



EU Aid Volunteers

ECHO FACTSHEET



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Facts & Figures

Key figures:

- **4 000** expected deployments of EU citizens worldwide
- Target of **4 400** people from non-EU, disaster affected countries trained
- Up to **10 000** online volunteering opportunities

€147.9 million of EU funding including:

- Deployment
- Capacity building and technical assistance
- Network and communication

[volunteers/funding_en](http://ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding_en)

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* For all latest ECHO factsheets: bit.ly/echo-fs

Key messages

- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV) provides **opportunities for citizens from the EU** to engage in humanitarian aid. From 2016 to 2020, 4 000 individuals will be deployed by humanitarian organisations to support projects worldwide. A further 10 000 opportunities will be available for online volunteers to provide support.
- The initiative also funds projects submitted by consortia of EU-based and non-EU based organisations that are aimed at **strengthening the capacity of non-EU based organisations** to prepare and respond to humanitarian crises and to improve their volunteer management.
- It also provides funding for actions aimed at **strengthening the technical capacity of EU-based organisations** to comply with the standards and procedures that are required to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.
- **On 3 March 2017 the calls for proposals in capacity building and technical assistance (closing date 3 July 2017) and for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers (closing date 6 June 2017) were published.** For more information, please consult the pages of EACEA: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/>
- **91 organisations are involved in the implementation of capacity building projects and 32 organisations in technical assistance projects** to strengthen their management and operational systems, and to work in partnership to implement best practices in humanitarian aid delivery and volunteer management. Starting from 2016 the first **44 volunteers were sent to 13 countries** and will work in various functions and sectors, for example in project management, communication, urban resilience, gender, education or logistics. **From mid-2017 an additional deployment of more than 160 volunteers is foreseen.**
- European standards on the management of volunteers by humanitarian organisations have been developed in the context of this initiative. A **European training programme for volunteers** will ensure volunteers are well-trained and prepared before deployment.
- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative is an innovative instrument to complement the delivery of humanitarian aid, **strengthen resilience and build capacities** of local communities that are vulnerable to disaster. EU Aid Volunteers contribute to strengthened efforts on disaster risk management under the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

About the initiative

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

The majority of existing volunteering schemes in Europe have a domestic focus and few provide opportunities to support humanitarian aid. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative will bring volunteers and organisations from different countries to work together in joint projects in areas such as **resilience-building**, early warning and disaster risk management, as a practical expression of solidarity with communities vulnerable to humanitarian crises.

The European Commission has set up a common **European training programme** for humanitarian volunteers and has developed **European standards** for humanitarian organisations to work with volunteers in EU-funded projects worldwide to help strengthen and support local capacities to prevent, prepare for and recover from disaster.

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

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

EU Aid Volunteers candidates must be **over 18 years of age** and be **citizens of EU Member States or long-term residents in the EU**. Citizens from countries such as EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries, countries from the EEA or the European Neighbourhood Policy may apply when bilateral agreements on their participation with those countries have been concluded.

The initiative is **open to a variety of profiles**: candidates can be junior experts seeking to gain experience in the humanitarian sector; senior experts with over 5 years of relevant professional experience, who want to help out with their acquired knowledge. Preparation and deployment opportunities will depend on the level of skills and competences of candidates.

Training will be provided online and face-to-face at a central training venue to groups of selected candidate volunteers. The training curriculum is competency based and comprises courses about the EU's crisis response system, an introduction to humanitarian action, managing safety, security and health, project management, intercultural awareness, advocacy and communication, first aid, training of multipliers, volunteer management and organisational development.

The recruitment process for the deployment of new EU Aid Volunteers will begin in spring 2017. The list of vacancies and further information on the task assignment and recruitment process will be published on the [website](#) of the European Commission's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO).

How does the EU Aid Volunteer initiative work?

The Commission has developed European standards on the management of humanitarian volunteers and all sending and hosting organisations involved in the initiative **must first be certified** to comply with these standards in both European and disaster-affected countries. These certified organisations will in turn identify suitable humanitarian projects based on identified needs and apply for EU grants to deploy EU Aid Volunteers.

EU Aid Volunteers will first be trained and then tested as to their readiness to be deployed. The initiative also supports capacity-building of front-line local staff and volunteers of organisations in countries hit by disasters where the EU Aid Volunteers will work.

Deployment of volunteers will take place to **projects** focusing, for example, on: resilience building, [disaster risk management](#)* and early warning in vulnerable, fragile or disaster affected countries in third countries outside the EU; support for preparedness actions, including activities in logistics and transport, coordination, project management, finances and administration, and communication.

EU Aid Volunteers will **not** be deployed to emergency response operations in areas of armed conflict.



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How can organisations participate in the initiative?

Follow these steps:

A] Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

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. Only consortia composed of organisations/entities from EU countries can apply for technical assistance and consortia composed of organisations/entities (EU-based and based in 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 linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD).

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building shall help organisations to comply with the standards and procedures regarding the management of volunteers required to submit a project proposal for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers. **The next call for proposals is expected to be published in spring 2017.**

B] Deployment of EU Aid Volunteers

1. Become a certified sending or hosting organisation

All organisations wishing to send or host volunteers under the EUAV initiative **must be certified under the initiative**. The certification process verifies that the high standards and procedures of volunteer management set to protect and manage volunteers during their deployment under the EUAV initiative can be fully realised and met by all participating organisations. Further details on the application process for certification can be found at https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/certification-mechanism-for-sending-and-hosting-organisations_en

If you need help to become certified, grants are available to strengthen the capacities of sending and hosting organisations intending to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative (see above, capacity building and technical assistance).

2. Build a consortium of European and third country organisations

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. 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 EUAVs

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

More information on the EU Aid Volunteers initiative:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/eu-aid-volunteers_en

More information on available funding and procedures:

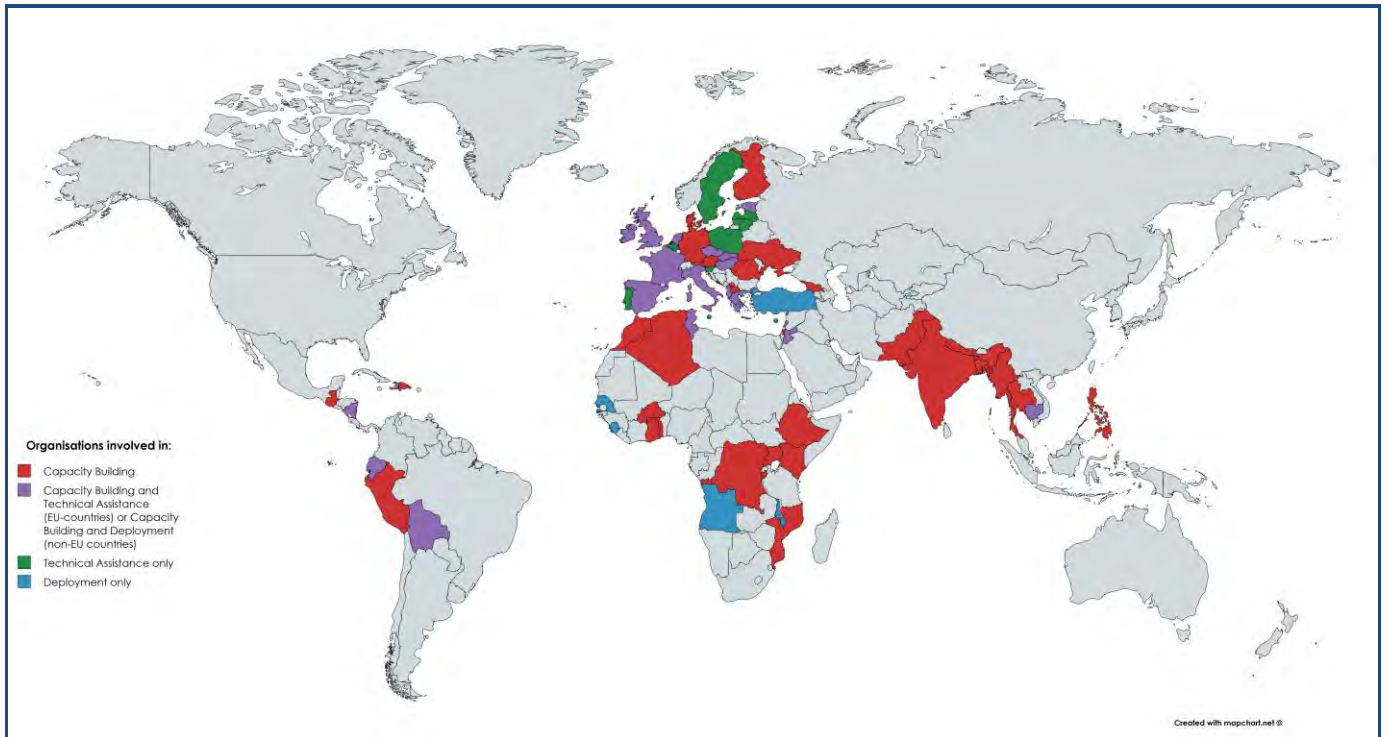
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers_en

Contact us at: EU-AID-VOLUNTEERS@ec.europa.eu



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Technical assistance, capacity building, deployment: February 2017



Under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, local organisations benefit from dedicated capacity building activities to strengthen and enhance their organisational, technical and operational capacity. Strengthening emergency response systems of local responders, providing training in disaster preparedness to build the resilience of local communities and enhancing volunteer management systems within local organisations are being supported.

Technical assistance supports European humanitarian organisations to strengthen their own capacities to respond more effectively to humanitarian crisis around the world.

Deployment of EU Aid Volunteers starting end of 2016

