSC volunteers from other cities across Europe and enable young people from their cities to travel to other parts of Europe as volunteers.

CEV launched the **European Volunteering Capital Competition to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteering** and the impact made by volunteers at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen volunteering, especially through partnerships with stakeholders from different sectors such as volunteer centres, volunteer-involving organisations and the for-profit sector. The judging criteria are the recommendations in the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE), CEV's 5R policy recommendations and the planned engagement with the European Solidarity Corps.

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 institutions: Michel Lefranc (CEV Board), Jan Verdée (CEV Board), Lena Karnalova (CEV Board), Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member), Cillian Lohan (EESC Vice-President for Communications), Irena Joveva (MEP, Renew Europe, Volunteering Interest Group Co-Chair), Melanie Jacobs (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Rares Craiut (Member of the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Begona Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN), Cristina Piva (Padova Municipality Councillor for Volunteering).

The previous winners are: Berlin 2021- Padova 2020 - Košice 2019 - Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017 London - 2016 Lisbon- 2015 and Barcelona- 2014.

The Centre for European Volunteering (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. Through our network we work together to ensure that: the value of quality volunteering as an expression of Solidarity and European values is understood, supported and celebrated; policies & programmes, together with the European social environment, inspires, encourages and supports quality European Volunteering; Individuals and organisations that are active in the volunteering and civil society sphere share, learn and are inspired from one another in the framework of CEV. In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work.