



European
Commission

Amendment of the 2018 Annual Work Programme for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Programme

C(2018) 7325 of 08 November 2018

SUMMARY

Commission Implementing Decision adopting the 2018 annual work programme for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps

The attached Commission Implementing Decision presents the 2018 annual work programme on grants and procurement for budget lines 15 05 01, 07 02 07, 34 02 05 ,23 03 01 03, 04 02 65 and 05 04 60 04.

It serves as a Financing Decision and allows the Authorizing Officer to implement 2018 grants, procurements, experts and other actions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps Programme.

The Programme aims to promote solidarity as a value mainly through volunteering to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion and solidarity, democracy and citizenship in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people. This will give over 100 000 young Europeans the opportunity to engage in solidarity activities.

The European Solidarity Corps supports five main actions:

- Volunteering;
- Traineeships and jobs;
- Solidarity projects;
- Networking activities; and
- Quality and support measures.

These actions will be implemented taking into account the requirements defined in Article 9 of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation (EU) N°2018/1475¹. As such, the indicative allocation for traineeships and jobs shall not be higher than 10 % of the total allocation to solidarity activities. Furthermore, no more than 20 % of all solidarity activities can take place in the country of residence of the participant. These shares have governed the allocation of funds at the annual level for the year 2018. It should be noted, however, that in line with the Regulation, these percentages of the total budget are fixed for the entire programming period 2018 – 2020. Therefore, for a given year of implementation of the Programme, they do not need to be respected in full (i.e. because of reprogramming or change in political priorities), while the trend will have to be respected for the overall duration of the Programme.

In its first year of implementation as a self-standing Programme, the European Solidarity Corps will build on the experience gained through the implementation of the European Voluntary Service, as well as the implementation of the Erasmus+ volunteering.

From the point of view of technical management, efforts will be made to optimise, stabilise and improve the performance and user-friendliness of the IT tools supporting the implementation of the Programme. These efforts will be carried out with a view to facilitate the access to the Programme, notably for new entrants and small entities applying for funding, as well as for young Europeans willing to engage in solidarity activities.

¹ OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1

As regard the implementation mode, the European Commission (Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture) is ultimately responsible for the whole implementation of the Programme, including the direct management of certain actions. At European level, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the implementation of certain actions of the Programme (direct management).

The implementation of European Solidarity Corps is largely implemented as indirect management. The European Commission delegates implementation tasks to National Agencies established in participating countries.

The total available operational appropriations foreseen under the 2018 Work Programme amounts to **EUR 54,637,652**.

Table 1 – Available appropriations

Budget European Solidarity Corps 2018	Budget lines	EU-28
European Solidarity Corps	15 05 01	38,235,652
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the European Social Fund (ESF)	04 02 65	11,102,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	05 04 60 04	1,800,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)	23 03 01 03	2,000,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action	34 02 05	500,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	07 02 07	1,000,000
TOTAL		54,637,652

In 2018, the European Solidarity Corps is implemented through:

1. Grants

To achieve the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, general and specific calls for proposals will be published by the European Commission or by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in accordance with Articles 189 FR and 194 of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 of July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union² ('the Financial Regulation' or 'FR').

² Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 of July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 of the

Each year, after adoption of the financing decision, based on Article 110 FR, a General Call for Proposals will be published. The General Call for Proposals for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps makes reference to a Programme Guide for the practical information. The European Solidarity Corps Programme Guide aims to assist all those interested in developing projects within the Programme. It helps them understand the objectives and the actions of the Corps. It also aims to give detailed information on what is needed in order to apply and what level of grant is offered. Finally, it informs about the grant selection procedure as well as the rules applying to successful applicants that become beneficiaries of an EU grant. The Programme Guide provides also detailed information as regards the award criteria for each call. The quality of the proposals will be assessed on the basis of the award criteria published per action in the guide, as elaborated upon in the call for proposals.

Some grants will also be awarded as per Article 195 FR, indents (c), (d) and (f).

The calls for proposals that will be published or launched with a view to selecting actions and work programmes to be co-financed in 2018, as well as the grants awarded under specific conditions without issuing a call for proposals are specified in Part II of the Work Programme.

2. Procurements

This Work Programme also includes actions that will be implemented mostly by public procurement procedures (via calls for tenders or the use of framework contracts) (Article 164). The amounts reserved together with the indicative number of contracts and time-frame for launching the procurement procedures are indicated in table 2 in Part III, section 2 of the Work Programme.

3. Experts and other actions

The Work Programme includes costs related to the experts involved in the assessment of requests for Quality Label or funding.

Insofar as participating organisations are concerned, a Quality Label process is in place for the applicants (implemented under "quality and support measures") in order to ensure the general quality framework. Holding the relevant Quality Label is a pre-requisite to then be eligible to receive a grant for most solidarity activities and/or to participate in many other actions of the European Solidarity Corps. More details are provided in Part II, section 3.4 and 4.4 of the Work Programme.

FR

RÉSUMÉ

Décision d'exécution de la Commission portant adoption du programme de travail annuel 2018 pour la mise en œuvre du corps européen de solidarité

La décision d'exécution de la Commission ci-jointe présente le programme de travail annuel 2018 en matière de subventions et de marchés concernant les lignes budgétaires 15 05 01, 07 02 07, 34 02 05, 23 03 01 03, 04 02 65 et 05 04 60 04.

Elle vaut décision de financement et autorise l'ordonnateur à mettre en œuvre les subventions, les marchés, les experts et les autres actions relevant du programme relatif au corps européen de solidarité.

Le programme vise à promouvoir la valeur que représente la solidarité, principalement par l'intermédiaire du volontariat, afin de faire participer davantage les jeunes et les organisations à des activités de solidarité accessibles et de haute qualité dans le but de contribuer à renforcer la cohésion, la solidarité, la démocratie et la citoyenneté en Europe, tout en relevant les défis de société et en renforçant le tissu social, des efforts particuliers étant déployés pour promouvoir l'inclusion sociale. Il contribuera donc aussi à la coopération européenne intéressant les jeunes. Il donnera à plus de 100 000 jeunes Européens la possibilité de participer à des activités de solidarité.

Le corps européen de solidarité soutient cinq grandes actions:

- le volontariat;
- les stages et emplois;
- les projets de solidarité;
- les activités de mise en réseau; ainsi que
- les mesures en matière de qualité et mesures d'appui.

Ces actions seront mises en œuvre en prenant en compte les exigences définies à l'article 9 du règlement (UE) n° 2018/1475 relatif au corps européen de solidarité¹. À ce titre, la dotation indicative pour les stages et les emplois n'excèdera pas 10 % de la dotation totale en faveur des activités de solidarité. Par ailleurs, pas plus de 20 % de l'ensemble des activités de solidarité pourra avoir lieu dans le pays de résidence du participant. Ces proportions ont déterminé l'attribution des fonds sur une base annuelle pour l'année 2018. Il convient toutefois de noter que, conformément au règlement, ces pourcentages du budget total sont fixés pour l'ensemble de la période de programmation 2018-2020. Par conséquent, ils ne doivent pas être intégralement respectés pour une année donnée de mise en œuvre du programme (à savoir en raison d'une reprogrammation ou d'un changement dans les priorités politiques), mais la tendance devra être respectée pour la durée totale du programme.

Lors de sa première année de mise en œuvre en tant que programme autonome, le corps européen de solidarité s'appuiera sur l'expérience acquise dans la mise en œuvre du service volontaire européen, ainsi que des activités de volontariat Erasmus+.

Du point de vue de la gestion technique, des efforts seront consentis pour optimiser, stabiliser et améliorer la performance et la convivialité des outils informatiques à l'appui de la mise en œuvre du programme. Ces efforts seront déployés en vue de faciliter l'accès au programme,

¹ JO L 250 du 4.10.2018, p. 1

notamment pour les nouveaux entrants et les petites entités sollicitant un financement, ainsi que pour les jeunes Européens qui veulent participer à des activités de solidarité.

En ce qui concerne le mode de mise en œuvre, la Commission européenne (direction générale de l'éducation, de la jeunesse, du sport et de la culture) assume la responsabilité finale de l'ensemble de la mise en œuvre du programme, y compris de la gestion directe de certaines actions. À l'échelle européenne, l'Agence exécutive «Éducation, audiovisuel et culture» (EACEA) de la Commission européenne a la responsabilité de mettre en œuvre certaines actions du programme (en gestion directe).

La mise en œuvre du corps européen de solidarité passe en grande partie par une gestion indirecte. La Commission européenne délègue des tâches d'exécution à des agences nationales établies dans chaque pays participant.

Le montant total des crédits opérationnels disponibles prévus dans le cadre du programme de travail 2018 s'élève à **54 637 652 EUR**.

Tableau 1 – Crédits disponibles

Budget consacré au corps européen de solidarité 2018	Lignes budgétaires	EU-28
Corps européen de solidarité	15 05 01	38 235 652
Corps européen de solidarité — Contribution du Fonds social européen (FSE)	04 02 65	11 102 000
Corps européen de solidarité – Contribution du Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural (Feader)	05 04 60 04	1 800 000
Corps européen de solidarité – Contribution du mécanisme de protection civile de l'Union (MPCU)	23 03 01 03	2 000 000
Corps européen de solidarité – Contribution du sous-programme LIFE «Action pour le climat»	34 02 05	500 000
Corps européen de solidarité – Contribution du sous-programme LIFE «Environnement»	07 02 07	1 000 000
TOTAL		54 637 652

En 2018, le corps européen de solidarité est mis en œuvre au moyen de:

1. Subventions

Pour atteindre les objectifs du corps européen de solidarité, des appels à propositions généraux et spécifiques seront publiés par la Commission européenne ou par l'Agence exécutive «Éducation, audiovisuel et culture» conformément à l'article 189 du règlement financier et à l'article 194 du règlement (UE) 2018/1046 du Parlement européen et du Conseil

du 18 juillet 2018 relatif aux règles financières applicables au budget général de l'Union² (ci-après le «règlement financier»).

Chaque année, après l'adoption de la décision de financement, sur la base de l'article 110 du règlement financier, un appel à propositions général sera publié. L'appel à propositions général relatif à la mise en œuvre du corps européen de solidarité fait référence à un guide du programme pour ce qui est des informations pratiques. Ce guide vise à aider l'ensemble des parties intéressées à élaborer des projets dans le cadre du programme. Il les aide à comprendre les objectifs et les actions du corps européen de solidarité. Il vise également à fournir des informations détaillées sur les conditions d'introduction d'une demande de subvention et sur le montant des subventions octroyées. Enfin, il fournit des renseignements sur la procédure de sélection des subventions ainsi que sur les règles applicables aux demandeurs retenus qui deviennent bénéficiaires de subventions de l'UE. Le guide du programme fournit également des informations détaillées sur les critères d'attribution pour chaque appel. La qualité des propositions sera évaluée sur la base des critères d'attribution publiés pour chaque action dans le guide, tels qu'ils sont précisés dans l'appel à propositions.

Certaines subventions seront également octroyées conformément à l'article 195, points c), d) et f), du règlement financier.

L'appel à propositions qui sera publié ou lancé pour sélectionner les actions et les programmes de travail à cofinancer en 2018, ainsi que les subventions octroyées sous certaines conditions sans appel à propositions, sont précisés dans la partie II du programme de travail.

2. Marchés

Le présent programme de travail comprend également des actions qui seront mises en œuvre en grande partie au moyen de procédures de passation de marchés publics (appels d'offres ou recours à des contrats-cadres) (article 164). Les montants réservés ainsi que le nombre indicatif de contrats et le calendrier de lancement des procédures de passation de marchés sont indiqués dans le tableau 2 figurant dans la partie III, section 2, du programme de travail.

3. Experts et autres actions

Le programme de travail comprend les coûts relatifs à l'intervention des experts dans l'évaluation des demandes de financement ou de label de qualité.

En ce qui concerne les organisations participantes, une procédure d'attribution d'un label de qualité est en place pour les candidats (mise en œuvre au titre des «mesures en matière de qualité et mesures d'appui») afin de garantir le cadre général de qualité. Il est nécessaire d'être titulaire du label de qualité adéquat pour pouvoir bénéficier d'une subvention pour la plupart des activités de solidarité et/ou pour participer à de nombreuses autres actions du corps européen de solidarité. De plus amples informations sont fournies dans la partie II, sections 3.4 et 4.4, du programme de travail.

² Règlement (UE) 2018/1046 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 18 juillet 2018 relatif aux règles financières applicables au budget général de l'Union et modifiant le règlement (CE) n° 2012/2002, les règlements (UE) n° 1296/2013, (UE) n° 1301/2013, (UE) n° 1303/2013, (UE) n° 1304/2013, (UE) n° 1309/2013, (UE) n° 1316/2013, (UE) n° 223/2014, (UE) n° 283/2014 du Parlement européen et du Conseil et la décision n° 541/2014/UE du Parlement européen et du Conseil et abrogeant le règlement (UE, Euratom) n° 966/2012 (JO L 193 du 30.7.2018, p. 1).

DE

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Durchführungsbeschluss der Kommission zur Annahme des Jahresarbeitsprogramms 2018 für die Umsetzung des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps

Der beigefügte Durchführungsbeschluss der Kommission umfasst das Jahresarbeitsprogramm 2018 für Finanzhilfen und öffentliche Aufträge, die unter die Haushaltslinien 15 05 01, 07 02 07, 34 02 05, 23 03 01 03, 04 02 65 und 05 04 60 04 fallen.

Er dient als Finanzierungsbeschluss und versetzt den Anweisungsbefugten in die Lage, 2018 Finanzhilfen, öffentliche Aufträge und andere Maßnahmen im Rahmen des Solidaritätskorps-Programms zu veranlassen und Sachverständige einzusetzen.

Das Programm zielt darauf ab, Solidarität als Wert hauptsächlich durch Freiwilligenaktivität zu fördern, die Einbeziehung von jungen Menschen und Einrichtungen in leicht zugängliche solidarische Aktivitäten von hoher Qualität zu fördern, um zur Stärkung des Zusammenhalts, der Solidarität, der Demokratie und des bürgerschaftlichen Engagements in Europa beizutragen und gleichzeitig auf gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen zu reagieren und Gemeinschaften mit einem besonderem Schwerpunkt auf der Förderung der sozialen Inklusion zu stärken. Es wird somit auch einen Beitrag zur europäischen Zusammenarbeit leisten, die für junge Menschen von Bedeutung ist. Damit wird über 100 000 jungen Europäerinnen und Europäern die Möglichkeit geboten, sich solidarisch zu engagieren.

Das Europäische Solidaritätskorps unterstützt fünf Hauptaktionen:

- Freiwilligenaktivität
- Praktika und Arbeitsstellen
- solidarische Projekte
- Vernetzungsaktivitäten und
- Qualitäts- und Unterstützungsmaßnahmen

Diese Maßnahmen werden unter Berücksichtigung der Anforderungen in Artikel 9 der Verordnung (EU) 2018/1475 über das Europäische Solidaritätskorps¹ durchgeführt. Demnach sollte die vorläufige Mittelzuweisung für Praktika und Arbeitsstellen nicht mehr als 10 % der gesamten Zuweisung für solidarische Aktivitäten ausmachen. Ferner dürfen nicht mehr als 20 % aller solidarischen Aktivitäten im Wohnsitzland des Teilnehmers stattfinden. Diese Anteile sind für die Mittelzuweisung für das Jahr 2018 maßgebend. Es wird jedoch darauf hingewiesen, dass diese Prozentsätze des gesamten Budgets – im Einklang mit der Verordnung – für den gesamten Programmplanungszeitraum 2018-2020 festgelegt sind. Diese müssen daher nicht vollständig für ein bestimmtes Durchführungsjahr des Programms eingehalten werden (d. h. aufgrund einer Änderung des Programms oder der politischen Prioritäten), sondern gelten für die gesamte Laufzeit des Programms.

Im ersten Jahr der Umsetzung als eigenständiges Programm wird das Europäische Solidaritätskorps auf den Erfahrungen aus der Umsetzung des Europäischen Freiwilligendienstes sowie der Freiwilligenarbeit im Rahmen von Erasmus+ aufbauen.

Was die technische Verwaltung angeht, so konzentrieren sich die Bemühungen auf die Optimierung, Stabilisierung und Verbesserung der Leistungsfähigkeit und der Nutzerfreundlichkeit der IT-Instrumente zur Durchführung des Programms. Dahinter steht der

¹ ABl. L 250 vom 4.10.2018, S. 1.

Wunsch, den Zugang zum Programm zu erleichtern, vor allem für neue Teilnehmer und kleine Organisationen, die Mittel beantragen, sowie für junge Europäerinnen und Europäer, die sich solidarisch engagieren wollen.

Was die Art und Weise der Durchführung angeht, zeichnet die Europäische Kommission (Generaldirektion Bildung, Jugend, Sport und Kultur) letztendlich verantwortlich für die Gesamtdurchführung des Solidaritätskorps-Programms, einschließlich der direkten Verwaltung bestimmter Maßnahmen. Auf europäischer Ebene ist die Exekutivagentur Bildung, Audiovisuelles und Kultur der Europäischen Kommission (EACEA) für die Durchführung bestimmter Maßnahmen des Programms zuständig (direkte Verwaltung).

Das Programm des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps wird zum großen Teil in indirekter Verwaltung durchgeführt. Die Europäische Kommission überträgt Aufgaben der Durchführung an nationale Agenturen, die in den teilnehmenden Ländern eingerichtet wurden.

Die im Rahmen des Arbeitsprogramms 2018 vorgesehenen operativen Mittel belaufen sich auf insgesamt **54 637 652 EUR**.

Tabelle 1 – Verfügbare Mittel

Budget Europäisches Solidaritätskorps 2018	Haushaltslinien	EU-28
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps	15 05 01	38 235 652
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps – Beitrag aus dem Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF)	04 02 65	11 102 000
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps – Beitrag aus dem Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums (ELER)	05 04 60 04	1 800 000
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps – Beitrag aus dem Katastrophenschutzverfahren der Union	23 03 01 03	2 000 000
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps– Beitrag aus dem LIFE-Teilprogramm Klimapolitik	34 02 05	500 000
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps– Beitrag aus dem LIFE-Teilprogramm Umwelt	07 02 07	1 000 000
INSGESAMT		54 637 652

2018 wird das Europäische Solidaritätskorps über folgende Maßnahmen umgesetzt:

1. Finanzhilfen

Um die Ziele des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps zu erreichen, werden allgemeine und spezifische Aufforderungen zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen von der Europäischen Kommission oder der Exekutivagentur Bildung, Audiovisuelles und Kultur gemäß Artikel 189 HO und Artikel 194 der Verordnung (EU) Nr. 2018/1046 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 18. Juli 2018 über die Haushaltsordnung für den

Gesamthaushaltsplan der Union² (im Folgenden „Haushaltordnung“ oder „HO“) veröffentlicht.

Jedes Jahr wird nach der Annahme des Finanzierungsbeschlusses gemäß Artikel 110 HO eine allgemeine Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen veröffentlicht. Die allgemeine Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen für die Durchführung des Solidaritätskorps-Programms nimmt Bezug auf den Programmleitfaden für praktische Informationen. Der Programmleitfaden für das Europäische Solidaritätskorps soll all jenen, die an der Konzeption von Projekten im Rahmen des Programms interessiert sind, als Anleitung dienen. In ihm sind die Ziele und die Maßnahmen des Korps verständlich erläutert. Darüber hinaus enthält der Leitfaden ausführliche Informationen darüber, was für eine Antragstellung benötigt wird und wie hoch die Finanzhilfe ist. Außerdem werden darin das Auswahlverfahren für die Gewährung von Finanzhilfen sowie die Bestimmungen erläutert, die für erfolgreiche Antragsteller gelten, die eine EU-Finanzhilfe erhalten. Der Programmleitfaden enthält auch ausführliche Informationen über die Gewährungskriterien jeder einzelnen Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen. Die Qualität der Vorschläge wird anhand der für jede Aktion im Leitfaden veröffentlichten Gewährungskriterien bewertet, die in der Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen dargelegt werden.

Einige Finanzhilfen werden alternativ gemäß Artikel 195 Buchstaben c, d und f HO vergeben.

Die Aufforderungen zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen, die veröffentlicht werden, um Maßnahmen und Arbeitsprogramme zur Kofinanzierung im Jahr 2018 auszuwählen, sowie die Finanzhilfen, die unter bestimmten Bedingungen ohne die Veröffentlichung einer Aufforderung zur Einreichung von Vorschlägen vergeben werden, sind in Teil II dieses Arbeitsprogramms aufgeführt.

2. Auftragsvergabe

Dieses Arbeitsprogramm umfasst auch Maßnahmen, die größtenteils durch die Vergabe öffentlicher Aufträge durchgeführt werden (mittels Ausschreibungen oder Rahmenverträgen) (Artikel 164). Die eingeplanten Beträge sowie die voraussichtliche Zahl der Verträge und der Zeitrahmen für die Vergabeverfahren sind Tabelle 2 in Teil III Abschnitt 2 des Jahresarbeitsprogramms zu entnehmen.

3. Experten und sonstige Maßnahmen

Das Arbeitsprogramm umfasst die Kosten für Experten, die an der Bewertung von Anträgen für das Qualitätssiegel oder Finanzierungen beteiligt sind.

In Bezug auf die teilnehmenden Organisationen wurde ein Verfahren für die Beantragung des Qualitätssiegels festgelegt (durchgeführt unter „Qualitäts- und Unterstützungsmaßnahmen“), mit dem der allgemeine Qualitätsrahmen sichergestellt wird. Die Zuerkennung des Qualitätssiegels ist die Voraussetzung für die Gewährung einer Finanzhilfe für die meisten solidarischen Aktivitäten und/oder für die Teilnahme an vielen anderen Maßnahmen des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps. Weitere Einzelheiten sind Teil II Abschnitte 3.4 und 4.4 des Arbeitsprogramms zu entnehmen.

² Verordnung (EU) Nr. 2018/1046 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 18. Juli 2018 über die Haushaltsordnung für den Gesamthaushaltsplan der Union und zur Änderung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2012/2002, der Verordnungen (EU) Nr. 1296/2013, (EU) Nr. 1301/2013, (EU) Nr. 1303/2013, (EU) Nr. 1304/2013, (EU) Nr. 1309/2013, (EU) Nr. 1316/2013, (EU) Nr. 223/2014, (EU) Nr. 283/2014 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates und des Beschlusses Nr. 541/2014/EU des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates, und zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EU, Euratom) Nr. 966/2012 (ABl. L 193 vom 30.7.2018, S. 1).

EN

ANNEX

**THE 2018 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS**

Annual Work Programme in brief.....	3
Part I – General Overview.....	5
1. Structure of European Solidarity Corps	5
1.1. Objectives and actions of the European Solidarity Corps	5
1.2. Participating countries	5
1.3. Bodies implementing the Programme.....	6
2. Policy framework and priorities	6
2.1. General policy framework	6
2.2. Policy priorities	8
3. Implementation of the Programme.....	8
3.1. Volunteering	8
3.2. Traineeships and jobs.....	9
3.3. Solidarity projects	10
3.4. Networking activities	10
3.5. Quality and support measures	11
Part II – Grants, Procurements and Other Actions.....	14
1. Budget lines and Basic Act	14
2. Methods of intervention	14
2.1. Grants.....	14
2.2. Procurements.....	15
2.3. Experts and other actions	15
3. Supported activities	15
3.1. Expected results of supported activities.....	15
3.2. Grants.....	16
3.3. Procurements.....	24
3.4. Experts	27
3.5. Other actions (Quality Label)	27
4. Management fees of National Agencies.....	28
Part III – Budget.....	29
1. Available appropriations and distribution by budget line	29
2. Distribution of available appropriations by actions – budget and programming tables	30
3. Breakdown by country of the funds allocated to the national agencies	32
3.1. Criteria	32
4. Funds aimed at co-financing the management costs of National Agencies.....	35
5. Funds for the European Solidarity Corps resource centres	37

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME IN BRIEF

The European Union is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity in its action inside and outside the Union. The establishment of the European Solidarity Corps has been announced by President Juncker in his State of the Union address on 14 September 2016:

"There are many young, socially minded people in Europe willing to make a meaningful contribution to society and help show solidarity. We can create opportunities for them to do so [...]. Solidarity is the glue that keeps our Union together [...]. It provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future crises by holding a strong moral ground. It provides a clear compass to guide the European youth in their aspirations of a better Union. It is in their minds and hearts that lie the strength and wit to further advance the European project. And it is the moral duty of current leaders to prepare the ground for it."

In December 2016, EU leaders made a strong commitment to support young people¹, which was reiterated in the Bratislava roadmap². The European Solidarity Corps was launched in December 2016 to create new opportunities for young people (18-30 years old) to engage in solidarity activities through volunteering, jobs or traineeships for the benefit of communities and people around Europe. Since its launch, more than 78,500 young people have registered on the Portal of the European Solidarity Corps, which demonstrates an extremely high interest. Among those, nearly 9,000 are participating in the European Solidarity Corps activities³.

Until the adoption of its legal base, the European Solidarity Corps has operated under 8 existing Union programmes. The European Solidarity Corps Regulation (EU) N°2018/1475⁴ adopted on 2 October 2018 creates a new, coherent framework for solidarity activities, consolidating 20 years of experience with the European Voluntary Service. The Corps offers new formats and tools with a sustained commitment to quality in order to reach out to even more young people and provide them with a valuable experience. Young people engaged in the Corps will not only bring tangible benefits for places and communities in need across Europe and beyond, but engagement in the Corps will also allow participants to gain essential personal, social and civic competences that will help them better cope in a rapidly changing world.

On 2 May 2018, the Commission put forward its proposal for a renewed Youth Strategy (2019-2027) "Engaging, connecting and empowering young people", which puts solidarity in the heart of youth policy at EU level. One of the key overall objectives of the renewed Youth Strategy is to *"Encourage young people to become active citizens, agents of solidarity and positive change for communities across Europe, inspired by EU values and a European identity"*. Under the priority area "Connect"⁵, the Commission proposes to expand mobility

¹ Communication 'Investing in Europe's Youth', COM (2016) 940, 7.12.2016.

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/21250/160916-bratislava-declaration-and-roadmapen16.pdf>

³ As of 19.09.2018.

⁴ OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1

⁵ The four priority areas of the Youth Strategy are: 1) ENGAGE: Fostering youth participation in democratic life; 2) CONNECT: Bringing young people together across the EU and beyond to foster voluntary engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding; 3) EMPOWER: Supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work; 4) MAINSTREAM: Addressing the needs of young people across sectors."

actions under the European Solidarity Corps and also support its implementation through reinforced policy cooperation and community building activities.

This Work Programme covers the annual budget of the European Solidarity Corps, which amounts to **EUR 54,637,652** of operational appropriations for 2018. It serves as the Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 110 of the Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁶ ('the Financial Regulation' or 'FR').

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L193.

PART I – GENERAL OVERVIEW

1. STRUCTURE OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

1.1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

According to the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the European Solidarity Corps aims to promote solidarity as a value, mainly through volunteering, enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion and solidarity and democracy (and citizenship) in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people.

In terms of specific objectives, the European Solidarity Corps aims to do the following:

- to provide young people, with the support of participating organisations, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities effecting positive societal change while improving their skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development, as well as facilitating their active citizenship, employability and transition into the labour market, including by supporting the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers;
- to ensure that the solidarity activities that are offered to the European Solidarity Corps participants are of high quality, properly validated and respect the principles of the European Solidarity Corps;
- to ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities, in particular for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, through a range of special measures such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised support;
- to contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raise awareness of its positive impact.

In order to achieve its objective, the European Solidarity Corps implements the following operational actions:

- volunteering;
- traineeships and jobs;
- solidarity projects;
- networking activities;
- quality and support measures.

1.2. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of the following countries (the 'Participating countries') as follows:

- volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities shall be open to the participation of the EU Member States.
- volunteering, solidarity projects and networking activities shall also be open to the participation of:
 - the acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and

general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, Association Council decisions or similar agreements;

- those EFTA countries that are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that agreement;
- the Swiss Confederation, on the basis of a bilateral agreement to be concluded with that country;
- those countries covered by the European neighbourhood policy which have concluded agreements with the Union providing for the possibility of their participation in the Union's programmes, subject to the conclusion of a bilateral agreement with the Union on the conditions of their participation in the Programme.

The European Solidarity Corps shall support cooperation with partner countries, in particular neighbourhood countries, insofar as volunteering and Quality Label activities are concerned.

1.3. BODIES IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME

The European Commission (Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture) is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the European Solidarity Corps on an on-going basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Programme at European level. The European Commission also bears overall responsibility for the supervision and coordination of the structures in charge of implementing the Programme at national level. It also directly manages certain actions of the Programme. At European level, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (Executive Agency) is also responsible for the implementation of certain actions of the European Solidarity Corps.

The actions of the European Solidarity Corps are mostly implemented in the indirect management mode. The European Commission delegates implementation tasks to National Agencies insofar as established in each Participating Country, as provided for by Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation. The national authorities monitor and supervise the management of the European Solidarity Corps at national level.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITIES

2.1. GENERAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The European Union is built on solidarity, a shared value which is strongly felt throughout European society. Solidarity defines the European project and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future crises by holding a strong moral ground. Solidarity provides a clear compass to guide the European youth in their aspirations for a better Union. In the Rome Declaration, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the leaders of 27 Member States and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission reaffirmed their commitment to enhance unity and solidarity in order to increase the strength and resilience of the European Union⁷.

⁷ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25-rome-declaration>.

The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016⁸ emphasized the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps with a view to creating opportunities for young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity and develop their skills, thus getting not only work but also invaluable human experience.

In its Communication “A European Solidarity Corps” of 7 December 2016⁹, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, such as integration of migrants, environmental challenges, prevention of natural disasters, education and youth activities or measures to prevent violent radicalisation, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different societal challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes have been mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union. These activities, whether implemented before or after the entry into force of this Regulation [the Solidarity Corps Regulation], should continue to apply the rules and conditions set by the respective Union programmes that have financed them under the first phase of the European Solidarity Corps.

Young people need easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability.

The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union. The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes.

Furthermore, the European Solidarity Corps aims to complement the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee¹⁰ by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders.

The European Solidarity Corps builds on the strengths and synergies of existing and preceding programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service. Consistency and complementarity with other programmes operating in the solidarity area is also ensured.

The activities of the European Solidarity Corps are coherent with the current EU Youth Strategy that promotes volunteering across borders for young people as one of its fields of action and with the Commission's proposal for a new EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027¹¹.

⁸ The State of the Union 2016: Towards a Better Europe – A Europe that Protects, Empowers and Defends, IP/16/3042 (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3042_en.htm).

⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps, COM(2016) 942 final, 7.12.2016.

¹⁰ Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

¹¹ COM(2018)269, 22.05.2018.

In accordance with Recital 9 of the [European Solidarity Corps Regulation], the Commission and the Member States will cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination. The newly proposed EU Youth Strategy, amongst others intends to encourage young people to become active EU citizens¹², agents of solidarity and positive change for communities across Europe, inspired by EU values as enshrined in the Treaties¹³ and a European identity. More specifically, to give further meaning to the aspirations to involve young people in solidarity activities and to ensure that the European Solidarity Corps can reach its full potential in synergy with national schemes, the proposed EU Youth Strategy suggests the Commission and Member States to cooperate on a supportive policy, legal and administrative environment.

Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, shall be ensured, as well as complementarity with the existing related schemes (in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people).

2.2. POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE ACTION “VOLUNTEERING TEAMS IN HIGH-PRIORITY AREAS”

In addition to pursuing the objectives outlined in section 1.1, additional emphasis shall be placed on the following areas in 2018:

- European cultural heritage;
- integration of third-country nationals (including asylum seekers and refugees);
- response to environmental and climate challenges, including disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery (excluding immediate disaster response).

The policy priorities described above will be addressed through the action "Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas" implemented under direct management by EACEA as defined in section 3.2.1 (WPI 1.30).

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The next Sections of this document will highlight the main actions and initiatives that the Commission, in cooperation with the implementing structures of the Programme, plans to carry out in 2018.

In 2018, the first year of the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps under its own legal base, the Commission is planning to launch a general call for proposals to cover actions under Sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

A complete and more detailed description of the grants and procurements that will be awarded in 2018 under European Solidarity Corps is available in the Part II of this Work Programme.

¹² The European Solidarity Corps is listed as a priority action in the EU Citizenship Report 2017: Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change, COM(2017)030, 24.01.2017.

¹³ The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

3.1. VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering will be implemented through individual volunteering activities or activities by volunteering teams.

Individual volunteering is a solidarity activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to twelve months¹⁴. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity activities to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). Such volunteering must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs and must be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Activities by volunteering teams are solidarity activities allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different participating countries to volunteer together for a period between two weeks and two months; such solidarity activities could especially contribute to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the European Solidarity Corps and/or be justified due to the specific aims of the solidarity activities.

Main actions planned for 2018:

The following actions will be implemented under the aforementioned general call for proposals:

The **Volunteering Projects** action will involve individual volunteering and/or activities by volunteering teams. Awarded projects are expected to start at the beginning of 2019, with individual deployments beginning over the entire duration of awarded projects.

In order to alleviate the administrative requirements on applicants for funding where appropriate, **Volunteering Partnerships** will aim at concluding framework partnership agreements with experienced organisations offering solidarity activities (including individual volunteering and/or activities by volunteering teams) over a longer period of time and with a strategic dimension.

Furthermore, the Commission is also planning to implement a centralised action - **Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas**. Applications for funding under this action are expected to address one or more of the policy areas defined in Section 2.2.

3.2. TRAINEESHIPS AND JOBS

The occupational dimension of the European Solidarity Corps will be implemented through traineeships and jobs.

Traineeships are solidarity activities in form of a work practice for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months within the same participating organisation, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). Such traineeships shall include a learning and training component, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development and be based on a written

¹⁴ In duly justified cases, especially to encourage the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, volunteering activities of 2 weeks – 2 months can be accepted and implemented, in other cases the duration shall be 2-12 months, with the exception of "activities by volunteering teams" for which the duration shall be 2 weeks-2 months.

traineeship agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, indicating the educational objectives, the working conditions, the duration of the traineeship, the remuneration of the participant and the rights and obligations of the parties and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Such traineeships must not substitute jobs.

Jobs are solidarity activities, for a period from three to twelve months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed twelve months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds twelve months. Such jobs shall include a learning and training component and be based on a written employment contract which respects all the terms and conditions of employment as defined in national law or applicable collective agreements, or both, of the country in which the job is being carried out.

Main actions planned for 2018:

Under the aforementioned general call for proposals, the Commission is planning to launch a new action offering traineeships and/or jobs opportunities in solidarity sector. Awarded projects are expected to start at the beginning of 2019, with individual traineeships and/or jobs beginning over the entire duration of awarded projects.

3.3. SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

In order to further foster the inclusiveness of the European Solidarity Corps and empower young people to realise their ideas addressing unmet societal challenges, the format of solidarity projects was developed.

Solidarity projects are unpaid in-country solidarity activities for a period from two to twelve months. Solidarity projects are set up and carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value. Such solidarity projects must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs.

Main actions planned for 2018:

Under the aforementioned general call for proposals, the Commission is planning to create opportunities for young people under the Solidarity Projects action. Awarded projects are expected to start at the beginning of 2019.

3.4. NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

Networking activities are in-country or cross-border activities, aimed at reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants, attracting newcomers - both young people and participating organisations - and providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities. Such networking activities may also contribute to exchange of experiences and strengthening the sense of belonging among the individuals and entities participating in the European Solidarity Corps and thus support its wider positive impact. They can consist of training, support and contact seminars, exchange of practices, establishment of alumni networks and post-placement guidance, strategic dissemination and evidence-based analysis of results and impact. At centralised level, networking activities shall include awareness raising activities and events, consultation fora, networking for participants and organisations

prior to, during and after their participation with a view to sustaining the spirit of solidarity and inspire others.

Main actions planned for 2018:

In 2018, the first year of the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps under its own legal base, the supported networking activities shall include organisation of training, support and contact seminars for potential participating organisations and participants, thematic activities to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the objectives, priority target groups and themes of the programme, establishment of structures for alumni networks and post-activity guidance and support, strategic dissemination and evidence-based analysis of results and impact of the programme, online and offline networking activities, seminars to exchange the practices and foster quality, develop competences to create training strategies, encourage the development of common strategies and common projects.

Note:

In addition to the organisation of the networking activities described above, provision of specific training for organisations and young persons involved in solidarity activities and projects is foreseen as of 2018, in the form of a training and evaluation cycle for participants (i.e. young people) and training and evaluation cycle for participating organisations.

Furthermore, advance planning visits and complementary activities will also be supported in conjunction with volunteering and activities by volunteering teams, traineeships and jobs.

3.5. QUALITY AND SUPPORT MEASURES

The European Solidarity Corps aims at providing high quality solidarity activities and therefore a set of quality and support measures will be implemented.

The Quality and support measures are:

- measures aimed at ensuring the quality and accessibility of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, or solidarity projects and equal opportunities for all young people across participating countries including offline and online training, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, complementary insurance, support before and where necessary after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass that identifies and documents the competences acquired during the solidarity activities;
- the development and maintenance of separate quality labels for entities willing to provide respectively volunteering or traineeships and jobs for the European Solidarity Corps in order to ensure compliance with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps;
- the activities of European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres to support and raise the implementation quality of the European Solidarity Corps actions and address potential obstacles with a view to ensure a smooth and balanced experience for all participants and enhance the validation of their outcomes;
- the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools, taking into account the need to overcome the digital divide.

Main actions planned for 2018:

In 2018, the first year of the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps under its own legal base, the quality and support measures shall include the following actions:

- **Quality Label:** a Quality Label will be put in place to ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European

Solidarity Corps, as regards their responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. In general (with the exception of individuals or organisations participating in Solidarity projects), obtaining a Quality Label will be a prerequisite for an organisation's participation in any activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps but shall not automatically lead to funding. The scope of the Quality Label awarded will depend on whether the organisation interested to participate in the European Solidarity Corps offers one or several types of activities. There are three types of Quality Labels: Hosting for volunteers; Supporting volunteers; and the Quality Label for Traineeships and Jobs. Specific mechanisms for the application for the Quality Label, evaluation of applications and award (or refusal) of Quality Label will be put in place and implemented for the first time in 2018. Simplified procedures will be put in place for organisations already participating in other EU programmes and for public authorities and transition measures will be applied to organisations accredited under the European Volunteering Service. These measures will contribute to creating a stable framework for the participating organisations and ultimately also a safe and secure environment for the young people seeking to take part in any activity supported by the European Solidarity Corps. The application process, depending on the type of organisation, will be evaluated by the National Agencies or the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, as highlighted below in sections 3.3 and 3.5 of Part II.

- **Insurance:** a complementary health and accident insurance will be offered to cover insurance-related expenses for the participants of cross-border solidarity activities that are not already covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or other insurance schemes in which participants may be enrolled. Obtaining the EHIC prior to departure is mandatory in all cases, except in those where obtaining it proves impossible (due to national rules) or when it requires a payment from the participant. In such cases where the EHIC cannot be obtained for the aforesaid reasons, sufficient proof must be obtained from the relevant national health system in order to obtain full coverage insurance.
- **Certificate:** at the end of the solidarity activity, participants will receive a certificate of participation, issued compulsorily by the organisation co-ordinating or providing the activity. To support the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the competences (combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes) that are the non-formal and informal learning outcomes of the solidarity activities shall be identified and documented, on a voluntary basis. For this, EU level tools such as Youthpass and Europass can be used, in accordance with the specificities of the Corps activities and national circumstances. In particular, the further use of the Youthpass process and certificate that identifies and documents non-formal and informal learning outcomes will be developed for the Corps, promoted and offered to participants (on a voluntary basis) and participating organisations (mandatory, insofar as the participant requests it).
- **Online Linguistic Support** will provide the participants of long-term cross-border solidarity activities (the duration of which exceeds 2 months) with the opportunity to assess their knowledge of the language they will use to volunteer/train/work abroad as well as to follow an online language course to improve their competences. Participants with a level of at least B2 in the main language of volunteering/training/working may choose to follow an OLS course in the language of the country where their solidarity activity will take place. For languages not covered by the on-line service, a specific grant will be awarded.
- **General Online Training:** a procedure to set up open access training for registered candidates/participants will be launched in 2018. The training will be available for young people registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and will consist of a general

induction module and a range of specific modules, focusing on issues such as the mission of the Corps, ethics, integrity, roles and responsibilities of the participants, EU values, inter-cultural awareness, insurance, health and safety, etc.

- **European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres:** procedures to set up a dedicated European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre will be launched still in 2018. Services of the SALTO Resource Centres existing under Erasmus+ will also be adapted and will provide assistance for the European Solidarity Corps in line with their thematic or regional areas of responsibility. In practical terms, these Centres shall provide assistance to the implementing bodies, the participating organisations and participants, and stakeholders, in order to raise the quality and impact of the implementation and of the activities of the European Solidarity Corps as well as to enhance the identification and documentation of competences acquired through solidarity activities. They will also, based on their expertise and experience with programme management, contribute to the links and synergies between the European Solidarity Corps and the Union youth policy.
- **European Solidarity Corps Portal:** the IT Tools developed specifically for the European Solidarity Corps in 2016 and 2017, and in particular the European Solidarity Corps Portal and its different modules and affiliated IT tools, will continue to be further enhanced to allow for a continuously enhanced end-user experience already in 2018. These developments will ensure that the European Solidarity Corps Portal becomes the one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges. This includes involving future participants and alumni, online training, certificates, language and post-placement support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future. It also includes supporting solidarity projects as initiatives launched by young people having pursued an activity. Links between the European Solidarity Corps Portal and the IT tools supporting projects' management will be developed to further simplify the management for the beneficiaries. Similarly, interoperability between the Corps Portal and the Youthpass and Europass IT environments will be developed. Furthermore, in 2018, the Commission will focus on preparing the necessary working environment (application forms, reporting forms, etc.) and other tools needed to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. The main objective will be to maximize synergies with the current Erasmus+ documents and IT Tools. This will allow a seamless user experience, adapting and properly aligning them to support all the Solidarity Corps processes, while ensuring simplification and user-friendliness. Solutions will be further developed in order to ease the access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal and facilitate exchange of experiences and inspirational ideas between current, former and future participants.

Note:

In 2018, the European Solidarity Corps may contribute financially to the Commission's Corporate communication¹⁵, in accordance with Articles 9(4) and 16(3) of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation. This contribution will cover the corporate communication of the Union's political priorities to the extent that they are related to the general objective of the European Solidarity Corps. The main purpose of the information and communication activities developed at European and national levels is to enhance the visibility of the European Solidarity Corps through different tools and channels.

¹⁵ C(2016)6838, 25.10.2016.

PART II – GRANTS, PROCUREMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS

1. BUDGET LINES AND BASIC ACT

Budget lines: 15 05 01, 07 02 07, 34 02 05, 23 03 01 03, 04 02 65 and 05 04 60 04

Basic acts:

- European Solidarity Corps Regulation
- Common Provisions Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

2. METHODS OF INTERVENTION

On the basis of the objectives set out in the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the 2018 Work Programme will be implemented through:

- Grants;
- Procurements;
- Experts and other actions.

2.1. GRANTS

To achieve the objectives and policy priorities announced in Sections 1.1 and 2.2 of Part I of this Work Programme, general and specific calls for proposals will be published by the European Commission or by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in accordance with Article 189 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹⁶ ('the Financial Regulation' or 'FR').

Each year, after adoption of the financing decision, based on Article 110 of the FR, a General Call for Proposals will be published. The General Call for Proposals for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps makes reference to a Programme Guide for the practical information. The European Solidarity Corps Programme Guide aims to assist all those interested in developing projects within the Programme. It helps them understand the objectives and the actions of the Corps. It also aims to give detailed information on what is needed in order to apply and what level of grant is offered. Finally, it informs about the grant selection procedure as well as the rules applying to successful applicants that become beneficiaries of an EU grant. The Programme Guide provides also detailed information as regards the award criteria for each call. The quality of the proposals will be assessed on the basis of the award criteria published per action in the guide, as elaborated upon in the call for proposals.

Some grants will also be awarded in accordance with indents (c), (d) and (f) of Article 195 of the FR.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 193.

The calls for proposals that will be published or launched with a view to selecting actions and work programmes to be co-financed in 2018, as well as the grants awarded under specific conditions without issuing a call for proposals are specified further below in Part II of this Work Programme.

The majority of grants will be financed in the form of lump sums, reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and flat rate financing. The use of these types of grants under the European Solidarity Corps Programme has been authorised by Decision authorising the use of lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing for the volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects actions under the European Solidarity Corps¹⁷.

For the beneficiaries of all grants awarded under the European Solidarity Corps, the following selection criteria will apply:

2.1.1. Selection criteria

Organisations, institutions and groups applying for any grant under the European Solidarity Corps as detailed further below in Part II of this Work Programme will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. The verification of the financial capacity does not apply to public bodies
- Applicants must have the professional competences and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

2.2. PROCUREMENTS

This Work Programme also includes actions that will be implemented mostly by public procurement procedures (via calls for tenders or the use of framework contracts) (Article 164 of the FR). The amounts reserved together with the indicative number of contracts and time-frame for launching the procurement procedures are indicated in table 2 in Part III, Section 2 of this Work Programme.

2.3. EXPERTS AND OTHER ACTIONS

This Work Programme includes costs related to the experts involved in the assessment of requests for Quality Label or funding.

Insofar as participating organisations are concerned, a Quality Label process is in place for the applicants (implemented under "quality and support measures") in order to ensure the general quality framework. Holding the relevant Quality Label is a pre-requisite to then be eligible to receive a grant for most solidarity activities¹⁸ and/or to participate in many other actions of the European Solidarity Corps. More details are provided in Part II, section 3.4 and 4.4 of this Work Programme.

¹⁷ Commission reference : Ares(2018)4163152

¹⁸ With the exception of grants concerning Solidarity projects, to which the obligation for applicants for funding to have a relevant Quality Label does not apply.

3. SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

3.1. EXPECTED RESULTS OF SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

In line with the general and specific objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, the actions supported by the initiative are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participants and participating organisations involved, as well as on the communities in which these actions take place.

As regards individual participants, the solidarity activities, as well as any other supported activities related to them (e.g. quality and support measures), are meant to produce the main following outcomes:

- improved skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development;
- more active participation in democratic life and in society in general;
- enhanced employability and transition into the labour market;
- increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- increased self-empowerment and self-esteem;
- improved foreign language competences;
- enhanced intercultural awareness;
- better awareness of the European project, its foundation, history, functioning and EU values;
- increased motivation for further engagement in the solidarity sector.

Supported solidarity activities are also expected to produce the following outcomes on participating organisations:

- increased capacity to operate at EU/international level;
- innovative and improved way of operating towards their target groups;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, linguistic and cultural diversity;
- more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment inside the organisations.

As regards communities where the activities related to supported solidarity activities are implemented, the following outcomes are expected:

- increased ability to address societal challenges;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, linguistic and cultural diversity.

In the long run, the combined effect of supported solidarity activities is expected to have an impact on the operations of a large number of stakeholders in the solidarity sector in the participating countries.

3.2. GRANTS

The expected results for the actions described in this Section are indicated in Section 3.1 above. A more specific indication for these actions concerning: 1) the main expected outputs; 2) the implementation mode; 3) the estimated amount available and 4) the maximum rate of European Union (co-)financing, are indicated in the programming tables in Part III, Section 2 of this Work Programme.

The selection criteria applying to each of the actions described in this Section are set out in Part II, Section 2.1.1 of this Work Programme.

3.2.1. Grants awarded by means of a General Call for Proposals (European Solidarity Corps Guide)

a). Volunteering Projects, Volunteering Partnerships, Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas

Index references in budget table (WPI): 1.00 and 1.30

The financial envelope by country is indicated in table 3 of Part III.

This action provides young people with the opportunity to contribute with their motivation and commitment to the daily work of organisations active in solidarity-related fields by offering them volunteering opportunities.

These volunteering opportunities will be offered through three types of action: Volunteering Projects, Volunteering Partnerships, and Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas. Projects under these action types are implemented through an appropriate mix of eligible activities particularly individual volunteering and activities by volunteering teams.

Individual volunteering is a solidarity activity carried out as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to twelve months. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity activities to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out. Such volunteering must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs and must be based on written volunteering agreement.

Activities by volunteering teams are solidarity activities allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different participating countries to volunteer together for a period between two weeks and two months. Such solidarity activities could especially contribute to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the European Solidarity Corps and/or be justified due to the specific aims of the solidarity activities.

Individual volunteering and/or activities by volunteering teams will aim to:

- address clearly defined unmet societal challenges;
- promote solidarity across Member States;
- enable the young volunteer(s) to gain skills and competences which are useful for their personal, educational, social and professional development;
- provide tangible benefits to the communities within which the activities are carried out;
- ensure a direct contact of the participant with the beneficiaries of the solidarity activities in order to enable the young volunteer to gain skills that are useful for their educational and social development;
- reach out to young people with fewer opportunities including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants;
- promote diversity, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, EU values of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as well as on projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and sense of initiative of young people;
- reinforce the capacities and international scope of the participating organisations;
- raise participants' awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries, offering them the opportunity to build networks of international contacts, to actively participate in society and develop a sense of European citizenship and identity.

In line with the conditions of the call for proposals and depending on the format of activities for which financial support is requested (and without prejudice to the definition of individual eligible activities), supported activities may be:

- Cross-border activities, i.e. activities taking place in a country different from the country of origin of the participant(s); or
- In-country activities, for instance, to encourage and facilitate the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, to provide opportunities where national schemes do not exist, or to cater for priorities identified at European level within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps initiative.

Organisations active in the area of solidarity and holding the relevant Quality Label¹⁹ may receive support from the European Solidarity Corps to carry out projects focused on volunteering opportunities. Projects with exclusively in-country volunteering activities may involve one or more accredited organisations. Projects including cross-border volunteering activities shall involve an accredited hosting organisation, as well as at least one accredited support organisation from each country of origin of the young participants foreseen. Depending on the type of organisation involved, as well as duration and type of activities, the following types of individual volunteering and activities by volunteering teams are supported under this action:

¹⁹ Or an accreditation for volunteering awarded under Erasmus +.

Action type	Essential eligibility criteria	Award criteria
Volunteering Projects	<p><u>Eligible participating organisations:</u> any organisation holding a relevant Quality Label²⁰ and legally established in a participating country or a partner country.</p> <p><u>Eligible applicants:</u> any participating organisation legally established in a participating country can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all other participating organisations involved in the project.</p> <p><u>Eligible activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual volunteering • activities by volunteering teams • advance planning visits • complementary activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance, rationale and impact (maximum 30 points) • Quality of project design (maximum 40 points) • Quality of project management (maximum 30 points)
Volunteering Partnerships: Framework Partnership Agreements for 2018-2020 (FPA 2018-2020)	<p><u>Eligible applicants:</u> any organisation holding a relevant Quality Label and legally established in a participating country.</p> <p><u>Eligible activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual volunteering • activities by volunteering teams • advance planning visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance, rationale and impact (maximum 40 points)
Volunteering Partnerships – Specific Agreements for 2018 under the FPA 2018-2020	<p><u>Eligible participating organisations:</u> any organisation holding a relevant Quality Label, legally established in a participating country or a partner country.</p> <p><u>Eligible applicants:</u> only a participating organisation that signed a Framework Partnership Agreement for 2018-2020 can be the applicant.</p> <p><u>Eligible activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual volunteering • activities by volunteering teams • advance planning visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of project design (maximum 20 points) • Quality of project management (maximum 40 points)
Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas	<p><u>Eligible participating organisations:</u> any organisation holding a relevant Quality Label and legally established in a participating country.</p> <p><u>Eligible applicants:</u> any participating organisation can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all other participating organisations involved in the project.</p> <p><u>Eligible activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities by volunteering teams • advance planning visits • complementary activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance, rationale and impact (maximum 30 points) • Quality of project design (maximum 40 points) • Quality of project management (maximum 30 points)

²⁰

All references in this table to the Quality Label should be understood as also applying for an accreditation for volunteering awarded under Erasmus +.

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 80%.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	26 646 264	Q3 2018
EACEA	789 725	Q3 2018

b). *Traineeships and Jobs*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 2.00

The financial envelope by country is indicated in table 3 of Part III.

Projects under this action will promote solidarity across Member States by offering opportunities for young people to engage in activities that will contribute to addressing unmet societal challenges while developing a wide range of skills relevant for their employability, personal and professional development and transition into the job market. The action targets young people who are willing to take up a paid traineeship or a remunerated activity (job) to give concrete expression to solidarity values.

Traineeships are defined as a solidarity activity in form of a work practice for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months within the same participating organisation, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). Such traineeships shall include a learning and training component, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The aim is for the participant to gain practical and professional experience with a view to improving employability and facilitating transition to regular employment.

Jobs are defined as a solidarity activity, for a period from three to twelve months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed twelve months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds twelve months. The aim is to provide European Solidarity Corps participants with a job within organisations (NGOs, public authorities or private companies) operating in solidarity-related sectors, which will provide them with the skills and experience that will strengthen their employability and support their transition into the labour market. At societal level, the aim is to address unmet demand for labour in solidarity-related sectors and promote solidarity across Member States.

In line with the conditions of the call for proposals and depending on the format of activities for which financial support is requested (and without prejudice to the definition of individual eligible activities), supported activities may be:

- Cross-border activities, i.e. activities taking place in a country different from the country of origin of the participant(s); or
- In-country activities for instance, to encourage and facilitate the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, to provide opportunities where national schemes do not exist, or to cater for priorities identified at European level within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps initiative.

Organisations active in the area of solidarity and holding the relevant Quality Label may receive support from the European Solidarity Corps to carry out projects focused on traineeship and/or job opportunities. At least one organisation holding the relevant Quality

Label needs to be involved in a project. The following activities are supported under this action:

Action type	Essential eligibility criteria	Award criteria
Traineeships and Jobs	<p><u>Eligible participating organisations:</u> any organisation holding a relevant Quality Label and legally established in an EU Member State.</p> <p><u>Eligible applicants:</u> any participating organisation can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all other participating organisations involved in the project.</p> <p><u>Eligible activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traineeships • jobs • advance planning visits • complementary activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance, rationale and impact (maximum 30 points) • Quality of project design (maximum 40 points) • Quality of project management (maximum 30 points)

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 80%.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	7 300 000	Q3 2018

c). *Solidarity projects*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 3.00

The financial envelope by country is indicated in table 3 of Part III.

Solidarity Projects are defined as an unpaid in-country solidarity activity for a period from two to twelve months. Solidarity projects are set up and carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value. Such solidarity projects must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs.

Projects under this Action promote spirit of initiative, social commitment and active citizenship, targeting young people and mainly aim to:

- provide young people with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities;
- foster active participation and social commitment of young people carrying out the project;
- contribute to addressing concrete, unmet societal challenges and strengthening communities;
- contribute to the enhancement of the personal, educational, social and civic development of young people;
- have impact on the local community by addressing local issues or developing local opportunities, particularly in communities located in rural, isolated or marginalised areas.

Groups of young people active in the area of solidarity may receive support from the European Solidarity Corps to carry out solidarity projects. Additionally, any public or private entity may apply on behalf of the group that will implement the project.

Action type	Essential eligibility criteria	Award criteria
Solidarity projects	<p><u>Eligible applicants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of minimum 5 young people aged between 18 and 30 years who are legally residing in one and the same participating country and have registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. One of the young people in the group assumes the role of legal representative and takes responsibility of submitting the application; Any public or private entity can apply on behalf of the group that will implement the project <p><u>Eligible activities:</u> no specific set of activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance, rationale and impact of the project (maximum 40 points) Quality of the project design (maximum 40 points) Quality of project management (maximum 20 points)

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 95%.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	6 500 000	Q3 2018

3.2.2. Grants awarded by exception to Calls for Proposals – Article 195 FR

a). Transnational and National Networking Activities

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 4.10

The Transnational and National Networking Activities aim to bring added value and increased quality in the overall implementation of the European Solidarity Corps and so contribute to increasing its impact at systemic level. This grant will be awarded to National Agencies on the basis of Article 195 (f) FR for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power.

In 2018 Networking Activities consist of:

- training, support and contact seminars of potential organisations and participants, particularly networking activities seminar to exchange practices and develop quality in the Networking Activities;
- thematic activities to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the objectives, priority target groups and themes of the programme.

National Agencies will be invited to submit, within their annual work programmes, a specific activity plan and a budget for the support of Transnational and National Networking Activities.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the work programme in relation to the objectives of the action
- Quality of the work programme in terms of activity planning
- Budget complying with the specific conditions

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 95%.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	3 000 000	Q3 2018

b). *European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.50

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres assist the implementing bodies, the participating organisations and the young people taking part, as well as stakeholders, in the European Solidarity Corps in order to raise the quality and impact of the European Solidarity Corps implementation in all participating countries as well as to enhance the identification and documentation of competences acquired through the activities. Resource Centres mean additional functions entrusted to designated National Agencies to support the development and implementation of activities under the European Solidarity Corps. The functions consist of providing expertise, support, services, tools and resources to the National Agency network and European Solidarity Corps stakeholders.

Support to the European Solidarity Resource Centres is identified in Article 8(c) of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation. The grants will be awarded on the basis of Article 195 (d) of the FR subject to approval of an action plan and an estimated budget.

Award criteria:

- Relevance of the work programme
- Quality of the work programme design and implementation
- Impact and dissemination

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 95%. The country distribution of the budget is provided in Part III Section 5 of this Work Programme.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC	228 000	Q3 2018

c). *Specific training for participants in cross-border solidarity activities*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.40

The training aims at improving the level of preparedness of young people participating in cross-border solidarity activities and it consists of the following modules/activities:

- Pre-departure training (on a voluntary basis);
- On-arrival training (not applicable to activities by volunteering teams): as soon as the participant starts its activities (before if possible);
- Mid-term evaluation (only applicable to cross-border solidarity activities the duration of which exceeds 6 months); and
- Annual event: open to all European Solidarity Corps participants.

Award criteria:

- Quality of the modules/activities;
- Budget complying with the specific conditions.

The maximum EU co-financing rate will be 95%. The country distribution of the budget is provided in Part III Section 3 of this Work Programme.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	2 982 551	Q4 2018

3.3. PROCUREMENTS

a). *Networking activities and events organised at European level*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 4.20

The centralised Networking Activities aim to bring added value and increased quality in the overall implementation of the European Solidarity Corps and so contribute to increasing its impact at systemic level.

Networking Activities and Events organised at European level consist of:

- Networking activities and events aimed at awareness raising, further dissemination and strengthening the effectiveness and broader impact of the European Solidarity Corps initiative;
- Consultation fora to gather and assess the perspective of stakeholders on the implementation of the initiative;
- Networking activities and events aimed at awareness raising and community building for participants and organisations, including through the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

Networking Activities and Events organised at European level will be implemented through specific contracts based on framework contracts.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative amount per contract	Indicative timetable
EAC	483 500	5	96 700	Q3 2018

b). *European Solidarity Corps Insurance*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.20

The European Solidarity Corps insurance scheme aims at covering the risks run by the young people participating in Corps activities as volunteers, trainees or job holders in cross-border activities. Every participant must be enrolled in the European Solidarity Corps Insurance foreseen by the European Solidarity Corps Programme, which complements the coverage by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and/or national social security systems. Those participants who are not eligible for the EHIC shall be entitled to receive a full coverage through the insurance provided by the European Commission. In those cases where obtaining the EHIC proves impossible (due to national rules) or when it requires a payment from the participant, sufficient proof must be obtained from the relevant national health system in order to obtain full coverage insurance.

The supporting organisation, in cooperation with the host organisation, is responsible for the enrolment of the participant(s). This enrolment must be done before the departure of the participant(s) and cover the duration of the activity. National Agencies must promote the fact that being in possession of an EHIC (when possible) and European Solidarity Corps Insurance is mandatory for all participants in cross-border activities.

In 2018, the existing framework contracts will be amended in order to be used as of 2019 in the European Solidarity Corps implementation, and therefore no commitments are foreseen for 2018.

In case the existing framework contract cannot be amended, a new tender procedure should be launched.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative amount per contract	Indicative timetable
EACEA	0	1	0	N/A

c). *Online linguistic assessment and support*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.31

The scheme for systematic linguistic support offers on-line assessment and training in the language of the activity (not necessarily the language of the host country) to young people preparing to participate in one of the long-term cross-border activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps.

In 2018, the existing framework contracts will be amended in order to be used as of 2019 in the European Solidarity Corps implementation, and therefore no commitments are foreseen for 2018.

In case the existing framework contract cannot be amended, a new tender procedure should be launched.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative amount per contract	Indicative timetable
EACEA	0	2	0	N/A

d). *General online training*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.32

Young persons who register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and those who will participate in the European Solidarity Corps activities will be supported through open access general online training. The training programme and on-line modules via the dedicated web platform will be developed and provided in order to support European Solidarity Corps participants in their engagement in high quality solidarity activities and to contribute to the building of the community of European Solidarity Corps.

The general online training will be provided by a contractor assigned following a call for tender for a single framework service contract launched and signed in 2018. Specific contracts will be based on this newly established framework contract. The first specific service contract will be signed in 2019 and therefore no budget is indicated as the funds will be needed in 2019. Further management of the contract, the implementation of the service and monitoring of results will be managed by EACEA following the signature of the delegation act of this action to EACEA.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of	Indicative amount per	Indicative timetable
-----------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------

		contracts	contract	
EAC/EACEA	0	1	0	Q4 2018

e). *Quality Label activities*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.11 and 5.12

Quality Label Activities aim to increase the capacity of potential participating organisations to respect the general quality framework.

In 2018 Quality Label Activities consist of:

- training, support and contact seminars and workshops for potential participating and participating organisations;
- thematic activities to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the Quality Label.

This item will be implemented through specific contracts, based on framework contracts where applicable.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative amount per contract	Indicative timetable
EACEA	188 600	2	94 300	Q4 2018
EAC-NA	1 600 000	N/A	N/A	Q3 2018

f). *European Solidarity Corps Portal*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.70

The European Solidarity Corps Portal, which is integrated into the European Youth Portal, offers information on solidarity opportunities across Europe. It provides young people with information about the European Solidarity Corps and access to organisations which received the Quality Label and are registered in the Portal. Furthermore, the Portal and its integrated tools (PASS) enable registered organisations (holders of the Quality Label) to search for suitable candidates for volunteering activities, traineeships or jobs that they wish to offer. The Portal allows young people to follow online trainings, get access to other services and, importantly, to build a community of like-minded young people. The Portal shall be integrated into all front & back-end processes of the Corps. Interoperability between the Corps Portal and Youthpass and Europass IT environments will be developed. In order to further ease the access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal and facilitate exchange of experiences and inspirational ideas between current, former and future participants, a mobile application will be further developed.

Linked to the European Solidarity Corps Portal's role as information hub, dissemination and exploitation of results activities will be envisaged.

This action will be implemented through specific contracts based on an existing framework contracts.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative amount per contract	Indicative timetable
-----------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

EAC	500 000	5	100 000	N/A
-----	---------	---	---------	-----

3.4. EXPERTS

a). *Support to evaluation of requests for the Quality Label*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 5.81

The costs related to the experts involved in the assessment of requests for the Quality Label (see the Section on "Quality Label (centralised)" below) are included in the Work Programme. This item will be implemented through recourse to experts based on existing lists established following Calls for Expression of Interest in compliance with Art. 237 of the FR.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EACEA	60 000	Q4 2018

3.5. OTHER ACTIONS (QUALITY LABEL)

A Quality Label process is in place in the solidarity area in order to ensure the general quality framework for most activities (in practice: volunteering, activities by volunteering teams, traineeships and jobs, i.e. any projects involving one or more of the aforesaid activities) that may be carried out with the support of the European Solidarity Corps. A call for expression of interest will be published with a view to issuing organisations with the Quality Label that:

- is a pre-requisite to apply for funding²¹;
- is a pre-requisite to participate in many of the activities supported under the European Solidarity Corps.

Following the publication of a Call for Proposals, applications can be submitted on a continuous basis (i.e. any time). The award of a Quality Label does not provide automatic access to funding.

To obtain a Quality Label valid for the duration of the programming period (2018-2020), an application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance to the principles of the European Solidarity Corps;
- Quality of the application.

a). *Quality Label (centralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.13

Applications for Quality Label will be reviewed by EACEA for the following cases:

- Europe-wide networks or platforms of organisations;
- national public authorities and services (e.g. government ministries, national civic services, etc.);
- any private or public entity/body providing volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities with the support of other EU programmes than the European Solidarity Corps.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
----------------	-------------------------	----------------------

²¹ With the exception of applications for funding concerning solidarity projects.

EACEA	0	Q3 2018
-------	---	---------

b). *Quality Label (decentralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.14

A decentralised Quality Label process (National Agencies will review applications) is in place for any public or private entity not falling under the scope of centralised Quality Label process (see Section a).

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	0	Q3 2018

4. MANAGEMENT FEES OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

a). *Management fees*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 6.00

Financial support is provided to National Agencies as a contribution to their management costs linked to the implementation of the delegated tasks.

The calculation method and the country distribution of the management fees are provided in Part III, section 4 of this Work Programme.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)	Indicative timetable
EAC-NA	4 359 012	Q3 2018

PART III – BUDGET

This part of the Work Programme gives an indication of the funds which will be available in 2018 to finance activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps Programme.

1. AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION BY BUDGET LINE

The total available operational appropriations foreseen under the 2018 Work Programme amount to EUR 54,637,652.

Table 1 – Available appropriations

Budget European Solidarity Corps 2018	Budget lines	EU-28
European Solidarity Corps	15 05 01	38,235,652
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the European Social Fund (ESF)	04 02 65	11,102,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	05 04 60 04	1,800,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)	23 03 01 03	2,000,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action	34 02 05	500,000
European Solidarity Corps – Contribution from the LIFE sub-programme for Environment	07 02 07	1,000,000
TOTAL		54,637,652

2. DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS BY ACTIONS – BUDGET AND PROGRAMMING TABLES

The budget and programming tables below shows the distribution of available appropriations among the actions funded by budget lines 15 05 01, 07 02 07, 34 02 05 23 03 01 03, 04 02 65 and 05 04 60 04, taking into account the amounts adopted in the Draft Budget (EU 28).

The overall allocation of funds to the actions of the Programme is established by the provisions of Article 9 of the Regulation, which establishes indicative allocations for volunteering and traineeships and jobs. These minimum shares have therefore governed the allocation of funds at the annual level for the year 2018. It should be noted, however, that in line with the Regulation, these percentages of the total budget are fixed for the entire programming period 2018 – 2020. Therefore, for a given year of implementation of the Programme, they do not need to be respected in full (i.e. because of reprogramming or change in political priorities), while the trend will have to be respected for the overall duration of the Programme.

Legend:	
APEL	Award procedure for European Label
CFP	Grants awarded with a call for proposals
DB	Grants to bodies identified by a basic act - [Art. 195.(d) FR]
MF	Management fees awarded to the National Agencies
PP	Public procurement
SE	Experts - [Art. 237 FR]
SPE	Grants for actions with specific characteristics - [Art. 195(f) FR]
WPI	Work Programme Index

Table 2 – Total budget

WPI	Actions	2018 draft budget allocation	Implementation mode	Implementing body	Number of grants / contracts	Average value of grants / contracts	Maximum rate of co-financing	Indicative timeline
1.00	Volunteering activities	26,646,264	CFP	EAC-NA	1,200	22,205	80%	Q3 2018
1.30	Volunteering in High-Priority Areas	789,725	CFP	EACEA	9	87,747		Q3 2018
2.00	Traineeships and jobs	7,300,000	CFP	EAC-NA	300	24,333		Q3 2018
3.00	Solidarity projects	6,500,000	CFP	EAC-NA	1,000	6,500	95%	Q3 2018
4.10	Transnational and national networking activities	3,000,000	SPE	EAC-NA	N/A	N/A	95%	Q3 2018
4.20	Networking activities and events organised at European level	483,500	PP	EAC	5	96,700	N/A	Q3 2018
5.11	Quality label activities - centralised	188,600	PP	EACEA	2	94,300		Q4 2018
5.12	Quality label activities - decentralised	1,600,000	SPE	EAC-NA	N/A	N/A		Q3 2018
5.13	Quality label procedures - centralised	0	APEL	EACEA				Q3 2018
5.14	Quality label procedures - decentralised	0	APEL	EAC-NA				Q3 2018
5.20	Insurance	0	PP	EACEA				1
5.31	Online linguistic support	0	PP	EACEA	2	0		N/A
5.32	General online training	0	PP	EAC-EACEA	1	0		Q4 2018
5.40	Specific training for participants in cross-border activities	2,982,551	SPE	EAC-NA	N/A	N/A	95%	Q4 2018
5.50	European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres	228,000	DB	EAC-NA	5	45,600		Q3 2018
5.70	European Solidarity Corps Portal	500,000	PP	EAC	5	100,000	N/A	N/A
5.81	Support to evaluation of requests for the Quality Label	60,000	SE	EACEA	N/A	N/A		Q4 2018
6.00	Management fee	4,359,012	MF	EAC-NA				Q3 2018
TOTAL		54,637,652						

3. BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE NATIONAL AGENCIES

3.1. CRITERIA

In application of the Regulation, the 4 criteria used for the allocation of funds for grant support indirectly managed by the National Agencies are the following:

- Country Population (Eurostat latest update: 07/04/2017);
- Cost of Living (Eurostat latest update EU 28: 20/02/2017);
- Distance between capitals (Ephemeride latest available data; date of extraction 03/04/2014);
- Performance (see below under point d).

The relative weight of the criteria is calculated as follows:

The criteria a) to c) account for the allocation of 75% of funds. Those 3 criteria are combined in the following way: the population criteria a) is corrected by the cost of living b) weighted by 25% and by the distance between capitals c) weighted by 25% as well.

The criteria of performance d) account for the remaining 25% of funds under Volunteering.

The Sections below provide greater details concerning each of these 4 criteria.

a). Population

Country (total) population is directly correlated to the size of the budget, i.e. a larger population results in a higher budget allocation.

- Within the allocation based on population, a minimum fixed allocation corresponding to 40% is distributed to the countries on equal shares. The minimum allocation aims to avoid excessive disparities in the allocations between countries and also between years.
- A reduction coefficient is also applied for the smallest countries²², to adjust their allocation in order to avoid disproportionate funding.
- A special adjustment is also foreseen for Belgium in order to compensate for the projects that will be submitted to the Belgian National Agencies by international/European-based organisations.

b). Cost of living

The cost of living coefficient is meant to balance the available funding in favour of countries with a lower cost of living for participating in mobility or cooperation activities. The lower the cost of living the higher the budget allocated to a country.

c). Distance between capitals

The distance between capitals is meant to compensate for the higher travel costs incurred to the more remote countries. The further the country is from other countries, the higher the budget allocated to it.

d). Performance

For Volunteering, the performance is measured in terms of:

²² CY, LU, MT, IS, LI.

- number of outputs realised in 2013 in the mobility activities in the field of youth, adjusted to take into account population, cost of living and distance between capitals;
- the ratio of payments realised in 2013, compared to the EU budget allocated to National Agencies for mobility actions in 2013.

The source-data have been extracted from quarterly reports submitted by National Agencies.

Table 3 – Country allocation

	Volunteering	Traineeships and jobs	Solidarity Projects	Networking activities	Specific training	Quality label	
BE	824,371	225,844	223,378	103,097	102,498	54,985	BE
BG	705,307	193,226	154,639	71,372	70,957	38,065	BG
CZ	693,914	190,104	174,163	80,383	79,916	42,871	CZ
DK	488,449	133,815	131,540	60,711	60,358	32,379	DK
DE	3,282,724	899,334	694,228	320,413	318,549	170,887	DE
EE	440,307	120,626	103,868	47,939	47,660	25,567	EE
EL	700,430	191,889	184,897	85,337	84,841	45,513	EL
ES	2,031,286	556,490	496,935	229,355	228,021	122,322	ES
FR	2,126,817	582,662	579,492	267,458	265,902	142,644	FR
HR	502,276	137,603	125,515	57,930	57,593	30,896	HR
IE	513,406	140,653	129,668	59,847	59,499	31,918	IE
IT	2,403,491	658,459	555,409	256,343	254,852	136,716	IT
CY	393,335	107,758	100,925	46,581	46,310	24,843	CY
LV	440,612	120,710	109,069	50,340	50,047	26,848	LV
LT	482,202	132,104	117,190	54,088	53,773	28,847	LT
LU	304,969	83,549	73,874	34,096	33,897	18,184	LU
HU	723,649	198,251	170,099	78,507	78,051	41,871	HU
MT	291,226	79,784	73,335	33,847	33,650	18,052	MT
NL	779,387	213,521	216,569	99,955	99,373	53,309	NL
AT	591,737	162,112	154,497	71,306	70,891	38,030	AT
PL	1,917,830	525,408	396,981	183,222	182,156	97,718	PL
PT	775,150	212,360	190,161	87,767	87,256	46,809	PT
RO	1,207,167	330,715	259,440	119,741	119,045	63,862	RO
SI	464,566	127,272	108,584	50,116	49,824	26,728	SI
SK	574,318	157,340	134,491	62,073	61,712	33,105	SK
FI	579,890	158,866	134,756	62,195	61,833	33,171	FI
SE	620,498	169,991	164,026	75,704	75,264	40,376	SE
UK	1,786,950	489,554	542,271	250,277	248,823	133,484	UK
Total	26,646,264	7,300,000	6,500,000	3,000,000	2,982,551	1,600,000	Total

4. FUNDS AIMED AT CO-FINANCING THE MANAGEMENT COSTS OF NATIONAL AGENCIES

The breakdown by Member States carries forward the approach adopted since 2014 for Erasmus+: flat-rate contribution mainly correlated to the volume of indirect management funds for grant support initially allocated to each country; taking into account the disparity of the national situations²³.

The calculation method defines three different reference percentages, based on the countries' allocations of funds under indirect management (large-size countries: 4%; medium size countries: 6% and small-size countries: 8%) and takes into account the cost of living. The Commission may also decide to set a minimum and a maximum percentage of increase of the management fees.

²³ Country size; special situation of Belgium; cost of living.

Table 4 – Management Fees – breakdown by country

	Management fee
BE	149,801
BG	103,703
CZ	116,797
DK	88,214
DE	465,561
EE	69,655
EL	123,995
ES	333,253
FR	388,617
HR	84,173
IE	86,958
IT	372,467
CY	67,682
LV	73,143
LT	78,590
LU	49,541
HU	114,072
MT	49,179
NL	145,235
AT	103,608
PL	266,223
PT	127,525
RO	173,985
SI	72,819
SK	90,192
FI	90,370
SE	109,998
UK	363,656
TOTAL	4,359,012

5. FUNDS FOR THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS RESOURCE CENTRES

The following table indicates the breakdown of the budget aimed at supporting the activities to be implemented by the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres.

Table 5 – European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre and SALTO Resource Centres – breakdown by structure

European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre	120,000
SALTO Eastern Partnership	20,000
SALTO South East Europe	20,000
SALTO EuroMed	20,000
SALTO Training and Cooperation	48,000
TOTAL	228,000