

European Solidarity Corps Quality Label (ESC52) Guidance

2021 Guide for Quality Label holders

Deadline: New applications are now closed.

Version 1: September 2021

Overview of changes

This document is **version 1** of the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label 2021 guidance. If future versions of the Guide are created, the table below will record an overview of changes made compared to previous versions:

Page number in previous version	Change	Page number in this version

1. Introduction

The European Solidarity Corps Programme (2018-2020) brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop. Any organisation in a participating or a partner¹ country that wishes to support or host European Solidarity Corps participants must hold the Quality Label.

2. What is the Quality Label?

The European Solidarity Corps Quality Label certifies that an organisation participating in the European Solidarity Corps is able to ensure the necessary framework conditions for young people to take part in solidarity activities in compliance with the principles of the European Solidarity Corps [Charter](#) and further requirements necessary to ensure quality placements and activities in accordance with the European Solidarity Corps values and principles.

It is designed to ensure consistently high standards in European Solidarity Corps activities. Holding the Quality Label is a quality assurance process facilitating communication between the organisation and programme structures, so that all parties involved are aware of the values, objectives and rules of European Solidarity Corps. All applying organisations must demonstrate that they are able to implement European Solidarity Corps projects according to the rules of the European Solidarity Corps.

The Quality Label is an organisation's entry ticket to European Solidarity Corps and proves that it complies with the programme's quality standards. It is a prerequisite for participation, however, does not automatically lead to a European Solidarity Corps project grant. Project grant applications are assessed based on the criteria presented in the Programme Guide and according to the quality of the specific project.

¹ For Traineeships and Jobs, only organisation legally established in a Member State of the European Union may apply.

3. Who is this guide for?

This guide is for organisations already holding a valid Quality Label that require minor changes in relation to the following aspects of their accreditation:

- Legal Representative
- Contact Person
- Organisation's Legal Address / Main Location for activities
- Number of volunteers to be hosted
- Additional location(s) for hosting

Important note

Existing Quality Label accreditation certificates have been extended to 2027 by the European Commission.

European Voluntary Service (EVS) / Erasmus+ volunteering accreditations have been considered equivalent to the Quality Label in the context of all projects approved during the programme period 2018-2020. These accreditation certificates were due to expire on 31 December 2020, however, the European Commission have extended this for one year **until 31 December 2021**.

Therefore, please be aware of the following:

- **Applicant Organisations** holding an existing EVS/Erasmus+ accreditation are able to finish projects that have been awarded funding under the previous programme (2018-2020 for ESC and 2014-2020 for Erasmus+/EVS), even if project activities are undertaken beyond 31 December 2021.
- **Partner Organisations** can use their current accreditation to take part in activities funded under the programme up to 31 December 2021. However, partner organisations undertaking activities starting after 31 December 2021 will need to apply for an accreditation extension prior to those activities taking place. You should contact the UK National Agency for further details if you fall under this category.

Applicant organisations are responsible for ensuring that all partner organisations have a valid accreditation at the time that project activities take place.

N.B. No new applications can be submitted for the Quality Label by UK organisations through the previous ESC52 form. However, minor changes as indicated in the table above, are possible.

4. How to request a change

In order to request a change, the Quality Label holder should inform the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) team at the UK National Agency by email at eusolidaritycorps@ecorps.com. Once the details of the change have been discussed with the UK NA, advice will be given regarding next steps, with the most common route being a Minor Change Request Form (template will be sent to you by the ESC team).

5. When should an organisation request a change for their Quality Label?

There are no deadlines to request a change to the Quality Label. However, interested organisations are advised to contact the UK NA as soon as possible and **submit the Quality Label Minor Change Request Form at least 30 days before activities dependant on the change are due to start (i.e. volunteer numbers or additional locations). Requests made after activities have taken place may result in ineligible costs.**

Important note

Any activities that are not compliant with the details of a valid Quality Label (i.e. more volunteers than approved taking part in an activity) are at risk of being deemed ineligible at Final Report stage. All Quality Label holders should ensure that change requests are being made well in advance of activity start dates.

It takes up to 30 days to process a Quality Label change request,. Organisations should plan for more time before changes are required to minimise the risk of a possible delay jeopardising the eligibility of their project activities.

6. What is requested from the organisations?

Depending on which type of Quality Label change they request, organisation may need to give assurances that they comply with the values, principles and requirements of the [European Solidarity Corps Charter](#), by providing information on the following subjects:

- Purpose and activities of their organisation
- Information about safety and security arrangements;
- Information on whether/ to what extent the specific needs of disadvantaged young persons can be catered for;
- Pre- and post-placement support.

Based on the provided information and depending on the type of change envisaged, the ESC Team shall check the organisation's capacity to deliver quality placements in full compliance with the European Solidarity Corps [Charter](#).

The award of a Quality Label change request is free of charge for all types of organisations.

7. After submitting your change request

You will receive an email from the ESC Team confirming receipt of your Quality Label change request, usually within 2 days.

If there are any issues identified with the completion of the minor change request form or any supporting documentation, you will be advised by email and guided on how to correct the issue. Should the requested changes be deemed ineligible, or you are unable to correct any issues, your request for Quality Label changes will be rejected and you will be advised of the decision, and the reason for it, via email.

Your request for Quality Label changes will be read and processed by a UK NA staff member on the ESC team. You will be contacted by email, either for clarifications, or to be informed of the outcome of your request, no later than 30 days from submission of the form but may be extended should you need to provide any further supporting documents, information or clarification.

If the decision is not to award the Quality Label change, or only to award the change on a restricted or reduced basis, the email will provide feedback and details as to how and why this decision has been reached.

