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PRESS RELEASE - Brussels, 1 December 2017
EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL 2019 WINNER
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CEV is pleased to announce that the municipality of **Košice, Slovakia** has been awarded the title of **European Volunteering Capital Competition 2019**

In choosing **Košice as the European Volunteering Capital 2019** the jury identified a genuine interest in ensuring quality volunteering and a deep understanding of the need to focus on quality not only with regard to the activities themselves, but also in providing sufficient funding for this to be ensured. The creative campaigns to motivate new volunteers and good mix of local and national awards were also seen as positive, as was the focus on research, data collection and funding & support to infrastructure organisations. Efforts to encourage corporate volunteering and sport volunteering with a focus on improving health and well being was identified as an excellent idea, as was the “volunteer house”. Good quality standards with an appropriate toolkit were also highlighted, in addition to an extensive range of activities for formal, non-formal, and lifelong learning. The inclusive and comprehensive approach was commended and the participation of many stakeholders in the preparation of the candidature was also noted as a positive element.

CEV launched the **European Volunteering Capital Competition to celebrate and promote 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 recommendations in the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE), CEV’s 5R recommendations and the planned engagement with the European Solidarity Corps.

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.

Cristina Rigman, CEV President
Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament
Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, European Economic and Social Committee
Seamus Kilgannon – Sligo City Council- EV Capital 2018
Sophia Eriksson, European Commission
Kieran McCarthy, Committee of the Regions
Mary-Ann Hennessey, Council of Europe
Michael Evason, Employee Volunteering European Network - EVEN (IBM)

The previous winners are: Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017 London- 2016 Lisbon- 2015 and Barcelona- 2014

The **European Volunteer Centre (CEV)** is the network of over 80 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. CEV has, for 25 years, promoted and supported volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way CEV reaches out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organizations as a source of support & bringing the European dimension to their work.

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