



European  
Commission

# **Amendment of 2022 annual work programme for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps Programme**

*C(2022)1311 of 8 March 2022*



Brussels, 8.3.2022  
C(2022) 1311 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 8.3.2022**

**amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 on the financing of  
European Solidarity Corps and the adoption of the work programme for 2022**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.3.2022

## amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 on the financing of European Solidarity Corps and the adoption of the work programme for 2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 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, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/888<sup>2</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014 (hereinafter 'the European Solidarity Corps Regulation'), and in particular to Article 19 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 on the financing of European Solidarity Corps and the adoption of the work programme for 2022<sup>3</sup> was adopted on 08 November 2021 for a Union budget contribution of EUR 138 800 000.
- (2) In order to allocate the additional funds made available in the adopted budget for 2022 and the revised amounts of the internal assigned revenues and external assigned revenues, it is necessary to revise the work programme and its financing.
- (3) The changes to the work programme for 2022 and the financing should cover the financial support to certain programme actions for European Solidarity Corps that are to be dedicated to preparing and carrying out activities in line with the European Year of Youth 2022 (Volunteering activities, solidarity projects, networking activities, European Solidarity Corps Portal, etc.), as well as other minor budgetary and technical changes and corrections.
- (4) Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/888,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Decision of 08.11.2021 on the financing of European Solidarity Corps and the adoption of the work programme for 2022 [C(2021)7860].

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Article 2 of the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 is replaced by the following:

*Article 2*

*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2022 is set at EUR **150 000 000** and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the 07 04 01 budget line of the general budget of the Union for 2022.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the contributions of EFTA and other participating countries to the programme.'

*Article 2*

The Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)7860 is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 8.3.2022

*For the Commission*

*Mariya GABRIEL*

*Member of the Commission*



Bruxelles, le 8.3.2022  
C(2022) 1311 final

**DÉCISION D'EXÉCUTION DE LA COMMISSION**

**du 8.3.2022**

**modifiant la décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 relative au financement du corps européen de solidarité et à l'adoption du programme de travail pour 2022**

# DÉCISION D'EXÉCUTION DE LA COMMISSION

du 8.3.2022

## modifiant la décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 relative au financement du corps européen de solidarité et à l'adoption du programme de travail pour 2022

LA COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE,

vu le traité sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne,

vu le règlement (UE, Euratom) 2018/1046 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 18 juillet 2018 relatif aux règles financières applicables au budget général de l'Union, modifiant 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 et la décision n° 541/2014/UE, et abrogeant le règlement (UE, Euratom) n° 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, et notamment son article 110,

vu le règlement (UE) 2021/888<sup>2</sup> du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 20 mai 2021 établissant le programme «Corps européen de solidarité» et abrogeant les règlements (UE) 2018/1475 et (UE) n° 375/2014 (ci-après le «règlement sur le corps européen de solidarité»), et notamment son article 19,

considérant ce qui suit:

- (1) La décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 relative au financement du corps européen de solidarité et à l'adoption du programme de travail pour 2022<sup>3</sup> adoptée le 8 novembre 2021 prévoit une contribution budgétaire de l'Union de 138 800 000 EUR.
- (2) Afin d'allouer les fonds supplémentaires mis à disposition dans le budget adopté pour 2022 ainsi que les montants révisés des recettes affectées internes et externes, il est nécessaire de réviser le programme de travail et son financement.
- (3) Les modifications apportées au programme de travail pour 2022 et au financement devraient couvrir le soutien financier à certaines actions du programme relatives au corps européen de solidarité qui doivent être consacrées à la préparation et à la réalisation d'activités conformes à l'Année européenne de la jeunesse 2022 (activités de volontariat, projets de solidarité, activités de mise en réseau, portail du corps européen de solidarité, etc.), ainsi que d'autres modifications et corrections budgétaires et techniques mineures.
- (4) Il convient donc de modifier la décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 de la Commission en conséquence.
- (5) Les mesures prévues par la présente décision sont conformes à l'avis du comité institué par l'article 31 du règlement (UE) 2021/888,

<sup>1</sup> JO L 193 du 30.7.2018, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> JO L 202 du 8.6.2021, p. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Décision d'exécution de la Commission du 8.11.2021 relative au financement du corps européen de solidarité et à l'adoption du programme de travail pour 2022 [C(2021)7860].

DÉCIDE:

*Article premier*

L'article 2 de la décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 de la Commission est remplacé par le texte suivant:

*«Article 2  
Contribution de l'Union*

La contribution maximale de l'Union à la mise en œuvre du programme pour 2022 est fixée à **150 000 000** EUR, à imputer sur les crédits inscrits au poste 07 04 01 du budget général de l'Union européenne pour 2022.

Les crédits prévus au premier alinéa peuvent également couvrir les intérêts de retard.

La mise en œuvre de la présente décision est subordonnée à la disponibilité des contributions des pays de l'AELE et des autres pays participant au programme.»

*Article 2*

L'annexe de la décision d'exécution C(2021) 7860 de la Commission est remplacée par l'annexe de la présente décision.

Fait à Bruxelles, le 8.3.2022

*Par la Commission  
Mariya GABRIEL  
Membre de la Commission*



EUROPÄISCHE  
KOMMISSION

Brüssel, den 8.3.2022  
C(2022) 1311 final

**DURCHFÜHRUNGSBESCHLUSS DER KOMMISSION**

**vom 8.3.2022**

**zur Änderung des Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2021) 7860 der Kommission über die  
Finanzierung des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps und zur Annahme des  
Arbeitsprogramms für 2022**



# DURCHFÜHRUNGSBESCHLUSS DER KOMMISSION

vom 8.3.2022

## zur Änderung des Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2021) 7860 der Kommission über die Finanzierung des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps und zur Annahme des Arbeitsprogramms für 2022

DIE EUROPÄISCHE KOMMISSION —

gestützt auf den Vertrag über die Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union,

gestützt auf die Verordnung (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 18. Juli 2018 über die Haushaltsordnung für den Gesamthaushaltsplan der Union, zur Änderung 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 und des Beschlusses Nr. 541/2014/EU sowie zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EU, Euratom) Nr. 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, insbesondere auf Artikel 110,

gestützt auf die Verordnung (EU) 2021/888<sup>2</sup> des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates vom 20. Mai 2021 zur Aufstellung des Programms für das Europäische Solidaritätskorps und zur Aufhebung der Verordnungen (EU) 2018/1475 und (EU) Nr. 375/2014 (im Folgenden „Verordnung über das Europäische Solidaritätskorps“), insbesondere auf Artikel 19,

in Erwägung nachstehender Gründe:

- (1) Im Durchführungsbeschluss C(2021) 7860 der Kommission vom 8. November 2021 über die Finanzierung des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps und zur Annahme des Arbeitsprogramms 2022<sup>3</sup> ist ein Beitrag aus dem Unionshaushalt in Höhe von 138 800 000 EUR vorgesehen.
- (2) Das Arbeitsprogramm und die darin vorgesehenen Finanzierungsmodalitäten müssen überarbeitet werden, damit die im verabschiedeten Haushalt für 2022 zusätzlich bereitgestellten Mittel und die geänderten Beträge aus internen zweckgebundenen Einnahmen und externen zweckgebundenen Einnahmen zugewiesen werden können.
- (3) Die Änderungen am Arbeitsprogramm 2022 und den Finanzierungsmodalitäten sollten die finanzielle Unterstützung bestimmter Programmmaßnahmen des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps zur Vorbereitung und Durchführung von Tätigkeiten im Einklang mit dem Europäischen Jahr der Jugend 2022 (Freiwilligentätigkeit, Solidaritätsprojekte, Vernetzungsaktivitäten, Portal des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps usw.) sowie andere geringfügige haushaltspolitische und technische Änderungen und Korrekturen umfassen.
- (4) Der Durchführungsbeschluss C(2021) 7860 der Kommission sollte daher entsprechend geändert werden.
- (5) Die in diesem Beschluss vorgesehenen Maßnahmen entsprechen der Stellungnahme des nach Artikel 31 der Verordnung (EU) 2021/888 eingesetzten Ausschusses —

<sup>1</sup> ABl. L 193 vom 30.7.2018, S. 1.

<sup>2</sup> ABl. L 202 vom 8.6.2021, S. 32.

<sup>3</sup> Durchführungsbeschluss C(2021) 7860 der Kommission vom 8. November 2021 über die Finanzierung des Europäischen Solidaritätskorps und zur Annahme des Arbeitsprogramms 2022.

BESCHLIEßT:

*Artikel 1*

Artikel 2 des Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2021) 7860 der Kommission erhält folgende Fassung:

*„Artikel 2  
Beitrag der Union*

Der Höchstbeitrag der Union für die Durchführung des Programms für 2022 beläuft sich auf **150 000 000 EUR** und wird aus Mitteln finanziert, die unter der Haushaltslinie 07 04 01 des Gesamthaushaltsplans der Union für 2022 eingestellt wurden.

Die in Absatz 1 genannten Haushaltsmittel können auch Verzugszinsen abdecken.

Dieser Beschluss kann nur umgesetzt werden, wenn die Beiträge der EFTA-Staaten und anderer an dem Programm teilnehmender Länder bereitgestellt werden.“

*Artikel 2*

Der Anhang des Durchführungsbeschlusses C(2021) 7860 der Kommission wird durch den Anhang des vorliegenden Beschlusses ersetzt.

Brüssel, den 8.3.2022

*Für die Kommission  
Mariya GABRIEL  
Mitglied der Kommission*

## **ANNEX**

# **THE 2022 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS**

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## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS 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 European Solidarity Corps ('the Corps') initiative was launched in December 2016. It aimed to create new opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity-related activities for the benefit of communities and people around Europe and first operated within the context of eight pre-existing EU programmes.

In 2018, the first European Solidarity Corps Regulation<sup>1</sup> created a new, coherent framework for solidarity-related activities, with a dedicated budget of EUR 375.6 million for 2018-2020. It offered new formats and tools, with a sustained commitment to quality, in order to reach out to more young people and provide them with a valuable experience.

Between the launch of the Corps and the end of 2020, almost a quarter of a million young people registered on the Portal of the European Solidarity Corps, which demonstrates an extremely high interest in the initiative. Based on the positive reception of the initiative by young people and other stakeholders in the solidarity sector, the European Commission proposed an extension of the Corps to the programming period 2021-27.

Adoption of Regulation (EU) No 2021/888<sup>2</sup> gave the green light to a new generation of the Corps, covering the period of 2021-2027, with a budget of EUR 1.009 billion in current prices and activities that also now include volunteering in the area of humanitarian aid. The current generation programme now focusses fully on volunteering, in line with the wishes of the legislators.

By extending its scope to cover volunteering activities in support of humanitarian aid operations, the Corps will contribute to needs-based emergency aid based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality, and will help to deliver assistance, relief and protection where most needed. It will thus help to address not only unmet societal needs in Europe but also humanitarian challenges in non-EU countries affected by man-made or natural disasters. Humanitarian aid volunteering actions of the European Solidarity Corps will be guided by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>3</sup>.

Young people engaged in the Corps bring tangible benefits to places and communities in need. By participating in the Corps, they also gain essential personal, social and civic competences that will help them better cope in a rapidly changing world.

In November 2018, the Council adopted a renewed Youth Strategy for 2019-2027 ('Engaging, connecting and empowering young people'), which sets out the framework for European

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 2018/1475 and Regulation (EU) No. 375/2014

<sup>3</sup> Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission; EUR-Lex - 42008X0130(01) - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

cooperation in the youth field, for the benefit of young people, and which puts solidarity at the heart of EU youth policy<sup>4</sup>.

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 ‘Connect’<sup>5</sup> priority area, the Commission proposes to expand mobility actions under the Corps and support its implementation through stronger policy cooperation and community-building activities.

The indicative budget of the 2022 European Solidarity Corps work programme amounts to **EUR 150 000 000**. It constitutes the Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 110 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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<sup>6</sup> (the ‘Financial Regulation’ or ‘FR’).

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4 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2018:456:FULL&from=EN>

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."

6 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 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, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L193, 30.07.20182, p.1.

## 1. PART I – GENERAL OVERVIEW

### 1.1. STRUCTURE OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

#### 1.1.1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

According to the **Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014** (hereafter ‘the Regulation’), the **general objective** of the programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities. As such, it also contributes to European cooperation that is relevant to young people.

The programme sets up the following strands of actions:

- (a) participation of young people in solidarity-related activities’ strand, as referred to in Chapter III of the Regulation;
- (b) participation of young people in solidarity-related humanitarian aid activities’ strand (the ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’), as referred to in Chapter IV of the Regulation.

The specific objective of the programme is to provide young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities **that induce positive societal changes** in Europe and abroad, while improving and properly validating their competences, as well as facilitating their **continuous engagement as active citizens**.

To achieve its objective, the Corps implements the following operational actions:

- volunteering (*volunteering under the ‘participation of young people in solidarity activities’ strand and under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps*);
- solidarity projects;
- networking activities;
- quality and support measures.

#### 1.1.2. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

EU Member states take part in the European Solidarity Corps programme, as well as the overseas countries and territories. In addition, in accordance with article 13 of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the following non-EU countries are associated to the programme

in 2022<sup>7</sup>, subject to the signature of specific agreements covering the association of these third countries to the Programme:

- members of the European Free Trade Association, which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the European Economic Area agreement: Iceland, Liechtenstein;
- acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidate countries, 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 and Association Council decisions, or similar agreements, and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries: Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Turkey;
- countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, 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 and Association Council decisions, or similar agreements, and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;
- other third countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in a specific agreement covering the participation of the third country to any Union programme, insofar as the conditions laid down in the Regulation are satisfied.

Third countries associated to the programme may only participate in the programme in its entirety and provided that they fulfil all the obligations, which the Regulation imposes on Member States.

In addition, in accordance with Article 14 (2) of the Regulation, legal entities from other third countries may be eligible for the actions referred to in Articles 5 and 7 of the Regulation (networking activities, quality and support measures and volunteering under the ‘participation of young people in solidarity activities’ strand) in duly justified cases and in the EU’s interest.

### **1.1.3. 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 Corps on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the programme at European level.

The Commission also bears overall responsibility for supervising and coordinating the structures in charge of implementing the programme at national level and directly manages certain programme actions. At European level, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (‘Executive Agency’) is also responsible for implementing certain actions of the Corps (actions under direct management).

Implementation by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (Executive Agency) is according to the Commission Decision C(2021)951 delegating powers to the European

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<sup>7</sup> Countries that are considered to be associated to the programme as of 1 January 2021 are listed (pending the expected conclusion of association agreements with retroactive effect). If and when more non-EU countries complete the association process, this information will be made available on the website of the European Solidarity Corps.



Education and Culture Executive Agency with a view to the performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of education, audiovisual and culture, citizenship and solidarity comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union.

The actions of the Corps are mostly implemented through indirect management. The Commission delegates implementation tasks to National Agencies (NAs) insofar as established in each Member State and third country associated to the programme. National authorities monitor and supervise the management of the programme at national level. In accordance with Articles 62 (1) (c) and 154 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission may entrust NAs budget implementation tasks via the conclusion of Contribution Agreements under indirect management mode. Policy framework and priorities

#### **1.1.4. 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. Solidarity provides a clear compass to guide 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 EU<sup>8</sup>.

Young people need easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, through which they can help communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability.

The establishment of the European Solidarity Corps was announced in 2016 as part of the EU's effort to promote solidarity and increase its investment in young people. The initiative was launched in the same year, by mobilising various EU programmes offering solidarity-related opportunities to young people. Following the adoption of the first European Solidarity Corps Regulation for 2018-2020, the activities of the Corps further expanded, making it a single entry point for organisations and young people engaged in solidarity-related activities in Europe.

The Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering activities in solidarity-related areas and to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. The Corps also supports networking activities for participants and organisations, as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and provide for the validation of their learning outcomes.

The Corps builds on the strengths and synergies of existing and preceding programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service and the EU Aid Volunteers. Consistency and complementarity with other programmes operating in solidarity-related areas is also ensured.

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

The activities of the Corps are coherent with the EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027 Resolution, adopted by the Council on 26 November 2018<sup>9</sup>. The EU Youth Strategy promotes cooperation in core youth policy areas in order to engage, connect and empower young people. It promotes cross-sectoral approaches and addresses the needs of young people in various EU policy areas such as employment, but also climate change, digitalisation, health. The strategy makes reference to 11 Youth Goals covering several fields that young people consider to be important. This overarching strategy is implemented through two of the main EU programmes supporting youth: Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps - both programmes aiming to support, engage, connect and empower young people even more effectively, notably through **mobility and cooperation activities**. In 2022 the European Solidarity Corps will also contribute to the European Year of Youth, announced in the State of the Union address in September 2021, and seek possible synergies with the new initiatives implemented in its context.

Humanitarian aid volunteering actions of the European Solidarity Corps will be guided by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>10</sup> and strive to contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of Union humanitarian aid, in line with the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. International humanitarian law and human rights law will be promoted.

Finally, the activities of the Corps are in line with the Commission's Reflection Paper – Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030<sup>11</sup>. Just as with the Youth Goals, the Corps' activities help to achieve several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As foreseen in the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the Commission and the Member States will cooperate on volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination. The EU Youth Strategy, among others, aims to encourage young people to become active EU citizens<sup>12</sup>, agents of solidarity and positive change for communities across Europe, inspired by EU values as enshrined in the Treaties<sup>13</sup> and by a European identity.

More specifically, to give further meaning to the aspirations to involve young people in solidarity-related activities, and to ensure that the Corps can reach its full potential in cooperation with national schemes, the EU Youth Strategy suggests that the Commission and Member States cooperate on a supportive political, legal and administrative environment.

The Council resolution on the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027<sup>14</sup>, and the annexed EU work plan for youth 2019-2021, called for the review of the 2008 Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers<sup>15</sup>. The Commission will propose this review in 2021, to address the barriers that still hinder the involvement of youth in cross-border volunteering and solidarity.

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9 Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, 2018/C 456/01, 18.12.2018.

10 Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission; EUR-Lex - 42008X0130(01) - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

11 Reflection Paper – Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/rp\\_sustainable\\_europe\\_30-01\\_en\\_web.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/rp_sustainable_europe_30-01_en_web.pdf).

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.

14 OJ C 456, 18.12.2018, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2018:456:FULL>

15 OJ C 319, 13.12.2008, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008H1213\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008H1213(01)&from=EN)

Complementarity with existing EU-level networks relevant to the activities of the Corps, such as the Eurodesk network, will be ensured, as well as complementarity with existing schemes (particularly national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people). The 2021-2027 Corps strives to build on the successful experience of the 2018-2020 period and further extend the scale of volunteering opportunities to the area of humanitarian aid to provide principled, needs-based relief to communities in third countries.

### **1.1.5. POLICY PRIORITIES**

In addition to the transversal objectives of the European Solidarity Corps outlined in section 1.1.1, the following priorities will be addressed through its actions in 2022, fully in line with the European Education Area, the new Digital Education Action Plan and the European Democracy Action Plan<sup>16</sup>. A gender equality perspective will be mainstreamed throughout the programme, in line with the principles of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-25<sup>17</sup>.

- Inclusion and diversity

The European Solidarity Corps supports projects and activities actively addressing the issue of inclusion and diversity of all young people in the society.

In general, the Corps aims to promote social inclusion, tolerance, human rights and the value of differences and diversity, and to provide all young people with equal access to the opportunities offered under its actions. An inclusion and diversity strategy for the programme has been developed to support organisations in reaching out to more participants with fewer opportunities. Appropriate mechanisms and resources are available to make sure that the specific needs of participants with fewer opportunities can be catered for.

- Environmental sustainability and climate goals

#### Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

The actions supported by the programme contribute to the overall climate and biodiversity objective, as presented below, both by the prioritisation of the green transition and by the promotion of green practices at the level of the projects throughout the programme.

The European Solidarity Corps aims to make a meaningful contribution to the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. The programme supports projects and activities aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to enable behavioural changes linked to individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles. The programme supports initiatives aimed at preventing and mitigating or repairing the adverse effects of extreme weather events

<sup>16</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European democracy action plan COM/2020/790 final

<sup>17</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

and natural disasters, as well as activities that provide support to affected communities in the aftermath of such extreme weather events or natural disasters.

In general, the Corps promotes the incorporation of green practices in all projects, regardless of the main focus of their activities. Organisations and participants involved with the Corps should have an environmentally friendly approach when designing their activities<sup>18</sup>. Activities contributing to other existing EU initiatives in the area of environmental sustainability (e.g. the New European Bauhaus, the EU Forest Strategy - more specifically its “3 billion trees” initiative - and the EU Climate Missions) are highly encouraged.

- Digital transformation

The Political Guidelines of the European Commission underline the need for Europe to lead the digital transition. The new Digital Education Action Plan encourages action at all levels to contribute to the digital transformation through all forms of learning. The Corps aims to support Europeans, regardless of their gender, age and background, to live and thrive in the digital age through projects and activities that help to improve digital skills in general and/or foster digital literacy and to develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.

In general, the Corps promotes the use of appropriate information, communication and technology tools in all projects, regardless of the main focus of their activities.

- Participation in democratic life

Participation and civic engagement are at the heart of the Corps. The activities supported by the programme should aim to strengthen European identity (notably as regards common EU values, the principles of unity and diversity, and participating countries’ social, cultural and historical heritage) and the participation of young people in democratic processes, including through involvement in other EU initiatives and platforms revolving around participation (e.g. the Conference on the future of Europe).

The work programme 2022 will also support specific annual policy priorities defined for the ‘Volunteering teams in high priority areas’. These priorities can also inspire projects in actions implemented at decentralised level.

- Promoting healthy lifestyles

The Corps can add significant value by promoting healthy lifestyles. Sport and physical activity are key in preventing diseases and ensuring quality of life, and they contribute to social inclusion and well-being. Obesity and inactivity are steadily on the rise in Europe with serious effects on health. The importance of sport and physical activity for our health and well-being as well as the urgency to promote healthier lifestyles became even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>18</sup> In line with the European Green Deal as a blueprint for sustainable growth, the actions supported by this programme should aim to respect the “do no significant harm” principle without changing the fundamental character of the programme. When designing their actions, applicants should incorporate measures that offset or at least considerably reduce the environmental impact of project activities, using for instance the online pledge platform of the Education for Climate Coalition of the pledge platform or the European Climate Pact ([https://europa.eu/climate-pact/pledges\\_en](https://europa.eu/climate-pact/pledges_en)).

- Preservation of cultural heritage

The Corps can provide significant value when it comes to raising the awareness of and preserving Europe's cultural heritage. Supported projects should aim to mobilise volunteers around enhancing access to cultural heritage for all, or reconversion of heritage infrastructure with a high social purpose and a low carbon footprint. New participatory and intercultural approaches to heritage will be promoted.

#### **1.1.6. EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS AND THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH**

In the context of the European Year of Youth announced by the Commission President in the State of the Union speech on 15 September 2021, the European Parliament and the Council approved a EUR 3 million reinforcement to the European Solidarity Corps programme for 2022.

The reinforcement will top up the following actions:

- Solidarity projects (+ EUR 2 million). This is an action directly for young people and the top-up will enable more young people to set-up their own Solidarity project to tackle challenges in their local community. The positive effects for the engagement of the young people and their communities will be part of the legacy of the Year.
- Networking Activities (+ EUR 700 000): the increased budget will allow for strengthened support to networking and cooperation activities accompanying the Corps in fulfilling its objectives and priorities, in reaching more diverse young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, and promoting the digital, green and participation dimensions, which are also priorities of the Year.
- Support to IT developments (+ EUR 100 000) and the European Solidarity Corps Portal (+ EUR 200 000) will contribute to enhancing the digital services and the identity of the Programme.

The Annual Work Programme 2022 also incorporates resources that will be carried over from the 2021 budget. Like for the reinforcement under the European Year of the Year, these resources will be devoted to reinforcing the actions at decentralised level as they will be used to increase the budget of Volunteering projects.

## **1.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME**

The next sections will highlight the main actions and initiatives that the Commission plans to carry out in 2022, in cooperation with the implementing structures of the programme.

In 2022, the first full year of implementing the European Solidarity Corps under the new legal base, the Commission is planning to launch a general call for proposals to cover actions under sections 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.

In line with Article 29 of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the National Agencies can draw up funding strategies that clarify the conditions for activities considered as complementary to their national schemes.

A complete and more detailed description of the grants and procurements that will be awarded in 2022 under the European Solidarity Corps is available in Part II of this work programme, including those related to preparing the implementation of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

### **1.2.1. VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteering under the ‘participation of young people in solidarity activities’ strand will be carried out through individual volunteering activities or activities by volunteering teams in 2022. For the first time, **volunteering under European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps will be covered by the 2022 general call.**

**Individual volunteering** activities are carried out as voluntary unpaid activities for a period of up to 12 months. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity-related activities to benefit 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 designed to allow participants in the Corps carry out solidarity-related activities together (i.e. in teams) for a period of between 2 weeks and 2 months. Such activities could contribute especially to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Corps and/or be justified due to their specific aims.

### **Main actions planned for 2022**

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

- The **Volunteering Projects** action will involve individual volunteering and/or activities by volunteering teams. Projects are expected to start in 2022 or at the beginning of 2023, with individual deployments beginning throughout the duration of the projects.
- **Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas** is a centralised action. Applications for funding under this action are expected to address either the policy priority of “promoting healthy lifestyles” or that of “preservation of cultural heritage”, as defined in Section 1.2.2.
- **European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps** is a centralised action which will allow the deployment in third countries of volunteers aged 18-35 to implement activities designed to contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthen the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.

### **1.2.2. SOLIDARITY PROJECTS**

**Solidarity projects** aim to further foster the inclusiveness of the Corps and empower young people to address unmet societal challenges. They consist of bottom-up, solidarity-related activities, for a period of up to 12 months and are set up and carried out by groups of at least five Corps participants, addressing key challenges in their communities while presenting clear European added value. Such projects must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs.

### **Main actions planned for 2022**

Under the 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 in the course of 2022 or at the beginning of 2023.

### **1.2.3. NETWORKING ACTIVITIES**

**Networking activities** are national or transnational activities to support the Corps in fulfilling its objectives and priorities. This should be achieved by helping organisations to offer quality projects to an increasing number of participants, attracting newcomers - both young people and participating organisations - and providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity-related 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 Corps and thus support its wider positive impact.

Networking activities can consist of training, support and contact seminars, exchange of practices, establishment of alumni networks and post-placement guidance, evaluation and evidence-based analysis of results and impact. At centralised level, networking activities will include awareness raising activities and events, consultation fora, exchanges of practices and networking for participants and organisations prior to, during and after their participation, with a view to sustaining the spirit of solidarity and inspiring others.

### **Main actions planned for 2022**

In 2022, the supported networking activities will include: organisation of trainings, 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; establishing and implementing community-building networks, alumni networks and post-placement guidance and support; evaluation and evidence-based analysis of results and impact.

<p><b>Note:</b> In addition to organising the networking activities described above, specific training for organisations and young persons involved in solidarity-related activities will be provided through the training and evaluation cycle for participants (i.e. young people) and participating organisations. Preparatory visits and complementary activities will also be supported in conjunction with volunteering and activities by volunteering teams.</p>
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### **1.2.4. QUALITY AND SUPPORT MEASURES**

The Corps aims to provide high-quality solidarity-related activities. Therefore, the following quality and support measures will be implemented:

- measures to ensure the quality and accessibility of volunteering or solidarity projects and equal opportunities for all young people in participating countries. This includes offline and online training, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, complementary insurance, and support before and, where necessary, after the solidarity activity. It also includes the further use of Youthpass, which identifies and documents the competences acquired during solidarity-related activities;
- the development and maintenance of quality labels for entities willing to participate in providing volunteering opportunities for the Corps, to ensure compliance with the principles and requirements of the Corps;
- the activities of the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre, which support and raise the implementation quality of the Corps' actions and address potential obstacles, with a view to ensuring a smooth and balanced experience for all participants and enhancing the validation of their learning outcomes. To take advantage of mutual overlaps in areas of common interest such as inclusion and diversity, the activities of the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre will be complemented by the activities of the SALTO Resource Centres, financed jointly with the Erasmus+ programme;
  - 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 2022**

In 2022, the first full year of implementing the European Solidarity Corps under its new legal base, the quality and support measures will include the following actions:

- **Quality Label:** a Quality Label system has been put in place to ensure that participating organisations comply with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps regarding their responsibilities during all project stages. In general (with the exception of individuals or organisations participating in solidarity projects), obtaining a Quality Label is a prerequisite for an organisation to participate in any activities supported by the Corps but will not automatically lead to funding. The type of Quality Label awarded will depend on the role an organisation wishes to perform in a project: acting as a host organisation and/or a support organisation.
- **At decentralised level,** since 2021 there has been a new quality label process, which enables easier access to funding for applicants. As a result, the process of applying for grants was significantly streamlined, allowing organisations to spend less energy and resources at application stage and instead enabling them to focus on the quality of the activities and implementation. The application process will be managed by the National Agencies.

**At centralised level,** the Executive Agency will manage the application process for the new Quality Label for humanitarian aid activities. The procedure consists of validating the capacity of applicant organisations to engage in humanitarian aid activities and certifying that they comply with the European Solidarity Corps programme quality standards. The new Quality Label replaced the European Union Aid Volunteers certification procedure. Transition measures are applicable to organisations that held a certification awarded under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (programme period 2014-2020).



- **Insurance:** complementary insurance will be offered to cover insurance-related expenses for participants in cross-border solidarity-related activities<sup>19</sup> 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 payment from the participant. Where the EHIC cannot be obtained for these reasons, primary coverage insurance may be proposed based upon due justification. A comprehensive primary coverage insurance will be offered to participants under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps<sup>20</sup>.
- **Certificate:** at the end of the activity, participants will receive a certificate of participation, which must be issued by the organisation coordinating or providing the activity. To support the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of participants, the competences (combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes) that are the non-formal and informal learning outcomes of these activities will 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. Use of the Youthpass process and the certificate that identifies and documents non-formal and informal learning outcomes will be further developed for the Corps, and will be promoted and offered to participants (on a voluntary basis) and participating organisations (mandatory, insofar as the participant requests it).
- **Language learning opportunities:** participants in volunteering activities will benefit from online assessment and training through the fully revamped Online Language Support (OLS) tool. The tool aims to give users the possibility to choose two languages they want to study, as well as their main points of interest (learn more vocabulary, practice grammar, oral practice, etc.). To a certain extent, basic language online activities may also be made available for the benefit of the general public. Grants may be awarded to offer learning opportunities regarding languages not covered by the OLS or to cater for specific needs of participants<sup>21</sup>.
- **General online training:** open access training is available for young people registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and consists of a general induction course and a range of specific courses. It is focused on issues such as the mission of the Corps, ethics, integrity, roles and responsibilities of the participants, EU values, intercultural awareness, insurance, health and safety, etc.<sup>22</sup> Actions planned for 2022 will include i.a. maintenance and updates, work regarding migration of the training offer for Corps participants towards a corporate platform, indicatively foreseen for the beginning of 2022, as well as a series of online webinars on the topics of the general online training.
- **European Youth Card:** participants will be offered a Youth Card, which allows its holders to benefit from reduced fares when purchasing certain goods or services. The granting of this card to the participants, as an additional service that helps to promote Corps and EU youth policy. This continues the granting of such a card under the previous European Voluntary Service<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> With the exception of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps

<sup>20</sup> Except where activities of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps take place in a country/countries where EHIC applies.

<sup>21</sup> See Section 2.3.3 (WPI 5.31).

<sup>22</sup> See Section 2.3.3 (WPI 5.32).

<sup>23</sup> See Section 2.3.2.2 (WPI 5.60).

- **European Solidarity Corps and SALTO Resource Centres:** the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre provides assistance to the implementing bodies, participating organisations and stakeholders, to raise the quality and impact of the Corps' actions and activities and to enhance the identification and documentation of competences acquired through solidarity-related activities. Existing services offered by the SALTO Resource Centres under Erasmus+ will also continue to assist the Corps in line with their thematic or regional areas of responsibility<sup>24</sup>.
- **European Solidarity Corps Portal:** the IT tools developed specifically for the Corps between 2016 and 2020, particularly the European Solidarity Corps Portal and its different modules and affiliated IT tools, will be further developed to improve the experience for end-users. These developments will build on the role of the Portal as the one-stop shop for interested individuals and organisations regarding, 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 the development of other functionalities to support the young people and organisations who wish to participate, participate or have participated in solidarity activities. Links between the Portal and the IT tools supporting project management will continue to be developed to further simplify management for beneficiaries. Similarly, interoperability between the Corps Portal and the Youthpass and Europass IT environments will be developed.
  - **Support for IT developments:** In 2022, the Commission will continue to focus on improving the working environment (application forms, reporting forms, etc.) put in place during the previous programming period, adapting it to newly introduced action formats. The main objective will be to maximise synergies with existing Erasmus+ IT tools, support the new IT landscape (including the transfer of information between eGrant system and the Portal, where relevant), and carry out evolutionary maintenance. This will allow the IT infrastructure to provide a seamless user experience, adapting and properly aligning it to support all European Solidarity Corps processes, while ensuring simplification and user-friendliness. The ESC app will be further developed to improve access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal and facilitate exchange of experiences and inspirational ideas between current, former and future participants.<sup>25</sup>
  - **Programme evaluation:** In 2022, the Commission shall commission the final evaluation of the European Solidarity Corps Programme 2018-2020, in order to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the 2018-2020 programme, and the interim evaluation of the 2021-2027 programme. The results of the final evaluation will feed both into the interim evaluation and into resource allocation proposals in the following years.

**Note:** In 2022, the European Solidarity Corps may contribute financially to the Commission's corporate communication, in accordance with Article 21(2) of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation. This contribution will cover corporate communication of the EU's political priorities to the extent that they are related to the general objective of the Corps. The main purpose of the information and communication activities developed at European and national levels is to enhance the visibility of the Corps through different tools and channels.

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<sup>24</sup> See Section 2.3.2.2 (WPI 5.50).

<sup>25</sup> See Section 2.3.3 (WPI 5.70).

## 2. PART II – GRANTS, PROCUREMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS

### 2.1. BUDGET LINES AND BASIC ACT

Budget line: 07 04 01

Basic act: European Solidarity Corps Regulation

### 2.2. METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

On the basis of the objectives set out in the European Solidarity Corps Regulation, the 2022 work programme will be implemented through:

Implementation mode	Amount	Section
Actions implemented through indirect management	126 357 000 EUR	
Grants and actions implemented through direct management	9 650 000 EUR	2.2.1
Procurements implemented through direct management	13 813 000 EUR	2.2.2
Experts and other actions	180 000 EUR	2.2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 000 000 EUR</b>	

#### 2.2.1. GRANTS AND ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH DIRECT AND INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

To achieve the objectives and policy priorities announced in Sections 1.1.1 and 1.2.2 of Part I of this work programme, general and specific calls for proposals will be published by the Commission or by the Executive Agency in accordance with Article 189(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Each year, after adoption of the financing decision, based on Article 110 of the Financial Regulation, 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 practical information. This programme guide aims to assist all those interested in developing projects under the programme and help them understand the objectives and actions of the Corps. It also aims to give detailed information on what is needed in order to apply, what level of grant is offered, the grant selection procedure and the rules for successful applicants who become beneficiaries of an EU grant. The programme guide also provides detailed information on the award criteria for each call; the quality of 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.

Actions will be implemented both in direct and indirect management. All actions implemented through the National Agencies (marked as NA), are to be considered as indirect management. Grants through direct management will be those awarded by EAC or EACEA.

Some grants will be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with indents (c), (d) and (f) of Article 195 of the FR.

The calls for proposals that will be published or launched to select actions and work programmes for co-financing in 2022, as well as the grants awarded under specific conditions without issuing a call for proposals, are specified further in Part II of this work programme.

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

#### **2.2.1.1. Selection criteria**

Organisations, institutions and groups applying for any grant under the European Solidarity Corps, as detailed further 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 regular activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. The verification of financial capacity does not apply to public bodies, including Member State organisations and international organisations.
- Applicants must have the professional competences and qualifications required to complete the proposed action. Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

#### **2.2.2. PROCUREMENTS**

This work programme also includes actions that will be implemented 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 the time-frame for launching the procurement procedures, are indicated in Table 2 in Part III, Section 2 of this work programme.

For actions implemented through framework contracts (FWC), in case existing FWC cannot be used, the Commission will consider publishing calls for tender to award new FWC.

#### **2.2.3. EXPERTS AND OTHER ACTIONS**

This work programme includes costs related to the experts involved in assessing requests for a Quality Label or funding.

Insofar as participating organisations are concerned, a Quality Label process is in place for applicants (under ‘quality and support measures’) to ensure the general quality framework. Holding the relevant Quality Label is a pre-requisite to be eligible to receive a grant for most solidarity-related activities<sup>26</sup> and/or to participate in many other actions of the Corps.

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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.

## **2.3. SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES**

### **2.3.1. 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 to the participants and participating organisations involved, as well as the communities in which these actions take place.

For individual participants, solidarity-related activities supported in 2022, and 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 to the labour market;
- increased sense of initiative and social 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;
  - increased awareness of humanitarian aid-related themes and values.

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

- increased capacity to operate at EU/international level;
- innovative and improved ways 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.

For communities where the activities related to supported solidarity-related activities are implemented, the following outcomes are expected:

- increased ability to address societal challenges;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, linguistic and cultural diversity;
- increased capacity building among local organisations and local communities in third countries.

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

## **2.3.2. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT**

This section of the Work Programme describes the actions implemented by the National Agencies (NA) of the European Solidarity Corps programme. The Commission authorizes the recognition of the eligibility of costs incurred from 1 January 2022. This retroactivity aims to ensure programme implementation continuity.

The expected results for the actions described in this section are indicated in Section 2.3.1 above. More specific indications for these actions concerning 1) the main expected outputs, 2) the implementation mode, 3) and the estimated amount available are indicated in the programming tables in Part III, Section 2 of this work programme.

### ***2.3.2.1. Grants awarded by means of a general call for proposals (European Solidarity Corps Guide)***

#### ***a) Volunteering Projects***

Index references in budget table (WPI): 1.00

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<sup>27</sup>.

These volunteering opportunities will be offered through Volunteering Projects. Projects are implemented through an appropriate mix of eligible activities, particularly individual volunteering and activities by volunteering teams.

Individual volunteering is a solidarity-related activity carried out as a voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to 12 months. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations engaged in solidarity-related activities to benefit the communities in which the activities are carried out. Such volunteering must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs and must be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Activities by volunteering teams are solidarity-related activities allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants to volunteer together for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months. Such solidarity-related activities could contribute especially to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Corps and/or be justified due to the specific aims of the solidarity-related activities.

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

- address clearly defined unmet societal challenges;

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<sup>27</sup> This does not concern volunteering in humanitarian aid, which will not be included in the general call for proposals in 2021.

- 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 between the participant and the beneficiaries of the solidarity-related activities, 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 -- and the EU values of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities -- as well as projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and a sense of initiative among 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 to 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 different country to the country of origin of the participant(s); or
  - in-country activities, e.g. 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 holding the relevant Quality Label<sup>28</sup> 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 must involve an accredited hosting organisation, and at least one accredited support organisation from each country of origin of the young people who are expected to participate.

Volunteering Projects will be implemented by National Agencies through indirect management. For 2022, the budget of this action is reinforced to accommodate (inter alia) the expected resumption of cross-border mobility, also in the context of the European Year of Youth.

## b) *Solidarity projects*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 3.00

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<sup>28</sup> Or an accreditation for volunteering awarded under Erasmus + (2013-2020)

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

Solidarity projects consist of unpaid solidarity-related activities, for a period of up to 12 months, that are set up and carried out by groups of at least five Corps participants, to address key challenges in their communities while presenting clear European added value. Such solidarity projects must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs.

Projects under this action promote a spirit of initiative, social commitment and active citizenship and mainly aim to:

- provide young people with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity-related activities;
- foster active participation and social commitment by young people carrying out the project;
- help address concrete, unmet societal challenges and strengthen communities;
- help enhance the personal, educational, social and civic development of young people;
- have an impact on the local community by addressing local issues or common challenges and developing local opportunities, particularly in communities located in rural, isolated or marginalised areas and border regions;
  - promote environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among young people implementing the project and other participants in project activities, raising their awareness of the importance of acting to reduce or compensate for the environmental footprint of activities.

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

Solidarity Projects will be implemented by National Agencies through indirect management. For 2022, the budget of this action is significantly reinforced to contribute to the objectives of the European Year of Youth.

#### ***2.3.2.2. Other actions under indirect management***

##### ***a) Quality Label (decentralised)***

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.14

A Quality Label process is in place to ensure the general quality framework for most activities (in practice: volunteering, activities by volunteering teams, i.e. any projects involving one or more of these activities) that may be carried out with the support of the European Solidarity Corps. Obtaining a Quality Label is a pre-condition for organisations to:

- apply for funding;
- participate in the volunteering activities supported under the European Solidarity Corps.



Award of a Quality Label does not provide automatic access to funding. The Quality Label will be valid for the duration of the programming period (2021-2027) and subject to periodical reassessment.

A decentralised Quality Label process (National Agencies will review applications) is in place for any public or private entity wishing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps' volunteering projects and volunteering in high priority areas.

This action will be implemented by National Agencies through indirect management.

b) *Networking Activities (decentralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 4.10

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

In 2022, Networking Activities consist of transnational and national:

- training, support and contact seminars for potential organisations and participants, particularly a networking activities seminar to exchange practices and develop quality in Networking Activities;
- thematic activities to raise awareness and exchanges of practices linked to the objectives, priority target groups and themes of the programme;
- establishment and implementation of alumni networks and post-placement guidance and support;
  - evaluation and evidence-based analysis of results and impact,

Networking Activities are crucial support activities targeting potential beneficiaries and potential participants, practitioners and stakeholders of the European Solidarity Corps programme. Through Networking Activities, the National Agencies provide trainings, thematic and research activities, support and contact seminars, which are key to ensure quality implementation of the programme and to build closer links with the relevant elements of policy development.

The budget implementation tasks will be entrusted to the National Agencies via the conclusion of Contribution Agreements under indirect management mode in accordance with Articles 62 (1)(c), 110 (3)(f) and 157 (1) of the FR. For 2022 the budget for this action is reinforced in order to cover additional needs linked to the implementation of the European Year of Youth.

The country distribution of the budget is provided in Part III of this Work Programme.

c) *Activities of the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.50

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre assists the implementing bodies, participating organisations and young people taking part in the European Solidarity Corps, as well as

stakeholders, to raise the quality and impact of its implementation in all participating countries, and to enhance the identification and documentation of competences acquired through the activities. Where relevant, SALTO Resource Centres that exist under Erasmus+ provide assistance in line with their thematic or regional areas of responsibility. Their functions consist of providing expertise, support, services, tools and resources to the National Agency network and European Solidarity Corps stakeholders. Resource Centres involve additional functions being entrusted to designated National Agencies to support the development and implementation of activities under the European Solidarity Corps.

Support for the European Solidarity Resource Centres is identified in Article 5 (2)(c) of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation.

The budget implementation tasks will be entrusted to the National Agencies via the conclusion of Contribution Agreements under indirect management mode in accordance with Articles 62 (1)(c), 110 (3)(f) and 157 (1) of the FR.

Implementation	Indicative amount (EUR)
NA	European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre: 290 000
	SALTO Resource Centres: 660 000

d) *Specific training for participants and organisations in solidarity-related activities (training and evaluation cycle; decentralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.40

The training aims to improve the level of preparedness of young people participating in cross-border solidarity-related activities and consists of the following modules/activities:

- **pre-departure training for volunteers** ensures that, by the time they leave, participants are adequately prepared for their upcoming activities and equipped with practical and technical information on matters such as insurance, visa, pocket money and working hours, etc.
- **on-arrival training** introduces the volunteers to the host country, helps to adapt to cultural and personal challenges and allows getting to know each other and build a network.
- **mid-term evaluation** allows participants in long-term volunteering to assess their experience up to that point and to reflect on the activities, role and support of the host organisation and on their own contribution.
  - **annual event** is an opportunity to bring together former, current and potential participants.

The training also supports organisations with an objective to provide training to newly awarded Quality Label organisations on the core features of the programme.

The budget implementation tasks will be entrusted to the National Agencies via the conclusion of Contribution Agreements under indirect management mode in accordance with Articles 62 (1)(c), 110 (3)(f) and 157 (1) of the FR.

The country distribution of the budget is provided in Part III of this Work Programme.

### **2.3.3. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT**

The expected results for the actions described in this section are indicated in Section 2.3.1 above. More specific indications for these actions concerning 1) the main expected outputs, 2) the implementation mode and 3) the estimated amount available are indicated in the programming tables in Part III, Section 2 of this work programme.

#### ***2.3.3.1. Grants awarded by means of a general call for proposals (European Solidarity Corps Guide)***

##### **a) *Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas***<sup>29</sup>

Index references in budget table (WPI): 1.30

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 Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas. Activities by volunteering teams are solidarity-related activities allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants to volunteer together for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months. Such solidarity-related activities are justified due to their specific aims.

Activities by volunteering teams in high-priority areas will aim to:

- address clearly defined unmet societal challenges in the area of “promoting healthy lifestyles” and/ or “preservation of cultural heritage”, as defined in Section 1.2.2;
- promote solidarity across the participating countries;
- 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 between the participant and the beneficiaries of the solidarity-related activities, 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 - and the EU values of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities - as well as projects enhancing media literacy, critical thinking and a sense of initiative among young people;
- reinforce the capacities and international scope of the participating organisations;

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<sup>29</sup> In 2022 this corresponds to the policy priorities of ‘promoting healthy lifestyles’ and ‘preservation of cultural heritage’, as defined in Section 1.2.2.

- 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 to 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 different country to the country of origin of the participant(s); or
  - in-country activities, e.g. 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 holding the relevant Quality Label<sup>30</sup> may receive support from the European Solidarity Corps to carry out projects focused on volunteering opportunities. Projects must involve at least three accredited organisations from at least two different programme countries.

Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas will be implemented by the Executive Agency.

b) *European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 2.00

This action provides young people aged 18 to 35 years old with the opportunity to participate in volunteering activities, aiming at supporting humanitarian aid operations.

These activities should:

- contribute to a needs-based humanitarian response and be guided by the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>31</sup>. International humanitarian law and human rights law should be promoted;
- be carried out in compliance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as well as with the "do no significant harm" principle;
- respond to the humanitarian needs of local communities identified in cooperation with humanitarian and other relevant partners within the hosting country or region;
- be planned on the basis of risk assessments and undertaken in a way that ensures that there is a high level of safety and security for volunteers;
- where relevant, facilitate the transition from the humanitarian response to long-term sustainable and inclusive development;
- facilitate the active involvement of local staff and volunteers from the countries and communities where they are implemented;
- respect the principles set out in the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2017) and in Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- take into account, where appropriate, the central and overall coordinating role of UN-OCHA ([unocha.org](http://unocha.org)) in promoting a coherent international response to humanitarian crises;

<sup>30</sup> Or an accreditation for volunteering awarded under Erasmus + (2013-2020).

<sup>31</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/consensus\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/consensus_en.pdf)

- strive to contribute to enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of the EU humanitarian aid, in line with the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles;
- contribute to an adequate humanitarian response strengthening the gender perspective in Union humanitarian aid policy, promoting adequate humanitarian responses to the specific needs of women and men of all ages and seek to involve women and groups and networks of women. These actions should take into account the needs and capacities of those in the most vulnerable situations, including women and children, and those most at risk;
- contribute to efforts to strengthen local preparedness or the response to humanitarian crises.

In practice, the following activities will be supported under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps:

- **Individual volunteering** is a solidarity activity in the field of humanitarian aid, that can be “long term”, with a duration of 2 to 12 months.
- **Volunteering teams** implementing a solidarity activity in the field of humanitarian aid of 5 to 40 participants coming from at least two different countries who volunteer together for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months.
- **Preparatory meetings** (before the deployment) and **complementary activities** (in parallel to or following the deployment) as side activities aiming at ensuring high quality and increased impact at local/regional level.

The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps will be implemented by the Executive Agency.

#### ***2.3.3.2.Grants awarded by exception to calls for proposals (Article 195 FR)***

##### *a) European Solidarity Corps Youth Card*

Index reference in budget table: 5.60

European Solidarity Corps participants in activities entailing mobility are offered a Youth Card, which allows its holders to benefit from reduced fares when purchasing certain goods or services. The granting of this card is provided as an additional service to participants. It also contributes to the promotion of the European Solidarity Corps and of EU youth policy by providing young people access to quality youth information through the organisation of awards ceremonies and events.

The objective is to renew the agreement between the Commission and the EYCA (European Youth Card Association), the only body that issues such a Youth Card and thus has a *de facto* monopoly within the meaning of Article 195 (c) FR.

This action will be implemented by EAC and/or the Executive Agency through direct management.

#### ***2.3.3.3.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 to 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 exchanging practices, awareness raising and community building for participants and organisations, including through the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

This action will be implemented by EAC and/or the Executive Agency.

b) *European Solidarity Corps Insurance*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.20

The European Solidarity Corps insurance scheme aims to cover the risks run by the young people participating in Corps activities as volunteers in cross-border activities. Every participant must be enrolled in the European Solidarity Corps Insurance scheme foreseen by the European Solidarity Corps programme. In case of participants in solidarity-related activities' strand, the offered insurance should complement coverage by the EHIC and/or national social security systems and other insurance schemes in which participants may be enrolled. Those participants who are not eligible for the EHIC will be entitled to receive full coverage through the insurance provided by the European Commission. In cases where obtaining the EHIC proves impossible (due to national rules), or when it requires the participant to pay, primary coverage insurance may be proposed based upon due justification. 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. A comprehensive primary coverage insurance will be offered to participants under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps<sup>32</sup>.

The organisations are responsible for the enrolment of the participant(s) to the insurance scheme. This enrolment must be done before the departure of the participant(s) and cover the duration of the activity.

A new contract will be put in place to provide an insurance scheme for participants in European Solidarity Corps projects selected in the programming period (2021-2027), including volunteers in humanitarian aid activities and if necessary participants from the previous programming period. The previous contract will be still used to cover some participants in the European Solidarity Corps activities in the transition period.

This will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management. For 2022 the budget foreseen for insurance is reinforced to cater for adequate insurance coverage of the

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<sup>32</sup> Except where activities of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps take place in a country/countries where EHIC applies.

increased numbers of young people expected to engage in cross-border volunteering activities in the context of the European Year of Youth.

c) *Online language support*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.31

The scheme for systematic language support offers online assessment and training to volunteers.

The tool aims to give users the possibility to choose two languages they want to study (e.g. the language of the host country, the language of the activity), as well as their main points of interest (learn more vocabulary, practice grammar, oral practice, etc.). To a certain extent, basic language online activities may also be made available for the benefit of the general public.

The action will be implemented by the Executive Agency (direct management). In 2022, online language support will be financed entirely via the budget of the Erasmus+ programme.

d) *General online training and specific training for participants in cross-border activities (centralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.32

Young people who register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and those who will participate in the Corps' activities are supported through open access general online training. Existing training programmes, and online courses available via the dedicated web platform since late 2020, will be further developed and/or updated to better support Corps participants engaged in high-quality solidarity-related activities (also covering new horizontal priorities) and help to further develop the Corps community through a range of channels and formats (including webinars, talks, etc.).

Specific preparatory training will be provided to young people participating in the humanitarian aid strand of the programme.

In order to be ready to support humanitarian aid operations in non-EU countries, candidate volunteers should be adequately prepared before their deployment. Preparatory training for volunteers in humanitarian aid activities aims to improve their level of preparedness and specific knowledge about the action.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.

In 2022, preparatory training for volunteers in humanitarian aid activities will be provided through a framework contract (resulting from a call for tender included in the 2021 annual work programme).

Actions planned for 2022 will also include work regarding migration of the current and future training offer for Corps participants towards a corporate platform, indicatively foreseen for 2022.

e) *Information and networking activities focused on the Quality Label*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.11

Information and networking activities aim to increase the capacity of potential participating organisations to respect the general quality framework.

In 2022, these activities will consist mainly of:

- thematic activities to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the Quality Label, i.e. activities dedicated to helping potential participating organisations to understand their roles and responsibilities, the key features of the programme (such as specific support for young people with fewer opportunities, EU level recognition tools, mentoring etc.) and how to develop quality projects.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.

f) *Information and networking activities focused on Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.15

Information and networking activities aim to increase the capacity of potential participating organisations to respect the general quality framework.

In 2022, these activities will consist mainly of:

- thematic activities and events to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas;
- information fora to provide advice and assistance to potential applicants in the Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas Action.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.

g) *Information and networking activities focused on European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.16

Information and networking activities aim to increase the capacity of potential participating organisations to respect the general quality framework.

In 2022, these activities will consist mainly of:

- thematic activities and events to raise awareness and exchange of practices linked to the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps;
- information fora to provide advice and assistance to potential applicants in the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.



h) *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-related opportunities across Europe and beyond. It provides young people with information about the Corps and access to organisations which have 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 and contact suitable candidates for volunteering activities that they wish to offer.

The Portal allows young people to follow online training, to access other services and, importantly, to build a community of young people sharing the common European values. The Portal will be integrated into all front- and back-end processes of the Corps. To further improve access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal and facilitate exchange of experiences and inspirational ideas between current, former and future participants, the existing mobile application will be further developed and enhanced with new features.

Activities to disseminate and exploit results are also envisaged, linked to the European Solidarity Corps Portal's role as an information hub.

This action will be implemented by EAC and/or the Executive Agency through direct management. For 2022 the budget of this action has been reinforced in order to cover the additional needs linked to the implementation of the European Year of Youth.

i) *Support for IT developments* (WPI): 5.65

The European Solidarity Corps programme's allocated credits for IT tools and systems in 2022 will allow the Commission to support the new IT landscape and simultaneously cover the expenses related to the existing IT tools (evolutionary maintenance).

This will mainly concern IT tools and systems destined to be directly used by, or to benefit directly, multiple categories of external stakeholders, including applicants, beneficiaries, National Agencies, National Authorities and participants in general, such as young people, in line with programme objectives. These include the future IT systems corresponding to the current EPlusLink (PMM -- Project Management Module), Mobility Tool (BM -- Beneficiary Module), AF -- Application Forms, management reporting (DAP-Data Analytics Platform), dissemination platform (VALOR), etc.

This action will be implemented by EAC through direct management. In 2022, the reinforced budget of this action should permit to cover additional needs linked to the implementation of the European Year of Youth.

j) *Final evaluation of the European Solidarity Corps Programme 2018-2020 and interim evaluation of European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 7.00

In accordance with the provisions of the legal base, Art 21(2), the Commission shall carry out an interim evaluation of the Programme, no later than 31 December 2024. That interim

evaluation needs to be accompanied by a final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps Programme, which shall feed into the interim evaluation. The final evaluation will assess the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the 2018-2020 programme and recommendations for the current programme and will be carried out as an independent evaluation, using a framework service contract. The results of the evaluation shall feed back into i.a. resource allocation proposals in the following years.

The contract will be implemented by EAC through direct management.

#### **2.3.3.4. Experts**

a) *Support for evaluating requests for the Quality Label*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 5.81

These costs cover the services provided by the experts involved in the assessment of requests for the Quality Label (see the Section on “Quality Label (centralised)’ WPI.5.13 below). This item will be implemented through recourse to experts based on existing lists established following calls for expressions of interest in compliance with Article 237 of the FR.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.

b) *Support for evaluating requests for funding regarding Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas and European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps*

Index references in budget table (WPI): 5.82

These costs cover the services provided by the experts involved in assessing requests for funding regarding Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas (see Section 2.3. 3.1 a) and b) above, insofar as they refer to Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas and European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps). This item will be implemented through recourse to experts based on existing lists established following calls for expressions of interest in compliance with Article 237 of the FR.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management

#### **2.3.3.5. Other actions**

a) *Quality Label (centralised)*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 5.13

A Quality Label system is in place to ensure the general quality framework for humanitarian aid related activities. Organisations may apply to be issued with a Quality Label for humanitarian aid related activities. Obtaining the Quality Label will be a pre-condition to:

- apply for funding under the humanitarian aid action;
- participate in the humanitarian aid related activities organised under the European Solidarity Corps.

This action will be implemented by the Executive Agency through direct management.

## **2.4. MANAGEMENT FEES OF NATIONAL AGENCIES**

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

a) *Management Fees of National Agencies*

Index reference in budget table (WPI): 6.00

Financial support to National Agencies is identified in Article 25 paragraph 2, point (b) of the Regulation. Financial support is provided to National Agencies as a contribution to their management costs linked to the implementation of the tasks that will be entrusted to them via the conclusion of Contribution Agreements under indirect management mode in accordance with Articles 62 (1)(c), 110 (3)(f) and 157 (1) of the FR..

The calculation method and the country distribution of the management fees are provided in Part III, Section 4 of this work programme. For 2022, the management fees have been significantly reinforced in order to cater for the additional workload of National Agencies linked to the implementation of the European Year of Youth.

### 3. PART III – BUDGET

This part of the work programme indicates the funds that will be available in 2022 to finance activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps programme.

#### 3.1. INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total indicative operational appropriations foreseen under the 2022 work programme are EUR 150 000 0000<sup>33</sup>.

**Table 1 – Available appropriations**

<b>Budget European Solidarity Corps 2022</b>	<b>Budget line</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>EFTA/EEA</b>	<b>Internal assigned revenue</b>	<b>External assigned revenue</b>	<b>Total</b>
European Solidarity Corps	07 04 01	134 710 226	242 478	80 000	14 967 296 <sup>34</sup>	150 000 000
<b>TOTAL</b>		134 710 226	242 478	80 000	14 967 296	150 000 000

<sup>33</sup> The availability of additional appropriations estimated for the participation of countries other than EU Member States as provided for in the Regulation, is subject to the entering into force of the agreement on the participation of the respective country in the European Solidarity Corps or to the incorporation of the Regulation in the EEA Agreement.

<sup>34</sup> Including an estimated EUR 6 000 000.00 in available appropriations for 2022 and EUR 8 967 296 in funds carried forward from previous years.

### 3.2. DISTRIBUTION OF ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS BY ACTIONS – BUDGET AND PROGRAMMING TABLES

The budget and programming tables below show the distribution of available appropriations among the actions funded by budget line 07 04 01, taking into account the amounts adopted in the EU-Budget.

The overall allocation of funds to the programme is established by Article 11 of the Regulation. It should be noted, however, that in line with the Regulation, these percentages of the total budget are fixed for the entire programming period 2021-2027. Therefore, for a given year of implementation, they do not need to be respected in full (e.g. because of reprogramming or a change in political priorities). However, the trend will have to be respected for the overall duration of the programme.

Legend	
APEL	Award procedure for European Label
CFP	Call for proposals
DB	Grants to bodies identified by a basic act - [Art. 195(d) FR]
IM	Indirect management
MF	Management fees awarded to the National Agencies
PP	Public procurement
SE	Experts - [Art. 237 FR]
MON	Grants for bodies with a de facto or de iure monopoly - [Art. 195(c) FR]
WPI	Work programme index
EAC	Actions implemented directly by DG EAC (direct management)
Executive agency	Actions implemented directly by the Executive Agency (direct management)
EAC-NA	Actions implemented indirectly by National Agencies (indirect management)

**Table 2 – Total budget**

<b>WPI</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>2022 draft budget allocation</b>	<b>Implementation mode</b>	<b>Implementing body</b>
1.00	Volunteering activities	<b>77 207 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
1.30	Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas	<b>3 000 000</b>	CFP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
2.00	Humanitarian Aid strand	<b>6 500 000</b>	CFP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
3.00	Solidarity projects	<b>14 000 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
4.10	Transnational and national networking activities	<b>7 700 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
4.20	Networking activities and events organised at European level	<b>533 000</b>	PP	EAC/EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.11	Information and networking activities focused on the Quality Label	<b>70 000</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.13	Quality Label (centralised)	<b>0</b>	CFP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.14	Quality Label (decentralised)	<b>0</b>	IM	EAC-NA
5.15	Information and networking activities focused on Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas	<b>60 000</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.16	Information and networking activities focused on European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps	<b>70 000</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.20	Insurance	<b>5 000 000</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.31	Online linguistic assessment and support	<b>0</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.32	General online training and specific training for participants in cross-border activities (centralised)	<b>4 480 000</b>	PP	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.40	Specific training for participants and organisations in solidarity-related activities (training and evaluation cycle; decentralised)	<b>16 500 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
5.50	Activities of the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres	<b>950 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
5.60	European Youth Card	<b>150 000</b>	MON	EAC/EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.65	Support for IT development	<b>2 200 000</b>	PP	EAC
5.70	European Solidarity Corps Portal	<b>900 000</b>	PP	EAC/EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.81	Support for evaluation of requests for the Quality Label	<b>60 000</b>	SE	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
5.82	Support for evaluation of requests for funding regarding Volunteering Teams in High-Priority Areas and European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps	<b>120 000</b>	SE	EXECUTIVE AGENCY
6.00	Management fees	<b>10 000 000</b>	IM	EAC-NA
7.00	Ex-post evaluation of ESC 2018-2020 and interim evaluation of ESC 2021-2027	<b>500 000</b>	PP	EAC
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 000 000</b>		

### **3.3. BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE NATIONAL AGENCIES**

#### **3.3.1. CRITERIA**

The 4 criteria used for the allocation of funds for grant support indirectly managed by the National Agencies are the following:

- a) Country Population;
- b) Cost of Living;
- c) Distance between capitals;
- d) Performance.

The relative weight of the criteria is calculated as follows:

Minimum allocation of 20% of the budget for each action is applied. The criteria a) to c) account for the allocation of 70% of funds. The criterion of past performance d) accounts for the remaining 10%.

In order to guarantee that there are no excessive imbalances in the annual budget allocated to countries from one year to another, a correction mechanism is applied to the allocations resulting from the pure application of the above-mentioned criteria.

**Table 3 – Country allocation (in EUR)<sup>35 36</sup>:**

	<b>Volunteering</b>	<b>Solidarity Projects</b>	<b>Networking activities and Quality Label</b>	<b>Specific training (training and evaluation cycle)</b>	<b>Total</b>
BE	2 318 525	440 195	227 020	498 918	<b>3 484 658</b>
BG	2 126 463	304 692	157 161	317 371	<b>2 905 688</b>
CZ	1 993 084	369 229	212 404	413 905	<b>2 988 622</b>
DK	1 245 600	238 157	133 686	270 134	<b>1 887 577</b>
DE	10 409 984	1 736 698	945 020	2 250 828	<b>15 342 529</b>
EE	953 509	183 502	105 561	154 645	<b>1 397 218</b>
EL	1 641 480	403 528	225 495	483 306	<b>2 753 810</b>
ES	7 279 313	1 206 581	676 455	1 538 411	<b>10 700 759</b>
FR	7 670 350	1 449 671	788 835	1 886 662	<b>11 795 518</b>
HR	1 330 471	221 745	127 562	230 886	<b>1 910 665</b>
IE	1 112 373	232 869	131 783	268 612	<b>1 745 637</b>
IT	6 906 220	1 368 972	756 053	1 825 949	<b>10 857 194</b>
CY	743 868	178 302	102 571	124 637	<b>1 149 377</b>
LV	955 596	192 691	110 848	178 215	<b>1 437 350</b>
LT	1 246 129	207 038	119 100	195 416	<b>1 767 684</b>
LU	530 346	130 513	75 079	107 836	<b>843 773</b>
HU	2 131 347	354 603	207 447	390 837	<b>3 084 235</b>
MT	586 209	129 560	74 532	102 731	<b>893 032</b>
NL	2 383 928	512 482	264 120	594 273	<b>3 754 804</b>
AT	1 591 426	311 613	160 190	355 855	<b>2 419 084</b>
PL	6 139 377	984 964	540 390	1 161 300	<b>8 826 031</b>
PT	2 413 731	418 835	231 915	463 570	<b>3 528 050</b>
RO	3 521 122	638 527	328 248	688 650	<b>5 176 547</b>
SI	1 148 957	191 833	110 356	166 763	<b>1 617 908</b>
SK	1 453 236	244 797	136 685	268 665	<b>2 103 382</b>
FI	1 591 248	247 124	136 953	264 560	<b>2 239 885</b>
SE	1 589 410	341 943	200 040	407 241	<b>2 538 634</b>
IS	519 786	93 489	48 060	104 500	<b>765 835</b>
LI	198 499	35 649	19 820	42 590	<b>296 558</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73 731 588</b>	<b>13 369 801</b>	<b>7 353 391</b>	<b>15 757 266</b>	<b>110 212 045</b>

<sup>35</sup> For third countries associated to the programme, amounts are provisional and pending the results of negotiations on the respective financial contributions to the programme

<sup>36</sup> Amounts rounded up / down to the nearest Euro after applying the methodology described in 3.3.1



	<b>Volunteering</b>	<b>Solidarity Projects</b>	<b>Networking activities and Quality Label</b>	<b>Specific training</b>	<b>Total</b>
Republic of Turkey	3 417 367	619 674	340 820	730 330	<b>5 108 191</b>
Republic of North Macedonia	58 045	10 525	5 789	12 405	<b>86 764</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>77 207 000</b>	<b>14 000 000</b>	<b>7 700 000</b>	<b>16 500 000</b>	<b>115 407 000</b>

### **3.4. FUNDS TO CO-FINANCE THE MANAGEMENT COSTS OF NATIONAL AGENCIES**

The breakdown by Member State carries forward the approach adopted since 2018. The calculation method sets a minimum allocation with a correction factor for smaller countries plus Belgium. The remaining amount is allocated to each country based on its population, cost of living and distance between capitals.

The Commission may also decide to set a minimum and a maximum percentage for increases in the management fees.

**Table 4 – Management fees – breakdown by country (in EUR)**<sup>37 38</sup>

	<b>Management fee</b>
BE	302 811
BG	209 900
CZ	253 392
DK	162 593
DE	1 353 500
EE	99 303
EL	277 987
ES	929 343
FR	1 104 589
HR	147 052
IE	158 411
IT	1 056 069
CY	79 396
LV	110 730
LT	126 981
LU	65 762
HU	245 774
MT	64 745
NL	353 044
AT	214 668
PL	718 182
PT	288 530
RO	439 876
SI	110 207
SK	168 637
FI	169 330
SE	237 654
IS	64 406
LI	40 668
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 553 538</b>

	<b>Management fee</b>
Republic of Turkey	439 005
Republic of North Macedonia	7 457
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>10 000 000</b>

<sup>37</sup> For third countries associated to the programme, amounts are provisional and pending the results of negotiations on the respective financial contributions to the programme

<sup>38</sup> Amounts rounded up / down to the nearest Euro after applying the methodology described in 3.3.1

### **3.5. FUNDS FOR THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS RESOURCE CENTRES**

The following table indicates the breakdown of the budget to support activities 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	290 000
SALTO Resource Centres	660 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>950 000</b>

**Table 6 – Breakdown of funding allocated to SALTO Resource Centres**

<b>SALTO Resource Centres</b>	<b>Budget 2022 ESC</b>
European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre	290 000
SALTO Training and Cooperation	70 000
Digital dimension	50 000
Green dimension	50 000
SALTO Eastern Partnership	160 000
SALTO South East Europe	155 000
SALTO EuroMed	175 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>950 000</b>