

D2.2 Publication on the European Volunteering Capital Impact Measurement Methodology Implementation

December 2025

Table of Contents.

Introduction	2
About the Competition	4
EV Capital 2027 Competition	4
Independent and Inclusive Engagement	6
New Volunteers and Methods	8
Empowerment	11
Appreciation of Contribution	14
Resources for More Value	16
Overall Impact Measurement	18
Conclusion	20

Introduction

In 2024 we partnered with a CEV Member organisation together with a University to develop an evaluation methodology for the impact of the EV Capital competition in order to better inform its development over the next decade following the tenth anniversary of the competition in 2024. Moving forward into 2025 we leveraged this methodology to compile this comprehensive report (D2.2). The report summarises the findings and analyses derived from the evaluation process, shedding light on the

competition's effectiveness, identifying areas of success, and pinpointing opportunities for refinement and growth.

Participation as a candidate requires a detailed analysis and assessment ('Audit') of volunteer provision at the local level, therefore helping to identify strengths and weaknesses of the approaches taken and acting as a catalyst for improvements. Participation enables stakeholders from different fields and sectors to come together and further develop their local volunteering policy and practice frameworks and strategies, using European standards as guidelines. It also assists the development of volunteering and solidarity in Europe more widely as the examples shared to inspire others across Europe. Finally, joining the competition as a candidate municipality provides the opportunity to join a unique community of practice of municipalities "European Volunteer Capital Candidates Community" (EVCCC) (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 European Volunteer Capital Competition is an annual initiative that recognises European municipalities for promoting and supporting volunteering. How is it possible to know the value of this competition, and how can the impact it brings to different stakeholders engaged in the process, communities, and broader society be measured? How can the way in which this Award helps the development of volunteering in a particular municipality, region or country be demonstrated? The answers to these questions are possible only if standardised and comparative evaluation of the activities connected with applying for the title and its implementation is conducted. The EV Capital impact measurement methodology developed in 2024 established the approach to incorporate impact measurement into the application process.

Evaluation values something. It determines the significance or quality of the programme or activity results. Properly implementing the assessment of competition's impact has helped us show the effect of the title and will allow the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) as the competition organisers, as well as the municipalities and other stakeholders involved such as local and regional volunteer

centres to make critical decisions about the future of volunteering and the competition itself.

A carefully planned evaluation process is essential for its success. Developing a plan upfront has guaranteed having all the necessary and relevant data, avoiding the need for additional time to sift through superfluous information. Knowing in advance what to evaluate has also aided in selecting the most appropriate tools for approach to the assessment.

About the Competition

The first European Volunteering Capital title was awarded in 2014. Since then, the competition has become one of CEV's central flagship initiatives. It shows the potential of volunteering development at the local level and connects present and future local volunteering actions, strategies, policies, and programmes to the European Context.

The competition aims to promote volunteering at the local level with a connection to the European context. It enables volunteers, volunteer-involving and volunteer infrastructure organisations to collaborate more closely with local policymakers in a common cause to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteers in their area. It is set up to recognise and reward municipalities that support volunteers and volunteering in their communities. It should also serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for European municipalities to make even greater efforts to promote and celebrate volunteering.

EV Capital 2027 Competition

In 2025 there was only one candidate to be the 2027 European Volunteering Capital. This report describes the impact of their engagement in this initiative and the ambition for the future.

The application form required candidates to select different indicators that were the most suitable and meaningful for them in order to measure the impact of their engagement in the competition.

The success of the impact measurement has and will depend on the willingness of stakeholders to participate in its preparation and implementation. County Clare, the EV Capital 2027 candidate has successfully identified the entities that are essential to be involved with and plan to be involved after receiving the title. County Clare has an energised and committed steering group who were responsible for preparing the impact measurement plan. The Steering group members are: Clare County Council, Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare Public Participation Network, Clare Youth Service, Limerick & Clare Education Training Board, Clare Sports Partnership, Employability Clare, Clare Traveller CDP, Volunteer Rep, Clare Local Development Company & Volunteer Ireland. This Steering Group remains in-situ after receiving the title and will remain in place for the duration of the merited responsibility of being European Volunteering Capital 2027. The management of the implementation plan is being led by Clare County Council and Clare Volunteer Centre. The necessary data for the impact measurement is being collated from their shared resources, partner agencies, existing databases and media partners.

For any impact measurement process it is necessary to have in place suitable and sufficient resources including time, staff, money, facilities, and equipment. County Clare have successfully demonstrated that this is indeed the case and that they have the necessary people with suitable and appropriate skills and competencies. The impact measurement sub group has a varied skill set including report writing, data management, facilitation skills, qualitative and quantitative data management, critical analysis, interpersonal skills, ethical and cultural competence, project management and proficiency in digital tools

County Clare demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the ethical issues connected with assessing the impact as well as the General Data Protection Rules

that need to be followed that will involve full informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality according to general data gathering and interpretation norms.

County Clare have demonstrated that they are fully aware of the ethical issues connected with assessing the impact ranging from risk of gathering data without benefiting participants, pressure to participate, poor data storage, breaching of GDPR, complex consent forms, bias and inadvertent identification of individuals particularly in small communities. They understand the need to be mindful of asking sensitive questions without support available. Three key stages for impact measurement with reference to the impact measurement process have been identified:

Before: Conduct an ethics risk assessment (e.g., identify vulnerable groups). Draft a GDPR-compliant data management plan. Train staff/volunteers on ethical data collection.

During: Provide clear opt-out options. Store data securely (e.g., encrypted drives). Use participatory methods to empower respondents.

After: Anonymize data before analysis/reporting. Share findings with participants (e.g., community meetings). Delete unnecessary data after evaluation.

As part of the application process County Clare selected the following indicators for each area of focus and ambition.

Independent and Inclusive Engagement

The core objectives of the foreseen impact in this area are multifaceted, centering on the strategic enhancement of local volunteering ecosystems. Primarily, the goal is to strengthen cross-collaboration & inclusive volunteering frameworks among diverse local stakeholders, including civil society organizations, public authorities, educational institutions, and the private sector. This collaboration is explicitly aligned with EU values as described in Article 2 of the Treaty of the EU 2007, ensuring that all efforts are underpinned by a profound respect for: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, which crucially

includes the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Furthermore, the County Clare engagement in the competition is committed to contributing tangibly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically targeting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The ultimate aim is to create a robust, ethical, and sustainable environment for local volunteering that mirrors the foundational principles of the European Union and the global development agenda.

Significant progress has already been made in broadening the reach and accessibility of volunteering opportunities in County Clare, moving towards truly inclusive community engagement. Key achievements include concrete measures to promote inclusive community engagement by expanding volunteering access for all, with a specific, targeted focus on youth, recognising their crucial role as future leaders; people with disabilities or health conditions, ensuring participation is barrier-free; and marginalised groups, actively working to dismantle systemic barriers to their involvement. A major structural achievement has been the establishment of a cross-sector steering group—comprising representatives from public, private, and non-profit sectors—explicitly focused on strengthening community engagement and dedicated to bridging the gaps in inclusion & isolation within the local community. This steering group serves as a permanent mechanism for strategic planning and coordinated action.

The current operational focus is directed towards a rigorous and analytical process that can evaluate how effectively the engagement in the EV Capital Competition and associated European collaboration enhances community engagement, citizen participation & inclusive access to volunteering across all sectors of society. This evaluation is structured around four critical performance indicators that measure the initiative's overall impact and sustainability:

1. **Increased Participation / Engagement:** Quantitatively and qualitatively assessing the rise in the number and diversity of volunteers, and the depth of their engagement in local activities.
2. **Quality:** Evaluating the quality of the volunteering experience itself, including

training, support, recognition, and the impact volunteers have on the target communities.

3. **Partnership Outcomes:** Measuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the cross-sectoral collaborations established, focusing on joint resource mobilisation, shared knowledge, and policy influence.
4. **Sustainability:** Assessing the long-term viability of the inclusive volunteering frameworks and strategies implemented, ensuring the positive changes endure beyond the immediate project timeline.

The indicators chosen are:

- A) *"Number of new or improved policies/ strategies/ administrative frameworks (e.g. departments) adopted by the municipality".* The baseline was established at 4 and at the date of this report this has increased by one to 5 given that the Terms of Reference for the EV Capital Working Group has been established.
- B) *"% change of numbers of volunteers coordinators, managers and policy makers with inclusive volunteering skills".* The baseline was established at 42%.

New Volunteers and Methods

The overall goal is to expand the reach and impact of volunteering initiatives in County Clare, focusing on inclusivity and adaptability with the objective to broaden participation and enhance volunteer experiences. These core objectives are designed to make volunteering more accessible, flexible, and personally rewarding for a wider range of individuals within County Clare's community.

In order to expand flexible and inclusive volunteering opportunities the primary focus is on developing a diverse portfolio of roles that are adaptable to modern lifestyles and inclusive of all segments of society. This includes actively engaging County Clare's diverse volunteer base, with specific outreach to:

- **Migrants and New Residents:** Developing roles and support structures that welcome and leverage the skills and cultural perspectives of migrant communities, viewing them as vital assets to the social fabric.

-
- **Young People:** Creating dynamic, skill-building opportunities that appeal to the digital generation and complement educational or early career paths.
 - **Individuals with Disabilities:** Systematically identifying and removing physical, digital, and attitudinal barriers to participation, ensuring all roles can be adapted to individual needs.

Applying a person-centred approach to volunteer placement allows the possibility to move beyond a one-size-fits-all model to implement a bespoke matching system. This approach ensures that volunteer placements are strategically aligned with:

- **Each Volunteer's Interests:** Maximising motivation and job satisfaction by linking volunteers to causes and activities they genuinely care about.
- **Abilities and Skills:** Utilising each volunteer's unique talents, professional background, and life experience to provide maximum value to the host organisation and a sense of meaningful contribution for the volunteer.

Significant progress has already been made across several key areas, creating a more robust and accessible volunteering ecosystem.

Enhanced Accessibility and Outreach:

- **User-Friendly Digital Platforms:** Relaunching and optimising digital platforms to provide intuitive navigation, clear role descriptions, and a streamlined application process, making initial engagement straightforward.
- **Targeted Outreach Campaigns:** Implementing specific communication strategies to reach underserved or underrepresented groups, using appropriate channels and languages to ensure the message resonates.

Removing Linguistic and Cultural Barriers:

- **Provide Translation Support:** Establishing a pool of volunteers or professional translators and offering translated materials to ensure

language is not an impediment to participation or understanding essential information.

Integrating Volunteering into Education and Training:

- **Increased Awareness Among Training Providers:** Successfully advocating for the value of civic engagement, resulting in the incorporation of a dedicated volunteering module or component into various professional and community training curricula.

Increasing Flexibility through Micro-Volunteering:

- **Increase Micro-Volunteering Roles:** Developing a substantial number of short-term, low-commitment roles that can be completed remotely or in brief bursts of time, offering flexible entry points for individuals with time constraints or those new to volunteering.

Building a Sustainable Support Infrastructure:

- **Establish a Network of Experienced Volunteer Mentors:** Creating a formalised mentorship program where seasoned volunteers can share their knowledge, skills, and institutional understanding with new volunteers, communities, and organisations, fostering skill transfer and retention.

Developing Volunteer Capacity and Expertise:

- **Deliver Training for New Volunteers:** Offering specialised training programs designed to upskill volunteers in areas of critical need for civil society organisations, including: Board Participation and Governance; Mediation and Conflict Resolution; Sectoral Best Practices and Compliance

Future efforts will concentrate on leveraging these achievements to drive innovation and ensure that volunteering remains relevant and impactful in a constantly evolving society.

- **Promote Volunteer Diversity:** Maintaining a continuous focus on ensuring that the volunteer population mirrors the demographic richness of County Clare, actively celebrating and supporting participation from all backgrounds.

-
- **Pilot Innovative Volunteering Methods:** Exploring and implementing cutting-edge approaches to civic engagement, such as digital-only volunteering, skills-based pro bono work, or collective impact volunteering models, to maximise effectiveness.
 - **Respond to Changing Societal Needs:** Developing agile and responsive volunteering roles that can quickly address emerging social, environmental, or economic challenges.
 - **Support Lifelong Civic Engagement:** Creating pathways and progression models that encourage volunteers to remain engaged throughout their lives, moving from micro-volunteering to leadership roles, thereby fostering a culture of sustained community contribution.

The indicators chosen are:

- A) “%change of the number of volunteer programmes involving people with disabilities and / or people of migrant backgrounds / Roma and other marginalised groups etc.” Baseline 3
- B) “%change of number of volunteer coordinators, managers and policy makers with inclusive volunteering training”. Baseline 2

Empowerment

The core vision of the County Clare 2027 European Volunteering Capital (EVC) initiative is profoundly rooted in a dual strategy: to combat social isolation and strengthen the fabric of local communities through the strategic empowerment of marginalised and diverse groups via inclusive volunteering opportunities.

The initiative is built upon several clear and actionable objectives:

- **Combating Isolation and Fostering Community Resilience:** The primary goal is to actively address social isolation by creating meaningful pathways for connection. By empowering individuals from various marginalised groups—such as new migrants, older adults, people with disabilities, and

economically disadvantaged youth—through tailored volunteering roles, the initiative seeks to build stronger, more interconnected, and resilient communities.

- **Integrating Volunteering into Youth Development:** A key objective involves the introduction of a dedicated volunteering module into Transition Year (TY) programmes for students aged 15–16. This early exposure aims to cultivate a lifelong ethos of civic participation, responsibility, and empathy among young people, establishing volunteering as a natural component of personal and academic development.
- **Recognising the Intrinsic Value of Collective Empowerment:** The programme explicitly acknowledges the profound, collective benefit derived from individual empowerment through volunteering. While the quantifiable economic or social return may present measurement challenges, the initiative stresses that the intrinsic value of this collective benefit—in terms of social cohesion, shared ownership, and mutual support—cannot be underestimated. This value is considered fundamental to a thriving civil society.

The initial implementation has yielded significant achievements that highlight the multi-faceted benefits of the EVC programme:

- **Holistic Personal and Social Benefits:** Volunteering has been demonstrably linked to improved personal outcomes, including the formation of friendship networks, the demonstration of solidarity, the sharing and acquisition of new skills, increased personal confidence, enhanced communication abilities, better mental health outcomes, and a deeper sense of community connection and belonging.
- **Promoting Active Citizenship and Local Governance:** A major achievement has been the strategic promotion of active citizenship and the tangible benefits of volunteer engagement within local policy and decision-making processes. This is being executed by leveraging the legislatively mandated Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) of Clare County Council. By actively involving communities in these structures, the initiative empowers local groups to articulate their needs, share their local knowledge and expertise, and directly influence the

solutions to local issues.

- **Cultivating a Culture of Recognition:** The initiative is focused on developing and institutionalising a culture of encouragement, appreciation, value, and formal recognition for every type and level of volunteer contribution. This moves beyond symbolic gestures to embed recognition within organisational policies and public discourse.
- **Systemic Barrier Removal:** A crucial achievement involves working to remove both perceived and actual barriers to participation. This is being tackled through direct action in public policies and the targeted allocation of funding, ensuring that volunteering is accessible and inclusive to all residents of County Clare, regardless of background or circumstance.

The entire framework and all activities are anchored around four interconnected pillars:

- **Well-being:** Promoting physical, mental, and emotional health through purposeful engagement.
- **Personal Growth:** Facilitating skill development, confidence building, and the realisation of individual potential.
- **Social Connection:** Creating opportunities to build strong, diverse, and supportive social networks to combat loneliness and isolation.
- **Civic Participation:** Encouraging and enabling meaningful involvement in community life and local democratic processes, all delivered through a lens of inclusive volunteering.

The indicators chosen are:

- A) “% change in level of perceived well-being of volunteers amongst volunteers”
Baseline 55%
- B) “% change in level of perceived sense of inclusion in the local community for Volunteers” Baseline 60%

Appreciation of Contribution

A core objective for County Clare's European Volunteering Capital (EVC) year is to foster a robust and formalised system for volunteer recognition across the County. This necessitates a close collaboration between key local stakeholders: Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare County Council, Clare Public Participation Network (PPN), Clare Sports Partnership, Clare Traveller CDP (Community Development Project), Clare Local Development Company (LCDC), and Employability Clare. This multi-sectoral partnership aims to pool resources, expertise, and networks to create a unified and sustainable framework for appreciating the diverse and invaluable contributions of volunteers.

The implementation of the EVC programme has already yielded significant achievements, building a stronger culture of appreciation and inclusion:

- **Amplified Visibility and Recognition:** Initiatives have been launched to significantly amplify the visibility of diverse volunteer contributions. This includes the establishment of specific purpose awards tailored to different sectors and types of volunteering, skills certification programs that formally validate experiential learning, and targeted media campaigns to showcase volunteer stories and the positive impact of their work.
- **Increased Community Solidarity:** By highlighting shared goals and common experiences, the EVC programme has successfully increased solidarity and mutual understanding between diverse individuals and groups within local communities. This proactive approach is a powerful tool for counteracting negative stereotypes and fostering a truly inclusive environment.
- **Recognising Supportive Organisations:** A central focus is to recognise and celebrate volunteer-involving organisations that have actively cultivated a 'safe space'—environments where individuals feel supported to grow and develop, both personally and collectively, as part of a community. This acknowledges the vital role these organisations play as enablers of volunteering.
- **Strengthening European Programmes:** Efforts are underway to improve the support, development, and engagement with the European Solidarity Corps

(ESC). Furthermore, there is a strong push for the promotion of broader European Programmes that offer formal mechanisms (such as Youthpass or similar validation tools) to recognise and validate the valuable skills, competences, and knowledge acquired by citizens through their volunteering experiences.

The EVC initiative maintains a sharp focus on measurable outcomes to ensure accountability and inform future strategies. The primary area of measurement is:

- **Measuring Public Engagement and Volunteer Retention:** This involves the development and implementation of structured appreciation methods designed not only to say 'thank you' but also to systematically track and assess their impact on public engagement with volunteering and, critically, on the long-term retention of existing volunteers within organisations and the community. This data will be instrumental in demonstrating the tangible return on investment from robust volunteer appreciation strategies.

The indicators chosen are:

- A) *%change of number of specific events and / or initiatives organised to support awareness and recognition of the value of volunteering & connection to EU Values". The Baseline was 4 and a 25% increase has been recorded with an additional volunteer recognition event held in September 2025 with focus on inclusion.*
- B) *Increase in opportunities for volunteers to certify and have recognised skills and competences acquired whilst volunteering". The Baseline was 12 and a 66% increase has been recorded with an additional 8 volunteer roles being created alongside the introduction of RPL module – volunteering in community engagement – pilot project with 20 volunteers expressing interest to engage.*

Resources for More Value

The primary objective is to secure robust and sustainable multi-annual funding from a diverse range of sources to ensure the expansion of the volunteer infrastructure and the necessary staff capacity to support it. This will involve actively pursuing funding streams such as:

- **Local Authority and Statutory Funding:** Securing core financial commitments from entities like Clare County Council (Co. Co.).
- **Targeted Community and Social Inclusion Programmes:** Accessing resources through programmes like the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and LEADER funding.
- **National Government Departments:** Tapping into dedicated departmental funding, specifically from the DRC DG Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.
- **Philanthropic Investment:** Developing relationships with trusts, foundations, and private donors to establish reliable, non-statutory funding sources.

This diverse funding base is essential to professionalise the volunteer support system, guarantee long-term operational stability, and increase the scope and reach of volunteer services across the county.

Building on current strengths, significant achievements will focus on:

- **Equitable Funding Advocacy:** Actively advocate for funding models that ensure equitable support for all volunteers, specifically targeting geographically dispersed volunteers in rural areas and those who may face socio-economic exclusion. This includes securing adequate provision for genuine out-of-pocket expenses such as mileage and subsistence. This advocacy will be grounded in appealing to funders' obligations to uphold core EU values of social inclusion, equality, and citizen participation.
- **Leveraging Volunteer Capital:** Maximising the collective skills, experience, and commitment of Clare's existing network, which includes over 300 active

Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) and the significant pool of 2,700 registered volunteers (CVC), to strengthen all community-led funding applications. This collaborative approach enhances the credibility and impact potential demonstrated in funding proposals.

- **Community Funding Empowerment:** Providing comprehensive training and capacity building to wider communities and voluntary boards of management. This support will cover critical areas such as meticulous application writing, effective grant management, rigorous financial reporting, and robust governance practices, thereby increasing the overall funding success rate for community projects.
- **Establishing Decentralised Volunteer Hubs:** Utilising increased funding and staff capacity to establish strategic, accessible volunteer hubs throughout County Clare. These hubs will serve as local centres for recruitment, training, support, and networking, significantly enhancing the operational reach and visibility of Clare Volunteer Centre (VC).
- **Sustaining Volunteer Commitment:** Implementing best practices and providing comprehensive support to ensure a high retention rate of volunteers. This continuity is vital for maintaining and strengthening the quality and reliability of essential community services and the organisations that deliver them.
- **Formalising Impact Measurement:** Developing and implementing a formalised, standardised impact assessment tool. This tool will enable VIOs to accurately record, measure, and transparently demonstrate the social, economic, and community impact of their volunteer activities, which is a crucial element for success in future competitive funding applications.

The execution of these objectives and achievements will be concentrated on four critical strategic pillars:

- **Financial Resilience:** Ensuring the long-term solvency and sustainability of the volunteer infrastructure through diversified and secure funding streams.
- **Operational Stability:** Guaranteeing consistent, reliable, and high-quality service delivery through adequate staffing, resources, and established procedures.

-
- **Staff Capacity:** Investing in the recruitment, training, and retention of professional staff to manage the Volunteer Centre and its network of hubs effectively.
 - **Measurable Impacts:** Embedding a culture of evidence-based practice and impact measurement to clearly articulate the value and return on investment of volunteering to all stakeholders and funders.

The indicators chosen are:

- A) *“Number of new volunteer centres established and supported”. Baseline 1*
- B) *“Change of public investment in promotion of volunteering & EU values”. Baseline €131.000% increase of €42,404*

Overall Impact Measurement

In addition to these indicators linked to the different BEV 2030 focus areas, candidates were required to select from the list of optional indicators those that they would use to measure the extent to which, at different stages of the competition, the infrastructure of volunteering and cross sector and cross field cooperation and collaboration in the European context is strengthened.

An indicator chosen by County Clare was the *“number of new or improved policies/ strategies/ administrative frameworks (e.g. departments) adopted by the municipality.”* The chosen baseline for this indicator at the time of application was 4.

County Clare also selected the goal to strengthen awareness and recognition of the value of volunteering & connection to EU Values. In connection with this goal the selected indicator was the *“% change of number of specific events and/or initiatives organised to support awareness and recognition of the value of volunteering & connection to EU Value”*. The base value provided at the time of application was 4.

The goal to demonstrate benefits of volunteering on individuals & the local community was also chosen with the indicator being the *“% change in level of*

perceived well-being of volunteers amongst volunteers.” The base value provided at the time of application was 55%.

The Goal to increase the level of inclusion in volunteering was also taken as a priority. Selected indicators for this goal were:

- A) *“% change of the number of volunteer programmes involving people with disabilities and / or people of migrant backgrounds / Roma and other marginalised groups etc.”* The base value provided at the time of application was 3.
- B) *“% change of perceived inclusiveness in volunteering among people with fewer opportunities / from marginalised groups”.* Baseline [42%]

County Clare as European Volunteering Capital 2027 is seeking an ambitious legacy.

- Increased participation in civic, community, and environmental volunteering, contributing to stronger democratic engagement and community resilience.
- Widespread recognition of volunteering as a pillar of EU values—solidarity, inclusion democracy, and active citizenship—fostering a more cohesive society.
- Greater integration of volunteering into personal and vocational pathways, with structured supports for skill recognition, lifelong learning, and employability.
- Development of a Volunteer Impact Framework, including research-led metrics and a “Volunteer Audit” to measure and communicate the social, economic, and environmental value of volunteering.
- Promotion of diversity and intercultural understanding by valuing all forms of contribution and enabling meaningful roles for marginalised groups.
- Improved cross-sector coordination between organisations to maximise the collective impact of volunteer-driven initiatives.
- Creation and adoption of a Volunteer Charter that outlines the mutual value of volunteering to individuals, organisations, and communities, embedding good practice and ethical principles.

-
- Establishment of a Clare Volunteer Forum, creating a permanent structure for collaboration, peer support, and knowledge exchange amongst volunteer managers.
 - Increased youth participation through dedicated volunteering pathways that promote inclusion, leadership, and equal voice in community development.
 - Greater connection between global and local challenges such as climate change through volunteer-led sustainability initiatives and local education campaigns.
 - Ongoing investment in volunteer research, evaluation, and reflective practice, ensuring data-informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

Conclusion

With only one candidate to be the European Volunteering Capital 2027 it has not been possible to compare and contrast differing approaches to the implementation of the impact methodology and use the observations and conclusions from that to improve and adapt the approach. We have also seen that the ambitious timeline associated with the methodology where measurable results are expected within a short timeframe (less than one year) perhaps need to be revised. Following on from a detailed and robust application that has incorporated impact measurement at its core, we are confident that as European Volunteering Capital 2027, County Clare is ideally positioned to showcase the power of volunteering in building resilient, inclusive communities with solid, reliable and robust evidence and data coming from a well thought out and planned impact measurement strategy and plan.

