

Citizen Engagement for Recovery - Volunteering In Solidarity



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- Volunteering in Solidarity

#CERVIS

Project No. 101051597

(Revealing European Values In Volunteering in
Europe - REVIVE Project No. 101051131)



Co-funded by
the European Union

December 2022

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In the context of a 4-year framework agreement grant under the European Union “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” fund (CERV) - “REVIVE” (Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe - 2022-2025), in 2022, the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) has implemented a series of activities and initiatives aimed at promoting Citizen Engagement and equality through volunteering - connecting volunteering to EU Values.

Through the **European Volunteering Capital Competition**, “CERVIS” enabled volunteers & staff of volunteer-involving & volunteer infrastructure organisations, as well as local authorities and other policymakers, including at the EU level, to engage in mutual learning and exchange good practices on the role of volunteering as active citizen engagement and an expression of democracy and European values.

The **#REVIVE, #CERVIS and “What Europe (K)needs” campaigns** gave visibility to, and raised awareness about, the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers that are enabled under different EU policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan and programmes such as CERV, the “Next Generation EU” funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus Plus, increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives and promoted EU values.

Through **toolkits and training courses**, “CERVIS” increased the capacities of organisations to create favourable conditions for advancing gender equality and tackling multiple and intersecting discrimination and as a result, provide more and better quality inclusive volunteering opportunities involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors.

CEV increased capacity to directly reach over 17,000 citizens and entities and indirectly almost 10 million citizens interested in volunteering and bringing the European context to their activities, especially in the framework of National and Regional volunteering weeks, festivals and conferences in 8 EU Member States. We shared 30 individual volunteer stories showing the diversity of volunteers and volunteering and in this way inspired and activated even more citizens as volunteers.

Thanks to the coordination of the CEV secretariat, leadership of the CEV Board and the commitment of CEV member organisations: Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk vzw (BE); Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria Association (BG); Spanish Volunteering Platform (ES); Andalucian Volunteering Platform (ES), France Benevolat (FR); Tous Bénévoles (FR); Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (HR); Talentum Foundation for the support of volunteering (HU); CSV Padova and Rovigo (IT); CSV Marche (IT); CSV Net (IT); Malta Council for Voluntary Organisations (MT); Portuguese Volunteer Confederation - CPV (PT); Fundação Eugénio de Almeida (PT); Pro Vobis National Resource Center for Volunteering (RO); Slovenska filantropija (SI) & Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK) means that through “CERVIS”, **volunteering is now better understood in society as a key tool of citizen engagement and expression of solidarity contributing to the future of Europe and equality based on EU Values and active citizen engagement.**



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/cervis>

Exchange of Good Practice

INEAR (Inclusion, Equality and Rights in Volunteering) events

CEV organised a series of 5 INEAR (Inclusion, Equality and Rights in Volunteering) webinars on the "Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030", exploring each chapter, 2 INEAR international seminars and 2 national workshops involving a total of 334 participants from 19 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK and Ukraine) have participated. Among the participants 132 were males, 201 were females and 1 non-binary.

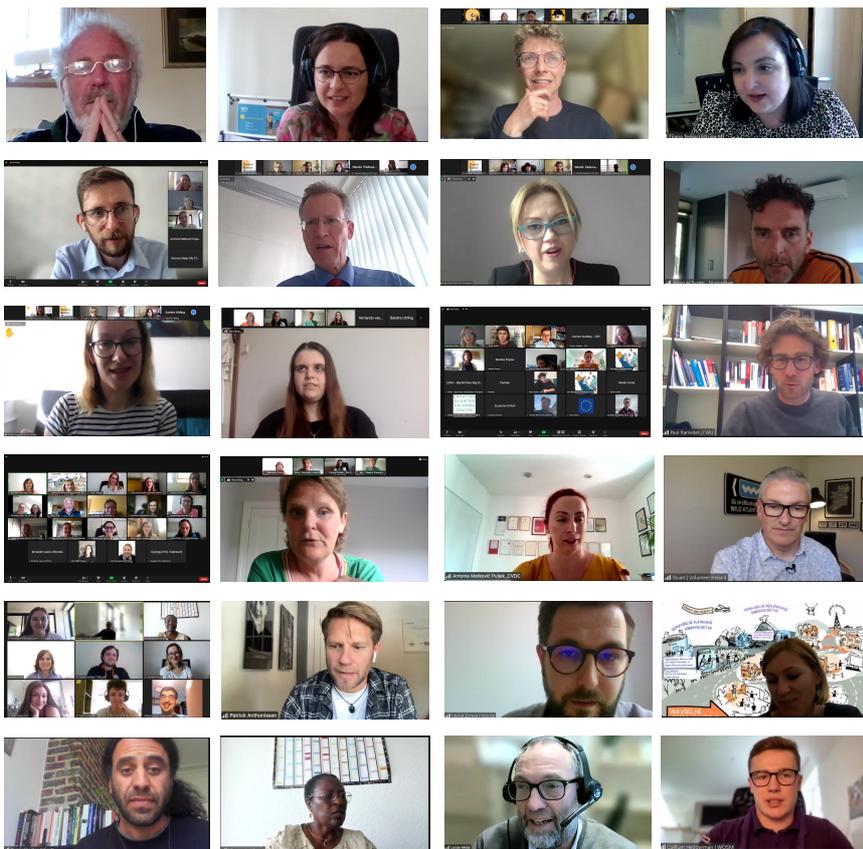
- INEAR Seminar - Brussels (BE) - March 7th
- INEAR Webinars:
 - ▶ Independent and inclusive engagement - March 31st
 - ▶ New volunteers and methods - April 27th
 - ▶ Empowerment - May 30th
 - ▶ Appreciation of contribution - June 22nd
 - ▶ Resources for more Value - July 4th
- INEAR Seminar - Gdansk (PL) - October 4th
- INEAR Workshop - Valencia (ES) - November 2nd
- INEAR Workshop - Evora (PT) - December 5th



The INEAR events provided the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange about how Inclusion, Equality and Rights are defended by volunteers through acts of solidarity and what is needed to increase the impact and connection to European values and the European context.

Several key speakers accompanied and stimulated the discussion and exchange during the INEAR events such as:

Lejla Sehic Relic - CEV President, **Friedemann Walther** - Head of the Berlin Senate Chancellery Civic Engagement and Democracy Promotion, **Jan Verdee** - CEV Board member & representative of "Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk vzw", **Monika Popow** - plenipotentiary Mayor of Gdańsk City for the European Capital of Volunteering, **Jeroen de Punder** - CEO of the Social Care Network, Netherlands, **Tijana Tesija** - Expert Associate, Association "MI", **Stuart Garland** - Volunteer Ireland, **Paul Rameder** - Research associate at the institute for Nonprofit Management, WU Wien, Austria- and **Itamar Shachar** - Centre for Social Theory, Department of Sociology Ghent University, Belgium, **Alzbeta Brozmanova Gregorova** - Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (SK), **Lucas Meijjs** - Rotterdam School of Management (Erasmus University) NL, **Nina Arwitz** - CEV Board Member & CEO Volunteer Ireland, **Anna Czaman** - Influencer, **Joseph Rojas** - CEV Staff, **Karol Gzyl** - Gdansk Foundation, **Romina Matei** - European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre, **Antonia Matkovic Puljek** - Croatian Volunteer Development Centre, **Patrick Anthonissen** - Founder Social Care Network, **Michał Zorena** - Department of Social Development, City Hall in Gdańsk, **Caillum Hedderman** - WOSM, **Michel Lefranc** - France Benevolat & CEV Board Member, **Marguerite Minani** - UNV Research and Measurement, **Victor Quirós Oyaguez** - Spanish Volunteering Platform (PVE) & CEV Board Member, **Henrique Sim-Sim** - Fundação Eugénio de Almeida and **Gabriella Civico** - CEV director.



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/inear>

Exchange of Good Practice

European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community

The EVCCC is an unique community of practice of municipalities (and other levels of local and regional authorities) that have expertise in, and a shared concern for, strengthening, inspiring and celebrating Volunteering and Solidarity. In 2022 the EVCCC gathered on two occasions, involving a total of 141 participants from 19 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine) have attended the two events. Among them 85 were females and 56 were males:

- The **webinar "Ukraine Refugee Crisis Response and Resilience through volunteering. What role for Municipalities?"** on June 7th explored the role of municipalities and volunteers in crisis volunteering in relation to the consequences of the war in Ukraine. The event was moderated by Monika Popow, Chief Specialist President's office Gdansk (EV Capital 2022), and speakers included; Friedemann Walther, Senate Chancellery Berlin, (EV Capital 2021); Maria Maślak, Deputy Director of the Social Development Department, City of Gdansk; Roman Dohovic, Plenipotentiary for humanitarian aid to refugees from Ukraine & Miroslav Sambor, Communications Department, City of Košice, (EV Capital 2019); Ilaria Ferraro, Projects and Training Manager, Volunteer Centre of Padova and Rovigo, (EV Capital 2020); Flavia Boghiu, Deputy Mayor of Braşov; Anna Szadkowska-Ciężka, Deputy Director of the Participation Office, City of Lublin (European Youth Capital 2023).



- The **Study Visit in Gdansk, EVCapital 2022**, on October 3rd-4th enabled representatives from the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC), CEV members, other organisations and individuals to explore the volunteering actions in a selected of initiatives: The Orunia Community House, the Polish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, the Immigrant Support Centre, the FOSA Foundation, and the Sitowie Garden and Twoja Rola Foundation. The study visit involved over 100 participants and was aimed at introducing participants to gain a deeper understanding of how volunteering and solidarity is encouraged and supported in Gdansk through a strong cross sectoral partnership, embedded in EU values.



EVCapital2022

In 2013, the European Year of Citizens, CEV launched the European Volunteering Capital competition to promote volunteering at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer-involving organisations and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers. In 2022 Gdansk (Poland) was #EVCapital2022. Reaching almost 400,000 citizens, more than 700 dedicated diverse volunteer actions took place, as well as 30 meetings bringing the idea of the European Volunteering Capital and European framework closer to the citizens. 10 local volunteer centres were created giving a lasting legacy. Key moments included:



- **Press conference:** On January 18th 2022 the EVCapital 2022 Gdansk held a press conference at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk (Poland) to present their year under the motto "It doesn't happen without us". The event saw the participation of: the Mayor of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz; the Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk Monika Chabior; CEV Director Gabriella Civico; and the volunteers of Gdansk as well as their associations and organisations.
- **EVCapital 2022 Open Ceremony:** On January 30th 2022 the EVCapital 2022 Gdansk held its opening Ceremony during the annual national "Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity" event. The keys to the city were handed over to volunteers in a high visibility and symbolic moment. The event saw the participation of the Mayor of Gdansk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz; the Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk Monika Chabior; Piotr Adamowicz, Polish MP; CEV Director Gabriella Civico; and the volunteers of Gdansk as well as their associations and organisations.
- **EVCapital 2022 Closing Ceremony:** In Gdansk, Poland, for the closing ceremony of EVCapital 2022 on December 10th 2022. EVCapital 2024 Trento (Italy) was announced and the title of EVCapital 2023 formally passed to Trondheim (NO).



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/european-volunteering-capital-2022>



Exchange of Good Practice

EVCapital2024

Trento (Italy) was awarded the title of European Volunteering Capital 2024 on December 10th, at the EVCapital Gdansk 2022 closing ceremony. The other candidate, Lviv (Ukraine) was recognised for its achievements and its vital support to volunteers and volunteering, especially in the time of crisis the country is living through. The competition included the following the steps:

Call for Candidature
Launched on February 14th with deadline June 3rd.



Announcement of the EVCapital2024 candidates
Lviv (Ukraine) and Trento (Italy) announced their candidature for the EVCapital 2024 competition. The Candidate Certificates were presented in Brussels in the month of June.



Announcement of the Jury

On September 7th the jury members were announced. The jury was composed by representatives of CEV, Cork City Councillor & EU Committee of the Regions member, EESC, MEPs, European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre, Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe, Iberdrola as Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN) and Gdansk Vice Mayor.



Presentation of the candidates in Gdansk

During the CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2022, on October 4th, the candidates presented themselves with a video and a presentation in front of the Jury members, the EVCCC, CEV members and other volunteers and organisations from Gdansk and further afield.



Winner Announcement

On December 10th 2022, at the EVCapital Gdansk 2022 closing ceremony, Trento (Italy) was announced the European Volunteering Capital 2024.

In choosing Trento as the European Volunteering Capital 2024 the jury have noted their exceptional credibility to be the European Volunteering Capital 2024 and highlight that the city is an excellent candidate and scored very highly on all aspects of the criteria based on the Blueprint for Volunteering 2030 (BEV2030). They also stress that their innovative video captured succinctly so many qualities, values & spirit of volunteering in the city that can set an example across Europe.



The jury also commends Lviv as a candidate and wants to express admiration for the strength that Lviv has shown with their candidacy and strong support for the volunteering efforts of citizens who mitigate the terrible consequences of war in such a variety of ways. The jury re-affirms the determination of the community of European Volunteering Capitals and Candidates (EVCCC), as well as the whole CEV network of members and partners, to support Lviv in achieving our common goals to strengthen local volunteering infrastructure and honour volunteering as an expression of solidarity and civic engagement in building resilience and promoting peace.



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/evcapital2024>



"The Role of Municipalities and Volunteers in Crisis Volunteering" Publication

This publication showcases the volunteering actions and responses developed in 10 European Municipalities, of which 9 are part of the EVCCC, in times of crisis.

Find more here: shorturl.at/vMVW3

Exchange of Good Practice

What EU (k)needs Workshops

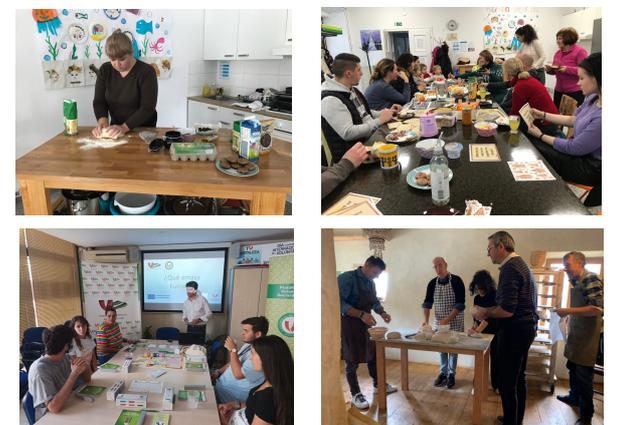
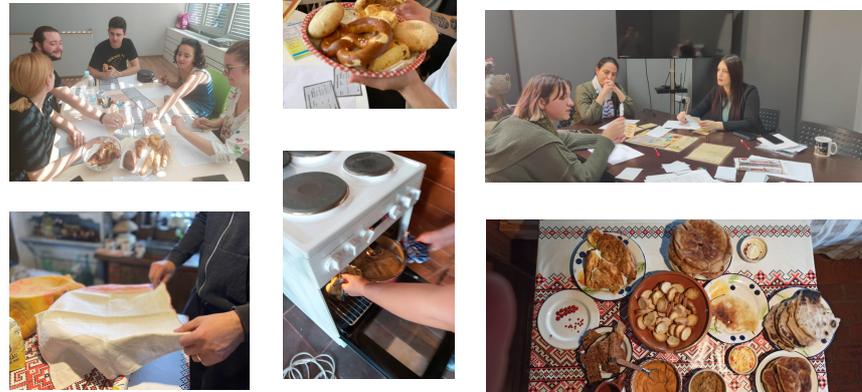
The workshops enabled participants to exchange their bread making traditions with others from different cultures and backgrounds and play a fun Board game that explored what Europe means to them and what they can contribute to their communities and Europe, especially as volunteers.

The game was played 13 times in 11 different languages involving 131 participants in: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain involving 91 females, 39 males and 1 non-binary.

"The world is nothing without volunteers"
Participant



"The game cards opened the eyes of the youth on the needs of Europe and they started to understand the careful balance between Europe and other continents, as well as the importance of the cooperation of countries"
Organiser



What Europe (K)needs Board Game		
Bread	Kneading Contract	Ingredients
Bigoski	Country	200g (70%) 000
Pumpernickel	Germany	1kg (35%) 000
Focaccia	Italy	1kg (35%) 000

"Participants showed the desire to bridge the gap between European Institutions and Eu citizens, building a more participated and direct dialogue"
Organiser



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/what-europe-k-needs>



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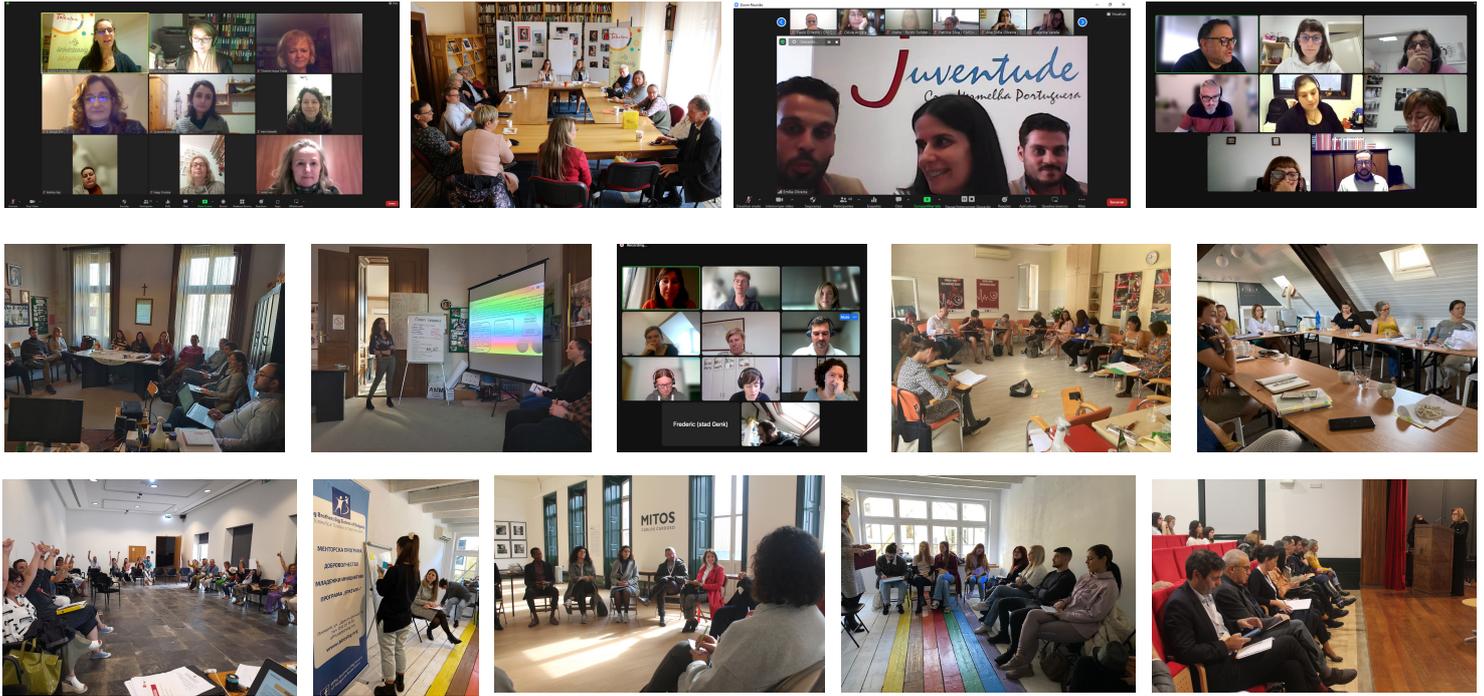
Capacity Building in Member States

Capacity building with network members

The training for trainers sessions introduced all the materials needed to deliver training modules on inclusive volunteering opportunities to volunteer managers and coordinators. 43 trainers from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain took part, of which 28 were females and 15 were males.

Inclusive Volunteering Training

The training sessions aimed at volunteer managers, coordinators and other volunteering leaders involving 572 participants, of which 449 females, 118 males and 5 non-binary, took place in different EU languages in Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary (x 4), Malta, Portugal (x 3), Romania, Slovakia (x 3), Slovenia, Spain (x 2), Italy. The training materials (Manuals and two presentations) are available in 13 EU languages as well as Ukrainian and Arabic.



Two Pilot Training events took place on December 6th, one, in Belgium, on participatory budgeting as a way to fund citizen engagement through volunteering and the other on how to support victims of domestic violence through volunteering and how volunteering can contribute to its prevention in Italy. 33 people were involved in giving their feedback and improving the training framework and materials of which 27 were females and 7 were males.



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/inclusive-volunteering-training>

Membership Growth

CEV welcomed three new members in 2022: CSV Vicenza (IT), NENO (EE) and Pista Mágica (PT).



Centro di Servizio
per il Volontariato
della provincia
di Vicenza

NENO
Network of Estonian
Nonprofit Organizations

Pista Mágica
VOLUNTARIADO & INOVAÇÃO

Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/members>



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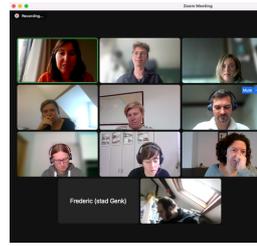
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Dissemination and Communication

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The #CERVIS campaign was aimed at leaders in volunteering and gave visibility to, and raised awareness about, the provisions and support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers that are enabled under different EU policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan and programmes such as CERV, the "Next Generation EU" funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus Plus and increased engagement of volunteers and volunteer organisations in these initiatives. The 15 workshops took place in face-to-face or online settings in Belgium (x2), Bulgaria, Croatia (x2), Hungary, Italy (x2), Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia (x2), Slovenia, Spain, involving 318 participants, of which 230 were females and 88 were males.



"Youth volunteering and the involvement of educational institutions are a key point in the development of volunteerism"
Participant

Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/cervis-campaign>

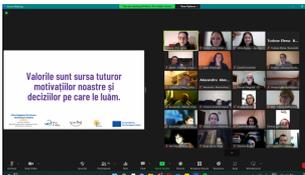
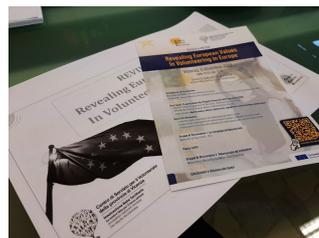
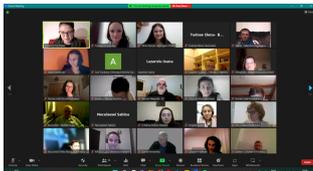
Dissemination and Communication

Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe #REVIVE

The #REVIVE campaign was aimed at different volunteering stakeholders but especially grassroots volunteers and gave visibility to, and raised awareness about how volunteers act as bridges to their communities and are defenders of social justice, fixing "short-sighted" political and economic decisions. In this context, the participants discussed whether volunteer campaigns should be more than about recruitment and also have as a core component the delivery of a message to society about democracy, human rights, solidarity, inclusion and European Values in general. Additionally, the extent to which the sector is representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors was discussed as well as what more needs to be done to advance gender equality and tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination in volunteering organisations and initiatives and whether the European Year of Volunteer in 2025 could be a key moment for this.

The 21 online and offline events took place in Belgium (x4), Bulgaria, Croatia (x2), France, Italy (x4), Hungary (x2), Germany, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia (x2), Slovenia and Spain, involving 558 direct participants, of which 403 were females and 160 were males and 1 non-binary.

"This webinar changed my perspective and view on volunteering"
Participant



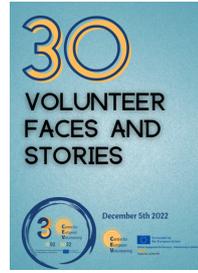
"I can now better understand the ethos of volunteering and its purpose"
Participant

Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/revive-campaign>

Dissemination and Communication

"30 Volunteer Faces & Stories" Publication

Published on International Volunteer Day 2022 #IVD, December 5th 2022, the publication celebrates CEV's 30th anniversary in 2022 highlighting 30 volunteers from diverse backgrounds and contexts and the incredible roles they play in promoting and defending European Rights and Values in a wide range of settings.



Find more here: shorturl.at/hIN47

European Volunteering Ambassadors

On October 5th CEV announced during the "Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe" Seminar in Strasbourg and online, the two 2022 Ambassadors: Marian Harkin and Pavel Trantina. They promoted the essential contribution of volunteers to the future of Europe and supported CEV's campaign to establish 2025 as the European Year of Volunteers.

On December 5th, International Volunteer Day, Pavel Trantina published a statement about the importance of the day and of the 2025 European Year of Volunteers Campaign.



A statement on the eve of the International Volunteer Day 2022

As one of the European Volunteering Ambassadors 2022, I see how essential volunteering is for the society in Europe in the current circumstances. I value the impact of volunteers during the COVID19 crisis and the crises caused by the Russian aggression in Ukraine where people's lives and well-being have been in grave danger. No one can question the importance of volunteer support to health and well-being in Europe and the role of volunteers in the recovery and for the future of Europe.

Therefore, I call on the European institutions to give full support to volunteers and to proclaim the year 2025 as the European Year of Volunteers and to start immediately with adequate preparations. We need to involve Member States, volunteers-involving organisations and all the EU institutions in planning and to facilitate their cooperation. And to secure the necessary financial resources.

As a long term Scout and a volunteer for more than 33 years, I am particularly interested in improving conditions for volunteers, as they are the important force of societal changes. The European Year of Volunteers 2025 would focus exactly on them - on the people who volunteer. It would seek to explore further and better understand their motivation and their impact on health and well-being in Europe.



Let's work together to make the European Year of Volunteers 2025 a reality!



Find more here: <https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/europeanvolunteeringambassadors>

Collaboration with the European Parliament

Throughout the year CERVIS activities were supported by an increasing collaboration with the European Parliament.

On June 29th the **European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group** met at the European Parliament hosted by Co-Chairs **Michaela Šojdrová (EPP)**, **Domenec Ruiz Devesa (S&D)** and **Irena Joveva (RENEW)** with 25 participants from civil society to discuss the latest developments in European volunteering policy and to launch the #CERVIS MEP Volunteer "Job Shadowing" initiative.

In December, **Domenec Devesa MEP (ES-S&D)** and co-chair of the European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group, volunteered at the HUBHumanitaire in Brussels. **Maria Walsh MEP (IE-EPP)**, also a member of the Volunteering Interest Group, regularly volunteered in 2022 in her constituency for a number of causes including women's organisations, and those supporting refugees and people needing mental health support. **Magdalena Adamowicz MEP (PL-EPP)** from Gdansk EV Capital 2022 has also been volunteering in 2022 preparing meals for employees of the health care sector during Covid-19 pandemic, fundraising for hospices and for the "Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity", in addition to helping Scouts to distribute Christmas presents to people in need.



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"We can promote European values, get involved more often in European events, go on exchanges where we will meet different cultures and customs, preserve nature and thus contribute to the preservation of a green and sustainable Europe"

What EU (k)needs Workshop Participant

"Volunteering opens opportunities and can lead to favourable circumstances"
CERVIS Participant

"The participants of the two activities expressed that they wanted more opportunities to think about volunteering topics and issues together. It is clear that they also want to be heard and that they want to share their experiences with each other"

REVIVE Organiser

"I like to say that volunteering begins where a person's need to benefit society and desire to be involved becomes higher than the need for personal gain"

Volunteer Faces Publication

"When creating programs to promote and motivate young people to volunteer, it is important to adapt them to generational culture"

CERVIS Participant

"I get a lot of inspiration from our volunteers and professionals - the dedication and level of commitment of others give a boost for meaningful contribution and step up"

Volunteer Faces Publication

"Volunteers are more flexible and robust to respond to the crisis and to provide immediate support. The prompt civil society and volunteers activation allows the government to get extra time to settle down the sustainable management system"

"The Role of Municipalities and Volunteers in Crisis Volunteering" Publication

"What was strongly expressed by all the participants, is the need to treat all volunteers equally"
REVIVE Organiser