

## Lviv European Volunteering Capital Candidate 2024 Jury Feedback | Brussels, 10 December 2022

**Supported by the Lviv Municipality, the volunteer centre in Lviv has developed strong avenues to facilitate information about volunteering to a diverse range of people in the area.** Whilst support for volunteering and civil society was clearly evident before 2022, **the current war in the country has raised the importance of volunteers in protection and conservation of life and well-being** during the ongoing conflict and for their importance going forward for reconstruction and peacebuilding. This EV Capital competition is designed to support local communities to recognize their volunteering initiatives, strengthen the local framework for volunteering and encourage a culture of volunteering. As in every competition, there is always someone who holds the title of the year, but CEV has always been committed to the idea that **with this competition we create space for all interested local communities to strive for something together.** This year we believe it is even more important to emphasise this meaning. **For the first time in this competition one of our candidate cities is faced with unimaginable destruction of its country, exposed to constant threats of attack, and at the same time has accepted hundreds of thousands of refugees.**

**The value of volunteers is described as essential in the application. Even during the war, volunteering has been further integrated into the municipality's planning for crisis prevention and response and building resilience in their community.** Russia's invasion of Ukraine has of course impacted the municipality's funding model, and it has made it difficult to project a plan for a future volunteering strategy in the usual way. That being said, the jury feels that the application could have contained more detailed and precise information on the volunteering practices that were in place before the war, and how they hoped to ensure they continue post-war. The potential of the European Solidarity Corps for resilience and reconstruction could also have been better highlighted.

**Lviv has presented a heart-wrenching candidacy, full of the courage and steadfastness of their existential war. We want to express our admiration for the strength that Lviv has shown with this candidacy, our strong support for the volunteering efforts of citizens who mitigate the terrible consequences of war, and our determination to encourage the community of European Volunteering Capitals and Candidates to support Lviv in achieving our common goals to strengthen local infrastructure and honour volunteering as an expression of solidarity and civic engagement.** CEV is determined to provide leadership in creating spaces for sharing, networking and capacity building to help this process especially with Lviv as it moves forward to 2025 and its role as the European Youth Capital. **Synergies between this and developing volunteering in the city will be essential and CEV together with the whole membership and European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community is ready for these next important steps.** We are convinced that this attempt to become European Volunteering Capital is a good first attempt which will lead, once the war is over, to a more complete, balanced and detailed candidature in the future.

### ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

**CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital Competition to strengthen, inspire and celebrate volunteering** and the impact made by volunteers at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen volunteering, especially through partnerships with stakeholders from different sectors such as volunteer centres, volunteer-involving organisations and the for-profit sector.

The judging criteria are the extent of their strategies, policies, and programmes in connection to the Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 and to the CEV Volunteering Policy Statements. Evidence about their engagement with, and support for, the European Solidarity Corps when the applicant comes from an EU member state is also required. Applicants are also asked to indicate if they are signatories of the Integrating Cities Charter.

The awarded municipality is chosen from the candidates by an **international jury of key personalities** connected with volunteering, representing civil society, the private, for-profit sector, as well as the EU institutions: Michel Lefranc (CEV Board), Jan Verdée (CEV Board), Lena Karnalova (CEV Board), George Thomson (CEV Board), Kieran McCarthy (Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member), Krzysztof Pater (EESC Member, Rapporteur Opinion "Volunteering - Citizens Building the Future of Europe"), Maria Walsh (MEP, EPP Volunteering Interest Group member), Barbara Eglitis (Coordinator, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre), Piotr Sadowski (Member of the Standing Committee the Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe), Begona Barbera Garcia (Iberdrola Social Projects Manager, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN), Monika Chabior (Gdansk Vice Mayor).

**The previous winners are:** Trondheim 2023 - Gdansk 2022 - Berlin 2021 - Padova 2020 - Košice 2019 - Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017 - London 2016 - Lisbon 2015 - Barcelona 2014.

The Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) is the European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. Through our network we work together to ensure that: the value of quality volunteering as an expression of Solidarity and European values is understood, supported and celebrated; policies & programmes, together with the European social environment, inspires, encourages and supports quality European Volunteering; Individuals and organisations that are active in the volunteering and civil society sphere share, learn and are inspired from one another in the framework of CEV . In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work.