



# Host a Volunteer! Make a Difference

Awareness raising campaign for  
host organisations

European Erasmus+ Volem project



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



COMUNE DI

Cinisello Balsamo

# VOLunteering for EMployability

- This strategic partnership is a European cooperation between **CAP SOLIDAIRE** (association, FRANCE), the **Municipality of Cinisello-Balsamo** (public body, ITALY) and **ART SQUARE** (company, LUXEMBOURG).
- This project (Dec. 2019-May 2022) aims to **strengthen the recognition of the key skills acquired by young people during volunteering activities** in the field of local development and to promote them as useful for their entry into the labour market.



Innovative toolbox on raising awareness on volunteering

**Local experimentation of the innovative toolbox** on raising awareness and promoting the added value of youth volunteering in the context of local development in each partner country.

## LET'S GET STARTED



# Winston Churchill

“ You make a living by  
what you get.  
You make a life by  
what you give. “



# What is Volunteering?

- We define volunteering as **any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone** (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives. Central to this definition is the fact that **volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual.**
- This can include formal activity undertaken through **public, private and voluntary organisations** as well as informal community participation and social action. Everyone has the right to volunteer and volunteering can have significant benefits for individuals.

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/policy-and-research/volunteering-policy?knowhow-volunteers>



Anna Earl - Unsplash



# Why involve volunteers in your organisation?

Involving volunteers can add great value to what your organisation does and support you to achieve your mission and strategic objectives.

Involving volunteers can help you to:

- Engage a more diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge
- Reach more of your beneficiaries
- Raise awareness about your cause as well as your organisation, its profile and what you do
- Build relationships within the community in which you work and contribute to supporting others in your community. By providing volunteering opportunities you provide opportunities for social inclusion, skills development and potential routes to employment. There is also evidence that volunteering can help to improve health and wellbeing for individuals



# Why involve volunteers in your organisation?

Involving volunteers can help you to:

- Inform the development and delivery of your activities, projects or services by bringing in new opinions, ideas or approaches. This can help you to adapt, stay relevant to what your beneficiaries and community needs as well as identifying opportunities to improve what you do
- Deliver your service or projects in a more effective and efficient way which can help to save money and resources. However organisations do have to invest in supporting volunteering for this to work effectively.



# VOLEM

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

## Benefits for the host organisations

- Hosting a volunteer allows to expand their actions and launch new projects, while offering a better service to their target audiences
- The presence of young volunteers, with their ideas, experiences and enthusiasm, is an opportunity to reflect on their actions, their organisation, but also a good way to revitalise their volunteer network and to make their actions and values known beyond their usual circles
- The volunteers welcomed today will, for many, be the volunteers, employees and supporters of tomorrow





# VOLEM

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

## Volunteering impacts on the organisation development

- It contributes to staff skills development (project management, technical and language skills) and to validate the knowledge of the team
- It builds the capacity of organisations:
  - Increase in resources (mainly human and financial resources) that benefits small NGOs in particular
  - New ideas and perspectives brought by volunteers (changing perspectives with new concepts and competences: i.e. social media)
  - Good practices and know-how learned from the volunteer in other organisations
- It strengthens the bond between the organisation and young people and increases attraction among youth
- It increases intercultural awareness and it impacts on the internationalisation of organisations in case of mobility



**VOLEM**

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

## Recommendations for host organisations

1. Strengthening the quality systems in volunteering (monitoring)
2. Improving the capacity and resources of volunteers' host organisations to ensure high-quality activities (training of mentors, training on maximising the impact on the local community)
3. Clarify since the beginning the aim/mission of the organisation (it is useful also for the on-going process)
4. Develop a more inclusive organisation
5. Economic contribution can support the inclusion of young people
6. Prepare your future employees (they learn competences, skills which you will need in the future)
7. Follow-up processes after volunteering is vital for ensuring re-integration of the volunteer in the 'home' community in case of mobility



# VOLEM

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

## Volunteering impacts on local development

- The volunteering was perceived as enrichment: new competences, different ideas and cultures (intercultural learning and dialogue)
- Awareness of the concerns and interests of young people
- Ripple effect: volunteering projects and activities develop capacity of local communities and strengthen civil society
- Stronger cooperations between partners in local community
- Intellectual capital for local development, you also can keep people, motivate them to stay and learn. In the future business can hire them. They are better prepared for the job



# VOLEM

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

## Volunteering impacts on local development

- If one organisation is working with young people, take them as volunteers, later somebody else can hire them... also checking in the community what kind of competences do we need, can my organisations support youg people to get them, that later they an get a job here and do not have to move to the big city...
- The work of volunteers seems to be particularly important for the hardest-to-reach target groups (NEETs, people with disabilities...)
- Gains of human capital (individual responsibility, solidarity, participation and respect for cultural differences)
- Raising awareness about Europe (in case of mobility)

# What host organisations say...

"We have a volunteer who has been with us for 5 years and is moving towards a career path with us. At the moment she brings a huge advantage to our association because she has a series of skills that she can put at the service of the association that are very precious. I would say that if i have to give a percentage i would say that they bring 40% of their personal skills and we give them that 60%, GIOSEF is naturally a container where volunteers can express their talents and grow their passions as well. So in this sense there is also room to bring what they already know how to do and link it with the activities of the organizations"

"To understand that it is a mission and not a job"

"To help the development of the young person who is not employed but there to help and observe" "That the tutor is there to guide and orient".

# How to host a young volunteer?

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- Check with your local authorities the **national schemes** (Civic Service)
- Host a volunteer within the framework of the **Erasmus+ European Solidarity Corps**



Pinterest - Hendrik118



# VOLEM

Volem  
Key findings of the survey

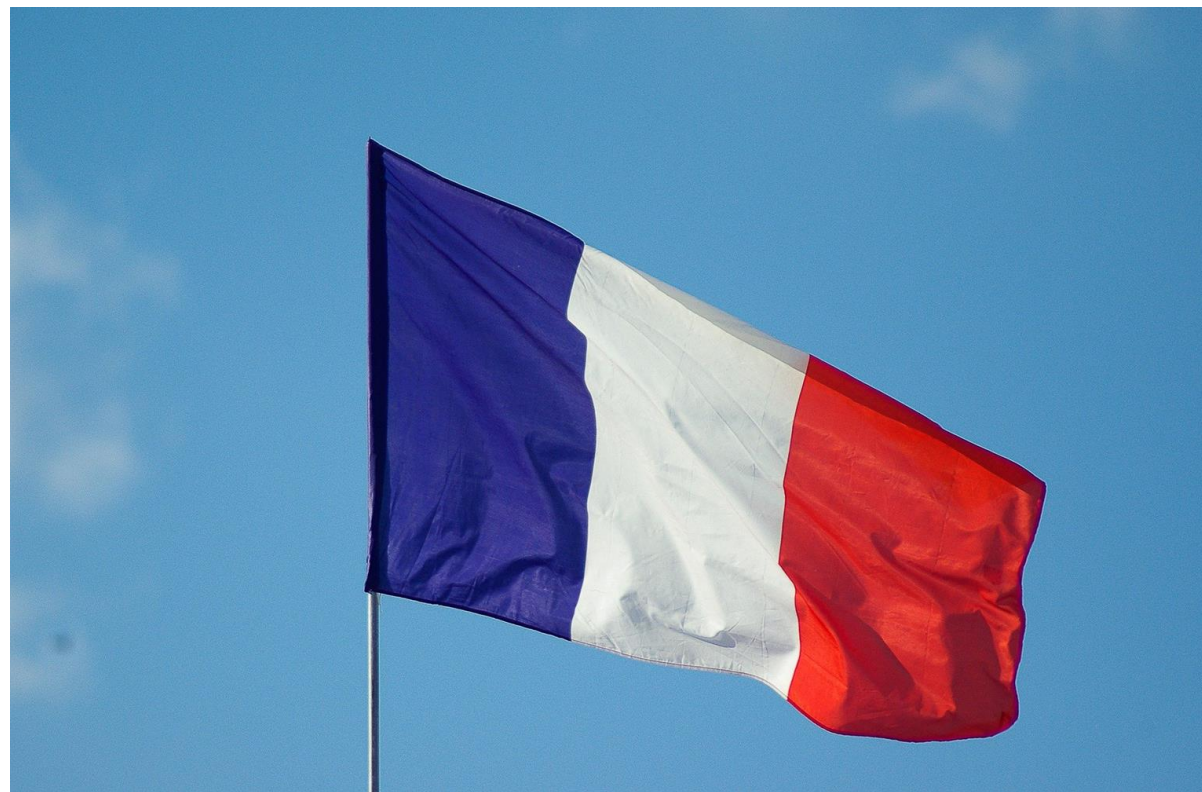
## Recommendations for the host organisations

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# France

## Volem comparative analysis

Programme name	Many volunteer programmes but focusing on Civic Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Civic Service commitment (CS)</li><li>- European Solidarity Corps</li><li>- International solidarity volunteering</li><li>- International business and administrative volunteering</li><li>- Associative volunteering</li></ul>
Ministries involved	Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Date of creation	2010
Places	In France or abroad
Duration Civic Service (CS)	6-12 months 35hrs/week (at least 24hrs)
Target group (CS)	Aged 16-25 Aged 16-30 for young people with disabilities
Host organisations (CS)	Associations, NGOs, national or local public institutions Since 2017, certain forms of private companies approved by the state (solidarity enterprises of social utility)



Jacqueline Macou - Pixabay



# Italy

## Volem comparative analysis

Programme name	Servizio Civile Universale
Ministries involved	Ministry of the Interior
Date of creation	2001
Places	Italy
Duration Civic Service (CS)	8-12 months 25hrs/week
Target group (CS)	Aged 18-29
Host organisations (CS)	Associations, NGOs, public administrations



Moritz320 - Pixabay

# Luxembourg

## Volem comparative analysis

Programme name	Service Volontaire - 2 programmes: - Service Volontaire National; - Service Volontaire de Coopération
Ministries involved	Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
Date of creation	2007
Places	Luxembourg
Duration Civic Service (CS)	3-12 months 35hrs/week
Target group (CS)	Aged 16-30
Host organisations (CS)	Associations, NGOs



Jorono - Pixabay



# Erasmus+ European Solidarity Corps

VOLUNTEER TO BRING  
A SCHOOL BACK TO LIFE  
*Frank*

VOLUNTEER TO BRING  
BACK HOPE  
TO FEMALE INMATES  
*Aida*

**Become a solidarity flag-bearer/promoter of solidarity/solidarity ambassador  
OR Bring solidarity/social responsibility into action**

- The Corps is a way for organisations and companies to **address societal challenges, to promote solidarity and to become international.**
- The Corps brings together people from different cultural backgrounds, broadens their horizons while enriching local communities. Playing a significant role in the community, the participating organisations have become locally recognised actors. **They promote solidarity and EU values while responding to specific needs and challenges at the local level.**
- **The Corps increases organisation's positive image and social capital.** The organisation will be encouraged and empowered to build a community of organisations that are interested and active in the solidarity area in Europe.

## Empower and be inspired

- **The Corps is mutually beneficial offering learning experiences to both, your organisation and the youth.**
- Your organisation will give young people the opportunity to realise their potential while responding to societal challenges. On the other hand, **young people will bring you different points of view, fresh ideas and inspire your organisation to improve with new, innovative and creative ways.**
- **Once accredited, your organisation gains direct access to over 100,000 proactive motivated young people who want to make a difference as a volunteer or in a social or environmental-related job.** There is currently no similar pool of young people at European level which has signed up to engage in solidarity work.

## Access to EU funding and support

- Any organisation can take part in the Corps, be it NGOs, local authorities or companies. You have different ways of getting involved.
- With the Quality Label you will get free support to help access EU funding for different types of activities: volunteering, traineeships and jobs. You can choose what best meets your needs and priorities. The projects funded can cover a broad range of areas, such as **environmental protection, climate change mitigation, education and youth activities or social inclusion**.

## Volunteering

- **Volunteering projects** are the most common type of project, the format which allows the applicant organisations to apply for a European Solidarity Corps grant in order to implement **either individual volunteering (2-12 months or in some cases from 2 weeks to 2 months) or volunteering teams (2 weeks to 2 months, 10-40 participants)**.
- Organisations taking part need to hold a valid **Quality Label** (or Erasmus+ volunteering accreditation).

## Volunteering

**For cross-border individual volunteering activities, a minimum of two organisations need to be involved.**

They should cover the following roles:

- **A host role that covers the full range of activities related to hosting a participant, including the development of a programme of activities and guidance**
- A supporting role that entails supporting, preparing and training participants before departure and mediation between them and their host organisation

**For in-country individual volunteering, one organisation holding a Quality label for a host role is enough.** For volunteering teams, the minimal requirement is to have one organisation regardless of the role it is accredited for.



## Volunteering

**Organisations applying for volunteering activities can expect the following costs to be covered by the grant:**

contribution to travel costs of participants, project management costs (e.g. planning, finances, coordination), activity costs (e.g. preparation, monitoring and support of participants), inclusion support, contribution to additional personal expenses for participants, linguistic support, exceptional and complementary activity costs.

## I am from an organisation

Find more information about how to take part and access the Organisation Portal

[https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en)



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

# Thank you!

[www.volem-project.eu](http://www.volem-project.eu)

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# VOLEM