

ENGAGE Project Database of Best practices collected at EU level

Purpose: To offer a gallery of best practices examples to be used as examples and motivations for the youth leaders in their activities when raising young people’s awareness of UE values and motivating them to get engaged in democratic life.

Title of the initiative	Europäische Solidaritätskorps (volunteering activity within the European Solidarity Corps)																				
Representative image of the initiative	 <p>Copyright: Europäisches Solidaritätskorps (ESK) - AWO Karlsruhe</p>																				
Website/Social Media account of the initiative	<p>Website: Europäischer Solidaritätskorps</p> <p>Instagram: Jugend für Europa (@jugend_fuer_europa) - Implementation agency for ESC</p>																				
Country of implementation	Based in Bonn, Germany / Active in Europe																				
Representative organisation/ individuals	Jugend für Europa																				
Field of action	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>EU values & human rights</td> <td>X</td> <td>Citizenship</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cultural identity</td> <td>X</td> <td>Digital citizenship</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diversity and inclusion</td> <td>X</td> <td>Gender, social, economic and health</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social justice</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Leadership & mentorship</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic life</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	EU values & human rights	X	Citizenship	X	Cultural identity	X	Digital citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diversity and inclusion	X	Gender, social, economic and health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership & mentorship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Democratic life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	Climate change, sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please specify
Type of action	Voluntary service / non-formal education and mobility program
Target group	Young people aged 17 to 30 living in an EU country
Main partners or stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending organizations (e.g. Kreisjugendwerk der AWO Karlsruhe-Stadt) • Host organizations (in the project countries) • European Union (funder of the program) • Participants (ESC volunteers)
Short description of the initiatives	The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) enables young people to live abroad for 2 to 12 months while volunteering in a social, cultural, or environmental project. Participants support local communities while gaining valuable personal, social, and professional skills. The program is fully funded by the EU and includes accommodation, food, travel costs, insurance, language support, and pocket money.
Activities and methods implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering abroad in diverse fields. • Non-formal learning through hands-on work and intercultural experience. • Participation in educational seminars and language learning through formal or informal language courses.
Key Success Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-wide funding and structure make participation free and inclusive. • Low access barriers, with no requirement for degrees, prior experience, or language skills beyond basic English. • Strong personal impact, fostering independence, intercultural skills, and self-confidence. • Recognition tools like the Youthpass certificate validate learning outcomes and enhance employability.