

ALLIANCE

Annual Report 2004



of European
Voluntary
Service
Organisations

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1. INTRODUCTION

"Enacting Alliance future" – this was the theme of the 2004 Alliance General Assembly in Yerevan (Armenia). For the Alliance 2004 was a year after a lot of constitutional changes have been made – thus, we needed to put into action the decisions of the General Assembly 2003. It was a logical result of several years of serious discussions, searching for the Alliance identity, looking for the new ways of managing growing network, and answering the new challenges the Alliance faces.

Thus, the Alliance now has a one year experience with a new Constitution and it is important to evaluate this and to combine it with new quality of work.

There are some important points in this development:

The Alliance started to improve its management. Thus, many Alliance members are involved in the Alliance life and work. They are working on different topics in different working groups, for instance: North-South Exchange, Training Needs, and Staff development. In order to ensure coherency of the work of these groups, it is important to have good communication and exchange between different groups. The Executive Committee is monitoring this, and the General Assembly has added a new chapter of the Standing Orders on the Working groups. The new way of managing the Alliance was quite successfully experimented.

A second point regarding Alliance co-operation and communication is the Alliance secretariat. The members decided for the moment not to create a permanent secretariat. It is preferable to involve members in this work to encourage active membership. Thus, the Alliance has for the moment three Assistants (Administrative, Financial, and Publications). Really new for the Alliance life is the Alliance Publications Assistant. This position is aimed at developing publications/ reports of Alliance events and projects for the use of members and external representation of the Alliance work, making it more visible and recognizable.

The General Assembly 2004 took some very important decisions for the future. An important one is starting a policy on membership development. This means being more active in encouraging new Alliance members in Europe, but not only this. The Alliance will further promote voluntary service as part of the comprehensive work on the idea of a united, democratic, and peaceful Europe. We will bring the idea of voluntary work to more countries and support new organisations in this field of work. The Alliance has a lot of experience in this area, so we can make our contribution and maybe find new active members.

One step to this quality was our General Conference in 2004 in Yerevan (Armenia). The topic of this conference was the focused on voluntary work in the new independent countries in the former Soviet Union. The participants discussed the history, the current situation, and the future of voluntary work in these countries. They worked on problems and challenges, exchanged their experiences, and found a lot of new ideas. Also at this Conference we had guests from different organisations in the post-Soviet countries, and it was a great event and a good start for the Alliance.

The Alliance members organised in 2004 the total of 1476 workcamps with 15239 participants.

Also, the Alliance welcomed 2 new members: Allianssi Finland and Pro-International Germany. Thus, in January 2005 the Alliance consists of 26 Full Members in 17 countries (Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom), 4 Associate Members in 3 countries (Canada, Japan, and the USA), and 10 candidate members in 7 countries (Belarus, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro, South Korea, and the USA).

Thus, 2004 was another very successful year for the Alliance.

*Torsten Löser
General Secretary*

MANAGEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance organises its internal life and management according to the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

According to article 5.1 of the Constitution the Executive Committee (EC) shall be in charge of the management and the operation of the Alliance in accordance with the decisions of the Alliance in the General Assembly.

In 2004 the EC consisted of 6 members:

- the president
- the vice-president
- the General Secretary
- the Treasurer and
- the fifth member (training position) and
- the sixth member for external relations.

The General Assembly elected the following persons into the EC:

Position	Person	Organisation
President	Aleksandr Kurushev	EstYes (Estonia)
Vice president	Remco Wernsen	SIW (The Netherlands)
General Secretary	Torsten Löser	IJGD (Germany)
Treasurer	Francois Ribaud	UNAREC (France)
5th member	Luca Stasi	Legambiente (Italy)
6th member	Claudia Nickel	VJF (Germany)

The EC had in 2004 the following meetings:

23 – 25th January 2004	Clermont-Ferrand (France)
9 – 12th March 2004	Birmingham (United Kingdom)
3 – 6th June 2004	Goriano Valli (Italy)
26 – 30th August 2004	Wismar (Germany)
30th October – 1st November 2004	Yerevan (Armenia)

During the meetings the EC is going through the Alliance daily life that means the EC discusses running or planning events and projects, the financial situation, communication with members and working groups, strategic questions and relations with other regional and international networks. All EC members have concrete tasks to fulfil. The meetings are important for exchange of views between members and for the planning of future events/projects and evaluation of past events/projects.

All members of the EC are working voluntary, so they spend nearly three weeks per year for this task (EC meetings, Alliance events, etc.). Between the meetings the EC members work very intensively on their personal tasks and use internet for the communication.

Sometimes the EC members have to be present at the Alliance events or to represent the Alliance at meetings or activities of other networks and organisations.

The Alliance has no permanent secretariat. Due to its specific organisation and development, the ALLIANCE has progressively organised its permanent international secretariat in a genuine way: assistant tasks as part time staff positions were created depending on the needs and the means available.

These tasks are different from one member active contributions (executive responsibilities, regular development tasks or occasional missions). They are achieved by specific staff members from ap

pointed member organisations. The Alliance covers all the costs of this staff for the task concerned in the organisation.

In 1997 a first Administrative Assistant task was created and worked closely with the General Secretary.

In 2002 a second Financial Assistant tasks was created and was linked to the Treasurer.

In 2003 a third Publication Assistant task was created and was linked to the President.

As a European non-governmental organisation, gathering independent national youth organisations (a coordination rather than a federation), the Alliance found that this management is more adapted to the capacity of the Alliance that helps small organisations to be involved in such international network. Members are very active in taking responsibilities that would be difficult if the Alliance was acting as a federation. This light management is adapted to our present development and keeps the Alliance an efficient and friendly "cooperative network".

The third part of the Alliance management is represented by different working groups. This was a result of the will of the members to be more involved in the Alliance work, to develop new topics, and to come to a new quality of the work that means organising exchange between the members and giving them support for their work. We found out that Alliance members do not only work on work camps. They run seminars, organise long term voluntary projects, etc. So, the GA decided to give these activities and wishes a place in the Alliance life. That's why working groups are appointed by the GA.

In 2004 the Alliance had the following working groups:

- North-South Exchange Working Group
- Staff Development Working Group
- Training Needs Working Group
- Accessibility Working Group
- Constitution Working Groups
- External Relations Working Group

These working groups organise their own work, with their own budget, organised meetings and seminars, and prepare workshops and training sessions during the Alliance events. So, this work was a great support for the EC and for the Alliance in general. We see a new step in our work and decided to create an extra chapter in the Standing orders for the working groups. In the future the Alliance Vice President will be responsible for the co-ordination between the working groups. The biggest outcome of this is that the Alliance has a lot of active members involved in the work of the Alliance.

In the future the Alliance has to ensure coherency and good and permanent communication between all segments of the Alliance management. So we are working on a 3 to 5 years development plan, thinking about new forms of communication.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Talking about past year of Alliance we should first of all refer to the decisions of General Assembly 2003. It was a logical result of several years of serious discussions, searching the Alliance identity, looking for the new ways of managing growing network, answering new challenges Alliance faces. And perhaps the most important conclusion of this work was the new definition of Alliance as a "Cooperative Network" of like-minded NGOs from different countries and continents, promoting voluntary service activities as a tool of peace, development and non-formal education.

This final definition became actually the main guideline for the Alliance Executive Committee (EC) and the President in their work throughout the year. So, that the main task of EC was to facilitate the cooperation between members of Alliance following the Plan of Actions adopted by GA 2003 in Soest. And from my point of view this task was managed well. Briefly I can say that it has been another good Alliance year. Alliance became larger obtaining new member in Serbia at GA 2003 and receiving 3 new applications for the membership in 2004 (which resulted in two new members). Alliance became larger also in terms of organized workcamps and exchanged volunteers, which of course is the main measurement of cooperation between members. Alliance generally fulfilled its Plan of Action, running the regular events and projects and providing services for members as planned. Alliance has stable financial situation despite of our fears. It is well presented internationally and is seen as a strong and efficient network. The new way of managing Alliance (EC + Secretariat + Working Groups) was quite successfully experimented. Alliance regular events obtained a new shape – first time experimented Alliance Day at TM 2004 was an absolute success! Further work on necessary changes in Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders was concluded now and adopted by the GA. The work on strategic development plan of Alliance has been started by EC.

It does not mean, of course, that everything is perfect and general harmony has been already achieved. Several of our members found themselves in a difficult situation, which in some cases influenced the general management of Alliance. New working groups need more support in their functioning, and generally the way of managing working groups is not entirely clear yet.

The reports from some of the Alliance events leave a lot to be desired and the coherency between the events needs to be maintained. Moreover, grant applications for some regular events and new projects have been rejected, which forced EC to look for emergency solutions. There were also some other emergencies and unforeseen situations (e.g. situation with Alliance postal address and archives) where EC had to react quickly. But in most of the cases it is all working moments and the solutions to the difficult situations are found by the EC.

It seems to be a good moment to explain the management of work of Alliance EC and Secretariat in 2004.

This year EC hold 6 meetings. And there was a lot and lot of virtual communication by e-mail between those meetings. The work load of EC is clearly growing due to the amount of activities of Alliance, new type of events and projects, new external relations, etc. Nevertheless it was easy and quite efficient work thanks to the fact that the composition of EC did not change much comparing to the last year. We know each other quite well, the group dynamic has been formed and we found our own way of efficient work. However, recognizing this easier work and communication process between "old" EC members I clearly see the danger for future – not so many organizations are willing to join the work of EC and it is getting more and more difficult to fill the vacancies in the EC at each General Assembly.

And so today at the end of EC season it is a pleasure for us to realize that besides dealing with all kind of running issues – nice and quite problematic - EC has made a serious progress preparing strategic changes in Alliance, maintaining Secretariat, developing external relations, searching connection between Alliance events through the year, giving support for traditional and developing new Alliance events and projects.

Perhaps some of you were surprised seeing above the reference to Alliance Secretariat. Do we have one? The answer is positive – Alliance actually does have the Secretariat, which is managed in a very different way comparing to other networks. Thanks to the European Commission grant A-3029 Alliance can afford and is actually obliged to create one full time staff position, which however in our case is shared between the organizations as a part time staff linked to EC mem

bers and responsible for different areas. So we have:

1) Alliance Administrative Assistant (AAA), helping EC in general and General Secretary in particular. This task is carried out by Lesya Verheijen of Alternative-V, Ukraine;

2) Alliance Financial Assistance (AFA), supporting Treasurer to perform technical, routine tasks thus enabling the Treasurer to concentrate more on global financial issues of Alliance. This position is closely linked to Treasurer and is carried out by Delphine Brun of UNAREC, France;

3) Alliance Publications Assistant (APA), new position created in 2003 with the first results presented at Plenary Meeting in March 2004, is aimed at developing publications/ reports of Alliance events and projects for the use of members and external representation of Alliance work, making it more visible and recognizable. This task is carried out by Darja Sudarenko of ESTYES, Estonia.

Such way of work is very new for Alliance (we experiment it since 2002), it is not always perfect, and can be definitely improved in future. Still in many ways it has already proven its efficiency and seems to be a working solution for the time being. Using the occasion of this report I want to thank people assisting Alliance – Lesya, Delphine and Darja – and express my hope that these good people will continue their good work for our network.

It is important to say that managing Secretariat the described way EC came to the conclusion that Alliance does not need now to set up an International Office. The amount of work we have can be still managed by voluntary EC and supported by assistants' positions, which are shared between and hosted by the members. As a matter of fact these three part time staff positions demonstrate a new and unique way of managing big international network without having heavy and expensive international secretariat, yet being productive, enough efficient and basically answering members needs.

Since working groups were mentioned several times I would like to remind that this year we experimented the new more structured way of managing working groups when each group had to appoint the coordinator, treasurer and reporter. By the way, this year Alliance had 6 working groups – more than ever! Each working group had the budget to enable meetings and

better communication between the members and each group provided a report to the GA. Here I want to mention especially the Constitutional Working Group which finalized its two years work on changing Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders through a number of meetings produced many concrete proposals for bringing Constitution and especially Standing Orders in coherency with changes adopted by GA 2003. These proposals were reviewed by GA. But now I want to thank members of this working group for their big and very important work done for the development of Alliance.

Coming to the end of the report I want to mention Alliance External Relations which formed a substantial part of the work of all EC members. Fortunately Alliance still has the 6th member in charge of external relations and functioning External Relations Working Group. VJF as the 6th members has been working on future plan of external representation as well as carrying out the practical representation tasks. Thanks to Claudia and Roman of VJF the Alliance is well presented in the European Youth Forum and especially in its group of members dealing with youth exchanges. It was already 3 years since VJF started the task of Alliance external relations. This area has been improved a lot and I want to thank VJF and personally Claudia and Roman for doing this work for Alliance.

During past year Alliance maintained good relations with our main funding bodies – the European Commission and the European Youth Foundation. The European Youth Centre in Strasbourg is more aware (and quite impressed) about Alliance and is happy to host our study sessions. The working relations with partner networks - YAP, SCI, ICYE, and AVSO - are stable. Relations with regional networks NVDA and SEEYN have been further developed and deepen. Actually the main interest of Alliance in external relations now is in the development of working relations with other regional networks. This is the area where Alliance should be pro-active. More detailed report on external relations is presented separately.

And finally I want to thank all members and, thinking about the amount of work done this year and the level of involvement of many individuals of Alliance members working together for common Alliance future, I ask you to join me sincerely thanking these people for their knowledge, time and energy given voluntarily to the Alliance!

Aleksandr Kurushev

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the General Assembly 2003 in Soest (Netherlands) IJGD was elected General Secretary after the resignation of Alternative-V from this position. IJGD was represented by Torsten Löser for this one year term.

IJGD saw the GS tasks as following for this year:

- tasks defined in the Constitution and the Standing orders;
- improving internal communication and the Alliance website;
- checking the new system of partners and invitation list;
- updating of Standing Orders.

The work of the General Secretary was done in close co-operation with the Alliance Administrative Assistant (AAA) – this position is also hosted by Alternative-V since January 2003. The current AAA Lesya Verheijen is dealing with this task on a highly professional level, providing members and EC with information on a regular basis. There is a good, efficient, and flexible co-operation between the General Secretary and the AAA.

A. Current tasks

Looking at the tasks defined in the Standing Orders the work of the General Secretary was concentrated on the following topics:

1. Alliance secretariat:

As members know, MS Denmark experienced some problems in 2003 and had to decide to close the office in Aarhus. This office also used to host the official Alliance postal address. The Executive Committee monitored this problem permanently and was in contact with MS Denmark in order to find a suitable solution. It was decided between the Alliance EC and MS Denmark to host the address in Copenhagen (Borgergade 14, 1300 København K). The General Secretary took care of this aspect, and after some technical problems this question has been successfully resolved.

2. Alliance archives:

Because of the change of the office we had to solve the issue of hosting the Alliance archives. With great support of the former Alliance president Ms. Helle Sehested (MS Denmark) we could

find a good solution. She will work together with the General Secretary on this topic, check the content of the archives, and complete the inventory. This work will continue in 2005.

3. Annual report 2003:

As every year this is the main part of the AAA work. There is a strict deadline for completion thereof, and this year it posed a problem due to lack of information from Alliance events hosts, Alliance projects co-ordinators and members, which gave their statistics late or never. There was a great work and support by the Alliance treasurer. So we could finish the report in a good quality before the deadline.

4. Daily work

The main workload for the AAA is preparation of the GA and maintaining the Alliance e-mail address. On an average, weekly about 150 messages reach this address. The messages can be divided in the following categories:

- requests from the individuals (volunteers);
- requests from the organisations (about co-operation, membership, information requests);
- newsletters, information on funding possibilities, events organised by other networks and European/International institutions;
- information and requests from the donors/sponsors;
- Spam.

The AAA and the General Secretary try to spread the information promptly among the members and to react to concrete questions and requests.

A. Improving internal communication and the Alliance website

After the last General Assembly it was agreed to improve the internal communication and the Alliance website.

The General Secretary tried with the support of the AAA to inform the members promptly about events and projects, to spread all incoming information, etc. This year the Alliance members received four letters with some information about the Alliance life development. So, it was a first step to come to better communication. Since the last General Assembly the Alliance also has regulations about working groups, we started a

new system of the working group management. After one year we can see a good outcome. There was a better communication between working groups and EC, so that the working groups informed the General Secretary about their work and the other way around.

The General Secretary tried to have a good and useful communication with all Alliance events host, and it was mostly successful. Most questions were quickly answered, and we had good cooperation with UNA-Exchange as TM 2004 host and HUU Armenia as GA/GC 2004 host.

Unfortunately, there was no improvement of the website.

A. The new system of partners and the invitation list

At the 2003 General Assembly the Alliance created a new status, as we called it "partners". But the General Assembly did not make a decision on a concrete system (for instance: How to become partner? Rights and responsibilities of part

ners...)

So in 2004 we had a new status, but no guidelines for it. Thus, we had before the TM some technical problems with our invitation list, but the EC solved them.

During 2004 the Constitution Working group was working on this topic, so amendments were adopted by the GA.

B. Standing Orders

After the big constitutional changes at the last General Assembly the EC came to the point that there is really a need to update and renew the Standing Orders so the Constitution Working group worked really hard on it and updates in the Standing Orders were adopted.

C. Future

IJGD as organisation and Torsten Löser himself are willing to stand for another term as General Secretary. We will follow especially the improving of internal communication and the website in 2005.

Torsten Löser
Alliance General Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

2003 accounts

- a surplus of 2650,75 € (confirmed after audits),
 - increasing balance with better reserves ("capital liabilities") 48.434,42 € (+ 12650,75 €/balance 2002) that will help to keep us sustainable in the future,
 - a stabilisation regarding the grants from EYF and EU, particularly administrative grants (C & A3029).
- one exceptional provision of 10.000 € was done as the Alliance might refund one 1999 grant to the European commission (support to NGO): we discovered that the final report was never done. All figures given at the General Assembly have been corrected and commented by, first, the External Auditor, Christian GAUZY, then by the Internal Auditor, Laura WAHRIG, IBG.

Accounting and work of the Treasurer

Following GA 2003 in Soest, Treasurer's work was concentrated on:

- Preparing 8 grant applications, follow up and reports: events, study session in EYC, EVS work-camps, etc.
- Following up on 2 new Alliance events (Staff training & Teenager seminar)
- Contracting with member organisations concerning events, projects and tasks (contract, agreement, ...);
- Bookkeeping and finalising the accounts of the two financial years 2003 and 2004
- Regulation works to clean the accounts and to save former grants from EYC and EU (1999 & GC 2002);
- Managing the financial flow and payment, including cash box
- Co-ordinating with our bank in Denmark: NORDEA.
- Improving our permanent accounting procedure using our Banana software;
- Reinforcing relations with our 2 mains sponsors : the Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation & European Youth Centre) and the European Commission (Youth Unit)

This work was supported by the Alliance Financial Assistant, staff (5 hours a week).

Conclusion

If the financial year shows good result, I would like to stress statements that lead to improvements:

1. As mentioned during the last General Assembly, Alliance has increasing running costs, helped by better "administrative grants" from EU (A3029) and Council of Europe (EYF C grant). Thanks to these supports and the active participation of the member organisation, we could staff new assistants to improve our management. This year result (surplus) should be dedicated to our "reserves" in order to face future increasing running costs.
2. Our position regarding our sponsors is improving. Their internal evolutions (legal procedure) did not lead us to difficulties in 2004 as we could fear last year. But there is no sustainability foreseen presently. Future Youth programme (2007-2013) will introduce multi-annual grant, but this has to be worked out.
3. The new Alliance assistant task for finances: AFA work is improving. Her stuff time was increased in 2004 in order to ease payments to members.
4. As agreed by the members last year, the Alliance will keep low membership fees, but will use other contribution incomes to stabilise the budget. Constitution working group and the Executive Committee continue to study the evolution needed on this subject. A statement on this issue was adopted by the General Assembly.

Alliance's account bank references

Name: NORDEA
Address: Postboks, 72
DK-8100 Aarhus, Denmark
Bank registration n°: 2251
Account n°: 3483964705
SWIFT code: NDEADKKKXXX
IBAN: DK3320003483964705

François RIBAUD,
UNAREC₉

REPORT ON EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES 2004

It was the second year that VJF held this position of the 6th member responsible for the external relations and representation of the ALLIANCE throughout the year. A working group was appointed on this issue as the year before.

In 2003 we had to start to work on different topics and levels to develop the external relations. This year we continued this work but it became a more regular work due to the activities we had had the year before.

Unfortunately, there are still some resource problems because the working group is a very small one and consists of only 3 members besides the EC member. Therefore it was not possible for the ALLIANCE to attend the Council of Members of the European Youth Forum in Rome in November 2003. In general, we should avoid this situation and attend all the meetings because the European Youth Forum is the biggest youth organisation in Europe. In the frame of this platform we have the opportunity to meet and to co-operate with voluntary organisations like SCI, YAP, ICYE, EEE-YFU, EFIL and others. We always discuss common strategies to ensure that our voice and interests will be heard in the Youth Forum. That continuous co-operation among the voluntary and exchange organisations was stressed by the Bureau Members of the Youth Forum during the last Council of Members in April 2004.

Thanks to this co-operation we succeed to have a representative (Pietro Galluccio, SCI) from the voluntary organisations in the working group on volunteering, proposed by the Youth Forum in February 2004, where only two positions were opened.

Moreover, we could follow up on the invitation to the exposition organised by CCIVS in the UNESCO building in Paris on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day.

As usual, we used the opportunity of our Technical Meeting to discuss common issues with the other regional platforms: NVDA and SEEYN.

In February 2003 during the last meeting of the 6 organisations, which coordinated the IYV 2001, it was agreed to have an annual meeting. This year the meeting was foreseen for June 2004 but it did not take place because the organisations could not agree on the dates. Nevertheless, Nigel Watt, former CCIVS director, sent a discussion paper on the future coordination of voluntary service. An ALLIANCE position paper answering Nigel on this issue was talked over during our GA.

This year in the working group we could finish the guidelines on external relations giving an overview on all our existing co-operations.

Throughout the year we tried to follow the different issues and to maintain the contact with different partners. But there are still a lot of possibilities to develop new ideas and to bring the external relations further.

Unfortunately, due to the internal reasons, VJF is no longer able to stand for that position.

Roman Kühn
VJF, Sixth Member on External Relations

ACCESSIBILITY WG REPORT

In March the Accessibility working group started a practical project: to create a compilation of the specific projects that Alliance members were organising in order to create a tool as a directory of specific projects that everyone could use.

A call of project has been sent twice among Alliance members but there were no answer.

The project is not abandoned. We are trying to see if other solutions are possible (changing the tool, sending it in a less busy period etc.) in order to involve more the Alliance members.

More energy was given on the EVS workcamps Programme, which is a part of the concern of the Accessibility working group.

As the time went by we realised that members of the AWG were the same as the EVS Workcamps

Programme Steering group. In the frame of the EVS workcamps Programme, an Advanced Planning visit was organised in Brussels last September. The goal of this meeting was also to explore other ways to keep on making our activities more accessible, with and/or without the EVS centralised / decentralised Programme.

So, the actions of the AWG and of the EVS steering group cannot be really distinguished for the year 2004. A deeper discussion on the future of our action on Accessibility has taken place in September in Brussels.

Our priorities for the next year will be on one hand, keep the dynamic started with the centralised EVS projects and not to lose what we gain in terms of accessibility of our activities with the centralised program; and on the other one, start broadening the discussion on the accessibility in a wider sense.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS WG REPORT

The GA 2003 appointed the following persons to establish the working group:

Roman Kühn, VJF as responsible EC member
Franziska Hacke, IBG
Kobayashi Kazuhiko, NICE
Claudia Nickel, VJF

The main tasks during the year were to finish the guidelines on external relations and to follow the proposal of creating a status for "sister networks". The maintaining of contacts with other voluntary service structures became a more regular work. After discussions with the EC and the Constitutional Working Group in January the working group was informed that no real agreement was reached for establishing a status of "sister networks" because a lot of problems were seen. For that reason we decided to delay this point. But we discussed a new idea to have a kind of "partnership agreement" with other regional voluntary service networks, e.g. with NVDA. This idea corresponds also to the outcome of the last EC meeting that there should be a main focus on regional co-operation. This idea was presented more detailed during the EC meeting in Wismar. It was decided that the working group should keep working on this proposal and discuss it with

the regional structures, e.g. NVDA.

In July we had a meeting in Jena where we could finish the work on the guidelines.

Moreover we made a draft answer to the letter from Nigel Watt (see report on external activities). We also started to discuss the possibilities to have a training event on external relations to interest Alliance members and to look for Mediterranean partners.

A core issue is that more people are needed in this group to have a broader view on certain issues and to ensure a more steady and broad representation of the ALLIANCE. Unfortunately, there was not a regular communication with Koba because he was involved in many projects in Asia and not able to participate in the meeting. That meant that often the three remaining working group members, all from Germany, discussed the topics. But it is important to have the points of view from different countries or regions. That would enrich the work of this group and the external relations of the Alliance.

Future of the group

We think that it is useful for the Alliance to continue with this working group. It could be a tool to ensure the representation of the Alliance in more events. Furthermore, it can assist the responsible person for external relations.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WG REPORT

Following the Staff Development Seminar in September 2003, the SDWG met twice: First in Soest during the GA/GC and then in Castre where the aims of the group were defined as:

- To improve and develop common working methods.
- To facilitate the regular exchange work of staff of Alliance member organisations.
- To help the staff develop their skills and talents to their fullest extent.
- Organise trainings in exchange tools such as the Alliance Web directory.
- Update existing resources such as the Alliance Guidebook.

In order to achieve the above mentioned aims, a mini questionnaire has been prepared for collecting the needs of the member organisations. Based on the results of this questionnaire the SDWG held a session on the March 12, 2004 at the TM with the aim to discuss the issues, which have been raised by member organizations

in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was aiming to improve and develop common working methods within the Alliance. But the requests mentioned on the questionnaires have been already covered by the ALLIANCE Guide Book.

Requests like adding the camp programs on the Web Directory or keeping the gender balance for the reservations were more matters that organisations should decide by their own rather than standardisation.

Thus, no need have been seen necessary to hold a pre-meeting in September to prepare the SDWG session in the ALLIANCE Day during the GA/GC.

However, the SDWG would like to be in existence in 2005.

A new commers session can be held as usual for short presentation of the ALLIANCE, TM and bilaterals on the first day of the TM.

CONSTITUTION WG REPORT

In 2003 our group has achieved some proposals which have been adopted by the GA

- A new preamble
- Creation of an "Alliance Day" + autumn event
- Change in the membership: 3 statuses (creation of a 'candidate status'), more rights given to the associate (non-European members)

The CWG had three meetings this year:

- a full weekend in January in Clermont-Ferrand
- two hours at the TM + one workshop gathering 20 members representatives
- a full weekend in July in Stuttgart hosted by IBG

During these meetings we continued to work on proposals.

- some were presented to the vote of this GA:
- rights and responsibilities of working

groups

- partners and guests status
- what is an Alliance activity
- reviewed Standing Orders + invitation list
- some are a first step for discussion during workshops and need to be shared with the members (to check that we are "on the good way")
- proposal for a New EC and board contribution

Our Working Group is ending with this GA.

We have started to work on a development plan, particularly to help local organisations to develop workcamps in countries where we don't have any members nor partners, specially focused on Europe.

We propose to create an "Alliance Strategic Development WG" to develop a strategy and support organisation in developing their international exchange within the Alliance

NORTH-SOUTH REPORT

The NSWG was formed at the GA in 2003. It currently consists of 7 members from 7 organisations: Helen Bartlett (Concordia UK); Sam Powell (UNA Exchange); Francesco Volpini (Concordia); Jana Krczmárová (INEX SDA); Marie Jean Dupuis (UNAREC); Mariska Hogewoning (SIW); Vidal Flores (VIMEX).

Since the NSWG was formed it has:

- Sent out questionnaires to Alliance members assessing their involvement in North/South Exchanges and to establish what they would like to see the Working Group achieve. Issues mentioned included: greater exchange of information about all aspects of NS exchanges; training; further co-operation on hosting programmes; the issue of extra fees; greater co-operation be

tween North and South organisations. A similar questionnaire was also sent out to all the southern organisations that members had listed as partners. Their responses included many similar issues.

- Looked into the possibilities of setting up a North/South area of the Alliance website. This will be an area where members can share information about partners, hosting programmes, training dates and resources and evaluations. The group is in the process of looking for someone to design this section, as it is not within the remit of the Alliance webmaster.

- Begun the process of setting up a NS newsletter as a way of exchanging information about current and recent NS events and news.

TRAINING NEEDS WG REPORT

The Training Needs Working Group (TNWG) was formed at the General Assembly in 2003. It currently consists of 6 members from EstYES, SIW, Concordia UK, MS, and VJF.

Its overall aim is to develop training provision within the Alliance with particular focus on three particular goals:

1. To support an application for an EYC supported Training for Trainers.
2. To apply for a publication grant to create a training handbook.
3. To develop a 'Training for Trainers' within the Alliance perhaps financed by a Youth Programme Action 5 grant and run by former TFT participants.

Since the TNWG was formed it has:

1. Supported an application to the European

Youth Centre to hold another 'Training for Trainers' early in 2005. The application was rejected, but the Alliance was invited to reapply for the second half of 2005.

2. Successfully applied for an EYF publication grant to produce a Training Handbook. Initial planning has begun and a draft copy is expected in March 2005.

3. Been involved in discussions about VJF applying for an Action 5 grant to support an Alliance 'Training for Trainers'. The TNWG decided not to support this application at this point due to the short notice, too heavy workload and wish to put its energies into the publication grant. However, it has proposed that the application be postponed until June 2005 when more time and energy can be put into it.

The Activities Of The Alliance Are Arranged To Support And Develop The Programmes And Interests Of Members

In addition to the General Assembly, there are 4 regular events each year.

The **Post Camp Event** in December/January, which is aimed at the active volunteers of member organisations, to provide a themed programme of workshops and activities.

2-9 January, 2004, INEX-SDA, Czech Republic
hosted in Kostelecke Horky
39 participants from 15 organisations
on the topic
"Exchange of Project Leaders within the Alliance"

The **Training for Trainers** in January/February is an activity, which supports the leadership training abilities of member organisations. Since 2000 it has been a two-part course to develop the skills and abilities of individual trainers inside the organisations. The programme is supported by the Council of Europe through the provision of the European Youth Centre.

25 January – 01 February 2004 in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg
34 participants from 20 organisations
on the topic
"Basic Skills of running a training course with an international focus"

The **Technical Meeting** in March, which enables the members and invited partner organisations to exchange annual workcamp programmes and discuss relevant issues, principally through bi-lateral discussions.

10-16 March 2004: UNA Exchange/Concordia UK, Manchester, UK

The **General Conference** in November which provides opportunities for the staff and volunteers of member organisations to exchange ideas and experiences about subjects of common and current interest.

3-8 November 2004: HUU, Armenia, Yerevan
70 participants from 23 organisations
on the topic "International Voluntary Service as means of effective cooperation of youth of the post Soviet countries and the countries of the European Union "

ADVANCE PLANNING VISIT

16-19 April 2004, Ommen (Netherlands)

Participants

Sheila Smith – UNA Exchange; Sylvie Dumoulin – CBB; Emma De Marco – Concordia; Ester Langen – SIW; Dagmar Klimentova – INEX SDA; Kristiina Vares – Estyes ; Marcello Mariuzzo – Lunaria ; Gerhard Wolf – CB ; Christelle Latrasse – Co-ordination, UNAREC (reporter)

The advance planning visit took place in Ommen (Netherlands) and was oriented on the EVS workcamp programme 2003 and the future of our work.

We had a lot of discussion during these 2 days, we shared a lot of experiences and it was a really motivated meeting. It was a real pleasure to work together and to have a positive and useful view of our way to work in the future.

Proposals from the group

- Placement:

A recommendation could be send to ask the European Commission to accept the possibility to change the repartition of sending places.

A Friday list of workcamps open for EVS workcamp volunteers will be managed by Sheila (UNA exchange).

- Exchanges:

Till January 2004 the Alliance network exchanged 16 volunteers. We plan to exchange 50 volunteers.

- Evaluation and pedagogical tools:

We had a lot of discussions during the weekend about our work with volunteers: preparation, evaluation, meeting with social workers, follow-up of volunteers, confidentiality, tools used by each member.

A work on a "booklet" was done by members (IBG, CBB, CBF, and UNAREC) two years ago, about accessibility, to encourage ALLIANCE members to host and send "disadvantaged" volunteers. This document was a good support for our discussion. We plan to join annexes composed by different tools and documents from members.

- HEI 2004:

IBG, CBB, Concordia, FIYE, Legambiente, and UNAREC did Host Expression of Interest and didn't get positive reply from there National Agencies and the European Commission. Some of them received orange answers or negotiate with their national structure.

It's too late for 2004, those projects will host volunteers in 2005.

The H.E.I could be adapted to each partner and to each country.

No administrative co-ordination for the future, but a working group on good practice, to share experiences, like a platform for a common way to work.

- Decentralised short term project

We discussed on the decentralised programme. Gerhard explained projects created by CBF and the process built by some French organisations to develop tools for working with disadvantaged youth. CBB start to work on it too and presented the input gave by the Belgium national agency. Participants were really interested by this new opportunity to work on, and want to improve this way.

- Accessibility working group:

This working group is composed by same organisations as we were during this meeting. The goal of this group is to share experiences and get more visible what's happen in our network.

Conclusion: This meeting was a real success and reached to developed a new input for EVS short term projects. Participants came back with a lot of ideas and motivation for developing projects and working on tools and practices in relation with this topic.

THE BIG WEEKEND

Tallinn, 10-13/12/2004

In total there were 13 participants + 5 preparatory team members + 2 EVS volunteers of EstYES to provide general support. All of the participants have participated in the EVS Workcamp Project in 2003-2004.

The participating countries are: France, Italy, UK, Germany, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, Estonia. Organizations: CBF, UNAREC, Concordia Fr, Lunaria, Concordia UK, UNA Exchange, CBB, VJF, INEX SDA, Deineta, EstYES.

It is not a very big number considering that the Alliance placed around 45 volunteers to EVS Workcamp projects, but it is not less than in the previous years.

The main aims of The Big Weekend were:

- to evaluate the experience of participants;
- check whether they want to continue and develop their volunteer path;
- to provide them with information on future possibilities;
- to have fun!

The latter is also important taking into account the profile of participants. We do not have to give all confidential information about each of them, but we can just mention that among participants there was one blind volunteer, one former drug user, immigrants, unemployed young people, young people with criminal background, slightly mentally retarded young people, etc. But it was a very nice group all together!

The Big Weekend went on very well despite of some practical difficulties: delayed planes, lost and never found luggage, participant arriving without valid travel document, etc. Everybody was happy after it finished (as you can imagine! :-), and the host organisation already received some letters of thanks.

STILL ACTIVE PROJECT

ALLIANCE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE STILL ACTIVE PROJECT

BACKGROUND

This project is the ideal follow up of a previous Grundtvig project named "Mobility 55" that saw 30 adult volunteers between 55 and 70 y.o. performing a period of voluntary service abroad for a period of 1 to 2 months. This project has been successfully run by Lunaria, a new member of Alliance, in 2002-2003. Not only the volunteers benefited from this exchange but also their local community based local organisations take advantage from their work. In order to put them in the best conditions to have this experience we will conceive a toolkit for the volunteers, another one for their hosting organisations and a training scheme for the preparation of the volunteers to be used by their sending organisations.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The Still Active Project forecasts a first draft of the toolkits and the training scheme to be used in preparation seminars for 30 adult volunteers from different countries who afterwards will perform a period of voluntary service abroad for 3-6 weeks. In the light of the evaluation of this experience a final version of the outputs will be outlined and disseminated to as many national and international organisations who would like to send and host adult volunteers and all those local governments wishing to contribute to the exchange of adult volunteers belonging to their jurisdiction.

REPORT ON ALLIANCE INVOLVEMENT IN 2004

Following the proposal of the main project coordinator Lunaria and agreed by the Alliance EC EstYES, as an organisation possessing some experience with "Mobility 55" project, took over the coordination for Still Active project within Alliance. The main two coordination tasks were: 1) to disseminate information about the project among all Alliance members and to ease the access to the program for all members interested in it and 2) to maintain general coordination of actual senior volunteers exchange. The detailed information and the call for participation were broadly sent. However, since most of Alliance members identify themselves as youth organisations, only few members found appropriate to get involved to this project. Thus, out of 38 members 8 expressed initially the interest. Unfortunately 2 of them were not eligible for the geographical reasons and finally only 4 members took an active part in the project.

Since the Alliance misses generally the experience in dealing with senior volunteers, it does not have any training tools or examples of good practice in work with this category of volunteers. Therefore, the Alliance could not contribute much on the first stage - the elaboration of the test training module for senior volunteers. Nevertheless, it did participate actively in recruiting, sending and hosting senior volunteers and, of course, testing the training module which was in fact the main objective of the second stage of the project. Alliance members in the Netherlands, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia recruited in total 11 senior volunteers, 5 of them took part in the preparatory seminar and 4 went to the voluntary projects abroad. Alliance members in Poland, Lithuania and Estonia proposed 5 host projects for senior volunteers with 8 open places in total.

Out of 5 volunteers applied 3 were placed. Unfortunately, finally only one volunteer joined Alliance host project as a result of cancellations for different objective and subjective reasons.

EVALUATION OF FIRST YEAR OF THE PROJECT

Despite of the little number of exchange the results of Alliance involvement are quite positive. As a matter of fact even exchange figures are not that low considering the total number of exchange possible – 30 and the number of other national organisations and international associations (e.g. AVSO, EDYN) involved in the project. But actually the exchange as such has a secondary meaning for Still Active Project. The main objective of the project is to produce training tools for senior volunteers, empowering organisations planning to involve older yet "still active" population in the international voluntary service as a form of life-learning process. Such a training module was produced and tested on real volunteers exchanged in 2004. Alliance got the first experience in participating in the project of such kind as well as some members started to work on inclusion of senior volunteers.

The work on training kit will be continued in coming year. Now the task of the Alliance coordinator is to make the first results known to all members and encourage more members to involve senior participants to their programs using produced training kits as a tool for it. It is also foreseen that Alliance Training Needs Working Group will include a chapter on training for senior volunteers in the Alliance Training Guidebook.

WEB SERVICES

www.alliance-network.org

At the GA, the report was divided into two parts: a report by the Webmaster Kemal Abiska, Jeunesse et Reconstruction and a report by the Webdirector Waldemar Korycki, FIYE. The Web site has been maintained through the year. New features like GA & GS documents online, registration via Internet, members' forum, etc. are added. These examples show the way Alliance web site could develop to become an interactive everyday tool for the members. It is only up to members now to begin to use it actively.

Alliance Web Directory is another new tool offered and maintained by Waldemar Korycki of FIYE, Poland. It is a very interesting efficient instrument for exchange of volunteers with the great potential, which has been tried by most of the members this season. This tool was launched in early 2003 after a relevant decision was taken by GA 2002. Definitely there is a way to improve it, some proposals were made and the work will be continued. Clearly this instrument will be efficient only when all members start to update and use it regularly.

STATISTICS

in 2004

40 Alliance Members

20980 volunteers

- 73% sent abroad
- 27% in the country

35 % males – 65 % females

11% under 18

75% between 18 and 25

14% over 25 years old

1476 workcamps

17919 places proposed

Environment 42%

Renovation 35%

Culture 23%

15239 volunteers present

86% of the places filled

4% of Teenager projects

352 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

in 1997

24 Alliance Members

12675 volunteers

- 71% sent abroad
- 29% in the country

48 % males – 52 % females

14% under 18

75% between 18 and 25

11% over 25 years old

983 workcamps

11441 places proposed

Environnement 33%

Construction 17%

Renovation 13%

9908 volunteers present

86% of the places filled

7,6% of Teenager projects (75)

106 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

Plan Of Action 2004

Action	Who	When	EC monitoring	Status
1. Alliance Events and Projects				
Regular events:				
• a) one Post Camp Event	Inex SDA	02-09/01/2004	GS	Done
• b) one Training for trainers	ACD & Prep Team	25/01-1/02/2004	T	Done
• c) one Technical Meeting	UNA Exchange	10-16/03/2004	GS	Done
• d) one General Assembly/ one General Conference	HUJ	02-08/11/2004	GS	Done
Other events:				
e) one new training event (outside Tft held in EYC)	TNWG		VP	Abandoned!
Projects:				
• f) Apply for & organise EVS Workcamps Project;	EC (VP & T) UNAREC	Throughout the year	VP	In process
• Organise one Evaluation Event;	Accessibility WG			Abandoned
• Publish the booklet on practice for developing Accessing voluntary service				
• g) Launch one Alliance large scale project on rural youth development	CVG	Throughout the year	P	Application rejected
• h) Follow up "still active" project	Lunaria	Throughout the year	P	In process
• i) Finalise Alliance web services : Web site and Web directory & Contracted members	EC	Throughout the year	GS	Stopped
• j) Produce the Training Handbook	TWG	End 2004	T	Started & postponed (2005)
2. Management of the Alliance				
k) Maintain and follow-up a plan for External representation and affairs	EC (6th (6th member) & ER WG	GA 2004	ER	In process
l) Study the possibilities & i mplications for a Alliance's official and postal address	EC	GA 2004	GS	In process
m) Continue the work on developing the Constitution and Standing Orders and other proposals, following the direction set out by the GA.	EC & CWG	GA 2004	P/GS	Done
n) Propose a 3 or 5 year Alliance development plan.	EC & CWG	GA 2004	VP	In process
o) Promote & monitor consistency between Alliance events	EC	GA 2004	GS	Started but no progress
p) Start new management of the WGs with the tasks of the co-ordination, reporting and financial management	EC (GS) & all WGs	Throughout the year	GS	In process
q) Propose a status of sister network	ERWG & CWG	GA 2004	GS	Started but abandoned
r) Evaluate the web directory and further developments including e-vet proposal and contractual relations	SDWG	GA 2004	GS	Reorganised from the Plenary (audit, EC) but not started

Action	Who	When	EC monitoring	Status
3. Co-operation between members				
s) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.	EC & SDWG	March	P	Done
t) Organise one or two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve exchanges programmes	SDWG	During events	P	Done
u) Formulate and provide follow-up on the wider training needs of members.	SDWG & TNWG	GA 2004	P & VP	No progress
v) Study common issues between members on North-South exchanges	NSWG	GA 2004	VP	No progress
4. Information and communication				
a) Seek and put into action new methods for improving internal communication.	EC (President)	Throughout the year	GS	Started
b) Develop consistent way for presenting Alliance materials, mainly materials resulting from Alliance events.	EC + APA	Throughout the year	P	In process

Plan Of Action 2005

Taking into account the result of the former Plan of Action (2004), the GA proposed to concentrate the Alliance action in 2005 on the following points.

Action	Who	When
1. Alliance Events and Projects		
Regular events:		
0 a) one Post Camp Event	EstYES	28/04-03/05
1 b) one Training for trainers		
2 c) one Technical Meeting	GSM	March
3 d) one General Conference	CVG	5/11-10/11
Other events:		
0 a) the Big Weekend (postcamp event for disadvantaged volunteers)	GS & IBG	October
1 b) one study session	ACD	Autumn
2 c) Study the possibility for organizing a training event with other networks	ERWG T	throughout the year
Projects:		
a) Reorganise EVS Workcamps project		
- application for centralised EVS workcamp project		
- implementation of an Accessing Workcamp Platform		
- survey on disadvantaged volunteers	EC (VP & T)	Throughout the year
b) Develop common project for senior volunteers	EstYES & Lunaria	Throughout the year
1 c) Produce a training booklet	TNWG	Throughout the year
2. Management of the Alliance		
a) Propose a 3 or 5 year Alliance development plan	EC & FWG	GA 2005
b) Start experimenting new co-management of the Alliance	EC	Throughout the year
c) To propose concrete action to implement the new Alliance membership policy	EC & FWG	Throughout the year
d) Monitor consistency between Alliance events	EC	GA 2005
e) Streamline management of the working groups	EC (VP) & WGs	Throughout the year
f) Formalize cooperation with regional networks	EC (P&ER) & ERWG	Throughout the year
g) follow up on IVS co-ordination discussion	VP on ER	Throughout the year
3. Co-operation between members		
a) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.	EC & SDWG	March
b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve exchanges programmes	SDWG TM & GC	
c) To create an Alliance Pool of Trainers TNWG		
4. Information and communication		
a) Develop consistent way for presenting Alliance materials	EC + APA	Throughout the year

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Allianssi Youth Exchanges (Allianssin Kehittämispalvelut Oy)
www.nuorisovaihto.fi 1996

Finland

The aim of Allianssi is to promote intercultural learning and tolerance among young people. They provide young people with possibilities to get to know people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds by working together. This organisation works with international youth exchanges, sending every year about 900 young Finns to do voluntary or paid work abroad, as well as placing annually about 100 young foreigners in the work camps in Finland. The target group of Allianssi Youth Exchanges is young Finnish people in general, mainly the age group 18-25.

A The Ukrainian Association for Youth Co-operation 'Alternative-V' is a non-political, non-profit public organisation, founded in 1992. Alternative-V was created to facilitate co-operation between youth organisations, to involve Ukrainian young people in youth programmes in the fields of education, culture, ecology, historical heritage protection and helping people of disadvantaged background. Alternative-V aims to contribute to the development of a more peaceful society and the decrease of social injustice. Alternative-V currently has branches in different regions of Ukraine.

CBB Belgium www.compagnonsbatisseurs.be 1953
(Compagnons Batisseurs Belgique)

Compagnons Batisseurs was created to assist in reconstruction work following the Second World War. Volunteers from different countries worked together to rebuild peace and houses with hands and heads. The goals of CBB workcamps are: meeting people inside the group, the organisation, the locality; helping manually; and supporting volunteers to take responsibility for their decisions.

CBF France www.compagnonsbatisseurs-grandsud.org 1957
(Compagnons Batisseurs France)

Compagnon Batisseurs works well as short term voluntary service and also carries out LTV and EVS projects and exchanges. Often CB France works with minority groups such as the Romas.

CJ Canada/Quebec www.cj.qc.ca 1980
(Chantiers Jeunesse)

Chantiers Jeunesse is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation, which aims at developing active and engaged young citizens, support local development and the development of the full potential of individuals. CJ offers learning and training projects in collaboration with partners in Quebec and abroad, based on solidarity and respect of differences.

Concordia France www.concordia-association.org 1950

Concordia is a non-formal educational youth organisation, which uses international workcamps to promote international exchanges. Concordia is a national non-governmental, non-profit making organisation, with well-established experiences and a long involvement of its members. The activities of Concordia continue throughout the year with weekend or short holiday workcamps, long term voluntary service, the integration of people with difficulties, study and activity groups (e.g. North-South, International). Concordia is a democratic organisation, led by dynamic and motivated volunteers and young people, and supported by paid staff. There are six regional offices in France.

Concordia United Kingdom www.concordia-iye.org.uk 1943

Concordia is a youth charity and for profit organisation that promotes international youth exchange through participation in international volunteer projects. The organisation aims to encourage and enable young people internationally to come together to work for a common goal with the aim of promoting greater international understanding, co-operation and thus peace. Concordia works in partnership with local community organisations in order to support local development initiatives through international volunteer projects. Concordia refers to itself as a youth/international volunteer organisation.

Council, CIEE USA

www.ciee.org

1947

(Council on International Education Exchanges)

The Council on International Educational Exchange, known as the Council and often referred to as CIEE, is a private, non-profit membership organisation, whose mission is to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. Council was founded in the aftermath of World War II to encourage travel and foster international understanding through supporting young people to study, work, volunteer and travel abroad. Today Council is one of the largest international education organisations in the world with almost 800 professionals and support staff working in more than 30 countries.

CVG Greece

www.cvgpeep.gr

1987

(Conservation Volunteers Greece)

CVG is a non-profit, non-governmental, volunteer organisation promoting conservation work and intercultural exchanges between young people from all over the world. Activities include mainly short term voluntary service projects (workcamps). CVG organises a series of training seminars for young people willing to be animators and group leaders as well as seminars for members of other organisations and local institutions interested to develop voluntary projects. Since 1997 CVG has been actively involved in the EVS programme as a hosting and also as a sending organisation. CVG refers to itself as a youth and workcamp organisation.

DEINETA Lithuania

1988

Deineta is aimed at promoting international co-operation and understanding between people of different nationalities. Deineta organises international workcamps in Lithuania and has started to work on LTV projects, national seminars and trainings.

EstYES Estonia

www.estyes.ee

1991

The aims of ESTYES are: to increase international understanding and solidarity between countries and people and to promote continuous dialogue between young people all over the world. ESTYES aims at enabling young people by living and working together to learn from each other, discover the variety of cultures, broaden horizons, thus building bridges over cultural differences. Another important aim is to help in the solution of actual problems in Estonia by the means of voluntary service activities. ESTYES refers to itself as a youth exchange and workcamp organisation.

FIYE Poland

www.fiye.org

1989

(Foundation for International Youth Exchange)

FIYE is a vibrant Polish non-governmental and non-profit organisation. Since its establishment FIYE has been active in the field of voluntary service and particularly committed to international youth exchange programmes. FIYE has developed and successfully carried out a considerable number of volunteer projects with special regard to short-term workcamps and long-term programmes (6 and 12 months duration). FIYE considers voluntary service programmes as a unique and excellent form of maintaining international contacts, fostering youth exchange, allowing the participants to fight cross-cultural barriers and developing bonds of long-lasting friendship. Furthermore, FIYE aims at popularising the currently vital concepts of mutual help, solidarity, peace and civic awareness. Volunteers participating in FIYE's projects always emphasise the fact that due to the 'Polish experience' they have grown responsible, open-minded and above all, they managed to stand up to a challenge, test themselves in demanding conditions and initiate cross-cultural dialogue, which they consider rewarding and valuable in today's world.

Gençtur Turkey

www.genctur.com

1979

Gençtur's aims are to offer possibilities for young people from Turkey and other countries to get to know each others cultures and to diminish the prejudices about each other through the international voluntary workcamps. Domestic workcamps offers a great chance to get close contact with the local population and to introduce the Turkish culture to foreign participants, while workcamps abroad give the chance to provide cultural exchange for Turkish young people. Gençtur refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.

GSM Turkey www.gsm-youth.org 1985
Youth Services Centre (Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi)
GSM, founded in 1985 by a group of young people, is a non-governmental youth organisation. The main aim of GSM is to facilitate the collaboration of youth from all around the world in a peaceful atmosphere without prejudice, where they can share their rich cultural backgrounds. The main activities are Euro-Mediterranean youth meetings, international youth seminars, study visits, youth exchanges, training courses, the European Youth Festival and national youth camps. As another major activity, GSM also organises international voluntary workcamps across Turkey. The aim of the camps, which are organised in co-operation with universities, municipalities and local initiatives, is to enable young people from different countries to come together and exchange ideas while engaging in a public project.

HUJ Armenia www.huj.am 1965
(Voluntary Service of Armenia)
HUJ organises activities of Armenian and foreign volunteers in international workcamps in Armenia; sends Armenian volunteers to participate in international workcamps, seminars, workshops, training, and information meetings; promotes intercultural learning and mutual understanding by encouraging cultural exchanges, visits and seminars; encourages young people to take an active part in social activities via non-profit organisations; sensitise young people towards equal opportunities for men and women and to encourage women to lead an active life in all sectors of society; co-operate with state government, authorities, NGOs, political and religious organisations and enterprises in order to fulfil mutual aims and projects; provide care for orphans, handicapped people, refugees and socially vulnerable groups; enable young people to become aware of the importance of democracy in the formation of society and thus encourage them to play an active role in its institutions.

IBG Germany www.workcamps.com 1965
(Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V)
The aim of IBG is to promote international and intercultural understanding and peace, mainly by organising international workcamps in Germany and by sending volunteers to workcamps abroad. IBG organises medium and longer term projects such as EVS. IBG refers to itself as a workcamp organisation. IBG is a registered charity and does not have a political or religious affiliation.

IJGD Germany www.ijgd.de 1948
(Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste)
IJGD is a non-profit, non-denominational organisation, which aims at encouraging young people to become aware of existing social and environmental conditions, enabling them to be active and responsible participants in a democratic society. The experiential learning in a workcamp leads to an examination of one's own cultural norms and values and consequently helps to break down barriers between people because of their cultural, social and racial differences. This development of international understanding is regarded as a contribution to the furtherance of world peace.

INEX - SDA Czech Republic www.inexsda.cz 1991
(Association for Voluntary Service)
INEX SDA is a voluntary non governmental, non profit-making youth organisation, which focuses on international voluntary projects. To promote voluntary help, solidarity, civil society and intercultural understanding through voluntary service, INEX - SDA organises short term, as well as long term voluntary projects and exchanges.
INEX – SDA runs its activities in the Czech Republic within following areas:
1/ Development of rural regions – running the rural centre in Eastern Bohemia, so called Blue Stone House and other regional branches, dealing with sustainable life and management of regional projects;
2/ Short term voluntary projects (workcamps) – camps are divided into five programmes according to their study parts;
3/ Long term projects – working under several programmes;
4/ Disadvantaged children – “Big Brother, Big Sister” programme working with children from disadvantaged background;
5/ Development Education – preparing development Education seminars, establishing Czech Forum for Development Co-operation together with other Czech NGOS dealing with development issues.

INEX Slovakia **Slovakia** www.inex.sk **1993**
INEX Slovakia is a non-profit organisation, the main aim of which is to play an active role within the international youth exchanges that promote international understanding, intercultural learning and tolerance. International volunteer projects are a simple means of achieving these goals. They provide opportunities for young people of different national and cultural backgrounds to live and work together, facilitate personal growth and a sense of personal responsibility. In addition to the international workcamps taking place mainly in the summer months, INEX also organises training for present and future camp leaders, summer camps for children and students, study visits and other youth activities.

IWO **South Korea** www.i.or.kr **1999**
(International Workcamp Organisation)
IWO is a non profit, non governmental organisation with youth volunteers. We aim at promoting peace and solidarity, voluntary service, mutual understanding, respect, tolerance between the young people: encouraging them to find out their own values in the world; helping them to improve intercultural communications; helping the local communities to develop. We are focusing on the International Volunteer Projects and Intercultural Youth Exchange Projects to realise the aims. Our main activities are international workcamps, long-term volunteer projects; series of training seminars for volunteers, co-ordinators, project partners: youth training seminars for youth involvement, leadership, project management.

J&R **France** www.volontariat.org **1948**
(Jeunesse et Reconstruction)
Jeunesse et Reconstruction is non-profit organisation and has no political affiliation. It participates in the development of international exchanges and organises workcamps, farming camps, mid and long term projects and languages courses. J&R aims to fight social, racial, political or religious discrimination by proposing activities where everyone can find a place. It aims at helping peace and fraternity through exchanges, to participate actively in a collective project, to promote citizenship and help young people to know themselves better through social and economic realities.

KMC **Czech Republic** www.kmc.cz **1965**
(Klub mladých cestovatelů)
KMC has been established to encourage youth and student activities in the sphere of voluntary service and budget travelling. From 1990, KMC is an independent organisation following the aims and attitudes of young people with respect to acknowledge the history, life and culture of their home country and other countries regardless of race, nationality, political conviction and religious confession. One of the activities of KMC is international workcamps.

Legambiente **Italy** www.legambiente.com **1980**
Legambiente is a leading environmental organisation in Italy with 20 regional committees and more than 2,000 local groups. Legambiente runs national and international campaigns aimed at reducing traffic and air pollution, against pesticides, proposing new energy policies, enhancing use of renewable sources, energy efficiency and energy conservation, etc. Since 1994, Legambiente has been organising a volunteer campaign promoting summer-camps in many protected areas both in Italy and abroad. The campaign is aimed at enhancing public awareness of environmental issues, such as forest-fire or habitat degradation; collecting information on natural resources; promoting green tourism in order to develop a sustainable economy; and helping people take an active role in the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

LUNARIA **Italy** <http://www.lunaria.org> **1992**
International Voluntary Service is only a part of Lunaria.
Other activities of Lunaria are:
- National campaigns to work on peace and environment issues within Italian budget laws;
- Improving the situation for immigrants in Italy;
- Help desk for asylum seekers in Italy;
- Research on 3rd sector;
- Socrates programme promoting MTV to senior volunteers (55-70 years of age) in five different EU countries.

LYVS Belarus www.lyvs.bn.by 1994
(League of Youth Voluntary Service)
LYVS is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. It is based on the principle of free membership. It assists young people in accomplishing initiatives based on volunteer work.

MAR Bulgaria www.mar.bg 1992
(Bulgarian Youth Alliance for Development)
The aims of MAR are to strengthen the international contacts and multi-understanding among young people from all over the world, stimulating their awareness of other cultures and lifestyles and to promote among young people the idea of voluntary work. MAR also aims at facilitating individual growth, acquisition of skills and imparting a sense of responsibility amongst the volunteers, as well as giving them opportunities to create new ideas for working, living and learning. MAR wants to support community initiatives and assist in community development. MAR refers to itself as a youth and workcamp organisation.

MS Denmark www.ms.dk 1944
(Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke / Danish Association for International Co-operation)
The overall aim of MS is furthering international understanding and solidarity beyond national and cultural boundaries. All MS activities are based on co-operation across borders based in solidarity and the struggle for a more equitable distribution of the riches of the earth. Lobbying and information work is an important element of all MS activities. The (youth) Exchange Programme provides opportunities for young people to gain an insight into other cultures. The MS programme consists of activities in most parts of the world. MS refers to itself as a voluntary organisation.

NICE Japan www.nice1.gr.jp 1990
(Never-ending International workCamps Exchange)
NICE aims to create/develop/revive an ecological, self-sufficient and warm-hearted civilisation. NICE promotes exciting voluntary actions through fresh ideas and mobility as a youth non-profit organisation. NICE encourages and supports activities of local communities, creating opportunities to meet new people and start new actions by involving many locals. NICE makes bridges between isolated communities and invites youth to depopulated areas, promoting global friendship, understanding, and solidarity.

NIG Germany 1990
NIG is a non-governmental, non-religious private members' organisation aimed at promoting peace and international understanding across borders. It works especially in the fields of the environment, solidarity with 3rd World countries and against discrimination.
NIG offers specific Eastern German related issues such as work on unemployment.

Pro international e.V. Germany www.pro-international.de 1954
Pro international e.V. is a non-denominational and politically independent registered society. Our roots go back to the years after the second world war, as do those of many other volunteer organisations. Under the influence of the war and the following years with their dreadful consequences, our founders were looking for ways to re-new the bonds between people and nations. With the motto: „working together is better than fighting one another“, the first - yet hardly international workcamps took place in Tyrol in 1949 and in Marburg in 1953. The aims and objectives of this initiative were basically to offer an international meeting place for young people, especially from Germany and Austria, by doing voluntary work together.
Today, Pro international has around 40 international workcamps in Germany each year, a variety of camps together with our partner organisations in different countries in Africa and Asia and sends volunteers to workcamps of partner organisations in almost every European country.

RAI Spain/Catalonia www.planeta-rai.org 1992
(Recursos d'Animacio Intercultural)
RAI is an independent non-profit youth association that works for inter-culturality, solidarity and social engagement among young people in the entire world. RAI aims promoting intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary and socially active participation, at promoting community development, and at encouraging young people from different backgrounds to meet and share their experience.

Vive Mexico Mexico

www.vivemexico.org

1997

Vive Mexico is a non-profit making, Non-Governmental Organisation that has been co-ordinating workcamps in Mexico since 1997. The main activities of Vive Mexico involve the organisation of workcamps as a tool to help in different programmes for the culture, social and ecological issues of Mexico but also to promote intercultural exchanges and understanding between the participants and the local communities in 11 states of the Mexican republic. Vive Mexico also organises other activities such as medium and long-term volunteer service projects. Its philosophy consists of involving young people of different nationalities to projects focused on aid and co-operation with the objective to provide a space where the energy and creativity of the group can be channelled in a background that promotes the brotherhood and solidarity between the nations of the world. At the same time the aim is to make the participants aware that the problems are a human responsibility.

VJF
(Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger)

Germany

www.vjf.de

1990

VJF was founded as an independent, non-governmental workcamp organisation, committed to the ideas of solidarity, humanism and mutual understanding among young people from all over the world. VJF believes that common work and other activities should make young people think about such problems as maintenance of peace, preservation of the natural environment, solidarity with developing countries, fight against old and new fascism, against racial hatred and all forms of discrimination, be it social, racial, sexual, political or religious. VJF refers to itself as a workcamp and voluntary service organisation.

YRS/VSS
(Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia)

Serbia and Montenegro

www.mis.org.yu

1976

Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia (YRS/VSS) is non-profit non-governmental organisation, the main aims of which are education and exchange of, as well as work with young people. As an umbrella organisation, it gathers 25 clubs and societies from University centres and other towns in Serbia, such as Geographic Exploring Association, Students' Biological Research Society, Ethno Club, etc, whose members take active part in the activities of YRS. The main activity of YRS is research programs.

ALLIANCE INVITATION LIST

The Alliance does not work alone. Worldwide we have a lot of old and good partners, which also work in the field of voluntary work. More and more organisations would like to work together with the Alliance to exchange volunteers and experiences and to take part in the Alliance work, as you can see it every year at the Alliance General Conference and Technical Meeting.

On international level we work very close together with the following international and regional networks: specific focus on regional networks

- Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS);
- Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO);
- Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA);
- South East European Youth Network (SEEYN);
- Youth Action for Peace (YAP);
- Service Civil International (SCI).

Explanation:

According to the Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders Members and Partners are invited to take part in all Alliance events and activities (as GA, GC, TM, and PCE).

Guest organisations are invited for a one year term to the Alliance TM and Alliance GC. Guest organisations are new organisations and international network branches.

Partners

	Organisation	Country	Status
1.	Offene Häuser	Germany	Partner
2.	CIA	Greece	Partner
3.	WF	Iceland	Partner
4.	IIWC	Indonesia	Partner
5.	CIEE	Japan	Partner
6.	SPIC	Latvia	Partner
7.	CSM	Maroc	Partner
8.	CJM	Maroc	Partner
9.	JEC	Maroc	Partner
10.	MCE	Mongolia	Partner
11.	NIFC	Nepal	Partner
12.	IPJ	Portugal	Partner
13.	NNVS	Russia	Partner
14.	ADP	Serbia & Montenegro	Partner
15.	Greenway	Thailand	Partner
16.	ATAV	Tunisia	Partner
17.	Union Forum	Ukraine	Partner
18.	World Pulse	USA	Partner

GUESTS

	Organisation	Country	Status
19.	Solidarités Jeunesse	France	Permanent Guest (YAP)
20.	CFD	Germany	Permanent Guest (YAP)
21.	Via Pacis	Hungary	Permanent Guest (YAP)
22.	Yap Italy	Italy	Permanent Guest (YAP)
23.	Nuestra Tierra	Mexico	Permanent Guest (YAP)
24.	World 4 U	Russia	Permanent Guest (YAP)
25.	OKC	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Known Organisation
26.	VCZ	Croatia	Known Organisation
27.	Advit	Moldova	New Organisation
28.	World without Borders	Russia (Ekaterinburg)	New Organisation
29.	Mir Tesen	Russia (St. Petersburg)	New Organisation
30.	Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	New Organisation

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