

FLAT PRINCIPLES FOR EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORP

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear volunteer!

We are AJ Intercambia, the Coordinating Organization of your project, which is responsible for your accommodation, but have in mind that it is **chosen** by your **Hosting Organization**.

We assume you have a lot of questions regarding your flat and the city, so we created this info pack with the help of other volunteers, to show you already how you will be living and also to support you in your first days here, to get to know the city.

We hope this pack is helpful for you and clears all doubts and questions. If that's not the case, of course you are welcomed to ask us anytime 😊

First something about the ECS-program in general:

The European Solidarity Corps is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

The young people who participate in the European Solidarity Corps will all agree with and uphold its [Mission and Principles](#).

You can register for the European Solidarity Corps when you are 17 years old, but you cannot start a project until you are over 18. European Solidarity Corps projects will be available to people up to the age of 30 years old.

After completing a simple registration process, European Solidarity Corps participants could be selected and invited to join a wide range of projects, such as helping to prevent natural disasters or rebuild afterwards, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities.

Projects supported by the European Solidarity Corps can last from two to twelve months. They will usually be located within the European Union Member States.

[More information about the European Solidarity Corps \[FAQs\]](#)

What is not an ESs:

- occasional, unstructured, part-time volunteering
- an internship in an enterprise
- a paid job; it must not replace paid jobs
- a recreation or tourist activity
- a language course
- exploitation of a cheap workforce

We hope you are as excited for this new adventure as we are and want to share this motto of the European Union, which is also our ESC-motto:

UNITED IN DIVERSITY

The motto means that, via the EU, Europeans are united in working together for peace and prosperity, and that the many different cultures, traditions and languages in Europe are a positive asset for the continent.

And we guess you already know – this will also be in living together. We can already tell you that you will live with other volunteers from different projects or with Spanish people/family, so you will experience diversity all day ☺

We can't tell you yet who your flat mates will be or where they are from – but we will tell you shortly before your arrival in Spain. We are already counting down the days!

2. GENERAL FLAT PRINCIPLES

The EU Commission request for ESC flats is:

PRINCIPLES

European Solidarity Corps projects and participating organisations should respect the following principles: equal treatment, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, avoidance of job substitution, provision of high-quality activities with learning dimension focusing on personal, socio-educational and professional development, adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements, **safe and decent environment and conditions**, and, the 'no-profit principle' in compliance with the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/10462 .

(European Solidarity Corp User's Guide 2019)

They use **just 2 words (safe and decent)** to explain what we – Hosting/Coordination Organization - have to offeror accommodation to Volunteers, and ***honestly*** it does not help us too much - this is why we would like to set general flat principles and general flat rules in order to make your new home "*safe and decent*".

Generally speaking, this means that you would be provided necessary and basic things to live in Malaga, Andalucia, Spain, like Normal People.

We are offering an accommodation in a medium class Spanish¹ family flat, composed by:

- **Kitchen:** fully equipped, **however an oven is not provided;**
- **Living room;**
- **2 Bathroom;**
- **Storage space;**
- **INDIVIDUAL bedrooms** that contain each: normal sized bed, wardrobe, towels, bed sheets, blankets, table and chair.
- **No Internet is Provided.**
- **No Central Heating Provided.**

You will see we can't offer the same size, color, orientation, style of room to all volunteers - this is why we use the motto "**United in diversity**" for ESC. Concerning the question which room you will get – usually the rooms are distributed according to the order of arrival of the flat mates. But nothing is written in stone, you can arrange that with your flat mates!

The decoration and furniture of the flat are not new and not very fashionable, but they are good – and we (HOSTING AND COORDINATING) think **super suitable for ESC projects.**

Internet is not provided by the organization (however you can buy it with your flat mates).

Most of Andalusian houses **DO NOT HAVE CENTRAL HEATING**, but we will provide info how to survive in Málaga to our “**Extream +8°C Winter**” 😊

More about the rooms and organization of living you will find in the annex!

Your hosting organization has chosen and approved
this flat as SAFE AND DECENT to be your
accommodation.

The principles that we want to share are:

- We would like to work with responsible, flexible, patient, tolerant, comprehensive, empathetic, mature, humble and funny young people interested in learning, working and living 120% in an ESC project;
😊😊😊

¹ We remark *Spanish*, because they are designed to be used for Spanish families in Andalusia, under Spanish culture uses, weather, traditions... (→ first steps on intercultural learning!)

- Intolerant, un-comprehensive, inflexible, impatient, non-empathetic, childish, demanding and sad young people will not have a good ESC project. 😞😞😞

We are totally open to receive complains, requests or suggestions when something is not working in the flat (reparations, support...) and we will work to solve it as soon as possible,

Demanding, V.I.P, Celebrities Attitudes are TOTALLY NOT WELCOME and never will be accepted. 😡😡😡

We are offering a **safe and decent** flat. We know that it is *not the best, the biggest, the freshest, the warmest or the best distributed/located in the ESC world*, but we also know that it is not the worst, the smallest, the worst located/distributed... in our opinion

It is just a normal flat.

We would like to avoid two things:

- "Kindergarten" comments or complaints like *"my room is smaller/colder/warmer/less beautiful than ..."* (Flat comparisons are a real nightmare for hosting and coordinating organizations, which we will not be able to solve);
- Comparisons with other flats from other volunteers like *"other volunteers are closer to the city center/the beach/work, their flat is bigger/fresher, etc..."*.

We just want to invite you to balance the good and not so good things in your flat (in our opinion nothing is perfect!) and related to the position of this balance we will try to work on it.

3. GENERAL FLAT RULES

- 300 Euros Flat Deposit is required to Volunteer or Sending that will be refundable in case the volunteers follows Flat Principles.
- Ensure that you switch off all the lights and electrical items and turn off the water when you leave the house every day;
- Apartment can be checked with pre-notification once a month to ensure that the house rules are being adhered to;
- All rooms and equipment must be kept clean and tidy and any breakages must be reported immediately to the Coordinating Organization – Pedro or Rocio;
- Any damage caused to either the room or the common areas, furniture's, electronic devices, kitchen staff... can be covered by ESC CIGNA INSURANCE.
 - in case Cigna do not accept, it will be paid for by the volunteer who is responsible for it.
 - It will not be covered by OWNER, HOSTING or COORDINATING.
- No smoking inside the flat and the building. You can smoke on the balcony if you have or outside the flat.
- No loud noise before 8 am in the morning and after 11:45 pm in the evening. Failure to abide by this rule may make the neighbors call the police;
- Have respect for your flat mates and keep the common areas clean and tidy;
- There is a maximum cost of water and electricity per month and per volunteer, estimated on 30² euros each person. If the real costs are over this rate, the additional sum will be covered by all the volunteers of the flat, as we cannot calculate each person's consume. In this budget, **maximum two** gas bottles a month are included. We kindly ask for cooperation in order to avoid conflicts on this topic;
- Animals are not permitted in the rented property without written agreement from the landlord;
- The volunteer will inform the coordinating organization in writing as soon as possible about any damage or loss that requires a repair to be carried out;
- The coordinating organization deserves the right to move the volunteer to another flat in case if it is needed, he/she will be informed at least 15 days earlier;
- If the volunteer loses a key of the flat, he/she needs to pay to make a new one. In the case of being robbed or losing the key, the change of the lock needs to be covered by the volunteer;
- Each volunteer may have guests in the flat, but with the following conditions:

² This rate is 150% of the monthly average costs of the year before.

- The other flat mates are notified and have accepted this;
- The guests can stay no longer than a week and they need to follow the general flat rules;
- There can only be one guest at a time.

The rules for the volunteers who are living with Spanish families may be changed and adjusted by the members of the family.

Next to these general rules you can also set your own internal rules (like room rotations, room access, music time, guests, cleaning timetables...), however, we cannot take responsibility of them.

4. LAND LORD OBLIGATIONS

In case you need something from the landlord, you can contact him/her through Intercambia or Your Hosting

- Technical maintenance are the responsibility of the landlord. The landlord agrees to carry out the repairs as quickly as may be possible;
- The landlord may not carry out any renovations or alterations to the rented property without written consent from one of the volunteer and may never carry out such work during the revision and examination period;
- The requested renovations or alterations must be clearly defined;
- The volunteer may not make any alterations to the rented property without written permission from the landlord;
- The landlord agrees to ensure the peaceful enjoyment of the room. S/he is only able to have access to the flat/room in the case of force majeure or after volunteer notification;
- Both parties and third parties, to whom access has been granted, must refrain from activities that may disturb the peace of residents or neighbors;
- Both parties agree to submit all disputes arising from the interpretation, compliance with or the termination of this agreement to the Coordinating Organization, before bringing the matter to court so that the Coordinating Organization is able to make a proposal for reconciliation. The initiative for taking any legal steps rests with the parties themselves.

Failure to abide these rules may result volunteers will have to pay one FULL MONTHLY FLAT RENT, according to the contract signed with the landlord
Failure to abide these rules repeatedly will result in the project termination.