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 Asociación de Regiones Fronterizas Europeas (ARFE)
 Association des régions frontalières européennes (ARFE)
 Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
 Comunità di lavoro delle regioni europee di confine (AGEG)
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Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY)



Background Information:

The [Interreg Volunteer Youth](#) (IVY) initiative is part of the broader [European Solidarity Corps Initiative](#) launched by the European Commission and announced by President Juncker in his State of the Union Speech at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 14 September 2016. This initiative is co-financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional & Urban Policy.

What & When:

IVY officially started on 1st March 2017 and is a 1-year pilot action to offer the possibility to young Europeans aged 18-30 to serve as volunteers in the cross-border, transnational or interregional programmes and related projects. Each experience is between 2 and 6 month long.

Why:

The initiative is aimed at involving young volunteers to support, promote and report the concrete achievements of Interreg programmes and projects, as well as generally promote cooperation across European borders and related values such as solidarity. IVY will give volunteers the opportunity to familiarise with the Interreg programmes and projects, make them aware of the many benefits of collaboration among EU internal borders as well as enhance their sense of European solidarity, citizenship and civic engagement. Moreover, thanks to IVY, volunteers will acquire a unique experience of personal growth as well as enhancing and gaining skills that they can employ in their future experiences.

How & Who:

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IVY is structured around two main strands:

1. the **Interreg Project Partners**, that will help with Interreg project implementation focusing on specific aspects or difficulties to be solved in fields such as solidarity projects, people to people projects, health projects, community-based projects, projects focusing on the social dimension of Interreg cooperation. The Interreg Project Partner will therefore be deployed in the territory of one of the **Interreg project beneficiaries**;
2. the **Interreg Reporters** that will help with disseminating information on the benefit of territorial integration on the ground, through reporting successful Interreg projects. The Interreg Reporter will therefore be deployed either in the offices of the **Interreg Managing Authorities and/or the Interreg Joint Secretariats**.

Support and visibility through volunteering are the leitmotiv of this initiative. The scope and topic of each IVY experience are various and range from health to environment, from social inclusion to technology and innovation, etc.

The [Association of European Border Regions](#) (AEBR) has the great pleasure and honour to manage the IVY on behalf of the European Commission because of its great experience in the field of EU project management, its wide network across most European borders as well as its interest to support European youth and boost values such as solidarity and cooperation among Europeans of all ages.

More Information:

For more information about IVY, please contact: ivy@aebr.eu and visit: <https://www.interregyouth.com/>
Follow and like IVY on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#): @InterregYouth #InterregYouth

FAQs:

Who is eligible to become an IVY volunteer?

Any EU citizen aged between 18 and 30 years old.

How can I apply to become an IVY volunteer?

If you are interested in becoming an IVY volunteer (either Interreg Reporter or Interreg Project Partner), you should make an application in the European Solidarity Corps Youth Portal here: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en Then, you will get a participant's reference number. Once you get that number, you can send it via email to ivy@aebr.eu This way, if we see that there are host organisations interested in your profile, we can more easily put you in touch with them.

How long is the IVY volunteer experience and where could I be deployed?

Each experience is between minimum 2 and maximum 6 month long. You can be deployed in any of 28 EU Member States. This means that you could also be deployed in [one of the EU's outermost regions around the world](#).

Am I financially supported? How does it work?

Yes, you are. We financially support volunteers with a daily allowance of minimum 19 EUR to maximum 26 EUR per day for the entire duration of their placement (not just per working day but counting weekends and holidays too). This daily allowance changes according to the host country where the volunteer will be deployed and it is intended to cover food, lodging, local transport, etc.,

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as well as to provide some pocket money to the volunteer. Moreover, AEBR cover volunteers' travel cost based on km distance they would do from their home address to the host organisation's address. Some host organisations top up this allowance (with money transfer, local transport tickets, meals, etc.) but this is not guaranteed.

AEBR will proceed to the payment of the financial support (including both daily allowance and travel costs) per bank transfer as follows:

- If the deployment lasts for 2-3 months, two payments will be made: 70% before the deployment and 30% at the end, once the report or feedback from the volunteer after termination of the mission is received by the AEBR.
- If the deployment lasts for 4-6 months, three payments will be made: 40% before the deployment, 40% in the middle of the stay, and 20% at the end, once the report or feedback from the volunteer after termination of the mission is received by the AEBR.

Do I benefit from an insurance scheme onsite? What does it cover?

Yes, you do. You will get all necessary information and useful documents on your insurance coverage in your Info Pack before your deployment. IVY insurance scheme includes benefits related to health, general assistance, liability and accident.

Will you or the host organisation help me finding a suitable, low-cost accommodation?

Your host organisation will provide you with some tips and support to make your accommodation search easier and faster.

Will I receive a training before departure?

Yes, you will. AEBR will organise a group or bilateral Skype call with departing volunteers. Your host organisation will also provide you with a specific training when welcoming you.

Am I supposed to travel during my experience?

This depends on your specific IVY experience. It could happen that you travel to certain events or for meetings. In this case, the expenses will be covered by the host organisation or AEBR.

Can I join extra activities during or after my IVY experience?

Yes, you are encouraged to do so! These extra activities may be organised during or after your volunteering period. These activities include the opportunity to attend events and take part to campaigns and competitions mainly organised by the European Commission, thus having the chance to share your IVY experience, connect with other volunteers and EU experts. For example, two IVY volunteers will attend the Open Door Europe Day event in Brussels on 6th May accompanying European Commission's officials.

What will I get at the end of my IVY volunteering experience?

If you successfully complete your IVY experience, you will get a certificate of participation and engagement as EU Solidarity Corps and IVY volunteer. Moreover, thanks to the IVY experience, you will acquire a unique experience of personal growth as well as enhancing and gaining skills that you can employ in your future experiences.

What do you expect from me as IVY volunteer?

Generally speaking, we expect you to make European Territorial Cooperation (the so-called "Interreg") and its solidarity/cooperation dimension more visible among EU citizens.

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