#### NO MATTER YOUR BACKGROUND,

# YOUR EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

#### eurodesk

TARTS HERE!

Access the text-to-speech version of this brochure.

Attributions: Published by Eurodesk Brussels Link

Designer: Juniper Borisova

Editors: Audrey Frith, Carmen Ruano Serna, Grazia Cannarsa and Teresa Manzanares Cegarra

# ARE YOU FEELING HELD BACK?

### DON'T LET LIFE'S CHALLENGES STOP YOU FROM EXPLORING THE WORLD!

EU programmes like Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are here for you and want to ensure everyone can participate. Discover how to get **extra support** to participate in various opportunities to **work, learn and volunteer abroad**.

## ARE YOU FACING ANY BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION?

As part of its inclusion strategy, the European Union aims to increase the diversity of participants in its youth programmes.

> You could qualify for inclusion support if you face obstacles in accessing opportunities.

#### These obstacles could be:

- Financial struggles: For example, if you are from a low-income family or are unemployed, need to work to support yourself or depend on the social welfare system.
- Geographical isolation: If you are from a rural or remote area with limited access to education and opportunities.
- Disabilities and health conditions: If you have physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments and chronic illnesses or long-term health problems.

- Cultural differences: Like if you are a refugee and asylum seeker, belong to a national or ethnic minority, or are a sign language user.
- Educational challenges: If you have learning difficulties or lack formal qualifications.
- Discrimination: If you face discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, belief or any other reason.

Are any of these obstacles making you feel like the EU programmes are not for you or preventing you from accessing the programmes? Then maybe there is a solution to overcome them!

### WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Accessibility and inclusion are important goals of all EU youth programmes. So you are more than wanted!

To make sure everyone can participate, the EU provides extra top-ups for different things:

Travel costs: Additional support for travel expenses, especially for participants from remote or disadvantaged regions.

Accommodation costs: Extra funding can be provided to cover accommodation costs for participants with special needs like accessibility requirements.

**Exceptional costs:** Financial assistance for special equipment needs, reinforced mentorship, personal assistance, specific intercultural or linguistic preparation, etc. These are just a few examples; every cost that supports inclusion will be accepted if adequately justified.

Beyond financial support, additional measures are in place to support inclusive participation of young people:

- Flexible options: Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps offer various opportunities to accommodate specific needs, such as offering shorter stays abroad to those who cannot stay for longer periods for various reasons.
- Language support: Offering language courses and support through an online tool for participants with limited language skills.
- Information and support: Contact Eurodesk for more information about available opportunities!

By providing different types of support, Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps aim to create inclusive programmes that empower young people from all backgrounds to reach their full potential.



### "ALL INCLUSIVE" ACTIONS FOR YOU...

Actions such as the European Solidarity Corps Volunteering Projects and the Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges offer opportunities to participate in a project abroad, **"all included"**! That means the organisation will pay for your trip, meals, and accommodation. **These could be great starting points**!

#### EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS: VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

The European Solidarity Corps is an EU programme that supports solidarity activities in a wide range of fields.

You can either volunteer on your own (individual volunteering) or as part of a group of 10-40 volunteers coming from at least two different countries (team volunteering).



#### **ERASMUS+: YOUTH EXCHANGES**

Erasmus+ Youth exchanges bring together 16 to 60 young people from at least two countries to exchange and learn together.

The objective is to engage and empower young people to become active citizens, connect them to the European project and help them gain and develop competencies.



**Age Group:** From 13 to 30 years old.

\$

Destination: EU Member States + partner countries



Duration: 5 to 21 days



**Cost Covered:** travel, practical, and activity-related costs necessary for the exchange

How to get started: Apply through an organistion or as a group of young people.

For more information or questions contact your Erasmus+ National Agency or Eurodesk.



### HOW TO GET SUPPORT?

Organisations involved with Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps as hosts can support your participation. Some work exclusively with young people with disabilities or special needs.

The best option is to contact your national agency or Eurodesk for information on how to participate. You could also ask them to provide you with information for your parents or relatives about the conditions that apply when going abroad to reassure them and discuss all the options.

#### CONNECT WITH EURODESK AND DISCOVER MANY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES!





Co-funded by the European Union