

# “European Solidarity Corps and Civil Service in Europe”

## Conference in memory of David Sassoli

Brussels – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

*“With this initiative we intend to relaunch the knowledge and importance of the European Solidarity Corps, a young programme born 5 years ago, with strong roots in the twenty-year experience of the European Volunteer Service, but expanded in inclusion (from disadvantaged young people to immigrants legally resident in the EU) and more accessible through the Youth Portal” - state the promoters*

Civil Service and Volunteering operate on a national basis with projects also in Europe and beyond the borders **of the Union, but this is not a homogeneous reality** in the Member States. A diversity that is part of their historical and cultural specificities. *The prospect in which we move is to evolve the ESC into **a true European Civil Service, which gives substance to the duty of solidarity enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and an integral part of the Treaty of Lisbon as an element of identity of the European Union**, in such controversial and risky times, but also of a common active European citizenship which, as emerged in the Conference on the Future of Europe, can give the institutions soul and strength.*

From here, we can and must build a more common European space and in fact, the priority objective of the conference on 24<sup>th</sup> October is to promote:

- **comparative research by the Commission** on the different legal frameworks and civil service operating systems in Europe with a view to a Green Paper on possible convergence;
- mutual recognition at European level and between Member States **of voluntary status and the non-profit nature of organisations**;
- **greater collaboration and integration** between the European Solidarity Corps and the national civil service systems of the individual countries of the Union;
- **The effective possibility for young people and social organisations** to carry out voluntary or civil service activities recognised and promoted by all Member States;
- **the continuation of the ESC with an adequate increase in resources** in the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2027-34 to meet the growing demand of young people;
- **The formal European recognition of acquired skills** and the value of participation in volunteering or civil service activities in CVs and access to work;
- **The implementation of paths and opportunities for exchange** between organisations to share good practices;
- **developing transitional civil service projects**, such as the one signed between Italy and France, following the pilot project launched in 2014 between Italy, France and Luxembourg and presented in Brussels.

*“We intend to work together for a common objective, a European Civil Service, which gives substance to the duty of solidarity enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and an integral part of the Treaty of Lisbon as an identity element of the European Union, in such controversial and risky times, but also of a common active European citizenship that, as emerged in the Conference on the Future of Europe, can give soul and strength to the institutions”.*

---

**Some data:** In December 2020, the European Commission approved an allocation of one billion euros to allow 270,000 young people to participate in a solidarity activity in the 2021/2027 period.

The projects are also aimed at young people residing in Member States who do not have a legal framework offering them and non-profit organisations, structured volunteering or civil service experiences.