
VERA: Volunteering, Equality, Rights, Action (REVIVE 2023)

CEV **full member** organisations based in EU countries in at least their **second year of membership** are invited to apply for grants of:

- A. 15,000 €
- B. 30,000 €
- C. 45,000 €
- D. 60,000 €

The overall aim of the subgrants, made possible through the EU CERV fund allocated to CEV as part of a Framework Partnership Agreement, is to **build capacity in the volunteering sector to advance gender equality and tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination, involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors.**

Eligibility:

In order to qualify to receive the funding organisations must be:

1. A CEV full member in at least their second year of membership and be based in an EU country.
2. Be able to provide **20% of co-financing from their own sources** which can be on the basis of volunteer time according to the rules of the CERV programme, EU financial guidelines and the accounting practices in the countries concerned.
3. Be able to contribute to an **increased membership fee** from non-EU funding sources (approx 15% of the value of the sub-grant) in order to contribute to covering the costs of the subgranting work package that they will be benefiting from.

Good to know:

- A maximum total of 240,000 euros for re-granting is available. The aim is to divide this total equally amongst the 4 “VERA” focus areas - (60,000 euros per area).
- The funds for each focus area will be divided into 4 units, so grants can be awarded to more than one organisation in each focus area.
- A member organisation can apply for more than one focus area and/or more than one unit within a focus area.
- Grants can be awarded to more than one organisation in the same EU Member State.
- Geographical balance of distribution will be taken into account by the awarding committee in the final decision.

Use of the grants: Applicants can choose from the four “VERA” options.

Volunteering: Research to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors.

Output: National or regional fact sheet/report on volunteering including data on diversity.

Equality: Consultation process on volunteer development - how to use the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030) to advance volunteer engagement in a more inclusive way at national or regional level.

Output: National or Regional Volunteer Development Plan.

Rights: Campaign linking EU policy development processes to active citizen engagement through volunteering contributing to resilience, the recovery process and society based on values and rights.

Output: Vote Volunteer Vision 2024 EP election campaign development and implementation connected to national/regional volunteering weeks, conferences and festivals.

Action: Activities contributing to local volunteer development strategies and their implementation in candidate and/or winning municipalities involved in the European Volunteering Capital Competition, including the integration and support to Ukrainian refugees.

Output: Local volunteer development plans including cross sector collaboration, strengthening of volunteer centres/networks and other support structures ensuring quality and inclusive volunteering at the local level.

Applicants can be granted none, some, or all of the requested amount in units of €15,000. Proposals will be assessed on creativeness, impact potential, added value and value for money (see below).

The procedures for the selection and awarding are based on the principles of proportionality, sound financial management, equal treatment and non-discrimination.

Timeline:

January 2023: Call for proposals distributed

14 April 2023: Deadline for applications

April 2023: Pre-sift stage - Applications will be assessed by the CEV secretariat to ensure eligibility, completeness, and compliance with all the Call guidelines and characteristics. Due diligence processes will be carried out whenever there is reason to doubt that an organisation does/will not comply with its stated objectives and/or EU Values. Applications that do not pass this threshold will not be submitted to the following stages and applicants will be informed and given an explanation of the reasons. Appeals are possible at this stage to contribute to ensuring full transparency of the process.

April 2023: Due diligence checks

30 April: Decisions taken, signing of agreements and first payment (80% of the total)

1 May - 10 December: Eligibility period for activities.

Reporting and final payment: Reporting will be arranged on a continuous basis with a final wrap up report due maximum two weeks after the last activity, but at the **latest 10 December**. The final payment of up to 20% of the granted amount will be transferred to the grantee before 31st December depending on the report evaluation and the meeting of targets.

Proposals will be assessed according to these seven points:

- 1) Feasible plan** to use the subgranting finance for the selected eligible activities in one or more of the focus areas that shows value for money, creativeness, impact potential and a clear added value that corresponds, and is proportional to, the cost of living, services and goods and wages in the country concerned. I.e. in countries with lower GDPs more extensive activities should be possible with the same amount of grant compared with those with higher GDPs.
- 2) Objectives of the proposal** in relation to the 4 “VERA” possibilities and the objectives of the CEV REVIVE Framework Partnership Agreement and the VERA grant for 2023 as follows.

General Objective: Making volunteering more inclusive and representative of society as a whole.

Specific objectives:

- Enable volunteers and staff of volunteer-involving and volunteer infrastructure organisations, and local authorities, to engage in mutual learning and exchange good practices on the role of volunteering as active citizen engagement and an expression of democracy and European values, that involves the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors and contributes to meaningful local volunteering strategies including those that seek to integrate and support Ukrainian refugees.
- To increase the capacities of the applicant and partner organisations to give support to the provision of, and/or directly provide, inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors and create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality and tackling multiple and intersecting discriminations, including through the gathering of volunteering data to inform policy change to enable more equality in volunteering.
- To give visibility to and raise awareness about the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors that are enabled under different EU policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan and programmes such as CERV, the “Next Generation EU” funds, European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus Plus and other EU funding and policy frameworks that support volunteering and citizen engagement to build resilience and contribute to the recovery process in a manner based on rights and values.

3) Details on the scope, impact and outreach, including numbers and diversity of people.

4) Indicative budget breakdown:

Staff costs, goods and services, travel, accommodation and subsistence, and other (details to be provided) for the total amount of the project i.e. grant requested plus 20% co-financing.

5) Confirmation that the co financing comes from Non-EU sources.

6) Agreement to contribute to a continuous reporting process and conclude the final reporting and submit a report within 2 weeks of the end of the activity period, by the latest 10 December. The report will include evidence of the implemented activities and related outputs as well as a financial report and declaration that the allocated funds were used for the intended purpose and in a fair and transparent manner that adhered to the applicable accounting and financial procedures.

7) Due diligence compliance: CEV’s internal processes to comply with due diligence obligations, including on the adherence to EU values, are detailed in the application form.

During the assessment phase applications will be scored by the VERA Awarding Committee made up of five experts according to the stated criteria. The threshold for funding will be determined by the basic criteria as well as by the number and quality of the applications. Applicants can be granted none, some, or all of the requested amount in units of €15,000 up to a maximum of €60,000 per applicant.

Proposals are assessed against the following criteria:

- Project delivery plan/viability and feasibility (20%)
- Expertise of team/capability (30%)

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- Creativeness, innovation and risk (10%)
 - Added value, impact potential & sustainability (20%)
 - Value for money (20%)

In the case that not all available funds are earmarked for funding in this first round, non-successful applicants that passed the pre-sift phase will be invited to submit a revised proposal for an under-allocated funding and/or according to the feedback from the Awarding Committee that clearly indicates how the proposal has been changed to respond to all the feedback concerning the weaknesses in the proposal.