ONLINE INFO SESSION

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

Quality Label for Humanitarian Aid Volunteering

24 June 2024

European Education and Culture Executive Agency

The session will start at 14:30

Agenda

Time	Topic
14:30 – 14:40	Welcome and introduction
14:40 – 14:55	Policy context
14:55 – 15:30	Introduction to the call
15:30 – 16:00	Introduction to the FTOP environment
16:00 – 16:30	Q&As session and closing remarks

European Commission

Policy context

DG EAC

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The double objective of the European Solidarity Corps

To provide **young people, including people with fewer opportunities,** the possibility to:

Make an **impactful and durable contribution** to local communities

Develop their skills and get some valuable experience in the process

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Principles and objectives of humanitarian aid volunteering

Projects must be in line with the **principles** of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, 'do no harm' principle**.

Their objectives are **NOT** to deliver emergency response to disasters.

Most projects aim to contribute to **strengthening durably the capacity and resilience** of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.

So they are rather about **long term development cooperation** than about crisis management.

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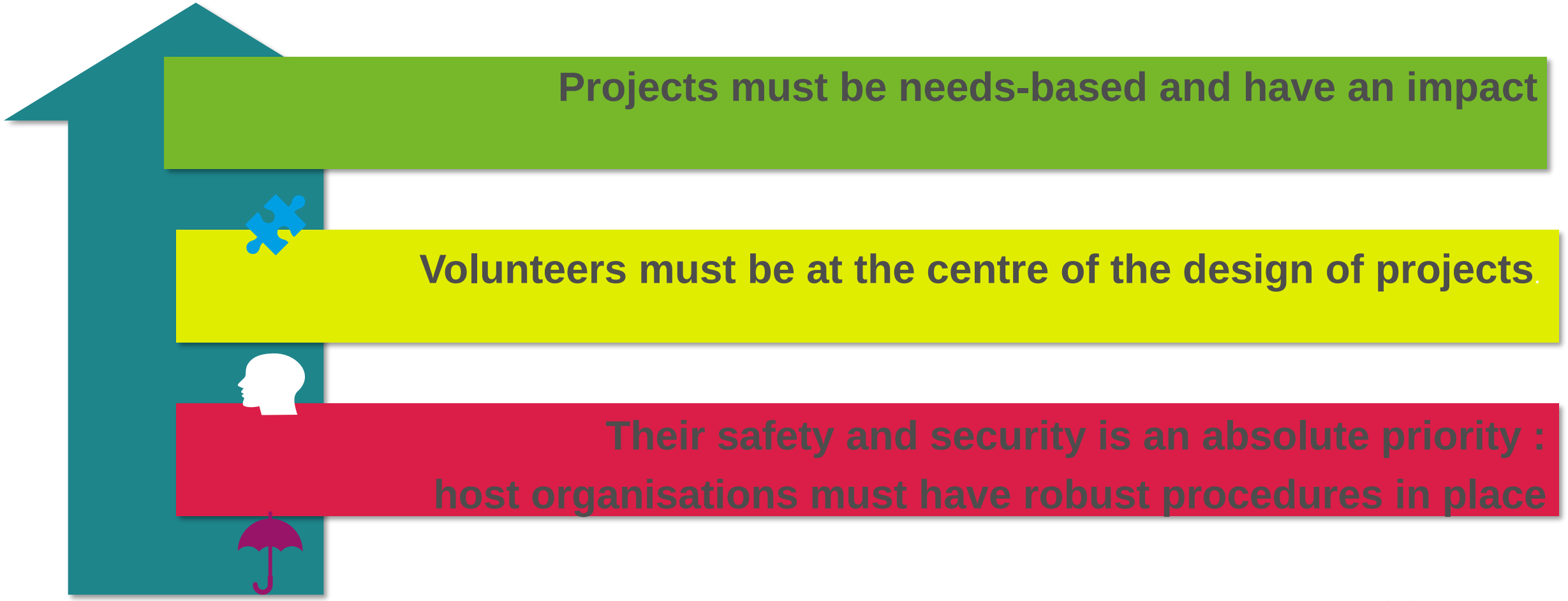
The claims made in the proposals must be substantiated by convincing evidence



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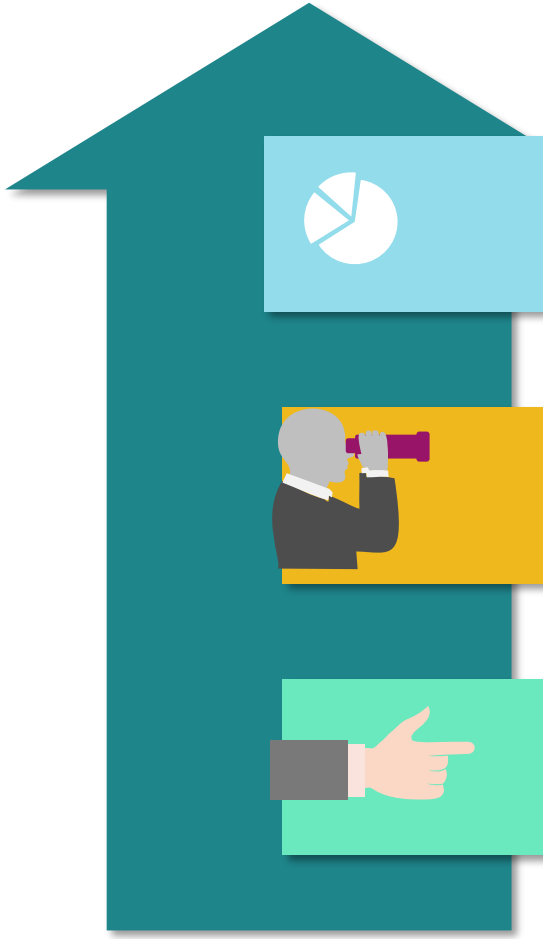
Projects must be inclusive



Projects must allow the participation of young people with fewer opportunities

Requirements for skills and experience of volunteers must not be too demanding

The quality and availability of mentors throughout the project is essential

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Introduction to the call

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What is the Quality Label for Humanitarian Aid Volunteering?

- **A certification, precondition** for participation in volunteering activities in support of humanitarian aid operations
- **Compliance with the principles and objectives** of the European Solidarity Corps
- **Capacity of organisations to undertake quality volunteering activities** in support of humanitarian aid operations
- It does **NOT** automatically lead to funding

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Types of Quality Label

Support role

- Support organisations are established in EU Member States or third countries associated to the programme (check Programme Guide 2024 p. 16 for more info).
- It entitles organisations to submit applications and coordinate or be part of partnerships.
- Tasks:
  - Supporting, preparing and/or training participants before departure;
  - Mediating between them and the host organisation;
  - Supporting participants upon return.

Host role

- Host organisations are established in third countries not associated to the programme (check Regulation 2021/888, art. 10.2 for more info).
- It covers the full range of activities related to hosting a volunteer, including:
  - The development of a programme for the young person's activities;
  - Providing guidance and support to the participant during all the phases as appropriate.

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How to obtain it?

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

To take part in Humanitarian Aid Volunteering action under the 2024 call, organisations must apply for Quality Label in **September 2024**

ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed against **eligibility, selection, exclusion and award criteria**

AWARD

Valid for the entire duration of the programming period 2021-2027

Timeline

Submission deadline: September 2024

Evaluation phase: end of 2024 – beginning of 2025

Notification at the latest: 23/03/2025

Submission deadline of the next call ‘Humanitarian Aid Volunteering’: Spring 2025

Procedures to apply

1. Full procedure (FP)

New applicant organisations applying for the support or host role.

2. Simplified host procedure (SHO)

An organisation which applies for support role may also **apply for host role on behalf of its branche offices** located in third countries not associated to the programme.

The applicant support organiation is **accountable for the quality and safety** of the activities offered by the simplified hosting organisation(s).

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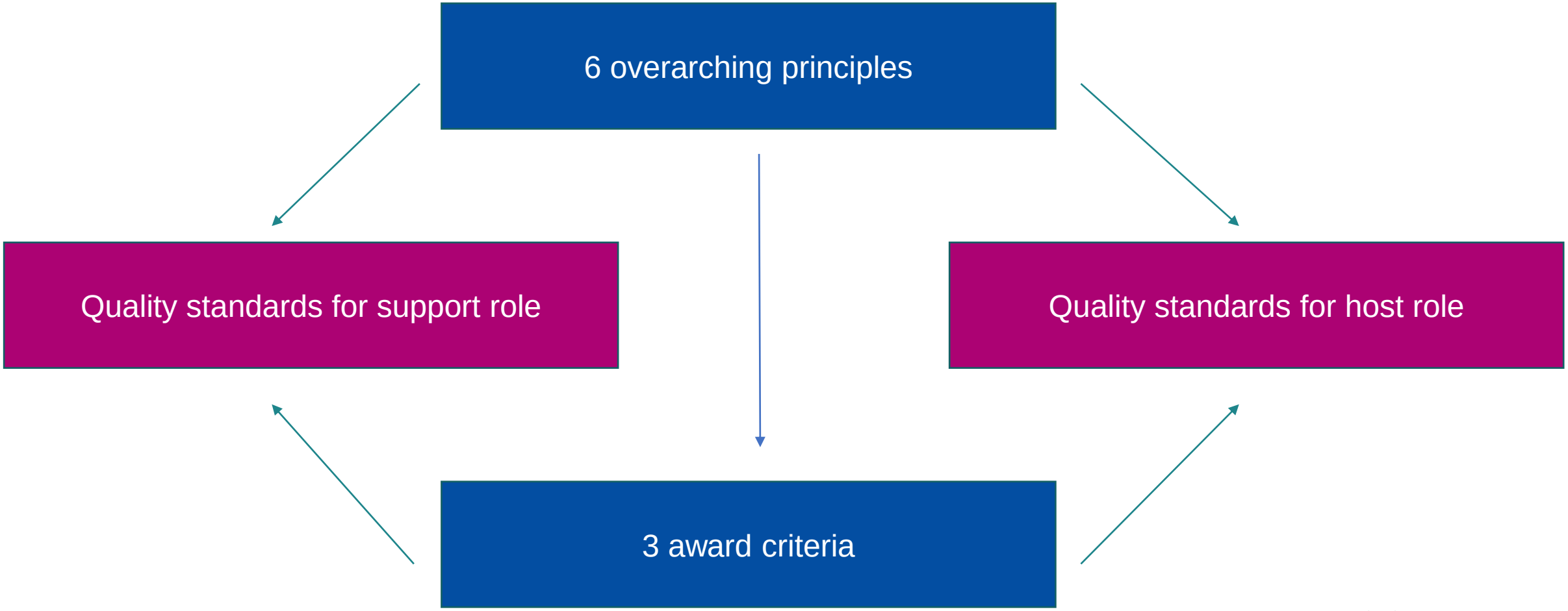
Requirements for compliance



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Compliance with the principles & quality standards

- Equal opportunities and non-discrimination
- Avoidance of job substitution
- Avoidance of harmful activities
- Provision of high quality, easily accessible and inclusive activities
- Adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements
- Non profit

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Tasks and responsibilities of organisations

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Criteria for assessing projects

Admissibility

Eligibility

Award

See Part E of the Programme Guide 2024 (p. 84-90) for more detailed information.

Admissibility criteria

Submission	• **Via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System** • **By the deadline: Funding & Tenders Portal** • **Using the forms provided in the Submission System** • **Readable, accessible and printable** • **Complete, including all documents and mandatory annexes** • **Written in one of the EU official languages** • **Applications are limited to 40 pages**

Eligibility criteria

Eligible Organisations	• **Quality Label for support role** - any organisation legally established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to the Programme. • **Quality Label for host role** - any organisation legally established in a third country where humanitarian aid activities and operations take place and where there are no ongoing armed conflicts. • Groups of young people are **NOT** eligible. • An organisation that applies for support role may also apply for **host role on behalf of its branches** with which it shares the same legal personality (**one legal entity = one Quality Label**).
Duration	• The whole duration of **the programming period 2021–2027**, subject to periodical reassessments by the EACEA.
When to apply?	• Organisations willing to participate in Humanitarian Aid Volunteering projects under the 2025 call must apply for Quality Label via the Funding & Tenders Portal
Where to apply?	• To the **Education and Culture Executive Agency** through the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal of the European Commission.
Other Criteria	• **A declaration of honour** signed by the legal representative.

Award criteria

Relevance	• Relevance of objectives to the priorities of the European Solidarity Corps and Humaintaria Aid Volunteering
Quality of measures	• Policies and measures compliant with the quality requirements of the European Solidarity Corps
Organisational capacity	• Capacity of the organisation in terms of structure, management and coordination with partners to engage in humanitarian aid activities

*More detailed information about the award criteria can be found in the Programme Guide 2024 (p. 56-58)

Relevance

- Convincing motives for participation in the European Solidarity Corps
- Organisation’s objectives address relevant issues of the European Solidarity Corps
- Organisation’s activities and experience relevant for humanitarian aid and with a strong solidarity dimension
- Commitment to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence and ‘do no harm’ principle
- Proposal relevant for respect and promotion of shared EU values (freedom, equality, rule of law, respect for human dignity etc.)

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Quality of measures

- Activities respond to humanitarian aid needs and provide tangible benefits to local communities
- Security, health, safety of volunteers are guaranteed
- Measures to respect the avoidance of harmful activities principle
- Adequate practical and logistical arrangements
- Adequate mentoring support for volunteers
- Adequate personal and psychological support for volunteers
- Appropriate living and volunteering conditions
- Measures to support specific needs of young volunteers with fewer opportunities
- Avoiding job substitution and tasks with low learning impact
- Promoting environmental sustainability and responsibility
- Making use of digital tools and methods

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Organisational capacity

- Appropriate allocation of resources to manage the activities in accordance with quality standards (safety and security standards)
- Appropriate steps to ensure continuity of activities in case of organisational changes
- Good approach towards working with partners
- High quality measures for assuring the sustainability of the planned activities
- Quality project management (proper communication and coordination measures with other host/support organisations)
- High quality measures to disseminate the outcomes of the activities within and outside the participating organisations
- High quality measures for monitoring and evaluating the activities

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Introduction to the FTOP environment

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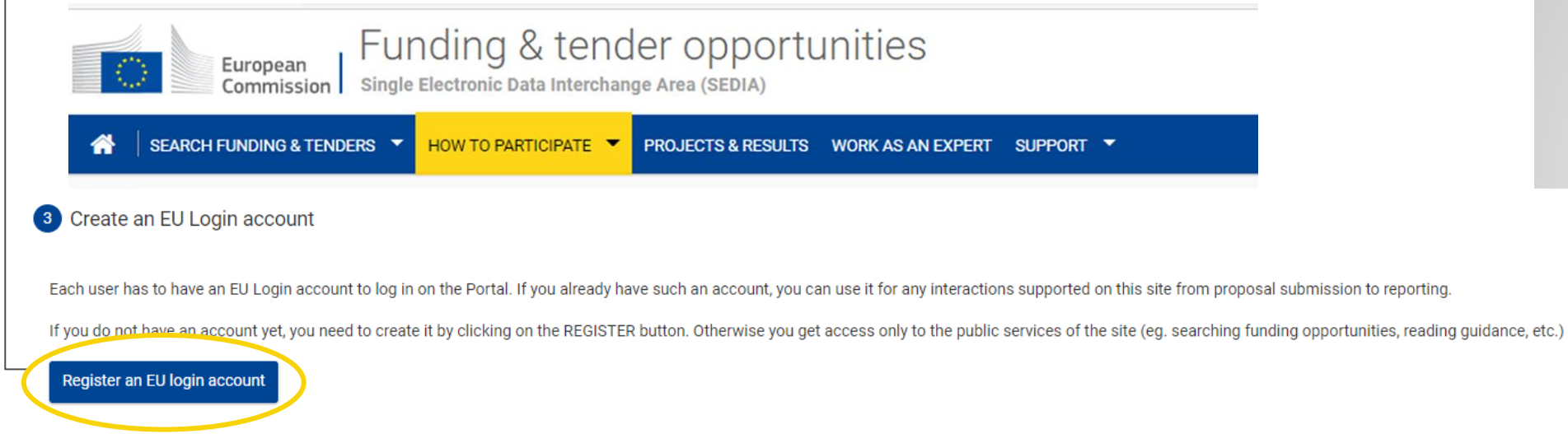
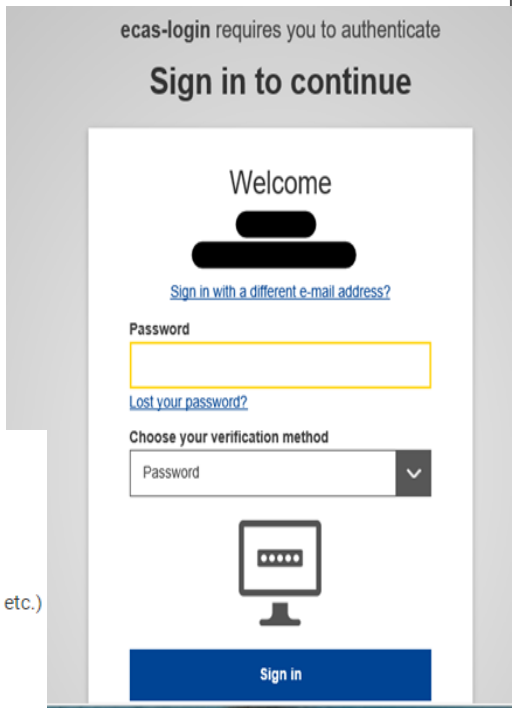
Registration on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal

✓The submission of the application form is managed by the **EU Funding & tender opportunities portal** (the **central electronic portal** for all EU funding and tenders)





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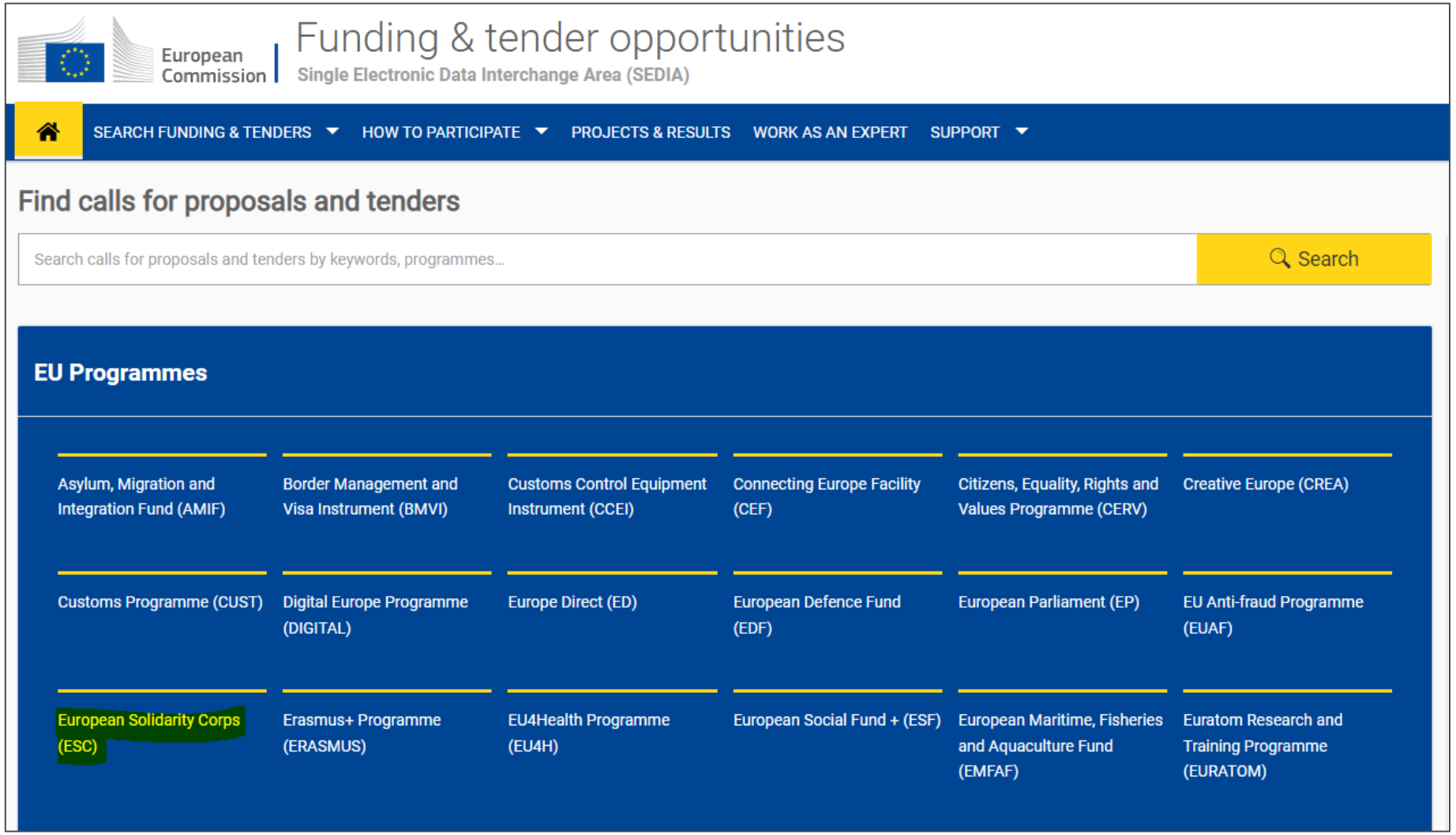
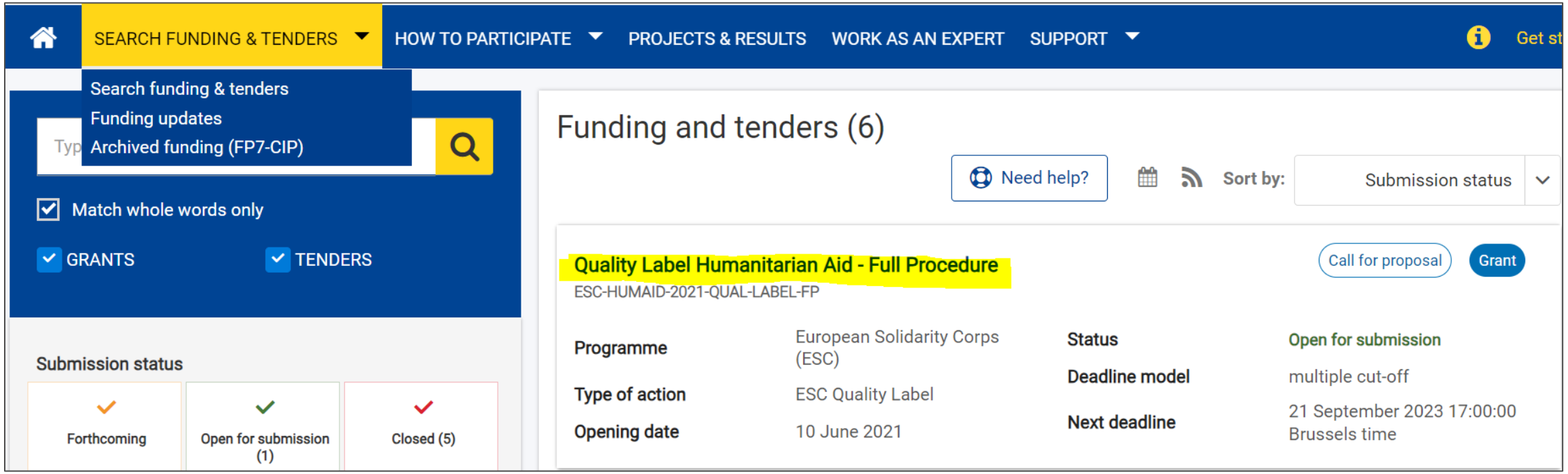
How to find the European Solidarity Corps Programme?



How to find the relevant call?



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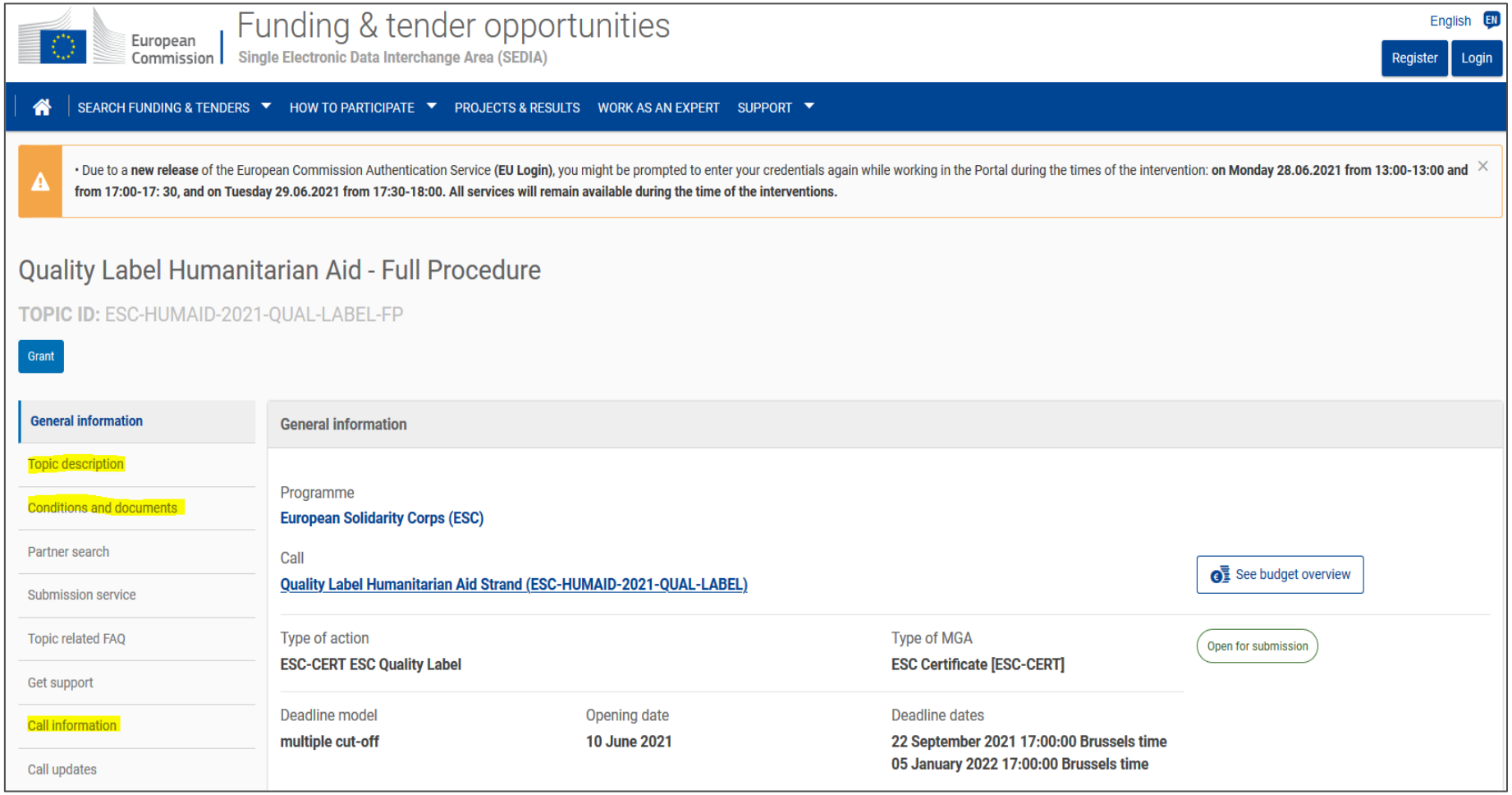
Before starting your application



European Solidarity Corps Guide

Conditions and documents

Call information

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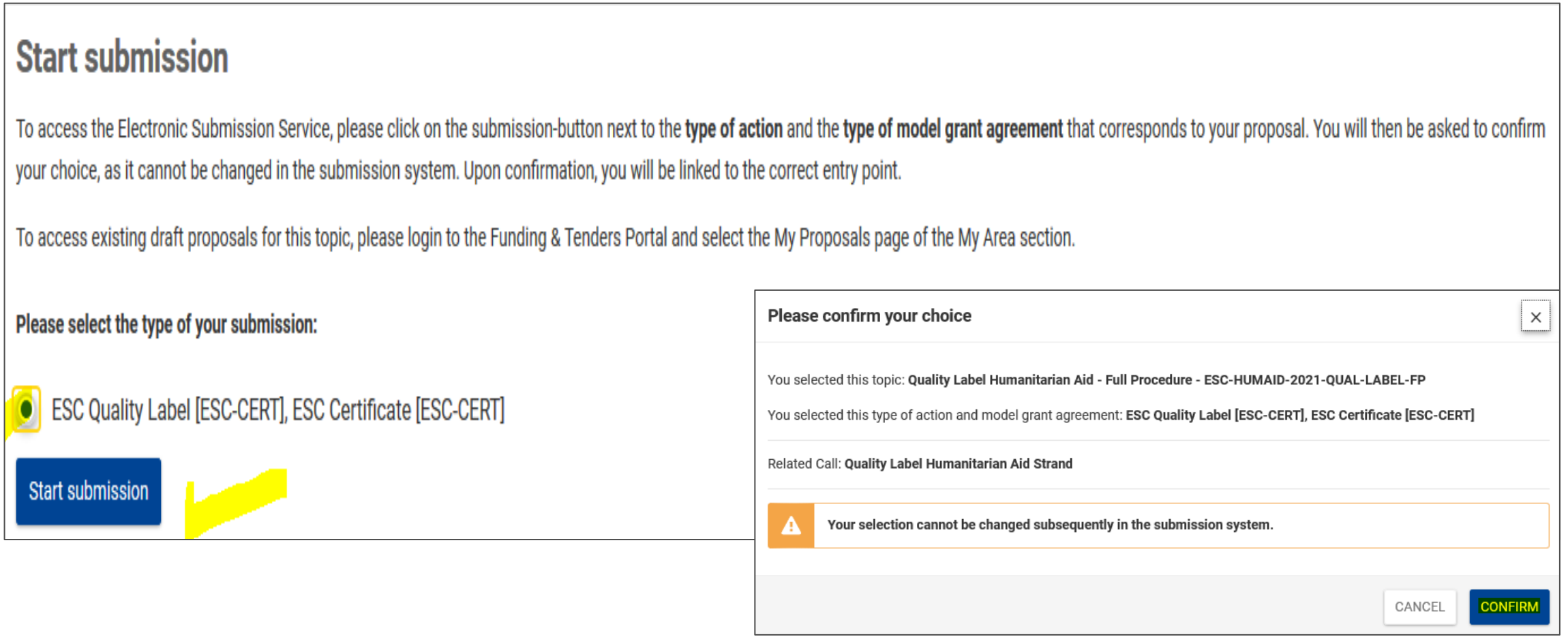
Start submission process



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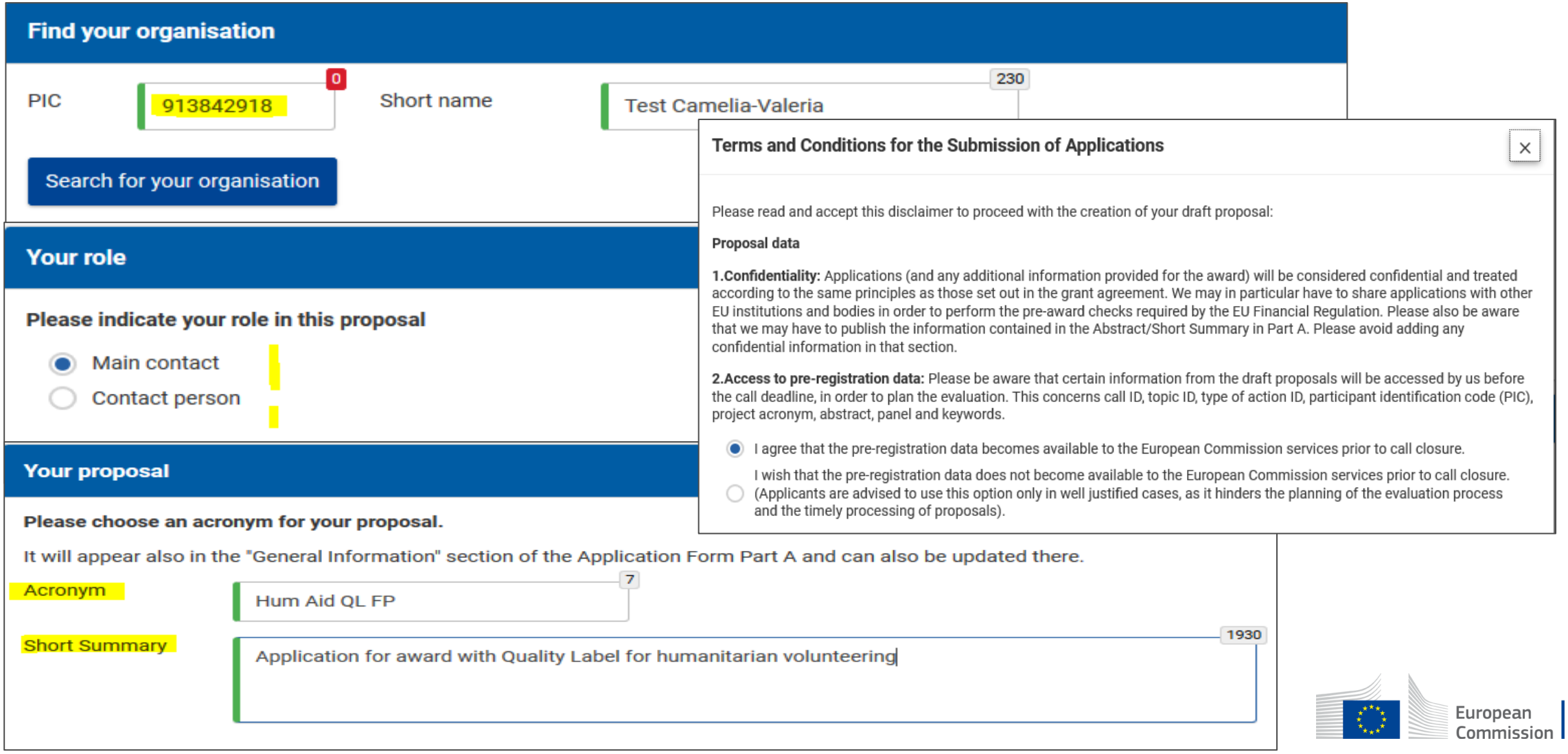
Start filling in your application



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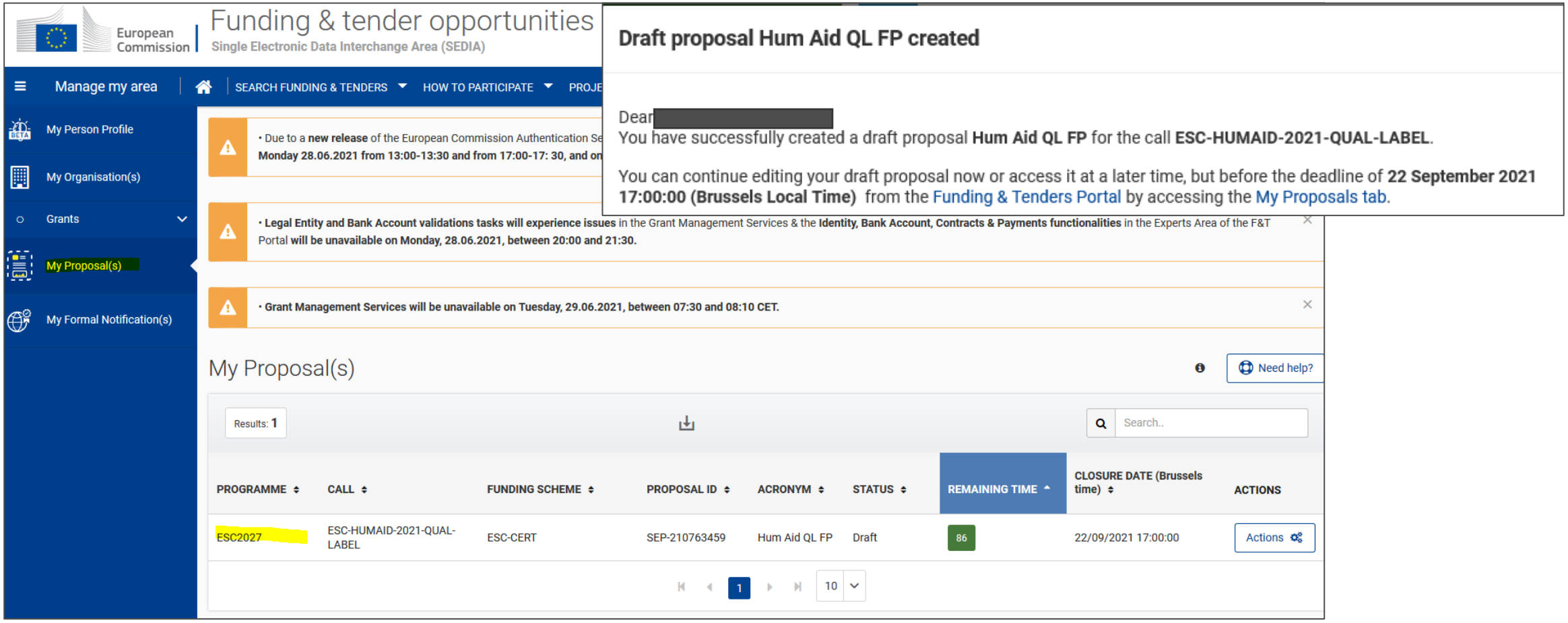
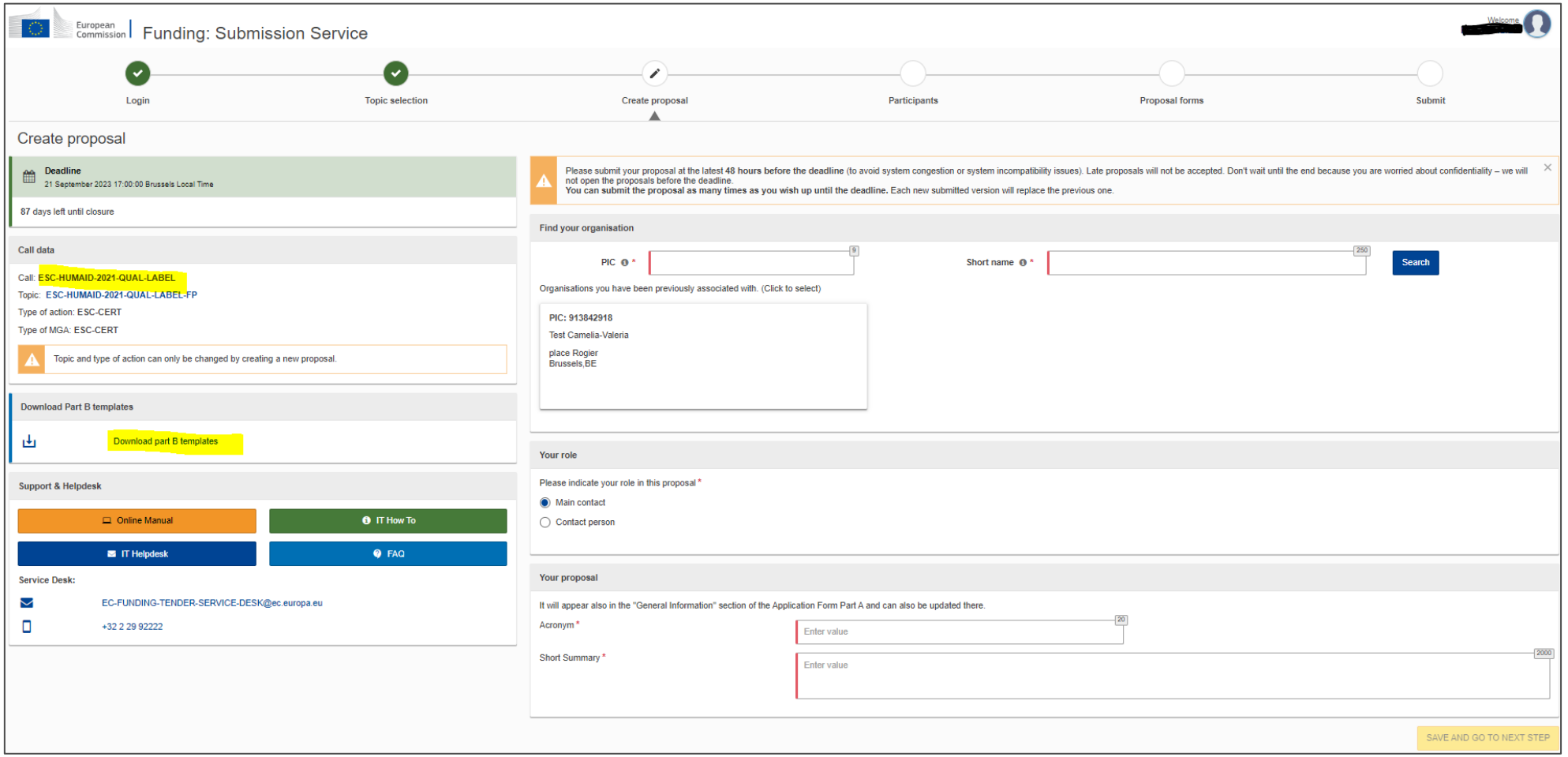
Draft proposal created



Create your proposal



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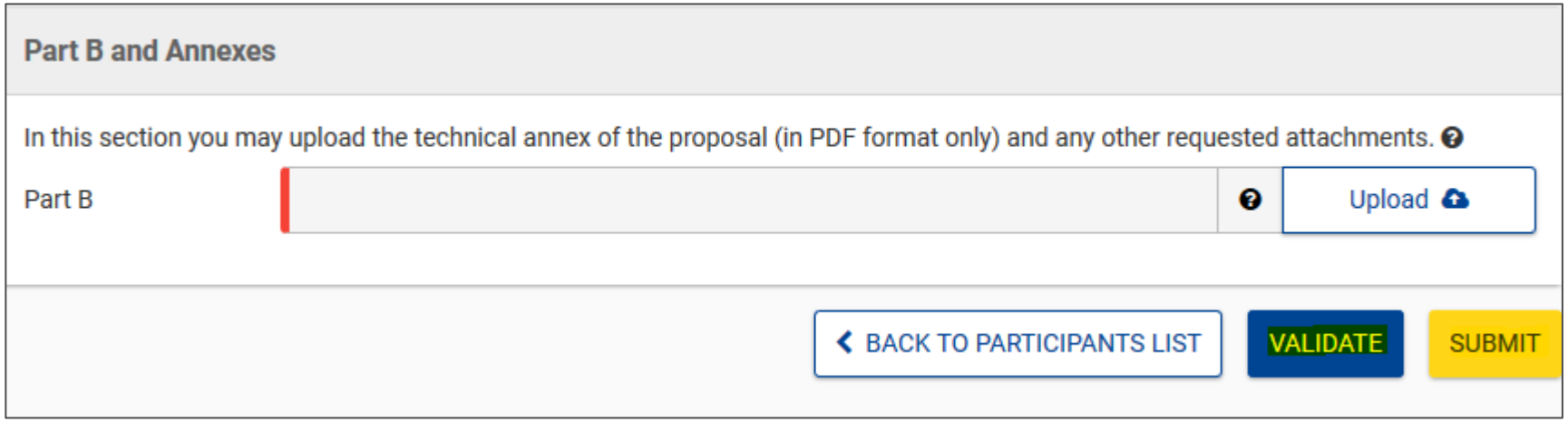
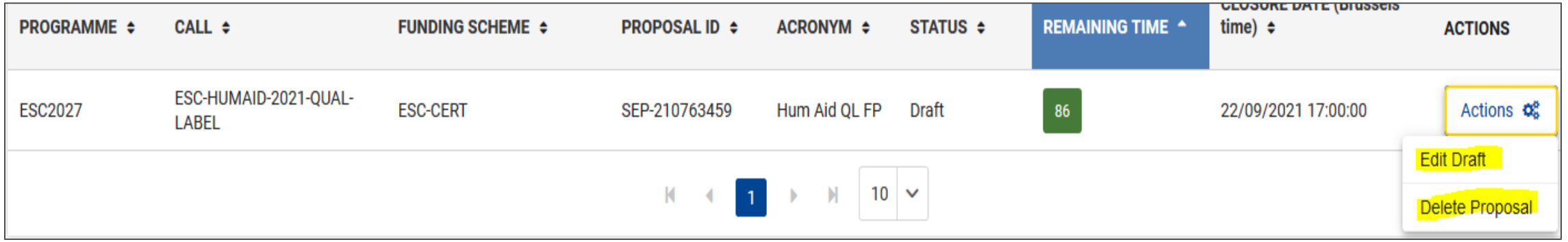
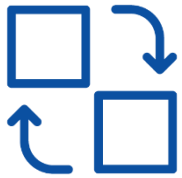
Completing your application



Editing or deleting of your application



Monitoring, Reporting and Quality Assurance



Changing/Updating the Quality Label

The organisations holding a Quality Label for Humanitarian Aid Volunteering must notify the awarding body of any changes in their organisation that should be reflected in their Quality Label.

Monitoring & Checks

The Quality Label will be periodically reassessed. The Executive Agency may carry out regular or ad hoc monitoring visits to verify that the organisations holding a Quality Label still meet the quality standards.

Termination

In cases of serious underperformance, failure to comply with Executive Agency's instructions and deadlines or repeated violations of the Programme rules, the Quality Label can be withdrawn. In addition, the awarding body may terminate a Quality Label if the organisation ceases to exist.

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Closing remarks

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Useful links

- The European Solidarity Corps Programme Guide 2024
- Call for proposals 2024 - EAC/A11/2023
- The call on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- Legal basis of the European Solidarity Corps
- Examples of projects approved under the Humanitarian Aid programme
- Humanitarian Aid Volunteering Quality Labelled Organisations | European Youth Portal (europa.eu)

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Thank you

EACEA A5.02

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