



VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

What are they?

Volunteering projects provide volunteering opportunities for young people. They should respond to important societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities while enabling volunteers to acquire useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Volunteering projects can combine one or more of the following main activities:

Individual volunteering activities

Full-time voluntary unpaid solidarity activity for a period from 2 to 12 months. In some cases, volunteering activities of 2 weeks to 2 months can be put in place for young people with fewer opportunities. This type of solidarity activity will give young people the chance to take part in the daily work of organisations. Activities can take place either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Volunteering teams

Groups of 10 to 40 young volunteers coming from at least two different countries to volunteer for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months. Such solidarity activities could especially contribute to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the European Solidarity Corps.

For Whom?

Organisations

Any public or private organisation from an EU Member State can participate and submit applications.

Organisations from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Countries neighbouring the EU can participate as partners but can't apply in 2018.

Individuals

Young people aged 18-30 from an EU Member State, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Countries neighbouring the EU. Young people must be registered in the European Solidarity Corps to participate in volunteering projects.

What is supported?

Travel costs, organisational support (contribution to subsistence, support to participants, management costs), pocket money for the volunteers, linguistic support, inclusion support, insurance, exceptional costs.

How does it work?

Projects will typically consist of the following stages:

- Preparation (including practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners and participants, linguistic/intercultural/task-related preparation of participants before departure);
- Implementation of activities;
- Follow-up (including the evaluation of the activities, the formal recognition of the learning outcomes of participants during the activity, issue of the certificate of participation as well as the dissemination and use of the project's outcomes).

Organisations taking part in volunteering activities should cover the following roles:

- A host role that covers the full range of activities related to hosting a Solidarity Corps participant, including the development of a programme of the young person's activities and providing guidance and support to the participant during all the phases of the project as appropriate (some of these activities can be carried out by a support organisation involved in the same projects).
- A support role that entails supporting, preparing and/or training participants before departure, mediation between them and their host organisations and/or providing support to participants upon return from their activity. Furthermore, where the host organisation cannot or does not wish to be responsible for some aspects of the host functions, these may also be covered by the support organisation.

In order to be able to take part in volunteering activities and carry out these roles, organisations need to hold either Erasmus+ volunteering accreditation or the relevant (host/support) Quality Label for volunteering.

Minimum two organisations, one host and one supporting need to be involved. This is not a requisite for in-country activities and volunteering teams where the minimum requirement is to have at least one host organisation.

Young people express their willingness to participate in the European Solidarity Corps by registering on the European Solidarity Corps portal. Organisations have to select the participants through the database of young people registered.

How to take part?

Organisations from an EU Member State apply to the National Agency of their country.

Project Start dates: from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2019

Projects duration: from 3 to 24 months

Deadline for applications: 16 October 2018 – 12:00 (midday Brussels time)

Quality Label

In order to participate in the European Solidarity Corps activities, organisations are required to have a Quality Label. The Quality Label is required in order to ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their responsibilities during all stages of solidarity activities. In general, obtaining a Quality Label will be a prerequisite for an organisation's participation in any activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps. Any quality labelled organisation automatically gets access to the European Solidarity Corps database.

Having a quality label shall not automatically imply funding.

Organisations with a valid Erasmus+ Volunteering accreditation can participate in volunteering activities without holding a Quality Label.

Organisations from an EU Member State apply for Quality Label to the National Agency of their country. Organisations from Partner Countries neighbouring the EU apply for Quality Label to the relevant SALTO Resource Center. There is no deadline to apply for Quality Label.



VOLUNTEERING PARTNERSHIPS

What are they?

Volunteering Partnerships are a specific project format designed for enabling experienced volunteering organisations to develop and implement longer-term projects. Volunteering Partnerships should also help enhance the quality and quantity of European Solidarity Corps volunteering opportunities. Projects should strategically respond to important societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities while enabling young people to acquire useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability.

Volunteering Partnerships can implement the same activities as Volunteering Projects. The same eligibility criteria and funding rules are thus applicable to Volunteering Partnerships. Please see the Volunteering Projects factsheet for further information.

How does it work?

Volunteering Partnerships have been developed to provide organisations with a simplified and flexible alternative format for implementing volunteering activities. Volunteering Partnerships will thus be implemented through 3-year Framework Partnership Agreements. Applicants will be required to submit an overall project proposal laying down the objective, relevance and impact of their project, an overall description of activities over the three years and an indicative description of how these will be divided into annual targets. Successful Volunteering Partnerships applicants will then sign a Framework Partnership Agreement that will enable them to submit three annual grant requests for the duration of the project (2018-2020).

Successful Volunteering Partnership applicants cannot apply for funding under the standard Volunteering Projects.

How to take part?

Organisations from an EU Member State apply to the National Agency of their country.

Deadline for applications: 13 September 2018 – 12:00 (midday Brussels time)

First deadline for annual grant request (successful applicants only): 16 October 2018 – 12:00 (midday Brussels time)



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS TRAINEESHIPS AND JOBS

What are they?

As defined in the specific context of the European Solidarity Corps, traineeships and Jobs provide young people with opportunities for work practice or employment, helping them to enhance their skills and experience thus facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Such traineeships and Jobs projects can combine one or more of the following main activities:

Jobs

Full-time work practice of between 3 to 12 months remunerated by the organisation employing the Corps participant. Jobs shall include a learning and training component and be based on a written employment contract, which respects all the terms and conditions of employment as defined in national law or applicable collective agreements, or both, of the country in which the job is being carried out. Jobs can take place either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Traineeships

Full-time work practice of between 2 to 6 months remunerated by the organisation responsible for the traineeship of the Corps participant. Traineeships shall include a learning and training component, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. It should be based on a written traineeship agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place. Traineeships must not substitute jobs and should be clearly separated from voluntary activities, both from a financial and organisational point of view. Traineeships can take place either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

For Whom?

Organisations

Any public or private organisation from an EU Member State can participate and submit applications.

Individuals

Young people aged 18-30 from an EU Member State. Young people must be registered in the European Solidarity Corps to participate in projects.

What is supported?

Travel costs, organisational support (support to participants, management costs), relocation allowance for the participants, linguistic support, inclusion support, insurance, exceptional costs.

How does it work?

Projects will typically consist of the following stages:

- Preparation (including practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners and participants, linguistic/intercultural/task-related preparation of participants before departure);
- Implementation of activities;
- Follow-up (including the evaluation of the activities, the formal recognition of the learning outcomes of participants during the activity, issue of the certificate of participation as well as the dissemination and use of the project's outcomes).

There is no minimum requirement regarding the number of organisations involved in a project. A single organisation holding a Quality Label can submit an application.

The applicant organisation can deliver the project by itself or in cooperation with associated partners, which are not required to have a Quality Label. The applicant is accountable for the entire project but can delegate responsibilities to associated partners. For cross-border activities, the applicant will have to demonstrate its capacity to prepare participants in the country of departure and provide support upon return.

The applicant will ensure that the following tasks are accomplished:

- reaching out to employers in order to identify traineeships/vacancies and to encourage their involvement;
- selecting and matching of candidates registered in the European Solidarity Corps with suitable vacancies;
- preparing and/or training participants before departure;

- ensuring that the participants attend the full Training and Evaluation Cycle;
- providing support for the learning process and for the identification and documentation of learning outcomes, through EU or national validation tools;
- ensuring that the trainee or the job holder is paid based on the written traineeship agreement or employment contract and in accordance with applicable national regulatory frameworks;
- ensuring the fairness of working conditions;
- providing guidance and support to the participant during all the phases of the activity as appropriate;
- drafting and implementing of a on-the-job and continuous training programme; designing tasks and activities for the participants in line with the qualitative principles of the European Solidarity Corps and the Quality Framework for Traineeships (if applicable);
- offering support to participants upon return from their activity, by assisting them with job search further training etc.

The list of tasks is not comprehensive and will depend on the specificities of each project.

Young people express their willingness to participate in the European Solidarity Corps by registering on the European Solidarity Corps portal. Organisations have to select the participants through the database of young people registered.

How to take part?

Organisations from an EU Member State and holding a Quality Label for the occupational strand can apply to the National Agency of their country. For 2018, transitional measures will be applied, whereby the organisations will not be required to hold a Quality Label when they submit the grant application. At that stage, they will be only required to have applied for the relevant Quality Label. However, all organisations have to hold a Quality label before the grant award decision.

Project Start dates: from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2019

Projects duration: from 6 to 24 months

Deadline for applications: 16 October 2018 – 12:00 (midday Brussels time)

Quality Label

In order to participate in the European Solidarity Corps activities, organisations are required to have a Quality Label. The Quality Label is required in order to ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their responsibilities during all stages of solidarity activities. In general, obtaining a Quality Label will be a prerequisite for an organisation's participation in any activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps. Any quality labelled organisation automatically gets access to the European Solidarity Corps database.

Having a quality label shall not automatically imply funding.

Organisations from an EU Member State apply for Quality Label to the National Agency of their country. There is no deadline to apply for Quality Label.



SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

What are they?

A solidarity project is an in-country solidarity activity initiated, developed and implemented by young people themselves for a period from two to twelve months. It gives a group of minimum five young people the chance to express solidarity by taking responsibility and committing to bring positive change in their local community. The project should have a clearly identified topic which participants of the group wish to explore together and which has to be translated into the concrete daily activities of the project and involve all the participants. Participation in a solidarity project is an important non-formal learning experience through which young people can enhance their personal, educational, social and civic development. Solidarity Projects should be local but they should also clearly present European added value through addressing priorities identified at European level within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps.

For Whom?

Individuals

Young people aged 18-30 from an EU Member State. Young people must be registered in the European Solidarity Corps to initiate and participate in a Solidarity Project.

What is supported?

Project costs, coaching costs and exceptional costs.

How does it work?

Projects will typically consist of the following stages:

- Preparation;
- Implementation of activities;
- Follow-up (including the evaluation of the activities, the recognition of the learning outcomes of participants during the activity, the issue of the certificate of participation as well as the dissemination and use of the project's outcomes).

How to take part?

A group of minimum 5 young people apply to the National Agency of the country in which they reside or an organisation (any public or private organisation) applies on their behalf.

Project Start dates: from 1 January 2019 to 31 May 2019

Projects duration: from 2 to 12 months

Deadline for applications: 16 October 2018 – 12:00 (midday Brussels time)