

of European Voluntary Service Organisations



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Introduction

Looking back to the Annual Report 2005 where I wrote that 2005 was not such an easy year for the Alliance as a network how shall I name 2006? For myself I would call it: "The life is going on".

2006 the Alliance lost one of its most important persons. In June 2006 Waldemar Korycki a very active person inside the Alliance as representative of our Polish member FIYE died. We will never forget him and his contribution to the development of our network.

We had a lot of mountains in the Alliance year in 2006. After one year break we could organise the Post Camp Event again, hosted by our Armenian member HUJ with the topic "When East meets West", which really reflects our situation because the Alliance has a lot of exchanges between members from Eastern and Western European countries so it was really time to work on the quality of these exchanges and to improve and to develop it.

The year 2006 will finish with two other mountains: Jeunesse & Reconstruction organised the Alliance 2006 General Conference with the topic "Impact of projects on youth citizenship education" and with an Euro-Asian Training for trainers hosted by our South-Korean member IWO in Seoul where the Alliance can on one hand support Asian voluntary organisation to qualify their trainers and on the other hand we can take the chance to evaluate the exchange of volunteers between Europe and Asia which is really important if the look to the number of volunteers especially coming from South Korea and Japan to our projects in Europe.

Another important project for the Alliance in 2006 was the Collective EVS workcamps where we are really on the beginning It seems that a large scale common action involving many Alliance members needs a stronger coordination and additional financial resources supporting members 'efforts to involve young people with fewer opportunities to EVS Workcamps. Without financial support, as we had in the past, it simply does not work despite of good intentions of dozen of organisations, who expressed their wish to be involved. Unfortunately, current regulations of the European Commission make it practically impossible for us to run such a project again. New

program Youth in Action engaged from year 2007 gives a hope for the Alliance as it has more flexible regulations for EVS.

In the introduction I can only highlight some of our events and projects.

Still the Alliance is a colourful network running by active members. Even if we have a small secretariat without an office with only two staff, our members are involved in the Alliance life. A lot of working groups work really active in important fields of work as for instance: Staff development, North-South-Exchange, Access for All or Training Needs. This also brought us to the point of reformulating the chapter of working groups in the Alliance Standing Orders to reflect the development of the last years.

The General Assembly 2006 decided to concentrate in the next years more on the roots of the Alliance that means: "How can we develop workcamps to keep them attractive for young people, to have a good outcome of it?" So we started to work on training skills, for instance to use the common Alliance Training Handbook, to evaluate our projects more often and with a better quality.

But anyway workcamps are attractive:

Alliance members organised in 2006 the total of 1587 workcamps with 22.122 participants.

Also, the Alliance welcomed 2 new members: World Friends Iceland and CIEE Japan. Thus, in January 2006 the Alliance consists of 30 Full Members in 19 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom), 5 Associate Members in 5 countries (Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Korea and the USA), and 8 candidate members in 7 countries (Greece, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Spain, Ukraine).

Therefore, 2005 was not the easiest but a good year for the Alliance. Torsten Löser General Secretary

Our Growth Chart

in 2006

43 Alliance Members

22.122 volunteers

- 72% sent abroad
- 28% in the country

37% males - 63 % females

10% under 18

72% between 18 and 25 18% over 25 years old

,

1.587 workcamps 18.598 places proposed

Environment	48%
Renovation	32%
Culture	20%

16.167 volunteers present 86% of the places filled

7% of Teenager projects

206 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

280 projects open to disabled youth

887 volunteers with fewer opportunities

in 1997

24 Alliance Members

12.675 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

11.441 places proposed

Environment	33%
Construction	17%
Renovation	13%

9.908 volunteers present86% of the places filled

7.6% of Teenager projects (75)

106 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme



Discussion during Alliance General Assembly 2006 Marly-le-Roi (France)

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 2006 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	Oykum Bagci	GSM (Turkey)



Alliance EC 2005/06 (Marcela Holicka, Aleksandr Kurushev, Delphine Langlois, Torsten Löser, Oykum Bagci)

The EC had the following meetings in 2006:

January 2006 March 2006 June 2006 August 2006 November 2006 Barcelona (Spain)
Borzee (Belgium)
Castelnaudery (France)
Rome (Italy)
Paris (France)

During the meetings the EC is going trough 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 is why working groups are appointed by the GA.

In 2006 the Alliance had the following working groups:

- North-South Working Group
- Staff Development Working Group
- Training Needs Working Group
- Access4All Working Group
- Alliance Development Committee
- External Relations Committee.

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. 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 and 2006 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 three meetings in 2006 – in March, June and in November, and has helped bringing decision-making in the Alliance to a different level, outside the EC.



Alliance Management Committee Meeting, Castelnaudary (France), June 2006

The main activities of the Alliance member organisations are workcamps. In 2006 the Alliance member organisations ran 1352 workcamps. So...

WHAT IS A WORKCAMP?

For 86 years, international workcamp represents a *unique* form of voluntary service: workcamps bring together people from different backgrounds to work for micro projects that benefit to local communities.

A group experience

Workcamps provide opportunities to explore the potential of an international group to work together, to act and to have fun. The group experience is a commitment to working out the decisions and problems *together*. The work is important and not a mere occupational time: all projects answer *real* local needs, with strong expectations by the sponsors (local communities and councils).

Groups of volunteers

Most workcamps host between 6 and 20 volunteers during 2 or 3 weeks. The group gathers various nationalities and backgrounds. Most of the volunteers are between 18 to 25 with a majority of female participants.

Food and Accommodation

The group shares the tasks of cooking and cleaning on a rotate basis. Accommodation depends on the local possibilities (many rural projects).

Is it all work

The other part of the workcamp is how the group organises its social activities: time to play, swim, discuss, sing, write letters, learn local phrases and visit local haunts! Activities are decided by the group depending possibilities. A big input is given to develop local activities with the population.

Workcamp leaders

Workcamp leaders prepare the project, facilitate the life of the group, lead the work and create links with local populations. They are **the heart** of the project, and have a special attention to the individual integration of any volunteer!





President's Report 2006

The aim of this report is to give a brief overview of Alliance achievements over past year looking at the performance of the Plan of Action adopted by General Assembly - the document, which has been a basis for the work of the Alliance EC. Hope some points given by this report will facilitate a good discussion targeting the future of Alliance.

The first section is Alliance Events and Projects. This year of Alliance started with Post Camp **Event** hosted by HUJ in Armenia in the beginning of January. The theme was "When East meets West", around 30 activists of Alliance members and some partner organisations from the region took part in this event. The dates of event, after Christmas vacations, did not allow many members to send their participants to PCE. And this is something to consider in future when planning PCE as well as other events or projects. Despite of this PCE was a success and it is good to see that: a) this traditional event is still quite popular among members; b) new member organisations

Yet some questions remain: what is actually the best time for PCE and how to address most important issues for members to ensure their active participation?

(like HUJ) actively propose their services for the

benefit of the Alliance.

The good start was followed by Study Session in the European Youth Center in Strasbourg in the beginning of February. Around 30 future trainers were educated by Alliance experienced trainers on the topic "Voluntary service in conflict areas: International workcamps as an instrument of conflict resolution and peace building". This event became traditional for Alliance, and the new application for Study Session 2007 was done in time. However it seems there will be no study session next year due to the lack of resources in EYC. This leads us to the question whether we can really plan such event for every year or we should find another type of event and venues to substitute this one following the real needs and interests of /members. The latter seems to be especially actual having in mind difficulties recruiting participants for Study Session 2006. And this leads us to the question about Alliance training strategies and the task and function of the Training Needs Working Group, which is a part of discussion at this GA.

Technical Meeting hosted this year by CBB in Borzee in Belgian Ardennes on the first days of collected more organisations participants than ever before – around 130! It was undoubtedly a great event in the good spirit of Alliance. Both Plenary Meeting and the Alliance Day in the frame of TM were not an exception either. The only complaints could be made about the distance between meeting and living rooms and the unusual weather conditions. On the other hand, many participants said it was the healthiest TM ever as we never spent that much time outdoors during TMs

It is a positive sign that quite a few new organisations from all over the world are interested in attending Alliance TM - we are recognized and popular! I believe that as long as these organisations are involved in organising workcamps, exchanging volunteers and work in the similar way as Alliance members they should have a chance to be invited. It definitely enriches Alliance's partnerships and raises its profile worldwide. On the basis of previous experiences with TMs Alliance Management Committee in June worked out recommendations for future hosts of this demanding event.

General Conference was hosted by Jeunesse et Reconstruction straight after General Assembly. This time Alliance got the EYF grant for having it. Despite that the host organisation and Alliance experienced serious difficulties financing this event. The whole story around GC demonstrates the importance of having clear regulation about which every new Alliance events, organisation has to be aware of. And it also raises questions, not new ones yet not answered, about set up, necessity and frequency of the Alliance regular events. Regarding the regulations, EC made a proposal and brought it to GA. As for set up and necessity, this is for the members to take this as a subject for thorough discussion.

Moving on to Alliance common projects we have first of all Collective EVS Workcamps action, which was unfortunately not possible to realise this year. It seems that a large scale common action involving many Alliance members needs a stronger coordination and additional financial resources supporting members' efforts to involve young people with fewer opportunities to EVS Workcamps. Without financial support, as we had in the past, it simply does not work despite of good intentions of dozen of organisations, who expressed their wish to be involved. Unfortunately, current regulations of the European Commission make it practically impossible for us to run such a project again. New program Youth in Action engaged from year 2007 gives a hope for the Alliance as it has more flexible regulations for EVS. And not by chance! Some of it, for instance recognition of a 2-week project as suitable for EVS, is a result of Alliance lobby work directly with Commission and through the European Youth Forum thanks to the Alliance Plenipotentiary Francois Ribaud of Etudies et Chantiers. Moreover, the Commission generally values highly the work of Alliance in involvement of disadvantaged population in voluntary service projects and encourages the Alliance to apply for such projects again.

This year there was no common **project for senior volunteers**, but it does not mean that nothing was done in this area. On a contrary, Alliance EC in cooperation with Davide di Pietro of Lunaria invited Ms Alisson Crabb, coordinator of Gruntvig programs of Life Long Learning, to the Alliance Day in March to present the possibilities in this field to the members. This meeting was attended by majority of members and caused a sincere interest.

Furthermore, a **Conference on voluntary service for senior volunteers** will be hosted by EstYES in Tallinn in December 2006. It will evaluate the experience with the senior volunteers projects run so far (Alliance was involved in one of them, called "Still Active") and will try to plan a new common project, where Alliance can be involved. Instead of a common project for senior citizens the Alliance had a pilot project facilitating participation of **European families** with children **in the workcamps.** It involved a large group of Alliance members who sent their "family-volunteers" to the 3 camps hosted over summer

2006 in Italy by Legambiente (which was a leader of the whole project), in Turkey by Genctur, and in Estonia by EstYES. All in all the experience was very positive, and there is a good chance that the project will be continued in one way or another. What is particular about it is that you will not find this project in the Plan of Action – this is something coming additionally out of initiative of active members. And I believe the number of such ad hoc projects will be increasing in the future and this is a good way for Alliance to develop its activities involving more members in them. In my opinion, this is another raison d'etre of Alliance and that is what it was created for.

Another similar example is a seminar for the new staff of Alliance members hosted in Heidelberg, Germany at the end of September by IBG. Being included in the Plan of Action for this event prepared by Alliance Development Committee and financed by the Youth programme grant, applied for by one member, certainly meets the interests and actual needs of members and shows an alternative way of financing Alliance common events. I hope it will be used more and more in future and will permit more members of Alliance to host events or projects for the benefit of other members and the whole network.

Events and projects like two mentioned above are relatively easy to finance and manage, which does not apply to the Large Scale Project, Alliance tried to work on and apply for this year. Alliance Development Committee found that the projects of this type are very hard to coordinate, even at initial stage of application, and it is very difficult to involve the majority of Alliance members in them. Even finding a common theme turned out to be not an easy task. So perhaps Alliance is simply not ready now for such projects lasting several years, involving a lot of human and financial recourses. It is not clear whether it is a question of maturity of Alliance and its members, lack of common interest (apart of exchange of volunteers in a workcamps) or a problem of structure. It is interesting to speculate, would we be able to apply for and run such project if we would have a permanent secretariat with the functions going beyond current ones - purely technical and administrative?

Since no Working Groups expressed the wish to apply for the **publication project** there was not any, even if it was initially planned. Although any publication project hides behind visual simplicity rather complicated management and heavy commitment, I do not want to think that this was the main reason for not having it. Apparently there was no strong interest of members towards having any publication done this year.

The second chapter of Plan of Action is **Management of Alliance.**

Past year we continued to experiment new working method involving Working Groups into process of managing of the Alliance. As you remember last year it was decided to have 2 Committees: Alliance Development Committee and External Relations Committee, 2 permanent Working Groups: Staff Development Working Group and Training Needs Working Group, and 2 project-oriented Working Groups: Access For All and North-South. Detailed reports about tasks and activities of these groups will be given by their coordinators at the GA. I just want to make a couple of remarks.



President of the Alliance, Aleksandr Kurushev

The **new operational method** of running the Alliance – 3 meetings of Managing Committee, which is EC + coordinators of WGs, is the appropriate answer to the growth of Alliance. It gives the chance for more members to be involved in this work as well as helps to prepare new members to take a position in EC in future. It helps information flow and facilitates feedback between EC and member organisations. All in all, it helps maintaining working democracy in Alliance. To strengthen the role of WGs

coordinators in the future EC proposes to appoint them at the GA.

From the EC point of view activities of WGs should target the <u>real needs of Alliance members</u>, not the participants of WGs. To bring more clarity to this issue EC proposes to set up a tasks or fields of activities for each Alliance WG. This document is brought to GA for discussion and adoption. EC believes that the approval of such document will help internal and external management of the WGs, which is still far from ideal, and that it will be a new step in improving management of the Alliance.

Following the decisions of the previous GA Alliance started to implement actively a **new membership policy** aimed at having in the future partner and hopefully member organisations in <u>all European countries</u>. This is not a simple task, and it is too early to report a success. But the process has started, some new contacts have been made. New Alliance booklet done by Alliance Publication Assistant, Darja Sudarenko of EstYES is certainly of a help. You will have more details on this in ADC report.

Past year Alliance Secretariat had only two positions: Alliance Administrative Assistance (AAA), hosted by Alternative-V, and Alliance Financial Assistant (AFA), hosted by Treasurer organisation, Jeunesse Reconstruction. Such EC decision - not to have more position than those two - was determined by the financial situation (administrative grant given to Alliance was lower than last year) and by increased tasks of AAA, which lead to the increase of working hours and consequently the payment. More detailed report on Secretariat will be given by General Secretary and Treasurer. I just want to make one point. Even being generally satisfied with the work of Secretariat, I personally believe that in the future (perhaps near future) Alliance should have only one full time position in the Secretariat - a Secretary - running administrative tasks, including bank transfers and some accounting. This will be an adequate answer to the growth of technical and administrative tasks in Alliance, and this is a way to ensure that the work is done. Finally, approaching its XXVth anniversary, Alliance is mature enough to have one full time staff hosted by one of the member organisations or being outsourced.

Cooperation between members of Alliance is usually quite successfully done by the members themselves. Nevertheless, there is a section with this name in the Plan of Action. It traditionally includes the **introductory session for newcomers** at TM, traditionally done by SDWG. Perhaps in the future this session should give newcomers more knowledge about the Alliance as a cooperative network.

Staff development meeting on exchanges was not organised this year at TM as there was no real need for it as well as no time. But it is certainly planned to have one at Alliance Day in November. Staff Development WG should work more on the content of it in the consultation with other members to reflect better the real interests and meet the wishes of members.

Staff Development WG had also a task to develop **new methods and create new opportunities** for the evaluation of season. This is a task, where more members of Alliance should be involved. Since SDWG was not very active this year it is hard to see the result now. But there is a hope that new methods will be used at Alliance Day on 7.11. As for new opportunities, I believe we can rely on initiative of members proposing new training events and possibilities for meetings.

Unfortunately, **Alliance Pool of Trainers** is still not created. It does not mean at all that Alliance does not have trainers. On the contrary, over 5-6 years of running Training for Trainers events Alliance may easily have 100 trained young people. It is just that we need to to collect information about them, create the list, and have database on the website. To me this is a task for the future Secretariat rather than for TNWG, although the help of latter is needed in getting the information.

By the way, some say that Alliance has nothing to offer to these trainers. But just look at the number of international events hosted by the Alliance members within our network and outside it! I do not think it will be a problem to find a job for these people.

The whole area of **information and communication** remains the difficult one for the Alliance. After hard talks at last GA and some important decisions about communication,

information flow, transparency we believe that situation has improved. Still it is far from being ideal, and EC with Secretariat has a lot to work on. It mainly concerns informing members about work of EC, decisions taken, calls and proposals Alliance received, etc. Naturally Alliance Website should be a handy tool for it. Current website is quite professional and could be potentially this tool. Unfortunately it is not owned by Alliance, and there is no real control over it due to rather unclear relation with the owner of this intellectual property. Such situation is not acceptable any longer. Therefore, the Alliance Managing Committee decided to bring to this GA a proposal to launch a call for creating a website owned by the Alliance and addressing the needs and wishes of members. Naturally, new website should be designed in the way that allows communication between intensive internal Alliance members. More details on the Alliance Website are given in the General Secretary's



Alliance Working Group

The work on **Alliance Guidebook** as well as **Alliance Newsletters** was abandoned due to the lack of time and financial resources, and perhaps no real interest of members to have a result of this work.

Alliance can be proud of its achievements in the area of **External Relations**. The details of it will be given in the report on External Activities and of ERC. I can just tell that the points from Plan of Action are fulfilled: the work to formalize the cooperation framework agreements with **regional networks** has started and **Liaison Committee** of voluntary service organisations in Europe was

launched under initiative of the Alliance. Besides, Alliance was very well represented in the European Youth Forum and its bodies, maintained good working relations with NVDA, a regional network in Asia, as well as with SCI and YAP, sister networks active in Europe. Relations with CCIVS are concrete and constructive. Alliance External Relations became active, dynamic. We keep a stable dialogue with the European Commission, which is our main partner for funding, as well as with other funding bodies like EYF, EYC, and ASEF. This all achieved thanks to the efforts of External Relations Committee and its coordinator Roman Kuehn of VJF, Vice President on External Relations Marcela Holicka of INEX, Alliance Plenipotentiary Francois Ribaud of Etudes et Chantiers, and other Alliance representatives at various meetings.

What is the practical outcome for Alliance and for each member from this work? Well, sometimes it is not seen, often it gives something practical years later. Still, it should be obvious that proper representation improves (or creates) public image of Alliance, which is important for the fruitful cooperation with other networks (and we have it more and more through common seminars, invitations to the events of other networks) and especially for the good relations with the funders, on which many Alliance events and projects depend. It is very important to clearly present and stand for Alliance interests doing lobby work. This time we have a very good example of it: having the invitation through the European Youth Forum we could take part in the several rounds of consultations about new Youth in Action program, where we managed to change some regulations or include parts according to the Alliance vision (e.g. short term voluntary service starting from 2 weeks, role of the EVS sending organisations in preparation and following the volunteer, and more flexibility on inclusion projects). Being recognized for inclusion work in EVS Alliance has been invited several times to various promotional events, training activities, consultations, and conferences by European Commission.



Technical Meeting 2006, Borzée (Belgium)

Another example of success in external contacts is ASEF's invitation to the Alliance to run the **Asia-European Training for Trainers**, which will take place in Korea in December 2006 and will be hosted by IWO, Alliance Asian member. This call came as the recognition of Alliance experience in TfT events in the past and for the work we do in Asia through our members and in cooperation with NVDA. Alliance is also invited to work together with ASEF on the concept of Euro-Asian training and to establish **Euro-Asian Trainers' Pool**, which could be an interesting work for us for the next years.

What should be the priorities for External Relations in future? Besides maintaining the relations we have already with our traditional partners and working on better visibility of Alliance it might be also to study existing funding opportunities to support Alliance work, its events and projects. Another field of application is surely cooperation with the regional networks. Could Alliance play a role in helping numerous Russian voluntary service organisations create a sort of a regional platform?

In this report I cannot leave unmentioned the work of the **Alliance EC** in 2006. To be honest, it was not easy from the very beginning, when the new EC came into action after the Athens GA was finished in November 2005. Some EC members were less involved in the work than it should be normally, certainly due to many good personal or professional reasons we all have. Too short transition period left to one treasurer to pass his work to another one and as a result too long training period of the new treasurer did not really

help to follow financial issues and have full clarity on it. Recent situation with participation fees for GA is an obvious example of it. To avoid such problems in the future EC proposes changes in the Constitution and Standing Orders setting up a transition period when passing core positions in Alliance EC from a current EC member to the newly elected organisation. From our point of view it will help secure smooth transfer of information, knowledge and practices from one EC member to the new one and to maintain good level of professionalism and continuity in the EC.



The Alliance Guide book

Although we certainly encourage organisations to stand for EC positions, we at the same time suggest to think twice about their own capacity in terms of knowledge of the field and the Alliance, as well as time available for more and more demanding Alliance duties. We would also like to remind that a position in the EC is carried by a member organisation represented by an individual, and that this individual needs a great deal of support from his/her organisation to carry out the EC tasks. And it is after all the organisation that is responsible to the Alliance for the performance of these tasks.

Still certain difficulties in the work of EC did not influence that much the life of Alliance, as you can see from this report. And this is very good! It demonstrates that the Alliance does not depend on its EC only, but very much on its members. Alliance is healthy and strong as long as its members are healthy and strong. Alliance's success is based on active membership, not on centralized actions planned and run by the supreme body. The Alliance is an organisation for its members, but also by its members. This Constitutional paragraph has to be kept in mind when planning activities for the next year. There is no idea to impose on members something, which is far from their real interests and needs. And Alliance work in 2006, reflected in this report, is a good prove of it. But what are the current needs of members? Can we identify common needs at all? What is actually the main reason for organisations to join the Alliance? What do they expect from the network?

I hope the GA will answer these questions, which will help Alliance make good plans for the coming year, a year of the XXVth anniversary of our network.



EC meeting, August 2006, Rome (Italy)

At the end of this report I want to thank sincerely all the organisations and individuals who made another year of the Alliance helping realise our plans in 2006 – hosts of events and projects, members of preparation teams, coordinators and participants of working groups, Alliance representatives at various meetings, appointed persons, Secretariat, and EC members.

Aleksandr Kurushev President of the Alliance

General Secretary's Report 2006

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;
- work of the Alliance secretariat
- improving internal communication especially after the decision about information dissemination;
- working on the Alliance website;
- implementation of the MC and the working methods of working groups
- event & project management

The work of the General Secretary was done in co-operation with the Alliance close 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 cooperation 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. I would like to thank her personally for her personal contribution to the Alliance and of course Alternative-V for hosting this secretariat position.



Torsten Löser, Alliance General Secretary

0. introduction:

I have been working as the Alliance General Secretary since 2003. Together with the AAA I would say that the daily work is done very well and with the experience of the last years we have a kind of routine to work on this task.

For me the most important thing is that the EC is working as a collective body that mean that every member is trying to make a contribution to the common work. I must say that I missed this sometimes. Because of different reasons not all EC members were involved in the EC work so that maybe some of us were overloaded with work. This is in my opinion even important for every organisation, which is thinking about standing for an EC position. There should be enough capacity to be an EC member. After this year I would also say that every organisation, which is standing for a core position should be aware that there is enough capacity to transfer knowledge about the Alliance to the person. The EC has only few meeting to come together, and we have a real need to concentrate on the current tasks, so it might be helpful if people are not absolutely new on this issue or if the organisation can support them. On the other hand, we saw the need to bring the point of "transition period" for core positions in the EC after the experiences we had this year. I would like to thank here Francois Ribaud and UNAREC for their support to us on this topic.

Generally, I had a very good feeling inside the EC. We had productive meetings, and we were able to solve most of the "problems" inside the Alliance in a more or less efficient and constructive way. After two years of experience with changes in the Constitution I see the necessity for the Alliance to come back more to the needs of its members – and that means that the members should announce more clearly what are their wishes are for the priorities of the Alliance work.

In my opinion, Alliance members should concentrate more on our rules. I have been in a workcamp this year in Iceland, and after it I would

say that we should work more on trends and developments in the area of workcamps: participants, projects, finances, leaders, preparation, etc. I see a real need to do this.

The second part of our work should be to assist members to be more qualified on some topics, for instance: trainings, funding, etc.

Sometimes I had the feeling that the EC/MC/WG and the members are on different planets.

As all the functions in the EC, the work of the General Secretary is done voluntarily. Of course I try to do my best to fulfill my task as well as possible. But it happened that I was not present some days/weeks because of my job. I hope it did not create any problems for the members.

A. Alliance Secretariat

In the last years we changed the meaning of the 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 the members' active contributions (executive responsibilities, regular development tasks or occasional missions).

They are achieved by specific staff members from the 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 liked 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), we decided that this management is more adapted to the capacity of the Alliance and its members. Members are very active in taking

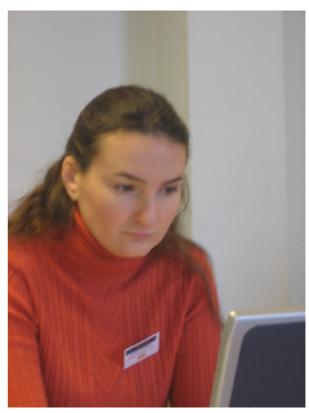
responsibilities that would be difficult if the Alliance was acting as a federation.

This light management is adapted to our present development and maintains the Alliance as an efficient and friendly "cooperative network". This point was confirmed during the General Assembly in 2003.

During the last years we had the following secretariat positions:

- Alliance Administrative Assistant
- Alliance Financial Assistant and
- Alliance Publications Assistant.

The GA decided to keep in any case the Alliance Administrative Assistant and the Alliance Financial Assistant. During the EC and MC meetings we discussed the needs and the possibilities to have Assistants. The EC decided because of the financial situation in 2006 only to have the Alliance Administrative Assistant and the Alliance Financial Assistant.



Lesya Verheijen, Alliance Administrative Assistant

I want to apologise to Alternative-V in this situation, because we needed more than half a year in order to make this decision and to finalise the agreement with Alternative-V - which is unacceptable.

This year the AAA agreement was increased by 10% (by 0.75 actual hours a week). At the same time, the number of the AAA tasks was also increased, following the direction confirmed by the members at the plenary meeting in Borzee. Thus, this year AAA carried out the following tasks:

- 1) the same as in the previous year:
- administrative support to the work of the EC (mainly the General Secretary);
- preparation and distribution of the GA materials, including the minutes;
- distribution of relevant information to and among the Alliance members;
- managing the daily Alliance's correspondence in connection with the Alliance's official email address (including requests from organisations and individuals, distribution of calls and information to the members) the workload related to this tasks is ever-increasing.

2) new tasks:

- participation in the EC meeting, EO GA and plenary meeting in Borzee;
- preparation of draft minutes and decision lists for these meetings;
- preparation of the draft minutes and decision list of the EC August meeting;
- preparation of the GA decision list.

The AAA was also instrumental in the implementation of the experiment on information dissemination, whereby in January and Februrary 2006 all the relevant Alliance incoming correspondence was uploaded to the Alliance intranet.

At the same time the task of collecting the statistics and support in preparation of the administrative grant application was transferred to the AFA (that has smaller workload this year due to fewer activities).

The EC sees a need to improve the work of the secretariat and to come to one staff member

to work really as administrative support for the EC (including administrative and financial issues). We would be happy to get a feedback from members about it.

Internal Communication

At the last GA we had a discussion and a decision about new methods of internal communication. We decided about information dissemination and created some regulations. Now we have one year of experience with this. First of all, I want to say it was very helpful for the EC to have some concrete actions to do when we inform the members. One good example is the decision list. At the beginning we were not sure about how to do and how to use it, but it also helped us to ask ourselves: "What was the decision?". I know that we are not perfect at it yet, we work on it, and make the decision lists better, especially easier to understand.



Alliance Decision process

We also tried to inform member fast about external representations and even about the content of our meetings. But I also have to say that there are limits: time, capacity. Again, I said we are six volunteers doing this, so sometimes other things are more critical.

B. Alliance website

For the reasons known to everybody this was a difficult part of the General Secretary's work this year. As agreed by the last General Assembly the EC started to work on a proposal for a new website. The EC prepared a document that we will discuss here.

A website for the Alliance is more or less only needed as an instrument to change information and to have a tool for our communication. And of course we want to have a tool to present the Alliance to our partners and funders. So I think we agree that there is no need for a website, which is targeted at volunteers directly.

The EC hopes that we can decide this here and work on it after the GA.

C. Management Committee and working groups

The Management Committee is a good support and help for the EC. The three meetings gave us the possibility to share opinion, to have more people present, and to have a communication about different topics. Now we are clearer what are the tasks and responsibilities of the MC. We will prepare a proposal about this issue for the next GA in 2007. Even if more people are present it was never a problem to come to a result. What we missed sometimes is following our own decisions, and I would also say sometimes the coherency between decisions and actions.



Active Alliance members

Working groups is a more difficult chapter. First of all: Having different working groups shows that the Alliance is an active network where members like to be involved in the life of the network. On the other hand, we have to be careful not to become so active and independent that we get lost in our own life

That means: Working groups should be aware that their work is linked to the decided Plan of Action of the GA, and that they should not create totally different things. They need effective and regular communication with shared tasks responsibilities. It means also: If I am appointed as a member of a working group I should have in mind it means that I have also the responsibility to take part in the working group life and activities. Sometimes for the EC it was quite hard to follow activity of the working groups. That is why we think it is time to improve the structure of the working groups and especially to be aware of clear decisions of the GA about the working groups and the topics they should work on. This is also the reason why we propose that the MC should really be involved in the process of creating the Plan of Action.

D. Event and project management

If you really like to get lost sometimes in the Alliance you should take the responsibility for an event or a project. You will find active and creative hosts, surprising funders, and members asking everything...

To be honest: We are working on many different projects and events, smaller and bigger, but we have no regulations who is doing what, who is coordinating things, and what our tasks and responsibilities are. I will not repeat the stories we had this year and the colourful mix of things that happened, but the EC prepared a document to give this work more structure and make it clear what there is to do and how to coordinate this process. We need a clear description. I hope the members will support our ideas.

Torsten Löser Alliance General Secretary

Report on External Activities 2006

Throughout the year, external relations were monitored by the Vice-president for external relations supported by the External Relations Committee together with the Executive Committee. In November 2005 in Athens, Greece *INEX Slovakia* was reelected for a position of the Vice-president for external relations with a 2-year mandate.

Within the scope of activities carried out by the **European Youth Forum** (EYF) we participated in the *Council of Members* in November 2005 in Brussels, Belgium and in April 2006 in Prato, Italy, where strategic and organisational issues of youth policy were discussed. The Alliance has not paid membership fee on time (due to confusion caused by the change on position of treasurer) and consequently lost its voting rights. The Alliance paid the dept, but the voting rights have not been reestablished yet. This issue will be settled during the General Assembly planned to take place in Vilnius, Lithuania in November 2006, where the Alliance will be represented by two delegates.

Throughout this year, EYF requested its members to define priorities in order to create common Strategic priorities of the EYF 2007-2012. The Alliance has contributed with its definition of priority areas (social inclusion, non-formal education, mobility, participation of the EYF in decision-making bodies and lobbying towards institution partners) to this effort. All these contributions were included into EYF strategic document concerning the priorities and plan of action of EYF.

A great success has been achieved by election of the Alliance, represented by Roman Kuehn of VJF, to **the Advisory Council of Youth of the Council of Europe**. He was elected during the CoM in Brussels in November 2005 for period of three years.

A shift in the area of development of external relations has been established by participation in several **meetings** of strategic importance.

In December 2005 we took part in the *Mobility* seminar in Russia organised by the European Youth Forum where strategies for reducing and

removing obstacles in youth mobility were discussed. Creation of the web portal for support of and problem-solving related to this issue was one of the seminar's outcomes.



Roman Kühn & Marcela Holicka, members of Alliance External Relations Committee

In February 2006 we attended two important meetings in Tournai, Belgium. First Liaison **committee** meeting for international voluntary service, where representatives of SCI (Service International), **CCIVS** (Co-ordinatig Committee for International Voluntary Service), the Alliance and ICYE (International Cultural Youth Exchange) met in order to develop this initiative. Three aims of this Liaison committee were defined: 1. Ease permanent information; 2. Improve cooperation concerning international voluntary service; 3. Explore or plan joint actions. The Alliance, represented by the Vice president for external relations, was mandated to manage among the involved communication organisations. We are aware that more effort should be made concerning this issue.

The Alliance was also invited to the *Global* coordination meeting of voluntary service organisations, organised by CCIVS; different regional international networks attended this meeting. Meeting was focused on sharing information and establishing contacts.

The Alliance was also represented at the *Conference "Networking Asian and European Young Volunteers"*, which toke place in Vietnam in June 2006.

We also received an invitation to the *Global* networking Conference of International Voluntary Service in Japan in October 2006. This event is a follow-up of the *Global* coordination meeting of voluntary service organisations.

We participated in the *Training for Trainers* organised by the YEU (Youth for Exchange and Understanding) in cooperation with 4 exchange INGOs (Internationl non-governmental organisations) in CEULAJ – Eurolatinamerican Youth Centre located in Mollina, Spain.

The Alliance was active in the process of commenting on the proposed programme *Youth in Action* and took part in meetings dedicated to this issue that were organised by EYF.

The Alliance has been active in communication with **ASEF** (Asia - Europe Foundation) and managed to establish closer cooperation in preparation of the *Training of Trainers* with Asian and European participation. Realization of this training was complicated by rejection of the Action 5 application submitted by the appointed host organisation (INEX Slovakia), which eventually resigned from hosting this event because of lack of financial resources. At the moment of writing of this report (October 2006), this situation has not been resolved yet. We hope that hosting of this meeting will be taken over by some other organisation.



Representatives of Alliance and NVDA



Alliance & CCIVS president, 2006

Even though we can see improvement of external relations area, we also feel the need for further building of relationships with partner networks, organisations and other bodies. We acknowledge the fact, that in order to improve these relations, lobbying both on regional and international level is necessary. This process has to be continuous and carried out according to the precisely build and deployed strategy. For success of this task the Alliance would need a team of external relations representatives having appropriate experience and knowledge available; contrasting the fact that the Alliance lacks optimally numbered staff in order to do so. We hope that we will be able to enlarge team of representatives with support of member organisations of the Alliance.

Marcela Holicka

Inex Slovakia (Vice President for External Relations)

Alliance Development Committee report

Meetings of the Committee:

Since the last GA in Athens there was a long meeting in Paris (January) warmly hosted by Concordia.

We met a second time in Borzee right before the TM (2 days).

We met a third time in Castelnaudary (warmly hosted by Annick and Gerhard) one day before and after the Management Committee (June)

What we had to do

1/ search for new partner organisations, especially in those European countries where the Alliance does not have members or partners (Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria, Cyprus, etc.) and strengthen the Alliance from the inside.

We have continued sending information about the Alliance and on how to start organising international workcamps with our support to some potential partners given by members: Latvia, Moldova, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Slovenia, Ireland, Portugal, Egypt, and Ireland.

IBG presented the Alliance and International workcamps during Action 5 seminars in Sweden and Slovenia; contacts were established with several organisations potentially interested in the Alliance (Slovenia, Sweden, Norway, and Portugal).

A large Scale project was planned by the EC with the support of our Committee; the application was finally not done.



IBG Action 5 seminar in Germany on

IBG hosted an Action 5 seminar on "How to organise International Voluntary Service in groups" (September). The ADC was present in the Training Team, assisted by the A4A. A large place was dedicated to the Alliance ("newcomers session"), to its priorities (accessibility, quality of projects, and partnerships) and to its tools (Alliance Guidebook, the "Booklet", and the A4A video).

We had an opportunity to invite new potential organisations. Two of them took part in this seminar. We had then the chance to meet them and things are in process.

2 / work on the "management committee" structure

Our Committee has been largely present to every MC it has been invited to (March, June).

For us the last MC (June) was a big success particularly because most of the WG coordinators took the opportunity to work together on a common perspective for the Alliance. The working times of EC and WG were sometimes separated, which was a good idea

It was – in our opinion – an important step in the communication within the Alliance (information dissemination).

3/ check deeply the "rules" of **working groups** and make things clearer

We were asked by the EC to give our opinion and proposals... which we did.

Christoph Meder (IBG), Alliance Development Committee Coordinator and Marie Jean Dupuis (UNAREC), Alliance Development Committee Reporter

[&]quot;How to organise International Voluntary Service in groups"

Access4All Working Group Report

The Access for All working group continued working in the development of new strategies for the inclusion of people with less possibilities in international workcamps all around the world. In the previous years, these exchanges were financed by the EVS Short term programme, inside the Youth Programme of the European Commission, but in 2006, without the possibility of getting European funds, the working group, according to the decision of EO GA in Borzeé, has implemented an Action based in the same objectives as the EVS Short term: Accessing workcamps. This campaign has been taking place during the summer, and the evaluation is going to be done during a WG meeting before the GA in Paris. Another important point is that we are going to work together with our sister networks on a new European Commission financed project based on the inclusion in workcamps.



A4AllWG Coordinator, Loreto Sanz on work

These are the main actions the A4AWG has been involved in and will be in the next months:

- Paris, November'05. Partnership for Inclusion seminar, organised by the French National Agency about inclusion of youngsters with less opportunities in the Youth Programme. Alliance was presented with 5 Alliance representatives.
- Collaboration with Alliance Plenipotentiary (François Ribaud, Unarec) on updating the new Youth in Action Programme and in the Youth Forum consultation seminars.
 - Accessing Workcamps Action. Decision taken and agreed at the EO General Assembly during the TM in Belgium. A list of accessible workcamps has been created in April with all the accessing places open for people with less opportunities, not only youngsters. There were 12 organisations involved (including 2 from outside Europe, impossible with EVS Short term) and 90 places available. The action has not been evaluated yet.

Belgium, April'06. **3nets for Peace seminar**. Meeting between the different organisations of the three voluntary networks: Alliance, YAP and SCI to exchange inclusion practices on the voluntary workcamps. A4AWG sent a delegation of 7 persons. It was agreed to organise a new seminar and to create a Group EVS project on inclusion.

Future **3 nets seminar** will take place on December 7-11, hosted by Unarec and the three networks will work together to write a **new proposal** of Groups EVS for the new YiA 2007-2013.

Loreto Sanz (Legambiente), Access 4 All Working Group Coordinator

External Relations Committee report

Roman Kühn took part in the Council of members of the European Youth Forum in November 2004 in Belgium. Roman Kühn was elected for the Alliance to the Advisory Council of Youth of the Council of Europe (AC).

Therefore he went to a training session from the 18th to the 19th of February in the EYC in Strasbourg, where an introduction of the Advisory Council was given.

The first meeting of the AC took place from the 1st to the 3rd of March. Positions within the AC were filled. Roman Kühn is responsible for monitoring the partial agreement between the European Youth Card Association and the CoE. Furthermore he will join the youth policy review of Hungary next year. The next meeting of the AC will take place from the 2nd to the 4th of October.

The next meeting of the European Youth Forum took place in April 2005 in Prato, Italy, in which Roman Kühn took part.

The main means of communication was the internet, we discussed issues relevant for the external representation. This was not a big problem as we were just three people left in the group.

We still share 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. We therefore produced a priority paper which will be presented to you.

Roman Kühn (VJF), External Relations Committee Coordinator

Staff Development Working Group report

The mission of the SDWG was designed in the 2006 plan of action as below:

Write a plan of action and send to EC	Done
Send a warning to all organisations before the TM about the presentation of their camps on the CD or disc	Done
Run 2 newcomers session at the TM, 1 for ALLIANCE members & 1 for the partners.	Done
Encourage the members to use the ALLIANCE WEB site	

As the budget was limited, group size was big and no need occured to have a meeting, the SDWG members contacted and consulted each other by emails.

According to the Plan of Action 2006, a warning has been sent to all TM participants, including the

partners, in order to guide them to prepare their camp programs in ALLIANCE standards. It was expected that member and partner organisations coming to the TM would follow the recommendations given out by the mailing. The result was relatively positive. Next year SDWG will do the same guiding.

During the TM 2006 two Newcomers' sessions were held by the SDWG. This was to introduce the Alliance for the first time participants. This is a regular information session which is held in all the Alliance meetings for the first time participants.

SDWG agreed to collect information, comments and proposals from the members before the GA concerning the common working methods, exchanges and office works of the incoming-outgoing staff. The collected information was used at the Alliance Day for the season evaluation session.

Zafer Yilmaz (Genctur), Staff Development WG Coordinator

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.



Alliance guests from Asia and Africa

The main work of the North/South Working Group this year was to concentrate on the production of a 'preparation kit' that could be used by Alliance members involved in North/South exchanges. Originally this had been viewed as a collection of training materials but at our meeting in Paris in January it gained a wider focus to involve all aspects of North/South exchanges, from selecting partners, preparation, exchanges, to evaluation.

The kit was not intended to be a strict guideline for members, but rather a collection of materials and examples of best practise from organisations involved and experienced in North/South exchanges. Its specific format had not completely been decided, but it was felt that a dynamic format (such as a CD) that could be updated and added to would be more preferable to a static format, such as a guidebook.

Within the group at the time, it was felt that excellent work had been done and there was a lot of energy to continue what we felt would be a really useful resource, especially for those Alliance organisations with not so much experience in North/South exchanges.

Unfortunately, since the TM, we have not progressed any further with the prereparation kit. I would like to reiterate that I think there is the potential for a really useful resource, and a lot of information has already been collected.

Helen Bartlett (Concordia UK) NSWG Co-ordinator

Training Needs WG report

The working group focused on two main goals in 2006:

Support for Action 5 training

At the TM it was decided that INEX Slovakia will host a TfT using an Action 5 grant. After that ASEF suggested that the Alliance and ASEF organized the training together, ASEF would pay 50% of the training, and the training would be for both European and Asian participants. The TNWG suggested that we accepted the offered and the EC agreed. The TNWG and INEX Slovakia cooperated on the application, but unfortunately we were unsuccessful. It has now been agreed that IWO will host the training with support from ASEF.



Study Session

Last years application was successful and the Alliance held a study session at the European Youth Center, the report from the study session will be available at the GA.

We have completed an application for new a study session which would take place in early 2007, the topic for the study session is intercultural learning. We got positive feedback on the application, but were told that due to lack of funds they could not support it in the first half of 2007. Depending on the funds the study session might be supported in the second half of 2007.



6. The future of the working group

Our plans are to:

- Support for the TfT hosted by IWO in December 2006
- Support for the study session in the second half of 2007 if it is approved
- Support an application for a new study session funded by the European Youth Center in the beginning of 2008
- Support an application for an Action 5 grant to support an Alliance Training for Trainers (if an organisation willing to host he event is found)

Dines Justesen (MS Denmark) TNWG coordinator & reporter The activities of the Alliance are arranged to support and develop the programmes and interests of members.

In 2006 the largest events of the Alliance were:

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.

1-7 March, 2006: hosted by Compagnons Batisseurs, Belgium in Borzee **127 participants**

The Extraordinary General Assembly in March was the extraordinary statutory meeting of the Alliance – it was convened with the specific aim of reviewing membership applications of COCAT (Spain) and Union Forum (Ukraine).

3 March, 2006: hosted by Compagnons Batisseurs, Belgium in Borzee **75 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 2006: hosted by Jeunesse et Reconstruction, France in Marly le Roi
61 participants

Alliance Study Session 2006 Voluntary service in conflict areas;

International workcamps as an instrument of conflict resolution and peace building Strasburg, France, 5-12 February, 2006

It has been the 6th Study Session of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, since 2000.

The aim of the study session was: to study the notion of conflict and different approaches of dealing with it in the context of voluntary service emphasizing possibilities and limits of workcamps; and to work on the importance of Intercultural Learning in the frame of conflict resolution.

In order to implement this aim into the programme of the study session, the team set the following **objectives**:

- to define and to explore the notion of "conflict" and different approaches of dealing with the conflict
- to look at the history of voluntary service and original aims of workcamps
- to share examples, practices and experiences in dealing with conflicts
- to learn tools and strategies of dealing with conflicts for use in the voluntary service and workcamps in particular
- to work on a follow-up (on individual, organisational and institutional /Alliance/ levels)

Additionally to these objectives the notion of conflict areas was defined as an area of conflict on different levels: geographical, cultural, historical, inter- and intrapersonal conflicts. This meant that the focus of the study session lay not only on geographical conflict areas like the Balkans, Israel, Palestine or Africa. Therefore, the whole world has been identified as areas of conflict, in which international voluntary service can make a difference.

The title of our Alliance Study Session marks a challenging working field for most of our member organisations. Many member organisations are strongly connected with the historical development of international voluntary service, since they were founded. And therefore they are experienced and competent in voluntary service in conflict areas. For others, this topic is still a new and unknown area. As diverse as the Alliance member organisations are, as diverse are also the experiences in the field of conflict areas.

Important results have been achieved regarding the objectives of the study session; regarding future projects and the Action Plan; regarding a follow-up.

We conclude on the following results:

- 1. The objectives, which were set for the study session, were clearly reflected and applied in the programme. This approach met the expectations and needs of the participants.
- 2. The personal interest of participants, their active participation in discussions and sessions and their high motivation to work on the action plan and a follow-up proved that the current topic is relevant and topical for member organisations of the Alliance.
- 3. "Conflict Areas" have been defined by the participants regarding their understanding, approach and involvement within this topic.
- 4. Regarding interests of the Alliance organisations and profile of the participants of the seminar, the notion of "conflict areas" as it was stated in the topic of the study session got a broader approach: the programme did not focus on the "conflict area" as a particular geographic area, but rather studied the notion of "areas of conflicts" on different levels
- 5. Through a variety of methods and activities the participants experienced different ways to deal with and understand the meaning of "conflicts" better. Besides theoretical inputs of the programme they had time and space to share personal experiences of being involved in different areas of conflicts. This helped the group to deepen their knowledge about possible consequences of conflicts of different nature/happening on different levels.

Alliance Post Camp Event 2006 When East meets West

Yerevan, Armenia, 6-13 January, 2006 hosted by HUJ Armenia

Participants: 31 young people from the Alliance member organizations (HUJ Armenia, IBG Germany, IWO Korea, INEX-Slovakia, FIYE Poland, UNA-Exchange, LYVG Georgia, LYVS Belarus, Afsai Italy, SIW The Netherlands, Grenzenlos Austria, Jeunesse et Reconstruction France, Genctur Turkey), volunteers, campleaders, and trainers.

Aims:

HUJ organized the Alliance General Conference 2004 in Yerevan with the theme "International Voluntary Service as means of effective cooperation of youth of Post -Soviet countries and the countries of the European Union". The theme of the PCE 2005 "When East meets the West" was planned as a follow-up of the General Conference and was focused on establishing common framework for youth exchanges between East and West based on historical and cultural background. Volunteers tried to look for and exchange new methods, proposal and ideas.

Objectives:

- § Preparing volunteers for teamwork and further participation activities;
- § To define the main problems of cultural differences that can be faced during the workcamp;
- § To point out the role of the individual in the workcamp and to emphasize the efficiency of the group cooperation;
- § To identify the role of the campleader;
- § To define how to create a solid ground for the relationship between East and West in order to avoid misunderstanding;
- § Resolution of conflicts that can be raised in the workcamps
- § To enlarge the vision and understanding about global East-West co-operation in general;

Results of the PCE 2006 and hints for PCE 2007:

Plans for future of the group of PCE 2006:

- "Family newspaper" everyone of the group will write every 6 months information about his life, changes and new involvements and send them to Sunny, who will prepare newspapers to distribute to everybody;
- "Conference list" mailing list was be made to share information on interesting seminars, conferences and other events;
- "Booklet on Armenia" Myrthe will compile this booklet out of our opinions, thoughts and impressions on stay in Armenia. The booklet will serve as one of the sources of information for new volunteers coming to Armenia;
- "EVS manual" it would be nice, but we cannot take responsibility for it, if EVS volunteers living in Armenia would make kind of manual for new coming EVS to get them read for different culture and habits;
- "Topic for PCE 2007" VOLUNTEERING IN THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNES with two subtitles: Voluntary service in conflict areas; International workcamps as an instrument of conflict resolution and peace building Voluntary service in conflict areas; International workcamps as an instrument of conflict resolution and peace building "What is it?" and "How do we promote it".

Alliance General Conference 2006 Impact of projects on youth citizenship education

Marly le Roi (Paris), France, 7-12 November, 2006 hosted by Jeunesse et Reconstruction

The Alliance General Conference organised by Jeunesse et Reconstruction (France) gathered 55 participants, from 14 organisations, members of Alliance and other networks. The debates were led by Ion OLTEANU, President of the Romanian organisation Master Forum (in charge of organising youth Municipal Councils, for the promotion of democratic practice among youth in Romania).

This project is in the frame of the campaign "All equal, all different" since the aims are related to the cultural diversity and involvement of youth in the citizenship, and cultural diversity and intercultural learning in our activities, which take place on the local level. The campaign was presented on the first day, and for this purpose we use the materials provided by EYF.

Aims of the meeting:

- the meeting allowed participants to create common tools for the promotion of education to citizenship,
- to give our leading teams means to impact on youth participating in our activities, and raise among them awareness on their role in society,
- To create tools to promote the values born by voluntary service movement among the youth, so that they acquire knowledge of how to take an active part in society (as individual, as group).

Main programme elements, their contents / working methods:

Main elements:

The programme mainly focused on the following questions, related to active citizenship:

- Creation of common working tools, to be used by our leading teams on the workcamps,
- The role of voluntary service as a starting point for active participation of youth in society,
- Reflection on the working methods to implement, in order to achieve the goals of our actions towards youth,
- Role of our organisations in the process of non-formal education of the youth.

Working methods:

We used all members' previous experience by actively involving them in the conference. Open space discussions, working groups and plenary, lectures and audiovisual presentations were used. All speakers were invited to get involved with formal and non-formal training through their personal and professional experience in the fields of Youth and Voluntarism.

Guests:

Alain CANONNE, from French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DGCID (General Direction for Cooperation and Development); Boyan Radoykov, UNESCO, programme specialist, youth and social development affairs; Philippe Cauche, member of Jeunesse and Reconstruction, economist, academic inspector; Philippe Sapin, coordinator of the organisation "Les volontariats"; Marc Genève, international relations in the organisation UCPA.

Visits of projects:

Emmaus Community (in Bougival) and French Association "Hors la Rue", Paris (supporting street children in Romania).

Evaluation

The 2006 Alliance General Conference allowed expression of the variety of experiences gathered among our members. Inputs by guests, and visits of projects enriched our reflection. Work carried by each participant was significant, and will be a benefit to all Alliance members.

Alliance Staff Training Seminar 2006 How to organise International Voluntary Service in groups

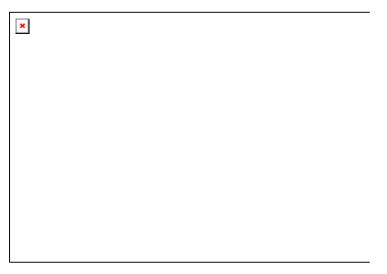
A seminar for new active members and staff of NGOs with a special focus on the integrative dimension of collective EVS Heidelberg, Germany, 27 September – 3 October, 2006 hosted by IBG, Germany

IBG hosted an Action 5 seminar on "How to organise International Voluntary Service in groups" with 31 participants from 12 different countries. This seminar was dedicated to "relatively" new active members or staff in workcamp organisations taking responsibility for the setting-up of the 2007 projects. The main contents have been:

- q International voluntary service: aims and objectives, different types
- q Basics for the organisation and preparation of VSP in groups
- Specific tasks to gain skills and experience on project management, as: setting up a project in cooperation with a local host; financing an international VSP; the partnership of sending and hosting organisation the Alliance; the role of the working project in voluntary service? (impact of work, type of work, etc.); different projects (teenager, families, etc.); campleaders / tutors; crisis management; associative life; tools for evaluation and documentation of IVSP; visibility and public dimension of IVSP: press, local population, etc.; inclusion of disadvantaged vols, tasks of campleaders, etc.
- q the new Youth in Action program, with a special focus on the new tool "group EVS"
- q the integration dimension of international workcamps and international voluntary service: why and how to involve young volunteers with less opportunities
- q work together on new project ideas (using the new tool group EVS) for 2007 and 2008

The seminar had a very full programme including role games, a long discussion with a local host of IBG (the mayor of Hirschhorn) on the question what local partners of workcamp organisations expect, what their interest and motivation is and what the impact on the local community can be.

The very heterogeneous background had the huge variety of skills and experiences were very challenging for the team of trainers. But in the end everybody was very satisfied and we hope that the outcome of the seminar will be that the quality of workcamps organised by these participants in 2007 will raise, that some new projects using the tool of group EVS will be set up and that the Alliance priority of accessing workcamps will be in the mind of more people taking responsibility in workcamp organisations.





3Nets for Inclusion Seminar

Clermont-Ferrand, France, 7-11 December, 2006 hosted by UNAREC

The Alliance, SCI, and YAP met in Clermont-Ferrand to work on the inclusion policy with regard to workcamps as a tool for international mobility for young people facing difficulties.

After 5 years of EVS workcamps/SPP project (1999-2004), the three networks started last year a common empowerment dynamic. Two seminars were run (Lille and Tournai). This third session aimed to:

- Present the EVS workcamps final evaluation (SCI study in progress);
- Finalise inclusion common tools for youth mobility in international voluntary service field;
- Prepare collective proposals for Youth in Action European programme (2007-2013).

This seminar was addressed to the Alliance, SCI or YAP members involved in international mobility actions for young volunteers with fewer opportunities. Participants took active part in debates and developing concrete actions. Each network organised their delegation (participants as network representatives). European, regional and local partners were invited to join us in order to be informed about our actions and share their views about international workcamps programmes.

We hope that this event will reinforce European cooperation among our organisations. Our ambition is to increase access of young people usually excluded from our intercultural peace actions to international voluntary work in general!

Partners in the seminar: 19 associations from Austria, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Estonia, France, UK, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, and Slovenia.

Participants: 19 persons, 9 from ALLIANCE, 5 from SCI, and 5 from YAP.

The prep-team was composed of 3 representatives of networks supported by the 3 heads of networks and 2 experts. One representative from the French Youth National Agency took part to the seminar.

This seminar was supported by the European Youth programme (Action 5, French Agency), regional grants and one private funding source (cooperative bank).



Euro-Asia Training for Trainers Developing Skills and Competences for Intercultural Dialogue

Seoul, South Korea, 9-15 December, 2006 hosted by IWO

The 2006 Asia-Europe Training for Trainers was co-organized by the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (Alliance), the International Workcamp Organization (IWO) and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). Asia-Europe Training for Trainers 2006 has been a pilot project initiated by the Asia-Europe Foundation, which approached the Alliance in April 2006 with a proposal of establishing partnership on Asia-Europe youth co-operation in the field of trainings. The Alliance has been running Trainings for Trainers (TfT) as annual events of high priority for the last six years, maintaining and improving certain know-how of this practice. The Alliance TfT's have been usually supported by the Council of Europe DYS / European Youth Foundation (2000-2004) and previously in the year 2005 - by an educational EU programme YOUTH, what excluded the opportunity for any non-EU Alliance member organisation to send participants. Having received the proposal from ASEF to become partners in organising the TfT with a focus on the Asia-Europe dimension, the Alliance decided to take this challenge. This would become the first step to foster more perspective developments in relations between the Alliance and ASEF. And it was the first Alliance event ever to be hosted in Asia!

The theme of the 2006 Asia-Europe TfT was 'Developing Skills and Competences for Intercultural Dialogue', targeting young activists from ASEM countries who are interested in becoming trainers and facilitators for running non-formal education activities. This TfT provided a platform for youth workers and trainers from different countries of Asia and Europe to meet, to interact with each other in the setting of the international environment, and to exchange opinions and ideas on intercultural learning and non-formal education.

The Asia-Europe dimension was explicitly present through various levels: both preparatory team and the group of participants were equally representing Asian and European youth. IWO as the hosting organisation welcomed six (6) trainers and in total twenty nine (29) participants, fifteen (15) from Europe and fourteen (14) from Asia. This compilation of the team and the target group has been a new experience for the Alliance training events.

Another innovative element of this project was a co-operation of the Alliance with the European Youth Forum (YFJ) in terms of involving a trainer from the YFJ Pool of Trainers as a member of the preparation team in order to support an educational process for both trainers and participants of the course. As a result of this request Nuno da Silva from Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) -another member organisation of the YFJ – joined the team. It has been a remarkable development in co-operation on a bigger scale, especially considering that the Alliance had an opportunity to be a partner of the YEU this year in October for the training about global education, which took place in Mollina, Spain.

To facilitate cooperation with CCIVS and capitalise from its various experiences world wide the President of CCIVS Mr Kaizawa was invited as a guest-speaker to TfT.

The main aims of the TfT were to provide participants with the basic skills and knowledge on training essentials in non-formal education connected with an Asia-Europe context. In order to achieve the aims of this year's TfT, the mainly used approach was non-formal learning philosophy, using diversity of different methods such as energisers, case studies, brainstorms, role plays, small-group discussions etc. Based on 'learning by doing' approach, the participants divided into small groups prepared a 2 hours' training sessions on different topics and performed it for other participants.

The methodology of the training was based on the principles and values of the non-formal education, taking into consideration objectives of the training, expectations of the organisers and specific profile of the participants. The first part of the training was dedicated to basic training components such as Intercultural Learning, group dynamics and training essentials. After a free afternoon in Seoul in the middle of the course, the participants got a chance to take over the responsibilities and roles of trainers. They prepared and ran own workshops on various topics they have chosen by themselves. This element of the programme simulated the trainer's reality, giving the

first experience for many participants to work in a team and facilitate a short workshop. The advantage of this simulation, that it takes place in a safe learning environment of the training. At the last day, the participants evaluated their workshops and discussed the opportunities to follow-up their experiences, as well as concluding some interesting facts about the Asia-Europe dimension in their co-operation during the event. Besides the co-operation with ASEF and the Youthforum, the TfT gave the opportunity to invite the president of CCIVS and a participant from the North-South-Centre of the Council of Europe. The last session of the TfT was dedicated to future co-operation of the participants and the different representatives of international organisations. The programme also contained activities aiming to facilitate the process of group development (i.e. 'ice-breaking' session, energisers, daily reflection groups), cultural exchanges (i.e. 'Intercultural Evening), trip to downtown of Seoul for discovering the Korean culture. The dynamic in the group was very positive and the participants managed to network with each other on a personal and organisational level beyond Asia-Europe dimension.

The TfT succeeded to let the group explore the topic of non-formal education and intercultural learning from the perspectives of Asia-Europe. They were highly interested to discover similarities and differences between Asia and Europe in terms of culture and non-formal education activities. Taking their high interest and motivation into account, this event will be a stable starting point to deepen Asia-Europe cooperation, to be concrete, to create Asia-Europe pool of trainers.

This TfT managed to successfully raise the awareness of participants, on the significance and methods of Asia-Europe cooperation in training field. Participants realised why and how to strengthen the bonds and exchanges between Asia and Europe in training and non-formal education field. This intercultural impact in their personal life, as well as the indirect impact in their community and organisations, certainly creates a solidarity feeling for these youth workers and future trainers.

A detailed and comprehensive report of this project, including description of the daily schedule as well as certain results of the sessions, in particular, ideas of the participants for possible follow-up activities, is to be produced and will be published online in the Alliance, the IWO and ASEF's websites.



Euro-Asisa Training for trainer in South Korea 2006

Plan of Action 2006 (realised)

Action 2006	Who	When	EC Monitoring	Status
Alliance Events and Projects				
Regular events:				
A) one Post Camp Event	HUJ	6 – 13 January		Done
B) one Technical Meeting	CBB	1 - 7 March	1 - 7 March GS	
C) one General Conference	JR	6 – 12 November	GS & JR	On process
Other events:				
 A) one study session prepare study session application for 2007 	ACD	5-12 February	GS T	Done
Projects:				
a) Prepare future Collective EVS action (as a follow up of EVS Workcamps)	Access 4 All WG & UNAREC	Throughout the year	VP	On process
b) Prepare common project for senior volunteers (as a	EstYES	Throughout	Р	Postponed
follow up of the Still active project)	& Lunaria	the year		·
c) Apply for a publication project	T & WG	Throughout the year		Abandoned
d) Apply for a large scale project	ADC	Throughout the year	Throughout AM	
run preparatory Action 5 seminar	ADC	September 2006	AM	Done
2. Management of the Alliance				
a) Experiment new operational methods of the working groups	VP	Throughout the year	VP	On process
b) Implement the new Alliance membership policy	EC & ADC	Throughout the year	GS	On process
c) evaluate current tasks and future needs of the Alliance's European secretariat 3. Co-operation between members	GS	Throughout the year	GS	On process
a) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.	SDWG	March, TM	Р	Done
b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve exchanges programmes	SDWG	TM & GC		Planned
c) To create an Alliance Pool of Trainers	TNWG	Throughout the year	VP	Not started
d) To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners 4. Information and communication	SDWG	Throughout the year	VP	Started
a) Promote intensive use of Alliance's website for Alliance internal communication	AWM	Throughout the year	GS	Stopped
b) To work on updating the Alliance Guidebook	GS + WG	Throughout the year	GS	Not started
c) To conceive Alliance newsletters 5. External relations	AM		AM	Abandoned
a) Formalise cooperation framework agreements with regional networks	P+VPER	Throughout the year	VPER	Abandoned
b) Initiate the implementation of one Liaison committee of voluntary service organisations in Europe	VPER	March, TM	VPER	Done

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LLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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Volunteer's Center ADP-Zid

Montenegro www.zid.cg.yu

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 realizes different kind of projects within the following programs: Volunteers' center program; Community development program; Program of information and culture.

Allianssi Youth Exchanges

Finland www.nuorisovaihto.fi

1996

(Allianssin Kehittämispalvelut Oy)

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.



CIA Greece 2002

(Citizens in Action)

The aims of C.i.A are: To support and promote the idea of active citizenship to the young people, through new forms of social commitment and participation, for a democratic, interdependent and open society; to encourage the circulation of people and ideas though 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.

CIEE Japan http://www.cieej.or.jp 1965

(Council for International Educational Exchanges)

The Mission of CIEE is to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. They plan and develop international exchange programs for high school students, university students and teachers at elementary, junior- and senior-high schools.

CJ Canada/Quebec <u>www.cj.qc.ca</u> 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.

COCAT Spain/Catalunya <u>www.cocat.org</u> 2003

Coordinadora d'Organitzadors de Camps de Treball de Catalunya

The aims of COCAT could be resumed in the work for personal, collective, community, and social wholistic development, using mainly the tool of international workcamps of voluntary service, and nonformal education in general, to reach our purpose. To walk towards these aims we purpose ourselves to network, in the local and the international field. We understand democratic networking as a mean and, at the same time, as an aim itself, as it represents a social model we are working for. Concerning the volunteers, our aim is to give better tools everyday for their personal and collective development, and their participation in social voluntary services, as a mean by which they can also contribute to community development. And with this objective in mind, we try to offer good quality workcamps, good trainings of our own and to spread information on trainings organized by others.

We mainly coordinate and organize international workcamps in Catalunya, and host and send international volunteers at the moment. We are starting on trainings for volunteers and workshops at schools and institutes.



Concordia France <u>www.concordia-association.org</u> 19

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.

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 <u>www.estyes.ee</u> 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 <u>www.fiye.org</u> 1989

(Foundation for International Youth Exchange)

FIYE is a 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 FIYEs 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 <u>www.genctur.com</u> 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 <u>www.gsm-youth.org</u> 1985

Youth Services Centre (Gençlik Serivsleri 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 <u>www.huj.am</u> 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 <u>www.workcamps.com</u> 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 <u>www.ijgd.de</u> 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 <u>www.inexsda.cz</u> 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 <u>www.1.or.kr</u> 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, and 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 mladych cestovatelu)

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 <u>www.lyvs.bn.by</u> 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.

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.

SIW The Netherlands <u>www.siw.nl</u> 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 <u>www.mtas.es/injuve</u> 1950's

(Institudo 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 <u>www.unarec.org</u> 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.

Union Forum Ukraine <u>www.union-forum.org</u> 1989
Union Forum was born 16 years ago as a means to consolidate youth on nonpolitical ba

Union Forum was born 16 years ago as a means to consolidate youth on nonpolitical basis with the purpose to develop the international student and youth exchange, to promote the programs supporting mutual understanding of youth of the various countries, giving an opportunity to learn better other countries culture and people. By means of involving youth in socially useful activities the Union Forum gives young people the opportunity to improve communication and interpersonal skills, helps them to get experience of independent life and work in other cultural conditions, and to get useful experience. For us the involvement in International Voluntary Service is the mean to contribute to the world in which we live, to help local communities, to promote Ukrainian youth integration into the world community through involvement them in international actions.

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

Vive Mexico is a non-profit making, Non-Governmental Organisation that has been coordinating 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 longterm 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 Germany <u>www.vjf.de</u> 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.

World Friends Iceland www.wf.is 2001

(Veraldarvinir)

Veraldarvinir/WF works with three main aims:

- 1. To promote Peace and international understanding
- 2. To care for Icelandic nature and raise awareness of environmental issues
- 3. To promote voluntary work and a culture of volunteering



Our primary activity is organising work camps, but we also host EVS volunteers through the YOUTH programme and trainees through the Leonardo Da Vinci programme. Other activities are seminars, youth exchangees and campaigns related to the aim of the organization. Most of our projects are environmental, but we also organize camps related to cultural activities.

YRS/VSS Serbia 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.

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
Offene Häuser	Germany	Partner
FSL	India	Partner
PKBI	Indonesia	Partner
CSM	Maroc	Partner
СЈМ	Maroc	Partner
JEC	Maroc	Partner
MCE	Mongolia	Partner
NIFC	Nepal	Partner
ІРЈ	Portugal	Partner
NNVS	Russia	Partner
Mir Tesen	Russia (St. Petersburg)	Partner
KNCU	South Korea	Partner
Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	Partner
Greenway	Thailand	Partner
ATAV	Tunisia	Partner
World Pulse	USA	Partner

Permanent Guests

Organisation	Country	Status
Solidarités Jeunesse	France	Permanent Guest (YAP)
CFD	Germany	Permanent Guest (YAP)
Via Pacis	Hungary	Permanent Guest (YAP)
Yap Italy	Italy	Permanent Guest (YAP)
Nuestra Tierra	Mexico	Permanent Guest (YAP)
World 4 U	Russia	Permanent Guest (YAP)

Guests for 2007

Organisation	Country	Status
Subir Al Sur* (possible partner)	Argentina	Guest for 2007
Bridge to Future	Azerbaijan	Guest for 2007
See Beyond Borders* (possible partner)	Iceland	Guest for 2007
KVDA	Kenya	Guest for 2007
Leaders	Kyrgyzstan	Guest for 2007
Ecotur	Madagascar	Guest for 2007
Youth Exchange Service	Philippines	Guest for 2007
Passage Zebra* (possible partner)	Russia	Guest for 2007
Les Amis de la Terre	Togo	Guest for 2007
UVDA	Uganda	Guest for 2007
UPA	Uganda	Guest for 2007
VFP Vietnam	Vietnam	Guest for 2007



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