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**PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 5 December 2021 | European Volunteering Capital 2023 WINNER**

CEV is pleased to announce that **Trondheim (NO)** has been awarded the title of  
**European Volunteering Capital 2023**

In choosing **Trondheim as the European Volunteering Capital 2023** the jury highlights that the city is making outstanding efforts in prioritising quality volunteering and to publicly recognise volunteers and the contribution they make to the community.. The high volunteer-engagement rate is an extraordinary testimony to a long-term commitment and the creation of a strategic and regulatory framework that has been highly effective. It is based on an integrated voluntary policy across all strategies and plans which develops and strengthens the interaction between the municipality and volunteering. The approach is based on recognising the sector, emphasising its independence, and providing good conditions for volunteering.

The jury was very inspired by Trondheim which stands out for the way it has developed cross-sector collaboration, four-year strategic plans, grants and funding support for volunteering in a very comprehensive way. There is a very clear record of the achievements in stakeholder and citizen engagement embedded in values and principles. The investment in volunteer centres and professional support has supported this excellence.

The jury felt that the accomplishments of **Asti, Birgu, & Oeiras** municipalities to support and develop volunteering in the cities also deserves high recognition. The efforts undertaken to ensure a comprehensive vision for volunteering by the municipalities, quality volunteering and recognition of its role has been seen by the jury as outstanding elements of the overall support shown to volunteers and volunteering by the candidates. The supporting structures and relationships established with and within different contexts, shows the presence of an enabling environment for volunteering in all cases that was particularly appreciated by the jury.

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), George Thomson (CEV Board), Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member), Krzysztof Pater (EESC Rapporteur on "Volunteers . Building the Future of Europe"), Predrag Fred Matic (MEP), Barbara Eglitis (Program officer SALTO European Solidarity Corps), 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)), Monica Lallai (Business Development for Religious and Third Sector/Non Profit Organizations Business Unit. Cattolica Assicurazioni Spa), Sawsan Chebli (Berlin State Secretary for Civic and International Affairs).

**The previous winners are:** 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.