



**of European
Voluntary
Service
Organisations**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005**



Introduction

“Evolving involvement – From Alpha to Omega in two days; Greek Myth or Alliance reality” – this was the theme of the 2005 Alliance General Assembly in Athens (Greece). For the Alliance 2005 was not an easy year. But let us start with the positive points.

The Alliance is a colourful network. Today we are not anymore only a network for the exchange programmes and places for workcamps. Our members and partners are more and more interested in developing the new facets of the voluntary work in their own countries and in using the Alliance to exchange the experiences in this field. Thus, a lot of the Alliance Working Groups are really active in such important areas as, for instance, staff development, North-South exchanges, access for all or the training needs. This way we are working to keep a high standard of voluntary work and to find new fields for us.

A lot of emphasis this year was placed on accessibility work – making our projects available to and focused on the young people with fewer opportunities. Also, some of the Alliance members started projects for the senior volunteers. “Still active” means for us using our experience, capacities and possibilities to open our workcamps to the older volunteers that are interested in them.

Unfortunately, not all planed events could take place. For some reasons we had no Post Camp Event and no General Conference this year. But on the other hand the Alliance organised one Training for Trainers and the First Alliance European Educational Seminar “Learning by doing – doing by learning” as a chance for our members to improve our non-formal education skills.

All these positive and the aspects of 2005 gave us the idea to discuss such topics as management and communication, possible future, and the new projects at the General Assembly 2005. Sometimes the Alliance life is really between Greek Myth and the European reality with a lot of colours, chances, but also risks and problems.

The General assembly decided about some important aspects of our work, for instance about the system of working groups and new methods of communication.

2005 was the year of a big improvement of our website. www.alliance-network.org is now a good tool for the Alliance daily work. Members can find there a lot of useful information, as well as an Alliance calendar and a lot of documents from now and our history.

Of course we did not forget our best product: workcamps!

So the Alliance members organised in 2005 the total of 1549 workcamps with approximately 15000 participants.



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Also, the Alliance welcomed 2 new members: Citizens in Action (Greece) and Association for Democratic Prosperity-ZID (Serbia and Montenegro). Thus, in January 2006 the Alliance consists of 29 Full Members in 19 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom), 5 Associate Members in 4 countries (Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, and the USA), and 7 candidate members in 7 countries (Finland, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Mexico, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain).

Thus, 2005 was not the easiest but a good 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 2005 the EC consisted of 6 members:

- the President
- the Vice-President
- the Vice-President for External Relations
- the General Secretary
- the Treasurer
- and the Additional Member (training position).

The General Assembly 2005 elected the following persons for the EC positions:

Position	Person	Organisation
President	Aleksandr Kurushev	EstYes (Estonia)
Vice President	Luca Stasi	Legambiente (Italy)
Vice President for External Relations	Marcela Holicka	INEX-Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
General Secretary	Torsten Löser	IJGD (Germany)
Treasurer	Delphine Langlois	J&R (France)
Additional Member	Oyukum Bagci	GSM (Turkey)

The EC had the following meetings in 2005:

January 2005	Grosseto (Italy)
March 2005	Antalya (Turkey)
June 2005	Clermont-Ferrand (France)
August 2005	Tallinn (Estonia)
November 2005	Athens (Greece)

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 appointed 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 to work 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.

The GA 2005 has decided to create an Alliance Web Assistant position to be linked to the Alliance Webmaster.

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 2005 the Alliance had the following working groups:

- North-South Working Group
- Staff Development Working Group
- Training Needs Working Group
- Access4All Working Group
- Alliance Development Working Groups



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- External Relations Working Group.

Management
of the Alliance

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 2005 the Alliance has experimented with a new management body – the Management Committee composed by the EC and coordinators of all of the Working Groups. The Management Committee had two meetings in 2005 – in June and in November, and has helped bringing decision-making in the Alliance to a different level, outside the EC.

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 2005

The past year of Alliance life was quite controversial - we can celebrate a lot of good achievements, yet we discovered new difficulties and challenges to face. New management of Alliance, WGs, coordination, information flow and transparency of decisions - these are areas we need to continue to work on. But despite of some difficulties Alliance is doing very well! There are no reasons for pessimism. And it can be easily proved with some facts about the events and projects of the latest Alliance year as seen in the Alliance Plan of Actions.

The Alliance had a TM in March in Antalya which hosted 108 participants.

The GA was followed by the Educational Seminar instead of the General Conference – a new but a very promising form of an event for the Alliance.

The Training for Trainers in Berlin had 20 participants, and it was run by the Alliance's own trainers. Two Alliance trainers became members of the EYF Pool of Trainers.

Application for the Study Session 2006 was approved and it will take place in February run by the Alliance trainers.

The Post Camp Event will be in January in Yerevan involving as usual member organisations activists.

The Big Weekend was hosted by IBG in Dresden and had 17 participants.

The Alliance video about the EVS Workcamp Project got recognition from the European Commission and was sent out to the National Agencies. The EVS Workcamps project is highly recognised – the Alliance was invited to the consultations on the future of the collective EVS. In late November there was another seminar in France run by the French

National Agency on the EVS issues for the National Agencies and organisations involved in the EVS work. We had the evaluation seminar with SCI and YAP where we agreed to have a follow-up project (application submitted) – this has also helped us reinforce relations with YAP and SCI, and enhance the Alliance visibility.

Alliance also participated in the Still Active project- targeting a specific group, the senior volunteers – as a result of the project we got the tools for work with this target group: for organisations, for volunteers and for trainers. This was a successful project, with a potential for further work. The European Commission is very much interested in this work, and the representative of the Commission is seeking invitation to the Alliance event to make a presentation about this area of work, which is definitely holding a lot of good prospects.

We can report on good relations with SCI and YAP, also with CCIYS – the Alliance representatives attended CCIYS events in Latin America and Eastern Europe. The Alliance is well represented in the EYF. Roman Kühn is nominated on behalf of the Alliance for the Advisory Council on Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe.

We have four new applicants for membership – the Alliance is attractive for the new organisations.

Publications – a new Alliance leaflet, a good way of representing the Alliance is almost finished and will be sent to all members before the end of the year.

We have active Working Groups : Alliance Development WG, Staff Development WG, Training Needs WG, North-South WG, Access4All WG, External Relations WG –



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some more active, some less active but the new system functions!

We have efficient, professional and hard-working EC which conducted 5 meetings (14 days in total!) this year taking care of running issues in the Alliance and working for its future.

We have well functioning Secretariat organised in a unique Alliance model.

We have a very useful website. Not many networks can be proud of having a website like ours!

We started experimenting the New model of the Alliance management –the Management Committee. It had a meeting just before the GA – it is a way of involving the working groups and active members in the EC. As the Alliance grows, we need consultations with and involvement of more than just 6 EC members.

We are working on improving the information flow and transparency – and there are EC proposals on this adopted by the General Assembly.

And finally the Alliance remains a large network organising over 1500 workcamps with over 21,000 volunteers taking part in its activities.

And I thank all member organisations, members of the WGs, EC members, the Secretariat and other people working for Alliance, supporting it with their outstanding contributions, which made the Alliance year a success!

Aleksandr Kurushev
The Alliance President



General Secretary's Report 2005

At the General Assembly 2004 in Yerevan (Armenia) IJGD was elected as General Secretary. IJGD was represented by Torsten Löser.

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;
- following the implementation of the new 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 March 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. IJGD proposes to the Alliance members to approve Alternative-V and Lesya Verheijen individually again as the Alliance Administrative Assistant.

Sometimes there is a problem of time management. The current General Secretary is a full time staff of the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority and not working directly for IJGD. So he does his work voluntary and beside his normal job as all EC members do. Especially if there are some businesses trips it might be a problem to react fast enough. In the EC there is a need for a more concrete task sharing and sharing of responsibilities between the meetings.

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:

In the last years we changed the meaning of Alliance secretariat. The Alliance has no permanent secretariat. Due to its specific organisation and development, the Alliance has progressively organised its 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 staffs from one appointed member organisations. The Alliance pays the organisation all the costs of this staff for the task concerned.

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 is linked to the President for the moment.

As a European non governmental organisation, gathering independent national youth organisations (a coordination rather than a federation), we decided that this management is more adapted to the capacity of the Alliance and its members. 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 keep the Alliance as a efficient and friendly “cooperative network”. This point was confirmed during the General Assembly in 2003.

It's now time to audit this system and the General Assembly 2005 could be a good starting point of it. So we hope to come to a common agreement about the Alliance secretariat among the members.

2. Annual report 2004:

As every year this is one of main part of the AAA work. Also this year the AAA and even the GS had problems to get all requested reports and information, e.g. statistics on time. The members and also coordinators of working groups and projects should be more care about the deadlines given by the GS to send documents.

The General Secretary thanks the AAA for her work and even the Alliance treasurer and the Alliance Publication Assistant for their great support.

If we are fast to collect all needed documents and materials we could more concentrate and work on a nice good layout of the Annual report.

3. 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.

B. Improving internal communication and the Alliance website

The General Secretary tried with the support of the AAA to inform the member 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. So, it was a first step to come to better communication. This year the General Secretary started to inform the members soon after every EC meeting with a short report about the most important things discussed and decided during the EC meeting.

According a proposal from FIYE Poland the EC decided to improve this system. It is decided that the EC will bring especially information about internal management faster to the members. So we would like to increase transparency and to try to involve members more.

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 co-operation with GSM Turkey as TM 2005 host and CVG Greece as GA/GC 2005 host. The General Secretary was also in good contacts with the host of the Training for Trainers 2005 VJF Germany.

The Alliance needs more clarity about the rule to become a host of an event and about the responsibilities as a host of an Alliance event. The EC will propose the GA 2005 a statement about this issue.

Communication with members is a big part of the work of the General Secretary. He tried to answer all mails and questions quickly and



competently and to find common solution if a problem came up. This is also important in the process of preparing the applications for membership and the invitation list.

Thanks to the Alliance Webmaster FIYE and Waldemar Korycki we had a big improvement of the Alliance website this year. Now there is a really useful tool for Alliance work and communication. All relevant information is available at the website in a good design. Alliance members are pleased to see the website active. For the GA 2005 we used the website for the first time officially for registration. The General Secretary hopes to follow this development.

C. Communication with new organisations and partners

As agreed at the last GA the Alliance started to be more active to find new members. The Alliance Development Working Group worked on it.

The General Secretary got some requests for partner- and membership and informed these organisations about the Alliance procedures. This happened mostly quickly and so we got some new interesting contacts.

The new system of invitation list works quite well and makes the system and procedures hopefully more transparent, but we have to audit it as well.

D. Standing Orders

The GA 2004 in Yerevan voted for updated Standing Orders and we worked on it.

Torsten Löser

Alliance General Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2005

Accounting and work of the Treasurer

Following the GA 2004 in Yerevan, the Treasurer's work in 2005 was focused on:

- § Managing 9 grant applications, follow up and reports: administration, events, study sessions in EYC, EVS workcamps, etc.;
- § Contracting with member organisations concerning events, projects and tasks: contracts, agreements, balances, etc.
- § Bookkeeping and finalising the accounts of the two financial years - 2004 and 2005;
- § Managing the financial flow and payments, including the cash box;
- § Co-ordinating with our bank in Denmark: NORDEA;
- § Improving our permanent accounting procedure using our Banana software;
- § Studying the issue of a new bank for the Alliance;
- § Surveying the new membership and contribution system adopted by GA 2004;
- § Preparing a proposal for legal registration in an EU country.

This work was supported by the Alliance Financial Assistant, staff 15 hours a week.

2004 final accounts

§ A (small) **surplus of 77.50 €**(close to zero) that is less than planned (1,930€). This is due to two major adjustments on:

- EVS workcamps project: the grant was less used than planned, as we provided less justification when we closed the project in 2004) and we had to refund part of the 2002 grant. For this we used our "provision for risk" with a *takeover* of 5,000€ (this is the purpose of having provisions). This was agreed by the External auditor.
- Exceptional exchange charges (Danish crown/Euro), accumulated for many years that the External auditor requested us to clean for once: 1,273.40 €(of which 164.20€for 2004).

§ A stable balance but with lower reserves ("capital liabilities") 43,511.92 €(- 4,922.50 €balance 2003) as 5,000 €were taken over on provision to face EVS workcamps grant adjustment.

§ Increasing support regarding the grants from the EYF and the EU, particularly the administrative grants (C & former A3029).

The 2004 Accounts were checked and confirmed by the Internal and the External Auditors.

Conclusion

1. 2004 activity showed a turn in our accounts and some adjustments were necessary. It is proved today that we were right to create provisions for years in order to cover the loss due to the European grant management! The Alliance activity did not decrease, but the difficult EU grant management on multi-annual projects needs either a very professional central direction (this is not the Alliance's choice) or a cautious transnational management.
2. 2005 will be a difficult financial year as the EVS workcamps will be finally cleared (refund on the grant), and less projects were supported by the EYF (Post camp event, General Conference), but nothing dramatic.
3. Our position regarding our sponsors is improving. EU internal evolutions (legal procedure) did not create difficulties for us as we could fear. But the Alliance's legal registration in



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an important issue. Future Youth programme (2007-2013) will introduce multi-annual grant and collective EVS projects that could be interesting for us.

4. The Alliance assistant task for finances (AFA) is improving. Her time was increased in order to ease payments, a major improvement that members benefited from.
5. The new membership and contribution system has been implemented.
6. Membership situation stays very positive as 92% of the members paid their membership fees on time (by the 1st of June). 8 members even paid in 2004! 3 organisations did not pay as they are facing difficulties (under control by the Treasurer and the Executive committee).

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,
UNAREC
Alliance's treasurer

Report on External Activities 2005

INEX Slovakia was elected as an Additional Member of the Alliance EC during the last General Assembly 2004 held in Yerevan. At that point there was not any candidate for the position of the Vice President for External Relations. We as an additional member have partly monitored the external relations issues. According to our opinion, the official external relation representation should have been more efficient, and we decided to candidate for the mentioned position. During the Extraordinary General Assembly 2005 in Antalya INEX Slovakia was elected for the position of the Vice President for External Relations.

During the period of November-March no particular activities were undertaken in the External relations area. We tried to follow all the fruitful work made by the former 6th member maintained by VJF. First of all, we have rebuilt the External Relations Working Group (ERWG) with 6 active members from VJF, FIYE, IBG, CVG, and INEX Slovakia. The communication among ERWG members was improved by creation of a virtual newsgroup, where the members were participating on the discussions and fulfilling relevant tasks. We had an opportunity to meet each other and discuss external relations strategies. The ERWG recognised the need to improve and develop the external relations and thus raise visibility of the Alliance.

We had the chance to represent the Alliance at the Council of Members of the Youth Forum in April 2005 and will participate in forthcoming Council of Members in November. Within this frame, we had an opportunity to meet other international exchange organisations as SCI, YAP, ICYE,

EEE-YFU, EFIL, and YDC. We discussed relevant tasks concerning common aims and tried to strengthen our common position in the Youth Forum. We considered election of the Secretary General Diogo Pinto coming from EFIL as a big achievement. The ERWG are going to attend Euro – Latin American Youth Forum held in Molina (Spain) in the middle of October, organised by the European Youth Forum.

Concerning the cooperation with other exchange networks, we have had sufficient communication throughout the year. We used the opportunity to organise the non-formal meeting with the CCIYS and NVDA members present at the Alliance Technical Meeting in Antalya. We have been also working on common issues with the SCI and YAP especially concerning collective European Voluntary Service in prepared Youth in Action program. In general, the cooperation with these networks is stable. We hope that communication improves by building the partnership and participating in the common meetings.

One of the priorities, which were identified during the EC meeting held in Clermont-Ferrand in June 2005, was: external relations, including the Alliance promotion as well. Therefore we are preparing new leaflet of the Alliance as a main tool of the promotion, which will be hopefully done by the beginning of GA in November 2005.

Marcela Holicka

Inex Slovakia (Vice President for External Relations)

Access4All WG Report

Working group Plan of Action agreed:

- a. Questionnaire to be spread among Alliance members and partners at the technical meeting in March. The questionnaire should help in drawing the present situation of the organisations in dealing with inclusion and their potential interest and/or availability on working on that issue. The group will analyse the questionnaires.
- b. Proposal of a project under Youth Action 1 or Action 5 on a European short meeting of young refugees, first step for letting them being introduced to international voluntary activities. At this experimental stage of the working group, in the doubt of large participation of other Alliance members, the application will be introduced by the organisation hosting the meeting with the support of the working group.
- c. In case of approval of the “EVS on workcamp” new project, of course the group will support it. If the “Big weekend 2005” for disadvantaged people should take place anyway also in case of failure of the application because already approved by other donors (and hosted by IBG in Germany), the working group is available to support the organisation of the event.

1. Activities report

2.

1. Feed-back from the last Alliance activities on Accessibility - Remarks on the quite reduced and changed composition of the working group compared to the previous one. It has been also noticed a large disaffection by many organisations also in the last period of the EVS Workcamp project.

2. Identification of priority actions for the group: the group exchanged ideas about how to involve other organisations in working in the field of easing the access to voluntary actions to all categories of people. More than trying to point large and deep political objectives, difficult to reach in the Alliance network, the group propose to focus on a specific sample subject for one year, in order to gather more practical interest among the Alliance members. As for 2005, a study case was identified in young refugees, and a project was conceived for the purpose. At the same time the group felt that some easy tools for enlarging the dialogue among Alliance organisation have to be tried: so a questionnaire was created and distributed, and its results were collected.

3. Results achieved:

- The questionnaire was distributed and 23 were filled by Alliance members and partners and collected (see annex for analysis).
- An Action 5 under Youth programme project was conceived: “*Meeting of young refugees in Europe. The meeting represents a first step for letting young refugees introduced to international voluntary actions and to national activities of Alliance organisations*”. The application has been introduced on 1st June by Legambiente. It has not been approved by the Italian national Agency because the project didn’t match properly the priority of the budget line.

External Relations WG report

Roman Kühn took part in the GA of the European Youth Forum in November 2004 in Madrid. It was a very long and hard meeting as a new bureau was to be elected. Many meetings with the Exchange Organisations group were held. Furthermore we managed to put a greater focus on the volunteering aspect and improved a policy paper presented by the EYF bureau.

The next meeting of the European Youth Forum took place in April 2005 in Brussels where the new VP on External Relations Marcela Holicka and Roman Kühn took part. The main points during this meeting were the implementation of the Junior Erasmus program.

The ERWG meeting was held in Berlin, hosted by VJF, from the 24th – 26th of June. We shared our ideas about external representation. We agreed that we have to deepen the profile and visibility of the ALLIANCE in order to strengthen our position in the European Youth Forum. An aim for the next year should be to take more

influence in youth policy to improve the situation for member organizations. We updated the Guidelines of External Relations as well as the ALLIANCE leaflet.

In October Roman Kühn took part in the European – Latin American Youth Forum in Mollina, Spain. It was a useful event as contacts with potential Latin American partners or with national youth councils of countries of interest for the ALLIANCE were established. Furthermore youth policy was discussed, especially participation and non-formal education.

Our future plans concentrate mainly on the EYF. Roman Kühn will candidate for a position in the Advisory Council on Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe through the European Youth Forum. The aim is to strengthen the visibility of the ALLIANCE in the European Youth sector and to actively influence the youth policy in fields of interest for the ALLIANCE and its members.



Staff Development WG report

SDWG met in January 2005 before the TM to finalize & recommend the common methods of working within the ALLIANCE.

This meeting was aiming to ease all of our work, save our time, better the communication between the exchange staff, better service for the applying volunteers. The report of this meeting was immediately sent to all members right after the meeting through the ALLIANCE WEB Site's e-mailing facility.

It was expected that member and partner organisations coming to the TM would follow the recommendations given out by the mailing. But unfortunately the verbal report given after the TM by GSM as the host of the last TM, was not very encouraging. It was noticed that almost 50 % of the participants (although mainly partners) still adding maps, drawings, bold letters, etc. in their camp descriptions that made the work of the host quite difficult and long. They had to clear many unwanted or unnecessary details for the camp descriptions to "standardize" the descriptions.

Although all members & partners have their own placement system we all need a standart camp data & descriptions in order to forward

these into our placement systems. So that all organisations can transfer the data into their WEB sites, print the booklet, inform their volunteers much faster than before. But the experiment during the TM 2005 shows that we should still consider this issue and remind to all members and partners to follow the recommendations of the SDWG before each TM.

During the TM 2 different session were held by the SDWG. The first one was the "Newcomers session" to introduce ALLIANCE for the first time participants. Second one was a workshop to remind the working methods for the coming season.

At this workshops the staff members of the organisations have been informed on and requested to ease each others work as much as possible by following the recommendations of the SDWG. The result is unknown yet. In order to uncover the seasonal work we are proposing a small questionnaire to be sent to all organisations and its results will be presented during the GA. All members will be requested to report shortly their communication with the others to see what went well or wrong. What has failed and what was a success.



Alliance Development WG report

Meetings of the working group:

In 2005 the group met for 2 days in Antalya in March, parts of the group met in Clermont-Ferrand in June and there was a 4 days meeting in Athens in November.

The aim and activities of the Alliance development working group (ADWG):

The main aim of this working group is to follow the development of the Alliance in two different fields: 1. the internal structure and working and 2. the development of the whole

network. The main tasks of the working group in 2005 lay on the implementation of a new Alliance management structure (the Alliance management committee) to involve more active members in the decision making process and to improve the communication between the different working groups, the EC and the members. Beside of this the ADWG worked on a first draft of a five years plan of action for the Alliance. The most important proposal is a programme to build up new partnerships in those European countries where the Alliance has no contacts up to now and at the same time support the existing members with different training and follow-up facilities.

North-South WG report

The aims of the North/South working Group are to research the needs of Alliance members; to encourage and support new organisations working in this field; to strengthen partnerships between organisations; to understand and increase awareness of the different needs and values of organisations involved in North/South exchanges; to develop organisations' abilities in training volunteers; to increase ways of information sharing between organisations; to find ways to improve South/North hosting schemes; and to look at ways of increasing the educational component of the work we do.

In 2004 we have facilitated the general exchange of information about North/South issues through open meetings at the General Assembly in Yerevan and the Alliance Day in Antalya. These provided an opportunity for

Alliance members to discuss the topics they were interested in. We also produced a newsletter as a forum for member organisations to share news, information and opinions on North/South and South/North Exchanges. Furthermore we provided advice and support for organisations contacting us with requests and questions.

Our major activities planned for 2006 - as per the interests and requests of the members - are: to develop an evaluation and information sharing tool, using the Alliance website as a medium for this; and to develop training and preparation resources, firstly in the form of a kit and also to look into the possibilities of a seminar concerning this issue. We will also be looking into the topics of global education and South/North hosting schemes.



Training Needs WG report

The working group focused on three main goals in 2005:

Training for Trainer hosted by VJF

The working group supported the training by helping to write the application and by finding trainers for the event.

Study Session

The application to have a study session supported by the European Youth Center was not successful, but the application for a study session in the beginning of 2006 was successful, more information will be sent to the members later.

Training Handbook

The application for a publication grant was successful and one of the goals for the working group was therefore to produce the handbook. A plan for the project was agreed on during

our meeting in January, and after that authors for all parts of the handbook were found. Even after extending the deadline several times, only a couple of authors had written anything. We do not believe that the working group can finish the handbook before the deadline, without the support of authors outside the group, and we have therefore told the president and the treasurer of the Alliance that we think the best solution is to cancel the project.

3. The future of the working group

Our plans are to:

- Support the study session funded by the European Youth Center in the beginning of 2006
- Support an application for an Action 5 grant to support an Alliance Training for Trainers (if an organisation willing to host the event is found)

The activities of the Alliance are arranged to support and develop the programmes and interests of members.

In 2005 there were 3 regular Alliance events.

The **Training for Trainers** is an activity, which supports the leadership training abilities of member organisations.

September 2005, VJF, Berlin, Germany
25 participants

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.

March 2005: GSM, Antalya, Turkey
108 participants

The **General Assembly** in November is the statutory meeting of the Alliance – this is a place to discuss the past which provides opportunities for the staff and volunteers of experiences of the Alliance, the achievements of the last year and plan for the future developments. All the major decisions are taken at the General Assembly.

5-6 November 2005: CVG, Athens, Greece
56 participants

The First European Training Seminar

THEME:

Do to Learn - Learn to Do/ Volunteering as a learning process

“Learning by doing” is one of the main objectives of Alliance’s projects. In all these years of our work, we have been sensitive to the changing needs of our target group (young people coming mostly from European countries), realizing recently that the need for “learning” becomes more and more a priority in their motivation. In this meeting we have further investigated the added value of intercultural and service learning offered in our projects, in order to provide young volunteers with a more structured learning experience.

During this training we assessed the learning outcome of international short-term Voluntary projects (workcamps) in order to create a concrete learning experience for the volunteers. Our aims were:

- To analyze and assess the voluntary service experience as a non-formal educational process
- To raise awareness and achieve a wider recognition of the educational value of Short Term Voluntary Projects, in order to further motivate young people in participating
- To develop quality standards in Short Term Volunteering of its educational outcome and apply them to our projects within the Alliance
- To promote techniques of using voluntary projects as a means of involving disadvantaged youth in learning opportunities

The programme was mainly focus on the following three interrelated questions:

1. What do young volunteers learn through giving?
(e.g. working for a project far away from home) - Service Learning
2. What do young volunteers learn through getting?
(e.g. interacting with young people from different cultures) - Intercultural Learning
3. What do young volunteers do with what they learn?
(e.g. applying gained experience) - Personal development / Community Building

The results will help us develop quality standards for the implementation, evaluation and recognition of non-formal educational / learning dimension in Short Term Voluntary Projects.

The Big Week End, Dresden, Germany, October 21-24, 2005

The aim

The **BIG WEEKEND** already has a good tradition in the ALLIANCE. The event is a unique chance for disadvantaged young volunteers who joined a first workcamp abroad to share their experiences and to think about possible next steps. In addition to that, the **BIG WEEKEND** offers them a second international experience, so it is a tool to keep them active in volunteering.

The team and the participants

The weekend was run by an international prep-team consisting of the representatives of the Alliance member organisations.

The international group of participants of the **BIG WEEKEND** consisted of 17 people from Germany, the UK, Estonia, Italy, and Poland. The participants had a diverse background, but in most cases the disadvantage was due to socio-economic reasons. Three participants were teenagers.

The main outcome:

1. All volunteers gained a lot from their first international experience
2. They all had different fears before they started the project
3. They realized during or after the project that they had succeed in overcoming most of the barriers (but not all of them)
4. They gave concrete advice how young people in a similar situation to them could prepare themselves for a first international experience. Here are some examples:
 - “gather some information about the country & habits of the people you are going to visit. You don’t need to know everything, because all people are individuals. But if you know a bit what may expect you, you know what to prepare”
 - “read the [What to bring with you] in the infosheet and take it with you”
 - don’t overload yourself (with luggage and with expectations!)
 - take some clothes in the cabin luggage
 - take national recipes (and practise them before)
 - ask for support in preparation if you feel you need it
 - pay attention to your behaviour in front of the others

The **BIG WEEKEND** was a great opportunity for the disadvantaged volunteers.

The **BIG WEEKEND** helped the volunteers to recognise what kind of experience they got though an international workcamps. They had a feeling that they learnt a lot!



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.



in 2005

41 Alliance Members

23617 volunteers

- 69% sent abroad
- 21% in the country

26 % males – 74 % females

9% under 18

73% between 18 and 25

18% over 25 years old

1549 workcamps

16690 places proposed

Environment 38%

Renovation 27%

Culture 15%

14503 volunteers present

84% of the places filled

4% of Teenager projects

351 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



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Taking into account the result of the former Plan of Action (2005), the GA proposed to concentrate the Alliance action in 2006 on the following points.

Plan of action 2006		
Action 2006	Who	When
<p>1. Alliance Events and Projects</p> <p>Regular events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) one Post Camp Event b) one Technical Meeting c) one General Conference <p>Other events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) one study session prepare study session application for 2007 <p>Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prepare future Collective EVS action (as a follow up of EVS Workcamps) b) Prepare common project for older volunteers (as a follow up of the Still active project) c) Apply for a publication project d) Apply for a large scale project 	<p>HUJ</p> <p>CBB</p> <p>JR</p> <p>ACD</p> <p>Acess 4 All WG & UNAREC</p> <p>EstYES & Lunaria</p> <p>T & WG</p> <p>ADWG</p>	<p>6 – 13 January</p> <p>1 - 7 March</p> <p>6 – 12 November</p> <p>5-12 February</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>2. Management of the Alliance</p> <p>a) Experiment new operational methods of the working groups</p> <p>b) Implement the new Alliance membership policy</p> <p>c) evaluate current tasks and future needs if the Alliance's European secretariat</p> <p>d) register the Alliance in Denmark</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>EC & ADWG</p> <p>GS</p> <p>T</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>1 December 2005</p>
<p>3. Co-operation between members</p> <p>a) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.</p> <p>b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve exchanges programmes</p> <p>c) To create an Alliance Pool of Trainers</p> <p>d) To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners</p>	<p>SDWG</p> <p>SDWG</p> <p>TN WG</p> <p>SDWG</p>	<p>March, TM</p> <p>TM & GC</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>4. Information and communication</p> <p>a) Promote intensive use of Alliance's website for Alliance internal communication</p> <p>b) To work on updating the Alliance Guidebook</p> <p>c) To conceive Alliance newsletters</p>	<p>AWM</p> <p>GS + WG</p> <p>AM</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>5. External relations</p> <p>a) Formalise cooperation framework agreements with regional networks</p> <p>b) Initiate the implementation of one Liaison committee of voluntary service organisations in Europe</p>	<p>P+VPER</p> <p>VPER</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>March, TM</p>



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Alliance Members

Member	Country	Alliance Contact	Address	Postcode	Town	Tel	Fax	E-mail
ADP-Zid	Serbia and Montenegro	Aleksandra Zekovic	Bratstva Jedinstva 57/1	81000	Podgorica	(381) 81 602 720	(381) 81 602 720	zid@cg.yu
ALLIANSSI	Finland	Tiina Hokkanen	Olympiastadion, Eteläkaarre	00250	Helsinki	(358) 9 348 24312	(358) 9 491 290	vaihto@alli.fi
ALTERNATIVE-V	Ukraine	Oksana Yuryk	78A, Khmel'nitskogo st. Room 303	01030	KIEV	(380) 44 244 39 15	(380) 44 244 40 05	alternat@mail.kar.net
CBB	Belgium	Yves Desirotte	Rempart des Jesuites, 83	6900	MARCHE EN FAMENNES	(32) 84 31 44 13	(32) 84 31 65 20	yves@compagnonsbatisseurs.be
CBF	France	Annick Corominola	39, Chemin de Verdun	81100	CASTRES	(33) 5 63 72 59 64	(33) 5 63 72 59 81	cb.France@wanadoo.fr
CIA	Greece	Xenia Koutenaki	Em. Benaki 93-95	106 81	ATHENS	(30) 2103801881	(30) 2103801809	citizensinactiongr@yahoo.gr
CJ	Quebec - Canada	Denis Leclerc	4545, Av Pierre de Coubertin - CP 1000 Succ.M	H1V 3R2	MONTREAL	(1) 514 25 230 15	(1) 514 25 187 19	denis.leclerc@cj.qc.ca
CONCORDIA	France	Marco Paoli	1, rue de Metz	75010	PARIS	(33) 1 45 23 00 23	(33) 1 47 70 68 27	di.concordia@wanadoo.fr
CONCORDIA-UK	UK	Gwyn Lewis	Heversham House 20/22 Boundary Road	BN3 4ET	HOVE, East Sussex	(44) 1273 422 18	(44) 1273 421182	info@concordia-iye.org.uk
CVG	Greece	Eleni Gazi	Veranzerou 15	10677	Athens	(30) 1 623 11 20	(30) 1 801 14 89	cvgpeep@otenet.gr
DEINETA	Lithuania	Leonas Petravicius	Laisves al. 97,P.O Box 2468	3000	KAUNAS	(370) 722 62 57	(370) 720 37 63	csa@kaunas.omnitel.net
EST-YES	Estonia	Aleksandr Kurushev	Wiedemanni 3	10126	TALLINN	(372) 6 01 33 09	(372) 6 01 33 09	estyes@estyes.ee
FIYE	Poland	Waldemar Korycki	Ul. Meissnera 1/3 lok. 319	03-982	VARSOVIE	(48) 22 826 54 24	(48) 22 12 03 48	fiye@fiye.org
GENCTUR	Turkey	Zafer Yilmaz	İstiklal Cad. No:212 Aznavur Pasajı Kat:5 Galatasaray	34430	ISTANBUL	(90) 212 249 25 15	(90) 212 249 25 15	workcamps.in@genctur.com
GSM	Turkey	Ertugrul Senoglu	Bayindir Sok. 45/9 - Kizilay	06650	ANKARA	(90) 312 417 11 24	(90) 312 425 81 92	gsm@gsm-youth.org
HUJ	Armenia	Stepan Stepanyan	19A, Koriun street	375009	YEREVAN	(374) 1 522 701	(374) 1 522 772	huj@arminco.com
IBG	Germany	Christoph Meder	Schlosserstrasse 28	70180	STUTTGART	(49) 711 649 1128	(49) 711 640 9867	IBG-workcamps@t-online.de
IJGD	Germany	Erika Moritz	Kasernenstr. 48	53111	BONN	(49) 228 228 00 11	(49) 228 228 00 24	ijgd@ijgd.de
INEX-SDA	Czech Rep.	Jana Krczmarova	Senovazne nam. 24	116 47	PRAGUE 1	(420) 234 621 527	(420) 234 621 390	jana@inexsda.cz
INEX-SLOVAKIA	Slovakia	Branislav Durajka	Prazska 11	814 13	BRATISLAVA	(421) 2 5262 4231	(421) 2 5249 4707	inexsk@stonline.sk
IWO	South Korea	Jinsu Yom	331-15, Sogyo-Dong	121-836	SEOUL	(82) 2 568 58 58	(82) 2 563 58 58	jinsu@1.or.kr
JR	France	Marie-Christine	8-10 rue de Trévis	75009	PARIS	(33) 1 47 70 15 88	(33) 1 48 00 92 18	mca@volontariat.org



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		Abiska						
KMC	Czech Rep.	Jaroslav Hadac	Karoliny Svetle 31	110 00	PRAGUE 1	(420) 2 2222 0347	(420) 2 2222 0347	NO
LEGAMBIENTE	Italy	Nanni Laurent	Via Salaria 403	00 199	ROME	(39) 06 862 683 24	(39) 06 862 683 19	legambiente.vol@tiscali.it
LUNARIA	Italy	Davide di Pietro	Via Salaria 89	00 198	ROME	(39) 06 884 18 80	(39) 06 884 18 59	workcamps@lunaria.org
LYVS	Belarus	Yaroslav Oleinik	P.O Box 213 B. Hmel'nitskogo str. 4	220013	MINSK	(375) 172 840 881	(375) 1 72 840 784	lyvs@user.unibel.by
MAR	Bulgaria	Roumen	PO Box 201	BG-1000	SOFIA	(359) 2 980 2037	(359) 2 980 2037	mail@mar.bg
MS	Denmark	Anette Nielsen	Borgergade 14	13000	KOBENHAVN	(45) 7731 0000	(34) 7731 0121	anette@ms.dk
NICE	Japan	Shinichiro Kaizawa		160-0022	TOKYO	(81) 3 33 58 71 40	(81) 3 33 58 71 49	nice@nice1.gr.jp
NIG	Germany	Jörg Theska	Am Wendländer Schilde 5	18055	ROSTOCK	(49) 381 492 29 14	(49) 381 490 09 30	NIGeV@aol.com
PRO-INTERNATIONAL	Germany	Andreas Kunz	Bahnhofstr. 26a	35037	Marburg	(49) 6421-65277	(49) 06421-64407	pro-international@lahn.net
RAI	Spain/ Catalunya	Marina Galles	C/Calabria, 174	08015	BARCELONA	(34) 93 483 84 34	(34) 93 483 83 59	camps_treball@presidencia.gencat.es
SIW	Netherlands	Adri Voskamp	Willemstraat 7	3511 RJ	UTRECHT	(31) 30 233 4089	(31) 30 2343465	general@siw.nl
SVI	Spain	Adoracion Navazo	José Ortega y Gasset, 71	28006	MADRID	(34) 91 363 76 23/16/20	(34) 91 309 30 66	svi@mtas.es / blasmo@mtas.es
UNA Exchange	UK/Wales	Sheila Smith	Temple of Peace Cathays Park	CF10 3AP	CARDIFF	(44) 29 20 223 088	(44) 29 20 665 557	sheilasmith@unaexchange.org
UNAREC	France	Francois Ribaud	3, rue des Petits Gras	63000	CLERMONT-FERRAND	(33) 4 73 31 98 04	(33) 4 73 31 98 09	unarec.di@wanadoo.fr
VFP	USA	Peter Coldwell	1034 Tiffany Road	05730-0202	BELMONT -VT	(1) 802 259 2759	(1) 802 259 2922	vfp@vfp.org
VIMEX	Mexico	Vidal Florès	Alfredo Elizondo n°69 Col. D Carmona	15450	MEXICO	(525) 795 04 57	(525) 795 04 57	vimex@laneta.apc.org
VIVE MEXICO	Mexico	Alberto Garcia	Boulevard Garcia de Leon 734-A - Colonia Nueva Chapultepec	58260	MORELIA / Michoacan	(52) 443 324 51 70	(52) 443 324 51 70	incoming@vivemexico.org
VJF	Germany	Andrea Köcher	Hans-Otto strasse 7	10407	BERLIN	(49) 30 42 85 06 03	(49) 30 42 85 06 04	office@vjf.de
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia and Montenegro	Jelena Beronja	Bulevar umetnosti 27	11070	Novi Beograd	(381) 11 311 66 63	(381) 11 311 6653	misvss@eunet.yu



Association for Democratic Prosperity-Zid Serbia and Montenegro 1996

ADP Zid promotes and strengthens participation of individuals and organizations in the transition process through implementation of innovative programs that foster democratic processes and contribute community development.

ADP – Zid works on various kinds of projects and activities in the frame of the following three programmes:

- Volunteers' Centre Programme;
- Community Development Programme;
- Programme on Information and Culture

Allianssi Youth Exchanges (Allianssin Kehittämispalvelut Oy)

Finland

www.nuorisovaihto.fi

1996

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.

Alternative-V

Ukraine

www.alternative-v.com.ua

1992

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.



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Citizens in Action

Greece 2002

The aims of C.i.A are:

Alliance

- To support and promote the idea of active citizenship to the young people through various forms of social commitment and participation, for a democratic, interdependent and open society.
- To encourage the circulation of people and ideas through international exchanges, with the aim of the enhancement of knowledge, mutual understanding and peace.
- To contribute to community and local development through the participation of local and foreign volunteers in projects of benefit to all, with an emphasis on rural areas.
- To promote people's participation to defend and define their quality of life, aiming at the protection of the human person and the environment.

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-iyee.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.

CVG

Greece

www.cvgpeep.gr

1987

(Conservation Volunteers Greece)



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CVG is a non-profit, non-governmental, volunteer organisation promoting conservation work and intercultural exchanges between young people from all over the world. CVG includes mainly short term voluntary service projects (workcamps). CVG carries out a lot of training seminars for young people willing to be animators and group leaders. CVG also organises 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



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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 international youth seminars, study visits, youth exchanges, training, European Youth Festival and national youth camps. As another major activity, GSM 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



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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, society and intercultural understanding through voluntary service, INEX - 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.1.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



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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 fights against social, racial, political or religious discrimination by proposing activities where everyone can find a place. It aims at helping peace and fraternity through exchange and active participation. Members 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.



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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 Alliance among young people from all over the world, stimulating their awareness (members 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.



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- 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 Alliance doing voluntary work together. members
- 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.
- SIW** The Netherlands www.siw.nl 1953
- (Internationale Vrijwilligers Projekten)*
- The objectives of SIW are to encourage international contact and understanding, to stimulate the development of young people, and to do socially, culturally and environmentally useful work. These objectives are primarily realised by sending young people from the Netherlands to volunteer projects in other countries and welcoming young people in international voluntary projects in the Netherlands. SIW refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.
- SVI** Spain www.mtas.es/injuve 1950's
- (Instituto de la Juventud)*
- SVI is the International Voluntary Service department of the Youth Institute of Spain and deals only with the workcamp activities aimed at young people who are between 18 and 26 years old. Its main objectives are to stimulate the exchange of ideas and youth global development, strengthening their own intercultural learning processes, their personal development and the reinforcement of democratic values. It also aims at integrating experiences, personal knowledge and the global development of young people in the carrying out of activities in the frame of voluntary work.
- UNA Exchange** United Kingdom/Wales www.unaexchange.org 1973



The aims of UNA Exchange, a registered charity, are: to promote international understanding through the medium of voluntary service; to assist in community development by acting as a means to stimulate new ideas and projects and to encourage the concept of voluntary service as a force in the common search for peace, equality and social justice. UNA Exchange provides opportunities for the people of Wales to understand international issues through direct contact with people from other countries. The central activities of the organisation involve international volunteer work in local communities: international workcamps; EVS projects and medium term volunteering. UNA Exchange refers to itself as a national voluntary youth organisation.

UNAREC France www.unarec.org 1962
(*Union Etudes et Chantiers*)

Etudes & Chantiers was a non profit and non governmental organisation, created in 1962 by several youth movements that became "UNAREC" in 1987. Our Union gathers regional organisations (currently 5), running permanent projects independently, but working together on national programmes, as well as in the field of international voluntary service (more particularly with the workcamp programme).

Our aims are: to promote active citizenship for all (young and adults) through local to international development projects, to support access of disadvantaged populations to employment, social integration, and international mobility, to support local initiatives, rural or urban, for improving cultural, social or economical community development. In practice we refer to ourselves as a non-formal educational movement, using workcamps or work projects ("chantier") as a step to intercultural or integration apprenticeship.

VFP USA www.vfp.org 1982
(*Volunteers for Peace*)

VFP promotes international voluntary service as an effective means of intercultural education and community service. VFP organises programmes where people from diverse backgrounds can work together to help overcome the need, violence and environmental decay facing our planet. Workcamps are truly the microcosm of a world where nations join together giving priority to improving life for humanity. They are a practical way to both prevent and resolve conflict.

VIMEX Mexico www.vimex.org.mx 1985
(*Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico AC*)

VIMEX is based at Mexico City; our aims are: to help in social way with voluntary work, to promote the unity and communication between countries of the world through volunteers exchanges. It promotes international workcamps in different fields like environment, culture, renovation of historic buildings, work with animals with extinguish problems and help the Mexican students to study foreign languages.

Vive Mexico Mexico www.vivemexico.org 1997



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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 local community. It provides a space where the energy and creativity of the group can be put to use in a background that promotes the brotherhood and solidarity between the national and international members. At the same time the aim is to make the participants aware that the problems are a human responsibility.

VJF Germany www.vjf.de 1990
(*Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger*)

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 Serbia and Montenegro www.mis.org.yu 1976
(*Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia*)

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.



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Alliance Cooperation Partners

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).



**of European
Voluntary
Service
Organisations**

Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations
C/o MS
Borgergade 14
1300 Kobenhavn
Denmark

alliance@alliance-network.org

www.alliance-network.org