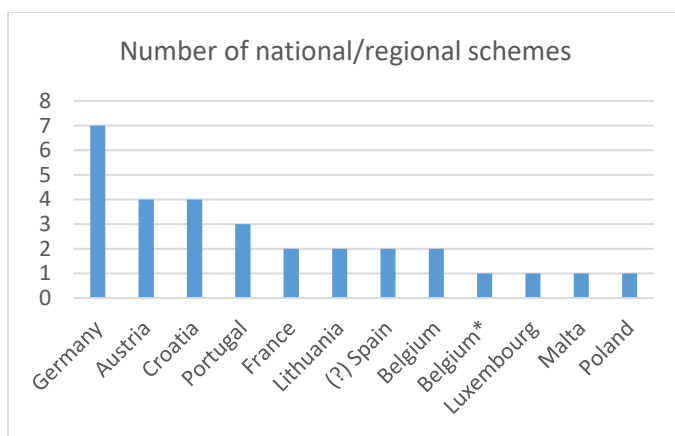


PLA Survey: Analysis of open-ended questions

Do you have any publicly funded national/regional volunteering schemes in the field of youth in your country?

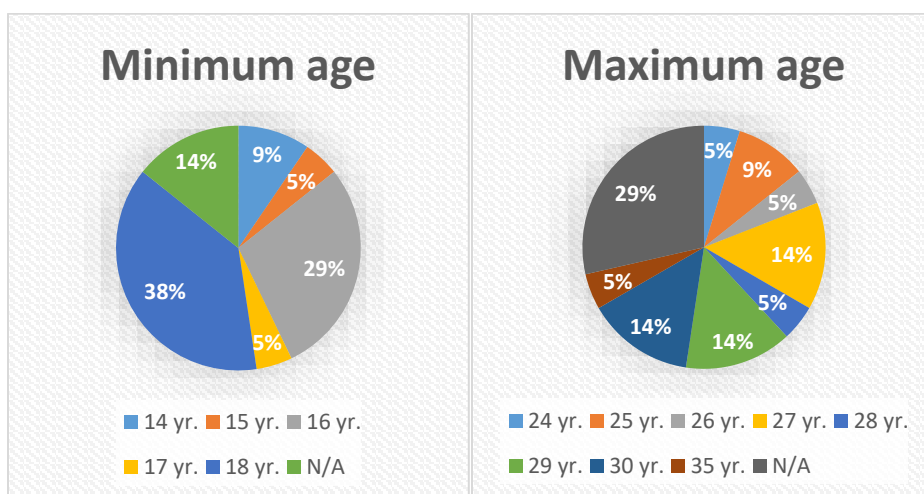
If “Yes”: Please mention all schemes that exist in your country.

- 12 out of 16 respondents specify their existing national/regional schemes.
- Total number of specified schemes = 29*. The chart shows the breakdown by country:



* Duplicate entry

- 21 of these schemes have age restrictions (minimum/maximum age):



- 13 of these schemes support activities abroad.
- 13 of these schemes make provisions for YPFO.

Is there a single national body in charge of coordinating volunteering activities in your country?

If “Other”: Could you please specify?

- 2 out of 3 respondents specify the respective national body:

Specification	Country
Limited Liability Public Interest Cooperative	Portugal
Public interest grouping under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Youth	France

Could you please describe what other types of interaction are in place between the ESC and the national/regional scheme(s)?

- Direct management of national/regional schemes by the NA (Erasmus+/ESC),
- Committee (bodies responsible for international volunteering, representatives of the ministries),
- Joint working group (civil society stakeholders, political/administrative stakeholders),
- Advisory board for structural implementation of inclusive volunteering,
- Cooperation (research, thematic, promotion),
- Commitment of the volunteer(s)

Please describe in what way such an interaction would be useful.

- To foster strategic development of national/international volunteering activities,
- To foster more efficient cooperation,
- To develop synergies in terms of quality monitoring and quality certification,
- To improve recognition of volunteering and the volunteers (status),
- To enhance intercultural learning

If aware of European Solidarity Corps projects that duplicate national volunteering projects: Please describe here giving examples.

[no applicable answer]

- Malta: Duration of projects is shorter than ESC - thus more appealing for participants. It allows for volunteering outside Europe.
- Luxembourg: NA does not promote the in-country offers of the ESC in order not to duplicate.

What are the areas where creating synergy/complementarity between the European Solidarity Corps and national/regional schemes would be beneficial?

- 1) Inclusion and diversity
 - Support of young people with fewer opportunities,
 - Solidarity support to elder people, young people and children with fewer opportunities,
 - Support in case of disabilities/mental health issues,
 - Fight against discrimination
- 2) Promotion
 - Improving the visibility of volunteering,
 - Promoting benefits/values of volunteering,
 - Mutual promotion of opportunities for youth
- 3) Cooperation
 - Networking between national organisations and ESC
 - Unified network of volunteering organisations
 - Local/regional networking for volunteers from different schemes
 - Exchange of thematic expertise on a conceptual level (e.g. raising environmental awareness in volunteering projects, eco-friendly project design)
- 4) Legal/administrative matters
 - Common structures of crisis intervention,
 - Visa issues,
 - Health compliance requirements,
 - Common insurance,
 - ESC benefits for volunteers in national schemes and vice versa,
 - Reductions (Volunteer Card, local/national transport)
- 5) Status
 - General recognition by employers,
 - Youthpass as “the” recognition tool for both ESC and national volunteering scheme(s)
- 6) Quality monitoring
 - Joint quality standards/quality label system,
 - Common volunteer training

What are the main challenges of creating complementarity and synergy between the national youth volunteering scheme(s) and the European Solidarity Corps?

- 1) Promotion
 - Hardly national schemes,
 - Little public interest
- 2) Cooperation
 - Different profiles of volunteering schemes,
 - Securing a systematic communication and cooperation for developing bigger synergies and impact between all bodies involved,
 - Overlap with the in-country volunteering of the ESC

- 3) Legal/administrative matters
 - Conflicting interests of volunteering organisations and EC (e.g. alumni networks),
 - Different regulations on national and ESC level,
 - Different understanding and rules regarding volunteer tasks, i.e. percentage of routine tasks/personal care in - - ESC vs. BFD or FSJ
- 4) Quality monitoring
 - Different quality standards and accreditation procedure,
 - Different approaches for training cycle
- 5) Finances
 - Different funding schemes,
 - Challenges regarding demarcation of additional or alternative funds to the ESC/co-funding,
 - Adjustment of funding according to needs (e.g. to provide psychological support for volunteers)

What would support developing complementarity and synergy between the national youth volunteering scheme(s) and the European Solidarity Corps? (Please be as specific as possible)

- 1) Promotion
 - Common events for future volunteers
- 2) Cooperation
 - Central contact point for coordination and cooperation,
 - Exchange of good practices
- 3) Legal/administrative matters
 - Harmonization between European and national regulations,
 - Better support from relevant stakeholders (mainly from ministries and government)
 - Allow for overlapping of statuses (national and EU volunteers)
- 4) Finances
 - Allow for adapting budgets and co-financing via the ESC,
- 5) Research
 - International (comparative) study on youth volunteering trends and opportunities (to get a wider picture about the situation and the needs for synergy and complementarity development at local, regional, national and European level)

Do you have any other examples of complementarity and synergy from your country that you can share with us?

Synergies:

- Lithuania: Common informational webinars for hosting organisations of different programmes,
- Austria: A cooperation between NA AT and the "Austria Service Point for International Volunteering" exists for year. Evertheless this "service point" does not really run an actual

national funding scheme. Their funding comes from the Austria Development Agency and they can only support volunteers with "micro-funds"

Complementarities:

- ESC offers possibility to fund in-country participants
- France: Young people can start with a civic service and then commit to a short or long term volunteering, or vice versa.
- Continuation of the NEET youth support program (NEET young people who completed a mentoring program were involved in job projects)

What are your expectations for the outcomes of the Peer Learning Activity?

- 1) General exchange of experiences,
 - Better understanding of the effective national/regional coordination and cooperation/support systems of volunteering activities with the focus on youth in particular,
 - Learn about youth involvement in volunteering opportunities dealing with refugee crisis
- 2) Best practice sharing with regard to:
 - Stable and high numbers of citizens involved in volunteering activities,
 - Synergies and complementarities developed between the ESC and national schemes,
 - Schemes that involve young people with fewer opportunities
- 3) Cooperation
 - Creating a foundation for long term cooperation,
 - Establish clear aims for ESC and national volunteer schemes,
 - Proposal/regulatory framework for cooperation between national schemes and ESC
 - How to ensure universally applicable quality standards,
 - How to ensure that the ESC remains visible and is highlighted in its uniqueness despite the multitude of different voluntary services

Are there any other ideas you would like to share with us with regard to the topic of this Peer Learning Activity?

- Suggestion to discuss if the combination of an in-country and a transnational volunteering period should be possible and if it should be funded twice for the same participant.
- Suggestion to have more open and direct dialogue with other DGs managing other EU programmes in order to find common approaches to facilitate the implementation of synergies at various levels.
- Suggestion to ensure that volunteer programmes are supported by national governments.