



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

PARTNER INFORMATION FOR "Erasmus+" and "European Solidarity Corps" Project's Partnerships

Participating organisation	
Role in the application	Partner organisation
PIC code (from ECAS database)	914318024
Quality Label/Accreditation	YES
Accreditation Type	Quality Label
Accreditation Reference	2018-1-IT03-ESC52-015380
Accreditation Role	Sending / Hosting / Jobs / Trainerships
Valid until	31/12/2020
Legal name (of the organisation)	EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa Sociale
Legal name (national language)	EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa Sociale
Address	via Giulia, 2 – 89040 Camini (RC) - Italy
Email	eu@eurocoopcamini.com
Website	www.eurocoopcamini.com – FB: https://www.facebook.com/jungimundu/
Type of Organisation	Social enterprise
Is the partner organisation a public body?	No
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes
Person authorised to legally commit the promoter (legal representative)	
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Person responsible for the implementation of the action (first contact person)	
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Background and experience

Briefly present the partner organisation

EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa Sociale (henceforth "EUROCOOP") is a non-profit social cooperative based in Camini, a small hillside village in Calabria, southern Italy. This region is often referred to as the "toe of the boot" of Italy. More precisely, Camini is in the Locride area, which was, until the very recent past, characterised by poverty and chronic depopulation. For decades, Locride – and Camini itself – had suffered from mass emigration, a direct result of the extreme poverty and lack of job opportunities. Over this same period, the area was also blighted by the activities of organised crime groups, which had a negative impact on the wider region and beyond.

Nowadays, thanks to the activities of civil society organisations and growing community resilience, the situation is changing. While the overall pattern remains uneven across the region, the village of Camini itself is undergoing something of a renaissance and experiencing genuine social and economic growth. This is primarily due to its programme of reception and integration of third-country nationals, which it developed broadly in line with the model initiated in some neighbouring villages.

Over the past 20 years, such southern Italian villages, which have embraced refugee resettlement programmes, have experienced economic growth and expansion, as the local municipalities and civil society organisations have started to implement long-term goals with their new migrant communities. Working together, migrants and local people have rejuvenated these former 'ghost towns' – which have now become global symbols of internationalism, humanitarian aid and solidarity.

In 2011, EUROCOOP launched its comprehensive refugee project in Camini, which paved the way for the current operations centre "Jungi Mundu" – which means "Join the World" in the Calabrese dialect. The project facilitates asylum seekers' reception and integration, adopting a 'scattered hospitality' approach in contrast to the transitory way of life that typifies the crowded migration centres in many larger cities. The "Jungi Mundu" centre – which is open 24/7 – is acknowledged as a safe haven for the new residents, especially families and minors, who in turn have actively contributed to community development. In the past few years, EUROCOOP has been ever more successful in delivering real and meaningful community outreach, through social inclusion programmes implemented at the local, regional and international level. Local people and the new migrant population collaborate and bond through activities such as the ceramic workshop, after-school homework club, tending the local didactic farm and fruit and vegetable plots, sports, housing and other building reconstruction.

The reopening of a primary school, which had been closed for some 20 years, is significant in many different ways. Beyond its clear educational role, it is important as regards social cohesion and also frees times for parents to work. Moreover, the school and nursery complement each other with regard to their wider social role, as, indeed, does the afterschool homework club, which supports the older school students, especially as they start to prepare for public examinations. All of this is ultimately traceable to the work of EUROCOOP.

In 2016, EUROCOOP initiated a working relationship with international volunteers. These people of all ages and backgrounds support the local staff, within a well-established, yet adaptable, framework. Camini's first wave of volunteers comprised 26 young people, which grew to 87 the following year and then 102 in 2018. The international volunteers have taken on many different tasks and challenges, including the re-design and reopening of the artisan

shops, which now represent a significant resumption of commercial activity.

This is just one example of the community revitalisation programme that the local population, international volunteers and refugees have developed together in an intergenerational and sustainable perspective, thereby providing a new lease of life to a rural village which had slowly atrophied over two centuries. This is a virtuous circle, now framed into long-term strategies and policies, which sees migration and transnational youth mobility as positive factors enhancing the whole society economically, socially and culturally.

Two new developments have already marked 2019, paving the way to yet further growth along these lines. First, the inclusion of EUROCOOP in the National Register of Italy-based associations working to fight racial discrimination under the aegis of the National Office against Discrimination (UNAR); secondly, being awarded the 'Quality Label for European Solidarity Corps' to lead and participate in 'volunteering' (both hosting and supporting roles), 'traineeships' and 'job activities' at the EU level.

EUROCOOP immediately took advantage of its accreditation by submitting project proposals to host volunteers through the European Solidarity Corps in Camini. This led to an initial project (ESC11: "**Camini Corps: Chance - Creativity - Community for Solidarity Actions**"), within just four months of the launch of the "C-CORPS". The programme comprises five individual volunteering opportunities, developed in collaboration with accredited partner organisations in Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Serbia and Sweden, and takes the form of both short- and long-term perspectives between summer 2019 and spring 2020. Priority to participate in this volunteering programme is given to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may have had little or no transnational mobility opportunities to date. Many are from rural areas or the periphery of a town or city and may be at risk of social exclusion. There is also a commitment to enable the participation of young people with a migrant background who are already part of our community, and of others from disadvantaged backgrounds. Wider numbers of disadvantaged young people, including newly-arrived migrants and refugees, will also become indirect beneficiaries of the project, through their own engagement – in whatever way, shape or form - with our solidarity activities, in particular those targeting "Inclusion", "Community development" and the "Reception and integration of refugees and migrants". Within this perspective, the Erasmus+ "Inclusion and Diversity Strategy", the new "EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027)", and the "EU Work Plan for Youth" provide both an important framework and practical guidelines to help the community achieve its sustainable development goals.

One of the main strategic focuses of this first Solidarity Corps project is to help people improve their health and well-being. Poor quality of life and a lack of services and opportunities can hold a community back. Working together with all our partners, including the young volunteers, EUROCOOP is committed to help communities struggling with these challenges by connecting them with what they need, promoting healthy lifestyles and well-being across age groups.

These key priorities and values are further promoted by our first Erasmus+ project entitled "**GOOD PRACTICES FOR A BETTER YOU(th): Empowering youth well-being - GOOD4YOU(th)**", whose primary aim is to create a shared culture of youth wellbeing at the transnational. The project focuses on supporting youth workers, by raising awareness of youth wellbeing overall and healthy eating in teenage years, and by encouraging the youngest participants (15 – 19 age group) to take an active role in managing their own health, including through improved self-care and nutrition habits.

The "GOOD4YOU(th)" project achieves all this by offering practical tools to the youth workers and practitioners from the various programme countries - and whether from cities or rural areas - to further highlight the positive impact of improved health and food literacy at the

	<p>community level. The overall concept for the project also drew on recognition of specific emerging needs of adolescents and young people from all backgrounds, especially those with fewer opportunities at different levels - as advised by youth workers and other professionals. In the past few years, healthcare professionals and youth workers directly involved at the grassroots level in Camini or in the partner organisations' home countries have become aware of the need for these young people to converge around a shared culture of "wellness" associated with a healthy lifestyle. They have become increasingly aware of the importance of a holistic sense of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being, and now have the opportunity to put it all into practice.</p> <p>In addition to these two projects, we currently have underway four other Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps transnational mobility initiatives.</p> <p>To date, participation in these programmes, including those currently in preparation, has focused on transforming the lives of socially disadvantaged young people from across the EU. Camini is proud that its achievements were formally recognised this summer, with the award of the Premio Mediterraneo (Mediterranean Prize).</p> <p>Finally, we should mention the recently established "Informal Group of Young People" under the title "YOUnji Camini", the very first such group in the Locride area. The initiative here was taken by five young people in their twenties – locals and refugees alike – and activities will focus on areas of common interest, to further promote healthy lifestyles and a positive contribution to the local community and the natural environment.</p>
<p>What are the skills and experience of key staff/persons involved in this application?</p>	<p>The key staff involved in this project are youth workers, health advisors, trainers and long-term volunteers, many with considerable experience in the field of youth work. They are experienced project coordinators with considerable work experience in the fields of health and youth policy within the context of the European Union and the Council of Europe, and non-formal education and well-being, as well as working within NGO contexts at various levels. Overall, their work complements and lends support to the administrative and management staff based at the applicant organisation's headquarters.</p> <p>The President of EUROCOOP, Mr. Antonio Rosario Zurzolo, has responsibility for relationships with Local and National Authorities, manages public relations inside and outside the organisation, hires and manages staff, and oversees financial and structural resources so as to ensure the maximum efficiency of the services.</p> <p>Mr. John Hampson was Senior Strategy Officer, Arts and Culture for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in London - i.e. in local government - for eight years, from 2010. His responsibilities included the organisation and delivery of an annual programme of activity, including a festival of contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa region - the Nour Festival - and an arts and health programme. In that capacity, he also managed grants from bodies such as Arts Council England and Public Health England and provided mentoring, training, and professional development opportunities to volunteers. In 2018 he decided to move to Southern Italy, after his initial volunteering experience in the area just a few months before.</p> <p>He now divides his time between the UK and Camini where he is also serving as Mentor for the European Solidarity Corps volunteers. In Camini, the village he chose for his active contribution in community-led projects, he is also supporting the EUROCOOP organisation in many relevant areas of work, ranging from daily youth work to the homework club, from the development of the local didactic farm to supporting vulnerable young people with medical visits, from language lessons to event organisation, thus fostering and promoting social inclusion across all sectors of the local community.</p> <p>Ms. Anna Lodeserto has been providing training, coaching and project management advice to the EUROCOOP organisation since 2016. She is an experienced project manager, policy</p>

expert, transnational campaign coordinator, trainer and professional facilitator with a special interest and expertise in the social inclusion of migrants and marginalised groups, multiculturalism, and new technologies. She has twenty years' experience working with minority ethnic communities in the fields of youth work and community development.

Over the past ten years, she has focused in particular on social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, active citizenship, social justice for migrants, and encouraging citizens' involvement in grassroots organisations. She has attended, promoted and organised several formal and non-formal education activities relating to international youth work, project management, citizenship education and the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

Ms. **Monica Cazzamalli** is the Health Advisor and Trainer for the "GOOD4YOUth" Erasmus+ project on youth well-being. Previously she was one of the trainers for the first "Camini Community Retreat" which took place in Camini in November 2018. She graduated in Medicine and Surgery, from Padua University, and has worked as a nutritionist in various fields, having completed a specialist course in biology and physiology of human nutrition and cooking practice. Besides her daily practice as a nutritionist, since 2009 Monica has worked in general and paediatric practice in summer youth camps across Europe, and for a number of different organisations, including those managed by "CEFO – European Training Centre" and the Italian Ministry of Justice.

Ms. **Maria Stella Tassone**, is an experienced Language Teacher (German and English) and has also served as Project Manager for one of the world's largest agencies for international volunteering and internship opportunities. She is currently in charge of the international volunteering activities for EUROCOOP in Camini, in particular those funded by the new "European Solidarity Corps" programme.

Mr. **Mattia Arcorace** is Camini's youngest Youth Worker. He grew up in the village and has long been involved in the promotion of youth participation through sports at the grassroots level. After his High School Diploma (A-Levels in Science Subjects), he moved to Cosenza where he is taking a "Degree in Economics" at the University of Calabria. Since April 2019 he has been involved in the "Global Youth" Department of EUROCOOP, where his work ranges from supporting the delivery of European projects to the development of new ones, and from social media management to internal/external communication and dissemination of the projects' activities and results. Mattia previously has work experience as an employee for an insurance agency and before that for an SME in the microelectronics industry.

Ms. **Danila Panajia** is currently an intern in the "Global Youth" department where she supports many different activities, ranging from project and event management, including the "International Youth Day 2019". After graduating with a B.A. Degree in "Science of Social Service" from the University of Siena, she completed her studies at the University of Florence where she received her M.A. in "Design and management of social interventions". Danila gained first-hand experience in migration-related issues, which she is now further developing through the planning and delivery of services and policies favouring the social integration of migrants (i.e. public education, vocational training, qualifications and skills recognition, employment services, housing, etc.), in particular from a youth perspective.

Other professional figures complete the present working team. They are: one psychologist, one medical anthropologist, two lawyers, three educators, one career counsellor, three intercultural mediators and interpreters, two Italian language teachers, two English teachers, one logistics coordinators, one financial manager, one filmmaker, one audio-visual materials coordinator, one press officer, one social media manager, one nutritionist, and two socio-health specialists.

The staff directly involved in the project activities are skilled in the field of international communication and have widespread experience in youth work and transnational mobility,

	<p>especially as regards the promotion of volunteering activities for young people, with a view to enhancing social inclusion.</p>			
<p>Please describe the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application</p>	<p>EUROCOOP offers a compelling history of social inclusion of people from various vulnerable categories. Since 2011, it has focused increasingly on welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and unaccompanied minors. As a result of all this commitment and hard work, the mixed and varied population of Camini is now representative of all these changes, while the village is thriving - relatively, at least - thanks to its refugees. In paying special attention to social, architectural, and artistic initiatives, the transnational cooperation typified by the refugees' activities has also paved the way for youth activism. Over the past two years, EUROCOOP has consciously worked towards a process that has the direct involvement of its staff, of the beneficiaries of the projects already underway and, last but not least, of the entire local community as it gravitates towards the organisation. The key to the success of its migration-related projects is the transformation of informal altruistic approaches into motors of change at the collective level, through structured solidarity and intercultural awareness activities. A carefully thought-out youth participation strategy has been designed and is now being implemented. The first phase of this strategy involved intensive training on the Erasmus+ programme, particularly covering its youth strand and mainstreaming inclusion activities. Accordingly, the organisation coherently works in the field of social inclusion, in particular in favour of the most vulnerable sections of the population. It works to promote social cohesion, integrated development, active community engagement, and socio-professional development, combating discrimination and promoting youth participation. Its work embraces transnational initiatives and integrated projects at the local, regional, European and international level.</p> <p>Among the main activities of the organisation is the refugee resettlement programme "Jungi Mundu - A Solo Colore", which is located in Camini (RC). This project has been the focus of attention of a wide range of social, cultural, media, academic and research organisations and institutions, both nationally and internationally, and Camini is regularly hosting multiple visits of groups and individuals. Although a small community, Camini can indeed boast relevant international relations with public and private entities, including media outlets, based in 20 different European and extra-European countries thanks to the projects and multiple transnational events and initiatives developed from 2016 onwards.</p>			
<p>Have you applied for/received a grant from any European Union programme in the 12 months preceding this application?</p>	<p>YES: RECEIVED A GRANT (all those in red – in black the rest of the applications submitted)</p>			
	<p>Name of the programme:</p>	<p>Year:</p>	<p>Number of the project/application:</p>	<p>Beneficiary:</p>
	<p>European Solidarity Corps</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>Contract number: 2019-1-SI02-ESC11-014960</p>	<p>Manipura, zavod za svetovanje in kreativno delo z mladimi in družinami</p>
	<p>Erasmus+ Youth mobility (KA105)</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>2019-1-IT03-KA105-016112</p>	<p>EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa Sociale</p>
	<p>European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Projects (ESC 11)</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>2019-1-IT03-ESC11-016249</p>	<p>EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa</p>

			Sociale
European Solidarity Corps, Volunteering Teams in high priority areas (EAC/A01/2018)	2019	610680-ESC-1-2019-1-IT-KAA-VOL-HPAREA	EUROCOOP Servizi Società Cooperativa Sociale
European Solidarity Corps, Volunteering Teams in high priority areas (EAC/A01/2018)	2019	610674-ESC-1-2019-1-RO-KAA-VOL-HPAREA	Asociatia GO ROMANIA
Erasmus+, Strategic Partnerships for School Education (KA201)	2019	Submission ID: 1551541	EduTechFlag
Horizon 2020 (H2020), IA Innovation action - Transforming historic urban areas and/or cultural landscapes into hubs of entrepreneurship and social and cultural integration	2019	N/A	MINDS & SPARKS GMBH Austria
Erasmus+ Youth mobility (KA105)	2019	Submission ID 1568425; Form ID: KA105-03EA56E8	Service national de la jeunesse du Gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
Erasmus+ Youth mobility (KA105)	2019	2019-2-NL02-KA105-002525	Stichting Bloom
European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Projects	2019	2019-2-LT02-ESC11-006433 (Jgūdžių laboratorija - Skills LAB)	Innovators Valley, NGO

Once your project application is submitted, please inform us:
 <eu@eurocoopcamini.com> (attn.: Ms. Anna Lodeserto / Ms. Maria Stella Tassone)
 sending the reference code / ID – details.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Good luck with your application!