
D1.2 REPORT

Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe (REVIVE) Evaluation Meeting

15 October 2025

[Den Danske Kirke i Bruxelles - Danish Cultural Centre, Belgium](#)

On 15 October 2025, in Brussels, CEV hosted the **Revealing European Values In Volunteering in Europe (REVIVE) Evaluation Meeting** which saw the participation of **146 citizens** from **22 countries** across Europe, of which there were 43 males and 103 females. The meeting was opened by **Gabriella Civico, CEV Director** who welcomed participants and underlined the importance of this four-year (2022 - 2025) operating grant funded by the [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values \(CERV\) programme](#) (DG JUST, European Commission) in strengthening democracy and civic engagement through volunteering. [REVIVE](#) aims to gain more visibility for volunteering by being part of a European network, allowing volunteers' voices implying the full diversification of genders and other discriminating factors to be understood at the EU level and contributing to the recognition of volunteering.

CEV connects individual and collective volunteer efforts in promoting and defending Equality, Rights and Values to the European Context, and local, regional, and national volunteering strategies with European policy frameworks. All our REVIVE activities from 2022 - 2025 were focussed on bringing the vision that volunteers are not just a source of people-power for essential and meaningful tasks in society, but they play an important role in social cohesion, interpersonal relationships and paving the way to making European values a reality. We helped gain more visibility for volunteering and raised the profile of volunteers at national, regional, and local levels, by enabling them to be part of a European network. We enabled volunteers' voices involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors to be heard at the EU level and informed the policy-makers about their concerns and in this way reducing the gap between citizens and policymakers. We also contributed to the recognition of volunteering at the local level and

connected local volunteering strategies to the EU policy framework through the European Volunteering Capital competition. We also focused on capacity building in volunteering organisations so that they can be more inclusive and equal in the way that they engage volunteers. In this way we advanced gender equality and tackled multiple and intersecting discrimination in the volunteering sector itself.

Volunteering is an effective vehicle for citizen engagement, and it is a main agent of a true social transformation. It supports social inclusion, equality, and solidarity, it underpins active citizenship, community resilience and citizen engagement, and it promotes shared responsibilities and European values. Around the world, we have been witnessing the increase of activism and volunteering crossing borders that connects people who are motivated to respond to global challenges such as climate change, migrations and the COVID-19 pandemic. All of this has reaffirmed the importance of solidarity beyond borders as a way to address common challenges and inequalities, as well as protect rights and support vulnerable people. Volunteering contributes to the European Social model, to security, peace, cohesion, and prosperity. It provides a framework for a constructive narrative for the Future of Europe as an alternative to extremist and populist views, ideologies, and actions, and can contribute to their prevention. Volunteering can actively prevent Hate Speech, promotes inclusion and tolerance, and enables citizens to be directly active in developing the Europe they strive for based on democratic values, equality and inclusiveness.



This REVIVE Evaluation Meeting served as both a reflective and celebratory milestone for the achievements made under the CERV operating grant. It provided a space for mutual learning, exchange of good practices, and the presentation of key outcomes achieved through CEV's and its members' activities between 2022 and 2025 (including a projection of the remaining outcomes in 2025).

The meeting agenda combined formal presentations, data sharing, and personal reflections from CEV members, partners, and beneficiaries. It created an atmosphere of collaboration and inspiration, connecting participants through shared achievements and common purpose.

The overall participation, which totaled **27,153 individuals** across all activities and events was presented explaining that these participants are grouped under "**Mutual Learning and Exchange of Good Practices**," "**Training Activities**," and "**Awareness Raising and Dissemination**" **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** reported to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission.

The evaluation seminar addressed each of the KPIs in turn.

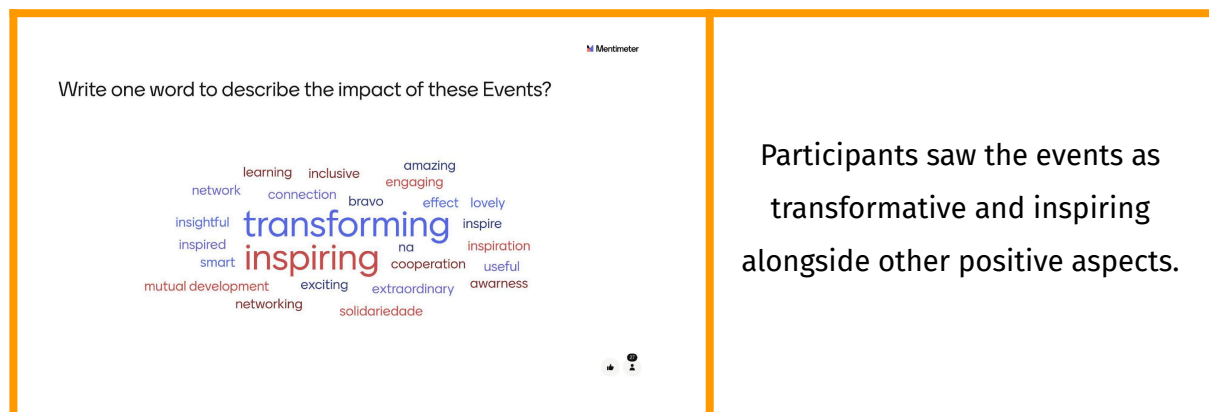
KPI - Mutual Learning and Exchange of Good Practices

Over a four-year period, CEV released **four publications** highlighting the role of municipalities in supporting volunteering:

- [**The Role of Municipalities and Volunteers in Crisis Volunteering**](#) (2022)
- [**The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Gender Equality through Volunteering**](#) (2023)
- [**The Role of Municipalities in Supporting and Promoting Inclusion of People with Disabilities through Volunteering**](#) (2024)
- [**The Role of Municipalities in Contributing to Sustainable Development through Volunteering**](#) (2025)

A total of **43 municipalities** participating in the EV Capital Competitions contributed to these publications.

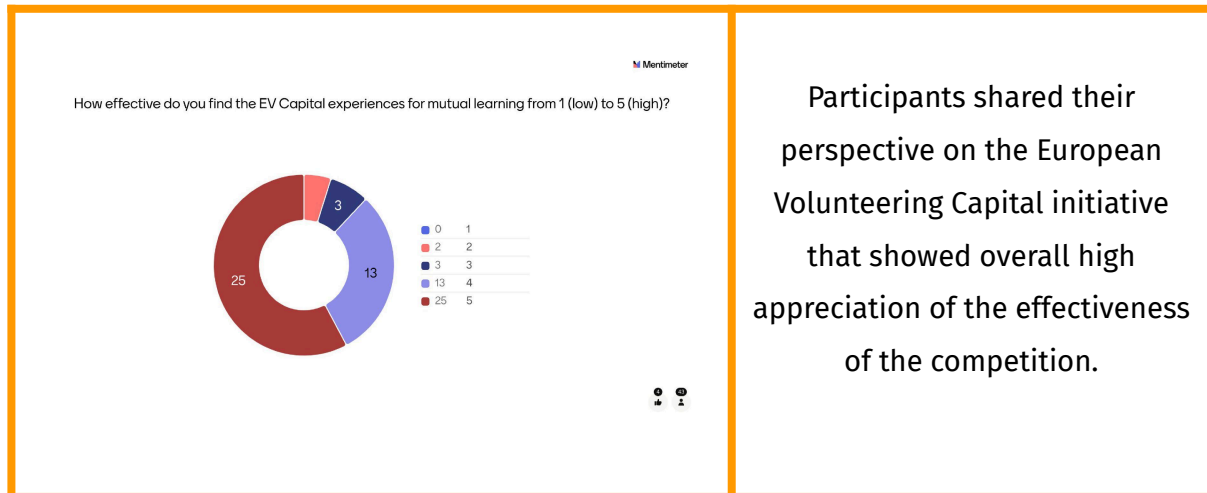
Within the framework of the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC) Seminars, CEV successfully involved **934 participants (exceeding the target of 315 people)** from across Europe — including 406 men, 521 women, and 7 non-binary, reflecting the inclusive and diverse nature of the volunteering movement.



Throughout REVIVE **4** European Volunteering Capital Competitions engaging **11** EV Capital Candidates were implemented and **9** EVCCC Seminars took place. [A video](#) from all EVC Competitions was shown.

Through the EVCCC, participating municipalities gained visibility, built partnerships, and contributed to advancing volunteering as a key instrument for community engagement and democratic participation in Europe. By showcasing diverse strategies, the participating municipalities demonstrated their strong commitment to building resilient, inclusive, and thriving communities.

One of the EVCCC participants noted *“Our conversations left me inspired, energised and even more enthusiastic. I truly appreciated the time you took to share your insights, as well as your hospitality throughout my trip.”* Another participant from the EVCCC Study Visits added *“Thank you once again for making my visit so productive and enjoyable. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if there’s any way I can support you. I look forward to staying in touch and hope to cross paths again.”*



Maddalena Recla from CSV Trentino shared her experience of **Trento as the European Volunteering Capital 2024**, highlighting the long-term legacy the title has created in terms of civic engagement, local partnerships, and volunteer recognition. Her presentation inspired participants to reflect on how the EV Capital process can serve as a catalyst for sustainable volunteering policies and deeper citizen participation at the local level.



The [European Coalition for Volunteering Evidence & Research \(ECVER\) video](#) was shown and it was highlighted that by the end of 2025 a [special issue of Voluntaris \(ECVER Publication\)](#), will be published as a result of the collaborative efforts of both researchers and practitioners convened by CEV. The Special Issue Journal will plot a comprehensive and inclusive map of volunteering studies and research in Europe. The selected topics:

motivation, infrastructure, law, impact measurement, and politics, cover both traditional and new aspects of volunteer involvement.

A [video](#) of [What EU \(K\)needs Bread Making/ Board Game workshops](#) from 2022 was shown. The game was played **13** times in **11** different languages, involved **131 participants (where initial target was 70 participants)** and encouraged the participants to think more deeply about their own history and values they inherited and how they relate to European Values.

Between 2022 and 2025 CEV led four strategic campaign streams that advanced inclusive, rights-based volunteering across Europe: Rights & Equality - Active Citizens Together (REACT, 2022-2025), Inclusion, Equality and Rights (INEAR, 2022), Vote Volunteer Vision (VVV, 2024), and Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe (GIVE, 2025), that were inspired by the [Blueprint for European Volunteering 2030 \(BEV2030\)](#). A total of **14 seminars/workshops** and **5 webinars** involving in total **3,898 participants** (including 1,242 men, 2,632 women and 24 non-binary) were organised, **exceeding the target of 1200 participants**. These online campaigns and offline events engaged diverse groups of citizens involving the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors, to come together on a voluntary basis to advance gender equality and tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination through citizen engagement as volunteers. We provided a space for capacity building and sharing of experiences. A special focus was on the impact of EU policies and other outputs e.g. the EU Citizenship report, the European Democracy action plan and the Next Generation EU Fund on the capacity of citizens to express solidarity and be actively engaged through volunteering and especially in combating barriers to diversity and inclusion.

KPI - Training Activities

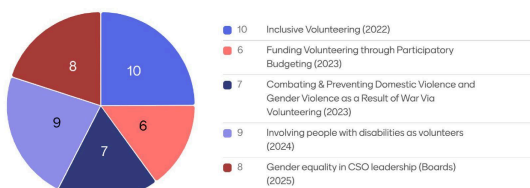
Between 2022 and 2025, CEV together with its members co-organised **95 training sessions (exceeding the target of 56 trainings)**, in **15 countries**, in **16 languages** involving **40 different organisations** and reaching **2900 participants** in total, where the **target was 2800 people**. The trainings addressed a variety of themes that reflect the evolving challenges and priorities of the volunteering sector:

- [Inclusive Volunteering \(2022\)](#)
- [Funding Volunteering through Participatory Budgeting \(2023\)](#)
- [Combatting Gender-Based and Domestic Violence through Volunteering \(2023\)](#)
- [Involving People with Disabilities as Volunteers \(2024\)](#)
- [Gender Equality in CSO Leadership \(Boards\) \(2025\)](#)

Jelena Kamenko Mayer from the Croatian Volunteer Development Centre (CVDC) shared her experience in being involved in facilitating training sessions on all these topics. She emphasised that without the catalyst and framework provided by CEV through the REVIVE CERV grant these topics would not have been addressed in such a successful way in Croatia.



What was the most relevant/ interesting/useful topic for you?



Feedback from participants showed very similar interest in all the topics but with the topic of Inclusive Volunteering being seen as the most significant.

KPI - Awareness Raising and Dissemination

The [European Volunteering Ecosystem](#) that was updated in 2024 was presented. The previous edition produced in 2018 was found to be a successful, succinct, and versatile method to share an overview of the volunteering ecosystem in Europe, thereby raising awareness and generating conversation on the trends, developments, and important contributions in the sector. The 2024 Ecosystem Picture was developed to incorporate the developments and changes which have impacted volunteering, and more widely European Civic engagement, since 2018, while strengthening the link between the ecosystem and Equality, Rights, and Values in Europe. It has been translated into 7 different languages in addition to English.

George Thomson, CEV Vice President presented **“Faces and Voices” Storytelling.**

[Workshops & Podcasts](#) from 2023 that he contributed to facilitating as a volunteer. Workshops were implemented in **12 locations** in **10 EU countries** (Belgium-Antwerp, The Netherlands-Utrecht, Belgium-Mechelen, France-Paris, Hungary-Budapest, Slovenia-Ljubljana, Croatia-Zagreb, Italy-Trento, Italy-Padova, Poland-Warsaw, Portugal-Faro and Spain-Jerez). Portrait photos and voice recordings were gathered from **150 volunteers (59 male, 90 female and 1 non-binary)** and compiled in **12** podcasts. These authentic testimonials highlighted the human dimension of CEV’s work and the transformative power of volunteering—beyond numbers and statistics. Participants spoke about how volunteering builds trust, empathy, and solidarity across differences, reinforcing Europe’s democratic fabric at a grassroots level. **2 webinars** were held to reflect on the experience and the results, one on 21 June with **35 participants (11 male and 24 female)** and on 22 November 2023 with **38 participants (16 male and 23 female)**, **exceeding the target of 60 people.**



A [video](#) showcasing the **MEPs Job Shadowing initiative** was presented, through which 18 job shadowing opportunities were arranged, involving 18 MEPs and 21 volunteers. This initiative allowed MEPs to shadow volunteers in their volunteer-involving organisations in their respective home countries and for the volunteers to shadow the MEP at the European Parliament in Brussels. In this way, they gained a deeper mutual understanding of the crucial role, contribution, and impact generated by volunteers, as well as MEPs as sending an important message to volunteers that they are essential for the European Project and a daily realization of European Values.

Jana Mlynarčíkova from the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (PDCO)

recounted her inspiring day at the European Parliament alongside MEP Veronika Cifrova Ostrihonova (Renew Europe Group). She attended a meeting of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, which focused on female genital mutilation, and a Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs meeting with Commissioner McGrath. Then the MEP volunteered together with Jana in a hospital in Bratislava with Together with Courage Foundation.

Throughout the grant period, CEV ran **four high-impact awareness campaigns** that reached **9,255 citizens** (3259 men, 5930 women, 66 non-binary) both online and offline, **exceeding the target of 3,440 participants**. Among them were:

- **REVIVE (Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe)** - Discussions focussed on volunteer Campaigns and whether, when volunteers and active

citizens act as bridges to their communities and are defenders of social justice, fixing “short-sighted” political and economic decisions, should volunteer campaigns 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. A second point of discussion was concerning to what extent we are representing the full diversity of genders and other discriminating factors in volunteering and what more we can do to advance gender equality and tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination in volunteering organisations and initiatives across Europe.

- **CERVIS (Citizens Engagement for Recovery – Volunteering in Solidarity)** - The workshops addressed the fact that volunteering is an effective vehicle for citizen engagement, and it is a main agent of a true social transformation. It supports social inclusion, equality, and solidarity, it underpins active citizenship, community resilience and citizen engagement, it promotes shared responsibilities and European values. The participants were able to reflect on the fact that around the world, we are witnessing the increase of activism and volunteering crossing borders that connect people who are motivated to respond to global challenges such as climate change, migrations and the COVID-19 pandemic and that all of this has reaffirmed the importance of solidarity beyond borders as a way to address common challenges and inequalities, as well as protect rights and support vulnerable people.
- **Vote Volunteer Vision (VVV)** - The main objective of this campaign is to contact candidates for the European Parliament elections 2024 to promote volunteering as part of their electoral program. The campaign aimed for an increased investment and development of partnerships with volunteering-involving organisations and volunteer infrastructure organisations. Part of the campaign focused on the establishment of a European Parliament Intergroup on civic engagement and volunteering for the 5-years mandate. The campaign materials included a pledge for candidates to sign expressing their support for this initiative.

- **GIVE (Getting Inclusive Volunteering in Europe)** - GIVE events aimed to demonstrate and raise awareness that volunteering needs to be inclusive, and showcase how organisations can increase their capacity and performance in this regard. These events connect related European policy and programme priorities to the everyday volunteering realities of ordinary volunteers across Europe. They contributed to demonstrating and raising awareness that volunteering needs to be inclusive and how organisations can increase their capacity and performance in this regard. Awareness was raised about the support for civil society, volunteering and volunteers enabled under different EU initiatives. Policies such as the European Democracy Action Plan, European Disability Card & programmes CERV, the “Next Generation EU” funds, European Solidarity Corps & Erasmus+ were given visibility.

Across these campaigns, CEV with its **60 members and partners** co-hosted in total **170 seminars/webinars, exceeding the initial target of 56 seminars/webinars**.

Dominika Hradiska from the Platform of Volunteer Centres and Organisations (PDCO)

shared her experience in co-organising events with CEV from each of these campaigns. She highlighted the added value of European cooperation in building the capacity of civil society organisations, promoting financial sustainability, and supporting volunteering as a pathway to civic participation and that without the context of REVIVE these issues would not have been able to have such visibility in Slovakia.



With reference to the [Vote Volunteer Vision \(VVV\) Campaign \(video\)](#), on 21 March 2023 CEV organised a seminar in the European Parliament Brussels in collaboration with the EP

Volunteering Interest Group Co-Chairs and on 10 September 2024 a second seminar in the South Tyrol - Trentino Office in Brussels, with **189 participants** (72 men, 114 women, Women and 3 non-binary - exceeding the target of 100 people) from across Europe.

Key resources

- [Updated VVV Toolkit and pledge in 15 languages – comprehensive guidance for volunteer and candidates mobilisation and ethical engagement adapted for regional contexts](#)
- [Vote Volunteer Vision Campaign](#) & [Follow-up events](#) - Presenting materials to policy makers
- [VVV Toolkit 2024 Presentation – slide pack summarising toolkit content for training and partner briefings](#)
- [VVV Campaign PPW Presentation – practical planning workshop materials to support implementation at country and local levels](#)
- [VVV Campaign Executive Summary – document explaining what is main objective of the campaign and summary of the toolkit and pledge](#)
- [9 Steps for VVV Campaign Communication – a clear, stepwise checklist to design and deliver effective campaign messaging](#)

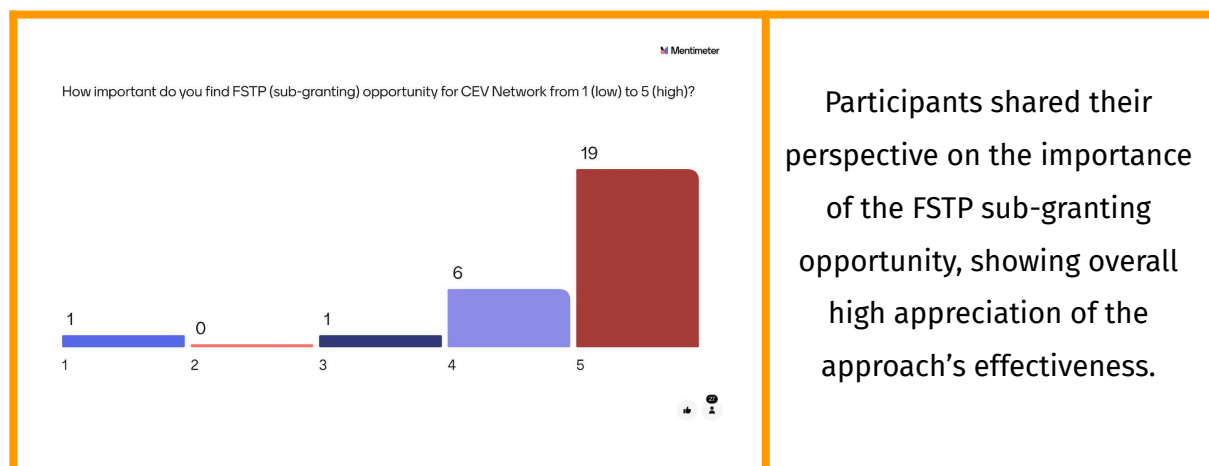
Online engagement was particularly strong, with over **457,000 digital impressions (exceeding the target of 118,000)**, reflecting the broad outreach achieved through CEV's communication platforms, newsletters, and social media.

A [video](#) with a summary of all these events was shown and CEV's [“Volunteering: the keys to unlocking the potential”](#) was showcased.

“Subgranting” - Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

From 2023 to 2025 CEV has provided 608,080 EUR in sub-granting funds (Financial Support to Third Parties - FSTP) to partner organisations working on different projects matching four VERA thematic strands during these three years and contributing to all KPIs. Through these activities, supported by member organisation staff and CEV volunteers, volunteering is better understood as a key tool for achieving inclusive societies, where all citizens can

be engaged and active, contributing to community resilience and solidarity, irrespective of their characteristics, disadvantages, or intersecting discrimination. Over the course of the project we engaged over **18,000 participants** (11,240 women, 7,260 men, and 117 non-binary - exceeding the target of 11,000 participants) through **46 projects/applications**, mobilising **37 member organisations**. The activity mix produced **79 outputs**—anchored by **49 publications, 20 pieces of original research, and 10 targeted consultations**—ensuring that evidence, tools, and recommendations were widely available and actionable.



The meeting finished with playing the [“Volunteering We Grow” Anthem](#) video co-written by Madeleina Kay, the recipient of the Young European of the Year award in 2018, a British activist, artist, and writer renowned for her advocacy for European unity and pro-EU sentiments, and Joseph Redsurre, CEV Events and Campaigns Officer while also being a singer-songwriter. The song was produced at Bigdog Studios in Sheffield in December 2023. The anthem was performed live for the first time at the EESC Civil Society Week on March 6, 2024. An orchestral arrangement was developed and it was performed in Padova, EV Capital 2020 on International Volunteer Day 2024 ([link here](#)). Other live performances by the two artists included Mechelen EV Capital 2025 on Europe Day during the Volunteer Fair as well as at the CEV Spring Congress in EV Capital Trento 2024 and at the Mundo Madou Brussels Anniversary event in 2025. It is available on YouTube in regular and

Karaoke versions and these versions have been widely used to promote and encourage discussions about volunteering and its meaning for the European Union.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

This evaluation session further underlined the importance of the CERV programme - promoting citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history. Furthermore, and of greater significance, is the promotion of citizen and representative associations' participation in, and contribution to, the democratic and civic life of the Union through the communication and public exchange of their perspectives across all areas of Union action.

Also it highlighted cross-sectoral cooperation —between civil society, public institutions, companies and citizens—in ensuring that volunteering continues to evolve as a dynamic force for inclusion and democratic engagement.

The REVIVE Evaluation Meeting reaffirmed that volunteering remains one of Europe's most powerful tools for civic participation and solidarity. The discussions and insights shared in Brussels will guide CEV's future actions as the organisation continues to promote policies and practices that strengthen volunteering infrastructures, inclusion, and democracy across Europe.

As CEV moves forward into the next year projects, it remains committed to upholding the European values that inspire volunteers every day: solidarity, equality, civic participation, and respect for human dignity.

Through the collective efforts of its members, partners, and supporters, CEV will continue to build on the strong foundation laid during the 2022–2025 CERV Operating Grant—further revealing, celebrating, and advancing European values through volunteering.

It was also a moment to recognise the **collective achievements of the CEV network**, with **7 new members joining that day**, marking an important milestone of **70 organisations & partners from across Europe**. Together, participants celebrated the shared vision of a **more**

united, participatory, and values-driven Europe built through volunteering as part of a growing network according to the ambitions of the stated milestones of the REVIVE proposal to exceed 10 new network members.

The meeting concluded with a networking cocktail, where participants celebrated the success of the CERV operating grant (FPA) period. The evening provided an informal yet meaningful opportunity for CEV members and partners to exchange experiences, strengthen alliances, and look ahead to new collaborations and future initiatives.

