



Amendments of the European Office for Catholic Youth and Adult Education, the Association of German Social Welfare Organisations, the Bavarian Youth Council, the Protestant Church in Germany, the Federation for Protestant Youth in Germany and the Commissariat of Catholic Bishops in Germany – Berlin Liason Office

to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing Regulation No 375/2014

COM(2018) 440 final

Amendment 1	
Recital 7	
<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendments</i>
<p>(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service and the EU Aid Volunteers. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps</p>	<p>(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service and the EU Aid Volunteers. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps</p>

<p>should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.</p>	<p>should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate. <i>In-country volunteering placements shall only be admissible in countries where no national volunteering schemes exists.</i></p>
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Explanation: Double structures create unnecessary costs and inefficiencies. Limiting in-country placements to countries where national volunteering schemes do not exist, eliminates the risk of creating costly double structures.

Amendment 2	
Recital 10	

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendments</i>
<p>(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.</p>	<p>(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities <i>shall</i> include a solid <i>education and</i> learning dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.</p>

Explanation: A strong education and learning component is a key element of any volunteering placement of quality and an essential measure to improve impact and outcome of any solidarity activity.

Amendment 3	
Recital 12	

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommen-</p>	<p><i>Delete</i></p>

<p>dation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.</p>	
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Explanation: Volunteering activities and short term occupational placements with a training perspective are organised by distinct kinds of organisations. Combining them into one programme risks creating confusion among the existing structures. Forcing a structural adaptation would take a long time, involve high costs and put the European Commission target of reaching 350.000 participants within 7 years in serious jeopardy.

Amendment 4

Recital 20

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.</p>	<p>Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, <i>an education and learning programme</i> and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, <i>involving a solid education and learning programme</i> during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.</p>

Explanation: Inadequate preparation, assistance and post placement support risks minimizing the individual learning outcome and might create unwanted trouble for participants. Cases of negative psychological impacts after difficult and taxing volunteering placements have been reported. Grassroots organisations are good in reaching out to all strands of society. Education and learning programmes organised by sending and hosting organisations will improve the inclusiveness of solidarity activities- .

Amendment 5

Article 2, paragraph 1

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>(1) ‘<i>solidarity activity</i>’ means a high-quality temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various</p>	<p>(1) ‘<i>solidarity activity</i>’ means a high-quality temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including</p>

fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;	those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;
See explanation to amendment 3.	
Amendment 6	
Article 2, paragraph 7	
<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
(7) 'traineeship' means a solidarity activity for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant;	Delete
<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	
(8) 'job' means a solidarity activity for a period from 2 to 12 months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant;	
See explanation to amendment 3.	
Amendment 7	
Article 4, paragraph 1 (b)	
<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
1. The Programme shall pursue the objectives set out in Article 3 through the following types of actions: (a) volunteering, as referred to in Articles 7 and 11; (b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8; (c) solidarity projects, as referred to in Article 9; (d) networking activities, as referred to in Article 5; (e) quality and support measures, as referred to in Article 5.	1. The Programme shall pursue the objectives set out in Article 3 through the following types of actions: (a) volunteering, as referred to in Articles 7 and 11; (b) solidarity projects, as referred to in Article 9; (c) networking activities, as referred to in Article 5; (d) quality and support measures, as referred to in Article 5.
See explanation to amendment 3.	
Amendment 8	
Article 6, paragraph 2 (b)	
<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
2. The strand shall support activities as referred to in Article 4.1, in points (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) in the following ways: (a) volunteering, as referred to in Article 7; (b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8; (c) solidarity projects, as referred to in Article 9; (d) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating in this strand in	2. The strand shall support activities as referred to in Article 4.1, in points (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) in the following ways: (a) volunteering, as referred to in Article 7; (b) solidarity projects, as referred to in Article 9; (c) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating in this strand in accordance with Article 5;

accordance with Article 5; (e) quality and support measures in accordance with Article 5.	(d) quality and support measures in accordance with Article 5.
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See explanation to amendment 3.

Amendment 9

Article 7, paragraph 1

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.</p> <p>2. Volunteering may take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).</p>	<p>1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a solid education and learning component to be organised before, during and after the placement by the participating organisation, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.</p> <p>2. Volunteering may take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country). In-country placements shall only be admissible in countries where no national volunteering schemes exists.</p>

Explanation: To ensure operational reliability the reference to education and learning and the rule on the admissibility of in-country placements should be anchored in the main text of the regulation. Legal certainty about components of a volunteering activity will improve organizations' confidence in the European Solidarity Corps and will in turn lead to more placements being offered.

Amendment 10

Article 8

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
<p>1. A traineeship as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.</p> <p>2. A job as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on an employment contract in accordance with the national regulatory framework of the participating country where the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed 12 months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds 12 months.</p> <p>3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and</p>	<p>Delete</p>

<p>training component.</p> <p>4. Traineeships and jobs may take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).</p>	
<p>See explanation to amendment 3.</p>	
<p>Amendment 11</p>	
<p>Article 16, paragraph 1</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Text proposed by the Commission</i></p> <p>1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Amendment</i></p> <p>1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label. <i>Private entities shall only be admissible to organise, host or accompany volunteering activities provided they operate according to a not-for profit model.</i></p>
<p>Explanation: To minimize the risk of volunteers substituting regular workers and maintain a clear division between volunteering and working volunteering activities should be limited to not-for profit entities.</p>	
<p>Amendment 12</p>	
<p>Article 16, paragraph 4b (new)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Text proposed by the Commission</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Amendment</i></p> <p><i>Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, an education and learning programme and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, involving a solid education and learning programme during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.</i></p>
<p>Explanation: To ensure operational reliability a rough description of possible roles of participant organisations should be added to the main text of the regulation. Legal certainty about possible roles will improve organisations' confidence in the European Solidarity Corps and will in turn lead to more placements being offered.</p>	