



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

**Decision authorising the use of lump sums, unit costs and
flat-rate financing for the volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects actions
under the European Solidarity Corps**

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

Having regard to the [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU¹, and in particular Article 10(2) thereof],

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, 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 966/2012², and in particular Articles 125 and 181 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 181(3) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1046/2018, the use of lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing should be authorised by a decision of the authorising officer responsible, acting in accordance with the internal rules of the Union institution concerned.
- (2) In accordance with Article 181(4) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1046/2018, this authorisation should contain a justification concerning the appropriateness of such forms of financing with regard to the nature of the supported actions or work programmes, as well as to the risks of irregularities and fraud and costs of control, an identification of the costs or categories of costs covered by lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing, which shall be considered eligible in accordance with points (c), (e) and (f) of Article 186(3) and Article 186(4), and which shall exclude ineligible costs under the applicable Union rules, a description of the methods for determining lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing, where possible, the essential conditions triggering the payment and a justification on why an output based and/or result based approach is not possible or appropriate.
- (3) In order to simplify the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps it is necessary to authorise the use of lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing under European Solidarity Corps for the following types of actions: volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects. The use of simplified forms of grants in the European Solidarity Corps should considerably simplify the calculation of the grant amounts compared to the output based and/or result based approach, leading to a significant decrease of the workload and to an accelerated payment procedure for European Solidarity Corps beneficiaries,

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN DECIDED:

Sole article

The use of the Union contribution in the form of lump sum contribution, unit contribution and flat-rate contribution is authorised for the volunteering, traineeship, jobs and solidarity projects actions under the European Solidarity Corps, for the reasons and under the conditions set out in the Annex.

This Decision is subject to the final adoption of the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU by the legislative authority without significant changes.

¹ COM(2017) 262 final.

² OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p.1

This Decision shall apply to the 2018 appropriations under the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to be allocated to technical assistance in the framework of ESF and EAFRD related with the volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects of the European Solidarity Corps subject to the adoption of the related annual work programmes covering those appropriations.

Done at Brussels,

Authorising Officer signature

Annex

The use of lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing for the volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects actions under the European Solidarity Corps

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1. THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS – GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1. Objectives and actions of the European Solidarity Corps

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individual volunteering is a solidarity activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to twelve months³. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity activities to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). Such volunteering must not substitute traineeships and/or jobs and must be based on written volunteering agreement.

³ In duly justified cases, especially to encourage the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, volunteering placements of 2 weeks – 2 months can be accepted and implemented, in other cases the duration shall be 2-12 months, with the exception of "activities by volunteering teams" for which the duration shall be 2 weeks-2 months.

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

Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas is a distinct activity format that has a specific focus on thematic priorities defined each year at EU level. The volunteering teams in high priority areas will be implemented through projects submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. This activity will have a dedicated annual budget.

Traineeships are solidarity activities in form of a work practice for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months within the same participating organisation, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). Such traineeships shall include a learning and training component, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development and be based on a written traineeship agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, indicating the educational objectives, the working conditions, the duration of the traineeship, the remuneration of the participant and the rights and obligations of the parties and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01).

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

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

Advance Planning visits: Planning visit to the country of the host organisation ahead of the jobs or traineeship activities. The purpose of the APVs is to ensure high quality activities by facilitating and preparing administrative arrangements, building trust and understanding and setting-up a solid partnership between organisations involved. The visits will be typically organised for activities involving young people with fewer opportunities.

Complementary activities: Relevant side activities designed to add value and augment the results of the project as well as to strengthen its impact on the local, regional, and/or European level. These complementary activities also aim at raising awareness of the value of volunteering for young people and for communities as well as at strengthening the recognition of the skills and competences gained by the volunteers. Complementary activities could

include: job shadowing, meetings, workshops, conferences, seminars, training courses, coaching, etc. A maximum of 10% of the total project budget can be allocated to complementary activities.

1.2. Participating countries

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

- volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities shall be open to the participation of the EU Member States.
- volunteering, solidarity projects and networking activities shall also be open to the participation of:
 - the acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, Association Council decisions or similar agreements;
 - those EFTA countries that are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that agreement;
 - the Swiss Confederation, on the basis of a bilateral agreement to be concluded with that country;
 - those countries covered by the European neighbourhood policy which have concluded agreements with the Union providing for the possibility of their participation in the Union's programmes, subject to the conclusion of a bilateral agreement with the Union on the conditions of their participation in the Programme.

Furthermore, the European Solidarity Corps shall support cooperation with partner countries, in particular neighbourhood countries, in volunteering and quality label.

1.3. Management modes in European Solidarity Corps actions implementing simplified forms of grants

The European Commission, partially also via the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), will manage actions to provide horizontal services to the European Solidarity Corps participants (i.e. portal, online training, online linguistic support, insurance) as well as a part of the solidarity activities, such as Quality label, volunteering services (for certain profiles of organisations or types of placements) and Networking activities (for European level activities). The executive agency will be responsible for implementing tasks, such as the launch and conclusion of grant and procurement procedures, project monitoring, financial control and accounting, the contribution to programme evaluation and various support tasks.

Most European Solidarity Corps actions shall be implemented by National Agencies (NAs) through indirect management mode in accordance with Article 62.1(c) of the Financial Regulation. In line with the legal proposal, the NAs will be responsible for the management of funds for grant support at national level (as a financial intermediary), and for the supporting activities necessary for efficient and compliant implementation of the European Solidarity Corps activities. It will be the same NAs that are responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+, with proven financial and legal expertise to manage the activities under simplified grants.

In order to reduce the risk of fraud and irregularities linked to the use of simplified forms of grant, the National Agencies shall be required to follow the same set of minimum requirements for the internal control systems that has been defined for the Erasmus+ Programme. Considering that a large proportion of the budget for the European Solidarity Corps will be allocated grants that will take the form of unit costs, flat-rates or lump sums, it can be anticipated that this will allow to maintain the already low error rate recorded under Erasmus+.

1.4. The Funding Model

The proposed funding model consists of a menu of grant items from which applicants will choose according to the activities they want to undertake and the results they want to achieve. The design of the overall funding mechanism is "modular" insofar as financial support to target groups and for each placement may vary and depends on the individual needs as well as on the situation in the country where the placement is made. A number of variations in the funding model and grant rates proposed are foreseen for particular activities resulting from objective differences between target groups, activity contents, impact on budget absorption and participant numbers, etc. Nevertheless, a major effort has been made to streamline as much as possible across the different activity types.

The use of simplified form of grants for the European Solidarity Corps is of the great importance since these grants represent the largest portion of funds to be disbursed under the Corps. Furthermore, simplifications to all actions implemented by NAs improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The construction of the funding model took into account the following principles:

- Ensuring continuity with the Erasmus+ funding model, in order to minimise as much as possible disruption for potential beneficiaries
- Focus on simplicity
- Enhanced inclusiveness, by providing additional resources for reaching out and involving young people with fewer opportunities
- Funding modalities should be sufficiently attractive for organisations;

and the following programme specificities:

- Jobs and traineeships participants receive a remuneration from the organisation;
- Job substitution for volunteering is not ensured through budgetary consideration but through Quality label and monitoring measures;
- The Commission's proposal lies down indicative average costs per type of activities.

The grant system for the European Solidarity Corps consists of six unit costs based items and two real cost based items. After a comprehensive analysis of past experience in past programmes and Erasmus+ the following unit costs and lump sums are proposed for the implementation of European Solidarity Corps:

1. Travel costs support
2. Organisational support
3. Inclusion support
4. Personal expenses support
5. Non-online linguistic support
6. Solidarity projects support

The model considers that each grant will have a number of the budget items presented in Table 1 below. For example, an organisation applying for job placement would receive contributions to costs related to travel, organisational support, personal expenses and, if justified, inclusion support for participants with fewer opportunities and exceptional costs. This will allow for a harmonised approach while maintaining for flexibility based on justification of different unit costs for certain strands and/or activities.

All activities where the unit cost model applies are further described in chapter 2 of present Annex.

Table 1. Funding model for volunteering, traineeships, jobs, and solidarity projects

Financing mechanism	Item description	Individual Volunteering	Volunteering Teams	Traineeships	Jobs	APVs	Solidarity Projects
Unit Costs	Travel costs support	X	X	X	X	X	-
	Organisational support	X	X	X	X	X	-
	Inclusion support	X	X	X	X	-	-
	Personal expenses support	X	X	X	X	-	-
	Non-online linguistic support	X	-	X	X	-	-
	Solidarity projects support	-	-	-	-	-	X
Real costs	Exceptional costs	X	X	X	X	-	-
Real costs & flat rate	Complementary activities costs	X	X	X	X	-	-

In addition to contributions based on unit costs, beneficiaries will also be reimbursed on the basis of real costs for the following cost items:

- Exceptional costs - expensive travel costs of participants, residence permits, vaccinations, medical certifications, costs to support the participation of young people with disabilities on equal terms as others (i.e special premises, equipment, accompanying persons), Costs for providing a financial guarantee, recognition of diplomas and qualifications (traineeships and jobs only)
- Complementary activities costs - contributions may be claimed for relevant and justified side activities that aim to reach project objectives as well as to strengthen its systemic impact on the local, regional, and/or European level. These complementary activities could also aim at raising awareness of the value of volunteering for young people and for communities as well as strengthening the recognition of the skills and competences gained by the volunteers. These activities could be job shadowing, meetings, workshops, conferences, seminars, training courses. A flat-rate amount, not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the complementary activities, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the complementary activities.

The European Solidarity Corps is very closely aligned to Erasmus+ youth actions and the simplified grants structure was designed so that it mirrors as much as possible the Commission Decision for the use of lump sums, the reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and the flat-rate financing that has been taken for the Erasmus+ Programme (C(2013)8550 of 4 December 2013) and amended on 17 October 2017⁴.

There are however a number of limited changes that have been made to reflect some key differences between the two programmes:

⁴ C (2017) 6864 Commission Decision of 17.10.2017 amending Commission Decision C(2013) 8550 authorising the use of lump sums, reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and flat-rate financing under the “Erasmus+” Programme

1. The Erasmus+ organisational support item described in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments has been analysed and adapted. The existing model covers a basket of costs incurred by organisations for the implementation of the volunteering activities. This includes contributions to subsistence costs (i.e food and accommodation) which are not eligible for traineeships and jobs, under the European Solidarity Corps. As a result, the Erasmus+ organisational support was adjusted so that it reflects the variety of underlying costs, according to the type of activity being funded. Two cost categories have been identified: activity costs (contributions to costs incurred for subsistence and costs incurred for supporting the participants) and project management costs. The project management activity cost was introduced in recognition to the fact that a considerable amount of resources are dedicated to specific activities which are related to the tasks of implementation and coordination of the project (see 2.3.2 below).
2. An additional cost item, inclusion support, was introduced in order to put in practice the Corps objective to address the needs of young people with fewer opportunities. The support for inclusive activities (see 2.3 below) aims at covering part of those costs.
3. The exceptional costs and the special needs support items under Erasmus+ were merged into a single cost item called exceptional costs. This can be seen as a step towards simplification, as both types of costs contributed to resourcing the programme's inclusiveness objective.
4. The solidarity projects are collective initiatives, so their funding model cannot replicate the one used for other for solidarity activities, which are funded per participant. In order to determine the unit costs, the solidarity projects will replicate the funding model used for the Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth under the Erasmus+ programme.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED GRANT SYSTEM AND ACTIONS CONCERNED

2.1. Rationale

In conformity with Article 181 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission committed in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020⁵ to make an extensive use of simplified form of grants in the Erasmus+ Programme. As highlighted in the European Solidarity Corps Regulation⁶, in order to ensure efficient and effective implementation, the European Solidarity Corps will make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place for Erasmus+. This includes the use of simplified forms of grant, to cover all actions/formats: volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects and networking activities, quality and support measures.

The Commission has given priority to implementing simplified forms of grants in those activities that are high volume, benefit most from automation through using e-forms, are appropriate for implementation in the context of indirect management and provide transparency for final participants.

By nature, simplified forms of grant are contributions to the underlying costs and not an exact reimbursement of real costs for an individual beneficiary and/or the grants of an individual country for any single action. The establishment of the simplified form of grants takes account of the following principles:

⁵ Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, [...].

⁶ XXXX

- The most appropriate form of simplified grant is used depending on the implementation context. The level of simplified grant is based mainly on historical real cost data and real grant data reflecting the beneficiaries and their environment.
- The average Union contribution to costs is far below the maximum Union co-financing rate, which ensures the compliance with the co-financing principle and the principle of sound financial management.
- Fair and equal treatment of beneficiaries is guaranteed.
- Attractiveness of actions to enhance participation is ensured.
- Incentive for the beneficiary to use resources economically is provided as the contribution is based on pre-established amounts.

The use of lump sums, flat-rate financing and unit costs considerably simplifies the calculation of the grant amounts, ensuring an attractive funding format for grant beneficiaries. It provides additional predictability on the amount to be granted, flexibility in managing the project budget and reduces administrative burden (simplified reporting requirements). At the same time, it decreases the workload of the implementing bodies by easing the project budget assessment and payments. Additionally, unnecessary complexity and administrative burden will be avoided by using the same structure of funding across all Actions of the Solidarity Corps and avoiding diverging approaches for the same population of beneficiaries.

The following sections of this document outline the justifications and methodologies for each simplified form of grant and their implementation in the relevant actions. The relevant unit costs, flat-rate financing rates and lump sums together with the maximum grant amounts per action shall be published in the European Solidarity Corps Programme Guide each year as of 2018. The levels for form of simplified grants will be monitored regularly with a view of ensuring appropriate co-financing rates and they can be adjusted at any time following relevant analysis and feedback from stakeholders.

During the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps, other similar delivery formats can be covered by the same funding model. For example, in order to alleviate the administrative requirements on applicants for funding where appropriate, Volunteering Partnerships will be set up, aiming at concluding framework partnership agreements with experienced organisations offering solidarity activities (including individual volunteering and/or activities by volunteering teams) over a longer period of time and with a strategic dimension.

All methodologies described in this document comply with the principles of sound financial management, co-financing and absence of double financing as required by the Financial Regulation. The principle of sound financial management may be considered complied with by virtue of compliance with the non-profit rule as already tested in Commission Decision C(2013) 8550 since both principles allow to establish the appropriateness of the amounts with regards to the required outputs.

2.2. Travel costs support

2.2.1. Form of financing and categories of costs covered

The contribution to eligible travel costs i.e. travel costs from home to the venue of the project and return, including accompanying person when necessary⁷, incurred by beneficiaries under

⁷ Costs related to the needs of disabled persons shall be covered by the exceptional costs support.

the Programme. The simplified grant system in the form of unit costs covers the eligible travel costs for the following activities:

- Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country)
- Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country)
- Advance planning visits

2.2.2. *Justification*

Utilisation of unit costs considerably simplifies, streamlines and reduces the time needed for the financial management of projects, both at Commission, Executive Agency and National Agency as well as at beneficiary levels. It is thus much more cost-effective and economically sound than item-based budgeting, especially as the actual amounts disbursed are calculated on the basis of the number of participants linked to specific results produced by the projects. This category of costs has been funded under previous programmes consequently, the Commission has sufficient data sources of real costs on which to base its assessment.

As travel costs support is not output-based, a justification is required for its use, in accordance with Article 181 (4)(e) of the Financial Regulation. In the framework of the European Solidarity Corps, the outputs of the programme are the activities funded under the programme actions: volunteering, traineeships and jobs, solidarity projects. Travel costs are an essential condition for the activities to take place. However, unlike the other costs, travel expenses are not dependent on the length of the activities that the participants undertake. The payment is not triggered by the achievement of an activity (output). That is why output-based funding for travel costs is not appropriate.

2.2.3. *Nature of the supported actions*

Mobility is intrinsic to the main results of the action (e.g. a young person needs to travel to another country to take part in the solidarity activity which is the object of the action). The use of simplified forms of grants is of great importance since the largest portion of available funds shall be allocated to these actions. Through a single grant application, the coordinator of a project shall be able to apply for several individuals (including large groups of volunteers) to participate in solidarity activities across and inside participating countries. At the application stage, individual participants do not need to be identified. If the grant is awarded for a number of activities, these may take place at different times within the overall period of the project. The applicant organisations should conceive their project in line with the needs of participants and according to their internal plans.

The use of unit costs as contribution to travel costs represents a simplification and reduction of administrative costs, for all actors to be able to focus more on quality and impact. Furthermore, it ensures an appropriate contribution to this category of costs which can be planned and predicted by the beneficiaries in advance.

2.2.4. *Method to determine and update the amounts*

The travel costs support rates shall be identical to the rates for Erasmus+ as indicated in Annex II of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. The amount will be calculated based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances will be calculated using the distance calculator support by the European Commission.

2.3. Organisational support

2.3.1. Form of financing and categories of costs covered

The contribution to the organisational costs i.e. eligible costs directly linked to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a solidarity activity, incurred by beneficiaries under the programme, shall take the form of unit costs per participant.

Due to the different nature of the activities and therefore the relevant eligible costs, the contributions for organisational support will depend on the type of activity being funded. The level of funding is determined by the type of costs, which are grouped in two categories:

- Activity costs. These are costs incurred for subsistence and costs incurred for supporting the participants. The contributions will be paid per participant and will vary according to the type of activity. Activity costs are based on the location and the duration of the stay.
- Project management costs, which will be paid per participant but are not linked to the duration or location of the activity.

The simplified grant system for organisational support will cover the costs for the following actions and types of activities:

- Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (eligible for contributions to subsistence, participants support and project management costs)
- Traineeships and jobs (eligible for contributions to participants support costs and project management costs)
- Advance planning visits (eligible for contributions to subsistence costs)

The contributions to organisational support will be eligible for both in-country and cross-border activities.

The amounts of the unit costs to be used shall be calculated in accordance with the methods described in 2.3.4 below.

2.3.2. Justification

Utilisation of unit costs considerably simplifies, streamlines and reduces the time needed for the financial management of projects, both at Commission and National Agency as well as at beneficiary levels. It is thus much more cost-effective and economically sound than item-based budgeting, especially as the actual amounts disbursed are calculated on the basis of the number of participants and linked to the quality of the support provided to participants. The use of unit costs for the contribution to organisational cost is more suitable compared to the other forms of simplified grants (lumps sums and flat-rates) because it establishes a closer link between costs and outputs. The unit cost funding is thus also in the interest of the applicants as it takes into account the flexibility required by the nature of the costs and the activities involved. Additionally, it takes country differences into account.

The organisational support item is derived from the organisational support under Erasmus+ programme. The Erasmus+ organisational support item described in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments has been adapted, to include two cost categories: activity costs (contributions to costs incurred for subsistence and costs incurred for supporting the participants) and project management costs. The methodology used to adapt the organisational support item is described in more detail in the sections below.

The main objective was to adjust this cost item to the specificities of the Corps, particularly the introduction of the occupational dimension, which makes subsistence costs only relevant for volunteering activities. In the absence of any kind of remuneration for volunteering, food and accommodation is provided by the volunteering organisation. This is a pre-condition to ensure participation of all young people regardless of their economical background. The organisations are responsible to house the participants either on their own premises (if suitable) or in rented accommodation or other appropriate locations, which meet the basic criteria set in the funding agreement. Furthermore, bills for electricity, gas and water, as well as any taxes are the responsibility of the host organisation. The host organisation also provides food or they give the volunteers a daily allowance for meals. In the case of traineeships and jobs, remuneration provided by the hosting organisation to the participant should allow participants to cover those needs. As these are not borne directly by organisations, support for subsistence is not justified.

The contribution to project management cost under the organisational support was introduced in recognition to the fact that a considerable amount of resources are dedicated to specific activities which are related to the tasks of implementation and coordination of the project and are not fundable under any of the other grant items. These costs typically include the preparation of the supporting and hosting organisations, administrative costs, development and dissemination of process-oriented outputs, costs of coordination and communication between the participating organisations, evaluation etc. The reasons for including specific part of the organisational support to a unit cost for project management are outlined below:

- The consultation with stakeholders on the draft European Solidarity Corps Regulation revealed that the arrangements currently in place for volunteering under Erasmus+ were not considered sufficient to cover specific costs relating to the coordination of the Corps activities and the management of the projects, as the specificities of each volunteering project were not taken into account.
- The findings of the 2017 Study on the “Mid-term review of simplified grants used in the Erasmus+ programme” reinforced the need to identify a separate contribution to project management unit cost. Based on the interviews with the NAs, the study found that youth projects usually rely on the cheapest accommodation and catering options in order to cut costs associated with project implementation⁸.
- Based on the conclusion of the same study, the organisational support has been revised upwards for project participants from countries with higher GDP per capita and price levels, mostly northern and Western Europe. However, during consultations with the NAs there were raised concerns that the revisions of the organisational support for volunteering projects under Erasmus+ are limited and the new European Solidarity Corps should take the opportunity to include a dedicated contribution to the costs for project management to also take into account the difficulties encountered by applicants in transitioning from Erasmus+ to a new programme.

2.3.3. *Nature of the supported actions*

The organisational support is a contribution to costs incurred by organising institutions related to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of activities in support of (incoming and outbound) young people. The beneficiaries of the grant are the entities organising the activities, which could be:

- Support organisations in charge of selecting, monitoring and supporting young people and sending them abroad

⁸ See page 34 of Study “Mid-term review of simplified grants used in the Erasmus+ programme”, 2017.

- Host organisations in charge of receiving young people and offering them a programme of activities

In what concerns the costs incurred for supporting the participants, the the individual activities assumed by beneficiaries may vary from one case to another but essentially apply to administrative and local logistical tasks. Examples of these activities are:

- Selection of young people
- Provision of language preparation
- Provision of tailored information and assistance to volunteers before, during and after the activities
- Arrangements for the monitoring of outgoing and incoming young people
- Specific arrangements to ensure high quality of learning experience
- Validation and recognition of learning outcomes of participants
- Training and pedagogic materials
- Mentorship of volunteers
- Costs related to trainers, speakers, moderators, lecturers
- For traineeships and jobs: costs for the design and delivery of integration programmes, consisting of a package of induction training and other services notably in-company mentoring or coaching aimed at improving the recruited participant's skills, competences and adaptability to a "foreign working environment".

The contributions towards subsistence costs aim to cover expenses incurred by organising institutions related to the implementation of activities in support of (incoming and outbound) volunteers. The individual activities assumed by these institutions apply to providing the accommodation, boarding and local transport of participants. The responsibility for arranging safe and decent accommodation and providing for adequate food lies with the hosting organizations.

Project management activities may include:

- Project management (e.g. planning, finances, coordination and communication between partners); and
- Information/promotion/dissemination (e.g. production and distribution of brochures, leaflets, web information).

2.3.4. Method to determine and update the amounts

The rates applicable to organisational support are calculated as 105% of the rates for organisational support for youth volunteering activities under Erasmus+, as indicated in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments⁹. A supplementary contribution for project management costs is added to these rates, as described below. The 5% increase is introduced in order to make the programme more attractive and to take into account any difficulties that the applicants may encounter in transitioning from Erasmus+ to a new programme. Compared to Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps puts more emphasis on measures aimed at ensuring the quality and accessibility of its actions. For example, the organisations will be required to make extra efforts in order to support young participants after their solidarity activity is finalised. A proper follow-up support of the returned participant will be put in place in order to direct the individual to appropriate services in the home community, such as career guidance. At the same time, organisations will be required to issue a certificate of participation to all participants.

⁹ The methodology determining the contribution to the costs of organisational support for the youth volunteering activities under ERASMUS+ has been authorised in Commission Decisions: C(2009)10214 of 18.12.2009, C(2011)6259 of 07.09.2011, C(2011)9584 of 21.12.2011 and Commission Decision C (2013) 8550 of 4 December 2013

Supplementary resources will also be needed in order to ensure that the European Solidarity Corps projects will make an impact on the local communities. Compared to Erasmus+, the Corps has a recognised and formal objective of responding to societal challenges in a practical and effective way. Organisations will require training on maximising the impact on the local community so that the activities they provide and the projects they design match local needs and challenges.

Table 2 below highlights the activities supported by the organisational support item. The contributions to organisational costs will be calculated according to:

- Cost category: activity costs (participants support, subsistence costs) and project management
- Activity type: volunteering, traineeships, jobs or advanced planning visits.

Table 2. Organisational support unit cost

Organisational support		Individual Volunteering	Volunteering Teams	Traineeships	Jobs	APVs
Activity costs	Participant support costs	X	X	X	X	-
	Subsistence costs	X	X	-	-	X
Project management costs		X	X	X	X	-

The subsistence costs are calculated as 66% of the Erasmus+ volunteering rates for organisational support as indicated in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. The contribution to the costs incurred with supporting the participant will be the remaining 34% of the Erasmus+ volunteering rates for organisational support.

These percentages were determined by estimating the average share of the total organisational support incurred with providing accommodation, food and travel for volunteers under Erasmus+. This was based on the feedback from stakeholders and consultation with the NAs. Furthermore, as mentioned in the study “Mid-term review of simplified grants used in the Erasmus+ programme” (2017), the major share of the organisational support costs (almost two thirds of the total) for youth volunteering projects is taken by accommodation and catering services. For this reason, it was established that the contribution to subsistence costs should be 66% of the increased Erasmus+ volunteering rates for organisational support.

The amount will be calculated as a daily rate per participant per country. As the activities will happen in the hosting country, the amounts are country-based. The duration of the placement will range from 14 days to 12 months.

The unit cost support for project management was determined by using the data used for identifying the rates for Project Management and Implementation (PMI) under the Erasmus+ programme, Key action 2a - Strategic Partnerships, as indicated in Annex VII of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. Simulations have been made of the amounts of unit cost that would have to be given for Project Management in order to reach the optimal grant levels which mitigate the negative impact on the budget. It was established that a unit cost of 225 Euro per placement would meet these requirements. This sum is lower than the contributions to project management costs under Erasmus+ in order to respect the budgetary constraints and to maximise the contributions to individual volunteering.

The maximum amount of the grant shall be capped at a maximum of 2000 EUR for each volunteering team activity and an overall ceiling of 4500 EUR per project. The ceilings were introduced in order to limit the applicant’s incentive to artificially increase the number of participants in order to secure more funding for administrative costs.

The 80% co-financing requirement has been taken into consideration when the unit costs for project management was established.

2.4. Inclusion support

2.4.1. Form of financing and categories of costs covered

The contribution to the inclusion support for participants costs i.e. eligible costs directly linked to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a solidarity activity for participants with fewer opportunities, incurred by beneficiaries under the Programme, shall take the form of unit costs per participant. In particular, the simplified grant system shall cover the inclusive support costs for the following actions and types of activities:

- Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country)
- Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country)

The need for inclusion support will require justification at both application and final report stages of a project.

2.4.2. Justification

Young people with fewer opportunities are young people that are at a disadvantage compared to their peers because they face one or more of the situations and obstacles (social and economic obstacles, disability, educational difficulties, cultural differences, health problems, geographical obstacles). In certain contexts, these situations or obstacles prevent young people from having effective access to formal and non-formal education, transnational participation, active citizenship, empowerment and inclusion in society at large. Young people with no qualifications, with a migrant background, with disabilities, or family responsibilities, all face additional obstacles in their transition to adulthood¹⁰. More than one determinant is generally at play in producing social exclusion, and these determinants often overlap in the life trajectories of socially excluded persons.¹¹

Despite significant efforts by Member States to improve outreach, young people in the most vulnerable situations, including the low-skilled and non-registered NEETs, are for instance under-represented among beneficiaries of the Youth Guarantee.¹² Disadvantaged young people are also benefiting less from the opportunity of completing a placement abroad. According to the latest Your First EURES Job (YFEJ) monitoring report, the combined share of the registered candidates that had been in higher education was 70%. Conversely, candidates with basic education levels represented 8% among the jobseekers registered.¹³

A study¹⁴ found that volunteering can play a role in job acquisition for marginalized youth as it gives them opportunities to build knowledge, skills and competences that are transferable from non-profit to business settings (general employment skills, people skills, life skills). It also prepares them for employment by making them more confident, more socially connected, and more aware of their work interests and aptitudes.¹⁵ Another study¹⁶ found that immigrants

¹⁰ Eurofound, (2012), *Youth unemployment in Europe, NEETs – young people not in employment, education or training*.

¹¹ Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) (2013), *Youth Social Exclusion and Lessons from Youth Work*. Available at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/tools/documents/social_exclusion_and_youth_work.pdf

¹² COM/2016/0646 final

¹³ Your First Eures Job Progress Monitoring Report, November 2016, p. 9.

¹⁴ 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-18). 2015/C 417/03. OJ C 417, 15.12.2015, p. 17–24.

¹⁵ European Commission, Literature review for "Study on the impact of transnational volunteering through the European Voluntary Service", June 2016, p. 14-15.

who volunteered had higher chances of finding a job than those who did not. There is also a wide consensus that a traineeship represents a useful experience, complementing traditional classroom instruction with practical skills. This can facilitate access to employment.

The European Solidarity Corps put a renewed focus on participants with fewer opportunities. The stakeholders participating in consultations highlighted the need for additional funding to ensure an inclusive approach, allowing the participation of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and of small organisations. There was a broad consensus that the programme should ensure inclusiveness for all young people, including those who face obstacles to engage in international activities.

Projects including young people with fewer opportunities require additional resources in order to adequately address their needs and include them as active participants. When preparing and implementing these projects, particular emphasis needs to be put on the analysis of the profile and special needs of the young people and a corresponding tailor-made and supportive approach. Extra support for mentorship is required for those young people who are not able to implement a solidarity activity independently or with regular mentoring or tutoring support. This may involve closer contact to and more meetings with the volunteer as well as allowing more time to implement the tasks of regular mentoring, guaranteeing a step by step support for the volunteers during project activities as well as outside of working hours.

2.4.3. Nature of the supported actions

The inclusion support is a contribution to costs incurred by organising institutions related to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of activities in support of (incoming and outbound) young people with fewer opportunities. The individual activities may vary from case to case but they essentially apply to supplementary tasks carried out by projects that aim to actively involve young people with fewer opportunities (providing tailor-made preparation, support and follow-up for them, such as reinforced mentorship).

2.4.4. Method to determine and update the amounts

The contribution to inclusion support shall be at the same level as the contribution to the costs incurred for participants support, which are 34% of the Erasmus+ volunteering rates for organisational support as indicated in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and as described in section 2.3.4.

The amount will be calculated as a daily rate per participant per country. As the activities will happen in the hosting country, the amounts are country-based. The duration of the placement will range from 14 days to 12 months.

2.5. Personal expenses support (pocket money and relocation allowance)

2.5.1. Form of financing and categories of costs covered

The contribution to eligible costs covering support for personal expenses incurred by beneficiaries, shall take the form of unit costs. There are two categories of costs, depending on the action:

- Pocket money – individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country)
- Relocation allowance – traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country)

¹⁶ Study from Canada.

2.5.2. *Justification*

Mobility of young people is intrinsic to the main results of the Corps (e.g. a young person needs to travel to another country to take part in the activity which is the object of the action) and is high in volume, therefore the checking of real costs is no longer justified.

The use of unit costs considerably simplifies, streamlines and reduces the time needed for the financial management of projects, both at Commission, Executive Agency and National Agency as well as at beneficiary levels. It is thus much more cost-effective and economically sound than item-based budgeting, especially as the actual amounts disbursed are calculated on the basis of the number of young people linked to specific results produced by the projects.

2.5.3. *Nature of the supported actions*

The pocket money represents a contribution to the personal expenses of young persons who are not otherwise supported by the hosting organisation (these may be regular personal expenses throughout the duration of the placement). The contribution shall be paid exclusively in cash (cannot be replaced by a contribution in kind), paid in a single installment to the young person and non-reimbursable in principle.

The relocation allowance is a contribution to the additional expenses of young persons participating in a job or traineeship placement. The support shall cover costs linked to relocation/installation in another country or, for in-country activities, in another locality than his/her place of residence. Daily commuters (including frontier workers) are excluded. The contribution shall be paid exclusively in cash (cannot be replaced by a contribution in kind). The contribution shall be paid exclusively in cash (cannot be replaced by a contribution in kind); the amount for the first 2 months will be paid on day 1 and remainder depending on agreement with the support organisation or the placement provider. The relocation allowance is capped at 6 months (180 daily rates).

2.5.4. *Method to determine and update the amounts*

The rates for pocket money shall be identical to the rates for individual support under Erasmus+ volunteering: fixed amount per day per volunteer. For the relocation allowance the rates shall be identical to the rates for individual support under Erasmus+ volunteering as indicated in Annex III of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments, capped at 6 months.

This category of costs has been funded under the Erasmus+ programme for the past 4 years, and was reviewed and updated in 2017¹⁷ to take into account recent statistical realities.

2.6. **Non-online linguistic support**

2.6.1. *Form of financing and categories of costs covered*

The contribution to eligible costs related to linguistic support for languages which are not offered centrally through an online platform, shall take the form of a unit cost per participant.

Linguistic support shall be provided to participants under the following activities:

- Individual Volunteering (cross border)
- Traineeships and jobs (cross border)

¹⁷ Study “Mid-term review of simplified grants used in the Erasmus+ programme”, 2017.

2.6.2. Justification

This is a low value item where the cost-benefit of checking individual documentation is negative.

2.6.3. Nature of the supported actions

Linguistic support shall be provided for long-term activities, as this ensures the best return on investment. As a consequence this shall not cover activities below 2 months.

The initiative aims at increasing the quality and effectiveness of each activity. By offering linguistic support, the European Commission will be able, on the one hand, to gather information on the level of language skills among participants in solidarity activities through an online assessment of language competences for the languages available online and, on the other, to offer appropriate support to those in need of improving their competences in the language(s) of instruction/work on a voluntary basis. Linguistic support would also contribute to improving language learning performance of participants and optimise the benefits of their solidarity activity.

A centralised online platform consisting of standardised compulsory online assessment and optional online language courses has been set up at central level by the European Commission. At the beginning of 2018, the online platform offered advanced training courses (Level C1) for 6 languages and beginner courses (Level A1) for 23 languages. Participants who have language learning needs that are not yet available on the online platform may follow other market alternatives.

2.6.4. Method to determine and update the amounts

The rate for linguistic support shall be identical to the rate under Erasmus+ volunteering as set out in Annex V of the Commission Decision C(2013) 8550 authorising the use of lump sums, reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and flat-rate financing under the “Erasmus+” Programme. The rate was set as a fixed amount of EUR 150 per volunteer, ensuring that Union co-financing rate of 80% is respected.

2.7. Solidarity projects support

2.7.1. Form of financing and categories of costs covered

The contribution to the development and implementation of solidarity projects i.e. eligible costs directly linked to the preparation, implementation and follow-up of a solidarity project, incurred by beneficiaries under the Programme, shall take the form of unit costs.

2.7.2. Justification

Solidarity projects are bottom-up initiative run by young people with limited experience in project management. This lack of organisational capacity supports the rationale for simplification and the use of unit costs. However, as solidarity projects are collective initiatives and not based on individual activities, the budget model cannot replicate the model for other solidarity activities.

2.7.3. Nature of the supported actions

Solidarity Projects are actions initiated, set up and implemented by young people themselves with the aim of contributing to the needs of their communities at local or national level, making a practical contribution to solving problems they encounter in their daily lives. The project must involve at least 5 participants, with a duration of 2 to 12 months.

Beneficiaries will be able to claim any cost directly linked to the implementation of the project (preparation, implementation of the activities, evaluation, dissemination and exploitation of results and follow-up activities).

2.7.4. *Method to determine and update the amounts*

In order to determine the unit costs, it was initially envisaged to keep the same approach as the one used for Youth Initiatives under the Youth in Action Programme, as the two types of activities are similar in scope and format. However, it was decided not to do so for the following reasons:

- The historical average costs of projects funded under Youth Initiatives (2007-2013) proved not to be a reliable factor when calculating the new rates. Most countries have overspent with ranges between 7% (UK) and 35% (Romania) while others have underspent between 2% (Slovenia) and 28% (Estonia). This led to inaccurate discrepancies when determining the lump sums for each country.
- Feedback from the National Agencies indicated that in many cases the amount granted to solidarity projects should not be increased compared to Youth Initiatives rates. Furthermore, given that the projects are local and of relative small scale, a EU-wide rate should be considered.

As a consequence of these considerations, the solidarity projects will replicate the funding model used for the Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth under the Erasmus+ programme as described below.

- Project management and implementation costs: a unit cost of 500 EUR per month, per project. The amount is identical to the contribution to the implementation costs incurred by a coordinating organisation of a Transnational Youth Initiatives project as indicated in Annex VII of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. The Transnational Youth Initiatives are Strategic Partnerships in the field of youth that aim to foster social commitment and entrepreneurial spirit of young people. The distinctive feature of this format of Strategic Partnerships is that a Youth Initiative is set up and carried out by young people themselves. Therefore, this format is very similar to the solidarity projects foreseen under the European Solidarity Corps. The project management and implementation cost item contribute to the same range of costs (e.g. planning, finances, coordination and communication, local project activities, information, promotion and dissemination).
- Coaching costs. If justified, the costs for a coach can be eligible. A key characteristic of solidarity projects is that they take the day-to-day experience of the young people as a starting point for non-formal learning. Coaching may be required in order to help young people make the best of themselves and facilitate the way of working effectively as part of a team. The coach will aim to support the participants in carrying out their project, facilitate dialogue and use a variety of techniques aimed at releasing potential within groups and individuals. The coaching costs are considered eligible costs related to intellectual outputs, i.e. staff costs of persons contributing to actions undertaken by beneficiaries. Therefore, the rates used as contribution to coaching costs will be the same as the ones used for covering the costs of teachers/trainers/researcher or youth workers participating in projects for the production of intellectual outputs under the Strategic Partnerships activity in Erasmus+. The amounts depend on the country where the solidarity project takes place, as indicated in Annex VIII of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. A cap limiting the amount awarded for coaching costs will be set at maximum 12 days/project.

Additionally, if justified by the project activities/outputs, exceptional costs can be covered.

TABLE 1. USE OF GRANTS (GENERAL OVERVIEW)

Item		Form	Eligible costs	Rule of allocation	Action/Activity/Geography	Model
Travel costs support		Contribution on the basis of unit cost (per Distance band)	Costs borne by participants. Costs of travel from home to venue of the activity and return	Based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering, volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) • Advance planning visits 	Erasmus + volunteering
Organisational Support	Activity costs	Contribution on the basis of unit cost (per participant per day per host country)	Costs borne by participating organisation. Costs directly linked to the implementation of volunteering activities (e.g. preparation, monitoring and support of participants, validation of learning outcomes), including costs linked to the subsistence of participants (e.g. boarding, lodging and local travel).	105% of the rates foreseen for organisational support in the Erasmus+ decision on unit costs for volunteering activities as indicated in Annex IV of Commission Decision C(2013)8550 and subsequent amendments. 66% of the rates will be used for contributions to subsistence and 34% will be used for contributions to costs incurred with supporting the participant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Advance planning visits • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) 	Erasmus + volunteering
	Project Management	Contribution on the basis of unit cost (per participant)	Costs borne by participating organisation. Costs linked to the implementation of the project (e.g. planning, finances, coordination and communication between partners, administrative costs).	Unit cost (not country-based) per placement. 225 EUR/ placement, with a cap of 2000 EUR for volunteering teams and activities up to 2 months and a cap of 4500 EUR for other projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) 	Erasmus+ programme - Key action 2a - Strategic Partnerships. Based on the rates for Project Management and Implementation (PMI)
Inclusion support		Contribution on the basis of unit cost (per participant per day per host country)	Costs borne by participating organisations for additional ongoing support required in relation to the participation of young persons with fewer opportunities (e.g. reinforced mentoring and assistance). Based on justified needs	Unit cost per day, per participant, per country. The rate is at the same level as the contribution to the costs incurred for participants support as part of organisational support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) 	Based on Erasmus+ data.

Personal Expenses	Pocket money	Contribution on the basis of unit cost (per participant per day)	Costs borne by participants. Exclusively in cash. Contribution to the personal expenses of young persons that are not otherwise supported by the hosting organisation (these may be regular personal expenses throughout the duration of the placement).	Pocket money - Rates of individual support (pocket money) for volunteering under Erasmus+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) 	Erasmus + volunteering
	Relocation allowance		Costs borne by participants. Exclusively in cash. Contribution to the additional expenses of young persons (costs linked to relocation/installation).	Relocation allowance - Rates identical to the rates for of individual support (pocket money) for volunteering under Erasmus+. Capped at 6 months, amount for the first 2 months to be paid on day 1 and remainder depending on agreement with the organisation.		
Linguistic support		Contribution on the basis of unit costs	Costs linked to the support offered to participants - prior to departure or during the activity – in order to improve the knowledge of the language they will use to carry out their volunteering tasks.	150 EUR per participant. Conditional: Only for activities lasting 60 days and more. Only for languages and/or levels not offered by the Online Linguistic Support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering (cross border) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border) 	Erasmus + volunteering
Solidarity projects costs	Project Management	Contribution on the basis of unit costs (per project, per month).	Any cost directly linked to the implementation of the project (preparation, implementation of the activities, evaluation, dissemination and exploitation of results and follow-up activities).	500 euro /month for project management and implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidarity projects (in-country) 	Based on Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships. Transnational Youth Initiatives
	Coaching costs	Contribution on the basis of unit costs (per project, per day).	Costs linked to the involvement of a coach in the project.	Country based rates for coach with a cap of max 12 days/project.		
Exceptional Costs		Reimbursement of % actual cost	Costs for providing a financial guarantee, if the National Agency asks for it. Financial support for expensive travel costs. Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations,	Costs for financial guarantee: 75% of eligible costs. Expensive travel costs: maximum up to 80% of eligible costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) • Advance planning visits 	Erasmus + volunteering (simplification - merged two budget items into one).

		medical certifications. Costs to support the participation of young people with disabilities on equal terms as others.	Other costs: 100% of eligible costs		
Complementary activity costs	Reimbursement of % actual cost	Costs directly linked to the implementation of the complementary activities of the project.	Maximum 80% of eligible costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual volunteering and volunteering teams (cross border and in-country) • Traineeships and jobs (cross border and in-country) 	Erasmus + volunteering
	Contribution on the basis of flat-rate	For indirect costs: a flat-rate amount, not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the complementary activities, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the complementary activities (e.g. electricity or internet bills, costs for premises, cost of permanent staff, etc.)			