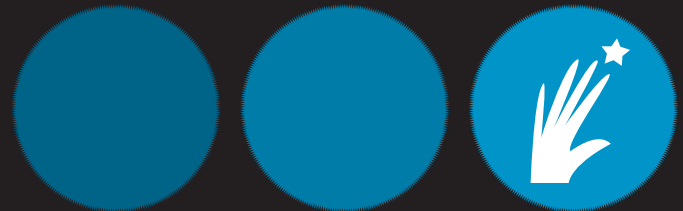


2010

Annual Report European Volunteer Centre (CEV)





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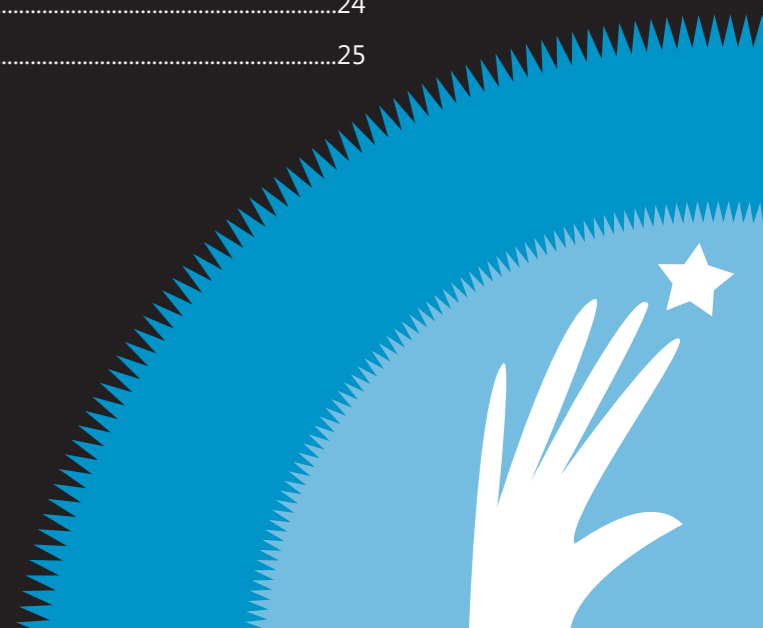
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Milestones – 2010 from a CEV perspective

2010 was of course marked by the intense preparations for our Year! After a successful civil society campaign launched back in December 2007 on the initiative of CEV and its partner networks from the 'EYV 2011 Alliance', the European institutions have declared 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering – and work has started in 2010. CEV has been mandated by the Alliance to apply for the civil society coordination grant made available by the European Commission and to host the Secretariat to implement the grant and our common activities in 2011. Our CEV office has, thus, grown again and the Secretariat has done a great job since July to ensure that the Year is a success – owned by volunteer organisations all over Europe and by the volunteers, of course. The success of the Year will be much depending on the national and local levels

to get involved. We were happy to see that in at least five European countries, Belgium, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy, CEV member organisations are officially involved as or within the National Coordination Bodies for the Year, ensuring that the voice of the voluntary sector is heard when planning and implementing the Year.

CEV also has gone 'new media' in 2010: we have successfully launched our 'CEV online community' linking experts and sharing knowledge on volunteering in Europe. It is our answer to Facebook, admittedly not quite successful yet, but aimed at giving our members the opportunity to directly link in with each other, share resources and information on projects and launch collaborations

all over Europe. After a first evaluation, the community will be further developed in 2011 to allow even more experts from the volunteer community to make use of its different features. In addition, CEV events are now to be seen on You Tube: Both our conferences in Valencia and Brussels have been filmed by professionals and received hundreds of hits after being published on the Internet, spreading the word about what we do and how this can be interesting to the organisation of the volunteering infrastructure in Europe.

We are also particularly proud to see that our network keeps growing and that in 2010 we have welcomed member organisations in countries that had thus far been white spots on the CEV map:

Austria, Poland and Latvia. Welcome aboard and we look forward to our collaborations in the months and years to come!

Finally, CEV's growing importance at the EU level has been shown in the fact that we have been meeting with Commissioner Ms. Vassiliou in charge of Education and Culture within the European Commission and with the President of the Committee of the Regions, Ms. Bresso, both interested in exploring ways of sustainable collaboration with CEV, the voice of national, regional and local volunteer support centres in Europe. We shall continue on that path in 2011 – to ensure that the organisations of the volunteering infrastructure are heard at the European level and shape an enabling environment for volunteering in Europe.



Eva Hambach
CEV President



Markus Held
CEV Director



1. What do we stand for

Mission

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV¹) is the European network of currently 88 national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer support agencies across Europe, reaching out to over 17,000 volunteer organisations, associations and other voluntary and community groups at local, regional, national and in some cases international level. CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union and it acts as a central forum for the exchange of policy, practice and information on volunteering. CEV is recognised by the EU as the voice of volunteering in Europe, in the framework of an operating grant through the Europe for Citizens Programme. Our **mission** is to create an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe for the full potential of volunteering to be realised.

More than 100 million volunteers all over Europe give their time in local communities to benefit others and society at large and engage out of their free will, choice, and motivation entirely without concern for financial gain. Volunteering, whilst freely given, is not cost free – support from all stakeholders, including business and government is crucial to make Europe a “volunteer friendly” continent. Our **vision** is a Europe in which volunteering is central to building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship. CEV works to strengthen the volunteering infrastructure in Europe and to create an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish.

Vision



2. Who are we and how do we work

General Assembly

CEV General Assembly Symposia... ...are organised twice a year in different European countries and hosted by CEV member organisations. Next to the statutory business of approving and monitoring CEV's work plan and budget, this is where CEV's heart beats: our members get together to exchange experiences and good practices at our thematic conferences. In 2010, these conferences focused on „*Effectively Communicating Volunteering – The Role of PR, media and raising public awareness*“, Valencia, April 2010, and „*Volunteering as a means of empowerment and social inclusion – A bridge between the European Years 2010 and 2011*“, Brussels, December 2010 (page 8)



CEV Board of Directors ...

...is the managing body elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. The current Board of Directors was elected during the General Assembly in Ljubljana (April 2008), whilst its President Eva Hambach (Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, Belgium) was elected in this position at the CEV General Assembly in Malmö in October 2009. The other members of the Board are Vice Presidents Renzo Razzano (SPES, Italy) and Susana Szabo (France Bénévolat, France), Treasurer András F. Tóth (ÖKA, Hungary), Marijke Steenberg (MOVISIE, Netherland), Karl Monsen-Elvik (Volunteer Development Scotland, UK), Cristina Rigman (ProVobis, Romania), Gisela Lucke (ARBES, Germany), Elaine Bradley (Volunteering Ireland, Ireland), Nwadi Okereke (Volunteering England, UK), and Olga Sozanská (Hestia, Czech Republic). The Board of Directors meets six times a year to provide political guidance to CEV's work and to further develop its network.

Board of Directors

Board of Directors, December 2010



Eva Hambach
President
Director of Vlaams Steunpunt
Vrijwilligerswerk
Belgium



Renzo Razzano
Vice-president
President of SPES
Italy



Susana Szabo
Vice-president
Director of France Bénévolat
France



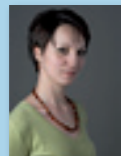
Andras F. Toth



Dr Marijke Steenbergen
CEO of MOVISIE
The Netherlands



Karl Monsen-Elvik
Treasurer
Volunteer Development Scotland
UK



Cristina Rigman
Director of ProVobis
Romania



Gisela Lucke
ARBES
Germany



Elaine Bradley
CEO of Volunteering Ireland
Ireland



Nwadi Okereke
Volunteering England
UK



Olga Sozanská
President of Hestia
Czech Republic

The CEV Secretariat...

... is based at the heart of the "European district" in Brussels, a stone's throw away from the European Parliament. The CEV team is now composed of a Director, a Policy and Project Officer, a Communication and Membership Development Officer, a European Liaison Officer from the Italian federation of the volunteer support centres, an Administrative Assistant and two EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteers. CEV also hosts the Secretariat of the EYV 2011 Alliance, comprised of a Project Manager and a Project Officer.

The secretariat runs CEV's activities on a day-to-day basis, in particular providing information for CEV members on EU matters and volunteer-related issues, developing policy and responses to consultations from a volunteer organisation's perspective, giving assistance to the members and organising CEV's conferences and seminars.

The CEV Secretariat in 2010:

Markus Held, CEV Director
Cândida Salgado Silva, CEV Project Officer (until February)
Katarína Nikodemová, CEV Policy and Project Officer (until November)
Aurélienne Storme, CEV Policy and Communication Assistant (until August) and CEV Communication and Membership Development Officer (as of September)
Stefania Macchioni, CSVnet Liaison Officer
Chau Pham Quynh, CEV Office and Administrative support volunteer (as of August)
Katrin Vierhuss, Seconded national expert from THW (Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk) (as of September)

CEV EVS volunteers:

Rebekka Opfermann, (December 2009 – June 2010)
Katalin Deak, (February 2010 – May 2010)
Maria Tvrdonova, (as of July 2010))

CEV trainees:

Ivan Ginga, (March 2010 – August 2010)

EYV 2011 Alliance Secretariat:

Gabriella Civico, Project Manager (as of July); Céline Barlet, Project Officer (as of July)



The CEV Secretariat has organised the annual Board and Staff away days on 24th and 25th June, this year in the Belgian city of Namur, capital of Wallonia. On the agenda: teambuilding exercises for both the staff and the Board of Directors, as well as statutory business.



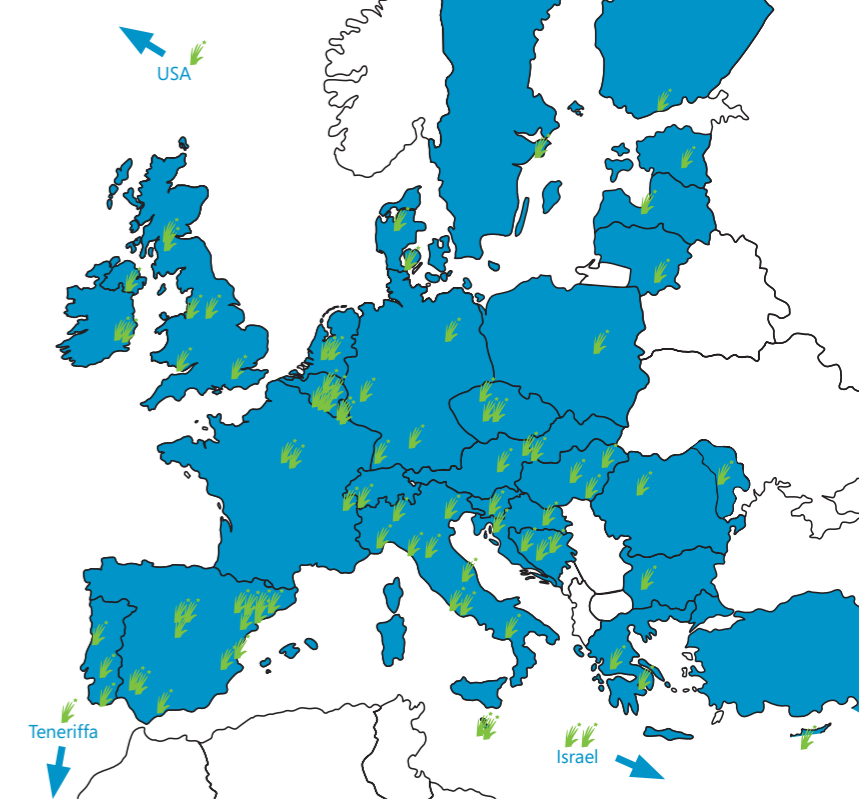
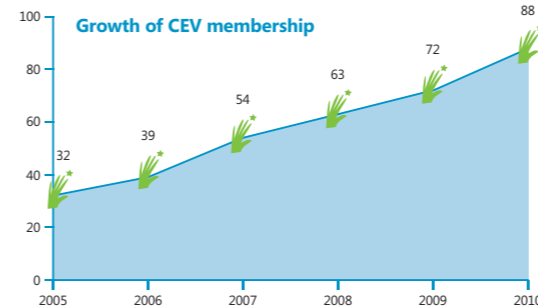
Staff

The CEV Membership ...

... kept on growing in 2010, counting now 88 members and partners!

CEV full member organisations are national or regional volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies throughout Europe whose main mission is the promotion of volunteering. CEV also has associate members such as local volunteer centres and organisations who work on a range of issues amongst which volunteering is one priority. Partnership with CEV is open to any stakeholder that is willing to support CEV and its mission. CEV does not have individual members.

CEV membership continued to expand considerably during 2010, with a number that has more than doubled in 5 years: this year, the network welcomed 6 new full members from Spain, Denmark, Austria, Hungary and Latvia; 9 new associate members from Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Malta, Poland and Portugal; and 1 new partner from Germany. CEV now counts 88 member organisations and partners from 34 different countries. Please find a complete list of CEV member organisations in the annex (page 25).



■ = Countries with CEV member organisations
✎ = CEV member organisation



3. Where does CEV's heart beat: General Assembly Symposia 2010

CEV General Assembly (GA) Symposia constitute a forum for CEV members to meet and discuss issues and recent developments related to volunteering – and to exchange success stories and challenges. These meetings bring together representatives of volunteer centres, volunteer development agencies, volunteer organisations and associations, governments and business, as well as European institutions and international organisations, providing an opportunity to exchange policy, practice and information on volunteering.

The spring CEV Symposium 2010 was organised in April in Valencia (Spain) in collaboration with our member organisation FUNDAR – Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunitat Valenciana, and other member organisations in Spain. The Symposium focused on **„Effectively Communicating Volunteering – The Role of PR, media and raising public awareness“**, and was the largest CEV Symposium in years – bringing together more than 300 participants from 25 different countries. The participants and speakers – who included CEV members; civil society organisations; communication experts; journalists; European Union representatives; businesses and governments – came together to discuss issues related to effective communication on volunteering and plans of action towards the upcoming European Year of Volunteering 2011. A Communication Fair was held alongside the Symposium, providing an opportunity to organisations and companies to display their communication tools and strategies. With the Communication Awards, the participants could vote for the best stand, the best workshop and the best speaker's contribution. The second part of the Symposium entailed a Multi-stakeholder Forum on the preparations for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, where businesses, governments and volunteer organisations discussed plans, ideas and possibilities of synergies during 2011. The conference conclusions / final report, which include 40 "Golden Rules" for communicating volunteering in the most effective way, are available on the CEV website, as well as the link to the event's reporting video.



Our second 2010 Symposium took place in Brussels (Belgium) in December. It was organised in collaboration with our Belgian member organisations, coordinated by Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, and it addressed the topic **„Volunteering as a means of empowerment and social inclusion – A bridge between the European Years 2010 and 2011“**. The event gathered over 150 participants from 25 countries, among them professionals from the volunteering sector; decision-makers, such as Belgian Minister President of the Flemish Community Kris Peeters; and experts in the field of the fight against poverty and social exclusion; as well as volunteers and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

The Symposium showcased the empowering potential of volunteering in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, notably through the presentation of various good practice examples from all over Europe. Participants also debated and voted on a common conference statement, the „Brussels Declaration“, which formulates concrete recommendations to governments, civil society organisations, corporate actors and individuals, in order to better harness the voluntary sector in the common effort towards the eradication of poverty and social exclusion in our societies. The Brussels Declaration, as well as the link to the event's reporting video are now available on the CEV website, while the final report will be published in the course of 2011.





4. CEV ... a voice of volunteering in Europe ... EYV 2011, policy and lobbying

4.1 On the way to the European Year of Volunteering 2011 – completing the puzzle

After obtaining the green light of the EU institutions for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, 2010 was an intense year of preparation in order to ensure that EYV 2011 be a success for all the volunteers; the representatives from the voluntary sector in Europe; and CEV of course.

Together with its partners in the EYV 2011 Alliance, an informal grouping of now over 30 European networks active in volunteering (see page 21), CEV has prepared a work programme for 2010 and 2011 for the activities to be organised by civil society at European level. CEV was mandated by the EYV 2011 Alliance to apply for the coordination grant made available by DG COMM and to host its Secretariat, operational as of July. The Secretariat has worked hard to put into action our work plan: launching the www.eyv2011.eu website and establishing the 'EYV 2011 Alliance Working Groups', composed of experts from all the Alliance networks that will work on a policy agenda for volunteering in Europe. At EU level, the final logo and slogan were chosen, a website was also launched, complementing the one of the Alliance, the EYV Tour was planned and the Relay reporters were nominated.

In parallel to the activities foreseen at European level, the European Year of Volunteering will primarily be owned by the volunteers themselves, as well as by the organisations promoting volunteering and involving volunteers at local level. A whole host of events, celebrations, awards and other activities are planned all over Europe during 2011, and these will be a unique opportunity to celebrate volunteers widely, and highlight the value of their contribution to society.

Milestones ...

January officially marked the adoption of 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering, with the **publication of the EU Council decision on the EYV 2011 in the Official Journal of the EU**, on 22nd January.



In **February** the **European Commission released a Study on Volunteering in the EU**, conducted on the initiative of DG Education and Culture. The study features comparative studies of volunteering in 27 Member States and a study on volunteering in the sports sector. It aims at supporting future Commission initiatives to promote volunteering in Europe, including preparations for the European Year of Volunteering.

After having taken office, the new European Commission reshuffled its Directorate Generals: the **responsibility for the European Year 2011 moved to DG COMM, under the remit of Commissioner and Vice President Vivian Reding**. A Task Force for the European Year 2011, led by John MacDonald, was established.



In **March** the **National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs)** were appointed for the implementation of the Year at national level. Among them, 5 CEV members are actively involved, either as NCBs or as NCB partners: Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk in Belgium; Volunteering Ireland in Ireland; Conselho Nacional para a Promoção do Voluntariado in Portugal; Movisie in the Netherlands; and CSVnet in Italy. The National Coordinating Bodies are responsible for the preparation, implementation and coordination of the activities of the Year in their country. (Photo NCB_Belgium)



On **31st March** the European Commission selected the **official logo and slogan – "Volunteer! Make a difference"** – for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, from among the proposals submitted by European citizens in the framework of the Let's Slogo competition.

At the end of **April**, in the framework of its Spring Symposium, CEV organised a **Multi-stakeholder Forum on the preparations for the European Year of Volunteering 2011**. Discussions were held among three key groups of stakeholders – businesses, governments and volunteer organisations – providing them with an opportunity to discuss synergies across sectors.

At EU level, the European Commission designated the **communication agency responsible to run the official communication campaign of the European Year: P.A.U. education**, which is based in Barcelona, Spain.

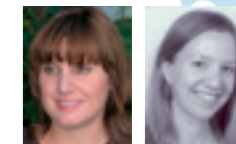


In **May**, CEV applied on behalf of the EYV 2011 Alliance for the **civil society coordination grant with DG COMM** to allow the EYV 2011 Alliance to have a project Secretariat and to fund our activities of mobilisation, exchange and the work of a policy agenda for volunteering in Europe in 2010 and 2011.



On **1st June** the **first meeting between the European Commission and the NCBs** took place in Brussels.

The EC having accepted our EYV 2011 Alliance grant application, the **Secretariat of the EYV 2011 Alliance** settled in the CEV office at the beginning of **July**. The Secretariat is composed of a Project Manager, Gabriella Civico, and a Project Officer, Céline Barlet. The Secretariat is in charge of the operational execution of the work programme of the EYV 2011 Alliance and serves as a contact point of the Alliance for internal and external queries regarding the European Year 2011.



At EU level, **Pau Education** launched a call for 27 **"Relay Reporters"** in view of the Year. In this framework, in each Member State, one person with both volunteering experience and a journalistic background will be invited to report on extraordinary volunteering stories from the field.

On **11th August**, the European Commission released the final version of the European Year of Volunteering 2011's logo, after some graphic adaptations.

In **September**, the new **EYV 2011 Alliance portal** – www.eyv2011.eu – was launched, to serve as the main web portal for volunteer-involving organisations and volunteers throughout Europe to share and inform on issues relating to the EYV 2011. The **EYV 2011 Alliance simultaneously released the first issue of its newsletter, the EYV Flow.**

In parallel, the **members of the EYV 2011 Alliance Working Groups for 2011 have been appointed.** During 2011, the 6 working groups will work on different topics related to volunteering – quality volunteering; legal status of volunteering; recognition of volunteering; volunteering infrastructure; value of volunteering; and employee volunteering – with a view of developing, toward the end of the year, a policy agenda for volunteering in the EU. Among the 97 delegates represented in the working groups are 12 CEV members' representatives.

Finally, also in September the **second meeting between the European Commission and the NCB's** took place, and the European Commission published the **Call for Proposals for flagship projects in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering 2011**, in which support will be given to up to two projects per Member State promoting networking and innovation projects in the field of volunteering.



Since **October**, the EYV 2011 Alliance launched the **Facebook group of the European Year of Volunteering 2011**, a place to share the latest news on EYV 2011, and serve as a platform for the exchange of information in the field of volunteering and on activities organised in the framework of the Year.



December marked the **official launch of the EYV 2011 and the EYV Tour by the European Commission in Brussels**, by EC Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Viviane Reding, Belgium's federal Secretary of State for Social Affairs Jean-Marc Delizée, and MEP Marian Harkin.

As for the **EYV Tour**, which will travel to every EU member state with the aim of bringing the EYV campaign closer to all EU citizens, it set up its tent in Brussels as its first stop. There, volunteers and various organisations involving volunteers, including CEV Belgian members, were present and had the opportunity to exhibit their work, meet each other, share their concerns and enthusiasm with citizens, and discuss key issues for the future of volunteers.

Policy

4.2 EU institutions

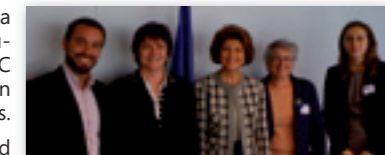
The European Year of Volunteering was again this year one of our main priorities and biggest expectations at the same time! But there has also been a lot of work done on other crucial issues relating to volunteering at EU level. Here follows an account of the main priorities CEV worked on throughout 2010, with regard to the European Union institutions.

The European Commission...

is the motor of EU policy-making as it has the power of initiative in terms of EU legislation. Following the reshuffle of the European Commission in January 2010, our new main interlocutor for policy and advocacy work within the Commission is the Directorate-General for Communication, as the DG responsible for the "Europe for Citizens" Programme and "Active European Citizenship" policies. CEV's main advocacy activities towards the Commission in 2010 were the following:




- ★ CEV, as one of the stakeholders of the Active European Citizenship group, participated in two meetings of the Group in 2010, and in a consultation session on shaping the future of the Europe for Citizens Programme beyond 2013.
- ★ CEV conducted research on the role of volunteering in different policy areas, at the end of 2009. The result – 17 fact sheets on volunteering – have been disseminated in January 2010 to the new Commissioners from the respective DGs, working within the Barroso II Commission, before their hearings at the European Parliament. Six Commissioners addressed a reply to CEV's letter, namely: Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship; László Andor – Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs; Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Environment; John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy; and Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration.
- ★ Based on the input of its members, CEV contributed to the European Commission consultation on Sport („Strategic choices for the implementation of the new EU competence in the field of sport“), stressing the important role of volunteering in this sector (May)
- ★ CEV participated in the Brainstorming meeting organised by the European Commission on 12th July on the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012, and attended the Demography Forum session on 'Making Active Ageing a Reality in Europe' (November).
- ★ On 15th September CEV met with EU Commissioner for Culture, Education, Multilingualism and Youth Androulla Vassiliou. The discussions focused on CEV's continuation of collaboration with the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) now that the Citizenship Policy area has moved to DG Communication, as DG EAC keeps important portfolios touching on volunteering such as the Lifelong Learning programme, the Youth in Action programme together with the newly launched initiative „Youth on the Move“, and volunteering in sports.
- ★ CEV contributed to the European Commission consultation on the future Lifelong Learning programme and Youth in Action programmes (2014-2020), based on the input gathered among CEV members. (November)
- ★ CEV contributed to the European Commission consultation on the future Europe for Citizens programme, highlighting the importance of recognising volunteering as match funding for projects, equal to monetary match funding. (December)



The European Parliament...

...forms, together with the Council of the EU, the legislative branch of the EU; it is the only directly elected body of the EU and it has been playing a growing role over the last years in the formulation of EU legislation. The European Parliament counts among the strong supporters of CEV and its vision, which makes it a crucial strategic partner.




 CEV supported the re-establishment of the Volunteering Interest Group, of which the first meeting was held on 13 April at the European Parliament. Markus Held, CEV Director, made a speech on volunteering in Europe at this occasion.


The Committee of the Regions...

... (CoR) is an advisory body, which brings together regional and local authorities and provides the other institutions with a political input into the decision making process.



 CEV actively participated at the Open Days 2010, co-organised by the Committee of the Regions and DG REGIO. CEV had an informative stand on the topic of involvement in EYV 2011, and it co-organised with the Flanders-Europe Liaison Office (VLEVA) and other regional networks a workshop on volunteering at the premises of VLEVA. The workshop was chaired by CEV Director Markus Held and included CEV President Eva Hambach, and representatives from CEV members FUNDAR and Het Punt as speakers (October)





 CEV was invited to a meeting with Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions on the future cooperation between CEV and the Committee of the Regions (October)



4.3 EU Presidencies...

...are the driving force of the legislative and political decision-making process as they define the priorities of EU policy action. Each Member State presides in turn over the Council of the EU over a period of 6 months. CEV advocates the inclusion by incoming Presidents of volunteering as a priority in their work programme. In 2010, Spain and Belgium successively held the Presidency of the EU. CEV also approached Hungary and Poland, in view of their Presidency during 2011. the three main EU institutions.

 CEV received support from the **Spanish Presidency** for the organisation of its Multi-Stakeholder Symposium in Valencia, Spain, in April. In this framework, Rita Barberá Nolla, Mayor of Valencia, opened the conference together with CEV President Eva Hambach and FUNDAR President Rafael Blasco.

 CEV received support from the **Belgian Presidency** in the framework of its Symposium in Brussels, in December. Kris Peeters, Minister President of the Flemish Region, intervened as a speaker in the opening ceremony of the conference, underlining the importance of volunteering in the sector of the fight against poverty and social exclusion.



5. Flashlight on services to members – the CEV Online Community and the Job Shadowing project

The CEV Online Community

Finally it is here: the CEV Online Community is born in February 2010...



Our CEV answer to Facebook: as a social media platform, the CEV Online Community connects CEV members and partners allowing them to share their knowledge, publications and projects on volunteering. All CEV members can log on there, find experts within the CEV network and read about good practices and projects all over Europe. In addition, every representative of a CEV member organisation can create their own profile, let other members know about interests and expertise and disseminate information about projects and resources.

The CEV Online Community is organised by topics: information is sorted and displayed by categories such as volunteering “target groups”, “areas of engagement”, and “volunteer management”. It has a search engine which allows a direct search of “members”, “experts” “projects” and “resources”. Members can send messages to each other directly through their Online Community account, as well as contact members of “topic communities”, i.e. colleagues interested in the same topics.

Job shadowing – study visit for CEV members in Brussels



Following the succes of the first „job shadowing” in 2009, the CEV Secretariat in Brussels hosted a second study visit for representatives from its member organisations from 31st May to 4th June 2010, in the framework of the Lifelong Learning programme.



The visit aimed at providing the participants with an introduction to the work done by CEV at EU level, as well as an overview of EU funding opportunities and how these can be used best by volunteer organisations. During their stay, the 7 participants had the opportunity to visit their national representatives in the Parliament and the representatives from their region; sessions on the various European programmes were led by experts from the European Commission and Regional Representations; and many networking opportunities were provided to the participants for them to exchange respective experiences, ideas and examples of best practices.

A third edition of the job shadowing will be organised in 2011, welcoming CEV members from 7 different countries.



6. Projects

... informing policy and developing innovative practice ...

VALUE – Volunteering and Lifelong Learning in Universities



VALUE is a Grundtvig network² focusing on the question of how volunteer skills / volunteer learning and university studies can be brought together. The network is managed by the University of Liverpool for the period 2008-2011 together with the Institute of Volunteering Research (IVR) and comprises 20 partner organisations such as the Universities of Graz and Hamburg, as well as CEV member organisations such as ProVobis (RO), C.A.R.D.O. (SK) and Volunteering England (IVR). CEV serves as the European policy and dissemination partner ensuring a link between the European policy in this area and the work of the project..

SEE YOUth in action for 2011 European Year of Volunteering!

„SEE YOUth in action for 2011 European Year of Volunteering!“ is a project aimed at preparing fertile ground for the implementation of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 in the region of South East Europe (SEE). The activities gather 12 promoters coming from 8 SEE countries and CEV and SEEYN organisations. The main project’s objectives are to promote volunteering and the EYV 2011 in SEE countries; to ensure recognition and support for the EYV 2011 from governments in SEE countries; to increase the capacities of NGOs and public institutions in volunteering management; and to link SEE countries with the EYV 2011 campaign on a European level. CEV’s main role is to link the project promoters to the campaign taking place at European level and provide advice from a European perspective.



European Volunteer Measurement project



The Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies has initiated a proposal for a European Volunteer Measurement project, designed to progress the initiatives linked to measuring the economic value of volunteering. In 2010 CEV and its Italian member organisation SPES were partners in the campaign addressed to the

² http://www.cev.be/114-value_volunteering_and_lifelong_learning_in_universities-EN.html

European Commission, the European Parliament and various Italian and European Foundations to collect funds for the implementation of this project. The project goals are to finalise the ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work; to promote its adoption and implementation by 10-15 European countries; to produce an Annex to it containing recommended protocols to measure other facets of volunteering; and to integrate the data generated through this process into the first of a regular series of „State of European Volunteering Reports“. So far, the campaign gave the following results: the European Commission stressed, among the main matters to be tackled during the EYV 2011, the lack of internationally-comparable statistics on volunteering; and the European Parliament amended the 2011 EU Budget for part of the appropriations to be used to carry out research on the scope, scale and composition of volunteer work in the EU.



Two Minds Project

CEV was a partner in the project „Two Minds“, coordinated by its member Centro Nazionale per il Volontariato (CNV, Lucca, Italy). This project was funded by the EU Daphne Programme to combat violence against children, young people and women, focusing on family mediation as a tool to prevent and manage family conflicts. Through the project, training and information courses were held in the partner countries, directly involving more than 5000 people – volunteers, operators in the public and private social sectors, teachers and students, lawyers and magistrates, parents and children; around 40 family mediators were trained throughout Europe; and the experimentation of mediation in various environments and the exchange of experience and good practice were promoted. The project concluded with an international conference in Florence, Italy, in December, aimed at creating an opportunity for sharing of experiences at European level on the themes of family mediation, community mediation, and the role of voluntary services and the associations in the promotion of networks among associations and institutions.

EVS – European Voluntary Service



In the framework of the Youth in Action Programme of DG Education and Culture, the European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans aged 18 to 30 with the opportunity to get experience and skills and express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. After a first successful experience in 2009, as an EVS hosting organisation, CEV welcomed three more EVS volunteers in 2010. The first project focused on the assessment, evaluation and development of new communication tools (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) which can contribute to the enhancement of communicating volunteering; the second project addressed the process of reinforcing the exchange of good practices on volunteering between the European and the local levels by gathering the experience of the local level organisations and spreading them through new technologies; and the third project was implemented in view of the global objective of building a bridge between the two European Years 2010 and 2011.



7. Spreading the word: publications and communication ...

CEV publications



Fact sheets on volunteering (January 2010)

The CEV secretariat produced in January 2010 17 fact sheets on volunteering on the role of volunteering in different policy areas, which have been disseminated to the new European Commission members in January 2010. The fact sheets compile facts and figures about the role of volunteering in 17 different Directorate-Generals, covering 24 policy areas or services of the European Commission for the period 2010–2014. The primary goal of the fact sheets was to provide an overview of the importance and impact of volunteering in all these diverse areas and outline recommendations for further development and promotion of volunteering during the current European Commission mandate.



Facts and Figures on Volunteering in Russia (July 2010)

This publication provides information on the historical development of volunteering in Russia, the current state of play in terms of volunteering infrastructure, and recommendations on what still needs to be achieved in terms of the legislative background as well as the necessary volunteering infrastructure



Conference conclusions of the CEV General Assembly in Malmö „An enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe: Situation – Trends – Outlook“ (October 2010)

The report summarises the conference discussions, addressing the concept of ‘volunteering infrastructure’ and the general state of play of volunteering infrastructure in Europe; the role of the volunteering infrastructure; its different elements and examples of good practices; and the role of various actors in the development of the volunteering infrastructure. The report concludes with the Malmö Agenda, which constitutes recommendations towards an enabling volunteering infrastructure in Europe, and which is drawn from the conclusions of the Conference.



Conference conclusions of the CEV Multi-Stakeholder Symposium in Valencia: “Effectively Communicating volunteering: The role of PR, Media and Raising Public Awareness” (October 2010)

This report seeks to identify and highlight the main conclusions that have been drawn in terms of “Golden Rules” for communicating volunteering in the most effective way, looking at the various dimensions of communication, some specific cases, and the upcoming European Year of Volunteering as an opportunity for communicating volunteering. No less than 40 Golden Rules have been formulated during the conference and are compiled in this report. The report includes a DVD, which compiles the various PowerPoint presentations, videos and other communication material presented during the Symposium.

Most of these publications can be downloaded on www.cev.be.
Hardcopies can be ordered at the CEV secretariat.

Publications

CEV in the press

Involve – Volunteering Australia newsletter (February 2010): European Volunteer Centre (article on the CEV website)

European Voice (April 2010): The year of the helper (interview of Markus Held, CEV Director)

Spanish media (April–May 2010): CEV Multi-Stakeholder Symposium in Valencia mentioned in over 20 Spanish radios, TVs and newspapers, including *El Pais* and *El Mundo*

Europe Direct Network – Yours Directly (September 2010): *In the service of Society* (Interview of Eva Hambach, CEV President)

Press conference about CEV and the EYV 2011 at the House of Slovak Regions, attended by around 20 Slovak journalists (October 2010) – resulted in several reports in various national and regional Slovak media including Trenčín Regional TV station

Neue Soziale Bewegungen Forschungs-journal (December 2010): *Die EU auf dem Weg zu einer Engagementpolitik* (article by Markus Held, CEV Director)

Knack (December 2010): *Eva Hambach verkozen tot Mens van het Jaar 2010* (Eva Hambach chosen as Person of the Year 2010)

Communication

The CEV Online Community



As a social media platform, the CEV Online Community connects CEV members and partners allowing them to share their knowledge, publications and projects on volunteering. The CEV Online Community was launched in February. (see page 15)

The CEV News...



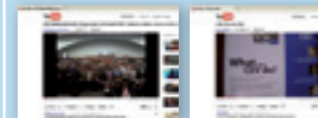
is a monthly newsletter providing information on CEV activities, CEV members’ projects, EU policies, relevant calls for proposals, events and any other relevant information for the volunteer community within CEV membership and beyond. The CEV News is sent to more than 850 readers in html format, and it is published in PDF format on the CEV website. Since October, the CEV News includes an additional section concerning activities carried out in view or in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering 2011, within the EYV 2011 Alliance.

www.cev.be

The CEV website provides visitors with the possibility to learn more about CEV’s organisational structure (Board of Directors and Secretariat), CEV’s work and vision, and the projects it is involved in at European level; it provides basic information and links to all its member organisations’ websites and it is regularly updated with CEV’s new publications (General Assembly reports, project reports, press releases, research papers, CEV News), information about its activities and events, and any other information relevant for the volunteer community. About 375,500 visits were counted in 2009, which represents a significant increase compared to the previous year.

CEV is on Wikipedia and You Tube

CEV now has its own page on Wikipedia, the free, web-based, collaborative, multilingual encyclopedia. On the CEV page you can find information about our history, our organisational structure, funding sources, aims and main activities, and member organisations.



In addition, CEV is now also present on the famous video-sharing website, YouTube, with a reporting video of its Symposium in Valencia, April, as well as a reporting video of its Symposium in Brussels, December.



8. CEV's external relations

SOCIAL PLATFORM

CEV is a full member of the **social platform**, the platform of European Social NGOs

CEV is part of the Communication and Administration Networks of the Social Platform. During 2010, it has participated in several Skills Sharing Sessions of both networks.

CEV participated in the Social Platform Study Visit in Budapest (Hungary), in September, and in the Study Visit in Riga (Latvia), in November. The Study Visits addressed the „Impact of the crisis on people, civil society organisations and social policies“.

IAVE

CEV is a member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), which is a global network of volunteers, volunteer organisations, national representatives and volunteer centres, with members in over 70 countries, and in all world regions.

CEV collaborated with IAVE in the framework of the CEV Multi-Stakeholder Symposium in Valencia (April 2010), during which IAVE held a special forum on the “state of health” of corporate volunteering in Europe.

CEV member Volunteering Ireland has been chosen to host the 2012 IAVE World Conference in Dublin, Ireland. The theme for this conference is “Volunteering and Human Rights: working for the noblest aspirations of humankind – the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people through volunteer effort.” CEV strongly supported the application of Volunteering Ireland in this process.

The Council of Europe in Strasbourg

The Council of Europe (CoE)³ is an international organisation with 47 Member States whose activities focus mainly on the promotion of democratic stability, human rights and cultural identity and diversity. CEV was granted participatory status at the end of 2008 and is part of the International Non-Governmental Organisations Group (INGOs).

UNV

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the UN focal point for promoting and harnessing volunteering for effective development and a strategic source of knowledge and advice about the role and contribution of volunteering.

CEV participated in the UNV preparatory meeting towards IYV + 10 (the International Year of Volunteers +10) and synergies with EYV 2011.



Johns Hopkins University/Centre for Civil Society Studies (JHU/CCSS)



Over the last seven years, JHU/CCSS has developed efforts to include into national accounts statistics on the contribution of the volunteering sector to national economies. In this context, JHU/CCSS, CEV and its member organisation SPES collaborated in 2010 in the framework of a campaign for a European Volunteer Measurement project, which is designed to progress the initiatives linked to measuring the economic value of volunteering (page 16).

Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011



CEV is a member of the Executive Group of the Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, which is an informal grouping of European networks of CSOs active in volunteering that have committed to working together on the advocacy for and promotion, preparation and implementation of the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The EYV 2011 Alliance counts 37 members (find the complete list on www.eyv2011.eu). CEV is the legal contractor the European Commission's action grant for the coordination of civil society in the light of the EYV 2011, and has been mandated on behalf of the EYV 2011 Alliance to host its Secretariat.



EY 2010 END POVERTY NGO Coalition



CEV was a member of the NGO coalition of the European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion. CEV participated in several meetings of the Coalition, and it formulated its own specific demands in the framework of the Year, namely the recognition of volunteering as a way of empowerment of the vulnerable groups; the creation of an enabling environment for volunteering; the identification of barriers to active engagement of the most vulnerable groups; and the creation of synergies between EY 2010, 2011 and 2012. Finally, CEV organised its second Symposium 2010 on the topic of the European Year, and contributed to the European Year Final Declaration.

Business



CEV is a partner of ENGAGE, the international employee community engagement programme.

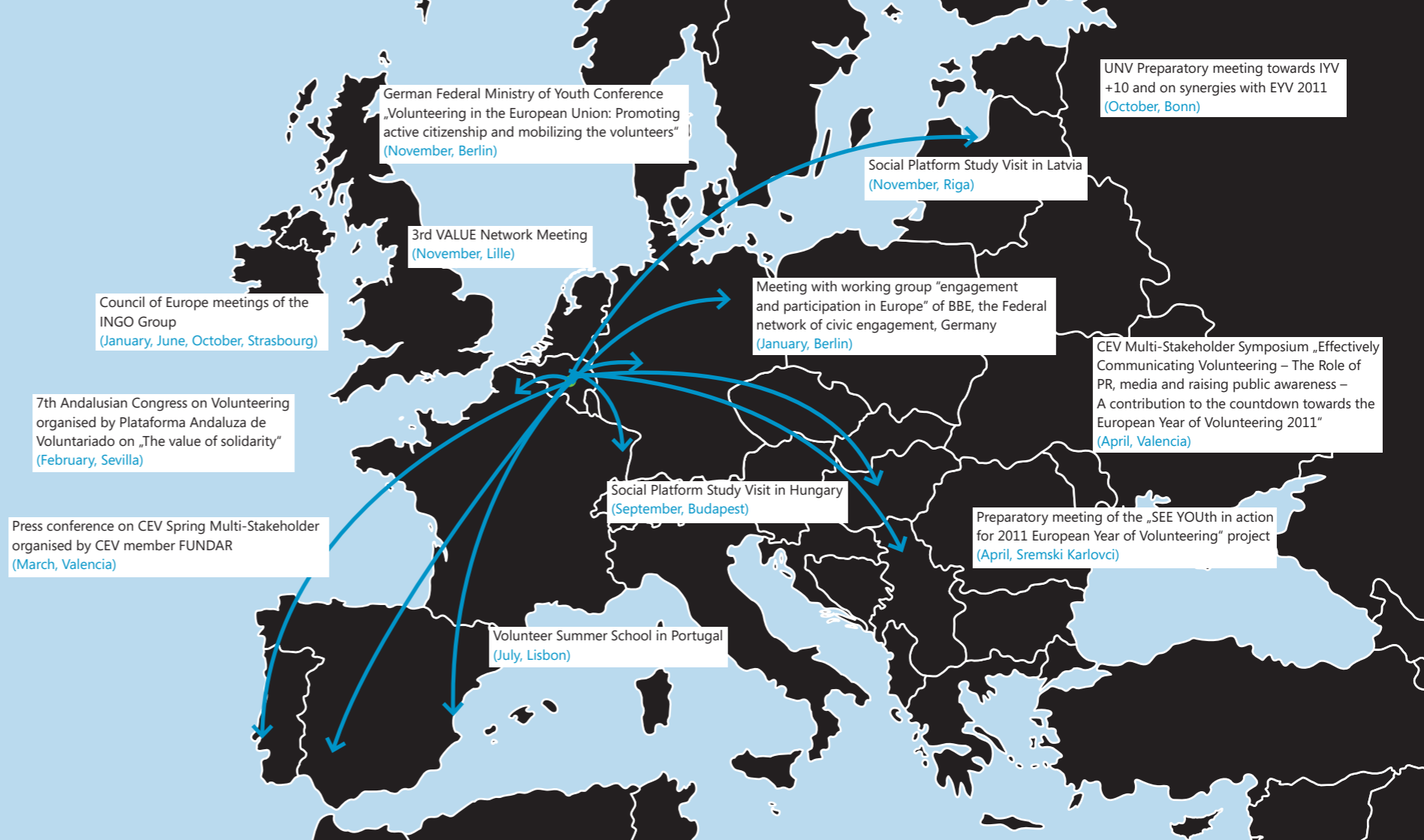


In the framework of its Symposium in Valencia, CEV collaborated with representatives from ENGAGE and American Airlines, who chaired the business session of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the preparation of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

Some of the meetings CEV contributed to in 2010

Meetings in Brussels:

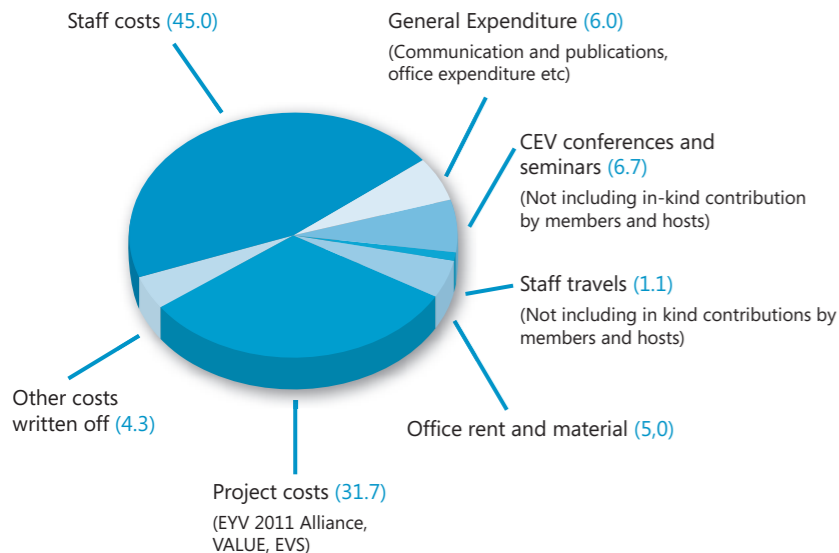
- ~ 11 EVV 2011 Alliance meetings and 13 Alliance Executive Group meetings (all along the year)
- ~ 5 CEV Board of Directors meetings (all along the year)
- ~ 2 Meetings of the NGO Coalition of the European Year 2010 (February, September)
- ~ 2 Stakeholder meetings of Active Citizenship Group at European Commission (January, June)
- ~ VolonteurEurope Seminar „Impact of Volunteering: Beyond GDP” (January)
- ~ European Policy Centre Policy Briefing „Priorities for a new portfolio: what direction for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship in the EU?” with Commissioner Reding (March)
- ~ Meeting of the Expert Group on the Mobility of Young Volunteers (March, October)
- ~ EESC Conference „A structured civil dialogue for a citizen friendly EU” (March)
- ~ Meeting with representatives of the Polish government on the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU (March)
- ~ Social Platform General Assembly (April)
- ~ Meeting on the re-establishment of the European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group (April)
- ~ Job shadowing week at CEV for CEV members (June)
- ~ Bi-annual meeting of the Social Platform with the Commissioners (DG EMPL Commissioner László Andor and DG JLS Commissioner Reding (June)
- ~ European Commission Consultation Meeting on the Europe for Citizens Programme as of 2014 (June)
- ~ EC stakeholder meeting on „Reinforcing the European Union’s Disaster Response Capacity” (July)
- ~ EYV 2011 National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) meeting (September)
- ~ CEV meets EU Commissioner for Culture, Education, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou (September)
- ~ Launch of the European Commission initiative Youth on the Move (September)
- ~ CEV holds a stand and coorganises a workshop on the EYV 2011, together with the Flanders-EU liaison office, at the Committee of the Region Open Days (October)
- ~ CEV meets Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), on future cooperation between CEV and the CoR
- ~ Social Platform Steering Group meeting (October)
- ~ CEV Symposium „Volunteering as a means of empowerment and social inclusion – A bridge between the European Years 2010 and 2011” (December)
- ~ EYV 2011 Press launch (December)



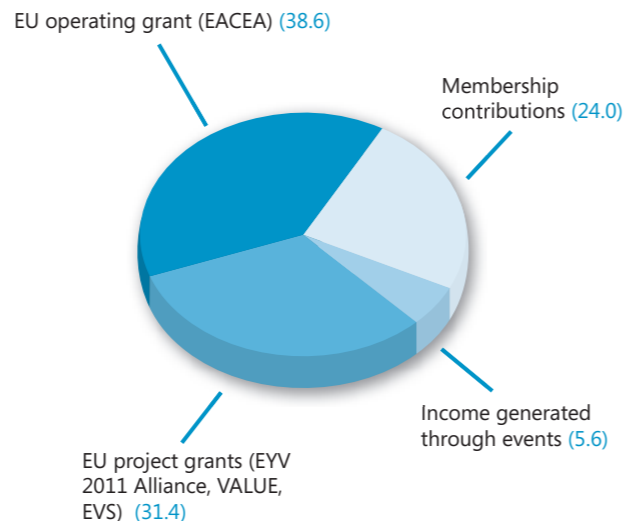
How much does it cost?

Expenditure and income of CEV in 2010

CEV expenditure in % of total 299,145.29 €



CEV income in % of total 299,145.29 €



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Messages from our supporters...

CEV is lucky to have the support of outstanding personalities such as Elton John and Marta Sebestyén, who, in their quality of CEV ambassadors, are promoting and supporting volunteering and CEV's objectives. Here are some words from them:



“I am delighted to have been invited to become the United Kingdom's Ambassador of CEV and volunteering at the European level. As a volunteer myself in the field of HIV/AIDS, I know that volunteering is central to European ideals of democracy and to the building of strong, cohesive communities. Millions of citizens throughout Europe are actively involved in giving their time to make society work in human terms. It is vital that this contribution is recognised and supported by both the European institutions and by national governments and I wholeheartedly support CEV in its role as advocate for volunteering in Europe.”

**Sir Elton John, singer
UK**



“It is a big pleasure for me to be CEV's Ambassador for Hungary. Your mission to promote an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish and for citizens to actively engage for the issues they care for is most important - and it is close to my heart. Indeed, as a musician, I do share with you the passion of bringing citizens together and of bringing joy to their lives - this will make a difference to our societies that are more and more characterized by individualism and mistrust. I am pleased to join you to support active European citizens, as they are the human face of our European values putting them into living practice!”

**Márta Sebestyén, singer,
Hungary**

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