

REVIVE

"REVEALING EUROPEAN VALUES IN VOLUNTEER EVENTS"

14 September 2021, 14.00 - 18.00 CEST

Berlin, Germany

Hybrid event

In cooperation with



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FÜR ENGAGEMENT
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Europe
for Citizens



Bundesnetzwerk
Bürgerschaftliches
Engagement



Europäische Akademie
Berlin



On the 14th September 2021, CEV hosted its annual conference, involving over 80 participants online and offline at the Europäisches Haus, Berlin. The title of the conference was **'Revealing European Values in Volunteer Events' (REVIVE)**. The conference was part of the 2021 German Volunteering Week and was opened by **Lejla Šehić Relić, Jörg Wojahn and Sawsan Chebli**.



Lejla Šehić Relić
(CEV President)



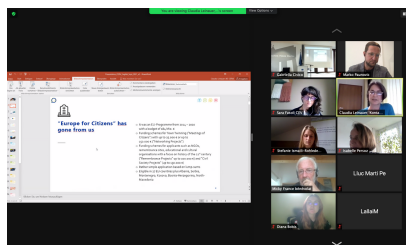
Jörg Wojahn
(Head of the EC Representation
in Germany)



Sawsan Chebli
(Berlin State Secretary for
Civic and International Affairs)

The conference built on the report **'Engagement Feiern'** (BBE, 2018) (in English: 'Celebrating Civic Engagement') published by BBE in 2018 and a recent [study](#) published by CEV on the impact of "Volunteering Weeks" across Europe. The study highlights how countries with increased social media engagement during their National Volunteer Weeks, also see increased levels of national engagement with volunteering. The study reflects on the fact that national attitudes and approaches to the practice of volunteering differ across Europe, and that while levels of engagement with volunteer activities are of course somewhat dependent on the attitudes of individuals, the evidence suggests that the promotion, or lack thereof, of national volunteering, undoubtedly encourages or discourages people to volunteer.

The REVIVE Conference considered how national, regional and local volunteering weeks can include European values as part of the conceptualisation and programmes of activities, alongside more obvious objectives such as the recruitment of new volunteers. National volunteer weeks are not the only way to promote volunteering however and other formats of recognition events and initiatives, such as conferences, festivals, fairs, and award programs were also presented and discussed.



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Keynote Presentation

CEV President, Lejla Šehić Relić, developed further reflection and exploration of the topic by giving a keynote presentation on the need for values-driven volunteering campaigns. She reflected on whether campaigns should be more than about recruitment and should also have as a core component the delivery of a message to society about democracy, human rights, solidarity, inclusion and European Values in general. She drew attention to the campaign to have volunteering recognised as an intangible heritage of UNESCO. The [campaign](#) has been launched by the **City of Padova**, as a legacy of its title for the European Capital of Volunteering in 2020 and aims to highlight that volunteering is a heritage generated by the community and it is key to making our social fabric and our democracies more resilient and able to respond to new social demands.



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Poster Presentations

Four presentations were shared to illustrate different examples of promoting and celebrating volunteering from across Europe. The first was by **Frank Heuberger**, and he shared the model of Germany's National Volunteering Week. **Maida Pieper** then discussed Spain's National Volunteering Conference and Ireland's National Volunteering Award was presented by **Lucie Brocard**. Finally, Volunteer Scotland's experiences with their Festivals and Expos was explored by **George Thomson**.



Germany's National Volunteer Week

Frank Heuberger

(Representative of the Council of
Spokespersons for European Affairs BBE)

REVEALING EUROPEAN VALUES IN VOLUNTEER EVENTS #REVIVE

THE EUROPEAN FOCUS IN THE SPANISH VOLUNTEERING PLATFORM'S BIG EVENTS

We seek to be the bridge that connects the European values, policies, institutions and volunteering organisations, with the Spanish society, volunteers and Volunteering Organisations.

It is our commitment and a path of mutual enrichment.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CONGRESS

AUTUMN'S SCHOOL OF VOLUNTEERING



PLATAFORMA DEL VOLUNTARIADO DE ESPAÑA

Spain's National Volunteering Week & Autumn School of Volunteering

Maida Pieper

(Project Officer PVE)

Volunteer Ireland Awards

The major annual initiative to celebrate volunteers in Ireland

- 2007 First Volunteer Ireland Awards
- 800 Nominations in 2020
- 580 Organisations in 2020
- 13 Categories
- 10 - 80 Nominees' age group



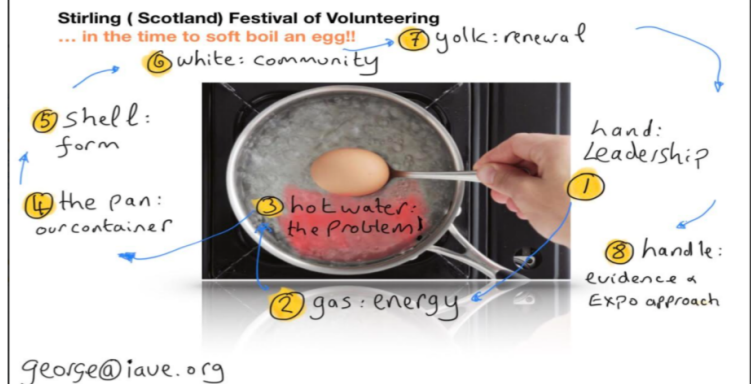
- ➔ Objectives
 - Acknowledge & thank volunteers nationally
 - Celebrate & advance volunteering
 - Recognise every nomination
- ➔ Awards process
 - Photo launch & nominations
 - An unbiased judging process
- ➔ Adapting the Awards
 - 2020 Awards: surprise deliveries
 - New categories



Volunteer Ireland Awards & Expo

Lucie Brocard

(Programmes & Events Officer
Volunteer Ireland)



Stirling (Scotland) Festival of Volunteering

George Thomson

(Former CEO Volunteer Scotland)

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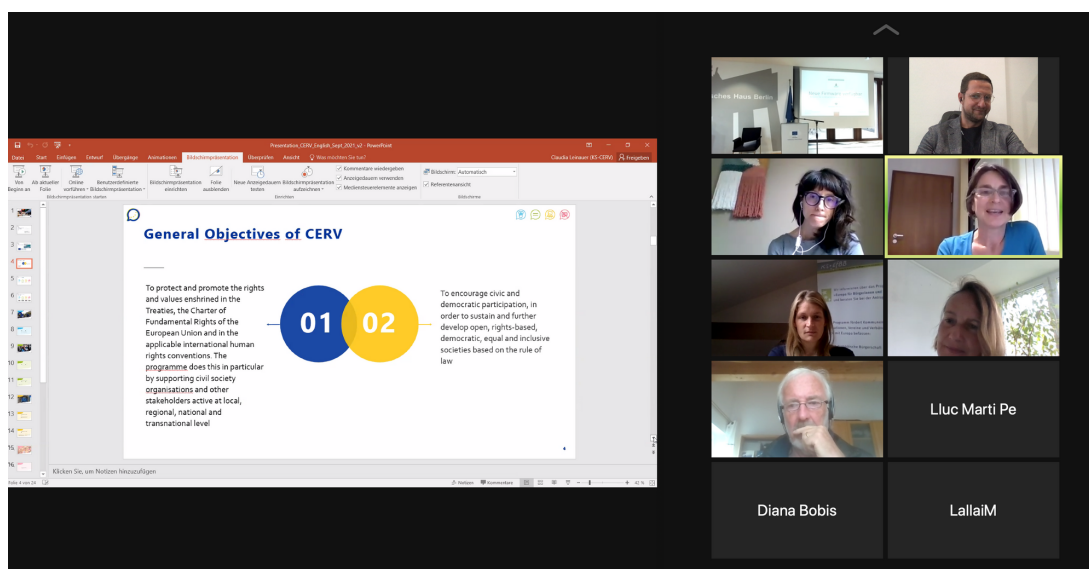
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Online Workshop: Getting to know the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values



This [online session](#) explored the potential of CERV to support events and activities focussed on volunteering and include sharing and promoting European Values as part of their objectives at the Member State, Regional and local level. The objectives of the CERV programme, its four strands and explanations about eligible activities were presented by **Claudia Leinauer** from the CERV Contact Point in Germany. **Marko Paunovic** (Out of the Box International) facilitated this event.



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Workshop 1 explored how it can be possible to fund volunteering events and campaigns with a European perspective through the [Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values \(CERV\) fund](#).

Jochen Butt-Pośnik, from the CERV Contact point in Germany, was the resource person in this workshop. He described the structure of CERV, a programme that aims to protect and promote Union rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. This programme forms part of a new Justice, Rights and Values Fund together with the Justice programme.



Workshop 2 looked at why we promote volunteering, how we do it and what are the advantages of both digital and analogue campaigns.

It focused on digital campaigns, as innovative, but also built from the more traditional face-to-face & paper formats, for example as concerns, methodologies, timelines, and target groups. The exchanges referenced examples of digital campaigns currently implemented in Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. **Daniel Helmes**, BBE - National Network for Civil Society, Deputy Head of Information and Communication, was the resource person in this workshop. He highlighted that when promoting volunteering activities, it is important to identify the most valid promoters, the volunteers themselves.



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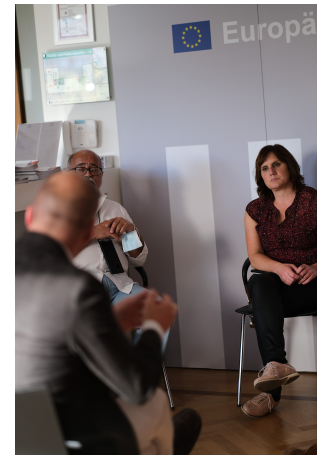


Workshop 3 considered the question of [national volunteering weeks](#) and whether we can, and should, move towards a European volunteer week during which countries align their efforts to strengthen the connections, celebrate volunteering.

What guidance and support could potentially be offered in the frame of CEV to those countries with less experience in these kinds of events was also discussed. **Gabriella Civico**, CEV Director, facilitated this workshop.



Experiences and examples were shared by the participants and it was highlighted that some countries do not have a national volunteering week but rather volunteering weeks on a municipality level, or they celebrate volunteering in different occasions throughout the year such as holding webinars/events and offering gadgets to volunteers. The fact that some countries do not have these week celebrations, but other initiatives such as a national volunteering conference and award was also discussed. The importance of capitalising on the attention given to volunteering around December 5th International Volunteer Day was stressed and highlighted.



Workshop 4 dealt with local-level visibility actions and how to make them count. It offered the possibility to get to know four specific examples from past, present and future European Volunteering Capitals to see how volunteering can be given visibility and recognition on a local level. Some of the questions addressed include: how to enhance the participation of young volunteers, and how to attract newcomers to volunteering events. The examples shared were:



[Gdansk Volunteering week](#)
(**Szymon Knitter** from
Gdansk European
Volunteering Capital 2022)



[Berlin Volunteering Fair](#)
(**Carola Schaaf-Derichs**
from Berlin Volunteer Centre)



[Padova Solidaria Festival](#), and
“[Va’Buono](#)” [Padova volunteering experience gift initiative](#)
(**Ilaria Ferraro** from CSV Padova &
Rovigo - EV Capital 2020)

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The panel debate included three speakers providing input from different perspectives:

1. **Mareen Hirschnitz:** EC Representation in Germany;
2. **Gabriele Bischoff:** Member of the European Parliament
3. **Piotr Sadowski:** Secretary-General of Volonteuropa (Member of the CSO Convention for the Conference on the Future of Europe Steering Committee and co-chair with CEV for the “Our European Life” Cluster).



Mareen Hirschnitz presented the formal framework for the Conference on the Future of Europe, its timeline and methodology, and the functioning of the upcoming citizen's panels. She also highlighted the importance of citizen participation on the online platforms provided by the European Commission and the European Parliament, where individuals can attend events, participate in debates, and engage in proposals regarding European policies.



Gabriele Bischoff, MEP, in her video statement, underlined active civic society as one of the greatest assets of the European Union while pointing out that the Conference on the Future of Europe is a great opportunity to make Europe more democratic and social. She also affirmed that as a member of the European Parliament and Parliament's Working Group on the Conference on the Future of Europe, she was committed to engaging with citizens' proposals and making sure they are taken into consideration. She also expressed hope that the Conference on the Future of Europe would be taken from the Brussels bubble, down to the ground, where civil society & volunteers would play a crucial role.



Piotr Sadowski, Secretary-General of Volonteuropa and co-chair with CEV of the "Our European Life" cluster expressed that volunteers and active citizens act as bridges to their communities and are defenders of social justice, fixing short-sighted political and economic decisions. He admired the selflessness of these citizens especially highlighter during the COVID19 pandemic by putting their lives at risk to help those in need. He also pointed out that the CoFoEU process creates a unique momentum and an opportunity not only to strengthen cooperation but to bring visibility to the importance of Civil Society Organizations in the the Future of Europe not only for the practical actions they deliver but for what they represent in terms of values and democracy.

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14:00 - 14:15 Opening Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lejla Šehić Relić: CEV President Jörg Wojahn: Head of the EC Representation in Germany Sawsan Chebli: Berlin State Secretary for Civic and International Affairs
14:15 - 14:20	EVYPlus 10 - Developments and challenges 10 years after EYV 2011
14:20 - 14:40 Keynote Presentation	Lejla Sehic Relic (CEV President): "The need for Values driven volunteering campaigns & the campaign for volunteering as a UNESCO intangible asset."
14:40 - 15:15 Poster Presentations - "Celebrating Volunteering Event Models":	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Germany's National volunteering week: Frank Heuberger (Representative of the Council of Spokespersons for European Affairs BBE) Spain's National Volunteering Conference: Maida Pieper (Project Officer PVE) online Ireland's National Volunteering Award: Lucie Brocard (Programmes & Events Officer Volunteer Ireland) online Scotland's Volunteering Festival/ Expo: George Thomson (Former CEO Volunteer Scotland)
15:15 - 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 - 16:30 Online Workshop	<p>Getting to know the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme (CERV Contact point in Germany) and its potential to support revealing European Values in Volunteer events and the Member State, Regional and local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource person: Claudia Leinauer, CERV Contact Point in Germany Facilitator: Marko Paunovic (Out of the Box International).
15:30 - 16:30 Offline Workshops:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funding events and campaigns with a European Perspective Resource Person: Jochen Butt-Pošnik CERV Contact point in Germany Digital campaigns - What has changed in methodologies and target groups? Resource Person: Daniel Helmes, BBE - National Network for Civil Society, Deputy Head of Information and Communication National Volunteering weeks - moving towards a European Volunteer week? Facilitator: Gabriella Civico (CEV Director) Local level visibility actions - Making them count! (Gdansk Volunteering week; Berlin Volunteering Fair; Padova Solidaria Festival and "Va'Buono" Padova volunteering experience gift initiative.) Resource Persons: Szymon Knitter Volunteering Coordinator Gdansk EV Capital 2022; Carola Schaaf-Derichs Managing Director of the Landesfreiwilligenagentur Berlin eV (State Volunteering Agency); Ilaria Ferraro CSV Padova & Rovigo.
16:30 - 17:45	<p>Panel discussion on the Conference on the Future of Europe & the role and input of Civil Society organisations & volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mareen Hirschnitz: Education and cooperation with civil society (EC Representation in Germany) Gabriele Bischoff MEP (video message) Piotr Sadowski: Secretary General Volonteuropa (Member of the CSO Convention for the Conference on the Future of Europe Steering Committee)
17:45 - 18:00	Conclusions & Closing

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