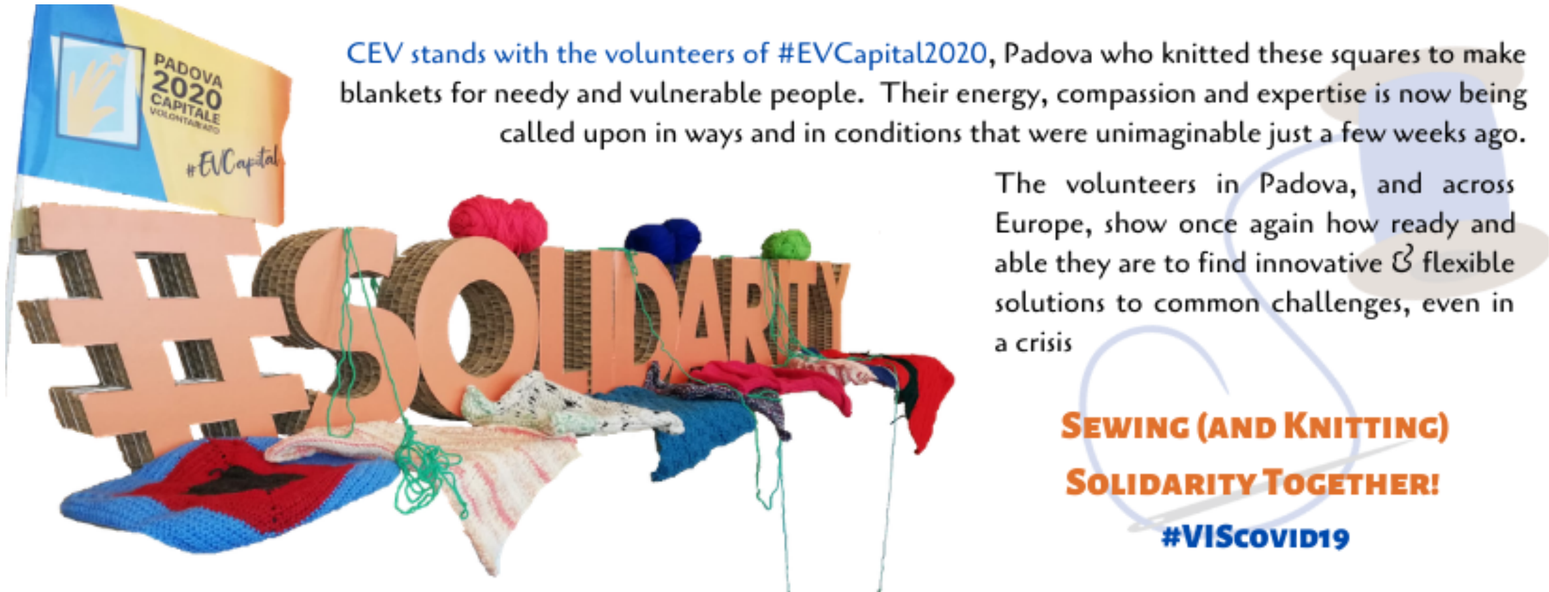
Sewing Solidarity Together

23 October 2020 | 9:30-12:30 (CEST)

Webinar Report



March 2020

CEV stands with the volunteers of #EVCapital2020, Padova who knitted these squares to make blankets for needy and vulnerable people. Their energy, compassion and expertise is now being called upon in ways and in conditions that were unimaginable just a few weeks ago.

The volunteers in Padova, and across Europe, show once again how ready and able they are to find innovative & flexible solutions to common challenges, even in a crisis

SEWING (AND KNITTING) SOLIDARITY TOGETHER!

#VISCOVID19

Europe for Citizens

Aims:

CEV organised the "Sewing Solidarity Together" webinar on 23 October. This webinar, supported by the Europe for Citizens programme, shared strategies to combat the stigmatization and discrimination of migrants, refugees and other disadvantaged and excluded groups. It was a dynamic and interactive space where the volunteers explained:

1

Which initiatives or strategies they have used to combat stigmatization and discrimination

2

How they think we can display solidarity and stop stigmatization in the "Era of Fake News"

3

How they have integrated immigrants, refugees and other minorities in their communities through volunteering

... and what "Sewing Solidarity" is for them!

Webinar Agenda

9.00 - 9.30 Registration

9.30 - 10.00 Opening by Leijla Šehić Relić-CEV President, Ilaria Ferraro-CSV Padova and Cristina Piva-City Councillor, Padova Municipality

10.00 - 10.15 Amici dei Popoli (Silvia Cecconi and Vittoria Cigana)

10.15 - 10.30 Centro Veneto Progetti Donna (Claudia Pividori and Stefania Loddo)

10.30 - 10:45 Associazione 21 Luglio (Marco Zanne and Carlo Stasolla)

10:45 - 11:00 Association "Il Portico" (Giorgio Gozzo, Kheida Khasueva and Mert Demir)

11:00 - 11:30 BREAK

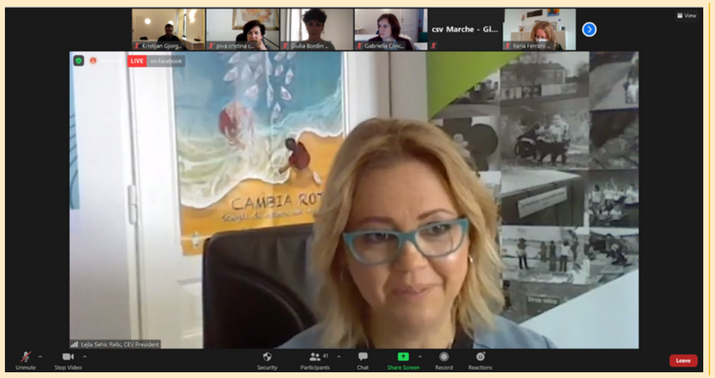
11:30 - 11:35 Presentation of WISH platform - WISH is an online platform, geographically displayed to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to find sources of support and assistance from the different volunteering initiatives in Europe. (Giulia Bordin - CEV)

https://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org/wish

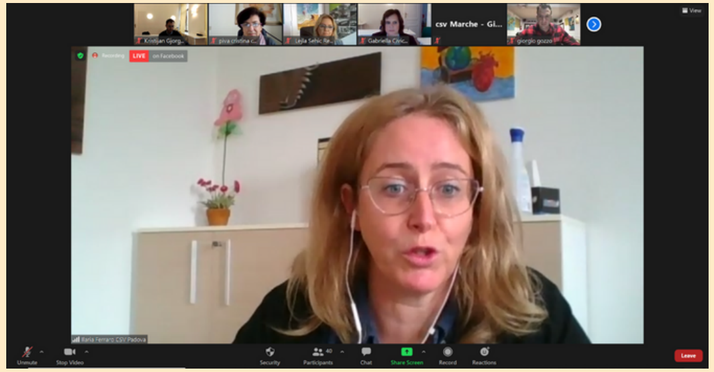
11:35 - 12:30 Discussion, debate and closing

The webinar was opened by:

Lejla Šehić Relić
CEV President



Ilaria Ferraro
CSV Padova



Cristina Piva
Padova City Councillor

Case studies were presented by:

Amici dei Popoli - local association from Padova who engage volunteers to promote inclusiveness, justice and solidarity and aims to raise awareness on the causes of societal imbalances, promote more supportive and respectful lifestyles, to spread the values of inter-culture and hospitality.
http://www.amicideipopolipadova.it

Centro Veneto Progetti Donna - Association that offers support to women in Italy who are victims of violence; they're involved in a project that reflects and debates on human rights, working with women survivors and/or those involved in situations of violence in international protection, starting from an examination of the relationship between the violation of human rights, situations of violence and the recognition of protection needs related to international and/or humanitarian protection.
http://www.centrodonnapadova.it/index.php

Associazione 21 Luglio - Independent non-governmental organisation established in Rome in 2010 promoting Roma and Sinti rights in Italy and aiming at the protection of individuals and groups in extreme segregation conditions, through the protection of children's rights and the fight against any form of discrimination. Its main activities are human rights research and advocacy, human rights education and strategic litigation. It is registered in the National Anti-Discrimination Office's register of anti-discrimination organisations and is also member of several National, European and International networks and organisations working in the implementation&monitoring of Human Rights.
http://www.21luglio.org/21luglio/

Association "Il Portico" - Il Portico carries out activities of animation and social gathering. In this group we find operators, volunteers, people with disabilities and / or in a state of fragility in the possibility of finding a structured and qualified support with many opportunities for leisure and personal growth. Thanks to the projects underway today, Il Portico benefits from the support of Volunteers in Civil Service and European Volunteers.
https://www.il-portico.it/

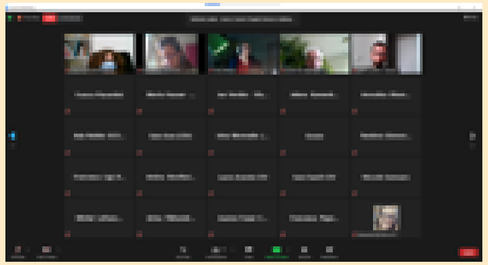
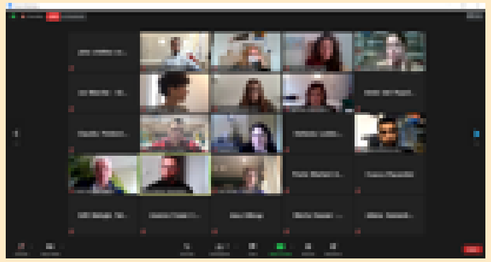
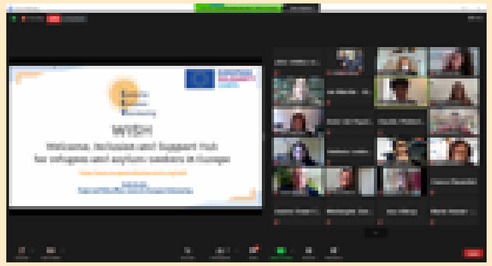
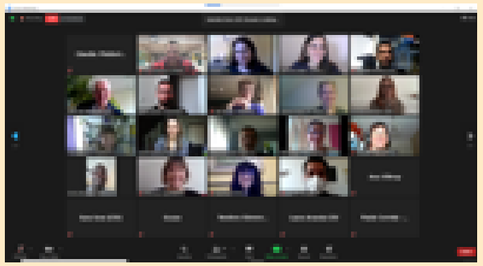
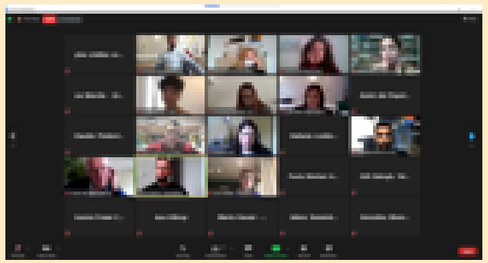
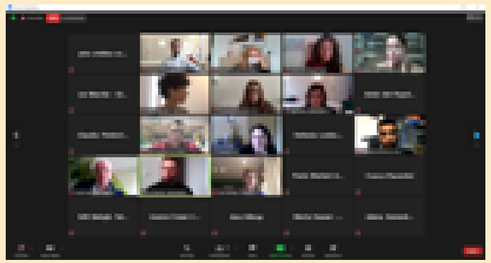
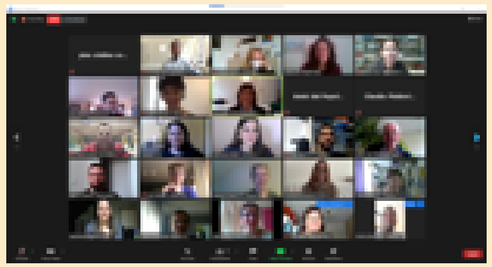
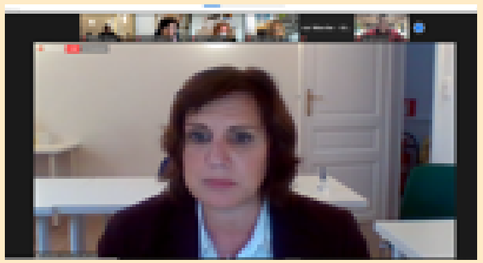
WISH - Welcome, Inclusion and Support Hub for refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe

European, unifying and **online platform** where initiatives focused on integration and **inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers** around Europe are **mapped**.

The **WISH platform** is developed by CEV in the frame of the European Solidarity Corps projects. **Volunteer-based and/or volunteer-led initiatives** that support the inclusion and integration of migrants and refugees will be geographically displayed, categorised depending on the **kind of support** they offer.

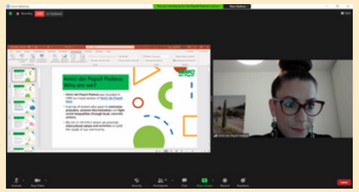
Giulia Bordin, Project and Policy officer, Centre for European Volunteering

The webinar was moderated by CEV Director Gabriella Civico & gathered 45 participants from 15 countries....

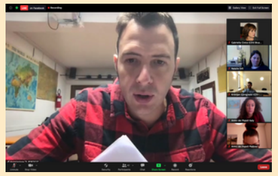









Highlights:

"Our goals are to overcome prejudice, prevent discrimination, fight social inequalities through local, concrete actions, promote intercultural values."
Silvia Cecconi

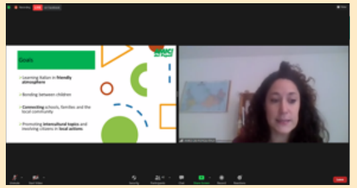


"Every social stigma and every stigmatisation, has a plurality of causes. That can't be covered with a new piece on an old dress".
Giorgio Gozzo

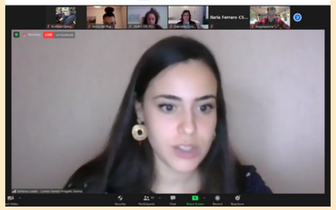


"90% women who came to Italy by sea, have undergone sexual and gender based violence"
Claudia Pividori

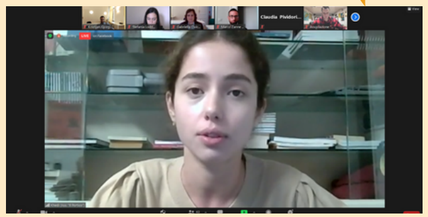
"We create a space for foreign children to learn Italian to support their integration in school and outside."
Vittoria Cigana



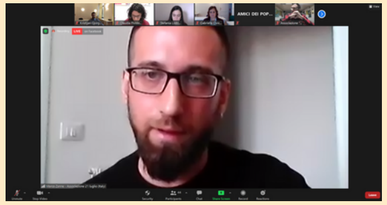
"We offer support to women in Italy who are victims of violence; they're involved in a project that reflects and debates on human rights, we work with women survivors and those involved in situations of violence in international protection."
Stefania Loddo



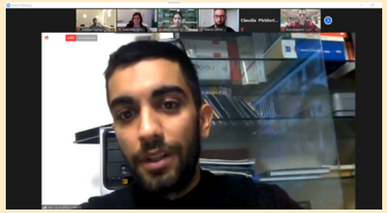
For me it was really important from being assisted to become assisting to other people and from someone who is being helped, now to help others."
Kheida Khasueva



"Our organisation promotes Roma and Sinti rights in Italy and aiming at the protection of individuals and groups in extreme segregation conditions, through the protection of children's rights and the fight against any form of discrimination."
Marco Zanne



"Our organisation coordinated 11 volunteering projects, we hosted 41 volunteers and sent 16 volunteers abroad".
Mert Demir



Webinar Conclusions

"It is a sorry fact that even in countries based on democratic principles, and adhering to European Values, many citizens from minority groups continue to experience discrimination and stigmatization. This can have negative effects on many aspects of their day-to-day lives such as: access to quality housing; appropriate education and learning opportunities; stable and fair employment; suitable leisure and sporting activities; proper nutrition and healthcare services; possibilities for well-being and quality of life." (Gabriella Civico CEV Director)

A large number of volunteers in Europe contribute their time and expertise in volunteer-based and volunteer-led activities that seek to combat this stigmatization and discrimination. Some are focused on direct alleviation in practical ways of the negative consequences previously mentioned while others target the issue from a different perspective and focus on changing the attitudes and reactions of fellow citizens who, through their own prejudices and attitudes, contribute to the discrimination and stigmatize people from minority groups.

The webinar was a dynamic and interactive space where participants explained what "Sewing Solidarity" meant for them. The selected case study organisations were able to showcase different initiatives or strategies they have used to combat stigmatization and discrimination and explain what are their indicators of success and good practice. We were also able to see how facilitating and engaging volunteers from within the minority groups as part of mutual aid and peer-to-peer volunteering initiatives can be successfully achieved and what are the potential barriers and challenges to this. The impact of the media in the "Era of Fake News" was also addressed, especially concerning the role of volunteers in combating hate speech and fake news. In this way, the webinar has contributed to reducing discrimination and stigmatization of minority and vulnerable groups.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH !

@volunteeringcev

@VolunteeringCEV

communication@cev.be

www.cev.be

© European Volunteer Centre