



## LLLP INPUT ON EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

### Overlapping with other mechanisms

- There is some overlapping with other mechanism supporting volunteering and other initiatives, it needs to be integrated in a **bigger political picture** building on the success and pitfalls of existing programmes.

### Training, preparation and support for volunteers

- The programme should take into consideration **proper preparation of volunteers**: not only language or social/culture induction, but also **well-prepared training programme** for volunteers and organisations. The participation in the initiative must be a **positive learning experience**. Also, it is important to pay attention to physical, mental and emotional well-being of participants.

### Web-portal

- A unique, **one-stop shop entry point** should be used for **better coordination** and be **user-friendly** and **accessible** to those vulnerable target groups that might be interested to contribute and join. We hope that the web portal will **minimise the bureaucracy** of procedures.

### Quality

- A **quality charter**, which underlies the **principles and objectives** of the Solidarity Corps, to which all parties must adhere, is extremely important.

### Voluntary activity, not voluntary work

- Clear distinction between **volunteering activities and actual paid work** should be highlighted; activities are not there to replace “lost jobs”. Therefore, “**volunteer activity**” should be used instead of “**voluntary work**”.

### Volunteering not only internationally

- Volunteering and contributing to your own country and community is **as valuable for Europe** as going to a foreign country to help: there is a lot to learn going from a city to countryside or other cities in your own country too.
- Special focus is required on **disadvantaged groups**, and opening the initiative **to everyone aged 17 or older**.

### Role of volunteer-led organisations

- We express some **scepticism about private companies** possibly taking over, as they can fit in the criteria of “hosting organisations”. The narration should be shifted more to a youth-led and/or volunteer-led organisations / organisations that have **huge experience in coaching and managing volunteers**, as well as creating a link with local and national level members to deploy the programme. These organisations need to have access to **adequate financial and logistic support**.

### Supporting staff

- It would be important to be able to include **staff costs/to have staff covered under the Youth Guarantee**, particularly in the case of volunteers who are not necessarily coached and

have to deal with various “heavy” scenarios - the support of staff is crucial both for the positive outcome of the initiative/project and for the wellbeing of the volunteers.

#### Link with other initiatives

- A clear link should be made with the Paris Declaration, EU Skills Agenda... The competences acquired through volunteering need to be better linked to the European framework of Key Competences, European Qualifications Framework, Youth Pass etc. **Synergies with other tools and initiatives!**

#### Broader than the EU

- The programme should be opened to other countries in Europe as well, not only the EU. **Solidarity does not know borders or politics.**

#### Focus of the programme

- Meaningful activities contributing to their empowerment and future participation in the society: activities focusing on education, healthcare, social and labour market integration environmental protection or prevention of natural disasters. The programme should **boost participant's “life skills” and civic learning experience and deep critical insight into problems they are encountering, fostering in return active citizenship in Europe!**

#### For further information:

Alen Maletić  
Policy and Research Officer, LLLP  
[alen.maletic@lllplatform.eu](mailto:alen.maletic@lllplatform.eu)



*The Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL-P) is an umbrella organisation that gathers 40 European networks active in the field of education and training, coming from all EU Member States and beyond. Currently these organisations represent more than 50 000 educational institutions covering all sectors of formal, non-formal and informal learning.*

*Established in 2005, LLL-P promotes a vision of lifelong learning based on equity, social cohesion, active citizenship and personal development. The platform works as a space for knowledge exchange between its member networks and uses their expertise to discuss and feed in EU policy-making, making sure that European citizens have their voice heard. In that sense LLL-P contributes to a better understanding and dialogue between the grassroots level and European institutions.*