
European Volunteering Capitals Legacies

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Barcelona

European Volunteering Capital 2014

Legacy:

- **Visibility and recognition:** Self-esteem of volunteering within the local and regional organisations was strengthened and volunteers were more appreciated by citizens and also the media.

- **Growth and Development:** The specific model of associations and volunteer engagement in Barcelona and more widely in Catalonia matured and developed.

"For the [FCVS](#), the EVCapital nomination and the Market Place 2014 were a starting point and an important thrust for achieving the political support necessary for drafting the Law on Volunteering adopted in July 2015."

- **Learning and skills:** Organisations and policymakers began to pay increased attention to volunteer training needs, the accreditation of skills and the representation of skills learnt through volunteering in CVs etc.

- **Communication:** ["Nonprofit"](#) is a news portal in English on the third sector and volunteering that is managed by Catalan non-profit organisations. The portal aims to be a meeting point for international non-profit and third-sector leaders, professionals and other interested stakeholders.

Lisbon

European Volunteering Capital 2015

Legacy:

- **Municipal Volunteer Award:** Award that aims to distinguish the best project / action of volunteering, that contributes, in particular, to the promotion of volunteering in the city of Lisbon.
- **Municipal Volunteer Program:** Promoted by the Department of Social Development, gives people in Lisbon the opportunity to volunteer at the Lisbon City Council, promoting an approach to the various municipal services, to the residents and visitors of the City of Lisbon.
- **Mechanism for Recognition of Learning:** Multi-stakeholder volunteering collaboration that developed a mechanism for recognition of learning acquired through volunteering.
- **Regular Inter-Municipality Meetings:** Organised by the Municipal City Councils of Lisbon, Torres Vedras and Cascais and the Portuguese Confederation of Volunteering (CPV), and consider the main problems and solutions that Local Volunteer Banks in Portugal face when implementing their activities.
- **Small Fund for volunteer projects:** In partnership with CPV, Lisbon City Council established the Program + Volunteering within the framework of the Lisbon EV Capital 2015 initiative. The Programme aims to financially support volunteer projects or actions that take place in the city of Lisbon and are implemented by legally constituted social and solidarity economy organisations, headquartered in the city of Lisbon or that implement relevant activity in the city.

London

European Volunteering Capital 2016

Legacy:

- **2 new annual events were launched in EVC 2016:** "Run to do Good" and "The Big Recruit" are events that encourage cross sector collaboration between businesses in London and the volunteering sector, and an event that supports the network of 28 volunteer centres across the City to mobilise increased numbers of volunteers.

- **European dimension to our work:** Improved connections with European counterparts and working regularly with CEV and other EV Capital Candidate cities eg. collaboration on the December 2016 European volunteering conference and "Developing European Volunteering Strategies (DEVS)" conference 6 & 7 April 2017.

- **Leverage, recognition and engagement:** Existing regular events such as the "Volunteer Awards" and "Speed Networking" events were used to spread the message about the title and volunteers became aware of what they have achieved with this prestigious accolade.

- **Empowering Londoners to tackle pan-European challenges and recognise their efforts:** Volunteer organisations have been able to use the title to leverage more success for impact, volunteer recruitment and retention, visibility and fundraising and even more business employees have been encouraged to volunteer.



- **Sharing of best practice:** 4 of Team London's most successful volunteering programmes were developed into "Blueprints" that are now freely available for volunteering stakeholders across Europe.

Sligo

European Volunteering Capital 2017

Legacy:

- **Aims, and Theme of EVC Sligo Committee:** A number of key aims, gathered in three themes were addressed:

- **Creating and encouraging partnership:** Several events and initiatives took place in this respect such as "Volunteer Managers Workshops" and "Adopt a Charity".

- **Valuing and acknowledging volunteering:** Main achievements of Sligo EVC in this respect were: the "Volunteer Voices Workshops"; the seminar "Headstart Volunteers Expo"; the "Volunteer Hours clock" and the "European Parliament Exhibition".

- **Celebrating and recognising volunteering:** Several events such as "Volunteer Ireland National Volunteer Management Conference 2017"; "National Public Participation Network"; "National Volunteering Week" and "Volunteer Ireland Awards" were celebrated during 2017.

- **30 of the 82 total events in 2017 were directly as a result of the Sligo being the 2017 Volunteer Capital.** That represents a 40% increase in the number of events held across the county because of the designation.

- **The designation of the EVC supported and enhanced the awareness and role of the Sligo Volunteer Centre in 2017.** For example:

- EVC gave the impetus to revise a Rewards Card scheme for volunteers. 27 businesses are currently engaged and supporting this scheme with Sligo EVC.

- The designation generated significant additional visibility and media coverage for County Sligo, not only its volunteering activities, but also of the commercial, community, tourism and environment of County Sligo itself.

Read [here](#) the full impact report.

Aarhus

European Volunteering Capital 2018

Legacy:

A year focused on 3 programme tracks and 4 core values (Legacy, Diversity, Social Inclusion and Cooperation): celebrating the efforts of volunteers and increasing the visibility of volunteering; developing new roads to improve welfare through voluntarism, active citizenship and cooperation; and making volunteers and communities more visible on our digital platforms.

- **Numerous workshops and small-scale festivals** focusing on different topics within the spectrum of volunteering and civil society.

- A main event was **Folkets Møde – the Aarhus Volunteer Festival**, in which there were 70 events including debates, workshops, street sport, community singing and dining, festivals within the festival, book launches and much more.

- **Finding new ways of collaborating** in creating welfare through volunteering and active citizenship; and inspiring to support open organizations and share new grassroots initiatives in order to include everyone in local communities.

- **Key learnings and recommendations:** Open up established local communities and invite new members at every occasion; Make it easily accessible to join communities, and help prevent loneliness; Prioritize lifelong training in active citizenship; Acknowledge diversity in volunteering; Rethink financing and funding structures; Create a visible gateway for volunteering and active citizenship; Share resources, spaces and knowledge; and Be prepared to take risks.

Find the key learning points [here](#) and the full recommendations (in Danish) [here](#).

(<https://nonprofit.xarxanet.org/opinion/european-volunteering-capital-aarhus-2018>)

Kosice

European Volunteering Capital 2019

Legacy:

- **The Volunteer Center of the Košice Region (DCKK):** submitted draft strategies of volunteering for different urban districts in Kosice, and two strategies were approved by the local councils.
- **Events:** In addition to the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the "Two-day study visit in Košice Region" for EVCCC members took place in September 2019.
- **Media Visibility:** More than 50 articles were published about volunteering in the city of Košice, and also many sponsored reports about volunteering on social networks.
- **Increased Volunteering: More than 200.000 hours of voluntary work** - some urban districts significantly mobilized in one-off volunteer activities. Regular communication with senior volunteers has been established and all clubs and facilities for seniors are motivated for new volunteering activities.
- **Revitalization and promotion of events and activities:** especially the project of "KOSIT Za čistejšie Košice" was very much supported by the title, but also other activities such as Upracme si Slovensko, Naše mesto and Dobrovoľnícka jar also benefited.
- **Roma volunteering was supported:** The Roma minority is more and more motivated for volunteer activities (the KREDO project won the National Volunteer Appreciation as a "Project of the year").
- **Volunteering in schools was encouraged:** several schools became interested in engaging pupils from the 2nd grade upwards into volunteering activities and Service Learning opportunities

Padova

European Volunteering Capital 2020

Legacy:

Initiatives were activated, both concerning and involving Associations, Institutions and Citizens.

- **Events:** 200 events organised by associations in 2019, 400 events planned for 2020, 400 persons involved in work tables.

- **Second edition of “Solidaria”:** One of the highlights of the journey towards 2020 was the second edition of “Solidaria”, a festival organised by CSV Padova and where the world of solidarity and volunteering confronted themselves with the languages of the arts and culture.

- **New project called “Per Padova noi ci siamo” (“for Padova we are here”):** It was developed with: Kosice, European Volunteering Capital 2019 consequence of the Covid-19, this project was created with the objective of giving an effective response to the primary needs of people with vulnerability in the period of emergency and post-emergency, so that the sanitary emergency does not become also a social emergency.

- **European Projects:** On a European level, a number of joint initiatives and projects , and Novisad, European Youth Capital 2019; Stirling, which was also a candidate for European Volunteering Capital 2020; Galway, European Capital of Culture 2020.

- **Activities postponed:** With CEV – Centre for European Volunteering, it was agreed that the activities planned for 2020 and not carried out, including the official closing ceremony — which was proposed in March — could continue, in part, alongside Berlin. The network of contacts, experiences and contents gathered in 2019 and 2020 became the basis and source of inspiration for new projects developed in 2021.

Berlin

European Volunteering Capital 2021

Legacy:

Berlin #EVCapital 2021 Campaign was focused on 4 main themes: Digitalisation, Innovation, Diversity and Europe.

- **Media Campaign under the slogan #EntdeckeDasWirInDir (DiscoverTheWeInYou):** is both an encouragement and a reminder to make it clear the central place volunteering has in people's lives.

- **Events:** In addition to the Opening and Closing Ceremony, a study visit took place in September. It was a great opportunity for networking between the capitals, exchanging experiences and developing future scenarios.

- **Innovation Contest:** wanted to identify innovative ways and concepts to improve volunteering in the digital world, with particular attention on rethinking volunteering and strengthening social cohesion. 10 projects were awarded prize money.

- **During COVID-19 pandemic:** Berlin felt how valuable volunteering is for solidarity and how good cooperation between administration and civil society can release new forces.

- **Digital Innovation for Engagement and Neighbourhood:** The focus was on how to combine and enrich unneighborly engagement with new digital opportunities.

- **Mental Health Field of Action:** It was launched in March 2021 creating publicity that demonstrated the work in this field and recruited new committed people, feeling that Mental Health should be more than a permanent topic in the media discussion.

Gdańsk

European Volunteering Capital 2022

Legacy:

- **Media Campaign under the slogan “Bez nas nie działa” (“It is impossible without us!”)**: it highlights how fundamental is for the community the involvement of Gdańsk residents in volunteering in all areas of social life.
- **Volunteering in the neighbourhoods**: 10 Local Volunteer Centres were established with the aim of introducing residents to volunteering, activate them and involve them in various activities.
- **“Gdańsk Helps Refugees from Ukraine”**: Throughout the action, more than 3,600 volunteers were involved, working at information points, temporary accommodation sites and at the Gdansk stadium, where aid for refugees is still regularly disbursed.
- **European Volunteering Capital Fund**: It was addressed to all residents of Gdansk, who supported initiatives that helped develop and spread the idea of volunteering. The competition allocated a grant for initiatives in the amount of PLN 700 for 15 informal groups.
- **Events**: Several conferences and meetings were held. In addition to the Opening and Closing Ceremony, a study visit took place in October. It was a great opportunity for networking between the capitals, exchanging experiences and developing future scenarios.

Trondheim

European Volunteering Capital 2023

Legacy:

- **Media Campaign under the slogan “Vi holder sammen” (“We stick together”):** It is an encouragement to promote and celebrate volunteering together, the municipality, the residents and local organisations.
- **Visibility and Promotion:** Trondheim as EVCapital has led to more attention and interest in volunteering from the Trondheim municipality itself (several departments showed interest in cooperation with volunteering), other municipalities (Tromsø, Lørenskog, Oslo, Asker, Lillestrøm, Trøndelag province), State (visits from KS, BufDir) and from various organisations and networks.
- **Public funding on Volunteering Projects:** The City Council doubled the municipal support to volunteering organisations, in 2023 two million Norwegian crowns were allocated for a wide range of activities. This enabled volunteering organisations to strengthen motivation and keep voluntary involvement alive.
- **Networking building and cooperation:** It was done both at the local level and regional level in collaboration with NTNU and at the international level through the CEV network.
- **Trondheim Volunteer Faces and Voices:** George Thomson, CEV Vicepresident, took portrait photos and gathered the stories from 12 volunteers who shared their volunteering experiences.