



## THE INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

In 2009, several International Voluntary Service organizations agreed on the importance to promote and coordinate common actions for environmental sustainability and gave life to the International Campaign for a Sustainable Voluntary Service. Alliance recognizes **sustainability as a key element for the wellbeing of local communities and the entire planet**. It regards social, economic and environmental issues as inseparable and interdependent components of human progress that must be taken up by society at large as a principle guiding the many choices each citizen makes every day.

The 2012 Alliance General Assembly approved the creation of a working group (Environmental Sustainability Working Group - ESWG) in charge of the promotion and follow up of the Campaign. Being aware of the delicate relationship between human beings and the surrounding environment, we invite all actors - volunteers, camp leaders, organisers - to reflect upon their impact on local communities as well as their role in our global society; we are all part of the same wonderful earth and have the responsibility of safeguarding the natural resources it offers.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The campaign aims at sensitizing and empowering its organisations and volunteers through providing clearly set and constantly evolving methodologies that will help them to adopt the principles of and eventually join the campaign. Its medium term objective is to increase the level of environmental sustainability of projects in International Voluntary Service through the empowerment of the organisations, thus strengthening the impact of voluntary service projects on environment and society. In the long run the campaign aims at feeding a social change towards sustainability, to achieve changes in policies and new measures that improve the chances for sustainability in our countries and communities. It also strives for giving a message to society that a change towards sustainability is possible and necessary.

### **Implementation**

1. Respect and promote the principles of the Campaign by involving camp leaders and volunteers.
2. Use and spread all the tools provided by the ESWG.
3. Participate in the international common actions organized by the working group.

### **Methodologies**

- **Action:** We are working for sustainability not only through the final product of a project, but also through our daily individual action. Therefore, the Campaign is based on 4 principles of action:
  - **Reduction of consumption/pollution,**
  - **Critical consumption,**
  - **Actions to improve the environment,**
  - **Actions of education for sustainability.**
- **Education:** It is up to us, as social and educational organizations, to take the first steps to learn, experiment and instill, so that our volunteers and society can understand that a different living habits are necessary and possible.
- **Networking:** The most we are working together for the Campaign, the better and stronger it will be. We can identify and respect common standard of sustainability, share our best practices and learning process with other organisations, networks and communities.



## **Tools**

The ESGW created a set of documents, a toolkit, to support all Alliance organisations in carrying out the principles of the Campaign. The toolkit documents provide **practical instruments and methods** to improve the sustainability in and of volunteering projects, especially workcamps, but also events organized by Alliance and its members.

The toolkit consists of the following documents:

- **Environmental Sustainability Handbook** - recommends a variety of good ecological practices to be implemented during workcamps and all events. It should be sent to local organisers of workcamps, organisations hosting Alliance events and camp leaders (and discussed among volunteers).
- **Food Infosheet** - presents information on the correlation between food and environment as well as several recipes. It should be sent to camp leaders and provides a platform for discussion among volunteers.
- **Sustainable transport Infosheet** - is a collection of information suggesting a low-impact travel choice in several countries. It has to be sent to the volunteers together with or before the infosheet.
- **Evaluation forms** - help us to monitor the effectiveness of the environmental sustainability we are promoting inside the workcamps. The form has to be sent to camp leaders, filled by them soon after the workcamp and then elaborated for an evaluation of the Campaign.
- **Training workshop** - is a **model workshop** aimed at informing and involving the camp leaders about the Sustainability Campaign; it is to be implemented during each organisation's national seminar.

For further information please also refer to the [Alliance Sustainability Policy Paper](#).

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