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What does the European Solidarity Corps offer young adults, institutions and organisations?

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC), is a programme of the European Union that creates opportunities for young people to participate in volunteering projects, in their own country or abroad, which benefit communities and people across Europe.

Solidarity is one of the core values of the European Union. The European Solidarity Corps brings young people together to build a society that does not exclude anyone, to

help people in need and respond to societal challenges. The ESC provides an inspiring opportunity for young people, who want to make a difference and take responsibility.

Any young adult between 18 and 30 years old, who lives in a country participating in the programme can get involved in **ESC projects or even implement them him/herself, such as Solidarity Projects for example.**



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Solidarity Projects

Do you want to make a positive **change** in your community? Would you like to connect with your **local community**? Are you interested in **developing your skills**?
Would you like to make your voice heard?

Then plan or participate in a **Solidarity Project** and make a difference for the people around you!

What does a Solidarity Project look like?

Solidarity Projects allow young people aged between 18 and 30 to develop and implement projects at the local level. By creating such projects, groups of young people can be socially engaged in their community in a creative way.

Whether it's on topics like participation, climate change, sustainability or the integration of migrants, the opportunities for engagement are endless! Participating in a Solidarity Project can be a great opportunity to support your personal and professional development while taking social action.

What might a project look like?

The project should have a clearly defined topic, which the group of young people will explore together, and which can be translated into specific actions. The group should determine their working methods and project management regarding the preparation, execution and dissemination of the activity together.

A group of young people can either submit their own application or request support from an organisation, which will apply on their behalf. The group running a Solidarity Project can also be supported by a coach. Coaches can be volunteers or professionals,

who help the group prepare, execute and evaluate their project.

Who and what is funded and for how long?

- + A group of at least five young people aged between 18 and 30 years
- + Duration: 2 - 12 months
- + Coach (optional): for maximum 12 days.

What are the funding opportunities and benefits?

If your project is selected, you will receive a monthly flat-rate of 500€.

In addition to this flat-rate, supplementary funds for extraordinary costs to facilitate the participation of young people with fewer opportunities or disabilities can be applied for. These expenses are fully covered, i.e. 100%.

In addition, support from a coach can be applied for a maximum of 12 days. The flat-rate sum varies depending on the country.

Getting started

1 Registration

All group members must first of all register as members of the Solidarity Corps: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en (click on the button **"REGISTER WITH THE CORPS"**)

You will be allocated a **Personal Reference Number (PRN)**. This is a requirement that enables you to submit funding applications.



2 EU-LOGIN

This login will link your e-mail address to an EU login.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas>

3 OID

A group of young people can submit their own application or request support from an organisation to apply on their behalf. The group or organisation requires an Organisation ID (OID number) to do this.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/organisation-registration/register/>

If you do not want to submit your project via an organisation, a person from the group must take on the role of legal representative and assume responsibility for the project.



4 The application

The person responsible must log in with his EU LOGIN and complete the form in collaboration with his/her group. Please contact your National Agency if you have any questions.



Key elements!



- Lead the project yourselves. Solidarity Projects are youth-led from the first idea right until the end.
- A bottom-up rather than a top-down approach is preferred.
- Develop hands-on projects (specific and practical)!
- Think inclusively!
- Be innovative! Develop new activities and engage new audiences.
- Consider the learning process and impact of the project.

Comments

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Area with horizontal dotted lines for writing comments.

Key terms in the ESC

You will find some key terms in the application form and in the Programme Guide that are of great importance to the European Solidarity Corps.

Consider the following terms before you go into the precise project planning:

Solidarity

Impact & Sustainability

Participation

Entrepreneurship

Inclusion

Visibility

**Personal Skills
(or Skills Development)
& Learning Experience**



**What does each term mean to you
and those around you?**

**Which terms are reflected in your
project idea, and how?**

**What does each term mean in the context
of the European Solidarity Corps?**

Project sketch

The Magic Triangle

A good way to classify your project is to position it in a diagram. This model is used in many fields of project management.

Adapted to the needs of Solidarity Projects, your project should be in situated of where the three circles overlap:

1. Programme priorities

- + Is your project idea consistent with the overall objectives of the ESC?
- + What are the basic concepts of the ESC that your project addresses?
- + What should be observed with regard to the programme rules?
- + Can you find goals/principles in the ESC programme that align with your wishes/needs?

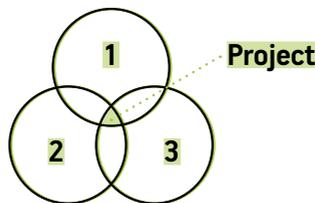
2. Needs

- + What are your interests?
- + What does your organisation/group require/want?
- + In which environment/community will your project take place?
- + What are the problems or challenges in your city/region?
- + What does your target group require/want?

3. Goals

- + What goals does your project aim to achieve?
- + What do you want to change?
- + What is the overall objective of the project, your vision/mision (in one sentence)?

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Example

You are a group of young people, who have been involved in an animal shelter for some time. Many elderly people in your neighbourhood are alone. That's why many people have bought a dog over the past few years. However, because many are no longer able to walk their dog, they require dog sitters to do this on a regular basis. Therefore you want to create a project together with other dedicated young people.

- ➡ Does your project idea meet the programme objectives?
- ➡ Are your needs and interests reflected in the project idea?
- ➡ Can you identify and derive clear objectives from the project idea?

Costs and budget

You should always deal with the topic of costs and budget even if you get fixed amounts for your project.

Intangible and material resources must also be considered alongside the financial aspects.

Here is a short checklist:

- + List of planned costs:
What costs will there be? Are there any eventualities that could incur unexpected costs?
- + Are there any other sponsors (tangible and intangible)?

- + Where can you ask for further funding? (municipality, region etc.)
- + Who can support you further? (ie. with premises, materials, flyers, meals etc.)
- + Are there any possible partnerships?
- + Who is responsible for the budget and costs?
- + Is there a finance officer in your group?



TIPS

Create a document with the potential costs right at the start!

Speak to your municipality's youth coordinator!

Contact your ESC National Agency!

Allocation of tasks and planning

“Good preparation makes the implementation easier!”

Every person in your group has different strengths and preferences. Not everyone has to carry out every task. Maybe someone would like to take care of advertising? Is there someone who likes to be creative?

So consider who can take on which tasks and responsibilities.

- + Not everyone does everything
- + Allocate tasks and responsibilities
- + Who has which strengths within the group?
- + Who has special interests?

Review the project flow and the individual activities together and consider appropriate timeframes.

- + Build in backups! Who/what could act as a replacement if necessary?
- + Plan steps:
What are the next steps?
What deadlines do you need to consider?
- + Plan individual activities, but also the preparation for and follow-up to the activities.

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TIP One option for visual representation would for example be an arrow, which sets out a schedule for the various activities.



TIP Expand the planning table and answer the following questions about the allocation of responsibilities for the relevant tasks: **Who? / what? / when? / with whom? / how? / why?...**

DOs und DON'Ts - common mistakes

Start with **small steps!**
The project should be **feasible**.

Don't artificially inflate your project.
Estimate the required time frame **realistically**. The project does not need to last 12 months.

Plan your project. Tasks should be allocated so that you are busy every month, but not overwhelmed.

Don't give one person all the responsibility. **Every group member** should play an **active role**.

Use the **correct application form**.

Do not take 100% of an existing or already completed project. Bring in **new elements**, e.g. **new activities, new aspects or new target groups**.

Let an **external person** review your project!

Pay attention to the difference between **participants** and the **target group**. This is often confused in the application form!

Focus on **content**. It's not the writing style, but the content that determines a good project.

Do not request anything without **justification**. The need for a coach must be clearly described on the application form.

Keep all **receipts** and **invoices**.

Don't wait until the last minute! **Late submissions** after the official application deadline **are not accepted**.

The coach

It is possible to apply for funds to get support from a coach to implement your Solidarity Projects.

What is a coach?

A mentor, who assists young people in the preparation, execution and evaluation of a Solidarity Project. The coach is external to the Solidarity Project and is therefore not a group member.

What tasks can a coach take on?

The coach can assist groups of young people in preparing, executing and evaluating their project and perform various functions depending on their needs. He/she can promote learning and improve the quality of the learning process, as well as help identify and document learning outcomes at the end of the project. A group may use one or more coaches depending on their needs.

When is a coach useful?

A coach can provide your group with an outside perspective that will help you understand the learning process. He/she can also give you advice or further training on various topics. Coaching is only useful if the necessary expertise is not available in the group itself. So assess realistically

how much help you need and justify the need in the application. The coach provides additional help, but is not responsible for the overall success or failure of the project.

What kind of costs can be applied for?

Assistance from a coach can be applied for for a maximum of 12 days. Remember that the necessity for a coach should be clear from your application.

The ESC National Agency may reduce the number of the coach's working days, or even remove them entirely if the justification is inadequate. A project will not be rejected during the evaluation because a coach, who is considered unnecessary, has been requested. On the other hand, project applications that suggest the coach will take over the work of the group cannot be funded.



Visibility and communication

If you create an interesting project, of course other people should also learn about it. The European Solidarity Corps programme encourages you to make your activities and results visible and share them.

The following questions will help you think about the different options:

- + How can you make your project visible? (during and after the project)
- + Will materials be produced?
- + With whom do you share your results? How?

- + Who is responsible for reviewing and distributing the results?
- + Which media do you want to use to draw attention to your project?
- + What channels can you use to reach your target group(s)?
- + Which media do you use personally?
- + How can you reach a lot of people with few resources?



TIP Be creative!

Best practice Luxembourg

WELCOME TO LUXEMBOURG GUIDE

React, Luxembourg

A large proportion of the population of Luxembourg has a migration background, so five young people came up with the idea of joining forces to support this major part of the population.

They wrote a *newcomers' info-pack* to help young immigrants learn about Luxembourg, its traditions and customs. The group collected tips and tricks along with interesting information over the course of 12 months to help new Luxembourg residents get better oriented.

The information pack is available digitally in different languages.



Best practice Belgium

NO TIME TO WASTE **Guides St. Paul, Eupen**

Five scout leaders from the St. Paul unit in Eupen initiated a Solidarity Project, to make other scouts aware of the respectful handling of resources. They lived on camp for 12 days according to the principle of *zero waste* and healthy nutrition. The scouts learned sustainable practices through specific actions, such as making their own detergents and cleaning products, cooking with seasonal and local products and preparing vegetarian dishes. The participants will try to adopt these routines at home, so they will also be able to motivate their family and friends to live and act in an environmentally friendly way.

The project lasted 6 months.



Useful and practical information

Registration

You can register for the European Solidarity Corps and view many offers here:
https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

EU login

OID platform: You can create your OID number here:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-esc/index/organisations/register-my-organisation>

Project database

This lists all the projects funded as part of the Solidarity Corps programme:
<https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/projects/>

Official websites

- + **National agencies:**
https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/organisations/contact-national-agencies_en
- + **European Youth Portal:**
https://europa.eu/youth/EU_en

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Abbreviations

ESC:
European Solidarity Corps

OID:
Organisation ID

ORS:
Organisation Registration System

PRN:
Personal Reference Number

BM:
Beneficiary Module, the online platform where you manage your project and write the final report

DEOR:
Dissemination and Exploitation of Result: sharing and using the results (is no longer commonly used).

"Solidarity Projects are difficult at the beginning, chaotic in the middle, but they're just great in the end!"

Have fun with your projects!