



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 7-10 October 2019**

Solidarity and Volunteering

Event code: 08PL419

*European Rights and
Values from the bottom up*

A Europe closer to citizen

**8 October
14:30 - 17:00**

European Committee of the Regions.

Rue Belliard 101 (Atrium 6)

Followed by **Networking Cocktail** with traditional products from Košice Self-governing Region:

18:00 - 20:30

Liaison Office of Košice Self-Governing Region

This session is organised with the support
of the **European Volunteering Capital
Candidates Community (EVCCC)**

#EVCapital competition aims to
*strengthen, inspire and celebrate
VOLUNTEERING & SOLIDARITY in Europe*



INFORMATION

Session

In 2018 the EU has launched the **European Solidarity Corps** as a way to encourage, facilitate and promote solidarity in Europe. Acting in solidarity to secure and protect the rights and values of others is the basis of the European Union. Millions of citizens volunteer all across Europe, driven by a **sense of solidarity and community**, and a wish to actively address the needs and injustices that they see around them. Citizens of all ages and backgrounds voluntarily come together to find common solutions to shared challenges, in much the same way that Member States do in the European Union. A better understanding of this common approach to problem solving will enable **citizens**, the EU framework in which they live, and the EU institutions that facilitate it, gain a **closer understanding**.

Volunteering, as an active expression of solidarity in which millions of citizens in Europe engage, sets the frame for the lab by former, current & future holders & candidates of the **European Volunteering Capital** title, (an initiative that is co-financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme and the European Volunteer Centre (CEV)). An important part of the lab will be sharing experiences and presenting **local and regional strategies** that seek to promote **solidarity, engage citizens and help them make the link to EU policies and programmes**. "World cafe" discussions will enable participants to share ideas and perspectives about solidarity and volunteering in small groups.

Organisers

Košice Self-governing Region, **Cork** Municipality, Central Denmark Region (**Aarhus**), **European Volunteer Centre**, **Padova** Municipality and **Republic of Sprska**.

Join the session on:

<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/419>

(no onsite registration will be allowed)



DRAFT AGENDA

13:30 - 14:00

Arrival and registration.

14:00 - 14:10

Welcome from Mr. Rastislav Trnka, President of Košice Self-Governing Region.

How to bring the EU closer to the Citizens through Volunteering and Solidarity

14:10 - 14:20

***Košice, 2019 European Volunteering Capital: Lucia Gurbáľová** (Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Košice) & **Silvia Bohdanová** (Volunteer Center of Košice Self-Governing Region)*

14:20 - 15:00

- **Jakob Flou Kristensen** (Adviser, Aarhus)
- **Kieran McCarthy** (Cork City Councillor and member of CoR)
- **Martha Halbert** (Cork Volunteer Centre)
- **Cristina Piva** (Councillor for volunteering, education and schools, Padova)
- **Ilaria Ferraro** (Padova Volunteer Centre)
- **Sonja Davidovic** (Minister of Family, Youth and Sport, Republic of Srpska)

15:00 - 15:15

***Michaela Sojdrova** (MEP) & **Robert France**, (DG EAC European Solidarity Corps Unit) (TBC); and **Matteo Bianchi**, (Member of CoR)*

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DRAFT AGENDA

15:15 - 16:45

World Café: European rights, values, citizen solidarity and volunteering.

1. Does the **promotion and support** of volunteering require promotion also of values? If so, which ones?
2. How can we succeed in adapting **volunteering policies** that enable citizens to act in solidarity with one another in a way that respects EU values?
3. How does volunteering contribute to **equality**?
4. How can acts of solidarity through volunteering be facilitated in such a way that citizens can understand the **EU policy frameworks** in which their actions take place?
5. How should volunteer centres best support volunteers to address the **needs and injustices** that they see around them in their areas?
6. How can we bring a European perspective/ framework to **local volunteering contexts**?
7. Volunteers **protect and defend the rights of others** - How should local and regional authorities help them to have a greater impact?

16:45 - 17:15

Plenary: Gathering feedback with exchange of key points.

17:15 - 17:30

Closing: Gabriella Civico, Director, European Volunteer Centre.
Conclusions and recommendations.

18:00 - 20:30

Networking Cocktail with traditional products from Košice Self-Governing Region in Liaison Office of Košice Self-Governing Region (Rue d'Arlon, 63)

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