



Logoi & Dialogoi

Shaping Mediterranean Solidarity.

Advance Planning Visit

The choice of Link to organize this **Advance Planning Visit** (APV) in Matera on September 2026 is deeply rooted in the city's evolving identity as a bridge between cultures.

As Matera takes on the mantle of **Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue 2026**, our project aims to be one of the first concrete laboratories of this renewed Mediterranean synergy.

From Individual Visions to Collective Action

In the framework of the **European Solidarity Corps** (ESC), solidarity cannot be improvised; it must be co-designed.

We are bringing together 5-10 partners from across the Mediterranean basin because we believe that every organization carries its own Logoi—unique perspectives, local challenges, and cultural narratives. The APV in Matera is the essential space to transform these individual voices into a Dialogos: a shared strategy for high-quality volunteering projects that respond to the real needs of our Mediterranean communities.

Matera 2026: The Natural Stage for Dialogue

Organizing this meeting in September 2026, in the heart of Matera's year as the **Mediterranean Capital**, provides our partners with a unique symbolic and practical context.

Matera, with its millennia-old history of resilience and community living (the Sassi), serves as a metaphor for the Mediterranean itself: a place where stones (matter) and words (logoi) have always intersected.

Strengthening the Mediterranean Partnership

Link aims to use this APV to:

- **Synchronize Quality Standards:** Ensuring that the hosting and supporting dimensions of our ESC projects meet the highest expectations of solidarity.
- **Deepen Mutual Understanding:** Moving beyond administrative cooperation to build trust between the European and Southern Mediterranean shores.
- **Impact the Territory:** By hosting this APV in Matera, we connect our international partners directly with the local reality of the Mediterranean Capital, creating a ripple effect of inspiration that will define the upcoming volunteering activities.

"Logoi & Dialogoi" is more than a title; it is our roadmap. We build a common language of solidarity, right here in the city that the world recognizes as the 2026 beacon of Mediterranean dialogue.

Heading: Beyond Borders: The MedEu Vision

"Logoi & Dialogoi" is a milestone in Link's **MedEu Strategy**. This strategy aims to redefine the Mediterranean not as a border, but as a shared center of gravity for youth solidarity. By hosting this APV in **Matera**—the 2026 Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue—we are putting our MedEu goals into practice: moving from a 'Euro-centric' approach to a 'Med-centric' cooperation. Together with our partners we are building a permanent network where volunteering becomes a tool for peace, environmental sustainability, and shared Mediterranean citizenship.

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Where: Matera

The Logoi & Dialogoi APV will be hosted at **Casa per Ferie Sant'Anna**, a welcoming and historic guest house located in the heart of Matera, just a few steps away from the University and the entrance to the Sassi districts.

Participants will be accommodated in double rooms (two people per room, same gender). Each room is sober, comfortable, and equipped with a private bathroom, providing a perfect balance between privacy and the community spirit of our MedEu network. Sant'Anna is more than just a place to sleep; it is a community hub that reflects the hospitality of the Mediterranean. It features common areas and meeting rooms.

The house offers free Wi-Fi. Sant'Anna is a facility managed by the Catholic Church. However, in the true spirit of the Mediterranean Capital of Dialogue, it is a place profoundly open to all and fully prepared to welcome an international group, ensuring that every participant feels at home, regardless of their personal beliefs or heritage.

Via Lanera, 14, 75100 Matera (MT), Italy.

When

The APV will take place from September 24th to September 27th, 2026.

- September 24th: Arrival Day (Meeting the group and initial welcome).
- September 25th - 26th: Working Days (Core planning, site visits, and MedEu strategy workshops).
- September 27th: Departure Day.

Flight schedules or travel preferences may require you to arrive earlier or stay longer. Participants are allowed to arrive one day before (September 23rd) or depart one day after (September 28th) the official dates.

Please be aware that the project budget does not cover any expenses (accommodation, meals, or local transport) for these extra days.



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Who:

To ensure the success of the Logoi & Dialogoi APV and the long-term impact of our MedEu Strategy, we are looking for participants who meet the following criteria:

- **Geographic Focus:** You must represent a youth organization based in one of the following Mediterranean countries: Greece, Malta, Turkey, Lebanon, Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, Portugal, or France.
- **ESC Expertise:** You should have at least 2 years of experience in managing projects within the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) program. We are looking for experienced partners who understand the qualitative standards of the corps.
- **Decision-Making Power:** You must hold a decisional position within your organization (e.g., Project Manager, President, or Head of International Dept.). This is crucial because the APV aims to sign concrete agreements for future cooperations.
- **Language Skills:** A good command of English is required. English will be our "common logos"—the language used for all working sessions, technical planning, and social interaction.
- **Proactive Mindset:** Participants must come prepared to share concrete proposals for future cooperation, whether as a Sending or Hosting organization. The goal of this APV is to leave Matera with a clear roadmap for 2026-2027.



What

Day 1: Logoi / Discourses

Sharing the "Words" and realities of each organization.

On the first day, we focus on the Logoi—the unique voices and experiences of each partner. Before we can build together, we must understand the specific context and expertise that each organization brings from its own corner of the Mediterranean.

- **Partner Presentations:** Each organization will have a dedicated space to present their history, their local community's needs, and their previous experience with the ESC program.
- **Context Immersion:** We will take part in study visits across Matera and Altamura. Visiting the Sassi and the local social projects will allow us to see firsthand the environment where future volunteers will serve during the Mediterranean Capital of Culture 2026 events.

Day 2: Dialogoi / Dialogues

The second day is dedicated to the Dialogues—the active reasoning and planning together.

- **Co-design Workshops:** Facilitated sessions to match the "Sending" needs of one partner with the "Hosting" capacities of another.
- **Partnership Building:** We will move from general ideas to concrete project structures. We will define the themes of future ESC flows (culture, environment, social inclusion) and set the quality standards for our cooperation.
- **Drafting the Roadmap:** The day concludes with the creation of a shared calendar for 2026-2027, ensuring that every partner leaves Matera with a clear, signed plan for future solidarity exchanges.

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Travel information

The closest and most convenient airport to reach Matera is Bari "Karol Wojtyła".

- Shuttle Bus: There is a direct bus service (Pugliairbus) connecting Bari Airport to Matera (Viale Aldo Moro) in approximately 75 minutes.
- Train: Alternatively, you can take the train from the airport to Bari Central Station and then the Ferrovie Appulo Lucane (FAL) train to Matera.

Reimbursement Policy: in accordance with ESC regulations, travel costs will be reimbursed based on the official [distance calculator](#) of the European Commission. To receive your refund, you MUST keep and provide every single travel document:

- Invoices and receipts showing the price paid.
- Original flight/train/bus tickets.
- All Boarding Passes (digital or paper).

After the APV, you will be required to upload all scanned documents to a shared folder (the link will be provided during the meeting).

Reimbursements will be processed within 45 days after the submission of all correct documentation and the completion of the project's administrative tasks.

Visa Support (For Non-EU Partners):

- Requesting an Invitation Letter: If you need a visa, please send an email to Link with your passport copy and full organization details as soon as you get confirmation of selection.
- Visa Costs: Please note that visa fees are eligible for reimbursement under "exceptional costs," provided you keep the original receipt of payment from the Consulate/Embassy.
- Insurance: Remember that you must obtain a Travel Insurance policy covering the entire duration of your stay (including the extra days, if applicable).

Distance	Standard	Green
0 - 99 KM	€ 23	N/A
100 - 499 KM	€ 180	€ 210
500 - 1 999 KM	€ 275	€ 320
2 000 - 2 999 KM	€ 360	€ 410
3 000 - 3 999 KM	€ 530	€ 610
4 000 - 7 999 KM	€ 820	N/A
8 000 KM o più	€ 1 500	N/A

Applications

[Apply here by the 31st of May 2026](#)
Selection 10th of June

Any other information

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Our projects

Be Link with us! - Long term

Link is a sending and hosting organisation for ESC volunteering and youth exchanges. ESC volunteers will assist the association in their different activities such as hosting of youth exchanges, workshops in schools, the animation of a youth club, promotion of the European mobility. The volunteers are asked to suggest their own activities and projects. This will be an opportunity for them to learn more about non formal education, intercultural learning, european project management and of course the italian language and culture. Link manages a Community Library called Agorateca where most of the activities happen. The volunteers' program includes working at the front office welcoming and helping users, planning and implementing activities for children and adults, pod-casting. READ: <https://linkyouth.org/hosting/981-sos-youth-culture-in-link>

Auxilium, a special experience

Auxilium is a social enterprise created in 1984 in Altamura; a Type A cooperative which manages social healthcare services. Auxilium operates in the sector of psychiatric, disability, the elderly, schooling, training and volunteering. The volunteer will take part in the implementation of various rehabilitation activities carried out in 2 different structure, to support educators and users. The volunteer will be initially trained about a correct approach with people with disabilities, working methods, spaces, roles and rules within it. Finally, the volunteer, assisted by an educator, will be involved in the daily life of the Centres, in its relations with users and the realization of activities. The volunteer has to take part in all the activities and to learn from every sector of the structure that is provided for the users. After the first months the volunteer will choose the activities he/she wants to develop more or/and develop a personal project inside the structure.

Other projects / Volunteering teams

Associazione Link has extensive experience in coordinating ESC Team Volunteering (short-term high-impact projects). Unlike individual volunteering, these initiatives bring together a large group of young people to work collectively toward a common goal for a limited period (usually between 2 and 4 weeks). Our Teams are Community-Centered and always rooted in the local needs. We focus on tangible results that benefit the community, such as urban regeneration, environmental protection, or cultural animation. The focus is on teamwork, non-formal education, and the development of new practical skills.

Other projects / Basilicata Link Matera

Hosting the Logoi & Dialogoi APV in Matera offers a unique opportunity to explore a diverse ecosystem of solidarity. Participants will have the chance to discover projects managed directly by Associazione Link (Altamura) and, thanks to our close cooperation with Associazione **Basilicata Link**, projects based right in the heart of Matera.

This synergy allows us to showcase a wide range of hosting possibilities for future volunteers:

- Il Beccogiallo & Il Giardino di Nunù, focusing on early childhood education and non-formal learning.
- Materahub: A leading organization working at the intersection of culture, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

By exploring these different realities, partners will witness firsthand how the MedEu Strategy is implemented across different sectors—from social care for children to high-level cultural management. This visit is designed to inspire your future proposals, showing that Matera 2026 is not just a title, but a living network of "Logoi" working together for a shared Mediterranean future.