



Volunteer! Make a Difference

Awareness raising campaign for
young volunteers

European Erasmus+ Volem project



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



COMUNE DI

Cinisello Balsamo

VOLunteering for Employability (VOLeM)

- 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 Erasmus+ 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.



Phase 2:
Innovative toolbox on raising awareness on volunteering

Phase 2: **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?

Volunteering means giving your time and abilities to aid others (usually a nonprofit organization) without the want of financial compensation. Put simply, volunteering is a service to your community.



Tips for getting started volunteering

First, ask yourself if there is something specific you want to do.

For example, do I want...

- ...to make it better around where I live
- ...to meet people who are different from me
- ...to try something new
- ...to do something with my spare time
- ...to see a different way of life and new places
- ...to have a go at the type of work I might want to do as a full-time job
- ...to do more with my interests and hobbies
- ...to do something I'm good at

The best way to volunteer is to match your personality and interests.



Rémi Walle - Unsplash

Why volunteer?

Below are some of the reasons people choose to volunteer.
For some it provides an opportunity to:



give something back to an organisation that has impacted on a person's life, either directly or indirectly



make a difference to the lives of others



help the environment



help others less fortunate or without a voice



feel valued and part of a team



spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle



gain confidence and self-esteem.

Why volunteer?

For some, volunteering can be a route to employment, or a chance to try something new which may lead to a career change. From this perspective, volunteering can be a way of:



gaining new skills, knowledge and experience



developing existing skills and knowledge



enhancing a CV



improving one's employment prospects



gaining an accreditation



using one's professional skills and knowledge to benefit others (usually described as pro bono).

Why volunteer?

For others, volunteering appeals because of its social benefits. These include:

- meeting new people and making new friends
- a chance to socialise
- getting to know the local community.



How volunteering can help you gain new skills

Volunteering offers a space in which to gain new skills, connect with new people, experience something different, and give back to the community.

Supercharge existing skills. Volunteering also offers a way to re-connect with the working world after a break, and an opportunity to supercharge your existing talents. Unlike paid work, the requirements for volunteering are more likely to be linked to your passions and interests, rather than extensive work experience.

There are a huge range of skills you can acquire through volunteering, starting with:

- Industry-related skills
- The ability to work in a team
- Leadership
- Problem solving and adaptability
- Communicating with clients and stakeholders
- The ability to plan and prioritise work
- Sales skills
- Time management
- Report writing
- Improved interpersonal skills.
- Remember that the soft skills you will learn volunteering are also highly desirable to employers

Top 5 Soft Skills You Can Learn by Volunteering

- Leadership
- Time-management
- Communication skills
- Professionalism
- Critical thinking & problem-solving

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Volunteerism can provide people with the career development skills they need to excel and stand out in a busy job market

- Hiring managers definitely see the value of volunteerism in 2018. According to a study by [Deloitte](#), [82% of hiring managers](#) prefer applicants that have volunteer experience on their resume vs candidates that do not volunteer. The same study found that [92% of hiring managers](#) agree that volunteerism improves an employee's broader professional skillset.
- According to a study, by The Virgin Group, [85% of employment opportunities](#) are filled via networking.

To put it in a nutshell

Young volunteers have the power to deliver change

Volunteering as a vehicle for solidarity, social inclusion and active EU citizenship of youth

Volunteering: a springboard toward the world of work

What young volunteers say...



“To describe the experience, I would use the word "serendipity": tackle the journey with a goal and then, along the way, come across other very interesting things”.



“In my opinion, volunteering is important because it creates value, not only for personal satisfaction but because you realise what it means to work for the community”.



“I met a lot of people, connect more with the local community, people who are working in the field. They saw me also during different events and how I worked. I think that it helped me a lot to find later job”.

How to volunteer?

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



Hendrik118 - Pinterest

Country XXX

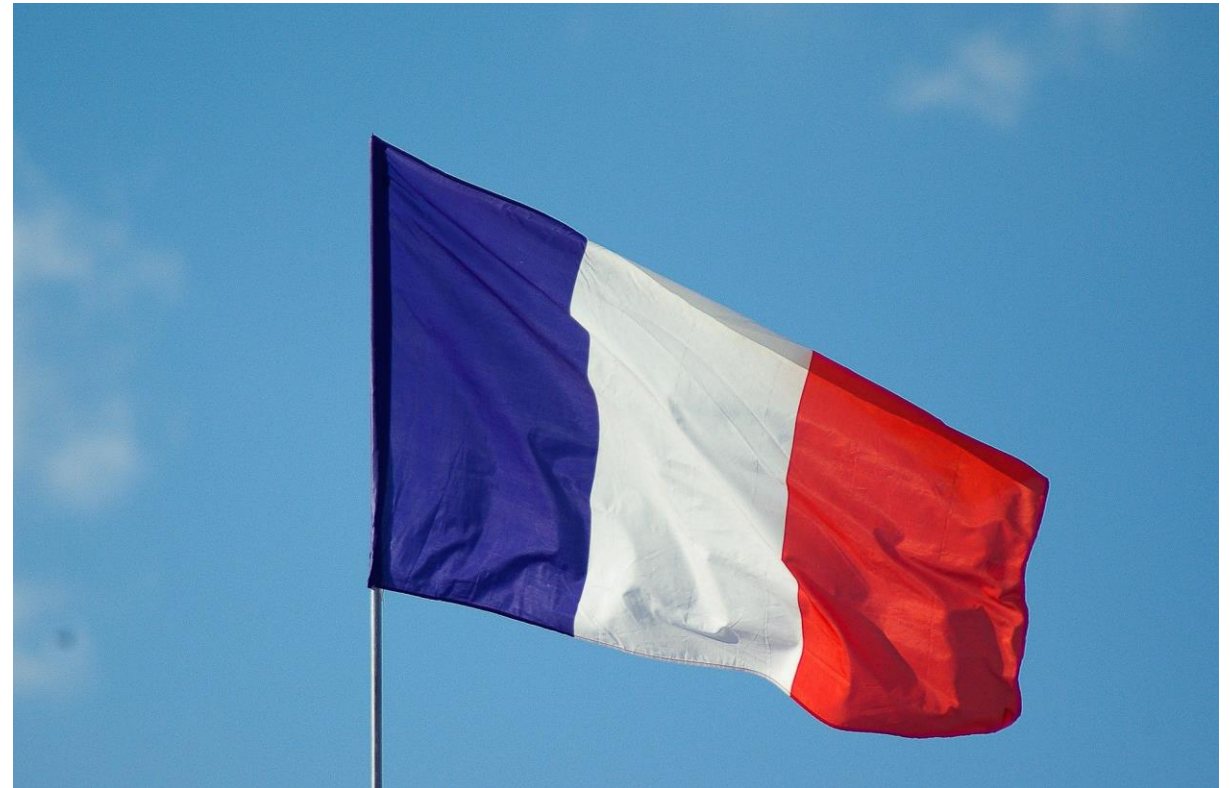
Programme name	
Ministries involved	
Date of creation	
Places	
Duration Civic Service (CS)	
Target group (CS)	
Host organisations (CS)	

FLAG OF THE COUNTRY

France

Volem comparative analysis

Programme name	Many volunteer programmes but focusing on Civic Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Civic Service commitment (CS)- European Solidarity Corps- International solidarity volunteering- International business and administrative volunteering- Associative volunteering
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) (you can participate only once)
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 (you can participate only once)
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 (you can participate several times)
Target group (CS)	Aged 16-30
Host organisations (CS)	Associations, NGOs



Jorono - Pixabay



Erasmus+ European Solidarity Corps

VOLUNTEER TO BRING
SCHOOL BACK TO LIFE
Frank

VOLUNTEER TO BRING
BACK HOPE
TO FEMALE INMATES
Hilda



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

The European Solidarity Corps is an initiative from European Union launched in 2016 .

The programme is offering volunteer and occupational activities that support non-governmental organisations, local authorities or private companies in addressing challenging situations across the European Union.



Isabella Hedly - Volunteer Voices



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

Broadly, you can get involved in:
volunteering, traineeships, jobs, local
Solidarity projects.



Explore, Experience, Empower.

Volunteering is a **full-time** (at least 30 and not more than 38 hours per week) **unpaid activity that can last from 2 to 12 months.**

It enables young people to **gain useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which can improve their employability and active citizenship.**

EU Solidarity Corps Topic Areas

- Inclusion
- Reception and integration of refugees and migrants
- Citizenship and democratic participation
- Disaster prevention and recovery
- Environment and natural protection
- Health and well-being
- Education and training
- Employment and entrepreneurship
- Creativity and culture
- Sport



Matthias Zommer - Pexels

What do I get?



The unique volunteer experience and acquaintance with like-minded people from different countries.

- Travel expenses covered
- Accommodation and meals costs covered
- Expenses for visa and residence permit covered
- Medical insurance
- Language courses
- Pocket money (the exact sum is based on the host country and the duration of the stay)

Can I apply?



This is the opportunity for **young people between 18 and 30 years** who:

- Are legally residing in one of the EU Member States or partner countries
- Did not participate in Solidarity Corps, European Voluntary Service or Erasmus+ individual volunteering activities lasting longer than 59 days
- About the ESC Programme, you can participate just ONCE in a short-term project, and ONCE in a long-term project

What do I need to apply?



Registration on the European Youth Portal.

<https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity>

- Provide your basic personal information, the type of projects you would be interested in, experience and knowledge you can bring, and time period when you might be available to volunteer
- CV in Europass format
- Motivational letter
- You can update all of this information at any time.

What is Youthpass?



Youthpass is a tool to document and **recognise the outcomes of non-formal and informal learning processes in volunteering projects**. It is an empowering certificate that describes volunteers' learning outcomes in their own words.

In this sense, Youthpass complements the certificate of participation in the European Solidarity Corps.

All volunteers are entitled to receive a Youthpass certificate.

the 8 key
European
competences
for lifelong
learning that
the Youthpass
certify

- Multilingual competence
- Personal, social and learning to learn competence
- Citizenship competence
- Entrepreneurship competence
- Competence in cultural awareness and expression
- Digital competence
- Mathematical competence and competence in science, technology, engineering (STEM)
- Literacy Competence

Giedrius Stonis

“ I have always been quite a shy person so travelling and settling into a new country and cultural environment have really built up my confidence. Although the placement has definitely been a challenge, now I feel more independent and much more comfortable being away from home. ”



Thank you!

www.volem-project.eu

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