

IVY POLICIES

Compensation Policy



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AEBR - AGEG - ARFE



Compensation, support and benefits

The Interreg Volunteer Youth programme is unique in its objectives of supporting Interreg and empowering young people's participation in cooperation policy. AEBR and the European Commission are committed to offer an enriching experience to volunteers and host organisations thanks to measures ensuring accessibility, inclusiveness and support to all persons involved.

SUPPORT MEASURES FOR IVY VOLUNTEERS

Every volunteer receives support to be able to make the most of their experience. Such support includes:

- Financial support:

A stipend to cover costs of food, accommodation and personal expenses. The amount provided depends on the country of deployment and ranges from 23 to 39 € per day – the rates applicable to each country can be viewed [here](#). The financial support is a stipend, not a salary. As such, it is not taxable as a salary.

The financial support is transferred to the volunteer in two or three instalments, depending on the total length of the volunteering period.

- Contribution to travel costs to relocate:

An amount corresponding to a fixed rate, based on the linear distance between the host organisation and the place of residence of the volunteer at the start of the initiative. The rates applicable to each category can be viewed [here](#).

Volunteers whose initial place of residence is located 100 km or more from the location of the host organisation will also receive financial support for one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity to relocate.

- Insurance:

AEBR arranges health, liability and accident insurance for the duration of the volunteering experience (see details in the chapter 'Liability, risk management and safety'). Volunteers who are already covered by such insurance before the experience can claim a reimbursement for the coverage during the volunteering period. Private health insurances will not be covered if the volunteer is covered under universal health care in the country of deployment.

- Training and mentoring:

Relevant information will be provided to the volunteer both by AEBR and the host organisation prior to the start of the experience (see details in the chapters 'Supervision and problem-solving' and 'Training and orientation').

The mentor will accompany the IVY volunteers during their entire stay, helping them settle in, make progress in their activities and develop ideas.

- Tailored assistance for people with disabilities:

Equipment or extra medical expenses can be covered for volunteers in need of tailored assistance. Volunteers who would like to request assistance can inform AEBR's team at ivy@aebr.eu.

- Tailored assistance for integration:

A lump sum of 150 € can be requested by volunteers to attend language courses of level A1 or A2 if the volunteer relocates to a country where they do not speak the language. AEBR will request proof of attendance of the course to justify the costs. Volunteers will receive the established lump sum rate regardless of the costs of the language course.

- Reimbursement of costs related to visas:

Costs to request a visa to relocate to the country of deployment are covered by the IVY programme. Costs incurred to travel to the embassy to apply for the visa are also reimbursed.

- Additional pocket money for missions:

The daily rate of the country where the volunteers travel to for the mission is transferred to the volunteer for each travel day, and is in addition to the regular financial support they receive. The rates range from 3 to 6 € per day and can be viewed [here](#).

Additionally, in the event that volunteers are extended an invitation by either AEBR or their host organisation to take part in various activities, including but not limited to events, meetings, and missions, it is anticipated that the inviting party will cover the costs of participation, including travel costs and accommodation, and provide comprehensive meal coverage for the volunteers to facilitate their participation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOLUNTEERS TO BE ARRANGED AUTONOMOUSLY

Volunteers are responsible for arranging the experience, including:

- travel and relocation to the location of the host organisation;
- accommodation, as this is not provided. However, the host organisations provide helpful information to find an accommodation;
- residence permit, with the support of AEBR's team.

SUPPORT FOR HOST ORGANISATIONS

AEBR enables and facilitates the hosting of volunteers by undertaking the following tasks for the benefit of the host organisation:

- search for candidates that suit the need of the host organisations;
- preselection of approximately 6 candidates that best fulfil the placement offer;
- preparation of all necessary administrative documents, including the volunteering agreement to be signed by the host organisation, the volunteer and AEBR;
- provide the volunteer with health, accident and liability insurance for the whole duration of the experience;
- transfer the financial support directly to the volunteer for the experience (corresponding to approximately 700 to 1,000 € per month, depending on the country of deployment);
- provide initial information to the volunteer about Interreg;
- provide support when needed via the dedicated help desk.



In the case of specific requests, AEBR can offer tailored support to host organisations and volunteers, including cooperation agreements. For more information, the IVY team is available at ivy@aebr.eu.

BENEFITS FOR IVY MENTORS AND HOST ORGANISATIONS

- Additional resources: IVY volunteers bring new perspectives and fresh ideas along with their skills and creativity to contribute to European Territorial Cooperation, and support the host organisation with additional resources to supplement regular work. Former hosts have been grateful for the impact on improved communication and for the innovation provided by volunteers.
- Personal and professional growth for mentors: hosting a volunteer is an enriching experience for both the host and the volunteer to foster cooperation, and contributes to empowering youth in Interreg.
- Enhancement of European values of solidarity and cooperation: sharing knowledge and skills regarding Interreg with young people reinforces solidarity across generations and is an investment in the sustainability of cooperation in the future, while helping uphold the values of the EU and of Interreg.
- Connect with the community: volunteers can enable the host organisation to better connect with the community and the target group of the Interreg programme/project. The programme can help build relationships with people who share similar values and goals.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN INTERREG VOLUNTEER YOUTH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Unique experience to support European Territorial Cooperation: volunteers are involved in cooperation projects and programmes, supporting Cohesion Policy and enhancing the awareness of cooperation in the EU and its neighbouring regions. By doing so, IVY volunteers contribute to this by representing young people's perspectives, sharing new ideas and bringing fresh points of view.
- Recognition: IVY volunteers gain a unique life experience with a long-lasting impact, building a better future for all, together. Throughout their service in solidarity actions across Europe, volunteers develop new skills on both a personal and professional level related to the field of cooperation they are involved in. As a recognition and proof of their commitment, IVY volunteers receive a certificate and a badge of participation at the end of the experience.
- European dimension: IVY volunteers make a truly European experience contributing to projects that promote local development in an international context, collaborating with partners from different countries to build better services for Europe's citizens. IVY volunteers step out of their comfort zone and explore different fields of cooperation in the EU and its neighbouring countries – even when they volunteer from their home country.

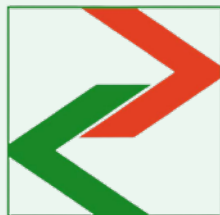


- Become part of a dynamic network: AEBR has set up a network of former IVY volunteers so that they can exchange relevant information on events and opportunities, and support one another. We also involve IVY volunteers in various initiatives we are part of, such as the group meetings following up on the implementation of the Youth Manifesto on Cooperation Policy, Youth4Cooperation, writing articles for the Stories of European Cooperation published by Interact and more.
- Get a grant to organise your own local event: The European Commission and AEBR provide additional funds for IVY volunteers who, during their volunteering experience, wish to organise local events – known as Citizens’ Engagement Activities – informing citizens of the achievements of the European regional policy.





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