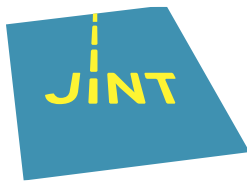


European Solidarity Corps principles and standards

The European Solidarity Corps guarantees high-quality volunteering activities, through the Quality Label process. The activities are based on a common understanding of key principles and standards, including:

- **Equal opportunities and non-discrimination.** Volunteers are to be selected in a fair, transparent and objective way, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion or disability. No previous qualifications, educational level, specific experience or language knowledge must be required. A more specific profile of the volunteer might be drawn up if justified by the nature of the tasks of the activity or by the project context. In order to promote inclusion, participation in volunteering activities must be free of charge for the volunteer, with the exception of possible contributions to travel costs (if the grant does not fully cover these costs). The activities should respect the principles set out in Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Avoidance of job substitution.** Volunteering activities must not substitute traineeships or jobs, so that any adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment is avoided. The involvement of volunteers should complement the work of paid staff. They should not replace paid staff or undercut their pay and conditions of service.
- **Avoidance of harmful activities.** Security and safety of the participants, participating organisations and target groups must be ensured. Such security and safety should include appropriate clearance requirements for participants working with vulnerable groups in accordance with applicable national law. Volunteering activities should be implemented with due consideration for the impact of unforeseen circumstances such as environmental crises, conflicts or pandemics. The activities should respect the principles set out in the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child¹.
- **Provision of high quality, easily accessible and inclusive activities.** The volunteering tasks should enable participants to develop skills and competencies for personal, social and civic development. Organisations should embed the activities of volunteers within the local context and to facilitate volunteers' interaction with the local community and civil society. The value and benefits of European Solidarity Corps volunteering should be recognised for volunteers, through validation of learning outcomes.
- **Adequate training and volunteering arrangements.** Safe and decent living and volunteering conditions must be ensured for participants. The young people and the organisations must sign a volunteering agreement that will outline the rights and responsibilities of both parties and will include a well-defined set of volunteering tasks.
- **"No profit"**. In accordance with the Financial Regulation, beneficiaries must not derive any profit from the activities funded by the grants awarded (see part E of this Programme Guide for further details). Furthermore, organisations should cover

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_guidelines_rights_of_child_0.pdf



the participants' expenditure arising from participation in such solidarity activities but should not provide them with salaries or an economic benefit.

In addition to complying with the above-mentioned principles, organisations implementing volunteering activities must carry out the following set of tasks and responsibilities.

When applying for a Quality Label, organisations must be able to demonstrate their capacity to perform the tasks and responsibilities relevant to the role they are applying for.