



ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2007



**of European
Voluntary
Service
Organisations**

ANNUAL REPORT 2007





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Introduction

2007 is an important year for the Alliance. We can now look back to 25 years of existence of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations.

In 1982 the Alliance was founded as the Alliance of Western European Voluntary Service Organisations. This was a very small technical platform with just 8 members from Denmark, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and United Kingdom with the aim of organising the exchange of workcamp places between voluntary service organisations in Western Europe.

25 years later the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is more than a technical platform. Today the Alliance represents 43 organisations in 27 countries in Europe, America, and Asia. Though today the workcamp placement is still a big issue of our network (over 130 persons took part in the Technical Meeting 2007 in Antalya (Turkey), the Alliance is increasingly a cooperative network, which offers its members a lot of possibilities to improve the quality of their work.

In 2007 Alliance members organised the total of 1462 workcamps with 21.039 participants.

Thus, in 2007 the Alliance ran different events such as the Post Camp Event in Greece under the topic "How to improve and support the active participation of young people with less opportunity in international projects", the General Conference in Italy under the topic "VOLUNTEEN - Voluntary service for teenagers: a multipurpose non-formal education tool for solidarity, environmental awareness and conflict resolution" and a second Euro-Asia Training for trainers in Estonia under the title "Exploring Dimensions of Understanding and Participation" organised together with ASEF. Also our member organised different events all over the year.

We tried to come back to our roots this year that means to work more on our historically "main product" – workcamps. A lot of questions are on the table around this: one of them is the "health and safety management" inside projects, which becomes more and more important for organizations running



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voluntary projects. Inside the Alliance different working groups worked on topics like "Training priorities of the Alliance", "Improvement of Alliance Management" and "International Coordination of Voluntary Service".

In 2007 the Alliance also worked on the Collective EVS workcamps. Together with other network and with the support of our members the Alliance works on a new Collective EVS workcamps application to the Youth in Action Programme. Involving young people with fewer opportunities is one of the priorities of our work.

In 2007 we strengthened cooperation with other network in the field of voluntary work. The European Liaison Meeting established in 2006 is a helpful place to have a stable exchange between different voluntary service organisations like YAP, SCI, CCIVS, AVSO, and ICYE. We also continued to work together with our partner networks in Asia (NVDA) and in the Balkan region (SESYN). We strongly support the initiative to create an Alliance of Latin American Voluntary Service Organisation as an independent network.

The Alliance is happy that we could start in November 2007 our re-launched website: www.alliance-network.eu which we can use now for our external representation and internal communication.

Also, the Alliance welcomed a new member: Workcamp Switzerland. Thus, in December 2007 the Alliance consists of 30 Full Members in 20 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom), 6 Associate Members in 5 countries (Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Korea and the USA), and 8 candidate members in 6 countries (Greece, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine).

Torsten Löser, IJGD, General Secretary



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Our Growth Chart

in 2007

44 Alliance Members

21039 volunteers

- 71% sent abroad
- 29% in the country

35% males – 65% females

10% under 18

74% between 18 and 25

16% over 25 years old

1462 workcamps

16527 places proposed

Environment	37%
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Renovation	22%
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Culture	21%
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12753 volunteers present

77% of the places filled

7% of Teenager projects

184 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

378 projects open to disabled youth

1073 volunteers with fewer opportunities

in 1997

24 Alliance Members

12675 volunteers

- 71% sent abroad
- 29% in the country

48 % males – 52 % females

14% under 18

75% between 18 and 25

11% over 25 years old

983 workcamps

11441 places proposed

Environment	33%
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Construction	17%
--------------	-----

Renovation	13%
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9908 volunteers present

86% of the places filled

7.6% of Teenager projects (75)

106 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme



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 2007 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 2006 elected the following persons for the EC positions:

Position	Person	Organisation
President	Aleksandr Kurushev	EstYes (Estonia)
Vice President	Oykum Bagci	GSM (Turkey)
Vice President for External Relations	Marcela Holicka	INEX-Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
General Secretary	Torsten Löser	IJGD (Germany)
Treasurer	Kemal Abiska	J&R (France)
Additional Member	Francesco Volpini	Concordia (France)

The EC had the following meetings in 2007:

January 2007	Paris (France)
March 2007	Antalya (Turkey)
June 2007	Tallinn (Estonia)
September 2007	Bonn (Germany)
November 2007	Marino (Italy)

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



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

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

Since 2005 the Alliance also has a larger management body – the Management Committee composed by the EC and coordinators of all of the Working Groups. The Management Committee had three meetings in 2007 – in March, June and in November, and has helped bringing decision-making in the Alliance to a different level, outside the EC.

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.

At the moment the Alliance Secretariat just consist of two positions: Alliance Administrative Assistant and Alliance Financial Assistant.

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 2007 the Alliance had the following working groups:



- 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.





The main activities of the Alliance member organisations are workcamps. In 2007 the Alliance member organisations ran 1462 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 2007

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 2006 - the document, which has been a basis for the work of the Alliance and its EC. As last year report was appreciated by members, I decided to keep its shape simply going through the Plan of Action, yet emphasizing the key issues the EC has been dealing with throughout the year, thus bringing EC work closer to members. Hopefully, besides adequate reflection of the past year events, current development, and problems we face provided by this report, it will help facilitate productive discussion targeting the future of the Alliance.

The first section of Plan of Actions is **Alliance Events and Projects**.

This year calendar of Alliance was slightly different starting with the **Technical Meeting** hosted by Genctur in Antalya, Turkey. Despite the difficulties with figuring out the dates suitable for the host and majority of members it turned out to be a great event. Efficient bi-laterals, productive Extraordinary GA and Plenary Meeting followed by voluntary action on the beach of Mediterranean Sea – a kick-off event in the celebration of the Alliance XXV anniversary, intensive evening program (formal and informal) went on in the Alliance's high spirit in the easy and friendly atmosphere. Isn't it the "trade mark" of Alliance, what it has been known and appreciated for by its members and partners?

The number of TM participants this year exceeded 130! It is very positive that every year there are new organisations interested in attending the Alliance TM, and that they have a chance to be invited to learn about the Alliance and get more involved in organizing workcamps, exchanging volunteers and work in the similar way as the Alliance members do. It definitely enriches Alliance's partnerships and raises its profile worldwide.

There is nothing to complain about for TM 2007. However, there are some issues raised by members that concern TM in general – dates of TM, accessibility of the venue, facilities available, and hospitality standard vs. price level. Based on

previous experiences and discussions about TM the Alliance EC/ MC worked out some recommendations for future hosts of this demanding event. This document is brought for the adoption by members at the GA.

Post Camp Event was hosted by CiA in Greece in the beginning of May. The theme was "How to improve and support the active participation of young people with less opportunities in international projects", around 30 activists of Alliance members and some partner organisations took part in this event. The dates of event, traditionally held in winter, shifted very much to spring changing the name from Post Camp to Pre Camp Event. All in all this PCE was a success. Yet, it reminded us the number of issues actually known to Alliance since ...1987! It seems it is not clear to who this event is targeting and how it should be placed in the coherent set of the Alliance regular events. As a consequence – what is the best time for hosting it and how frequently it should be held? And, finally, how do we match the Alliance's own needs with the current priorities of the funding body EYF traditionally supporting this event? Before these questions are answered the EC proposes NOT to apply for the new PCE.

The **Study Session** in the European Youth Center in Strasbourg was held this year quite late, in June, due to the renovation works in EYC. Around 40 future trainers of our members and partner organizations were educated by the Alliance's experienced trainers on the topic "International Voluntary youth projects as an educational tool to promote peace and understanding: exploring methods and concrete activities for applying of ICL in daily practice through workcamps". This event became traditional for the Alliance, and the new application for Study Session 2008 with the title "Participation through preparation" is already approved. However, this year Alliance experienced difficulties recruiting the participants. This leads us to the question whether such sessions answer members' real needs and whether we should go on with having it every year or we could work also on another type of training events meeting better the real needs and interests of



members. Generally, what is the place of Alliance Study Session in EYC among other events? And how does it correspond to the training needs of member organisations? Work on Alliance training strategies was one of the tasks of the Training Needs Working Group, which, unfortunately, was not finalized. The EC proposes its vision on training priorities for the Alliance in the hope it will be adopted by members. Moreover, EC believes that the task of working on training strategies and coherence of the Alliance events should be passed to the EC and that it could be the main task of EC Additional Member in coming year.

Talking about GC let me first of all return to **General Conference**, which was hosted by Jeunesse et Reconstruction after GA 2006 in Marly Le-Roi. Its theme was "Impact of projects on youth citizenship education". 55 participants coming from member and partner organisations were attracted - less than planned. Here we may ask the same questions as with PCE or Study Session – does the theme of GC answer members' needs? Whom is GC addressed to? How Alliance can utilise the results of GC? Applying for financing GC we always have to follow EYF priorities, which do not necessarily coincide with the Alliance's ones. And this also raises questions about the necessity and frequency of the Alliance GCs, as well as other regular events. A working paper on Alliance regular events proposed by the EC invites members to discuss these questions and take a decision, which (should it be adopted) will change significantly the Alliance events calendar.

Having expressed some doubts about the Alliance General Conferences in general I sincerely wish good luck to the GC 2007 called "Volunteer" and hosted by Legambiente straight after GA 2007. I believe the topic of teenagers' participation in the workcamps, brought this year to GC, is of practical interest to many Alliance members and is very much oriented towards the future reflecting the mainstream in the development of voluntary service.

It is certainly worth mentioning that application for GC 2008 with the theme "From preparation through evaluation and follow-up: enhancing quality of international voluntary workcamps as a practical tool for intercultural education" was

submitted by Alternative V to EYF by the 01.10 deadline.

This year Alliance did not manage to apply for any **other training activity**. Yet I want to mention here the event that though not being included to the Plan of Actions nevertheless involved 11 Alliance members. I am talking about a training seminar called "Developing skills on the exchanges involving teenagers" hosted by EstYES in Tallinn at the end of April. It was planned as Action 5 seminar with application submitted by the last deadline of "Youth" Program, got approval and found lively interest of Alliance members hosting and sending teenage workcamps participants. This very much practically oriented event was a long planned follow up of the Alliance training on teenage camps hosted in 2003 in Castres where Alliance for the first time tackled the topic of teenage volunteers. This new seminar in Tallinn was a success. The report from this event is available on request from EstYES. Personally I am convinced that seminars like this – tackling matters of members' importance, getting funded through "Youth in Action" Program, actively involving Alliance members concerned – is a very good model for the Alliance training activities in the future, which will answer training needs of members not denying other training activities, but complementing them.

Details of another Alliance training event scheduled for early December 2007 supported by ASEF **Euro-Asia Training for Trainers** on "Exploring Dimensions of Understanding and Participation" will be given later in this report.

A short information session on the new **"Youth in Action" Program** is planned for GA 2007. Alliance EC will certainly work further on maintaining working relations with the Executive Agency and the European Commission and will offer other opportunities of having updates on "Youth in Action" Programme in 2008.

Coming on to the Alliance common projects we have **Collective EVS Workcamps** action as a follow up of the EVS Workcamps project. It was not possible to realize it this year mainly due to the end of the "Youth" Program and beginning of the new "Youth in Action" Program. Still it seems



that the interest to such action is present at all levels – from Alliance members to the Executive Agency and what we need to initiate the application for such large scale common project is a stronger coordination. In this respect the exercise EC was involved to since March till now clarifying situation around EVS Workcamps project 2003/04 was (though time consuming) absolutely useful. Having been taught by own mistakes we are much better prepared now for the new project of such scale.

Even though Collective EVS Workcamps project was not prepared a group of members was involved in **Accessing Workcamps Campaign** run with the supervision of the Alliance Access For All Working Group. The real figures of exchange should be available in this WG report. However, even without them we can see that the actual exchange was much less than what we optimistically hoped for or what Alliance's actual capacity is. This is another proof that, besides stronger coordination, additional financial resources supporting members' efforts are needed to involve young people with fewer opportunities in EVS Workcamps. Without financial support, as we used to have in the past, it simply does not work despite all the good intentions of a dozen of organizations that expressed their wish to be involved at the time of TM in March. New programme Youth in Action that started this year gives us a good opportunity, and the EC proposes to have a meeting between interested members during this GA and to start work on the application targeting the 01.02.2008 deadline. Future coordination has to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of EC final statement on EVS Workcamps 2003/04.

This year there was no common **project for senior volunteers** as such, yet the engine of previous projects Davide di Pietro of Lunaria has applied for the network project in Gruntvig Program. The project is now approved, and the Alliance has an opportunity to be involved in further development of voluntary activities for senior citizens through the network called SEVEN. The kick-off meeting of the network will take place a week after the end of the Alliance GA; more information will be available then. It is important to mention here that along with other partners of number of projects for senior volunteers run by the Alliance member Lunaria

we got high recognition of European Commission as one of the stakeholders in this area. And it is not by chance that Davide Di Pietro is invited by the European Commission to take part in a working group that will establish, in the framework of GRUNTVIG, a programme of mobility for adult learners. This programme is supposed to start in 2009 and will likely deal also with the voluntary service in senior exchanges. Even though this project is not so much of the interest of some of the members who target mainly younger population, there are still enough Alliance members quite interested in expanding the target group of their activities by involving senior citizens in voluntary service projects. And this new dynamically developing direction perfectly addresses this interest.

Although there was no common project for **European families with children in the workcamps** this year, organisations actively involved in the project of last year continued their efforts, which resulted in 6 Family Camps in Italy, Turkey and Estonia where a number of this type of volunteers from Alliance members and partners took part. This project cannot be found in the Plan of Action – this is something coming additionally out of initiative of active members. And I want to believe that the organisations will continue their noble course of involving families with kids in voluntary service activities and that the number of such innovative initiatives by members and for members will be increasing in the future.

Finally, Alliance Development Committee under lead of the General Secretary Torsten Loeser has applied for the **publication project**. The aim of this publication is to make updates to the famous Alliance Guidebook, which has not being updated since it was published in 2002. Should the project application be approved the work on it will begin next year. We hope that re-established Staff Development Working Group will provide substantial contribution to this project.

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

This year we continued to exercise the new working method involving Working Groups into general 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 1 project-oriented Working Group: Access For All Working Group. 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.

The **new operational method** of running the Alliance – 3 meetings of Managing Committee, formed by EC and the coordinators of WGs, proved to be an adequate response to the growth of the Alliance. It gives a chance to more members to be involved directly in the management of the Alliance, at the same time preparing new members to take EC positions in the future. It helps information flow and facilitates feedback between EC and member organizations. All in all, it helps maintaining working democracy in the Alliance preventing the risk of EC moving too far away from the daily life of the members.

From EC point of view activities of WGs should serve the actual needs of **Alliance members**, not the personal interests of the members of WGs. To bring more clarity to this issue EC proposes to continue the new practice of setting up the tasks or fields of activities for each Alliance WG. The new document containing tasks descriptions is brought to this GA for discussion and adoption. Then it can become a part of Plan of Actions. EC believes that the approval of such document will help internal and external management of the WGs at the same time improving management of the Alliance. As you remember in order to strengthen the role of WGs coordinators GA 2006 adopted EC proposal to appoint them by GA decision.

It was decided at the Extraordinary General Assembly in March to contract the Serbian company Default Design to create a **new Alliance website** following the working paper on the Alliance website presented at GA 2006. In April the Alliance General Secretary Torsten Loeser had a meeting with representatives of the company to discuss the details and set up a working plan. The work is going on, and we should be able to present the new Alliance website at the GA 2007.

Through the year Alliance EC/ MC has been following the **management of Alliance events and projects**. Undoubtedly, this was one of the areas of highest concern of EC, as issues concerning Alliance events and projects were mostly discussed at EC meetings. As a result, the EC proposes a working paper on future of Alliance regular events for members' consideration and hopefully their adoption of a quite new system along with several changes to the Constitution and the Standing Orders. I would not spend time here to describe the proposal simply referring to the available working document.

This year **Alliance Secretariat** had only two positions: Alliance Administrative Assistance (AAA), hosted by Alternative-V, and Alliance Financial Assistant (AFA), hosted by Treasurer-organization, Jeunesse et Reconstruction. The evaluation of the Secretariat work and vision for future is well presented in the General Secretary report, so one can refer to it. What I would like to emphasize is that the logic of evolution of the Alliance and its Secretariat tasks as well as expectations of our main funding body European Commission inexorably lead to the establishing of quite permanent Secretariat with one part time position providing administrative support for the EC (including administrative and financial issues) and members and linked to one member organisation. This is evidently a much stronger solution than the Secretariat being spread among several Alliance members. And this is something we cannot escape from in nearest future. Therefore, I strongly support the proposal for the new set up of the Alliance Secretariat, which is presented in the General Secretary's report and is well explained in the EC proposal for the Alliance Secretariat 2008.

A completely different question is whether the Alliance should have a **permanent office**, and if so - where. Personally I believe that we are not ready for this and at the time being we can be happy about having a virtual one, yet having official registration, postal address and bank account in Denmark.

Coming to the **bank account** I can only say that I keep being amazed about the way Alliance is treated by Danish Nordea Bank. I cannot imagine



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that any other client is treated in the same way – in this case this bank would lose all of them. Just one example, it turned out to be effectively impossible to have internet banking in Danish Nordea Bank after given access codes were annulled. It took Nordea 6 months to admit that the filled-out Alliance's request for the new codes was lost, and they had to ask for the new one. The authorization process for new Treasurer lasted nearly as long, and during this period Alliance could not make any bank operations. This does not mean that we cannot use this bank at all. Finally, the authorization for the Treasurer is obtained, payments can be made. But it is very slow, old fashioned, time consuming and, finally, – expensive! We understand that with the peculiar registration Alliance has it is rather difficult to open a bank account in any other country. Still, the new Treasurer should work on some solution that is better than the current Nordea one.

Cooperation between members of Alliance is traditionally quite successfully done by members themselves. Nevertheless there is a section with this name in the Plan of Action. As usual it includes the **introductory session for newcomers** at the TM, traditionally run by the experienced staff members. This year the session at TM emphasized more on the Alliance as a cooperative network, which was appreciated by the newcomers.

Staff development meeting on exchanges was organized this year at the TM in the form of lively discussion. And it is planned to have another one for the **evaluation of the season** at the Alliance Day after GA. Unfortunately, this year Staff Development WG did not function due to the absence of coordinator. But it remains a very important WG, whose work should be aimed at reflecting the real interests and meeting the needs of members in the area of organizing workcamps and exchanging volunteers, which is undoubtedly the main area of the Alliance cooperation and the initial reason for establishing the Alliance 25 years ago. Topic of the quality of our work has been recognized as the urgent and permanent one for the Alliance members. And SDWG has a special role in dealing with it. EC made efforts to reinforce this WG hoping that SDWG 2008 will be the most active one

Unfortunately, **Alliance Pool of Trainers** is still not created. This action goes from one year PoA to another without much progress. It certainly does not mean that the Alliance does not have its trainers. On the contrary, over 6 years of running the Training for Trainers events and Study Sessions Alliance members may easily provide over 100 trained young people. It is just a task of collecting information about them, creating the list, and making a database on the website. To me this is a task for the new EC and Secretariat, rather than for TNWG, which somehow became a pool of trainers on its own.

Though does the Alliance have a job to offer to trainers? Sure! Just look at the number of international events hosted by Alliance members within and outside the network! I do not think it will be a problem to find a good way of using these people's skills. On the contrary, it is a pity if we do not do it leaving a lot of people without possibility to implement the new knowledge and skills they acquired at the trainings and study sessions.

Despite the lethargy of SDWG the **evaluation of working methods used at TM** was going on between the members, as well as in EC/MC. Even if it is not finalized and more discussion is definitely needed, some interesting (controversial?) ideas were already formulated such as shortening TM by one day, inviting partner organisations as early as the second part of the Alliance Day and even filling bi-lateral chart electronically ...before arrival to TM, etc. We can be endlessly creative, and since our ancestors did not leave us the rules about TM carved on stone, we should feel free to experiment for improving this core meeting of the Alliance. Thus more work and excitement to come in the future...

The **session on accessing workcamps** was successfully run at the TM in Antalya by A4A WG. As long as accessibility of workcamps remains a political priority for the Alliance such session should be certainly kept in the TM agenda.

Unfortunately the relevance of **training on fundraising and grant management** was not analyzed this year. Perhaps this action should move to the agenda of the newly created group working on the Alliance Development Plan.



Not so many actions were planned this year in the area of **information and communication**.

In order to facilitate work on updates to the **Alliance Guidebook** a grant application was submitted (see above **publication project**). Should the application be approved, the real work will begin in 2008, and here we will need strong input of SDWG and all of the members. The **Alliance Newsletters** were abandoned due to the lack of time, financial resources, and finally no real interest of members. We can nevertheless hope that after launching new website Alliance will get a powerful tool enabling many things we could only dream of before and (why not?) electronic newsletters included.

Without hesitation the 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 ERC. I can just say that the priorities of Alliance external relations established by GA 2006 were met, and the points from the Plan of Action were mostly achieved. Alliance External Relations are active and dynamic. 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 the newly developing network in Latin America, and, of course, with SCI and YAP, our good old sister networks active in Europe. Relations with CCIVS remain constructive. We keep a good 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 is all achieved thanks to the efforts of members of External Relations Committee and its coordinator Roman Kuehn of VJF, Vice President on External Relations Marcela Holicka of INEX and other Alliance representatives at various meetings.

The **European Liaison Committee** Meeting took place in May, and it became an important point in maintaining good working relations and coordinating the efforts of the main networks of voluntary service organizations in Europe. Just to remind that this initiative was launched and promoted under initiative of the Alliance in 2006. The report from this meeting is available in the Alliance EC. At the meeting the Alliance was

represented by its General Secretary Torsten Loeser.

Here I would like to remind members of the necessity of external relations from the practical point of view. Obviously proper representation creates/ improves the 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 it is vital for the good relations with the present/ potential sponsors, on whom many Alliance events and projects depend. It is very important to clearly present and stand for the Alliance interests making serious lobby work. The good example of such work was Alliance's active participation in the consultations about new Youth in Action program, where we managed to change some regulations according to the Alliance's vision (e.g. short term voluntary service starting from 2 weeks, role of EVS sending organisations in preparation and following the volunteer, and more flexibility on inclusion projects). Being recognized for inclusion work in EVS the Alliance has been invited several times to various promotional events, training activities, consultations, and conferences by the European Commission. And I believe the success of our appeal on the EVS Workcamps project 2003/04 is partly based on the recognition of the Alliance in the European Commission.

Another good example of success in external contacts is cooperation with the ASEF. The first **Asia-European Training for Trainers** took place in Korea in December 2006 hosted by IWO, Alliance Asian member. Its theme was "Developing Skills and Competences for Intercultural Dialogue", and it was attended by 29 participants from the European Alliance members and Asian members and partners. The new TtT, applied for after request of ASEF, is scheduled for early December 2007. It should be hosted in Tallinn by EstYES and have the topic "Exploring Dimensions of Understanding and Participation". Around 30 participants from Europe and Asia are expected. Cooperation with ASEF is recognition of Alliance's experience in running training activities, as well as the work our members do in Asia through and in cooperation with NVDA. Moreover, Alliance is invited to work further together with ASEF on the concept of Euro-Asian



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training and to help establish **Euro-Asian Trainers' Pool**. All this is strengthening our cooperation with the organisations in Asia opening new possibilities for the Alliance members.

Coming to the work of **Alliance EC** in 2007 I have to admit that it was not easy mainly for two reasons: weak involvement of some of EC members (certainly due to good personal or professional reasons) and obvious lack of synergy in the EC composed of very different individuals representing very different organisations. But, I guess, it is quite normal for the Alliance as well as for other networks, and this is probably a price we have to pay for the Alliance's diversity. And it does not have to be always taken as a source of conflict - it can easily become an engine for development, if we try to find positive sides in it.

I see such a positive side, for example, in the situation with **Alliance Treasurer**, which has incredibly improved comparing to the year 2006 thanks to the professional work and deep involvement of Kemal Abiska, who was persuaded to take this demanding position at the last GA. Alliance's financial situation is quite healthy now. Moreover, some new regulations were initiated to ease the management of finances in the future and to increase transparency in this area.

Knowing that majority of EC members will finish their mandates this year we very much encourage organisations to stand for EC open positions such as President, Treasurer, Vice President on External Relations, and Additional Member. At the same time I would suggest to think twice about the organisation's and person's own capacity in terms of knowledge of the field and the Alliance itself, and most of all the 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 task. And it is, after all, the organisation, which is responsible to the Alliance for the performance of the task.

Certain difficulties we faced in the work of EC did not influence that much the life of Alliance, as you can see from this and other reports. And that proves once more that Alliance does not depend on its EC, but much more on its members. Alliance's success is based on the **active membership**. The Alliance is the organization for its members and by its members. What is done/ planned in Alliance is normally done/ planned counting on the **real interests and needs** of members. But what are actually these real needs? What do members expect from their network in the short and long run? As Alliance President I have these questions for many years and now leave this position not having very clear answers. But I hope that common work on the Alliance Development Plan for the next 3-5 years will start in 2008 and that the result will help us come to a clear vision of the Alliance in five years, find these answers and finally to reflect them in our ambitious plans and numerous activities of the future.

At the end of report let me thank traditionally yet sincerely all the organisations and individuals who made another good year in the Alliance, working hard on realization of our plans in 2007 – hosts of the events and projects, members of preparation teams, coordinators and participants of the working groups, Alliance representatives at various meetings, appointed persons, Secretariat, and EC members. Moreover, now at the end of my 3rd Alliance President mandate I want to thank all members who by entrusting me this challenging yet interesting task gave me such unforgettable experience lasting long 6 years. I have no regrets about this time. And should any other member consider standing for this position I can only say – just go for it!

Giving my ultimate Alliance President report to the GA in Rome I feel it is appropriate to finish it with the Latin sentence: "*Feci quod potui, faciant meliora potentes*"¹.

Aleksandr Kurushev
EstYES
President of the Alliance

¹ "I did what I could, let those who can do better" (Horace)



General Secretary's Report 2007

At the General Assembly 2003 in Soest (The Netherlands) IJGD, represented by Torsten Löser, was elected as General Secretary. IJGD was re-elected at the General Assembly 2006 in Marly-le-Roi (France).

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

0. introduction:

1982: The Alliance of Western European Voluntary Service Organisations was founded. 7 organisations from 6 countries created a network to have a technical platform to organise the exchanges between voluntary organisations.

2007: 25 years later. Europe changed, and even this small network is today the Alliance of European Voluntary Service organisations with at the moment 43 members from 28 countries in Europe, Asia, and North America. The Alliance today is more than a simply technical platform; it is a cooperative network, but with the same idea behind, which makes the Alliance for me very important and different from other networks: “The Alliance is an organisation for its members, but also by its members.” The main reason for this is

the fact that the Alliance consists of independent organisations, which decide for themselves about their structure, content or work and priorities. This makes the Alliance unique compared to our European sister networks YAP and SCI.

I find it interesting that if you look back to our history and into all the documents, which were written during previous Seminars, Conferences, and Assemblies you can find a lot of topics discussed and discussed again, sometimes with a different starting point, sometimes with a different outcome, but it seems to me that some of our “problems” are never gone. For me it was a real surprise to find out that even years ago the Alliance discussed the question of having an office or of creating working groups...

Though, of course, a lot of things changed in 25 years. We have more members, members working in more different fields (not only workcamps, also other types of exchanges, mid and long term voluntary service, trainings, seminars...). But sometimes I think we are just acting to act, and we forget a little bit to take our time off and come back to certain issues a little bit later with a new perspective.

As a General Secretary I have more to concentrate on the internal life of the Alliance, and for this it is clear that a mere difference between 7 and 43 members in 25 years has created new needs on communication and information dissemination. But even here the most important thing is: What are the members' needs?

I hope you have had a good look at the EC proposals. We would like to give ourselves more time to work, more time to follow some actions. This is why the EC proposes to have the General Assembly in the future only once in two years. I know this is a big change, but we think that one year is too short very often to come to a new step or to finish some projects. Before we have really started to work we have to meet again and to think about a new Plan of Action. Even the Working Groups will have more time to work. In order to have a good communication process with members we propose to run an Annual Assembly,



which will take place during the Technical Meeting at the Alliance Day and will replace what we call at the moment a plenary meeting.

Forward to the Roots is the theme of 2007 General Assembly. For me as the General Secretary this means giving all Alliance members a fair chance to take part in the Alliance life. First, this is linked to a stable communication. In the past this was not the case every time because all EC members are working voluntarily and we need more time for our own work. Though it should be an aim to have it and to keep it in mind.

Still communication is not a one-way street. Even members have a responsibility for this. I hope the new website will help us in this process to have a better and more stable communication.

A. Alliance Secretariat

In the last years we changed the meaning of the Alliance secretariat. The Alliance had 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 linked to the Treasurer.

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

As a European non-governmental organisation gathering independent national youth organisations (coordination rather than a federation) we decided that this type of 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 was 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.

The EC sees a need to improve the work of the secretariat and to have just one staff member working really as administrative support for the EC (including administrative and financial issues). We would be happy to get a feedback from members about it.

In 2007 the Alliance had a visit in Copenhagen from two representatives of the new Executive Agency (EA) in charge of the Youth Programme of the European Commission. Aleksandr Kurushev, our President, had an intensive talk with them. Even if we have no "real office", which we could explain is not a need of Alliance members at the moment, there is now a strong need to be more clear what the Alliance Secretariat means for us. As the General Secretary I propose to have an Alliance Secretariat with **one staff** to work on the following issues:

This staff shall deal with all the administrative tasks within the Alliance, including, but not limited to the requests from the members, partners and other institutions (unless an EC decision/involvement is required on those issues).

I propose that this staff member attends Alliance MC meetings (to provide closer follow-up to the EC decisions and actions planned during those meetings, as well as prepare minutes and decision lists of the meetings attended).

This staff should assist the hosts of Alliance events and the EC in preparation of events/projects grant applications, as well as



administrative grant applications (this includes collection of the short statistics and other inputs) and support preparation of the Alliance events/projects. The secretariat shall be responsible for sending out all relevant information to members and partners. This staff member should have some website-related and financial tasks. The Secretariat is linked close to the General Secretary. The General Secretary is responsible for monitoring the Secretariat's work.

I would like to get an approval of members to do so.

B. Internal Communication

I must say that in the last year I did not do my best to spread all relevant information (coming from EC, not in general) among members. Especially information like the EC minutes and EC decision lists came very late. The reason for this is that I had a not such an easy year at my job, so sometimes I had to decide what is important and what can wait. But even in general we tried our best to inform member as soon as possible about all relevant things. Especially the AAA sends out all calls, news and information to members. And personally I tried my best to answer all requests promptly.

In 2006 shortly after the GA the Alliance also had the first electronic vote in its history. As a first experiment I think it was a good and fast possibility to decide on a specific question. The EC worked more on a procedure for the e-vote and presents to the GA a proposal about e-vote as a change to the Standing Orders. The EC has also prepared a proposal for an annex to the Standing Orders on information dissemination.

C. Alliance website

The Alliance decided at the Extraordinary General Assembly 2007 to contract out creation of a new Alliance website to a Serbian company (Default Design). In April I had a meeting with the representatives of this company to work on some concrete points. After this meeting the work started, and we can present a new Alliance website at the GA. I hope members, WG, MC, EC, and Secretariat will use it, because it is important to have a dynamic website.

D. Management Committee and working groups

The Management Committee is a good support and help for the EC. The three meetings gave us a possibility to share opinions, to have more people present, and to have a communication about different topics. Now we are clearer what the tasks and responsibilities of the MC are. Especially it is a good opportunity to have a permanent link between active people inside the Alliance

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. But my personal feeling is that not everybody is sure about what it means to be in a Working Group. I would like to have the Working Groups more involved in the Alliance activities, but this year it was more complicated to keep the Workings Groups still alive. Hopefully, for Working Groups a two year term could be more helpful to have a more stable situation.

E. Event and project management

In general I must say there was a very good co-operation with hosts of Alliance events this year. The EC got information in advance; we could discuss and react if needed.

The EC tried to work on some proposals to improve the Alliance event and project management. We present at least one proposal on the Future of Alliance regular events, which includes also some technical points, and we would like to have an approval for some concrete technical points with regard to the Technical Meeting, which would help members decide whether they want to host a TM and for members to select a host.

Finally, the EC proposes not to run anymore General Conferences and Post Camp Events in one year. The reason for this is not to get problems with our applications at the European Youth Foundation and to concentrate every year on one event.

Torsten Löser
IJGD, General Secretary



Treasurer's Report 2007

2006 final year

Justifications for received grants were presented in time for 2006; applications for 2007 administrative grants were made and approved to the European Commission and the European Youth Foundation.

For the GC 2007, the application was approved for a grant of 13 000€, and we obtained the right to organise a training session in Strasbourg European Youth Center.

As of 1st of January reimbursements are made only according to a new Alliance reimbursement form, which we hope will give more transparency to the Alliance accounts.

The budget in 2006 was 191,112 € instead of estimate of the initial budget (147,256 €). The increase of the 2006 budget was 20% compared to 2005. **Surplus 2006 is 3,012. 82€**

Concerning our **Bank account**: we still have some difficulties with our Danish bank. Here I would like to thank our MS friends who tried several times to facilitate communication with Nordea (our bank). Unfortunately, we have not been able to use our internet account since December 2006, but it does not make real trouble to us except that we have to pay 3 to 5 euros extra per bank transfer order when we do it by fax; for information in 2006 we made only 25 BTO and for 9 month of 2007 only 15.

Balance sheet for 2006

ASSET/ACTIF	2004 Solde 31/12/2004	2005 Solde 31/12/2005	2006 Solde 31/12/2006	LIABILITIES/PASSIF	2004 Solde 31/12/2004	2005 Solde 31/12/2005	2006 Solde 31/12/2006
FIX ASSETS				CAPITAL LIABILITIES	43 511,92	44 863,98	41 917,80
TANGIBLE ASSET				Reserves			
THIRD PERSON ASSETS	10 451,45	1 914,53	-3 512,70	Report balance (RAN)	34 434,42	34 511,92	35 863,98
Users				Result	77,50	1 352,06	3 012,82
Public grant	5 254,60	1 198,08	-3 512,70	Translation change			
Other networks	439,85	439,85		Provisions for risk	9 000,00	9 000,00	3 041,00
Members	2 478,40	276,60		THIRD PERSON LIABILITIES	81 312,41	33 490,48	35 315,29
Income to classified	2 278,60			External supplier	0,00	1 550,16	
Prepaid expenses	0,00			Other networks	959,00	0,00	
FINANCIAL ASSETS	114 372,88	76 439,93	80 745,79	Members	60 836,96	31 940,32	35 315,29
Unibank (Dk)	113 153,74	75 576,03	79 623,18	Expenses to be classified	17 859,09	0,00	
Spar Bank (CH)	0,00						
Unibank (€)	759,60	759,60	760,38				
Alpha Credit (Gr)	0,00						
Cash box	459,54	104,30	362,23	Unearned revenue	1 657,36	0,00	0,00
TOTAL ASSETS	124 824,33	78 354,46	77 233,09	TOTAL LIABILITIES	124 824,33	78 354,46	77 233,09

Finance in general

Alliance reserve was decreased during 2006 because we made adjustments in some accounts from EU and EYF using provision for risk (6,000 euros), but we increased the reserves by 3,000 euros with our 2006 surplus. Present capital liability is **41 917,80** (for comparison in 2005 it was 44 863,98).



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Treasurer's
Report

2007 FINANCIAL YEAR

	A	B	E	F	G	H	K	L
1	ESTIMATED 2007 ALLIANCE's ACCOUNTS					EC September 2007		
2	INCOMES	2007 Prev EOAG	2007 TOTAL ESTIMATED	Difference	EXPENSES	2007 Prev EOAG	2007 TOTAL ESTIMATED	Difference
3	1. Regular activities	57 975 €	60 638 €	2 663 €	1. Regular activities	48 476 €	51 947 €	3 471 €
4	11. Constitutional meetings	22 675 €	21 500 €	- 1 175 €		25 000 €	27 000 €	2 000 €
5	Membership fees	9 675 €	9 675 €	-	GA	4 000 €	4 000 €	-
6	Participants TM	2 000 €	1 825 €	- 175 €	EC	11 000 €	13 000 €	2 000 €
7	GA contribution	10 000 €	10 000 €	-	GA (members)	10 000 €	10 000 €	-
8	Member contribution		- €	-			-	-
9	Participant other events	1 000 €	-	- 1000 €			-	-
10			-	-			-	-
11	12. Administrative	35 300 €	39 138 €	3 838 €	12. Administrative	21 100 €	21 632 €	532 €
12	Administrativ grants A 3029	25 000 €	27 900 €	2 900 €	AAA, AFA	14 000 €	14 000 €	-
13			- €	-	Secretariat travel	2 000 €	2 000 €	-
14	Administrativ grants EYF	10 000 €	10 938 €	938 €	Office supplies	1 100 €	1 100 €	-
15			- €	-	Post & Com	1 500 €	1 500 €	-
16	Bank	300 €	300 €	0 €	Bank	500 €	1 032 €	532 €
17			- €	-	External Auditor	1 000 €	1 000 €	-
18			- €	-	Web site	500 €	500 €	-
19			- €	-	Internal auditing transpor	500 €	500 €	-
20	13. External relations	- €	-	-	13. External relations	2 376 €	3 315 €	939 €
21		-	-	-	Youth Forum Jeunesse	1 376 €	1 376 €	-
22					travel refund TFT		939 €	939 €
23			-	-	External Relations	1 000 €	1 000 €	-
24	2. EVENTS	126 950 €	137 732 €	10 782 €	2. EVENTS	126 950 €	138 233 €	11 283 €
25	21. Regular event	125 450 €	137 732 €	12 282 €	21. Regular event	124 950 €	135 233 €	10 283 €
26	PCE Grants	12 000 €	9 789 €	- 2 211 €	PCE	20 800 €	14 683 €	- 6 117 €
27	PCE contributions	10 000 €	6 093 €	- 3 907 €	TM	67 500 €	83 900 €	16 400 €
28	TM	65 500 €	83 900 €	18 400 €	GC	36 650 €	36 650 €	-
29	GC Grant EYF	13 000 €	13 000 €	-				-
30	GC Contributions	24 950 €	24 950 €	-				-
31	22. Other event	1 500 €	-	- 1500 €	22. Other event	2 000 €	3 000 €	1000 €
32			-	-				-
33	Study session	1 500 €	-	- 1500 €	Asie Europe TFT	2 000 €	3 000 €	1000 €
34	3. PROJECTS	500 €	1 265 €	765 €	3. PROJECTS	5 000 €	4 700 €	- 300 €
35	Training Booklet		-	-	Web site 1/3 cost	2 000 €	1 500 €	- 500 €
36	Other publication		-	-	25. anniversary	3 000 €	2 000 €	- 1000 €
37	33. Youth programme	500 €	1 265 €	765 €	Handbook buying 600 copys		1 200 €	1200 €
38	TFT Grants		-	-				-
39	TFT Contributions	500 €	-	- 500 €				-
40	YOUTH Forum reimb		1 265 €	1 265 €				-
41	4. Working groups			-	4. Working groups	7 500 €	6 000 €	- 1500 €
42	5. OTHER	3 000 €	16 756 €	13 756 €	5. OTHER	- €	14 520 €	14 520 €
43	Take over on provisions for 25 anniversary	3 000 €	2 000 €	- 1000 €	Adm grant 2006		764 €	764 €
44	Exceptional income		- €	-	EVS 2003 REGUL		13 756 €	13 756 €
45	Individual contributions		- €	-				-
46	Take over on opening balance for EVS deficit		7 676 €	7 676 €				-
47	EVS 2003 REGULARISATION MEMBERS		7 080 €	7 080 €				-
48	Deficit			-	surplus	1 499 €	992 €	507 €
49	TOTAL	188 425 €	216 392 €	27 967 €	TOTAL	189 425 €	216 392 €	26 967 €

2007 estimated budget presents a small surplus of 992 euros, but it is important to underline that we plan to finance the Asia Europe TFT with 3,000 Euro, to contribute 4,000 Euro to 2007 General Assembly, and 1,500 Euro to finance partly a new Alliance website. 25th anniversary celebration costs are covered from the Alliance reserves in the amount of 2,000 Euro.

I would like to thank warmly all Alliance members who allowed Jeunesse et Reconstruction to finalise its mandate of two years as treasurer.

Personally I was proud and happy to have participated in the Alliance EC and GA and to have tried to serve Alliance interests during 12 months.



Future

For the future of the Alliance, I believe that members will have to pay more attention to presented reports and engage themselves to be active in the Alliance.

With more than 40 members from all over the world the Alliance is not anymore a small partners' platform, but a big network. Members have to give a chance to develop this tool for their common interests. This development cannot be achieved without real financing.

For 2008, as you could see, the EC proposes to make a real revolution concerning membership fees and contributions. In addition to traditional membership of 225 euro, which brings only 9,000 euros annually (less than 5% of our budget), we propose to contribute per each exchanged volunteer

Taking in consideration 2006 statistics additional income can be close to 10,000 Euro for 2008 on the basis of a contribution of 0.25 Euro per volunteer and 20,000 Euro in 2009 on the basis of 0.50 euro per volunteer.

In this perspective the financial contribution of Alliance members to the Alliance budget will increase by 100% next year.

10,000 Euros can cover total costs of GA 2008 and ensure good working conditions for dynamic working groups, even if we do not think about more stable and permanent structure.

That is why I hope you will have a positive approach to new membership scheme as proposed by the EC and be more active in working groups and executive committee.

Kemal Abiska,
Jeunesse et Reconstruction
Alliance Treasurer





Report on External Activities 2007

External relations activities were carried out through representation of the Alliance in several events by the Vice president for external relations, EC members, members of the External relations Committee and other Alliance representatives throughout the year. We were trying to strengthen relations with the Alliance partner networks, institutions, authorities, and organisations.

European Youth Forum (EYF), cooperation with partner networks

The Alliance was present on two statutory meetings of EYF. We took part in the General Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania in November 2006, where new Bureau of EYF was elected and Strategic priorities of the EYF 2007-2012 were adopted. These Strategic priorities coincide also with the Alliance priorities, such as social inclusion, youth mobility, and non-formal education. We participated in the Council of Members in Baku, Azerbaijan in April 2007, where we discussed “hot topics” on the field of youth policy. We plan on attending autumn Council of Members in Brussels in November 2007.

During these meetings we had an opportunity to have meetings with other international voluntary service exchange organisations, such as Service Civil International (SCI), Youth Action for Peace (YAP), Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU), European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU), International Cultural Youth Exchange in Europe (ICYE), International Young Naturefriends (IYNF), and AEGEE Europe. We discussed common topics and strategies in order to strengthen our position within EYF. The communication among this group was alive throughout the year via restored yahoo group. We have been discussing strategic topic concerning EYF and youth policy and circulating invitations for several events.

We continued to represent the Alliance in the Advisory Council on Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe and took part in meetings of the Programming committee responsible also for grant applications. Thanks to our presence some of our projects have been approved. We would be happy to continue this representation in the future.

European Liaison Committee

After long procedure of negotiation on dates and venue we finally participated in the second European Liaison Committee meeting. It took place in Brussels, Belgium with the presence of CCIVS, YAP, SCI, Alliance, and a new invited member AVSO. The Alliance played coordinating role at this meeting. The content of the meeting was dedicated to information flow (update of current and planned actions of networks) and discussion about common topics of interest. The next ELCM is planned for the end of October 2007 hosted by AVSO in Brussels. Main objectives will be Youth in Action program evaluation and meeting with the Executive Agency. We strongly hope this initiative will successfully continue in further years and will help strengthen cooperation among involved networks.

Cooperation with regional networks

We were in contact with the Alliance partner regional network NVDA thanks to meetings between the Alliance and NVDA EC representatives present at TM 2007 in Antalya, Turkey and at NVDA meeting held after TM in Turkey.

We had contacts with SEEYN thanks to a meeting with the SEEYN EC where they expressed interest in reinforcing relations with the Alliance, especially on project-based partnership. We see this possibility as a great opportunity for development of new projects in the Balkan region. During the TM 2007 in Antalya a new developing Latin American network was presented. We have been monitoring this initiative during the year and trying to support its development.

Cooperation with Asia-Europe Foundation

We were in close contact with ASEF through active participation in Asia-Europe Training for Trainers in the Philippines and submission of project application for Asia-Europe TFT in December, hosted by our member organisation EstYES in Tallinn, Estonia. The title of the project is “Exploring dimension of Understanding and Participation”.



Other ER activities

In the context of external relations we would like to mention the visit from Executive agency (in charge of the Youth Programme of the European Commission) to the Alliance's official address (office) in Denmark in order to get full picture of how the Alliance works. Alliance was represented by our President who made good explanation and presentation of our activities. We are aware that good relations with such a body are very important for success of further projects - hence we need to improve our relations through visits on both sides - invitation for our regular meetings and our visits to EA in Brussels.

For the second consecutive year we are partners in the Training for Trainers: Let's get Global Bringing Global Education to our Networks organised by YEU in Molina in October 2006 and 2007.

Improvement of external relations is a never ending process that has to be continuously followed. Thanks to great representatives and active participation on several significant events we have to admit that the Alliance is getting better known within youth work area. Nevertheless, we have to continue with our effort and improve it by building up good relationship with partner networks, organisations, authorities and attending more meetings.

After 3 years of maintaining the position of VPER we would like to evaluate it as a good opportunity to actively contribute to Alliance life. We can see big improvement in the field of External relations. INEX Slovakia was more than pleased to be in Executive Committee. Although our term is finishing we are ready to support further development of External relations also in the future.

Marcela Holicka

Inex Slovakia (Vice President for External Relations)





Alliance Development Committee report

Members:

Annick Corominola from CBF
Christoph Meder from IBG (coordinator)
Marco Paoli from Concordia (treasurer)
Marie-Jean Dupuis from UNAREC (reporter)
Luca Stasi from Legambiente

Meetings of the Committee:

Since the last GA in Marly le Roi, we did not have the chance to meet except a short meeting of a few hours during the TM in Antalya.

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.

2 / work on the "*management committee*" structure

Our Committee could not be present at the MC organised in June in Estonia.

Future plans

We have to "reactivate" the involvement of our members and/or find new energies who could accompany the development of the Alliance and new challenges...

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

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Access4All Working Group Report

The Access for All working group had several changes in his active members due to staff who left the organization or who were absent for some months. The group continued working on the development of new strategies for the inclusion of people with fewer opportunities in international workcamps all around the world. According to the decision of the GA 2006 in Paris the A4A- group has focused on 2 main goals:

a) the implementation of a new “Accessing Workcamp Campaign 2007” (awc 2007) among the ALLIANCE members during the summer 2007

b) continuation of the follow up of a future “Centralized EVS-Group project “ for EVS-Short term in international workcamps in the framework of the new “Youth in Action”-program (2007 -2013) of the European Union.

These are the main actions the A4AWG took or members have been involved in:

- Paris, 7 November’06: **Accessing Workcamps Workshop** during the Alliance day for all interested members: Contents: Introduction on Alliance’s Accessing policy, feedback of the evaluation of the Accessing Workcamps Campaign 2006 and first mobilisation to join the 2007 campaign

- Clermont-Ferrand, December 7-11 06: Participation in the **seminar “3 nets for inclusion??”** hosted by Unarec. The meeting brought together the three sister-networks (SCI, YAP and ALLIANCE) in order to work on a **new proposal** of Group EVS for the new Youth in Action Program 2007-2013. This seminar was a good opportunity to continue the exchange between the 3 networks, but ended also in the decision not to go for a common application among all 3 nets at this moment.

- The **Post Camp Event** in April 2007 hosted by CIA in Greece focused on the topic of « Inclusion and Access for ALL ». Exchange of good practice and examples of Alliance projects (EVS-workcamps and accessing workcamp campaign 2006) have been presented to the participants. Aims: to hear about feedback from

any volunteers or leaders about this subject in order to promote our “A4A- policy”.

- **Accessing Workcamps Campaign 2007.** During the first months of 2007 the WG worked intensively to update the tools for the new AWC 2007 (Special thanks to Loreto Sanz, the ancient coordinator of our group, who invested a lot of time in this work as “independent support person” and of course to all the members of the A4A working group who spent all their energy on this!!!).

- During a workshop at the TM in Turkey a set of 9 tools was presented in order to facilitate the work among the members and to guarantee the quality of our exchanges with the special target group. All tools were available on the CD of TM. 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 17 organizations involved (including 2 from outside Europe) and more than 100 places available. Evaluation forms were sent to all 17 organizations and a first overview of the results were given at the Alliance Day at GA.

EVS-Group-Project: During the year François Ribaud maintained the contact with the European Commission to update the information about the necessary conditions for a new EVS-Group project for the Alliance.

In 2007 in coordination with the EC the decision was taken not to present a centralized application, because there are still not enough Alliance members who have a national agreement to be sending or hosting organization for a centralized EVS-Group project (EVS-Short term in workcamps) . During the TM in Turkey and in October 2007 again the members were informed about this necessary step for each member willing to join a new centralized EVS project.

Gerhard Wolf (CBF), Access 4 All Working Group Coordinator



External Relations Committee report

Appointed members: Marcela Holicka (INEX), Damien Veyssiere (JR), Chrysafo Arvaniti (CiA), Yannis Piliouris (CVG), Roman Kühn (VJF), Helen Bartlett (Concordia UK)

We held two meetings this year to plan our strategy and discuss the developments within the Alliance. We used this year to introduce new people to the External Relations and look into the future. Our plans for the next years is to help to establish a new network in Latin America, work on a concept for a training session on External Relations and for more clarity on External relations we will work on an Alliance Representation Plan.

We had a meeting in June in Athens and discussed a possible training session on external relations for member organisations. This should include lobbying, negotiation strategies, communication and giving presentations. We feel that this would help new volunteers to build networks and gain expertise and experience they could use as well for the external relations for the Alliance as well as for the members of the Alliance, as well as for their students/professional life. Furthermore we discussed the support of the LA Alliance as we think this would be also interesting to most Alliance members. In this way we would avoid a blown up network from non-European countries. But then we need a strong and reliable partner in Latin America. No concrete actions were taken so far. We discussed the possibilities of having a study visit and/or a supportive or training seminar in Europe. A possible support could be the North/South center of the Council of Europe. When the Alliance agrees on cooperation and we get more news from the LA Alliance we can take further steps. In many meetings, the representative of the Alliance is not always clear how to vote for certain political issues, especially in the YFJ, where the Alliance usually abstains in political resolutions or papers. Therefore, we planned to collect all documents of the Alliance, look at realities, check where we are and where the Alliance wants to go and present it to the members for accepting it as "Alliance Representation Plan". This should be experiences of the Alliance supported by data and present an Alliance position to be used as guideline for

external representation. We did not manage to produce such a paper for this GA due to personal time restrains, but it could be the priority for the next ERC to have such a paper adopted during the next GA. It should be a common project of all Alliance Working Groups or Committees.

We met with CCIVS and NVDA, took part in the meetings of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and in the statutory meetings of the Advisory Council on Youth (AC). Furthermore Roman became member of the Programming Committee (PC) of the European Youth Foundation (EYF) where the program of the EYF is discussed and decided on and decisions on grant applications are taken.

Roman Kühn (VJF), External Relations
Committee Coordinator





Staff Development Working Group report

Group members:

Dorit Seewald	VJF/Germany
Marina Sarli	CVG / Greece
Bojan Beronja	VSS / Serbia
Olha Hryshchuk	Union Forum / Ukraine

The above SDWG was formed in the GA 2007. Unfortunately, no members of the group felt ready to take over the position of the WG coordinator.

The Plan of Action saw the following tasks of the SDWG:

- quality of exchange;
- support members at the Alliance statutory meetings;
- explore new methods and tools.

The Alliance decided at the last GA to keep staff training and staff needs as one of the priorities of the Alliance work during the work.

At the end of the year the SDWG did not come to a new step in the quality of work. A planned

meeting in Berlin did not take place, because there was not enough interest to join the meeting.

The EC tried to take over the responsibility for the work of the group but without success. It is planned to train at least one person to coordinate the work of the group. Dorit Seewald was invited for this to the MC meeting and the GA in November 2007.

During the TM 2007 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 collected 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.

Torsten Löser, Alliance General Secretary



Training Needs WG report

Members:

Astrid Weber, IBG
Dines Justesen, MS (Coordinator and reporter)
Anna Kuzina, EstYES
Xenia Koutentaki/Anthi, CIA
Nadine Pantel, IBG
Ute Siebler, IJGD (Treasurer)
Anna Dolinska, FIYE
Marietta Protonotariou, CVG

The plan of action for the TNWG was decided by the GA in 2006, all tasks have been completed except one task which has been delayed until after the new website is done. Status on each task is provided below.

Assessment of Training Needs: (Done)

A questionnaire about the training needs was carried out during the GA, and the results have since then been analyzed. The results were used when deciding the topic of the next Study Session, which will take place in February 2008.

Asia-Europe TtT 2006: (Done)

Two members of the TNWG took part in the training and in preparation of the final report. Evaluation was done in time for the TM.

Alliance TtT 2007: (Done)

§ A proposal for a TtT was made at the TM, and it was decided that it is up to the EC/MC to make a final selection of a type of training to run.

Training information on Alliance website: (Delayed)

Task cannot be started until the new website is created, so it has been agreed with the General Secretary to delay this task until after the GA.

Study session 2007: (Done)

Study session took place during the summer of 2007, evaluation has been completed. The report from the study session is being written by the ACD and the prep-team.

Study session 2008: (Done)

Based on the results of the questionnaire on training needs, it was decided that the topic of the next study session should be the preparation of volunteers. The application has been approved, and the study session will take place in February 2008. Calls for trainers and participants have been sent to the members. The remaining work will be done by the Alliance Course Director and the prep-team.

On behalf of the working group:

Dines Justesen

TNWG coordinator & reporter



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

In 2007 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.

5-11 March, 2007: hosted by Genctur, Turkey in Antalya
131 participants

The **Extraordinary General Assembly** in March was the extraordinary statutory meeting of the Alliance – it was convened with the specific aim of presenting the Treasurer's report for 2006 and approving proposal for creation of the Alliance's own website.

7 March, 2007: hosted by Genctur, Turkey in Antalya
80 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.

4-5 November 2007: hosted by Legambiente, Italy in Marino
65 participants

Alliance Study Session 2007

International Voluntary youth projects as an educational tool to promote peace and understanding: exploring methods and concrete activities for applying concepts of ICL in daily practice through workcamps"

Strasbourg, France, June 25 – July 1, 2007

It has been the 7th Study Session of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations since 2000.

1. Introduction:

The 2007 study session organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg focused on the topic of intercultural learning (ICL) and the methods and activities that can be used to promote it in daily life in workcamps.

2. Aims and objectives:

The main aim of the study session was to study the notion of cultural diversity and to reassess the concept of Intercultural Learning (ICL) in the context of voluntary service in order to explore new relevant competence, methods and activities when dealing with ICL process in international voluntary youth projects.

Objectives of the study session:

- to look at the aspects of ICL in relation to aims of the voluntary service (international voluntary youth projects in particular)
- to deepen the knowledge of ICL processes and issue of tolerance within youth projects
- to share examples, both good and bad practices and experiences in the voluntary service projects when dealing with intercultural communication
- to explore links between ICL and non-violent Conflict Transformation and study the educational approach for implementing it in practice (during the youth projects)
- to work on concrete ideas of actions in the youth projects for promoting respect of cultural differences and ICL competences
- to plan a follow-up (on individual, organisational and institutional /Alliance levels) with recommendations on each step, when preparing and running an international voluntary youth project (from recruitment of volunteers to evaluation of the project)

3. Trainers and participants:

The preparatory team for the study session consisted of five trainers and an educational advisor from the EYC. Four of the trainers were from Alliance members (IJGD, SIW, CVG, and MS) and one from CCIVS.

We got 60 applications for the 35 places, and all 35 participants accepted took part in the study session. Representatives from 15 Alliance members took part in the study session. The Alliance had been given five extra places by the EYC to be used for representatives from other networks or organisations. In the end we had more than five participants from other networks or organisations, including people from SCI, SEEYN, CCIVS, and AEGEE.



4. Content

The topics discussed at the study session include:

1. Why voluntary service?

The goals of voluntary service were discussed, focusing both on why we organize it, how this has changed through time, and the personal motivation of young people taking part in VS. The goal of this part was to get a common understanding of what we are trying to achieve, the role that cultural diversity and ICL plays, as well as what participants are expecting, thereby setting the stage for the sessions that followed.

2. Culture, cultural diversity, ICL, conflict transformation

Building on that the following sessions tried to widen the concept of culture, increasing the focus on cultural diversity in voluntary service, and look at how ICL can be encouraged and facilitated in our projects. We then looked at conflict transformation, and then related that to how that can be used when trying to facilitate ICL in VS projects, and thereby increasing the learning.

3. Sharing methods

As all organisations are dealing with cultural diversity and ICL in their projects, trainings etc, time was spend sharing the methods used in the different organizations, focusing on different actors that play a role in the project.

4. New methods

Based on the output from the previous sessions the participants were given an opportunity to develop new methods and activities that can be used to promote ICL. This output was then used in the follow-up, where participants were given an opportunity to start planning how these new methods could be used.



5. Outcome

The most important outcome is that the participants left the study session motivated to work on improving the way their organizations try to facilitate ICL in their projects, trainings etc. Combined with a deeper knowledge of the role of ICL and ideas for improving it, this should enable them to make a difference in their organization, and through trainings and seminars also help other young people.

As part of the session on developing new methods descriptions of all new methods/activities were written down and edited based on feedback from the prep-team and the other participants. Some of these descriptions have already been used by the participants, but will also be collected in a document and sent to all member organizations.

6. Impact and follow-up

Individual:

Several participants left the study session with very concrete ideas on how they could use the outcome of the study session. In addition to this a lot of people were motivated to be more active in their organization, and for some in the Alliance. One example of this is trainers, who see an opportunity to use some of the outcome in one of their future trainings,

Member organizations:

Several of the participants are trainers in their organizations, so the outcome of the session is expected to be used in future trainings of the member organizations. This includes preparation seminars for volunteers and training of future camp leaders for workcamps.

Alliance:

Some of the participants focused on the preparation of volunteers for international voluntary service projects, and how preparation seminars could be used to increase ICL during the projects. As the Alliance will be organizing a study session focusing on preparation of volunteers in February 2008, the outcome of this will be used in the planning of the next session.

Several participants worked on ways of improving the training of camps leaders, so the camp leaders are better prepared for facilitating ICL during a workcamp. The hope is that this output from the study session be used in the preparation of the future TtTs.

Networks:

As a part of the study session a group of participants worked on how a training for campleaders focusing on inclusion could be structured, and thereby improve both inclusion and ICL in workcamps. During the planning of follow-up activities, the group decided to try to realize the training in cooperation with both the Alliance and SCI.

7. Evaluation

The study session included daily reflection groups, and at the end of the session an evaluation session and a written evaluation was carried out. In the written evaluation the participants was among other things asked to rate different aspects of the study session from 1 (bad) to 5 (good), all aspects received an average of more then 3, with the toal average being 4. The comments from the participants were among other things:

- will include more ICL activities in training courses for workcamp coordinators
- will include more ICL activities in workcamps
- will share the new knowledge with colleagues and partner organisations
- will realise with other represented organisations one of the projects developed during the session
- will evaluate the ICL process in the organisation's projects once back home
- will get more involved in their sending organisations.



Alliance Post Camp Event 2007
How to improve and support active participation of young people
with less opportunities in international projects

Athens, Greece, April 30-May 6, 2007

Hosted by Citizens in Action

The main aim of this meeting was to encourage and enable participants to take a more active role in the fight against exclusion and in the developments of tools (focusing on workcamps) that will ensure the active participation of young people with fewer opportunities and people who face or risk facing exclusion.

Original aims of the project included:

- to share common methods of working with young people with less opportunities in Alliance members organisations. This meeting follows the Alliances' members' decision to increase their efforts in order to support young people with less opportunities to participate in the voluntary projects (2005 -2006), as a first field of exercising their skills of active participation and inclusion.
- to promote the values of voluntary projects, as an important mean of promoting intercultural understanding, acceptance and tolerance of diversity.
- to raise awareness of youth leaders on their role as facilitators and motivators of young participants coming from disadvantaged background.
- to give them means to impact on youth participating in Alliances' activities

The programme was formed by different blocks of activities. Each day was dedicated to the exploration of different dimensions of inclusion and participation of concerned young people.

The campaign “**ALL DIFFERENT- ALL EQUAL**” was one of the first presentations given to the participants of this meeting. It was very interesting to see that most of the participants heard about the campaign and the Council of Europe for the first time in their life.



The first day was dedicated to the exploration of the reasons of exclusion and non participation. The second step consisted in defining the meaning of participation and democracy. Workcamps were studied as a practical tool of implementing the ideas and values of democratic participation and inclusion. Participants got the chance to see real examples of participation and inclusion in the area of Athens. They have visited the “Market of Kypseli” where citizens had succeeded to claim the building of the old market and transform it in one of the first open social – cultural self managed centres of Greece.

The visit to “ESTIA”, training centre for young people with mental disability problems was very enlightening for participants as they had a direct contact with a social group facing racist and excluding behaviours. The visit to

“STEKI” immigrants association helped participants to understand another dimension of exclusion. They had the chance to talk with immigrants and refugees and learn about the difficulties they are facing. Participants also had the chance to experience firsthand what it means to carry out antiracist and inclusion projects. Participants decided to organise an extra activity in “STEKI”.



They organised a “black and white” party where they presented the campaign and delivered material. On the 5th of May a representative of the National Youth Council gave to the participants a short presentation about the different activities realised in Greece in the frame of the Campaign. Participants asked the representative of the national Youth Council questions concerning the European policy about the issue of inclusion.

One of the main results of this meeting was that most of the participants expressed their intention to get involved in the Campaign once back in their countries.





Alliance General Conference 2007
Voluntary service for teenagers:
a multipurpose tool for non-formal education to solidarity,
environmental awareness, and conflict resolution
Marino Laziale (Italy), 6-11 November, 2007
hosted by Legambiente

Supported by:

The European Youth Foundation; Municipality of Marino; "G. Carissimi" School, Marino; Civic Museum of Marino "U. Mastroianni"; Hostel "Il Chiostro", Marino; Rinascita Bookshop, Rome.

For the second time Legambiente hosted the Alliance General Conference; it was held in Marino (a small town close to Rome) from the 6th to the 11th of November 2007.

We had 48 participants, from 20 Countries, representing 29 associations. Participants came from different experiences; their different background and level of preparation was more a richness than a difficulty in the development of the conference.

Following different inputs raised in the last years/seasons coming from many associations among Alliance members and with the aim of continuing the work started in 2 different Alliance meetings in France and Estonia, the topic of the Conference was **"VOLUNTEEN - Voluntary service for teenagers: a multipurpose non-formal education tool for solidarity, environmental awareness and conflict resolution"**.

Can volunteering play an important role in adolescent age? What are the aims of these experiences: encourage youth's independence, promote an intercultural exchange, or increase the value of a non formal education? In this "internet age" we are living how can volunteering and manual work raise the interest and attractiveness in the young generation?

To answer these questions, Legambiente and Alliance decided to focus this year's General Conference on voluntary experience for teenagers, in order to develop and improve the educational tools teenagers have at their disposal.



The purpose of the meeting was to develop the voluntary opportunities for young people in order to increase and to widen the educational tools that teenagers have at their disposal.



Aims of the meeting as proposed by the Alliance members:

- To collect and exchange information and feedback about the social and cultural conditions of young people in several European countries
- To analyze and assess the voluntary service experience as a non-formal education process concerning youth and teenagers
- To exchange good practices and to implement volunteer activities for teenagers
- To promote voluntary projects as a way of involving disadvantaged youth in non-formal learning opportunities

Main programme elements, their contents/working methods:

Main elements:

The programme mainly focused on the following questions:

- Adolescent age: psychology, sociology, group dynamics, education frameworks, family contexts and media influence
- Inputs on non-formal education frameworks: voluntary service, music, sports, and politics
- Overview on the volunteer activities for teenagers: implementation and development
- Teenagers with a difficult background/fewer opportunities: accessibility to voluntary service and its possible positive consequences

Working methods:

Experts introduced the topics in order to get the necessary scientific inputs and the framework of the subject. Then, the participants discussed their previous experience in order to share their knowledge with the participants. All speakers have a background in the field of voluntary associations and are involved in formal and non-formal education activities.

Our organization strongly believes that volunteering still remains one of the best activities for young generations, and we have noticed that demand for teen workcamps is rapidly growing every year.

We believe that in the long run the results of this meeting will support the Alliance member organizations in improving their capacity of project building, co-operation and lobby work.



Europe-Asia training for trainers
Exploring Dimensions of Understanding and Participation
 Tallinn, Estonia, 1-7 December, 2007
 hosted by EstYES

The Asia-Europe Foundation and the Alliance of Voluntary Service Organisations, in cooperation with the Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA), organised the Training for Trainers on Exploring Dimensions of Understanding and Participation, held in Tallinn, Estonia, from the 1st to the 7th December 2007 and hosted by the Estonian Youth Exchange Service (ESTYES). The 26 participants (8 from Asia and 18 from Europe) and 6 trainers gathering to analyse the different conceptions and dimensions of active participation in the culture and history of the two continents, represented 23 ASEM countries and a variety of organisations active at the grassroots as well as the institutional level. Training was attended by ASEF People-to-People Exchange Department Director Mr Ramon Molina and Project Manager Ms Katerina Ragoussi and CCIYS VP (former President) Shinishiro Kaizawa.



The *main objectives* of the **E.D.U.P.** training course were for the participants – young active members, trainers, camp leaders, community leaders and staff acting as facilitators and multipliers in this field - to:

- *consider voluntary service as a tool for integration and active participation* of young individuals in the life of their communities and countries, a bridge between the personal growth of citizens and their understanding of and contribution to the collective life.
- *analyse* and understand the different *conceptions of individual and collective dimensions* existing in the culture and history of Asia and Europe
- *explore* the *diversity of approaches toward participation* and involvement, encouraging and empowering Youth to take an active role in their societies
- *share* the *experiences and knowledge* from the two continents and *improve their abilities both to involve and better prepare* local and international volunteers to the different context and understanding of volunteerism and its aims and objectives

- be able to **create**, through the organisation of specific sessions on cross-cutting issues, **a clear link between the voluntary activities and further involvement of the participants in their civil societies**, transforming the quality and commitment of youth participation beyond the limited space of their volunteering experiences
- **support** through appropriate evaluation of the project organised by their organisations **the individual learning process** of the volunteers, and **contribute at the creation and implementation of public spaces of expression** at the community, national and regional level.
- **stimulate Youth** in their societies **to take active responsibilities** in the co-management of the organisations themselves, and encourage them to **take the concept of active participation further on the regional and Asia-Europe level**, building **new** regional and international **partnerships and** reaching when appropriated the work of the existing networks operating in different fields to create new **synergies** on the topic.

Exploring the complexity and diversity of approaches toward participation in the two continents, the participants developed fundamental skills to empower youth actors and use voluntary service as a major tool for the integration and active involvement of young individuals in the life of their communities and countries.

The learning process revealed the importance of theoretical background and relevant communication strategies when approaching the variety of actors constituting the target groups of the organisations and institutions involved in the training. The success and visibility of the demonstrative actions planned and realised by the participants in the occasion of the International Day of Volunteers confirmed their renewed ability to reproduce and adapt the participative approach to a different cultural, social and political context, and at every level of activity: individual, community, society.



Plan of Action 2007 (realised)

Action 2007	Who	When	process
1. Alliance Events and Projects			
Regular events:			
• a) one Post Camp Event	CIA	April 2007	Done
• b) one Technical Meeting	Genctur	March 2007	Done
• c) one General Conference	Legambiente	November 2007	Done
Other events:			
• a) one study session	ACD	Spring 2007	Done
• b) Select a topic for Study Session 2008	MC	TM 2007	Done
• c) prepare study session application for 2008	ACD	Summer 2007	Done
d) Having Alliance training	TN WG	Throughout the year	On process
c) To run an information session about the new Youth in Action programme 2007-2013	EC	Throughout the year	Done
Projects:			
• a) Prepare future Collective EVS action (as a follow up of EVS Workcamps)	Acess 4 All WG & UNAREC	Throughout the year	On process
• b) Prepare common project for older volunteers (as a follow up of the Still active project)	EstYES & Lunaria	Throughout the year	On Process
• c) Apply for a publication project	MC	TM 2007	Started
• d) Celebration of Alliance 25th anniversary	Steering group & ADC	Throughout the year	Done
• e) To run an accessing workcamp campaign	A4AllWG	Throughout the year	Done
2. Management of the Alliance			
a) Continue experimete new working methods inside Alliance (WG/MC)	VP & ADC	Throughout the year	On process
b) Creation and Implementation of new Alliance website	GS	Throughout the year	Done
c) Working on Alliance event and project management	ADC	Throughout the year	On Process
d) evaluate current tasks and future needs of the Alliance's European secretariat	GS	Throughout the year	On process
e) follow up new Alliance bank account	T	asap	On process
3. Co-operation between members			
a) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM.	SDWG	TM 2007	Done
b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve quality of exchanges programmes	SDWG	TM & GC	Done
c) To create an Alliance Pool of Trainers	TN WG	Throughout the year	Planned
d) To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners	SDWG	Throughout the year	Started
e) to evaluate or enhance the methods to use at the Technical Meeting	SDWG	Throughout the year	Started
f) To run a regularly session on accessing workcamps	A4AllWG	Throughout the year	Done
g) To evaluate the relevance of training on fundraising and grant management	Lunaria & UNAREC	Throughout the year	Not started
4. Information and communication			
a) To work on updating the Alliance Guidebook	GS & ADC	Throughout the year	On process



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Plan of
Action

b) To conceive Alliance newsletters	AM	Throughout the year	Not started
5. External relations			
a) To work on visibility of Alliance in other platforms	VPER & ERC	Throughout the year	On Process
b) Continue the work of Liaison committee of voluntary service organisations in Europe	VPER	Throughout the year	On Process
c) Establish and maintain the cooperation with other regional networks	VPER	Throughout the year	On Process



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ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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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 ExchangesFinland 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 through international exchanges, with the aim of the enhancement of knowledge, mutual understanding and peace; to contribute to community and local development through the participation of local and foreign volunteers in projects of benefit to all, with an emphasis on rural areas; to promote people's participation to defend and define their quality of life, aiming at the protection of the human person and the environment.

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 www.cj.qc.ca 1980

(Chantiers Jeunesse)

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

COCAT Spain/Catalunya www.cocat.org 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 www.concordia-association.org 1950

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

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

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

CVG-ELIX Greece www.elix.org.gr 1987

(Conservation Volunteers Greece)

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

DEINETA Lithuania 1988

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

ESTYES Estonia www.estyes.ee 1991

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



FIYE	Poland	www.fiye.org	1989
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(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 FIYE's projects always emphasise the fact that due to the 'Polish experience' they have grown responsible, open-minded and above all, they managed to stand up to a challenge, test themselves in demanding conditions and initiate cross-cultural dialogue, which they consider rewarding and valuable in today's world.

Gençtur	Turkey	www.genctur.com	1979
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Gençtur's aims are to offer possibilities for young people from Turkey and other countries to get to know each others cultures and to diminish the prejudices about each other through the international voluntary workcamps. Domestic workcamps offers a great chance to get close contact with the local population and to introduce the Turkish culture to foreign participants, while workcamps abroad give the chance to provide cultural exchange for Turkish young people. Gençtur refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.

GSM	Turkey	www.gsm-youth.org	1985
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Youth Services Centre (Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi)

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

HUJ	Armenia	www.huj.am	1965
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(Voluntary Service of Armenia)

HUJ organises activities of Armenian and foreign volunteers in international workcamps in Armenia; sends Armenian volunteers to participate in international workcamps, seminars, workshops, training, and information meetings; promotes intercultural learning and mutual understanding by encouraging cultural exchanges, visits and seminars; encourages young people to take an active part in social activities via non-profit organisations; sensitise



young people towards equal opportunities for men and women and to encourage women to lead an active life in all sectors of society; co-operate with state government, authorities, NGOs, political and religious organisations and enterprises in order to fulfil mutual aims and projects; provide care for orphans, handicapped people, refugees and socially vulnerable groups; enable young people to become aware of the importance of democracy in the formation of society and thus encourage them to play an active role in its institutions.

IBG Germany www.workcamps.com 1965

(Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V)

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

IJGD Germany www.IJGD.de
1948

(Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste)

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

INEX - SDA Czech Republic www.inexsda.cz 1991

(Association for Voluntary Service)

INEX SDA is a voluntary non governmental, non profit-making youth organisation, which focuses on international voluntary projects. To promote voluntary help, solidarity, civil society and intercultural understanding through voluntary service, INEX - SDA organises short term, as well as long term voluntary projects and exchanges.

INEX – SDA runs its activities in the Czech Republic within following areas:

- 1/ Development of rural regions – running the rural centre in Eastern Bohemia, so called Blue Stone House and other regional branches, dealing with sustainable life and management of regional projects;
- 2/ Short term voluntary projects (workcamps) – camps are divided into five programmes according to their study parts;
- 3/ Long term projects – working under several programmes;
- 4/ Disadvantaged children – “Big Brother, Big Sister” programme working with children from disadvantaged background;



5/ Development Education – preparing development Education seminars, establishing Czech Forum for Development Co-operation together with other Czech NGOS dealing with development issues.

INEX Slovakia Slovakia www.inex.sk 1993

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

IWO South Korea www.1.or.kr 1999
(*International Workcamp Organisation*)

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

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



Legambiente Italy www.legambiente.com 1980

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

Lunaria Italy <http://www.lunaria.org> 1992

International Voluntary Service is only a part of Lunaria.

Other activities of Lunaria are:

- National campaigns to work on peace and environment issues within Italian budget laws;
- Improving the situation for immigrants in Italy;
- Help desk for asylum seekers in Italy;
- Research on 3rd sector;
- Socrates programme promoting MTV to senior volunteers (55-70 years of age) in five different EU countries.

LYVS Belarus www.lyvs.bn.by 1994

(League of Youth Voluntary Service)

LYVS is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation. It is based on the principle of free membership. It assists young people in accomplishing initiatives based on volunteer work.

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 www.siw.nl 1953

(Internationale Vrijwilligers Projekten)

The objectives of SIW are to encourage international contact and understanding, to stimulate the development of young people, and to do socially, culturally and environmentally useful work. These objectives are primarily realised by sending young people from the Netherlands to volunteer projects in other countries and welcoming young people in international voluntary projects in the Netherlands. SIW refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.

SVI Spain www.mtas.es/injuve 1950's

(Instituto de la Juventud)

SVI is the International Voluntary Service department of the Youth Institute of Spain and deals only with the workcamp activities aimed at young people who are between 18 and



26 years old. Its main objectives are to stimulate the exchange of ideas and youth global development, strengthening their own intercultural learning processes, their personal development and the reinforcement of democratic values. It also aims at integrating experiences, personal knowledge and the global development of young people in the carrying out of activities in the frame of voluntary work.

UNA Exchange United Kingdom/Wales www.unaexchange.org 1973

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

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

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

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

Union Forum Ukraine www.union-forum.org 1989

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.



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|---|---------|--|------|
| VFP | USA | www.vfp.org | 1982 |
| <i>(Volunteers for Peace)</i> | | | |
| <p>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.</p> | | | |
| VIMEX | Mexico | www.vimex.org.mx | 1985 |
| <i>(Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico AC)</i> | | | |
| <p>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.</p> | | | |
| Vive Mexico | Mexico | www.vivemexico.org | 1997 |
| <p>Vive Mexico is a non-profit making, Non-Governmental Organisation that has been co-ordinating workcamps in Mexico since 1997. The main activities of Vive Mexico involve the organisation of workcamps as a tool to help in different programmes for the culture, social and ecological issues of Mexico but also to promote intercultural exchanges and understanding between the participants and the local communities in 11 states of the Mexican republic. Vive Mexico also organises other activities such as medium and long-term volunteer service projects. Its philosophy consists of involving young people of different nationalities to projects focused on aid and co-operation with the objective to provide a space where the energy and creativity of the group can be channelled in a background that promotes the brotherhood and solidarity between the nations of the world. At the same time the aim is to make the participants aware that the problems are a human responsibility.</p> | | | |
| VJF | Germany | www.vjf.de | 1990 |
| <i>(Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger)</i> | | | |
| <p>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.</p> | | | |



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.

WORKCAMP SWITZERLAND Switzerland www.workcamp.ch 2004

Workcamp Switzerland is a non-profit organisation, independent of political parties and religiously neutral. By organizing and arranging international workcamps, Workcamp Switzerland aims to achieve a double effect: on the one hand, it aims to support social, cultural and ecological projects which can hardly be realized without the aid of volunteers. On the other hand, it aims to enable young people from Switzerland and other countries to have learning experiences and encounters, which deepen their understanding of other cultures, strengthen their sense of responsibility, extend their practical experience and further their cooperative skills.



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
CJM	Maroc	Partner
JEC	Maroc	Partner
MCE	Mongolia	Partner
NIFC	Nepal	Partner
IPJ	Portugal	Partner
NNVS	Russia	Partner
Mir Tesen	Russia (St. Petersburg)	Partner
KNCU	South Korea	Partner
Greenway	Thailand	Partner
ATAV	Tunisia	Partner
World Pulse	USA	Partner
Subir Al Sur	Argentina	Guest for 2007



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Invitation List

See Beyond Borders	Iceland	Guest for 2007
Passage Zebra	Russia	Guest for 2007

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
Bridge to Future	Azerbaijan	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
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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