
Volunteering in the sector of culture after disasters

The European Solidarity Corps and their activities with emphasis on the protection of the Basilica of Saint Benedict in Norcia after the 2016 earthquakes

Antonija Ujević

Independent Researcher

antonijaujevic2@gmail.com

Libellarium 13, 1(2022): 191–205

UDK: 726.025.4(450.55)

Professional Paper / Stručni rad

Primljeno / Received: 12. 10. 2021.

Prihvaćeno / Accepted: 20. 3. 2022.

doi: 10.15291/libellarium.3459



Abstract

Purpose. The aim of this paper is to present one of the ways to protect and preserve cultural heritage in post-crisis situations. The paper presents the initiative of the European Solidarity Corps and its volunteer activities in Norcia with an emphasis on interventions and actions of fixing and preventing further deterioration of the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia after the 2016 earthquake.

Approach/methodology. Research on the activities of the European Solidarity Corps initiative and its volunteer activities in Norcia was conducted by analysing archival material and literature. The paper refers to official documents of the Ministry of Culture in Italy, the European Commission and recent Italian papers on the subject.

Findings. The first part of the paper presents the basic information and goals of the European Solidarity Corps initiative. The second part of the paper presents the state of the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia before the 2016 earthquake and the state of the Basilica during the earthquake. The main part of the paper presents the volunteer activities carried out by the European Solidarity Corps in ruined Norcia. The paper presents the work of student volunteers within the framework of the activities of the European Solidarity Corps at the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia. The fourth part of the paper points to the existence of an initiative in Croatia called *Europske Snage Solidarnosti*, which invites young professionals to participate in volunteer activities.

Originality/value. The paper provides information about the existence of the European Solidarity Corps initiative. The successfully used EU funds for the post-earthquake recon-

struction of the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia are pointed out. Information on the existence of the European Solidarity Corps and their potential use in similar situations in Croatia is important. The paper can inform and encourage readers to join the European Solidarity Corps and participate in their volunteer projects, or to volunteer for another organization or institution.

KEYWORDS: earthquakes, European Solidarity Corps, protection, Saint Benedict in Norcia, volunteering

1. An introduction: European Solidarity Corps

On 7 December 2016, the European Union launched the European Solidarity Corps (Figure 1) initiative, which started in June 2017.



Figure 1. Young people from the European Solidarity Corps (Source: European Commission. September 21, 2017. <https://europeancommission.medium.com/european-solidarity-corps-when-a-vision-becomes-reality-b1f74ee2a354>)

The underlying concept of the initiative is the solidarity of young people (members of member states) and their participation in solidarity activities¹ (such as restoration of cultural heritage sites damaged by natural disasters, educational activities in refugee camps and similar) and projects which contribute to solving social and other problems; therefore, it enables the inclusion of young people in the labour market and (democratic) society (European Commission 2021, 7-8). As stated in the document of the European Commission, the European Solidarity Corps “aims to promote social inclusion, tolerance, human rights and the value of differences and diversity of all kinds and to provide all young people equal ac-

¹ Solidarity activities are activities which promote solidarity of young people (such as restoration of cultural heritage sites damaged by natural disasters, care for endangered species, educational activities in refugee camps and so on).

cess to opportunities offered under its actions” (European Commission 2021, 7). It is important to point out that, until 2018, the European Solidarity Corps were known by the name *European Voluntary Service* (European Voluntary Service, n. d.).

Young people (European Commission 2021, 11 - 44) can participate in volunteering activities - individual (2 or 12 months) or group (2 weeks or 2 months, 10 – 40 young people), traineeships (2 or 6 months) and jobs (3 or 12 months), and solidarity projects – 5 young people (2 to 12 months).

Volunteering is a full-time unpaid activity which is “undertaken through participating organisations that offer young people the opportunity to carry out a wide variety of activities, in a structured way” (European Commission 2021, 9). Volunteering activities and actions by the European Solidarity Corps are based on moral principles especially solidarity between the participants in the initiative (European Commission 2021, 9).

Young people can participate in the European Solidarity Corps by registering on the European Solidarity Corps Portal (European Commission 2021, 72). For a successful registration to the European Solidarity Corps Portal, the participants must have reached 18 years of age and must not be older than 30 at the start date of the activity (European Commission 2021, 15).

Organisations have an important role in volunteering activities and other European Solidarity projects. That is possible only if “organisations participating in European Solidarity Corps projects are established in a programme country or a partner country” (European Commission 2021, 15).

1.1. The implementation of the European Solidarity Corps

The European Commission is responsible for the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. It is responsible for the budget, aims, solidarity projects and evaluation of the initiative (European Commission 2021). According to a document from the European Commission “the European Commission’s Education and Culture Executive Agency is responsible for the implementation of the centralised Actions of the European Solidarity Corps” (European Commission 2021, 13). Because of that, in each country there are National Agencies which enable communication between the European Commission and the participating organisations at local, regional and national level (European Commission 2021, 13).

The Resource Centres, SALTO – YOUTH Resource Centres, the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre and the Eurodesk Network are also involved in the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps activities (European Commission 2021, 14).

The Resource Centres are responsible for supporting the quality and measures, mentioned in the legal basis establishing the European Solidarity Corps, and development, implementation and quality of Actions under the European Solidarity Corps (European Commission 2021, 14). The Erasmus programme supports SALTO – YOUTH Resource Centres which are liable for the improvement of the quality of projects.

The European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre improves the quality of implementation of solidarity activities and actions (European Commission 2021, 14). The Eurodesk network gives information in the fields of education, training and the involvement of young people in European activities, to young people and those who work with them (European Commission 2021, 14).

2. The Church of Saint Benedict in Norcia before the 2016 earthquakes damage

The basilica (Figure 2) is a single-nave building built in the shape of a Latin cross between 1290 and 1338 on a pre-existing crypt (Fugnoli, Monti and Sorcini 2017). The basilica is the result of different phases of construction (Fugnoli *et al.* 2017), which is why its restoration is a challenge for many restorers and conservators (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022). The façade is supported by two rows of pilasters. The façade was once decorated with multi-coloured marble (Dari 2020) characteristic of sacral architecture in the Umbrian region.



Figure 2. Basilica of Saint Benedict in Norcia before the earthquake in 2016 (Source: “Norcia (PG) Basilica di San Benedetto.” <https://uss-sisma2016.beniculturali.it/interventi-sul-territorio/umbria/basilica-san-benedetto-norcia/> Author: Ministry of Culture in Italy)

The different phases of construction include (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022): a Gothic portal on pillars and a lunette with a sculpture of the Virgin with a child between two angels and plant motifs on a frieze, sculptures of tetramorphs (symbols of the four evangelists) and rosettes from the 14th century, sculptures of St. Benedict and St. Scholasticus from 1578 and niches, in which the statues are housed, and which date from the 19th century (Figure 3).

The side portal and the base of the bell tower date from the 14th century, while the porch (Figure 4) with six semicircular arches (*Portico delle Misure*) dates back to 1570 (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

The bell tower was built through the 14th and 15th centuries in the Gothic style. The bell tower suffered numerous damages of its upper parts in 1557 and during frequent earthquakes in the 18th century (Giacometti 2019). The bell tower was reconstructed on a smaller scale (Giacometti 2019). After the earthquake in 1859, the stability of the porch was endangered, so it was discussed that it should be demolished and reconstructed with the help of the preserved bases and the capitals of the pillars. After the earthquake of 1859, the façade underwent restoration intervention in the upper part. In the middle of the 20th century, the roof of the porch, the cross vaults and the wooden structure, about which not much is



Figure 3. The façade of the Basilica in Norcia: gothic rosette, Virgin with child in the lunette, sculptures of St. Benedict and St. Scholasticus (Source: „Norcia (PG) Basilica di San Benedetto.” <https://uss-sisma2016.beniculturali.it/interventi-sul-territorio/umbria/basilica-san-benedetto-norcia/> Author: Ministry of Culture in Italy)



Figure 4. Portico delle Misure (Source: „Norcia (PG) Basilica di San Benedetto.” <https://uss-sisma2016.beniculturali.it/interventi-sul-territorio/umbria/basilica-san-benedetto-norcia/> Author: Ministry of Culture in Italy)

known even today, were demolished (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

The renovation of the basilica in the 1950s was especially focused on the solution of the roof over the nave of the basilica, so the renovation pointed to the original structural element of the nave – the triumphal arch (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022). In the restoration from the 20th century, the basilica gets a gabled wooden roof.

2.1. The earthquakes in the City of Norcia

Norcia is placed in the central Italian region of Umbria. It was part of the Ancient Roman Empire. Furthermore, Saint Scholastica and Saint Benedict were born in Norcia. The city of Norcia was affected (Trifan, Gocima and Ochinciuc 2019, 386-388) three times by earthquakes on August 24 and October 30, 2016.

A 6.6 magnitude earthquake, which occurred on October 30th, 2016, significantly destroyed the basilica in Norcia dedicated to the patron saint of Europe and the founder of the Benedictine order – Saint Benedict (Ministry of the Culture in Italy 2022).

2.2. The Church of Saint Benedict in Norcia during the earthquakes

After the earthquake on October 30, 2016, a large part of the church was destroyed (Figure 5). Part of the presbytery (sanctuary) was also destroyed during the collapse of the bell tower. The peripheral walls, the nave and the roof of the basilica were demolished (Giacometti 2019). The earthquake caused the destruction of the wooden roof, the vaults, transept. There was a deformation of the triumphal arch. The North side of the basilica was damaged only in the upper part, due to the presence of monastic structures on that side of the basilica. The longitudinal walls of the church were damaged (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

The most damaged is the wall on the South side of the Basilica (Figure 6) along with the porch (*Portico delle Misure* or *Loggia dei Mercanti*). One vault of the porch has been preserved.



Figure 5. Basilica of Saint Benedict in Norcia – after the earthquake
(Source: <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1216016>)



Figure 6. South wall and the facade of the Basilica in Norcia – after the earthquake in 2016. <https://uss-sisma2016.beniculturali.it/interventi-sul-territorio/umbria/basilica-san-benedetto-norcia/> (Author: Ministry of Culture in Italy)

The facade and apse of the church have been preserved (Giacometti 2019; Dari 2020). The historic building situated in the square of the same name has undergone various changes caused by earthquakes but never ceased to be a major point for the Benedictine community in Europe and the world and at the same time the main centre of city life, with its *Portico delle Misure* or *Loggia dei Mercanti* which served as a market (Dari 2020). Everyday life of the local people was disabled due to damage to the Basilica. Locals had to live in temporary and little houses (40, 60 or 80 metres) and they got through a difficult period during the reconstruction of the Basilica of San Benedict (Palamara 2021). The Monks of Norcia and local Christians could not preach. The project *European Youth for Norcia* provided assistance and support to the local residents, enabled the return to everyday traditional activities and the protection of historical cultural heritage in Norcia.

3. European Solidarity Corps and their activities in Norcia

3.1. The protection of the basilica in Norcia

The project *European Youth for Norcia* involved 16 young volunteers from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Portugal, Estonia, Greece and Spain (European Solidarity Corps 2017). The protection of the Basilica was overseen by the former director of the Vatican Museums Antonio Paolucci (Pentin 2018; Miliani 2018), Tibor Navracsics (Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport) and Italian organisation Kora.² Nicola Alemanno (Mayor of Norcia) Giuseppina Perla (Norcia city Counselor for Culture and Tourism), Paolo Iannelli (Special Superintendent for Cultural Heritage) were also responsible for the protection of the Basilica in Norcia (Palamara 2021).

² Kora is organisation funded in 2015 in Umbria. Kora organises volunteering projects which promote social inclusion among young people and sustainable ways of living.

Some of the volunteers were on the project for one month from July to August 2017, while some spent there two months from July to September 2019. Some of the volunteers who were included in the project and activities are: Alexandra Marie Mihhailova (Estonia), Rodrigo Freitas (Portugal), Canelle Kraft (France), Ioannis Stamatelos (Greece), Ana (Greece), Eduardo (Portugal), Natalia Dulba and others (Europska Unija, n. d.; European Solidarity Corps 2017; Dulba 2019; European Commission 2017). Young volunteers were involved in the activities such as: reconstructing the earthquake hit region, reconstructing cultural heritage (Basilica of Saint Benedict in Norcia), rebuilding social life, and helping children, the elderly and the disabled of Norcia (European Solidarity Corps 2017). Reconstructing the earthquake hit region means that the volunteers were actually mainly supporting the civil protection in rebuilding monuments, organizing activities for children and multicultural events with the local population. Regarding the Basilica, they supported the fire fighters and the civil protection collecting the garbage and sorting stones. The volunteers were responsible for interventions and actions of fixing and preventing further deterioration of the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia after the 2016 earthquake (removing earthquake ruins, listing and marking original church fragments).

3.2. The restoration of the basilica in Norcia

Despite bureaucratic disagreements between the then Archbishop Boccard who advocated the restoration of the Basilica in a modern architectural style and the local population who wanted to restore the Basilica to its original appearance, the Basilica was restored, by incorporating modern aspects and techniques into the original structure in order to make the Basilica more resilient to earthquakes which are frequent in Italy (Pentin 2018).

The restoration of the Basilica of Saint Benedict in Norcia, after the earthquake of 2016, took place in two different phases. The volunteers participated in the second phase of reconstruction. The first phase of reconstruction began in November 2016 and lasted until May 2017 (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022). The goal of the first phase of the reconstruction was to protect the stable or undamaged parts of the complex (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022). Efforts were made to partially open public spaces located near the church, and, to make this possible, it was necessary to remove the ruins (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

During the first phase of the renovation, conservation and restoration works were carried out related to: a) stabilization of the front and back of the facade by making scaffolding to prevent overturning outwards and inwards, b) fixing the upper part of the bell tower with hoops and the lower part of the bell tower with wooden brackets, c) fixing other parts of the portal with the help of hinged pipe system and steel hoop, d) securing the apse and the transept with the help of hinged pipe system and pulling the rope through the openings, e) conservation of the left transept, and f) consolidation of walls using hydraulic mortar or lime mortar (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

The second phase of the reconstruction was accelerated because in the meantime, in 2018, another earthquake took place, which caused additional damage to the rosette on the facade. This phase of restoration was completed in January 2019 (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022). Conservation and restoration works carried out and realized in the second phase of the reconstruction of the Basilica were: a) removal of the remains of the ruins inside

the church starting from the ruins located near the facade, b) construction of a scaffold to support the protruding rosette, c) realization of two internal metal ribs for temporary protection of the portal, outer rib to support the wooden scaffolding lunette portal, d) securing and protection of stained glass, velinatura, disassembly, cataloging (general categorization, *in situ* inventory) and placement of stained glass parts in special OSB boxes created ad hoc, and, e) protection of parts of frescoes found after the removal of the remains of the ruins of the Basilica (Ministry of Culture in Italy 2022).

3.3. Educational and cultural workshops for children and the elderly of Norcia

Young volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps organised educational and cultural workshops for children and the elderly of Norcia (Dulba 2019). They organised English classes, in two groups, for children and teenagers (Figure 7, Figure 8), twice a week (Dulba 2019). Natalia Dulba (2019), project volunteer, claims:

“Mostly we spent time with children in kindergarten, played with them and had English classes. We also helped with all the activities in town, mostly helping with the organisation (each evening there was like a concert, or comedy stand or small food festival on the main road). We also spent time with people with disabilities from Norcia, helping them with daily activities and playing with them, too. We were part of the Hempiness Festival, helping with the organization, decorations etc. “



Figure 7. Education workshop with children and teenagers (Source: <https://associazionekora.it/2019/07/30/european-solidarity-corps-in-norcia/>)

Classes took place through play (Dulba 2019). The elderly and the disabled (Figure 9) of the city of Norcia were enjoying card games (Dulba 2019).

Locals could participate in other interesting social and cultural events (Figure 10), as volunteer Natalia Dulba points out, “karaoke night, music/sustainability Hempiness Festival or playing in the Monello summer club” (Dulba 2019). Sixteen volunteers acquired new skills (communication with people, foreign language) and moral values (to make friends, to help someone), gain experience at work with children, adults and disabled people, practical conservation skills and similar.

One of the volunteers, Ana, claims that “part of their job was to help with the reconstruction of the Basilica of St. Benedict and other activities - going to the kindergarten and hav-



Figure 8. *English class through play* (Source: Natalia Dulba; reprint with the permission of the author)



Figure 9. *Card game with the elderly* (Source: <https://associazionekora.it/2019/07/30/european-solidarity-corps-in-norcia/>)



Figure 10. Volunteers helping with organisation: concert, food festival or comedy stand (Source: Natalia Dulba; reprint with the permission of the author)

ing different kinds of activities with the local children” (European Commission 2017). They also constructed a round shaped dome made out of wood decorated with flags and painted together with the children (European Commission 2017).

4. European Solidarity Corps in Croatia

European Solidarity Corps also exist in Croatia and are known as *Europske Snage Solidarnosti*. They open the competitions and invite young experts (up to 30 years) and organisations to participate in various volunteer activities and projects in Croatia³.

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake occurred in Petrinja (city in Croatia) on December 29, 2020 (Ministarstvo unutarnjih poslova Republike Hrvatske 2020). The earthquake was also felt in other Croatian cities - Sisak, Glina, Zagreb etc. Due to the magnitude of the earthquake, mechanical and severe destruction of the cultural heritage of that area (Banovina) occurred. Thus, the Hegedušić Gallery in Petrinja, the Sisak Cathedral and many other parish churches were destroyed (Dnevnik.hr 2020). European Solidarity Corps in Croatia needs to be involved in projects for the protection and restoration of damaged cultural heritage in earthquakes in Croatia.

³ Young people need to log in to the site, create own user name and account and fill in the profile with own interests and available skills. Then he or she will get an email from the site about the projects that he, she or they can be part of. Young people do not even have to look for projects.

5. Conclusion

Among young people, many have a desire to participate in volunteer activities and projects. A lot of students and young people are not informed and do not know about the various volunteer initiatives or organizations. One such model of volunteering on EU level is the European Solidarity Corps, which is presented in the paper so that the general public is informed about its existence and operation. Thanks to EU funds and the European Commission, European Solidarity Corps is able to carry out volunteer activities (participation in the reconstruction of St. Benedict's Basilica, educational and social workshops for the local people) in Norcia, an area affected by numerous earthquakes in 2016. That year the European Solidarity Corps was founded, so their first project was in ruined Norcia. Sixteen young volunteers from different EU member states are also responsible for these volunteer activities. Volunteer actions and projects carried out by the European Solidarity Corps enable young volunteers to get to know another culture and language, make new friends, help people in need, appreciate and protect cultural and historical monuments and so on. This possibility and this experience can be applied also in Croatia (Zagreb, Petrinja, Glina), which was recently hit by earthquakes. The European Solidarity Corps in Croatia or *Europske Snage Solidarnosti* has conducted numerous various volunteer projects and activities in Croatia. It is necessary to educate young people on how to use EU funds, how to participate in a volunteer program or how to organize an activity or project, through panel talks or educational lectures. Better cooperation between the European Solidarity Corps and other public cultural institutions in Croatia should be encouraged in order to apply the same mechanism as in Norcia.

References

- Adobe Stock. n. d. „Abruzzo map.“ Accessed March 7, 2022. <https://stock.adobe.com/search?k=abruzzo+map>.
- Dari, Andrea. 2020. “Protettore d’Europa, Monaco e Santo, cercasi casa causa terremoto e ...” *Ingenio*. Modified February 11, 2020. <https://www.ingenio-web.it/25767-protettore-deuropa-monaco-e-santo-cercasi-casa-causa-terremoto-e>.
- Dnevnik.hr. 2020. “Pogledajte što je potres učinio od crkava u Petrinji, Kravarskom, Odri, Žažini.” Modified December 31, 2020. <https://dnevnik.hr/vijesti/hrvatska/golema-steta-potres-je-unistio-katedralu-i-sest-crkvi-a-jos-20-ih-je-tesko-oste-tio---634309.html>.
- Dulba, Natalia. 2019. “ESC project in Norcia, Italy.” *Kora*. Last Modified June 4, 2020. <https://associazionekora.it/2019/07/30/european-solidarity-corps-in-norcia/>.
- European Commission. 2021. *European Solidarity Corps Guide*. Bruxelles: European Commission. <https://www.europskesnagesolidarnosti.hr/hr/sadrzaj/podrska/prirucnici-i-publikacije/>.
- European Commission. 2017. “Live interview with the European Solidarity Corps.” *Facebook*. Last Modified September 10, 2017. https://m.facebook.com/EuropeanCommission/videos/1989321964684155/?locale2=ps_AF
- Europske Snage Solidarnosti. n. d. “Opće informacije o Europskim Snagama Solidarnosti.” *Europska Unija*. Accessed February 10, 2022. <https://www.europskesnagesolidarnosti.hr/hr/>.
- European Solidarity Corps. 2017. “The European Solidarity Corps, first group in Italy, Norcia.” *My House of European History*. Modified September 28, 2017. <https://my-european-history.ep.eu/myhouse/story/1016>.
- Europska Unija. n. d. “European Solidarity Corps: First volunteers in Italy.” Accessed October 14, 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_2543.
- European Voluntary Service. n. d. “What does European Voluntary Service mean?” Accessed April 29, 2022. <https://europeanvoluntaryservice.org/whatis-evs/>.
- Fugnoli Raimondo, Monti Alberto, and Sorcini Silvio. 2017. “Abbazia di San Benedetto – Norcia (PG).” *I luoghi del silenzio*. Modified March 1, 2017. <https://www.iluoghidelsilenzio.it/abbazia-di-san-benedetto-norcia-pg/>.
- Giacometti, Veronica. 2019. “La Basilica di San Benedetto a Norcia, dal terremoto alla ricostruzione.” *ACI Stampa*, August 27, 2019. <https://www.acistampa.com/story/la-basilica-di-san-benedetto-a-norcia-dal-terremoto-alla-ricostruzione-11972>.

- Miliani, Stefano. 2018. "Reconstruction of quake-damaged church to be led by former head of Vatican Museums." *The art newspaper*, May 2, 2018. <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2018/05/02/reconstruction-of-quake-damaged-church-to-be-led-by-former-head-of-vatican-museums>.
- Ministry of the Culture in Italy. 2022. "Norcia (PG), Basilica di San Benedetto." *Ministry of the Culture in Italy*. Last modified March 3, 2022. <https://uss-sisma2016.beniculturali.it/interventi-sul-territorio/umbria/basilica-san-benedetto-norcia/>.
- Ministarstvo unutarnjih poslova Republike Hrvatske. 2020. "Potres kod Petrinje." Modified December 30, 2020. <https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/vijesti/potres-kod-petrinje-3357/3357>.
- Palamara, Luca. 2021. "Amid a pandemic, Italian town rebuilds its earthquake – hit basilica." *Euronews*, February 11, 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/02/11/amid-a-pandemic-italian-town-rebuilds-its-earthquake-hit-basilica>.
- Pentin, Edward. 2018. "Norcia Basilica to be restored to exactly how it was before earthquake." *National catholic register*, November 20, 2018. <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/norcia-basilica-to-be-restored-to-exactly-how-it-was-before-earthquake>.
- Trifan Stefania, Gociman Cristina Olga, and Cristina Victoria Ochinciuc. 2019. "Sustainability and resilience in the old town of Norcia, Italy." *The Sustainable City* 238, no. 13: 383 – 393. doi:10.2495/SC190341

Sažetak

Europske snage solidarnosti i njihove aktivnosti s naglaskom na zaštitu bazilike svetog Benedikta u Nursiji poslije potresa 2016. godine

Cilj. Cilj rada jest predstaviti jedan od načina kako zaštititi i očuvati kulturno dobro u post-kriznim situacijama. U radu se predstavlja inicijativa Europske snage solidarnosti i njezine volonterske aktivnosti u Nursiji pri obnovi bazilike svetog Benedikta u Nursiji nakon potresa 2016. godine.

Pristup/ Metodologija. Istraživanje o djelovanju inicijative Europske snage solidarnosti i njezinim volonterskim aktivnostima u Nursiji provedeno je analizom arhivskog gradiva i literature. Rad se referira na službene dokumente Ministarstva kulture u Italiji, Europske komisije i recentne talijanske radove o temi.

Rezultati. U prvom dijelu rada donose se temeljne informacije i ciljevi inicijative Europske snage solidarnosti. Drugi dio rada predstavlja stanje bazilike svetog Benedikta u Nursiji prije potresa i tijekom potresa, koji su se dogodili 2016. godine. U glavnom dijelu rada predstavljene su volonterske aktivnosti, provedene od strane Europskih snaga solidarnosti, u razrušenoj Nursiji. Rad donosi prikaz rada volontera studenata u sklopu djelovanja Europskih snaga solidarnosti na bazilici svetog Benedikta u Nursiji. Četvrti dio rada ukazuje na postojanje inicijative u Hrvatskoj pod nazivom *Europske snage solidarnosti*, koja mlade stručnjake poziva na sudjelovanje u volonterskim aktivnostima.

Originalnost/vrijednost. Radom se donosi informacija o postojanju inicijative Europske snage solidarnosti. Ukazuje se na uspješno iskorištena EU sredstva na postpotresnoj obnovi bazilike svetog Benedikta u Nursiji. Važna je informacija o postojanju Europskih snaga solidarnosti i njihova potencijalna primjena u sličnim situacijama i u Hrvatskoj. Rad može informirati i potaknuti čitatelje da se pridruže Europskim snagama solidarnosti i sudjeluju u njihovim volonterskim projektima, odnosno da volontiraju za neku drugu organizaciju ili instituciju.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: Europske snage solidarnosti, potresi, Sveti Benedikt u Nursiji, volontiranje, zaštita

<https://morepress.unizd.hr/journals/libellarium>

The logo consists of the letters 'MP' in a bold, white, rounded sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark gray, irregularly shaped background that resembles a stack of papers or a folder. The 'M' and 'P' are connected at the top.

MP