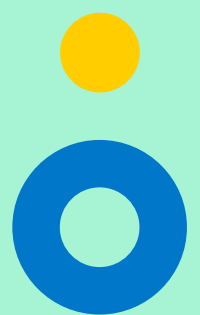
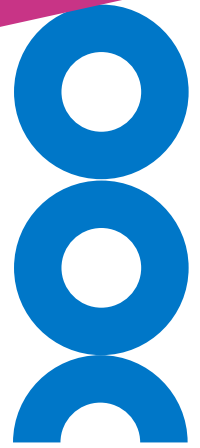


# Changing the world in times of crisis — but how?

Solidarity projects  
in Europe



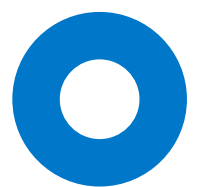
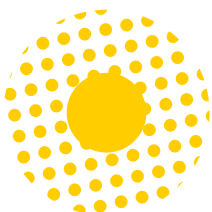


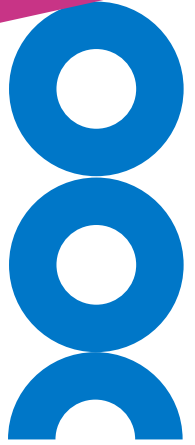
## Eva Feldmann-Wojtachnia

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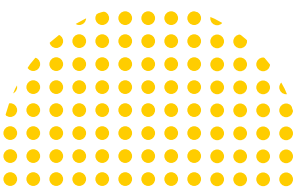
## ABSTRACT


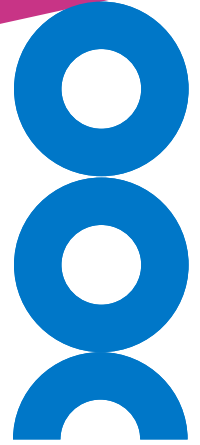
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To what extent can solidarity be a guiding principle for youth in times of crisis in Europe? In view of increasing security risks due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rising inflation and the energy and climate crisis, the future prospects for the young generation are uncertain. European values and democracy are under more pressure than ever. Against this backdrop, the idea of solidarity and active civil society plays a central role, perhaps more than ever. Young people are the future of Europe. In order to further develop the European project, they must see prospects in a democratic, social Europe in solidarity.

Against this background, the article examines the question of what young people understand by solidarity and what significance this has for youth policy and youth work in Europe. Particular attention is paid to the formats that young people choose to engage with the society in which they live. The author presents the results of the latest scientific study. In this way, the convictions and ideas with which young people are committed to solidarity in Europe and the places and ways in which they choose to get involved become clear. The article also addresses the enormous challenges that young people face in making their ideas for the Europe of tomorrow heard. Finally, we will work out the framework conditions necessary to enable the young generation in a crisis-ridden Europe recognise and use solidarity as a valuable guiding principle for shaping their future.

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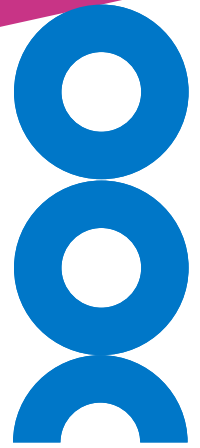
*"Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity."<sup>[1]</sup>*

Robert Schumann  
Declaration (1950)

The youth programmes of the European Union (EU) enable young people to get involved in society with their own ideas. But how do they express their concerns? What references to European values are important to them? And what understanding of solidarity plays a role for them? In tense times, this does not happen by itself. In view of the rise of right-wing populism and increasing nationalism, 'A Europe in solidarity' should not just be seen as a mere EU slogan, but as a fundamental goal for which active players in civil society and politics must continue to campaign. In order to overcome the multiple crises in which Europe is currently mired, a wide range of measures are required in all policy areas. Youth policy can also contribute to this with the EU youth programmes. The solidarity projects within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) offer young people a good opportunity to become socially active and strengthen social cohesion<sup>[2]</sup>.

The preservation and promotion of the EU as a democratic community of protection and solidarity is currently more of a challenge than ever. Solidarity and strength have become the key to the EU's internal and external capacity to act<sup>[3]</sup>. This raises the legitimate question of the willingness to act in this way and the associated expectations of reciprocity in a completely new way. The phenomenon of "selective solidarity" is becoming increasingly apparent in new studies, for example in the social support of refugees<sup>[4]</sup>. In many EU Member States, the high level of solidarity shown by the population towards people seeking protection from Ukraine is increasingly reaching its limits<sup>[5]</sup>. The electoral success of populist parties and the increasing mobilisation of far-right, xenophobic attitudes in Europe cast serious doubt on the endurance of solidarity as a guiding principle and social foundation of democratic societies. Because "solidarity is a highly contested and fragile concept because it relies on preconditions that it cannot guarantee by itself"<sup>[6]</sup>. In times of crisis, solidarity undoubtedly requires a realistic calculation of resources. However, to prevent an erosion of values in Europe, concrete projects are needed more than ever to strengthen solidarity of civil society. During implementation, they must be accompanied by pedagogical guidance and a constructive dialogue on the principles of solidarity.





## Becoming active in times of crisis

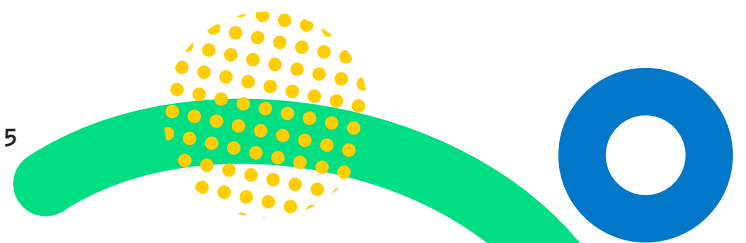
Active European civic participation is under difficult circumstances, climate change and wars are currently causing the greatest concern among young people<sup>[7]</sup>. In view of this, they not only expect solutions from EU policy, they trust in European policy<sup>[8]</sup> and are also prepared to show solidarity with others. The Eurobarometer survey "Youth and Democracy in the European Year of Youth" (2022) makes this clear: the majority of young people are involved in society, with 58% of young people surveyed across Europe being active in a variety of ways and in different organisations<sup>[9]</sup>. According to a recent study, 73% of children and young people aged 12-18 in Germany currently consider it important to make a contribution to the society in which they live<sup>[10]</sup>. However, many young people are dissatisfied with their opportunities for participation and complain about their lack of influence<sup>[11]</sup>. Many youth studies in Europe confirm this system fatigue<sup>[12]</sup>. Nevertheless, according to a recent Franco-German survey, young people aged 16-25 largely trust European solidarity, 42% in Germany and 38% in France<sup>[13]</sup>. In view of the current crisis and war situation, they are placing "greater hopes in the ability of European solidarity (...) to effectively counter this threat"<sup>[14]</sup>.

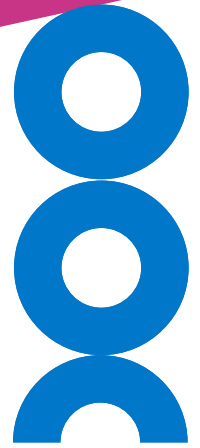
Shaping their own environment, doing something for a future worth living and taking a stand against injustice are the main motivations behind youth

engagement. Young people become active above all when they see a moral obligation or opportunities for personal development. According to a recent youth study, 45% of young people surveyed in Europe say that, in the face of massive problems, they see it as their duty to translate their deep concern into concrete civic engagement in order to be sure that they have done everything they can for their own future. Around 60% have already taken some form of action against climate change, discrimination and racism as a result of this motivation<sup>[15]</sup>.

## European Solidarity Corps: the engagement programme for young people

The two European youth programmes ERASMUS+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps play a key role in implementing the participation, encounter and empowerment strands of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027). The EU explicitly calls on the Member States to "promote solidarity among young people"<sup>[16]</sup>. The general objective of the European Solidarity Corps is "to promote the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily in the form of volunteering, as a means of strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active





civic participation in the Union and beyond by addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on promoting sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities<sup>[17]</sup>.

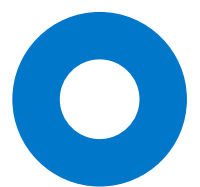
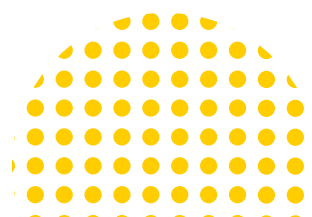
The solidarity projects are a special form of action within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. These are local initiatives that are independently initiated and implemented by a group of at least five young people between the ages of 18 and 30 over a period between two and twelve months. There are no limits to the participants' choice of activities and the variety of topics, as long as the initiatives serve the common good and address the social problems of our time. They should focus on making a difference in the local environment and achieving European added value. The aim is also to offer the participants non-formal learning experiences<sup>[18]</sup>.

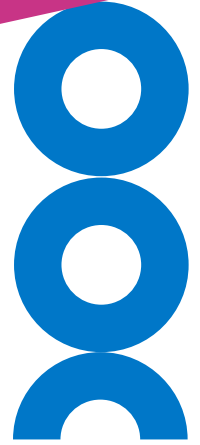
The European Solidarity Corps is the EU's engagement programme for young people, so to speak. It offers countless opportunities for participation and learning. However, it is still little known among young people in Europe<sup>[19]</sup>. This is all the more regrettable as studies by the European research network RAY<sup>[20]</sup> show that the topic of solidarity is of great importance to young people and has become significantly more important following participation in the European youth programmes Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps<sup>[21]</sup>. The effectiveness is also evident the other way round:

involvement in the solidarity projects leads to a greater awareness of Europe among those involved. The increase is particularly marked among those who previously felt less connected. On a scale of 0 (= not at all connected to Europe) to 10 (= very strongly connected), 23 out of 40 respondents placed themselves between 4 and 7 before the project and 25 respondents between 6 and 8 after the project<sup>[22]</sup>.

Participation in a solidarity project is also seen as a meaningful, empowering personal experience. The results of a qualitative transnational RAY study (2023) describe that participation in a solidarity project has a high socialisation character and learning effect for the participants. They address socially relevant topics on the ground and bring the programme's priorities - participation, inclusion, sustainability and digital transformation - to the local community. In this way, they contribute to community building and the strengthening of networks at local level, and in some cases also create jobs or small businesses<sup>[23]</sup>.

Social commitment, intercultural learning, taking on responsibility, teamwork and fun are at the forefront for the young people in a solidarity project. A national qualitative study on solidarity projects in Germany confirms that respondents



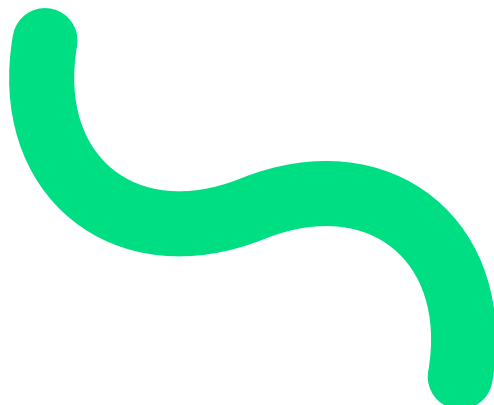


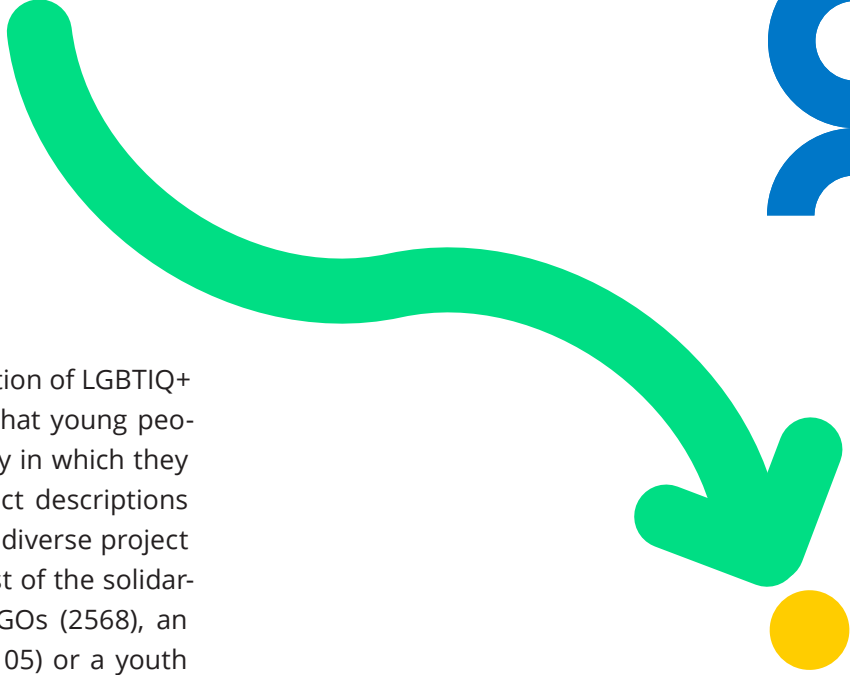
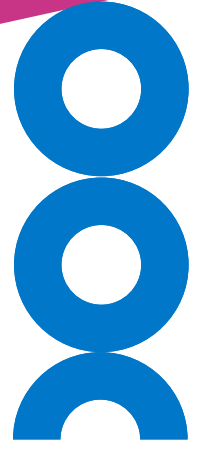
see participation in a solidarity project as a great opportunity to get involved locally for Europe and to realise their individual ideas and projects<sup>[24]</sup>. According to the Europe-wide RAY SOC survey (2023), 61% of participants feel more self-confident, 64% are better able to empathise with others and 39% are more actively involved in solidarity after the project than before. 68% of respondents agree that their project has brought about positive change in the local environment and 66% believe that their involvement has improved their ability to deal with social challenges<sup>[25]</sup>.

Participation in the European Solidarity Corps is not only fun for the participants, but also has a deeper meaning for them – this is confirmed by the latest survey results from the RAY research network. The combination of engagement and implicit, non-formal learning in the sense of empowerment for active civic participation in Europe meets the needs of young people. The EU's understanding of solidarity as a core value for social cohesion in Europe and the views of the young people involved in the European Solidarity Corps go hand in hand. However, the deeper impact of volunteering on society as intended by the European Commission varies greatly<sup>[26]</sup>.

## Solidarity projects in Europe — strengthening the local community

Since the European Solidarity Corps was founded, over 5,500 solidarity projects have been initiated across Europe, 100 of which have been awarded the 'Good Practice' label<sup>[27]</sup>. The project platform at the European youth portal provides a good overview<sup>[28]</sup> of the geographical distribution and the selected topics: Most of the projects were applied for and implemented in Poland, Italy, Spain, Germany, Turkey and Romania. The range of topics is very broad, although it is striking that around 40% of the projects deal with social development (2,087). There are also environment, climate action, nature conservation and green skills (1,353), creativity, art and culture (1,120), inclusion and diversity (1,308), physical and mental health and well-being (694) – to name just the most common topics. The projects also address explicit youth work topics such as (key) skills development (773), quality and innovation in youth work (592), education and training (569), digital youth work (95) and youth policy development (55). The projects also deal with European identity, civic participation and values (826), democracy and inclusive democratic participation (286), human rights (227)



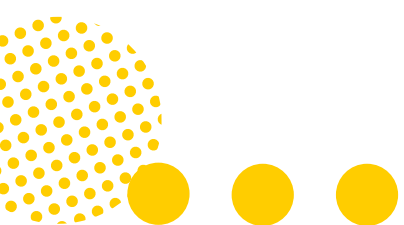


and gender equality and the promotion of LGBTIQ+ (168). This overview clearly shows that young people want to contribute to the society in which they live in a variety of ways. The project descriptions also provide a good insight into the diverse project ideas and creative approaches. Most of the solidarity projects were applied for by NGOs (2568), an informal group of young people (1105) or a youth organisation (472).

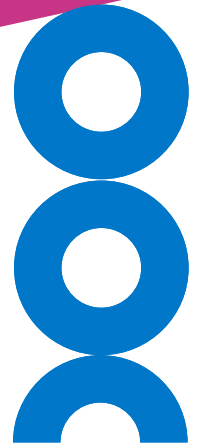
## Implementing the idea of solidarity in the projects

In order to obtain an up-to-date inside view of the solidarity projects, 31 participants in 30 solidarity projects from Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, France, Austria and the Czech Republic were interviewed across Europe from October to December 2023 in an online survey<sup>[29]</sup> conducted by the Centre for Applied Policy Research at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich about their experiences and assessments. The projects took place between 2021 and 2023 and will run until 2024. Of the respondents, 17 were female and 14 were male. The application was submitted by 35% of respondents as an informal group and 65% with the help of an organisation.

The respondents' understanding of solidarity is very broad and ranges from a group feeling to "recognising diversity" in society and the desire "to welcome people from all backgrounds" and "being open for other people's perspectives". The focus is on the willingness to volunteer for social cohesion, to "shape the future together", to work for other people with "empathy and mutual benefit" and "help others without expecting anything in return for giving community something back and creating spaces that are needed for this" as well as "creating opportunities for others, who are not aware that they exist for them", with the "with the utilisation of one's own strengths and privileges for the community in order to promote cohesion and reduce inequalities". Mindfulness in dealing with one another is crucial for many of the respondents in the CAP Solidarity Survey (2023).







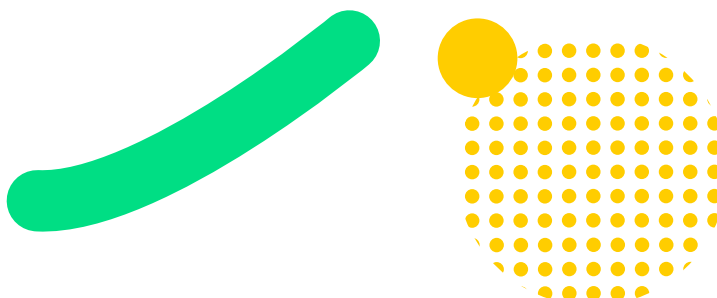
The respondents understand solidarity as a constructive dialogue with the society in which they live:

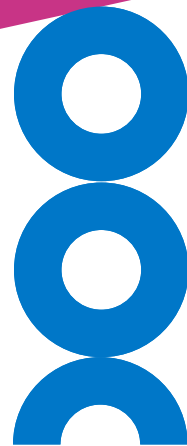
- *„that I care about what is happening to people round me and try to find ways to help them”,*
- *„making the society not integrative, but inclusive showing different backgrounds and needs”,*
- *„mit anderen mitzufühlen, Bürgern aller sozialer Schichten gleiche Möglichkeiten bieten”,*
- *„the feeling of being part of a group with similar challenges and working together to trying to find solutions”.*

The respondents therefore fundamentally take an action-orientated approach to the idea of solidarity<sup>[30]</sup> and implement it most frequently in the project by strengthening the community. Volunteering and supporting others as well as practising empathy, inclusion and taking responsibility play a key role for them. In the sense of active civic

participation, they deal with grievances, injustices or difficulties in their neighbourhood and want to "tackle social problems and challenges together and look for solutions". This broad, practical understanding underpins the definition of the concept of solidarity of those involved, as already set out in the 4thought study (Knoch/Nicodemie 2020).

In the projects, the participants realise the idea of solidarity in very different ways using various methods and approaches<sup>[31]</sup>. For respondents to the CAP Solidarity Survey (2023), strengthening the community is also a priority, in line with the overall overview presented above in the European youth portal. Lived solidarity through active civic spirit and participation and supporting others through volunteering is also an important goal of their commitment, as can be seen in the following overview of how the idea of solidarity is implemented in the project.





## The idea of solidarity is implemented in the project through

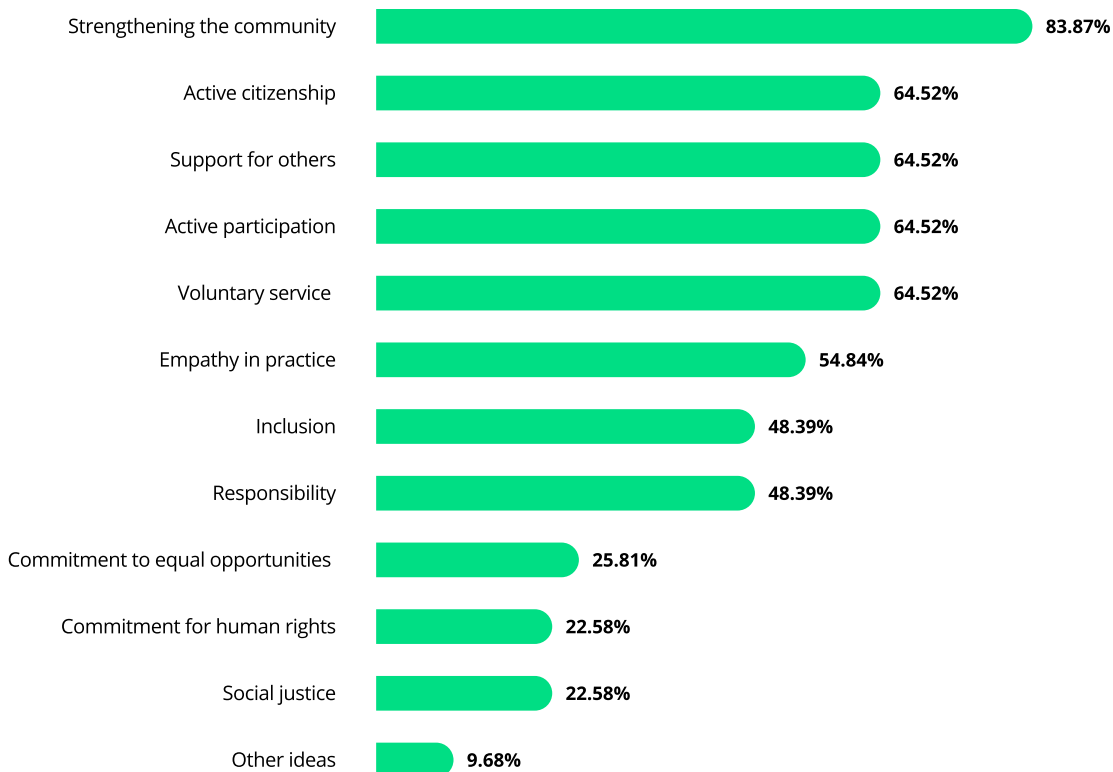
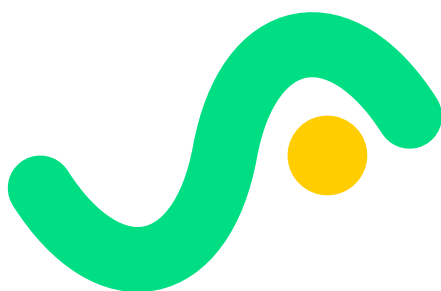
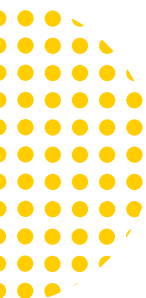
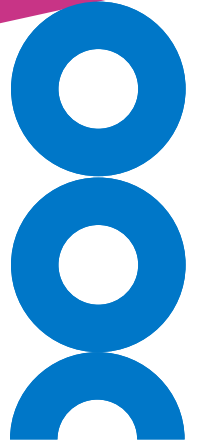


Fig. 1: Implementation of the idea of solidarity in the project; CAP Solidarity Survey (2023); N=31



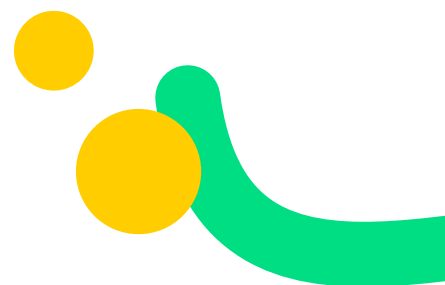


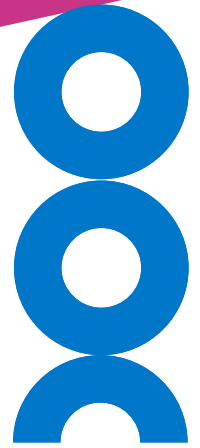
The respondents dealt with very different topics in their projects. They range from food waste, education and mental health to getting to know different cultures and bridging intercultural, intergenerational and social divides. In many ways, the projects are responding to the crises and trying to counteract them on the ground:

- the inclusion of refugees and migrants
- intercultural understanding and the promotion of tolerance towards different traditions, cultures and religions
- recognising diversity and anti-discrimination work
- environmental protection and the fight against climate change
- ecological awareness and conscious consumption
- the commitment to social justice
- youth work and artistic education and
- strengthening democracy and participation.

The aim of the solidarity projects is to have an impact on the local community. "It gives (...) young persons the chance to express solidarity by taking responsibility and committing themselves to bring positive change in their local community"<sup>[32]</sup>. When asked about what the project has achieved from the perspective of those involved, 87% of respondents in the CAP Solidarity Survey (2023) state that they were able to reach their target group and 80% that the project has generated a response at local level. For 73%, it offered the opportunity to

make new contacts and 60% of the projects were presented to the public. Half of those surveyed also believe that the project will have a lasting impact (50%). In each case, one third of the projects achieved press and media coverage and received support from the public administration. However, only 13% of respondents received political support. This is particularly regrettable in view of the fact that solidarity for young people means enabling democratic participation in society and that the interface with politics is important for this. Even if the political connection is not explicitly part of the work of many projects, the support is still crucial for a sustainable impact on society and for strengthening the organisations of youth work in Europe. A recent ESC impact study (Şerban et al. 2023) also points to this important hinge function:





„The impact of ESC projects can also be seen through the lens of the trust that is currently invested by public authorities and other actors in the youth initiatives and youth activities of ESC organisations. In countries where youth work benefits both legal and social recognition authorities would see ESC organisations as partners in implementing the mission of supporting youth development and youth transitions. By contrast, in countries where youth work is still under construction/development, authorities became involved gradually in supporting ESC organisation youth projects and the ESC organisations were the driving force behind the resulting partnerships.”<sup>[33]</sup>

## The project has achieved

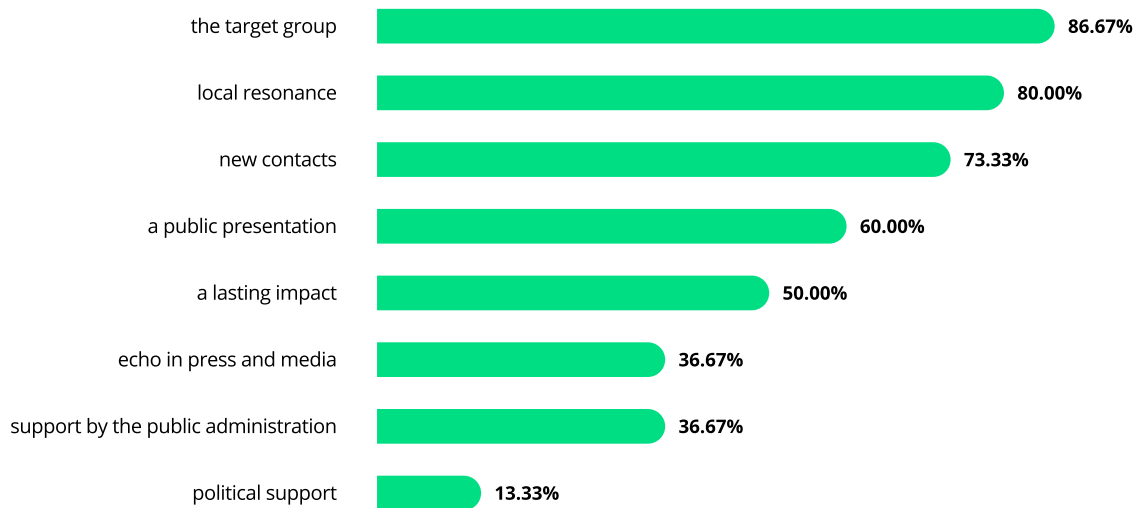
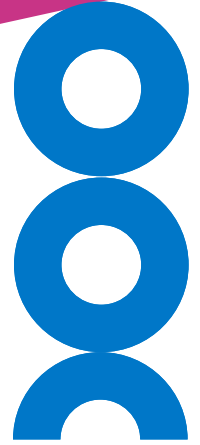


Fig. 2: Local impact of the solidarity projects; CAP Solidarity Survey (2023); N=31





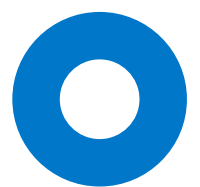
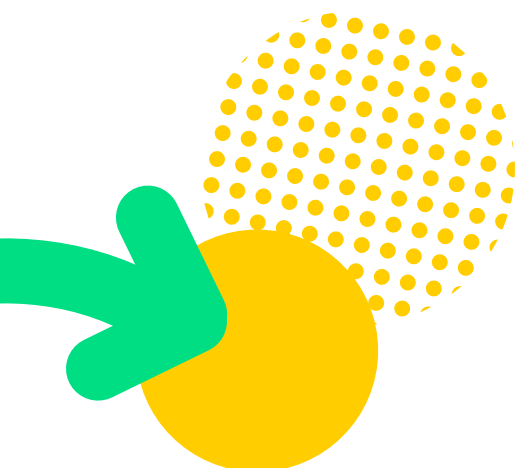
It is known from RAY research that participation in the European youth programmes Erasmus+ YOUTH or the European Solidarity Corps significantly promotes civic engagement among participants and often leads to participation in follow-up projects or the initiation of such projects<sup>[34]</sup>. The situation is similar for respondents to the CAP Solidarity Survey (2023), with just under half stating that a follow-up application for a further solidarity project has been submitted to the ESC (45%), just under a third have the prospect of funding for continuation from a national or regional body, 20% of cases were only a one-off project and only 7% of respondents did not find any follow-up funding.

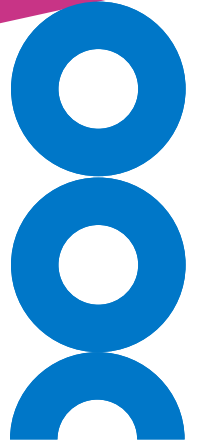
## Strengthening engagement through the European dimension

Europe plays an important role as a frame of reference for the solidarity projects: "Solidarity projects should address key challenges within the communities but they should also clearly present European added value." At the same time, Article 24 of the General Treaties on European Union (TEU) enshrines solidarity to uphold fundamental values: "Member States shall work together to strengthen and develop their mutual political solidarity." (Art. 24 ex Art. 11 TEU, para. 3 TFEU (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)). The respondents to the CAP Solidarity Survey (2023) are primarily concerned with practising solidarity at a social level with their projects:

*"In order to promote solidarity, we in Europe must allow people of all ages from different countries to work together on joint projects."*

Reciprocity as a characteristic of practised solidarity is also very clear in the comments on the open questions: "activate people and show them that it is beneficial for them", which distinguishes solidarity from other forms of assistance and is fundamentally linked to the idea of a solidarity community<sup>[35]</sup>. We practise solidarity with each other in the sense of "community solidarity"<sup>[36]</sup> or as "development communities based on mutual support"<sup>[37]</sup>. It has an integrative character and takes place "in a social space of mutual recognition"<sup>[38]</sup>. In order for this to

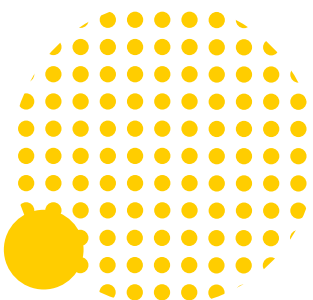


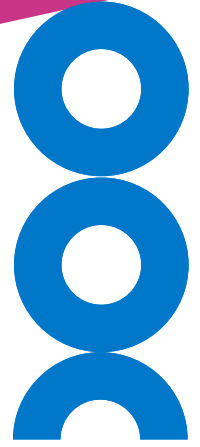


develop its potential, resources must be mobilised in society and the dangers, limits and obstacles must be addressed. This requires a willingness to "work together towards common goals or the goals of others that are seen as threatened and at the same time legitimate and valuable."<sup>[39]</sup> Solidarity is based on interpersonal relationships and is at the same time an offer to seek out like-minded actors and to forge one's own path in society. This is aimed at the core of an active European civil society. There are different sources of solidarity for individuals in a society as well as different forms of commitment and expression. This diversity of practices reflects the "wealth of solidarity"<sup>[40]</sup> and the broad spectrum that allows for a wide range of individual implementation options. The participants in the solidarity projects surveyed consider it important to strengthen solidarity in Europe, particularly at the civil society level, and to promote "awareness of the benefits of unity and cooperation". Based on their experience in the solidarity project, they believe it is crucial,

*"to strengthen intercultural exchange and create structures that make it easier to learn from each other and also enable people with fewer social opportunities to participate in programmes such as the ESC or Erasmus+."*

In this context, the young generation has an important role to play in ensuring solidarity in Europe. From the point of view of those involved, it is important to "activate and inspire young people", "motivate more people to get involved in voluntary organisations", disseminate the results of the solidarity projects more actively on social media channels and make friends aware of this opportunity, but also to create more "local hubs for ESC volunteers" for better networking and "bring meeting spaces and participatory projects into the world that promote communication, expression and honest, respectful and more peaceful coexistence". Realising your own ideas at a local level is of central importance. The European dimension in the sense of "Bring Europe 'closer to home'"<sup>[41]</sup> not only brings recognition and a tailwind for local projects, but also the necessary anchoring of the major European objectives. However, as young people involved in solidarity projects are usually not integrated into organisational structures, their ideas and project results should be taken up and made visible much more prominently via the structures of other actors in the field of EU youth policy and stakeholders such as the European Commission, national agencies and the like.





## Conclusion: Solidarity projects offer space for lived solidarity

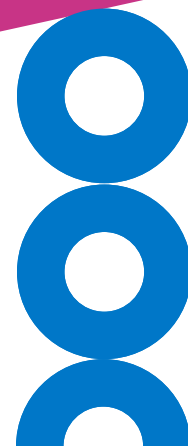
Solidarity can be understood in many different ways: as a social value for the individual members of a community as well as a political instrument for consolidating social cohesion. For many young people, Europe is not just a fiscal and trading community. They are concerned with more than just freedom of movement and a free single market. Social security and social justice are very important to them. They also see the EU as a community of values in which solidarity is a valuable asset. Young, committed people in particular would therefore like to see a deepening of European social policy. In their view, more solidarity for Europe is therefore needed at all levels. However, in view of the enormous challenges and risks, voting alone will not be enough.

Against this background, the solidarity projects prove to be an ideal space to become active with other young people on the ground. Implicit, less often explicit approaches are often chosen to deal with the content of solidarity. The focus is on practising active civic participation and lived solidarity, not on a theoretical understanding of solidarity. This is also in line with the EU's approach, which pursues an open, experimental governance approach with the ESC and specifically the promotion of solidarity projects in order to strengthen European values as a whole in a participatory manner. With the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027), the EU has

set itself the task of promoting the participation of young people in democratic life and supporting their "social engagement and civic and socio-educational activities (youth work) that equip young people with life skills and act as a bridge to society" in accordance with Art. 165 (TFEU)<sup>[42]</sup>.

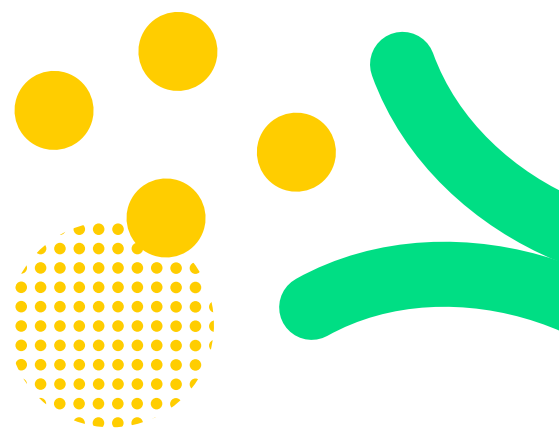
The fundamental value of social justice in democracy is central to the motivation of young people to get involved in the ESC. They are trying to reaffirm this with their projects. They focus in particular on the social dimension in order to strengthen individual aspects (e.g. educational equity). Although their concerns such as equal opportunities, inclusion, combating poverty, climate protection or the participation of minorities and marginalised groups have a clear political character and offer demands and approaches to strengthen the local community, in the vast majority of cases there is no political backing. This is partly due to the fact that this is not taken into consideration by those involved, and partly because it is not possible to reach the political players and create appropriate spaces<sup>[43]</sup>. Closing this gap would also make a fundamental contribution to strengthening civil society resilience in Europe and social cohesion in times of crisis. However, solidarity-based volunteering must not become a substitute for a lack of investment in youth, education and social policy<sup>[44]</sup> and decisions that actually need to be taken politically. However, in times of crisis, solidarity projects can offer young people in particular an important space to enter into dialogue with society and politics and



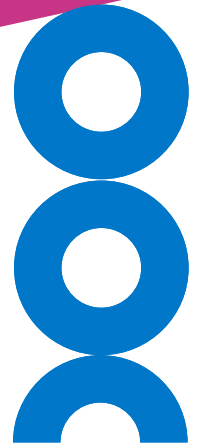


to contribute their own ideas. However, they still need to achieve a broader resonance and participation in order to fully realise their potential. This would require significantly greater visibility, considerably less bureaucracy in the application process and a longer-term, reliable financial framework for implementation.

As the studies on the ESC and the solidarity projects presented above show, the non-formal learning and participation experiences within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps have a formative effect on young people's engagement. The solidarity projects can be used to awaken an entrepreneurial spirit and create positive local momentum. This is an invaluable basis for strengthening democratic society in difficult, crisis-ridden times.



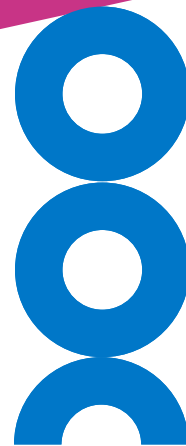




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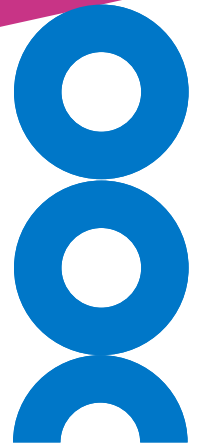
- [1] [https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950_en)
- [2] Cf.: Bačlija Knoch, Snežana/ Nicodemi, Susie (2023), p.11.
- [3] Cf.: Fücks, Ralf/ Steenblock, Rainer/ Pütz, Christine: Solidarität und Stärke (Solidarity and Strength): Zur Zukunft der EU (About the Future of the EU). Berlin, p. 10; available at: [https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/assets/boell.de/images/download\\_de/Solidaritaet\\_und\\_Staerke.pdf](https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/assets/boell.de/images/download_de/Solidaritaet_und_Staerke.pdf)
- [4] Cf. Storz, Nora (2023): SVR-Policy Brief 2023-2. What willingness to help refugees depends on. Berlin or [https://www.svr-migration.de/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SVR\\_Policy-Brief\\_Selektive-Solidaritaet\\_barrierefrei.pdf](https://www.svr-migration.de/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SVR_Policy-Brief_Selektive-Solidaritaet_barrierefrei.pdf)
- [5] See: Vorländer, Hans (2023): Europa und die Fluchtmigration aus der Ukraine (Europe and the Refugee Migration from Ukraine). Dresden, p. 14.
- [6] Pornschlegel, Sophie (2021), p. 8.
- [7] Cf. e.g. Sinus Youth Study 2023: Die Prognose Jugendlicher auf die Welt fällt pessimistischer aus als in den Vorjahren (S. 21), 56% der Befragten nennen Krieg als Grund größter persönlicher Befürchtungen (S. 26), ausführlicher zu den Themen und zum Sorgenpotenzial (Young people's outlook on the world is more pessimistic than in previous years (p. 21), 56% of respondents cite war as the reason for their greatest personal fears (p. 26), more detailed information on the topics and potential concerns) p. 30 et seqq.
- [8] TUI Foundation 2023, p. 6, p. 60.
- [9] Factsheet D, Flash Eurobarometer 502, 2022.
- [10] Liz Mohn Center 2023, p. 7.
- [11] Cf. e.g. Tallineau/ Bütow 2023, pp. 14-17.
- [12] As a sample, see e.g. Hafeneger, Benno (2022): Was wir über Jugendliche wissen sollten (What we should know about young people). Frankfurt/Main; Schnetzer, Simon/ Hampel, Kilian/ Hurrelmann (2023): Trendstudie Jugend in Deutschland (Trend Study on Youth in Germany). Kempten.
- [13] Tallineau/ Bütow 2023, p. 9.
- [14] Ibid. p. 10.
- [15] Cf. Allianz Foundation (2023), p. 9.
- [16] European Commission: Beteiligung, Beteiligung und Befähigung: eine neue EU-Strategie für junge Menschen (Participation, Involvement and Empowerment: a New EU Strategy for Young People) (2019-2027). Brussels, 22.5.2018, COM(2018) 269 final, p. 7.
- [17] European Commission: European Solidarity Corps Guide. Version 1/2024. Brussels 2024, p. 6.
- [18] For more details, cf. ibid. p. 45.
- [19] Cf. Factsheet D, Flash Eurobarometer 502, 2022, p.2; here only 8% of respondents state that they are aware of the European Solidarity Corps.
- [20] Research-based Analysis on the European youth programmes (RAY); further information at <https://www.researchyouth.net>





- [21] IKAB e.V. (2020): RAY/ Under the magnifying glass: Data report 2017/2020. Bonn (unpublished document), p. 28.
- [22] Cf. also RAY SOC DE 2023: Q11; Q12 (as yet unpublished data report).
- [23] Eick/ Strecker 2023, p. 4.
- [24] Feldmann-Wojtachnia/ Tham 2023, p. 131.
- [25] RAY SOC DE 2023; F2 & F4; unpublished data report.
- [26] Cf. Eick/ Strecker 2023, pp. 13-14.
- [27] <https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/projects/>; last revised: 26.3.2024.
- [28] The topics are queried on the platform on a very small scale and are sometimes similar. They are summarised in overarching thematic blocks for this article to make it easier to gain an overview of what has been recorded since 2019.
- [29] The survey results are published analysed for the first time in this article and are cited below as CAP Solidarity Survey (2023).
- [30] Cf.: Bačlija Knoch, Snežana/ Nicodemi, Susie (2023), p.8.
- [31] For more details, cf. Feldmann-Wojtachnia/ Tham 2021, p. 10 et seqq.; Feldmann-Wojtachnia/ Tham 2023, pp. 129-132.
- [32] European Solidarity Corps Guide 2020, p. 50.
- [33] Şerban, Adina/Drammeh, Clara/ Moxon, Dan (2023): Creating Community Impact through Solidarity. Vienna, p. 52.
- [34] These effects are most impressively documented by RAY LTE on the long-term effects of the impact of Erasmus+ Youth; cf.: Bárta, Ondřej/ Fennes, Helmut/ Gadinger, Susanne (2021): Long-term Effects of Erasmus+ Youth in Action on Participation and Citizenship. Research Report. Vienna (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0); further information at: <https://www.researchyouth.net/projects/lteext/>
- [35] Cf. Loh/ Skupien 2016, p. 579.
- [36] Bayeritz 2002, p. 49.
- [37] Priddat 2024, p. 216, with reference to the ethics of Alain Badiou (2003).
- [38] Ibid., p. 215, with reference to Axel Honneth & Nancy Fraser (2003).
- [39] Wildt 1995, p. 1004.
- [40] Bačlija Knoch/Nicodemi 2020, p. 109.
- [41] Bačlija Knoch/Nicodemi 2020, p. 41.
- [42] European Commission: Beteiligung, Beteiligung und Befähigung: eine neue EU-Strategie für junge Menschen (Participation, Involvement and Empowerment: a New EU Strategy for Young People) (2019-2027). Brussels, 22.5.2018, COM(2018) 269 final, p. 3.
- [43] Cf. e.g. TUI Foundation 2023, p. 41; Zusammenfassung der Europäischen Kommission zur Öffentlichen Konsultation zur EU Jugendstrategie (European Commission summary of the public consultation on the EU Youth Strategy) RefAres(2023)66317060 - 02/10/2023, p. 5; cf. also "need for more developed political space", which has already been emphasised in earlier EU solidarity studies, cited in Bačlija Knoch/Nicodemi 2020, p. 42.
- [44] Cf. Priddat 2024, p. 216.

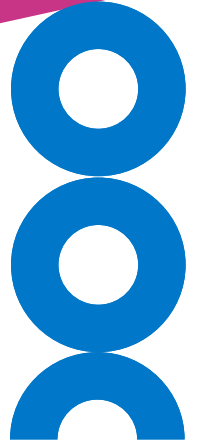




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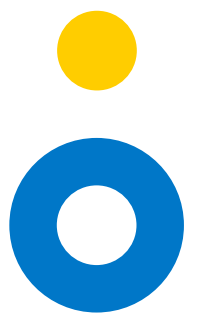
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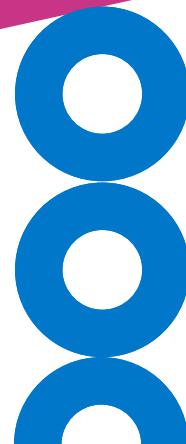
### **SALTO European Solidarity Corps**

SALTO ESC supports National Agencies and organisations in the youth field and beyond with the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps programme. The mission is to explore the potential of solidarity as a core value in European societies and to promote the use of the European Solidarity Corps as a tool for understanding and living solidarity. SALTO ESC coordinates networking activities, training, seminars and events that will support the quality implementation of the programme and maximise its impact. By doing this, SALTO ESC contributes to building a European Solidarity Corps community of organisations. SALTO ESC is hosted by OeAD. The OeAD is the national agency for the implementation of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in Austria. SALTO ESC is part of a European network of SALTO Resource Centres with the mission to improve the quality and impact of the EU youth programmes as well as to support and develop European youth work.

Find us online at

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## EUROPE TALKS SOLIDARITY

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This article is part of “Europe Talks Solidarity” – a series of events and publications that offers a platform for the exploration of the concept of solidarity, initiated by SALTO European Solidarity Corps.

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