

Call for partners: Network of towns

« Europe for Citizens » programme

BUG, a French association based in Rennes, is looking for partners for a project about volunteering promotion under the measure Network of towns. The association is seeking civil organizations or municipalities, from medium or large sized cities.

Identification of the applicant	
Name of the organisation	Association BUG
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Description of the project	
Strand, Measure in the framework of „Europe for Citizens” Programme	Strand 2 : Democratic engagement and civic participation Measure 2.2 Network of towns
Timetable of the project (including deadline)	Deadline : 1 septembre 2014 Duration : October-December 2015 – October-December 2016
Short description of the project, including its aims	Cooperation and experiences exchanges between organizations or department of the City Council accompanying CSOs and any relevant organizations. Aim : Encourage and support the participation and engagement of citizens in local and European society.
Comments from the applicant	Working languages : English ; French

Rennes (France)

Rennes is located in the North-West of France. It is the capital of the Region of Brittany.



Some figures

- Population of Rennes: **207,178**
- Population of Rennes' living area: **650 000** (20, 6% of Brittany)
- Number of students: **65,000**
- Number of foreign students: 6,000
- 1 in 4 Rennes inhabitants** are volunteers
- 9 million volunteer hours** are provided each year in Rennes
- 10% of the municipal budget** earmarked for CSOs

Context

Volunteering is a major component of the society by the important number of people committed, but also by the involvement quality in local, national and European society, especially regarding solidarity, social cohesion, citizenship and common interest. Volunteering is also synonymous of social emancipation and active citizenship. It is, above all else, a way to discover and to realize values: to create social ties between the residents of neighborhoods, to encourage their local participation, to gather around common projects without mattering their age, social or geographical origin. Volunteers express themselves and develop projects within organized associations of the region.

Rennes' civil society organizations

In Rennes, there are a lot of volunteers involved in associations. 1 inhabitant out of 4 older than 15 years is involved in the 5,600 Rennes' associations.

Rennes city Council aims to assist the expansion of commitment by encouraging CSOs to be autonomous, fostering diversity and building constructive partnership with them all. Over the last thirty years, Rennes has been structured by a neighborhood-based policy that provides each district with a local offer of services and non-profit facilities, enabling each resident to identify the type of volunteer commitment that is right for him, and thereby makes a contribution to civil society. With the municipality support, Rennes' organizations are structuring volunteer commitment. In Rennes, a network of dedicated centres ("Maisons" and "Offices") and CSOs hubs provides a sector-based approach to CSOs and grassroots issues. This is a favorable ecosystem to citizen commitment and civil society organizations.

Volunteer profile and ways of getting involved as well as CSOs functioning are changing. Professionals accompanying associations must adapt permanently. In parallel, important social transformations are making innovation and creativity necessary: decrease of public subsidies, public-private sector partnerships with local companies especially, new social needs, rise of vulnerable public, etc.

Rennes was one of the final candidates in the European Volunteering Capital competition of 2014, which was awarded to Barcelona and ever since, we did realized that CSOs issues are alike in all EU members States. It appeared that working and exchanging about those issues is a necessity.

Presentation of the structure



BUG assists and advises CSOs and volunteers of Rennes (resources center). Its objectives are to promote cooperative and collaborative uses of information and communication technologies; to improve access of CSOs to methods, means, skills and knowledge in communication and promotion; furthering the knowledge on the use of media and modes of expression of the priority public; accompanying mutations of associative life through activities within a constantly evolving system.

With the support of the municipality of Rennes, BUG wants to **build a sustainable network of European cities** in order to **promote and support participation and engagement of citizens in local and European society** through the recommendations of Policy agenda on Volunteering in Europe (PAVE) and especially through these following thematic:

- 1/ Advice and support to volunteers and CSOs.
- 2/ Promotion and enhancement of volunteerism.
- 3/ Social and digital innovation.
- 4/ Social inclusion and volunteering.

Particular attention will be paid to Youth.

For the project, a local network is being developed with different organizations : « Association pour la promotion de l'action et de l'animation sociale », "Centre du bénévolat 35", "Jeunes européens 35", "Jeunes à travers le monde", "Ligue de l'enseignement 35 », « Maison de l'Europe de Rennes et de Haute-Bretagne », "Maison internationale de Rennes", "Mouvement associatif rennais" and "Office des sports". For further details about those partners, please refer to page 5.

The project

General objective

The aim is to build a sustainable **European network in order to promote, support and develop participation and involvement of citizens in local and European society, particularly** the role of volunteers in European society and in term, **finding transposable and adaptable solutions throughout the European Union**. The project is a **first step** towards a sustainable cooperation.

Specifics objectives

- 1/ Establish a sustainable network to exchange experiences and best practices in the nonprofit sector and develop innovative tools to promote volunteering.
- 2 / Develop strategic solutions to promote citizen commitment in local, national and European

society.

3 / Promote the added-value of volunteer in the society.

4 / Encourage volunteers' mobility and transnational projects between associations

Planned activity

- Study visits.
- Public events.
- Seminar, workshops.
- Exchange through digital workspace, etc.

Outputs proposal

- Volunteers guidelines.
- e-platform to facilitate projects between civil society organizations.
- General European Volunteer Card (to complement the European Volunteer Service (EVS) programme which already exists).
- Common survey at the direction of Citizens and CSOs.

Role of partner organisation in the project

During the phase of program preparation, partners will designate their participants and representatives who will be responsible for the implementation of the local activities and will participate in the international meetings.

We would like to define subjects and activities with all partners. Then we will define together where the meetings will take places.

If you are interested, contact us : rmady@crva-rennes.org and cbizien@crva-rennes.org

Local partners

Our project is supported by the Municipality of Rennes, especially with the department of Youth and CSOs and the department of International relations and Europeans' project with whom we maintain constructive collaboration.

The municipality website : <http://metropole.rennes.fr>

You will find below presentations of Rennes' partners.



Local partner	Description
Office des sports <i>Sports center</i>	The "Office des Sports" de Rennes gathers and coordinates sports stakeholders (about 300 sports associations) and supports the sports movement for the development of practices and sporting activities (leisure and competition). http://www.sports-rennes.com
Jeunes à travers le monde <i>Youth around the world</i>	Aims to encourage international mobility of young adults in Brittany: working, studying or making an internship abroad, discover other culture, commit in international solidarity, leaving as a volunteer, etc. http://www.international-jtm.com/presentation-2-2.html
Maison internationale de Rennes <i>International centre of Rennes</i>	The "Maison Internationale de Rennes" is a group of international associations working about international solidarity and intercultural exchange. MIR supports twinning associations that promote meetings and exchanges between citizens of Rennes and partner cities. http://www.mir-rennes.fr
Mouvement associatif Rennais <i>Associative movement of Rennes</i>	It aims to group all of Rennes' associations, their groups, their federations and collectives and represents their positions and opinions within Rennes' public authorities. https://www.facebook.com/mouvement.associatif.rennais
Jeunes européens 35 <i>Young europeans</i>	The association "Jeunes européens 35" brings together youth willing to act in favor of European integration. Its action is based on political pluralism, tolerance and openness. (local organization of Jeunes européens France) http://jefrennes.wordpress.com
Association pour la promotion de l'action et de l'animation sociale <i>Association for the Advancement of social action</i>	Its missions are the observation of populations and social actions in Rennes and its urban area, the conduct of joint actions between its varied members, and experimentation with partnership initiatives. It manages five associative centres in Rennes. http://site.apras.org
Ligue de l'enseignement 35 <i>Teaching League</i>	The "ligue de l'enseignement 35" is a citizen movement that brings together men and women around their commitment and their abilities to act in a project of social transformation and to support citizenship by promoting access for all to education, culture, leisure and sport. (Local branch of Ligue de l'Enseignement) http://www.laligue35.org
Centre du bénévolat 35 <i>Volunteering centre</i>	It receives and guides volunteers and citizens in their searches and promotes volunteering in Rennes. (Local branch of France Bénévolat) http://www.benevolat35.org
Maison de l'Europe de Rennes et de Haute-Bretagne <i>European centre of Rennes</i>	The "Maison de l'Europe de Rennes et de Haute-Bretagne" informs citizens about European union and promotes European citizenship. It is also a Europe Direct Information Centre. http://maison-europe-rennes.org/