

“European Solidarity Corps: What, Why & How”

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QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED

- 1) **WHAT** ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
- 2) **WHY** DO WE NEED IT?
- 3) **HOW** WILL IT BE MANAGED?

1. WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

1.A PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES – SOLIDARITY RELATED AREAS What is meant by this?

Placements should be primarily motivated by solidarity with others.

SOLUTION: If for-profit companies operating in or outside the so-called solidarity sector wish to get involved with the initiative then they could **develop partnerships and fund placements in municipalities or CSOs.** In this way contribute both to solidarity, in terms of the aims and objectives of the organisation or project being supported, and also to an increasingly skilled and competent workforce due to the experience and skills gained. - *Blended experiences* combining placements in more than one place could be an option.

1. WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

1.B PLACEMENT TYPES AND HOST ENTITIES:

- Why no **restriction per sector regarding the type of placements**?
- Clear distinctions need to be made that also take into account the **differing legal frameworks** across the EU, particularly those concerning traineeships and volunteering.

Also the differing purpose:

- **The first purpose of volunteering is to meet** need, any learning outcomes acquired by the volunteer concerned is secondary to this.
- **The first priority for an intern or traineeship in the solidarity sector should be the planned learning path** for the young person concerned.

1. WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

1.C ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

Solidarity actions should be based first and foremost on the **beneficiary needs**

Amendment:

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

2. WHY DO WE NEED IT?

COMPLEMENTARITY & ADDED VALUE

“The European Solidarity Corps will offer a **single entry point** to high quality volunteering and occupational solidarity placements for young people across the EU”

“The objective of the European Solidarity Corps 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 and solidarity in Europe, **in addition to the actions of existing organisations in this regard**, and in supporting communities and responding to societal challenges.”

ESC has the potential to be:

- A **gateway to life-long volunteering and engagement in solidarity causes** and actions not only for direct participants but more broadly.
- **Opportunity to strengthen CSOs** with badly needed HR support after many reduced capacity due to austerity measures

3. HOW WILL IT BE MANAGED?

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and [the Eurodesk network](#), [European Volunteer Centre \(CEV\)](#) and [The European Youth Forum \(YFJ\)](#) and [other relevant civil society organisations including networks representing private sector employers](#) should also be [ensured](#). Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY CONTROL

A **European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre**, [established through an open tender process](#), should assist the implementing bodies, the participating organisations and the young people taking part in the European Solidarity Corps in order to raise the quality of the implementation and of the activities of the European Solidarity Corps as well as to enhance the identification and validation of competences acquired through these activities.

In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this Regulation, the European Solidarity Corps should make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place. The implementation of the European Solidarity Corps should therefore be entrusted to existing structures, i.e. the Commission, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the National Agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013. [A co-management structure involving relevant European Solidarity and volunteering NGO networks, and employers organisations where relevant, should be developed.](#)

CONCLUSIONS

CLARITY - CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

This Action shall support:

- a) **Solidarity placements** in the form of **full-time** volunteering opportunities, traineeships or jobs, including individual cross-border and in-country placements as well as volunteering teams' placements;
- b) **Part-time volunteering solidarity projects** at the initiative of European Solidarity Corps participants;
- c) **Networking activities** for individuals and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps.

“EXPERIENCE EUROPE” - AN INITIATIVE THAT OFFERS:

- 1) Young people with fewer opportunities the possibility to increase their employability through traineeships, apprenticeships or work experience offered by employers in Europe. (Employers from any sector).
- 2) Young people the opportunity to express solidarity and increase their employability by volunteering in projects and initiatives, developed by public authorities or Civil Society Organisations, that meet identified societal needs.

ESC should be an opportunity for:

- Advancement towards a **comprehensive policy agenda for volunteering in the EU** based on the EYV2011 PAVE document and the related EYV2011 5 year review from 2015, “Helping Hands”.
- **Increased co-ordination**, and where needed, harmonisation of legal basis, support structures, recognition and validation mechanisms and processes.
- Strengthening a **culture of solidarity and volunteering** in Europe.

