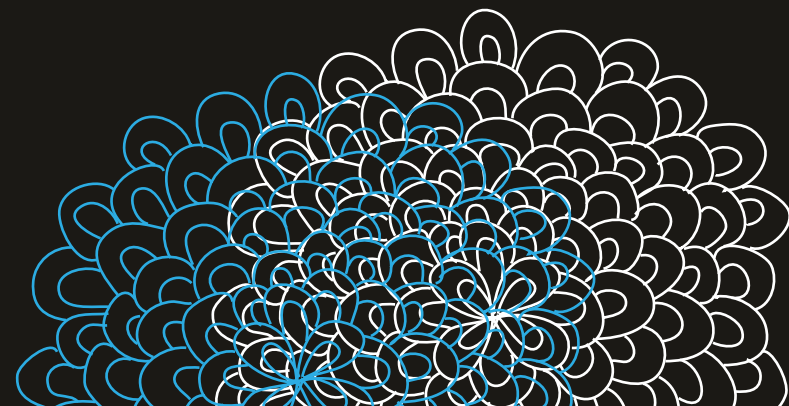




European Volunteer Centre CEV – Centre Européen du Volontariat



The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is the European network of national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer development organisations. CEV acts as a central forum for the exchange of information, policy and practice at the European level. The members of the European Volunteer Centre represent thousands of volunteer organisations, associations and community groups. We work together to reinforce the following areas:

Knowledge and resources

Partnership building

Policy and advocacy

Training and capacity building

Our objectives

- To promote and win recognition for volunteering as an expression of active citizenship in Europe to the public, media, businesses and policy-makers.
- To act as a bridge for communication between volunteer organisations and European institutions.
- To develop policies, promote and support the role of volunteering infrastructure.
- To serve as a knowledge and research centre for volunteering in Europe .
- To promote innovation and good practice through exchange, structured dialogue and network-building.
- To develop strategic partnerships with key stakeholders across all sectors.

Our mission

Our mission is to create an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe for the full potential of volunteering to be realised.

Our vision

Our vision is Europe in which volunteering is central in building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship.



EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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CEV is a member of:



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

socialplatform

Why volunteering matters

Volunteers mirror the diversity of European society with people of all ages, women and men, people from different ethnic backgrounds and belief groups and citizens from all nationalities being involved in volunteering.

Volunteers are engaged in a diverse range of activities, such as the provision of education and services, mutual aid or 'self-help', advocacy, campaigning, management, community and environmental action. Volunteering is one of the ways in which people of all abilities and backgrounds can contribute to positive change.

Volunteering is a means of social inclusion and integration. It contributes to a cohesive society creating bonds of trust and solidarity and, thus, generates social capital. It is a powerful source of reconciliation and reconstruction in divided societies.

Volunteering plays an important role in finding solutions to societal challenges. Volunteers and their organisations are often at the forefront of developing innovative actions to detect, voice and respond to needs arising in society. Volunteers help to improve the quantity and quality of services and to creatively develop new solutions.

Volunteering is a significant economic factor. The voluntary sector contributes an estimated 5% to the GDP of our national economies* and many voluntary sector organisations depend heavily on the work of volunteers to carry out their activities.

Volunteering creates innovative partnerships between businesses, public authorities and voluntary sector organisations. Such partnerships, coupled with the pioneering nature of many volunteering actions, can lead to the creation of new employment opportunities.

Volunteering provides informal and non-formal learning opportunities and is therefore a crucial instrument in life-long learning. Through volunteering, people gain knowledge, exercise skills and extend their social networks, which can often lead to new or better employment opportunities, as well as personal and social development.

* according to a recent Johns Hopkins University Study.

Sir Elton John, UK

"I am delighted to have been invited to become the UK's Ambassador of CEV and volunteering at the European level. As a volunteer myself in the field of HIV/AIDS, I know that volunteering is central to European ideals of democracy and to the building of strong, cohesive communities. Millions of citizens throughout Europe are actively involved in giving their time to make society work in human terms. It is vital that this contribution is recognised and supported by both the European institutions and by national governments and I whole heartedly support CEV in its role as advocate for volunteering in Europe."



CEV Ambassador

Márta Sebestyén, Oscar prize winner, Hungary

"It is a big pleasure for me to be CEV's Ambassador for Hungary. Your mission to promote an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish and for citizens to actively engage for the issues they care for is most important - and it is close to my heart. Indeed, as a musician, I do share with you the passion of bringing citizens together and of bringing joy to their lives - this will make a difference to our societies that are more and more characterized by individualism and mistrust. I am pleased to join you to support active European citizens, as they are the human face of our European values putting them into living practice!"



CEV Ambassador