

28TH ANNUAL VOLONTEUROPE CONFERENCE:

TAKING DEMOCRACY, EUROPEAN VALUES AND PARTICIPATION TO A NEW LEVEL THROUGH EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

27-28 NOVEMBER 2019, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

As the end of 2019 approaches, Europe is finding itself in challenging, yet interesting times. With the new European legislature nearly in place, Brexit negotiations ongoing, key elections taking place across Europe, and the current EU funding programmes coming to an end - and new ones due to begin in 2021 - it is a good time to reflect on how, working across sectors, effectively engaging civil society, we can make Europe work for everyone.

At this 28th Annual VolontEurope Conference, we will advocate for the civil society sector having its voice and place in European funding programmes to effectively promote democracy, European values and participation, to ensure no one is left behind and we achieve more socially just, tolerant and inclusive Europe.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 26th November 2019

VolontEurope Office, c/o SOLIDAR, 4-6 rue de Pascale, B-1040 Brussels

13:00 – 15:00 Meeting of the Board of Directors (*VolontEurope Secretariat and Board only*)

Wednesday, 27th November 2019

VolontEurope Office, c/o SOLIDAR, 4-6 rue de Pascale, B-1040 Brussels

15:30 – 17:30 Annual General Meeting (*VolontEurope Secretariat, Board, Members and Associates only*)

19:00 – 21:00 VolontEurope “Innovation in Volunteering Awards 2019”

- **Presentation of short-listed projects**
- **Winner announcement**
- **Evening Reception**; catering by WeExist Social NGO

We Exist is created and managed by Syrians. The objective of We Exist is to facilitate the integration into the labour market for people who fled conflict and persecution. The NGO promotes participation in socio-economic and cultural life and raises awareness of Syrian culture and traditions.

Thursday, 28th November 2019

Maison ND Chant d'Oiseau, Centre de Formation, Av. des Franciscains, 3A, B-1150 Brussels

09:00 – 09:45 Registration & Coffee

09:45 – 10:00 Welcoming remarks from VolontEurope

- **Piotr Sadowski**, Secretary General
- **Oonagh Aitken**, President

10:00 – 10:15 Keynote address on the “Importance of engagement of civil society in European policy- and decision-making”: **Roger Casale**, Chair, New Europeans

10:15 – 11:30 Political debate: “How to make Europe work for everyone and promote democracy, European values and participation?”

Moderation: **David Lopez**, Vice President, VolontEurope

- **Gabriella Civico**, Director, CEV European Volunteer Centre
- **Pavel Trantina**, Group III, SOC Section, European Economic and Social Committee
- **Brikena Xhomaqi**, Director, Lifelong Learning Platform
- **Lope Gallego**, Programme Manager, European Solidarity Corps (TBC)
- **Kélig Puyet**, Director, Social Platform (TBC)

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Parallel case study workshops: promoting democracy, European values and participation through European volunteer-engaging programmes

EU Aid Volunteers: “+CARE Project”

Silvia de Benito, Alianza por la Solidaridad, Spain
Costin Dedu, Imago Mundi Association, Romania

European Solidarity Corps: “Volunteering Partnerships”

Cara Battrick, Volunteering Matters, UK
Kasia Czarnecka, ProjectScotland, UK

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships: “Wake Up Europe”

Perdita Wingerter, GLL, Germany
Oonagh Aitken, Volunteering Matters, UK

AMIF: “EU VOICE Project”

Pablo Salazar del Risco, Cevot, Italy
Zsafia Jobbagy, Co&So, Italy

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Feedback from workshops and conference messaging

15:30 – 16:00 Closing session and farewell