



European  
Commission

# EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

## 2021-2027

### THE POWER OF TOGETHER.



With a dedicated budget of

**€1.009 billion**

for 2021-2027, the new European Solidarity Corps programme will provide opportunities for at least

**270 000 young people.**

They will help address societal and humanitarian challenges through **volunteering** or by setting up their own **solidarity projects**. The programme's ambition is not only to be more **inclusive** but also **greener and more digital**. For the first time, the programme will also allow young people to volunteer in the **humanitarian aid** field across the world.

#### IN A NUTSHELL

**The European Solidarity Corps** is an EU funding programme for young people wishing to engage in solidarity activities in a variety of areas. These range from helping the disadvantaged to humanitarian aid, as well as contributing to health and environmental action across the EU and beyond.

The programme offers an opportunity for young people not only to make a meaningful contribution to society, but also to gain invaluable experience and develop new skills. It is open to people aged between 18 and 30 for solidarity activities addressing societal challenges, and between 18 and 35 for humanitarian aid activities. The programme also addresses organisations active in the solidarity sector looking to involve young people in their activities.

In order to take part in the European Solidarity Corps, organisations are required to obtain a **quality label**, which certifies that they are able to carry out high-quality solidarity activities in compliance with the principles, objectives and requirements of the programme. The European Commission and National Agencies manage and implement the programme.



 **Horizontal priorities of the programme:** inclusive, green and digital  **NEW** 



The new European Solidarity Corps supports the **European Union's political priorities** and engages both organisations and young people in projects to help support them.

The programme promotes **inclusion and diversity**, and aims to provide all young people with equal access to European Solidarity Corps opportunities.

The programme aims to adopt **green practices** across all projects and activities, as well as to promote environmentally-sustainable and responsible behaviour among both participants and organisations.

The European Solidarity Corps contributes to the **digital transition** by supporting projects and activities that work to boost digital skills, foster digital literacy, and develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.

In addition, the European Solidarity Corps promotes civic engagement and the participation of young people in **democratic processes**. With volunteering at its heart, the programme engages and empowers young people to be active in society and become true agents of change.

The programme provides the flexibility to add annual priorities, thus contributing to unforeseen challenges such as addressing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and recovery from it, particularly in the area of **health prevention** and support. The programme can mobilise volunteers to support projects addressing various health challenges.



## What action does the 2021-2027 programme support?

### **VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteering provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations that specialise in solidarity activities to benefit communities. The activities can take place either abroad or in the participant's country of residence. Individual volunteering can last up to 12 months, whereas team volunteering usually lasts between 2 weeks and 2 months.

### **NEW**

#### **Humanitarian aid strand**

For the first time and building on the EU Aid Volunteers programme, the European Solidarity Corps is extending its scope to cover volunteering activities in support of humanitarian aid operations.

This strand will be open to young people aged between 18 and 35 to provide emergency aid based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality, helping to deliver assistance, relief and protection where most needed. It will help address humanitarian challenges in safe third countries, where EU humanitarian aid activities take place.

Volunteers in the humanitarian aid field will be trained and prepared to ensure that they have the necessary skills and competences to help people in need effectively. Volunteers and organisations will be able to rely on complementary support, for example from experienced coaches and experts.



### **SOLIDARITY PROJECTS**

Solidarity projects are bottom-up activities set up and carried out by a group of young people with a view to addressing the key challenges within their communities.

The new programme will therefore focus on volunteering and solidarity projects. Traineeships and jobs, which was an action in the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps, will be discontinued.

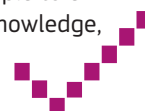
**Young people wishing to join the programme** have to register for the European Solidarity Corps on the [European Youth Portal](#). On the portal, young people can search for published opportunities, while organisations can look for potential participants for their projects.



**NEW** →

### In line with the digital transformation

In line with the digital transformation and with its ambition to support the learning experience of young people, the European Solidarity Corps offers online training to all young people registered in the programme. The new online training section can be found on the European Youth Portal. It hosts modules in 28 languages for young people to explore their motivation, improve their skills and knowledge, and prepare for participation in the programme.



### Want to know more?

Check the [European Solidarity Corps portal](#) to discover more about the programme.

The [European Commission](#), [National Agencies](#) and the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#) manage and implement the programme.

### Follow us on social media



[@EuropeanYouthEU](#)

[@European Solidarity Corps Official](#)



[@European\\_Youth\\_EU](#)



[@EuropeanYouthEU](#)



Publications Office  
of the European Union

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

© European Union, 2021

Print ISBN 978-92-76-29118-3

PDF ISBN 978-92-76-29104-6

doi: 10.2766/993

doi: 10.2766/216385

NC-03-21-031-EN-C

NC-03-21-031-EN-N



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**