

**1ST APR**

**18:00 - 20:00** EVCCC Network Meeting for EVCCC Members / Representatives only,  
Library - Roosvelt Room - **Goswin de Stassartstraat 88, Mechelen**



Volunteering Equality  
Rights Action  
**VERA 2025**  
Project Number: 202194233



**09:00-10:00** How we meet! Connecting and presence with ourselves & others through movement & storytelling by George Thomson and Rachael Edgar (Previous registration required) **Cinema Lumière, Frederik de Merodesstraat 28, 2800, Mechelen**

**9:00-12:00** EVCCC Study Visits for EVCCC Members / Representatives only, **Meeting point: Kunsthal Mechelen, Onder-ten-Toren 12, 2800.**

**10:15-12:15** CEV General Assembly for CEV Members, delegates and guests only, **Cinema Lumière**

**12:15-13:45** Lunch and Welcoming from Minister Hilde Crevits (Government of Flanders) and Mechelen Municipality, **Cinema Lumière**

**13:45-18:00** EVCCC Study Visits continued for all participants, Meeting point: Cinema Lumière **Meeting point at 13:45 at Lumière**

- **Study visit 1:** Cycling Tour through Mechelen's Nature and Culture exploring Mechelen's hidden gems on two wheels! Join local volunteers to discover how they protect nature, preserve heritage, and promote cycling.

**Note:** Active tour, ensure you wear suitable clothing and walking shoes.  
Bicycles are provided.

**Organisations:** Natuurpunt Mechels Rivierengebied, Despot Rato (Museum Hof van Busleyden, Stadsarchief Mechelen, Het Predikheren, Projecten en Monumenten, and Erfgoedcel Mechelen), Cyclists' Union.



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- **Study visit 2:** Circular Economy and Elderly Care looking into learning about the power of sharing and community care. See how volunteers create a vibrant environment for the elderly and promote a circular economy through tool, bicycle, and seed libraries.

**Note:** During this visit, you will also have the opportunity to chat with the residents and volunteers and participate in a game of pétanque!

**Organisations:** Deelbaar Mechelen, Residential care center Hof Van Egmont.

- **Study visit 3:** Circular Human Work and Cultural Connection experiencing the world of sustainable living and inclusive art. Discover how volunteers combat food waste and foster creativity for individuals with disabilities.

**Note:** Short transfer of 15 minutes to the second organization.

**Organisations:** La Luna, Foodsavers Mechelen, Sjarabang vzw.

- **Study visit 4:** Exploring the Vibrant Neighborhood 'Heihoek' and mARTa and seeing how residents are revitalizing their community. Learn about grassroots efforts in culture, greening, and social cohesion including the transformation of a historic church into a cultural hotspot.

**Note:** Active tour, walk along various stops in the neighborhood.

**Organizations:** Heihoek neighborhood, mARTa.

- **Study visit 5:** Present and Past: Heritage and Culture to reach a better understanding of the beautifully restored monastery-library and the city archives. See how volunteers are preserving and sharing the city's rich heritage, making it accessible to all.

**Organisations:** Predikheren, City Archives of Mechelen.

- **Study visit 6:** See how a neglected youth site was transformed into a thriving hub. Learn about youth-led initiatives, circus arts, and the power of community collaboration. Discover how volunteers are creating spaces for young people to flourish.

**Note:** Dress for possible rain and wear comfortable shoes; it is about a twenty-minute walk from the center.

**Organizations:** Transit M, Circolito, youth department of the City of Mechelen, youth council.

- **Study visit 7:** Learn how volunteers are providing access to cultural experiences for elderly residents, and how others are using bicycle cabs to promote sustainable mobility, supporting the elderly, and the climate at the same time.

**Note:** Session accessible for less mobile people, no walking included.

**Organizations:** Vier het Leven, Klimavelo (Klimaan vzw).

- **Study visit 8:** Explore how Mechelen residents are addressing global challenges locally. Learn about sustainable development goals, initiatives for accessible vision care, and the vital role of senior citizen advocacy.

**Note:** A 20-minute walk there and a 20-minute walk back.

**Organisations:** Mechelen's Global Council, Refaced and Eyes for the World, Mechelen Senior Council.

- **Study visit 9:** Embark on a self-guided audio tour to discover Mechelen's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Learn about local initiatives promoting equal opportunities and experience the city through a new perspective.

**Note:** Bring a mobile phone, internet connection, and earphones. You can follow the tour in both Dutch and English.

The walk is 6 kilometers long; comfortable shoes are recommended.

**Organisations:** Various Mechelen initiatives.

**18:00-20:00** Aperro for all participants, **Onder-Den-Toren 12, 2800 Mechelen**

**19:30-23:00** EVCCC Networking dinner (By invitation only)

**2ND APR**

8:30-9:30 Registration, Van Beethovenstraat 8/10, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium - LAMOT Conference Venue

9:30-12:00 European Quality Standards in Validation of Learning from Volunteering (eQval) final conference:

9:30-10:15 Opening plenary

- **Rina Rabau Nkandu** (Deputy Mayor, Mechelen Municipality)
- **Lejla Sehic Relic** (President CEV)
- **Ernesto Villalba García** (European Center for the Development of Vocational Training - Cedefop)
- **Maida Pieper and Miguel Pineda** (Plataforma del Voluntariado de España)

10:15-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00 Parallel Sessions:



**1. Sharing and Learning from Volunteers Validation experiences: What's the potential for future volunteers? (World Cafe) - Room ALCAZAR**

**Lotte Rens** (Moderator, Mechelen Municipality)

- **Emma Slompo** (VTVT Volunteer)
- **Elisa Calzá** (VTVT Volunteer)
- **Federico Brancaccio** (VTVT Volunteer)
- **Samuel Allaman** (Kavka Oudaan Youth Centre)

**2. Sharing and Exchanging Volunteer-Involving Organisations' Best Practices on Validation (Panel Discussion) - Room DIJLE HALL**

**Eva Hambach** (Moderator, Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk)

- **Daniele Marano** (France Benevolat)
- **Azahara Alcalde** (COCEMFE Spain)
- **Evi Vlamincx** (Antwerp Municipality)
- **Derek Cleary** (Localise Ireland)

**3. Sharing and Exchanging Volunteer infrastructure Organisations' Best Practices on Validation (Panel Discussion) - Room DEER BAIT**

**Milena Chantraine** (Moderator, Plate-forme francophone du Volontariat)

- **Mattia Tosato** (VTVT Project Manager)
- **Paola Atzei** (VOLABO CSV Bologna)
- **Sandy dos Reis** (Vereniging Nederlandse Organisaties Vrijwilligerswerk - NOV)
- **Essma Aoulad-L'Arbi** (Mechelen Municipality)

12:00-13:30 Lunch and Organisation Market Place

13:30-16:30 "European Civic Engagement and Volunteering Strategy - Key Elements to Include" Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe (#GIVE) Campaign & BEV2030 Seminar

13:30-13:45 Welcome & Opening, **Gabriella Civico** (CEV Director)

13:45-14:15 Keynote presentations

- **Hadja Lahbib** (Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management)
- **Brendan Cox** (Co - Founder of Together Coalition)



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14:15-16:00 Parallel Sessions / Panel Discussion:

**1. Democracy & Civic Engagement: Shaping Future Voluntary Service Models for the Next Generations - Room ALCAZAR**

**Simon Morris** (Moderator, Allianz Foundation)

- **Inge Stuer** (JINT)
- **Christine Weil** (European Solidarity Corps SALTO Resource Center)
- **Eve Hamel and Kerry Hargadon** (Service Civil International-SCI)

**2. The role of Civil Society and Volunteers for Resilience and well-being - Room DIJLE HALL**

**Amy Woods** (Moderator, Volunteer Ireland)

- **Brian Reyes** (Plataforma del Voluntariado de España)
- **Bethany Sikes** (Volunteer Scotland)
- **Steven Vermeeren** (Mechelen Municipality)
- **Jan Verdée** (Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk)
- **Ariane Rodert** (Rapporteur EESC opinion SOC/812 & Vice President SOC Section)
- **Michal Braun** (National Freedom Institute Poland)

**3. Volunteering and Upskilling & Personal Development for People of all Ages - Room DEER BAIT**

**Stuart Garland** (Moderator, Volunteer Ireland)

- **Klara Larsson and Iris Ziliotto** (Europass)
- **Marion Cahen** (Duo for a job)
- **Mieke Nieuwdorp** (Employee Volunteering Expert)
- **David Timis** (Generation International)

16:00 - 16:30 Closing

- **Emiliya Asadova** (Policy Specialist, UN Volunteers)
- **Bas Dhoey** (Coordinator of Social Cohesion, Mechelen Municipality)
- **Eva Hambach** (Director of Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk)
- **Lejla Sehic Relic** (President CEV)

16:30 Departures

3RD APR

4TH APR

9:00-11:30 Cultural and volunteer focused Mechelen city tour (Optional)

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