

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

Citizens' Summary

European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- **Volunteering is on the rise** in the EU, with a growing number of organisations and increasingly diverse groups and approaches involved.
- The EU is committed to setting up a **European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC)** to enable young Europeans to contribute to the EU's humanitarian aid work.
- As a first step, the Commission has issued a Communication reviewing the current situation of volunteering and preparing the ground for a public consultation.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

The EU can use initiatives such as the EVHAC to help make the burgeoning and increasing complex volunteering sector **more coordinated and effective**.

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **People affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts** - innovative ways the EU could use volunteers to provide more effective aid.
- **Humanitarian aid organisations** - the EU wishes to support organisations in making most effective use of volunteers.
- **Local volunteers** - since local groups are the first on hand in the event of armed conflicts and natural disasters, supporting them can improve the response to these disasters.
- **EU citizens** will benefit from greater clarity about how the EU intends to use public funds to respond to humanitarian disasters.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Once the Communication has been adopted, the public consultation will be launched