



8 reasons to become a member of CEV – the European Volunteer Centre

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is a European network of over 80 mostly national and regional volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies reaching out to some 17,000 organisations at local level. Together we work to influence decision makers at European and national levels to create a "volunteer friendly" policy landscape in Europe. We serve as a platform for volunteer organisations throughout Europe, providing a forum for exchange of best practices and information, and adding a European dimension to their invaluable work. We give volunteering a voice in Europe through our contacts with the institutions of the European Union. CEV has a multi-annual partnership agreement with the European Commission and participatory status at the Council of Europe. Membership of CEV provides advantages in different areas:

1. You want to connect to volunteering experts from all over Europe through the CEV Online Community?



CEV has developed an online network for volunteering experts from all over Europe, which connects CEV members and partners from more than 28 countries allowing them to share their knowledge, publications and projects on volunteering. It allows the CEV community to get directly in touch with each other, to exchange ideas and best practices, as well as to investigate innovative common projects – in order to make volunteering in Europe more effective. The CEV Online Community is a free service reserved for CEV members only.

2. You want to meet colleagues from all over Europe at CEV's international volunteer conferences?

CEV organises twice a year European conferences bringing together hundreds of representatives of member organisations, experts on volunteering, decision-makers and other stakeholders, who use this opportunity to meet, network and discuss. Each conference focuses on a specific topic such as “Volunteering and Intercultural Dialogue” (Luxemburg, November 2008), “Developing Employee Volunteering” (Prague, May 2009), and “Effectively Communicating Volunteering” (Valencia, April 2010). CEV members benefit from free access to these conferences and get preferential treatment when travel bursaries are available. For more information, visit http://www.cev.be/10-cev_general_assemblies-EN.html, and for an insight into how our conferences look, watch the video clip of the Valencia Symposium 2010 on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fCdM448zcs>.



3. You want to run a European project or participate in European projects led by CEV and / or its members?



CEV regularly runs European projects, which aim to encourage the exchange of experience and best practices, and to advocate policy developments. CEV managed the project “[INVOLVE](#)” which focussed on volunteering and the integration of migrants; the Grundtvig project “[MOVE](#)” on the recognition of skills and competencies of volunteers at European level; the youth seminar [V::l::P](#) on the role of volunteering in peace-keeping and conflict resolution; and the project “[Think Future, Volunteer Together](#)”, on senior volunteering. Members of CEV can use its network to find partners or join other members in their efforts to apply for European project funding (<http://www.cev.be/40-projects-EN.html>). In addition, CEV now regularly organises “job shadowing” seminars for its members in its offices in Brussels, addressing notably EU funding opportunities.

4. You want to find partners and support for your own volunteering projects?

CEV members use the CEV network to develop projects on a bilateral or European level, or to create twinning arrangements to build capacity and learn from one another’s expertise. CEV has a large network of contacts not only within volunteer centres and volunteer support agencies, but also research institutions, a wide range of volunteer involving organisations and NGOs, public administration at different levels, and businesses. CEV is a member of IAVE (the International Association for Volunteer Effort), and of the Social Platform, in addition to having privileged contacts within the United Nations Volunteers (UNV). CEV hosts the Secretariat of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance ([EYV 2011 Alliance](#)), which comprises 28 European networks active in volunteering such as the Red Cross, the Scout Movement and the Girl Guides, Caritas-Europe, ENGAGE, and many others.



5. You want to make your voice heard at EU level and contribute to setting the policy agenda?



The EU provides funding opportunities and has competence in many policy areas that influence volunteering. CEV has established privileged contacts within all main European institutions, allowing our members to benefit from joint policy influence and dialogue and from direct access to policy makers at European level. CEV draws its strengths from its network of volunteer centres all over Europe: together we have proven to be able to make a real difference. For example, CEV has successfully advocated a stronger volunteer dimension to the Europe for Citizens Programme, and it has led, together with the EYV 2011 Alliance, the campaign for the designation of 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering.

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6. You want to gain more visibility and raise your profile at national, regional or local level, by being part of a European-wide network?

CEV acts as a voice of volunteering in Europe and is one of the main interlocutors of the European institutions on volunteering issues, particularly the European Commission and the European Parliament. Being a member of CEV makes you part of a respected European player and may raise your profile with decision makers and with general public opinion at national, regional or local level. Our members report that belonging to a European-wide network of volunteer organisations has helped them to attract public attention and, in some cases, funds for their own projects and conferences.



7. You want to be informed about the activities of the EU and the volunteering landscape in other European countries?



Through the CEV website and CEV News, CEV ensures that you as member organisations remain up-to-date on developments in European Union policies concerning volunteering: the CEV News is the monthly e-newsletter of CEV, which provides information on CEV activities, EU policies, CEV members' projects, events and much more of interest to volunteer organisations. CEV members can themselves contribute to this newsletter and share information about their activities and good practices to a broad audience of readers all over the world.

8. You want to make the most out of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and be informed on how to get involved?

After an intensive and successful campaign led by CEV together with 22 other European networks active in the field of volunteering – the EYV 2011 Alliance, 2011 has been officially declared the “European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship”. CEV hosts the EYV 2011 Alliance Secretariat and is one of the main interlocutors of the European Commission regarding the year in question. Stay informed about possibilities for getting involved, either through projects, campaigns, in policy debates or in European projects!



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→ You want to learn more?

- ❑ Visit the CEV website: www.cev.be
- ❑ Check out, in particular, our annual reports for a complete overview of our activities: http://www.cev.be/63-annual_reports-EN.html
- ❑ Check out the reporting video clip of the CEV Multi-Stakeholder Symposium 2010, which took place in Valencia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fCdM448zcs>
- ❑ Contact Aurélie Storme, CEV Communication and Membership Development Officer at aurelie.storme@cev.be or at +32 2 511 75 01

→ You want to become a member?

- ❑ Information on conditions for membership, membership fees and a copy of the application form are available from: http://www.cev.be/27-become_cev_member-EN.html.
- ❑ Applications are considered by the CEV Board of Directors on an ongoing basis. Once you have sent a full application form we will let you know the date of the meeting at which your application will be discussed.