

Infopack

All you need to know about the project

ESC WHAT!

European Solidarity Corps
Waterways Heritage Action Together!

General information

Project title:

European Solidarity Corps Waterways Heritage Action Together! (ESC WHAT!)

Call for:

80 young people from 5 countries in 5 different activities in 5 countries

N° of participants with fewer opportunities: 40

N° of participants in each municipality: 16

Date/Duration: 14 days

Coordinating organization:

Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) ([more information in Page 7](#))

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Partners Organisations and locations:

Kosice Volunteer Centre (Kosice, Slovakia) ([more information in Page 8](#))

Volunteer Scotland (Stirling, Scotland) ([more information in Page 10](#))

Padova Volunteer Centre (Padova, Italy) ([more information in Page 12](#))

Augsburg volunteer Centre (Augsburg, Germany) ([more information in Page 14](#))

Lisbon Municipality (Lisbon, Portugal) ([more information in Page 16](#))

Idea of the project and volunteers tasks

The **issue to be addressed** is the need for a greater understanding of the importance of water and waterways (canals, rivers, harbours, aqueducts) for European Cultural heritage and the re-purposing and celebration of water-related infrastructure. The community value of voluntary restoration and rejuvenation of this aspect of local life and infrastructure, in order for it to be continued to be enjoyed and appreciated by current and future generations, is, according to the participating organisations and in the estimation of the applicant organisation, highly needed in the chosen locations.

The **tasks** foreseen will be those necessary to clean and restore waterways and their surroundings and to contribute to actions that will recognise and celebrate the importance of water and waterways for cultural heritage in the locations of the team EuSC volunteering activities. This can include: clearing unwanted plants and weeds, collecting rubbish and painting and restoration of stone and other infrastructure.



Volunteers activities: step by step

Before travelling to the team volunteering activity in another country:

- All the volunteers will be connected with their **fellow volunteers from the same country** in a closed group on social media and they will have the opportunity to physically meet.

Upon arrival:

- Each volunteer goes through suitable **in-house introductory training**, typically lasting 1-2 days. This is a **training workshop** focusing on Intercultural Learning, Communication skills and the 'hard' skills related to cleaning or restoring that will be required by the project.

- Volunteers will be assigned a **mentor** who is independent from the participating organisation and from CEV.
- After the in-house training, the volunteers will be introduced to the detailed action plan with the **supervisor** and their fellow volunteers. Any questions or doubts from the volunteers will be answered at this stage and any changes or suggestions about how to improve the proposal that come from the volunteers will be considered.
- The volunteers have **regular meetings** (every two to three days) with the supervisor to evaluate and review the activity plan, and propose changes where necessary.



During the activity:

- The volunteers will also have a **volunteer coordinator** from the participating organisation based at the activity location who will mainly deal with issues related with the implementation of the activities, health issues and problems related to the effective access to the programme.
- There will also be a **volunteers' manager** who will be responsible for tasks related to support and planning the activities with the volunteers.
- The project will also operate a '**buddy system**' where the volunteers coming from other countries will be paired with a local volunteer who will help them to integrate into the local culture and assist with any administrative issues.
- Volunteers will also be encouraged to join and interact with the **ESC peers group online** and connect with the **ESC Facebook group and ESC APP** in order that fellow ESC volunteers and ex-ESC volunteers not connected with the project can also be a source of advice and guidance.
- Each volunteer will additionally work with different **CEV staff** who will provide the volunteer with direct support in implementation of their activities and tasks when necessary.

At the end of the activity:

- Each volunteer will prepare with their mentor a **'next steps' plan** and the applicant organisation will be responsible to follow up six weeks after the activity with each volunteer to see if they are experiencing any challenges and/ or if further support is necessary in order to assist with their 'life path' after the placement.
- Each volunteer will be given a **Europass certificate** in relation to their learning outcomes of the experience. They will also be given the opportunity to choose one soft, transversal skill (eg creativity, empathy) to be validated using the Lever Up validation tool for non-formal and informal learning acquired through volunteering that has been developed by the Applicant organisation.



- They will also be facilitated in creating a **Europass CV**, or updating an existing one, in order to properly reflect their ESC Volunteering Team experience, the learning outcomes obtained and skills and competencies validated.
- Each volunteer will be asked to develop a **Youthpass certificate** as part of the process.
- Each volunteer will also receive an **ESC Certificate** generated through the ESC portal.

Following the end of the volunteering team activities:

- Volunteers will be invited to attend an **information session** conducted by local vocational training providers and local volunteering organisations who will explain about different opportunities for further training and experience in cultural heritage and restoration projects.

The complementary activities will be:

- **Workshops** aimed at local young people, and citizens of all ages, that will serve to explain about the importance of water and waterways for Europe's cultural heritage. They will also enable the volunteers to share the stories from their local realities related to the waterways and also facilitate important outreach with other young people in the local community.

Accommodation and financial support

Accommodation will be organised in **homestays, hostels or campsites** and the volunteers will be required to participate as a team in preparing food and undertaking some chores such as shopping and recycling.

Provision of the **accommodation and food, payment of pocket money and assistance** with daily needs will be taken care of by the participating organisation.



Equipment

The ESC team volunteers will be issued with **ESC T-shirts and caps**. Moreover, the participating organisation and the applicant will ensure that all necessary equipment for undertaking the activities will be available in addition to any **special clothing, footwear or safety equipment** e.g. goggles or hard hats that will be provided to volunteers upon arrival and during the first training sessions.



Agreement

Each volunteer will sign an **agreement with CEV and the participating organisation** responsible for the daily management of the team volunteering activity where they will be engaged. This agreement will include: the list of actions and tasks to be undertaken by the volunteer in the volunteering activity and as regards the living arrangements; the financial and logistic support the participating organisation will deliver to them (according to the programme's regulation); the engagement period; the travel details; other relevant support that can be given according to the different particular needs of the volunteer.



Selection process

Volunteers profile

The **criteria to select the young people** will be based on their personal connection to an area of Europe where water and waterways are an important part of the local heritage and identity. They may be living there at the time of selection and/ or have been brought up there. They should be able to demonstrate an interest in, and basic knowledge about their local cultural heritage connected to waterways and be interested and motivated to share that with other young people and citizens from across Europe.



There will be **no specific requirement for the volunteers in terms of formal qualifications or specific language, skills and competencies.**

Recruiting phases

1) Announcement of the ESC opportunities on the ESC portal with clear explanation and deadline for the application procedure.

2) After the deadline for application, the volunteers will be selected from the young people registered in the ESC platform (ESC Members).

3) ESC registered participants will be asked to:

- Write a **motivation statement** to explain their connection to a waterways cultural heritage feature or site;
- Describe their **previous volunteering experience** (if any);
- List any relevant **training or vocational skills connected to restoration**;
- Express their **willingness and ability** to participate in the team volunteering activity in a multicultural atmosphere.

Centre for European Volunteering (CEV)

The **Centre for European Volunteering (CEV)** (until 1 July 2020 known as the European Volunteer Centre), established in 1992 and based in Brussels, Belgium, is the **European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level.**



In this project, CEV will act as a **coordinating organisation** and will submit the application.

CEV, together with the participating organisations are **best placed to deliver this project** since the relationship and knowledge about quality volunteering is well established between them all and there is a clear common understanding of added value of a European project focussing on cultural heritage in the manner envisaged by the ESC WHAT! Project.

CEV has been closely engaged with the development of the ESC since its launch and has contributed to the creation of, and understands very well, the principles, objectives and level of quality required in ESC. CEV also has **extensive experience in hosting and sending ESC/EVS volunteers** and in hosting long and short term trainees from ESC, Erasmus Plus and other programmes. The Director and the Policy and Project Officer also have many years of experience in youth work and the organisation of local youth volunteering, youth camps and so-called 'workcamps'.



Get more information:



<https://twitter.com/VolunteeringCEV>



<https://www.facebook.com/VolunteeringCEV>



<https://www.instagram.com/volunteeringcev/>

@volunteeringCEV

www.cev.be

Kosice Volunteer Centre

About the organisation [\(website\)](#)

Kosice Volunteer Centre is a non-profit organization focused on improving volunteering in Kosice region. Their aim is to create a suitable environment for voluntary work and to increase the value of volunteering in the eyes of the public. They cooperate with voluntary organizations in the region in the field of education, networking and support. They create and manage voluntary programs according to the organization's needs. Using promotional activities, workshops and various public activities they spread information about volunteering among the public to make more people interested in voluntary work. Then they also cover the first contact with people interested in volunteering.



About the city of Kosice

Košice is the largest city in eastern Slovakia. It is situated on the river Hornád at the eastern reaches of the Slovak Ore Mountains, near the border with Hungary. With a population of approximately 240,000, Košice is the second-largest city in Slovakia, after the capital Bratislava.



About their volunteering activity

- **Call for:** 16 volunteers (8 local volunteers and two volunteers from each of the countries of the other 4 participating organisations.)
- **Objective:** Restore and repurpose abandoned space on the banks of the river in Kosice.
- **Description of the activity:** The "Brook of Čerme" ran through Košice in the past. Nowadays, there is a miniature version on the Main street that aims to remind both local citizens and visitors of its past importance. Unfortunately, many inhabitants of Košice do not know what the water canal on the Main street symbolizes. ESC Volunteers taking part in the project in Košice will, together with local volunteers, help clean up the northern part of the existing brook of Čerme' and in this way draw public attention to this important feature of historical importance for Kosice and at the same make an unused and abandoned green space again useful for community, cultural gatherings and events. The ESC volunteers will also organize a photo exhibition in the city center showing old pictures of the brook and how it looked like in the past. In this way people can refamiliarize with this important part of their own history.



Main street of Kosice

- **Results:** Restoring and repurposing of abandoned space on the banks of the river and developing a photo exhibition of the history of the river in Kosice. Citizens of Kosice will learn more about their own, and shared cultural heritage connected to water and waterways from other parts of Europe.

Volunteer Scotland

About the organisation ([website](#))

Volunteer Scotland is the only national centre for volunteering in Scotland. They receive funded support from the Scottish Government and others to: research, demonstrate and measure the impact made by volunteers; develop skills through training and useful volunteer development tools, policies and guides; offer a one stop digital gateway to anyone looking for volunteer opportunities; support organisations to advertise volunteer opportunities and events online; provide an expert disclosure service for voluntary organisations; promote and grow volunteering through partners, funders, Government, and policy makers; and work with others to support projects, innovation and creativity in volunteering.



About the city of Stirling

Stirling is a city in central Scotland, 26 miles (42 km) north-east of Glasgow and 37 miles (60 km) north-west of the Scottish capital, Edinburgh. Located on the River Forth, Stirling is the administrative centre for the Stirling council area, and is traditionally the county town of Stirlingshire. Stirling's population is 36.142 (as of 2011).



About their volunteering activity

- **Call for:** 16 volunteers (8 local volunteers and two volunteers from each of the countries of the other 4 participating organisations.)
- **Objective:** Cleaning and protecting the Forth River and industrial features.
- **Description of the activity:** The Forth river rises in Loch Ard in the Trossachs, a mountainous area some 30 km (19 miles) west of Stirling. It is then joined by the River Teith (which itself drains Loch Venachar, Loch Lubnaig, Loch Katrine, and Loch Voil) and the River Allan, before meandering through the ancient city of Stirling. 2020 has been designated Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, a year that will spotlight, celebrate and promote opportunities to experience and enjoy Scotland's Coasts and Waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation from the people of Scotland and visitors. The delivery of an exciting programme of special events will be an important part of the year, part of which will see the redevelopment of the River Forth back to its original glory. The ESC volunteers will contribute to this aspect of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020 and make a significant impact on the protection and restoring of Stirling's heritage in relation to the Forth river that flows through it.



The Forth River

- **Results:** The River Forth and its banks in Stirling will be cleaned and restored. Citizens of Stirling will learn more about their own and shared cultural heritage connected to water and waterways from other parts of Europe.

Padova Volunteer Centre

About the organisation ([website](#))

The Padua Voluntary Service Center has been managed since 2004 by the Association of Padua Solidarity Service Center. The services offered are promotion, orientation and territorial animation, training, information and communication, research and documentation, consultancy, solidarity projects, technical-logistic support. The Padua Volunteer Service Center works to guarantee access to all the services available through a network of branches distributed throughout the provincial territory, accessible to all those who wish to receive assistance and advice.



About the city of Padova

Padova is a city and comune in Veneto, northern Italy. It is the capital of the province of Padua. It is also the economic and communications hub of the area. Padua's population is 214,000 (as of 2011). The city is sometimes included, with Venice (Italian Venezia) and Treviso, in the Padua-Treviso-Venice Metropolitan Area (PATREVE) which has a population of around 2,600,000.



About their volunteering activity

- **Call for:** 16 volunteers (8 local volunteers and two volunteers from each of the countries of the other 4 participating organisations.)
- **Objective:** Cleaning and protecting the rivers of Padova.
- **Description of the activity:** Padua has always been a reference point for commercial traffic from the hinterland to Venice. The Brenta river reaches Padua where it splits: a branch continues towards the Venice lagoon, while the artificial canal Naviglio del Brenta, reaches Venice through the Riviera del Brenta. Noventa Padovana was the ancient river port of Padua on the Brenta. In 1209, the Piovego Canal was completed, which conveys the waters of Padua coming from the Bacchiglione into the Brenta. The Bacchiglione is the primary source of water for the city of Padua. Every year there are many voluntary initiatives to clean and protect the rivers of Padua. The most recent one occurred on February 23rd 2019 and saw associations and six municipal administrations (within the province of Padua) working together with the slogan: "We love and we clean our Bacchiglione river!".



The Brenta River

- **Results:** Rivers of Padova are protected and cleaned. Citizens of Padova will learn more about their own, and shared cultural heritage connected to water and waterways from other parts of Europe.

Augsburg Volunteer Centre

About the organisation ([website](#))

Augsburg Volunteer Centre has been promoting civic engagement in Augsburg since 1997 by informing and advising interested citizens, encouraging exchange between active volunteers and supporting associations and initiatives with all questions relating to volunteering. They see themselves as a contact and information point for volunteer work and are open to cooperation with citizens, other associations, initiatives and institutions that are committed to more civic engagement. They undertake projects together with other initiatives and support associations and institutions in their projects.



About the city of Augsburg

Augsburg is a city in Swabia, Bavaria, Germany, around 50 km west of Bavarian capital Munich. It is a university town with an impressive city centre. Augsburg is an urban district and home to the institutions of the Landkreis Augsburg. It is the third-largest city in Bavaria (after Munich and Nuremberg) with a population of 300,000 inhabitants, with 885,000 in its metropolitan area.



About their volunteering activity

- **Call for:** 16 volunteers (8 local volunteers and two volunteers from each of the countries of the other 4 participating organisations.)
- **Objective:** To restore the UNESCO cultural heritage related to water in Augsburg.
- **Description of the activity:** More than 2.000 years ago the city of Augsburg was founded by the Romans at the fork of two rivers. Since then water has played an eminent role in the development of the city. The protection of water as a valuable resource, an economically sound and sparing approach to it and the high value placed on water. In July 2010 the City of Augsburg became UNESCO World Heritage for this unique water system. Within this project it is planned to deliver more access to the water system in Augsburg, both in a real and a digital way. The young people will work during their stay in Augsburg at a use-it water city map for young people, will work at the adaptation of information papers to refugees and students in reference to the SDG 2030, but will be active at rivers and canals too cleaning the surroundings for a more agreeable access.



Water Management System of Augsburg

- **Results:** Within this project it is planned to deliver more access to the water system in Augsburg, both in a real and a digital way. The young people will work during their stay in Augsburg at a use-it water city map for young people, will work at the adaptation of information papers to refugees and students in reference to the SDG 2030, but will be active at rivers and canals too cleaning the surroundings for a more agreeable access.

Lisbon Municipality

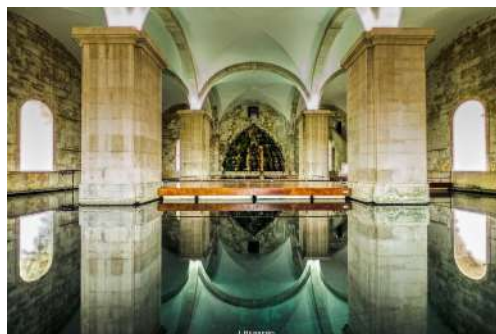
About Lisbon Municipality (Portugal) ([website](#))

Lisbon is the capital and the largest city of Portugal, with an estimated population of 508,368 within its administrative limits in an area of 100.05 km². Lisbon's urban area extends beyond the city's administrative limits with a population of around 2.0 million people, being the 10th-most populous urban area in the European Union. It is mainland Europe's westernmost capital city and the only one along the Atlantic coast. Lisbon lies in the western Iberian Peninsula on the Atlantic Ocean and the River Tagus. The westernmost portions of its metro area, the Portuguese Riviera, form the westernmost point of Continental Europe, culminating at Cabo da Roca.



About their volunteering activity

- **Call for:** 16 volunteers (8 local volunteers and two volunteers from each of the countries of the other 4 participating organisations.)
- **Objective:** To support the activities of the Lisbon water museum.
- **Description of the activity:** Situated on the northern banks of the River Tagus (Rio Tejo) and the slow flowing waters of the river helped create Lisbon the magnificent and vibrant city that it is today. The river was the initial factor that established Lisbon as a significant Roman port as the estuary provided protection from the ferocious Atlantic Ocean and from this founding the city has never looked back. The ESC What! Project volunteers will contribute to the activities of the Lisbon water museum. The Museum seeks to preserve a unique heritage set in Lisbon, including the aqueduct and also raises historical, scientific and technological awareness in the area of water supply and the cultural heritage of the water infrastructure in the area. The museum has a strong educational awareness programme, focusing particularly on the issues of water and waterways and their important role in the heritage of the local area and relies on volunteers for its continued development and success.



Lisbon water museum

- **Results:** The Lisbon water museum will be supported in its restoration work connected to the Lisbon aqueduct and in its education awareness programme about the cultural and historical importance of water for Lisbon. Citizens of Lisbon will learn more about their own, and shared cultural heritage connected to water and waterways from other parts of Europe.

Know more about ...

European Youth Portal

EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL

The European Youth Portal offers European and country level information about opportunities and initiatives that are of interest to young people who are living, learning and working in Europe.

The European Youth Portal addresses young people, but also other stakeholders working in the field of youth (youth organisations, youth workers, policy makers, etc.).

Get more information on their ([website](#)).

European Solidarity Corps



If you are between 18 and 30 and you are looking for an opportunity to help the wider community, in Europe and beyond, you could do this with funding and support from the European Solidarity Corps, which helps young people take part in projects that benefit communities, either abroad or in their own country.

These projects offer an inspiring and empowering experience, as well as the chance to bring change while developing your skills and competences.

Broadly, you can get involved in: **volunteering, traineeships, jobs** and **local Solidarity Projects**.

These can be in a wide range of fields – education and training, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and natural protection, migration, culture, and many others.

Get more information on their ([website](#)).

**Thank you
for your
participation!**

