HEADING 4: Global Europe

EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV)

Lead DG: ECHO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

EU Aid Volunteers brings together volunteers and organisations from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening the local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities.

The programme incentivises and fosters collaboration, exchange of knowledge and good practices and building of partnerships between organisations in the field of humanitarian aid. Organisations participating in capacity building projects form consortia composed of a minimum of 2 EU-based organisations and 2 organisations based in third countries. Technical assistance projects require the participation of 3 organisations based in the EU. Furthermore, the set-up of a dedicated on-site training of selected volunteers to prepare them for deployment creates a strong 'esprit de corps' among European volunteers from different countries training together in groups. This will then further be strengthened during the implementation of the programme through the creation of a network of former and current EU Aid Volunteers, and the sending and hosting organisations, boosting learning and further professionalization of the sector.

EU added value of the programme

The EU added value comes in the form of:

- bringing together Union citizens from different Member States for joint contribution in humanitarian aid operations;
- fostering transnational cooperation of humanitarian aid organisations and stakeholders;
- allowing for economies of scale through complementarities and synergies with other relevant national, international and Union programmes and policies;
- providing for a tangible expression of the European values in general and in particular the solidarity of the Union and its citizens with the people who are most vulnerable and in need;
- contributing to reinforcing active European Union citizenship by empowering Union citizens from different generation and with different social, educational and professional background to engage in humanitarian aid activities.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management (grants and procurement). Some tasks are delegated to and implemented by EACEA in cooperation with the Commission services. The division of tasks between the Commission and EACEA is based on *Commission Decision C (2013)9189 of 18.12.2013 delegating powers to the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency with view to performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of education, audiovisual and culture comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union and of the EDF allocations.* The activities deployment and capacity building / technical assistance are implemented through calls for proposals by EACEA. EACEA is also responsible for the management of external evaluators that support the assessment of applications for deployment, capacity building / technical assistance and certification. The selection of evaluators is carried out via a call for expression of interest. Furthermore, EACEA is responsible for the organisation of information events about the calls for proposals that are organised with support of external contractors selected via call for tender or using existing framework contracts. The training of EU Aid Volunteers is implemented by EACEA through specific contracts under an existing framework contract with a training provider. Other support measures (the EU Aid Volunteers platform, outreach and communication activities) are implemented by DG ECHO through existing framework contracts and a service-level agreement with the Directorate General for Informatics (DG DIGIT).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Annual Work Programme 2019 of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative was adopted in January 2019 ([1]). Two calls for proposals were published in 2019, one for projects in the field of capacity building and technical assistance and another one for the deployment and apprenticeships of EU Aid Volunteers. The training for candidate EU Aid Volunteers was carried out and external evaluators supported evaluation of applications in response to the two calls for proposals, the evaluation of requests for certification and re-certification. An info day to promote the calls was organised and support measures including the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform for project management and networking, and communication and outreach activities, for example a public info

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([1])   C(2019) 4 final

session on International Volunteer Day in December 2019 and social media campaigns to promote the volunteering vacancies on the EU Aid Volunteers platform. The Annual Report on the implementation of the initiative 2018 was adopted on 24 June 2019 ([2]).

With a view to the very slow start of this new initiative in 2015, the budget requests in the Annual Work Programme in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 were reduced compared to the planned amounts in the MFF to enable the consumption of the budget The consumption rate of the operational budget for deployment and capacity building / technical assistance in 2019 was 98 %. As in 2018 the planned budget could actually be spent (40.3 % in 2015, 46.4 % in 2016, 77.4 % in 2017 and 99 % in 2018). This was possible due to a deviation from ambitious MFF 2014-2020 plan figures and the learning from previous years of implementation.

The commitment appropriation for the year 2020 will amount to EUR 19 355 000.

Key achievements

Key achievements in 2019 included the selection of four projects for capacity building (50 participating organisations), one project for technical assistance (8 participating organisations) and ten deployment projects aiming to deploy 424 EU Aid Volunteers in 2020. The deployment of the 368 volunteers selected from the 2018 call for proposals also started in 2019. Until the end of 2019, 10 new sending and 64 new hosting organisations completed successfully their certification.

The deployment target set in the annual work programme 2019 was 450 volunteers (after 368 in 2018) which was not fully met with 424 volunteers as a result of the 2019 call for proposals. In 2020 these volunteers will be deployed to 40 countries all over the world, the majority in Africa (46 %) followed by Latin and Central America (25 %), Middle East (16 %) and Asia (10 %).

Nine face-to-face training sessions were organised in 2019 with 446 candidate volunteers attending. The satisfaction of candidate volunteers with their online and face-to-face training continues to be high with an overall satisfaction rate of 88 % (out of 100 %) in 2019 (87 % in 2018).

Overall, the trend with regard to the certification of new sending and hosting organisations is upward with 63 organisations certified in 2017, 63 in 2018 and 74 in 2019.

Since the start of the initiative, the skills areas of volunteers most often requested for capacity building activities in third countries have been in communication (14 %), disaster risk management (11 %), project management (10 %), finance and accounting (8 %), monitoring and evaluation (6 %), gender equality (6 %), protection (5 %), advocacy (5 %) and community development (4 %).

A climate related achievement is the funding of a new project 'Forests' that started in 2019 and foresees the deployment of 27 EU Aid Volunteer to support forest management in Congo, Ghana, Guinea and Vietnam. Volunteers will conduct mapping studies to assess the vulnerability of forest-dependent communities taking into account effects of climate change (increasing of natural disasters) and will organise seminars with local actors to plan together intervention strategies. More information can be found on this website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/forests_en.

Stories about what volunteers are doing in the field have been published on this website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/ (213 stories so far).

- Over the course of the implementation period several simplifications were implemented: the number of mandatory members of a project consortium was reduced from 6 to 4 to reduce the administrative burden related to project management and coordination.
- The maximum amount for deployment projects was doubled to increase the numbers of volunteers per project and make the projects more cost efficient for participating NGOs.
- The certification procedure was simplified for sending and hosting organisations and the self-assessment document shortened as far as possible while respecting the provisions in the EU Aid Volunteers regulations.
- The eForm for the submission of proposals was simplified.
- An electronic tool to register candidates for the different trainings was introduced when the number of candidate volunteers started to climb.
- For the deployment call for proposals 2019 budget thresholds were introduced to limit spending for capacity building and communication activities to focus on the deployment of volunteers.

Evaluations/Studies conducted

An interim evaluation was carried out in 2017. The study prepared by an external contractor as well as the report and staff working document on the interim evaluation of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative for the period mid-2014 to mid-2017 adopted by the Commission are published on the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations/thematic-evaluations_en. An ex-post evaluation of the initiative is foreseen in Regulation 375/2014 and shall be completed by 31.12.2021.

Forthcoming implementation

The Annual Work Programme 2020 foresees the launch of one call for proposals one call for proposals for the deployment of volunteers, with the objective to deploy 500 volunteers in 2021. It is proposed to not to provide funding for capacity building and technical assistance anymore in 2020.

([2]) COM(2019) 289 final, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/accountability/annual-reports_en

The Commission proposed to integrate humanitarian volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps for the next multiannual financial framework. This integration will contribute to streamlining and increasing the synergy of volunteering programmes.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative')	2014 – 2020	147,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	12,1	6,6	8,3	16,4	19,0	17,7	19,4	99,5
Executive Agency	0,5	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	6,9
Total	**12,7**	**7,4**	**9,3**	**17,4**	**20,1**	**18,8**	**20,6**	**106,4**

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	18,847	100,00 %	12,661	100,00 %	20,611	6,26 %	18,841	13,31 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	18,858	99,99 %	12,672	99,96 %	20,690	6,24 %	18,924	13,27 %

(*) Authorised appropriations include voted appropriations, appropriations originating from assigned revenues (internal and external) as well as carried-over and reconstituted appropriations; the execution rate is calculated on 15 April 2020

3. Performance information

Programme performance

The start of the EU Aid Volunteers implementation was delayed for about a year, due to the adoption of the Implementing Regulation in November 2014. The first volunteers were only deployed from December 2015 / January 2016.

After the launch of the initiative, the uptake of this new programme was below expectations. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative introduced a thorough certification mechanism that requires sending and hosting organisations to prove that they have procedures and policies in place to achieve the high volunteering standards of the programme. This certification mechanism had not existed during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed, which did not materialise.

This situation required an ongoing effort to support the organisations in order to arrive at higher volunteer deployment numbers. Over the course of the period several simplifications were implemented:

- the number of mandatory members of a project consortium was reduced from six to four;

- the maximum funding amount for deployment projects was doubled;

- the certification procedure was simplified as far as possible;

- the eForm for the submission of proposals was simplified;

- an electronic tool to register candidates for the different trainings was introduced.

The 2019 call for proposals for deployment of EU Aid Volunteers was published on 12 April 2019 with a submission deadline of 13 June 2019. The call aimed to co-finance projects for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers, including apprenticeship placements for junior professionals and additional capacity building activities carried out by volunteers. The 10 projects for deployment started in December 2019 and aim at the deployment of 424 volunteers in 2020, which is 26 less than planned in the Annual Work Programme 2019 (target: 450) and far below the MFF target of 1125 (for an explanation of the general underperformance of the programme please refer to programme statement 2020).

Capacity building and technical assistance projects supported through funding provided by the EU Aid Volunteers initiative strengthen the abilities of organisations intending to deploy EU Aid Volunteers and ensure that they comply with the standards and procedures set under the initiative. On 22 May 2019, EACEA published a call for proposals with a submission deadline of 4 July

2019. The call aimed at co-financing projects for capacity building for hosting organisations based outside of the EU and technical assistance for EU-based sending organisations, in areas such as disaster risk management, volunteer management and needs assessment methodology. 4 capacity building and 1 technical assistance project were selected and funded under the 2019 budget. Projects started in December 2019.

Organisations that wish to deploy EU Aid Volunteers must be certified as sending or hosting organisations under the certification mechanism of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. This certification verifies whether participating organisations are fully able to apply the volunteer management standards drawn up by the initiative to manage volunteers before and during their deployment.

An open call was published in 2015, allowing for ongoing applications until 30 September 2020. By the end of 2019, 282 sending and hosting organisations have been certified (52 sending and 130 hosting organisations).

Candidate volunteers must go successfully through a mandatory online and face-to-face training before they can be deployed. Nine training cycles were organised by a service provider in 2019 in which 446 candidate volunteers participated. The trainings took place in English, French and Spanish and the satisfaction of the candidate volunteers with the training remained high with 88 out of 100.

In the Report on the Interim Evaluation (COM(2018) 496), the Commission acknowledged the need to improve consistency of the approach to volunteering in third countries with other EU volunteering schemes. Coherence and synergies with the European Voluntary Service and the European Solidarity Corps should be sought. For the new multiannual financing period it was therefore proposed to integrate the EU Aid Volunteers initiative into the European Solidarity Corps.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries, particularly by means of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and by enhancing the link between relief, rehabilitation and development. That objective shall be attained through the added value of joint contributions of EU Aid Volunteers, expressing the Union's values and solidarity with people in need and visibly promoting a sense of European citizenship.

Indicator 1: The number of people reached by humanitarian aid provided through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and the average costs per person reached

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of people reached:	0	17 500	25 000	30 000	17 500	42 500	50 000	50 000
	Actual results							
	0	0			8 104	1 527 765		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Costs (in EUR) per person reached:		845	716	733	751	631	550	550
	Actual results							
	0	0			158	1		

Comment: The number of people reached by volunteers are based on the assumption that each volunteer reaches on average 50 persons (i.e. in 2015, 350 deployed volunteers would reach 50 persons each and therefore reach 17 500 people in total). The number indicated for the year 2018 – 8 104 persons – is the result of the first two deployment projects funded from the 2015 budget. These projects lasted 24 months and started to deploy volunteers from December 2015; the final reports from which the number 8 104 was retrieved were received end of 2018. The 2015 proposals foresaw the deployment of 44 volunteers (as indicated for the year 2015 in the programme statement). The actual deployment was in the end 55 volunteers (due to drop-outs and replacements). On average each of these volunteers reached about 147 persons (instead of 50 per volunteer as projected in the planning figures) and 8 104 in total.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Contribute to increasing and improving the capacity of the Union to provide humanitarian aid.

Performance

Please see overall explanations provided in programme statement 2020:

Initially it was planned to launch the initiative in 2014 (MFF 2014-2020), but the adoption of the whole legislative package (Delegated Regulation, Implementing Regulation) providing the legal framework for the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteers was only completed in November 2014. Project implementation was therefore delayed for about a year, and the first volunteers were only deployed from December 2015 / January 2016. The end of 2018 therefore marks the third full year of deployments. The

uptake of this new Commission programme, an international volunteering programme in humanitarian aid, started disappointingly slow. This was unexpected because the initiative had been preceded by a 3-year pilot phase during which 289 volunteers had been deployed. In retrospective the targets, starting the first year with 350 deployments, were challenging and did not materialise. Reasons for this are the following:

- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative introduced a thorough certification mechanism that had not existed during the pilot phase and requires not only sending organisations but also hosting organisations to prove to the Commission that they have procedures and policies in place to achieve the high volunteering standards of this programme. Organisations need to commit and prove, for example, that they can ensure the health, safety and security of volunteers, to respect equal opportunities and non-discrimination, to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, are able to provide learning and development for volunteers, etc. In short, they have to respect all the provisions that were set in the Delegated and Implementing Regulations of the initiative. Some organisations provided feedback that it took them a year and substantial effort to comply with all those provisions and provide the required evidence. Furthermore the assessment of compliance by the Commission can take up to six months, because external evaluators are involved in the assessment and many of the organisations that applied for certification (especially in third countries) had never worked with the Commission before and therefore needed to go through the normal administrative procedures to validate their legal entity (PIC number). All this created delays as well as barriers for quick uptake.

- In order to support organisations to prepare for certification, the EU Aid Volunteers initiative provides a funding strand for technical assistance (sending organisations) and capacity building (hosting organisations). Organisations can apply to calls for proposals to prepare for certification and to improve their knowledge about humanitarian principles, disaster risk management or volunteer management. Many organisations made use of this instrument and proposed projects that last up to 24 months before they applied for funding under the deployment strand. In retrospective, this funding led indeed to the participation of organisations later in the deployment strand of the initiative, but it contributed to the delay in uptake.

- Thirdly, in many exchanges with organisations it was found that they adopted a 'wait and see' approach with regard to this new initiative. Only when reports from the first (few) deployments were available and published, the confidence among organisations increased that the EU Aid Volunteers initiative could indeed provide benefits for organisations and volunteers. The organisation of two networking events (in 2017 and 2018) by the Commission for organisations supported this confidence and helped to increase deployment numbers from 44 in 2015 to 424 in 2019.

- Fourthly, the targets were also quite challenging because volunteers are normally placed in offices of EU-based organisations abroad or with local organisations. These offices can often only host 1-2 volunteers at a time. By the end of 2019, 230 hosting organisations and 52 sending organisations had successfully gone through the certification process. It therefore requires an ongoing effort to involve many more organisations in order to arrive at higher deployment numbers.

This figure for the indicator 'number of people reached' is provided by the projects in their final reports (4 projects funded in 2017). It is often not possible to measure precisely how many people one volunteer reached with his or her activity. Project consortia therefore indicate the number of people reached with the project(s) to which the volunteer contributed. For example, if they recruit a volunteer with a communication profile who contributes to the work of 2 projects, organisations are likely to provide the total number of people reached by these projects, although the volunteer only contributed to this result as a member of staff. They are not in a position to specify precisely how many people the volunteer reached alone through his or her work. This is why the figures look highly overstated.

Indicator 1: Number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed or ready for deployment with the required qualifications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of EU Aid Volunteers trained ready for deployment with the required qualifications per year:	0	≥ 350	≥ 350	≥ 550	≥ 800	≥ 1 000	≥ 1 250	≥ 1 250
	Actual results							
	0	0	97	178	295	446		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed per year:	0	350	350	550	800	1 000	1 125	1 125
	Actual results							
	0	0	55	162	175	368	424	

Comment: The number of volunteers trained depends on the number of planned deployments as provided in the applications to the call for proposals. In 2017 six proposals were received proposing 175 deployments. As a result 295 candidate volunteers were trained in 2018 for deployments and for the reserve list to cater for drop outs and cancellations. The call for proposals for deployment 2018 resulted in the funding of eleven projects (up from 6 in 2017) proposing the deployment of 368 volunteers. This figure is far below the MFF targets as explained in section II Implementation Update. However, this represents an increase of 110 % compared to the previous year and sustains an upward trend. The average duration of a deployment is 9 months (most deployments are either 6 or 12 months deployments, average is 9 months).
Source: Monitoring Framework for EUAV implemented by EACEA

Indicator 2: Number of EU Aid Volunteers who have completed their contract of deployment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
								2020
	Milestones foreseen							
	0	315	350	550	800	1 000	1 125	1 125
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	66	178	151		

Comment: This indicator reflects the number of volunteers who stayed the whole duration of their contract and did not end their deployment earlier than planned. If volunteers drop out, organisations can fill the remaining volunteer months with reserve candidates. It is difficult to track in the course of a project which volunteers ended their contracts earlier, if other volunteers stayed longer in their placements instead or if reserve volunteers were recruited.

Indicator 3: Number of hosting and sending organisations participating in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative per year.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
								2020
	Milestones foreseen							
	100	0	115	110	115	75	120	120
	Actual results							
	88	0	41	179	73	58		

Comment: This indicator is proposed for the first time in the present reporting period and intends to reflect the work done in capacity building / technical assistance provided to organisations which increases the capacity of the sector to provide humanitarian aid. The figure does not include the organisations active deployment projects. The lower figure in 2018 is due to a lower number of projects funded than planned in order to enable more deployments of volunteers (planned 250; result 368). Budget was therefore moved from the capacity building/technical assistance strand to the deployment strand and fewer projects than planned were funded.
Source: Planning / target figures from the Annual Work Programmes of EUAV, Monitoring Framework for EUAV implemented by EACEA.

Specific Objective 2: Improvement of the skills, knowledge and competences of volunteers in the field of humanitarian aid and the terms and conditions of their engagement.

Indicator 1: The degree of satisfaction of the EU Aid Volunteers trained and deployed, of the sending and hosting organisations with regard to the quality of the training, level of knowledge and competences of volunteers, the fulfilment and adequacy of the standards and procedures for management of candidate and EU Aid Volunteers (overall satisfaction rate out of 100 %)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
								2020
	Milestones foreseen							
	0	75	80	80	85	85	85	85
	Actual results							
	0	0	88	90	87	88		

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Training of volunteers	23 04 01	1050	5.25
Deployment	23 04 01	950	13.5
Total			

The training commitments for 2020 include (a) the candidate volunteers selected from the 2019 call (pan: 450 plus 100 reserve) and (b) the costs for the training in 2021 of the volunteers selected through the 2020 call for proposals (plan: 500).

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Training of volunteers and apprenticeships	F	0	540	825	1 025	300	450	600
	P	0	0	97	178	295	446	
No of volunteers deployed	F*	0	0	≥ 350	≥ 550	250	300	400
	P	0	0	44	162	175	368	

Tables cover expenditure related outputs of objectives 1 and 2.

The number of volunteers trained and deployed depends on the applications received based on a call for proposals published annually. The applications received resulted in an underperformance compared to the planned figures. The targets for 2018-2020 have been amended to reflect – based on the results of the first two years – more realistic foreseen outputs.

Specific Objective 3: Building the capacity of hosting organisations and foster volunteering in third countries.

Indicator 1: Number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	≥ 1450	≥ 300	≥ 700	≥ 700	≥ 600	≥ 550	≥ 550	≥ 550
	Actual results							
	0	0						

Comment: In relation to the 'number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions': it is difficult to provide these figures as they can be provided only for the projects that ended in the respective year and figures do not related to any (annual) target figure. Furthermore, projects provide the numbers per project activity but not for the project as a whole which could lead to double counting.
The indicator 'Number of hosting and sending organisations participating in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative per year' under specific objective 1 will be monitored

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Capacity building and technical assistance	23 04 01	0	0

It is expected that 0 organisations / beneficiaries will benefit from this activity, because this funding strand is provided to enable organisations to achieve the standards set under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. Projects last normally 24 months so that in 2023 (when projects funded from a call in 2020 would end) different application procedures and standards would be in place

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No of organisations participating to capacity building and technical assistance actions	F	100	n/a	115	110	115	75	50
	P	n/a	88	41	179	73	58	0

Tables cover expenditure related outputs of objectives 3 and 5.
2016: 19 partners receiving funding for capacity building projects, 22 for technical assistance projects.
2017: 157 partners receiving funding for capacity building projects, 22 for technical assistance projects.
2018: 69 partners receiving funding from capacity building projects, 4 for technical assistance.
2019: 50 partners receiving funding from capacity building projects, 8 for technical assistance.
No call will be launched in 2020 and the result will therefore be zero.
This number is lower than in 2018, because budget was shifted from the capacity building / technical strand. As a consequence, fewer capacity building / technical assistance projects could be funded with the remaining budget.

Specific Objective 4: Communication of the Union's humanitarian aid principles as agreed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Performance

2019:

EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers Platform = 1 event

EUR 400 000 for an event that takes place in 2020 (except if we shall count it for 2019…?) Is the time of the budgetary commitment of interest or the implementation of the action? Then it would be a total of 2 events in 2020.

No other events with budgetary implications were carried out in 2019.

Indicator 1: Number, type and costs of information, communication and awareness-raising actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020

Number of communication and awareness-raising actions:	2	3	4	5	4	4	4	4
	Actual results							
	2	4	6	5	4	1		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cost per action (in EUR):	0	686 234	425 000	565 000	365 000	187 500	165 000	165 000
	Actual results							
		171 559	70 833	113 000	91 250	400 000		

Comment: Note that the indicated support measures budgets from 2016 include EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support measures (Awareness raising events, platform, networking)	23 04 01	3	0.6

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Overall information platform produced and maintained during the programme	F	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
	P	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Awareness raising conference and seminars	F	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
	P	0	2	5	2	3	0	1

Specific Objective 5: Enhancement of coherence and consistency of volunteering across Member States in order to improve opportunities for Union citizens to participate in humanitarian aid activities and operations.

Performance

The indicated support measures budgets from 2019 include EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform and EUR 400 000 for a big event that will only take place in 2020 (contract was signed in 2019). The number of events in 2019 was therefore is zero (and in 2020 is will be one).

Indicator 1: Number of (newly) certified sending organisations applying the standards and procedures for deployment and management of European volunteers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
		50	44	15	20	30	10	10
	Actual results							
		13	10	13	6	10		

Comment: The number reflects the certified sending organisations in 2018 (additionally, 57 new hosting organisations were certified in 2018, which brings the total number of certified organisations to 208.). The certification mechanism is a requirement of the legislation. It seeks synergies with the Commission's partnership instruments in the humanitarian field and existing humanitarian standards, with the aim of administrative simplification. The certification takes into account the important specificities of the programme, notably the management of volunteer staff.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR
Certified sending organisations	23 04 01	50	35 000

NB: the budget also includes the certification of hosting organisations as well as the evaluation of applications for calls for proposals (deployment and capacity building / technical assistance). The figure represents therefore the total evaluation costs for all evaluations under the initiative.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of certified sending organisations	F	n/a	50	44	15	20	30	10
	P	n/a	13	10	13	6	10	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed

Narrative justification Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Smart growth: part of line 23 04 01 Corresponding to 50 % of the output 'deployment' under specific objective 1 Inclusive growth: part of line 23 04 01 Corresponding to 50 % of the output 'Training of volunteers and apprenticeships' under specific objective 1.

Relevant objective/output	*Budget 2019 (EUR million)*	*DB 2020 (EUR million)*
Smart Growth (innovation, education, digital society)	*5.0*	*6.75*
Inclusive Growth (employment and skills, fighting poverty)	*1.5*	*2.625*
Total	***6.5***	***9.375***

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Training, capacity building and deployments will focus amongst other on disaster risk reduction and prevention of climate related disasters.	2,0	2,7
Total	**2,0**	**2,7**

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	0,3	1,0	1,1	1,7	2,0	2,7	8,8

(*)The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

Gender mainstreaming

Of all volunteers deployed so far around 72 % are female and 28 % male.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Resilience aims at protecting vulnerable populations from the shocks and stresses that keep people in poverty, whilst providing services, livelihoods and opportunities to address the underlying causes of their vulnerability – to 'leave no-one behind'. EU Aid Volunteers work together with volunteers in vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience to disasters and to build local capacity.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Volunteers work with vulnerable or disaster affected communities in fields such as food security and nutrition.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

EU Aid Volunteers are for example recruited as gender experts to promote gender sensitivity and mainstreaming of gender considerations in disaster risk management in affected communities.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Volunteers can be recruited to work on prevention and preparedness actions resulting from climate change risks. This could for example include work on risk assessments, small mitigation works, awareness raising actions or the implementation of early warning systems.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Helping people affected by crises and disasters is a global concern and includes coordination at the global level, as essential way to ensure efficient and effective provision of aid to those that need it most. The EU humanitarian assistance includes working in close partnership with a large number of humanitarian and development UN and Civil Society international organisations.

The EU Aid Volunteers Initiative also works together with volunteers in vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience to disasters and to build local capacities. It supports creation of national and local volunteering frameworks and schemes in third countries, which can be instrumental to increase the capacity of countries to cope with disasters as local communities are the first responders.