



# Volunteering Equality Rights Action 2025

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Volunteering Equality  
Rights Action  
VERA 2025



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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December 2025

# Volunteering, Equality, Rights, Action

In the context of a 4-year framework agreement grant under the European Union "Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values" fund (CERV) - "REVIVE" (Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe - 2022-2025), in 2025, the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) has implemented a series of activities and initiatives aimed at promoting Citizen Engagement and Equality through volunteering - connecting volunteering to EU Values.

Through the **European Volunteering Capital Competition**, "VERA 2025" enabled volunteers & staff of volunteer-involving & volunteer infrastructure organisations, as well as local authorities and other policymakers, including at the EU level, 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.

The "Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe (#GIVE) Campaign & Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 (#BEV2030)" Seminars gave visibility to, and raised awareness about, the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers 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+, increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives and promoted EU values.

Through **toolkits and training courses**, "VERA 2025" increased the capacities of organisations to create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality in CSO leadership (Boards) and raising awareness on the need for volunteering to be inclusive. With the support of 99 volunteers contributing 813 days, CEV **increased capacity to directly reach over 9,500 citizens and entities and indirectly over 4 million citizens** interested in volunteering and bringing the European context to their activities, especially in the framework of **25 National and Regional volunteering weeks, festivals and conferences in 8 EU Member States**.

Thanks to the coordination of the CEV secretariat, leadership of the CEV Board and the commitment of CEV member organisations: Confederation of European Senior Expert Services - CESES (BE); Plateforme francophone du Volontariat - PFV (BE); Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk (BE); Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social - FCVS (ES); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España - PVE (ES); Tous Benevoles (FR); France Bénévolat (FR); United Vision (FI); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre - CVDC (HR); Volunteering Hungary - Centre of Social Innovation - ÖKA (HU); Talentum Foundation for the support of volunteering (HU); Volunteer Ireland (IE); CSV Padova and Rovigo (IT); CSV Marche (IT); CSV Net (IT); Sardegna Solidale (IT); CSV Trentino (IT); CSV Vicenza (IT); CSV Venezia (IT); Marche a Rifiuti Zero - MRZ (IT); Ente Pro Loco - EPLI (IT); Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector - MCVS (MT); Confederação Portuguesa do Voluntariado - CPV (PT); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida - FEA (PT); Pista Mágica - Associação (PT); Pro Vobis - Centrul National de Resurse pentru Voluntariat (RO); Masterpeace Ro (Romania); & Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK), as well as other partners: European Movement Latvia & Voluntary Work Advisory Council (LV); means that through "VERA 2025" **volunteering is now better understood in society as a key tool of citizen engagement and expression of solidarity contributing to the future of Europe and equality based on EU Values and active citizen engagement**.



EVCCC Seminar, October 2025, Brussels



# Exchange of Good Practice

## European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC)

The EVCCC is a unique community of practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering and Solidarity. In 2025 the EVCCC gathered on three occasions together with CSO and other partners, engaging a total of **304 participants** from **25 countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, UK). Among them 191 were females, 112 were males and 1 non-binary.

**The first EVCCC event** on April 1st-2nd 2025 in Mechelen (BE) included the EVCCC Network Meeting for EVCCC Representatives; EVCCC Study Visits for EVCCC Members, and EVCCC Study Visits. Representatives of local authorities, CEV Members and other organisations had the opportunity to visit the different organisations from Mechelen, asked questions and shared best practices. In the morning the focus was on digital inclusion/ accessibility initiative (Digibank - part of the Flemish Resilience & Recovery Plan) and volunteering policies with presentations of an Employee volunteering initiative (Telenet Group - a Flemish provider of television, internet and telephony) and in the afternoon participants visited 9 local organisations and initiatives from Mechelen.



**The second EVCCC event** on October 16th 2025 in Brussels (BE) included a discussion on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catalan Volunteering Law as well as presentations from EV Capital 2025 Mechelen and EV Capital 2026 Maia. In addition, the European Capital Candidate 2027, County Clare gave their presentation and there were short words of appreciation from the jury. The candidate video was shown and they shared more details about their approaches and strategies for supporting volunteers and volunteering and how they align with the priorities in the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 and support and defend European values and democracy in the face of rising tensions and polarisation. It was emphasised how their candidacy aligns with BEV2030, turning its principles into tangible local action. The team showcased initiatives promoting disability inclusion, intergenerational dialogue, and participatory impact measurement. Their collaborative approach, uniting the Clare Sports Partnership and County Integration Forum, highlighted how local partnerships can amplify volunteering's impact. Jury members shared their impressions about the outstanding quality of the policies and strategies to support and promote volunteering in evidence in the candidate municipality.



**The third EVCCC event** on December 1st 2025 in Barcelona (ES) included the annual International Volunteering Day 2025 event for Barcelona, the opening IVY 2026 Celebration and the announcement of the European Volunteering Capital 2027. There were presentations from the Government of Catalonia: Civic and Community Action, Provincial Council of Barcelona, City Council of Barcelona, Catalan Federation of Social Volunteering, Municipality of Mechelen, Municipality of Maia and Giulia Barbucci (EESC Group II) & MEP Diana Riba Giner (Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education - CULT) as EV Capital 2027 jury members.



*"Being announced as the European Volunteering Capital 2025 was a recognition of our long-standing commitment and a motivation for our policy makers to continue building an inclusive, caring city together with our engaged inhabitants."*

**EVCCC Representative**

*"In Lemvig we have a shared responsibility to ensure the sustainable development of our welfare. This is promoted, among other things, through committed communities across the municipality, business, and civil society actors"*

**EVCCC Representative**

*"This is the most valuable memory I have, feeling included and part of the mission."*

**EVCCC Representative**



# Exchange of Good Practice

## EVCapital2025

In 2013, the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers.

In **2025 Mechelen (BE)** was **#EVCapital2025**. Mechelen counts with over 12,000 volunteers and more than 1,000 volunteer organisations. Through the Volunteer Point, 1,500 residents engaged in volunteering during their year as #EVCapital2025, and over 300 local organizations were reached or highlighted. In total, 31 collaborations were initiated, and 67 volunteer stories were shared. The city hosted 20+ connecting events, including a European congress with 180 participants, a study day with 120 organisations, and exchanges involving 12 young people abroad. Additionally, Mechelen welcomed over 100 European organisations and 10 European cities, organised a Volunteer Festival with 70 exhibitors and 1,000 visitors, and celebrated volunteers with a large event attended by 1,400 participants. Notable moments included a royal visit where the King and Queen met 23 volunteers, and a public gathering on the Grote Markt for the Volunteer Song.

**Key moments in 2025** included:

- **Open Ceremony:** On January 18th the EVCapital 2025 Mechelen held its opening Ceremony seeing the participation of 80 volunteers and gathering 160 people, including representatives from CEV, Rzeszów #EVCapital Candidate 2026 representative, and CEV members Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk and Plate-forme Francophone du Volontariat.



- **CEV Spring Volunteering Congress:** On April 2nd-4th gathering in total more than 150 participants from all over Europe and counted with a keynote intervention from Commissioner Lahbib.



- **Volunteers Festival:** Mechelen EVCapital 2025 held on May 9-10 the annual volunteer fair involving 70 local organisations organising activities, workshops, performances, and information sessions. The CEV European Volunteering Anthem was performed live.



- **Closing Ceremony:** Mechelen held the closing ceremony of EVCapital 2025 on December 5th. The title of EVCapital 2026 formally passed to Maia (PT), represented by Deputy Mayor Emilia Santos.



- **Winner Announcement Ceremony:** EVCapital 2027 Clare County (IE) was announced in Barcelona on December 1st.



# Exchange of Good Practice

## EVCapital2026

Maia (PT) has been named as the #EVCapital2026 and during 2025 preparatory activities, have been taking place to ensure the maximum outreach to bring the European Volunteering Capital and European framework closer to the citizens and update about volunteering activities and resources as Maia #EVCapital2026. They organised various workshops and meetings for volunteers in preparation for the opening ceremony as well as several other activities with local organisations in order to prepare well for 2026.

**Key moments in 2026** will include:

- Opening Ceremony on January 30th.
- CEV Spring Volunteering Congress, from May 27th - 29th.
- Maia Volunteering Fair in September
- IV Volunteer Gala on October 21th.
- Closing Ceremony on December 16th.



## EVCapital2027

County Clare (IE) was awarded the title of **European Volunteering Capital 2027** on December 1st 2025, in Barcelona. The competition included the following steps:

### Call for Candidatures

Launched on February 10th with a deadline June 6th 2025.



### Announcement of the EVCapital 2027 Candidate.

The Candidate Certificate for County Clare was presented in Brussels in July 2025.



Sharon Meaney, Manager of Clare Volunteer Centre, Gabriella Civico, CEV Director, Paul Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Brendan Boyce, Integration Support Co-ordinator Social Directorate, Clare County Council, in the presence of Philip Grant, Chief Operations Officer of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels.

### Announcement of the Jury

In October 2025 the jury members were announced. The jury was composed of Gian Piero Farru (CEV Board); Mauro Pace Parascandalo (CEV Board); Lena Karnalova (CEV Board); Franci Zlatar (CEV Board); Tine Radinja (Mayor of Škofja Loka, Slovenia & EU Committee of the Regions Member); Giulia Barbucci (EESC Member, Group II); Diana Riba (MEP) Vice President of CULT; Barbara Eglitis (European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre); Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe); Bart Somers (Mayor of Mechelen, EVCapital2025).

### Presentation of the Candidate in Brussels

During the EVCCC event on October 16th 2025.



### Winner Announcement

On December 1st 2025, at the International Volunteering Day 2025 event and opening IVY 2026 Celebration Ceremony, County Clare was announced as the European Volunteering Capital 2027.

In choosing County Clare (IE) as the European Volunteering Capital 2027 the jury have noted that they demonstrated 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 was particularly impressed that the 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. These efforts align well with the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).

### County Clare



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# Exchange of Good Practice

## European Volunteering Capital Impact Measurement Methodology

### Implementation Publication

In 2024 CEV partnered with a Member organisation together with a University to develop an evaluation methodology for the impact of the EV Capital competition in order to better inform its development over the next decade following the tenth anniversary of the competition in 2024. Moving forward into 2025, this methodology was leveraged to compile a comprehensive report. This report summarises the findings and analyses derived from the evaluation process, shedding light on the competition's effectiveness, identifying areas of success, and pinpointing opportunities for refinement and growth.



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## “The Role of Municipalities in Contributing to Sustainable Development through Volunteering”

This publication showcases the volunteering actions and responses developed in **14 of the European Municipalities** that are part of the EVCCC to support and promote sustainable development through volunteering.

“There is a broad network of collaboration involving diverse partners such as schools, businesses, and NGOs.”  
EVCCC Municipality

“The City Council recognises volunteering as a key tool for social transformation and sustainable development.”  
EVCCC Municipality

“The city also provides subsidies and offers municipal spaces to support the activities of volunteer and social participation groups.”  
EVCCC Municipality



**The Role of Municipalities in Contributing to Sustainable Development through Volunteering**

### Participating municipalities:

Volunteering Equality Rights Action VERA 2025

October 2025

### EV Capitals:

#### BARCELONA 2014



#### PADOVA 2020



#### BERLIN 2021



#### GDANSK 2022



#### TRONDHEIM 2023



TRONDHEIM  
KOMMUNE



#### TRENTO 2024



#### MECHELEN 2025



#### MAIA 2026



#### COUNTY CLARE 2027



#### BRUGES 2016



#### AUGSBURG 2019



#### OIERAS 2023



#### SALAMANCA 2025



#### AVILES 2025



### Others:

#### VICENZA



VICENZA



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# Exchange of Good Practice

## #GIVE Campaign & BEV2030 Seminars

The two #GIVE (Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe) Campaign & BEV2030 Seminars events further disseminated and raised awareness on active citizenship and the relevance it has in improving rights and equality, supported by the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 #BEV2030, involving a total of **340 participants from 25 countries** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, UK). Among them 223 were females, 115 were males and 2 non-binary.

- The **first seminar** on April 3rd 2025 in Mechelen (BE) involved CEV members, other organisations and individuals who actively contributed and put discussions connected to the EU policy priorities of the European Commission: I-Democracy & Civic Engagement, II-Resilience & Well Being, and III-Upskilling & Personal Development. It saw the participation as key-note speakers of Hadja Lahbib, EU Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, and Brendan Cox, Founder of Together Coalition.



*"Volunteers play a pivotal role in preparing for and responding to crises, they are strong pillars of support for our communities across Europe, they are the hands on the ground with local knowledge and local expertise."*

Speaker

*"When we volunteer, we don't just help—we reconnect. We create spaces where trust can grow again."*

Speaker

*"Volunteers play a crucial role, but it is equally important to show them gratitude and provide the necessary support and protection they deserve."*

Speaker

- The **second seminar** on October 16th 2025 in Brussels (BE) gathered CEV members, other organisations and individuals who actively contributed and put discussions connected to the theme of a "European Civic Engagement and Volunteering Strategy - Equality and Evidence". It saw the participation as key-note speakers of Carles Dedeu Fontcuberta from DG JUST, Unit D1 Non Discrimination: LGBTIQ, Age, Horizontal Matters, European Commission.



*"Volunteering is shaped by social inequality. If we want to find the origin of the barriers that make volunteering difficult for marginalised groups, we should not only look at the organisations where engagement takes place, but also at their social context."*

Speaker

*"Volunteering is not just an act of service—it is a powerful expression of solidarity and shared responsibility. For young people, it is a unique opportunity to grow, connect, and become active citizens shaping a more inclusive and united Europe."*

Speaker

*"Organisations should advocate for designing programmes that are accessible to everyone from the outset, so that all can participate regardless of their current skill level and/ or context."*

Participant



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## "European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence & Research" (ECVER)

On March 7th 2025, 23 researchers from 9 different European countries and 19 different research institutions attended the second "European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence & Research" (ECVER) meeting in Mechelen, at the Belgian Red Cross of Flanders, in a peer exchange in a convivial atmosphere. The Voluntarism Special Issue "Contemporary Volunteering Study and Research in Europe" was published in November.



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# Dissemination and Communication

## “Job shadowing” with Volunteers & MEPs

Throughout the year the VERA 2025 activities were supported by a strong collaboration with the European Parliament (EP) through engagement with the European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group. CEV also implemented together with **17 MEPs “job shadowing” days with 22 volunteers**. By shadowing the volunteers in their activities, the MEPs involved are better suited to support, advocate and value volunteering in their daily work at the EP and by spending time in the EP the volunteers understand better the connection between EU policy-making and volunteering.

**Giovanna Franchin**, Moica Vicenza volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Cristina Guarda** (Greens/EFA) and she went to Moica Vicenza office to shadow for a day witness first hand their important activities promoting and supporting volunteering across Italy.



**Chiara Tacconi**, Marche a Rifiuti Zero volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Ignazio Marino** (Greens/EFA) attending the Committees on Public Health and on Environment, Climate and Food Safety. The MEP went to MRZ public event and shadowed Chiara in her volunteering activities.

**Dominique Thual**, Marche a Rifiuti Zero volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Dario Tamburrano** (GUE/NGL) attending the Committees on Public Health and on Industry, Research and Energy. The MEP went to MRZ office to shadow for a day in her volunteering activities.



**Natalia Sanchez**, PVE volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Juan Ignacio Zoido** (PPE) shadowing him in two Committee meetings: INTA and LIBE and he will also spend time with her in her association in Spain.

**Jan Tehovnik** and **Sandi Radulovic**, JEF Slovenia volunteers, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Matej Tonin** (PPE) and visited the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy, on Foreign Affairs and on Security and Defence. The MEP went to JEF Slovenia and shadowed them for a day in their end of year final event.



**Maryrose Francica**, Women Elevation Malta volunteer, spent the day at the EP with **MEP Thomas Bajada** (S&D) and visited the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety. The MEP went to Marsa and shadowed Maryrose Francica for a day in her volunteering activities.

**Jana Mlynarcikova**, Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (Slovakia) volunteer spent the day at the EP with **MEP Veronika Cifrova Ostrihonova** (RENEW Europe) attending the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee. The MEP volunteered in a hospital in Bratislava with Together with Courage Foundation.



**Lea Tiedke**, PEuropäisches Integrationszentrum Rostock e.V. volunteer (Germany) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Sabrina Repp** (S&D) attending the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee and Culture and Education Committee. The MEP volunteered in for one day at Lea’s organisation.

# Dissemination and Communication



**Yannis Chepchie and Maia Dăncesc**, MasterPeace Ro (Romania) volunteers spent the day at the EP with **MEP Victor Negrescu** (S&D) attending the event “Media Literacy, DigComp 3.0, and HERMMES”.

**Leon Bernot & Janez Gabrovsek**, JEF Slovenia volunteers spent the day at the EP with **MEP Vladimir Prebilic** (Greens/EFA) attending the Committees on Regional Development and on Foreign Affairs.



**Joost Soklic**, JEF Slovenia volunteer spent the day at the EP with **MEP Branko Grims** (EPP) attending the Committees on Constitutional Affairs and on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

**Rok Grasic**, JEF Slovenia volunteer spent the day at the EP with **MEP Marjan Sarec** (RENEW Europe) attending the Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Transport and Tourism and on Security and Defence.



**Ricardo Estevinho & Francisco António Flaminio Caciano**, FEA volunteers (PT) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Carla Tavares** (S&D) attending the Committees on Budgetary Control, on Development and on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.



**Gissela Chávez Vela**, FCVS volunteer (ES) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Jaume Asens** (Greens/EFA) attending the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Subcommittee on Human Rights.



**Tiago Teixeira**, Pista Magica volunteer (PT) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Bruno Goncalves** (S&D) attending the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Subcommittee on Human Rights.



**Soraia Montez Alves do Carmo**, CPV volunteer (PT) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Paulo Nascimento Cabral** (EPP) attending the Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development and on Fisheries.



**Pasquale Ciurleo & Oronzo Rifino**, EPLI volunteers (IT) spent the day at the EP with **MEP Valentina Palmisano** (GUE/NGL) attending the Committees on Public Health, on Regional Development and on Petitions. The MEP volunteered in an event in Puglia where they brought together national and regional volunteers.



# Dissemination and Communication

## European Volunteering Ambassadors

In February CEV announced four 2025 Ambassadors: Katarzyna Madera, Krzysztof Kowalski, Beata Ptasińska and Małgorzata Cisek-Kozięć. As Ambassadors they had a crucial role to disseminate the value and recognition of volunteering across Europe and connecting to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2025.

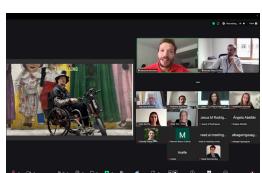
In July CEV announced other three 2025 Ambassadors: Dennis Perez Skov, Karin Daugaard Bucholtz, Kasper Tomshøj. As Ambassadors they had a crucial role to disseminate the value and recognition of volunteering across Europe and connecting to the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2025.



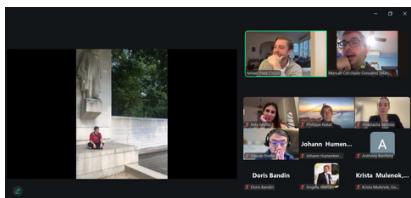
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## "Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe" - GIVE Campaign National Events

26 "Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe" (GIVE) national events, engaging a total of **1699 participants in 11 countries** (Belgium, France, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain) were implemented, reaching **22 organisations**. Among them 1063 were females, 631 were males and 5 non-binary. #GIVE events connected related European policy and programme priorities to the everyday volunteering realities of ordinary volunteers across Europe. They contributed to demonstrating and raising awareness that volunteering needs to be inclusive and how organisations can increase their capacity and performance in this regard. Awareness was raised about the support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers enabled under different EU initiatives. Policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan, European Disability Card & programmes CERV, the "Next Generation EU" funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus+ were given visibility. #GIVE events aimed to demonstrate and raise awareness that volunteering needs to be inclusive and showcase how organisations can increase their capacity and performance in this regard.



# Dissemination and Communication



*"It really opened my eyes to how inclusion in volunteering goes far beyond disability. I realised there are so many groups we still need to reach out to."*  
Participant

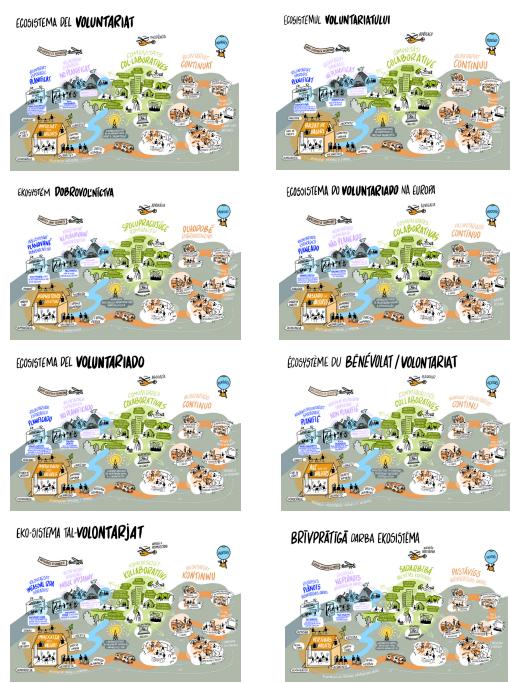
*"It was an evening dedicated to celebrating the power of volunteering and affirming that the opportunity to volunteer is open to all, including individuals with disabilities."*  
National Event Organiser

*"This session confirmed that inclusiveness is an ongoing process—it requires awareness, openness, and continuous learning."*  
Participant

## Translations European Volunteering Ecosystem

In 2024 CEV produced and shared an updated “European Volunteering Ecosystem” image. The 2024 Ecosystem image was developed to incorporate the developments and changes which have impacted volunteering, and more widely European civic engagement, since 2018, while strengthening the link between the ecosystem and Equality, Rights, and Values in Europe.

In 2025 the image has been widely used and translated into Catalan, French, Latvian, Maltese, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian and Spanish.

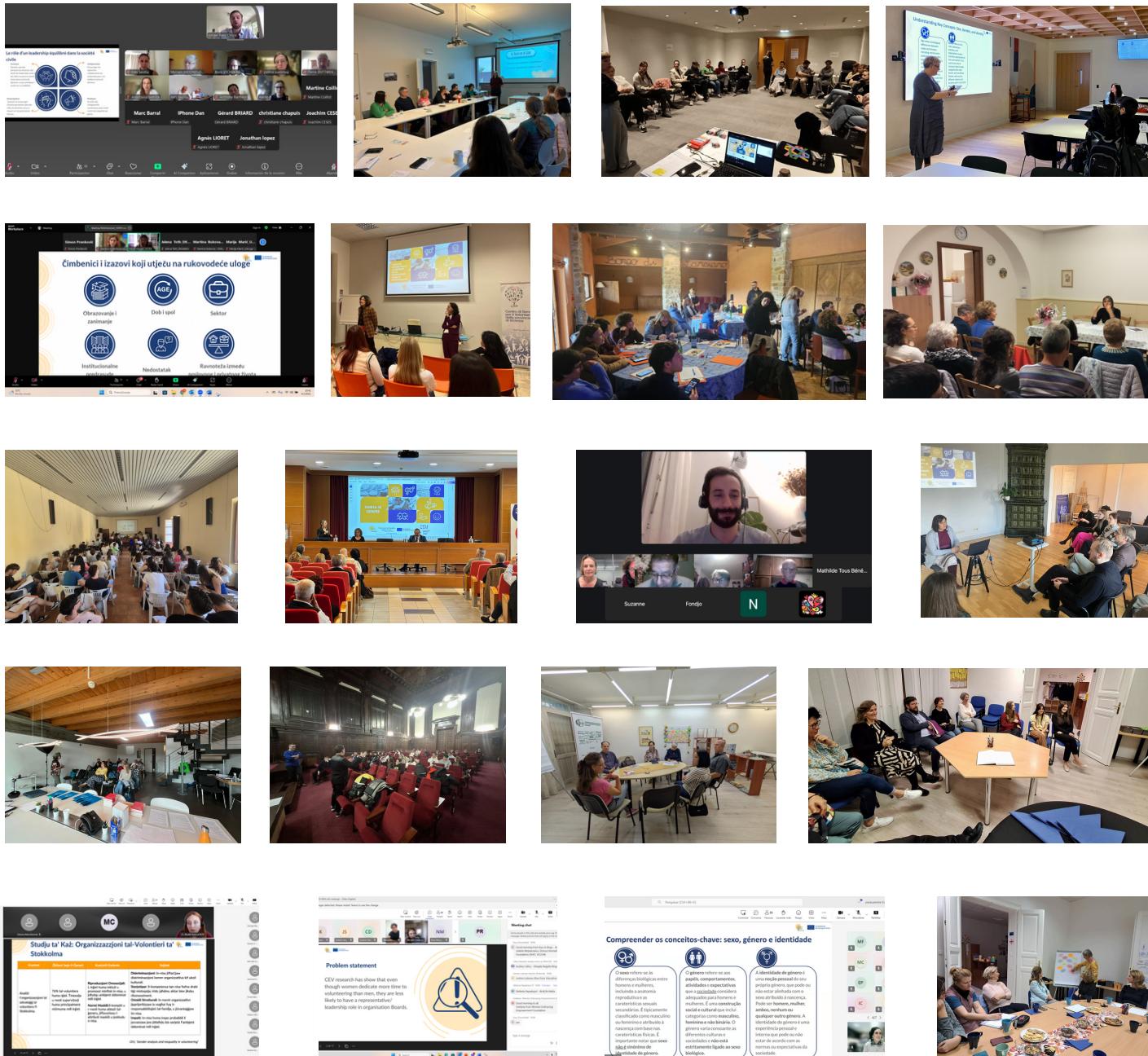


# Capacity Building

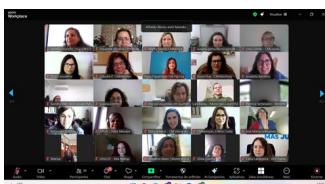
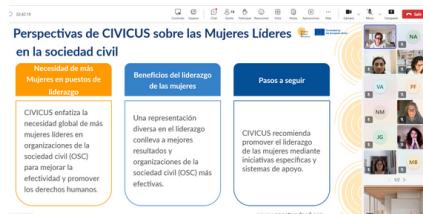
The online training for trainers session introduced all the materials needed to deliver the training module on the priority topic in 2025 of gender balance in volunteer leadership to volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteer leaders. 29 trainers from 26 organisations took part, of which 16 were females and 13 were males in order to have the necessary capacity to deliver the cascaded training opportunities across Europe.

## Training – “Gender equality in CSO leadership (Boards)”

The **31 training sessions** involved volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders in **26 organisations**. There were **820 participants** - 249 male, 561 female and 10 non-binary in **12 countries**: Belgium, France, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. The training materials (manual and presentation) are available in **15 different European languages**.



# Capacity Building



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*"The training had a strong theoretical frame and was well structured"*  
Participant

*"I'm very grateful for the exchange, it was very elucidating, and the theme was very relevant"*  
Participant

*"We need more education on gender equality from an early age, and pay & recognition gaps between men and women must be addressed as a priority."*  
Participant

## Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe (REVIVE) Evaluation Meeting

On 15 October 2025, in Brussels, the Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe (REVIVE) Evaluation Meeting was held which saw the participation of **146 participants** from **22 countries** across Europe, of which there were 43 males and 103 females. The meeting underlined the importance of this four-year (2022 - 2025) operating grant funded by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme (DG JUST, European Commission) in strengthening democracy and civic engagement through volunteering. The evaluation confirmed the outstanding impact of the CERV Framework Partnership Agreement across the whole CEV network and beyond.



## Membership Growth

CEV welcomed new Members & Partners in 2025: Fondazione Trentino per il Volontariato Sociale (IT) (Full Member); Forum Nazionale del Terzo Settore (IT) (Full Member); Malta Rescue Corps (MT) (Associate Member); Sava Platforma (LT) (Full Member); Association for Sports & Volunteering (MK) (Full Member); The National Council of Women of Malta (MT) (Associate Member); National Freedom Institute - Polish Centre for Civil Society Development (PL) (Partner).



Forum Terzo Settore



ASSOCIATION FOR  
SPORT & VOLUNTEERING



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# Sub-granting

## Financial support to Third Parties - 188,480 EUR

After a Call for proposals published on January 16th 2025, that closed on March 16th 2025, an independent awarding committee of experts assessed the proposals against the criteria specified in the Call. CEV approved **16 applications from 14 organisations from 10 EU Member States** with project activities taking place between April 1st 2025 and December 10th 2025 in the two VERA priority areas involving 5984 direct participants and 81 volunteers contributing 601 days.

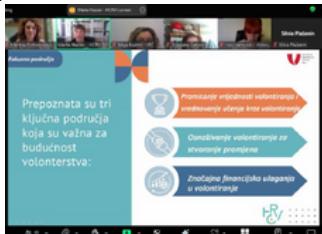
### Volunteering & Equality

Research & Consultation to discover the extent to which volunteering involves people/citizens representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors, in particular people in formal education through Service Learning and Civic Education.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations (SK); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HR); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida - FEA (PT); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (ES); Slovenska Filantropija (SI); Masterpeace Ro (RO); Volunteer Ireland (IE); Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering (HU). (11,780 euros per organisation).



Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organizations



Croatian Volunteer Development Centre



Fundação Eugénio de Almeida



Plataforma del Voluntariado de España



Slovenska Filantropija



MasterPeace Ro



Volunteer Ireland



Talentum Foundation for the Support of Volunteering

### Rights & Action

Events, campaigns & Activities linking issues connected to introducing new groups of people to volunteering (inclusion), new methods of volunteering (innovation) including aspects related to online volunteering and the impact of AI on the future of volunteering in Europe and how gender issues impact on these things, especially as concerns the leadership in organisations.

**Organisations & Member States involved:** Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HR); Marche a Rifiuti Zero (IT); Önkéntes Központ Alapítvány - ÖKA (HU); Plataforma del Voluntariado de España (ES); Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social - F CVS (ES); France Benevolat (FR); Centro Servizi Padova e Rovigo Solidali - CSV Padova Rovigo (IT); Pista Magica (PT). (11,780 euros per organisation).



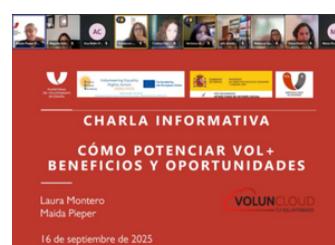
Croatian Volunteer Development Centre



Marche a Rifiuti Zero



Önkéntes Központ Alapítvány



Plataforma del Voluntariado de España



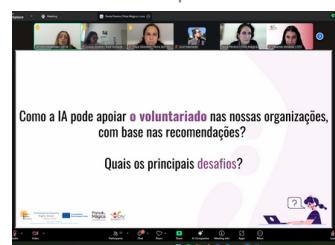
Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social



France Benevolat



CSV Padova Rovigo



Pista Magica



# My ideas for promoting Equality, Rights and European Values:

Find online all the VERA 2025 activities in the [VERA 2025 webpage](#)



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Centre for European Volunteering CEV



[www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/](http://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/)



@volunteeringcev



CEV-Centre for European Volunteering



Spring General Assembly - April Mechelen

*"With the tools provided, participants learn how to better manage specific situations to achieve the greatest impact."*

**Training organiser**

*"Institutions must recognise us and incorporate volunteering into their public policies."*

**Subgrant recipient**



Study Visit, EVCCC Event - Mechelen



Spring General Assembly - Mechelen

*"Volunteering is more important than ever before - it gives people a voice - for those who may not have a voice"*

**Volunteer Coordinator**



EVCCC Seminar - Brussels

*"That's why volunteering is not merely an activity—it's a strategy for cohesion and innovation"*

**EVCCC Representative**

*"We should actively encourage young people to explore career paths where their gender is underrepresented, starting already in school."*

**Volunteer, Training**



CEV Staff - Mechelen

*"If we can apply for volunteer positions, it is because we truly have the opportunity to do so"*

**GIVE Seminar Participant**



EP Volunteering Interest Group Stakeholder Exchange Meeting - Brussels

*"Understanding the impact of volunteers is very important for understanding how society functions and the significant contribution they make."*

**MEP**

*"Seeing first-hand how this organisation works has helped me understand the reality these people live in and how necessary their work is."*

**Participant, Study Visit**



CEV Board - Brussels

*"Volunteering brings people together to raise awareness and drive positive change on important issues"*

**European Volunteering Ambassador 2025**