

# 1.6 European Youth for Climate Action



Europe's future will be built by young people. This is why they need to be empowered to develop the **capacities and skills** to help **tackle climate change**. One third of the EU population is under the age of 30. The future of our continent will be shaped and experienced by these 170 million young Europeans. The European Commission's **Youth for Climate Action Initiative will empower young people** to seize on the spirit of renewal and regeneration that is encapsulated in the Paris Agreement, and to shape their future together, across borders. **The European Union has dedicated youth programmes which create a perfect framework for projects dedicated to climate action.** The objective of the European Youth for Climate Action is to further scale up these initiatives, and to use them to help young people take action for the climate and for their communities.

## ▶ What will the European Commission do next?

The **European Solidarity Corps** is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. The European Commission has proposed to equip the European Solidarity Corps with a budget of more than €340 million for 2018-2020, covering a broad range of activities. Within this overall budget, the European Solidarity Corps could dedicate over €40 million to creating volunteering opportunities in the areas of environment and climate action by 2020.

An important focus will be on getting the right skills and competences for the labour market of the future, especially in the growing sector of green jobs. **Erasmus+** has already given **160,000 people** the chance to join training and field projects on environment, energy and climate change. New projects under the European Youth for Climate Action can cover a wide range of activities, from training youth workers to reuse and recycle materials, motivating youngsters to use smartphone applications to save energy, stimulating the spirit of green entrepreneurship, to developing skills in sustainable agriculture (e.g. short food supply chain sustainable forest management), sustainable industry (waste cycle, innovative technologies, digitalisation) or the tertiary sector (green tourism marketing, education). Additional funding transferred from other EU programmes to Erasmus+ could create additional opportunities.

**The European Commission is therefore calling for the following actions:**

- 1 Young people to get engaged and benefit from the opportunities offered by European programmes;
- 2 Non-governmental organisations to offer more projects in which young people can participate;
- 3 Member States to increase co-financing for relevant initiatives at national level.

## Example of projects

### Vocational and Education Training "Energy Efficiency and Community Development Mobility Project"

The project supported work placements for students and apprentices with employers in Spain and Italy that provide energy assessments covering a range of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies.

### European Solidarity Corps — Vänö Vänner Project

Solidarity Corps participants from Italy were hosted in Finland by Vänö Vänner, an organisation which promotes sustainability and environmentally friendly solutions in the Turku Archipelago area, supporting cultural landscaping on the islands according to biosphere area regulations.

### REACH – Reduce Energy Use and Change Habits

This project addresses energy poverty through energy efficiency by training teachers and students in vocational education institutes to become energy advisors to poor households in need of energy savings.

