



6. European Youth for Climate Action

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Europe's future will be built by young people. This is why they need to be empowered to develop the **capacities and skills** to help **tackle climate change**. One third of the EU population is under the age of 30. The future of our continent will be shaped and experienced by these 170 million young Europeans. The European Commission's **Youth for Climate Action Initiative will empower young people** to seize on the spirit of renewal and regeneration that is encapsulated in the Paris Agreement, and to shape their future together, across borders. **The European Union has dedicated youth programmes which create a perfect framework for projects dedicated to climate action.** The objective of the European Youth for Climate Action is to further scale up these initiatives, and to use them to help young people take action for the climate and for their communities.

What will the European Commission do next?

The European Solidarity Corps and the Erasmus+ programme are contributing to mainstreaming climate action in the European Union's policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 25% of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives.

The **European Solidarity Corps**, with a budget of €375 million for 2018-2020, creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. Within this overall budget, the European Solidarity Corps could dedicate over €40 million to creating volunteering opportunities in the areas of environment and climate action by 2020. For the next multi-financial framework (2021-2027), the Commission proposes to increase the budget of the European Solidarity Corps to €1.26 bn, with the objective of offering 350,000 young people the opportunity to engage in solidarity activities.

Erasmus+ supports mobility activities and projects within the field of environment, energy and climate change, which ensure complementarity with the EU climate action. With a doubling of the budget to €30 bn for the Erasmus programme under the next multi-financial framework (2021-2027), the Commission proposes to boost opportunities in forward-looking study fields, such as climate change, environment and clean energy.

New projects under the European Youth for Climate Action can cover a wide range of activities, from training youth workers to reuse and recycle materials, motivating youngsters to use smartphone applications to save energy, stimulating the spirit of green entrepreneurship, to developing skills in sustainable agriculture (e.g. short food supply chain sustainable forest management), sustainable industry (waste cycle, innovative technologies, digitalisation) or the tertiary sector (green tourism marketing, education). Additional funding transferred from other EU programmes to Erasmus+ could create additional opportunities.

Example of projects

Vocational and Education Training "Energy Efficiency and Community Development Mobility Project"

The project supported work placements for students and apprentices with employers in Spain and Italy that provide energy assessments covering a range of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies. European Solidarity Corps — Vänö Vänner Project

European Solidarity Corps — Vänö Vänner Project

Solidarity Corps participants from Italy were hosted in Finland by Vänö Vänner, an organisation which promotes sustainability and environmentally friendly solutions in the Turku Archipelago area, supporting cultural landscaping on the islands according to biosphere area regulations. REACH – Reduce Energy Use and Change Habits

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This project addresses energy poverty through energy efficiency by training teachers and students in vocational education institutes to become energy advisors to poor households in need of energy savings.

