



EU Aid Volunteers

ECHO FACTSHEET

EU Aid Volunteers
We Care, We Act



Facts & Figures

- 206 volunteers deployed to 28 non-EU countries by end of 2017
- more than 300 volunteers trained by end of 2017
- 141 organisations certified (33 sending organisations, 108 hosting organisations)
- 44 project partners participate in technical assistance projects
- 85 project partners participate in capacity building projects

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Chiara, EU Aid Volunteer, assists in the distribution of water filter kits

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Key messages

- EU Aid Volunteers provides **opportunities for citizens from the EU to volunteer** in humanitarian aid projects worldwide. Volunteers are deployed in partnerships of EU-based sending organisations and hosting organisations in non-EU countries affected by disaster. There are also online volunteering opportunities.
- EU Aid Volunteers also **supports humanitarian aid organisations**. EU Aid Volunteers projects run by partnerships of EU-based and non-EU based organisations **strengthen the capacity of non-EU based organisations** to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises and improve their volunteer management. It also funds **EU-based organisations to strengthen their technical capacity** and meet the standards and procedures required to deploy EU Aid Volunteers. For details of future calls and to consult the 2017 reference documents see.
- Organisations aiming to deploy European volunteers must **comply with the EU Aid Volunteers standards on volunteer management** and go through a certification process before submitting a proposal for volunteer deployment. Certification can be applied for at any time.
- A **training programme for EU Aid Volunteers** ensures that candidate volunteers are thoroughly prepared before their departure to a non-EU country. The training, a mixture of online training and face-to-face training, is mandatory for all EU Aid Volunteers.
- EU Aid Volunteers complements humanitarian aid actions and help strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in countries affected by disaster, contributing to disaster risk management activities agreed under the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

About EU Aid Volunteers

Humanitarian organisations need **more well-trained people** to carry out practical action that helps communities affected by disaster. EU Aid Volunteers enables European citizens to contribute to humanitarian assistance in countries where help is needed.

Many existing volunteering schemes in Europe have a domestic focus and few provide opportunities to support humanitarian aid and disaster risk management. EU Aid Volunteers brings volunteers and organisations from different countries together in joint projects in areas such as **resilience-building, disaster risk management and linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)**, as a practical expression of solidarity with communities vulnerable to humanitarian crises. EU Aid Volunteers will not be deployed to emergency response operations or in areas of armed conflict.

Investing in capacity building of humanitarian organisations, local communities and first responders in disaster-affected countries is essential for **creating a more effective, principled humanitarian response**, which is why it is also supported under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

Who can apply to be an EU Aid Volunteer and when?

EU Aid Volunteers must be **over 18 years of age** and be **citizens of EU Member States or long-term residents in the EU**. The support package to EU Aid Volunteers while on deployment includes accommodation, travel and insurance, ongoing learning and development, a monthly allowance while on deployment and a resettlement allowance to help with expenses on returning home.

EU Aid Volunteers is [open to a variety of profiles](#): candidates can be junior volunteers seeking to gain experience in the humanitarian sector or senior experts with over 5 years of relevant professional experience. Interested candidates apply for specific vacancies and the selection of volunteers is done by the project partners. Volunteering opportunities vary depending on the level of skills and competences of candidates.

Training is provided face-to-face and online to selected candidate volunteers. The training curriculum is competency based and has courses on the EU's crisis response system, humanitarian action, managing safety, security and health, project management, intercultural awareness, advocacy, communication, first aid, training of multipliers, volunteer management and organisational development.

The next recruitment of **EU Aid Volunteers** will begin in early 2018. **Online volunteering opportunities** are published whenever this online volunteering support is needed.

How can organisations participate?

Follow these steps:

A] Technical Assistance and Capacity Building enables organisations to deploy EU Aid Volunteers

1. Build a consortium of European organisations (Technical Assistance) or of European organisations and third country organisations (Capacity Building)

Transnational partnerships are at the core of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, valued as a means of transferring knowledge, sharing best practice and increasing expertise. Consortia of organisations/entities from EU countries only can apply for technical assistance. Project consortia composed of organisations/entities from both EU-based and third countries can apply for capacity building.

2. Submit a project proposal for technical assistance or capacity building activities

Consortia can apply for funding to, for example, conduct seminars and workshops, provide training to multipliers, to organise exchange of good practice or to foster partnership building in support of disaster risk reduction/preparedness/emergency response activities and activities related to resilience and linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD).



[Technical Assistance and Capacity Building](#) support helps organisations to **comply with the standards and procedures regarding the management of volunteers** that are required to submit a proposal for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers.

B] Deployment of EU Aid Volunteers

1. Become a certified sending or hosting organisation

All organisations wishing to send or host volunteers under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative **must be certified**. The [certification process](#) verifies that the high standards and procedures of volunteer management set to protect and manage volunteers during their deployment as EU Aid Volunteers can be fully realised and met by all participating organisations.

For organisations that need help to become certified as an EU Aid Volunteers sending or hosting organisation, grants are available to strengthen their capacities and participate fully in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (see above, capacity building and technical assistance).

2. Build a consortium of European and third country organisations

The transnational partnerships that are at the centre the EU Aid Volunteers initiative transfer knowledge, share best practice and increase expertise. Using this approach, only consortia of EU-based (sending) and non-EU-based (hosting) organisations can submit projects for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers.

3. Submit a project proposal for deployment of EU Aid Volunteers

Consortia of certified sending and hosting organisations can [apply for funding](#) to deploy volunteers from EU countries to non-EU countries.

