

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Clare Shortlisted for European Volunteering Capital 2027

County Clare could soon become an internationally recognised centre for excellence in policies and programmes supporting volunteers and volunteering.

Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare County Council have confirmed that the county has been shortlisted as a candidate for the prestigious European Volunteering Capital 2027 title.

Previous European Volunteering Capitals include Barcelona, Lisbon, London, Berlin, and Gdansk. In 2017, Sligo became the first and only Irish location to be awarded the title.

The European Volunteering Capital Competition, launched in 2013 during the European Year of Citizens, is hosted by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV). The European network comprises 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support for, volunteers and volunteering at European, national, and regional levels.

Councillor Alan O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said the achievement recognises Clare's longstanding commitment to fostering a thriving volunteer culture and places the county alongside Europe's most distinguished volunteering destinations.

"This shortlisting is a testament to the incredible spirit of volunteerism that defines every aspect of life across County Clare," he explained. "Our communities have always embodied the values of solidarity and civic engagement, and this recognition validates our ongoing efforts to create an enabling environment for volunteers across the county."

Sharon Meaney, Manager of Clare Volunteer Centre, said: "We are immensely proud to represent Ireland on the European stage. This achievement reflects the dedication of thousands of volunteers who contribute their time, skills, and passion to make County Clare a better place for all."

As part of the selection process, County Clare will join the European Volunteering Capital Candidates Community (EVCCC), a unique network of municipalities sharing expertise in strengthening and celebrating volunteering and solidarity.

"Regardless of the final outcome, being shortlisted for European Volunteering Capital 2027 demonstrates that County Clare's volunteer community stands among Europe's finest," she added. "We look forward to sharing our story and learning from our European partners as we continue building a stronger, more connected county through the power of volunteering."

Brendan Boyce, Integration Support Coordinator for Clare County Council, noted that County Clare's candidacy highlights the county's comprehensive approach to volunteer support, including robust training programmes, innovative community initiatives, and strategic partnerships that strengthen the volunteer sector.

"Working in partnership with Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare County Council is constantly exploring new and innovative approaches to community engagement and raising volunteer participation across the county," he added. "County Clare's shortlisting brings significant Europe-wide visibility and positions the county as a leader in volunteering excellence."

The final presentation to the judging panel will take place during the CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress on October 16th, 2025, in Brussels. The winner will be announced on December 1st, 2025.

For more information about the European Volunteering Capital Competition, visit the Centre for European Volunteering at www.europeanvolunteercentre.org.