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PRESS RELEASE - Brussels, 5 December 2016 EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL 2018 WINNER

CEV is pleased to announce that the municipality of **Aarhus, Denmark** has been awarded the title of **European Volunteering Capital Competition 2018**

In choosing Aarhus as the European Volunteering Capital 2018 the jury have noted *“the ‘Strategy on Active Citizenship’ that involves clear and appropriate funding mechanisms for volunteer-involving organisations, even the very smallest ones, using participatory budgeting for this is also commended. The robust approach to the measurement of impact and support shown for other research in order to inform evidence-based policy for volunteering is praised. In addition, the jury concluded that the way in which volunteering policy is linked to policies and strategies for employability, health and social inclusion shows an excellent example to others. It was highlighted that for the future, more emphasis and attention could be given to recognition processes for volunteers and also on raising awareness of the rights and responsibilities of volunteers.”*

CEV launched the **European Volunteering Capital Competition to celebrate and promote volunteering** and the impact made by volunteers at the local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen volunteering, especially through partnerships with stakeholders from different sectors such as volunteer centres, volunteer-involving organisations and the for-profit sector. The judging criteria are the recommendations in the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE).

The awarded municipality is chosen from the candidates by an **international jury** of key personalities connected with volunteering, representing civil society, the private, for-profit sector, as well as the EU institutions.

Cristina Rigman, CEV President
Silvia Costa, Member of the European Parliament
Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, European Economic and Social Committee
Laura Brown, Team London
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)

The previous winners are: Sligo 2017 London- 2016 Lisbon- 2015 and Barcelona- 2014

The **European Volunteer Centre (CEV)** is the network of over 80 national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer support agencies across Europe. CEV has, for 24 years, promoted and supported volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way CEV reaches out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organizations who look to volunteer centres a source of support and in particular bringing the European dimension to their work.

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