

GORIZIA

Feedback from the European Volunteering Capital 2022 jury

To respond to the 5R priority policies, Gorizia has developed a number of measures which demonstrate the value of volunteering and has anchored its volunteering policies to the real needs of the community. The volunteer **reward system** is based on prizes and ceremonies provided for a variety of volunteering achievements. The jury noted a lack of information about the ongoing system for volunteer recognition as well as specific in-kind support.

It is obvious that the city ensures access to advice, information and support for volunteers who would like to be validated through its cooperation with the **Volunteering Service Centre (CSV)**. The exact arrangement and relationship with the municipal structures remains unclear however. The support for volunteer organisations' staff and managers is organised by two main partners – the Territorial Area Coordination Agency and the Multifunctional Social Centre, the latter being a good example of a **public-private partnership**.

Gorizia states its participatory approach to social policies development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is intended to create an enabling environment for volunteering. However, the examples provided are really quite general and unclear.

The municipality recognises volunteering associations and third-sector bodies among the main contributors to enhancing civil participation in Gorizia. The monitoring and evaluation of their activities is arranged courtesy of the '**permanent boards**'. Some indicators of success are also part of the Municipality Executive Management Plan. However, the jury would appreciate a clearer overview of the link between these structures and the municipal policy documents related to volunteering.

The city demonstrates good achievements in the **communication area**, providing a wide network of media channels for promoting volunteering within the local community. Some more information about the communication activities and other stakeholders would also be welcome. Good cooperation between the municipality and the CSV, as well as setting up three thematic permanent boards, are mentioned as measures that ensure an enabling environment for volunteering. Another good example provided is the '**Glue platform**' – a **time bank for volunteering organisations**, developed by the CSV. Nevertheless, the partnership framework between the municipality and the CSV is not well defined. Obviously, a few infrastructures (the 'House of Associations', the 'House of Non-Profit' and the Multifunctional Social Centre) have been administered by the municipality to promote and support different volunteering activities. Furthermore, in 2020, a new call for socio-educative and socio-assistance projects has been launched.

Although Gorizia has foreseen funding for volunteering, thereby fostering and supporting organisations and projects, the jury would appreciate more concrete information about the municipality's financial contribution in its structures and initiatives in order to evaluate their [potential.

In the 'Refugees' section of the application, the information provided is too general. There are no concrete examples of initiatives/programmes focused on both encouraging volunteering among migrants and other vulnerable groups and supporting volunteering organisations in their efforts on behalf of these target groups.

The jury recommends that the municipality **gets better acquainted with the specifics of the European Solidarity Corps** programme in order to promote it better and to take advantage of its funding opportunities, both in Italy and abroad.

Finally, **the strategy** provided by Gorizia puts volunteering high on its policy agenda as an important tool to address the city's challenges and societal needs, which is well received, although it does not resemble an actual strategic document. Nevertheless, it is comprehensive, provides some good examples and sets clear goals for development which, alongside its strong international dimension, is beneficial for the cross-border region as a whole.

For more details about the European Volunteering Capital Competition 2022 read [here](#)

The logo features a central orange circle with the text 'European Volunteering Capital' in blue. Above it, 'Gorizia' is written in large blue letters, with 'candidate 2022' in a dark blue banner. To the left is the 'Europe for Citizens' logo, and to the right is the coat of arms of Gorizia, Italy. Below the main text, a list of previous winners is provided, and at the bottom, logos of partner organizations are displayed.

Europe for Citizens

Gorizia
candidate 2022

Italy

**European
Volunteering
Capital**

Previous European Volunteering Capital Winners

- 2021: Berlin, Germany
- 2020: Padova, Italy
- 2019: Košice, Slovakia
- 2018: Aarhus, Denmark
- 2017: Sligo, Ireland
- 2016: London, UK
- 2015: Lisbon, Portugal
- 2014: Barcelona, Spain

Centre for European Volunteering

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING EUROPEAN NETWORK

European Commission

European Parliament

European Economic and Social Committee

European Committee of the Regions

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE