

INTRODUCTION:

Competition history and evolution:

The EV Capital Competition has experienced 4 distinct phases. Each new phase being developed after evaluation of the previous implementation period and consideration of the ambitions and possibilities for future development.

PHASE 1: 2013, 2014, 2015

The competition was **launched in 2013** as an initiative in the framework of the European Year of Citizens and as a follow up to EYV 2011. In this respect, it was important to link to the outcomes of EYV 2011 i.e PAVE and to demonstrate a link to the Citizens at the local level. This initiative was welcomed by Former European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding as it “clearly showed the strong link between European Years 2011 and 2013”.

2014 Competition: The European Volunteer Centre launched its first edition of European Volunteering Capital competition in 2013. The call for applicants was announced in the Spring with the **deadline on the 1st October 2013**. Four municipality applied for the competition **Barcelona** (ES), **Guimarães** (PT), **Laval** (FR) and **Rennes** (FR). This list of applicants was made public by CEV during the annual CEV conference the 3rd October 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. Some candidates had already done their own announcements prior to the conference. The competition was based only on the application form at this stage. The candidates said a few words of introduction and some showed videos but it was not part of the judging process.



OCTOBER 2013

Representatives from the applicant municipalities during the CEV Conference in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina)

Representatives of different European volunteering stakeholders formed the jury:

- Eva Hambach– CEV President
- Marian Harkin- Member of the European Parliament, Co Chair of the Interest Group on Volunteering
- John Macdonald– European Commission EY2013 Task Force, former Head of the Task Force for the European Year of Volunteering 2011
- Lluís Romeu– FASVOL President
- Richard Dictus– UNV Executive Coordinator
- Pavel Trantina– European Economic and Social Committee
- Declan McDonnell- Committee of the Regions
- Jannie Haek– CEO of the Belgian National Lottery
- José A. Castro– Technical Assistant of the General Direction of Citizenship Rights, Participation and Volunteering, Andalusian Regional Government.

The jury chose the municipality that they believed to best demonstrate the implementation of the PAVE (Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe) recommendations. Additionally, during the selection process, special attention was given to the support and encouragement shown for cross border volunteering. Based on these criteria, Barcelona was named as the European Volunteering Capital 2014 on 5 December 2013 International Volunteer Day in the European Parliament.

The application form needed to be completed with information on volunteering policy and practice in the municipality. The sections reflected the four policy recommendation areas of PAVE:

- An enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering
- Quality in volunteering
- Recognising volunteering
- Valuing volunteering

DECEMBER 2013

The First Volunteering Capital was announced in the European Parliament:

Barcelona #EVCapital 2014 



See here the [video overview of the 2014 competition](#).

Main legacy of the 2014 competition is the [Newsletter](#) See below for the legacy as reported by the city.

European Volunteering Capital ...Legacy



Barcelona- European Volunteering Capital 2014

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.



Another follow up action was a Europe for Citizens funding application led by Rennes for network of towns and cities project. It was not successful but the collaboration to prepare the application was also beneficial.

2015 Competition: Following on the success of the first European Volunteering Capital competition, CEV launched the second edition of the competition in early 2014. **Deadline for applications was 30th September 2014.**

OCTOBER 2014

The announcement of the candidates for 2015 European Volunteering Capital was done in the framework of the CEV VIEWSS Conference in Turin (IT).



The three candidates were:

Basel (CH) 
Lisbon (PT) 
Naples (IT) 



For the 2015 competition the **innovation of the presentation of candidate certificates in Brussels was introduced**. This was a way to have an interesting moment for the media to pick up, for CEV to get greater connections with National and Regional representatives in Brussels for advocacy work and to spread more visibility and knowledge about the competition through the communication channels of the representatives collecting the certificates.

The 2015 Jury was formed by the following experts:

- Eva HAMBACH- CEV President
- Jana ŽITŇANSKÁ – Member of the European Parliament
- Sophie BEERNAERTS – Head of Unit, Europe for Citizens Programme, European Commission
- Luca JAHIER – President of Group III of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Roger ALBINYANA – Member of the Committee of the Regions
- Joaquin DURANY – Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN)

DECEMBER 2014

The winner of 2015 European Volunteering Capital is Lisbon #EVCapital 2015. The announcement ceremony took place in Barcelona.



MARCH 2015

European Volunteering Capital 2015 Opening Ceremony in Lisbon



The legacy of 2015 in Lisbon can be summarised as follows:



Lisbon- European Volunteering Capital 2015

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.

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.

PHASE 2 2016 & 2017 Competitions

CEV launched the third and fourth editions of the European Volunteering Capital competition in early 2015. The deadline for applications was on 21 September 2015. Following an extensive evaluation of the process and deliberations in the CEV of different scenarios for the development of the competition, it was agreed to launch the call for two years at the same time. This was in order that in the future winning municipalities would have a full year to prepare for their year instead of the single month that had been the case in the first two rounds of the competition and would indeed still be the case for the third round. It was also agreed to make the announcement of candidates more prestigious and also give the opportunity for longer presentations from the candidates and the

possibility to include videos. For the jury members who couldn't be present a video recording of the presentations was sent to them for information but it was not part of the formal scoring at that time.

Candidate municipalities for the 2016 and 2017 competitions were the following:

Belfast (UK 2016, 2017); Bruges (BE 2016, 2017); Cagliari (IT 2016, 2017); Cascais (PT 2016); Edinburgh (UK 2016); London (UK 2016, 2017); Lucca (IT 2016); Perm (RU 2016, 2017); Rome (IT 2016); Sligo (IE 2017); Varese (IT 2016, 2017); Viterbo (IT 2016, 2017)

Candidate Certificates were presented in Brussels in country groupings:



The Jury for the 2016 and 2017 competitions were the following:

- Joaquin Durany, Employee Volunteering European Network (EVEN) (La Caixa)
- Jutta Gützkow, Council of Europe (Head of Civil Society Division)
- Jutta Koenig-Georgiades, European Commission (DG Home Europe for Citizens Programme)
- Fernando Medina, Committee of the Regions (Mayor of Lisbon)
- Cristina Rigman, CEV President
- Ariane Rodert, European Economic and Social Committee (Vice President Group III)
- Ivo Vajgl, Member of the European Parliament (Slovenia)

The Candidates Announcement for the European Volunteering Capital Competitions 2016 and 2017 was done during the CEV Policy Conference "[Helping-Hands Hope for Europe](#)" in Brussels, October 2015 in the framework of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Candidates were given the opportunity to present themselves and most, but not all, took the opportunity to be present and give an introduction to their work. The announcement of the winners for both 2016 and 2017 was done during the 2015 closing ceremony for Lisbon.



London was awarded the title European Volunteering Capital 2016 and Sligo will be the European Volunteering Capital 2017. The announcement of the #EVCapital winners was done on 4 December 2015 during the Closing Conference of Lisbon European Volunteering Capital 2015 on the eve of the International Volunteer Day.

London #EVCapital 2016



Sligo #EVCapital 2017



London 2016 European Volunteering Capital:

The 2016 Opening Ceremony was held as part of an existing planned event and the Closing Ceremony as part of a European Conference on Volunteering where they invited and covered part of the costs of guests from other municipalities connected to the competition in addition to CEV member organisations. At the closing ceremony the winner of the 2018 competition was announced.

Legacy 2016:



London- European Volunteering Capital 2016

2 new annual events were launched in EVC 2016: 'Run to do Good & The Big Recruit' are events that encourage cross sector working 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 winning cities eg. collaboration on 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 what they have achieved with this prestigious accolade. 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 encourage 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.

The CEV 2017 Spring Capacity Conference (DEVS) was hosted in London as part of the legacy of the year.

Sligo 2017 European Volunteering Capital

The Opening Ceremony for Sligo- European Volunteering Capital 2017 took place on 27 January 2017. Sligo also attracted a number of National Volunteering and volunteering-related events in 2017.

From the 10 -13 October EV Capital 2017 Sligo held an exhibition in the European Parliament, demonstrating the valuable contribution of volunteers and volunteering activities in Sligo Hosted by MEP Marian Harkin the opening of the exhibition on featured presentations from Commissioner Phil Hogan, Irish ambassador Helena Nolan and Cathoirleacht Seamus Kilgannon. There was also a volunteering seminar on 11 October in Brussels involving a delegation of c. 30 volunteers from different local organisations and policymakers from Sligo, in Brussels as part of a study visit implemented in connection with their role as European Capital of Volunteering 2017. These events were possible with the **support of MEP Marian Harkin**.

The closing ceremony took place in Sligo in December 2017 in conjunction with the Irish national volunteer awards. It was there that the winner of the 2019 competition was announced.



PHASE 3 2018 Competition:

The **deadline for applications was brought forward to be on 30 June 2016**. Previous deadlines had always been in September but it was felt that bringing it forward earlier in the year to June would give more time to prepare the candidate certificate presentations and also the candidate presentation ceremony. In addition, the opportunity to give more visibility over a long period of time to all candidates was felt to be important and bring added value in terms of visibility in entering the competition for all candidates and not only the eventual winner. The information provided in the application form counted as 70% of the final score allocated to each candidate. 30% of the score was allocated based on the presentation of the candidature during the Candidates Reception organised by CEV and London European Volunteering Capital 2016 on 13 October 2016 in Brussels (BE). This was the first time that the presentation became part of the formal criteria.

The formal announcement of candidates was done via a press release a couple of days after the deadline. Most candidates already publicly declare themselves to candidates before this time.

The European Volunteering Capital 2018 was chosen between one of the **two candidate municipalities from Denmark: Aarhus and Ringkøbing-Skjern**. The ceremony awarding the candidacy certificates took place at the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union in Brussels on 14 July 2016.



The Jury was the following:

- Cristina Rigman - CEV President
- Silvia Costa - Member of the European Parliament
- Gonçalo Lobo Xavier - European Economic and Social Committee
- Laura Brown - London European Volunteering Capital 2016
- Karin Lopatta-Loibl - European Commission
- Kieran McCarthy - Committee of the Regions
- Mary-Ann Hennessey - Council of Europe
- Joaquin Durany - Employee Volunteering European Network EVEN (La Caixa)

Aarhus was chosen as the European Volunteering Capital 2018 and chose to focus during the year on four tracks to further strengthen volunteering in their municipality.

- **Legacy:** Organisations and movements are a significant part of the foundation that has formed Denmark and the Danish voluntary culture – and thereby Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.
- **Diversity:** Regardless of age, ethnicity, background, employment, social conditions etc. everyone must be represented in Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.
- **Social Inclusion:** Among volunteers there is a lack of representation from the so-called socially disadvantaged citizens. But despite of the challenges that this group is facing they have many resources to offer - and they wish to include these resources in Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.
- **Cooperation:** They strive to increase and improve the cooperation between citizens and the municipality to make it easier to volunteer and create content to Aarhus Volunteer Capital 2018.

2019 Competition

The deadline for the EV Capital 2019 was on the **30 June 2017**. The **three candidate municipalities for the European Volunteering Capital 2019** title were: **Augsburg** (Germany), **Cascais** (Portugal) and **Kosice** (Slovakia).



Jury for the EVCapital 2019 included

- Cristina Rigman, CEV President
- Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament
- Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, European Economic and Social Committee
- Seamus Kilgannon – Sligo City Council- EV Capital 2018
- Sophia Eriksson, European Commission
- Kieran McCarthy, Committee of the Regions
- Mary-Ann Hennessey, Council of Europe
- Michael Evason, Employee Volunteering European Network - EVEN (IBM)

The winner was announced at the closing Ceremony in Sligo in December 2017



*Closing Ceremony Sligo #EVCapital 2017
Košice EVCapital 2019 Winner Announced*

PHASE 4 - 2020 Competition

For the 7th edition of the competition, launched in early 2018, a new application form and procedure was developed. The form was prepared in an online Google form instead of an editable pdf as previously. The form was made shorter and questions were grouped around the 5R policy priorities rather than the EYV 2011 priorities and PAVE recommendations explicitly. It was also agreed to include scope for candidates to explain what they plan to do in a particular policy area if they are not currently addressing that issue.

There were **two candidate municipalities** for the European Volunteering Capital 2020 title were **Padova (Italy)** and **Stirling (United Kingdom)**.



The process for the awarding of the 2020 competition winner proceeded as for 2019 with 70% of the jury score allocated to the application form contents that was **already adapted in a new form giving scope for applicants to share also some plans for the future** in connection to the different criteria. This modification was agreed by the Board as a result of the evaluation process. Applications were submitted at the end of June 2018. Physical presentations took place in Brussels on 25th October 2018 where some jury members were able to be present. For those that couldn't be there a recording was sent. The presentations lasted for 7 minutes each and an **additional adaptation was made where a further 5 minutes of video evidence** could also be submitted to the jury. These videos were disseminated online once all the jury members had submitted their scores. A total of 30% of the score was allocated for the presentation and video combined. Jury members score each application form question out of 10 in the case of a 'yes' response to the question and 5 in the case of a 'no' response to a question. For the presentation and video also out of 10. They have the possibility to give some written explanation for the level of score that they gave. These comments are then summarised as feedback for the applicants and shared in a [press release](#) as a way of disseminating good practice.

The winning municipality (Padova) was announced at the closing ceremony for Aarhus in December 2018 based on highest total score between all the judges.



2021 Competition

The Competition primarily currently exists to 'reward municipalities who are doing well to support their volunteers and volunteering and to motivate, inspire and encourage others to do better'. We only require a suitable opening and closing 'ceremony' to mark the year, the application process does not ask for a programme of events or activities. **However, the 2021 application form that has been published in February 2019 with a deadline in June 2019 includes an optional question about**

"would they be willing to host the CEV Capacity Building conference in 2021 or 2022 and on which topic.". This is for planning purposes only and is not part of the formal criteria.

Recent developments mean that we now have a **closer collaboration with the Committee of the Regions** and we will hopefully be able to have events in the EURegionsWeek2019 as there was in 2018.

We have submitted an EU funding application for ESC to offer EV Capital winners and candidates support via ESC volunteers in order to offer an additional incentive or at least remove some perceived barriers but it was unsuccessful. We hope to be able to submit in another country at the next deadline in May 2019.