



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL COMPETITION

BRUSSELS, 11th February, 2013- The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) launches the European Volunteering Capital in the framework of 2013 European Year of Citizens, a competition to promote and develop volunteering at the local level.

The European Volunteering Capital Competition aims to promote volunteering at local level by giving recognition to municipalities which support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and volunteer involving organisations in their communities, implementing the recommendations of the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E). European Commission Vice President Viviane Reding has especially welcomed the initiative given that it clearly shows the strong link between European Years 2011 and 2013 and demonstrates CEV's continued support for cross-border volunteering in Europe.

Confirmed jury members are: **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 EYV 2011 Task Force, **Lluís Romeu** – FASVOL President, **Richard Dictus**- UNV Executive Coordinator, **Pavel Trantina**- Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, **Ramon Terrassa**, General Director of Civic and Community Action Welfare and Family Department, the Government of Catalonia.

Application forms will be available as of 1 March 2013 and the application fee is 500 Euro. **Application deadline is 1 October 2013** and the candidate municipalities will be announced at the [CEV Conference on 3 October 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzagovina](#) where they will have the opportunity to present their candidature.

The **Jury decision will be announced on 5 December 2013 International Volunteer Day**. The winning municipality, which could be of any size, will be the one that the Jury of representatives of European volunteering stakeholders believe to best demonstrate the implementation of the P.A.V.E recommendations. Special emphasis will be given to the capacity to promote and facilitate the cross border mobility of volunteers.

About CEV:

The **European Volunteer Centre (Centre européen du volontariat, CEV)** is the European network of over 80 national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer support agencies across Europe. Through our network we work together to promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations who look to volunteer centres a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work. For 20 years CEV has distinguished itself as the representative voice for volunteering infrastructure in Europe, working to strengthen the infrastructure for volunteering across Europe and promoting volunteering as an expression of European values and European Citizenship as envisaged in the Maastricht Treaty. CEV's vision is a Europe in which volunteering is central in building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship.

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