



PRESS RELEASE - Brussels, 9 December 2019 | European Volunteering Capital 2021 WINNER
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CEV is pleased to announce that **Berlin, Germany** has been awarded the title of
European Volunteering Capital 2021

In choosing **Berlin as the European Volunteering Capital 2021** the jury have recognised that following many years of investment and collaboration with volunteering organisations there is a well-developed and sophisticated volunteering infrastructure in the city. This means that there are mechanisms and processes available to all volunteers and their organisations through which they can receive the necessary support and training, ensuring an even greater impact in the community as a result of their efforts. A number of initiatives are in place to recognise and reward volunteers' contributions in a public way, enabling volunteers to act as role models and provide a change-making example to others. The jury agreed that the city demonstrates a deep understanding of the role of volunteers and volunteering as the basis for a diverse and socially cohesive society and, as such, gives it due importance and support in ways that can be considered excellent practice and be used as a blueprint for other municipalities, large and small, across Europe.

The jury felt that the efforts of **Strovolos** municipality to support and develop volunteering in the city deserves high recognition. The creation of the "Office for Volunteerism and Active Citizenship" (OVAC) that operates within the national framework for volunteering in Cyprus, established by the National Commissioner for Volunteering, shows great promise and should serve as inspiration, not only for other municipalities in Cyprus, but across Europe. The activities to ensure quality volunteering and to gather data on volunteering and active citizenship were also highlighted by the jury as an outstanding element of the overall support shown to volunteers and volunteering by the Strovolos public administration. The engagement with, and interest in volunteers and volunteering, from the highest level was also particularly appreciated by the jury.

Both candidates have demonstrated that they are working to enable young people from their cities to engage as part of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) and to host ESC volunteers from other cities across Europe.

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 recommendations in the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE), CEV's 5R policy 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; Isabel Caño, EESC Vice-President; Lucia Gurbaľová, Deputy Mayor of Košice, EVCapital 2019; Matteo Bianchi, CoR; Mary Ann Hennessey, CoE; Domenec Ruiz Devesa MEP; Begoña Barberá García, Iberdrola Social Projects Manager (EVEN); Jutta Koenig-Georgiades, EC Europe for Citizens Programme.

The previous winners are: Padova 2020 - Košice 2019 - Aarhus 2018 - Sligo 2017 London - 2016 Lisbon- 2015 and Barcelona- 2014

The European Volunteer Centre (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 promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. 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.

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