



THE WALKING FOREST

SATRIANO DI LUCANIA, ITALY

A CELEBRATION OF NATURE, ROOTS AND REBIRTH

28 January - 18 February 2025

arrival and departure dates



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



The **Carnival of Satriano di Lucania**, in Basilicata, is one of the oldest and most symbolic festivals in southern Italy, and its deeper meaning goes far beyond the folkloric dimension: it is a ritual that intertwines nature, community and regeneration.

In this small village located in the Lucano Apennine National Park, on the last Sunday before Mardi Gras, people dress up as the **Rumita** (the hermit). This disguise, considered an arboreal ritual, represents a person completely covered in ivy leaves. At dawn, these walking bushes emerge from the forest and make their way to the village streets. They knock on every door with their fruscio, a wooden stick tipped with holly. Those who receive their visit must respect their silence and offer them food or money.

On the official website you can find more information about the festival.

<https://www.carnevaledisatriano.it/programm-a-carnevale-di-satriano/>

MUNICIPALITY OF SATRIANO

Satriano di Lucania is a town in the province of Potenza, in the Southern Italian region of Basilicata with about 2.238 inhabitants.

Key events in the town include the Carnival, folk festivals and the renowned murales.

Satriano is a rather isolated town and public transport is limited; therefore, volunteers should be prepared to live a rural-type experience.

ASSOCIAZIONE AL PARCO

Al Parco Association is a cultural and environmental organization committed to promoting local traditions, sustainable tourism, and community participation. Based in Satriano di Lucania, in the heart of Basilicata. The association is best known for organizing the Carnevale di Satriano — an ecological and symbolic event celebrating the bond between people and nature. Through workshops, environmental education and cultural activities. Al Parco fosters a deeper connection with the territory and encourages the protection of its natural and cultural heritage. The activities of this project will be implemented by the team of Al Parco.



Click here to check out the facebook page for videos and pictures



The European Solidarity Corps is an EU program that provides opportunities for young people to volunteer in solidarity projects, helping to build a more inclusive society and address societal challenges. Participants can engage in both local and international projects and the program is designed to be accessible and high-quality. The program supports youth development by offering practical experience, skill-building, and an empowering experience, with support provided for travel, lodging, and subsistence.

The Walking Forest is as ESC TEAM project, which means that a group of 10 volunteers, international and locals will work together for common goals, sharing not only activities but also daily life, workshops about cultural differences and similarities and free time..

EU YOUTH PORTAL

If you are not registered yet please check out the website of EU Youth Portal which is the obligatory step to be connected to an ESC project in case of approval.

https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity_en

BASILICATA LINK

B-Link is a youth organization based in **Matera** (Italy) that promotes European mobility, active citizenship, and intercultural dialogue through non-formal education since 2012.

The association develops and manages international projects within programs such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, focusing on themes like social inclusion, environmental awareness, creativity, and community engagement.

B-Link is the coordinating organization of the project The walking forest in collaboration with the **Association Al Parco**.

www.basilicalink.org

BASILICATA LINK .ORG



ACTIVITIES OF THIS ESC TEAM PROJECT

Rumita Workshops

Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn how to create the traditional Rumita (the "tree man") mask, taking part in ivy harvesting in the woods and in the making of the costumes. The activity includes direct involvement in the creative and symbolic process leading to the "Walking Forest," the central event of the Satriano Carnival, during which 131 Rumita figures come to life — one for each town in Basilicata.



Logistical support: During the week leading up to the Carnival, volunteers will assist the association Al Parco in preparing the areas, setting up spaces, and managing the materials needed for the organization of the event.

Participation in the Carnival

Volunteers will have the opportunity to wear traditional masks and take part in the parades and performances of the Carnival as participants, becoming an integral part of the celebration and experiencing firsthand the ritual and communal dimension of the event.

Support at the stands

Some volunteers will assist the local staff at the food and information stands, helping with visitor reception, distribution of promotional materials, and storytelling about the Carnival and the local area.

Lunch with the Rumita and possible trips: The program will include moments of conviviality and intercultural exchange, such as the "Lunch with the Rumita," which fosters encounters between volunteers, the local community, and young people from Satriano.

Recycling Area

During the event, volunteers will help manage the manned recycling areas, raising public awareness of good recycling practices and environmental sustainability, key elements of the "greenest Carnival in Italy."

Short trips to nearby towns may also be organized for cultural promotion activities and workshops with other local organizations.



PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

It is possible to join from any EU country, important you are between 18 and 30 years old.

The WALKING FOREST is searching for young people interested in folkloristic traditions, curious to live three weeks of rural life near the mountains, ready to “dirty” hands with manual activities and creative creations, wanting to know more about real local Italian culture.

So we search for someone who has ...

- basic skills in photography, video, digital communication, or storytelling, useful for documenting and promoting the preparation phases and the unfolding of the Carnival;
- creative craftsmanship skills for mask-making, setting up decorations, and supporting the artistic and logistical activities of the Carnival;
- interest in folk traditions and in practices aimed at safeguarding local cultural heritage;
- willingness to engage in manual and practical tasks related to space preparation and the general organization of the event;
- awareness of environmental issues and attention to sustainable behaviors;
- English Language skills are fundamental, Italian language skills would be good;



YOUR RIGHTS AS ESC VOLUNTEER



Accommodation: volunteers will be hosted in a flat, with kitchen, bathroom and double rooms in the centre of the town, self managed, totally furnished.

The volunteers have to take care of the house, clean it and respect rules of common living.



The volunteers have the right to **pocket money**, which is calculated per day. In this case the amount is 6€ per day x 22 days, so a total of 132€.

Food Money, to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for yourself, is 50€ per week, which is a total of 150€.



Insurance and EHIC Card

Each volunteer needs to bring their EHIC card, if you are entitled to have one. [Click here](#) to check it out.

Each volunteer has the right to receive Henner insurance, which is a complementary insurance that can cover costs related to health issues while being part of an ESC project.



Read here the complete **official ESC Volunteering Infokit** which gives all needed general information about European Solidarity Corps
<https://youth.europa.eu/sites/default/files/inline-files/InfoKit-Volunteers-2024.pdf>



Travel reimbursement - see next page.



FINANCIAL RULES for TRAVEL COSTS

Travel expenses will be reimbursed within the limits of the ceilings as foreseen by the User's Guide of the program European Solidarity Corps+ through the [distance calculator](#) and according to the rules of the Volunteering Agreement that will be signed.

In the case you want to use GREEN TRAVEL (using only busses and trains) inform B-Link after selection.

The **project dates are 28 January - 18 February 2026** which are the days you need to arrive and leave from Satriano di Lucania.

To get reimbursement of travel costs, you need to deliver at the end of the project, all the documents related to the travel (tickets, invoices, receipts etc.).

Amount	In case of "green" travel
For travel distances between 0 and 99KM: EUR 23 per participant	
For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: EUR 180 per participant	210 EUR
For travel distances between 500 and 1 999 KM: EUR 275 per participant	320 EUR
For travel distances between 2 000 and 2 999 KM: EUR 360 per participant	410 EUR
For travel distances between 3 000 and 3 999 KM: EUR 530 per participant	610 EUR
For travel distances between 4 000 and 7 999 KM: EUR 820 per participant	
For travel distances of 8 000 KM or more: EUR 1 500 per participant	

To know which is the max. budget available for you check on the distance calculator, adding in your residency city and Satriano di Lucania as destination.

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>

For any question please contact basilicata.link@gmail.com

Deadline to apply through a google form is the **15 November 2025**

[**APPLY HERE**](#)

