



2018/0230(COD)

20.9.2018

*****I**

DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018/0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Michaela Šojdrová

Rapporteurs for the opinions (*) :

Eleni Theocharous, Committee on Development

Deirdre Clune, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

* Associated committees - Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the **■** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018/0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0440),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0264/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of ...,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of ...,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinions of the Committee on Development, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Regional Development (A8-0000/2018),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its

Amendment

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its

Member States. This common value guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Member States. This common value guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address ***through a complementary bottom-up approach*** by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Within the context of this Regulation, solidarity is understood as a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone to commit oneself to the common good, which is expressed through concrete actions without consideration of return service.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible ***and meaningful*** opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those

support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new ***non-formal and informal learning*** opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while

Amendment

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas ***in a non-profit context*** can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market

contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹, ***with particular focus on a solid and meaningful learning content***. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate ***pre-activity and*** post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to **try out ideas** and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to **develop innovative solutions to common challenges, address those challenges through a bottom-up approach** and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in **further volunteering opportunities**, self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors. **The Programme should essentially create an atmosphere in which young people are increasingly motivated to engage in solidarity activities and serve the public interest.**

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen

Amendment

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen

their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of useful practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect feedback from participants and participating organisations on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of useful practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect ***complex and meaningful*** feedback from participants and participating organisations on ***various stages of*** the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. ***Feedback should include questions regarding the Programme's objectives in order to better evaluate their fulfilment.***

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) Visibility is an essential component of the Programme's successful implementation. The programme should be promoted through dynamic means of communication, with special focus on social media, in order to reach out to a large number of potential candidates.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²² .

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²² . ***To ensure that registered candidates are offered appropriate activities, the learning outcomes of activities should be made available to them before they choose to participate.***

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience, ***including pre-activity and post-activity phases***. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European

Solidarity Corps. *Quality labels should be differentiated by type of activity.*

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled. *The administrative burden of the process related to the attribution of quality labels and of the reassessment process should be reduced to a minimum in order to ensure equal access to quality labels and avoid discouraging smaller organisations from participating.*

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.

Amendment

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity ***as well as feedback after the activity***, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity. ***National agencies should also encourage volunteers to become ambassadors for the Programme and share personal experiences through youth networks and educational establishments, thus contributing to the promotion of the Programme. To that end, national agencies should provide volunteers with support.***

Or. en

Amendment 13

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 20 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20 a) In order to support solidarity activities among young people, participating organisations should be non-profit or profit organisations, and may include non-governmental organisations or civil society organisations, youth organisations, churches and religious associations or communities. The Programme should only provide funding to non-profit

activities of participating organisations .

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24a) In order to enhance transparency of the implementation process and increase the Programme's effectiveness, the Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the Programme.

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. ***To that end, young people with fewer opportunities should have the opportunity to participate in the Programme on a part-time basis.*** Similarly, the participating countries

Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Or. en

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30a) An adequate part of the budget should be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions. Such measures

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions, ***including***

will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

reinforced publicity. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

(36) In compliance with the Financial Regulation, the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof. The work programme should set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them **should be adopted by implementing acts in accordance with the examination procedure.**

Amendment

(36) In compliance with the Financial Regulation, the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof. The work programme should set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. ***The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the adoption of the work programmes and any amendments to them. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.***

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should ***preferably*** work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years, ***who is legally residing in a participating country***, and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years, **who is legally residing in a participating country**, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label;

Amendment

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether **non-profit or profit making**, local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, **in a host function, in a support function, or in both functions, ensuring that the entity is able to implement the high-quality solidarity activities in accordance with the objectives of the Programme**;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) ‘volunteering’ means **a solidarity activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity** for a period of up to 12 months;

Amendment

(6) ‘volunteering’ means **an optional activity consisting in the performance of an activity for the public benefit that contributes to the achievement of public**

welfare, which a person performs in his or her free time and of his or her free will, without an entitlement to remuneration, for a period of up to 12 months;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) ‘quality label’ means the certification attributed to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function;

Amendment

(10) ‘quality label’ means the certification attributed, ***on the basis of varying requirements depending on the type of solidarity activity provided***, to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function, ***that certifies that the participating organisation is able to ensure the quality of solidarity activities in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Programme***;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, addressing societal and humanitarian

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance ***a solidarity and volunteering spirit and*** the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, ***on either a voluntary or financially remunerated basis***, as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion,

challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion *in all possible phases of the Programme, including evaluation.*

Or. en

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Feedback provided by participants and participating organisations shall also include an evaluation of the fulfilment of the Programme's objectives.

Or. en

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities; and

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities **as well as to promote the Programme as an ambassador**; and

Or. en

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) ***shall strive for a clear impact on community needs***, shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement ***in accordance with the national law of the Member State on whose territory the activities are performed***.

Or. en

Amendment 29

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Volunteering ***may*** take place 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).

Amendment

2. Volunteering ***shall preferably*** take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). ***Volunteering*** in the country of residence of the participant (in-country) ***shall be limited to activities with a dominant inclusion objective, including activities aimed at young people with fewer opportunities***.

Or. en

Amendment 30

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and training component.

Amendment

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a ***solid and meaningful*** learning and training component.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Traineeships and jobs *may* take place 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).

Amendment

4. Traineeships and jobs *shall preferably* take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). *Traineeships and jobs* in the country of residence of the participant (in-country) *shall be limited to activities with a dominant inclusion objective, including activities aimed at young people with fewer opportunities*.

Or. en

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems.

Amendment

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems. *An adequate amount of the budget shall also be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.*

Or. en

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 12 a

Breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11

1. The indicative breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11 is as follows:

(a) for volunteering in solidarity activities and solidarity projects, as specified in Articles 7 and 9: 86 %

(b) for traineeships and jobs, as specified in Article 8: 8 %

(c) for volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, as specified in Article 11: 6 %

Or. en

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement.

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement. ***In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate funding shall be used to the maximum possible extent.***

Or. en

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Participating organisations shall perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they shall carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity and providing feedback to the participant after the activity, as appropriate. In a support function they shall carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, and during and after the solidarity activity, including training participants and guiding them to local organisations after the activity.

Or. en

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Work programme

Annual work programme

Or. en

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Programme shall be

1. The Programme shall be

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implemented by work programmes referred to in [Article 110] of the Financial Regulation. In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. ***The work programme shall be adopted by the Commission by means of an implementing act. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 30.***

implemented by work programmes referred to in [Article 110] of the Financial Regulation. In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. ***The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 29 in order to supplement this Regulation by adopting the work programme.***

Or. en

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission, in cooperation with the national authorities and national agencies in participating countries and involving participating organisations, as well as Union and national stakeholders such as youth organisations, shall regularly and effectively monitor the performance of the Programme in the achievement of its objectives. The Commission shall regularly consult a representative number and type of stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the Programme in view of future improvement.

Or. en

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Context and policy choices of the new proposal

The EU is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity in its action inside and outside the Union.

In response to the clear demand to do more for young people, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement in June 2018 (adopted in plenary on 11 September 2018) establishing a European Solidarity Corps merging several EU volunteering and solidarity traineeships/jobs schemes into one single programme acting as a "one stop shop" for all solidarity related opportunities for young people. The programme opens new opportunities for young people to engage in quality solidarity activities at local and European level and provide them with the necessary tools to make a positive impact on their communities while acquiring useful training and competences for their future personal development.

On 11 June 2018 the European Commission has published a new proposal for a European Solidarity Corps (COM (2018) 440 Final). The new proposal aligns the activities of the programme with the MFF cycle by proposing a dedicated budget in an own budget line. In addition, the proposal also extends the scope of European Solidarity Corps activities to include those in support of humanitarian aid operations, previously implemented through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. Given the similarities between the two programmes, the Commission believes that merging them will bring the following advantages:

- Consider all participants under a common roster, improving the transparency and speed of the recruitment process.
- Develop single branding and communication activities. This would increase the outreach of activities to promote the programme, making it the 'one-stop-shop' for solidarity activities carried out by young people;
- Introduce a single implementation mechanism. All organisations and projects would use the same e-form to apply for the quality label and funding. This would simplify procedures for the organisations and reduce the overall management cost;
- Bring significant synergies and cost savings by maintaining a single set of tools and systems.

Furthermore, the new proposal is built on and to a large extent incorporates the elements of the political agreement reached in June 2018 (adopted in plenary on 11 September 2018) while adding an extra ambition through an increased budget, extended scope and improving the functioning of the programme.

The position of your rapporteur

Considering the achievements of the current political agreement establishing a European Solidarity Corps and taking into account the various elements of the new proposal, your Rapporteur proposes to reintroduce certain elements previously agreed on in the European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020 that were not incorporated into the current proposal.

Your rapporteur organised an extensive and inclusive consultation with a large variety of stakeholders. Based on this consultation process and on a thorough analysis of the current framework and the new proposal, the overall conclusions are that the future European Solidarity Corps could be an improved framework for solidarity activities through:

- establishing clearer objectives and better connection with the realities and needs of young people as well as with society needs;
- improving the inclusiveness and accessibility of the ESC activities to encounter all young people, considering the diversity of their socio-economic environment and potential obstacles;
- ensuring effective synergies and operational compatibility between the ESC, the future Erasmus programme and other relevant programmes and in the context of the renewed EU Youth Strategy;

In this context, your rapporteur would like to submit to your attention a number of amendments aiming at achieving the above-mentioned general objectives.

Repartition of the budget according to activities - Indeed the current political agreement on the European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020 features indicative thresholds for the repartition of the budget by strands. Your rapporteur believes that the new proposal should also indicate how the budget is going to be distributed between the different activities under the scope of the new ESC and that the repartition should correspond to the objectives of the programme and realistic expectations based on implementation of the previous programmes. The rapporteur's opinion is that volunteering should represent the core essence of the programme but the repartition must remain indicative to allow for needed flexibility.

- **Increased visibility of the ESC** - In order to satisfy the ambition of 350.000+ placements for the seven years period, the ESC and its opportunities should be supported by a more ambitious communication and visibility campaign. Your rapporteur believes that this can be done through:
 - European Solidarity Corps ambassadors (former participants would be encouraged to share their experience through youth networks and educational establishments, while national agencies should provide them with relevant support);
 - Use dynamic means of communication including social media to promote the programme;
 - Increase publicity and communication strategies especially in remote areas.
- **Greater involvement of stakeholders throughout the entire cycle** - Your rapporteur believes that stakeholders, especially youth networks and participating organisations, should be consulted regularly throughout the implementation of the Programme.
- **Emphasis on the inclusion objective and its concretization**- based on evidence and consultation results, your rapporteur believes that the inclusiveness aspect of the programme can be improved and strengthened throughout the programme. The following elements are proposed in this direction:

- Feedback should include an evaluation of how the participant considers the inclusion objective (along with other Programme objectives) to be met;
 - In-country activities should be limited to projects with a dominant inclusion objective (Member States should essentially be responsible for funding of in-country activities, but in case national schemes are not available, it would be unfair to disqualify young people with fewer opportunities who sometimes lack alternatives);
 - ESC should also provide part-time solidarity activities for young people with fewer opportunities.
- **Differentiation of quality labels** - In order to ensure a high quality's of opportunities, your rapporteur believes that participating organisations should be subject to differentiated requirements for the granting of a quality label according to type of activity (different activities require different capacity and services);
 - **Focus on long-term volunteering** - Volunteering experience under the scope of the ESC should encourage participants to a lifelong engagement in solidarity activities. The ESC should strengthen the development of a volunteering spirit among young people.
 - **Jobs and traineeships** - Your rapporteur believes that all solidarity activities taking the form of jobs and traineeships must include a solid and meaningful learning and training component (as stated in the Quality Framework for Traineeships). Furthermore, and in order to reinforce the solidarity dimension of the activities, all jobs and traineeships placements under the scope of the ESC shall exclusively encompass non-profit making tasks, regardless of the type of entity.
 - **Work programmes adopted as delegated acts** - Your rapporteur believes that the proposed adoption of the work programme through implementing acts leaves the Commission with the possibility to make secondary political choices. This capacity should reside within the competences of the co-legislators. Therefore, the appropriate instrument for the adoption of the work programmes should be a delegated act. This matter is also linked to the general discussion on the scrutiny powers of the European Parliament.
 - **Definition of solidarity and specified definition of volunteering** - Your rapporteur considers the ESC to have a great potential in reinforcing a spirit of solidarity throughout Europe. Stronger solidarity could contribute to building a strong, united and resilient Union. Your rapporteur also believes that a definition of „solidarity” could serve as a unifying principle in the programme's implementation The solidarity spirit is best represented through the act of volunteering. Therefore, a more accurate definition of volunteering would also be an improvement.
 - **Strong impact on society needs** - The opportunities created by the solidarity placements under the scope of the ESC should have a strong impact on society strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe and beyond. Your rapporteur believes that the impact on society can be strengthened if activities

correspond to concrete societal needs and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on promoting social inclusion.

- **Better-targeted benefit for participants** - The ESC is a valuable tool for personal growth of participants. In order to maximize this potential, the identified learning outcomes of individual activities should be made available to the participant in advance, so that the participant can identify activities which best meet his expectations and skills. Participants should also be provided with meaningful feedback.

The draft report does not address any of the provisions under Chapter IV (Articles 10 and 11 - European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as these provisions fall under the exclusive competence of DEVE Committee (Rule 54 of the RoP).