

European Solidarity Corps

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 in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border).

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.

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.