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**Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps Info Centres
in Eastern Partnership Countries since 2017.**



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Activities of the Info Centre for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps Programmes in Armenia is coordinated by “Youth Initiative Centre” (YIC) NGO.



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VOLUNTARY YOUTH WORK AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR MARGINALISED YOUTH



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BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS FOR ARMENIAN YOUTH (INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM VOLUNTEERING)

✓ **Access to opportunities** - ESC reduces cost barriers (travel, accommodation, food) so that young people who could not afford to volunteer abroad can participate.

✓ **Boosting self-esteem and inclusion** - Being selected, working abroad or in projects, being part of international teams helps overcome feelings of exclusion.

✓ **Network and exposure** - Meeting peers from different countries, experiencing different cultures, exposure to new ideas, practices, potentially better career paths.

✓ **Breaking the "skills gap"** - For those without strong formal qualifications, ESC's non-formal learning offers recognized skills and experiences valued by employers.

✓ **Empowerment and voice** - Opportunity to engage in community projects (including starting own ones), influence change in their home or host communities.



BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS FOR ARMENIAN YOUTH (INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM VOLUNTEERING)

- ✓ **Personal/Social** - Increased self-confidence, independence, resilience, adapting to new environments, intercultural awareness, social skills, teamwork.
- ✓ **Professional/Career** - Improved employability, learning new work practices, non-formal learning, project management, communication, public speaking.
- ✓ **Educational** - Recognition (e.g. Youthpass) that validates learning boosting language skills, learning through non-formal or informal educational methods.
- ✓ **Civic/Cultural** - Awareness of European values, solidarity, volunteering culture; feeling like a more active citizen; understanding/participating in community & social issues.

ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS HUMANITARIAN AID VOLUNTEERING

✓ **Sustainability of Programs** - Volunteers can help maintain or scale up projects that otherwise might be limited by budget; their involvement can make certain activities feasible (e.g. more frequent interventions, outreach in remote areas).


✓ **Special Skills & Fresh Perspectives** - Volunteers often bring different experiences or skills (languages, digital skills, project management, different humanitarian practices), which can enhance the organization's work.

✓ **International Networking & Partnerships** - Hosting ESC projects links local NGOs with international partners, funders and other organizations. This can lead to knowledge exchange, best practice sharing, joint projects.


✓ **Capacity Building & Organizational Learning** - Organizations improve their own standards (e.g., safety, volunteer management, risk assessment) to meet ESC/Quality Label requirements. This institutional strengthening persists beyond individual projects.




ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS HUMANITARIAN AID VOLUNTEERING




Increased Capacity & Human Resources - Volunteers bring manpower to handle tasks that might otherwise be under-resourced. This enables organizations to extend outreach, respond to crises more quickly.



Social & Cultural Exchange/Solidarity - Volunteers bring cultural diversity, new perspectives; can foster inclusion, tolerance, intercultural dialogue. This promotes stronger social cohesion.



Increased Visibility of Local Issues - These projects often draw attention to local challenges (disasters, poverty, displacement). This can lead to more support, policy attention, or additional resources.



Long-Term Community Engagement - Projects often engage community stakeholders, civil society, local authorities. This can build stronger institutions, local leadership, more inclusive participation.



CHALLENGES

- ✓ **Lack of Awareness and Access to Information** - Youth from rural areas, low-income families, or with limited internet access may not be reached by standard promotional channels.
- ✓ **Visa and mobility restrictions** - Young people from non-EU countries or conflict zones may face greater hardships in obtaining travel visas.
- ✓ **Fear of the Unknown and Lack of Confidence** - Youth from marginalized backgrounds may feel they don't "fit in" or that volunteering abroad is only for elite or urban youth.
- ✓ **Family and Cultural Pressure** - In many marginalized communities, volunteering abroad is not understood or accepted—especially if it's "unpaid". Youth may face family pressure to stay, marry, work, or contribute financially instead of traveling abroad. Girls and young women may face gender-based restrictions on mobility or independence.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Increase outreach efforts in rural areas, in communities with fewer resources to raise awareness.
- ✓ Strengthen local “sending” organisations in Armenia to better guide and support volunteers.
- ✓ Foster alumni networks & mentoring by those who already participated to share experience.
- ✓ Improve Post-Volunteering Support / Reintegration
- ✓ Make visa processes easier.





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QUESTIONS



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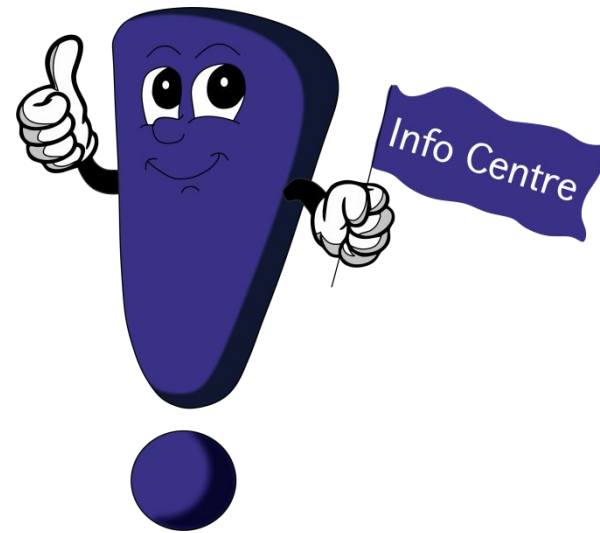
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