



European Solidarity Corps: tackling the Covid-19 crisis

STORIES FROM PARTICIPANTS



Small acts
of kindness are
spreading hope and
fostering solidarity
across Europe.

19 May 2020
#Coronavirus #EUSolidarityCorps

Whether doing grocery shopping, sewing masks or creating online educational materials for children, young European Solidarity Corps participants are motivated and determined to take up challenges and support those in need.



Nataša from Bosnia and Herzegovina in Croatia

Nataša and other volunteers from The Circles – Centre for Education, Counselling and Charitable Work **have been helping elderly people**. Support for elderly, disabled, or sick people is one of the activities of project volunteers..

Despite limitations such as unavailability of public transport, **volunteers are bringing groceries, medicine and other necessary items to the people in need.**

They are following all precautions – keeping social distance, using masks, gloves and disinfectants.

Volunteers also designed a crowdfunding campaign to collect donations for buying bicycles as a faster alternative for home visits.



© Nataša Popović, 2020



© Nataša Popović, 2020



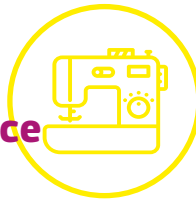
Yasmina from the Netherlands



Yasmina is passionate about sustainability, healthy lifestyles and helping the vulnerable. She and her friends created a solidarity project called **Freshtable**.

The main aim of the project is to **deliver healthy and affordable meals using ecological products and sustainable packaging**. Freshtable also provides work opportunities for refugees who are hit harder by the crisis.

Freshtable prepared and delivered free meals for elderly people affected by the current coronavirus situation.



Yannick from France in Poland



Yannick is a European Solidarity Corps volunteer from France who joined the TRATWA Association in Wroclaw, Poland in September 2019.

When Yannick moved to Poland for one year to volunteer in a project to help people and be useful, he could not imagine this unprecedented coronavirus situation which is affecting lives and lifestyles worldwide.



When the Covid-19 crisis struck Poland, Yannick and other European Solidarity Corps volunteers in TRATWA started to produce **face masks and protective helmets**. They delivered them to Wroclaw hospitals and to homeless shelters.

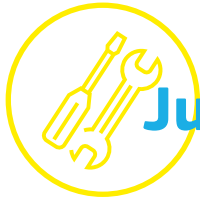
Yannick has recently joined the team preparing **food packages** that were distributed to those people in Wroclaw who need them the most. Yannick is also giving language classes. **He had to adapt his teaching methods by moving his activities online.**

Carolina from Spain in France



Carolina is 22 and is a volunteer in MJC Flers, in Normandy. During the confinement, she is making cooking tutorial videos to help to entertain and distract people from all the negativity around.





Juanjo, Edvards and Tomasz in Slovenia

Volunteers in organisations in Slovenia also help with grocery shopping, delivering meals, creating online educational material and running online language classes. Juanjo, Edvards and Tomasz from Familija also **took on renovating a room** opposite the volunteers' flat which they decided to call the Quarantine Room and which could be used to self-isolate if necessary.

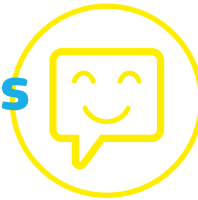


© Matjaž Vouk, 2020



© A Table, 2020

Ten youngsters in Rennes, France



Two Saturdays a month participants of the solidarity project "A Table" prepare a good meal from unsold food for homeless people. The project is not only about providing balanced food for those in need, but also about sharing a smile and having a conversation with those who perhaps has no one to talk to.



© Onoriu Raul DAN, 2020



Volunteers in Romania

Among many other project examples in Romania, volunteers at the American International School of Transylvania stand in solidarity with medical staff. While the staff take care of people's health during the Covid-19 outbreak, **the volunteers offer free non-formal education activities** to their children.



Mirco from Italy and Sheyla from Spain in Romania

Mirco and Sheyla are volunteers in the A.C.T.O.R organisation. They and other volunteers have developed online educational activities for 3-12 year old children during the pandemic when online learning has become the norm. Mirco and Sheyla are great storytellers and children enjoy lessons with them.



© Eugenia BARBU, ACTOR, 2020



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS