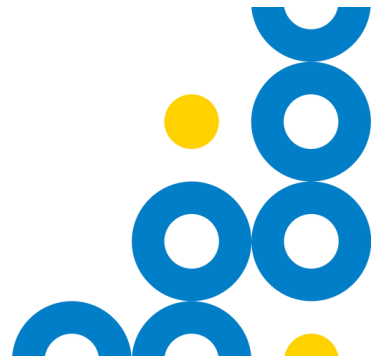


European Solidarity Corps

03/09/2024



European Solidarity Corps



General framework of the European Solidarity Corps

Who?

The European Solidarity Corps offers an opportunity for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 to make a meaningful contribution to society, gain invaluable experience and develop new skills. The programme also addresses organisations looking to involve youth in their solidarity activities.

What?

Volunteering, full-time, unpaid activity.

What for?

- Answer societal challenges
- Give youngsters an opportunity to learn and train themselves
- Thematics: education, health, youth, sport, integration & support to migrants and refugees, protection of nature



Priorities of the programme

01

Inclusion and Diversity

Promotion of social inclusion, tolerance, human rights, diversity...
ESC is accessible through various format of activities to encourage participation.

02

Environmental protection

Green practices, environmental-friendly approach, raising awareness...

03

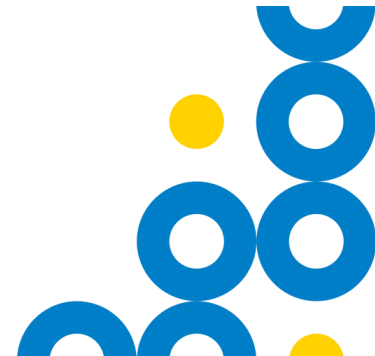
Digital transformation

Projects and activities that aim to boost digital skills, foster digital literacy, develop understanding...

04

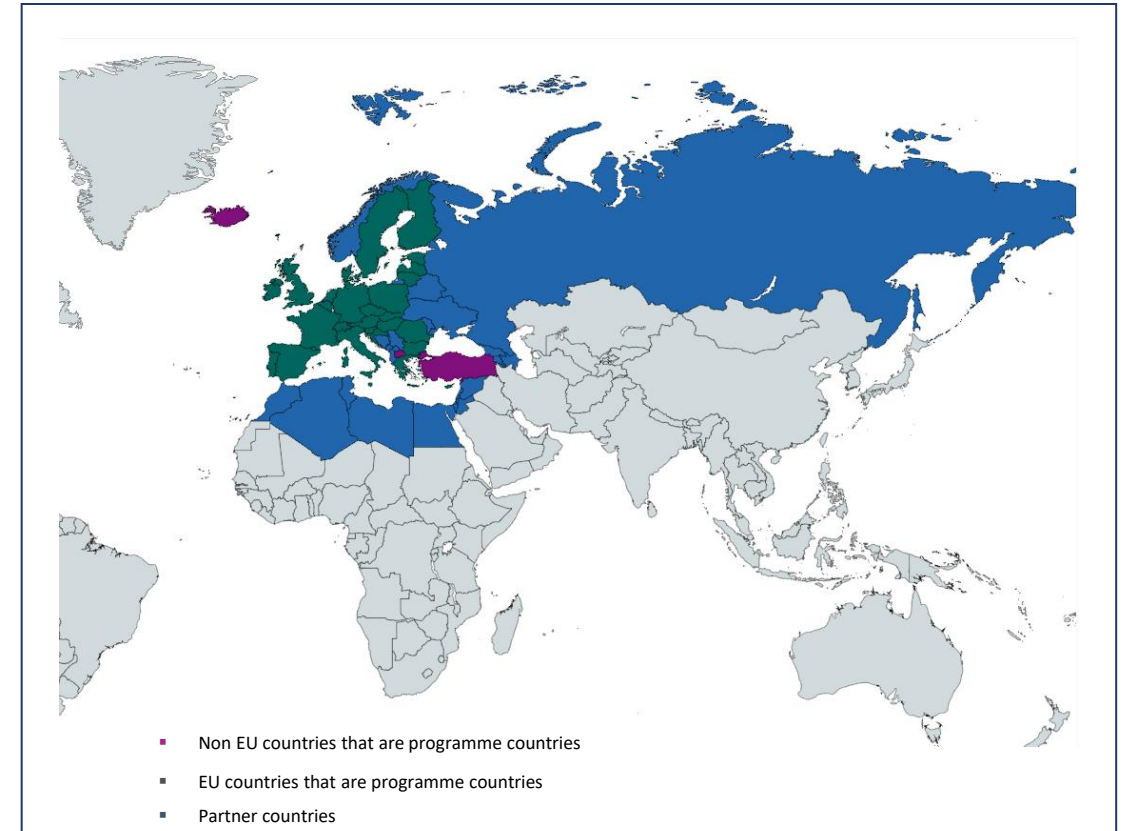
Participation in democratic life

Engage and empower youth, active youth, citizens.

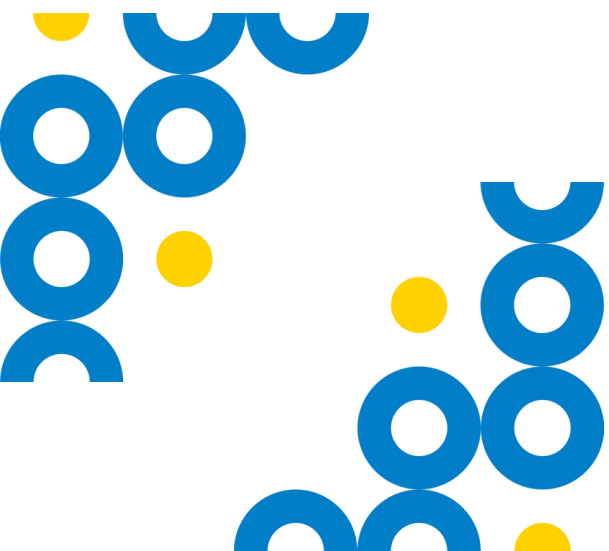


Geographical coverage

The full range of activities of the European Solidarity Corps is accessible to young people legally residing in one of the EU Member States and organisations established in them. Further Participating Countries include Iceland, North Macedonia and Turkey. Organisations and young people from these countries can also access the programme opportunities. Participation in volunteering activities is also open to organisations and young people from Partner countries, such as Norway and Liechtenstein, as well as from the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership countries, South-Mediterranean countries and the Russian Federation.



Different types of volunteering



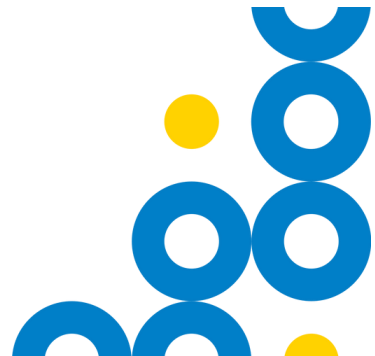
Individual Volunteering

- Can last from 2 weeks up to 12 months
- Is full-time (between 30 and 38 hours a week)
- Allows you to contribute to the daily work of an organisation that is actively benefiting the local community
- Is usually 'cross-border' – i.e. in a different country to where you live (though it can be there too – these are called 'in-country' projects)

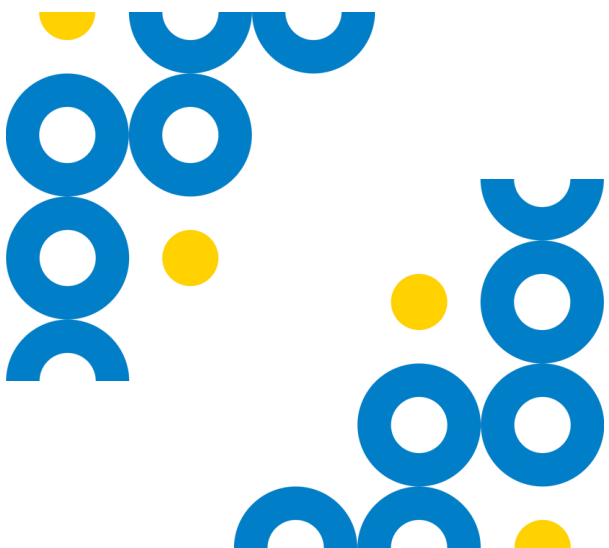
Volunteering in groups

- Can last between 2 weeks and 2 months
- Is full-time (between 30 and 38 hours a week)
- Groups of volunteers come from at least 2 different countries
- A group of at least 5 volunteers, no limited number
- Is usually abroad, though it can be in your home country
- The majority of participants should come from the sending country

General information for organisations



How to take part?



Organisations

- In order to participate in the European Solidarity Corps, organisations should obtain a Quality Label. A Quality Label ensures compliance with the principles and objectives of the European Solidarity Corps. Organisations apply for a Quality Label to the [National Agency of their country](#) or regional SALTOs in case of Partner Countries. Applications for Quality Label can be submitted on a continuous basis.
- Organisations from Partner Countries outside the EU and holding a Quality Label can participate in volunteering activities as partners. For further information on eligible Participating and Partner Countries and eligibility criteria, please refer to the European Solidarity Corps Guide available on <https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps>.

Young people

- Young people can register on the European Solidarity Corps portal and search for opportunities.
- It's possible to register for the European Solidarity Corps already at 17, but projects can only be started when participants are over 18.

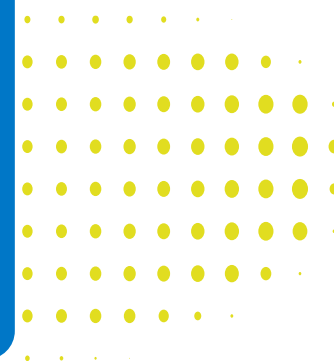


KEY ACTORS

● National Agencies

- In the programme countries
- In charge of labelisation, training of volunteers and organisations, as well as monitoring in their country
- In charge of distributing grants

● Regional SALTOs

- In the partner region
 - In charge of labelisation, training of volunteers and organisations, as well as monitoring in their countries
 - Do not distribute grants
- 

Project Cycle

01

Obtain a Quality
Label

02

Find partners
with Quality
Label Lead

03

Develop the ESC
volunteering
project
application

04

Select future
volunteers

05

Implementing
the Volunteering
Activities

You need to be in constant communication with SALTO EuroMed, particularly when it comes to registering ESC volunteers for mandatory training courses.

Costs & applicable fundings

Travel costs



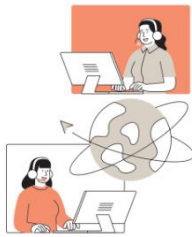
Pocket money



Inclusion support



Organisational support



Language learning support



Organisations can also ask for exceptional costs or additional fundings for preparatory visits.

Tasks and responsibilities for a supporting organisation

Before the activity

Selection & preparation

- Select and match registered candidates in the European Solidarity Corps Portal or support the registered candidates to find suitable opportunities
- Ensure that the volunteer signs a volunteering agreement which includes a learning and training component
- Provide adequate preparation for the volunteer before departure, according to the individual needs and in line with the Training and Evaluation Cycle
- Pre-departure training session
- Ensure that the volunteer receives the European Solidarity Corps Info Kit and is insured

During the activity

Contact with volunteers

- Keep in touch with the volunteer during the activity
- Propose support in case of problems
- play the role of mediator

After the activity

Reintegration

- Provide support for the reintegration of the volunteer into the home community
- Ensure the participation of the volunteer in the annual meeting of former ESC volunteers (organized by SALTO EuroMed)
- Provide guidance regarding further education, training or employment opportunities

Tasks and responsibilities for a hosting organisation

Before the activity

Selection & preparation

- In collaboration with a support organisation select and match registered candidates in the European Solidarity Corps Portal or support the registered candidates to find suitable opportunities
- Provide an info pack before the arrival of volunteers

During the activity

Learning & mentoring

- Provide the volunteer with clear tasks, integrating their ideas, creativity, and experience
- Identify clear learning opportunities for and with the volunteer
- Provide support to the volunteers to reflect on the learning through EU validation tools, in particular Youthpass or Europass or national tools
- Support the volunteers undertaking language courses

During the activity

Daily conditions

- Provide suitable accommodation and healthy meals (or a food allowance) to the volunteer, including during the holiday period
- Provide the due allowance to the volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis

Example of ESC projects

Arts and culture

Organising community art projects

Culturale Heritage

Assisting in the restoration and maintenance of historical monuments, organizing cultural events, and educating the public about the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

Urban Development

Participating in urban renewal projects, creating green spaces, and engaging local residents in the planning and development of their neighborhoods.

Digital Literacy

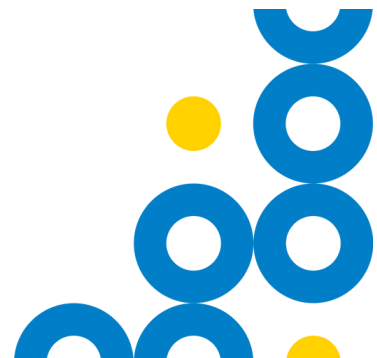
Teaching digital skills to elderly people or underserved communities, developing online educational resources, and helping local organizations to improve their digital presence.

Environmental Protection

Engaging in reforestation, wildlife monitoring, ecological research, and raising awareness about environmental issues among local communities.



Support for volunteers



Mentor

- Supporting volunteers' personal adjustment into the new environment, integration into the receiving organisation and assisting with the intercultural learning process
- Enhance their learning processes and to ensure an overall qualitative and satisfying project experience
- Enquire about the well-being of the volunteers by providing informal meetings and chats with volunteers

Project coordinator

- Guarantees the implementation of tasks by volunteers
- A member of the organization where the project takes place
- Guarantees that the tasks are distributed and makes a schedule for the volunteers
- Is in touch with the mentors to ensure that the everyday life of the volunteers is fulfilled
- Communicates with the mentors about the learning opportunities for the volunteers

Trainings for ESC volunteers

01

On arrival Training

SALTO EuroMed is in charge of the organisation of on-arrival training courses for volunteers hosted in southern Mediterranean countries under the European Solidarity Corps programme. This training course must take place during **the first 3 months** of the long-term volunteering period.

02

Mid-term evaluation

Mid-Term Evaluation must be held at least 1 month before the departure of long-term ESC volunteers. It is organized by SALTO EuroMed.

03

Annual meeting of former ESC volunteers

Annual meeting takes place once the volunteering project is done and youngsters from the southern Mediterranean region return to their countries. It is organized by SALTO EuroMed and is held for volunteers who were sent to EU countries.



THANK YOU



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