Since its launch in December 2016, the European Solidarity Corps has attracted more than 58,000 young people who have expressed their interest to help in solidarity action across Europe. 4,100 people have already started their placements in projects dealing with various topics such as environment, culture, social services, helping refugees, migrants, children or elderly. The European Solidarity Corps is more than only volunteering. It also creates opportunities for young people to develop their skills and increase their future labour market prospects via a job or a traineeship. Currently eight EU Funding Programmes are mobilised to support the Corps before it gets its own funding for the coming years, which will increase opportunities for European youth even more. The vast majority of placements are funded by Erasmus+/European Voluntary Service and concern volunteers.
Examples of Solidarity Activities

Cultural Heritage

Guillaume Vannier from France is volunteering in Altdöbern, Germany where his work focuses on cultural heritage preservation, and especially contributes to restoration and maintenance of a historical park.

A number of volunteers from all over Europe will, between 2017 and 2018, participate in three different Solidarity Corps projects in central Italy, helping with the protection and strengthening of the tangible and intangible heritage in the regions affected by devastating earthquakes in 2016.
Franziska Edlinger from Austria, has volunteered in Livadeia, Greece in the centre for chronically sick people, where she has been helping those seeking personal, psychological or any other form of support.

Petya Hristova from Czech Republic is volunteering in Stara Zagora in Bulgaria where she is involved in the foundation working with Roman children and young people. She is a leader of diverse workshops such as musical, dance, English lessons or sport.

Ruben Ruiz Redondo from Spain, is volunteering in Malta to help disabled, both physically and intellectually, through educational, therapeutic and recreational services. The services include: pottery sessions, therapeutic horse riding, arts and crafts, swimming sessions and animal park visits.

Ana Denisa Pop from Romania is volunteering in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where she supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds through animating art, cultural activities, games and sport activities for children with limitations.

Nazli Deger from Turkey is volunteering in Manderfeld, Belgium where she helps refugees and asylum seekers hosted in the Red Cross organisation. She assists in daily duties of the asylum centre like provision of meals, reception services but also in activities such as engaging the refugees in sports, culture, manufacturing, language or computer lessons.

Maria Nicolaouva, Sebastian Riveaud, Clara Calvet Casulleras from different European countries are volunteering in Athens, Greece where they support refugees mainly by taking care of the children while their parents attend language classes.

Debora Lucque from Italy is volunteering in Luxembourg where she supports the project ‘Living together in an intercultural dynamic’ aiming at the integration of migrants in the Luxemburgish society and the promotion of respect for the other.

Anna Kraska from Poland together with local youth workers supported a project in Espoo, Finland, in which she carried out activities, like clubs, camps and events for young people from different age groups and backgrounds, including refugees and asylum seekers.

Maitreyi-Géraldine Gupta from France, has been working in Rende, Italy in the organisation supporting asylum seekers and political refugees, where she has been taking care of institutional matters of asylum seekers, outlining the immigrants’ needs, providing legal help, analysing and solving conflicts and undertaking social insertion activities.
**Education**

Dolores Gambale from Italy is volunteering in Česká Třebová, Czech Republic in a project focused on providing education to children and youth in their leisure time, especially focusing on children with social problems.

Vilja Viebahn from Germany is volunteering in Alsace, France in a project that supports different vulnerable groups in social difficulties, including children. At the same time, the project promotes awareness about environmental protection, tolerance and active citizenship.

Alessa Heiden from Germany is volunteering in Cluj-Napoca, Romania where she helps minorities’ children and children with special needs become self-confident and aware adults through the method using games, play, sport or music.

Vladislavs Jelisejevs from Latvia is working in Dumbravita, Romania in the project ‘European Diversity in Human Unity’ in which he focusses on delivering non formal education to students of all ages, in and around the city of Baia Mare. Within their association they also run public events as well as English classes on diverse topics.

** Supporting Local communities**

Merelle Naar from Estonia volunteered in Zirl, Austria where she was helping local community by building a natural playground for children or refurbishing historical pathways.

Charlotte Dumoulin from Belgium is volunteering in Helsinki, Finland in the organisation promoting peace, equality, antiracism and dialogue. Charlotte is working with youth workers who should overcome their prejudices in their work.

Sara Piu from Italy is volunteering in Tallinn, Estonia in the project in which she supports the final event of the Sport Year Foundation Interreg Central Baltic Project.

Lorena Brustoloni from Italy, volunteered in Cyprus in a project that aimed at improving living standards of infants, children and elderly in the community of Avgorou.