



2017/0102(COD)

20.10.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU
(COM(2017)0262 – C8-0162/2017 – 2017/0102(COD))

Rapporteur: Brando Benifei

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Commission announced the European Solidarity Corps Initiative in December 2016, following President Juncker's speech on the State of the Union. The overarching objective is both to encourage a sense of belonging to the European project by fostering one of its most basic values, solidarity, and to help young Europeans improve their job prospects, given the persistent coexistence of high levels of youth unemployment and skills mismatch. After being already kicked off in its "first phase", the Commission considered appropriate to propose an *ad hoc* legal framework, publishing on 30 May 2017 the proposal for a Regulation which is under scrutiny in Parliament and Council. The Regulation sets the legal basis for the Solidarity Corps, defining the budgetary and implementation arrangements for the initiative, as well as setting specific objectives and defining key terms.

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee has been tasked to produce an Opinion on the aspects of the proposal concerning specifically the so-called "occupational strand", in particular on the definitions of "traineeship" and "job" included in the text. The Employment and Social Affairs Committee has exclusive competences on these parts of the Commission proposal under Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

Your EMPL rapporteur, broadly speaking, welcomes the Commission proposal, however he clearly signals, and addresses with his amendments, critical elements in its design. His primary objective is to ensure that the European Solidarity Corps do not open the doors to a possible distortion whereby volunteers are used to carry out tasks which should be performed under regular gainful employment. In this sense, any risk of substitution in the legislation must be dispelled. For this reason, he considers necessary to clearly separate volunteering from traineeships and jobs, also with regard to the funding allocated to both strands. Reference to employment safeguards within the text must be strengthened and the necessity for jobs and traineeships to fully respect national applicable legislation, to be obligatorily remunerated and to be of the highest quality needs to be explicitly mentioned.

The rapporteur also believes that in order to avoid abuses in this field, it is imperative to confine the access to volunteering only to public authorities or the participating organisations in the non-profit sector. This would for example exclude the possibility, currently foreseen in the European Voluntary Service, for big companies or corporations to take up EU funded volunteers, which not only appears disputable from an ethical and financial viewpoint, but could also be turned into an unacceptable form of corporate advertising. Besides, the solidarity sector, given its cross-sectorial nature, as well as its socio-economic significance, needs to be treated with particular attention by regulators, in order to avoid any potential disruptive effect in the labour market.

Instead, for-profit companies should be allowed to take part to the ESC, only insofar they offer a remunerated job or traineeship to young people. A possible alternative option to this approach, which still needs to be explored, could be that if companies or social enterprises actors wish to get involved with the ESC initiative, they should develop partnerships or fund placements in not-for-profit entities expert in the relevant solidarity field.

The European Solidarity Corps, with the proposed adjustments, will offer new opportunities to young people in Europe to engage in solidarity activities and gain meaningful experience on the ground.

Your rapporteur would kindly ask to the Members of the Employment Committee to focus their work on the parts of the text that have a clear relevance for the activities of the EMPL Committee. This would be functional to facilitate the rapid adoption of EMPL position and would be a sign of positive and loyal cooperation with the Culture and Education Committee and the work of its Rapporteur.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016¹⁷ emphasized the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps with a view to creating opportunities for young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity *and develop* their skills, thus getting *not only work but also* invaluable human experience.

¹⁷ The State of the Union 2016: Towards a Better Europe – A Europe that Protects, Empowers and Defends, IP/16/3042 (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3042_en.htm).

Amendment

(2) The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016¹⁷ emphasized the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps with a view to creating opportunities for young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity *while also developing* their skills, thus getting *practical and* invaluable human experience.

¹⁷ The State of the Union 2016: Towards a Better Europe – A Europe that Protects, Empowers and Defends, IP/16/3042 (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3042_en.htm).

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) 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 would also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(4) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which ***would bring positive effects to society while also enabling them on the one hand*** to express their commitment to the benefit of communities ***and on the other hand to acquire*** useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. Those activities would also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, ***in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people*** the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, ***be financially accessible to young people***, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment

(5) The solidarity activities offered to young people should ***help respond to unmet societal needs and contribute to strengthening communities, and should therefore*** be of high quality ***and effectively accessible to young people, offering them*** the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences ***and to have their efforts recognised***, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions. ***Particular efforts should be made to ensure the effective inclusiveness and accessibility of the solidarity activities offered, notably in relation to disadvantaged young people.***

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The European Solidarity Corps would provide a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union. Consistency and complementarity of that framework should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps should build on the strengths and synergies of existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service. It should also complement the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee¹⁹ by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. 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, 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.

¹⁹ Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

Amendment

(6) The European Solidarity Corps would provide a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union. Consistency and complementarity of that framework should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps should build on the strengths and synergies of existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service. It should also complement the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee¹⁹ by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. 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, ***the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) and other relevant civil society organisations including the social partners***, 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.

¹⁹ Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

Amendment 5**Proposal for a regulation****Recital 7***Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, provisions should be made to allow other Union programmes such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Europe for Citizens programme, the European Regional Development Fund and the Health Programme to contribute to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps by supporting activities within its scope. This contribution should be financed in accordance with the respective basic acts of the concerned programmes. Once they have obtained a valid European Solidarity Corps quality label, the **beneficiaries** should be given access to the European Solidarity Corps portal and receive the quality and support measures provided according to the type of activity offered.

Amendment

(7) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, provisions should be made to allow other Union programmes such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Europe for Citizens programme, the European Regional Development Fund and the Health Programme to contribute to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps by supporting activities within its scope. This contribution should be financed in accordance with the respective basic acts of the concerned programmes. Once they have obtained a valid European Solidarity Corps quality label, the **participating organisations** should be given access to the European Solidarity Corps portal and receive the quality and support measures provided according to the type of activity offered.

Or. en

Amendment 6**Proposal for a regulation****Recital 8***Text proposed by the Commission*

(8) The European Solidarity Corps should open up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job placements in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. Those opportunities should

Amendment

(8) The European Solidarity Corps should open up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job placements in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. Those opportunities should

contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps should also support 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.

help respond to unmet societal needs and contribute to strengthening communities while also contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps should also support 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.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) Voluntary activities constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. **Voluntary** activities **should** not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. In order to ensure continuity with respect to the volunteering activities that are supported at Union level, the volunteering activities under the European Voluntary Service that fall within the geographical scope of the European Solidarity Corps should be supported by the latter in the form of cross-border volunteering placements. The other volunteering activities under the European Voluntary Service that do not fall under the geographical scope of the European Solidarity Corps should continue to be supported under the Programme established by Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and

Amendment

(9) Voluntary activities constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. **However, given the cross-sectorial nature of solidarity-related activities, the different status of entities and organisations potentially involved into these activities, as well as the socio-economic significance of the solidarity sector in the Union, provisions should be taken in this Regulation to ensure that voluntary activities do** not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen **or effectively deployed** as a substitute for it. **For this reason, solidarity placements in the form of volunteering under this Regulation should be offered exclusively by public authorities or by participating organisations in the non-profit sector.** In order to ensure continuity with respect to the volunteering activities that are

of the Council establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport²⁰. With respect to the interpretation of related legislation at Union level, both the cross-border volunteering placements under the European Solidarity Corps and the volunteering activities that continue to be supported under Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 should be considered equivalent to those carried out under the European Voluntary Service.

supported at Union level, the volunteering activities under the European Voluntary Service that fall within the geographical scope of the European Solidarity Corps should be supported by the latter in the form of cross-border volunteering placements. The other volunteering activities under the European Voluntary Service that do not fall under the geographical scope of the European Solidarity Corps should continue to be supported under the Programme established by Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport²⁰. With respect to the interpretation of related legislation at Union level, both the cross-border volunteering placements under the European Solidarity Corps and the volunteering activities that continue to be supported under Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 should be considered equivalent to those carried out under the European Voluntary Service.

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50.

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50.

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) ***Traineeships*** and jobs in solidarity-

Amendment

(10) ***The European Solidarity Corps***

related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market 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 placements offered under the European Solidarity Corps should be remunerated by the participating organisation and follow the quality principles outlined in the Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships of 10 March 2014²¹. ***The traineeships and jobs*** offered should constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and should therefore be accompanied by adequate post-placement support. The traineeship and job placements should be facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce. As participating organisations, they should be able to apply for funding via the competent implementing structure of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job placements in solidarity sectors.

should also provide for a framework for traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas, ***which should be clearly separated from voluntary activities, both from a financial and organisational point of view, as they*** can offer ***different and*** additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market, while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. ***Besides, remunerated traineeships and jobs can represent an incentive for disadvantaged young people to participate in solidarity-related activities that they may not be able to afford otherwise. The traineeship placements can ease the transition of young people from education to employment***, which is key to ***achieve*** their ***sustainable integration into*** the labour market. The traineeship placements offered under the European Solidarity Corps should ***always*** be remunerated by the participating organisation and ***should*** follow the quality principles outlined in the Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships of 10 March 2014²¹. ***Besides, the traineeship placements should be based on a written agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship between the trainee and the participating organisation, which should indicate the educational and training objectives, the working conditions, the remuneration and the rights and obligations of the parties under applicable national law and/or applicable collective agreements of the participating country where the traineeship takes place, as well as the duration of the traineeship. Traineeship placements*** offered should constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and ***should not substitute jobs. Traineeship placements should be temporary and should have a reasonable duration as defined in this Regulation. Job placements should be based on a written contract and should respect all the terms and conditions of employment as defined***

in national law and/or applicable collective agreements of the participating country where the job is carried out. Traineeships and jobs should therefore be accompanied by adequate *preparation, on-the-job training and* post-placement support. The traineeship and job placements should be facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce. As participating organisations, they should be able to apply for funding via the competent implementing structure of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job placements in solidarity sectors.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships, OJ C 88, 27.3.2014, p. 1.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships, OJ C 88, 27.3.2014, p. 1.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) 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 to the benefit of their local communities. Those projects should be an opportunity to *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

Amendment

(11) 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 to the benefit of their local communities. Those projects should be an opportunity to *develop innovative solutions* and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They could also serve as a springboard for

solidarity activities 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.

further engagement in solidarity activities and could be a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in *social entrepreneurship* or setting up associations, NGOs or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the quality of the placements and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-placement support to participants *as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience.*

Amendment

(13) Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the quality of the placements and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering *online and offline* training, language support, insurance, administrative and *pre- and* post-placement support to participants. *This support should be created in collaboration with youth organisations and other civil society organisations in order to tap into their expertise on the field. Post-placement support should also prioritise the continuous civic engagement of the participants in their community, guiding them towards local organisations or projects to engage with after the placement.*

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps placements on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the placement should be properly identified **and** documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in the 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.

Amendment

(14) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps placements on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the placement should be properly identified, documented, **assessed and certified**, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in the 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.

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

(15) A quality label **respectively for the volunteering and for traineeships and jobs** should be put in place to ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps Charter, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label should be a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 13**Proposal for a regulation****Recital 17***Text proposed by the Commission*

(17) A European Solidarity Corps Portal should continuously be developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-placement support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment

(17) A European Solidarity Corps Portal should continuously be developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, **information on existing solidarity placements or projects and on participating organisations, relevant Union and national contact points**, online training, language and **pre and** post-placement support, **direct feedback mechanisms** as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment 14**Proposal for a regulation****Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1***Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) “solidarity activity” means an activity aimed at addressing unmet societal needs to the benefit of a community while also fostering the individual’s personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of placements, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality,

Amendment

(1) “solidarity activity” means an activity aimed at addressing unmet societal needs to the benefit of a community while also fostering the individual’s personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of placements, projects or networking activities **which have European added value and a transnational dimension**, developed in relation to different areas,

entrepreneurship, in particular social entrepreneurship, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion;

such as education and training, employment, *social inclusion*, gender equality, social entrepreneurship, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, *solidarity* agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) “disadvantaged young people” means individuals who need additional support because of disability, educational difficulties, economic obstacles, cultural differences, health problems, social obstacles, geographical obstacles;

Amendment

(3) “disadvantaged young people” means individuals who need additional support because of disability, educational *or learning* difficulties, economic obstacles, cultural differences, health problems, social obstacles, geographical obstacles;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) “participating organisation” means any public or private entity that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, which offers a placement to a

Amendment

(4) “participating organisation” means any public or private entity that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, which offers a *volunteering*,

participant in the European Solidarity Corps or implements other activities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps;

traineeship or job placement to a participant in the European Solidarity Corps or implements other activities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps;

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) “solidarity placement” means a volunteering activity, traineeship or job in a solidarity-related area, which is organised by a participating organisation and which contributes to addressing key societal challenges while enhancing the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development and the employability of the European Solidarity Corps participant who undertakes it, either in a country other than the country of residence (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country);

Amendment

(5) “solidarity placement” means a volunteering activity, traineeship or job in a solidarity-related area, which is organised by a participating organisation and which contributes to addressing key societal challenges while enhancing the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development and the employability of the European Solidarity Corps participant who undertakes it, either in a country other than the country of residence (cross-border) or, ***exceptionally for disadvantaged young people***, in the country of residence of the participant (in-country);

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) “volunteering” means ***a full-time***³² unpaid voluntary service for a period of up to twelve months, which provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations active in solidarity-related fields, to the ultimate

Amendment

(6) “volunteering” means ***an*** unpaid voluntary service ***within a public authority or a participating organisation in the non-profit sector, either full-time***³², ***part-time or during free time*** for a period of up to twelve months, which provides young

benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, including a solid learning and training dimension in order to enable the young volunteer(s) to gain skills and competences, which will be useful for their personal, educational, social and professional development, and which will also contribute to improving their employability;

³² As a general principle, an activity carried out continuously, 5 days a week for 7 hours a day.

people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations active in solidarity-related fields, to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, including a solid learning and training dimension in order to enable the young volunteer(s) to gain skills and competences, which will be useful for their personal, educational, social and professional development, and which will also contribute to improving their employability;

³² As a general principle, an activity carried out continuously, 5 days a week for 7 hours a day.

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) “traineeship” means a period of work practice from *two* to *twelve* months, remunerated by the organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant, ***based on a written traineeship agreement, which includes a learning and training component, and undertaken in order to gain practical and professional experience with a view to improving employability and facilitating transition to regular employment;***

Amendment

(8) “traineeship” means a period of work practice from *three* to *six* months, ***renewable only once and for a maximum duration of twelve months within the same participating organisation,*** remunerated by the organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant, ***which includes a learning and training component, and is undertaken in order to gain practical and professional experience with a view to gain competences useful for the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participant. It shall be based on a written agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship between the participant and the participating organisation, indicating the educational objectives, the working conditions, the remuneration and the***

rights and obligations of the parties under national law and/or applicable collective agreements of the country where the traineeship takes place, as well as the duration of the traineeship. Such traineeships shall not substitute jobs;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) "job" means a period of work **from two to** twelve months, remunerated by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant, **carried out in a participating country and based on an employment contract in accordance with the national regulatory framework of that participating country;**

Amendment

(9) "job" means a period of work **of at least** twelve months, **based on a written employment contract which shall respect all the terms and conditions of employment as defined in national law and/or applicable collective agreements of the country where the job is being carried out. It shall be** remunerated by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) "European Solidarity Corps Resource Center" means the additional functions performed by a designated national agency to support the development and implementation of activities under the European Solidarity Corps as well as the identification of the competences acquired by the participants through their placements and projects;

Amendment

(13) "European Solidarity Corps Resource Center" means the additional functions performed by a designated national agency to support the development and implementation **and quality** of activities under the European Solidarity Corps as well as the identification of the competences acquired by the participants through their placements and projects;

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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, supporting communities and responding to societal challenges.**

Amendment

The objective of the European Solidarity Corps is to **contribute to the strengthening of cohesion and solidarity in Europe, to support communities and respond to societal challenges by enhancing** the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities.

Or. en

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) to ensure that the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the placement are properly identified, documented, assessed and certified.

Or. en

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) solidarity placements, ***projects and networking activities***

Amendment

(a) solidarity placements, ***in the form of***
(i) ***volunteering;***
(ii) ***traineeships or jobs;***
(iii) ***projects and networking activities;***

Or. en

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) solidarity placements in the form of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including individual cross-border and in-country placements as well as volunteering teams' placements;

Amendment

(a) solidarity placements in the form of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including individual cross-border placements - and, ***in the case of disadvantaged young people***, in-country placements - as well as volunteering teams' placements;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(c) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating ***or willing to participate*** in the European Solidarity Corps.

Or. en

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality of solidarity placements, including training, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, insurance, post-placement support as well as the development of a certificate that identifies **and** documents the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the placement;

Amendment

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality **and accessibility** of solidarity placements, including **online and offline** training, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, insurance, **pre- and** post-placement support as well as the development of a certificate that identifies, documents, **assesses and certifies** the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the placement;

Or. en