INFO PACK

HANDS - HARVESTING, ANALYSING AND NOURISHING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Your Guide to the project

VOLUNTEERING TEAMS

22 JUNE - 12 AUGUST 2026

Sicily, Italy

26 PLACES AVAILABLE

HANDS

Co-funded by the European Union

STRAUSS

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

PROJECT DATES

Activity days: from 23nd of June to 11th of August, 2026

Arrival day: 22nd of June

Departure day: 12th of August

You can also arrive in Sicily the day before, day 21st of June, but in that case the expenses related to food and lodging for that day will be your responsibility, that is, you have to actually pay for it.

The same applies to departures, you can depart from Sicily also on 13th of August.

PLEASE NOTE.

Should you decide to arrive and/or leave a few days earlier than 21st of June or later than 13th of August, **reimbursement of travel expenses is not possible.**

PROJECT INFORMATION

HANDS - Harvesting, Analysing and Nourishing Development Strategies project takes the form of Volunteering Teams of the European Solidarity Corps and aims to create learning opportunities and experiences based on Non-Formal Education, targeting disadvantaged children and youth from different areas of Sicily. Volunteers will be immersed in a dynamic and complex reality, learning not only to identify and address the needs of disadvantaged communities, but also to develop innovative and adaptive educational approaches.

5 KEY OBJECTIVES

- **INNOVATIVE LEARNING METHODS:** Develop and apply new itinerant pedagogical approaches to improve access to education and fight educational poverty.
- **STRONGER EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY**: equip Sicilian educators with innovative tools to address local challenges and share solutions with nearby areas.
- **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT**: Actively engage disadvantaged youth in project activities, fostering their skills and community participation.
- **LOCAL NEEDS**: Address educational and social exclusion through sustainable methods.
- **INTERNATIONAL REPLICATION:** Develop innovative solutions in Sicily that can be adapted and applied in other countries through international partnerships.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

At the beginning of the project there will be 5 days of **Welcome Training** in Montedoro. Volunteers will be divided into 5 action groups and each group will have its own **base camp**: 1 in Mussomeli, 1 in Palermo district, 1 in Milena, 1 in Gela and 1 in Mazzarino. Each group will do activities in 3 different places and therefore operate in three different territories. A **Mid-Term evaluation** will be realized. At the end of the project, a **Final Evaluation Meeting** will be held in Montedoro. The activities will be done also in at least 3 other different towns nearby the base camp. Base camps will be:

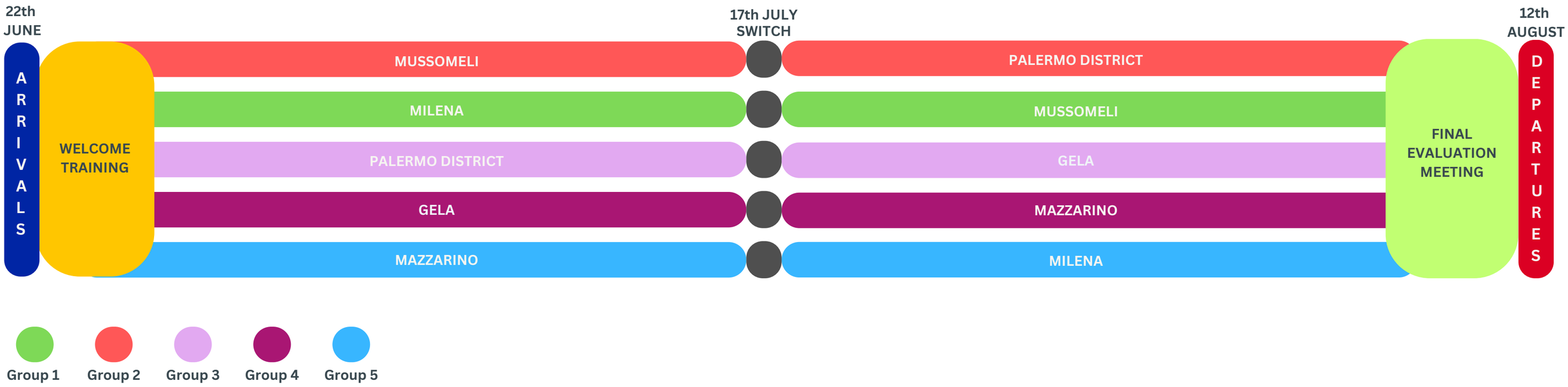
MUSSOMELI **PALERMO DISTRICT** **MILENA** **MAZZARINO** **GELA**

Methodology testing
Volunteers will contribute to the testing and further refinement of a previously developed **mobile (itinerant) educational methodology**. This phase will allow the team to assess its effectiveness in different contexts and improve its impact on the target groups.

Non-Formal Workshops for Disadvantaged Children and Youth
As part of the above-mentioned methodology, volunteers will support and facilitate non-formal educational workshops aimed at disadvantaged children and young people.
These activities will focus on inclusion, participation, creativity, and personal development, using interactive and learner-centered approaches.

Awareness Campaign
Volunteers will take part in the design and implementation of an online awareness-raising campaign targeting local communities connected to the five base camps.
The campaign will involve the creation of engaging content (videos, social media posts, infographics, etc.) highlighting the key need to promote inclusive education, especially for disadvantaged children and young people.

PROJECT STRUCTURE



This is the general structure of the project, which includes activities of:

- training and evaluation activities (in yellow and green)
- implementation of the activities in the different base camps

Please note that for logistical reasons this programme may be modified.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Participants will get a travel costs reimbursement according to the **official distance calculator.**

- from **100 to 499 km** from the departure point to Mussomeli: **up to €211**
- from **500 to 1999 km** from the departure point to Mussomeli: **up to €309**
- from **2000 to 2999 km** from the departure point to Mussomeli: **up to €395**

In case of **GREEN TRAVEL** (bus, train or carpooling) the caps above are higher. To be recognised as such, at least half of the distance has to be covered by **green** means of transportation. **If you decide to use green travel please get in contact with us first.**
Distance has to be considered **ONE-WAY**

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The accommodation is provided by the facilities that will host volunteers during the all duration of the project. Participants will receive a pocket food in order to provide the meals by themselves. The facilities will have the kitchen to prepare the meals.

ALLOWANCE

Participants will receive a pocket money of **6 euro** per day for 52 days.

INSURANCE

Once selected, the volunteer will be automatically enrolled by Henner insurance, which will be **complementary** to the European Health Insurance Card

ACTIVITY TIME + FREE DAYS

Generally, activities will take place 5 days per week and around 6 hours a day.
The volunteer is entitled to 2 days off per week and 3 vacation days during the staying, **2 of them for logistical reasons will be fixed in advance**.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Age 18-30 years
Strongly interested in the project and ESC programme topics
Flexible and adaptable
Independent and problem solving oriented
Willing to cooperate.

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LINKS AND CONTACTS

WHATSAPP

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