



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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2008 – it was the year of the start of an extremely global economic crisis. Starting with an subprime crisis we are now in a situation where almost all countries are in difficulties. Social and political crisis are linked to this fact.

In this moment voluntary work should become more important even to give many people the chance to get the feeling that voluntary work means, to facilitate the understanding of other cultures, political systems, religions and geographical conditions. From these aims we hope that volunteers will make use of their experiences and knowledge to further social and economic equality. Voluntary work make it possible for people from across the world to live and work together on an equal basis, to work with a local community and assist in solving problems in society at large.

In the last years we sometimes were not sure if workcamps are really something where young people want to spend their leisure time. The number of people joining workcamps inside our network did not grow anymore. The Alliance members started to work on this point. Different kind of projects was developed like teenager camps, senior voluntary projects. Since many years the Alliance has an accessing campaign to involve people from disadvantaged background to international voluntary service.

Finally in 2008 Alliance members organised the total of 1451 workcamps with 17172 participants.

In 2008 the Alliance organised a General Conference, hosted by our Ukrainian member Alternative-V, in Lviv from 4 – 9 November 2008 with the topic: "From preparation through evaluation and follow-up: enhancing quality of international voluntary workcamps as a practical tool for intercultural education"

We tried to come back to our roots this year that means to work more on our "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 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". The objectives of the conference were to analyze the role of preparation and evaluation of a volunteer workcamp as of a practical intercultural education activity, to define how to ensure that the workcamp provides the participants – young people, with an intercultural education experience: should the experience be thoroughly guided or just happening naturally, by itself, to look into the quality aspects of workcamps (leaders' preparation, volunteers' preparation, minimum quality and safety standards), to exchange good practices and experiences in preparation and evaluation of voluntary service projects on different

levels: within national organisations and internationally, to explore new techniques and methods of workcamp evaluation, to develop a system for the seasonal workcamp evaluation within the Alliance and to include it in the regular Alliance events, which would result in improved project, their increased intercultural education value and partnership quality.

The Alliance also continued to run the EVS centralised project. For this we established a steering group and also we have now a co-ordination to have a good outcome of this project. It is planned to run around 50 exchanges within this project.

In 2008 we could use our website www.alliance-network.eu to establish more tools to make the daily work of the member organisations easier.

Thus, in December 2008 the Alliance consists of 23 Full Members in 20 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, 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 4 candidate members in 4 countries (Iceland, Japan, Montenegro, Switzerland).

Finally in 2008 after five years my mandate as Alliance General Secretary finished. I would like to thank all Alliance members to give me the chance to be an active part of this network and for the very good co-operation. It was great and a big experience to fulfil this task. I also would like to thank all Alliance partners as our sister networks, sponsors and the entire organisation worldwide for your support. I also would like to thank Lesya Verheijen. She was the Alliance Administrative Assistant for many years and did a great job. Without her assistance I would be not able to do my job

I wish the new Alliance General Secretary Kaarina Konsap (EstYes Estonia) personally and the Alliance in general all the best! Good luck!

Torsten Löser (ijgd Germany)
Ex-General Secretary



Lesya Verheijen and Torsten Löser

Statistics 2008

In 2008

44 Alliance Members

17172 volunteers

- 80% sent abroad
- 20% in the country

34% males – 66% females

10% under 18

83% between 18 and 30

6% over 31-50 years old

0.9% 50 years old and over

0.1% N/A

Volunteers sent to:

76% Europe

2% North America

4% South America

13% Asia

0% Oceania

5% Africa

Exchange balance:

66% ALLIANCE

5% SCI

6% YAP

14% OTHERS (from Alliance Invitation List)

9% OTHERS (bilateral contacts)

1451 workcamps

17138 places proposed

Environment 36%

Renovation 19%

Culture 10%

14715 volunteers present

86% of the places filled

6% of Teenager projects

19799 workcamp days in total

182 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

188 projects open to disabled youth

327 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%

Construction 17%

Renovation 13%

9908 volunteers present

86% of the places filled

7.6% of Teenager projects (75)

106 persons staffed by Alliance members to run the workcamp programme

EC report, Working Groups meetings, Secretariat

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 2008 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 2007 elected the following persons for the EC positions:

Position	Person	Organisation
President	Roman Kühn	VJF (Germany)
Vice President	Oykum Bagci	GSM (Turkey)
Vice President for External Relations	Damien Veyssieure	J&R (France)
General Secretary	Torsten Löser	ijgd (Germany)
Treasurer	Marco Paoli	Concordia (France)
Additional Member	Dines Justesen	MS (Denmark)

The EC had the following meetings in 2008:

January 2008	Paris (France)
March 2008	Sete (France)
June 2008	Berlin (Germany)
September 2008	Berlin (Germany)
November 2008	Lviv (Ukraine)

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 voluntarily, 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 2008 – in March, September 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 task 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 consists 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 2008 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 2008 the Alliance member organisations ran 1451 workcamps.

What is a workcamp?

For 88 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 and 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 2008

Dear friends!

So this is my first report of the past year to the General Assembly as a president and I am very proud, happy and glad to do so. I think this year was an exceptional year for most of us and for the Alliance anyway.

It started last November when we did not have candidates for the position of the president and treasurer and thus could not close the GA. From all possibilities that were on the table to solve this difficult situation, this was probably the best one. It had the advantage that we all had time to think about the Alliance and the role of the EC and the responsibilities and involvement of members towards the Alliance. Finally we came up with two candidates for the position of the president and we had an election, which did deserve its title. I think the procedure was as it should be for every election. We did have two candidates, who presented their candidature before the EOGA, so members could make up their mind before. We then had time to question the candidates to get answers to questions that were still open and had a democratic vote. So please consider standing for open positions well in advance and presenting your candidature before the GA, also if there might be another candidate already. I wish we can have this way of election for every position in the Alliance, as I sometimes felt in former GAs that we ask for more standards to our volunteers than for the EC of the Alliance.

The six months started off quite smooth, as the main thing we had to do was to wait on decisions to be taken by the European Institutions. Not that we were doing nothing! We went to a lobby seminar in Brussels, hosted by AVSO, where we met people responsible for youth and volunteering. We learnt more about a new initiative of the EU on volunteering that does not fit the idea of volunteering most organisations in the Alliance have. So we did some work and could convince some representatives on occasions of the Slovenian Youth event and meetings of the Advisory Council and Programming Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe to revise this initiative. The outcome was the AMICUS programme, and, as I just learnt, the last word is still not spoken on this issue and gives us eventually more time to intervene.

When we got answers on the grants we were requesting, they were mainly not satisfactory. The European Youth Foundation did not grant us the B grant for the publication we requested, not due to the quality of the application but the lack of money they had and other applications were simply better. This put us under pressure to present another application for the EYF 2009 for the October deadline, in order to

be eligible for an administrative grant next year. An application for training will be presented (at the point of writing we are on a very good way).

Secondly, we got an answer by the Executive Agency (EA) for the three years administrative grant and it said we would not be eligible, as we were not legally established for at least four years. We then started a quite intense lobbying campaign, including the Danish National Agency, the Danish Youth Council and the European Youth Forum. Finally, we received an administrative grant from the EA of an amount of 9.000 Euros. It looked like a compromise to us, also due to the fact that there were calculation mistakes in the budget. I do not want to interfere with the Treasurer's report, but the conclusion for me in this respect is that we need to improve on writing applications. We should either have a stronger secretariat that is in charge of applications and gets content support by members or the EC. Otherwise we can think about having an additional working group or a pool of people who are experienced in writing applications.

The positive reply for a grant we did receive on the EVS short term application. But very unfortunate, the answer came too late, just 5 days before the programme started. In this short time it was not possible to realise the exchanges as planned. Just very few exchanges were realised. A Steering Group meeting was hosted by Concordia France mid July and it was decided to ask the EA to change the dates to next year. A letter was written and at the point of writing, we are still waiting for the reply.

The EC also took over the chairing of the steering group, which might have some advantages, but in my point of view also some disadvantages. With the diverse tasks of the EC, we are often concerned with many technical tasks that take away a lot of energy. In this respect I want to thank IBG and Nadine Pantel who took over some tasks as secretary of the SG. But nevertheless, again, I think we should strengthen our secretariat, in order to be able to think more in a political, rather than a technical way. I think in this way we can improve our work, be more effectively and visible, also towards our sponsors.

Another point, talking about structures, was the fixing of the Management Committee in the constitution and the Standing Orders. A proposal is on the table, which I think is a good one. The Management Committee gives our work another positive dimension and it proved to be a good committee during the "test phase", so now we can fix its form in the structures of the Alliance. A remarkable comeback was made by the Alliance Development Committee during the last MC meeting with many brilliant ideas and a big work load. This made me think about the possibility of having a two years term for the Committees probably from next year on, for them to have more stability

and the possibility to cope with their work load. This could also support a more long term plan of action of the Alliance.

One of the proposals that came up during the last MC meeting was to have an Alliance data base. I think it is an important step, especially as the proposal is to have it compatible with the e-vet system. It could be a good first step to bring the two systems closer together, to reduce the work load for the organisations' staff in the office and also to reduce the frustration between e-vet and non-e-vet users. Furthermore it is a good step to use the Alliance tools much more effectively and strengthens our network.

For the membership of the Alliance, it was for some organisations a difficult year. At this point, I would like to thank CBF again for hosting an absolutely great Technical meeting. The sadder it was when I heard about their problems. I do strongly hope they will be solved and we will welcome CBF back in the Alliance.

The rise of membership fee did help us this year, in a very difficult time. I think we will see how the implications are and evaluate them throughout the next year.

We will go on looking for partners and members, especially in European countries where the Alliance does not have members yet, to become a network that covers the whole of Europe and even some parts of the world.

What else do we need to think of? As some points came up during the season, that showed some

frustration of organisations, everybody should be reminded of some basic principles, I think. First of all, we are an intercultural network with members from different countries that differ in their culture. Some countries do have the same language, or a similar one, but still they have different cultures that we want to have represented in our workcamps. As we all promote intercultural workcamps, we should keep this in mind. A second point in this whole discussion is for me *how* we discuss this issue. I must say, I find it very frustrating if a discussion is started, to just to fall silent after the first letter. This also creates irritation for those who want to clarify points. So I want to encourage everybody to make sure we do have a culture of discussion within the Alliance that creates a mutual understanding instead of frustration.

So the final word and vision I would like to create is an Alliance with many engaged members in Europe and parts of the world, strongly interlinked with other regional networks, a democratic elected EC, supported by a strong secretariat and the MC that take care of the many useful tools of the Alliance and ensure a safe financing of the administration as well as of the many projects from our institutional partners, which do see the Alliance as a trustworthy and experienced partner with a strong experience on the volunteering field and like to listen to our opinion.

Roman Kuehn,
President of the Alliance of European Voluntary
Service Organisations

General Secretary's Report 2008

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.

A. Introduction

2007 was not the easiest year for the Alliance in general and for me personally. In Marino we could not elect a new Alliance president and so we had to prolong the Alliance General Assembly until March 2008. In Sète we had then the situation to have the possibility to choose between two candidates with the result that the Alliance became a new Alliance president. Also some other "key persons" of the Alliance left the EC in 2007 so we had more or less a really new EC with new people, new ideas but also with a need to spend more time to find our own way. I think the EC managed this change very good and now even the EC found its system to work closely together. But also a lot of people which gave in important input into the Alliance in the past left their organisations for different reasons and I think this influenced the work if I think of persons like Christoph Meder, Marie-Jean Turdot-Dupuis, Annick Corominola and Gerhard Wolf.

After 5 years I would say the "reorganisation" of the Alliance is finished. We changed the membership system and gave more rights to our Non-European members, we also created a new membership fee system which we have to evaluate now, we established more working methods like the Alliance Days and created new working structures like the Management Committee (the EC proposal for this is on the table) and last but not least we have a new Alliance website and an Alliance secretariat which is working with two assistants for the moment.

Now on my point of view it is more than time to work on the quality of our work. How can the Alliance support its members to improve their work, how can we develop projects linked to the interests of our members, how can we train staff and trainers, how can we develop stable and good relations to our partner organisations and networks. For me the main task of the Alliance Development Committee should be to work on this topic and to prepare an Alliance Development Plan.

In the last years we prepared the Alliance to become a cooperative network but now we should really work on it. To give you one example: In spring we had the discussion about the political issues of exchange of volunteers. For a cooperative network should use the General Assembly to think about and to work on this topic and to have an outcome after it. The changes at the structures and the management can be only the base of our work which is done. Now we need a new step.

B. 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 and this was done in 2008.

I would propose that the members could agree and to work on the next concrete steps to create a permanent Alliance secretariat which combines the work of the current assistants we have. It is not that I am in favour of an international office based in Brussels but I see a need to have a person which is working for the Alliance on a professional level and with safety to work there for more than one year.

Since Alternative-V is hosting the AAA position we really have a very high standard and I think we could even be better on this. The secretariat could also support the work of members for instance to look for interesting calls to create projects or to advice members to deal with European grants.

I know that permanent staffs have advantages and disadvantages but we never took these things on a piece of paper to have a basis to decide about it. This could be a topic for the next EC so that members can decide it at the GA 2009.

Again I really would like to thank Lesya Verheijen for her great job. She was always a great and a loyal and faithful support for the EC and I am sure for the whole Alliance.

C. Internal Communication

In 2008 we started to use the Alliance website to improve the internal communication. My personal feeling is that members prefer to have a good possibility to find news instead to get hundreds of e-mails every day. So the EC worked on it but of course things could be always better.

Especially the outcome of Alliance EC meetings should be faster available at least at the Alliance website. We try to do our best but not always we can manage it on time. For the whole EC I just want repeat again that we are doing this task as volunteers and sometimes our professional or private life limits our possibilities to work for the Alliance. This should be also in your mind but nevertheless we try to answer and react quickly to every request we get.

D. Alliance website

We can use now the new Alliance website since one year. I got a lot of positive feedbacks about the layout and content of the website. But the website is your tool and you should use it. I would wish that more working groups use it to present their work. We could have corner where we inform about calls for proposals of European institutions. We also will set there the Alliance Pool of Trainers and inform members about our external activities.

In 2008 we also used the website to upload Friday Lists and Infosheets. 34 Alliance members and partners used this opportunity. I was surprised that some Alliance members did not use it even without any explanation. I was always available to help if needed. A basic tool is created now and can develop further and I hope that the Alliance is willing to continue to develop and create its own tool.

Even if the Alliance is using a very easy system I see the need to appoint a person who is able to support members and EC to use the website just as a technical "assistant". I would be happy if I could support the EC in the next time in this issue.

E. Management Committee and working groups

You got the proposal to change the Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders and to establish the Management Committee as a consultative body for the Alliance, especially for the Alliance EC. Since 2005 we practice to have this Management Committee and normally we had 2-3 meetings a year to discuss important questions of the Alliance life. We used this chance as EC to get a direct feedback especially from working groups and to prepare together the Alliance events as the plenary during Technical Meeting, the General Assembly or the Alliance Day.

I really think we are ready to finish this experiment and to establish this new element of our structure. I hope you can support this idea.

F. 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.

Anyway I have the feeling it is getting more and more difficult to run Alliance events. Last year we agreed on some basic points to host an Alliance event and short before the General Assembly we had the situation that the host of Technical Meeting got some difficulties to fulfil this criteria's for the TM 2009.

The EC is always in a difficult role in such a case. We have to follow the decision of the GA, we have to respect the wish of members but we also have to trust our hosts and of course sometimes life is not following our decisions and we have to change our direction. My personal remark on this is that my experience in the Alliance is that we ever tried to do our best and to have in mind how member would handle such situations. I hope you can trust your EC as well and give it enough flexibility.

G. Application for Administrative Grant

In 2007 the Alliance applied for the first time for a framework partnership agreement with the European Commission (under the new Youth in Action Programme Action 4.1). This was a huge work and I am sure we worked not always on the best way which was possible. Anyway we could finish the application.

After the deadline the EC was confronted with a situation where EADGC explained us that the Alliance would not fulfil the legal conditions to apply for this grant because we are not registered long enough. Beside the point that there is no common European definition about the point what does it meant to be registered we also could not agree with it. Since 1999 the Alliance got this grant and we ask ourselves why the commission paid thousands of Euro to a ghost in the past. Also we got some problems because we told the EADGC after our Assembly some changes in budget. So they told us we sent the budget to late which was not true we just changed it to make it clear in advance.

The whole EC worked very hard on this topic to prevent the Alliance of a difficult situation. At the end it was decided that the Alliance get 9.000 Euro. We accepted it even if its not clear fur us why the took this decision.

For the future we have now this great experience and I have to say that the most important point is: The responsibilities must be clear in this process. It is not helpful if many people as possible work on this. Of course last year was a special case because we got the call very late. I am sure this year we are better prepared even if we only can apply for a one year grant.

H. Statistics

The statistics are more and more important for the Alliance. We need at least short statistics for the grant application, we need it now to calculate the membership fee and of course we need it to evaluate our main work. So there is a quantitative and a qualitative part of it.

We really have to improve it! If we want to show how we are working it is really important to have our statistics on a higher level. The first step is to be sure that all members give their data for this on time. This is a constitutional responsibility of every member.

I also propose that the use the Alliance website to collect the statistics and I will present later a proposal for it.

I. Personal summary

By chance this will be my last General Secretary's report. My mandate is finishing now and I hope some of you will stand for this great position.

I would like to thank the Alliance to get this unique chance to be involved of the work of such a great network. As you know I never work as a staff for ijgd. For me this voluntary work was a useful extension to my professional life. I must say I also had a lot of fun during these 6 years working in and for the Alliance.

My thanks are going to all Alliance members who gave me the chance to do this job for the Alliance and its members. I learned a lot about the management of an international network, the challenge of the work of voluntary service organisation, the differences and equalities of so many organisations.

Of course it was not always fun (I would lie if I would say so) but I had always the feeling that we are really try to work as cooperative network and that this aim is not only on paper even if we like to discuss hours on the most dinky questions, even if we like to repeat the same discussions every second year but at the end we are finishing to enjoy our work and to feel us as a big family and so it was mostly a pleasure to work for this network.

I hope I could make a good job and I hope my follower will enjoy this task as I did. I wish the Alliance all my best and I hope to meet some of you again, anytime, anywhere.
Good luck and thanks.



Bonn, 17 September 2008
Torsten Löser

Treasurer's Report 2008

**General Assembly 2008 LVIV UKRAINE
Treasurer's Report 2007**

**ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY SERVICE
ORGANISATIONS**



In 2007 one of the difficult task of the treasurer was to understand the EVS 2003 account story.

After different meetings and discussion the file was closed so organizations have to reimburse the amount of 7.080. Alliance by EC decision covered the deficit from the Alliance capital liability 7 676 Euros for EVS program and 2.000 Euros for the 25th anniversary.

Another task was to finalize the new membership fees for 2008.

2007 budget present a surplus of 2 068,09 but it is important to underline that it was plan to finance for 3 000 euros Asia Europe TFT, to contribute for 4 000 euros to 2007 General Assembly and website for 1 393,68;

2007 final year

Justifications for received grants were presented in time for 2007 and application for 2007 was made for EU administrative grant and EYF.

For the GC 2007, the application was approved for a grant of 13 000€.

The budget in 2007 was 225 665 € instead of forecast of the initial budget (188 425 €). The increase of the 2007 budget had been of 11% compared to 2006. **Surplus 2007 is 2 068,09 €**

Preparation, submission and follow up of grant request and justification are prepared by my colleagues of Jeunesse et Reconstruction. Here I would like to thank them for their professional help made mostly in addition to their daily work.

Concerning the incomes

1. Concerning the grants :

From the European Commission :

From the European Commission :

We obtain the grant of 27 900 Euros which was a little more than in 2006.

In 2006 we obtain 25.500 but after statement we receive (25 500-763,87) 24736,13.

In 2007 after statement we receive what was planned, it means 27.900 Euros.

From the Council of Europe :

In 2007 two events were granted by EYF

The post camp event hosted by Citizens in Action for an amount of 12.000 Euros. Unfortunately due to lack of participants the grant was recalculating by EYF for an amount of 9.789 Euros.

The General Conference hosted by Legambiente was granted for an amount of 13.000 Euros.

2. Participations of the organisations

The participation of the organizations are :

- The membership fees 9675 Euros and 9.450 Euros in 2006.
- The contribution of the organizations 107 156,71 in 2007 and 87228,89 in 2006.

General Assembly 2008 LVIV UKRAINE
Treasurer's Report 2007

ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY SERVICE
ORGANISATIONS



Concerning the expenses

-
-

Running expenses

- Working groups, the cost decreased in 2007 of 783,31€ comparing to 2006 but it is 2 189 € less then planed.
- EC meeting expenses increased of 3 365 €: 15 738 to 19 104.
- One part of the expenses for posts & communication, office supplies and staff were in fact covered by member for an amount of 13 800 €. This is included in line member contribution in income side.
- You can see in stationary lines 1200 €: this amount is granted to EC members to cover their post, communication, stationary and other expenses according to EC decision of January 2006

OTHER expenses of 13 430 € are composed of :

- A regulation for the UE administrative grant of 2006 for the amount of 763,87 €.
- The amount of 12.616 € for to close the EVS file.
- A regulation of bank transfer for a amount of 50 €.

These accounts are in accordance with the figures justified to European Agency and EYF.

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Balance sheet for 2007

ASSET (Actif)	2004	2005	2006	2007	LIABILITIES/PASSIF	2004	2005	2006	2007
FIX ASSETS					CAPITAL LIABILITIES	43 511,92	44 863,98	41 917,8	34 309,09
THIRD PERSON ASSETS	10 451,45	1 914,53	-3 512,70	15 171,16	Report balance (RAN)	34 434,42	34 511,92	35 863,98	29 200,00
EYF/FEJ			7 018,50	8 073,41	Result	77,50	1 352,06	3 012,82	2 068,09
Youth Programme			-15 254,92		Provisions for risk	9 000,00	9 000,00	3 041,00	3 041,00
Education & Culture			5 100,00	5 627,80	THIRD PERSON LIABILITIES	81 312,41	33 490,48	35 315,29	29 938,95
EVS 2003- 2004 REAJUST				1 615,75	External Supplier	0,00	1 550,16	0,00	0,00
Youth forum			-376,28	-145,80	Other Networks	959,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
FINANCIAL ASSETS	114 372,88	76 440,13	80 745,79	49 076,88	Expenses to be classified	17 859,09	0,00	0,00	0,00
Unibank (Dk)	113 153,74	75 576,23	79 623,18	48 854,68	Unearned revenue	1 657,36	0,00	0,00	0,00
Unibank ()	759,60	759,60	760,38		Members	60 836,96	31 940,32	35 315,29	29 938,95
Treasurer cash box	459,54	104,30	362,23	222,20					
TOTAL ASSETS	124 824,33	78 354,66	77 233,09	64 248,04	TOTAL LIABILITIES	124 824,33	78 354,66	77 233,09	64 248,04

Concerning the Assets

Third Person Assets (debt to Alliance)

Year	2006	2007
Members		
EYF	7018,5	8073,41
UE EVS 2003	-15254,92	0
UE	5 100	5 627,8
YOUTF FORUM	-376,28	-145,80
Total	-3512,7	7 927,61

The grants who had to be receive in 2008 for 2007 are the following :

From EYF 8 073,41 €

From UE (Education and Culture) 5 627,80 €

Concerning the Third person liabilities

31.12.2007 Alliance was debted to his members for 29 938,95 € . For memory In 2004 this amount was 60 836,96 and in 2005 31 940,32 and in 2006 35 315, 29 €;

Finance in general.

Alliance reserve was decreased during 2006 because we cleaned some account from EU and EYF using provision for risk (6000 euros) but we increased by 3000 euros with our 2006 surplus. Present capital liability is 41 917,80 (for memory in 2005 it was 44 863,98).

External Relations Report 2008

Since the last General Assembly in Marino, the external relations activities have been carried out through the representation of the Alliance in various events by the Vice-President for External Relations (VPER), various EC members, and other persons mandated by the EC. For every event that was attended, a report was produced and uploaded onto the website of the Alliance. What I will try to do here is to summarize the main aspects and points that were raised during these events/meetings. However I invite you to read through the various reports that are on the website.

European Youth Forum (YFJ), cooperation with partner networks:

This year, there were many occasions at which the Alliance was represented at YFJ events, which continues to show our involvement at the European level. It shows to be important to be involved in youth policy development and it tends to give the Alliance a higher profile towards European institutions and official bodies.

The Alliance was represented at two statutory meetings of the YFJ: the November 2007 COMEM in Brussels, and the May 2008 COMEM in Barcelona, for which Marcela Holicka was present (her reports are available at the website). It is planned that Roman Kuehn and Chrysafo Arvaniti attend the upcoming YFJ General Assembly in Rotterdam in November this year.

During these meetings we had an opportunity to share views with other international 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 Nature Friends (IYNF), and AEGEE Europe. Common topics and strategies were discussed in order to strengthen our position within the YFJ on youth policy development especially regarding topics such as Youth Mobility, Participation and volunteering issues.

There were 3 more occasions at which the Alliance was represented:

- The Symposium on Volunteering hosted by YFJ in April 08, attended by Aleksandr Kurashev
- The Youth Event of the Slovenian Presidency, in Ljubljana in April, attended by Roman Kuehn
- The Political FEULAT, in Mollina in September, attended by Damien Veyssiere

The reports of these meetings are also available at the website.

The aim of being represented at these meetings was to follow closely the political processes and youth policy development in Europe, especially with regard to the EU initiative on Volunteering that is currently starting. The details of this process are to be read in the Symposium report by Aleksandr as well as in the AVSO Lobbying seminar report by Roman and Damien.

This process is still at the "experimental" level and the AMICUS "pilot" program is the first tangible outcome of it; however, it is important that the Alliance remains aware of what is going on, and makes its voice heard. The FEULAT was also the occasion to keep ourselves informed about the developments of the Euro-Latin American cooperation, since there is also a lot going on at this level within the Alliance. Additionally, I want to stress the fact that the CEULAJ (Euro-Latin American Youth Centre) where the FEULAT was hosted is a very convenient and affordable place to organise events; which should be kept in mind for the future! I have got all the relevant information on prices (= 28€/person per day, all meals and accommodation included) and reservation process. Please request it if needed!

Finally, Roman Kuehn 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. Roman will stand again for this position at the upcoming YFJ GA.

Relations to "sister" networks and the European Liaison Meeting (ELM):

This year again, a European Liaison Meeting took place in Brussels, on February 8th 2008, attended by Torsten Loëser in the presence of CCIVS, YAP, SCI, Alliance, and AVSO (ICYE was absent). Apart from "information sharing" among the networks, the outcome of the meeting was that all networks wish to reinforce cooperation through several actions: campaigning for an "International Year of Volunteering + 10" (2011), organising advocacy actions on the International Volunteers Day (5th December), and working on the partnership with ASEF.

Other important points and issues during this year were:

- Relations to SCI: a letter was sent to invite them to a more "open" cooperation through exchanges between Alliance and SCI members. So far, there was no concrete reply.
- YAP: at many occasions this year, there were exchanges between the Alliance EC and the YAP steering group. The main "hot issues" were about the increase of the Alliance contribution for YAP branches, and about "opening" Alliance membership to YAP members/branches. Besides, it is important to note that 2008 has been a very difficult year

for YAP, with drastic budget restrictions, the fact that there is no more International Secretary (paid position), and no more centralised project will be organised; in short, YAP is at the moment facing big internal problems; the outcome of which shall be known after the next CD in December. (see the FEULAT report for more details).

- CCIVS: during the last TM, a meeting of the Alliance EC and the CCIVS EC was held; the main issue was about organising an ASEF-funded global event in autumn 2009, which would be a joint event of the Alliance and CCIVS. At the last EC meeting in September, a more concrete proposal of CCIVS was discussed; it will be presented to the members at the next GA in Lviv.
- AVSO: Roman Kuehn and Damien Veyssiere took part in the Lobbying Seminar organised by AVSO in April 2008 in Brussels. It showed to be a good occasion to reinforce the cooperation with AVSO, but also to understand better the "workings" of lobbying and advocacy at the European level, and especially to get a chance to meet in person with the European Commission representatives, and Members of the European Parliament in order to get first-hand information about the current initiative on volunteering of the European Union. All the details are available on the report of this event at the website!

Cooperation with regional networks:

Good relations with NVDA continued to be kept thanks to the participation of Marcela Holicka at the January 2008 Training and Networking Workcamp (TNW) and General Assembly of NVDA (her report is available at the website, of course!). It showed to be a good occasion to follow closely the new developments of this network and to promote the Alliance to the NVDA members (and new members, which are many!). Furthermore, a meeting between the Alliance EC and the NVDA EC was held at the last TM in Sète.

We had some contacts with SEEYN; however and unfortunately, the idea of developing a common project had to be put "on hold" because of this year's budget restrictions (reduced admin grant).

This year has also seen the official creation of the "Latin American Alliance of Voluntary Service Organisations"; it has been closely followed by the EC and especially by Damien Veyssiere. Furthermore, the YiA-funded project run by 4 Alliance members, aiming at developing the Euro-Latino American cooperation is still going on; we hope to get an update soon about it.

Finally, this year has also seen the creation of a Russian national platform of Voluntary Service Organisations called ARVO. We will certainly be following up this initiative and we hope to get updated about its developments.

Cooperation with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF):

A close contact has been kept with ASEF throughout the year; it was reassured that the Alliance is a strong and reliable partner of ASEF. It is important to keep proposing projects to them. This year a Training for Trainers was successfully organised by ESTYES in Estonia and a project application was given for a training in Lithuania hosted by Deineta in 2009. Aleksandr Kurushev has been the main Alliance contact person for ASEF in 2008 following his involvement in the year 2008, which is very positive; we hope he can carry on with it!

Other ER activities/issues:

The unfortunate event of the rejection of the Alliance's application for a 3-year admin grant (partnership agreement) appeared to be a good occasion to "practice" our lobbying abilities. The EC had to get in contact with the Executive Agency and other institutional bodies in order to advocate our "case", which helped the Alliance to secure its financial balance. Although the amount granted was much less than what we applied for, at least these efforts made it possible to obtain some minimum amount in order to sustain the Alliance budget and to "make ends meet".

Finally, this year the Alliance leaflet has been updated and re-printed (2000 copies) thanks to the External Relations Committee (ERC), who worked on it. This leaflet has been distributed to all members and partners at the TM and also at the occasion of event at which the Alliance was represented. (J&R still has over 600 copies of it, don't hesitate to request it if needed!)

In conclusion, we can say that this year has been a good year for the Alliance External Relations activities; in many occasions the Alliance and its work have been promoted to the "outside" world, to partners and "sister" networks as well as to institutional bodies. It represents a strong involvement for the members of the Alliance to maintain this, and I wish to thank all those who took part in this effort (above-mentioned). I also wish to stress that it could be achieved only with the condition that the External Representation of the Alliance was "shared" by several persons (EC/MC members, ERC members, etc), and not only carried out by the VPER.

I personally enjoyed being in this position during this year and it was a pleasure to be a member of the Executive Committee. Although it represents a strong involvement, I invite all of you to go for it! I hope I fitted the expectations of the members as VPER, and I also hope that the members will express their remarks about this report and the work done in the past one year.

As some of you may know already, I will no longer represent J&R at this position from the next GA in Lviv onwards; my personal plans are driving me away from France and consequently away from J&R and the Alliance... I will be leaving to Argentina in November. As a consequence, J&R will from then be represented

by my colleague Ioana NITULESCU, who will also be present at the GA, so that you can meet her! She is Romanian, fluently speaks 4 or 5 languages, and has been a political science student. She already participated in several Alliance events such as the GC 2006 and the Estonia TFT 2007.

With best regards,

Damien VEYSSIERE
Vice-President for External Relations

Alliance Development Committee (ADC) Report on activities 2008

It has to be said from the beginning that ADC was formed only after GA 2007 was officially closed in March 2008 in Sete, France. It was composed of the following members:

Aleksandra Zekovic, ADP-ZID
Barbara Briedova, INEX
Nadine Pantel, IBG – reporter
Marcello Mariuzzo, Lunaria
Aleksandr Kurushev, ESTYES - coordinator

Meetings of the Alliance Development Committee

The very first meeting of the newly established ADC took place in March in Sete at the time of Alliance TM. Next meeting was held on 05.-07.09 in Berlin on the occasion of Alliance EC/ MC meetings. The next meeting is planned for the day before the Alliance GA in Lviv on 01.11.

Directions of work

During this meeting in March the priority areas of work of ADC were set. They are:

- common tools for Alliance (use of website, security issues, etc.);
- statistics (quantitative & qualitative, how to use the results, how to measure the quality of cooperation);
- evaluation (methods and tools);
- new trends in the international voluntary service and in Alliance;
- TMs in future (how to improve it).
-

First outcomes

At the next meeting in September most of these topics were tackled, except for the statistics due to the absence (for the good personal reasons!) of Alliance Statistician – Aleksandra Zekovic.

The first very concrete outcome of the ADC work is the Constitutional proposal about Management Committee put forward as a proposal for the GA 2008.

Another one is the energetic attempt to create common Alliance workcamps database – the work started right after the September meeting and led by Marcello. There have been some discussions over technical possibilities and the actual needs of members. And we hope to break through finally and find a good way, suitable for all of the members to have common database of the camps, which will save tremendous working time we spend now on putting everybody's workcamps description to the own databases.

Trying to benefit from the presence in ADC members of other working groups, we also began the work on

the adaptation of the famous Alliance Guidebook, especially its part concerning seasonal procedures to the new realities members face nowadays. This work is going on in the close cooperation with the Staff Development Working Group and is led by Barbara. One of the ideas is to present a kind of „Quality Charter“ or „Code of Conduct“ for the placement procedures and running the camps, which could be adopted by the Alliance GA and/or signed by all members. ADC believes that such document will not be merely a guideline for our work but will oblige all members to follow certain basic rules, thus increasing the quality of our work and raise the standards of the Alliance members (and partners) workcamps. The ambitious plan is to propose some documents for the discussion at the GA 2008 and, in case of success, adopt it for the next workcamp season.

Preparing and motivating the volunteers to the participation in the camp is another area where some work has started in the cooperation with SDWG and TNWG. The outcome is foreseen as a set of recommendations hopefully supported by the related training activities in near future. Also some discussion/ exchange of new ideas about the particular benefit of taking part in the volunteering actions and the formal recognition of the international volunteering took place at this point.

Among many other things ADC looked at are the opportunities to run TM in more efficient and beneficial way. Having the host of the next TM in our Committee, we can be sure that the best ideas (which still need to be discussed by all members) can be realized already at the next TM in 2009

Last not least, ADC is planning to launch a new Alliance Survey to study members' current actual needs and expectations towards the Alliance. The previous survey of this kind was done in 2002. Collectively taken decisions based on the outcome of the that survey led to the massive changes in the Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders, our practices, generally in our own understanding of the nature and power of our network. The number of Alliance members increased by nearly 40%. The visibility of the Alliance largely increased as well as the level of cooperation with other European and regional networks, European institutions and funding bodies. Alliance regularly provides it members with the training activities. The diversity of the projects run by members and types of cooperation between members is amazing. All this certainly does not mean that we have no problems to deal with. And the idea of the new survey, planned by ADC, is to address new „burning“ issues to members in the hope to find many good solutions, implement those and take the Alliance to the new, higher level. We very much hope that this motion will be actively supported by members - without your participation this big work simply cannot be done. The development of the Alliance is actually in the hands of its members. The Alliance Development Committee is

just trying to facilitate the process, and this is how we see our role.

We hope the report on the ADC work done in this short period will be approved by members, the

directions of work we chose – supported and that we will be encouraged to move further continuing in the year 2009 what was started this year.

Access4All Working Group Report 2008

Preamble

Alliance's member organisations from Europe, America and Asia decided in 2006 to launch a new educative framework to ease access of people from disadvantaged background to international voluntary service!

This initiative is then open worldwide with no restriction!

This report introduces the current development of this policy.

Alliance's accessing policy

The Alliance General Assemblies 2002 & 2004 decided to prioritise a permanent action toward populations that, for any reason, cannot participate (access) to workcamps or other international voluntary service.

This genuine educational framework is based on:
A first workcamp prior to other experiences (workcamps, medium or long term voluntary service, leading ...) will bring self confidence, international mobility, intercultural learning ... and vocational skills.

One working group (Access for all, A4AWG) in dedicated to implement this policy.

7 general principles

ALLIANCE's ACCESSING WORKCAMPS is :

1. An agreed priority of Alliance
2. A permanent Alliance educational framework
3. A collective action where members sign up
4. Using a broad definition of Accessibility target group
 - anyone who faces difficulties accessing international voluntary service (e.g. socio economic disadvantaged, disabilities, refugees ...)

5. One or two places offered in regular international workcamps
6. A financially independent activity
 - Principally funded by partners using variety of funding, eg social welfare system, foundations, business
 - Additionally funded through external resources such as public grants, EU, private contributions, etc
7. A cooperative programme with common set of procedures
 - Management (call, sign in process, publication, reporting)
 - Operational (tools, methods)
 - Capitalisation (evaluation, validation)

Volunteers with less opportunities?

There are various reasons why some people, facing exclusions, do not dare to take such a "huge" step in their life as taking part in voluntary service in a foreign country.

For them workcamps provide a unique opportunity to experience voluntary service

- Accessing workcamps has been experienced as a flexible educational tool to introduce the concept of voluntary service to these populations, within their limits.
- International workcamps give people who, for different reasons, are not yet able to participate in the long term Voluntary Service, one smooth opportunity to taste one intercultural experience abroad!
- The group of international volunteers, by their natural solidarity, ease and make the volunteer quickly integrated.
- Through developing their skills, experiencing mobility in another country and confronting the challenge of living in a different culture, the volunteer gain in confidence.

Accessing campaign 2008

Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Organisations involved • 11 Countries concerned

Other Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVS workcamps (rainbow) started

Population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 246 volunteers with less opportunities exchanged • 21 send to another country (6 handicapped, 21 social) • 27 hosted from another country • 198 National volunteers stayed in their own country

Reminder: Accessing campaign 2007

Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Organisations involved • 15 Countries concerned

Other Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post camp event on inclusion , CIA, Greece, April 2007 Funded under EYF action A, Council of Europe.

Population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 335 volunteers with less opportunities exchanged • 27 Send to another country (6 handicapped, 21 social) • 22 Hosted from another country • 308 National volunteers stayed in their own country

A4A working group

A4A working group met

1. Sete (F), TM 2008
2. Lviv (UK), GA 2008
3. Venice (I), TM 2009

A new coordinator was mandated at the GA :
Beatrice LECOMTE, Chantier jeunesse (Canada).

Conclusion Accessing campaign 2008:

- The cooperation between partners was very good and based on trust.
- The demand from institutions is very high (especially in France).
- The A4A tools were not used by partners with the exception of Concordia and UNAREC : Some feel unsure for their usefulness.
- Partners would like to have better support by the EVS ST programme (decentralised).
- The coordination by A4A group is renewed since last GA.

External Relations Committee report

Members of ERC:
Damien Veyssiere
Chrysafo Arvaniti
Helen Bartlett
Marcela Holicka

The main task of the group during was to support external representation and develop Alliance´ external relation strategies. Monitoring the particular relations with our partner networks, organizations and institution was divided to members of ERC.

Throughout the year we have been active within Youth Forum Jeunesse and follow several issues related to Alliance goals and priorities. We took place in several meetings organized by YFJ e.g. Council of Members (Castelldefels, Spain), where we had chance to meet International Exchange organizations and discussed common issues; other meeting was the European-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT) that took place in Molina, Spain. Within the YFJ we contributed by comments to prepared Internal YFJ Working Structures that has been changed. We have been monitoring discussed issue on Volunteering by representation on several meetings (e.g. Symposium on Volunteering in Brussels) and discussions (within YFJ meetings).

Enhancement of external relation with other networks was maintained also by participation in European Liaison meeting that took place in Brussels in February, participation in AVSO Lobby seminar in April.

We represented Alliance on Training and Networking Workcamp and General Assembly of NVDA in Hanoi, Vietnam in January. These meetings were very useful in terms of sharing information, partnership building and networking. During these events we had

possibility to meet new contacts coming from Asian region. We have also monitored further development concerning Latin America partners.

One of the main tasks throughout the year was the Alliance Representation Plan (ARP). The main aim of ARP is to develop a 'policy' paper to reflect on Alliance key themes and issues of common experience and interest; in order to get a common position on these key issues and to enable the members to reflect on the work that we do together. This can be used to present the Alliance externally and contribute to a common strategy. The main topics were identified as followed: Volunteering, social Inclusion, participation, non-formal education and mobility. The initial plan was to produce this paper and present it during the GA 2008. ERC is planning to follow this issue and finish this task ASAP.

Organization throughout the year and the future of the group.

The last meeting of ERC was organized in November 2007 where we agreed to manage our communication mainly via mail and skype meetings. The meeting was also planned but wasn't carrying out. The group was mainly active during the first half of the year.

During the year 2009 we are expecting personal changes e.g. new members and new ERC coordinator.

We think that the external representation is very important for further development of Alliance Therefore we think that the active, planned, structured and strategic representation will be carried out successfully and supported also by ERC.

Bratislava, 30.10.2008

Marcela Holicka
ERC Coordinator

Staff Development Working Group Report

New SDWG was formed at the opening of GA 2007 in Marino, Italy and 9 organizations were interested to join:

Dorit Seewald – VJF Germany (Coordinator)
 Gregory van de Put – CB Belgium
 Fiona Taylor – Concordia UK
 Marina Sarli – Elix Greece (Treasurer)
 Inga Vorobyova – Union Forum Ukraine
 Oksana Yuryk- Alternative-V Ukraine
 Barbara Briedova – INEX Slovakia (Reporter)
 Kevser Yavuz – Genctur Turkey
 Fouad Bousnina – Jeunesse et Reconstruction France
 Franck Deffarge – France (joined in March)

We had 3 real meetings and some virtual ones over e-mail where we discussed topics according to Plan of Actions.

First meeting was right after the group was formed in Marino, Italy, where we discussed the proposed Plan of Actions. Our second meeting was in Bratislava on 01-03 February 2008, hosted by INEX Slovakia. The Agenda we prepared was successfully finished. Third meeting was held in March in Sete, France during TM.

Our WG agreed that the main point of our work would be to revise the Alliance guidebook implementing all the necessary new methods, means of communication – to make it a useful tool not only for Alliance placement staff but also for anybody who is involved within the Alliance.

...to maintain quality of exchange between Alliance members and partners

to revise Alliance Guidebook chapter by chapter, work on the statements, finally launch it on the new Alliance website, re-set up rule about placement (infosheet, Friday lists ...) Questions like these were raised: Should visa country volunteers be put in the the fewer opportunities? Whom should the volunteer contact in case of emergency? The issue of informing (we need to have a clear procedure) When to call the partners? When to call the parents? :) And many more about preparing the programme description for the TM: the *type of work* in the description should be enlarged and used, the VEF and exchange agreement should be the same shape for all of us.

...to support members of the Alliance statutory meeting

Another action was preparing a useful powerpoint presentation for the newcomers' session which was run at the newcomers' session in Sete, this .ppt was also launched on the Alliance website together with some basic rules about e-mail placement communication

...to explore new methods and tools.

During our meeting in Bratislava we updated the Alliance guidebook mainly the PARTI and PARTII, which concerns the placement procedures, we have worked on Health and safety toolkit (Fiona), which should be implemented it in the Guidebook, we would also like to include the chapter about the teenager camps (Franck).

...to analyze members needs and problems they face

We were discussing following issues: What is the use of confirmation slip, the use of certificate of "workcamp pass", how to motivate volunteers not to "step back" from workcamp, in order to prevent no-shows or last minute cancellation of volunteers, responsibility of SO to inform volunteers about the idea/aim/philosophy of workcamp itself, the possibility to have common database for FL

...to work out Alliance workcamp and exchange quality standards

- work on issues named at the session on season evaluation 2007

...We were also discussing about who should be the Prepteam for *General Conference with the topic on "Methods and techniques Evaluation the workcamp season"* hosted by Alternative-V in Ukraine. we prepared a small questionnaire which was distributed to all the members at the TM in Sete reflecting their work with evaluation of the season.

...We were also discussing a lot about different parts of the technical meeting from its preparation (what is the use of *TM printed paper copies of camp programs*: It is a good way of back-up, we can print on the recycled paper, it is a window of the partner to the volunteer, due to different layouts.

We have all agreed the the *preparation of all the organizations* should be very precise, therefore we had some suggestions:

- Programs should be brought in .txt document and one promotion one in .word not more than 500
- All visa countries need to bring their visa procedures to the partners
- The shape of exchange agreement and VEF has to contain all necessary information – should be the same shape
- Be environmentally friendly while printing the document
- Insert last column in the list and the description– age limit
- Be careful in order not to use your special accent in the description of the camp. Don't forget to replace it with the regular alphabet

We would like to work on these topics with our to-be-newly-formed SDWG in cooperation with next host of the TM.

...Furthermore we were discussing new suggestions for the Alliance website not only for the placement staff:

- to launch on website the "good practise" workcamp from each organization
- think of a proposal to create audiovisual material of alliance for the promotion of workcamps and its philosophy.
- to ask the partners to prepare the country information and let it on the alliance website

...There were many things we wanted to do, unfortunately we had to stop our work during the heavy season, but came to life in late September to be ready to continue in what have been once started, we hope to proudly present to you some parts of the Alliance Guide Book very soon...

Training Needs WG report

Based on the Training Priorities of the Alliance, the Training Needs Working Group had three objectives for the past year:

- Work on the establishment of a Pool of Trainers for the Alliance Network, which will support every training need of the member organizations. The members of the pool shall be proposed by the member organizations. The status of each member of the Pool shall also be updated in a regular basis.
- Apply for an Alliance Training for Trainers to the German National Agency in September 2008. If the application is accepted, the TtT will be hosted by VJF in Berlin at 2-7 February 2009. The results have not yet been announced.

- Support the appropriate Alliance structures on applying for the Asia-Europe Training in Lithuania during spring 2009. The application is going to be delivered in the next months.

The TNWG wants to continue working for the next year as well, supporting the training priorities of the Alliance.

The members of the TNWG for 2008 were:

George Kalmpourtzis - Elix Greece (coordinator)
Francesco Bonini - Concordia UK
Ute Siebler - IJGD Germany
Dines Justesen - MS Denmark
Martina Jirasova - Inex SDA (Czech Republic)
Stefano Farina - Legambiente Italy
Myrto Tsoukia - Elix Greece

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

In 2008 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.

3 - 9 March, 2008: hosted by CBF, France in Sète
156 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.

2-3 November, 2008: hosted by Alternative-V, Ukraine in Lviv
48 participants



Alliance Study Session 2008

"Participation through Preparation"
European Youth Centre Budapest
3-10 February, 2008

Executive summary

This study session builds on the result of the previous study session organised by the Alliance, by focusing on how to improve intercultural learning in daily practice in workcamps.

The study session included 35 participants and 5 team members, from Alliance member organisations, as well as other exchange networks and organisation. Most organisations work mostly with workcamps, while others focus on other types of voluntary service. The Alliance was given five places more, to invite other exchange networks to take part in the study session.

Initially the focus was on why voluntary service is used, what is it that we are all trying to achieve by organising these projects. Using the history of voluntary service as a starting point, the goal was discussed, including how this relates to intercultural learning. Using the previous experience of the participants, it was also discussed what motivates different people to take part in voluntary service projects.

To get a common understanding of some of the key issues related to the topic, the next sessions were then spend on different concepts related to the topic,

such as culture, cultural diversity, intercultural learning and conflict transformation.

As all the organisations present are already working with intercultural learning in different forms, time was then spent sharing experiences, both good and bad. As part of setting the stage for the next part of the session, it was also discussed which actors involved in workcamps influence the intercultural learning that takes place.

The final part of the programme focused on developing concrete methods and activities that can be used to improve intercultural learning in workcamps. In small groups the participants worked on extending some of the methods that are already used in some organisations or designing new methods. All of these were written down so other organisations can use them.

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

A group of participants worked on how pre-departure training can be used to improve intercultural learning. Some of the ideas have been tested by some of the participants, and the ideas will be incorporated in the next study session organised by the Alliance, which focuses on this topic.



Another group worked on how to prepare workcamp leaders to facilitate intercultural learning and another group on how workcamp leaders can encourage participants to reflect during the camps. As several of the participants are involved in training camp leaders, these proposals are expected to be used when preparing camp leaders for the next season. As the Alliance is also considering running a common camp leaders' training, these results could also be used at the network level.

Another concrete result is that one of the groups, which was working on a training for trainers for camps leaders in workcamps which includes refugees as participants, are now trying to find funding for the project, so it can be carried out. Some of these results are also expected to be useful in the annual training for trainers organised by the Alliance.

These and the remaining results will be collected in a document, which will then be distributed to the participants and the Alliance members. At the end of the study session all participants received a CD with session plans for the entire study session, as well as various other material such as T-kits, and other publications which might be useful.

Ongoing evaluation was carried out during the entire session by having reflection groups at the end of each day, which was used to continuously adapt the program to the needs of the participants. At the end of the study session both oral and written evaluations were performed. In general the evaluations were very positive, with all sessions being rated well by more than half of the participants, and an average rating for all sessions of four out of five.

Main Outcomes of the study session

The most important outcome of the study session is that the participant left the study session motivated to work on improving the way their organisation try to facilitate and promote intercultural learning in their projects, training, etc. Combined with a deeper knowledge of the role intercultural learning, and ideas

on how to improve it, this should enable them to make a difference in their organisations, and through trainings and seminars also help other young people.

During the last part of the study session, the participants were split into small groups, each working on different ways of facilitating intercultural learning in international voluntary service projects. Each group wrote a description of their proposal, which was then presented to the other groups, and edited based on feedback from the other groups and the prep-team. This includes proposal for a new training for trainers, ways of including intercultural learning in workcamp leaders training, and ideas for preparing volunteers.

As part of these sessions on developing new methods, descriptions of all new methods/activities were written down, and then edited based on feedback from the prep-team and the other participants. Some of these descriptions have since been used by some of the participants in their organisation. In addition to this the descriptions will be distributed to all Alliance members, so other organisations can also benefit from the work done.

The ideas that focused on how to improve intercultural learning in international projects by preparing participants, will be used in the preparation of the next study session which focuses on preparation of volunteers and how that can be used to improve participation and intercultural learning. Some of the participants who worked on these proposals will also take part in that study session.

The participants who worked on a proposal for a new training for trainers, have since the study session continued working on the project, and are currently working on how this can be organised and how it can be funded.

You can find more information:
www.sts2008.wetpaint.com



Alliance General Conference 2008

"From preparation through evaluation and follow-up: enhancing quality of international voluntary workcamps as a practical tool for intercultural education"

Lviv (Ukraine)

4-9 November, 2008

hosted by Alternative-V

Report on GC for EC of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations

The prep-team consisted of three Alliance members organizations delegates

Oksana Yuryk (hosting organization Alternative-V, Ukraine – GC coordinator)

Georgios Kalmpourtzis (ELIX, Greece - also a TNWG coordinator)

Barbara Briedova (INEX Slovakia - also SDWG reporter)

Although it was only of 3 members of the international prep-team, they were very experienced in various fields of working in the voluntary area.

The disadvantage of the preparation was that we could not have a regular meeting before the GC, whereas we have had a chance to prepare everything in detail during free time at GA, which took place 2 days before GC started.

During our preparation we have decided to focus on the practical outcomes of the conference. We wanted to turn the conference into a dynamic body with concrete outcomes at the end. The outcomes should be helpful for the future of the Alliance and which would ease the work of the member organization.

I have to admit that the energy of the prep-team made the whole GC very productive and this was a

big advantage of the whole event. Thanks to the participants who were either very experienced and helped us with particular workshops and also to those who were the young new blood which opened our eyes wider – the programme of the GC was like a cluster of tasty grapevines.

As there was not a clear selection criterion of the participants, a wide variety of them participated at the GC. Luckily this helped us to create the evaluation toolkit step-by-step. By discussing what, why, how, for whom, when, what to do... We were able to not only develop 4 important evaluation tools for the workcamp, but also were able to discuss the second biggest issue which was – what to do with the results on the level of Alliance.

Alliance is discussing the standards of exchange, not only the quantitative statistics but also qualitative. Once we have these tools which might be used by the members we come to the point on HOW to evaluate them on the Alliance level and then WHAT to do with these results.

These were the questions to which we were not able to find answers and nevertheless this was not the agenda of the General conference.

We will be very happy if the Alliance members can take into consideration the use of these tools. They were discussed also with SDWG and together with the Alliance quality charter are to be published as the appendix of the revised Alliance Guidebook.

The suggestions for the next Alliance meetings where a lot of experienced and creative participants are coming is to use the energy and the skills of these people, and use the time they can devote during these events – to create something which can be used by the Alliance.

Plan of Action 2008 (finalised)

Action	Who	When	Status
1. Alliance Events and Projects			
Regular events:			
a) Technical Meeting	CBF	March 2008	Done
b) General Conference	Alternative-V	November 2008	In process
Other events:			
a) Study Session	EC, ACD & Prep. Team	February 2008	Done
b) Conduct Alliance Staff training	SDWG	Throughout the year	Postponed to 2009
c) follow up of the Euro-Asia Tft	EC	Throughout the year	In process
d) to organise one Tft	TNWG	Autumn 2008	Cancelled
Projects:			
a) Prepare Collective EVS action as a follow up of EVS Workcamps	EC & Steering group	January 2008	In process
b) Follow up Senior Volunteer Exchange activities	EC (Aleksandr) & Lunaria	Throughout the year	In process
c) Run the publication project	GS + WG	Throughout the year	Cancelled
d) Prepare application for Partnership Building Activity in Balkan Region with SEEYN	EC & Steering group	Throughout the year	Cancelled
e) To run the Accessing Workcamps Campaign	A4AllWG	Throughout the year	In process
2. Management of the Alliance			
a) Finalise the new working methods inside Alliance and formulise the tasks, responsibilities and rights of MC in SO/Constitution	EC & MC	Throughout the year	In process
b) Implement the new system of Alliance events and project management	EC & MC	Throughout the year	In process
c) Implementation of the new Alliance events calendar	EC	Throughout the year	In process
d) Ensure coherency of Alliance events	MC	Throughout the year	In process
e) Follow up and evaluate new setup and tasks of the Alliance's European secretariat	GS & EC	Throughout the year	Postponed
f) Implement, follow up and evaluate new Alliance membership fee and contribution system	T	Throughout the year	In process
3. Co-operation between members			
a) Run an introductory	SDWG	TM 2008	Done

session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM			
b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve quality of exchange programmes	SDWG	TM & GC	In process
c) Start to create an Alliance Pool of Trainers	EC	Throughout the year	Done
d) To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners	SDWG	Throughout the year	In process
e) to evaluate and improve the methods used at the Technical Meeting	SDWG	Throughout the year	In process
f) To run a regular session on accessing workcamps	A4AllWG	TM 2008	Done
g) Work on Health and Safety standards inside Alliance	SDWG	Throughout the year	In process
4. Information and communication			
a) Implementation of new Alliance website as an information dissemination tool	GS	Throughout the year	In process
5. External relations			
a) To work on visibility of Alliance in other platforms	VPER & ERC	Throughout the year	In process
b) Continue the work of Liaison Meeting of voluntary service organisations in Europe	VPER	Throughout the year	In process
c) Establish and maintain the cooperation with other regional networks	VPER	Throughout the year	In process
d) Publish new Alliance leaflet	EC	GA 2008	Done
e) To work on Alliance policy paper on External Relations	ERC	Throughout the year	In process

Alliance Members

Member	Country	Alliance Contact	Address	Postcode	Town	Tel	Fax	E-mail
ADP-Zid	Montenegro	Aleksandra Zekovic	Bratstva Jedinstva 57/1	81000	Podgorica	(381) 81 602 720	(381) 81 602 720	zid@cg.yu
ALLIANSSI	Finland	Tiina Hokkanen	Asemapäällikönkatu 1	FI-00520	Helsinki	(358) 20 755 2604	(358) 20 755 2627	vaihto@alli.fi
ALTERNATIVE-V	Ukraine	Oksana Yuryk	78A, Khmelntskogo st. Room 303	01030	KIEV	(380) 44 288 09 15	(380) 44 234 43 97	alternative.v@gmail.com
CBB	Belgium	Catherine Jacquemin	Rempart des Jesuites, 83	6900	MARCHE EN FAMENNES	(32) 84 31 44 13	(32) 84 31 65 20	catherine@compagnonsbatisseurs.be
CBF	France	Annick Corominola	39, Chemin de Verdun	81100	CASTRES	(33) 5 63 72 59 64	(33) 5 63 72 59 81	cb.France@wanadoo.fr
CIA	Greece	Xenia Koutenaki	Em. Benaki 93-95	106 81	ATHENS	(30) 2103801881	(30) 2103801809	citizensinactiongr@yahoo.gr
CIEE	Japan	Tomoko Nakano	Cosmos Aoyama 5-53-67 Jingumae	150-8355	Shibuya-ku, Tokyo	(81) 3 5467 5503	+81-3-5467-7031	ivp@cieej.or.jp
CJ	Quebec - Canada	Denis Leclerc	4545, Av Pierre de Coubertin - CP 1000 Succ.M	H1V 3R2	MONTREAL	(1) 514 25 230 15	(1) 514 25 187 19	denis.leclerc@cj.qc.ca
COCAT	Spain	Oriol Josa	c/Calàbria, 120, baixos	08015	Barcelona	(34) 93 425 40 64	(34) 93 423 44 98	cocat@cocat.org
CONCORDIA	France	Marco Paoli	17-19 rue Etex	75018	PARIS	(33) 1 45 23 91 73	(33) 1 47 70 68 29	di.concordia@wanadoo.fr
CONCORDIA-UK	UK	Fiona Taylor	19 North Street Portslade	BN41 1 DH	Brighton	(44) 1273 422 18	(44) 1273 421182	info@concordia-iyee.org.uk
CVG-Elix	Greece	Eleni Gazi	Veranzerou 15	10677	Athens	(30) 1 623 11 20	(30) 1 801 14 89	volunteers@elix.org.gr
DEINETA	Lithuania	Leonas Petravicius	Laisves al. 97,P.O Box 2468	3000	KAUNAS	(370) 722 62 57	(370) 720 37 63	csa@kaunas.omnitel.net
EST-YES	Estonia	Aleksander Kurushev	Wiedemanni 3	10126	TALLINN	(372) 6 01 33 09	(372) 6 01 33 09	estyes@estyes.ee
FIYE	Poland	Agata Frankowska	Ul. Meissnera 1/3 lok. 319	03-982	VARSOVIE	(48) 22 826 54 24	(48) 22 12 03 48	fiye@fiye.org
GENCTUR	Turkey	Zafer Yilmaz	İstiklal Cad. No:212 Aznavur Pasajı Kat:5 Galatasaray	34430	ISTANBUL	(90) 212 249 25 15	(90) 212 249 25 15	workcamps.in@genctur.com
GSM	Turkey	Ertugrul Senoglu	Bayindir Sok. 45/9 - Kizilay	06650	ANKARA	(90) 312 417 11 24	(90) 312 425 81 92	gsm@gsm-youth.org
HUJ	Armenia	Stepan Stepanyan	19A, Koriun street	375009	YEREVAN	(374) 1 522 701	(374) 1 522 772	huj@arminco.com
IBG	Germany	Christoph Meder	Schlosserstrasse 28	70180	STUTTGART	(49) 711 649 1128	(49) 711 640 9867	info@ibg-workcamps.org
IJGD	Germany	Ute Siebler	Kasernenstr. 48	53111	BONN	(49) 228 228 00 11	(49) 228 228 00 24	ijgd@ijgd.de

INEX-SDA	Czech Rep.	Martina Jirasova	Senovazne nam. 24	116 47	PRAGUE 1	(420) 234 621 527	(420) 234 621 390	info@inexsda.cz
INEX-SLOVAKIA	Slovakia	Marcela Holicka	Prazska 11	814 13	BRATISLAVA	(421) 2 5262 4231	(421) 2 5249 4707	inex@inex.sk
IWO	South Korea	Jinsu Yom	331-15, Sogyo-Dong	121-836	SEOUL	(82) 2 568 58 58	(82) 2 563 58 58	jinsu@1.or.kr
JR	France	Kemal Abiska	8-10 rue de Trévisé	75009	PARIS	(33) 1 47 70 15 88	(33) 1 48 00 92 18	mca@volontariat.org
KMC	Czech Rep.	Jaroslav Hadac	Karoliny Svetle 31	110 00	PRAGUE 1	(420) 2 2222 0347	(420) 2 2222 0347	kmc@kmc.cz
LEGAMBIENTE	Italy	Nanni Laurent	Via Salaria 403	00 199	ROME	(39) 06 862 683 24	(39) 06 862 683 19	legambiente.vol@tiscali.it
LUNARIA	Italy	Davide di Pietro	Via Buonarroto 39	I-00185	ROME	(39) 06 884 18 80	(39) 06 884 18 59	workcamps@lunaria.org
LYVS	Belarus	Yaroslav Oleinik	P.O Box 213 B. Hmelnitskogo str. 4	220013	MINSK	(375) 172 840 881	(375) 1 72 840 784	lyvs@user.unibel.by
MS	Denmark	Camilla Holm	Borgergade 14	13000	KOBENHAVN	(45) 7731 0000	(34) 7731 0121	chj@ms.dk
NICE	Japan	Shinichiro Kaizawa		160-0022	TOKYO	(81) 3 33 58 71 40	(81) 3 33 58 71 49	nice@nice1.gr.jp
NIG	Germany	Jörg Theska	Am Wendländer Schilde 5	18055	ROSTOCK	(49) 381 492 29 14	(49) 381 490 09 30	nig-rostock@t-online.de
PRO-INTERNATIONAL	Germany	Andreas Kunz	Bahnhofstr. 26a	35037	Marburg	(49) 6421-65277	(49) 06421-64407	pro-international@lahn.net
SIW	Netherlands	Nora Daamen	Willemstraat 7	3511 RJ	UTRECHT	(31) 30 233 4089	(31) 30 2343465	general@siw.nl
SVI	Spain	Adoracion Navazo	José Ortega y Gasset, 71	28006	MADRID	(34) 91 363 76 23/16/20	(34) 91 309 30 66	svi@mtas.es / blasmo@mtas.es
UNA Exchange	UK/Wales	Sheila Smith	Temple of Peace Cathays Park	CF10 3AP	CARDIFF	(44) 29 20 223 088	(44) 29 20 665 557	sheilasmith@unaexchange.org
UNAREC	France	Francois Ribaud	3, rue des Petits Gras	63000	CLERMONT-FERRAND	(33) 4 73 31 98 04	(33) 4 73 31 98 09	international@unarec.org
Union Forum	Ukraine	Inga Vorobyova	Lychakivska Str P.O.5327	79010	L'viv	(380) 322 726934	(380) 322 726934	info@union-forum.org
VFP	USA	Peter Coldwell	1034 Tiffany Road	05730-0202	BELMONT -VT	(1) 802 259 2759	(1) 802 259 2922	vfp@vfp.org
VIMEX	Mexico	Vidal Florès	Alfredo Elizondo n°69 Col. D Carmona	15450	MEXICO	(525) 795 04 57	(525) 795 04 57	vimex@laneta.apc.org
VIVE MEXICO	Mexico	Alberto Garcia	Boulevard Garcia de Leon 734-A - Colonia Nueva Chapultepec	58260	MORELIA / Michoacan	(52) 443 324 51 70	(52) 443 324 51 70	incoming@vivemexico.org
VJF	Germany	Andrea Köcher	Hans-Otto strasse 7	10407	BERLIN	(49) 30 42 85 06 03	(49) 30 42 85 06 04	office@vjf.de
Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	Simone Thommen Owe	Komturei Tobel, PO Box 7	9555	Tobel	(41) 71 917 24 86	(41) 71 917 24 87	info@workcamp.ch
World Friends	Iceland	Toti Ivarsson	Hafnarstręti 15	101	Reykjavík	(354) 5518222	(354) 5518222	wf@wf.is
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Jelena Beronja	Bulevar umetnosti 27	11070	Novi Beograd	(381) 11 311 66 63	(381) 11 311 6653	misvss@eunet.yu

- Volunteer's Center ADP-Zid Montenegro www.zid.cg.yu 1996
ADP Zid promotes and strengthens participation of individuals and organizations in the transition process through implementation of innovative programs that foster democratic processes and contribute community development. ADP – Zid realizes different kind of projects within the following programs: Volunteers' center program; Community development program; Program of information and culture.
- Allianssi Youth Exchanges Finland www.nuorisovaihto.fi 1996
(*Allianssin nuorisovaihto*)
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
(*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.

GençtürTurkey www.genctur.com 1979

Gençtür'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. Gençtür refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.

GSM	Turkey	www.gsm-youth.org	1985
<i>Youth Services Centre (Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi)</i>			
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
<i>(Voluntary Service of Armenia)</i>			
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
<i>(Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V)</i>			
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
<i>(Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste)</i>			
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
<i>(Association for Voluntary Service)</i>			
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 (<i>International Workcamp Organisation</i>)	South Korea	www.1.or.kr	1999
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 (<i>Jeunesse et Reconstruction</i>)	France	www.volontariat.org	1948
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 (<i>Klub mladých cestovatelů</i>)	Czech Republic	www.kmc.cz	1965
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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 (<i>League of Youth Voluntary Service</i>)	Belarus	www.lyvs.bn.by	1994
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 (<i>Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke / Danish Association for International Co-operation</i>)	Denmark	www.ms.dk	1944
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
<i>(Never-ending International workCamps Exchange)</i>			
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
<i>(Internationale Vrijwilligers Projekten)</i>			
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
<i>(Instituto de la Juventud)</i>			
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
<i>(Union Etudes et Chantiers)</i>			
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
<p>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.</p>			
VFP (<i>Volunteers for Peace</i>)	USA	www.vfp.org	1982
<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 (<i>Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico AC</i>)	Mexico	www.vimex.org.mx	1985
<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 (<i>Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger</i>)	Germany	www.vjf.de	1990
<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 (<i>Veraldarvinir</i>)	Iceland	www.wf.is	2001
<p>Veraldarvinir/WF works with three main aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>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.</p>			
YRS/VSS (<i>Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia</i>)	Serbia	www.mis.org.yu	1976
<p>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.</p>			

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
45	ATAV	Tunisia
46	CSM	Maroc
47	CJM	Maroc
48	FSL	India
49	Greenway	Thailand
50	IPJ	Portugal
51	JEC	Maroc
52	KNCU	South Korea
53	Mir Tesen	Russia (St. Petersburg)
54	MCE	Mongolia
55	NIFC	Nepal
56	Offene Häuser	Germany
57	Passage Zebra	Russia
58	PKBI	Indonesia
59	See Beyond Borders	Iceland
60	Sfera (NNVS)	Russia
61	Subir Al Sur	Argentina
62	World Pulse	USA

Permanent Guests

	Organisation	Country
63	CFD	Germany
64	Nuestra Tierra	Mexico
65	<i>Solidarités Jeunesse</i>	France
66	Via Pacis	Hungary
67	World 4 U	Russia
68	Yap Italy	Italy

Guests for 2008

	Organisation	Country
69	Bridge to Future	Azerbaijan
70	LYVG	Georgia
71	Dejavato	Indonesia
72	KVDA	Kenya
73	Leaders	Kyrgyzstan
74	Youth Exchange Service	Philippines
75	Di ge Vu	Russia
76	UVDA	Uganda
77	UPA	Uganda
78	VFP Vietnam	Vietnam
79	SJ Vietnam	Vietnam



Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations
c/o MS/Action Aid Denmark
Føllevej 12
2200 Copenhagen N
Denmark
alliance@alliance-network.eu
www.alliance-network.eu