



2017/0102(COD)

29.11.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

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: Krzysztof Hetman

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Solidarity, being at the foundations of the European Union, is also one of the core values for Europeans. It is no exaggeration to say, that the success story of the European Union is based on solidarity. It has a huge potential of creating empathy, reciprocal care and positive interactions between both nations and individuals. This is why we should uphold and enforce this idea in the minds of Europeans.

Your draftsman believes that European Solidarity Corps is a great tool to achieve this goal and therefore he has very much welcomed the announcement of the idea in the State of Union address of 14 September 2016, followed by the Commission Communication “A European Solidarity Corps” of 7 December 2016 and a legislative proposal of 1 June 2017. The increased engagement of youth from all European countries in solidarity activities has a potential to strengthen solidarity and cohesion across Europe as well as to contribute to tackling societal challenges and fulfil the unmet needs in participating countries and regions. Moreover, it will support young peoples’ personal and professional development through acquisition of valuable skills.

Your draftsman supports the creation of European Solidarity Corps focused on two types of actions: solidarity projects and volunteer placements on one hand, and traineeship and job placements on the other. While the first should undoubtedly be a base of the future European Solidarity Corps, the latter constitute an important chance for young people to enter the labour market and gain opportunity for quality employment. Therefore, the draftsman proposes to slightly change the indicative proportions of budget division between the two types of actions and increase the financial support for the traineeship and job opportunities to 30%.

The overall amount of EUR 341 500 000 provisioned for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps until 31 December 2020 will allow to mobilise 100 000 young people into solidarity activities. The draftsman supports the Commission proposal to mobilise this amount from various existing EU programmes, including i.a. EUR 35 000 000 from European Social Fund. Nevertheless, he believes the main contribution shall come from Erasmus+ programme appropriations aimed at financing European Voluntary Service (EVS) activities that would now fall under the scope of activities supported under this Regulation.

The draftsman hopes the proposal will build on the experience and best practices developed in the EVS, and will develop synergies and complementarity with other EU funds and programmes in order to fulfil its potential to the greatest possible extent.

The Committee on Regional Development considers simplification measures an extremely important factor of improved effectiveness and increased efficiency of the projects, undertaken with the support of EU budget. This is why your draftsman has proposed some changes, which go in line with this principle and assure that beneficiaries will not be burdened by unnecessary requirements and formalities.

Finally, your draftsman believes that the European Solidarity Corps will have a great positive influence not only on the young people thus engaged, but also on regional and local communities, and therefore he has undertaken to strengthen the local and regional dimension of this Regulation.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development 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 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(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.

Amendment

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value guides its actions, 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, **and stimulates young people's interest in the common European project.**

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In its Communication “A European Solidarity Corps” of 7 December 2016,¹⁸ the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes have been mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the EU. These activities, whether implemented before or after the entry into force of this Regulation, should continue to

Amendment

(3) In its Communication “A European Solidarity Corps” of 7 December 2016,¹⁸ the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national, **regional** and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes have been mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship, **the means for personal development** or job opportunities to young people across the EU. These activities, whether implemented before or after the

apply the rules and conditions set by the respective Union programmes that have financed them under the first phase of the European Solidarity Corps.

entry into force of this Regulation, should continue to apply the rules and conditions set by the respective Union programmes that have financed them under the first phase of the European Solidarity Corps.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps, COM(2016) 942 final of 7.12.2016.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps, COM(2016) 942 final of 7.12.2016.

Amendment 3

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 could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities ***of Member States*** while acquiring useful experience, ***knowledge***, 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

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

Amendment

(5) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, ***take account of their skills and be closely***

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.

linked to the development of society, in the sense that they should respond to **key** societal **challenges**, contribute to strengthening **local** communities **and social cohesion**, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge, **skills** and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment 5

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

Amendment

(6) The European Solidarity Corps would provide main entry point, ***free from any form of discrimination based on background***, 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 ***regions, cities and local communities*** 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 the Eurodesk network ***and the Youth on the Move programme***, should also be ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular

appropriate.

national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, ***including schemes operating at regional or local level***, 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).

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

Amendment 6

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 Social Fund***, 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 programmes ***concerned and in complementarity with existing Union policies, such as cohesion policy, without having a negative impact on its operational programmes as such and subject to available means, related to their take-up***. 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

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 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.

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 ***transnational and cross-border programmes and*** solidarity projects based on their own initiative. Those opportunities should contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development ***and to contribute towards a genuine European citizenship and to improve the solidarity between young people, with a view to improving their subsequent access to the labour market.*** The European Solidarity Corps should also support networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations ***enabling them to exchange best practices*** as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-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

Amendment

(10) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities ***by ensuring the necessary basis*** 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, ***also based on each individual's personal skills,*** while easing their transition from education to

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.

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

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 *be based on* 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.

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

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

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, *particularly communities*

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 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.

located in isolated or marginalised areas.
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 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.

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 training, including cultural awareness and language support, insurance, administrative, ***logistical and pre-placement and*** post-placement support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. ***Where activities undertaken by participants are to be carried out in hazardous environments, such as in post-disaster environments, preventive security courses should be provided.***

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, ***a system to recognise the skills acquired through European Solidarity Corps voluntary work should be developed, and*** 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 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 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, ***based on common criteria recognised at Union level,*** 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 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) A European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre 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.

Amendment

(16) A European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre 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, validation **and certification** of competences acquired through these activities.

Amendment 14

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 **contribute to an** easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, **information on volunteering placements**, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language, **pre-placement** and post-placement support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future **which should be linked to the development of society. The services provided by the European Solidarity Corps Portal should promote and supplement the ones already offered by participating organisations. Interoperability with the European Youth Portal should be ensured.**

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) In order to ensure continuity in the activities supported by the programmes contributing to the European Solidarity Corps, the financial support to solidarity placements and projects should indicatively follow **an 80%-20%** split between volunteering placements and solidarity projects on the one hand and traineeship and job placements on the other hand.

Amendment

(19) In order to ensure continuity in the activities supported by the programmes contributing to the European Solidarity Corps, the financial support to solidarity placements and projects should indicatively follow **a 70%-30%** split between volunteering placements and solidarity projects on the one hand and traineeship and job placements on the other hand.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, **provisions should be made to allow** participating countries **to** make additional national funding available in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(20) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, participating countries **should be able to** make additional national, **regional or local** funding available in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20a) Civil protection and humanitarian aid cannot be dependent on young people via the European Solidarity Corps. The Commission and the Member States should guarantee continued investment in structured civil protection and humanitarian aid.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) In addition to the Member States, the European Solidarity Corps should also be open to the participation of other countries on the basis of bilateral agreements. This participation should be based, where relevant, on additional appropriations to be made available in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with the concerned countries.

Amendment

(22) In addition to the Member States, the European Solidarity Corps should also be open to the participation of other countries on the basis of bilateral agreements, ***in particular with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, Eastern Partnership Countries, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, particularly in the case of cross-border programmes.*** This participation should be based, where relevant, on additional appropriations to be made available in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with the concerned countries.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps should target young people aged 18-30. Participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps should target young people aged 18-30. Participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. ***Where necessary, other complementary tools should be provided for the purposes of registration, in order to facilitate the participation of all young people, especially those in the most vulnerable situations and those who are not digitally literate. To that end, existing application processes provided by coordinating and sending organisations could be used.***

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23a) It is necessary to promote a wider policy strategy which is aimed at creating a conducive environment for volunteering in Europe and does not overlap with other ongoing programmes, but rather strengthens successful existing initiatives, such as the European Voluntary Service.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23b) Youth mobility should also be ensured through the Eurail Youth Pass programme.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24) Special attention should be paid 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 therefore be put 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 the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories²⁴. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove

(24) Special attention should be paid 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 therefore be put 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 the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories²⁴. **It is essential that national agencies meet the cost of travel for young people in advance so that they**

legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This includes resolving, 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.

do not need to seek subsequent reimbursement. 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 Corps. This includes resolving, 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.

²⁴ Individuals from an overseas country or territory (OCT) and competent public and /or private bodies and institutions from an OCT may participate in the programmes in accordance with Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community, OJ L314, 30.11.2001, p.1.

²⁴ Individuals from an overseas country or territory (OCT) and competent public and /or private bodies and institutions from an OCT may participate in the programmes in accordance with Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community, OJ L314, 30.11.2001, p.1.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps, whether funded by the European Solidarity Corps budget, by another Union programme or by a different funding source, 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 structures 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

Amendment

(25) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps, whether funded by the European Solidarity Corps budget, by another Union programme or by a different funding source, 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, **public and transparent** basis by the implementing structures 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

found to be no longer fulfilled.

led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) An entity willing to apply for funding to offer placements under the European Solidarity Corps should have first received a quality label as a precondition. This requirement should not apply to natural persons seeking financial support on behalf of an informal group of European Solidarity Corps participants for their solidarity projects.

Amendment

(26) An entity willing to apply for funding to offer placements under the European Solidarity Corps should have first received a quality label as a precondition. This requirement should not apply to natural persons seeking financial support on behalf of an informal group of European Solidarity Corps participants for their **programmes and** solidarity projects.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 26 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27a) The needs and expectations of local communities should be an important criterion for the evaluation of the quality of projects. Accordingly, appropriate indicators should be put in place and re-assessed every year.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured at European, national and local

(28) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured at European, national, **regional**

level. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.

and local level. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders, ***without increasing bureaucracy.***

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Recital 31

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) In order to ensure financially sound implementation and close monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps at national level, it is important to use the existing National Authorities designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

Amendment

(31) In order to ensure financially sound implementation and close monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps at national level, it is important to use ***-and reinforce when needed -*** the existing National Authorities designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

(35) In compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union²⁶, 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 European Solidarity Corps, 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

Amendment

(35) In compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union²⁶, the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof. The work programme should set out the ***implementing*** measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, 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

examination procedure.

accordance with the examination procedure.

²⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

²⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

(36) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to establish a European Solidarity Corps, cannot be *sufficiently* achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of its scale and effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Recital 40 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(36) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to establish a European Solidarity Corps, cannot be *solely* achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of its scale and effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

(40a) *In view of the relatively small*

budget of the programme, Commission staff assigned to the European Solidarity Corps should be redeployed so that no additional financial impact is created.

Amendment 31

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, 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;

Amendment

(1) “solidarity activity” means an activity aimed at addressing ***key*** societal ***challenges*** to the benefit of a community ***or the Union as a whole*** 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, ***including in new technologies***, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship, in particular social ***and sustainable*** entrepreneurship, citizenship and democratic participation, ***youth work*** environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture, ***including social farming***, and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, ***social inclusion, in particular of marginalised communities, activities for the elderly, disabled persons and other people requiring the assistance of others, solidarity between generations***, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion; ***such activity shall be characterised by: fixed period, clear objectives, content, tasks, structure and framework; appropriate financial support shall be provided;***

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) “participant” means a young person who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps offered by a participating organisation;

Amendment

(2) “participant” means a young person **aged 18-30** who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity **or project** under the European Solidarity Corps offered by a participating organisation **certified by means of the quality label**;

Amendment 33

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 difficulties, economic **or social** obstacles, health problems, social obstacles, geographical obstacles **or facing any kind of discrimination**;

Amendment 34

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

Amendment

(4) “participating organisation” means any public or private non-profit entity, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, **based on common criteria recognised at Union level**, which offers a placement to a participant in the European Solidarity Corps or implements other activities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 35

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 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.*

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) “volunteering teams’ placements” means placements allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different participating countries to volunteer together for a common objective, by carrying out manual or intellectual tasks, on a worthwhile community service project for a period between two weeks and two months;

Amendment

(6) “volunteering” means ***an*** 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 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 ***and*** social development; ***such activity shall characterised by a fixed period, clear objectives, content, tasks, structure, framework and guidance; appropriate financial support; volunteering shall not be used to substitute or replace paid employment***;

Amendment

(7) “volunteering teams’ placements” means placements ***organised by a participating organisation*** allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different participating countries to volunteer together for a common objective, by carrying out manual or intellectual tasks, on a worthwhile community service project for a period between two weeks and

two months;

Amendment 37

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 ***for a fixed period*** 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, ***clear objectives, content, tasks, structure and framework*** and undertaken in order to gain practical and professional ***knowledge and*** experience with a view to improving employability and facilitating transition to regular employment; ***traineeships shall not be used to substitute or replace paid employment;***

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) “solidarity project” means a local initiative for a period from two to twelve months, which is set up and carried out by groups of ***at least five*** European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their local community while linking them to a broader European perspective;

Amendment

(10) “solidarity project” means a local, ***regional or cross-border*** initiative for a period from two to twelve months, which is set up and carried out by groups of European Solidarity Corps participants ***or by a participating organisation***, with a view to addressing key challenges within their local community while linking them to a broader European perspective;

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) “quality label” means the certification attributed to a public or private entity or an international organisation willing to provide placements under the European Solidarity Corps following a procedure aimed at ensuring compliance with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps Charter;

Amendment

(11) “quality label” means the certification attributed to a public or private non-profit entity or an international organisation ***referred to in point 4 of Article 2*** willing to provide placements under the European Solidarity Corps, ***based on common criteria recognised at Union level and*** following a procedure aimed at ensuring compliance with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps Charter;

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) “European Solidarity Corps Portal” means a web-based tool that ***provides*** relevant online services to the European Solidarity Corps participants and participating organisations, ***including*** providing information about the European Solidarity Corps, registering participants, searching for participants for placements, advertising and searching for placements, searching for potential project partners, managing contacts and offers for placements and projects, training, communication and networking activities, informing and notifying about opportunities, as well as other relevant developments related to the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(14) “European Solidarity Corps Portal” means a web-based tool that ***operates as a one-stop shop providing*** relevant ***information and*** online services to the European Solidarity Corps participants and participating organisations, ***supplementing the services already provided by the participating organisations as regards, inter alia,*** providing information about the European Solidarity Corps, registering participants, ***connecting participating organisations and participants,*** searching for participants for placements, advertising and searching for placements, searching for potential project partners, managing contacts and offers for placements, ***jobs*** and projects, training, communication and networking activities, informing and notifying about opportunities, ***providing a feedback mechanism regarding the placements' quality,*** as well as other relevant developments related to the

European Solidarity Corps *while ensuring interoperability with the European Youth Portal.*

Amendment 41

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 ***promote solidarity as the core value of the European project by enhancing*** 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 ***local and regional*** communities ***and the Union as a whole***, and ***allow for swift and effective launch of projects*** responding to societal challenges, ***in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in both the Union and third countries.***

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to provide young people, with the support of participating organisations, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities while improving their skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, as well as their employability and facilitating transition into the labour market, including by supporting the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers;

Amendment

(a) to provide young people, with the support of participating organisations, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities while improving their ***knowledge***, skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, as well as their employability and facilitating transition into the labour market, including by supporting the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers;

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to ensure that the solidarity activities that are offered to the European Solidarity Corps participants contribute to addressing concrete, **unmet** societal **needs** and strengthening communities, are of high quality and properly validated.

Amendment

(b) to ensure that the solidarity activities that are offered to the European Solidarity Corps participants contribute to addressing concrete, **key** societal **challenges, such as social integration, environmental protection, counteracting and mitigating effects of climate change and natural disasters** and strengthening **local and regional** communities, are of high quality and properly validated.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies and programmes relating to the areas mentioned in Article 2(1) as well as existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant **Union** policies and programmes relating to the areas mentioned in Article 2(1) as well as existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission and the participating countries shall cooperate to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, by ensuring coherence between national programmes and schemes related to solidarity, education, vocational training

Amendment

2. The Commission and the participating countries shall cooperate to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, by ensuring coherence between national, **regional and local** programmes and schemes related to solidarity, education,

and youth on the one hand and actions under the European Solidarity Corps on the other hand. Those actions shall build on relevant good practices and existing programmes.

vocational training, ***non-formal and informal learning*** and youth on the one hand and actions under the European Solidarity Corps on the other hand. Those actions shall build on relevant good practices and existing programmes.

Amendment 46

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 projects and networking activities;

Amendment 47

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 placements as well as volunteering teams' placements;

Amendment 48

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 in the European Solidarity Corps ***which must be entirely consistent with, and complement proven experience on the ground, in particular good volunteering and civil protection practice.***

Amendment 49

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 of solidarity placements ***whose standards are laid out in the European Solidarity Corps Charter***, including ***comprehensive training before and during the placement***, language support ***based on experiences from the Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support***, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, insurance, post-placement support, ***for example through a tutor/supervisor*** as well as the development of a certificate ***recognised at European level and based on experiences from by the Youthpass*** that identifies, documents ***and validates*** the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the placement;

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) activities and measures provided by non-profit organisations, including youth organisations as well as civil society organisations, which support young people in accessing or developing solidarity placements and projects;

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the development and maintenance of a quality label for entities willing to provide placements for the European Solidarity Corps in order to ensure compliance with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps Charter;

Amendment

(b) the development and maintenance of a quality label ***awarded on the basis of common criteria recognised at European level*** for entities willing to provide placements for the European Solidarity Corps in order to ensure compliance with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps Charter;

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services, ***which shall be available in all official languages of the Union***, as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 includes a financial envelope of EUR 294 200 000^{1a} in current prices consisting of:

(a) Erasmus+ programme, contributing with EUR 197 700 000 in current prices;

(b) Employment and Social Innovation programme, contributing with EUR 10 000 000 in current prices;

(c) unallocated margin under Heading 1a (including Global Margin for

*Commitments), contributing with
EUR 86 500 000 in current prices.*

*^{1a} This financial envelope constitutes the
prime reference amount within the
meaning of point 17 of the
Interinstitutional Agreement (2013/C
373/01) between the European
Parliament, the Council and the
Commission on budgetary discipline, on
cooperation in budgetary matters and on
sound financial management.*

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The amount referred to in
paragraph 1 *includes a financial envelope
of EUR 294 200 000³³ in current prices*
supplemented by contributions from:

*³³ This financial envelope constitutes the
prime reference amount within the
meaning of point 17 of the
Interinstitutional Agreement (2013/C
373/01) between the European
Parliament, the Council and the
Commission on budgetary discipline, on
cooperation in budgetary matters and on
sound financial management.*

Amendment

2. The amount referred to in
paragraph 1*a* is supplemented by
contributions from:

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The financial support to solidarity
placements and projects referred to in
paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 7(1) shall

Amendment

3. The financial support to solidarity
placements and projects referred to in
paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 7(1) shall

indicatively be **80%** for volunteering placements and solidarity projects; and **20%** for traineeship and job placements.

indicatively be **70 %** for volunteering placements and solidarity projects; and **30 %** for traineeship and job placements.

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. A participating country may make ***national*** funding available to beneficiaries to be managed in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps and, to this end, use the decentralised structures of the European Solidarity Corps, as long as it ensures the complementary pro rata funding of these structures.

Amendment

6. A participating country, ***regional or local entity*** may make ***additional*** funding available to beneficiaries to be managed in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps and, to this end, use the decentralised structures of the European Solidarity Corps, as long as it ensures the complementary pro rata funding of these structures.

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump-sums, unit-costs and flat-rate funding should be used to the maximum possible extent.

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. ***The Member States shall participate in the European Solidarity Corps.***

Amendment

1. ***The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of the following countries:***

(a) the Member States;

(b) the acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, Association Council decisions or similar agreements;

(c) those EFTA countries that are part of the EAA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that agreement;

(d) those countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy that have concluded agreements with the Union providing for the possibility of their participation in the Union's programmes, subject to the conclusion of a bilateral agreement with the Union on conditions of their participation in the European Solidarity Corps.

The Member States shall participate in the European Solidarity Corps to strengthen social cohesion through solidarity and Union intervention.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open for the participation of other countries on the basis of bilateral agreements. Cooperation shall be based, where relevant, on additional appropriations to be made available in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with those countries.

Amendment

2. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open for the participation of other countries on the basis of bilateral ***and multilateral*** agreements ***for cross-border projects with non-EU European countries***. Cooperation shall be based, where relevant, on additional appropriations to be made available in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with those countries.

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. However, at the moment of commencing a placement or a project a registered young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than 30.

Amendment

1. Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal ***or find access to this programme via already existing application processes as provided by coordinating and sending organisations.*** However, at the moment of commencing a placement or a project a registered young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than 30. ***Young people may participate in this project as many times as they wish, regardless of availability.***

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. An application from a young person for a longer-term programme may not be rejected if he or she will reach the age of 30 during the lifetime of the project.

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission and the participating countries shall ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion, in particular for the

Amendment

2. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission and the participating countries shall ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion, in particular for the

participation of disadvantaged young people.

participation of disadvantaged young people ***with guaranteed specific volunteer training for all participants.***

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities, or international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

Amendment

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private non-profit entities, or international organisations, ***referred to in point 4 of Article 2***, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label ***in line with the objectives of this Regulation, making access to the European Solidarity Corps more flexible, with clear and simple rules.***

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and may be revoked.

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and may be revoked ***but it may then be re-attributed following a further assessment. The results of the re-assessments of entities shall be part of the evaluation and monitoring referred to in Article 15 and in particular of the progress report that the Commission shall publish in 2020.***

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 1

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Text proposed by the Commission

Any public or private entity established in a participating country as well as international organisations carrying out solidarity activities in the participating countries may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in point (a) of Article 7(1), a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to in point (b) of Article 7(1), natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants.

Amendment

Any public or private non-profit entity, established in a participating country as well as international organisations carrying out solidarity activities in the participating countries may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in point (a) of Article 7(1), a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to in point (b) of Article 7(1), natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants. ***The application and distribution of funding should be carried out in the way that will ensure an effective and swift response to the societal challenges.***

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Progress on the specific objectives shall be ***measured*** by using indicators, such as:

Amendment

Progress on the specific objectives ***and the quality of the placements*** shall be ***evaluated*** by using indicators, such as:

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) number of participants in volunteering placements (***in-country and cross-border***);

Amendment

(a) number of participants in volunteering placements, ***by country, age and gender***;

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) number of participants in solidarity projects;

Amendment

(d) number of participants in solidarity projects, **by country, age and gender**;

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

Amendment

(e) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps quality label, **by country**.

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) percentage of participants who have received a certificate such as a Youthpass, a diploma or other kind of formal recognition of their participation to the European Solidarity Corps, by country, age and gender;

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(eb) percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their personal, educational, social and civic development, by country, age and gender;

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ec) percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their language skills, by country, age and gender;

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ed) percentage of participants declaring that they intend to continue being involved in solidarity activities, by country, age and gender;

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point e e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ee) percentage of participants with a disability, by country, age, gender and type of placement.

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

A feedback mechanism shall also be established within the European

Solidarity Corps Portal so as to receive comments from the participants on the quality of their placements.

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

At the latest six months after the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall establish a detailed programme for monitoring the outputs, results and impacts of this Regulation.

Amendment

Without prejudice to paragraph 1, at the latest six months after the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall establish a detailed programme for monitoring the outputs, results and impacts of this Regulation.

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Four years after ... [the date of application of this Regulation], in order to evaluate the experience with the European Solidarity Corps, the Commission shall publish a best practices' report on which future policy and cohesion objectives can be based.

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the participating countries, shall ensure the dissemination of information, publicity and follow-up with regard to all actions supported in the framework of the

Amendment

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the participating countries, shall ensure the dissemination of information, publicity and follow-up with regard to all actions supported in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps, ***particularly***

European Solidarity Corps.

through ICT solutions such as a portal available in all official languages of the Union with a particular focus equal opportunities and accessibility.

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Communication activities shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that they are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment

3. Communication activities shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that they are related to the general objective of this Regulation ***and represent an added value and visibility for the Union.***

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The national authority shall designate an independent audit body. The independent audit body shall issue an audit opinion on the yearly management declaration referred to in Article 60(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Amendment

1. The national authority shall, ***in accordance with the principle of transparency,*** designate an independent audit body. The independent audit body shall issue an audit opinion on the yearly management declaration referred to in Article 60(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) stipulate the internal control standards for national agencies and the rules for the management of the Union

Amendment

(a) stipulate the internal control standards for national agencies and the rules for the management of the Union

funds for grant support by the national agencies;

funds for grant support by the national agencies, ***taking into consideration the simplification requirements and, therefore, not imposing additional burden on participating organisations;***

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) In connection with the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps, the European Commission shall work closely with the designated national authority for the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7. The Commission shall organise regular meetings with the network of national agencies in order to ensure coherent implementation of the European Solidarity Corps across all participating countries.

7. The Commission shall organise regular meetings with the network of national agencies ***and other stakeholders involved in the activities of the European Solidarity Corps*** in order to ensure coherent implementation of the European Solidarity Corps across all participating countries.

Amendment 84

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the

3. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the

European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall ***be proportionate and adequate and*** give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules, ***taking into consideration the simplification requirements and, therefore, not imposing additional burden on participating organisations.*** ***Furthermore, in order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump-sums, unit costs or flat rate funding shall be used to the fullest extent possible.***

Amendment 85

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In order to implement this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt work programmes by way of implementing acts. Each work programme shall ensure that the general and specific objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4 are implemented in a consistent manner and shall outline the expected results, the method of implementation and its total amount. The work programmes shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action, an indication of the distribution of funds between the participating countries for the actions to be managed through the national agencies and an indicative implementation timetable.

Amendment

1. In order to implement this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt work programmes by way of implementing acts. Each work programme shall ensure that the general and specific objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4 are implemented in a consistent manner and shall outline the expected results, the method of implementation and its total amount. The work programmes shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, ***including joint actions at cross-border level***, an indication of the amount allocated to each action, an indication of the distribution of funds between the participating countries for the actions to be managed through the national agencies and an indicative implementation timetable.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	European Solidarity Corps
References	COM(2017)0262 – C8-0162/2017 – 2017/0102(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 12.6.2017
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 12.6.2017
Rapporteur Date appointed	Krzysztof Hetman 20.6.2017
Discussed in committee	12.7.2017 7.9.2017
Date adopted	23.11.2017
Result of final vote	+: 26 –: 6 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Pascal Arimont, Mercedes Bresso, Rosa D’Amato, John Flack, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Krzysztof Hetman, Ivan Jakovčić, Marc Joulaud, Constanze Krehl, Sławomir Kłosowski, Martina Michels, Iskra Mihaylova, Andrey Novakov, Konstantinos Papadakis, Stanislav Polčák, Monika Smolková, Maria Spyrali, Ruža Tomašić, Monika Vana, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Daniel Buda, Viorica Dăncilă, Andor Deli, Elena Gentile, John Howarth, Ivana Maletić, Jan Olbrycht, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Bronis Ropė, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Olle Ludvigsson

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

26	+
ALDE	Ivan Jakovčić, Iskra Mihaylova
ECR	Ruža Tomašić, Sławomir Kłosowski
PPE	Andor Deli, Andrey Novakov, Daniel Buda, Ivana Maletić, Jan Olbrycht, Joachim Zeller, Krzysztof Hetman, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Marc Joulaud, Maria Spyraiki, Pascal Arimont, Stanislav Polčák
S&D	Constanze Krehl, Damiano Zoffoli, Elena Gentile, Iratxe García Pérez, John Howarth, Mercedes Bresso, Michela Giuffrida, Monika Smolková, Olle Ludvigsson, Viorica Dăncilă

6	-
ALDE	Matthijs van Miltenburg
GUE/NGL	Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Martina Michels
NI	Konstantinos Papadakis
VERTS/ALE	Bronis Ropė, Monika Vana

2	0
ECR	John Flack
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention