

Webinar Series Concept: Youth Volunteering & Preparedness

Format:

2 interconnected webinars (strategic → technical)

Organisers:

SALTO European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre (ESC RC) in cooperation DG EAC, DG ECHO and EACEA and the Strategic National Agency Cooperation on volunteering.

Overall Rationale

Preparedness and resilience are emerging as key priorities across EU policies. Youth programmes, and in particular the European Solidarity Corps, can play a meaningful role in strengthening preparedness at community level – without taking part in professional emergency response systems.

This webinar series aims to bring together two important players to contribute to population preparedness:

- organisations experienced in youth volunteering in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps
- actors with experience in civil protection and preparedness

By fostering mutual understanding, showcasing practice and clarifying programme requirements, the series supports, in line with the European Preparedness Union Strategy, a whole-of-society approach to preparedness and potentially opens doors to cross-sector cooperation.

Target Groups (across both webinars):

- Organisations already participating in the Solidarity Corps (programme beneficiaries and multipliers)
- Civil protection organisations interested in youth engagement, (organisations with experience in preparedness/resilience but little or no Solidarity Corps experience)
- National Agencies interested in supporting organisations contributing to the new priority

Main Objectives

- Raise awareness of preparedness and resilience as a new priority within EU youth programmes, and in particular for the actions of the Corps “Solidarity Projects and Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas”.

- Create a shared understanding between youth volunteering and civil protection actors.
- Showcase how ESC projects already contribute to preparedness in meaningful, non-emergency roles.
- Explore future potential for cooperation and project development.
- Clarify technical and procedural requirements, including Quality Label access and application processes.

Webinar 1: The contribution of youth volunteering to Resilience and the European Preparedness Strategy

Format:

Date: 22nd of January from 14.30 – 16.00 CET

- Facilitated session
- Speakers in Zoom
- Live streaming to broader audience + possibility to raise questions and comment in written form

Registration via forms:

Flow:

- Welcome & introduction by SALTO ESC Resource Centre
- Policy perspective on preparedness and resilience by DG ECHO
- Programme perspective on preparedness within ESC by DG EAC
- Concrete project examples from European Solidarity Corps and ECHO-related initiatives
- Reflection and outlook towards the second webinar

Aim:

To create a common understanding of the preparedness priority and why it matters in youth programmes. What does this new priority mean for the European Solidarity Corps and how can volunteer organisations and civil protection organisations mutually support each other in the future.

Key Questions:

- Why is preparedness relevant for youth programmes today?
- What does preparedness concretely mean within the Solidarity Corps framework?
- How can volunteering contribute without becoming emergency response?
- What can youth and civil protection actors learn from each other?

Proposed Flow & Content

Welcome & Introduction (SALTO ESC Resource Centre)



- Purpose of the webinar series
- Overview of the two-webinar logic
- Solidarity and values as important elements within population preparedness

Setting the Scene: Why Preparedness Matters (DG ECHO)

- Preparedness and resilience in EU policy
- Whole-of-society approach
- The role of young people and civil society

Preparedness in ESC: Programme Perspective (DG EAC)

- What preparedness means within the European Solidarity Corps
- Boundaries and expectations
- Added value of volunteering in preparedness contexts

Practice on the Ground: Project Examples

- 2 Solidarity Corps + 1 ECHO-linked project
- Concrete examples showing preparedness elements
- Focus on learning, prevention, community resilience
- What worked, what was learned
- Reflection & Outlook
- Key takeaways

Transition to Webinar 2 (technical & operational focus)

Closing

Webinar 2: Youth Volunteering and Civil Protection: Practices & opportunities within the European Solidarity Corps

Format: tbd

Date: tbc 12th of Feb or 19th of Feb from 14.30 – 16.00 CET

Registration via forms: to be shared on a later stage.

Aim:

To support organisations in translating ideas into eligible, high-quality projects under the European Solidarity Corps. The 2nd webinar focuses on technical procedures, cooperation models, and programme requirements.

Key Topics

- How civil protection and youth organisations can cooperate in Solidarity Corps projects
- Preparedness-focused project design (roles, activities, safeguards)
- Quality Label (QL) access as a pre-requisite to access funding
- Application and implementation aspects
- Common pitfalls and good practice

Proposed Flow & Content

Introduction & Recap (SALTO ESC RC)

- Short recap of Webinar 1
- Objectives of the more technical session

Programme & Procedural Framework (EACEA)

- Technical requirements for preparedness-related Solidarity Corps projects
- Quality Label: who needs it and how
- Application and assessment considerations

Interactive session

- How to Work Together in Practice
- Cooperation models between youth and CP actors
- Division of roles and responsibilities
- Ensuring educational value and volunteer safety
- Q&A / Practical Clarifications

Closing

Expected Outcomes

After the two webinars, participants should:

- Understand preparedness and resilience in the context of youth programmes.
- Recognise the complementary roles of youth volunteering and civil protection.
- Be inspired by concrete project examples.
- Know the technical and procedural steps needed to develop preparedness-related Solidarity Corps projects.
- Feel encouraged to explore cross-sector partnerships

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