Exploring the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps during its first year

Research Report

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Final research report

in the context of a consultancy for the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre and a pre-study for the RAY Network

The 'European Solidarity Corps' is a Programme of the European Union and supporting youth projects with a European dimension fostering solidarity in Europe. The 'Research-based Analysis of European Youth Programmes' (RAY) is conducted by the RAY Network, which includes the National Agencies of Erasmus+: Youth in Action and their research partners in 34 countries*.

This study explores the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps during its first year and was conducted in the context of a consultancy for the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre and a pre-study for the RAY Network. The study was conducted by the Generation and Educational Science Institute in Austria in cooperation with the RAY Network and the National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps in Austria.

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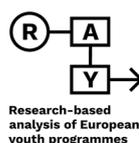
* In 2019: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

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Abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviations

E+	European Union Programme Erasmus+ (2014-2020)
E+/YiA	Erasmus+: Youth in Action (2014-2020)
EU	European Union
NA	National Agency
PP	Project participants
RAY	Research-based Analysis of European Youth Programmes. The RAY Network consists of the National Agencies or Erasmus+ Youth in Action and of the European Solidarity Corps and their research partners involved in the RAY project.
YPFO	Young people with fewer opportunities
YPSN	Young People with special needs

Actions

VOL	Volunteering
VP	Volunteering Partnerships
T&J	Traineeships and Jobs
SOL	Solidarity Projects
QL	Quality Label

Countries

Programme countries	These are EU member states, EEA countries and EU candidate/accession countries (for country codes/abbreviations see Table 1).
Partner countries	These are countries from Southeast Europe, countries from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region as well as Mediterranean countries (for country codes/abbreviations see Table 2).
RAY countries	RAY Network members participating in these surveys as funding countries (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom)

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1 — Introduction

1.1 — Context of the study

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre (in the following 'Resource Centre') commissioned the Generation and Educational Science Institute (GENESIS) to conduct a consultancy process in the framework of the European Union programme 'European Solidarity Corps' (in the following also referred to as 'programme'). This consultancy process was conducted in cooperation with the RAY Network in the context of a pre-study for the Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps. In order to create a solid foundation for the further implementation of the programme, GENESIS has carried out a research project employing a mixed-methods approach. The objective of the research project was to analyse the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps so far and to explore several aspects that need further attention from the viewpoint of the programme's stakeholders including, but not limited to, their experiences with the programme so far and their potential needs which might have occurred towards the Resource Centre and other stakeholders of the programme. Results of this research project will be presented in this report.

1.2 — Research design

The aim of this research project was to analyse the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps so far. Specific objectives, including a focus also on the occupational action of the programme (Traineeships and Jobs), were:

○ mapping of relevant stakeholders at the European level (volunteering sector / youth sector; employment sector / new stakeholders);

○ analysis of the first application rounds – number of applications, profile of applicant organisations, actions etc.;

○ identification of needs within the network towards the Resource Centre and the programme implementation (National Agencies, beneficiaries, SALTOs, European Commission, other relevant stakeholders);

○ identification of main challenges and potential obstacles, possible overlaps with other European Union (funding) programmes;

○ identification of common topics and themes among different National Agencies (NAs), e.g. in terms of societal needs as defined by NAs that could be targeted by activities in the programme;

○ analysis of existing training measures and mapping of further training needs and necessary trainer competences.

For the purposes of this research, a mixed-methods approach was chosen for it integrates both, qualitative as well as quantitative methods allowing for a rather panoramic view of the research landscape and thus enabling the researcher to view certain phenomena from various perspectives and angles.

1.3 — Research implementation

In order to facilitate this study, mainly three research vehicles were exploited: online surveys, online interviews and secondary analysis of existing data. Additionally, a mapping of European Solidarity Corps at European level together with a detailed list was produced. While the surveys allowed the researchers to explore important research themes by addressing a larger pool of respondents, the interviews facilitated an in-depth analysis of the themes and issues that have arisen out of the survey responses. A qualitative survey was conducted in April/May 2019 with all National Agencies of the European Solidarity Corps, all SALTOs and 30 selected trainers from all over Europe active at European level in the context of European youth programmes. The respective questionnaires were completed by 22 National Agencies, 4 SALTOs and 2 trainers. Furthermore, 6 interviews with staff members of National Agencies (in May/June 2019), 2 interviews with applicant organisations (in September 2019), one interview with staff members of the European Commission and another one with the European Youth Forum were conducted (in August/September 2019.[1] These interviews and survey responses were analysed thematically with a hybrid approach allowing for the analysis of both, existing themes known from literature and the occurrence of new themes through the analysis of the collected data.

In addition, a multilingual online survey was conducted in July/August 2019 with organisations having submitted an application for a project grant or a Quality Label to the European Solidarity Corps before mid-June 2019, exploring the project development, project characteristics, project objectives, the application process and the organisation profile. The questionnaire was available in 20 languages. 3,836 applicant organisations[2] were invited to the survey; 1,538 applicants entered the survey, of who 1,227 went through the whole questionnaire and submitted it. The latter were used for the analysis, representing a response rate of 32% (see Table 19, Table 20). The responses showed a similar distribution over the different actions as the sample of those invited to the survey, with slight differences of up to percentage points. Further information about the response sample can be found in Table 21, Table 22, Table 23. An analysis of anonymised basic application data of the total population[3] was also conducted.

1.4 — Structure of the research report

The first section of this report will look at the research design of this study and the methods used. The second section will mainly look at the quantitative analysis of application data, complemented by an analysis of data collected from applicant organisations through an online survey, followed by a section on main topics addressed through the projects and on the objectives of the project. Subsequent chapters will explore the opportunities, challenges and obstacles as perceived by relevant stakeholders in regards to the European Solidarity Corps. Based on these findings, needs of those stakeholders towards the Resource Centre will be analysed. Then training measures and needs will be identified and some practice examples will be presented. Finally, some action suggestions based on the findings of the study will be shared. The Annex at the end of the report includes a mapping of European Solidarity Corps stakeholders at European level and a detailed list with descriptions of these stakeholders.

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1 More actors involved in the programme were invited for interviews but were too busy to do them during the period of data collection for the consultancy/pre-study.
2 In fact, these were only 2,614 different organisations, since some of them submitted before mid-June 2019 two applications for different actions.
3 All applications submitted to the European Solidarity Corps before mid-June 2019, for which anonymised data was provided for this study.

2 — Data analysis

This chapter presents an analysis of quantitative data related to applications submitted to the European Solidarity Corps before 19 June 2019. This included the application deadlines of October 2018, February 2019 and April 2019.

2.1 — Application data

The data provided included 3,548 applications for project grants and 760 applications for a quality label, therefore for 4,308 applications in total. At the time of the data export, 41% of the project grant applications were already approved, 12% were rejected and 46% were still under evaluation (see Table 3, Table 4).[1]

The number of project grant applications was distributed rather evenly over the three application deadlines, with a slight increase for the application deadline for the April 2019 deadline. Quality label applications were distributed almost evenly between 2018 and 2019 (see Table 6, Table 7).

Actions

The majority of project applications was for Volunteering and Volunteering Partnerships (64% and 8%), around a quarter was for Solidarity Projects and 68 (2%) were for Traineeships and Jobs. This indicates that Actions with activities similar to those funded previously by (Erasmus+) Youth in Action were most popular, while Traineeships and Jobs found very little interest or were linked with more obstacles or challenges. Solidarity Projects gained relatively much interest from the first deadline although this action was newly introduced in the European Solidarity Corps (see Table 5).

Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

As for the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in projects, 58% of Volunteering applications and 72% of Traineeships and Jobs applications indicated that these projects aim to include young people with fewer opportunities (see Table 14). This data was not available for applications for Volunteering Partnerships and Solidarity Projects, but this question was also asked in the survey with applicant organisations. The responses show that more than 80% of Volunteering Partnerships and Solidarity Project applicants indicate that their projects aim at involving young people with fewer opportunities (see Table 25). At the same time, responses by Volunteering projects as well as by Traineeships and Jobs show percentages which are 5%/10% lower than the application data. This might be due to a bias caused by the response sample as such or by respondents being more 'optimistic' in their applications – where this answer might be decisive for a grant approval – than in the survey – which is anonymous.

When indicating the obstacles and difficulties young people with fewer opportunities are facing, applicants for Volunteering as well as Traineeships and Jobs ticked in their applications in average between three and four obstacles per project, indicating that projects with participants with fewer opportunities can involve a quite heterogeneous group of participants or participants faced with multiple types of obstacles or difficulties. Economic difficulties are ranking highest (86%), followed by social (74%) and

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1   The data file provided included also around 500 applications with insufficient data for a useful analysis; these were not used for this analysis.

geographical obstacles (63%), cultural differences (52%) and educational difficulties (38%). Disabilities, health problems and refugees rank relatively low with between 13% and 16%.

Organisation profile

As for organisations, a large majority are non-profit organisations (93% of project grant applicants, 90% for Quality Label applicants). A relatively small percentage of organisations are public bodies (11% of project grant applicants, 22% of Quality Label applicants (see Table 8, Table 9, Table 10, Table 11). The latter indicates that the number of public bodies applying for project grants might increase in the future.

The types of organisations cover a broad spectrum, with more than half being non-governmental organisations/associations (62% of project grant applicants, 54% of Quality Label applicants). Relatively small percentages can be observed for all other organisation types, only a few of them with more than 1% (foundations 5%/6% of project grant/Quality Label applicants, local public bodies 4%/7%, youth organisations 4%/3%, European NGOs 3%/2%, social enterprise 1%/2%). This suggests that, in the future, there might be an increase of project grant applications from local public bodies. The same might be the case for schools/institutes/educational centres applying for a Quality Label at pre-primary (4%), primary (2%) and secondary level (1%), each of them representing less than 0.5% of project grant applicants (see Table 12, Table 13).

When the types of organisations applying for a project grant are differentiated by action, it shows that the proportion of non-governmental organisations/associations is highest for Traineeships and Jobs as well as for Volunteering (69%), while it is much lower for Volunteering Partnerships (28%). The proportion of applicant organisations at European level is rather similar for all actions (2% to 3%). More than half of the applications for Solidarity Projects were submitted by NGOs (55%), 15% by groups of young people and 8% by youth organisations. This indicates that most applicants for Solidarity Projects are NGOs and that in fact the option of applying as a group (which is not possible in Erasmus+) is used, although by a rather small part of applicants, but they might be those who would not have applied otherwise. Interesting is the profile of organisations applying for Volunteering Partnerships: while the proportion of NGOs is relatively small, 56% having selected 'other' from a list with 35 categories seems unusual (see Table 12). It should be explored further, why this is the case. Therefore, this figure needs to be considered with caution.

Overall, the analysis of application data by organisation types is rather limited since the applicants could only choose one from 35 overlapping categories at different levels. It is likely that many of those selecting 'non-governmental organisations/association' could have as well selected another – more specific – category, e.g. 'youth organisation' which frequently are also NGOs

2.2 — Response data from the survey with applicant organisations

In the online survey, applicant organisations were asked further questions about their organisation, thus enlarging the information available from the application data:

With respect to the organisations' level of activity (between local and international), in average two to three levels were ticked, indicating that organisations are active at multiple levels. A large majority of organisations is active at local level (77%), which indicates that they are generally able to contribute to the development of local communities. Also, for almost all countries (except for a few with up to five responses), a large majority of organisations (up to 88%) is active at local level. Being active at local level is followed by being active at regional level (58%), at European level (55%), national level (45%) and international level beyond Europe (29%). This pattern is similar for most countries (see Table 40).

The pattern of levels of activity is similar for the different actions, with some exceptions: A majority of applicants for Traineeships and Jobs is active at European level (69%), followed by national and local level (63% each); applicant organisations for Solidarity Projects are less active at European level (35%) than applicants for all other actions (more than 60%) and equally active at national level – which is plausible since Solidarity Projects are in-country projects (see Table 41).

71% of the responding organisations had been involved previously in a project funded by Erasmus+ Youth in Action (or a previous EU Youth Programme), with Volunteering Partnerships showing the highest percentage (94%), followed by Volunteering (85%), Traineeships and Jobs (75%), Quality Label (48%) and Solidarity Projects (46%) (see Table 42). This indicates that Solidarity Projects attracted a high percentage of 'new' organisations (which had not been involved in an EU Youth Programme before). At the same time, the new action Traineeships and Jobs did not attract many 'new' organisations. Furthermore, the relatively high percentage of 'new' organisations applying for a Quality Label suggests that there might be more 'new' organisations applying for Volunteering and/or Traineeships and Jobs in the future.

57% of the responding organisations had been involved previously in a similar project supported by a programme other than Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/education/youth programme. Again, Volunteering Partnerships rank highest (72%) and Solidarity Projects lowest (40%), the latter indicating that Solidarity Projects attracted at least some organisations which had done a similar project before, at least as far as the respondents know (see Table 44).

Those organisations having been involved in a similar project supported by a programme other than Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/education/youth programme were asked if their organisation had previously received a grant for a project supporting an employment or a traineeship. 55% of Applicant organisations for Traineeships and Jobs are ranking highest in responding positively to this question (55%), followed by Solidarity Projects (37%), Quality Label (32%), Volunteering (29%) and Volunteering Partnerships (26%) (see Table 45). This indicates that the action Traineeship and Jobs is in competition with other funding programmes – and that those organisations having received funding for an employment or traineeship from other sources could compare funding criteria, funding rates, application procedures, grant management etc.

A large majority of organisations having received funding for an employment or traineeship from other sources (76%) received such a funding in the context of a European funding programme (see Table 46). National funding programmes and local/regional funding programmes were mentioned less frequently (33%, 30%).

3 — Project topics and objectives

Topics addressed by the projects

Applicant organisations were asked to select up to three topics (from a list with 22 topics) addressed by their project. The responses show a broad scope of topics, with inclusion ranking highest (32% of all projects), followed by youth work (27%), community development (25%), education and training (23%) culture (22%), citizenship and democratic participation (21%), equality and non-discrimination (19%), skills development (18%), climate action, environment and nature protection (13%) and employability and entrepreneurship (11%). All other topics were selected by less than 10% (see Table 16). All of these topics reflect in some way challenges for societies in Europe – fostering democracy, human rights and social cohesion at all levels; education, training and employment; climate change and environmental protection; youth work as a transversal approach to deal with these challenges.

The topics selected by more than 10% of applicant organisations show a composition of topics which have a direct connection with solidarity (e.g. inclusion or equality and non-discrimination) and of topics which do not seem to have such a direct link, but can be linked to objectives of the European Solidarity Corps in some other way (e.g. community development or skills development).[1]

The relatively low percentages for some topics with links to the programme objectives are surprising, e.g. reception and integration of third-country nationals (3%), human rights (6%), social assistance and welfare (8%) or climate action (13%). In particular, the reception and integration of third-country nationals (e.g. migrants or refugees) and climate action have been ranking high on the agenda of challenges for European societies for several years – they are both linked to international solidarity with people who are disadvantaged with respect to the lack of resources, the violation of human rights, the effects of climate change etc. – and they are also particularly mentioned in the European Solidarity Corps programme guide, as well as actions designed for projects to tackle these topics.

A more differentiated picture appears when comparing the responses by countries where the applications were submitted: for some topics, there are relatively high differences between countries – in a few cases more than 40 percentage points (see Table 17, Table 18). This is interesting since for multilateral projects relatively big differences can be observed for 'citizenship and democratic participation' with Denmark and France ranking high (49%/46%) and Finland, Cyprus, Lithuania and Croatia ranking relatively low (between 7% and 9%), for 'community development' with Slovakia, Croatia and Estonia (between 42% and 51%) on one side and France and the French-speaking community of Belgium (7%/4%) on the other, for 'inclusion' with Portugal, Greece and the French-speaking community of Belgium (46% to 57%) on one side and Estonia, Croatia and Slovakia (17% to 19%) on the other, and for 'youthwork' with Finland (47%) ranking high and Portugal (9%) ranking low.[2] This indicates that the relevance of these 22 topics can differ greatly by funding country. In some cases, these differences could be explained with different histories, socio-political situations/societal challenges, cultures and traditions of the funding countries, but in a number of cases, finding explanations goes beyond the scope of this study – most likely experts in the funding countries are better equipped to do so. On the other hand, apparent discrepancies could possibly be explained by topics in multilateral projects being determined by mutual agreement between all partners and not necessarily reflecting only the interests of the applicant organisation. It is likely that the picture described above is influenced by project topics being determined both by the applicant

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1   The list also includes topics which have no or a very weak link to the programme objectives (e.g. physical education and sport). These topics were selected by less than 10% of the applicant organisations.
2   Countries with less than 20 applications were not take into consideration for this comparison.

organisation and by mutual agreement between all partners. It could be explored further, how topics of multilateral projects are decided among the project partners, and which approaches can be taken in order to determine project topics by mutual agreement between all partners.

Correspondence of the project with the programme objectives

In the online surveys, applicant organisations were asked to which extent their project/activity is aimed to contribute to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, described in twelve different statements. The responses show, that a large majority of the respondents agree or strongly agree with these statements, the strongest agreement indicated for the competence development of young people – which is interesting since this objective is not directly linked to solidarity. At the same time, a number of programme objectives linked to solidarity are scoring also above 95%, such as responding to societal challenges, providing young people with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities, promoting active citizenship and participation, promoting solidarity in Europe or strengthening (local) communities in order to promote social inclusion. On the other end, fostering employability with young people and their transition into the labour market ranks lowest – but still with 88% (45% 'strongly agree' and 43% 'agree'). Considering that only 2% of the projects are on Traineeships and Jobs, this is a relatively high level of correspondence with this programme objective, suggesting that most projects other than Traineeships and Jobs are aiming at employability of young people (see Table 28, Table 29).

The strongest correspondence of projects with the programme objectives can be observed for Volunteering Partnerships for ten out of the twelve objectives. This could be explained by Volunteering Partnerships including a number of different projects, which together might cover a broader spectrum of programme objectives, however this might as well suggest that these partnerships involve more project organisers whose objectives are closer linked to those of the European Solidarity Corps, thus being more interested in this funding opportunity (see Table 29).

Traineeships and Jobs show the lowest percentages for correspondence with the programme objectives, but at the same time 100% agreement with contributing to competence development and with fostering employability. The latter seems to be obvious, but the first indicates the obstacle (potential) applicants see with integrating solidarity and employment/traineeship (see Table 29).

Comparing these responses with those of project leaders/team members of Erasmus+ Youth in Action (E+/YiA) projects to a respective question concerning E+/YiA programme objectives, the correspondence is slightly stronger for the European Solidarity Corps, including for overlapping programme objectives such as contributing to competence development, promoting active citizenship and participation of young people, fostering inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and fostering employability for young people (see Böhler et al., 2019a). There might be a bias in the responses of the respondents of the two surveys, but they still suggest that during the first year of the European Solidarity Corps, the correspondence of projects with the programme objectives are comparable with that of E+/YiA projects.

4 — Opportunities

When it comes to the European Solidarity Corps, all stakeholders interviewed reported that, in general, they see great opportunities in the programme, its focus and its actions. These opportunities, as perceived by interview partners, can be summarised as follows:

In general, the chance to apply the knowledge accumulated from former programme experiences to the European Solidarity Corps together with the increase in funding are seen as opportunities by all stakeholders.

Many stakeholders, especially the National Agencies, welcome the programme's explicit focus on solidarity, in particular in the face of current political developments such as Brexit, the refusal of many countries to reallocate refugees and the rising support for far-right parties. Many have mentioned that indeed the former European youth programmes also promoted solidarity in some ways, however, what is welcomed in the European Solidarity Corps now is the idea that the programme does not promote solidarity as an unintended but welcomed effect, but that it does so by putting solidarity as a European value in the very centre of the programme.

The in-country option across action types is also considered a valuable asset of the new programme by most respondents for they see in-country projects as an important tool to address local issues on the one hand, and because they are convinced that these activities will be a great opportunity for those young people who have not yet had the chance/possibility or courage to participate in international projects. After gaining valuable experience in an in-country project, the stakeholders believe that these youngsters might gain the necessary skills and self-confidence to then also take part in international projects. This can be seen also from the quantitative data analysis: 26% of the project grant applications were for Solidarity Projects, thus in-country projects; furthermore, 44% of the survey respondents having applied for Volunteering, Volunteering Partnerships and Traineeships and Jobs reported that their project included in-country activities (partly in combination with cross-border activities).

For most stakeholders, the diversification of action types is another great opportunity of the European Solidarity Corps. The fact that there are more activities for young people is considered an asset to the extent that young people are provided with more options when it comes to projects they can engage with and a diverse set of action types is also believed to better correspond to the variety of needs and preferences of young people at different stages of their lives.

Solidarity projects are seen as an important opportunity for young people to become active – independently from organisations – for any societal challenge that really matters to them. As survey results show, this opportunity is also well used (more than one quarter of all project grant applications).

For a large majority of projects (95%), an involvement of the local community in the project is reported (see Table 32). This provides for an opportunity to contribute to strengthening local communities.

Especially for some National Agencies, the European Solidarity Corps is seen as an opportunity to bring some exciting news into the scene in terms of promotion. In a new programme, some National Agencies see the opportunity to take on a new brand-making approach. However, for some other National Agencies, this same aspect is seen as a disadvantage due to financial limitations or time constraints. This will also appear under the 'challenges' section.

The European Solidarity Corps attracts new applicant organisations, in particular the Solidarity Projects with 54% applicant organisations, which were not previously involved in Erasmus+ Youth in Action. 60% of applicants for Solidarity Projects were not even involved previously in a similar project supported by programme other than a European Union mobility/youth/education programme – for them the European Solidarity Corps obviously offers opportunities which are completely new for them. Furthermore, 52% of the applications for a Quality Label were submitted by organisations without prior involvement in Erasmus+ Youth in Action: this suggests that there might be more applications by 'new' organisations for Volunteering and Traineeships and Jobs (see Table 42). The programme seems also to have become more attractive for specific types of applicant organisations, in particular for (local) public bodies and schools/educational centres at pre-primary, primary and secondary level, with higher application rates for Quality Label than for project grants (see Table 8, Table 9, Table 12, Table 13).

The responses of applicant organisations (both for project grants and Quality Labels) to the online survey show three types of interests, which stimulated them to submit an application to the European Solidarity Corps: interest in solidarity as a topic and field of action (e.g. to foster solidarity within society), which is shared by more than 63% of applicants; interest in contributing to objectives of the European Solidarity Corps (e.g. to foster the inclusion of disadvantaged or marginalised people in society), which is shared by more than 46% of applicants, and interest in developing their organisations (e.g. to contribute to the objectives of our organisations), which is shared by more than 65% of applicants. This indicates that many applicant organisations see an opportunity in bringing together the interest of society and of their organisations through the European Solidarity Corps. The highest rates of interest for contributing to programme objectives is shown for Volunteering Partnerships (see Table 27).

Traineeships and Jobs

Many stakeholders consider the action traineeships and jobs in the European Solidarity Corps as an opportunity to the extent that it may help prevent job-replacement through volunteering projects.

Some stakeholders also see in the action traineeships and jobs a great opportunity for the creation of a safe and controlled environment for young people to work in and they see the potential that the action traineeships and jobs of the European Solidarity Corps might help address exploitation of young people who are taking on unpaid work to gain experience.

The responses of applicants for Traineeships and Jobs about their interests stimulating them to submit an application to the European Solidarity Corps show a mix of interest in developing their organisations (81% for contributing to the objectives of their organisation) and of an interest to contribute to the programme objectives (67% for fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged or marginalised young people – the highest value across all actions (see Table 27).

5 — Challenges and obstacles

Even though many respondents were excited about the European Solidarity Corps, there were also some challenges that came with the new programme[1]. First, challenges regarding the programme in general will be looked at. Then challenges in the realm of Traineeships and Jobs will be addressed.

Overall, it has been a significant challenge so far to develop a common understanding about the concept of solidarity. This was reported by many National Agencies and SALTOs), for example that many organisations had difficulties to identify and describe the solidarity aspect of their projects in their applications even though their project ideas were fit for the programme.

One challenge was the promotion of the new programme, in particular for some National Agencies who have limited financial resources or could not allocate sufficient time and resources to that aspect. This can also be seen from the responses to the survey with applicant organisations: the dissatisfaction with the availability and understandability of information necessary for applying for a project or a Quality Label was considerably higher than in Erasmus+ Youth in Action (see Table 33, Table 34). Furthermore, the traditional channels of Erasmus+ Youth in Action for informing the target groups of the programme did not work very well (except partly for Solidarity Projects and Volunteering), in particular youth groups/ organisations/associations/centres, friends, schools, universities etc. It also seems that the information activities of National Agencies – e.g. concerning printed material, social media and internet presence – were not yet fully in place during this first year (see Table 37, Table 38, Table 39). Partly this might be caused by the fact that the programme is new, that there were adaptations of the procedures during the first year of the programme not yet allowing to develop a clear implementation strategy – and that there simply was little time for the necessary information activities.

Overall, the development of projects was reported to be difficult by a considerable portion of applicant organisations, in particular with respect to finding partners, and 26% considered the workload for the project development not to be reasonable (only 7% in Erasmus+ Youth in Action, see Table 32).

A challenge could also be seen in the development of projects through mutual cooperation between all partners: this is reported to be considerably less the case for projects applied for in the European Solidarity Corps than in Erasmus+ Youth in Action (see Table 31). Similarly, the involvement of participants in the project development is limited to 27% of the projects (see Table 32). Both could be a temporary challenge, having been caused by a lack of time for developing a project on short notice for a new programme. The limited cooperation between all project partners in the project development could also be caused by the fact that the projects involved partners who were new for the applicant organisation, as reported in the survey with applicant organisations – and which is, in principle, positive (see Table 30). Finally, the structure of European Solidarity Corps projects partly differs from that of Erasmus+ Youth in Action projects – mutual cooperation between all partners as well as involving the participants might be less important during the project development and application phase.

Especially mentioned by most National Agencies was the age restriction of the European Solidarity Corps that is perceived as a challenge (18+). Many have reported that it is a pity now that many organisations

with whom they have collaborated very successfully and well in the past and whose work with teenagers under 18 years old was considered very valuable by the National Agency are now not able to apply for the European Solidarity Corps even though their projects would have fit perfectly under the concept of solidarity. Some examples included organisations working with youngsters who are either at risk of or already have dropped out of school.

Overall, the dissatisfaction with the project application procedure was – partly considerably – higher than in in Erasmus+ Youth in Action, e.g. with respect to meeting the funding criteria, the funding rules and calculation methods, the administrative management of the grant request (also in comparison with other funding programmes) and the overall grant system (see Table 33, Table 34). At the same time, 88% of applicant organisations found the guidance and support provided by the National Agencies to be very useful for designing the project and completing the application (sum of 'agree' = 45.5% and 'strongly agree' = 42.5%).

In particular, technical challenges regarding IT tools, e.g. portals and applications forms were also reported. Some specific examples reported are: webforms did not save the progress as indicated so applicants had to re-enter all information; some parts of the web-forms were inconsistent with the programme regulation; the number of IT-tools was perceived as too much. This is confirmed by the responses to the survey with applicant organisations: the dissatisfaction with online tools for the application is considerably higher than in Erasmus+ Youth in Action (see Table 33, Table 34). However, some improvements with every deadline were noticed in the interviews which suggests that some of these challenges are temporary in nature.

Another challenge as described by many National Agencies was the fact that in terms of Solidarity Projects, the initiative should be taken by groups of young people who do not necessarily have a formal structure or are part of a legal entity. The actual challenge is to directly reach groups of young people not affiliated with any organisation – no matter if they apply for the project through one of their members or through a supporting organisation on behalf of them. (without formal structure). From the perspective of National Agencies, this is a new target group, which might require new approaches and channels for promoting this action and for supporting the development of projects.

A potential obstacle is indicated by the responses to the survey with applicant organisations: the applicants of projects for which a grant was approved assessed the availability and understandability of information as well as the very aspects of the application procedure as described above (considerably) higher that the applicants of rejected projects (with the exception of the user-friendliness of the online tools, see Table 35). This could be a bias towards the positive side of applicants with approved applicants (being happy about the approval and responding more positively) and towards the negative side of applicants with rejected applicants (being disappointed about the rejection and responding more negatively). It could also be that the applicants of rejected applications were less experienced and had more difficulties in finding and understanding the necessary information, completing the application, meeting the funding criteria etc. – or just presenting the application in a more attractive way and positive light. In this case, these could be exactly the ('new') organisations the European Solidarity Corps wants to attract. This should be explored further, in particular if the demands on applicants prevent the involvement of organisations (and young people) who are the target group of the programme.

Traineeships and Jobs

Overall, the responses to the survey with applicant organisations show a split picture with respect to Traineeships and Jobs: on the one hand, applicants for Traineeships and Jobs show, in comparison with the other actions, the highest approval for the availability and understandability of information related to the application as well as for the simplicity of the application procedure (including in comparison with other funding programmes), for the user-friendliness of the online tools, and for the usefulness of the guidance/support by the National Agency for designing the project and completing the application; on the other hand, the agreement rates are the lowest (in comparison with the other actions) for meeting the funding criteria, for the appropriateness of the funding rules and the calculation methods, for the adequacy of the funding and for the satisfaction with the overall grant system (see Table 36). Further-more, the responses show that the traditional channels of Erasmus+ Youth in Action to promote the pro-gramme do not seem to work for Traineeships and Jobs (see Table 38). New channels and communication strategies need to be developed.

One of the greatest challenges for Traineeships and Jobs that most stakeholders, but especially National Agencies, have emphasised was the fact that no sufficient financial incentives are given to organisations to actually apply for Traineeships and Jobs because the programme covers only certain project costs (e.g. for travel and re-location of participants, organisational support, inclusion support etc.) while requiring the payment of at least the minimum wage of the respective country by the beneficiary organisation. While the requirement of the country's respective minimum wage was welcomed by National Agencies, they have found the support in funding to be too low to make this action attractive for organisations. This can be also seen in the responses to the survey with applicant organisations, with almost 40% of applicants considering the funding not being adequate (see Table 36). This challenge requires to appeal to the ideo-logical undermining of the European Solidarity Corps when it comes to promoting Traineeships and Jobs.

Another challenge in terms of Traineeships and Jobs as reported by the national agencies especially is the high bureaucratic burden on top of low financial incentives. National Agencies have experienced that it seems easier for organisations to hire employees or trainees by themselves without having to commit to the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps and without having to go through the entire process of applications. The experience that National Agencies have had regarding this was that interested in Trai-neeships and Jobs were mainly organisations who are ideologically committed to the "European Project" and who will want to offer Traineeships and Jobs through the European Solidarity Corps not because it is profitable for their organisations but because they believe in the solidarity aspect of the programme.

Interviews with applicant organisations who were successful with their applications also emphasised the ideological reasons of organisations as motivational drivers for their applications for Jobs. Both organisa-tions were familiar with application processes for European projects and have had staff experienced with hiring processes and national employment regulations. These organisations that have decided to apply for Traineeships and Jobs did so mainly due to the activities of their organisation focusing on European values, which made it natural for them to also apply for this action or because they wanted to offer a safe and supported environment for European youth to gain work experience abroad. However, both organi-sations were rather unsure whether they would apply for this action again, mainly for financial reasons, and stated that they will have to carefully consider the advantages against the financial burden. The alter-native to applying again for this action would be for them to apply only for Volunteering in the future or to offer traineeships and/or jobs on their own without applying to the European Solidarity Corps.

6 — What worked well

The analysis of the data on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps does not only show opportunities and obstacles, but frequently also shows that the implementation worked well. Some of these outcomes are outlined below:

○ new organisations, including new types of organisations, were attracted by the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by the possibility for applying for a Solidarity Project, but also through applying for a Quality Label, indicating that they might apply for Volunteering or Traineeships and Jobs in the future (see Table 42);

○ applicant organisations, including those applying for the first time to a European youth/mobility/education programme, show a high interest in the European Solidarity Corps and it's development by entering the online questionnaire (40%) and almost one third filling it in completely (see Table 19);

○ being successful in getting an application approved seems to be largely independent from having been involved previously in a project supported by Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/youth/education programme – in fact, 'new' organisations have been a bit more successful than organisations with previous experience with EU-programmes (see Table 43); this shows that 'new' organisations actually get involved in the European Solidarity Corps with funded projects;

○ applications correspond to a high degree with the programme objectives – close to 90% of the applicants indicate that their projects contribute to all objectives of the European Solidarity Corps (see Table 29);

○ the guidance and support provided by the National Agencies was considered to be very useful for designing the project and completing the application by almost 90% of the applicants (see Table 33, Table 34); in particular, this was expressed by applicants for Traineeships and Jobs, who also expressed high appreciation with the information available about the programme (more than 80%) and the administrative management of the application (86%) (see Table 36);

○ overall, the promotion of the programme by the National Agencies was successful – those completing the questionnaire found out about the European Solidarity Corps mostly through the National Agencies of European Solidarity Corps (52%) and their regional agencies/offices (19%), but also through their own organisation (44%), which suggests that there were multiple information channels (see Table 37).

7 — Potential overlaps with other European Union (funding) programmes

When it comes to potential overlaps between the European Solidarity Corps and other European Union (funding) programmes, overlaps can be approached through various categories such as programme objectives, activities, target groups etc. The following section will further investigate potential overlaps between the European Solidarity Corps and other European Union Funding programmes by illuminating potential similarities and differences between the programmes.

EU Aid Volunteers

When it comes to EU Aid Volunteers[1] (which is proposed to be integrated into the European Solidarity Corps in the next programme period (2021-2027), potential overlaps exist with the European Solidarity Corps in terms of volunteering activities, target groups and – to some degree – objectives in that they both address solidarity but with a different scope.

Having been allocated a global budget of € 147,9 million and managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, the EU Aid Volunteers is an initiative that brings together volunteers and organisations from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening the local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities.

The main distinguishing aspects compared to the European Solidarity Corps are the following:

- EU Aid Volunteers has a focus on humanitarian aid in vulnerable and disaster affected third countries while Volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps addresses solidarity in a broad sense and does not limit it to solidarity of EU citizens with people in third countries;

- the mobility is primarily one way from the EU to third countries while Volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps supports multilateral mobility within the European Union, including participants from third countries;

- Besides EU Members States, EU Aid Volunteers involves countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Pacific while Volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps involves countries in the Western Balkan, Eastern Europe and Russia (Southern Mediterranean Countries are involved in both programmes);

- EU Aid Volunteers can only be EU citizens or long-term residents while European Solidarity Corps Volunteering can also involve any legal resident in an EU Member State and young people from countries in the Western Balkan, Eastern Europe, Russia and in the Southern Mediterranean Countries;

- the duration of volunteering placements is between one and 18 months for EU Aid Volunteers, while it is between two and 12 months for Volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps;

- a special facet of EU Aid Volunteers is that it is allowing for volunteers to first spend up to 6 months in an organisation based in the EU in the form of an apprenticeship placement before leaving for their deployment in third countries;

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1   See https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/eu-aid-volunteers_en

- while both programmes request a minimum age of 18 years for participating volunteers, the European Solidarity Corps has an upper age limit of 30 years while EU Aid Volunteers has no upper age limit;

- the funding of EU Aid Volunteers is centralised, managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels, while in the European Solidarity Corps it is managed in a decentralised way through National Agencies.

Similarities, however, exist between the two programmes in terms of financial support and services offered to participants (provision of accommodation, travel costs, insurance, a monthly allowance/pocket money etc.).

Graduate Traineeships for students and recent graduates under Erasmus+

Overlaps between the European Solidarity Corps and graduate traineeships for students and recent graduates under Erasmus+[2] exist mainly in regards to the action type Traineeships and Jobs of the European Solidarity Corps.

When it comes to similarities between the two programmes, they exist to the extent that both offer young people the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, that participants must be residents of a participating country (European Solidarity Corps)/students in a higher education institution in a programme country (Erasmus+).

The following distinguishes Traineeships under the European Solidarity Corps from the graduate traineeships under Erasmus+:

- in contrast to the latter, the former must not take place in the context of formal education.

- In contrast to Erasmus+ traineeships, Traineeships in the European Solidarity Corps do not require participants to be enrolled in higher education or be recent graduates.

- For participants in Traineeships in the European Solidarity Corps there is an age limit (18 to 30 years), while there is no age limit for Erasmus+ traineeships.

- Traineeships in the European Solidarity Corps allow participants to take part in in-country traineeships, while Erasmus+ traineeships need to take place in another than the residence country of the trainee. On the other hand, participants in Erasmus+ traineeships can be placed in partner countries, while in the European Solidarity Corps it has to be a participating country (EU Member States).

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2   See https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/traineeships-students_en

○ Differences do also exist in terms of financial contributions trainees are entitled to receive. While trainees under the European Solidarity Corps are entitled to receive a remuneration even if this is not obligatory according to national legislation, and this remuneration needs to be in line with national legislation, including minimum wage conditions for (remunerated) traineeships, employers of the graduate trainees under Erasmus+ are free to decide if they remunerate their graduate trainees.

○ When it comes to financial support offered by the programmes, graduate trainees under Erasmus+ are entitled to receive an Erasmus+ grant as a contribution towards their travel and subsistence costs while trainees under European Solidarity Corps are supported with contributions to their travel costs (fixed rate depending on distance), relocation allowance, insurance and linguistic support; beneficiary organisations also receive a contribution to project management costs, activity costs (preparation, monitoring and support of participants etc.), costs for inclusion support (related to involving young people with fewer opportunities) and costs for linguistic support of participants.

Europe for Citizens

Europe for Citizens[3] is a programme which aims to raise awareness of the common history, values and aims of the European Union and to encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens by developing citizens' understanding of the European Union and promoting societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering. In particular, the Europe for Citizens' democratic engagement and civic participation strand, supports projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level and supports the following measures called Town Twinning, Network of Towns and Civil Society Projects. While the former two are aiming at bringing together towns/municipalities to work on common relevant topics, the latter aims at supporting projects promoted by transnational partnerships and networks directly involving citizens.

Overlaps with the European Solidarity Corps exist in the following areas:

○ Both programmes promote values of the European Union, with the European Solidarity Corps focusing on solidarity as the very central theme and Europe for Citizens addressing European values at large, and specifically solidarity in one of the programme's two programme strands on democratic engagement and civic participation. Under this thematic focus, applicants for Europe for Citizens are actually encouraged and invited to make use of the European Solidarity Corps.

○ For both programmes, volunteering is an important feature, but in different forms. In the European Solidarity Corps, volunteering is a 'full-time job' with no salary and limited compensation of living costs, acting in a spirit of solidarity related to a specific cause, including far away from home, in the context of a project with a beginning and an end. In Europe for Citizens, volunteering is an activity in everyday life by doing something for one's community with no material compensation at all. Using the European Solidarity Corps in Europe for Citizens brings the two approaches together, under the umbrella of participation and active citizenship.

○ A common feature of both programmes is also bringing together transnationality and the local community.

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3   See https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

On the other hand, the two programmes also show differences:

- In terms of target groups, the European Solidarity Corps is, on the one hand, directly addressed to young people – registering themselves as interested individuals to participate in a project or submitting applications for a project as an informal group – and, on the other hand, addressed to legally established organisations and to public bodies, whereas Europe for Citizens addresses only public bodies and non-profit organisations. However, public bodies and non-profit organisations funded under Europe for Citizens are then in charge of involving individual participants to reach the programme objectives.

- The funding of Europe for Citizens projects is centralised, managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels, while in the European Solidarity Corps it is managed in a decentralised way through National Agencies.

Interreg

Interreg[4] is supporting European territorial cooperation, which is part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy and through which the European Union fosters cross-border cooperation through presently 79 programmes funded through the European Regional Development Fund and aimed at tackling common challenges in a broad scope of fields from infrastructure development, transport and job market integration to health and sustainable energy, but also in the fields of research, education, culture etc. Interreg V (2014 to 2020) is mainly realised within three key areas:

- Strand A: cross-border cooperation corresponding to advancing economic and social cooperation in adjacent border regions.

- Strand B: transnational cooperation promoting cooperation between national, regional and local partners in transnational programme areas in order to increase the territorial integration of these areas

- Strand C: interregional cooperation promoting cooperation networks and exchange of experiences in order to improve the efficiency of existing regional development and cohesion instruments

Overlaps with the European Solidarity Corps exist to the extent that Interreg also aims at reducing the disparities in the levels of development, growth and quality of life in European regions. In this respect, cross-border cooperation entails a solidary character and an inclusive approach. Projects funded under Interreg can thus relate to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, especially in the context of cooperation between regions, towns and local communities. The latter also shows an overlap with the European Solidarity Corps in that it aims to strengthen communities. This suggests that European Solidarity Corps projects could be linked to Interreg projects in order to make use of potential synergies.

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4 See https://interreg.eu/

Similar to Europe for Citizens, Interreg programmes are also not aiming at individual participants to take part in the programme but aim rather at organisations, institutions, public bodies and networks to work on common challenges that exceed the national borders.

Overall, it can be said that the overlaps between Interreg and the European Solidarity Corps are rather limited – the differences between the funding programmes are quite different with respect to objectives, content and scope.

EURES

EURES[5] is a cooperation network formed by (public and private) employment services, trade unions, employers' organisations and other relevant actors in the labour market set up to facilitate employment mobility among the EU Member States, the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. It maintains a web-based portal with access to a database of job vacancies and CVs of job-seekers and with useful means to search and apply for jobs and traineeships in the EU, the EEA and Switzerland. Overlaps with the European Solidarity Corps mainly exist with regard to the action Traineeships and Jobs. Services offered by EURES include:

- Matching of job vacancies and CVs on the EURES portal.

- Information, guidance and other support services for workers and employers.

- Access to information on living and working conditions in the EU member states, such as taxation, pensions, health insurance and social security.

- Specific support services for frontier workers and employers in cross-border regions.

- Support to specific groups in the context of EURES targeted job mobility schemes, such as 'Your first EURES job' and 'Reactivate'.

- Promotion of youth opportunities via Drop'pin@EURES, the place where companies and organisations can promote and showcase their youth opportunities designed to help young Europeans take their first steps into the labour market.

- Support to dynamic recruitment events through the European (Online) Job Days platform.

- Information on and access to post-recruitment assistance, such as language training and support with integration in the destination country.

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5   https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/en/homepage

In the frame of 'Your First EURES Job', EURES aims to help young nationals in the 18-35 age bracket of any of the EU28 countries plus Iceland and Norway (EEA countries) to find a work placement (job or traineeship) in another EU EFTA/EEA country. It also helps employers to find the workforce they need for their hard-to-fill vacancies. In this context, the following services are offered:

o Pre-placement support: to employers to identify their real needs and define their job vacancy, to jobseekers to register on the platform;

o Recruitment and matching services;

o Financial benefits: for jobseekers to cover their travel expenses, enabling them to attend job interviews and settle in other EU countries to take up employment; for SMEs if they provide an integration programme to their newly hired young workers;

o Language courses or other forms of training for pre-selected jobseekers;

o Support for the recognition of qualifications of pre-selected jobseekers;

o Mentoring support for trainees.

As far as the above-mentioned services are concerned, EURES might be considered by people looking for job, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities abroad as well as by European employers looking for employees, trainees and apprentices as an alternative to Traineeships and Jobs under the European Solidarity Corps.

The main distinguishing aspects compared to the European Solidarity Corps are the following:

o The core activity of EURES is providing an instrument for cross-border matching of employment opportunities with job seekers, complemented by information and support services, while the European Solidarity Corps is funding projects which bring together young people and organisations employing them in the context of a specific topic – related to solidarity – and with support and guidance (partly on location) as an integral part of the project.

o Furthermore, the European Solidarity Corps applies a quality assurance instrument, which requires the partners involved in a traineeship or job placement to apply for a 'Quality Label' ensuring that they could meet the requirements of such a placement.

o The European Solidarity Corps supports traineeships and jobs in the context of solidarity as a core value in Europe while matching of job opportunities and job seekers through EURES does not.

o EURES focuses mainly on job, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities abroad while under European Solidarity Corps in-country opportunities are equally promoted.

o Traineeships and Jobs in the European Solidarity Corps aim at young people aged 18 to 30 years, while EURES and their initiatives do not place an age limit on their opportunities.

At the same time, the portal includes a service, which provides information on the labour markets and living and working conditions in EU Member States as well as on transitional rules governing the free movement of workers from, to and between the new member states. Complemented by the national regulations for traineeships and employments, this would meet the need mentioned by National Agencies of the European Solidarity Corps.

European Social Fund

In the case of the European Social Fund (ESF)[6], which is claimed to be Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people to get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens, overlaps with the European Solidarity Corps exist to the extent that the ESF is funding local, regional and national employment related projects throughout Europe which aim at, among others, fostering the adaptability of workers, improving access to employment and helping people from disadvantaged groups to get jobs.

While the ESF is not advertising jobs, it does support employment related projects, making it compatible with the programme objectives of the European Solidarity Corps. In terms of the nature, size and aims of ESF projects, a great variety can be identified which address various target groups. Examples include projects that aim at young and older job-seekers (including young people not being in employment, education or training), school students, teachers etc. It could be explored if and how Traineeships and Jobs in the European Solidarity Corps can be involved in ESF projects.

European Solidarity Corps – Volunteering Projects

The analysis of our interviews with organisations who have successfully applied for Traineeships and Jobs in the European Solidarity Corps also suggests that the action Volunteering constitutes a considerable alternative for these organisations to Traineeships and Jobs and they do consider to only apply for volunteering projects because they find them more cost-effective. While there is a difference between Volunteering and Traineeships and Jobs in terms of programme objectives, project context, funding criteria etc from the perspective of an applicant organisation it might still be preferable to go for one or the other for practical reasons.

Potential other overlaps with (EU funding) programmes

Responses to the survey with applicant organisations show, that 69% of organisations involved in Traineeships and Jobs were previously involved in a similar project supported by Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/youth/education programme (see Table 44). When all applicant organisations are asked whether their organisations previously received a grant for a project supporting an employment or a traineeship, 30% respond positively (55% of organisations involved in Traineeships and Jobs, see Table 45). When all organisations having received such a grant are asked about the funding source, 76% respond that among the sources were European funding programmes (see Table 46). It would be useful to further explore, which specific funding programmes these are.

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6   https://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp

8 — Needs of actors involved in the European Solidarity Corps

Different actors involved in the European Solidarity Corps were asked directly or indirectly about their needs with respect to the implementation of the programme, primarily in the survey and interviews with National Agencies and in the survey with applicant organisations. The needs expressed were not necessarily directed towards specific target groups and specific needs might well concern various institutions or structures.

8.1 — Needs expressed by National Agencies

Support which takes into account the different needs of National agencies in terms of size, funding and experience

Many National agencies have requested that the different realities and needs of National Agencies should be taken into account when it comes to offering support and assistance to them. Suggestions included profiling National agencies in terms of their size, financial capacity, political system and experience and offering support according to these profiles. For example, some National agencies have requested promotional material from the Resource Centre while others explicitly said that they are happy to receive some insights but would rather prefer to adopt the materials to their own realities. This suggests National Agencies prefer an approach that takes into account different needs.

> *"What we do not need is this sort of general campaign that we all have to adopt. Like the same letters, pictures, photos etc. It is nice to offer them but please let us adopt things to our own reality, to our own visuals and style because the local reality is different. Of course, we don't say: Don't offer them! But please let us have the freedom to work on them, to adopt them to our own reality"*
>
> **NA**

One approach to adapt the support provided to National Agencies to country-specific realities and needs could be to group them by project topics addressed in the different countries, which might be related to societal needs of the respective countries (see Table 17, Table 18).

Creation of more opportunities for exchanging experiences between National Agencies

More opportunities for National Agencies to exchange their knowledge and experiences on the programme was also requested. Regular opportunities for sharing solutions to common problems would be welcomed by most National Agencies. These can also happen through Skype and don't have to be in an 'actual room'.

Direct Access to the European Solidarity Corps database

National Agencies would very much welcome the opportunity to have direct access to European Solidarity Corps database (PASS, Placement Administration and Support System) in order to be better able to offer applicants with specific assistance when they are contacted by them because of certain problems applicants are facing.

Early communication of any changes of the digital platforms

National agencies have reported that they would like to receive information on all sorts of changes – from little to big – as early as possible in order to eliminate problems that can occur due to a late information on these changes. Many have reported that in the past they have been informed about changes once these have had happened already and would like to be informed about such changes in future before they actually happen.

Creation of a feedback platform

This would be a platform on which project participants can anonymously give feedback on their experiences with the hosting organisation and vote for the hosting organisation.

"It might be helpful to create a platform on which participants can vote about their experiences with the hosting organisation because, unfortunately, there are some low-quality projects that have successfully gone through the application process and were granted but in the end, participants were not able to find what they hoped for and were rather unhappy with the project. To manage this situation, it might be helpful for us to receive a kind of voting from the participants so we can do our best to improve the quality. Of course, we have the monitoring visits but there might be things we cannot identify through them. Having such a tool to identify these low-quality projects would help us to make sure that there will be improvements. You know a voting system like on booking.com or TripAdvisor could help us and future participants a lot."

NA

Traineeships and Jobs

The following needs were expressed specifically with respect to Traineeships and Jobs:

- Providing an overview of each country's employment policies, so that National Agencies can inform interested parties about the legal framework for traineeships and employments in the respective countries. This could be coordinated by the Resource Centre and would require the input from all National Agencies.

- More financial incentives for organisations to apply for the occupational strand or less bureaucratic burden for organisations to apply for the occupational strand is considered a need.

8.2 — Needs expressed by (potential) applicant organisations

While the survey with applicant organisations did not include any specific questions concerning their needs with respect to the European Solidarity Corps, the following needs of organisations interested in the European Solidarity Corps can be interpreted from their responses (see Table 30, Table 31, Table 32, Table 33, Table 34):

- effective instruments and support for finding partners for a joint project;

- advice and training as to how to involve young people in the development of a project, in particular in the context of the European Solidarity Corps;

- easily accessible and understandable information on how to apply;

- a simple application procedure;

- user-friendly online tools for submitting an application.

Traineeships and Jobs

With respect to Traineeships and Jobs, the following needs were expressed by applicant organisations:

Regular updates on the profiles of young people interested in the European Solidarity Corps on the European Solidarity Corps database (PASS) are kindly requested – current profiles are perceived as too old – they need to be updated regularly so organisations can take decisions based on up-to-date information.

Traineeships and Jobs should be made more attractive either through an increase in funding and/or a decrease in bureaucracy. In particular, the access to the programme should be improved, funding criteria should be eased and levels of funding per project should be increased as to ensure that the interest in this action would increase.

Two interviewed organisations who have successfully applied for a project under Traineeships and Jobs have reported that they have had prior experience with either providing Traineeships or Jobs in their

organisations and that this experience made it plausible for them to also apply for this action. For organisations without such prior experience (which is the case for organisations built only or primarily on volunteers), this lack of experience and know-how might actually be a reason for NOT applying for Traineeships and Jobs, even though they could benefit from it – and maybe go for a Volunteering application instead.[1] It might be of paramount importance to offer these organisations trainings on legal frameworks and assistance with employment contracts as well as employer-employee-relationships – and to provide information on these issues as part of the promotion of this action (e.g. an information/fact sheet or booklet on employment regulations). Obviously, such trainings and information material would best be offered at national or even regional level, and could also take the form of webinars or make use of other web-based learning methods.

European Youth Forum

In an online interview, the European Youth Forum – being the platform of youth organisations in Europe, thus of potential applicant organisations for the European Solidarity Corps – expressed a number of needs of their members.[2]

A programme that is more connected with the realities of young people and youth organisations
The European Solidarity Corps should be more connected to the realities of young people and of the youth organisations engaged in volunteering activities. This forces organisations to adapt to the new model, while it would have benefited from looking at the specific situations of such organisations.

It is suggested that young people and youth organisations are involved in the implementation, co-management and monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps at both, national and European levels. Young people and their representatives should have an effective say on any youth-related policy or programme. Due to the wide scope of the programme, all relevant stakeholders (including trade unions and other social partners, particularly where placements in Traineeships and Jobs are concerned) should be involved in the management of the new programme in order to ensure its success.

A budget aimed at supporting volunteering in Europe and in the world
To the extent that the European Solidarity Corps is one of the main programmes promoting volunteering among young people, the European Solidarity Corps should allocate 80% – but at least 60% – of the budget to Volunteering. As shown by data released by the European Commission on the current programme, the vast majority of European Solidarity Corps placements are volunteering placements which shows a great interest of young people for this part of the programme. Thus, more funding for the volunteering strand would allow for more organisations to get the sufficient resources.

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1   In fact, 55% of survey respondents having received a grant for Traineeships and Jobs indicate that they had received already a previous grant for an employment or traineeship – the by far highest proportion for all actions (Volunteering 29%, Solidarity Projects 37%; see Table 45). This suggests that they have more experience with employments and traineeships than beneficiaries in other actions.
2   Due to time constraints it was not possible to do more interviews with umbrella organisations, networks and partnerships, but it is envisaged to explore needs of further stakeholders in future studies.

Ensuring the inclusiveness and accessibility of European Solidarity Corps placements for all young people

It should be ensured that young people with fewer opportunities and special needs can fully participate in the European Solidarity Corps, in particular through adequate financial support for participants and hosting organisations, advanced planning visits and reinforced mentorship. This should be coupled with additional measures to prevent discrimination of all forms during the selection process and the European Solidarity Corps placement.

The European Solidarity Corps as a step towards a more coordinated approach to volunteering policy in Europe

The European Solidarity Corps can be considered a great opportunity for the European Commission to start developing a European Union (EU) general approach to volunteering, as foreseen by the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe. Efforts should be focused on the EU added value of supporting volunteering, on how the EU can enhance and/or better coordinate with existing national and local schemes and on how to ensure that the rights of volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations are recognised and respected across Europe, in line with the European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers.

Ensure the compatibility of the programme with the upcoming Erasmus programme and the new EU Youth Strategy

The European Solidarity Corps should be seen as an integral part of achieving the successful implementation of the next framework for European cooperation in the youth field after 2018 – the EU Youth Strategy. It should be closely interlinked with the Youth Chapter of the future Erasmus programme, and synergies between some actions (particularly the KA1 Youth Participation Initiatives and KA1 Discover EU) should be explored and incorporated into the programme as blended actions.

9 — Training Measures and Needs

When it comes to training measures and needs, mainly SALTOs and trainers have reported them. National Agencies have expressed some training needs, however, training measures were not yet reported on coherently at the time of filling in the questionnaire in April/May 2019.

When it comes to training measures, the following target groups, topics and formats were reported:

Target groups

- Organisations generally interested in submitting an application to the European Solidarity Corps
- 'Newcomers' – organisations not having been involved in Erasmus+ Youth in Action
- Organisations planning projects involving young people with fewer opportunities
- Volunteers

Topics of training

- Information on the new programme – actions, funding criteria, funding rules etc.
- Application procedures, application forms, IT tools
- Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in projects
- Media & Information Literacy

Training formats

- Information activities on aspects of the programme relevant for the target groups
- Seminars and workshops
- 'Project labs/clinics' – special workshops aimed at supporting organisations in developing a project eligible for funding through the European Solidarity Corps and for developing a respective application
- Webinars
- Online trainings

In terms of training needs, the following were mentioned:

Generally, there is a training need of many actors in the programme to receive support to understand solidarity in a conceptual way – and how to integrate it into projects and to implement it through the programme in general. This is the case for

- organisations when developing a project and an application as well as when implementing a project;

- coaches of Solidarity Projects when supporting groups of young people in developing and implementing their projects;

- participants involved in funded projects; this was expressed, in particular, for Volunteering, but it is likely that it is the case for all actions;

- National Agencies when promoting the programme and providing guidance to applicants;

There is still a need of (potential) applicant organisations and groups of young people for information and training activities on the opportunities the programme offers through the different actions and how these can be used best by them.

There is a need for partnership-building activities since the programme is new for many organisations and they need to find partners, in particular for cross-border activities.

A special training need was expressed with respect to fostering the local impact of funded projects, in particular of Solidarity Projects, thus contributing to the programme objective on strengthening communities. This requires exploring and reaching the potential of projects in order to facilitate their local impact. In particular, Solidarity Projects can be a powerful opportunity for young people to define problems through their perspectives and develop solutions of their own. However, access to these activities have to be ensured and young people need to be supported so they can reach their full potential.

With respect to education and learning methods applied in projects, a training need for fostering reflection processes in projects supporting the learning of participants was expressed. This has been described relevant for both, trainers and beneficiaries.

At the time of the survey and interviews with National Agencies, also a need of National Agency staff for training on how to implement the programme was expressed. It is possible that this need has decreased in the meantime since a lot of 'learning by doing' took place, but it is likely that it is still present. It could well be linked to the need for opportunities for exchanging experiences between National Agencies as outlined in the previous chapter.

Finally, given the training needs outlined above, there is a need for a training of trainers providing training to different actors in the European Solidarity Corps. It seems that so far primarily trainers involved in Erasmus+ Youth in Action are now also involved in training activities related to the European Solidarity Corps, which goes beyond (international) youth work, in particular with respect to Traineeships and Jobs. This requires also a respective training of trainers.

Traineeships and Jobs

With respect to Traineeships and Jobs, the following training needs were mentioned:

- Trainings on the rights of employees, trainees and employers (including national employment regulations).

- Trainings on responsibilities of employees, trainees and employers.

- Trainings on the aspects of trainee/employee and employer relationships. Aspects including managing expectations, levels of responsibility and communication.

- Training on conflict management.

- Training on risk management.

10 — Examples for the programme implementation

National Agencies of the European Solidarity Corps have taken a number of effective approaches at several stages to implement the European Solidarity Corps. These measures included the following:

Promotion

- Regular updates on the European Solidarity Corps were shared with organisations via e-mails and events.

- Information booklets were shared with organisations for promotional purposes.

- A Public Relations company was contracted by at least one National Agency to promote the programme.

- The programme was promoted through a local radio channel.

- Links to chatbots were placed in several social media channels, which were used quite frequently by young people who were interested.

- Breakfast meetings were organised with CEOs or senior managers in the civil society sector.

Attracting potential applicants

- One National Agency cooperated with a network of community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises to access their existing network.

- Another National Agency contracted a staff member who was responsible for the mapping of stakeholders for the programme and arranging meetings with them in order to promote the European Solidarity Corps.

Supporting organisations

- Organisation of 'application clinics' to 'demystify' the language of the application forms and programme guide.

- Organisation of project labs where interested organisations could brainstorm on and develop their project ideas.

- 'Quality Label clinics' were organised where organisations had the chance to go through the application forms for a Quality Label with the staff of the National Agency.

- Question and Answer sessions with organisations on the application procedure.

- Production of a project directory with concrete and real project examples for all organisations. A diverse set of organisations was chosen among those, who had successful projects, and information such as how much funding the project received, what was done etc. was shared with applicants.

- Organisation of events to encourage and facilitate organisations to ask questions and shout out if they needed any support.

Inclusion

- At least one National Agency contracted and collaborated with an Inclusion & Diversity officer (ID officer) who has organised a number of Inclusion and Solidarity workshops aimed at projects and programmes specifically working with young people with fewer opportunities and special needs. The ID officer and the European Solidarity Corps team have developed tools from this workshop exploring the link between solidarity and inclusion and how to develop a project that is inclusive.

- The ID officer also got in contact with those whose applications were rejected to offer them assistance for their next application.

- Organisation of a project management training called 'Be the spark' for youngsters. Interest for this training was so high that the course was oversubscribed.

Information events

"We have to do a lot of promotion because it is a new programme and it is a huge programme. This all takes time of course. What we did for instance is we organised information sessions in all the regions of the country which were all great and they were also received well. So we get a lot of positive feedback on how great the programme is and the opportunities it brings but when it comes to people actually applying for projects after these events, it takes quite a time for them to then actually become active and we meanwhile have to keep up with the promotion work to keep them interested"

NA

"We organised information campaigns in all the seven regions of the country where we specifically focused on the promotion of the programme in these events. We held presentations on Erasmus+ as well as on the European Solidarity Corps. Each presentation lasted approximately 40 minutes and were rather formal. Later we organised table discussions with 4-5 tables. Each table had a specific focus for instance one was on solidarity projects, another one on volunteering activities etc. These discussions were rather informal and facilitated opportunities for question and answer sessions."

NA

Use of Social Media

"In general, we think that using social media channels for our events that promote the programme is very effective. For our solidarity projects workshop we were worried that not enough people would come. So we put the event on Facebook and also our website which resulted in a full room of participants. We had like 30 to 40 participants. Half of them were youngsters and the other half were supporting organisation members. It was a success and I am sure that it has also to do with advertising the event on Facebook"

NA

Support / coaching programmes

"We have mainly two support / coaching programmes. One is for organisations that work with young people with fewer opportunities and the other one is for newcomer organisations to the European Solidarity Corps. These are mostly for volunteering activities. And we have a staff member who is mainly responsible for the mapping of potential stakeholders for the European Solidarity Corps. She goes to the organisations and presents the European Solidarity Corps and the opportunities that come with it. Let's see what the effect of this will be"

NA

"We organised project labs were organisations had the chance to germinate their idea and think about the impact they wanted their project to have on the community."

11 — Bibliography

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12 — Data Report

Table 1: Abbreviations of Erasmus+ Programme Countries

	Member States of the European Union
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GR	Greece
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
UK	United Kingdom
	Non-EU Erasmus+ Programme Countries
MK	Northern Macedonia
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway
SR	Serbia
TR	Turkey
	Language Regions of Belgium
BEDE	Belgium (German-speaking Community)
BEFL	Belgium (Flemish Community)
BEFR	Belgium (French Community)

Table 2: Abbreviations of Erasmus+ Partner Countries

	Eastern Europe and Caucasus
AM	Armenia
AZ	Azerbaijan
BY	Belarus
GE	Georgia
MD	Moldova
RU	Russian Federation
UA	Ukraine
	Mediterranean Partner Countries
DZ	Algeria
EG	Egypt
IL	Israel
JO	Jordan
LB	Lebanon
MA	Morocco
PS	Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip
SY	Syria
TN	Tunisia
	South East Europe
AL	Albania
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
XK	Kosovo, under UNSC 1244/1999
ME	Montenegro
RS	Serbia

12.1 — Application data

Table 3: Project applications submitted by country and status[1]

country	Status					
	Approved	Under Evaluation	Cancelled	Rejected	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
AT	52,3%	38,6%	1,1%	8,0%	100,0%	88
BEDE	33,3%	61,1%	0,0%	5,6%	100,0%	18
BEFL	58,2%	30,4%	1,3%	10,1%	100,0%	79
BEFR	30,8%	42,3%	0,0%	26,9%	100,0%	26
BG	45,9%	33,3%	0,0%	20,7%	100,0%	111
CY	56,5%	26,1%	0,0%	17,4%	100,0%	23
CZ	38,9%	47,8%	0,0%	13,4%	100,0%	157
DE	55,6%	38,9%	0,0%	5,6%	100,0%	252
DK	45,7%	48,6%	5,7%	0,0%	100,0%	35
EE	64,6%	30,5%	2,4%	2,4%	100,0%	82
EL	30,2%	64,6%	2,1%	3,1%	100,0%	96
ES	29,1%	63,0%	1,4%	6,5%	100,0%	416
FI	42,1%	49,1%	0,0%	8,8%	100,0%	57
FR	57,4%	33,1%	0,7%	8,8%	100,0%	296
HR	53,1%	42,2%	0,0%	4,7%	100,0%	64
HU	48,6%	31,4%	0,0%	20,0%	100,0%	70
IE	62,5%	33,3%	0,0%	4,2%	100,0%	24
IS	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	1
IT	37,8%	50,6%	0,3%	11,3%	100,0%	362
LT	40,3%	28,6%	0,0%	31,2%	100,0%	77
LU	54,5%	36,4%	0,0%	9,1%	100,0%	11
LV	38,1%	36,5%	0,0%	25,4%	100,0%	126
MK	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	2
MT	72,7%	0,0%	9,1%	18,2%	100,0%	11
NL	46,2%	42,3%	0,0%	11,5%	100,0%	52
PL	46,0%	37,9%	1,5%	14,6%	100,0%	198
PT	39,7%	32,5%	0,0%	27,8%	100,0%	151
RO	43,6%	39,6%	0,0%	16,8%	100,0%	149
SE	41,9%	34,9%	4,7%	18,6%	100,0%	43
SI	47,0%	35,0%	0,0%	17,9%	100,0%	117
SK	39,4%	37,4%	0,0%	23,2%	100,0%	99
TR	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	153
UK	16,7%	67,6%	1,0%	14,7%	100,0%	102
Total	**41,3%**	**45,7%**	**0,7%**	**12,3%**	**100,0%**	**3.548**

[1] Project applications submitted for the application deadlines in October 2018, February 2019 and April 2019.

Table 4: Quality Label applications submitted by country

	Count	%
AT	13	1,7%
BEDE	1	0,1%
BEFL	13	1,7%
BEFR	6	0,8%
BG	35	4,6%
CY	2	0,3%
CZ	10	1,3%
DE	46	6,1%
DK	6	0,8%
EE	37	4,9%
EL	0	0,0%
ES	58	7,6%
FI	14	1,8%
FR	69	9,1%
HR	19	2,5%
HU	26	3,4%
IE	4	0,5%
IS	0	0,0%
IT	84	11,1%
LT	28	3,7%
LU	1	0,1%
LV	29	3,8%
MK	0	0,0%
MT	0	0,0%
NL	18	2,4%
PL	83	10,9%
PT	30	3,9%
RO	41	5,4%
SE	8	1,1%
SI	22	2,9%
SK	11	1,4%
TR	17	2,2%
UK	29	3,8%
Total	**760**	**100,0%**

Table 5: Project applications submitted by action and status

Country	Status					
	Approved	Under Evaluation	Cancelled	Rejected	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	42,0%	47,0%	0,7%	10,3%	100,0%	2.280
VP	39,4%	48,5%	1,1%	10,9%	100,0%	274
T&J	50,0%	35,3%	1,5%	13,2%	100,0%	68
SOL	39,5%	42,7%	0,4%	17,4%	100,0%	926
Total	**41,3%**	**45,7%**	**0,7%**	**12,3%**	**100,0%**	**3.548**

Table 6: Project applications by application deadline and status

Country	Status					
	Approved	Under Evaluation	Cancelled	Rejected	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
2018/1	76,8%	0,5%	1,5%	21,2%	100,0%	1.111
2019/1	54,4%	28,7%	0,4%	16,6%	100,0%	1.127
2019/2	0,0%	98,9%	0,2%	,9%	100,0%	1.310
Total	**41,3%**	**45,7%**	**0,7%**	**12,3%**	**100,0%**	**3.548**

Table 7: Quality Label applications by year

year	Count	%
2018	369	48,6%
2019	391	51,4%
Total	**760**	**100,0%**

Table 8: Project applicant organisation being a public body or not

Is your organisation a public body?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	3.028	85,3	89,2	89,2
Yes	367	10,3	10,8	100,0
Total	3.395	95,7	100,0	
Missing	153	4,3		
Total	**3.548**	**100,0**		

Table 9: Quality Label applicant organisation being a public body or not

Is your organisation a public body?	Frequency	Percent
No	593	78,0%
Yes	167	22,0%
Total	**760**	**100,0%**

Table 10: Project applicant organisation being a non-profit organisation or not

Is your organisation a non-profit?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	247	7,0	7,3	7,3
Yes	3.148	88,7	92,7	100,0
Total	3.395	95,7	100,0	
Missing	153	4,3		
Total	**3.548**	**100,0**		

Table 11: Quality Label applicant organisation being a non-profit organisation or not

Is your organisation a non-profit?	Frequency	Percent
No	77	10,1%
Yes	683	89,9%
Total	**760**	**100,0%**

Table 12: Type of organisation – project applications by action

Type of organisation	VOL	VP	J&T	SOL	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
Accreditation, certification or qualification body	0,4	0,7	0,0	0,3	0,4	15
Art association	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,2	6
Civil Society Organisation	1,2	1,5	0,0	1,0	1,1	40
Civil society organisations working at European level	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,2	6
Concert hall	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	2
Cultural operators	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,9	0,4	13
EU-wide network	0,2	0,0	2,9	0,0	0,2	6
European NGO	2,9	2,2	0,0	2,2	2,6	93
Foundation	5,5	4,0	7,4	2,9	4,7	168
Group of young people active in youth work	0,0	0,0	0,0	14,9	3,9	139
Higher education institution (tertiary level)	1,5	0,0	0,0	0,2	1,0	36
Large enterprise	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	2
Local Public body	5,3	2,2	1,5	1,8	4,1	145
National Public body	0,5	0,4	1,5	0,5	0,5	18
National Youth Council	0,1	0,4	0,0	0,1	0,1	5
Non-governmental organisation/association	68,5	27,7	69,1	54,6	61,8	2.191
Non-Profit making cultural organizations	1,5	1,8	1,5	,8	1,3	47
Non-publically funded cultural organizations	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,1	0,2	6
Organisation or association representing (parts of) the sport sector	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,2	8
Organisations active in the field of humanitarian aid	0,1	1,8	1,5	0,0	0,2	8
Public service provider	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,7	26
Regional Public body	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,2	8
Research Institute/Centre	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	3
School/Institute/Educational centre – Adult education	0,3	0,7	1,5	0,1	0,3	10
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (pre-primary level)	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	11
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (primary level)	0,6	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,5	18
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (secondary level)	0,1	0,0	1,5	0,5	0,3	9
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (secondary level)	0,5	0,0	1,5	0,2	0,4	15
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (tertiary level)	0,5	0,0	1,5	0,2	0,4	14
Small and medium sized enterprise	0,4	0,0	1,5	0,2	0,3	12
Social enterprise	1,5	0,0	4,4	0,8	1,2	44
Social partner or other representative of working life (chambers of commerce, trade union, trade association)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	2
Sport club	0,6	0,0	0,0	0,8	0,6	20
Sport federation	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	5
Youth organisation	2,2	0,4	0,0	7,9	3,5	125
Other	2,3	55,5	2,9	7,0	7,6	271
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	3.547

Table 13: Type of organisation – Quality Label applications

Type of organisation	Frequency	Percent
Accreditation, certification or qualification body	5	0,7%
Civil Society Organisation	6	0,8%
Counselling body	1	0,1%
Cultural operators	14	1,8%
European grouping of territorial cooperation	1	0,1%
European NGO	14	1,8%
Film School	1	0,1%
Foundation	49	6,4%
Higher education institution (tertiary level)	3	0,4%
Local Public body	51	6,7%
National Public body	13	1,7%
Non-governmental organisation/association	408	53,7%
Non-Profit making cultural organizations	9	1,2%
Public service provider	7	0,9%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Adult education	5	0,7%
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (pre-primary level)	31	4,1%
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (primary level)	15	2,0%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (secondary level)	9	1,2%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (tertiary level)	3	0,4%
Small and medium sized enterprise	10	1,3%
Social enterprise	15	2,0%
Sport club	7	0,9%
Youth organisation	20	2,6%
Other	63	8,3%
Total	**760**	**100,0%**

Table 14: Projects aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities[2]

Action	Will your project aim to involve participants with fewer opportunities as described in the European Solidarity Corps Guide?					
	No		Yes		Total	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
VOL	42,1	960	57,9	1.320	100,0	2.280
T&J	27,9	19	72,1	49	100,0	68
Total	41,7	979	58,3	1.369	100,0	2.348

Table 15: Types of obstacles and difficulties participants with fewer opportunities are facing[3]

Which types of obstacles and difficulties are these participants facing?	Count	%	% of cases
Cultural differences	717	9,3%	52,4%
Disability	176	2,3%	12,9%
Economic	1.179	15,3%	86,1%
Educational difficulties	524	6,8%	38,3%
Geographical	866	11,2%	63,3%
Health problems	183	2,4%	13,4%
Refugees	222	2,9%	16,2%
Social obstacles	1.010	13,1%	73,8%
Total	**1.369**	**100,0%**	**356,4%**

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[2] This data was not available for applications for Solidarity Projects and Volunteering Partnerships.
[3] This data is only available for applications for Volunteering and Traineeships and Jobs of organisations indicating that their project is aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities.

Table 16: Topics addressed by the projects applied for

Please select up to three topics addressed by your project	Count	%	% of cases
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	82	0,8%	2,3%
Citizenship and democratic participation	753	7,7%	21,2%
Climate action, environment and nature protection	448	4,6%	12,6%
Community development	902	9,3%	25,4%
Culture	779	8,0%	22,0%
Disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery	19	0,2%	,5%
Education and training	821	8,4%	23,1%
Employability and entrepreneurship	388	4,0%	10,9%
Equality and non-discrimination	668	6,9%	18,8%
European identity and values	501	5,1%	14,1%
Health and wellbeing	305	3,1%	8,6%
Human rights	194	2,0%	5,5%
Inclusion	1.137	11,7%	32,0%
Physical education and sport	117	1,2%	3,3%
Reception and integration of third-country nationals	114	1,2%	3,2%
Research and innovation	29	0,3%	,8%
Rural development and urban regeneration	239	2,5%	6,7%
Skills development	652	6,7%	18,4%
Social assistance and welfare	298	3,1%	8,4%
Territorial cooperation and cohesion	60	0,6%	1,7%
Transport and mobility	10	0,1%	,3%
Youthwork	950	9,8%	26,8%
No answer[4]	276	2,8%	7,8%
Total	**3.548**	**100,0%**	**274,6%**

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[4] The application for Volunteering Partnerships did not include this question on topics since they involve multiple projects, which could have diverse topics.

Table 17: Topics addressed by the projects applied for – by country/page A

Please select up to three topics addressed by your project	% of cases	Country																
		AT	BEDE	BEFL	BEFR	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	%	0%	0%	5%	0%	3%	13%	3%	2%	0%	0%	3%	6%	2%	2%	0%	0%	8%
Citizenship and democratic participation	%	15%	22%	19%	31%	13%	9%	18%	38%	49%	11%	6%	17%	7%	46%	9%	16%	13%
Climate action, environment and nature protection	%	13%	11%	10%	12%	12%	17%	13%	10%	11%	11%	18%	19%	4%	12%	25%	10%	13%
Community development	%	33%	6%	20%	4%	23%	17%	39%	16%	14%	41%	24%	22%	19%	7%	44%	29%	29%
Culture	%	24%	28%	29%	12%	24%	22%	25%	28%	20%	23%	26%	18%	12%	23%	22%	44%	21%
Disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education and training	%	28%	17%	32%	19%	24%	13%	27%	23%	17%	22%	18%	21%	7%	22%	20%	27%	33%
Employability and entrepreneurship	%	5%	0%	4%	4%	12%	17%	8%	4%	14%	15%	4%	9%	9%	10%	14%	9%	4%
Equality and non-discrimination	%	25%	22%	15%	15%	17%	9%	15%	17%	11%	12%	23%	27%	16%	19%	13%	16%	8%
European identity and values	%	18%	0%	9%	12%	15%	17%	12%	35%	40%	5%	8%	13%	5%	26%	6%	16%	4%
Health and wellbeing	%	6%	11%	10%	8%	8%	4%	4%	4%	6%	18%	13%	10%	7%	2%	11%	7%	8%
Human rights	%	6%	6%	13%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	6%	7%	10%	5%	4%	7%	8%	1%	4%
Inclusion	%	27%	22%	24%	46%	23%	26%	19%	19%	26%	17%	46%	39%	23%	36%	28%	19%	50%
Physical education and sport	%	5%	11%	3%	0%	2%	0%	6%	4%	3%	5%	0%	1%	4%	2%	2%	4%	0%
Reception and integration of third-country nationals	%	3%	17%	4%	0%	1%	0%	2%	8%	0%	1%	9%	3%	9%	1%	3%	1%	4%
Research and innovation	%	1%	6%	0%	0%	5%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Rural development and urban regeneration	%	2%	6%	5%	0%	6%	26%	7%	2%	0%	2%	8%	13%	7%	11%	13%	4%	8%
Skills development	%	20%	17%	19%	19%	22%	30%	21%	15%	17%	24%	26%	11%	14%	14%	22%	31%	17%
Social assistance and welfare	%	6%	17%	9%	12%	7%	4%	9%	11%	14%	6%	8%	9%	0%	11%	5%	7%	8%
Territorial cooperation and cohesion	%	1%	0%	5%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Transport and mobility	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Youthwork	%	23%	22%	42%	23%	27%	35%	22%	36%	31%	32%	30%	22%	47%	22%	30%	34%	42%
No entry	%	9%	17%	1%	27%	14%	9%	8%	3%	3%	9%	2%	8%	30%	5%	3%	3%	0%
Total	Count	88	18	79	26	111	23	157	252	35	82	96	416	57	296	64	70	24
	% of cases	269%	256%	277%	246%	266%	274%	269%	281%	286%	265%	286%	277%	225%	284%	277%	279%	275%

Table 18: Topics addressed by the projects applied for – by country/page B

Please select up to three topics addressed by your project	% of cases	country																
		IS	IT	LT	LU	LV	MK	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	TR	UK	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	5%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Citizenship and democratic participation	%	0%	27%	9%	0%	10%	0%	18%	17%	11%	13%	21%	28%	5%	12%	39%	19%	21%
Climate action, environment and nature protection	%	0%	14%	9%	0%	8%	0%	27%	12%	8%	14%	11%	19%	9%	19%	5%	15%	13%
Community development	%	0%	27%	47%	18%	28%	0%	9%	17%	32%	35%	31%	21%	29%	51%	12%	28%	25%
Culture	%	0%	20%	21%	55%	18%	50%	0%	23%	33%	17%	11%	12%	19%	15%	29%	10%	22%
Disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Education and training	%	0%	20%	30%	18%	21%	50%	27%	15%	38%	12%	32%	28%	27%	37%	13%	15%	23%
Employability and entrepreneurship	%	100%	10%	4%	9%	11%	0%	9%	19%	7%	8%	14%	33%	13%	10%	36%	22%	11%
Equality and non-discrimination	%	0%	20%	14%	0%	21%	0%	9%	10%	15%	34%	22%	12%	28%	14%	8%	15%	19%
European identity and values	%	0%	13%	4%	18%	6%	0%	0%	8%	11%	9%	14%	16%	5%	9%	13%	11%	14%
Health and wellbeing	%	0%	3%	17%	0%	7%	50%	27%	8%	13%	13%	11%	12%	15%	7%	12%	14%	9%
Human rights	%	0%	9%	4%	9%	1%	0%	27%	8%	4%	4%	4%	0%	5%	0%	8%	4%	5%
Inclusion	%	0%	40%	25%	45%	26%	50%	45%	21%	20%	57%	32%	30%	37%	19%	45%	38%	32%
Physical education and sport	%	0%	3%	3%	0%	6%	0%	0%	2%	3%	6%	5%	0%	7%	2%	5%	5%	3%
Reception and integration of third-country nationals	%	100%	6%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%	2%	2%	0%	5%	5%	0%	1%	4%	3%
Research and innovation	%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Rural development and urban regeneration	%	0%	9%	6%	0%	5%	0%	0%	6%	3%	5%	7%	5%	4%	5%	3%	2%	7%
Skills development	%	0%	13%	25%	27%	33%	0%	18%	17%	21%	11%	21%	28%	21%	32%	15%	20%	18%
Social assistance and welfare	%	100%	10%	19%	18%	6%	0%	0%	2%	5%	8%	5%	7%	5%	6%	6%	10%	8%
Territorial cooperation and cohesion	%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Transport and mobility	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Youthwork	%	0%	19%	25%	18%	28%	50%	18%	13%	32%	9%	20%	33%	41%	32%	39%	21%	27%
No entry	%	0%	8%	8%	18%	13%	0%	9%	29%	10%	12%	4%	0%	6%	2%	1%	16%	8%
Total	Count	1	362	77	11	126	2	11	52	198	151	149	43	117	99	153	102	3.548
	% of cases	300%	279%	271%	255%	255%	300%	255%	231%	271%	274%	270%	293%	284%	277%	295%	269%	275%

12.2 — Invitation to the survey

Table 19: Invitation to the survey and response rates – by funding countries

Country of Application	organisations 'reached' (e-mail was not returned)	responses total	%	complete responses[5]	%
AT	86	50	58,14%	35	40,70%
BEDE	18	15	83,33%	9	50,00%
BEFL	87	26	29,89%	9	10,34%
BEFR	30	12	40,00%	24	80,00%
BG	140	28	20,00%	20	14,29%
CY	24	9	37,50%	7	29,17%
CZ	143	61	42,66%	54	37,76%
DE	267	159	59,55%	125	46,82%
DK	36	18	50,00%	14	38,89%
EE	117	35	29,91%	28	23,93%
EL	75	23	30,67%	15	20,00%
ES	418	165	39,47%	133	31,82%
FI	64	21	32,81%	19	29,69%
FR	293	79	26,96%	59	20,14%
HR	71	31	43,66%	25	35,21%
HU	91	32	35,16%	25	27,47%
IE	28	11	39,29%	9	32,14%
IS	1	0	0,00%	0	0,00%
IT	393	182	46,31%	143	36,39%
LT	103	37	35,92%	28	27,18%
LU	9	5	55,56%	5	55,56%
LV	152	70	46,05%	61	40,13%
MK	2	1	50,00%	0	0,00%
MT	11	4	36,36%	3	27,27%
NL	68	31	45,59%	21	30,88%
PL	255	138	54,12%	105	41,18%
PT	160	36	22,50%	30	18,75%
RO	174	60	34,48%	56	32,18%
SE	49	19	38,78%	16	32,65%
SI	127	48	37,80%	45	35,43%
SK	99	52	52,53%	39	39,39%
TR	136	55	40,44%	41	30,15%
UK	119	25	21,01%	24	20,17%
Total	3.846	1.538	39,99%	1.227	31,90%

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[5] The respondent went through the whole questionnaire and submitted it. This does not necessarily mean that she/he answered all questions, but the number of missing for each question is relatively small. These responses were used for the analysis.

Table 20: Invitation to the survey and response rates – by action

Actions	organisations invited	responses	response rate %
Volunteering	1.917	810	42,25%
Volunteering Partnerships	242	92	38,02%
Traineeships and Jobs	62	18	29,03%
Solidarity Projects	865	324	37,46%
Quality Label	760	294	38,68%
Subtotal	3.846		
E-mail incorrect	10		
Total	3.836	1.538	40,09%

12.3 — Response sample

Table 21: Respondents by action and country of application

Country of Application	Action Type						
	VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	QL	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Count
AT	31,4%	37,1%	11,4%	2,9%	17,1%	100,0%	35
BEDE	77,8%	11,1%	11,1%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	9
BEFL	70,8%	16,7%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%	100,0%	24
BEFR	44,4%	11,1%	44,4%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	9
BG	55,0%	15,0%	5,0%	0,0%	25,0%	100,0%	20
CY	71,4%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	28,6%	100,0%	7
CZ	50,0%	37,0%	5,6%	1,9%	5,6%	100,0%	54
DE	70,4%	12,8%	2,4%	0,8%	13,6%	100,0%	125
DK	85,7%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	14,3%	100,0%	14
EE	21,4%	39,3%	10,7%	0,0%	28,6%	100,0%	28
EL	86,7%	6,7%	6,7%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	15
ES	71,4%	9,8%	4,5%	0,8%	13,5%	100,0%	133
FI	31,6%	5,3%	31,6%	0,0%	31,6%	100,0%	19
FR	62,7%	1,7%	6,8%	1,7%	27,1%	100,0%	59
HR	52,0%	20,0%	0,0%	8,0%	20,0%	100,0%	25
HU	44,0%	32,0%	4,0%	0,0%	20,0%	100,0%	25
IE	77,8%	0,0%	0,0%	11,1%	11,1%	100,0%	9
IT	58,0%	18,2%	5,6%	0,7%	17,5%	100,0%	143
LT	25,0%	35,7%	3,6%	0,0%	35,7%	100,0%	28
LU	20,0%	20,0%	40,0%	0,0%	20,0%	100,0%	5
LV	41,0%	27,9%	16,4%	1,6%	13,1%	100,0%	61
MK	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
MT	66,7%	33,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	3
NL	61,9%	9,5%	14,3%	0,0%	14,3%	100,0%	21
PL	32,4%	24,8%	6,7%	2,9%	33,3%	100,0%	105
PT	60,0%	13,3%	16,7%	0,0%	10,0%	100,0%	30
RO	39,3%	33,9%	1,8%	0,0%	25,0%	100,0%	56
SE	81,3%	6,3%	0,0%	0,0%	12,5%	100,0%	16
SI	44,4%	26,7%	2,2%	2,2%	24,4%	100,0%	45
SK	33,3%	51,3%	0,0%	2,6%	12,8%	100,0%	39
TR	73,2%	2,4%	0,0%	0,0%	24,4%	100,0%	41
UK	58,3%	4,2%	8,3%	4,2%	25,0%	100,0%	24
Total	**54,2%**	**19,5%**	**6,3%**	**1,3%**	**18,7%**	**100,0%**	**1.227**

Table 22: Responding applicants for a Quality Label by country and action

The application submitted for a Quality Label was for …					
Country of application	VOL	T&J	no answer	Total	
	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	Count
AT	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	6
BEDE	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
BEFL	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	3
BEFR	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
BG	80,0%	80,0%	0,0%	160,0%	5
CY	100,0%	100,0%	0,0%	200,0%	2
CZ	33,3%	100,0%	0,0%	133,3%	3
DE	88,2%	29,4%	0,0%	117,6%	17
DK	100,0%	50,0%	0,0%	150,0%	2
EE	100,0%	12,5%	0,0%	112,5%	8
EL	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
ES	100,0%	16,7%	0,0%	116,7%	18
FI	66,7%	33,3%	0,0%	100,0%	6
FR	93,8%	18,8%	0,0%	112,5%	16
HR	100,0%	20,0%	0,0%	120,0%	5
HU	80,0%	40,0%	0,0%	120,0%	5
IE	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	1
IT	100,0%	16,0%	0,0%	116,0%	25
LT	100,0%	10,0%	0,0%	110,0%	10
LU	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100,0%	1
LV	87,5%	50,0%	0,0%	137,5%	8
MK	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
MT	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
NL	100,0%	33,3%	0,0%	133,3%	3
PL	97,1%	14,3%	0,0%	111,4%	35
PT	100,0%	33,3%	0,0%	133,3%	3
RO	100,0%	14,3%	0,0%	114,3%	14
SE	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	2
SI	90,9%	36,4%	0,0%	127,3%	11
SK	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	5
TR	90,0%	0,0%	10,0%	100,0%	10
UK	83,3%	33,3%	0,0%	116,7%	6
Total	**93,5%**	**22,6%**	**0,4%**	**116,5%**	**230**

Table 23: Respondents by action and status

Action type	Status						
	Approved	Rejected	Under Evaluation	Cancelled	Other	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	42,6%	7,7%	49,0%	0,8%	0,0%	100,0%	665
SOL	46,9%	8,4%	44,8%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	239
VP	41,6%	9,1%	49,4%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	77
T&J	75,0%	0,0%	25,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	16
QL	97,0%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	2,2%	100,0%	230
Total	**54,0%**	**6,5%**	**38,7%**	**0,4%**	**0,4%**	**100,0%**	**1.227**

12.4 — Project frature

Table 24: Projects with in-country/cross border activities by action

4. The project applied for includes …	Action					
	VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
in-country activities	50,2	41,6	6,1	2,1	100,0	574
cross-border activities	86,9	0,0	12,2	1,0	100,0	525
No Answer	75,0	0,0	25,0	0,0	100,0	4

Table 25: Projects aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities by action[6]

Action	11. Will/did the project involve young people with fewer opportunities?				
	No	Yes	I do not know	Total	
	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	46,9%	53,1%	0,0%	100,0%	665
SOL	8,0%	84,0%	8,0%	100,0%	237
VP	15,6%	80,5%	3,9%	100,0%	77
T&J	37,5%	62,5%	0,0%	100,0%	16
Total	**35,1%**	**62,7%**	**2,2%**	**100,0%**	**995**

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[6] While Table shows the application data (only available for VOL and T&J) for all organisations invited to the survey, this table only shows this data only for those organisations having completed the questionnaire. Applicants for SOL and VP were asked in the survey if they are aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities. When comparing the two tables, it can be seen that projects aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities are underrepresented in the response sample.

Table 26: Projects aiming to involve young people with fewer opportunities by country

Country of application	11. Will/did the project include young people with fewer opportunities?				
	No	Yes	I do not know	Total	
	%	%	%	%	Count
AT	10,3%	82,8%	6,9%	100,0%	29
BEDE	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	9
BEFL	61,9%	38,1%	0,0%	100,0%	21
BEFR	44,4%	55,6%	0,0%	100,0%	9
BG	40,0%	60,0%	0,0%	100,0%	15
CY	20,0%	80,0%	0,0%	100,0%	5
CZ	25,5%	64,7%	9,8%	100,0%	51
DE	41,1%	53,3%	5,6%	100,0%	107
DK	75,0%	25,0%	0,0%	100,0%	12
EE	30,0%	70,0%	0,0%	100,0%	20
EL	40,0%	60,0%	0,0%	100,0%	15
ES	50,4%	49,6%	0,0%	100,0%	115
FI	46,2%	53,8%	0,0%	100,0%	13
FR	48,8%	51,2%	0,0%	100,0%	43
HR	20,0%	80,0%	0,0%	100,0%	20
HU	25,0%	75,0%	0,0%	100,0%	20
IE	25,0%	75,0%	0,0%	100,0%	8
IT	37,3%	61,9%	0,8%	100,0%	118
LT	27,8%	66,7%	5,6%	100,0%	18
LU	25,0%	75,0%	0,0%	100,0%	4
LV	32,1%	64,2%	3,8%	100,0%	53
MK	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
MT	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100,0%	3
NL	55,6%	44,4%	0,0%	100,0%	18
PL	31,9%	66,7%	1,4%	100,0%	69
PT	3,7%	96,3%	0,0%	100,0%	27
RO	28,6%	66,7%	4,8%	100,0%	42
SE	64,3%	35,7%	0,0%	100,0%	14
SI	17,6%	79,4%	2,9%	100,0%	34
SK	14,7%	82,4%	2,9%	100,0%	34
TR	16,1%	83,9%	0,0%	100,0%	31
UK	11,1%	88,9%	0,0%	100,0%	18
Total	**35,1%**	**62,7%**	**2,2%**	**100,0%**	**995**

Table 27: Interest for submitting an application by action

7. What was the interest of your organisation for submitting an application in the context of the European Solidarity Corps? Check all that apply.		Action Type					
		VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	QL	Total
To get involved in new topics.	% of cases	26,6%	33,5%	19,5%	18,8%	35,2%	29,0%
Interest in solidarity.	% of cases	53,4%	51,9%	54,5%	62,5%	54,8%	53,5%
To expand the range of activities of our organisation.	% of cases	44,5%	39,3%	40,3%	43,8%	55,2%	45,2%
To contribute to the objectives of our organisation.	% of cases	71,1%	49,4%	76,6%	81,3%	61,7%	65,6%
To finance a project our organisation wanted to develop.	% of cases	29,9%	50,6%	44,2%	31,3%	18,7%	32,8%
To develop our organisation.	% of cases	46,3%	34,3%	53,2%	75,0%	56,1%	46,6%
To meet the interests of the target group of our organisation.	% of cases	45,0%	44,4%	55,8%	50,0%	43,9%	45,4%
To acquire new funding sources for our organisation.	% of cases	18,3%	29,3%	23,4%	43,8%	19,1%	21,3%
To deal with societal challenges.	% of cases	45,3%	51,0%	51,9%	31,3%	39,6%	45,6%
To foster solidarity within society.	% of cases	65,4%	54,8%	67,5%	43,8%	62,2%	62,6%
To foster the inclusion of disadvantaged or marginalised people in society.	% of cases	47,7%	42,3%	57,1%	68,8%	39,6%	46,0%
To promote democratic citizenship and participation.	% of cases	52,8%	46,4%	58,4%	25,0%	49,1%	50,9%
To strengthen the local community/local communities.	% of cases	49,9%	64,4%	64,9%	31,3%	43,5%	52,2%
To foster international solidarity.	% of cases	60,5%	16,7%	67,5%	31,3%	61,7%	52,2%
To contribute to the development of Europe.	% of cases	50,5%	23,0%	54,5%	56,3%	40,4%	43,6%
To demonstrate corporate responsibility.	% of cases	12,0%	14,2%	9,1%	18,8%	20,0%	13,9%
Other	% of cases	6,0%	4,6%	10,4%	6,3%	4,8%	5,8%
No Answer	% of cases	0,2%	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%
Total	**Count**	**665**	**239**	**77**	**16**	**230**	**1.227**
	% of cases	**725,4%**	**650,6%**	**809,1%**	**718,8%**	**705,7%**	**712,3%**

Table 28: Correspondence with of the project with the programme objectives

12.a and 12.b: The activity/project is/was aimed to contribute to the following objectives of the European Solidarity Corps:	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
To promote solidarity in Europe.	1,5%	3,4%	43,0%	52,2%	100,0%	1.220
To strengthen social cohesion in Europe.	1,1%	5,2%	44,9%	48,8%	100,0%	1.213
To respond to societal challenges.	1,0%	3,2%	40,7%	55,1%	100,0%	1.217
To strengthen democracy and citizenship in Europe.	1,6%	8,7%	48,6%	41,1%	100,0%	1.209
To strengthen (local) communities in order to promote social inclusion.	1,2%	3,8%	33,9%	61,1%	100,0%	1.214
To contribute to European cooperation that is relevant to young people.	1,3%	4,0%	32,8%	61,9%	100,0%	1.220
To provide young people with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities.	1,3%	3,1%	36,4%	59,1%	100,0%	1.219
To contribute to competence development of young people for their personal, educational, social, cultural and professional development.	0,9%	,2%	19,1%	79,8%	100,0%	1.221
To promote active citizenship and participation of young people.	0,9%	2,5%	32,4%	64,2%	100,0%	1.219
To foster employability of young people and their transition into the labour market.	1,6%	10,9%	42,8%	44,7%	100,0%	1.214
To ensure inclusion of, and equal opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities in the solidarity activities funded through the European Solidarity Corps.	1,6%	7,4%	41,9%	49,1%	100,0%	1.218
To ensure that solidarity activities funded through the European Solidarity Corps are of high quality and properly validated.	1,0%	6,5%	42,2%	50,4%	100,0%	1.217

Table 29: Correspondence of the project with the programme objectives – by action

12.a and 12.b: The activity / project is / was aimed to contribute to the following objectives of the European Solidarity Corps (Sum of 'agree' and 'strongly agree')	Action					
	VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	QL	Total
To promote solidarity in Europe.	96,2%	89,8%	100,0%	81,3%	97,0%	95,2%
	662	235	77	16	230	1.220
To strengthen social cohesion in Europe.	95,3%	90,6%	97,4%	87,5%	91,7%	93,7%
	659	233	76	16	229	1.213
To respond to societal challenges.	95,3%	97,5%	98,7%	87,5%	95,2%	95,8%
	659	237	77	16	228	1.217
To strengthen democracy and citizenship in Europe.	90,9%	83,6%	94,8%	73,3%	92,1%	89,7%
	657	232	77	15	228	1.209
To strengthen (local) communities in order to promote social inclusion.	94,4%	95,3%	97,4%	87,5%	96,0%	95,0%
	659	235	77	16	227	1.214
To contribute to European cooperation that is relevant to young people.	97,6%	83,9%	97,4%	81,3%	97,4%	94,7%
	662	236	77	16	229	1.220
To provide young people with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities.	96,2%	94,1%	97,4%	81,3%	95,6%	95,6%
	661	237	76	16	229	1.219
To contribute to competence development of young people for their personal, educational, social, cultural and professional development.	99,1%	98,7%	100,0%	100,0%	97,8%	98,9%
	661	237	77	16	230	1.221
To promote active citizenship and participation of young people.	96,7%	95,3%	98,7%	87,5%	97,4%	96,6%
	662	236	77	16	228	1.219
To foster employability of young people and their transition into the labour market.	92,0%	72,5%	90,8%	100,0%	88,4%	87,6%
	661	236	76	16	225	1.214
To ensure inclusion of, and equal opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities in the solidarity activities funded through the European Solidarity Corps.	91,5%	90,3%	90,9%	81,3%	90,7%	91,0%
	662	236	77	16	227	1.218
To ensure that solidarity activities funded through the European Solidarity Corps are of high quality and properly validated.	93,2%	89,8%	93,5%	87,5%	93,4%	92,5%
	661	235	77	16	228	1.217

12.5 — Project development and application

Table 30: Project partners

16.a Development of the project[7]	not true	true	Total	
	%	%	%	Count
Before submitting this project application, my organisation/group/body had already cooperated with one or more partners of this project application.	20,7%	79,3%	100,0%	488
E+ YiA 2017/18: Before this project, my organisation/group/body had already cooperated with one or more partners of this project.	15,1%	84,9%	100,0%	4.383
My organisation/group/body found one or more project partners through online support services.	56,1%	43,9%	100,0%	451
E+ YiA 2017/18 My organisation/group/body found one or more project partners through online support services (i.e. Otlas).	56,6%	43,4%	100,0%	3.220

Table 31: Project partnerships and project development

16.b Development of the project: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?[8]	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	No opinion / Can`t judge / Not applicable	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to find partners for this project.	2,0%	12,9%	48,8%	25,3%	10,9%	100,0%	604
The project was developed through mutual cooperation between all partners.	3,3%	16,3%	43,3%	27,7%	9,5%	100,0%	603
E+ YiA 2017/18: The project was developed through mutual cooperation between all partners.	1,0%	5,3%	41,6%	42,0%	10,1%	100,0%	4.926

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[7] This question was also asked to project leaders/team members involved in projects funded through E+/YiA, but not with all items asked to applicant organisations in the European Solidarity Corps. If applicable, the response of project leaders/team members in E+/YiA to a survey in 2017/19 are shown under the response to the present survey by applicants to the European Solidarity Corps.
[8] See footnote 7.

Table 32: Project development

16.c Development of the project: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [9]	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to find a hosting placement/hosting placements for this project (for volunteering, a job or a traineeship).	2,4%	10,1%	48,9%	38,7%	100,0%	716
It was easy to develop this project.	2,6%	22,2%	57,1%	18,0%	100,0%	917
It is expected to involve the local community in the project.	1,0%	3,7%	40,5%	54,8%	100,0%	954
It was easy to find participants for this project.	4,4%	27,3%	46,5%	21,8%	100,0%	889
The participants were actively involved in the development of the project.	4,3%	23,1%	43,9%	28,6%	100,0%	874
The workload for the development of the project was reasonable.	4,2%	21,6%	57,6%	16,6%	100,0%	909
E+: YiA 2017/18: The workload for the implementation of the project was reasonable.	1,4%	5,9%	46,8%	45,9%	100,0%	4.648

Table 33: Quality Label application procedure

17.a To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [10]	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this quality label.	3,6	17,3	53,3	25,8	100,0	225
E+/YiA 2017/18 It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this project	1,6	9,3	52,1	37,0	100,0	1.448
The information required for applying for this Quality Label was easy to understand.	4,0	22,0	49,3	24,7	100,0	223
E+/YiA 2017/18 The information required for applying for this project was easy to understand.	1,5	10,5	51,0	37,0	100,0	1.453
The application procedure for this Quality Label was simple.	5,4	22,8	52,7	19,2	100,0	224
E+/YiA 2017/18 The application procedure for this project was simple.	3,3	18,4	48,9	29,4	100,0	1.418
The online tools for the application are easy to use.	5,5	16,8	54,5	23,2	100,0	220
E+/YiA 2017/18 The online tools for the application and reporting are easy to use.	3,0	14,7	52,0	30,3	100,0	1.403
The guidance/support provided by the National Agency was very useful for completing the application.	2,3	4,7	43,2	49,8	100,0	213

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[10] See footnote 7

Table 34: Project application procedure

17.b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?[11]	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this project.	3,5	18,9	56,0	21,6	100,0	976
E+/YiA 2017/18: It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this project.	1,6	9,3	52,1	37,0	100,0	1.448
The information required for applying for this project was easy to understand.	3,2	23,5	53,8	19,6	100,0	980
E+/YiA 2017/18: The information required for applying for this project was easy to understand.	1,5	10,5	51,0	37,0	100,0	1.453
In the case of this project, it was easy to meet the funding criteria.	1,9	11,9	64,1	22,0	100,0	939
E+/YiA 2017/18: In the case of this project, it was easy to meet the funding criteria.	1,2	12,6	51,7	34,5	100,0	1.400
The application procedure for this project was simple.	5,7	23,9	53,6	16,7	100,0	974
E+/YiA 2017/18: The application procedure for this project was simple.	3,3	18,4	48,9	29,4	100,0	1.418
The administrative management of this grant request was simple.	5,5	25,7	53,4	15,4	100,0	917
E+/YiA 2017/18: The administrative management of this grant request was simple.	3,4	17,1	51,7	27,8	100,0	1.389
The funding rules and calculation methods were appropriate.	3,4	13,0	62,3	21,2	100,0	932
E+/YiA 2017/18: The funding rules and calculation methods were appropriate.	2,1	10,3	53,4	34,2	100,0	1.395
The funding for our project provided by the European Union is / was / would have been adequate.	3,6	16,7	56,8	22,9	100,0	912
The online tools for the application were easy to use.	7,5	23,3	50,7	18,6	100,0	959
E+/YiA 2017/18: The online tools for the application and reporting are easy to use.	3,0	14,7	52,0	30,3	100,0	1.403
The guidance/support provided by the National Agency was very useful for designing the project and completing the application.	3,4	8,6	45,5	42,5	100,0	906
The overall grant system was suitable and satisfactory for this grant request.	4,6	13,7	61,0	20,6	100,0	906
E+/YiA 2017/18: The overall grant system was suitable and satisfactory for this grant request.	1,8	8,0	54,6	35,6	100,0	1.409
Compared with other funding programmes, the administrative management of this grant request was easy.	7,0	19,6	51,5	21,9	100,0	810
E+/YiA 2017/18: Compared with other funding programmes, the administrative management of this grant request was easy.	3,8	13,0	49,0	34,2	100,0	1.206

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[11] See footnote 7

Table 35: Project application procedure by application status

17.b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Status					
	Approved	Rejected	Under Evaluation	Cancelled	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this project.	78,2	71,2	78,2	80,0	77,7	976
The information required for applying for this project was easy to understand.	75,2	70,7	72,0	80,0	73,4	980
In the case of this project, it was easy to meet the funding criteria.	85,3	80,3	87,7	100,0	86,2	939
The application procedure for this project was simple.	70,8	68,5	70,1	80,0	70,3	974
The administrative management of this grant request was simple.	64,3	72,9	72,4	80,0	68,8	917
The funding rules and calculation methods were appropriate.	82,5	80,3	85,1	80,0	83,6	932
The funding for our project provided by the European Union is / was / would have been adequate.	81,6	74,6	79,0	60,0	79,7	912
The online tools for the application were easy to use.	64,3	68,5	73,6	100,0	69,2	959
The guidance / support provided by the National Agency was very useful for designing the project and completing the application.	89,4	83,6	87,1	100,0	88,0	906
The overall grant system was suitable and satisfactory for this grant request.	81,6	73,8	82,7	100,0	81,7	906
Compared with other funding programmes, the administrative management of this grant request was easy.	70,0	68,8	76,9	100,0	73,3	810

Table 36: Project application procedure by action

17.b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Action					
	VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
It was easy to obtain the essential information required for applying for this project.	78,2	76,3	77,0	80,0	77,7	976
The information required for applying for this project was easy to understand.	73,5	73,4	70,7	81,3	73,4	980
In the case of this project, it was easy to meet the funding criteria.	86,5	85,3	88,2	75,0	86,2	939
The application procedure for this project was simple.	68,2	73,1	79,5	75,0	70,3	974
The administrative management of this grant request was simple.	67,5	70,0	72,5	87,5	68,8	917
The funding rules and calculation methods were appropriate.	83,4	86,0	81,2	68,8	83,6	932
The funding for our project provided by the European Union is / was / would have been adequate.	79,4	82,2	77,9	61,5	79,7	912
The online tools for the application were easy to use.	68,4	71,9	64,5	87,5	69,2	959
The guidance / support provided by the National Agency was very useful for designing the project and completing the application.	87,4	89,9	85,9	92,9	88,0	906
The overall grant system was suitable and satisfactory for this grant request.	81,5	82,4	82,1	78,6	81,7	906
Compared with other funding programmes, the administrative management of this grant request was easy.	72,4	75,5	72,6	85,7	73,3	810

Table 37: Respondent finding out about the European Solidarity Corps

18. I learned about the European Solidarity Corps in the following way …	Count	%	% of cases
Through the organisation I am involved in for this project	545	21,4%	44,4%
Through a company	25	1,0%	2,0%
Through an informal youth group, a youth organisation/association or a youth centre	98	3,9%	8,0%
E+ YiA 2017/18: Youth group / youth organisation / youth centre	2.755		55,0%
Through another type of organisation/association	178	7,0%	14,5%
E+ YiA 2017/18	848		16,9%
Through friends/acquaintances	128	5,0%	10,4%
E+ YiA 2017/18	1.389		27,7%
Through school, college or university	15	0,6%	1,2%
E+ YiA 2017/18	611		12,2%
At work (e.g., colleagues, information at work etc.)	190	7,5%	15,5%
E+ YiA 2017/18	1.065		21,3%
Through information in a newspaper/magazine, on the radio, TV, internet	62	2,4%	5,1%
E+ YiA 2017/18	444		8,9%
Through information from a National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps / Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	641	25,2%	52,2%
E+ YiA 2017/18: Through information from a National Agency of Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	962		19,2%
Through information from a regional agency/office of the National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps / Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	231	9,1%	18,8%
E+ YiA 2017/18: Through information from a regional agency/office of the National Agency of Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	424		8,5%
Through information by or on the website of the European Commission	214	8,4%	17,4%
E+ YiA 2017/18	383		7,8%
Through a SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centre*	64	2,5%	5,2%
E+ YiA 2017/18	284		5,7%
Through the Eurodesk network	94	3,7%	7,7%
E+ YiA 2017/18	229		4,6%
Other	57	2,2%	4,6%
E+ YiA 2017/18	200		4,0%
No Answer	3	0,1%	0,2%
E+ YiA 2017/18	89		1,8%
Total	**1.227**	**100,0%**	**207,4%**
E+ YiA 2017/18	**5.007**		**193,4%**

Table 38: Respondent finding out about the European Solidarity Corps – by action

18. I learned about the European Solidarity Corps in the following way …	% of cases	Action					
		VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	QL	Total
Through the organisation I am involved in for this project	%	51,6	34,7	44,2	43,8	33,9	44,4
Through a company	%	1,5	2,9	6,5	0,0	1,3	2,0
Through an informal youth group, a youth organisation/association or a youth centre	%	5,9	16,7	1,3	0,0	7,8	8,0
Through another type of organisation/association	%	12,6	18,4	9,1	6,3	18,3	14,5
Through friends/acquaintances	%	7,8	24,7	2,6	0,0	6,5	10,4
Through school, college or university	%	1,5	,8	0,0	0,0	1,3	1,2
At work (e.g., colleagues, information at work etc.)	%	18,0	11,3	10,4	12,5	14,3	15,5
Through information in a newspaper/magazine, on the radio, TV, internet	%	3,8	7,9	2,6	6,3	6,5	5,1
Through information from a National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps / Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	%	57,1	40,6	70,1	75,0	42,6	52,2
Through information from a regional agency/office of the National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps / Erasmus+ (Youth in Action)	%	22,1	15,1	14,3	6,3	15,7	18,8
Through information by or on the website of the European Commission	%	21,1	10,9	23,4	18,8	11,7	17,4
Through a SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centre*	%	6,6	2,1	5,2	12,5	3,9	5,2
Through the Eurodesk network	%	9,6	5,9	7,8	18,8	3,0	7,7
Other	%	4,7	3,3	7,8	6,3	4,8	4,6
No Answer	%	0,2	0,4	1,3	0,0	0,0	0,2
Total	Count	665	239	77	16	230	1.227
	%	224,1	195,8	206,5	206,3	171,7	207,4

Table 39: Importance of information activities of National Agencies

Please indicate how important the following information activities of a National Agency or a regional agency/office/branch/ structure of the National Agency were for you to learn about Erasmus+: Youth in action by ticking between 0 (= not at all important) and 3 (= very important)	0 (Not at all important)	1	2	3 (Very important)	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	Count
Direct mailing (letter, e-mail)	7,8%	13,1%	23,7%	55,4%	100,0%	679
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	8,9%	10,6%	26,5%	54,0%	100,0%	1.097
Printed information material	25,6%	31,4%	28,4%	14,6%	100,0%	663
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	13,9%	27,4%	32,7%	26,0%	100,0%	1.065
Social networks/media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter etc.)	17,4%	23,8%	30,2%	28,6%	100,0%	660
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	12,0%	14,1%	28,3%	45,5%	100,0%	1.076
Internet / a website	2,1%	9,4%	29,9%	58,6%	100,0%	679
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	1,7%	4,8%	26,2%	67,2%	100,0%	1.098
An informational event	6,5%	10,8%	32,0%	50,8%	100,0%	679
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	8,3%	13,0%	29,5%	49,3%	100,0%	1.088
Face-to-face contact with staff of the National Agency or of a regional agency/office/branch/ structure of the National Agency	5,3%	8,7%	21,0%	65,1%	100,0%	681
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	6,6%	8,8%	20,8%	63,8%	100,0%	1.097
Other means	46,0%	22,3%	19,2%	12,5%	100,0%	417
Erasmus+: Youth in Action 2017/18	30,9%	22,3%	25,0%	21,8%	100,0%	807

12.6 — Profile of the organisation

Table 40: Applicant organisation's level of activity by country

Country	14. The organisation is active at the …							
	... local level.	... regional level.	... national level	... European level.	... international level beyond Europe.	No Answer	Total	
	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	Count
AT	68,6%	62,9%	45,7%	45,7%	25,7%	0,0%	248,6%	35
BEDE	88,9%	55,6%	44,4%	44,4%	0,0%	0,0%	233,3%	9
BEFL	66,7%	62,5%	25,0%	33,3%	25,0%	0,0%	212,5%	24
BEFR	88,9%	66,7%	88,9%	66,7%	55,6%	0,0%	366,7%	9
BG	85,0%	50,0%	65,0%	50,0%	30,0%	0,0%	280,0%	20
CY	100,0%	57,1%	57,1%	71,4%	57,1%	0,0%	342,9%	7
CZ	77,8%	72,2%	44,4%	46,3%	14,8%	0,0%	255,6%	54
DE	71,2%	66,4%	38,4%	62,4%	46,4%	0,8%	285,6%	125
DK	78,6%	78,6%	57,1%	64,3%	50,0%	0,0%	328,6%	14
EE	82,1%	64,3%	50,0%	46,4%	25,0%	0,0%	267,9%	28
EL	80,0%	66,7%	60,0%	66,7%	20,0%	6,7%	300,0%	15
ES	79,7%	68,4%	37,6%	56,4%	30,1%	0,0%	272,2%	133
FI	84,2%	78,9%	42,1%	52,6%	31,6%	0,0%	289,5%	19
FR	84,7%	66,1%	30,5%	54,2%	27,1%	0,0%	262,7%	59
HR	84,0%	52,0%	48,0%	60,0%	12,0%	0,0%	256,0%	25
HU	88,0%	80,0%	68,0%	64,0%	32,0%	0,0%	332,0%	25
IE	100,0%	88,9%	77,8%	88,9%	33,3%	0,0%	388,9%	9
IT	81,8%	44,8%	38,5%	51,7%	28,7%	0,0%	245,5%	143
LT	85,7%	50,0%	57,1%	42,9%	17,9%	0,0%	253,6%	28
LU	40,0%	20,0%	60,0%	100,0%	60,0%	0,0%	280,0%	5
LV	65,6%	54,1%	42,6%	49,2%	16,4%	0,0%	227,9%	61
MK	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0
MT	66,7%	66,7%	100,0%	66,7%	66,7%	0,0%	366,7%	3
NL	76,2%	52,4%	61,9%	76,2%	47,6%	0,0%	314,3%	21
PL	63,8%	49,5%	38,1%	42,9%	24,8%	1,0%	220,0%	105
PT	86,7%	70,0%	50,0%	66,7%	33,3%	0,0%	306,7%	30
RO	71,4%	37,5%	26,8%	58,9%	16,1%	1,8%	212,5%	56
SE	87,5%	56,3%	50,0%	62,5%	31,3%	0,0%	287,5%	16
SI	77,8%	62,2%	62,2%	51,1%	22,2%	0,0%	275,6%	45
SK	84,6%	53,8%	48,7%	43,6%	12,8%	0,0%	243,6%	39
TR	75,6%	31,7%	56,1%	53,7%	26,8%	0,0%	243,9%	41
UK	83,3%	66,7%	66,7%	83,3%	62,5%	0,0%	362,5%	24
Total	**77,3%**	**58,3%**	**44,5%**	**54,5%**	**28,6%**	**0,3%**	**263,5%**	**1.227**

Table 41: Applicant organisation's level of activity by action

Action	14. The organisation is active at the …							
	… local level.	… regional level.	… national level	… European level.	… international level beyond Europe.	No answer	Total	
	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	% of cases	Count
VOL	77,3%	61,8%	48,4%	62,3%	34,6%	0,3%	284,7%	665
SOL	82,8%	50,2%	35,6%	35,1%	14,6%	0,8%	219,2%	239
VP	68,8%	68,8%	53,2%	64,9%	36,4%	0,0%	292,2%	77
T&J	62,5%	43,8%	62,5%	68,8%	37,5%	0,0%	275,0%	16
QL	75,2%	53,9%	38,3%	47,8%	22,6%	0,0%	237,8%	230
Total	**77,3%**	**58,3%**	**44,5%**	**54,5%**	**28,6%**	**0,3%**	**263,5%**	**1.227**

Table 42: Previous involvement of organisation in EU programmes – by action

19. Was your organisation previously involved in a project supported by E+ or an earlier EU mobility/ youth/ education programme?	% of cases	Action Type					
		VOL	SOL	VP	T&J	QL	Total
Yes, in a project supported by Erasmus+ Youth in Action (or a previous EU youth programme).	%	84,7%	45,6%	93,5%	75,0%	48,3%	70,7%
Yes, in a project supported by Erasmus+ in the education sector (or a previous EU education programme).	%	20,3%	15,9%	26,0%	12,5%	22,6%	20,1%
Yes, in a project supported by another EU programme.	%	21,7%	17,2%	26,0%	37,5%	18,3%	20,6%
Yes, as an applicant organisation.	%	55,9%	28,5%	64,9%	62,5%	31,3%	46,6%
Yes, as a partner organisation.	%	48,3%	29,3%	62,3%	62,5%	34,8%	43,1%
No	%	8,1%	38,9%	1,3%	12,5%	28,7%	17,6%
No Answer	%	0,2%	0,8%	1,3%	0,0%	0,4%	0,4%
Total	Count	665	239	77	16	230	1.227
	%	239,1%	176,2%	275,3%	262,5%	184,3%	219,2%

Table 43: Previous involvement of organisation in EU programmes – by status

19. Was your organisation previously involved in a project supported by Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/ youth/education programme (e.g. Youth in Action, Erasmus etc.)?	Status[12]			
	Approved	Rejected	Total	Count
Yes, in a project supported by Erasmus+ Youth in Action (or a previous EU youth programme).	89,3%	10,7%	100,0%	**507**
Yes, in a project supported by Erasmus+ in the education sector (or a previous EU education programme).	87,4%	12,6%	100,0%	**159**
Yes, in a project supported by another EU programme.	88,0%	12,0%	100,0%	**167**
No	91,1%	8,9%	100,0%	**135**

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[12] Projects 'under evaluation' and 'cancelled' were not included in this calculation.

Table 44: Previous involvement of organisation in a similar project supported by another programme

Action	20. Was your organisation previously involved in a similar project supported by a programme other than Erasmus+ or an earlier EU mobility/youth/education programme?				
	Yes	No	I do not know	Total	
	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	64,4%	26,0%	9,6%	100,0%	658
SOL	39,8%	49,2%	11,0%	100,0%	236
VP	72,4%	21,1%	6,6%	100,0%	76
T&J	68,8%	31,3%	0,0%	100,0%	16
QL	46,5%	37,3%	16,2%	100,0%	228
Total	56,8%	32,4%	10,8%	100,0%	1.214

Table 45: Previous grant for a project supporting an employment or traneeship – by action

Action	20.a Did your organisation previously receive a grant for a project supporting an employment or a traineeship? (Dependency question: this question was only asked, if the previous question 20. was answered with 'yes')				
	Yes	No	I do not know	Total	
	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	29,0%	64,0%	6,9%	100,0%	420
SOL	36,6%	51,6%	11,8%	100,0%	93
VP	25,5%	65,5%	9,1%	100,0%	55
T&J	54,5%	45,5%	0,0%	100,0%	11
QL	32,4%	57,1%	10,5%	100,0%	105
Total	30,7%	61,1%	8,2%	100,0%	684

Table 46: Funding programme for previous project supporting employment and traineeship

20.b The respective funding programme was … (Dependency question: this question was only asked, if the previous question 20.a was answered with 'yes')	Count	%	% of cases
... a local or regional funding programme.	63	18,6%	30,0%
... a national funding programme.	70	20,7%	33,3%
... a multilateral funding programme.	21	6,2%	10,0%
... a European funding programme.	159	47,0%	75,7%
... an international funding programme.	22	6,5%	10,5%
Other	2	0,6%	1,0%
No Answer	1	0,3%	0,5%
Total	210	100,0%	161,0%

Table 47: Role/function of the person completing the questionnaire by action

| Action	15. Concerning this project, my role / function in the applicant organisation is …						
	… mainly managerial.	… mainly organisational (e.g., project coordination).	… mainly educational.	… a combination of managerial, organisational or educational.	Other	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	Count
VOL	9,5%	24,0%	1,5%	63,7%	1,2%	100,0%	662
SOL	13,1%	22,4%	3,4%	58,6%	2,5%	100,0%	237
VP	13,0%	27,3%	1,3%	57,1%	1,3%	100,0%	77
T&J	18,8%	31,3%	6,3%	43,8%	0,0%	100,0%	16
QL	17,0%	30,1%	2,6%	48,0%	2,2%	100,0%	229
Total	**12,0%**	**25,1%**	**2,1%**	**59,1%**	**1,6%**	**100,0%**	**1.221**

13 — Appendix

13.1 — Mapping of European Solidarity Corps Stakeholders at European Level

One of the tasks of this consultancy/pre-study was a mapping of relevant stakeholders of the European Solidarity Corps at European level. The result of the respective enquiry is shown below, complemented by a list with a short description of these stakeholders on the following pages
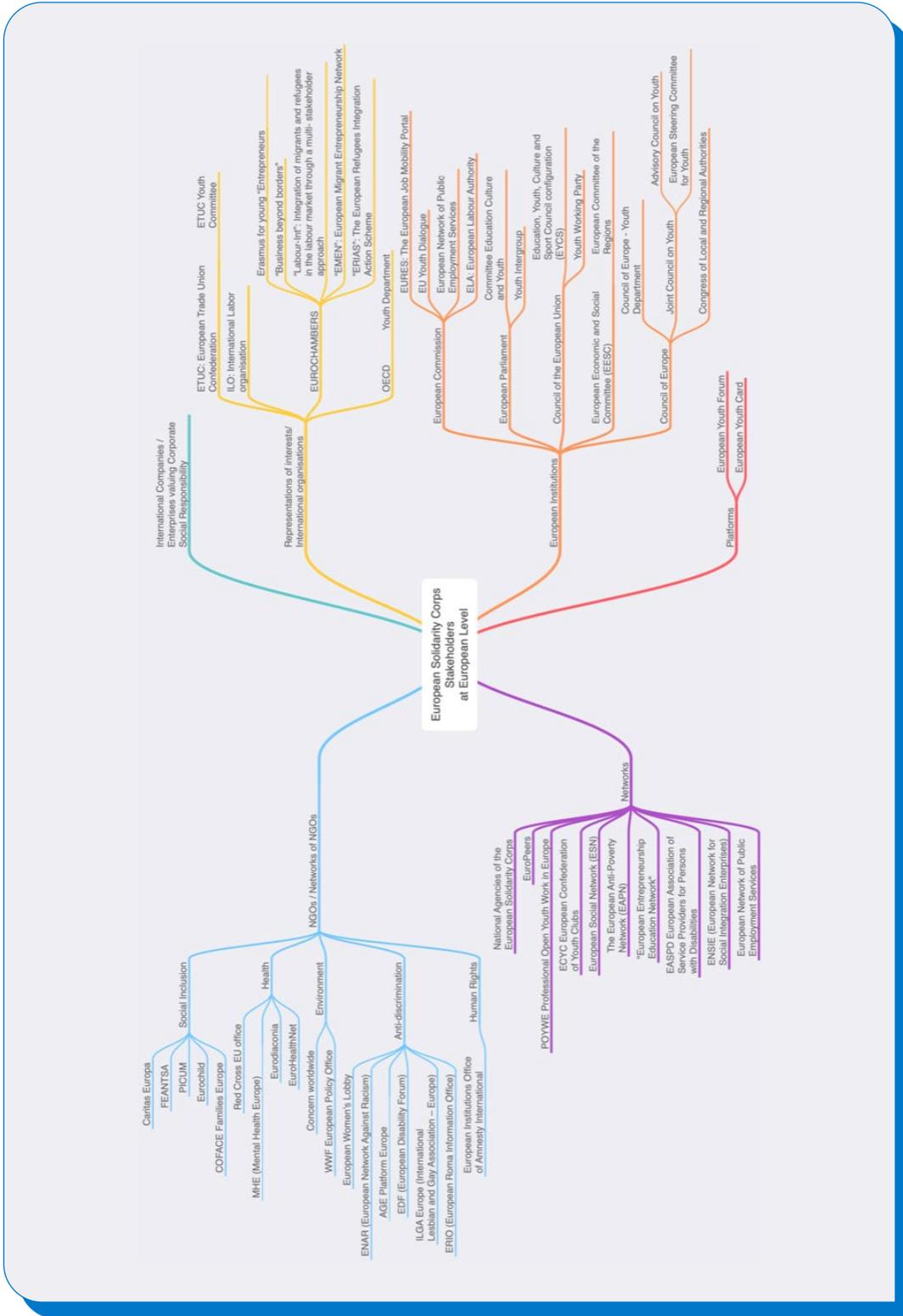
13.2 — List of Stakeholders

Representations of interests/International Organisations

ILO: International Labor Organisation	https://www.ilo.org/ Related Actions: mainly T&J
The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards. ILO has a network of 187 member countries.	

ETUC and their Youth Committee	https://www.etuc.org/en Related Actions: mainly T&J
The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) is the major trade union organisation representing workers at European level.	

OECD and their Youth Department	https://www.oecd.org/ Related Actions: all
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Their goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, they work on establishing international norms and finding evidence-based solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges	

Eurochambres	http://www.eurochambres.eu Related Actions: mainly T&J
The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry strives to improve the general conditions in which businesses operate, to facilitate access to markets within and beyond the EU and to ensure the availability of human, financial and natural resources.	

Related initiatives of Eurochambers

Business beyond borders	http://www.businessbeyondborders.info/ Related Actions: mainly T&J
Business Beyond Borders is a European Commission (EC)-funded initiative which helps businesses, in particular Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Clusters, to operate internationally, with the ultimate goal of increasing economic growth within and outside Europe.	

ERIAS: The European Refugees Integration Action Scheme	https://www.erias.org/ Related Actions: mainly T&J
The European Refugees Integration Action Scheme (ERIAS) concept was developed in 2016 and since then has been refined and validated with various stakeholders at EU and Member State level. The main objective is to promote inclusion of migrants in the labour market.	

Erasmus for young Entrepreneurs	https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/ Related Actions: mainly T&J

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other Participating Countries.

Labour-Int: Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Labour Market Through a Multi-Stakeholder Approach	http://www.labour-int.eu/ Related Actions: mainly T&J

Labor-Int aims to promote inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in the labour market.

EMEN	http://emen-project.eu/ Related Actions: mainly T&J

This project aims to strengthen the support for migrant entrepreneurship. In particular, through the use of community of practices, EMEN Partnership wants to bring together relevant players at European, national and regional levels to form transnational networks and share approaches and lessons learnt on migrant entrepreneurship.

NGOs/ networks / platforms

Red Cross EU Office	https://redcross.eu/ Related Actions: all

The Red Cross EU Office is a membership office representing the 28 National Red Cross Societies in the EU, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

European Institutions Office of Amnesty International	https://www.amnesty.eu/ Related Actions: all

Amnesty International's European Institutions Office (EIO) in Brussels coordinates and promotes Amnesty International's advocacy and campaigning directed at decision-makers in the European Union (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE). They seek to ensure that the EU integrates human rights into its internal and external policies and that the CoE and its member states take tangible action to promote and protect human rights nationally and regionally.

Eurochild	https://www.eurochild.org/ Related Actions: all

Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people.

FEANTSA	https://www.feantsa.org/en Related Actions: all

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless and aims at ending homelessness in Europe. Bringing. together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe FEANTSA has over 130 member organisations from 30 countries, including 28 Member States.

PICUM	https://picum.org/ Related Actions: all

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a network of organisations working to ensure social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants.

MHE (Mental Health Organisation)	https://www.mhe-sme.org/ Related Actions: all

Mental Health Europe is a European non-governmental network organisation committed to the promotion of positive mental health, the prevention of mental distress, the improvement of care, advocacy for social inclusion and the protection of the rights of (ex)users of mental health services, persons with psychosocial disabilities, their families and carers. MHE works closely with the European Institutions and international bodies to mainstream mental health in all policies and end mental health stigma.

Eurodiaconia	https://www.eurodiaconia.org/ Related Actions: all

Eurodiaconia is a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and healthcare services and advocating social justice. Together their membership represents the needs and unique experiences of 48 national and regional organisations in 32 countries.

EuroHealthNet	https://eurohealthnet.eu Related Actions: all

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health, and reducing inequalities.

Concern worldwide	https://www.concern.net Related Actions: all

Concern worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation that strives for a world free from poverty, fear and oppression.

WWF European Policy Office	http://www.wwf.eu Related Actions: all

The WWF European Policy Office advocates on the EU level for a more sustainable future for people and planet.

ENAR (European Network against Racism)	https://www.enar-eu.org Related Actions: all

ENAR is the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe. The organisation was set up in 1998 by grassroots activists on a mission to achieve legal changes at European level and make decisive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States.

EDF (European Disability Forum)	http://www.edf-feph.org Related Actions: all

The European Disability Forum is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of over 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe.

AGE Platform Europe	https://www.age-platform.eu Related Actions: all

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of non-profit organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union (Eurostat, 2018) and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most.

ERIO (European Roma Information Office)	http://www.erionet.eu Related Actions: all

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is an international advocacy organisation that promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing factual and in-depth information on a range of policy issues to European Union institutions, Roma civil organisations, governmental authorities and inter-governmental bodies.

European Youth Card Associations	https://www.eyca.org Related Actions: all

The European Youth Card Association (EYCA) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit association of 38 member organisations that issue the European Youth Card to over 6 million young people in 36 countries across Europe.

EuroPeers	https://www.europeers.de/international Related Actions: all

EuroPeers are young people who have gathered European experiences of their own under the EU's youth programme and want to share them with their peers. They may have gone abroad with the European Voluntary Service or dealt with European issues as participants in a youth initiative. EuroPeers report on their experiences and talk to their peers about the Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION programme, the European Solidarity Corps and other mobility schemes for young people. EuroPeers either organise their own events or may be invited by schools, youth welfare offices or cultural centres to speak. All EuroPeers perform these activities voluntarily.

ILGA Europe (International Lesbian and Gay Association -Europe)

https://www.ilga-europe.org
Related Actions: all

ILGA-Europe are an independent, international non-governmental umbrella organisation bringing together nearly 600 organisations from 54 countries in Europe and Central Asia. We are part of the wider international ILGA organisation, but ILGA-Europe were established as a separate region of ILGA and an independent legal entity in 1996.

Caritas Europa

https://www.caritas.eu
Related Actions: all

Caritas Europa is the network of caritas organisations on the European continent. The aims are to analyse and fight poverty and social exclusion as well as to promote true integral human development, social justice and sustainable social systems in Europe and throughout the world

UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia

UNICEF works with and for disadvantaged children and adolescents in 21 countries and territories across Europe and Central Asia. Their ambition is to get the entire region working together - as one - on behalf of its most vulnerable children

European Entrepreneaurship Education Network

http://www.ee-hub.eu/about.html
Related Actions: all

Led by JA Europe and endorsed by the European Commission, the EE-HUB is a specialised international network bringing together European and national governments, businesses, NGOs, researchers and educators to collaborate and share knowledge. It is a unique source of expertise, experience and research, with the mission to increase the quantity, quality and impact of entrepreneurship education in Europe. Together with JA Europe, the EE-HUB advocates that every young person should have at least one practical entrepreneurial experience before they leave school.

European Youth Forum

https://www.youthforum.org
Related Actions: all

The European Youth Forum is the platform of the national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations in Europe

ECYC: European Confederation of Youth Clubs

https://www.ecyc.org
Related Actions: all

ECYC represents a European network of youth work and youth club organisations that practice and promote open youth work and non-formal education. With 20 nationally represented organisations in 18 Council of Europe member states, reaching 1.2 million young people, the organisation has at its heart the supporting of youth clubs and other forms of neighbourhood youth work.

POYWE: Professional Open Youth Work in Europe

http://www.poywe.net/site
Related Actions: all

Poywe is a network of Professional Open Youth Work in Europe aiming the following: Strengthen the position of Professional Open Youth Work, make the effects and the necessity of this field of action visible, develop a common approach to quality development.

ENSIE: European Network for Social Integration Enterprises

http://www.ensie.org
Related Actions: mainly T&J

The European Network of Social Integration Enterprise (ENSIE), represents social enterprises and especially work integration social enterprises across Europe, aiming to contribute to sustainable development through different actions such as creating links between the job market and the social integration of disadvantaged risk-groups by improving their employment opportunities and productivity, and promoting the economic viability of social enterprises and the integration and reinforcement of their role in the general economic landscape.

EASPD European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

https://www.easpd.eu
Related Actions: all

EASPD is the European Association of service providers for persons with disabilities and represents over 15.000 support services for persons with disabilities across Europe

Inclusion Europe

https://www.inclusion-europe.eu
Related Actions: all

Inclusion Europe (IE) is a non-profit organisation representing people with intellectual disabilities and their families. IE has currently 76 members across 39 countries in Europe

COFACE Families Europe

http://www.coface-eu.org
Related Actions: all

COFACE Family Europe is a pluralistic network of civil society associations representing the interests of all families. COFACE's focus is essentially on policies and legislation that impact the lives of children and families, in particular in the fields of social protection and inclusion, safeguarding the rights of disabled and dependent persons, tackling child poverty, reconciling family and work life, migration, inclusive education and early childhood education and care, parenting support services to families, information and communication technologies, health and consumer policies, and other relevant policy areas

European Women's Lobby

https://www.womenlobby.org
Related Actions: all

Is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing a total of more than 2000 organisations in all EU Member States and Candidate Countries

European Social Network (ESN)

https://www.esn-eu.org
Related Actions: all

As the European Network of Public Authorities in Social Services, the ESN has 125 member organisations in 33 European countries and supports the sharing of knowledge, practice and policies between social services across Europe

Save the children EU office

https://www.savethechildren.net
Related Actions: all

Save the Children's EU Office works in Brussels to ensure European Union (EU) policies and funding have a lasting and positive impact on children's lives.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

https://www.eapn.eu
Related Actions: all

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroot groups as well as European Organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Relevant EU Institutions

European Commission

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/index_en
Related Actions: all

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union and promotes its general interest.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en
Related Actions: mainly T&J

Advisory body representing employers' and workers' organisations and other interest groups

European Commitee of the Regions

https://cor.europa.eu/en
Related Actions: all

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is an EU advisory body composed of locally and regionally elected representatives coming from all 28 Member States. Through the CoR they are able to share their opinion on EU legislation that directly impacts regions and cities.

Council of the European Union

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu
Related Actions: all

The Council of the European Union is the institution that represents the member states' governments and is responsible or the following: negotiating and adopting EU laws, coordinating member states' policies, developing the EU's common foreign and security policy, concluding international agreements and adopting the EU budget.

Council of Europe and their Youth Department

https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal
https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth
Related Actions: all

The Council of Europe is an international organisation whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe

European Parliament

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en
Related Actions: all

The European Parliament is the directly elected legislative body of the European Union

Relevant networks of these bodies

EURES

https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/homepage
Related Actions: T&J

EURES (European Employment Services) is a cooperation network formed by public employment services. Trade unions and employers' organisations also participate as partners. The objective of the EURES network is to facilitate the free movement of workers within the European Economic Area (EEA)

EU Youth Dialogue

https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/
euyouthdialogue_en
Related Actions: all

The EU Youth Dialogue is a EU participatory process enabling young people to engage with decision-makers on a given topic by bringing their ideas and proposals to youth policy related topics in the EU

European Network of Public Employment Services

https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.
jsp?catId=1100&langId=en
Related Actions: T&J

The European Network of Public Employment Services was established following a Decision by the Council and the European Parliament to maximise efficiency of public employment services

European Labour Authority

https://ela.europa.eu
Related Actions: T&J

The European Labour Authority is an agency of the European Union tasked with coordinating and supporting the enforcement of EU labour law

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration (EYCS)

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/
configurations/eycs
Related Actions: all

The EYCS Council is composed of the ministers responsible for education, culture, youth, media, communication and sport from all EU member states. The precise composition of the Council depends on the items discussed in a particular meeting.

Youth Working Party

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/
preparatory-bodies/youth-working-party
Related Actions: all

The Youth Working Party prepares items for discussion by EU ministers for youth. Its work includes youth issues such as:

participation and active citizenship, including through, structured dialogue', solidarity and social inclusion of young people,

https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/
joint-council-on-youth
Related Actions: all

The Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) brings together the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ). It is a co-decision-making body which establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budgets.

recognition of the value of informal and non-formal learning,	https://www.coe.int/en/web/congress Related Actions: all

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states and assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. As the voice of Europe's municipalities and regions, it works to foster consultation and political dialogue between national governments and local and regional authorities, through cooperation with the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

youth work opportunities for young people in education and training and in the labour market	http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/home.html Related Actions: all

The committee on Education and Culture is responsible for all the cultural aspects of the Union such as the dissemination of culture, cultural heritage, cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as for education, audiovisual policy, information and media policy, the cultural and educational aspects of the information society, youth and sports.

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre supports National Agencies and organisations in the youth field and beyond with the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps programme.

The Resource Centre's mission is to:

- Explore the potential of solidarity as a core value in European society;
- Promote the use of the European Solidarity Corps as a tool for understanding and living solidarity;
- Co-ordinate networking activities (e.g. trainings, seminars and events) that will support the quality implementation of the programme and maximise its impact;
- Contribute to building a European Solidarity Corps community of organisations

The Resource Centre is based at IZ, the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+: Youth in Action and the European Solidarity Corps, in Vienna, Austria.

"IZ – Vielfalt, Dialog, Bildung" is an independent NGO. It has been founded in 1987 and currently engages in three working fields: International Initiatives – civil society projects in regions bordering the EU – Caucasus and Western Balkan in particular, IZ Academy - Trainings in Diversity and Intercultural Competences & Communal Integration and Austrian National Agency for the European Union Youth Programmes - administration of the two EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action, European Solidarity Corps as well as offering training and support for youth workers and youth organisations .

The Solidarity Corps RC is part of the European SALTO-YOUTH network. SALTO stands for Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities. The Resource Centres provides resources, information and training for National Agencies and European youth workers. The network cooperates with other actors in the European youth field, among them the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, trainers and training organisers.

More information:
https://www.salto-youth.net/
https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/solidarity/
https://www.iz.or.at/rc