
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CEV announces the candidate municipalities for the
European Volunteering Capital 2026**

Brussels, 10 June 2024. The Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) announces the candidate municipalities for the European Volunteering Capital 2026 title.

The 3 candidate municipalities for **European Volunteering Capital 2026** title are:
Ballina (IE), Maia (PT), Rzeszów (PL)

The European Volunteering Capital Competition was launched in 2013, the European Year of Citizens, **to promote and develop volunteering at the local level.** The first winner of the competition to be awarded the title European Volunteering Capital in 2014 was Barcelona, followed by Lisbon European Volunteering Capital 2015, London European Volunteering Capital 2016, Sligo European Volunteering Capital 2017, Aarhus European Volunteering Capital 2018, Košice European Volunteering Capital 2019, Padova European Volunteering Capital 2020, Berlin European Volunteering Capital 2021, Gdansk European Volunteering Capital 2022, Trondheim European Volunteering Capital 2023, Trento European Volunteering Capital 2024 and Mechelen European Volunteering Capital 2025.

The Candidates, also join the **“European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community” (EVCCC)**, a unique Community of Practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating VOLUNTEERING and SOLIDARITY. The candidates will gain **European-wide visibility** for excellence in policies and programmes that support volunteers and volunteering regarding existing practices, and for ambitious, credible and quality-focused plans for future growth and development in the field of volunteering. They will play a **key role in motivating, inspiring and encouraging other municipalities** to improve their provision of supportive and facilitatory policies and programmes for quality volunteering.

The deadline for applications for the European Volunteering Capital 2026 was June 3rd 2024. The information provided in the application form and video will count as 70% of the final score allocated to each candidate. 30% of the score will be allocated based on the presentation of the candidature during the EVCCC network meeting and EV Capital 2026 Candidates Presentation event **on September 10th 2024 in Brussels.**

A Jury of key personalities connected with volunteering, representing civil society, the private and for-profit sector, as well as the EU institutions, will assess the candidates. The judging criteria is based on 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 winner will be announced in Trento, Italy on November 29th 2024.

The [Centre for European Volunteering \(CEV\)](https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org) 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. Our **mission** is to provide **collaborative leadership** to create an enabling environment for **volunteering** in Europe. Through our network we work together to promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. 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.