



European Commission

Taking the European Solidarity Corps forward



«There are many young, socially minded people in Europe willing to make a meaningful contribution to society and help show solidarity. We can create opportunities for them to do so... **Solidarity is the glue that keeps our Union together...** Young people across the European Union will be able to volunteer their help where it is needed most, to respond to crisis situations... These young people will be able to develop their skills and get not only work but also invaluable human experience.»

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 14 September 2016



25%

of young people in the EU say that they have been **involved in an organised voluntary activity** in the past 12 months.*



50,000

job seekers **are looking for work abroad in solidarity-related sectors.****



88%

of young people who have never volunteered abroad, say they have not done so because they **did not have the opportunity**. Only **6% of young people have volunteered abroad.***

WHAT'S NEW?

DEDICATED LEGAL BASE

By giving the European Solidarity Corps its dedicated legal base, the Commission will consolidate the initiative and **create more opportunities** for young Europeans to engage in solidarity activities across Europe, to gain valuable experience and develop their personality and skills, while enhancing their chances on the labour market.

DEDICATED BUDGET

The Commission proposes to allocate **€341.5 million** to the European Solidarity Corps over the period 2018-2020. The aim is to have 100,000 young people involved in the European Solidarity Corps by the end of 2020.

* Eurobarometer: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/flash/fl_408_en.pdf

** Information gathered through the EURES portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/en/homepage>



BROADENING THE SCOPE

The European Solidarity Corps supports young people between the ages of 18 and 30 to **volunteer** (individually or in **volunteering teams**) or do a **paid traineeship** or **job** placement in order to address key societal challenges either in their home country or abroad. In addition, **solidarity projects** will allow young people to develop and implement their **own projects** at local level. **Networking activities** will enhance the European Solidarity Corps' impact.

VOLUNTEERING, TRAINEESHIPS AND JOBS			
	Volunteering placements	Paid traineeships	Jobs
Contract	Volunteering agreement	written traineeship agreement	Employment contract in line with national legislation
Duration	2 – 12 months exceptionally: minimum two weeks Volunteering teams: 2 weeks – 2 months	2 – 6 months exceptionally: up to 12 months	2 – 12 months
Financial support	Travel costs, food, accommodation and pocket money	Travel costs; travel and accommodation to do an interview relocation and return travel allowance; a financial contribution to organisations for mentoring, training and administrative tasks	
Common features	Participants are entitled to insurance, general on-line training, specific training related to their activities, on-line linguistic support, post-placement support, and a European Solidarity Corps certificate. Additional expenses for disadvantaged young people can be covered.		

SOLIDARITY PROJECTS		
Local initiatives by at least 5 European Solidarity Corps participants	Duration 2 – 12 months	Support: on-line training, European Solidarity Corps Certificate, seed money for activities, insurance, and support for disadvantaged participants

NETWORKING ACTIVITIES
Activities attracting newcomers to the European Solidarity Corps, creating a sense of belonging, accompanying its implementation, enhancing its effectiveness, impact and visibility.

HOW TO JOIN

Interested **young people** can register with the European Solidarity Corps on europa.eu/solidarity-corps, indicating their preferred type and venue of placement. Once registered, young people can be contacted by interested organisations offering a placement.

Interested **organisations** (public or private entities or international organisations) can currently access the European Solidarity Corps via a number of EU programmes. With the entry into force of the new legal base, organisations will need to get a quality label first (depending on their profile, either through an Erasmus+ National Agency or through the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency). With this label they could apply for funding with the same body. Via a dedicated online tool on europa.eu/youth/solidarity/pass authorised organisations can easily search for candidates among the registered young people.