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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEV response to the “Save the EVS” petition

In response to the Petition “[Save the EVS](#)” a number of points should be clarified in order that a fact-based discussion can be undertaken regarding the proposed changes to the way that long-term, full-time voluntary service experience are to be funded by the EU in the future.

The European Commission has published a [proposal for a regulation](#) that suggests:

- To fund **long-term, full-time voluntary service experiences** for young people, either **in their own country or in another Member State**, under a new budget line outside of Erasmus Plus, called “European Solidarity Corps”.
- That long-term, full-time voluntary service experience for young people from **Non-EU programme countries** would **continue to be funded through Erasmus Plus**.
- To continue developments already undertaken in the “**strategic EVS**” opportunities under Erasmus Plus in terms of **the requirements for partnerships in order to be eligible for funding**.

The European Solidarity Corps proposal is currently under review by the European Parliament and the European Council. It is likely that the opportunities for full time voluntary service funded by the EU in the future will no longer be called “European Voluntary Service” but **the same possibilities and opportunities will still be available**.

The European Solidarity Corps proposal **is not limited to long-term, full-time voluntary service experiences**. It is also proposed that this budget line will fund other kinds of volunteering and employment experiences in the “solidarity field”, but the overwhelming majority of the funds will be dedicated to long-term, full-time voluntary service experiences of the EVS ‘type’, albeit by another name eg. “European Solidarity Corps” or “European Solidarity Initiative”.

It is possible that during the transition period from one programme to another that there are delays and a ‘funding gap’ between Calls for proposals. CEV regrets this very much and is working to ensure that any **delays are kept to a minimum** and that consensus and agreement about the new programme between the different EU institutions can be quickly achieved. CEV is also working with the European Commission, Agency, and other stakeholders, on the development of the **quality criteria** for the new programme. CEV sees the transition to a new programme as an opportunity to improve and develop existing quality procedures for the preparation, implementation and follow up of the long term voluntary service opportunities funded by the EU.

When the new programme is approved by the European Council in 2018, CEV and its member organisations across Europe, in collaboration with other partners and stakeholders, will provide **full training and information** about how potential volunteers and volunteer organisations can get involved.

For more information please refer to: [European Commission](#)
[CEV website: European Solidarity Corps](#)