
PRESS RELEASE | Barcelona, 1 December 2025
European Volunteering Capital 2027 WINNER

CEV is pleased to announce that **County Clare, Ireland**, has been awarded the title of **“European Volunteering Capital” 2027**.

In choosing County Clare as the European Volunteering Capital 2027, the jury noted that the city 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. It outlines well-defined five-year priorities focusing on accessibility, diversity, and quality, while embedding strong ethical and participatory principles. These efforts align well with the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030).

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. 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.

This [video](#) highlights their dedication to volunteering and the spirit of solidarity, while successfully conveying both emotion and empathy.

The full jury feedback of the EVCapital Candidates 2027 is available at this link:

<https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/ev-capital-2027>

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 extent of their strategies, policies, and programmes in connection to the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 and to the CEV Volunteering Policy Statements. Evidence about their engagement with, and support for, the European Solidarity Corps when the applicant comes from an eligible programme country is also required. Applicants are also asked to indicate if they are signatories of the Integrating Cities Charter.

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: Gian Piero Farru (CEV Board), Mauro Pace Parascandolo (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), Barbara Eglitis (EU - Programme Officer, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe) and Bart Somers (Mayor of Mechelen, EVCapital2025).

The previous winners are: Maia 2026, Mechelen 2025 - Trento 2024 - Trondheim 2023 - Gdansk 2022 - Berlin 2021 - Padova 2020 - Košice 2019 - Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017 - London 2016 - Lisbon 2015 - 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. For further information, please refer to our website [here](#).