

ANNEX III – FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL RULES

I. RULES APPLICABLE TO BUDGET CATEGORIES BASED ON UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS

I.1 Conditions for eligibility of unit contributions

Where the grant takes the form of a unit contribution, the number of units must comply with the following conditions:

- the units must be actually used or produced in the period set out in Article I.2.2 of the Special Conditions/Specific Agreement;
- the units must be necessary for implementing the Project or produced by it;
- the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation specified in this Annex.

I.2 Calculation and supporting documents for unit contributions

A. Travel

Travel costs of participants from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return.

By default, the place of origin is understood as the place of residence of the participant. If a different place of origin or a destination different from the venue of the activity is reported, the beneficiary must provide the reason for this difference.

In case no travel took place or it was funded from other EU sources than the European Solidarity Corps (e.g. a participant is already at the venue of activity in relation to another activity than the one funded from the Agreement), the beneficiary must report that situation accordingly in Mobility Tool+ for each participant concerned. In this case, no grant support for travel will be provided.

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount for travel costs: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of participants, including accompanying persons, per distance band, by the unit contribution applicable to the distance band concerned, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. The unit contribution per distance band represents the grant amount for a return travel between the place of origin and the venue of the activity.

For the establishment of the distance band applicable, the beneficiary must indicate the distance of a one-way travel using the on-line distance calculator available on the

Commission's website at: https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps/resources-and-contacts_en

(b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken the activity.

(c) Supporting documents:

Proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant and the host organisation, specifying the name of the participant, the name of the host organisation, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end dates.

(d) Reporting: The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on all activities realised under the project.

B. Pocket Money/Relocation Allowance

(a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of days per participant (excluding accompanying persons) by the unit contribution applicable per day for the host country concerned as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. One travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity can be included for the calculation of the grant if relevant.

- In case of an interruption during the stay, the period of interruption will not be counted when calculating the grant for pocket money/relocation allowance.
- In case of suspension by the participant of the grant agreement with the beneficiary due to "force majeure", the participant may be allowed to continue the activities after the interruption, provided that the activity end date does not exceed the final date of the project. This should be reported in Mobility Tool+ as a single activity with an interruption period.
- In case of termination by the participant of the agreement with the beneficiary due to "force majeure", the participant must be entitled to receive the amount of the grant corresponding at least to the actual duration of the activity period. Any remaining funds must be refunded, except if agreed differently with the beneficiary.

(b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken the activity for the specified period.

(c) Supporting documents:

- proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant and the organisation, specifying the place and start and end date of the activity, as well as the name of the participant;
- proof of payment of the full amount of pocket money / relocation allowance due by the beneficiary to the participant in the form of a proof of transfer to the bank account of the participant or a receipt signed by the participant.

(d) Reporting:

- The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on all activities realised under the project.
- If the duration of an activity is longer than the one indicated in the agreement with the participant, the beneficiary must amend the agreement to take into account the longer duration, provided that the remaining grant amount allows it. In such case, the beneficiary must indicate in Mobility Tool+ the new start date and the end date in line with the approved amendment.

C1. Organisational support – Project Management

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of participants (excluding accompanying persons) by the unit contribution applicable and capped, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement.
- (b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the beneficiary implements the project activities as applied for in the grant application and as approved by the National Agency.
- (c) Supporting documents: proof of activities implemented will be provided in the form of a description of these activities in the final report.
- (d) Reporting: the beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on all activities realised under the project.

C2. Organisational support – Activity Costs

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of days per participant (including accompanying persons) by the unit contribution applicable per day for the host country concerned, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. One travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity can be included for the calculation of the grant, if relevant.

(b) Supporting documents:

Proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant and the host organisation, specifying the name of the participant, the name of the host organisation, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end dates.]

(c) Reporting:

- The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on all activities realised under the project.
- Participants in the activities must report on the activities via an on-line questionnaire providing their feedback on factual and qualitative elements of their activity.

D. Inclusion support

(a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the number of days per participant (excluding accompanying persons) by the unit contribution applicable per day for the host country concerned, as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement. One travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity can be included for the calculation of the grant if relevant.

(b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant who is a young person with fewer opportunities has actually undertaken the activity.

(c) Supporting documents: proof of implementation of the additional measures and activities undertaken to promote social inclusion will be required in the form of description of these measures in the final report. The beneficiary will also be required to provide proof of attendance of the activity in the form of a declaration signed by the participant and the host organisation specifying the name of the participant, the name of the organisation, the purpose of the activity, as well as its starting and end dates.

(d) Reporting:

- The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on all activities realised under the project.

- The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ on the barriers faced by the participant as well as on the additional measures and activities carried out to support her/his participation.

E1. Online Linguistic Support (OLS)

Only applicable for Volunteering Projects, Specific Grants for Action under Volunteering Partnerships and Traineeships and Jobs insofar as they concern cross-border activities of more than two months, insofar as the main language of activity is Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish or Swedish (or additional languages once they become available in the Online Linguistic Support (OLS) tool)

OLS language assessments

- Language assessment licenses are provided for participants undertaking a mobility period for a minimum period of more than two months excluding travel.
- The licences must be distributed to the participants by the beneficiary. The beneficiary must ensure the uptake of the licences and make every effort to ensure that all the allocated licences are used by the selected participants.
- The beneficiary must distribute the language assessment licences to participants after their selection for the solidarity activity.
- The beneficiary must ensure that participants take the first OLS language assessment before their activity period and the second OLS language assessment at the end of their activity period.
- The beneficiary will be notified of the assessment results by the service provider.

OLS language courses

- Participants must have taken an OLS assessment before they can be awarded a licence to follow an OLS language course. Licences for OLS language courses must be awarded to all participants willing to follow the course and according to the participant's linguistic needs.
- Licences must be distributed among the participants by the beneficiary according to their needs. All participants having taken the language assessment have the opportunity to follow a language course, unless the language in question is Irish Gaelic or Maltese.

- Participants with a level of B2 or higher at the first language assessment in their main language of instruction or work or volunteering have the opportunity to follow an OLS language course either in that language or in the local language of the country, provided it is available in the OLS. It is up to the beneficiary to indicate this choice in the OLS.
- OLS language course licences must be used in the period between the OLS first and second language assessments, before and during the activity of the participants concerned.
- The beneficiary must monitor the use of licences on the basis of the information provided by the service provider.
- The beneficiary must make every effort to ensure that all the allocated licences are actively used by the selected participants.

All licences

- Participants commit themselves by signing the Volunteering agreement to complete both OLS language assessments (before and at the end of the mobility period) and to follow the OLS language course, if awarded.
- The beneficiary must act in line with the guidelines for the use of the OLS provided by the service provider.
- The beneficiary must report on the number of used language assessment and language course licences in the final beneficiary report.
- In case of unused or non-allocated licences at the time of final beneficiary report, the NA may decide to take this into account for the allocation of the number of licences awarded to the beneficiary in the subsequent call years and/or selection rounds.

E2. Linguistic support

Only applicable for to Volunteering Projects, Specific Grants for Action under Volunteering Partnerships and Traineeships and Jobs insofar as they concern cross-border activities of more than two months, insofar as the main language of activity is not covered by OLS

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant amount is calculated by multiplying the total number of participants receiving linguistic support by the unit contribution as specified in Annex IV of the Agreement.

(b) Triggering event: the event that conditions the entitlement to the grant is that the participant has actually undertaken language preparation in the main language of activity.

(c) Supporting documents:

- proof of attendance of courses in the form of a declaration signed by the course provider, specifying the name of the participant, the language taught, the format and duration of the linguistic support provided, and/or
- invoice for the purchase of learning materials, specifying the language concerned, the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, and the date of the invoice, and/or
- in case the linguistic support is provided directly by the beneficiary: a declaration signed and dated by the participant, specifying the name of the participant, the language taught, the format and duration of the linguistic support received.

II. RULES APPLICABLE FOR THE BUDGET CATEGORIES BASED ON REIMBURSEMENT OF ACTUAL INCURRED COSTS

II.1. Conditions for the reimbursement of actual costs

Where the grant takes the form of a reimbursement of actual costs, the following conditions must apply:

- (a) they are incurred by the beneficiary;
- (b) they are incurred in the period set out in Article I.2.2.;
- (c) they are indicated in the estimated budget set out in Annex II or eligible following budget transfers in accordance with Article I.3.3;
- (d) they are incurred in connection with the Project as described in Annex II and are necessary for its implementation;
- (e) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular are recorded in the beneficiary's accounting records and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices;
- (f) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;

- (g) they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency;
- (h) they are not covered by a unit contribution as specified in Section I of this Annex.

II.2. Calculation of actual cost

A. Exceptional costs

- (a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant is a reimbursement of 75% of the eligible costs actually incurred for a financial guarantee, of 80% of the eligible costs for expensive travel costs of eligible participants and of 100% of the eligible costs actually incurred for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, for costs related to reinforced mentorship, visa related costs, residence permits, vaccinations, medical certifications etc.
- (b) Eligible costs:
 - Costs relating to a financial guarantee lodged by the beneficiary where such guarantee is required by the NA, as specified in Article I.4.2 of the Agreement;
 - Costs of travel in the most economical but also effective way for eligible participants for which the standard funding rule does not cover at least 70%. The exceptional costs for expensive travel replace the standard travel grant.
 - Costs to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities or with special needs on equal terms as others related to reinforced mentorship (i.e. the preparation, implementation and follow-up of tailor-made activities) for which the standard funding rule does not cover at least 80%. The exceptional costs for reinforced mentorship replace the standard inclusion support grant.
 - Costs incurred by organisations to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities or with special needs on equal terms as others related to reasonable adjustments or investment in physical assets.
 - Costs related to visas, residence permits and vaccinations of participants in mobility activities;
 - Costs connected to personal insurance for in-country activities.
 - Costs connected to boarding and lodging of participants during an Advance Planning Visit.
 - Recognition of academic and/or professional qualifications (e.g. certified copies, translations, administrative proceedings, aptitude tests, etc).

(c) Supporting documents:

- In the case of a financial guarantee: proof of the cost of the financial guarantee issued by the body providing the guarantee to the beneficiary, specifying the name and address of the body issuing the financial guarantee, the amount and currency of the cost of the guarantee, and providing the date and signature of the legal representative of the body issuing the guarantee;
- In the case of travel costs: proof of payment of the related costs on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, the date of the invoice and the travel route;
- In the case of costs to support the participation of young people with fewer opportunities: proof of payment of the related costs on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, and the date of the invoice;
- In the case of costs related to visas, residence permits and vaccinations, as well as other costs specified above: proof of payment on the basis of invoices specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, and the date of the invoice.

(d) Reporting:

- The beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ whether exceptional costs were incurred;
- In such case, the beneficiary must report in Mobility Tool+ the type of expenses as well as the real amount of related costs incurred.

B. Complementary Activity costs

(a) Calculation of the grant amount: the grant is a reimbursement of 80% of the eligible costs actually incurred for costs directly linked to the implementation of the Complementary Activities and including a flat-rate amount for indirect costs not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the complementary activities.

(b) Eligible costs:

- Costs directly linked to the implementation of the Complementary Activities including sub-contracting and purchase of goods and services, in so far as applied for by the beneficiary and in so far as approved by the NA and specified in Annex II;
- Indirect costs representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the project (e.g. electricity or internet bills,

costs for premises, cost of permanent staff, etc.) not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the Complementary Activities.

- (c) Supporting documents: Invoices of the actual costs incurred, specifying the name and address of the body issuing the invoice, the amount and currency, and the date of the invoice.

III. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- (a) The beneficiary must ensure that the activities of the project for which grant support was awarded are eligible in accordance with the rules set out in the European Solidarity Corps Guide for each Action.
- (b) Activities undertaken that are not compliant with the rules set out in the European Solidarity Corps Guide as complemented by the rules set out in this Annex must be declared ineligible by the NA and the grant amounts corresponding to the activities concerned must be reimbursed in full. The reimbursement must cover all budget categories for which a grant was awarded in relation to the activity that is declared ineligible.
- (c) The eligible minimum duration of activities specified in the European Solidarity Corps Guide is the minimum duration of the activity excluding time for travel.
- (d) Regarding costs incurred in relation to Advance Planning Visits (where applicable) by participants who did not subsequently undertake any Individual Volunteering, Volunteering Teams, Traineeship or Job activities, the beneficiary shall submit a justification to the National Agency explaining the reasons for not implementing activities in relation to the young participant concerned. The National Agency may approve such a request based on this justification.

IV. RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANT REDUCTION FOR POOR, PARTIAL OR LATE IMPLEMENTATION

- (a) Poor, partial or late implementation of the Project may be established by the NA on the basis of the final report submitted by the beneficiary (including reports from individual participants taking part in the mobility activities).
- (b) The NA may consider also information received from any other relevant source, proving that the Project is not implemented in accordance with the contractual provisions. Other sources of information may include monitoring visits, desk checks or on the spot checks undertaken by the NA.

- (c) The final report will be assessed on the basis of quality criteria and scored on a total of maximum 100 points. If the final report scores below 50 points in total, the NA may reduce the final grant amount for organisational support on the basis of poor, partial or late implementation of the action even if all activities reported were eligible and actually took place.
- (d) For holders of Quality Label or Erasmus+ Volunteering accreditation only: if the NA considers that the implementation of the Project does not respect the quality commitment undertaken by the beneficiary, the NA may in addition or alternatively require the beneficiary to develop and implement an action plan within an agreed timeframe to ensure respect of the applicable requirements. If the beneficiary does not implement the action plan in a satisfactory manner by the due date, the NA may suspend or withdraw the Quality Label or Erasmus+ Volunteering accreditation.
- (e) The final report will be assessed in conjunction with the reports from the mobility participants, using a common set of quality criteria focusing on:
- The extent to which the action was implemented in line with the approved grant application
 - The quality of the learning outcomes and impact on participants
 - The impact on the organisations involved
 - The quality of the practical arrangements provided in support of the activity, in terms of preparation, monitoring and support to participants during their activity
 - The quality arrangements for the recognition/validation of the learning outcomes of participants
 - The extent to which the grant amounts due to participants were transferred to them in accordance with the contractual provisions set out in the agreement between the respective beneficiary and participant following the templates provided in Annex V of the Agreement.
- (f) A grant reduction based on poor, partial or late implementation may be applied to the final amount of eligible expenses for organisational support and may be of:
- 25% if the final report scores at least 40 points and below 50 points;
 - 50% if the final report scores at least 25 points and below 40 points;
 - 75% if the final report scores below 25 points.

V. GRANT MODIFICATIONS

Not applicable.

VI. CHECKS OF GRANT BENEFICIARY AND PROVISION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

In accordance with Article II.27 of the Annex I of the Agreement, the beneficiary may be subject to checks and audits in relation to the Agreement. Checks and audits aim at verifying whether the beneficiary managed the grant in respect of the rules set out in the Agreement, in order to establish the final grant amount to which the beneficiary is entitled.

A final report check must be performed for all Projects. In addition, the project may be subject to further desk check or on-the-spot check if the project Agreement is included in the NA sample required by the European Commission or if the NA has selected it for a targeted check based on its risk assessment.

For final report check and desk check, the beneficiary must supply to the NA copies of supporting documents specified in the section I.2, unless the NA makes a request for originals to be delivered. The NA must return original supporting documents to the beneficiary upon its analysis thereof. If the beneficiary is legally not authorised to send original documents for final report or desk checks, the beneficiary concerned may send a copy of the supporting documents instead.

The beneficiary may be requested by the NA to provide for any type of check, additional supporting documents or evidence that are typically required for another type of check, as specified in article II.27 of the General Conditions.

The different checks must include the following:

a) Final report check

The final report check is undertaken at final report stage at the NA premises in order to establish the final grant amount to which the beneficiary is entitled.

The beneficiary must submit to the National Agency a final report through Mobility Tool+ which will include the following information on grant expenditure:

- Unit contributions consumed for budget categories:
 - Travel
 - Organisational support
 - Inclusion Support
 - Pocket money / Relocation allowance
 - Linguistic support

- Actual costs incurred and supporting documents specified in Section II of this Annex for budget category:
 - Exceptional costs
 - Complementary activity costs (where applicable).

b) Desk check

Desk check is an in-depth check of supporting documents at the NA premises that may be conducted at or after the final report stage.

Upon request, the beneficiary must submit to the National Agency the supporting documents for all budget categories.

c) On-the-spot checks

On-the-spot checks are performed by the NA at the premises of the beneficiary or at any other relevant premise for the execution of the Project. During on-the-spot checks, the beneficiary must make available for review by the National Agency original supporting documentation for all budget categories.

There are three types of possible on-the-spot checks:

- ***On-the-spot check during project implementation***

This check is undertaken during the implementation of the Project in order for the National Agency to verify directly the reality and eligibility of all project activities and participants;

- ***On-the-spot check after completion of the project***

This check is undertaken after the end of the Project and usually after the final report check.

In addition to providing all supporting documentation, the beneficiary must enable the National Agency access to the recording of project expense in the beneficiary accounts.

- ***System check***

The system check is performed to establish the beneficiary's compliance with the commitments undertaken as a result of the Quality Label or Erasmus+ Volunteering accreditation.

The beneficiary must enable National Agency to verify the reality and eligibility of all project activities and participants.