

Annual Report 2001

Content

Preamble – A Year in the Alliance

I. Regular Alliance Events 2001

- Post Camp Event
- Training for Trainers
- Technical Meeting
- General Assembly
- General Conference

II. Alliance Projects 2001

- EVS Short Term Workcamps
- IYV joint campaign
- AVSO CEE Large Scale Project
- Guidebook

III. On-going activities and members contributions

- Alliance Secretariat
- Statistics
- Web site
- Invitation List

IV. Working groups

- Steering Group for Accessing Voluntary Service Issues
- Strategic Plan Working Group
- Staff Platform

V. External Relations

VI. Finance

Annexes

1. Statistics
2. List of members with addresses
3. EC directory
4. Calendar 2001 – overview of activities month by month
5. Plan of Action 2001
6. Publications – reports from events and projects

A Year in the Alliance

11th of September 2001 showed how fragile the world is and how one sudden event can influence the world in many fields like for example economy, politics and culture. Unfortunately the reactions afterwards also showed how fast and suddenly enemies appear and enemy images are created.

In such circumstances there is a special need of workcamps where people across boundaries and cultural differences can meet face to face. So therefore there is still a need for workcamp organisations, which can conduct these activities, even if some of us experience a lower level of activities and interest these years. And therefore there is a need of an organisation like the Alliance which can co-ordinate the work of the member organisations, organise common activities and promote the ideas of workcamps in international fora.

But the *raison d'être* of the Alliance of course is based on the needs of the members and our wishes for what the Alliance shall be used for. These years the activities of the Alliance seem to fulfil the needs and wishes of the members.

But we must not rest on the laurels. There is a need for an ongoing development of the Alliance, first of all to fit the needs and demands of the members, but also to create an organisation that is geared to make its influence on the outside world and get our messages through. Therefore a group of people in the past year has started to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Alliance that shall set the direction, identity etc. for the Alliance in the future.

The past year has also focused on Alliance events and external representation. Within the Executive Committee (EC) there were worries about especially the Alliance Post Camp Event (PCE). For some years, there has been a decline in the number of participants and the question was, if there was still a need for such an event. Fortunately this year's PCE, hosted by ESTYES showed that there is still a need. There were many participants and the event was very successful.

The other main focus point during the year – external matters - did not work out as successful as hoped. The post as 6th member of the EC with the responsibility of external matters was not filled and the EC-members have not had the time to deal especially with this issue, besides what has been necessary.

2001 was declared the International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations and the Alliance has taken an active part in the activities concerning this. Together with five other organisations (AVSO, CCIVS, ICYE, SCI and YAP) we have organised the so-called "Joint Campaign", which puts focus on different aspects of voluntary service especially related to exchange and workcamps.

Besides the new activities the year has also been used for bringing events started earlier in progress. So 2001 has definitely not been a quiet and peaceful year. A lot of activities have taken place and a lot of people from many different organisations have worked hard to make it worth being a member of the Alliance. Thanks to this hard work, members of the Alliance have contributed to a better understanding and peace between nations and people in what sometimes seems to be a crazy world.

Introduction to the Alliance

The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation (INGYO) that represents national organisations running international voluntary service projects. Each organisation promotes community development, intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service. The common aim of all international workcamps is to provide a resource and support to local communities, at the same time giving individuals from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to meet others and live an intercultural experience.

Every summer more than 1.100 workcamps are organised and more than 14.000???? volunteers exchanged.

Executive Committee 2001

During the year the EC has first of all followed the work lined out in the Alliance Plan of Action (see annex XX) agreed upon at the General Assembly in 2000. The EC also deals with upcoming matters during the year, meetings with external partners and bodies, fund raising, monitoring Alliance projects and events or projects where the Alliance is involved, planning the next General Assembly, etc.

EC meetings during the year:

Wandlitz, Germany, 8.-9. March 2001
Clermont-Ferrand, France, 9.-10. June 2001
Aarhus, Denmark, 31.8.-2.9. 2001
Litomyšl, Czech Republic, 4.-5. November 2001
Paris, France, 1.-2. December 2001

Until the General Assembly in November 2001 the EC consisted of the following members:

President	-	MS, Denmark
Vice President	-	UNA EXCHANGE, UK
General Secretary	-	INEX SDA, Czech Republic
Treasurer	-	UNAREC, France
Fifth Member	-	ESTYES, Estonia

After the General Assembly the EC consisted of:

President	-	ESTYES, Estonia
Vice President	-	UNA EXCHANGE, UK
General Secretary	-	INEX SDA, Czech Republic
Treasurer	-	UNAREC, France
Fifth Member	-	VJF, Germany

Aims

The aim of the Alliance is to provide voluntary organisations with opportunities to discuss and exchange experience and information within Europe. to facilitate and improve the co-operation between voluntary service organisations.

Structure

The Alliance:

- has rapidly grown since its founding in 1982. Until the General Assembly 2001 the Alliance consisted of 30 member organisations from 21 countries. After the General Assembly 2001 the Alliance consists of 33 member organisations from 23 countries.
- promotes short-term voluntary work as a tool for international understanding and community development.
- works on improving the quality of volunteer projects and provides a network, whereby new organisations working in this field in different countries are encouraged and supported.
- respects the autonomy and independence of member organisations. has a democratic structure: a General Assembly elects an Executive Committee responsible for the implementation of the annual Plan of Action.

Alliance members and partners meet several times a year:

- every spring there is a Technical Meeting, organised by one of the members. Work programs and exchange agreements are discussed and finalised during this meeting.
- every autumn the General Conference and General Assembly take place to discuss the exchange conditions, as well as common issues and to reflect on a chosen relevant topic.
- every winter a "Post-Camp Event" is organised for experienced volunteers and leaders, who work on a chosen theme for one week.
- throughout the year, the Executive Committee and Working Groups have regular meetings.

Workcamps

Alliance members organise international workcamps throughout the year, mostly during the summer months. A workcamp usually involves 10 to 20 volunteers from 5 to 10 different countries. Volunteers can engage in a wide variety of community development tasks, including environmental, construction, renovation, social, cultural and archaeological work. They participate in short-term projects, lasting two or three weeks, or, in some cases, long-term projects of up to twelve months.

Projects take place in communities and provide local people with the possibility to host international volunteers and meet people from other countries, thus gaining an intercultural experience. The international workcamps often represent opportunities to carry out community development work that would not otherwise be possible.

The volunteers may benefit from interaction both within the group and with the local community. Being a volunteer enable travelling to another country or region, to be a useful and active world citizens by working for a community project. Meeting other people and learning from them is a mind-broadening experience.

Financial Support

The Alliance receives financial support from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the European Union Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

MEMBERS - November 2001

Association des Compagnon Batisseurs, (CB), Belgium
Association for International Youth Exchange and Tourism (INEX), Slovakia
Bulgarian Youth Alliance for Development (MAR), Bulgaria
Concordia, France
Concordia, United Kingdom
Conservation Volunteers in Greece (CVG), Greece
Estonian Youth Exchange (EstYES), Estonia
International Youth Exchange Foundation (FIYE), Poland
Genclik Aktiviteleri Servisi (GSM), Turkey
Genctur, Turkey
INEX Sdruzeni Dobrovolnych Aktivit (INEX SDA), Czech Republic
Servicio Voluntario Internacional/ Instituto de la Juventud (SVI), Spain
Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten (IBG), Germany
Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste (IJGD), Germany
Jeunesse et Reconstruction (J&R), France
Klub Mladych Cestovatelů (KMC), Czech Republic
Legambiente, Italy
Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS), Denmark
SIW Internationale Vrijwilligersprojekten (SIW), Netherlands
Union Nationale des Associations Regionalisées Etudes et Chantiers, (UNAREC), France
United Nations Association Exchange (UNA-Exchange), Wales, United Kingdom
Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger (VJF), Germany

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alternative V, Ukraine
Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), USA
Chantiers Jeunesse (CJ), Canada
International Workcamp Organisation (IWO), South Korea
League of Youth Voluntary Service (LYVS), Belarus
Neverending International workCamp Exchange (NICE), Japan
Recourcos d' Animació Interculturals (RAI), Spain
Voluntary Service of Armenia (HUI), Armenia
Volunteer Organization for International Co-operation, (VIVE MEXICO), Mexico
Volunteers for Peace (VFP), USA
Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico, A. C. (VIMEX), Mexico

I. Regular Alliance Events of 2001

Post Camp Event 2000/2001

The Alliance Post Camp Event (PCE) 2000/2001 took place in Estonia from the 28th of December 2000 to 3rd of January 2001.

The title of the Event was Short Term Voluntary Service as a Form of Non-Formal Education.

This Alliance's Post Camp event for youth, was focused on the place of work-camps ("chantier" is a better wording) as a short term voluntary service experience in the field of non-formal education: for volunteers, educative role of leaders, partnership, etc.

Through this event, the hosting organisation, EstYes, Estonian member of the Alliance, wanted to help experienced leaders and volunteers to look for new proposals, methods and ideas to be exchanged:

- to define the mission of workcamps nowadays;
- to analyse the content of workcamps in respect of study theme, social and educational dimensions;
- to develop common strategy towards further recognition of short-term voluntary service;
- to exchange good practice of organising workcamps and discuss ideas for future common projects between Alliance members and partner organisations;

and to celebrate the beginning of UNESCO International Year of Volunteers 2001;

The venue, Rouge Farm in Haanja, South Estonia was chosen for different reasons. The charm of Haanja Uplands in South Estonia lies in the lovely hilly landscape, winding roads and numerous lakes. Most of its ancient villages, dialect, handicraft and customs have preserved till today. The whole area, called Vorumaa, is famous for diverse very well preserved nature. Untouched forests with wild life, deep valleys, hills, 170 small lakes with extremely clean water, rivers with caves in the steep banks - you can find everything there.

Nowadays it is a part of independent Estonia with many economic and social problems and slower, compared to the northern part of Estonia, development. Local authorities see nature- and farm tourism as one of possible solutions in the development. Together with the Association of Eco-Farm Tourism they have already launched some projects. And Rouge Farm, where the seminar takes place, is one of them. It has been EstYes workcamp partner organisation for 3 seasons, receiving dozens of volunteers from all over the world.

Workcamps held in Rouge Farm concentrate on environmental studies and nature protection issues.

There were participating 40 people, representing 15 different voluntary European organisations in the PCE all together - 10 of them were tightly involved into preparation and technical co-ordination of the programme. The countries represented (12) were: Great Britain (Wales and England), Germany, Russia, France, Greece, Spain (Catalunya), Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Ukraine and Estonia.

The age of participants ranged between 20 and 30 years and there were 14 males and 26 female participants. Some of the participants were very experienced and deeply involved into activity of their organisations and the other part was new-comers, who were motivated to get to know more about voluntarism.

Training for Trainers 2001

For the second year running the Alliance set up a Training for Trainers seminar in 2001. The seminar took place from 22nd to 28th of January 2001 at and in co-operation with the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg. It was supported by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

This second seminar built on the first seminar held at the EYC, Budapest in 2000 and was intended as the next step, looking in particular at methods used in training.

The 2000 Training for Trainers aimed at exchanging information about Leader Training of different organisations within the Alliance and to identify areas that needed development.

The programme of the 2001 Training for Trainers was titled "Methodologies of Training". As a development from the 2000 Training it aimed at:

- identifying and exploring the present content of different training
- identifying the common training priorities of Alliance members
- sharing experiences of current issues and practices
- developing and improving existing intercultural leadership training methods
- creating common training modules that are consistent and interchangeable within the Alliance.

The prep team of the seminar consisted of four persons from UNAREC, UNA Exchange and CVG and one representative of the European Youth Centre. There were 28 participants from 17 different countries.

Technical Meeting 2001

In 2001 the Alliance Technical Meeting (TM) was hosted by VJF in Berlin, Germany. The dates were 9th to 15th of March 2001 and the meeting was situated at a hotel in Wandlitz, near Berlin.

As usual the overall aim of the meeting was to exchange workcamp programmes and settle exchange agreements among both Alliance members and partner organisations. The first three days were for Alliance members only and the last two days partner organisations participated.

The exchange of programmes and agreements took place at bilateral meetings. Each day the organisations present would carry out bilateral meetings with other organisations.

Apart from the bilateral meetings different working groups and other meetings took place. Examples of topics of these meetings were EVS Short Term, Staff Development, IYV Joint Campaign, Guide Book etc. The Alliance Executive Committee had a two day meeting and a plenary meeting for Alliance member

organisations also took place. The plenary meeting was used to discuss matters of common interest to the members.

.... organisations from ... different countries were present at the TM with a total of ... delegates.

General Assembly 2001

The annual General Assembly (GA) of the Alliance took place on the 6th and 7th of November 2001 in Litomyšl, Czech Republic. The GA was hosted by INEX SDA.

The two day GA was a mixture of statutory agenda points and discussion workshops. The overall theme of the GA was Changing Faces – Facing Changes chosen by the fact that the Alliance and the work done by Alliance members is facing new perspectives as our surroundings and the World changes. At the same time a major discussion on the future of the Alliance is planned for next years GA. A working group is presently investigating technical, political and administrative aspects of the functioning of the Alliance to present a result and basis for discussion to the next GA.

The first day, Changing Faces, was devoted to reports and discussions on the past year and the second day, Facing Changes, to presentations of future events and projects as well as debate on the future of the Alliance.

Three new associate members and one new full member were accepted. The new associate members elected were:

VIMEX, Mexico

Vive Mexico, Mexico

IWO, South Korea

The new full member accepted is:

Concordia UK

For the Executive Committee (EC) the posts of President and Treasurer were to be elected. ESTYES, Estonia, became President and UNAREC, France, was elected as Treasurer again after holding this post during the past two years.

A new Fifth Member of the EC is VJF, Germany.

During 2001 the EC had prepared the foundation for a sixth position in the EC. This position was to be responsible for external relations of the Alliance. However no candidates stood for the position and no Sixth Member was elected.

General Conference 2001

Every year the Alliance sets up a Conference in connection to its General Assembly. While the GA is entirely for members the Conference is also for partner organisations.

Following the Alliance General Assembly 2001 the Conference was held at the same premises in Litomyšl, Czech Republic. The dates were from 7th to 12th of November. 66 delegates from 36 organisations in 23 countries participated.

The title of the Conference was "Accessibility of Voluntary Service – Volunteers in Local and Social Communities". The main aim was to share experience and gain inspiration for enlarging the portfolio of activities being run with children and youth.

Three main groups of people have been identified that take part in the process of work with international volunteers.

The rural community includes people and especially volunteers living in villages or smallish towns. In these small communities, the amount of active people is very limited, due to the low migration rate and brain drain (young and educated people leaving to larger towns). The activities organised in this kind of rural community focus mainly on the very local affairs.

The social community exists in villages as well as in towns or cities. It involves marginal groups being refused somehow by majority society, for example ethnic minorities (Romas), drug addicts, people with learning difficulties etc. *International volunteers* coming from all over the world are the representatives of the third group.

Another aim of the Conference was to improve interaction and co-operation of these three above-mentioned groups. It should help to achieve more efficient communication and mutual understanding among nations, promoting inter-cultural learning, as well as reducing racism and xenophobia tendencies, which are growing from the lack of knowledge about each other.

All these topics were discussed in the framework of the **International Year of Volunteers 2001** to highlight the coherence of all activities.

The event was also a good opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of INEX - SDA the host of the Conference.

II. Alliance Projects 2001

AVSO Central and Eastern Europe Large Scale Project -

Promoting Long Term Voluntary Service in Central and Eastern Europe - European Voluntary Service and Beyond

The project is managed by the Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO). A Project Steering Group is responsible for project direction and developing contacts and organising events in specific regions or countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Alliance members ESTYES, Estonia and FIYE, Poland, are in the Steering Group of the project

This project is supported by the European Commission's YOUTH programme, as a large-scale 'Support Measure'. The project takes place between April 2001 – November 2003.

Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the project is to increase the number and quality of long-term voluntary service opportunities for young people in Central and Eastern Europe. In order to achieve this aim a number of specific project goals have been identified :

- Capacity building within Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) organisations with regards to the delivery of long-term voluntary service projects;
- Promoting a common understanding of long-term voluntary service; Developing local lobbying capacity to ensure the continued development of LTV opportunities in CEE;
- Increasing the fundraising capacity of CEE organisations with regards to LTV;
- Enhancing co-operation between and within networks operational in LTV;
- Enhancing co-operation between CEE NGOs, National Agencies and the European Commission with regards to the delivery of European Voluntary Service projects.

Future Activities

In the near future four regional training seminars will be organised between November 2001 and June 2002. These events will each target 20-30 organisations from within the host country or region. The participants may represent national or regional networks with potential to act as intermediaries in sending and/or hosting long term volunteers, individual hosting placements, national branches or partners of existing AVSO members, municipal or regional governments and youth organisations. The events will be organised in cooperation with the local EVS national agencies. The content of the training will reflect the participants specific needs and experience of LTV.

IYV Joint Campaign 2001 of Alliance, AVSO, CCIVS, ICYE, SCI and YAP

As the year 2001 was declared the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) by the General Assembly of the United Nations six international organisations/networks dealing with voluntary service agreed on a one year Joint Campaign: Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (Alliance); Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO); Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS); International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE); Service Civil International (SCI); Youth Action for Peace (YAP);

The main aim of the Joint Campaign was to highlight the concept of international voluntary service in the close connection to the International Year of Volunteers. It was aimed to facilitate the debate around five specific topics throughout the whole year 2001. The chosen topics were as following: Accessibility of Voluntary Service, Working for Peace, Supporting Returned Volunteers, Legal Status of Volunteers: Facilitating Engagement and Mobility (Visas), Inter-regional Exchanges between North, South, East and West.

The main target group of these debates was public and private institutions and organisations, local governments and municipalities new to voluntary service, and those already active in the domain. The campaign sought to raise awareness among the millions of active and potentially active volunteers about the voluntary service movement worldwide.

The volunteers willing to join the campaign had many opportunities to participate. One of the possibilities to get involved was the Action Week (between August 6th and 12th 2001). During this week the volunteers, participating in voluntary projects organised by members of above mentioned organisations/networks, formed a Human Chain, symbolising a global movement, working for mutual understanding and peace and took pictures of it.

The IYV Joint Campaign was launched on the 5th of December 2000 at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and it was concluded by a Symposium summarising the efforts and drawing conclusions from the debates and activities carried out during the Campaign. The Symposium took place in Mollina, Spain, in January 2002.

This joint initiative was supported by the European Commission, the Council of Europe (EYF), UNESCO Youth Co-ordination Unit (UCJ) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV)".

EVS Short Term Project

EVS Workcamps 2000

8 Alliance members were ready to get involved in the EVS Short Term operation, following the success of the 1st year experiment in 1999.

Unfortunately, the exchanges could not be set up, as the contract of the Commission arrived in November 2000!

Some members decided to exchange disadvantaged volunteers anyway, without any financial support.

22 young disadvantaged volunteers, coming from 5 countries participated in workcamps hosted by 5 member organisations in 5 different countries.

EVS Workcamps 2001

Like in 1999, Alliance was engaged, with SCI and YAP in this operation; 150 sending projects, i.e. 150 volunteers, will have been organised before the end of April 2002 (50 by each network).

The co-ordination of the project within the Alliance is still taken care of by UNAREC - France.

Even if we got the answer on our project grant application from the European Commission late, the exchanges of disadvantaged volunteers started in the beginning of July 2001.

In 2001 the administrative process has been much easier than in 1999 since there was a unique centralised application made by the co-ordinator of each network. I.e. there was no need to submit each application for each volunteer to the National Agency of the co-ordinator.

16 Alliance members have been engaged this year, coming from 13 countries.

Up to the 31st of December 2001 35 EVS volunteers have been exchanged within the Alliance network. The volunteers were sent by 10 different Alliance members and hosted by 10 different members (some organisations have only sent, others only hosted).

This year, the important point of the project was to show that EVS Workcamps really give an input to a disadvantaged person and help him/her in an integration process and if possible inspires the volunteer to do a longer term voluntary service project.

Tools have been created by the project co-ordination to prepare, evaluate and follow the volunteers sent on EVS Workcamps.

A Youth Post Camp was organised in Rome in mid-October, hosted by Legambiente (Italy) and gathered 15 volunteers from 8 countries (9 Alliance members) with a "prep Team" of 5 persons (4 members) - see the following...

Ze Big Weekend

Following the evaluation of volunteers engaged in the European Voluntary Service Short Term, the Alliance proposed to organise a Youth Post Camp for the participants of this program.

Ze Big Weekend took place in Italy hosted by Legambiente in the ex-convent San Giorgio from the 19th to the 21st October 2001.

15 participants came from 9 member organisations in 8 countries, 8 males and 7 females. We should add the 16th participant: Alexis Mc Glone, (CONCORDIA UK) carer of Mark Brooks, who accompanied this volunteer on the workcamp, and on the Youth Post Camp and who participated in all activities with the volunteers.

Five trainers were involved in the Alliance's prep team

- Peter Draper, *UNA Exchange, Wales*
- Xenia KOUTENTAKI, *CVG, Greece*
- Sylvie DUMOULIN, *CBB, Belgium*
- Christelle LATRASSE, *UNAREC, France*
- Marie Jean DUPUIS, *UNAREC, France* –

In the “EVS Workcamps” project run for the second consequent year by the Alliance, one of the priorities was the evaluation and the follow up of the participating volunteers.

Therefore different evaluation tools – for the organisations and for the volunteers– have been developed.

It was also very important to meet these volunteers and to give them the opportunity to participate to a “Post Camp” like other volunteers, and share their experience.

Out of 30 volunteers placed in workcamps by the end of September, invited to participate in Ze Big Wweekend, 15 were present.

The different backgrounds of volunteers and trainers brought a variety of experiences and specific approaches.

The meeting gave the Alliance the opportunity to meet the volunteers: through games and talks we have evaluated their experience with them and we have helped them thinking about their future, through volunteering... or not.

On their side, the volunteers got the chance to share their impressions with young people of their own age who have lived the same kind of experience; they also got to know more about volunteering, on a short or long term basis.

All the volunteers were happy of this Youth Post Camp, even if it was too short (the principal negative point!).

They all appreciated the general organisation, the place, to meet new people, to learn about different forms of volunteering.

Report on Alliance Guidebook work in 2001

The Alliance Guidebook is a publication to support the development of exchange work between voluntary service organisations. It began life as an informal series of documents (the ‘Guidelines’) produced at meetings of the Alliance from 1992 onwards. The value of these documents was greatly recognised: over the years many organisations, both inside and outside the Alliance, used them to develop the quality of their exchange work.

The Guidebook will be a working tool for member and partner organisations of the Alliance; to support the setting-up and co-ordination of international voluntary service programmes. The Guidebook is being co-ordinated by an Editorial Team: Marie-Jean Dupuis (UNAREC), Helle Seiersen (MS), Denis Leclerc (CJ) and Sheila Smith (UNA Exchange), whose main work in 2001

concerned the completion and editing of the contents. Although the job grew over the course of the year, these tasks were almost finalised by the General Assembly in November and so overall compilation began. Many member organisations were involved at all stages of production, most particularly in contributing articles and texts for inclusion. It was planned to finalise the design/layout in January 2002 and begin printing in time for distribution at the Technical Meeting in March.

III. On-going activities and members contributions

During the year some regular tasks have been carried out by some of the members of the Alliance. These tasks are carried out every year by members to relieve the work of the Executive Committee of the Alliance. This set up is also due to the fact that the Alliance has no full time staff member and is considered a way for members to be involved in the general life of the Alliance not only by being members of the EC or taking part in projects.

In 2001 the following tasks were carried out:

MS Denmark has since the GA 1997 maintained the position as secretariat and thereby official address of the Alliance. The Alliance pays five working hours per week to MS to carry out administrative duties.

During 2001 the main tasks of the secretariat was:

- to take care of post for the Alliance. This means distributing post to the relevant members, sending out information to all members of post received, answering requests for participating in meetings, volunteering activities and co-operation
- to maintain the archives of the Alliance including setting up a table of contents of the archives
- to participate in working out the A3029 grant application
- to finalise the minutes of the General Assembly 2000
- to prepare documents for the General Assembly 2001
- to participate in writing the minutes of the General Assembly 2001

During the past three years, including 2000, the setting up of the Statistics of the Alliance was carried out by Legambiente, Italy.

The Statistics 2000 is a collection of information for all Alliance members, based on a questionnaire produced, sent out and collected by Legambiente. The information relates to number of projects, types of projects, number of volunteers, gender, age and background of volunteers, how many volunteers exchanged etc.

The Statistics 2000 were presented to the Alliance members at the Technical Meeting in March 2001.

At the General Assembly in November 2001 it was decided to hand over the task of setting up the Statistics to Concordia France. They will produce the Statistics for the year 2001.

The Alliance General Assembly 1998 decided to leave the task of setting up and maintaining an Alliance web site to INEX-SDA.

A web site was set up and members were asked to contribute by short descriptions of their organisations. The web site was first of all a presentation of the Alliance and its work in the voluntary sector.

During 2000 and 2001 discussions started among Alliance members how to develop the web site to make it more interactive for both visitors and members. The task of maintaining and developing the web site was by autumn 2001 given to Jeunesse et Reconstruction, France.

The Alliance maintains an Invitation List with regards to regular meetings and events. During 2001 the Invitation List was maintained by UNAREC, France. Maintaining the List means updating the List when new organisations are agreed to be invited, and sending the List to those Alliance members hosting a meeting or event where the Invitation List is required.

The Invitation List includes all Alliance member organisations as well as partner organisations, which are not members of the Alliance. It is meant to secure that organisations with a genuine interest and motivation in a specific event or meeting participate. I.e. different organisations are invited to different meetings.

Presently the Invitation List is used for the Post Camp Event, Training for Trainers, Technical Meeting and General Conference.

The General Assembly 2001 decided to leave the task of maintaining the Invitation List to UNAREC again for the following year.

IV. Working groups

Staff Platform

Introduction

The Staff Platform group, set up through the Alliance Plenary Meeting on 9 March 2001, had a working discussion on transformation of Alliance Internal Relations Working Group into Staff Platform. This idea was born at Alliance General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1999. Discussion continued at the Alliance General Assembly 2000 in Paestum, Italy, where members voted for the inclusion of the Staff Platform group to the Alliance Plan of Action with the responsibility laid on member organisations. This meeting was the first real attempt to start the process, propose the concrete plan of immediate actions and ways to involve member organisations in it.

History

Alliance veterans, Erika Moritz and Peter Coldwell, recalled “old times” when the whole Alliance General Conference was dedicated to the so called “technical” issues around exchanges. Staff Training and, later Staff Development sessions were run during Alliance GCs. This was an important tool of the education of Alliance members’ staff, strengthening Alliance members (and partners) offices, working procedures and developing of exchanges. And it was more efficient in a larger platform than on bilateral level, the way we have it now. Unfortunately at the last GCs there were no space foreseen for such training. At the same time one should not forget the roots of the Alliance, which was established as a Technical Platform to support and develop the exchange of volunteers in the short term projects in summer.

Needs

In the meantime new and urgent issues for the broader discussion between Alliance staff arose:

- teenage camps;
- participation fees;
- camp leaders exchange;
- evaluation of new partners;
- working with programme “Youth”;
- using of Internet;
- overcoming technical problems (computers, etc.)
- working with local volunteers;
- changing working procedures.

The first working group meeting concluded that to discuss proposed issues and reflect changes around us a meeting of staff should be organised during the Alliance GC 2001 in the Czech Republic.

Proposals and Actions

To make a proposal on behalf of the working group to Alliance EC June 2001 meeting to reserve a special day for the Staff Platform Meeting at Alliance GA. Agenda for the meeting will be prepared by working group. However Alliance members should have a chance to add topics so that all proposals can be presented to EC September meeting.

To publish information on this meeting in the Alliance Newsletters and invite members to join the group.

Steering Group for Accessing Voluntary Service Issues

Following the evaluation of the EVS Workcamp projects 1999 and 2000 during the General Conference 2000 in Paestum, Italy (- hosted by Legambiente in November 2000), a steering group, or working group, was set up during the TM 2001 in Wandlitz, Germany (hosted by VJF in March 2001).

This working group - known internally in the Alliance as "lightening group" - focus on the theme of encouraging the accessing to Voluntary Service for disadvantaged volunteers.

Concretely, coming from the EVS Workcamp experiences, we are looking for improving our co-operation among Alliance member organisations concerning this target group.

5 organisations are part of this group (CVG, IBG, UNA Exchange, UNAREC, VJF), who met 3 times in 2001 (Wandlitz in March, Clermont-Ferrand in June, Litomyšl in November).

Working group on Strategic Plan for the future of the Alliance

The Alliance GA 2000 decided to establish the Strategic Planning Group to write a strategic plan for the future of the Alliance. The Group started working at the end of 2000 and continued in 2001.

Questions arose during the process of work and it became apparent that some discussions needed to take place before finishing a strategic plan. I.e. the Alliance still needs to discuss the basic, main idea of the Alliance, whether to have a technical/administrative or a political emphasis, how to manage the growing size of the Alliance etc. Basically consideration of the purpose of the Alliance among needs to take place among the members.

The Group first looked at internal documents like GA minutes, statistics etc. Not enough information came out of these documents to produce a strategic plan so a questionnaire was formulated and sent to members. The questionnaire was very extensive but necessary to find out how much knowledge members have of ongoing projects. The purpose of the questionnaire was to initiate a proper and healthy discussion within the Alliance. Results of the questionnaire are going to be sent to members to form the basis of discussions on the actual Strategic Plan.

Eventually the Strategic Planning Group will come up with the Strategic Plan and concept of how we look at the Alliance for the next ten years. A proposal will be worked out and presented to the GA 2002 where members will discuss how to put the plan into action.

V. External Relations

Alliance External Relations 2001

Actions done in 2001

- 5th December 2000 and 29th January 2001 in Paris: CCIVS and AVSO joint common IYV action
- 15th January 2001: Training and Information Day on EU Commission A3029 budget line at Youth Forum Jeunesse in Brussels
- 21st May 2001: Convention on Voluntary service.
- 26th January 2001: European Youth Foundation in Strasbourg.
- 22nd May 2001: European Commission, DG Education and Culture (youth unit), meeting with Philippe COVA about the EVS Short Term Workcamp project.

Situation regarding external bodies

J European Youth Forum (Youth Forum Jeunesse): the Alliance has been present in the major meetings of the Youth Forum concerning our field of action: General Assembly and Convention on Voluntary service. Our 3 representatives in Commission or working groups finished their mandate this year (but we could not propose new volunteers).

J Council of Europe: The relations with the European Youth Foundation are very good. The Alliance proposal for Training for Trainers seminar was renewed (and another one is already accepted for 2002) in the European Youth Centre. The problem is the big cut in the EYF budget that brought less grants this year: 2 grant A accepted, (1 refused), 1 B grant renewed with less amount, 1 C grant renewed. *There are still possibilities to develop Special projects (one is discussed with MS in the Balkans).*

J European Union: the relation with the new team of the Youth Unit (Pierre MAIRESSE, Philippe COVA) is good and improving. A permanent link has been set up by the Treasurer with Philippe COVA, both for the pilot action EVS Short Term Workcamp and for difficulties concerning the A3029 grant (-60%) and with another pilot action (Mobility International)

J Relations with other voluntary service NGO's improved as we are working on different common projects:

EVS Short Term Workcamps pilot centralised project (Alliance, SCI, YAP) : good work achieved together to renew this project

International Year for Volunteer common campaign (Alliance, AVSO, CCIVS, ICYE, SCI, YAP) : productive work from Klara DVORAKOVA (General secretary) that helped to present the Alliance as a concrete resource body.

CEE large scale project (managed by AVSO): a low profile involvement to answer AVSO request (cf. GA 2000), but that brought us for more discussion with AVSO staff (see Aleksander KURUCHEV report)

Major improvement regarding internal organisation

The Alliance decided, in March 2001, to create a **new Executive Committee position** (6th member) to reinforce our policy about Alliance's external relations:

J Internally: to co-ordinate and prepare Alliance's representatives from member organisations (young volunteers, board members, staff)

J Externally: to manage the different needs or requests (invitations) for representation and co-operation in external bodies (current ones and new such as UNV, Asia Europe Foundation)

This is our main improvement within the Alliance in 2001 and for 2002!

VI. Finance

Alliance Financial Years of 2000 and 2001

The Alliance is facing new developments in its financial activities and a huge potential is in front of us. For this purpose the Alliance needs efficient accounting methods and clearer accounts. 2000 was the first *changing* year. The 2000 accounts shows a balance now clear and transparent, and an improving situation regarding external grants due to closer relations with EYF and EU.

After a couple of years with a financial deficit the year 2000 was used for making a surplus to refund our money reserves. For other reasons the Alliance should have financial reserves available at any given time. One way to secure a reserve is by using transparent and simple methods and tools for accounts and budgets. A new account software was therefore taken in use in 2000 and a new accounting procedure was developed and is now practice. The External Auditor agreed to the accounts methods and charts.

By 31.12.2000 the Alliance had doubled its financial reserves (surplus) but not as much as planned. We would like to build up a reserve for activities, special equipment, building up a permanent secretariat etc.

The financial work of 2001 was concentrated on:

Establishing co-ordination methods with UNIBANK (NORDEA) Denmark (which holds the Alliance bank account), and closing all former bank accounts by 31.12.2000.

Clarifying relations with member organisations concerning events and projects (contracts, agreements etc).

Launching a new permanent accounting procedure using a regular accounting plan, and a new accounting software (Banana).

Reinforcing relations with our 2 mains sponsors: Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation and European Youth Centre) and the European Commission (Youth Unit).

Increasing efficiency with cash flow and financial management.

External grants in 2001 came from European Youth Foundation, the A3029 budget line and the EU Commission. 18% of the total income was spent on running costs: Alliance Administrative Assistant, communication, EC meetings, GA, bank services, interests.

The present accounting system makes the work of the Treasurer easier to handle than in previous years. In future the transition to new Treasurers however still must involve some training. Also the new method of accounting was intended to make the accounts more understandable to members. As the Alliance grows in size the accounts must be more professional and we need to understand them better.

The financial situation of 2001 is looking good, but the accounts have not been completed yet.

Annex 2. List of members with addresses

Full members:

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- IBG - Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V.
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Annex 5. The Alliance Plan of Action 2001 and how it was carried out

ACTION	RESULT
1. Alliance events and Projects	
A. Regular events	
1. Organise	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Post Camp Event 	Took place in Estonia over New Year 2000/2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Technical Meeting 	Took place in Germany, March 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One General Assembly/One General Conference 	Took place in the Czech Republic, November 2001
B. Other events	
2. Training for Trainers Seminar II (follow up and create longer term strategy)	Took place in January 2001
C. Projects	
3. Apply for and organise EVS short term projects:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EVS workcamps with SCI and YAP 	An application for a new EVS project – EVS Short Term Workcamps – with SCI and YAP was accepted by the Commission. The project took place during Summer/Autumn 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EVS Mobility 	Three Alliance member organisations were involved in the Mobility International EVS project “Maximising inclusion” in 2001. Due to difficulties the three members decided not to join the project after all.
4. Exchange information and practices on EVS	Exchange of information and practices on EVS took place during the TM in Germany as well as during the General Conference in the Czech Republic
5. Co-operate with AVSO CEE large scale project.	The Alliance, represented by Alexander Kurushev and Waldemar Korycki, took part in the project during 2001
6. Prepare the publication of the Alliance guidebook and apply for the 2 nd year grant from EYF	An editorial team of four people has been working on the Alliance Guidebook for volunteers exchange, and the guidebook will be published in December. A second grant from EYF has been given to cover the printing cost

ACTION	RESULT
7. Participate in the Joint Common IYV Campaign with CCIVS, SCI and YAP	Alliance members took part in the events set up by The Joint Campaign during 2001. Otherwise the Alliance was represented in the Campaign by Klara Dvorakova. The final Symposium of the Campaign will be held in January 2002.
8. Organise an Alliance day on IYV to be introduced at the TM plenary	Two Alliance IYV days were carried out in August and November 2001.
2. Funding and finances	
A. Make a 2001 A3029 grant application	A 3029 grant application was submitted in February
B. Evaluate funding needs of the Alliance in order to prioritise fundraising in the future	Nothing has been done regarding evaluation of the Alliance funding needs, but it will be part of the Strategic Plan.
3. Management of the Alliance	
To make the first step towards a strategic plan by (re-)defining the identity, mission and goals of the Alliance, and presenting it for approval at the GA 2001	The first step towards a strategic plan for the Alliance was carried out and a group of people (the Thunder Group) is preparing a draft proposal for the GA 2002.
B. Work on the suggestion to have the Alliance officially registered and submit a proposal to the 2001 General Assembly	Nothing has been done regarding the suggestion to have the Alliance officially registered, as this will be part of the Strategic Plan.
C. Review the Constitution and the Standing Orders	Regarding the review the Constitution and the Standing Orders the EC decided to do only a review of the Constitution concerning smaller necessary immediate changes and let the bigger possible changes of the Constitution and the Standing Orders await the Strategic Plan in 2002.
D. Make a proposal about external representation: Where should the Alliance be represented and why	No proposal about external representation has been done, as there has been no person in charge of the external matters and the EC has not had time to deal with these matters.
E. Transform the IRWG into a Platform for Exchange Staff and launch it at the TM.	A group of people met at the TM and at the GC but the progress has not yet gone much forward because of the busy season.
4. Co-operation between members	
A. Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.	An introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work was held for newcomers at the TM.

ACTION	RESULT
B. Work on the issues surrounding the exchange of leaders.	The work on the issue of exchange of leaders has been progressing during 2001, led by member organisations.
5. Information and communication	
A. Publish and distribute at least four Newsletters	One Newsletter has been produced.
B. Publish and distribute a regular news bulletin in between newsletters in order to improving the spread of information to and among members	The Newsbulletin was given up during the year, as the EC found that there is a lot of information sent out by the General Secretary and the Alliance Administrative Assistant anyway whenever there is relevant news.
C. Produce two versions of the 2000 Annual Report: One for external and one for internal use. Distribute the internal report to members at the TM 2001. Distribute the external report to principal partners with whom the Alliance co-operates.	A short version of the Annual Report 2000 has been produced for the purpose of the application for the A3029
D. Maintain the Alliance website and evaluate the use of it. The evaluation and a proposal must be presented to the GA 2001.	An agreement has been signed between Jeunesse and Reconstruction and the Alliance about maintenance of the Alliance website. A call for project ideas for a new Alliance web site has been sent to members and a proposal was presented to the GA.

Annex 6. List of Alliance publications 2001

One Newsletter, May

Report of Post Camp Event, Estonia, New Year 2000/2001

Report of Training for Trainers, January

Report of Evaluation meeting for EVS Short Term volunteers "Ze Big Weekend", October

Report of General Conference, November