
**CEV Statement on the MFF Proposal from the
European Commission 27th May 2020**

(04/06/2020)

Since the first day of the COVID19 pandemic crisis, citizens have responded by adapting and launching numerous volunteer initiatives to support people in need. This has demonstrated, beyond all doubt, the **importance of volunteer engagement and of a vibrant and responsive civil society, reflecting the spirit of a resilient and caring community putting European values into practice.** CEV hopes that the new [Multiannual Financial Framework - MFF](#) (2021 - 2027 1,100 billion€) will have a real impact on enabling these volunteering initiatives to continue to develop and thrive. Volunteers, the volunteer-involving organisations with which they engage, and the volunteer infrastructure organisations supporting them, must be able to connect in the European framework during the recovery phase and beyond, in order to continue to meet societal needs. We believe that **supporting the engagement of civil society and volunteers is an important investment in social capital** that is built on trust and solidarity with and for others, providing a unique contribution to an inclusive, holistic and sustainable recovery. Stable and continuous investment of EU funds in volunteering will be essential to ensuring that civil society, European values and democracy thrive.

CEV welcomes the new MFF proposal from the European Commission and recognises the **potential for investment in, and support for, the activities of civil society and volunteers** that is reflected in it. Even if limited, and far less than is needed, we hope that the allocated amounts in programmes such as the European Solidarity Corps (895 million €), the European Rights and Values Fund (677 billion €), European Social Fund + (86.3 billion €) and Erasmus + (24.6 billion €) can be complemented by support under the [“Next Generation EU”](#) funding (temporary reinforcement 2021-2024 of 750 billion €) by making it **accessible to civil society organisations** in order to support their continued and crucial contribution to the recovery process.

We also ask that:

- Volunteering and solidarity organisations from all fields of activities will continue to be able to engage with the **European Solidarity Corps**;
- Support to volunteers as active citizens, and to the development of volunteering in general, will be a central aspect of the **European Rights and Values Fund**;
- The **Erasmus Plus** programme will continue to support lifelong learning for people of all ages, including that acquired whilst volunteering;
- Volunteers active **in all fields contributing to sustainable development** such as: combating climate change; social services & social justice, and innovative uses of technology , amongst many others, will be financially supported by the EU under the new MFF in order that **their extraordinary contributions have an even greater impact and resonance** across Europe, and beyond, in the post-crisis period.

The new MFF can respond to CEV’s call for policymakers to [“step up a gear”](#) regarding volunteering policies and programmes. CEV calls on the EU Member States to support a new MFF for 2021 - 2027 that makes a strong commitment to supporting not only business interests but also civil society organisations and citizens putting EU Values into practice and showing solidarity through volunteering.