



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

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One more year has passed and it's time to look back over our shoulders. A lot of interesting and memorable things have happened in the world during the year 2009 – it was designated as an International Year of Astronomy; Barack Obama yet was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States and coming Winter Olympic games put a record- the longest known Olympic torch relay in history- 45,000 kilometres. The flame was carried by foot, sled, canoe and airplane.

Alliance was not aside as well and our "Olympic flame" - position of General Secretary of Alliance was handed over from Torsten Loeser, IJGD to Kaarina Konsap, ESTYES.

Officially it happened on the General Assembly 2008, but the year itself started with the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.

Kaarina (GS): From my side I would like to thank you all for trust and cooperation during my first year in Alliance. It was challenging but interesting, sometimes hard but smooth. I have learned a lot, got my experience and last but definitely not least, I have enjoyed it!

As usually in the early March we had Technical Meeting in of almost every tourist dream destination – Venice. Hosted by Lunaria it gathered 61 organizations in one place to start Alliance main activity- Work-camps' season.

Work-camps annually involve dozen thousands of participants in different voluntary activities. In year 2009 Alliance had 1341 work-camps, which is 7% less comparing with the year 2008.

Decreasing number of participants in previous year's made us focus more on this issue and on the General Assembly 2009 Alliance Accessing Policy Paper was adopted. Policy has a very basic principle: accessing for all work-camps! It means to open one or two places in as many international work-camps as possible for people for special needs. Alliance accessing campaign is launching several years already. In the year 2009 28 Alliance member organisations took part in it.

In order to increase participation of young people and their awareness about volunteering the Post Camp event took place. It was held in

September on sunny Santorini and carried a topic of "Towards a united strategy: from international volunteering to democratic participation". The idea of event was to train young volunteers in external relations, representation skills, communication and lobbying strategies. Alliance trainers Chrysafo Arvaniti, Xenia Koutenaki, Roman Kuhn plus invited trainer from SALTO Davide Tonon, for 7 days taught young participants how to represent themselves and their organisations using workshops, games and... rally. ☺ The project had a great success as follows of participants' feedback. Hopefully it will bring to Alliance more volunteers and people interested in youth work.

Work-camps are not the only Alliance activity. In the year 2009 continued work with SEVEN network, network organising short term voluntary projects for seniors. Almost half of Alliance members sent volunteers 50+, which shows that volunteering truly has no age!

General Assembly 2009 in Jambville, hosted by Concordia France brought to Alliance new candidate member - SFERA. Russian organization SFERA applied for membership 3 times and finally the 3rd try turned into "Candidate member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations". We congratulate and welcome SFERA and looking forward to fruitful cooperation.

So here it is short introduction to the Annual Report of the year 2009 where you will find more information of the above mentioned things and a lot, lot more.

Enjoy your reading and see you in Alliance!

*Jelena Lihhatsova (AAA) and Kaarina Konsap (GS)*

### Statistics 2009

#### 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 2009

##### 44 Alliance Members

##### 17416 volunteers

- 81% sent abroad
- 19% in the country

35 % males – 65 % females

9% under 18  
86% between 18 and 30  
5% over 31-50 years old  
1% 50 years old and over

##### Volunteers sent to:

77% Europe  
2% North America  
4% South America  
13% Asia  
0% Oceania  
5% Africa

##### Exchange balance:

65% ALLIANCE  
6% SCI  
5% YAP  
16% OTHERS (from Alliance Invitation List)  
8% OTHERS (bilateral contacts)

##### 1341 workcamps

15296 places proposed

Environment	39%
Renovation	21%
Culture	10%

13318 volunteers present  
87% of the places filled

5% of Teenager projects

21339 workcamp days in total

**147 projects** open to youth with fewer opportunities

**272 volunteers** with fewer opportunities

### 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 2009 the EC consisted of 6 members:

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

The General Assembly 2009 elected the following persons for the EC positions:

Position	Person	Organisation
President	Roman Kühn	VJF (Germany)
Vice President for External Relations	Crysafo Arvaniti	CiA (Greece)
Treasurer	Marco Paoli	Concordia (France)

The EC had the following meetings in 2009:

January 2009	Tallinn (Estonia)
March 2009	Venice (Italy)
June 2009	Copenhagen (Denmark)
September 2009	Santorini (Greece)
November 2009	Jambville (France)

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".

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## Management of the Alliance

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 2009 the Alliance had the following working groups:

- Staff Development Working Group
- Training Needs Working Group



- Access4All Working Group
- North- South 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.



### 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

Dear friends!

It is an honour for me to deliver the second President's report! You will quickly realise that some changes in the structure of the reports have been made: In the same file, you will not only find the president's report, but also all other EC reports. The EC decided to come up with such a format instead of the former one, since we felt we do make a common effort as EC throughout the year and should therefore also come up with a joint report afterwards. In this way, we think, we can reflect better what was going on in and around the Alliance. However, for the procedures during the GA nothing will change, we will vote for one constitutional report after the other.

This EC report has a novelty: the report of the Vice President dealing with Dines' tasks in the EC in order to be complete. This report will not be needed to be voted on.

Before I want to start giving the report, I would like to say some words of gratitude. I would like to deeply thank my colleagues in the Executive Committee for the cooperation during the last year. It was an intense year and nearly everybody of the EC had professional or personal difficulties to go through. Nevertheless, the contribution of everybody to the work done during the last year was immense.

But of course the Alliance is not only the EC but also the now fixed Management Committee and I want to express my gratitude also to those taking over the responsibility of coordinating a committee or a Working Group and on top of that joining three meetings together with the EC. Therefore, I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all my colleagues in the Management Committee!

So, I guess now you are curious what happened during the last year. Quite a lot, I must say. First of all, we can say that the financial basis was much better this year than the previous year. Our applications for the **administrative grants**, grants that are crucial for the running of our structure, were successful, from the side of the EU, but also from the Council of Europe. In this way, the smooth running of the Alliance was guaranteed and even opened new possibilities. This shows that we are a good and reliable partner for the European institutions.

Nevertheless, we have to come back to the point where we build up our reserves and give the Alliance a good financial basis to guarantee its existence for the case that funding becomes less at some point.

For next year's grants we handed in two applications for the General Conference 2010 at the European Youth Foundation (EYF). Usually, one of them should get granted which on the other hand means that we will be eligible for the **administrative grant 2010** from the Council of Europe side. For the EU administrative grant the General Secretary and the Treasurer will participate in the Training Day organised by the European Youth Forum (YFJ). Furthermore, the newly elected EC will have time to go through the application of the Youth in Action programme right after the GA and in this way, ensuring the stability of the Alliance in future. Other financial measures have been taken that will be presented in the Treasurer's report, e.g. the diversification of funds.

During the GA 2006 the Alliance decided to have a more **permanent secretariat**. The GA 2008 gave the mandate to the EC to work on a proposal for this GA on the future of the Alliance secretariat. We have discussed the issue over the whole year and produced a SWOT analysis of the three options we proposed last year for this GA. Now it is up to the members to decide which direction the Alliance should go.

Due to funding received from the EU and the CoE, we decided to **increase the working hours of the AAA** from 15 to 30h. We thought we should use the money to develop the network as much as possible and give the best service to members as possible. This led us to the increase of working hours and we decided to give Estyes 30h from the middle of August until the end of 2010 to perform the tasks. More information will be found in the General Secretary Report and document called SWOT analyses.

For the Alliance structures, I must say, the establishment of the **Management Committee** was very good. We met three times throughout the year and had very interesting and fruitful discussions. The coordinators of the Committees and Working Groups joined the EC after one day in two cases and for a whole meeting for the preparatory meeting in the beginning of September in Greece. Having the coordinators at the meeting brings more ideas together and a big amount of expertise. It was very inspiring for the work of the EC and opening new horizons.



During the last EC meeting in Santorini/Greece, we had such a mind broadening discussion and came up with the idea of **amending some structures of the Alliance**. Due to the fact that things are changing in the voluntary world, new projects arise and the needs of members change, we thought, it might be worth to look at the current structures and see what could be changed in order to be more flexible, meeting the needs of members and also not to run into financial risks. We would like to use this GA to discuss this issue with you and to see which direction we can go to keep the Alliance an attractive network.

For **Alliance projects**, this year we were in the final stage of the EVS rainbow project. As the answer of the Executive Agency came very late last year, we could realise most of the exchanges in 2009. The structure of the management was very well considered/organised. I am very happy that Nadine Pantel from IBG took over the position as administrative support of this project. It was a pleasure to work with her, the communication and commitment from my side as chair of the Steering Group, I can only say it was excellent. Nevertheless, we will not fulfil the numbers we were applying for. Out of 40 places we applied for we will most likely only realize around 22-25. As the project will only finish after the GA, we will need to sit down and analyse what went wrong and why such a big network like the Alliance with huge/considerable numbers of exchanges also in the accessing field (around 350), is not able to exchange 40 places when it comes to a structured exchange. So we need to ask some questions, in my point of view:

- Is the Youth in Action programme made for us or are they too bureaucratic for our needs?
- Due to the long period from the application to the realisation, is it too difficult for us to keep our commitments?
- Is the financial risk too high for the Alliance when we do not fulfil all the exchanges?
- How can we lobby for a better program for young people with fewer possibilities to take part in a workcamp as a first international volunteering experience?

In my opinion, all those questions need to be answered before we start applying for a new project. Nevertheless, we have realised 25 exchanges and gave 25 young people the opportunity to travel and take part in a voluntary project, which would not have had the chance otherwise.

In order to make the Alliance more visible and to strengthen the bounds between member organisations and their volunteers, we continued working on the **Alliance Card** as mandated by the GA 2008. We came up with a proposal and also invited the director

of the issuing non-governmental organisation, the European Youth Card Association to join us and give us a presentation and clarify open questions.

I would like to give a short overview over the actions taken for the Alliance in the frame of the **Council of Europe**. After its last General Assembly, the Alliance was re-elected during the General Assembly of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) to the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe's Directorate IV on Youth and Sports (AC). During the first AC meeting in Mollina (Spain), I was elected as member of the Programming Committee (PC) and at their first meeting in June as chair of PC. The PC takes decisions on the programme of the DYS, including grant applications handed in to the CoE's European Youth Foundation (EYF). Again, I can only encourage members to register with the EYF and contact me when you apply for grants so I can give advice.

So the question now is **where should we go, what do we want to achieve?** The EC and MC has not taken the easy road over the last year, but put a lot of effort into so many fields: a proposal for a more permanent secretariat, the renewal of financial issues including looking for new grants, a possible new structure for the Alliance Committees and Working Groups, the website, to mention just some of them. Many things will be discussed and decided during this GA.

In the future we should go on with the restructuring of the website and the use of the database, that was created this year. From my point of view, we should get the most out of the tools we have. In this respect, we sometimes are only limited by time and technical knowledge, not by ideas. But we will go on working on this issue and come up with proposals and improvements for the tools.

We will have to decide if we want to develop the Alliance further and become a stronger player on the European Youth field or stay where we are now. We have to face the fact that we are the strongest voluntary network in Europe and organise the biggest meeting of voluntary service organisations in the whole world. Therefore, I think we should take a stronger stand on issues that concern volunteering, mobility and non-formal education to give just a few examples. This needs a strong identity of the Alliance and we started going this way by coming up with the quality charter and the Accessing Policy

paper. We want to continue this way and produce the **"Alliance Representation Plan"** (ARP) to have a strong paper for the Alliance internally, but also for the external representation. The Access for All Working Group already came up with a policy paper on Accessing that can also be used for this.

We need to secure funding, therefore, we will follow the plan of the Treasurer to establish a **financial support group** as a resource group for finding additional funding and writing applications in order to secure safe funding for our network.

In order to develop further in this direction, I propose to follow the EC proposal for a permanent secretariat at one of the member's offices. We consider this as a good way of having a stable alternative with the Alliance as employer in order to fulfil all tasks and give

the EC the capacity and room to think in a more political way.

One thing to think about in the next year is the European Year of Volunteering in 2011 (declared by the European Parliament). We should put our heads together and think about how to use this opportunity and give visibility to our work. We also started to collect data and to evaluate changes in the Alliance world and the voluntary service with trendy questions and hope to use the answers in . We should go on this way and see how we can react to those changes.

I am happy and grateful to have spent the last 1,5 years in this position and will be happy to continue for this position for another term, if Alliance members wish so.

Roman Kühn  
President

### General Secretary's report

#### A. Introduction

At the General Assembly 2008 in Lviv (Ukraine) EstYES, represented by me, Kaarina Konsap was elected as the Alliance General Secretary.

You may remember that by the end of GA 2008 there was no candidate for this position and there was a real risk that Alliance ends up not having a General Secretary. In this situation EstYES decided to step in. I was not participating in the GA in Lviv myself, but we were in contact with EstYES representative at GA, Aleksandr Kurashev and after long telephone conversation, explanation of the situation and overview of the tasks I agreed to stand for the position. Alliance members elected EstYES and me, and I want to thank all of you for your trust.

I have to admit that before accepting this position my work tasks in EstYES were not so much related to the Alliance since I am responsible for the EVS hosting activities. It is true that I was familiar with the concept of the Alliance, I assisted my colleagues in EstYES organising workcamps or sending volunteers abroad when needed and I had participate in a few Alliance meetings and events. But still my contact with the Alliance was not that regular. With this background I obviously had to spend the first period on this position for learning and finding my way, and that has been quite challenging for me, but I enjoyed it!

Quite naturally, some tasks, regular for former GA, were now shared with other EC members because both GS and AAA were new in their positions. These tasks were: implementation of the MC and the working methods of working groups, event and project management, writing administrative grant application. And I am thankful to my colleagues in the Alliance EC for their effort to integrate me and their support to GS work and, of course, to former General Secretary, Torsten Löser, who was extremely helpful and patient with me guiding through the procedures and explaining the tasks. In January 2009 Torsten and Lesya, former AAA, joined the first new EC meeting in Tallinn and it was very important and absolutely useful for passing

#### - Internal Communication

Prompt communication and information flow among members has been a top priority for GS work. Again, it is maybe too early to see the results, but we are working constantly on improving the situation, which has been the object for critics in the past. Our main goals are ensure that members have easy access to the Alliance information through the Alliance website and to guarantee stable and timely communication of

the task. Also Torsten helped a lot during EC meeting in Venice in March and EC/ MC meeting on Santorini in September, which was especially important for the preparation for the GA 2009.

GS work was done in close cooperation with the Alliance Administrative Assistant (AAA) hosted by EstYES as well. From January 2009 until mid-August 2009 AAA task was performed by Hellika Kõrmas. However after trial period her contract was stopped by EstYES due to the lack of necessary skills and poor performance leading to rather non-efficient cooperation. The new AAA Jelena Lihhatseva was contracted from the mid-August. Since then she has been doing her work conscientiously, with high commitment and sincere interest towards her new task. The cooperation with her is smooth, pleasant and very efficient, and we are confident now about the work of the Assistance and the performance of tasks.

EstYES and me saw the function of GS for the first year as to give technical and administrative support to the Alliance as a network and the EC. The main tasks, besides those described in the Constitution and the Sanding Orders, were seen as follows:

- Strengthen the work of the Alliance Secretariat
  - Improve communication and information flow between members and EC
  - Improve the Alliance Website
- Alliance Secretariat

Work on the future of the Alliance Secretariat was one of important tasks for this year. During EC meetings we have discussed how to strengthen the Alliance Secretariat, what changes have to be made, what is our common vision for future - whether it should be a permanent secretariat with the international office in Brussels or the current system can be developed and improved. June EC meeting decided to give more tasks and working hours to AAA and to relate her tasks more to the whole EC, not only to GS as it has been till now. Such change was realised since mid-August. It is too early to see the results, but it seems to be working well. The SWOT analyses about different possibilities of Secretariat were done to be presented at GA 2009 to members to decide on one of the options.

news, calls, decisions, etc. from the Alliance EC and Secretariat to members. This is not only to improve the transparency in the Alliance - it is also a tool of better involvement of members to the Alliance life. Some good improvements have been done already: mailing lists for members, partners, working groups; sending easy reading notes from EC meeting to members; uploading decision lists to the website, etc. But there is a lot more to do in this area, and your ideas and proposals are awaited. Just as an

idea to through for the discussion, what would you think about having Alliance Newsletters prepared by AAA sent electronically once in a quarter? If you find this idea interesting what content would you expect?

- Alliance website

Our website should be the main tool of internal communication. Till September it was managed by former Alliance GS, Torsten Löser. From September the access codes with the necessary explanations were handed over to AAA and current GS so that we could start our work on it. Our aim is to develop it the way that members could use it regularly and find all relevant information easily. However, it will involve a huge work and will definitely take some time. The most important thing to do now is to restructure the website to make it users friendlier. EC works on a restructuring of the website, its content and to some extend the layout. As soon as it will be done we can order company, which created our website, to make necessary changes – all of them at once.

- Statistics

It is the task of the Alliance Statistician to work on the Alliance Statistics and make the analysis. And it was excellent done by Beatrice Lecomte, you can find very interesting report among GA documents. The task of GS and AAA is to collect the statistics from members, and for members the constitutional task is to provide the statistics on time. It has to be taken very seriously

as delays are affecting our network - for the grant applications, but also for the decision making. We do need reliable statistics to see the development, understand where we are going to, which is a basis for taking necessary decisions for the whole network.

What to do with the members who delay their statistical reports or not submit it at all?

Would it help the Alliance if statistical forms will be on the Alliance website? What kind of questions should be included to the statistics, which ones should be removed? How to get more qualitative statistics? I hope the answers to all of these questions can be found collectively by all members.

- Personal Summary

It is my very first experience in the international network. The first year has been really challenging and full of new experiences. It has not been always easy but I have always put 100% from myself to learn fast and make it the best I could. I would like to thank all of you for the understanding and the great support!

Kaarina Konsap  
General Secretary

### Treasurer's report

#### Introduction

Following the General Assembly held in Sète in 2008, new elected Treasurer started to work on accounts in April. Transition period until summer 2009 was really fruitful: fully cooperation with former Treasurer (Jeunesse & Reconstruction), common meeting with internal auditor (Lunaria), support from previous Treasurer (Unarec), MS Denmark for bank management, Vice-President (GSM), General Secretary (IJGD) and Alliance Administrative Assistant (Lesya Verheijen) for grant applications.

In this very personal introduction, I would like also to thank all people from previous and current EC team involved in the very difficult negotiation with Executive Agency about administrative grant decision: without their active role during the first months of 2008, the result of Alliance accounts wouldn't have been the same!

#### 2008 accounts

Main points to underline about 2008 accounts are:

- A surplus of 4 633 EUR (without any take over on provision as voted in provisional budget, see annex)
- Administrative grant from EU for 9 500 EUR instead of 27 900 EUR (mainly due to the story of rejected 3 years application)
- Administrative grant from EYF of Council of Europe for 12 253 EUR and A grant for General Conference for 15 000 EUR
- Less expenses than expected for General Assembly
- More expenses than planned for EC and MC meetings but also less expenses for working groups meetings
- Less bank fees due to the implementation of internet banking (we saved around 400 EUR compared to 2007)
- More expenses for external audit (2 full days spent from the auditor to check accounts and reports)
- Changes in membership fees system allowed us to collect around 15 000
- EUR as membership and around 10 000 EUR as budget contribution

- Implementation of the first part of common project "Rainbow": due to the few finalized exchanges on 2008, we decided to account this year only the cost of the meetings and 1 month for the project assistant (Nadine Pantel, IBG) and same amount for incomes, without an impact on the current budget. It's a normal procedure when a project is planned for more than 1 year.

2008 surplus allows us to raise our reserves to 31 000 EUR, that is a very good news for further development of GA' decisions on secretariat (see also conclusions).

**All figures given at the General Assembly have been corrected and commented by External Auditors, *Auditeurs Associés Franciliens*, and audited by Internal Auditor Davide Di Pietro (Lunaria) on 28<sup>th</sup> of September.**

#### Accounting and work of the Treasurer

With important help from Alliance Financial Assistant Véronique Praud, Treasurer' technical work in 2008 was focused on:

- Bookkeeping and finalise accounts of the financial year 2008
- Cooperate with other EC members to submit on time EU administrative grant application that was a quite difficult process!
- Finalize financial report for administrative grants (EYF and EU)
- Improve our accounting procedure in Banana software to allow us to follow changes in the structure (MC, working groups, "Rainbow project"...) )
- Managing financial flows and payments, including cash box
- Co-ordinating with our bank in Denmark, NORDEA
- Follow up of late payments of membership fees (see below)
- Follow up of GC report
- Prepare contracts with members concerning events, projects and staff.

From a more political point of view, that I think is the purpose of the position, main work was:

- Implementation of internal audit 2008 suggestions
  - division of accounts' books, as recommended we divided in different books expenses, incomes and contracts;
  - members contribution, we tried to better estimate contribution from members but a lot of work has to be done in the future;
  - bank management and survey for new bank account, after firsts good results from internet banking (that reduce of 1/3 transfers' costs), we think that it is more coherent to wait for further development of secretariat before to look for another bank;
  - report from external auditor was improved but cost was higher than 2007;
  - budget format, we present in 2008 a budget in Alliance format but an "accounts version" is also available for members interested; pay attention that difference is only in presentation, figures are strictly the same (i.e. EC expenses are all together in Alliance version and divided in accommodation and transport costs in "accounts version").

- Implementation of membership fees system

As you remember, Alliance GA in Sète 2008 voted for a new system with the aim to:

- collect the total of approximately 25 000 EUR each year to balance the future budgets
- raise the membership fees (fixed amount in the new system)
- create a clear & fair budget contribution system based on the exchanges **facilitated by the Alliance**
- create a clear & fair budget contribution system for partners and eventually guest organisations.

Related decisions:

- no inscription fee for 1<sup>st</sup> delegate of each member organisation for the GA and Alliance Day on GA (2<sup>nd</sup> has to cover real costs)
- no more budget contribution for members at TM, granted events and study sessions
- for Alliance Day during TM members pay inscriptions fees covering real costs

### Perspectives

For the future of Alliance, I believe that members have to pay attention to financial matters and management of the network. If we want to develop more common actions and projects, we need a stronger coordination: in my opinion decision about permanent secretariat is a good one.

In consequence, from a financial point of view, we need to keep current membership system and start to diversify our sources of funds. Actually, I don't think that it's possible to finance a permanent staff with a

- charge each representative of organizations included in the Alliance Invitation List as **Permanent Guests** attending the Alliance Technical Meeting an extra participation fee of 100 Euros (as a contribution to the Alliance budget)
- to keep current system of a contribution of 25 euros per participant for TM, but with no contribution for other Alliance events for other **guest organisations** and their participants.

Membership fees for 2009 was raised to 350€ and budget contribution was 1€ for each outgoing volunteer over 100.

Financially speaking, new system is a success. We collected around 25 000 EUR for membership and contribution from members and 2 100€ from partners during TM. Also due to less participants to GA paid on Alliance budget, we got a positive balance.

Follow up of payments was quite hard because several members just "forgot" to pay before 1<sup>st</sup> of June deadline but it was quite understandable for a first year of new system. On the other hand, new system is quite easy to calculate and follow and I think this is an important point.

To financial support Alliance development, I strongly recommend to the members to keep this system.

- Set up a "financial support" working group

This is the weak point of Treasurer work for 2008! Time wasn't enough to set up a "financial management" working group.

### External auditor remarks on 2008 accounts

External auditor was satisfied about bookkeeping and report system. He recommends to check the balance at the end of the year with each member concerned by an unbalanced figure: for example, if Concordia has to receive 200 EUR as travel reimbursement and payment was not done for some reasons before 31<sup>st</sup> of December, Alliance and Concordia have to agree on the figure.

Even if this is an extra work for both sides (Treasurer and members), I think implementation of this suggestion can avoid problems in the futur

long term perspective if we continue with same strategy of grant applications only to EYF and Youth in Action program.

Contribution from EYF and EU is essential but we have to keep in mind that grants are not easy to obtain as 2008 has showed us. Grundtvig program, other EU programs and ASEF are just 3 examples of possible further development of our resources.

Marco Paoli  
Alliance' Treasurer



### Report on External Activities

The last year was a difficult one for the EC. Ioanna Nitelesku, replaced Damien Veyssiere as Vice President for External relations (VPER) J&R France. During the TM she informed the EC and J&R that, due to work overload, she can no longer fulfil her tasks. She informed J&R and after a meeting of J&R and Roman Kühn (P) the EC was informed that the organisation needed some time in order to consul with their president so as to have an official statement of resignation. Since that day the EC has neither received any further information, nor an answer to emails requesting clarification of the situation by J&R.

This has created difficulties for the EC as it overlooks extra tasks in order to fulfill the ones of the VPER. The EC seriously believes that the taking over of such a position is a demanding task. Therefore it is expected by the respective organization to fulfill the task with the required responsibility so that the smooth functioning of the EC can be guaranteed. The minimum requirement is to provide some explanation. This might have allowed a reshuffling of tasks within the EC.

Nevertheless, actions were undertaken by the EC members and the External Relations Committee (ERC). However, there were obstacles to a further strategically development of the external relations.

In spite of the above mentioned difficulties, the following tasks were realized:

- 1) The Alliance was represented in the European Youth Forum (YFI). Chrysafo Arvaniti and Roman Kühn participated in the YFJ in Rotterdam in November 2008. The reelection of the Alliance to the Advisory Council of the Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe was ensured.

Jeremie Chomette (UNAREC), member of the ERC, participated in the Council of members of the YFJ in April 2009 (report available on the website).

- 2) Kaarina Konsap went to the General Secretary Day of the YFJ on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2009.

- 3) Kaarina Konsap and Marco Paoli participated in the Info Day on Funding of the YFJ

- 4) Roman Kühn participated in two Advisory Council meetings in March and October 2009. During the meeting in March he was elected as member of the Programming Committee.

- 5) In the Programming Committee meeting in June Roman Kühn was elected chair of the Programming Committee.

- 6) Roman Kühn participated in the GA of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in Cardif in May 2009. The Alliance's proposal on establishing an Alliance Card was carried by the members of EYCA.

- 7) The PCE 2009 in Santorini, hosted by CiA, on External Relations was realised (see ERC report).

- 8) In cooperation with the ERC, some steps were taken forward on the Alliance Representation Plan.

For the next mandate we see the newly elected Vice President on External Relations (VPER) engaged in the International Year of Volunteers + 10 and the European Year of Volunteering. Furthermore, we would like the VPER to contribute to the development and strengthening of our relations towards other regional volunteering networks.

Alliance EC + ERC Coordinator

### Vice President's Report

While the other reports from Executive Committee (EC) members are a constitutional requirement, there is no requirement for the Vice President to produce a report. However, we in the EC agreed that a report would be a good way to report back on the areas which is the main task of the Vice President: Alliance projects/events, and coherency & communication between the working groups.

The first Alliance event after the last General Assembly was the General Conference, hosted by Alternative-V in Lviv. While the reporting form the event is now done, a lot of time from several EC members was spent on getting the host of the event to finalize the reporting for the event, which was funded by the European Youth Foundation. I think we should use this occasion to remind our self, that reporting is a very important part of hosting and Alliance event, and that late or even missing reports can directly influence or chance of getting funding for future projects, as well as our chance of getting the administrative grants we use to run the Alliance in the future. One concrete outcome of the conference was an evaluation toolkit which is now available on the Alliance website, and I encourage you all to have a look at it.

We had originally planned a camp leaders training in cooperation with ASEF, but this event has to be delayed due to changes in ASEF. When our application to get Youth in Action funding for a Training for Trainers (TfT) was unsuccessful, we decided to use some of the money which had been reserved for the camp leaders training for the TfT. With additional funding from IWO we managed to run a successful TfT, planned in cooperation between the prep-team and the Training Needs Working Group, as well as the host VJF. While I think it is useful for the Alliance to experiment with running events like this without external funding, I think the process with the TfT highlights the need for us to look in to additional sources for funding, as well as to thinking about funding when we look at updating the Alliance Training Priorities. The TM, which was hosted by Lunaria in Venice, saw us experimenting with new methods, as well as with the length of the TM. Lunaria has produced an evaluation of both the TM in general as well as the new methods, and in general the response has been very positive. The Alliance has previously run

trainings for staff members, but it has been a long time since the last staff training took place, and the GA therefore decided that we should run one in 2009. The planning of the event got started late, which meant that it was not possible to get external funding for the event, but we will have one hosted by Concordia right after the GA. I hope we can use the occasion to discuss what the needs for evaluation meetings and staff trainings are, so these types of events can become more regular.

One of the decisions at the last General Assembly was to create an Alliance Database for project descriptions, which should be read for the 2009 TM. With a lot of hard work from everyone involved we managed to have the database ready for the Technical Meeting (TM). While problems had to be solved both during and after the TM, I think that compared to other such project, the launch of the database was very much a success. Looking forward I think the main focus for the database should be to adjust it based on the feedback we have gotten, so that it will hopefully be more useful to the members in the 2010 season.

It has now been five years since the Alliance started having working groups, and this seems like a good occasion to take a step back, and evaluate the structure we have ended up with. It is clear to me that the working groups are very useful for the Alliance as well as the members, but is the structure the right one, and how does it fit the future of the Alliance and its members. One thing we got me thinking about how to organize the working groups in the future was the questionnaire by the Alliance Development Committee (ADC), which among other things seemed to show that Alliance members are more and more working on several different types of projects. Based on this I think it is important that we look at to what degree the Alliance can support cooperation between members on these types of projects, and how working groups can be used to enable this. I hope we can use sometime during the GA to look at the structure of the working groups and start looking at what the future structure should be.

Dines Justesen  
Vice – President

## Alliance Development Committee (ADC)

### Report on activities 2009

In 2009 Alliance Development Committee continued the work which actually began in 2008, some tasks started last year were finalized in 2009. In addition to the "old" members involved to the Committee work since 2008 Nadine Pantel/ IBG, Marcello Mariuzzo/ Lunaria and Aleksandr Kurushev/ ESTYES as coordinator two more members joined the group – former Alliance General Secretary Torsten Loeser/ IJGD and current Alliance Vice President Dines Justesen/ MS.

### Meetings of the Alliance Development Committee

The first ADC meeting took place in March in Venice on the occasion of the Alliance TM. Next meeting was held on 10.-11.07 in Berlin. The last meeting is scheduled to the day before the Alliance GA in Jamboville on 31.10.

### Directions of work

At the first meeting in March ADC plan of action was adopted. The priority areas for 2009 were set as:

- working out new Alliance membership strategy
- further development of the Alliance structure
- implementation and evaluation of use of new methods at TM
- improving the Alliance statistical forms
- looking at funding possibilities for the Alliance
- elaborating content of the new-comers sessions for TM and GA
- assisting SDWG in organizing Staff Training

In addition to the new tasks ADC in cooperation with EC and SDWG followed and finalized the work initiated in 2008 on Alliance Quality Charter, Alliance Database and, of course, the Alliance Survey.

### Main outcomes

The agreed plan was mainly realized. Without spending your time on details, let me briefly touch some major points of it starting from the tasks coming from the last year.

As planned, Alliance **Quality Charter** initiated by ADC and worked out by SDWG was presented to the members at the Plenary Meeting in March. We believe it will be officially approved by GA 2009 and become the formal quality standard which Alliance members have to follow in their daily work.

The idea of the Alliance **Workcamps Database** arisen at ADC meeting in September 2008 found it

first implementation at Alliance TM in March. We have to be clear, the first outcome is rather simple - we have static collection of the camp description as by TM time saved in a certain format allowing members to upload it easily to their own databases. But this is just the beginning! The work will be continued and hopefully we will come to a solution suitable for all of the members and helping (should I say, dramatically changing!) their work. Fortunately, we do not need to invent something totally new because there are many already existing and working solutions. Among those is simple database of ICYE organized per continent and country and leading to descriptions of projects of each member. Or dynamic database of SCI with many options (vacancy information, infosheets, etc.) And, of course, the most elaborated one with a lot of useful functions – Evet, which is used now by more than 30 organisations fully and in some parts by another 55. Maybe cooperation with this one is the solution the Alliance is looking for? It is just to find **the agreement**. *Ubi concordia, ibi victoria!*

Some ideas how to make **Alliance TM** more efficient using new working methods and tools (multilaterals, Alliance Yellow Pages), discussed by ADC in September 2008, were experimented at TM in Venice and seem to be approved by members.

**Alliance Survey** was launched, according to the plan, at GA 2008. Its interesting results, presented at Plenary Meeting in Venice by ADC coordinator, gave directions for the work of Alliance EC, Committees and Working Groups. Some of them found realization in the proposals brought to the GA 2009, for instance document of the Alliance Membership Development. Such survey is a very good way to consult with members, check their opinion on various topics and therefore directly involve members in the managing of the Alliance and shaping its future. The practice of surveys should be certainly continued.

Perhaps the most important outcome of ADC work is the proposal for the **Alliance Membership Development** presented to EC/ MC meeting in September and brought now to GA for the discussion and approval. This document can be found among working documents for GA, so there is no need to explain it here.

ADC spent quite some time discussing options for the new **Alliance structure** that is about reorganizing Alliance working groups and committees. Some of the ideas concerning permanent secretariat solution, role of EC as much more political rather than administrative, increasing the mandate of the working groups and committees for two years, etc. were presented to EC/MC meeting in September. During that meeting new ideas about possible changes in the Alliance WG/C structure were discussed. The

discussion, which strangely caused a lot of tension, lead finally to the proposal, brought to GA. I hope

clear parts which remained vague and adopt it. ADC believes that the proposed new structure will make Alliance more efficient in terms of outcomes and costs of structure, help better involvement of members, answer members real needs, keep the coherency of our activities. Changes happening around us cry for such structural modification. And I hope it will be approved at this GA in one way or another without losing too much time.

### Some conclusions

Experience of ADC shows how important is to secure continuous work of WG/C, which can be achieved by having two years mandate. Current one year mandate is too short and does not permit to generate and especially implement new ideas.

Another conclusion is that there is a lot of overlapping in the fields of work of ADC and SDWG. Good cooperation between these two groups in 2008-2009 gave interesting outcomes to the Alliance. Perhaps these two groups can be united in future, which is actually foreseen by the new structure proposal.

It seems that 4-6 is a good number of group members to maintain efficient cooperation and keep a good budget, which nevertheless have to be sufficient

there will be enough time at GA to explain it, make

to ensure the possibility of the physical meetings of the group members at least once, better 2-3 times per year.

Closer cooperation between WG/C and EC does bring positive results. Inviting EC members to WG/C meetings is a good method of work, which should be practiced more.

### Personal note

The work as ADC coordinator for two years was very interesting and rewarding. A lot of interesting new ideas were presented and already implemented. All of this happened thanks to the dedicated active team work of ADC members in 2008-2009 and open cooperation with other WGs, especially SDWG. I am sure we can be proud about the results achieved in these two years. And I believe new ADC will continue with the same high spirit. Personally I am happy that my knowledge and experience, received while working in the Alliance EC, could be used in ADC now and I hope our work brought Alliance positive development. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity!

Aleksandr Kurushev, ESTYES

Alliance Development Committee coordinator

## Access 4 All Working Group report

Dear Friends,

At the last GA the adopted plan of action included these priorities for the Access for All Working Group:

- To facilitate Alliance inclusion programme (e.g. projects for families, teenagers, persons over 30, persons with disabilities, etc.);
- Run an accessibility Campaign during workcamp season;
- To provide pedagogical tools to support the EVS project.

Added to that, was the writing of a concept paper and the application for a Study Session. So here is how it went.

The facilitation

A concept paper on Accessing was produced, giving an overview of the reasons and the means that are put in place to give access to disadvantage population to volunteering. It might be presented to be adopted as an Alliance Policy soon. Also, a shorter version was made to be included in the Alliance Representation paper if necessary.

The A4A tools were updated. They were sent to the Accessing Workcamp Campaign participating organisations, but should be made available to all through the website in a near future.

The Accessing Workcamp Campaign

This year the Campaign included 22 organisations (17 of them partners in RAINBOW EVS) with the possibility of 48 hosting places (10 EVS) and 84 sending (16 EVS). The official list sent included 94 possible workcamps open for volunteers with less opportunity.

As for the outcomes, we only received the evaluation of 8 of the 22 AWC participate, so it is far from accurate. But we can still say that at least 40 volunteers were sent abroad (17 through EVS, including RAINBOW) and 16 were received (10 EVS). As you can see, the results are still very partial. But what is quite impressive is the number of national volunteers on the projects, 199 volunteers with less opportunities took part in a project this season.

The feedbacks on the tools were positive, most of them are used. The only ones not so popular are the Travel Journal (it seems that it is not that interesting for the volunteers) and the Certification (as there is no concrete value to it). We shall underline that these tools are not mandatory but a way to ease and formalise the exchanges, but each organisation is free to add things, translate it, improve it, etc.

The general outcomes of the projects were quite positive. Some organisations are pointing the need to be trained on this topic and to train the camp leaders. The importance to prepare the volunteers very well is also frequently mentioned.

On the funding side, apart from the EVS projects, a good number of volunteers were able to go abroad,

thanks to local funding, either the institution they live in or a local structure. A few organisations were also able to get specific grants from the state or even on the European level.

RAINBOW EVS

More specifically on the EVS-Rainbow project now. This project is coming soon to an end. The objective was to have 40 exchanges taking place. In last January, specific tools were developed to fit the requirements of the funds givers and a blog was created. Unfortunately we were not able to achieve the results we expected as there were only 23 exchanges taking place. On the good side, most of them were successful. Please, have a look at the annexed document to have a complete overview of the project and of the question raised by these results. General Assembly 2009 1 -2 November, 2009 Jambville, France Annex 21: Access for All WG Report

Study Session

An application for a Study Session was made last spring. It will take place at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from the 21st of February to the 28th of February

The study session aims to enhance the accessing educational framework first developed within the Alliance's network, by targeting all actors involved in an international voluntary project (youth workers, volunteers, placement staff, workcamp leaders or coordinators, local partners)

Objectives:

1. From current best practices, improve the international mobility/exchange methodology in order to increase the number of participating volunteers from disadvantaged background in workcamps.
2. Improve pedagogical tools in order to support volunteers more efficiently (before, during and after their participation towards another voluntary service experience)
3. Study the possibility for a transnational accreditation system for the volunteer experience (from Youthpass to EQF)
4. Create information supports to raise awareness about this program

The first work of the prep team will be to work on these objectives because the European youth center recommends us to develop them and propose concrete issues. A call of trainers was sent, the deadline to received application was the 19th of October. After this date, the prep team will have a meeting to work on objectives and contents.

Perspectives or What's next?

In the feedbacks we received on the Campaign, we can see that there is a need to discuss the difficulties in recruiting the volunteers and to finance the exchanges. It is clear that the financial side is not only an incentive to work with different target groups,

but may also be a need for some organisations. The leaflet idea is also to be discussed and developed. As for the tools, there is no need to work on it each year, but the evaluation process of the campaign and its understanding should be improved.

## RAINBOW EVS Workcamps Project

(241-2-DK-2008-R1 | 2008-1448-001-001)

The "RAINBOW EVS Workcamps project" will end in a few days.

The final aim was to give 40 young people with fewer opportunities chance for a first experience in a voluntary service – a workcamp.

The project is built on a series of activities realised in different countries. All activities should have shared

- 1.) the general objectives of the project (empower young people; active citizenship; European awareness...)
- 2.) the same methodology: the workcamp
- 3.) the same theme: environmental issues
- 4.) a universal action: the EVS blog

Approved amount: 68.030 €

Action and period of eligibility of costs: 01.07.2008 – 15.11.2009;

report must be submitted till 15th of January.

Promoters are: ADP-ZID (dismissed); ALTERNATIVE-V; CBB; CBF; CIA; COCAT; CONCORDIA F; ELIX; ESTYES; FIYE; GENCTUR; IBG; LEGAMBIENTE; LUNARIA; SEEDS; UNA EXCHANGE; UNAREC.

As part of the accessing campaign the "RAINBOW EVS Workcamps Project" was applied as centralized Group EVS project from several ALLIANCE organisations for 01st of February 2008. Unfortunately the approval came in July and during a steering group meeting in France on 18th of July 2008 it turned out to be impossible to finish the project as planned in 2008. Successfully, the Alliance asked for extension of the project.

The coordination of the EVS project was shared by Steering Group (Roman Kühn (ALLIANCE President) as Chair person; Marco Paoli (CONCORDIA, ALLIANCE treasurer), Gregory Van de Put (CBB), François Ribaud (UNAREC), Xenia Koutentaki (CIA)) and the administrative project assistant (Nadine Pantel, IBG).

On 12th of January Gregory and Nadine went to Brussels to see the EACEA to clarify open questions and to establish the relationship.

A feasibility meeting from 15-18th of January 2008, hosted by IBG, gave chance for all promoters to discuss the implementation of the project. Discussed points were the definition of target groups, the recruitment of volunteers, the preparation process including reinforced mentorship, the AXA insurance, the financial aspects, the documents and guidelines, the Youth Pass,...

Rainbow tools were created by a working group (Pre Departure Form; Partnership Agreement; Individual Project Diary; Hosting Report; Evaluation Form).

Lunaria got mandated to create the EVS blog (<http://www.alliance-rainbow.eu/>).

At EACEA, unfortunately our contact person changed (again) during summertime, leading to problems due to another "interpretation" of programme guide from the new contact person. This was (for example concerning the flexibility of exchanges, which was no problem with our first contact person, but was withdrawn by the new contact person and took lots of mails and phone calls to make it possible again).

Overview /Results / Difficulties / Problems:

Unfortunately we did not succeed in filling the 40 places, but only 23 volunteers went for a first international experience!

What are the reasons for it?!

After Feasibility Visit in January, participants went home well informed and highly motivated. During stressful TM lots of already discussed questions appeared again, as other staff members joined the meeting. We tried to make

the communication process as easy as possible, but still there was a lack of information transfer within staff members of some organisations.

Some organisations succeeded in filling their quota and had well prepared and highly successful exchanges and happy volunteers.

Unfortunately, half of the exchanges were not fulfilled. This is a first attempt to collect reasons for it:

☐ Lack of suitable projects

After TM, we started collecting suitable and accredited projects. Due to the delay of the projects, the collection of suitable projects was shorter than hoped and some organisations did not succeed in getting new accreditations.

☐ Bureaucratic barriers

Commission's requests may not fit to ALLIANCE working methods.

☐ Long period

From the process of the born idea to application and implementation of project, more than 2 years passed by. Active staff members stopped working in their organisations, new people came.

☐ Recruitment of volunteers

Some organisations gave feedback, that it was hard to recruit volunteers.

☐ Working with the target group

In some cases the recruitment and preparation process was successfully done, but suddenly volunteers cancelled (due to a job offer, too high fears,...). In another project the volunteer had to leave the workcamp because of psychological problems.



### ☐ Bad luck

One volunteer who broke his leg just before departing to the project. Another volunteer (Armenien refugee in France) went to Ukraine with a refugee passport and legal document from French government – was not allowed to enter the Ukraine and was sent home. There might be lot of other reasons and this definitely needs to be discussed during the next meeting with all promoters and the Steering Group, as well as a “follow up” and final outcomes of the project...

All promoters are requested to handle all documents to Nadine including their invoices for hosting and

sending. The report will be written and send to Brussels till 15th of January.

The reimbursement process will be handled by the treasurer. As money definitely needs to give back to the Commission, no reimbursement will be done before final acceptance to avoid financial trouble for the ALLIANCE.

Beatrice Lecomte / Nadine Pantel

## External Relations Committee report

- A) ERC synthesis
- B) Report of Activities
- B1 ARP – Alliance Representation Plan development
- B2 New Power Point Presentation & Project Template
- B3 ERC Training/Post Camp Event 2009
- B4 European Youth Forum Representation

### A) ERC synthesis

Within the last year the synthesis of the ERC has as follows:

Ioana Nitelesku, J&R France, (Vice President for External relations, VPER)

Chrysafo Arvaniti, CiA – Coordinator

Members:

Jeremie Chomette, UNAREC France (Treasurer)

Gerard Meppelink, SIW Holland

Joan Boloix& Oriol Josa, Cocat Catalunya

### B) Report of Activities

#### B1) ARP (Alliance Representation Plan)

The development on the Alliance representation plan is a plan that is going to 'promote' Alliance's background and work in the last 25 years.

The idea is to gather somehow all Alliance experience until now in the different fields and create

some documents /position papers that could more specifically represent Alliance "perspectives" on the different issues. They could be used as representation documents by Alliance member organizations and at the same time as a "think tank source" on the development of future projects.

The topics to be researched and developed within the Alliance are the following 5:

1. Volunteering,
2. Social inclusion,
3. Participation,
4. Non-formal education
5. Mobility

The overall structure of the final position paper to be delivered should include:

1. A general introduction to the subject
2. What does it mean for the Alliance?
3. What has been done by the Alliance within this field so far?
4. Which methodologies have been used?
5. Outlook, what might/will be done, conclusion

The members of the committee have started collecting the material needed (data base, reports from

GAs and Alliance events etc) in order to start composing the documents. There have been skype meetings, e-mailing, a meeting in Venice during the TM and a meeting in Santorini with those who were present at the post camp event.

#### B2) New Power Point Presentation

A draft of a new /updated Alliance Power Point Presentation for representation of the network has been prepared. Members will be able to use it to all events they would like to present the Alliance. A final draft will be completed by the GA 2009.

A "project template" has been added, with the aim to be completed with the major Alliance projects developed until now and it could be also used by the members and the different working groups as an update to the projects that are being developed.

*Note: It should be mentioned that this new Alliance Representation Plan started as an idea a couple of years ago and that during this time the synthesis of the ERC has changed completely with new members participating something that meant that the initial process to the delivery of the final product is a bit delayed.*

#### B3) ERC Training/Post Camp Event 2009

From the 7th-14th of September the post camp event "Towards a united strategy: from international volunteering to democratic participation" that took place in Santorini- Greece, dealt with youth policies, policy papers and external relations of international youth organizations. The main theme of the training course was to train participants in external relations, representation skills, communication and lobbying strategies. During the training the ERC plan was also presented to participants and more people were motivated to contribute within this project development in the near future.

The ERC Coordinator was also a member of the prep and trainer's team. Members of the EC/MC also participated and contributed substantially to the realisation of the event (Roman Kühn and Xenia Koutentaki as members of the pep team, Aleksandr Kurushev as an expert, and Oriol Josa Fresno as a participant)

*What is more the event was also attended by representatives of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the European Youth Foundation, who came as experts, participated also in specific*

*workshops and gave us a positive feedback on the work we develop within the Alliance.*

B4) YFJ meeting/European Youth Forum Representation

Roman Kühn and Chrysafo Arvaniti participated at the GA of the European Youth Forum in Rotterdam from the 13th – 15th of November 2008.

Roman Kuhn was as a representative of the Alliance was elected for another 3rd year mandate for the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. Jérémie Chomette participated in the Council of Members of the YFJ in April.

Chrysafo Arvanit  
ERC Coordinator

### **Staff Development Working Group Report**

2009 has been a busy year for the SDWG with 9 members joining the group at the last GA in Lviv.

The group meet in Brighton, UK on 10 -11 December where they finalised the Alliance handbook and Section 2 – The Season step by step. The group also produced the Quality Charter.

At the TM in Venice the SDWG ran the 'Newcomers' session and also presented the 'Quality Charter' to the Alliance during Alliance day. Here it was decided that everyone would use the Quality Charter over the season of 2009 and then at the GA in Paris there would be a vote to see if the Alliance would adopt the Quality Charter as part of its working practices. Both documents should be available on the Alliance website.

The next steps for the SDWG are to run a 'Staff Development Training' session (hopefully in

November 2009) for newcomers and older staff to train them on the Alliance producers such as the 'season step by step', the quality Charter and evaluation process just to mention a few. Also to finish the rest of the Alliance handbook and amend the Quality Charter if necessary.

The only other news for the SDWG is that we might be losing 2 very active members – Sam Powell and Barbara Briedova – I can discuss this at the meeting in Santorini. The outcome of this will be that the SDWG will need more support on running a staff development training session and finishing the handbook.

Fiona Callender  
SDWG coordinator

### Training Needs WG report

This report aims to present the whole process followed since the last GA.

During this period of time, a meeting of the TNWG was held in Milan in January (hosted by Legambiente) and a set of priorities and suggestions (including the agenda of the Tft 2009) were prepared. During spring, the Alliance Tft 2009 was held successfully by VJF. For 2010 the Tft is going to be held by MS Denmark.

The status of the vademecum, the small book which will be easy for every volunteer or youth worker to carry everywhere is still pending. A draft electronic version is going to be designed for the next year. After this draft is prepared and evaluated by the members, the TNWG will proceed on finding ways of financing a printed version.

Taking into consideration that the PoT is a newly formed body and tool for the Alliance, it is of great importance that during the GA an evaluation should be done. After this evaluation, a whole new strategy should be formed in order to promote it, support it and find ways of use for this very important Alliance body.

It is of huge importance to underline that it is becoming more and more obvious that if a whole new Alliance Strategy on Training should be formed, the status of work of the TNWG should change. This means that it is important to underline the importance of the PoT, which could act as a supporting body for the TNWG in implementing its tasks and creating

follow up projects and motivate members on applying for positions in Alliance Groups –and in this situation, join the TNWG.

In order for this to happen, an annual meeting of the pool is very important. Of course, the meeting of the pool should always focus on the priorities presented by the members during the GA. Through this action, people with potential on writing applications, working on different issues (ICL, conflict management etc) could be found more easily, helping very much in many of the Alliance's future Training Priorities.

If this meeting is combined with an exchange of trainers among the member organisations (when a member is organising a training event for YiA or a training for camp leaders), as multiple study visits, the flow of information concerning training methods and a whole new dynamics for trainers will be born.

There is still discussion on how and where to apply for a meeting (It is very possible that this strategy can be a YiA multimeasure project of a meeting for the PoT and a number of exchanges for trainers among the members organisations as study visits) for next year.

George Kalmpourtzis  
TNWG coordinator

## North South WG report

### Description of our problems

This working group was initiated because Alliance members and partners are experiencing some difficulties with exchanges to and from the South. The difficulties include for instance volunteers coming from the EU, who travel to the South with wrong expectations and complain afterwards.

Also, we have found that the projects in the North have different standards and requirements than many of the projects in the South which leads to confusion and sometimes disappointment. Another issue is that, even though we would like to receive volunteers from the South, the young people often experience great problems acquiring visa and/or funding options. In addition, our Southern partners have the possibility to receive volunteers through a sending organization or find them through internet without a sending organization involved. How can we create an advantage for Southern partners to work with Alliance; in other words make clear to them that our volunteers are well-prepared and they can rely on us in case of problems. Alliance should be the best partner for them.

The goals and action plan written below is meant to bring a solution to these problems and improve the working relations between Alliance members and partners in the North and in the South. Equality in exchange!

### Goals and action plan

#### Goals and objectives:

1. The ultimate goal of the working group is to develop a way of working within Alliance that guarantees high quality of projects and volunteers, and thereby shows a clear comparative advantage of working and volunteering through Alliance.

- To develop standards for projects
- To develop standard training
- To develop a standardized evaluation
- Development of common tools of collaboration

2. A second goal is make the number of volunteers going from the South to the North more equal to the number of volunteers travelling from the North to the South. This will improve equality between the organizations in the North and the South.

- To work on improving accessibility of visa to the EU for Southern volunteers.
- To investigate funding possibilities for exchanges, that includes volunteers living in the South.

### Actions

Actions to be taken under goal number 1:

- Develop a list of minimum requirements and standards for volunteer projects in the South. This list should include requirements and standards a.o. on sleeping and living facilities, water and sanitation, the work and local fees.
- For making a standard training for volunteers we could ask the Alliance training working group to help us. However, we first have to decide on what a good volunteer is and what a volunteer must know. This includes standards and requirements about motivation, expectations and preparation. Preferably this can lead to the development of clear and functional selection criteria for volunteers.
- Improve evaluation of volunteers who have participated in projects in the South. Use lessons for improvement.

Actions to be taken under goal number 2:

- We should think about what we can do to make it easier to get visa for volunteers from the South (particularly Africa) to go to EU countries. Can we lobby, write to Ministries of foreign affairs or something else? Who can be our partners; organizations struggling with the same problem?
- We should investigate funding possibilities for exchanges that include volunteers from the South coming to projects in the North. For instance Youth in Action, private foundations or other initiatives. Maybe this can be done by an intern of long-term volunteer, working in one of our offices. Once possibilities are clear, commitments need to be made for writing proposals to access the funding and receive volunteers from the South. This is not only improving the essence of what 'exchange' is all about, but also for building relationships with Southern partners.

### Explanation of work done and work to be done.

There is some work done before the establishment of this workgroup, also there is a lot off from other networks concerning North/South (guidelines off ccivs and Sci...) we can share and hang in the wiki, (Wiki is updated).

Several members went to CCIWS Africa-Europe Culture Meets Concepts in Kenya en Barcelona, (report is expected and will be put on the Wiki). Several members went to the training for trainers in Tokyo (done, report was send during tm in Venice). Several members went to the SCI North South Platform Meeting in Barcelona (report will be coming on the Wiki) Several members will visit



The 3rd Networking Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Conference NAEVY in Jambville

There were 5 Skype meetings some with more or less people, a meeting on the TM in Venice, and a coincident meeting on Santorini.

We spoke about how to proceed to divide the work between small groups (2 or 3 persons) and we identified 3 main topics on which we should work on:

### 1. about the WIKI:

- Improve it, structure it: prepare it as a useful tool to compile materials.
- Contact the organizations and encourage them to upload their materials (document for preparation & evaluation, trainings methods, schedules ...).
- Propose to put the link on Alliance website.
- Reflect on what would be public.
- Prepare an example of evaluation matrix and a list presenting the partners with whom we work.

### 2. About trainings & meetings:

- Prepare the North/South meetings for the TM and other Alliance meetings.
- Reflect on the possibility to organize Trainings for Trainers

### 3. about publications

- Compile the tools and documentation we have.
- Prepare a toolkit to present to the Alliance and other partners.
- Prepare a summary of the NSWG activities and objectives to present to the TM and other Alliance meetings.

The workgroup did put North/South issues back on the map of Alliance in 2009, and would like to get the opportunity to get deeper on the issues and to fulfill its tasks in 2010.

Gerard Meppelink  
North South WG Coordinator

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

### In 2009 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.

**March, 2 – 7 2009: hosted by Lunaria, Italy in Venice**  
**61 organisations**



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.

**1-2 November, 2009: hosted by Concordia, France in Jambville**  
**68 participants**

### Alliance PCE 2009

PCE 2009: Towards a united strategy: from international volunteering to democratic participation

*On Santorini Island, 7-14 September*



The training course dealt with youth policies, policy papers and external relations of international youth organizations, and pointed out the main policies of European institutions.

#### WHY?

Successful and good external relations are vitally important for an international network, especially when focusing on international youth work. Thus the main theme of the training course was to train young volunteers in external relations, representation skills, communication and lobbying strategies.

#### WHICH MEANS...

- Get to know history and background of international youth work, such as voluntary service and voluntary networks (Alliance, CCIVS, SCI, etc).
- Support and motivate participants to become able to represent the Alliance network towards other international institutions, networks, partners.
- Get to know function and policies of European Institutions promoting democracy and active citizenship (YFJ, CoE, and European Commission)
- Promote cooperation and mutual learning among the participants. Develop a better understanding on the role of voluntary actions in an international/European environment and learn about lobby activities.
- Develop necessary practical skills to negotiate and communicate within an international team. Strengthen the representation of voluntary service on international level.

#### The Participants

Twenty six people participated in the training, coming from:

France (UNAREC and CONCORDIA), United Kingdom (CONC UK and UNA EXCHANGE),

Italy (LUNARIA) Spain (Catalunya COCAT), Japan (NICE), Germany (VJF and IJGD), Czech Republic (INEX SDA), Serbia (VSS-YRS), Belgium (CBB), Russia (SFERA), Switzerland (WCS), Montenegro (ADP ZID), Lithuania (DEINETA), Turkey (GSM), Greece (ELIX and CiA).



#### The Trainers

Davide Tonon  
Chrysafo Arvaniti  
Xenia Koutenaki  
Roman Kuhn

#### The Activities:

After all participants arrived, in the evening the welcome session started, with games, activities and some drinks.

On the next day youngsters knew each other through their expectations, hopes, fears and experiences.

*There were:*

- Organizations presentation: How would you introduce your organization on a two minute TV advertisement?

- Santorini rally: Discovering the place, the history and people... with 2 euro!

- External Representation: In five groups, participants reflected upon the question

(What is for your organizations *external representation*, why is it needed, how is it managed in your organization and in what ways is it developed?)

- What Is It: advertising through media, direct contact with youth, communication with partners, cooperation with authorities

and representatives of European programs? A distinction can be made among three different dimensions: society, similar organizations and institutions. It can also be compared to marketing, being volunteers and projects the actual products that are promoted.



- Why it is needed session: In the context of marketing, it allows you to position yourself within the market, thus letting you get sustainable and long term funding and influence those who are able to influence others; to enhance youth mobility and opportunities for the youth; general visibility of youth work and policies; visibility of funding institutions; to spread awareness; to get support and new volunteers; regarding other similar NGOs, it is needed also to improve local and international networking.

On the THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> we had representatives from the CoE and the European Youth Foundation- Mr Jean Claude Lazaro, and from the European Youth Forum- Agnija Jansone.

### FOLLOW UP Session

The first part was organized as an Open Space about three different topics related to the Alliance fields of interest, in order to let participants propose where and how they could contribute, also through their organizations. The topics were Access 4 All Campaign, External Relations Committee, North-South Working Group.

The second part of the Follow up was an individual exercise of reflection about the following steps that each one would take at personal, national "as member of an organization" and international "within the network" level. The results, written on post-it, were collected on a flipchart in order that everyone could read them.

### FINAL EVALUATION

After revising the program with the help of Davide's alien friend, participants revised the expectations written on the first day, and wrote their final evaluation.

**Adopted Plan of Action 2010**

Action 2010	Who	When
<b>1. Alliance Events and Projects</b>		
a) Technical Meeting b) General Assembly c) General Conference	VJF GSM GSM	2-7 of March 2010 November 2010 November 2010
<b>Other events:</b>		
a) Tft b) Conduct Alliance Staff meeting  c) to prepare the application  d) Asia- Europe training e) Study Session 2010 f) To promote a meeting with southern partners present at the TM	MS SDWG  TNWG & VPER & NSWG TNWG & VPER ACD & A4All NSWG	March 2010 Autumn 2010  Autumn 2010 Autumn 2010 February 2010 During TM 2010
<b>Projects</b>		
a) evaluate the Collective EVS action	EC & Steering Group	By GA 2010
b) Follow up of Senior European Volunteers Exchange Network Activity.	EC & Lunaria	Throughout the year
a) Update the Alliance guidebook and make an electronic version b) Prepare 3 years grant application under Youth in Action Program c) Prepare 1 year grant application under Youth in Action Program d) Produce Alliance Representation Plan e) Work on a permanent secretariat f) To work on defining the Mission of the Alliance g) To make research on funding opportunities  h) To explore the possibilities of using Alliance reserves for the realization of the development policy. i) To make proposal on establishing Alliance development Fund j) To run an Alliance accessing workcamp campaign	EC EC EC ERC & WGs EC ADC  FSG  FSG & Treasurer  FSG  A4All WG	Throughout the year December 8 <sup>th</sup> 2010 December 8 <sup>th</sup> 2009 GA 2010 GA 2010 GA 2010  Throughout the year Throughout the year  Throughout the year Throughout the year
<b>3. Co-operation between members</b>		
a) run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM and et the GA b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve quality of exchange programmes c) Evaluate Alliance Pool of Trainers d) To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners	SDWG SDWG  TNWG SDWG & NSWG	TM 2010/ GA 2010 TM & GA  TM 2010 Throughout the year

e) to evaluate and improve the methods used at the Technical Meeting	SDWG & ADC	Throughout the year
f) To run a regular session on accessing workcamps	A4AllWG	TM 2010
g) To develop further and evaluate Alliance project's database	EC & A4All	Throughout the year
h) Plan of new events	EC & MC	Throughout the year
<b>4. Information and communication</b>		
a) Implementation of Alliance website as dissemination tool	VP & GS	Throughout the year
b) Create/ update Alliance brochures and leaflets	EC	Throughout the year
c) To work on new communication tools between the members (e.g. news forum)	AAA	Throughout the year
<b>5. External relations</b>		
a) Continue the work on Liaison Meeting of voluntary service organisations in Europe	VPER & ERC	Throughout the year
b) Elaborate the possibility of future cooperation with other regional networks	VPER	Throughout the year
c) To plan and organize the Tft with the LA Alliance	VPER + NSWG	Autumn 2010
d) To work on Alliance representation plan	ERC	Throughout the year
e) Cooperate with other networks on IYV + 10	VPER	Throughout the year



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- Volunteer's Center ADP-Zid** Montenegro [www.zid.cg.yu](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**Gençtür**Turkey [www.genctur.com](http://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.

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|---|----------------|--|------|
| <b>GSM</b>  | Turkey         | <a href="http://www.gsm-youth.org">www.gsm-youth.org</a> | 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.   |                |  |      |
| <b>HUJ</b>  | Armenia        | <a href="http://www.huj.am">www.huj.am</a>               | 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. |                |  |      |
| <b>IBG</b>  | Germany        | <a href="http://www.workcamps.com">www.workcamps.com</a> | 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.  |                |  |      |
| <b>IJGD</b>   | Germany        | <a href="http://www.ijgd.de">www.ijgd.de</a>             | 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.  |                |  |      |
| <b>INEX - SDA</b>   | Czech Republic | <a href="http://www.inexsda.cz">www.inexsda.cz</a>       | 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.  |                |  |      |
| <b>INEX Slovakia</b>  | Slovakia       | <a href="http://www.inex.sk">www.inex.sk</a>             | 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.   |                |  |      |

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|---|----------------|--|------|
| <b>IWO</b><br>( <i>International Workcamp Organisation</i> )  | South Korea    | <a href="http://www.1.or.kr">www.1.or.kr</a>                 | 1999 |
| <p>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.</p>  |                |  |      |
| <b>J&amp;R</b><br>( <i>Jeunesse et Reconstruction</i> )   | France         | <a href="http://www.volontariat.org">www.volontariat.org</a> | 1948 |
| <p>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&amp;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.</p>   |                |  |      |
| <b>KMC</b><br>( <i>Klub mladých cestovatelů</i> )   | Czech Republic | <a href="http://www.kmc.cz">www.kmc.cz</a>                   | 1965 |
| <p>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.</p>   |                |  |      |
| <b>Legambiente</b>  | Italy          | <a href="http://www.legambiente.com">www.legambiente.com</a> | 1980 |
| <p>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.</p> |                |  |      |
| <b>Lunaria</b>  | Italy          | <a href="http://www.lunaria.org">http://www.lunaria.org</a>  | 1992 |
| <p>International Voluntary Service is only a part of Lunaria.<br/>Other activities of Lunaria are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- National campaigns to work on peace and environment issues within Italian budget laws;</li><li>- Improving the situation for immigrants in Italy;</li><li>- Help desk for asylum seekers in Italy;</li><li>- Research on 3rd sector;</li><li>- Socrates programme promoting MTV to senior volunteers (55-70 years of age) in five different EU countries.</li></ul>  |                |  |      |
| <b>LYVS</b><br>( <i>League of Youth Voluntary Service</i> )   | Belarus        | <a href="http://www.lyvs.bn.by">www.lyvs.bn.by</a>           | 1994 |
| <p>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.</p>  |                |  |      |
| <b>MS</b><br>( <i>Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke / Danish Association for International Co-operation</i> )  | Denmark        | <a href="http://www.ms.dk">www.ms.dk</a>                     | 1944 |
| <p>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.</p>  |                |  |      |



<b>NICE</b>	Japan	<a href="http://www.nice1.gr.jp">www.nice1.gr.jp</a>	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.			
<b>NIG</b>	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.			
<b>Pro international e.V.</b>	Germany	<a href="http://www.pro-international.de">www.pro-international.de</a>	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.			
<b>SIW</b>	The Netherlands	<a href="http://www.siw.nl">www.siw.nl</a>	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.			
<b>SVI</b>	Spain	<a href="http://www.mtas.es/injuve">www.mtas.es/injuve</a>	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.			
<b>SFERA</b>	Russia	<a href="http://www.dobrovolets.ru">www.dobrovolets.ru</a>	1997
SFERA represents interests of NGOs and young people from 14 Russian regions and would like to increase the number of foreign volunteers participated in Russian voluntary programs as well as to open access for more Russian youngsters to participate in voluntary programs abroad.			
Sfera aims are 1. Development and promotion of volunteering on national and international level in Russia			
2. Development of international co-operation in the sphere of volunteering between Russian and foreign organizations			
3. Opening of access to volunteering for each young person regardless of nation, religious, social status, disadvantages			
<b>UNA Exchange</b>	United Kingdom/Wales	<a href="http://www.unaexchange.org">www.unaexchange.org</a>	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.			
<b>UNAREC</b>	France	<a href="http://www.unarec.org">www.unarec.org</a>	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.



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|---|---------|--|------|
| <b>Union Forum</b>  | Ukraine | <a href="http://www.union-forum.org">www.union-forum.org</a> | 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>  |         |  |      |
| <b>VFP</b><br>( <i>Volunteers for Peace</i> )   | USA     | <a href="http://www.vfp.org">www.vfp.org</a>                 | 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>   |         |  |      |
| <b>VIMEX</b><br>( <i>Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico AC</i> )  | Mexico  | <a href="http://www.vimex.org.mx">www.vimex.org.mx</a>       | 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>  |         |  |      |
| <b>Vive Mexico</b>  | Mexico  | <a href="http://www.vivemexico.org">www.vivemexico.org</a>   | 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> |         |  |      |
| <b>VJF</b><br>( <i>Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger</i> )  | Germany | <a href="http://www.vjf.de">www.vjf.de</a>                   | 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>  |         |  |      |
| <b>World Friends</b><br>( <i>Veraldarvinir</i> )  | Iceland | <a href="http://www.wf.is">www.wf.is</a>                     | 2001 |
| <p>Veraldarvinir/WF works with three main aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To promote Peace and international understanding</li><li>2. To care for Icelandic nature and raise awareness of environmental issues</li><li>3. To promote voluntary work and a culture of volunteering</li></ol> <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>   |         |  |      |
| <b>YRS/VSS</b><br>( <i>Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia</i> )  | Serbia  | <a href="http://www.mis.org.yu">www.mis.org.yu</a>           | 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](http://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**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>remark</b>
45	ATAV	Tunisia	
46	CSM	Morocco	
47	CJM	Morocco	
48	FSL	India	
49	Greenway	Thailand	
50	IPJ	Portugal	
51	JEC	Morocco	
52	KNCU	South Korea	
53	Mir Tesen	Russia	
54	MCE	Mongolia	
55	NIFC	Nepal	
56	Offene Häuser	Germany	
57	Passage Zebra	Russia	
58	PKBI (IIWC)	Indonesia	
59	See Beyond Borders (SEEDS)	Iceland	
60	Subir Al Sur	Argentina	
61	Leaders	Kyrgyzstan	
62	DiGeVu	Russia	
63	KVDA	Kenya	New 2010
64	VFP Vietnam	Vietnam	New 2010
65	Ruchi	India	New 2010
66	VYA Taiwan	Taiwan	New 2010
67	UPA	Uganda	New 2010
68	SJ Vietnam	Vietnam	New 2010

### Permanent Guests

	Organisation	Country
69	CFD	Germany
70	Nuestra Tierra	Mexico
71	<i>Solidarités Jeunesse</i>	France
72	Via Pacis	Hungary
73	World 4 U	Russia
74	Vap Italy	Italy

### Guests for 2010

	Organisation	Country
75	Eco Center Zapovedniks	Russia
76	Youth for Smile	Latvia
77	LYVG	Georgia
78	Alliance Burundaise pour le Service Volontaire (ABSV)	Burundi



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