



Co-funded by
the European Union

Coordinating Locally to Increase Changes
within the European Solidarity Corps

C.L.I.C. is a cooperation partnership uniting 10 experienced coordinating organisations from 9 European countries.



Finland



France



Belgium



Spain/Catalunya



France



Hungary



Estonia



Austria



Centro scambi e dinamiche interculturali

Italy



Voluntary Service of Serbia

Serbia

Our goal: to highlight the programme's most valuable aspects, support all stakeholders (organisations, volunteers, mentors, and National Agencies), and advocate for continuous improvement of the European Solidarity Corps.

The project is built around four different **dimensions of the programme:**

1. Highlighting best practices of volunteering
2. Strengthening the role of mentorship
3. Blooming up volunteers' personal projects
4. Opening up new perspectives for the ESC

Highlighting best practices of volunteering

What we found: Volunteering makes an impact on individuals and communities. It's a powerful form of non-formal learning that builds young people's skills, confidence, and long-term social commitment.

What we did: From 10 organisations across Europe, we collected and refined a set of over 100 best practices with practical tools and methods that help volunteers, mentors, and organisations strengthen every stage of the volunteering journey.

"Cookbook of best practices" is publicly available on the CLIC project's website. The recipes are sorted by topics: community life, inclusion at home, social & cultural engagement, sustainable lifestyles, volunteer support and logistics.



Why it matters: LEAD organisations play a vital role in the European Solidarity Corps. They coordinate, guide, and empower volunteers and host organisations ensuring that every project becomes a meaningful learning experience with lasting impact.

Strengthening the role of mentorship

What we found: Mentorship makes the difference. It's key to the success of every European Solidarity Corps project. To truly support volunteers' wellbeing, especially as mental health challenges among young people continue to rise, mentors need dedicated training and resources.

What we did: We explored the needs of mentors through focus groups. We developed a **one-day training on mentoring**. This training also gives us basic references and common understanding of mentoring young European volunteers. It provides an opportunity to create and foster local networks between mentors and civil society organisations, empowering them to be active at the European level.



Why it matters: Investing in mentor training and support materials is the most effective way to raise the overall quality of mentoring within the ESC.

Blooming up volunteers' personal projects

What we found: volunteers bring fresh energy and creative ideas to their host organisations and communities. When given structured support, their personal projects of solidarity turn those ideas into meaningful local action, amplifying both the impact and visibility of the European Solidarity Corps.

What we did: we supported 78 volunteers in designing and implementing their own projects, from community initiatives to sustainability campaigns. We also **developed a guidebook** for organizations on how to give proper support to the volunteers.

Explore their inspiring work on our blog and the guidebook about volunteer's personal projects!



Why it matters: supporting personal projects helps young people develop real-world skills in project management, budgeting, teamwork, and communication, empowering them long after their ESC experience.

Recommendation: include a small lump-sum budget and clear implementation guidelines for personal projects within the ESC framework, for both volunteers and LEAD organisations to strengthen learning outcomes and impact.

I believe in the thought that representation is one of the most effective way to add knowledge and experiences to understand other people better. You can also see from the stories that each of us wanted to change the general idea about disabled people and encourage other people with disabilities to understand the opportunities that they have.

- Lida
Beyond borders - personal project

Opening up new perspectives for the ESC - ideas and proposals for the future of the European Solidarity Corps

The future of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) should grow from the real needs of organisations, volunteers, and communities involved in the programme. LEAD organisations, with their hands-on experience in coordinating impactful projects, have gathered key insights and proposals to strengthen the ESC's next phase.

These are our proposals that would further strengthen the ESC programme:

- **Support large-scale LEAD organisations** - enable multi-year funding to ensure higher quality, sustainability, and innovation.
- **Increase the ESC budget and align its funding costs with Erasmus+** - to empower civil society organisations and raise project visibility.
- **Recognise and clarify the role of sending organisations** - define clear responsibilities and ensure adequate, standardised funding for preparation, support, and dissemination tasks.
- **Mentoring should be properly recognised in the ESC programme** - and local trainings organised by the LEAD organizations or National Agencies should be enhanced together with additional support measures.
- **Extend solidarity beyond EU borders** - involve partner countries more actively, formally recognise the status of volunteer, and simplify visa processes to make international solidarity more inclusive.
- **Acknowledge the power of long-term volunteering** - keep long-term projects as a core of ESC, as it provides skills and knowledge which cannot be achieved during a shorter period. Recognise the young people's engagement with a volunteers status.

We want a stronger, fairer, and more inclusive European Solidarity Corps. One that supports organisations sustainably, empowers young people, and keeps solidarity alive across and beyond Europe.

Discover more at www.youth-volunteering.eu

- The online cookbook of best practices
- The handbook for one-day training on mentoring
- The blog and the guidebook about volunteer's personal projects
- Free tools to manage and prepare volunteers

