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## Aviles European Volunteering Capital Candidate 2025 Jury Feedback | Brussels, 5 December 2023

Volunteer organisations in **Aviles** are involved in a regular dialogue with the municipality, demonstrating a real appreciation from policymakers for the value of the role of volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. In this way, the city has established a remarkable coordination between the municipality and volunteer organisations through structures such as the Citizen Participation Office. To improve this candidacy, the proposal would have been strengthened with the inclusion of more information and data on this dialogue.

The jury notes that under the law in the Asturias, there is a sharp distinction between volunteer contributions and paid employment and that the municipality takes good consideration of this fact in its support for volunteering.

Aviles demonstrates good practice in engaging actors from both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors, and involving the Local Volunteering Board and Office in this process. More information concerning the links and relationship between the Board, Office and Local volunteer committee would have strengthened the candidacy.

Aviles has a good funding policy in place for volunteering as well as clear transparency about the process. There is a lack of detail however concerning the variety of suitable funding possibilities for both core costs and projects of different sizes and scopes to volunteer-involving (formal and non formal groups) and volunteer infrastructure organisations made available by the municipality. Whether or not volunteer time be used for the co-financing/co-resourcing of grants, if required, is also not specified.

The promotion of solidarity awareness campaigns is highly appreciated by the jury, and this is also the case for the municipal volunteer website. The established links with the regional Asturias volunteer observatory created in 2022, which consolidates the strength of volunteering, is also highlighted, as well as the creation of a training course on “social-educational skills and attention to diversity”.

The jury considers that the part of the candidacy concerning new volunteers and methods could have been stronger with more information, such as the training of mentors and volunteer managers as well as a more forward thinking approach on how online volunteer matching systems and other digital technologies are part of the current and future strategy for volunteering. However, the overall volunteer strategy is a very good example to be followed by other municipalities.

The description of the link between the municipality and volunteer organisations clearly conveys the trust and collaborative spirit between the two sectors, which is essential for the success of the common understanding and shared objectives. The objectives and impact of actions are well documented and are impressive. The creation of the European Youth Mobility Office in 2006 in particular, shows the importance that has been given to young people and more precisely to the European Solidarity Corps.

### ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

**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 EU member state 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: Michel Lefranc (CEV

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Board), Daniele Antonozzi (CEV Board), Lena Karnalova (CEV Board), Tine Radinja (Mayor of Škofja Loka, Slovenia & EU Committee of the Regions member), Krzysztof Pater (EESC Member, Rapporteur Opinion "Volunteering - Citizens Building the Future of Europe"), Brando Benifei (Member of the European Parliament, S&D), Barbara Eglitis (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Begona Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)), Morten Wolden (Trondheim Municipal Director).

**The previous winners are:** 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.