



European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027

Fact sheet on trilogue negotiations, 8 Dec 2020

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Structure: Commission proposal from June 2018 (COM(2018 440))
by chapters and trilogue agreement elements¹

Introduction:

The European Solidarity Corps aims to strengthen the **engagement of young people** and organizations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, **mainly volunteering**. The Corps is a means to help strengthen cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe and abroad and to address societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on promoting social inclusion. **It aims at 350 000 participants** and focuses on private and public organisations in solidarity sector (NGOs, charities, social enterprises) in the field of youth, social work, leisure time, environment, work with migrant/refugees, centres for family and children and humanitarian aid in third countries etc.

Summary of the main changes achieved during the trilogue (reflecting the EPP priorities):

- clear focus on volunteering as the main activity (dropping the jobs and traineeship part)
- indicative repartition of activities (volunteering and solidarity projects 94%, 6% humanitarian volunteering)
- 20% capping for in-country activities
- dedicated provision limiting the Commission's possibilities to deviate from defined activities (governance guarantee); work program is adopted through implementing act procedure but it cannot deviate from the activities set out in the regulations
- dedicated article on inclusion
- safety and protection of participants through enhanced insurance and clearance requirements for working with vulnerable groups
- budget - according to the MFF deal - 1009 million EUR in current prices
- humanitarian strand: age limit of 35 years and possibility to engage experts and coaches without age limit; specific character maintained and synergy with EU external actions confirmed
- the name of the programme remains: European Solidarity Corps¹
- duration of the programme linked to MFF 2021-2027 and retroactive clause enabling eligibility of projects from 1 January 2021.

¹ As approved by the final trilogue on 11 December 2020.

Detailed analysis:

Scope of the programme (art. 1):

The Programme sets up two strands of actions:

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges and (b) participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps).

Trilogue: The Commission proposed to replace (and merge) the current ESC regulation and the regulation on the current EU Aid Volunteers program. The trilogue agreement clarifies the scope.

Definitions (art. 2):

The regulation applies the following terminology: solidarity activity, registered candidate, participant (18-30 years of age), participating organisation, volunteering, quality label, humanitarian aid activity, third countries (associated to the programme) and people with fewer opportunities.

Trilogue: The trilogue agreement provides precision on participating organisations are both profit and non-profit entities, benefits of solidarity activities and people with fewer opportunities (including migrant background and reference to EU Charter of Fundamental Rights), humanitarian activity also as a post-crisis action. In the recital, the EP has secured its definition of solidarity inspired by the Papal Encyclical².

Programme objectives (art. 3):

The programme aims at engaging young people through high quality solidary activities addressing societal needs and challenges.

Trilogue: The trilogue agreement clarifies that it is mainly volunteering and that European and active citizenship as well as sustainable development should be promoted.

Actions of the programme (art. 4 and 5):

The actions are as follows: volunteering (projects and individual placements), solidarity projects (small scale), networking activities (and feedback by participants), quality and support measures. Actions have to have clear European added value.

Trilogue: Actions are set in the article. The Commission cannot deviate from them (governance safeguard). Networking activities cannot include attacking experience people (as requested by DEVE).

² Within the context of this Regulation, solidarity may be understood as a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone to commit oneself to the common good, which is expressed through concrete actions.

Quality and support should include clearance requirements for participants if needed, on-line and off-line trainings for participants, accident and sickness insurance for participants, the ESC portal accessible to all and available in all EU official languages (with reference to the EU accessibility directive).

Participation of young people in solidarity activities (art. 6 - 9)

Art. 7 - volunteering - it shall include a learning component and has to be based on a written agreement specifying the details of the placement.

Trilogue: Volunteering may take place in another country (mainly) or in the country of residence In-country placement are, in particular, open only to people with fewer opportunities³ while keeping 20% budget capping for in-country placements).

Art. 8 - traineeships and jobs - *dropped*

Art. 9 - solidarity projects - small scale local projects

Chapter IV - European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC):

Art. 10-11

Volunteering, networking and support measures are similar to the first strand and general measure with some specificities to humanitarian aid. Volunteering shall take place in third countries where there is humanitarian need and where there is no active conflict.

Trilogue: Actions implemented under the strand 'European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities. EVHAC will be directly managed by the Commission.

Age limit for EVHAC will be 35 years and there will the possibility to engage experts and coaches without age limit; specific character maintained and synergy with EU external actions confirmed.

Financial provisions:

The original budget (art. 12) was 1 260 000 000 EUR (2018 prices)

*Trilogue: Overall budget (MFF deal): 1 009 000 000 EUR in current prices
Indicative repartition: 94% for volunteering and solidarity projects, 6% for humanitarian volunteering*

Inclusion (art. 15a):

Inclusion is an cross-cutting objective of the programme.

³ Taking into account COVID-19 lesson

Trilogue: However, special dedicated article on inclusion contains measures for inclusion at the Commission's level (by 30 June 2021) and at national level (national action plans).

Participating organisation and access to funding:

Before participating in the programme, they have to obtain the quality label after complying with a set of requirements.

The quality label shall be revoked in case of non-compliance (after attempts to remedy the situation).

Access to funding (art. 17) - (Sending and receiving) organisations apply for grants at the national agencies (individual participants register through the ESC portal).

Trilogue: Centralised grants by the Commission are possible but not an obligation.

Evaluation (art. 20)

Trilogue: Interim evaluation has to be done no later than the end of 2024. If needed, the Commission may propose an amending regulation. Final evaluation has to be done by the end of 2031. The evaluation is based on a set of indicators (the EP added some important ones, e.g. proportion of young people with fewer opportunities or specific EVHAC indicator). Close cooperation with national agencies is necessary.

EP demand on regular meetings with stakeholders about implementation of the programme is moved to recital.

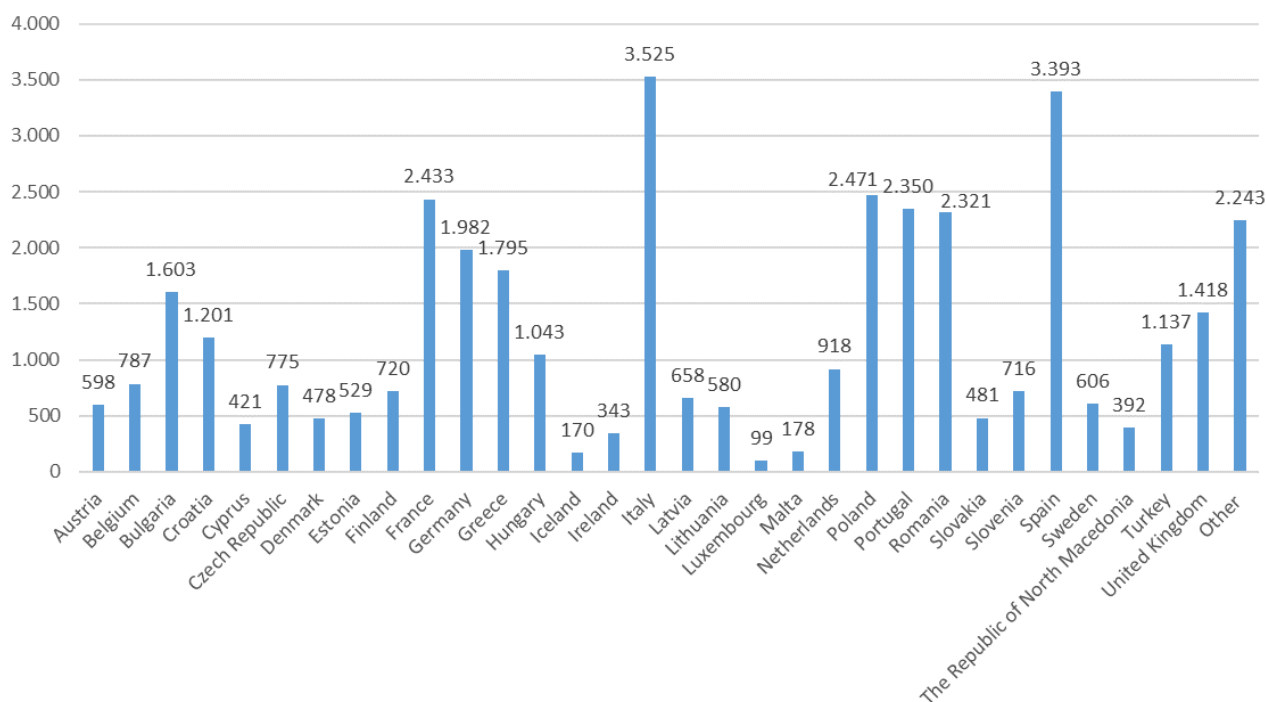
Control and audit provisions are standard provisions as in other EU regulations.

ANNEX: Implementation of the current ESC and EU Aid Volunteers Programmes (figures provided by the European Commission)

1. Overview of opportunities¹ and deployments² – Phase I and II

European Solidarity Corps - Opportunities and Deployments			
	Type of activity	Opportunities granted	Deployments
Phase I (2017-2020)	Volunteering, Traineeships and Jobs	31.687	25.381
Phase II (2018-2020)	Volunteering	34.629	12.911
	Traineeships and Jobs	1.038	72
	Solidarity Projects	9.679	9.679
	Phase II sub-Total	45.346	22.662
Total		77.033	48.043

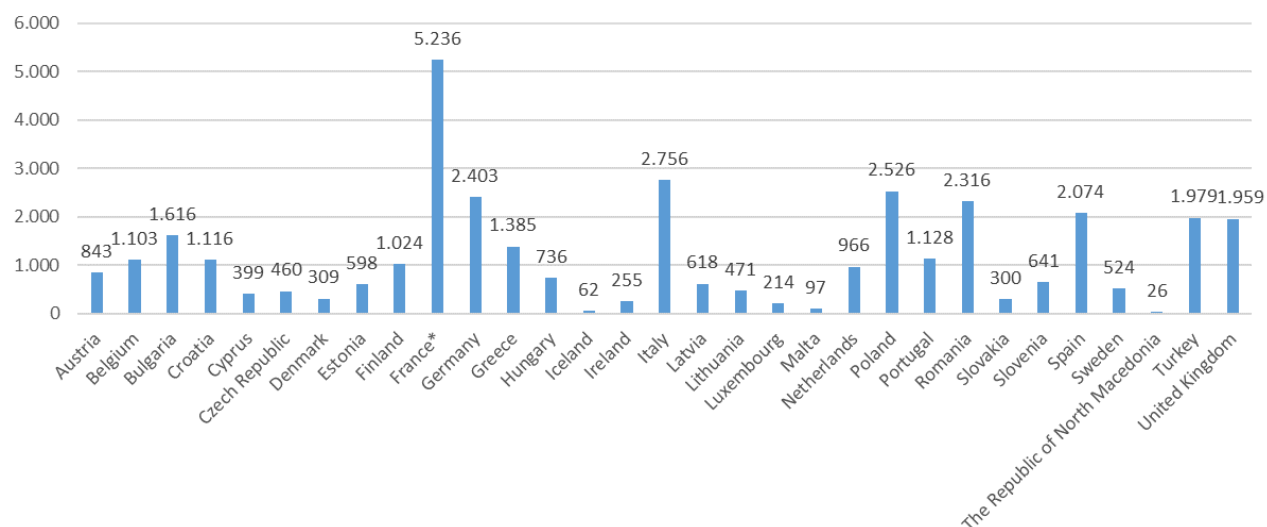
Breakdown of Volunteering, Traineeships and Jobs deployments by country of destination - Phase I and II (2017-2020)



¹ Opportunities – Funds are provided in the form of project grants to organisations through call for proposals. When applying, organisations requests funding for a number of participants that will be deployed in the course of the projects. Once the projects are awarded, the number of participants are considered as “opportunities”.

² Deployments – Deployments refer to the number of participants who have actually started/finished their activity. The projects granted can have a duration of up to two years, this implies that the year when the opportunity is granted is not necessarily the year of the deployment (year when participant starts the activity).

Breakdown of Volunteering, Traineeships and Jobs opportunities by granting country - Phase II (2018-2020)



* A high number of volunteering teams activities have been granted in France thus creating a large number of opportunities.

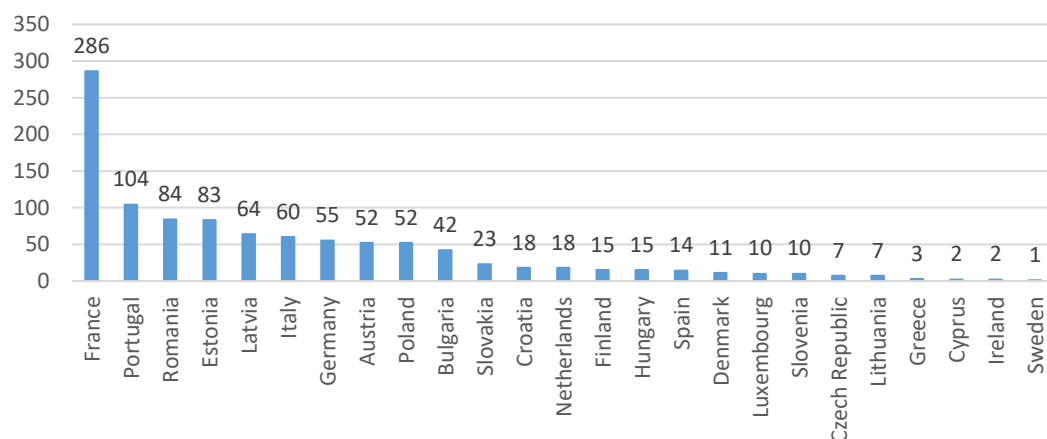
2. Traineeships and Jobs – Take-up by activity type and country

Traineeships and Jobs granted opportunities per activity type - Phase II (2018-2020)

	N. of Opportunities	% of Opportunities
Jobs	400	39%
Traineeships	638	61%
Total	1.038	100%

Share of Traineeships and Jobs amount granted for in-country activities: 50%

Traineeships and Jobs opportunities by granting country – Phase II (2018-2020)



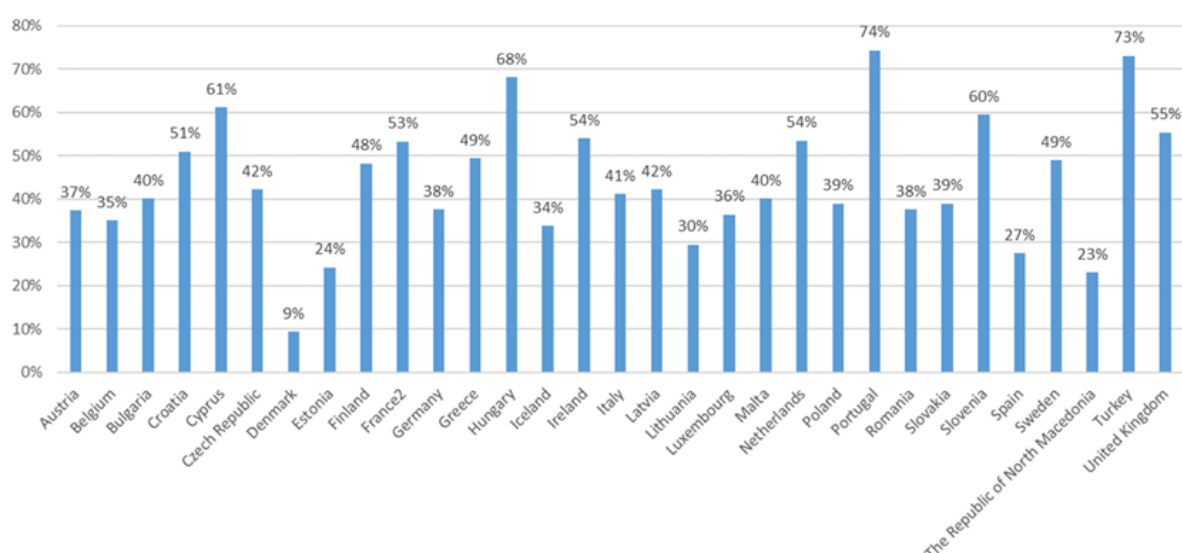
The take-up of Traineeships and Jobs was very low in 2018 and in early 2019. Most of the opportunities were granted as from mid-2019, for which deployments would mainly happen in 2020.

3. Volunteering, Traineeships and Jobs – Take-up of young people with fewer opportunities

Under the European Solidarity Corps (2018-2020), 46.5% of the opportunities funded so far to take part in volunteering, traineeships and jobs are made available for young people with fewer opportunities and 2% additionally specifically for young people with special needs.

Under Erasmus+ volunteering (2014-2018), the share of opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities was slightly lower.

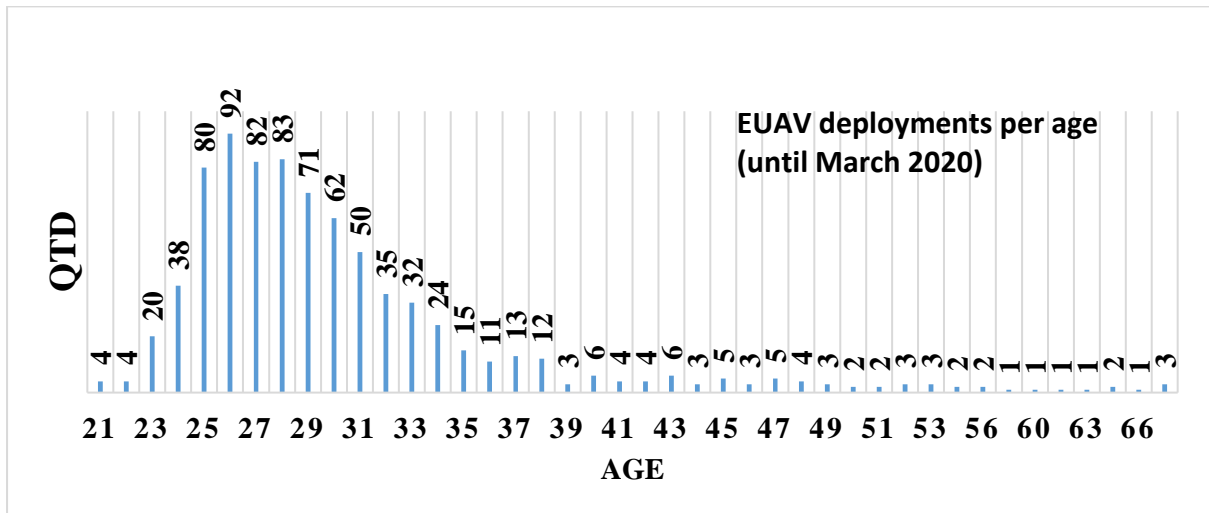
% of Volunteering, Traineeships and Jobs opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities per granting country – Phase II



4. EU AID VOLUNTEERS

EUAV Deployments per age (until March 2020)

Volunteers until 30 years old) – 537 (67%)
 Volunteers of 31-35 y o): – 157 (20%)
 Volunteers of 36+ : – 107 (13%)



The operational objectives and indicators of the EU Aid Volunteers are laid down in article 7 of Regulation 375/2014. No specific collection of data is made with regard to the participation of ‘people with fewer opportunities’.