



Formentera's social welfare office reports that the local association Qué Celeste has been honoured with the Balearic government's 2019 Savina Prize for volunteering.

Together with laureates from across the archipelago, the group will receive their distinctions during a 7.00pm gala at the Palma Conservatory of Music. Qué Celeste's award will be delivered by Formentera's chief of social welfare, Rafael Ramírez, as part of International Volunteer Day celebrations. Each of the four winners of the best practices award will receive a cash prize of €3,000. Qué Celeste snagged the honours in a nod to their Somiant Desperta programme, with the jury highlighting the initiative's quality, quantity of volunteer participation, associated training, reach, impact, networking and various other criteria. The Consell de Formentera collaborates by contributing organising and outreach assistance in many Qué Celeste initiatives.

Information booth in Sant Francesc

Also for International Volunteer Day, tomorrow, 5 December, association representatives and current or aspiring volunteers can stop by a stand in Plaça de la Constitució for information about volunteering and upcoming training programmes.

Pointing to the profusion of community groups and programming whose existence depends on volunteer involvement and collaboration, social welfare chief Rafael Ramírez highlighted recent momentum around the creation of a local volunteers' group.

In October, a crowd of curious islanders and group representatives came out for an information session in the Casal d'Entitats. "While nothing tangible has materialised yet", said Ramírez, "this administration wants to underscore just how impactful we think a league of volunteers could be". Were such a cohort to form, he continued, "it would get the full heft of the support, expertise and cooperation of this government and our corps of professionals". The Consell de Formentera wishes to recognise the commendable efforts of individuals who volunteer their time, often unbeknownst to the rest of the population. "Volunteers are out there doing magnificent work all year long", said the councillor.

Volunteering workshop, 13 December

On Friday, 13 December, a free training session will be offered for associations as well as current or aspiring volunteers. The training is presented by the Platform for Volunteering (*Plataforma del Voluntariat*

) with support from the Balearic and Formentera governments. The event will start in the morning with an overview of new regional legislation governing volunteering in the Balearics and how it applies to groups that use volunteers. In the afternoon, parties who are interested in completing the basic training and getting accompanying accreditation are invited to a short course blending theory with practical know-how.

The session for groups runs from 11.30am to 1.30pm; individual volunteers will gather at the Casal d'Entitats from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. All those interested in attending should visit the Department of Social Welfare during regular office hours to register, or stop by the information stand tomorrow in Plaça de la Constitució.

4 December 2019

Department of Communication

Consell de Formentera