



OCTA YOUTH DAYS

24 - 25 May 2022

European Solidarity Corps

Volunteering abroad has never been easier



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

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What is European Solidarity Corps ?

ESC is the EU programme that supports projects that contribute to the good of communities and society as a whole. The support is granted in the form of funding to help young people take part in projects that benefit communities, either abroad or in their own country.

It supports :

Volunteering

Local Solidarity projects

Humanitarian aid volunteering

How is it managed?

At national level: Each country has 2 National Agencies for Education

1. NA Erasmus+ Formal education
2. **NA Erasmus+ Youth & Sport**

At European level: Some ESC actions are centralized by the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#) (EACEA).



Strand 1: Volunteering

- Most opportunities through the European Solidarity Corps are **cross-border volunteering** activities for **individual volunteering**, although there are options for team volunteering.
- They are open to **18–30-year-old** people who reside in programme and partner countries ([List of eligible countries](#)). No academic background required.
- Young people can apply to solidarity projects in different fields, such as:
Creativity and culture / Education and training / Employment and entrepreneurship / Environment and natural protection / Health and wellbeing / Physical education and sport / Working with refugees and migrants / Social challenges / Disaster prevention and recovery / etc.
- If you're going abroad for individual volunteering in a project, 2 organisations are involved to support your experience (in addition to where you would actually carry out the project):
 - **supporting organisation** – based in your home country, will help you prepare for your experience abroad;
 - and, a **host organisation** – will receive and help you in your destination country.



Strand 1: Volunteering

Individual volunteering

- ✓ can last from **2 months up to 12 months**
- ✓ in some cases, you can take part for a **shorter time** (from 2 weeks to 2 months) – e.g. for participants from the OCTs.
- ✓ is **full-time** (30 - 38h a week)
- ✓ allows you to contribute to the daily work of an organisation that is actively **benefiting the local community**
- ✓ is usually '*cross-border*' – i.e. **in a different country** to where you live (though it can be there too – these are called '*in-country*' projects)

Team volunteering

If you can't commit for a long period, but still want to help the community, then check out team volunteering, which:

- ✓ can last between **2 weeks and 2 months**
- ✓ is **full-time** (30 - 38 h a week)
- ✓ you volunteer with people from **at least 2 different countries**
- ✓ the group will be **between 10 and 40 volunteers** and include people with fewer opportunities
- ✓ is usually abroad, though it can be in your home country



Strand 1: Volunteering

What is covered?

- **Basic costs** will be covered (your travel to and from the project, accommodation and food)
- You'll also receive a **small allowance** for personal expenses
- You are covered by a complementary **insurance**
- You can access a range of support services such as **linguistic support and training**
- If you have **specific needs** (e.g. a disability), these costs may also be covered



Strand 1: Volunteering

Where do I apply?

To participate in the activities, young people need to register in the European Solidarity Corps platform – the one and only platform to access the programme.

REGISTER TO THE ESC PLATFORM –
EUROPEAN YOUTH PLATFORM



Strand 2: Local Solidarity projects

If you want to make a positive change in your local community, then you can join forces with your friends to create a Solidarity Project to receive funding from the EU.

Characteristics of a Solidarity project:

- The project can last from 2 to 12 months and should be mainly part-time.
- The group must contain **at least 5 people** (between 18 and 30 years) who are legally residing in the same country (there is no maximum number of people). All OCTs are eligible.
- All members of the group need to be registered in the ESC platform.
- Financial support: **€500 a month** to cover the cost of managing and implementing the project. The EU will also cover costs linked to the involvement of a coach in the project, if one is needed.



Strand 2: Local Solidarity projects

How to apply

Unlike volunteering (where you apply to organisations), with Solidarity Projects you request **direct funding** for your project.

- To do so, you have to identify the next call for project proposals and submit your project as a formal application (see [Open Calls](#) – next deadline on the 10 October). *If you prefer, you can choose to work with an experienced organisation to apply for funding.*
- Your application will be then assessed by the Erasmus+ NA of your EU Member State.
- In the application form, you need to explain why you want to carry out this project, how it will benefit the community, and which activities would be developed for the preparation and implementation of the idea.

MORE INFO



New strand (3): Volunteering in humanitarian Aid

As from **2022**, the European Solidarity Corps opens up to the world and offers new **cross-border volunteering activities** in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries.

- ✓ First projects will be open for applicants in the summer.
- ✓ First volunteers will start in 2023.
- ✓ The structure and the financial support to participants is kept the same as the Volunteering strand.
- ✓ Eligible age between 18-35 years old.

[**MORE INFO**](#)



Questions & Answers



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Thank you for your time!

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