

PART B – PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES

In this part, readers will find, for all of the Actions and activities under this strand and covered by the European Solidarity Corps Guide, the following information:

- a description of their objectives and expected impact;
- a description of the supported activities;
- tables presenting the criteria which are used to assess proposals;
- additional information on quality features of activities;
- a description of the funding rules.

Before submitting an application, applicants are advised to read carefully the entire section concerning the Action under which they wish to apply.

WHICH ACTIONS ARE SUPPORTED?

The following Actions may be supported and covered in this section:

- Volunteering Projects;
- Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas;
- Solidarity Projects;
- Humanitarian Aid Volunteering.

This section also covers all relevant information and criteria for the Quality Label, which is a pre-requisite to participate in Volunteering Projects and Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas.

In line with the general and specific objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, the above actions supported by the Programme are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participants and participating organisations involved, as well as on the communities in which these actions take place.

As regards participants, the solidarity activities, as well as any other supported activities related to them (e.g. quality and support measures), are meant to produce the following main outcomes:

- improved skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development;
- more active participation in democratic life and in society in general;
- enhanced employability and transition into the labour market;
- increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- increased self-empowerment and self-esteem;
- improved foreign language competences;
- enhanced intercultural awareness;
- better awareness of the European project and the EU common values;
- increased motivation for further engagement in solidarity activities.

Supported solidarity activities are also expected to produce the following outcomes on participating organisations:

- increased capacity to operate at EU/international level;
- innovative and improved way of operating towards their target groups;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to diversity (social, linguistic, cultural, gender and ethnic diversity, disabilities etc.);
- more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment inside the organisations.

As regards communities where the activities related to supported solidarity activities are implemented, the following outcomes are expected:

- increased ability to address societal challenges;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to diversity (social, linguistic, cultural, gender and ethnic diversity, disabilities etc.);

In the long run, the combined effect of supported solidarity activities is expected to have a positive impact on a large number of stakeholders in EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme or third countries not associated to the Programme.

VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

WHAT ARE VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS?

Volunteering projects offer opportunities for young people to take part in solidarity activities contributing to the daily work of participating organisations, to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out.

Volunteering is a full-time³² unpaid activity that has a duration of up to 12 months. This type of solidarity activity is undertaken through participating organisations that offer young people the opportunity to carry out a wide variety of activities, in a structured way.

Participation in volunteering activities must be **free of charge** for the volunteer.

The scope of volunteering projects is broad, covering a wide range of areas, such as environmental protection, climate change mitigation or greater social inclusion.

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).

WHICH ACTIVITIES CAN BE SUPPORTED UNDER THIS ACTION?

The following activities are supported:

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING

Individual Volunteering is a solidarity activity of a duration of 2 weeks to 12 months. This type of solidarity activity provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity activities to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out.

Individual volunteering activities can take place:

- **Cross-border** i.e. activities taking place in a country different from the country of residence of the participant(s); or
- **In-country**, i.e. activities taking place in the same country as the country of residence of the participant. These activities aim to encourage and facilitate the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, however they are open to all participants.



In-country activities should present a clear European added value including complementarity to existing national schemes. Projects with in-country activities presenting a weak or a lack of European added value will not be considered as relevant in the context of the Corps.

In terms of activity duration, individual volunteering can be short term (participation lasting between 14 and 59 days, excluding travel days) or long term (participation lasting between 60 and 366 days, excluding travel days).

VOLUNTEERING TEAMS

Volunteering teams are solidarity activities that allow teams of participants coming from at least two different countries to volunteer together for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months.

The composition of the volunteering teams must be international; at least a quarter of the volunteers must come from a country other than the one where the activity takes place. Examples:

- A grant application is submitted by an organisation legally established in country B for a volunteering activity with 20 participants that takes place in country B. In this case at least 5 participants must come from countries different from country B (country A, C, D etc).

³² At least 30 and not more than 38 hours per week

- A grant application is submitted by an organisation legally established in country A for a volunteering activity with 20 participants that takes place in country B. In this case, at least 5 participants must come from country A, because the link with the National Agency of the applicant must be preserved (see eligibility criteria on page 25). Volunteers from other countries may also participate (country B, C, D etc).

In volunteering teams, European Solidarity Corps' volunteers will carry out tasks for a project over a short period of time (usually, but not exclusively, during holidays, breaks between study periods, transition from education to work, etc.). Despite their shorter duration, these activities will be valuable both for the individuals and for the communities in which the volunteering takes place.

Examples of the valuable work that can be accomplished even over a short period of time include: restoring cultural heritage damaged by natural or man-made disaster, catering for species threatened by extinction; organising educational activities in refugee camps, etc.

Volunteering teams activities can bring a significant contribution to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the European Solidarity Corps.

The advantages of this specific type of group activities compared to standard individual volunteering activities include the following:

- Volunteers will carry out the activity in a group. This can be an incentive for youngsters who do not feel ready to embark into challenging experiences on their own. The activity will also be shorter in its duration. This can foster the participation of those youngsters who cannot commit for a long period of time because of their studies or jobs, but still want to be of help for the community;
- The above makes volunteering teams particularly suitable for a first experience in volunteering. They can thus serve as an entry way for long-term activities or provide an incentive to start their own solidarity project.

Furthermore, the following additional type of activity can also be funded:

- **Preparatory visits** to the venue of the volunteering activities before the start of the activities. The purpose of the preparatory visits is to ensure high quality activities by facilitating and preparing administrative arrangements, building trust and understanding and setting-up a solid partnership between the organisations and the young people involved. The visits will be organised for activities involving young people with fewer opportunities or when the visit is necessary for the implementation of an activity with a strong inclusion dimension. Participants with fewer opportunities that will take part in the planned volunteering activities can be involved in the visit, in order to help with their preparation and involve them in activity design so that their needs are taken into account from the start. The preparatory visits can also take place online. However, only the physical preparatory visits will receive funding.

HOW TO SET UP A VOLUNTEERING PROJECT?

A volunteering project consists of four stages: planning, preparation, implementation and follow-up. Participating organisations and young people involved in the activities should take an active role in all those stages enhancing thus their learning experience.

- Planning (including defining the learning outcomes, activity formats, development of work programme, schedule of activities);
- Preparation phase, including practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners and participants, tailor-made linguistic/intercultural/task-related preparation based on the needs of participants before departure;
- Implementation of activities;
- Follow-up phase, including the evaluation of the activities, issue of the certificate of participation, support to participants upon return as well as the evaluation, dissemination and use of the activities' outcomes.

Most European Solidarity Corps activities are implemented by one or several participating organisations. All participating organisations involved in a volunteering activity must hold a **valid Quality Label**. The organisations involved assume the role of "supporting" the implementation of the activities and the volunteers and/or "hosting" the volunteers:

- **The host role** covers the full range of activities related to hosting a Solidarity Corps participant, including the development of a programme of the young person's activities and providing guidance and support to the participant during all the phases as appropriate (some of these activities can be carried out by a support organisation involved in the same project).
- **The support role** entails supporting, preparing and/or training participants before departure, a mediation between them and their host organisations and/or providing support to participants upon return from their activity as well as project management and coordination.

Where only one organisation is involved (in-country activities or volunteering teams), the organisation has to ensure that all phases are carried out and the above tasks and responsibilities are fulfilled. In all cases, the involvement of a support organisation in activities involving young people with fewer opportunities is highly recommended.

In addition, organisations applying for grant must hold a **valid Quality Label for lead organisations**. For more information on the Quality Label, please refer to the section “Quality Label for volunteering in solidarity activities”.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Young people who want to participate in the European Solidarity Corps must register on the European Solidarity Corps Portal <https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity>. Young people with fewer opportunities may receive support from organisations to complete the registration phase. The European Solidarity Corps Portal offers a meeting place for young people and organisations holding a Quality Label and willing to implement solidarity activities. Organisations have to select the participants from the database of registered young people.

QUALITY AND SUPPORT MEASURES

A set of measures and services, such as training, language learning support, identification and documentation of the competences acquired, insurance are foreseen to ensure the quality of the volunteering activities and a strong learning dimension for the participants. Some of these measures are optional and could be used depending on the interest and needs of the participants and some of them are compulsory. Organisations should aim to promote the use of the General Online Training as part of the volunteers’ learning experience. Detailed information on those measures is available in Part D of this Guide.

PRIORITIES

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

The European Solidarity Corps seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion and fairness. Organisations should design accessible and inclusive activities, taking into account the views and needs of participants with fewer opportunities.

Volunteering projects should also aim to support projects and activities actively addressing the issue of inclusion and diversity more broadly in the society.



To support **inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities**, additional support measures and funding that allow participating organisations to better accommodate and cater for the needs of young people with fewer opportunities are available.

In order to benefit from additional funding applicants will be required to describe how they will involve in activities young people who are at comparative disadvantage i.e. they have comparatively fewer opportunities than their peers in the same country/area/age group/situation. In this sense, “involving” does not refer to a target group that the applicant organisation may work with. It means to facilitate the participation of young people with fewer opportunities by designing the project activities in an inclusive and accessible way. This requires specific measures of outreach and support to ensure that young people with fewer opportunities can participate in activities on equal terms as others.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Volunteering activities should promote environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among participants, raising the awareness about the importance of acting to reduce or compensate for the environmental footprint of activities. Volunteering activities should be designed and implemented with environmental consciousness by e.g. integrating sustainable practices such as opting for reusable or eco-friendly materials, reducing waste and recycling, using sustainable means of transportation.

Projects and activities addressing the societal challenges related to environmental protection, sustainability and climate goals should also be supported, notably where they contribute to fulfilling the objectives of relevant Horizon Europe Missions. Such projects can tackle a variety of issues, aiming for example at protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural capital or raising awareness about environmental sustainability and enabling behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption

habits and lifestyles. Volunteering initiatives should also aim at preventing and mitigating or repairing the adverse effects of extreme weather events and natural disasters, as well as activities that provide support to affected communities in the aftermath of such extreme weather events or natural disasters.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The European Solidarity Corps can play a role by supporting Europeans, regardless of their gender, age and background to live and thrive in the digital age. Those projects and activities that aim to boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and/or develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology, should also be supported. Depending on the design and objectives of the activities, the development of competences and awareness on digital issues, and the use of new technologies can be introduced in volunteering activities within the ESC programme.

Participating organisations are encouraged to make use of digital tools and learning methods to complement and add value to their activities, to improve the cooperation between partner organisations, support further dissemination of the outcomes or support for community building. The General Online Training on the EU Academy platform should also be used (see part D for more information about these tools).

Organisations could also envisage adding virtual cooperation between volunteers, and between volunteers and participating organisations, before, during and after the activities. Online activities may contribute to lowering the threshold of participation for young people with fewer opportunities or to strengthening the overall impact of the projects. Blending volunteering activities with other virtual components may also add to the quality of the project.

PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE

Volunteering projects should promote participation of young people in democratic processes and civic engagement. With volunteering at its heart, the ESC programme engages and empowers young people to be active in society and addresses the Europe-wide trends of youth limited participation in democratic life and the low levels of knowledge and awareness about European matters that have an impact on the lives of all European citizens.

The European Solidarity Corps supports all participating organisations in improving the quality of their projects by integrating a participatory dimension, offering young people relevant opportunities to actively engage and participate in the conception and implementation of project activities as a pathway to discovering the benefits of active citizenship and participation in democratic life.

Resources for enhancing the participatory dimension of supported projects can be accessed i.e. via the website participationpool.eu. Links with and involvement in existing national, international or (other) EU initiatives and platforms revolving around participation and civic engagement are also encouraged.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES?

The eligibility criteria for the volunteering activities implemented under volunteering projects are listed below:

Eligible participating organisations	<p>Any public or private entity, whether non-profit or profit making, local, regional, national or international, legally established in an EU Member State, a third country associated to the Programme or a third country not associated to the Programme or any international organisation.</p> <p>Participating organisations must hold a valid volunteering Quality Label at the latest at the start of the activities and during the entire period of implementation of the activities³³.</p>	
Number of participating organisations	Individual Volunteering	<p>For cross-border activities at least two organisations must participate: one host organisation and one support organisation from the country in which the participant is legally residing.</p> <p>For in-country activities, at least one host organisation is required.</p>
	Volunteering Teams	At least one organisation – either host or support - is required.
Duration	Individual Volunteering	From 2 weeks to 12 months, excluding travel time.
	Volunteering Teams	From 2 weeks to 2 months ³⁴ , excluding travel time.
Venue of activities³⁵	Individual Volunteering	Activities have to take place in a host organisation or one of its locations. A volunteer from an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme must carry out the activity in an EU Member State or third country associate to the Programme, or in a third country not associated to the Programme. A volunteer from a third country not associated to the Programme must carry out the activity in an EU Member State or a third country associated to the Programme.
	Volunteering Teams	The activities must take place in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme or a third country not associated to the Programme.
	Preparatory Visits	Preparatory Visits must take place at the venue of the volunteering activity.

³³ Organisations holding a Quality Label that expires during the activities should apply for a new Quality Label in due time to ensure eligibility of the activities.

³⁴ Up to 59 days, excluding travel days.

³⁵ Activities cannot take place in Belarus or on the territory of Russia as recognised by international law.

Eligible participants	Individual Volunteering and Volunteering Teams	<p>Young people between 18 and 30 years³⁶ who are legally residing in an EU Member State, a third country associated to the Programme or in a third country not associated to the Programme and have registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal.</p> <p>A volunteer can take part in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a single individual cross-border volunteering activity longer than 2 months. A second individual cross-border volunteering activity longer than 2 months is allowed only for young people with fewer opportunities or in duly justified cases determined by the National Agency. - multiple individual cross-border volunteering activities lasting up to 2 months³⁷; - multiple volunteering teams activities; - multiple in-country volunteering activities. <p>The total amount of time spent by a young person in European Solidarity Corps volunteering activities must not exceed 12 months and the activities carried out must not overlap. Activities carried out under Erasmus+ volunteering/European Voluntary Service will count towards the total of 12 months allowed.</p>
	Preparatory Visits	Representatives of the participating organisations and young people with fewer opportunities who take part in the volunteering activity, including accompanying person(s) if applicable.
Number of participants	Volunteering Teams	At least 5 participants per volunteering team activity, coming from at least 2 different countries out of which one is an EU Member State or a third country associated to the Programme. At least a quarter of the volunteers should be legally residing in a country other than the one where the activity takes place.
Other criteria	<p>In order to maintain a clear link with the country where the National Agency is based, either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the venue of the activity (individual or team volunteering) must be the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted; or ▪ the participant in an individual volunteering activity must be from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted. For volunteering teams, participant(s) from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted must be involved. 	

³⁶ Participants must have reached 18 and must not be older than 30 at the start date of the activity.

³⁷ Up to 59 days, excluding travel days.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBLE COSTS AND THE APPLICABLE FUNDING RULES?

Eligible costs		Financing mechanism	Amount	In case of “green” travel	Rule of allocation
Travel	Contribution to the travel costs of participants from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return.	Contribution based on unit costs	For travel distances between 10 and 99KM: EUR 28 per participant	56 EUR	Based on the travel distance per participant, including accompanying persons. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission ³⁸ . The applicant must indicate the distance of a one-way travel to calculate the amount of the EU grant that will support the round trip ³⁹ .
			For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: EUR 211 per participant	285 EUR	
			For travel distances between 500 and 1 999 KM: EUR 309 per participant	417 EUR	
			For travel distances between 2 000 and 2 999 KM: EUR 395 per participant	535 EUR	
			For travel distances between 3 000 and 3 999 KM: EUR 580 per participant	785 EUR	
			For travel distances between 4 000 and 7 999 KM: EUR 1 188 per participant	1 188 EUR	
			For travel distances of 8 000 KM or more: EUR 1 735 per participant	1 735 EUR	

³⁸ https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/organisations/reference-documents-resources_en

³⁹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator> For example, if a person from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an activity taking place in Rome (Italy), the applicant will a) calculate the distance from Madrid to Rome (1365,28 KM); b) select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. Between 500 and 1999 KM) and c) calculate the EU grant that will provide a contribution to the costs of travel of the participant from Madrid to Rome and return (275 EUR).

Eligible costs		Financing mechanism	Amount	Rule of allocation
Management costs	Management costs (e.g. planning, finances, coordination and communication between partners, administrative costs).	Contribution based on unit costs	238 EUR per participant in individual volunteering 125 EUR per participant in volunteering teams	Based on the number of participants, excluding accompanying persons.
Organisational Support	Costs directly linked to the implementation of volunteering activities (e.g. preparation, monitoring and support of participants, documentation and identification of learning outcomes) and costs linked to the subsistence of participants (e.g. boarding, lodging and local travel).	Contribution based on unit costs	A1 per day per participant	Based on the host country and the duration of the activity per participant, including accompanying persons; (if necessary), including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity, and up to four additional days for participants receiving a green travel grant.
Inclusion Support	Contribution to costs related to the organisation of volunteering activities involving participants with fewer opportunities and costs incurred by organisations related to reinforced mentorship, i.e. the preparation, implementation and follow-up of tailor-made activities to support participation of young people with fewer opportunities.	Contribution based on unit costs	A2 per day per participant with fewer opportunities	Based on the host country and the duration of the activity per participant with fewer opportunities, excluding accompanying persons; (if necessary), including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity, and up to four additional days for participants receiving a green travel grant. Conditional: only for activities involving young people with fewer opportunities.
Pocket Money	Contribution to additional personal expenses for participants.	Contribution based on unit costs	A3 per day per participant	Based on the host country and the duration of the activity per participant, excluding accompanying persons; (if necessary), including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity, and up to four additional days for participants receiving a green travel grant.

<p>Language learning support</p>	<p>Costs linked to the support offered to participants - prior to departure or during the activity – in order to improve the knowledge of the language they will use to carry out their volunteering tasks.</p>	<p>Contribution based on unit costs</p>	<p>150 EUR per participant</p>	<p>Conditional: Only for activities lasting 60 days or more. For cross-border activities - Only for languages and/or levels not offered by the Online Language Support.</p>
<p>Preparatory Visit</p>	<p>Costs linked to the implementation of the physical preparatory visit including travel and subsistence.</p>	<p>Contribution based on unit costs</p>	<p>609 EUR per participant per preparatory visit</p>	<p>Based on the number of participants, including accompanying persons. A maximum of 2 participants per participating organisation can be funded per volunteering activity, provided that one of them is a young person with fewer opportunities who will take part in the volunteering activity.</p>
<p>Exceptional costs</p>	<p>Costs for providing a financial guarantee, if the National Agency asks for it.</p> <p>Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations, medical certifications, clearance requirements costs.</p> <p>Costs connected to personal insurance for in-country activities.</p> <p>Expensive travel costs for participants (e.g. from and to outermost regions), including for the use of cleaner, lower carbon emission means of transport which result in expensive travel costs.</p> <p>Costs incurred by organisations to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities on equal terms as others related to reinforced mentorship, i.e. the preparation, implementation and follow-up of tailor-made activities.</p> <p>Costs incurred by organisations to</p>	<p>Real costs</p>	<p>Costs for financial guarantee: 80 % of eligible costs</p> <p>Expensive travel costs: 80 % of eligible costs</p> <p>Other costs: 100 % of eligible costs</p>	<p>Conditional:</p> <p>The request for financial support for exceptional costs must be motivated and approved by the National Agency.</p> <p>For exceptional costs related to insurance, only for in-country participants in need of private personal insurance to reach the same coverage as the insurance coverage for cross-border activities.</p> <p>For exceptional costs for expensive travel, applicants must justify that the standard funding rules (based on unit costs per travel distance band) do not cover at least 70 % of the travel costs of participants. If awarded, the exceptional costs for expensive travel replace the standard travel grant.</p> <p>For exceptional costs for reinforced mentorship in order to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, applicants must justify that the standard funding rules ("Inclusion support" unit cost per day per participant) do not cover at least 80 % of the costs incurred.</p> <p>If awarded, the exceptional costs to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities</p>

	<p>support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities on equal terms as others related to reasonable adjustments or investment in physical assets. Costs related to accompanying persons can also be eligible.</p>		<p>will replace the inclusion support grant.</p>
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WHAT ARE THE UNIT COSTS PER DAY PER PARTICIPANT?

	Organisational Support – Activity Costs (EUR per day)	Inclusion Support (EUR per day)	Pocket Money (EUR per day)
	A1	A2	A3
Austria	35	12	7
Belgium	36	12	6
Bulgaria	30	10	7
Croatia	40	13	10
Cyprus	30	9	7
Czechia	24	8	7
Denmark	55	19	12
Estonia	25	8	5
Finland	36	12	7
France	28	9	8
Germany	33	12	7
Greece	30	9	7
Hungary	24	8	7
Ireland	52	18	11
Italy	28	9	6
Latvia	25	8	5
Lithuania	26	8	6
Luxembourg	37	13	7
Malta	29	11	6
Netherlands	36	13	7
Poland	25	8	6
Portugal	27	9	6
Romania	23	8	4
Slovakia	24	8	6
Slovenia	26	8	5
Spain	25	8	6
Sweden	35	12	7
Republic of North Macedonia	20	6	4
Iceland	36	12	8
Liechtenstein	34	11	8
Türkiye	24	8	6
Norway	36	12	8
Third country neighbouring the EU	29	9	6

HOW TO ACCESS FUNDING?

Only organisations that are holders of a Quality Label for lead organisation⁴⁰ can apply for funding under Volunteering Projects.

The grant applications are based on the activities approved beforehand, during the evaluation procedure for obtaining the Quality Label for lead organisations. Please read the relevant section for more details on how to obtain the Quality Label. Thus, a detailed description of the planned activities is not required for this simplified grant application procedure. Instead, the applications focus on estimating the number, type and duration of activities to be implemented, the number of participants and proportion of young people with fewer opportunities involved and the policy priorities and thematic areas addressed.

The activities to be implemented must follow the rules and principles laid down for each activity type in the respective sections of this Guide.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Eligible applicants	Organisations holding a valid Quality Label for lead organisation at the grant application deadline.
Eligible activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individual Volunteering Activities ▪ Volunteering Teams Activities <p>Additionally, the following support activities can be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparatory visits <p>Description and eligibility criteria for each of these activities are defined above, in the subsections: “Which activities can be supported under this Action?”, “What are the eligibility criteria for volunteering activities?”.</p>
Duration of projects	Up to 24 months
Where to apply?	To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established ⁴¹ .
When to apply?	<p>Applicants have to submit their grant applications by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 June and 31 December of the same year; ▪ (Optional round) 1 October at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 January and 31 May of the following year. <p>National Agencies may organise two selection rounds by setting both deadlines as above or only the first one. This information will be published on the site of the National Agency.</p>
Number of applications	<p>An organisation may apply only once per round.</p> <p>In the event of a second selection round, the National Agency may decide that the organisations that have been awarded grants for volunteering projects in the first round of grant applications are not eligible for the second round of the same call for proposals. Applicants are invited to check the website of the National Agency for more precise information.</p>
How to apply?	Please see part E of this Guide for details on how to apply.
Exclusion criteria	A declaration of honour of the legal representative must be annexed to the application form by using the available template.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Please refer to part E in the guide, steps 2 and 3.

⁴⁰ Please refer to the relevant Quality Label section on page 37 for further information.

⁴¹ Exceptionally, international organisations must apply to the National Agency which awarded their Quality Label for lead organisation.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

In this simplified application procedure, the applications do not undergo a qualitative assessment and therefore no award criteria are applied. The awarded grant amount will depend on a number of elements:

- the total budget available for allocation ;
- the requested activities;
- the minimum and maximum grant;
- the score of the Quality Label application for lead organisation;
- applicant's performance (progress report score, budget absorption and final report score of the last completed volunteering project, if available);
- policy priorities and thematic areas addressed by the activities applied for;
- proportion of young people with fewer opportunities involved.

Detailed rules on basic and maximum grant, scoring of the allocation criteria, weighting of each criterion, the allocation method, and the budget available for volunteering projects will be published by the National Agency ahead of the call deadline.