
YouthTurn
Volunteer InfoPack
Up to a year with young people in Cogealac.
European Solidarity Corps
Cogealac · Constanța · Romania
Start any time · Dec 2026 – Dec 2027
Asociația Luna și noi
Co-funded by the European Union

HEY THERE, FUTURE CHANGEMAKER 👋

Welcome to YouthTurn.

Ready to shake things up, learn new things, and live in a place where people wave at you in the street? **YouthTurn** is our European Solidarity Corps volunteering project in Cogealac, a village near the Black Sea in Romania.

You'd spend **up to a year** with the young people of Cogealac and Grădina: running activities at the youth centre, building an eco-glamping corner with your own hands, growing a community garden and bringing people together. It's chill, it's meaningful, and it's very hands-on.

This InfoPack tells you everything: what you'd do, who you'd do it with, where you'd live, what the money really looks like and how to apply. Read it all — we'd rather you know exactly what you're signing up for.



YOUTHTURN AT A GLANCE

Cogealac, Romania
Constanța County, a short drive from the Black Sea

Start any time
between December 2026 and December 2027

Up to 12 months
tell us in the form when you could come and stay

30 hours a week
about 6 hours a day, 09:00–13:00 and 14:00–16:00

Aged 18–30
living in an eligible country (see the last pages)

Funded by ESC
house, food, pocket money, insurance and travel



WHERE YOU'D LIVE

Cogealac, a real Romanian village.

Cogealac sits in Constanța County, a short drive from the Black Sea. It's home to the **largest wind turbine park in Eastern Europe** — you'll see the turbines from everywhere, and the sunsets behind them are ridiculous.

It has what you need, at village scale: medical services, shops, bakeries, a couple of cafés, shawarma, and everything within walking or biking distance.

And let's be honest with you, because the platform will be too: **it's a village, not a town.** There's no club and no nightlife. Most people don't speak English, winter is grey and long, and getting to a city takes planning.

The people who do well here bring something with them — a project, a hobby, an instrument, a book pile — and lean into the small things: the neighbour who gives you tomatoes, the kid who finally says your name right, the dog that adopts you.

It's beautiful here. It's also sometimes just hard. Both are true.

Money heads-up

Romania is not in the Eurozone: the currency is the **Romanian Leu (RON)**. Cards work in many places, but keep some cash for small village shops. ATMs are in the village.

Village scale
everything is walking or biking distance

Medical services
in the village

Shops & bakeries
cafés and shawarma too

City trips
possible — they just take planning

WHAT YOU'D ACTUALLY DO

Youth work, an eco-glamping build & a garden.

You'd be at the heart of the local youth community. Some days you're co-running activities with teenagers at the youth centre; other days you're outside, building and growing things with a young local team — including teenage volunteers.

At the youth centre

- Plan and run games, events and non-formal workshops for children and teens
- Educational support and after-school activities
- Intercultural evenings and exchanges
- Mentor young local volunteers in their own projects

Building eco-glamping

- Help build a small eco-glamping refuge: wooden frames, decks, cosy corners
- Measure, saw, sand, screw and assemble simple structures
- Paint, decorate and make the place welcoming
- Move materials, tidy the site, keep it safe

Garden & community

- Community gardening and environmental activities
- Community events and social inclusion
- Logistics for activities and events
- Share the project and the values of the European Solidarity Corps



Hands-on, not hard-hat

All building work is **non-professional and done under guidance.** No heavy machinery and nothing that needs a certificate — but it is physical, and it is messy. Dust, paint, mud and sweat included.

You'll pick up a ton of experience along the way: project management, teamwork, basic building skills and working across cultures.

A HOUSE WORKS WITH A MIX OF PEOPLE

Which part of the team would you be?

Someone who notices the paint has run out, someone who makes a wall look like a gallery, someone who fixes the projector, someone the teenagers follow anywhere. There's no best profile — **we need all of them**, and everyone does a bit of everything.

Youth work & facilitation

In the room with the teens: games, workshops, mentoring.

- Games, events and workshops
- After-school & summer activities
- Mentoring young local volunteers

Build & grow

Happy with sawdust, mud and a wheelbarrow.

- Building the eco-glamping refuge
- Simple structures and repairs
- Gardening and planting

Creative & artsy

Makes places feel like somewhere people want to be.

- Art, craft and music workshops
- Painting, signs and decoration
- Posters and visuals for events

Tech & media

Makes the projector work and the Instagram worth following.

- Photos, video and short edits
- Social media with our comms team
- Digital workshops and online safety

Logistics & coordination

Keeps track of people, stuff and schedules.

- Materials and supplies
- Rotas and who-is-where
- Events end to end

Community & events

Talks to the neighbours and makes the evening happen.

- Bonfires, movie nights, house events
- School, town hall and local groups
- Language cafés, cultural evenings

In the application you tell us what you've actually done — not what you think we want to hear.

THE PEOPLE YOU'D WORK WITH

Picking you up from the bus, eating tacos on Thursdays.

These are the people who'd read your application, meet you in the interview and be around every day of your project. Here's who to talk to about what.



Vali

PRESIDENT & COMMUNITY

The association, the village and the people around the house.

Ammar

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Your day-to-day, weekly check-ins, anything that isn't going well.

Mihai

PROJECT COORDINATOR

The project, the paperwork, your contract and your visa.

Miti

COMMUNICATION

Photos, videos, social media and telling your story.

Marian

LOGISTICS

Materials, supplies, the building site, getting from A to B.

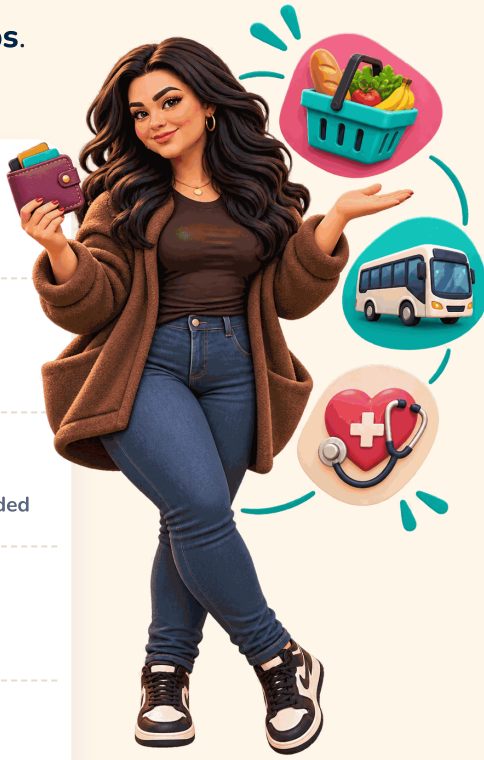
You'll meet all of us in the interview ♡

WHAT THE PROGRAMME COVERS

Funded. Just not free upfront.

All programme costs are covered by the **European Solidarity Corps**. Here's what you get:

Pocket money	**€4 / day** about €120 a month, paid monthly
Food allowance	**€6 / day** about €180 a month, paid monthly
Accommodation	**Covered** shared room in our volunteer house, utilities & internet included
Travel	**Reimbursed** round trip, by ESC distance band (page 10)
Health insurance	**Covered** Henner, the ESC insurance (page 8)
Training & language	**Included** trainings, mentoring and Romanian lessons



The honest money part 🙏

Nothing is advanced to you. You book and pay your own ticket and get it back after you arrive. Visa fees (if you need a visa) and extra baggage are yours too. Pocket money and food allowance are paid **at the end of each month** — so your first month is on you.

Plan to have **about €300 available when you land**, on top of your ticket and visa. Your sending organisation can sometimes help with the ticket or an advance — ask them early. And if money is a problem, tell us: sometimes the start date can move.

LIVING TOGETHER

A close-knit (and slightly chaotic) volunteer family.

You'd live with the other volunteers in a **shared house in Cogealac**, about ten minutes from the youth centre, sharing a room. Electricity, water, heating and internet are included.

We often throw house parties, BBQs, taco nights and pizza evenings, plus bonfires and movie nights — you'll make friends with the team quickly. A shared house also means shared chores, a cleaning rota and the occasional kitchen debate.



Our vibe

Casual, sometimes a bit weird, often chaotic — but always real. Young people get to be themselves at the youth centre, which can mean colourful language, dark humour and spontaneous karaoke battles.

What we don't do: rude, sexist, racist or intentionally offensive. Jokes, yes. Disrespect, no.

Health insurance: Henner

1. You pay for the visit or treatment upfront.
2. You upload the invoice and receipts on the Henner portal.
3. You usually get the money back within a week or two.

Not ideal for emergencies — but for anything serious, **Romania gives free emergency treatment to everyone**, foreign volunteers included.

Shared room
electricity, water, heating & internet included

Taco nights & BBQs
plus bonfires and movie nights

Cleaning rota
a shared house means shared chores

Respect, always
jokes yes, disrespect no



TIME OFF & GROWTH

This isn't a job. It's a learning journey.

Sunday–Monday weekend

Great for mini-trips or doing absolutely nothing.

Every Romanian public holiday off

Plus **two extra personal days off a month** to travel further or just recharge. You ask for them in the volunteer app, in advance.

Your own volunteer app

Weekly reports, activity plans, days off, the house rota — and at the end, your Youthpass and a look back at everything you did.

- **From day one:** an introductory training on working with young people in Romania and settling into Cogealac — Romanian culture and our community included.
- **Weekly one-to-one mentoring** and skill-building workshops: leadership, communication, teamwork.
- **Weekly Romanian lessons** — Bună! means hello, you're welcome.
- **Team-building** and the European Solidarity Corps trainings along the way.
- **Youthpass** at the end: the European certificate of what you learned, plus a certificate of volunteering from the association.

You'll leave with skills, tools and friendships for life.

YOUR WEEK

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Weekend	09–13 14–16	09–13 14–16	09–13 14–16	09–13 14–16	09–13 14–16	Weekend

About 30 hours a week. Some events happen in the evening or on another day — then the hours move, they don't add up.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Getting here (and getting your money back).

Your travel grant depends on the **one-way distance** between your home city and Cogealac. The grant covers the **round trip**. Check your distance with the official calculator:

erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator



ONE-WAY DISTANCE	STANDARD	GREEN TRAVEL
10 – 99 km	**€28**	**€56**
100 – 499 km	**€211**	**€285**
500 – 1,999 km	**€309**	**€417**
2,000 – 2,999 km	**€395**	**€535**
3,000 – 3,999 km	**€580**	**€785**
4,000 – 7,999 km	**€1,188**	**€1,188**
8,000 km or more	**€1,735**	**€1,735**

Green travel means low-emission transport (train, bus, car-sharing) for most of the journey. The application form shows your amount.

1 Travel dates

- Arrive at most **3 days before** the start, leave at most **3 days after** the end.
- Extra days are a personal holiday and are not reimbursed.

2 Keep every document

- Boarding passes, e-tickets, bus or train receipts and booking confirmations — for both trips.
- **No proof, no reimbursement.**

3 Reimbursement

- Paid by bank transfer within 60 days after the end of your stay.
- Only once **all** documents are in.

4 Not reimbursed

- Travel outside the 3-day window or not matching the project dates; missing tickets.
- Upgrades, extra bags, private taxis (unless justified), unrelated hotel nights, fuel or tolls without car-sharing proof.



BEFORE YOU FLY

Packing essentials.

🧥 Weather gear

The weather changes fast — pack layers. Light clothes for warm days, a hoodie or jacket for cool evenings, and properly warm clothes for winter.

👟 Shoes

Comfortable walking shoes for village life, something waterproof for rainy days and muddy building sites, and work clothes you don't mind ruining.

🔌 Tech

Phone and charger, an adapter (Romania uses type C & F plugs), a power bank, and optionally a laptop or tablet for workshops and your own projects.

🪪 Documents

Passport or national ID (mandatory), and your visa if you need one. For a Romanian bank account, bring an official document with your home address, ideally translated into English.

💊 Personal care

Any prescription medicines with a copy of the prescription, your favourite hygiene products and a small first-aid kit.

💛 Something from home

A board game, a speaker, a journal, your favourite snack — or a recipe from your country to cook for your housemates.

Pack light – you'll go home with more than you came with ♡

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN ALL YEAR

From "hmm, maybe" to Cogealac.

1 — Apply online

A journey, not just a form: you meet the team and read this InfoPack again on the way, with a few questions after each part. Your answers are saved as you go. A 90-second voice note is optional.

2 — Second round

If it looks like a match, you get a personal link with a few more questions — about living together, an activity plan and where you'd fit in the team.

3 — Online interview

About 30 minutes with the team. You pick a time slot yourself from your personal link.

4 — Our decision

Selected, waiting list, or not this time — we always tell you. A person reads every application and makes every decision.

5 — Your personal dossier

Once selected, everything happens in one place: your details, your agreement, visa documents if you need them, travel and arrival.

Scan to apply

app.lunasinoi.com/apply/youthturn

Who can apply

Young people aged **18–30** who live in:

EU countries — Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

and — Türkiye, North Macedonia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia

Not an EU citizen? You'll need a long-stay visa for Romania. Once you're selected, we prepare the documents with you.

YouthTurn

WHY THIS ROCKS

WHY YOUTHTURN

More than volunteering.



You'll leave a real mark on our community — not just through activities and a refuge you built yourself, but through real connections, new ideas and shared laughter. Whether you're painting a sign, leading a workshop or sitting around the dinner table after a long day, you'll be part of something meaningful.

It's a chance to grow, to be inspired, to be challenged — and to fall in love with a corner of the world you didn't know you needed. You'll learn as much from the teens as they learn from you. You'll make friends you'll miss, and memories you'll brag about for years.

Pack your quirks, your curiosity and your playlist. Come live it with us ✨

About the project & EU support

YouthTurn is co-funded by the European Union through the **European Solidarity Corps** programme (project 2025-1-RO01-ESC51-VTJ-000346573), which empowers young people to make a positive impact in communities across Europe.

Every workshop, event and spontaneous dance break at the youth centre is a direct result of the EU's investment in young people — starting in a small Romanian village, but reaching far beyond.

Questions?

Write to us — a human answers.

mihai@lunasinoi.com

lunasinoi.com

Ready?
Apply at
app.lunasinoi.com/apply/youthturn

Asociația Luna și noi

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.