

European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027

The European Solidarity Corps is included under Heading 5, 'Promoting our European way of life', of the European Commission's priorities for the current mandate. Initially, the programme suffered from unsuccessful branding and communication as it competed with other long-standing programmes that carried out similar activities. With the current proposed regulation, the programme will become a single one-stop shop for all solidarity and humanitarian volunteering opportunities for young people. The European Parliament is expected to vote at second reading during its May plenary session on the agreed text resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

Background

The European Solidarity Corps is still a young initiative, launched as recently as [2016](#). It engages young people and organisations in solidarity projects that meet the standards of a quality label. The overall [objective](#) is to strengthen cohesion, solidarity and democracy by addressing tangible societal needs and humanitarian challenges. The programme is one of the funding instruments under the [2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework](#).

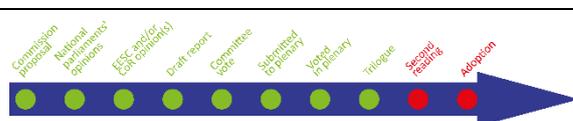
European Commission proposal

On 11 June 2018, the Commission adopted a [proposal for a regulation extending the scope of the European Solidarity Corps](#), in order to create volunteering, traineeship and work opportunities in the area of solidarity for young people aged between 18 and 30 years. The most important novelty in the proposal was the incorporation of a new humanitarian aid strand, which was previously a [stand-alone programme](#). Bringing all volunteering opportunities together in a single programme helps to streamline structures, improves the visibility of opportunities and upholds Treaty obligations to create a European voluntary [humanitarian aid corps](#) for young Europeans.

European Parliament position

Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) adopted its [report](#) on the proposal in February 2019, with Parliament adopting its [first-reading position](#) in March 2019. In a 2017 [resolution](#), Parliament had asked the Commission to define the objectives of the programme clearly and to implement proper coordination in implementation and monitoring. The final text resulting from [interinstitutional negotiations](#) was approved by [CULT](#) on 11 January 2021. In the course of trilogue negotiations, Parliament [secured](#) a number of modifications to the original proposal. According to the agreed text, the European Solidarity Corps will offer volunteering opportunities but not traineeships and work placements, which had had a low uptake in the previous programme. There is an indicative share-out of the budget: 94 % dedicated to volunteering and solidarity projects, and 6 % dedicated to humanitarian aid projects. There is a 20 % cap on activities organised in the home country. A dedicated article on inclusion complements enhanced safety and protection measures for all participants and vulnerable groups. Parliament also secured a higher age limit for participants in the humanitarian strand (35 years) and a waiver of the age limit on experts and coaches. Parliament was determined in defending at least a 15 % increase on the previous programme. The final budget is €1.009 billion for 2021-2027. The Council adopted its [first-reading position](#) on 20 April 2021. CULT voted on 10 May 2021 to recommend adoption of the text, which now needs to be voted by Parliament at second reading.

Recommendation for second reading: [2018/0230\(COD\)](#);
Committee responsible: CULT; Rapporteur: Michaela Šojdrová (EPP, Poland). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Denise Chircop, Members' Research Service
PE 690.600 – May 2021



This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2021.

eprs@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)