



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

## Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	page 3
Statistics 2010	page 4
 <b>2. Management of the Alliance</b>	
EC life, Working Groups meetings	page 5
What is a workcamp?	Page 7
 <b>3. Reports</b>	
<i>Executive Committee Report:</i>	page 8
President's Report	page 8
General Secretary's Report	page 11
Treasurer's Report	page 13
Report on External Relations Activities	page 15
 <i>Working Groups' and Committees' Reports:</i>	page 19
Alliance Development Committee report	page 19
Access4All WG Report	page 20
External Relations Committee report	page 23
Training Needs WG report	page 24
North South WG report	page 25
Technical WG report	page 26
 <b>4. Alliance Events 2010</b>	
Technical Meeting	page 28
General Assembly	page 28
General Conference	page 29
 <b>5. Annexes</b>	
Plan of Action 2011	page 31
Alliance Members	page 33
Alliance Invitation List 2011	page 43
Contact	page 45

## Introduction

Another year has come to an end and it's time to make some conclusions. The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations had an interesting year with various projects, many volunteers, new members, interesting proposals, new developments, great ideas and some questions for the future. It was also a year with many challenges, which could be something to learn from.

As usual in the early March Alliance had its Technical Meeting, which was held in Berlin this time. Hosted by VJF it gathered 168 participants and gave a good starting point to the new busy workcamp season.

Workcamps involve thousands of participants in different voluntary activities annually. In the year 2010 Alliance had more than 1200 workcamps (the statistic data for 2010 are not ready at the moment of completing this report).

Workcamps are not the only Alliance activity though. In the year 2010 Alliance continued working with SEVEN network - network organising short term international voluntary projects for seniors. Besides putting efforts to include people from various age groups, Alliance has been effectively working with volunteers with fewer opportunities. Alliance continued its Accessing campaign, which was received positively – 300 participations of volunteers with fewer opportunities were reported, which is an increased result compared to previous year.

In November the General Assembly of Alliance was held. 54 participants were hosted by GSM in Ankara. 1 new full member – ADP-Zid from Montenegro; 1 new associate member – CIEE from Japan; and 3 new candidate members – JAVVA from Belgium, SJ from France and World 4 You from Russia joined the Alliance during this GA. We congratulate and welcome all of these organizations and look forward to fruitful cooperation.

In 2010 Alliance was successfully represented in various external events – e.g. Council of Members and Youth Event of Youth Forum Jeunesse (YFJ). Nevertheless, external relations of Alliance has been seen as an

important tool which to develop further. Therefore an Alliance Representation Plan has been adopted during the General Assembly 2010.

The question of a common technical tool for exchanging the project's data has been in the air during 2010. The joint proposal of Alliance project data exchange, which was adopted during this year's GA, is a very big step further.

Another import document adopted in 2010 GA was the Alliance Mission Statement as it gives grounds for Alliance in general – what is the mission of the network and its members, what are our visions.

The year 2010 raised some important questions and the General Assembly was successful as many useful documents were adopted. This year's assembly was also great for its participatory approach – many important longer term and visionary topics were discussed.

During GA 2010 Alliance Executive Committee welcomed new members. Jelena Ristic Beronja (YRS-VSS) was elected as new Vice-President, Sergio Crimi (Lunaria) as new General Secretary and Nerijus Jankauskas (Deineta) as an Additional Member.

In order to increase the understanding of what is really volunteering and to cultivate its meaning, the General Conference of Alliance took place. It was held right before the General Assembly also in Ankara and was also hosted by GSM.

The General Conference created a space for different actors not only from voluntary service organizations, but also from other organizations to get together and discuss on voluntarism and to find out effects on volunteering as well as to share experiences. The conference had great success as current situation was analyzed and suggestions for future development of the network were phrased.

*Kaie Kuldkepp (AAA)*

## Statistics 2010

### The Alliance in figures 2010

As mentioned into the introduction statistic data are not yet ready at the moment of issuing this report. This is due to the fact that the network started to use a new and more complex form to collect the data which needs more time to be filled and analyzed but will allow us to evaluate the work of the network not only in terms of short term projects but will consider also the medium and long term projects.

**Member organizations:** 42

**Candidate members:** 5

**Volunteers (national and internationals) participating to the workcamps:** 22842

#### \*\*\* Gender ratio

**Female:** 63%

**Male:** 37%

#### \*\*\* Age of volunteers

**Under 18:** 10.3%

**18-30:** 86.1%

**31-50:** 3.2%

**50+:** 0.4%

#### \*\*\* Destination of volunteers

**Asia:** 13.5%

**Africa:** 3.8%

**Europa:** 77%

**Latin america:** 1.7%

**North America:** 4%

#### \*\*\*Project proposed

**Number of Workcamps:** 1124

**Teenage workcamps:** 5%

**projects open to disabled volunteers:** 10%

**volunteers with fever opportunities:** 389

#### \*\*\*Mid and long term projects

**Medium Term volunteers (1-6 months):** 458

**Long term volunteers (7-12 months):** 358

**European Voluntary Service:** 250

## EC life, 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 2010 the EC consisted of 5 members:

- the President
- the Vice-President
- the Vice-President for External Relations
- the General Secretary
- the Treasurer

The General Assembly 2010 elected the following persons for the EC positions:

Position	Person	Organisation
Vice President	Jelena Ristic Beronja	YRS-VSS (Serbia)
General Secretary	Sergio Crimi	Lunaria (Italy)
Additional Member	Nerijus Jankauskas	Deineta (Lithuania)

The EC had the following meetings in 2010:

January 2010	Paris (France)
March 2010	Berlin (Germany)
June 2010	Athens (Greece)
September 2010	Berlin (Germany)
November 2010	Ankara (Turkey)
December 2010	Rome (Italy)

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

All members of the EC are working 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 two meetings in 2010 – in March and in November, and has helped bringing decision-making in the Alliance to a different level, outside the EC.

The Alliance has no permanent secretariat. Due to its specific organisation and development, the Alliance has progressively organised its permanent international secretariat in a genuine way: assistant tasks as part time staff positions were created depending on the needs and the means available.

These tasks are different from one member active contributions (executive responsibilities, regular development tasks or occasional missions). They are achieved by specific staff members from appointed member organisations. The Alliance covers all the costs of this staff for the task concerned in the organisation.

In 1997 a first Administrative Assistant task was created to work closely with the General Secretary.

In 2002 a second Financial Assistant tasks was created and was linked to the Treasurer.

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

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

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

As a European non-governmental organisation, gathering independent national youth organisations (a coordination rather than a federation), the Alliance found that this management is more adapted to the capacity of the Alliance that helps small organisations to be involved in such international network. Members are very active in taking responsibilities that would be difficult if the Alliance was acting as a federation. This light management is adapted to our present development and keeps the Alliance an efficient and friendly “cooperative network”.

The third part of the Alliance management is represented by different working groups. This was a result of the will of the members to be more

involved in the Alliance work, to develop new topics, and to come to a new quality of the work that means organising exchange between the members and giving them support for their work. We found out that Alliance members do not only work on work camps. They run seminars, organise long term voluntary projects, etc. So, the GA decided to give these activities and wishes a place in the Alliance life. That is why working groups are appointed by the GA.

In 2010 the Alliance had the following working groups:

- 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. But Alliance has worked on

recruiting more participants from various age groups (including seniors).

### 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 for leisure and sports activities, discussions, exchanging cultures and getting acquainted with the local culture. 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.



## Executive Committee report

### President's report

Dear friends!

This report is of course to report about the developments over the last year, but also to analyze the situation at the moment, as well as to share the vision of the EC where we want to go in the next years. By the time of the GA, we have handed in an application to the EACEA for a three years administrative grant (deadline 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010). The result, either negative or positive will change the Alliance significantly, we believe.

During the process of writing the application, many questions came up, not only on the grant application but on the Alliance, its structure and functioning. We want to address them, want to see what are the main needs of members and the network and how we can address them over the next years.

If the application will be accepted, we can go on the way as we planned: create a new secretariat, have many actions and cooperations in the youth field. If the application gets rejected we will have to look for other funding opportunities. Nevertheless, this might imply that we will have to move away from the youth sector.

Nowadays, the needs of members have changed. Due to the bigger diversity of voluntary service programs, the activities of members are getting much wider than workcamps only. The Alliance is a network where trustworthy partnerships are built. Therefore we will have to find ways of providing space for planning and prep meetings, as well as evaluation meetings. If the application is accepted we will have a bigger requirement for more Alliance activities. This might mean that former informal cooperation among members might now need to formalize and be documented. Another important point is that policy changes are affecting members stronger (YiA, EYF, AMICUS, etc.). The Alliance has a good standing in the international field. With a stronger ER we could also take more influence on decision makers.

We should keep in mind that we all work to change the world. This is our goal and it is needed to be renewed again and again with every new generation. To make them understand that intercultural learning is crucial for peace. We will have to look into Alliance and see which is the best way and the best structures to arrive at this point. We will have to look at Alliance to adapt to new challenges. We have witnessed over the last year that the interest in WGs decreased and that the management of the Alliance with a slim leadership is problematic, as the workload increases.

This is a next step to discuss the main points. This report gives the main points of discussion. The

reports of the other EC members will sum up what happened throughout the year.

#### Membership

The youth program of the European Union (EU), as well as the Council of Europe (CoE) offer also the possibility to organize seminars, trainings and youth exchanges amongst members of the Alliance. Due to meetings of organizations in Alliance events as GA and TM, we know each other, how we work and have also personal knowledge and relations. There is a trust amongst the members which enables good partnership in joint programs amongst the members of the Alliance.

Over the last years we saw the dawn of diversifying of voluntary services. LTV, as well as MTV became of bigger interest. The EU started the EVS program in 1996 which also grew and became of bigger importance for the work of Alliance members. This trust is of utmost importance if you want to run an international project.

The volunteering, nevertheless, is different in many countries. In some countries the state does not get involved in the business of NGOs at all, in others, the state is strong, either financially or politically. In the Alliance, organisations have the possibility to exchange about realities, learn from each other and exchange best practices.

**Thesis/Question: Do we still keep on going to have only workcamp organisations as Alliance members or do we also accept organisations (e.g. as candidate members) that run trainings/seminars/youth exchanges/M/LTV? This would offer the chance to have organisations from countries where the Alliance struggles to find members. They might then want to organize workcamps at a later stage (maybe workcamps could be criteria to become a full/associate member). This, nevertheless, also bears the risk of the Alliance growing even faster and become more difficult to handle from the side of the leadership and the organization of Alliance events.**

#### Quality standards

The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is a cooperative network of like-minded workcamp organizations. We exchange a huge number of volunteers every year. This makes us a big organization. Our Technical Meeting is the biggest meeting of its kind maybe in the whole world. It is good to be attractive, but we will have to discuss and adopt structures and procedures inside



the Alliance to adapt to the new realities and find strategies to match realities which have developed since the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago. Also we should match and discuss our external priorities.

The membership of the Alliance is very diverse. The Alliance is a fair for workcamps, volunteers and projects. Until now, to become a member of the Alliance, it was necessary to organize at least one workcamp a year, following the Alliance quality standards. Those quality standards are the main difference to other volunteering as in this way, we ensure that volunteers make an intercultural learning experience and don't just do a random trip to another country.

**Thesis/Question: How do we continue with the quality standards from where we are now? Are we satisfied with the way things work now or do we want to strengthen the quality and install a control mechanism as a quality label? As quality is always only as good as its control, we should find ways to actually ENSURE that the quality standards we set are respected!**

#### Codifying Alliance policy

Also the Alliance as a network run several group EVS projects giving youngsters with fewer opportunities the possibility to make their first international volunteering experience.

Over the last 2 years the Alliance policy has developed significantly. A policy paper on accessing was adopted, as well as a strategy paper on membership development. During this GA we will also see the first draft of the Alliance Representation Plan (ARP), started 3 years ago during an ERC meeting in Berlin, which is summing up the main fields of work of the Alliance.

**Hypothesis/Question: We should continue codifying things we have done and aims we want to reach. In this way we can check our developments, set aims more clearly and develop a "quality control" of our aims and objectives. Also it will be more easy to show to our work to sponsors, partners and take positions in external relations. We should furthermore develop a system to keep the documents in order and to easily find and administer them.**

#### External Relations

Members should see the Alliance more as an opportunity for their development, as well as a chance for their volunteers to get involved on international level. The possibilities for young people on international level are manifold and give possibilities for participation to young people – also to policy making on international level. We see this as investment for organisations, as those volunteers stay longer in the national organization and stay involved.

In the external relations, the Alliance has also developed considerably since it got a place in the EC in 2002. We should continue to work on our good standing in the relevant networks and institutions. In this way we can also be involved in policy making on European level. One good example is our involvement in the EYV-Alliance. Here we have first-hand access to information and can inform, as well as encourage members to actively participate and benefit from actions undertaken during the EYV.

We should as well as continue our way of cooperating with other regional networks. This opens not just possibilities for good cooperation, but also strengthening of our and the other regional networks through exchange of knowledge and motivation through common projects. We can also give support to our non-European members through existing possibilities as the N-S center or ASEF. Also we should have good relations with other INGYOs. This proves worthy in the exchange of information and common projects. It also increases the reputation of the Alliance and offers possibilities for new joint projects and other organisations.

The Alliance is seen as a big organization in the field of INGYOs in the European Youth Forum (YFJ). Questions were asked when we will send the first representative to the Bureau of the YFJ. Also our position as member of the Advisory Council in the CoE and the chairmanship of the Programming Committee send a great sign of a dynamic to the institutions. Our visit to the Commission also showed that we are very well known there as a highly reputable network.

**Question/Hypothesis: We have to strengthen the external relations in order not to just live in our own universe but to actively shape the policy in Europe for young people and for voluntary service organisations.**

#### Ownership of the network, participation

The network started off as a technical platform. As outlined before, it has developed into a cooperative network – this was officially agreed during the GA in the Netherlands 2003. Nevertheless, we are often caught in technical details and spend a lot of time arguing about technical details. Not to say this is not important, but we could outsource technical discussions to a working group - as was the staff development WG, keep the Technical WG or create a new WG that deals with technical issues like the database, the format of the VEF, Email providers or similar issues.

As a cooperative network, the EC feels that members need to get more involved in the network. We want that members feel more responsible for Alliance projects. We witnessed over the last years the trend to have less and less participants in Alliance events that were not TM or GA. We can only run projects if all Alliance members feel the projects we run are needed **and** send participants (which is very important to justify the money we receive!!!).

We need to run projects and trainings, in order to justify administrative costs for the network and have a stable situation in the Alliance. If we concentrate on TM and GA only and think this is enough for the network, we would need to increase the membership fees significantly. Therefore we call upon our members to be active, come up with ideas for cooperations and trainings on Alliance level and also to send participants.

**Hypothesis/Question: An option would be to have events as seminars or trainings with the Alliance as co-organiser. With the newly established secretariat we could give administrative support to organisations who want to run YiA or EYF events and in this way give support to members. On the other hand it would reflect the activities that the Alliance actually enables.**

#### Technical Issues

The technical problems we face at the moment are crucial for the future of the network. If we cannot cater for the needs of the members, the Alliance will be weakened. There have been visionary people who have developed the technical platform Alliance to a cooperative network. A huge step, we still have to make reality and fight and work for this vision every day.

During this year, an exchange of letters took place shortly before the Technical Meeting when some members expressed their dissatisfaction with the work of the EC. This was from our side seen as unjustified and inappropriate, also because no consultation with the EC took place prior to the expression. The Technical Working Group was installed but finally blocked by those who actually initiated it. So there is a certain potential of conflict and we will have to solve this issue during this GA in order to move forward and not be stuck in arguments.

So to say, the technical aspect, which is the basis of the Alliance, demands more attention now. We should remember the fact that we are a cooperative network and should also realize this in the technical way. Giving everyone the freedom to go their own way, use their own program, but stand together and cooperate in the sharing of information for a common good. We have to end up in a tool, that will be managed and owned by the Alliance and its members and eases the work of members. As cooperative network, we should also cooperate and not compete. Therefore the WG mandated by the GA came up with a proposal, as well as a proposal presented by e-vet. The aim should be to make every organisation choose whatever tool they prefer but to have an efficient way of exchange information between the different systems. *E pluribus unum!*

**Hypothesis/Question: The GA should give a clear mandate to the EC in which way to continue in the coming year in order come up with a solution. The Technical Working Group**

**should be kept as WG, work on the technical solution of this issue and work together with the EC on technical issues. We should find a way to satisfy ALL members, whichever system they use!**

#### The way we want to go

The Alliance has several options to continue. The next year will be decisive. This is on the one hand linked to the decision of the EACEA concerning the 3-years grant application. If we will not receive this grant we will run into financial difficulties and will not be able to install the permanent secretariat. On the other hand, it is also a decision you will have to make. It will mainly be linked to discussions you will have and decisions you take concerning the hypothesis and questions raised above. This decisions must not all be taken during this GA but should be starting discussions to end up with at the next GA.

#### **The EC discussed and sees 3 options:**

- 1. The Alliance to be a technical platform/network with a few extra activities**
- 2. Growth as International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation (INGYO)**
- 3. Growth as International Non-Governmental Organisation, not necessarily linked to the youth sector.**

We do think to follow the path we have walked so far is a good one. A 3-years grant would bring stability, allow us to grow as we want and reduce the work load. But we should be aware of other options when we do not know what future will bring.

#### Finish

All those tasks are huge. We think with the current system of leadership, it is quite difficult to handle everything mentioned in this paper. We need support in the form of a stable secretariat, as acknowledged during several GAs, as well as by the internal auditor for several years. This exists and works out in many other INGyOs and we always speak about the special system of the Alliance. This special system requires a high knowledge of the network, as well as a high motivation to spend a huge amount of time and energy for the Alliance - voluntarily. There is no security net if there are one or two people for personal or professional reasons miss out and leave the work of the EC. We therefore strongly hope to have the possibility to install a secretariat as soon as we receive a positive answer for a partnership agreement from Brussels in 2011. The Alliance has to have the possibility to employ

someone to fulfill tasks which are now in the hands of the EC. This person has to be under the supervision of the EC – even though s/he will be placed in an office of a member organization. In the future we may also think about installing a secretariat in Brussels. This has many advantages – and costs can be shared with other INGYOs.

This outline is meant to give a medium-term vision of the EC, a path we think is good and possible to go. We hope to have stirred up some thoughts and ideas which can lead to interesting discussions during the GA.

We are very positive and think it is an exciting work in the EC. I would like to thank all those people who have been active throughout the last year, spent

energy and time to strengthen the network. We hope that members are positive and excited as well and nominate people to join the EC. This year we will have three open positions and want to encourage you to stand for positions. It would be good to have several options for several positions and live the democracy! But we also want to encourage you to join Working Groups and be active in them. We think there are many possibilities to shape the life and face of the Alliance in the EC, the MC, Committees and Working Groups. Be part of it, yes, you can!

*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.

EstYES took the position and performed in this role according to the General Secretary's tasks what are:

- Tasks defined in the Constitution and the Standing Orders
- To strengthen the work of the Alliance Secretariat
- To improve communication and information flow between members and EC
- To improve the Alliance Website

GS work was done in close cooperation with the Alliance Administrative Assistant (AAA) hosted by EstYES. Jelena Lihhatsova has been contracted for this position since the mid-August 2009. From the beginning she has shown up high commitment towards her tasks. The cooperation with her has been efficient, pleasant and smooth.

Year 2010 has been difficult for the Alliance in several aspects. First it was decided not to open Additional Member position in the EC, which lead all the other positions to unexpected overload. Another big effect to whole network made EACEA decision to reject administrative grant application. Also for personal reasons Jelena Lihhatsova has moved to Ireland in the beginning of April 2010 but she continued being in AAA position.

#### Alliance Secretariat

So far Alliance did not have permanent, established secretariat but the work has been done by two part time assistants. On a daily tasks, AAA provided members and EC with information on regular bases, maintained Alliance e-mail address, updated Alliance website, prepared documents and minutes for EC/MC meetings along with minutes for TM and GA. Pilot project such as Alliance Newsletters was started this year. Two newsletters were sent out in 2010 to Alliance members. Due to the missing grant we were forced to revise AAA tasks and cut salary to minimum, as it was in the beginning of 2009 and due to this newsletter project has also been paused.

Previous years have proved that the Alliance needs stronger secretariat. It was decided by the GA 2009 to move towards permanent secretariat that will be hosted by member organisation. Establishment of the permanent secretariat was one of the main topics during this year in EC. EC dedicated a lot of time to find possibilities to make this work and we can say that first step is done. Call has been launched! Now we need members to be active and hopefully this year General Assembly will decide on the host for the first permanent secretariat.

### B. Internal Communication

Prompt communication and information flow among members has been a top priority for GS work. Our main goals are to ensure that members have easy access to the Alliance information through the Alliance website and to guarantee stable and on-time communication, including news, calls, decisions, etc. from the Alliance EC and Secretariat to members. One purpose is to improve transparency in the Alliance but also to get members more involved. It has not been always easy due to the changes we faced this year. Nevertheless we have fulfilled our duties with our best ability.

### C. Alliance website

This year EC worked on restructuring of the website, its content and layout. Lots of work was done until we received the news about rejection of grant. In this point the Alliance needs were prioritised. Website restructuring was done as much as possible without any extra money. Therefore I would like to thank Jelena for the work she has done. I hope it is easier for the members to orientate in our website now. Final restructuring of the website will be raised up again when we have financial support for it.

### D. Application for Administrative Grant

This year Alliance applied for a 3 year grant framework partnership agreement with the European Commission (under the Youth in Action Programme Action 4.1). This was a huge step and took a lot of time and energy for all EC members. By the time of GA the application will be submitted. The answer from EACEA is waited in February 2011.

### E. Statistics

It is the task of the Alliance Statistician to work on the Alliance Statistics and make the analysis. And it was excellently 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.

There are still open questions on how to improve collecting of statistics, what to do when members delay their statistical reports or not submit it at all, would it help the Alliance if statistical forms would be on the Alliance website and much more.

With every year we try to find the answers and I believe together step by step we can answer all of them.

### F. Technical Working Group

Group was established in March 2010 and consists of 6 members. Two Skype meetings were arranged since the establishment. The group created a survey to find out Alliance members current situation on exchange working tools and their needs. As a result we can see that members are using very different exchange tools and it is hard to find the common platform that would satisfy 100% everyone. However, standard formats of working codes, Friday List and VEF would ease everyone's work. Therefore the group analysed existing formats and now is working to reach the agreement on the common standards. The work will continue and you will get the results with the third mailing.

### Personal Summary

This is my second and also the last year in this position. It has been challenging. Torsten Loeser, who was GS before me, has done excellent job therefore it has not been easy to keep the level he achieved. In my point of view it takes few years to get into this position, especially if you are new in the network. First years are learning and getting used to the system. I have used all my ability to fulfil this position. Thank you for this opportunity. I have seen different sides of the Alliance, worked together with wonderful people and educated myself. It has been unforgettable experience. Therefore I would like to encourage everyone to put your fairs behind, take a step, get involved and get your own experience. Thank you all for trust and support!

*Kaarina Konsap (General Secretary)*

## Report on External Relations Activities

With this document I would like to report on the areas that are the main task of the Vice President on External Relations of the Alliance network of European Voluntary Service Organisations.

More specifically the coordination of external relations activities and the endurance of Alliance external representation by the development of new contacts and their maintenance, monitoring the working group of external relations, contacting other international networks and being kept up to date on all current evolutions in the field of volunteering.

Below there is an analytical report on my activity in these respective areas:

### 1. Monitoring the working group on External Relations

From November 2009 I have been in constant communication during the Alliance permanent events in person, but also via internet with the coordinator (Jeremie Chomette, UNAREC France) and the group of external relations. I have supported the group within their activities and their participation on behalf of the Alliance on international events. The activities we have monitored together are the following:

- ARP, Alliance Representation Plan

Together with the President of Alliance we have provided feedback to the development of the Alliance Representation Plan on the issues of Volunteering, Social Inclusion, Participation, Non formal Education and Mobility. The group has prepared a final draft to be presented to GA 2010.

They have also elaborated a new ER report of activities that provides a thorough feedback on the event attended on behalf of the Alliance.

- YFJ, Youth Forum Jeunesse

The ERC members have represented the Alliance in the European Youth Forum events and more especially in 2 Council of Members- CoMems: November 2009, Torino (Tejesh Mistry/Concordia UK) & April 2010, Brussels (Jeremie Chomette/ UNAREC). Within the exchange group, they managed to see the topics of mobility and volunteerism well represented in several policy papers (eg: policy paper on democracy and youth).

The coordinator of ERC is also going to represent the Alliance in the upcoming YFJ GA from the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2010.

- Asia meeting-1<sup>st</sup> EU-China Leaders Summit, Shanghai, 7-11 May 2010

Abel Polese from ESTYES attended the event where EU Youth NGOs met with Chinese delegations and

discussed on the perspectives of future cooperation in the field of youth activities.

- Spanish Presidency EU Youth Conference "Youth employment and Social Inclusion", 13-15 April, 2010, Spain

Andrey Sergeev (SFERA), ERC member represented our network in the conference. He participated in the WG "Social Cohesion and Inclusion"

In the frame of the working group he presented Alliance's accessing policy and tried to lobby the role of volunteering in social cohesion and inclusion for young people. At this point I would like to thank especially Jeremie Chomette, the coordinator of ERC for his commitment to his delegated tasks, his effective way of developing activities as well as for the enthusiastic support with which he prompted the members of his group to continue being active!

### 2. Cooperation with other WGs within the Alliance

We have sustained communication with the NSWG and discussed on the possibility of developing a TFT with LA Alliance. During the TM we held a meeting and the group will be actively involved in the development of an application for a TFT with LA Alliance.

Even though there was also the initiative to involve the TNWG in the whole process, in the last year the group has not been very active and has not reacted to the possibility of working together.

### 3. Project Development- Alliance & LA Alliance

During the TM 2010 in Berlin we held a meeting with Fernando Diaz from VIVE Mexico, Gerard Meppelink and Oriol Josa Fresno from NSWG and Thomas Hauptvogel from TNWG so as to discuss the possibility of developing a long term TFT with LA Alliance. We have investigated the different ways of funding and we have concluded to apply for action 3.2 within the Youth in Action programme. The application is very demanding and is launched only once per year. According to our planning the ideal scenario would be to have it completed till the mid of spring 2011 and submit it by the coming deadline in May- June 2011. We are planning to have a meeting in Ankara with those who will be present and continue with the practicalities, as well as with the division of tasks.

### 4. EYV, IYV 2011 Alliance preparation, internal process

#### Internal Campaign:

Following a discussion initiated during GA 2009, on what Alliance could develop during the IYV(International Year of Volunteers) and EYV(European Year of Volunteering) 2011, we have collected ideas with WG coordinators (Jeremie Chomette from ERC and Fional Callendar from



ADC)with the aim to present them to the members during GA2010.

#### Information Flow/issue

Starting from September 2010 members of the Alliance received the first "flow of info issue" with gathered information on the activities and events organized for EYV and IYV 2011. We intend to continue with the flow of information also throughout 2011.

#### 5. EYV 2011, external representation of the network

Since December2009 we have been following the evolutions within the EYV2011 Alliance, which is an alliance (platform initiated in December 2009) of civil society organisations working together for the promotion, preparation and implementation of the EYV 2011. The EYV Alliance currently gathers 24 civil society organisations to name some among them: European Youth Forum, Red Cross EU Office,

CEV(European Volunteer Centre),AVSO (The Association of Voluntary Service Organisations),WAGGS (The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), WOSM(World Organisation of the Scout Movement)a.o.

The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisation has an observer status within the EYV2011Alliance, and by sustaining a good communication with the secretariat of EYV2011 Alliance, along with the gathering of information, we try to ensure the visibility of our network during the European Year of Volunteering.

Furthermore, reacting to a call for the setting up of 6 Working Groups focusing on specific voluntary topics with the aim to create an EU Policy on Volunteering White Paper that will be presented to the European Commission at the end of 2011 in the closing conference of the Year in Warsaw in Poland, and after asking for the expression of interest from our members, we have nominated a representative (Xenia Koutentaki from CiA)in the WG Employment& Volunteering.

As above mentioned we plan to keep the information flow so that our members can be informed about activities they can be directly involved and benefited from within 2011.

#### 6. Representation in the Council of Europe

We have been represented in the Advisory Council by Tejesh Mistry(Concordia UK) and Roman Kühn (VJF,President). Furthermore as chair of the Programming Committee, Roman Kühn chaired two meetings of the Committee.

#### 7. Network and Contact with other networks/ platforms etc.

- ASEF- Asia Europe Foundation

Since the beginning of the year I have started contacting the new Secretary of ASEF and have started discussing the possibility of developing a project with their support.

In the beggining of Ocober in the conference organised by ASEF in Brussels, I had a meeting with the Project Manager of ASEF, Ms Edwige Rogier, updated her on the Alliance and discussed on the development of a common project, also involving regional partners as NVDA. She has welcomed the initiative and even though for 2011, due to strict budget cuts they cannot develop more projects, they are open for cooperation in the following year.

- CCIVS

We have maintained contact with CCIVS Secretariat and we have been partners in the project :

« International Congress of Volunteering in Barcelona +Gloabal Strategies for Global Challenges Action »

The project starts with a congress in Barcelona focusing on different thematics of common interest (e.g sustainability, youth participation,volunteering a.o) and will continue throughout the year 2011 with Interegional Thematic Working Groups as well as a concluding global seminar.

- SCI

Representing the Alliance I have initiated contact with the new assigned International Coordinator of SCI, Ms Margherita Serafini and exchanged information on the projects development of our respective networks. We have left open the possibility of a future cooperation and we have agreed on mainitng the exchange of news between our networks.

- ICYE

On behalf of the Alliance I have also met with the Programme Officer of ICYE International Office in Berlin,Mr.Andreas Schwab, we exchanged information and decided to sustain communication between our networks, leaving open the possibility of future cooperation.

#### 8. Attendance of Events/ Alliance representation

- Global Meeting 2010,Berlin,28<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Together with the President of the Alliance Roman Kühn, we have participated in the global meeting that took place in Berlin prior to the TM2010. It was organized by CCIVS mainly for exchange of information and contact making. The participating networks were among others: Alliance, CCIVS,SCI,NVDA a.o.

- 4th Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe Conference

An official side-event of the ASEM8 Summit , 2-3 October 2010, Brussels

During this meeting I participated on the workshop "Creating Skills and Competences for living and working in the ASEM Area" co-organised by

Research Hub for Lifelong Learning and CCIVS and focusing on the development of recommendations for the recognition of voluntary projects/volunteering as a lifelong learning educational tool.

#### EYV, IYV+10

The coming year is a special year for the external relations of our network:

The European Union has declared 2011 as the "European Year of Volunteering" and

it also marks the 10th anniversary of the "International Year of Volunteers" in 2001.

For Alliance, that has been developing international voluntary projects for the last 28 years, 2011 offers a chance to reinforce its way forward as one of the main stakeholders to the recognition and promotion of volunteerism!

*Chrysafo Arvaniti (Vice President on External Relations)*

## Treasurer's Report

financial year 2009

### Introduction

Concordia has been re-elected at Treasurer' position in November 2009, following General Assembly held in Jambville (France).

It was much more comfortable situation compared to March 2008 (election during TM Plenary session), especially about continuity in the technical work as bookkeeping and archives (same person for AFA position).

At the same time it was a year with more work: implementation of membership fees system (still not 100% clear for all members), centralised EVS project "Rainbow", more detailed evaluation of contribution from members and so on...

### 2009 accounts

Main points to underline about 2009 accounts are:

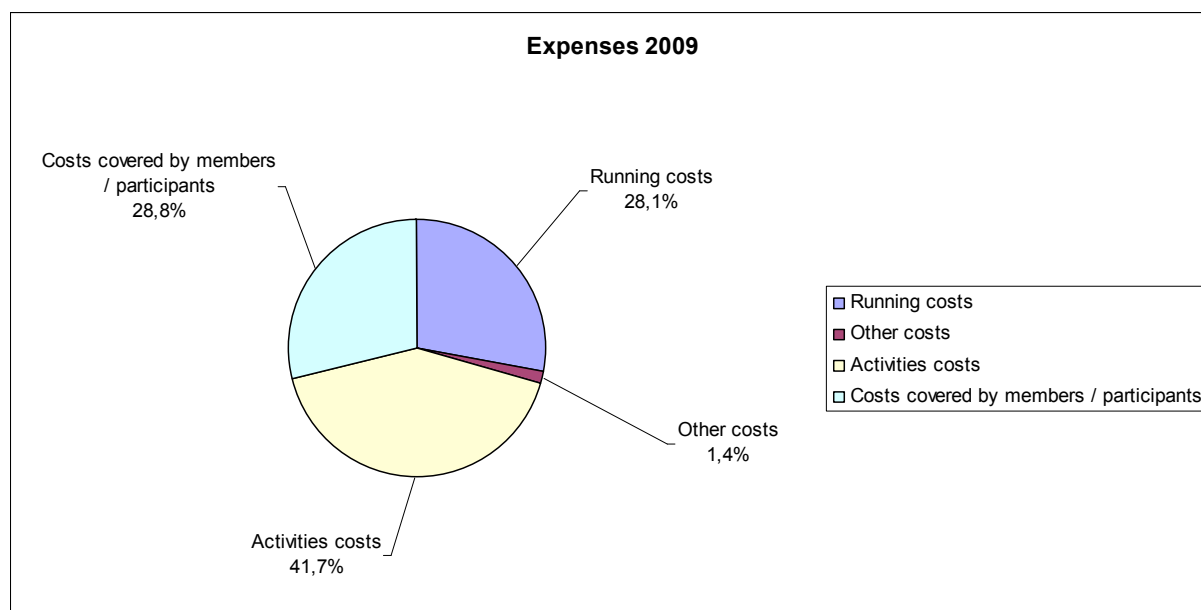
- A surplus of 15 148 EUR ;
- Administrative grant from EU for 35 000 EUR (maximum that we can obtain) instead of 9 500 EUR !
- Administrative grant from EYF of Council of Europe for 10 821 EUR (- 1 432 EUR) and A grant for Post-Camp Event for 20 000 EUR (+ 5 000 EUR) ;

- Less expenses than expected for running cost, mainly for EC meetings ;
- Less expenses for external audit (as negotiated in 2008, still 2 full days spent from the auditor to check accounts and reports but cost divided by 2). Less membership fees collected (dismissal of KMC) and less money collected as budget contribution linked to reduction of volunteers exchanges (- 7,5%)
- Growth of incomes for activities (+47%) is more than growth of costs (+27%), that explain good surplus for the year.

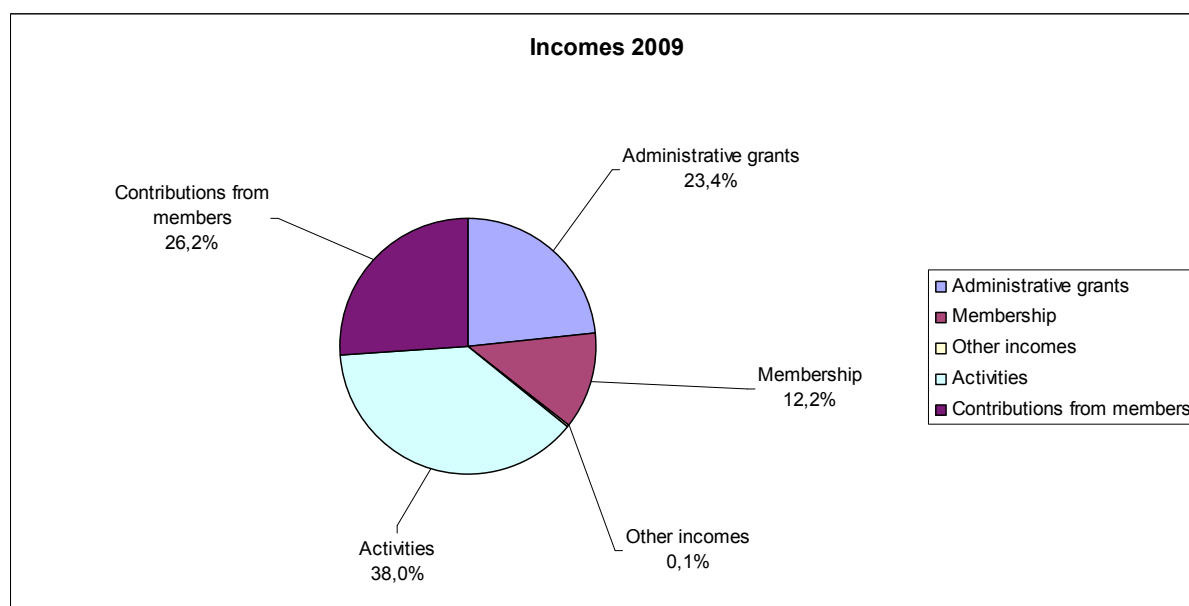
We also finalized the work on common EVS project "Rainbow". EU executive agency mostly accepted our justifications on exchanges that is a very good news. From Treasurer point of view, this project was a good one: well managed by project assistant Nadine Pantel from IBG Germany (thanks to her!), good financial results and good experience for volunteers...

Still, our target for exchanges were not reached that is a point to discuss and evaluate properly into the steering group and during GA.

In the next 2 graphics, you can see expenses and incomes analysis for 2009. EVS "Rainbow" project is not included because the idea is more to calculate the "weight" of each item for a regular financial year.



For your information, "running costs" item includes GA, AD, EC, MC, WG, secretariat and fixed costs for communication. "Other costs" item refers to bank and membership fees paid by Alliance (Youth Forum).



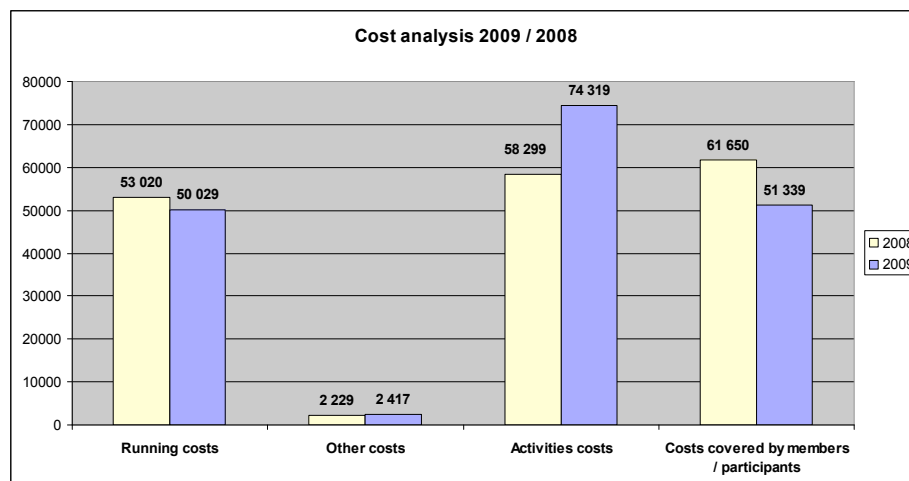
Concerning incomes pay attention that grants as A grant from European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe is integrated in Activities and not in "Administrative grants".

2009 surplus allows us to raise our reserves to more than 51 000 EUR, that is a very good news for further development of the network. This amount can be considered as a big one for a so small structure (financially speaking) as Alliance but it's exactly what we need to cover 1 year of "core costs" (see graphic below, core costs are "running costs" + "other costs"). Decision to try to reach this stage was taken centuries ago and I think we can

now feel proud of it: we are now able to discuss on common investments as permanent secretariat or common tools without the fear to see the structure of the network collapse under debts. Problems (and I'm politically correct saying that) that some other networks faced in the last years, teach us to be cautious on permanent investments.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> of July.**

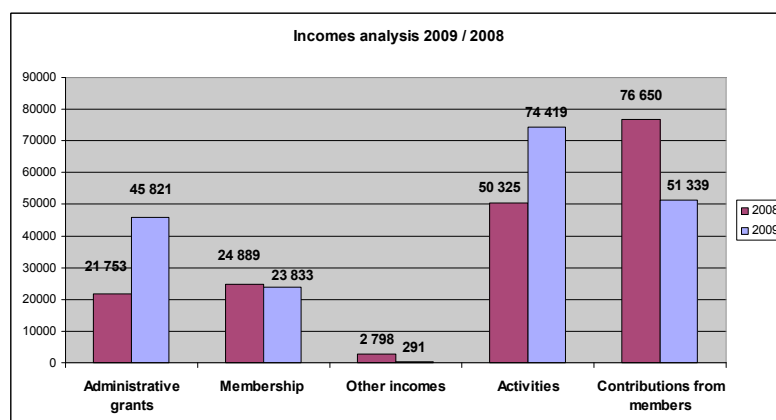
In this graphic, you can see that we spent less for the "structure" of the network (GA, EC, MC, etc.) and more for activities.



### Accounting and work of the Treasurer

With important help from Alliance Financial Assistant Véronique Praud, Treasurer' technical work in 2009 was focused on:

- Bookkeeping and finalise accounts of the financial year 2009. Following Internal auditor suggestions, we divided invoices and other financial relevant documents in several different books: invoices, internal and external reports, bank and cash box movements, contracts, EU reports. For this year, we also put in different folders all documents related to PCE, GA and "Rainbow" project.
- Cooperate with other EC members to submit on time EU administrative grant application, mostly finalized during a face-to-face extra meeting after GA
- Finalize financial report for administrative grants (EYF and EU)
- Managing financial flows and payments, including cash box
- Co-ordinating with our bank in Denmark, NORDEA
- Follow up of payments of membership fees (see below)
- Follow up of PCE report (actually a very easy task, thanks to CIA staff)
- Prepare contracts with members concerning events, projects and staff.



In this graphic, you can see importance of administrative grant and membership fees system (35% of our incomes).

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

- Implementation of internal audit suggestions concerning members contribution ; on the base of copies of transport tickets, we calculated contribution from members to GA/AD and TM/AD.
- We started to work on a time sheet table : our aim is to better estimate number of hours necessary to fulfil staff tasks and, in case, modify the agreement between Alliance and member organisation that host a staff position; I think it's a more fair system for future development of a permanent secretariat.
- For each EC meeting, we discussed orientations on the base of updated budgets; as you remember, we faced difficulties in 2008 to cover all staff costs and we were obliged to revise agreement with Estyes and Concordia France; in 2009, thanks to EU grant, we managed to cover costs of "normal" staff agreements. A similar table was introduced for EC members to evaluate their voluntary contribution to the network.
- As in 2008, 2 different budget formats are available for members: a budget in Alliance format but also an "accounts version"; 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 already mentioned, membership fees system works quite well, even if few organisations paid a little bit after deadline.  
Remind: explanations on the new system are available on the website.
- Set up a "financial support" working group. Like last year, this is the weak point of Treasurer work for 2009! Time wasn't enough to set up a "financial management" working group.

#### **External auditor remarks on 2009 accounts**

External auditor was satisfied about bookkeeping and report system. As promised last year, the cost was reduced (1 000EUR instead of 2 000EUR).

Following internal auditor suggestion and also external auditor recommendation, I propose to invest this amount saved on "ordinary" work on check balance (credits and debits) for each member. Actually, it will consist in an official letter from external auditor to members to check if they agree on the amount put into Alliance accounts as balance at the end of the year.

#### **Conclusion and perspectives**

From a technical point of view, I think we have a quite good situation. We improved evaluation of contribution from members to Alliance democratic life for transport and working time for both staff and volunteers in the EC. Still, as all new internal procedure, system is fragile and we have to work on it.

I think that a document with all financial regulations (partially already existing in standing orders) could be useful for members. It could be a kind of booklet (or specific section into website) with regulations and also - in annex - all forms needed to host a meeting, be reimbursed and so on.

From a political point of view, perspectives that I can see from 2009 accounts are more or less same as 2008. If we want to develop more common actions and projects, we need a stronger coordination. Only thing that is changed is that we have now enough money to cover one year costs. Nevertheless, we know already that 2010 will be a difficult year because we

didn't receive administrative grant from European Union. This exactly reason why we need reserves in capital: face troubles and unexpected situations.

Let's continue to develop network in a safe way also with support of other programs.

*Marco Paoli (Alliance' Treasurer)*



## Working Groups' Reports

### Alliance Development Committee (ADC)

#### Current members:

Fiona Callender – Concordia: Co-ordinator

Marcello Mariuzzo - Lunaria

Natalia Nikitina - Sefra

Zuzana Dorcikova – INEX Slovika

Jelena Ristic Beronja– YRS

Aleksandr Kurushev - Estyes

Torsten Löser – IJDG - Treasurer

#### Priorities of work for ADC 2010

- To run research on members needs and vision on future of Alliance
- To develop new statistic tools
- To conduct a questionnaire on the Alliance members needs as a preparation of an Alliance Development Plan
- To maintain quality of exchange between Alliance members/partners
- To support members at the Alliance statutory meetings
- To explore new methods of work and tools
- To analyze members needs and the problems they face
- To explore new trends in the international voluntary service movement

The new ADC was formed at the last GA in Paris 2009 and since then the group have met at the TM in Berlin.

The group were going to have another meeting in August hosted in Serbia but due to financial cuts within the Alliance this meeting had to be cancelled.

#### Work achieved this year:

- *To run research on members needs and vision on future of Alliance*  
The ADC has created a Mission Statement which will be introduced at the GA in Turkey. This has been a difficult piece of work to do as it was hard to encompass what the Alliance does in to a page of text but we are very happy with the outcome and hope the rest of the Alliance will agree
- *To develop new statistic tools*  
This has not been developed this year
- *To conduct a questionnaire on the Alliance members needs as a preparation of an Alliance Development Plan*  
At the Berlin TM the ADC with the Vice President concluded their findings from the Trendy Questionnaire which members were asked to fill in. The findings were sent to

GSM to help them with the planning of the General Conference in Turkey.

- *To maintain quality of exchange between Alliance members/partners*

The new Alliance handbook is still in working progress and members of the ADC are still working on parts of this handbook. The ERC have also been doing work on this handbook. There is still a need to run staff development trainings to look at improvement of the exchange programmes, hopefully this can be planned for next year.

- *To support members at the Alliance statutory meetings*

Running newcomer's session at the TM and preparing for the GA in Turkey: The ADC ran a well attended newcomer's session at the TM in Berlin and they are planning to do the same for the GA in Turkey

- *To explore new methods of work and tools*

A member of the ADC has also been working on shared database programmes for the Alliance and exploring methods of making this process easier. I have attached information on this work on the end of this document: Exchanging: communication and Information in Workcamp Placements.

- *To analyze members needs and the problems they face*

Again the ADC would like to run a staff training but as of yet have been unable to find funding to do this. This is an on-going process for the working group.

- *To explore new trends in the international voluntary service movement*

The ADC has been actively supporting GSM and the work they are doing on the GC 2010. The ADC did offer to send a member to help as a trainer at this event but unfortunately this didn't work out. The theme of this years GC is 'New Trends in Voluntary World'

Other outcomes:

The ADC has also helped with ideas for the IYV+10 for next year.

*Fiona Callender (ADC Co-ordinator)  
Brighton, UK, October 2010*

## Access 4 All Working Group (A4AllWG)

Dear friends,

The Access for All working group, monitored by the Executive Committee is the permanent working group in charge of the implementation of the *Alliance Accessing Policy* voted in by the GA in 2009.

Its action is entirely dedicated to enhance the correct social inclusion of disadvantaged participants in the voluntary projects promoted by the Alliance's members and partners and, further, to work for a better social cohesion in the society through these voluntary projects.

Its action is based on the statement that: *international workcamps apart of being an intercultural and citizenship action are as well a valuable learning experience. For many young people who need to gain confidence and intercultural practices, workcamps can be a first personal inclusion step*. (Alliance accessing policy)

The A4AWG promotes the Alliance accessing principle: to offer a *"complete educational process that includes preparation, tools, projects and follow-up"* to participants who suffers disadvantages. It especially targets a better social diversity of the volunteers who attend a project, inviting the IVS organisations to *"open one or two places, in as many international workcamps as possible, to participants with fewer opportunities who, for any reason, face social, cultural, economical, physical barriers to their social inclusion"*.

### **1. The members, our meetings and our plan of action**

In 2010, the A4A working group was composed of eight persons, working for eight Alliance's organizations in seven countries.

The group met three times: on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Jambville (France) after the Alliance GA, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Berlin (Germany) during the Alliance Technical Meeting.

In Jambville, the group decided of the following plan of action:

- To help in the realisation of a leaflet presenting the "accessing camps" and the EVS workcamps project
- To facilitate and actively participate in the Alliance Study Session
- To launch the yearly Alliance accessing workcamp campaign
- To improve the evaluation of the accessing campaign

Here it is the report about it has been going....

### **2. The A4A workcamps leaflet**

With this leaflet, thanks to the very good involvement and follow-up of Ms Nadine PANTEL (from IBG), the EVS workcamps project assistant,

the A4AWG can probably boast to have completed one of the fastest achievements ever done by an Alliance WG ☺. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, two hours after having decided of our plan of action, in the meeting room of the Jambville venue, the group had a short meeting front of the coffee machine. The distribution of tasks was fastly done. In the evening, some members had a fructuous working session, wrote down the texts of the leaflet and agreed on a general lay-out.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Ms PANTEL could go back to Germany with an already well defined proposal of leaflet. This proposal was commented by the WG members and the EVS workcamps promoters between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the *"Access 4 All Workcamps"* leaflet was printed.

It has been presented and distributed to all the organisations who attended the Technical Meeting of the Alliance in March 2010. Further, it has been – and is still- used and disseminated by all the promoters of the EVS workcamps project and the A4AWG members in their different countries.

### **3. The Alliance Study Session 2010 and the forthcoming study session 2011**

From February 21<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>, a study session was hold at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg on the theme "Accessing voluntary service". This study session, organised by the ALLIANCE and supported by the Directorate Youth and Sport (DYS) of the Council of Europe, aimed to enhance the *accessing* educational framework developed within the Alliance's network.

The study session gathered 27 people, from 18 organizations and 18 nationalities. A prep-team - composed of representatives from CBB, CONCORDIA, GENCTUR, IBG and Christelle LATRASSE from UNAREC, as course director-facilitated the meeting. Based on non-formal education and participative methods, the session especially focused on the empowerment of young people and the Alliance member organisations to actively take part in inclusion work, increasing participation and accessibility in volunteering projects.

During the session, the Accessing policy paper has been presented in details and lively promoted. The participants worked on strategies to improve the accessibility of the IVS projects. They exchanged ideas and practices about lobbying on social issues. They shared their knowledge and experience about funding possibilities for a better inclusion work. Thanks to the inputs of external experts, they could understand better the challenge of recognition in non-formal education, as well as how the social

inclusion topic in workcamps is related to human rights education.

The study session ended on various proposals and dynamic plans of action from the participants. Between them was the proposal to work deeper on the methods that enhance the educational process implemented by the Alliance on the inclusion topic. Our study session 2011, which will be again fully supported by the DYS, was born...

*(Advertisement)*

!!! please, book your agenda !!!

The new study session, initiated by the A4AWG, will be take place in Budapest from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February to the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. Its topic is:

#### **"Mentorship and peer support**

*Exploring key concepts and empowering participation and inclusion of young people through international voluntary service"*

It has the following objectives:

- 1- To define mentorship and peer to peer education for the ALLIANCE network
- 2- To create tools and methodologies to encourage and prepare active volunteers and staff to become mentors
- 3- To get to know and explore European grants that permit to finance mentorship and trainings
- 4- To create strategies that help to implement mentorship in each ALLIANCE member organization.

Your participants are very welcome. We do hope they will leave at the DYS educational advisor a similar impressive feeling that the one who worked with us in 2010 wrote in her evaluation *"the Alliance is very inspiring network. The spirit of volunteerism can be felt at all times"*.

*(end of the advertisement - continuation of the report)*

#### **4. A new evaluation of the accessing campaign**

As decided in its plan of action, the group worked on a new evaluation system of the annual Alliance accessing workcamp campaign.

The work on a new evaluation form was done in winter 2009-2010. The group agreed on its use during its second meeting in March.

The new evaluation system must make easier the treatment of datas collected by the organisations that participate in the campaign. It should permit to establish qualitative statistics and should help in giving more visibility on the work done by the Alliance on the inclusion challenge.

This form has been used to compile the results presented here below.

#### **5. The Accessing workcamps campaign 2010**

##### **5.1. Start of the campaign**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, a call was sent to all the Alliance's member and partner organisations to participate in the annual "Accessing Workcamps campaign".

The campaign is a meant to raise awareness, encourage and support IVS organisations to participate in inclusion work. The organisations are invited to mention their objectives and capacities to face this challenge. The A4AWG promotes and follow-up the whole campaign. Its members can act as advisors, sharing good practices and experiences, as well as proposing the use of different tools that facilitate the preparation and follow-up of the exchanges.

At the end of December, 14 organisations from 10 countries had joined the campaign. Together, they planed to send 66 volunteers with fewer opportunities abroad. They undertook to host and facilitate the participation of 70 volunteers.

##### **5.2 The results**

Ten organisations, from eight countries, sent back their evaluation form and reported about their participation in the campaign: CBB, CBF, CJ, COCAT, CONCORDIA, ESTYES, IBG, LUNARIA, UN-EXCHANGE, UNAREC.

According to these reports:

- 80 volunteers with fewer opportunities were sent to a camp abroad within the A4A frame.
- 211 "disadvantaged volunteers" were hosted. 36 of them were sent by a partner organisation and 175 were national volunteers (they joined a project in their country).
- A big majority of these volunteers with fewer opportunities are male: 65% of the volunteers sent; 58% of the volunteer hosted; 61% of the national volunteers (which is a curious data compared to the usual figures of participation).
- Most of them suffer social and economical difficulties, usually linked with educational difficulties.
- 11% of the "accessing volunteers" who were sent to a camp abroad had a disability.
- 74% of the volunteers sent abroad were introduced to the IVS organisation by a social service; they were 92% of the national volunteers.
- More than half of international exchanges of volunteers with fewer opportunities are financially supported. EVS short term projects and Youth Exchanges - two actions of the Youth in Action Programme (European Commission)- are often mentioned, even if it is revealed that the national agencies in charge of the programme

don't have all the same policy: some agencies accept to use the European fund to support participation in workcamps, others not. The organisations who reached the highest participation of volunteers with fewer opportunities also mention regional and local funds. A very clear fact is that the participation of volunteers with fewer opportunities is really higher in countries where the public bodies support the workcamp as a tool for non-formal learning and social inclusion.

- A huge majority of the volunteers with fewer opportunities receive a special preparation: 80% of the volunteer sent and 88% of the national volunteers. The organisations usually mention that this preparation is composed of different steps: phone interview, individual meeting(s) and, occasionally, participation in preparatory activities.
- 70% of the volunteers sent also attended an evaluation meeting and 39% are involved in follow-up activities (post-camp event, member of the general assembly of their organisation, participant in a Youth Initiative project, volunteer in a long term project...).
- On the hosting side, most of the organisations provide a special preparation to their leader and inform that their camps may include volunteers "with fewer opportunities".
- Most of the organisations who answered the questionnaire also mention that, besides the workcamps, they organise other activities on the inclusion topic.
- **The participation of volunteers with fewer opportunities is successful!** Very few of them had to leave the camp before its end because of a problem (nine cases were reported). All the organisations who answered to the evaluation were either very satisfied, either satisfied of their collaboration under the A4A frame.

### 5.3 Conclusion

What can we say about these achievements? Which interpretation can we have of these figures?

Of course, each of us will have his/her own reading of the situation, but we can't resist sharing some bits of reflexion.

- **The results are encouraging :**

Almost 300 participations of volunteers with fewer opportunities are reported, which is an increased result compared to the last year.

The global success of these exchanges and the general satisfaction of the organisations about their partnerships also show us that the A4A policy is successfully implemented.

- **The figures remain very low :**

What means 300 volunteers compared to the (almost) 18 000 volunteers counted in the statistics of the Alliance (statistics 2009)? Moreover, can we avoid noticing that we achieved only 61% of the number planned of international volunteers hosted? Can we also avoid noticing that the biggest part of these volunteers with fewer opportunities comes from the same organisations?

- **We miss complete datas**

It is highly probable that there was more work done by the members, that there were more volunteers with fewer opportunities who've been prepared to a voluntary service, more of these volunteers who participated in a workcamp and more of them who are now involved in other activities. Taking into account that, nowadays, an action, which is not visible, hardly exists, that quantitative results are of primary importance to answer the requests of our public funders, this lack of information could be considered as a worry for all of us.

***Shouldn't this invite us to make new efforts? How to look for further development?***

- **A4A invites to develop training facilities**

Looking at the figures here above, we can say that: yes, to work with volunteers with fewer opportunities/special needs often requires more work in term of preparation and follow-up. In some cases, it also probably requires a certain level of professionalism. For that, we certainly need to continue to provide training facilities and opportunities of acquiring new skills and methods to our youth workers and leaders. The study session 2011, that will focuses on mentorship, is one of these facilities.

- **A4A invites to develop our networking and lobbying**

Working on social inclusion can be considered as a wonderful opportunity to develop new partnerships with the social sector, an opportunity to extend our networks and our action. For our organisations, it can also be a way to open new doors, to use other public programmes and to have easier access to grants. Networking and lobbying is a responsibility for all of us at our local and

national level. A clear policy on social inclusion in our voluntary projects is also probably something we should carry on together at the European level, especially now that discussions about a new youth programme are opened.

- **A4A is, more than ever, a current challenge and a responsibility for all of us**

Because we have no doubt on the social value of our voluntary projects, we should all enhance the inclusive aspect of our work and give it more visibility. The workcamps can offer decisive learning experience.

They permit to make steps from the geographical mobility to the social mobility and from the social participation to the social cohesion. At a time when the economical crisis creates new exclusions and awakes new phenomenon of racism; a time when migrations and generational balance generate new types of social conflicts, a time when the differences and the changes are still often considered as dangers, these potentialities must be developed. To take active measures and contribute to a better social cohesion through our voluntary projects is fully and simply a responsibility that we all carry on.

*Grégory VAN DE PUT (A4AWG coordinator)  
Marche-en-Famenne, October 22nd 2010*

## External Relations Committee (ERC)

### ERC members:

Chrysafo Arvaniti, CiA Vice President for External Relations

Jeremie Chomette, UNAREC, Coordinator

Eva Dzurjaninova, INEX-SK

Karsten Fennel, NIG

Ulrike Kaiser, IJGD, Treasurer

Gerard Meppelink, SiW, NSWG coordinator

Andrey Sergeev, SFERA

Lukas Valek, INEX-SDA

Dora Vougiouka, ELIX

We had three meetings this year (plus several skype meeting), one during the GA, one at the TM and we held one meeting in Prague in February hosted by INEX-SDA (report is available on demand).

The main tasks of the ERC was to produce the Alliance Representation Plan and to support external relation .

### 1. Alliance Representation Plan

The ARP that we will finally present for adoption at the coming GA is the result of the work of the ERC members for several years in cooperation with the former and current WGs of the Alliance and ECs.

This paper, based on Alliance official documents (e.g.: Annual report, GA minutes), is aimed at being

used for external representation of the Alliance and its mission. It gives an overview of Alliance's values, activities and working fields, The ARP consists of 5 chapters: volunteering, participation, mobility, social inclusion and non-formal education.

With this paper, Alliance representatives will be able to strengthen Alliance position within the Youth Forum Jeunesse and other institutions the Alliance is part of.

We see it as well as tool to make the Alliance more visible and therefore allow newcomers and new partners to better know what the Alliance is.

In the future the ARP will need to be updated according to the evolution of the network.

## 2. External Relations

### a. YFJ (Youth Forum Jeunesse)

Tejesh Mistry represented the Alliance at the Council of Members (CoMem) of the YFJ in november 2009 in Torino and Jérémie Chomette at the CoMem in april 2010 in Brussels. They managed, with the exchange group, to see the topics of mobility and volunteerism well represented in several policy papers (eg: policy paper on democracy and youth).

### b. Exchange group

The Alliance is part of informal group that gathered exchange-based organisations within the YFJ.

They usually meet during YFJ statutory meetings but this year a new impetus has been given to this group and several meeting have been held in Brussels including one with the secretariat of the YFJ on the Youth on Move initiative, in order to be stronger in the YFJ (through a common vision and meetings with secretariat and the board) and



working more together (exchange of good practices, open our activities to each other, etc.). Jérémie Chomette attended one of them prior to the CoMem but we couldn't attend the others ones due to lack of fund and time restraining.

#### c. Youth event

Andrey Sergeew attended the Youth Event of the Spanish presidency (report available) The subject of this youth event was "youth employment and social inclusion". It was the first event of Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU (Spain-Belgium-Hungary, January 2010-June 2011) with the common theme "Youth Employment". Andrey used this opportunity to present Alliance's accessing policy and try to lobby the role of volunteering in social cohesion and inclusion for young people.

### 3. Report Form and PPP:

Beside working on the ARP and our representation work, we created a reporting form that we kindly ask Alliance to use that aim to ease the reporting (and the reading of the report) of an event by responding to what we consider the most important questions. We planned as well to renew the Power Point Presentation of the Alliance but couldn't achieve it so far.

#### Conclusion:

The ERC members have done a lot of work this year (despite most of the members were new in the committee) to provide the Alliance a paper on external relation that, from our point of view, goes beyond the external relations by trying to define what is the Alliance, what it does and have done, where the Alliance goes and what we stand for.

Moreover, it has to be said that if it was pretty easy to collect what the Alliance has done and to highlight the best projects, it was very difficult to find out through the Alliance documents what are Alliance values and Alliance positions on the relevant topics. Thus the ERC warmly welcome the EC decision to work on Alliance vision and missions.

Next year will be a very challenging year for the ERC and the Alliance as it will be the European Year of Volunteering. It's a great opportunity to make our voice heard and our work seen (thus implement the ARP), ERC members would be keen on to support the network throughout the year from setting up activities to work representation.

Furthermore, as following the YFJ activities is pretty demanding (and as the exchange group is now quiet active) I would suggest that the GA annually appoint an Alliance representative at the YFJ who would be mandated to maintain contact with the YFJ and participate (or to look for a delegate) to any relevant YFJ or/and exchange group events throughout the year (such as CoMem, consultation meeting, online consultation, working group, etc.) and would have to report to the vice president for external relations and the external relation committee.

Least but not the last we kindly invite any Alliance members interested in the ER to join our super team!

*Jérémie CHOMETTE (ERC Coordinator)*

## Training Needs Working Group (TNWG)

The *Alliance Training Needs Working Group* (TNWG) has 4 members left. Due to the fact a large number of former members changed their life or at least their job the well done first step of the re-established TNWG wasn't followed by the definitely needed next one. Despite the difficult situation the TNWG met 2 times and tried to keep the work going on. During GA 2009 in Jambville and TM 2010 in Berlin the TNWG members worked on following topics:

#### (1) Alliance Pool of Trainers

According to the tasks of TNWG we continued monitoring the use of the *Alliance Pool of Trainers*

(PoT). We evaluated the questionnaires handed out to Alliance members at GA 2009 in Jambville. The PoT seems to be wanted by the majority of Alliance members – just the way it is presented was questioned and need to be answered properly. Therefore the status quo has to be analysed and the results have to be transformed into a plan of action in order to establish a useful *Alliance Pool of Trainers*. From our point of view the PoT should be shut down for an update and officially restarted afterwards – probably sidelined by promotion activities.

## (2) Alliance Training Events

In order to implement the Alliance training priorities the TNWG was working on a draft schedule of future *Alliance Trainings for Trainer* (TfT) which should work for other training events as well. Beside that the work of TNWG mostly lacked of supporting training parts of Alliance in general. A TfT was successfully held by MS Denmark without any contribution from TNWG. Furthermore the upcoming TfT of LA Alliance was prepared by Chrysafo Arvaniti (Vice President on External Relation) and the NSWG. This is not the way it is supposed to be.

## (3) Alliance Vademecum

As a result of the joint work of Alliance trainers and a common strategy for Alliance Training events the *Vademecum* can be a Tool Kit as well as a Promotion Tool for newcomers on the international level of training. We think this small handbook is supporting the educational aspects in a good way. But due to the fact the *Vademecum* is a follow-up of the actions mentioned above the priority of that project was set quite low.

At that point I would like to stress participation is desperately needed. Even if the *Alliance Pool of Trainers* and the *Alliance Strategy on Training* are of great importance for our future other tasks need to be done as well. Therefore the idea of having a meeting of trainers from PoT should take in consideration again. Beside "recruiting" TNWG members at Alliance events like GA, PCE or TfT the *Meeting of Alliance Trainers* might motivate people to join TNWG and/or support training parts of Alliance.

We kindly invite any Alliance member to join us. Establishing a vivid network of trainers or structuring a remarkable amount of experience and knowledge are just two challenges we face in the upcoming season.

We are looking forward to welcome you!

Members of Training Needs Working Group:

Natalia Chardymova [SFERA]

Iryna Bodnar [ALTERNATIVE-V]

Zuzana Partlova [INEX-SDA]

*Thomas Hauptvogel (TNWG Coordinator)*

## North South Working Group (NSWG)

The Alliance North/South working group has only 5 members left after being started again after the GA 2009.

A lot of members of the working group left or changed their jobs, for the working group itself it was a difficult year because of that.

Of course the working group was or is involved in a couple of things:

- There was a north south meeting on Alliance day 2009, with some good discussions.
- Members of the group helped organizing the MLTV meeting in Berlin, (also it was not an official Alliance meeting) that was a great success, many organizations from Alliance, CCIWS and other networks were there to share information about MLTV and North/South.
- Now 2 members of the group are busy, together with Vive Mexico and our Vice president of external relations to get a grant for a project/meeting between north

and south, read it as Alliance meets Alliance LA. But this is in a beginning stadium.

- Some members of the workgroup are joining The International Congress of Voluntary Service, which is going to be held from 1st to 7th of December (centrally 2d to 4th), in Barcelona, and to which the Alliance is a participant, and some of your organizations also. It will be a huge opportunity for exchange, with around 80 to 100 organizations, half of them from the South, and to debate and generate common strategies. It can be even understood as a North South forum, as well as a global forum! But as important it is to mention that the Congress is the starting point for a participative process (within the project Global Strategies for Global Challenges) that will try to define the strategies and priorities of the global movement in the short, mid and long term, to set the White Book on Volunteering 2011-2021 by the end of the year. During the workgroup meeting on the GA 2010 in Ankara the group will discuss if there can be a good participation with/during the congress in Barcelona.

### Members of the workgroup:

Haruka Toyonaga from NICE  
Oriol Josa Fresno from Cocat

Adeline from Compagnon Batisseurs  
Tiina Hokkanen from Allianssi

*Gerard Meppelink (NSWG coordinator)*

## Technical Working Group (TWG)

The group was proposed by the GA 2009 with the aim to study the actual situation and find a link between existing workcamp exchange tools that Alliance members currently are use. The group was formed in April 2010 and composed of following members:

Peter Coldwell, VFP  
Anthony Crochu, UNAREC  
Zafer Yilmaz, Genstur  
Kemal Abiska, JR  
Jakub Hozak, INEX Slovakia  
Marco Riddoni, Lunaria.

Alliance GS Kaarina Konsap was contact person from the EC.

As there was no budget for the working group and therefore no meetings were foreseen, the main communication was via emails. Also 2 skype meetings were organised.

The group created a survey to find out which exchange tools members use, and which changes may ease their seasonal work. The survey results were disseminated among members. Here we would like bring out few points:

### ***How much time do you spend to place a new volunteer in the system?***

**Relevant:** VEF

**Result:** 1/3/5/more minutes == 8/19/13/4

**Interpretation:** More than 30 organization spend average time cca 4 minutes on this task. In INEX for example, which is quite big organization with let's say 700 volunteers outgoing and 400 incoming, that means cca 4400 minutes (almost 2 man-weeks) in season wasted by doing work that machine would do better, quicker and easily with well-defined VEF format in place. The benefits in smaller organizations would be lower but still, it is an obvious waste of resources. I think this is an obvious bottle neck and VEF format just has to be done.

### ***Up-to-date information?***

Do you face difficulties with not having an up-to-date information about free places? **Results: 29 yes, 14 no**

Do you face difficulties with having no actual situation of the free places? **Results: 28 yes, 16 no**

How often do you UPLOAD your Fridaylist to the Alliance website? **Weekly - 18, each 15 Days - 3, When needed 12, Never - 7**

How often do you DOWNLOAD the Fridaylists of your partners from the Alliance website? **Weekly - 9, each 15 Days - 1, When needed 18, Never - 11**

**Relevant format:** Friday lists

**Interpretation:** It is obviously wide-spread problem among organizations and it is probably combination of many issues. We should at least revise the Friday lists so that it is obvious when they were written and when will the next one be released. A centralized (SIMPLE) service able to read the format and keep track on the actual numbers might be also helpful but its implementation is not for free.

### **Alliance Workcamps Database**

#### ***Did you insert your projects into the Alliance Database at Alliance website?***

**Results:** 37 in 2010, 36 in 2009, 3 never

**Interpretation:** Obviously, most of the organizations did but it has small information value because it was compulsory and it doesn't measure the "quality" of the imports

#### ***If YES, by what means did you insert the projects?***

**Results:** Copy & Paste 18, XML 20, Document 16

**Interpretation:** It is obviously hard for the organizations to create an XML export suitable for inserting to DB and therefore they deliver it by document or insert by hand which in the end puts

another burden on them, rather than helping them. This is definitely a thing to improve.

***Did you export an XML file from the Alliance Database at Alliance website to insert to your website, to your local database or to create a publication?***

**Results:** 2009 - 11, 2010 - 13, Never - 27

**Interpretation:** This is a serious flaw. Only one third of the organizations benefit from the database. The major reasons are

- a) usage of eVet which provides them with the data
- b) usage of other systems which is not able to import it
- c) no need for automation - they adjust/translate each project or simply don't need it (small organizations?)
- d) the XML file is ready too late

Alliance members use very different softwares. Our members have the right to use the software of their own choice. There is no technical solution to create a link between every software used. To make one step further for better cooperation and to simplify placement officers' work, the working group created a **Data Interchange Handbook**. Which contains a set of specifications for the data interchange among Alliance member and partner organizations.

While the implementation phase of this work will require a substantial effort in the months and years to come, the payback will be substantial, eliminating boring clerical work, better left to computers, and leaving more time for project planning and preparation and for the interaction with (and the training of) volunteers.

In time, and through a series of decisions and procedures, a set of converters and tools will have to be made available to facilitate the conversion process from the placement systems of the single organisation and the integration of the new formats.

**TWG proposal**

Technical Working Group proposes to respect the different softwares used by Alliance members and keep fundamental principle of free choice of members to use whatever system they like. Organisations who do not have their own software yet, or would like to change, have multiple and equally-respectable choices: they can choose between the existing individual or shared placement software; they can create their own system; or they can simply continue the old way. TWG has created Data Interchange Handbook and recommends organisations which are interested in open formats to further improve it, integrate the resulting formats and build tools that will allow their wider integration and acceptance between different systems. A new mandate for the working group may help to reach this goal.

## Alliance Events 2010

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

### In 2010 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.

**2-7 March 2010: hosted by VJF, Germany in Berlin**  
**168 participants**



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

**5-6 November, 2010: hosted by GSM, Turkey in Ankara**  
**54 participants**



- **The CHANGE of the characteristics and profiles of the volunteer population:**

## Alliance General Conference 2010

### THE OUTCOME OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance General Conference 2010 was hosted by GSM-Youth Services Centre and organised by the international prep-team with the support of European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The General Conference was held in Ankara/Turkey from the 30th of October to the 4th of November. There were 40 participants from non-governmental organizations from all over Europe and Turkey.

The main theme of the General Conference was to create a space for different actors not only from the voluntary service organizations such as Alliance, SCI, YAP and CCIVS but also other organizations, where they could paraphrase the word "volunteering" and cultivate its meaning.

The objectives of the conference were:

- to discuss voluntarism and today's volunteering
- to find out European aspect and effects of volunteering
- to share different experiences on different ways of volunteering
- to understand the needs and expectations of young people on volunteering
- to improve tools, methods and variety of voluntary activities
- to analyze and evaluate the voluntary activities in Europe as well as other continents

Throughout the discussions and the work done during the General Conference we, the participants, came up with the following conclusions and suggestions for the future development of the network.

*The main trends* in the voluntary world today could be presented as follows:

- **The DECREASE in the number of volunteers and projects:**

The statistics from the previous years shows there is a trend towards a decrease in the number of exchanged volunteers within the network, despite the general growth of the network in terms of new members and countries.

Volunteering is not referring only, or mainly to young people aged 18-25 any more, but there are other age groups emerging (pre-teens, teens, 25-30, 30+, 40+, 50+), with different needs and interests which require different approaches.

The motivation for volunteering is changing as well, varying from pure altruism to personal development, skills acquisition, alternative travelling and other motivations. It affects their level of participation and active involvement in projects, which leads to the change in perception of our voluntary projects by the local community, which decreases the impact to the community and their further development. Besides, the level of commitment that have changed, influenced by the prevailing of the consumers/clients attitude, cultivated both in our organisations' approach to volunteers and in the general social trend.

- **The CONFUSION about the very definition of volunteering:**

As volunteering is a very dynamic concept, its limits change rapidly and need constant revising and raising awareness on possible misuses and confusing volunteerism with other social participation activities e.g. philanthropy, faith-based volunteering, corporate volunteering, professional volunteering, alternative travelling, and others.

- **COMPETITION coming from other areas using volunteering as a tool:**

CSR, social enterprises and governmental volunteerism are contributing to the confusion about what volunteering really stands for, creating more tension and competition for the voluntary organisations. This has raised the issues for our type of volunteering from not understanding the concepts and having less resources comparing to the companies. Nevertheless, many members of the network have entered in partnership with business sector, realizing the great potential of such a cooperation, but without having any support or ground for sharing their experiences in the network so far.

We, the participants, believe that the way to address the above mentioned trends is the development of **sustainable and meaningful voluntary service**. In order to achieve this important aim, the Alliance should focus on the following areas of intervention:

1. **promotion of volunteerism**, using IYV+10 and the European Year of Volunteers 2011 is a tool for raising awareness for our work.
2. **environmental sustainability**, supporting the International Sustainability Campaign
3. **fundraising strategy**, exploring the cooperation with the business sector and social enterprises
4. **involvement of young people in all the phases of our work**
5. **monitor and evaluate the quality of our projects**

More specifically:

- **IYV+10 and the European Year of Volunteers 2011** is a tool for raising awareness for our work.

Recommendations:

1. supporting the IYV+10 Working Group (if there is not a new group, then ERC) within the network;
2. develop and widely spread the statement (the Alliance Representation Plan) about what is volunteering for the Alliance, taking especially into account the possibilities of misuse towards volunteering.

- **International Sustainability Campaign** aims at providing guidelines for organisations to pay attention to the environmental impact of their voluntary projects. It has gathered 22 organisations so far since March 2010.

Recommendations: for the ERC, EC and the core group of the campaign

1. develop an environmental sustainability policy
2. implement this policy in every Alliance meeting and activity
3. encourage members to adopt it and implement it in everyday actions and projects
4. to represent and promote the campaign in events the Alliance takes part

- **Cooperation with business sector and social enterprises** is a challenge and an opportunity for the Alliance.

Recommendations to the FSG, ADC and TWG:

1. create a Working Group with the mandate to explore this field
2. define the position of the Alliance about the private sponsorship and

the involvement of companies and social enterprises in voluntary activities

3. enlarge the partnership with Universities and social enterprises in order to have management, scientific and technical background and support.
4. organize trainings, conferences on this topic

- **Involvement of the young people in all the phases of our work** is a crucial area of intervention that tackles all the above mentioned trends.

Recommendations to the ADC and TSG:

1. new generations have different interests and habits, new technologies might be the path how we could reach them;
2. not create consumers/clients but partners – using the same energy for retention of volunteers once they come back from their workcamps as we do for promotions and attracting them to apply;
3. offer recognition to volunteers – with projects in the office throughout the year, not just the season – seasonal help, preparatory meetings for outgoing volunteers, PR... let them be a part of the decision making process in the organisation;
4. involvement of local community in all phases of the preparation of work, following their needs and interests – by addressing types of work at workcamps.
5. give more value to the educational cycle for the volunteers (volunteer-camplader, trainer, organiser, promoter, board member, etc)

- **Monitoring and evaluation of our projects**

Recommendations to the ADC:

1. encourage members to use the Alliance Quality Charter
2. develop monitoring and supporting tools for the members to use and tools for collective qualitative evaluation of the work of the network.(e.g. collect and develop feedback from all members about their own workcamp evaluations)

research the possibility of peer/partnership evaluation among the Alliance members (mentoring organisations within the

## Annexes

Action 2011	Who	When
<b>1. Alliance Events and Projects</b>		
a) Technical Meeting	HUJ	March 2011
b) General Assembly	Concordia UK	4 – 6 November 2011
c) Post Camp Event	SFERA	19-25 September 2011
<b>Other events:</b>		
d) Tft	Genctur & TNWG	September 2011
e) Alliance Staff meeting	SDWG	2-3 November 2011
f) Study Session 2011	ACD & A4AWG	20 – 27 February 2011
g) Latin America – Europe Training for Trainers	TNWG & VPER & NSWG	2012
h) Seminar on Local Active Youth Participation	VJF	14 – 19 April 2011
i) To promote a meeting with southern partners present at the TM	NSWG	TM 2011
<b>Projects:</b>		
j) Collective EVS action	EC & A4AWG	GA 2011
k) „Torch tour“	ERC & GS	Throughout the year
l) To run an Alliance accessing workcamp campaign	A4All WG	Throughout the year
<b>2. Management of the Alliance</b>		
a) Update the Alliance guidebook	SDWG	GA 2011
b) Prepare the administrative grant application under Youth in Action program	EC	Before deadline
c) Launch permanent secretariat	EC& host	By June
<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 at the GA	ADC	TM 2011/GA2011
b) Organise two staff development meetings to discuss issues and needs to improve quality of exchange programmes	SDWG	TM 2011/GA 2011
c) Relaunch Alliance Pool of Trainers	TNWG	TM 2011
d) Develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partners	ADC & NSWG	TM 2012
e) Run a session on accessing campaign	A4AllWG	TM 2011
f) Develop further possibilities of projects data exchange between members	TSG	TM 2011
g) Develop an assessment tool for skills acquired by participating in non-formal education projects	VPER & ERC	GA 2011
h) Create space during the Alliance day dedicated to share opinions on the Alliance vision, mission and various positions	EC & ADC	TM 2011
i) Create and implement the Alliance strategy on IYV + 10 & EYV	VPER & ERC	December 2011
j) Encourage the use of the Alliance quality charter	ADC	Throughout the year
k) Add glossary and quality charter to the first mailing of GA and TM	GS	1st mailing
l) Develop an environmental sustainability policy paper	members	GA 2011

m) Join the international sustainability campaign	EC	December 2010
n) Add to the Guidelines (how to organize an Alliance event) concrete suggestions and examples on how to organize sustainable Alliance event	members	GA 2011
<b>4. External relations</b>		
a) Cooperate with other networks on IYV + 10 & EYV	VPER	Throughout the year
b) Prepare an application for 2012 with ASEF and NVDA	VPER & ERC & NSWG	GA 2011
c) Actively participate Global Strategy for Global Challenges	MC	December 2011

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JR	France	Kemal Abiska	8-10 rue de Trévis	75009	PARIS	(33) 1 47 70 15 88	(33) 1 48 00 92 18	<a href="mailto:mca@volontariat.org">mca@volontariat.org</a>
LEGAMBIENTE	Italy	Gianna le Donne	Via Salaria 403	00 199	ROME	(39) 06 862 683 24	(39) 06 862 683 19	<a href="mailto:legambiente.vol@tiscali.it">legambiente.vol@tiscali.it</a>
LUNARIA	Italy	Davide di Pietro	Via Buonarroti 39	I-00185	ROME	(39) 06 884 18 80	(39) 06 884 18 59	<a href="mailto:workcamps@lunaria.org">workcamps@lunaria.org</a>
LYVS	Belarus	Yaroslav Oleinik	P.O Box 213 B. Hmelnitskogo str. 4	220013	MINSK	(375) 172 840 881	(375) 1 72 840 784	<a href="mailto:lyvs@user.unibel.by">lyvs@user.unibel.by</a>
MS	Denmark	Dines Justesen	Falledvej 12	2200	Copenhagen	(45) 7731 0015	(45) 7731 0121	<a href="mailto:chj@ms.dk">chj@ms.dk</a>
NICE	Japan	Shinichiro Kaizawa	2-1-14-401 Shinjuku	160-0022	TOKYO	(81) 3 33 58 71 40	(81) 3 33 58 71 49	<a href="mailto:nice@nice1.gr.jp">nice@nice1.gr.jp</a>
NIG	Germany	Jörg Theska	Am Wendländer Schilde 5	18055	ROSTOCK	(49) 381 492 29 14	(49) 381 490 09 30	<a href="mailto:nig-rostock@t-online.de">nig-rostock@t-online.de</a>
PRO-INTERNATIONAL	Germany	Andreas Kunz	Bahnhofstr. 26a	35037	Marburg	(49) 6421-65277	(49) 06421-64407	<a href="mailto:pro-international@lahn.net">pro-international@lahn.net</a>
SIW	Netherlands	Rob van Leeuwen	Willemstraat 7	3511 RJ	UTRECHT	(31) 30 233 4089	(31) 30 2343465	<a href="mailto:general@siw.nl">general@siw.nl</a>
SJ	France	Matina Deligianni	10 Rue du 8 mai 1945	75010	PARIS	(33) 1 55 26 88 77	(33) 1 53 26 03 26	<a href="mailto:dn@solidaritesjeunes.org">dn@solidaritesjeunes.org</a>
SVI	Spain	Olga de Blas	José Ortega y Gasset, 71	28006	MADRID	(34) 91 363 76 23/16/20	(34) 91 309 30 66	<a href="mailto:svi@mtas.es">svi@mtas.es</a> / <a href="mailto:blasmo@mtas.es">blasmo@mtas.es</a>
SFERA	Russia	Natalja Nikitina	27 Piskunova str,	603005	Nizhny Novgorod	007 831 430 47 40	+ 381 11 311 6653	<a href="mailto:out@dobrovolets.ru">out@dobrovolets.ru</a> , <a href="mailto:international@nnvs.ru">international@nnvs.ru</a> , <a href="mailto:development@nnvs.ru">development@nnvs.ru</a>
UNA Exchange	UK/Wales	Sheila Smith	Temple of Peace Cathays Park	CF10 3AP	CARDIFF	(44) 29 20 223 088	(44) 29 20 665 557	<a href="mailto:sheilasmith@unaexchange.org">sheilasmith@unaexchange.org</a>
UNAREC	France	Francois Ribaud	3, rue des Petits Gras	63000	CLERMONT-FERRAND	(33) 4 73 31 98 04	(33) 4 73 31 98 09	<a href="mailto:international@unarec.org">international@unarec.org</a>
Union Forum	Ukraine	Olena Kolosovych	Lychakivska Str P.O.5327	79010	LVIV	(380) 322 726934	(380) 322 726934	<a href="mailto:info@union-forum.org">info@union-forum.org</a>
VFP	USA	Peter Coldwell	1034 Tiffany Road	05730-0202	BELMONT -VT	(1) 802 259 2759	(1) 802 259 2922	<a href="mailto:vfp@vfp.org">vfp@vfp.org</a>
VIMEX	Mexico	Vidal Florès	Alfredo Elizondo n°69 Col. D Carmona	15450	MEXICO	(525) 795 04 57	(525) 795 04 57	<a href="mailto:vimex@laneta.apc.org">vimex@laneta.apc.org</a>
VIVE MEXICO	Mexico	Alberto Garcia	Boulevard García de Leon 734-A - Colonia Nueva Chapultepec	58260	MORELIA Michoacan	/ (52) 443 324 51 70	(52) 443 324 51 70	<a href="mailto:incoming@vivemexico.org">incoming@vivemexico.org</a>
VJF	Germany	Andrea Köcher	Hans-Otto strasse 7	10407	BERLIN	(49) 30 42 85 06 03	(49) 30 42 85 06 04	<a href="mailto:office@vjf.de">office@vjf.de</a>
Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	Simone Thommen Owe	Komturei Tobel, PO Box 7	9555	TOBEL	(41) 71 917 24 86	(41) 71 917 24 87	<a href="mailto:info@workcamp.ch">info@workcamp.ch</a>

World 4 You	Russia	Katerina Kuznetsova	Chistoprudny blvd, building 2, entrance office 9	12 101000 11a,	MOSCOW	(7) 495 624 29 33	(7) 495 624 15 72	<a href="mailto:networking@world4u.ru">networking@world4u.ru</a>	
World Friends	Iceland	Toti Ivarsson	Hafnarstraeti 15	101	Reykjavik	(354) 5518222	(354) 5518222	<a href="mailto:wf@wf.is">wf@wf.is</a>	
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Jelena Ristic	Bulevar umetnosti 27	11070	Novi Beograd	(381) 11 311 66 63	(381) 11 311 6653	<a href="mailto:yss@mis.org.rs">yss@mis.org.rs</a>	

<b>Volunteer's Center ADP-Zid</b>	Montenegro	<a href="http://www.zid.cg.yu">www.zid.cg.yu</a>	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.			
<b>Allianssi Youth Exchanges</b> ( <i>Allianssin nuorisovaihto</i> )	Finland	<a href="http://www.nuorisovaihto.fi">www.nuorisovaihto.fi</a>	1996
The aim of Allianssi is to promote intercultural learning and tolerance among young people. They provide young people with possibilities to get to know people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds by working together. This organisation works with international youth exchanges, sending every year about 900 young Finns to do voluntary or paid work abroad, as well as placing annually about 100 young foreigners in the work camps in Finland. The target group of Allianssi Youth Exchanges is young Finnish people in general, mainly the age group 18-25.			
<b>Alternative-V</b>	Ukraine	<a href="http://www.alternative-v.com.ua">www.alternative-v.com.ua</a>	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.			
<b>CBB</b> ( <i>Compagnons Batisseurs Belgique</i> )	Belgium	<a href="http://www.compagnonsbatisseurs.be">www.compagnonsbatisseurs.be</a>	1953
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.			
<b>CBF</b> ( <i>Compagnons Batisseurs France</i> )	France	<a href="http://www.compagnonsbatisseurs-grandsud.org">www.compagnonsbatisseurs-grandsud.org</a>	1957
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.			
<b>CIA</b> ( <i>Citizens in Action</i> )	Greece		2002
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.			
<b>CIEE</b> ( <i>Council for International Educational Exchanges</i> )	Japan	<a href="http://www.cieej.or.jp">http://www.cieej.or.jp</a>	1965
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.			
<b>CJ</b> ( <i>Chantiers Jeunesse</i> )	Canada/Quebec	<a href="http://www.cj.qc.ca">www.cj.qc.ca</a>	1980
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.			
<b>COCAT</b>	Spain/Catalunya	<a href="http://www.cocat.org">www.cocat.org</a>	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.fiyee.org](http://www.fiyee.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.

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

**IWO** South Korea [www.1.or.kr](http://www.1.or.kr) 1999  
(*International Workcamp Organisation*)

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

**JAVVA** Belgium [www.javva.org](http://www.javva.org) 2000  
(*Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs*)

JAVVA is a Belgian non-governmental organisation, founded in the year 2000 by a group of young volunteers convinced by the pertinence of international workcamps as a mean to promote peace. In 2003, JAVVA was officially recognized as a Youth Organisation (*Organisation de Jeunesse*) by the French-speaking Community of Belgium. Today, JAVVA defines itself as a Youth Organisation involved in Active citizenship and Intercultural dialogue issues. It counts about 40 active members, hosts around 60 volunteers from all around the world on local development projects and sends around 100 Belgian volunteers on international volunteering projects each year. JAVVA is member of the CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) since November 2009.

**J&R** France [www.volontariat.org](http://www.volontariat.org) 1948  
(*Jeunesse et Reconstruction*)

Jeunesse et Reconstruction is non-profit organisation and has no political affiliation. It participates in the development of international exchanges and organises workcamps, farming camps, mid and long term projects and languages courses. J&R aims to fight social, racial, political or religious discrimination by proposing activities where everyone can find a place. It aims at helping peace and fraternity through exchanges, to participate actively in a collective project, to promote citizenship and help young people to know themselves better through social and economic realities.

**Legambiente** Italy [www.legambiente.com](http://www.legambiente.com) 1980

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

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

International Voluntary Service is only a part of Lunaria.

Other activities of Lunaria are:

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

**LYVS** Belarus [www.lyvs.bn.by](http://www.lyvs.bn.by) 1994  
(*League of Youth Voluntary Service*)

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

**MS** Denmark [www.ms.dk](http://www.ms.dk) 1944  
(*Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke / Danish Association for International Co-operation*)

The overall aim of MS is furthering international understanding and solidarity beyond national and cultural boundaries. All MS activities are based on co-operation across borders based in solidarity and the struggle for a more equitable distribution of the riches of the earth. Lobbying and information work is an important element of all MS activities. The (youth) Exchange Programme provides opportunities for young people to gain an insight into other cultures. The MS programme consists of activities in most parts of the world. MS refers to itself as a voluntary organisation.

**NICE** Japan [www.nice1.gr.jp](http://www.nice1.gr.jp) 1990  
*(Never-ending International workCamps Exchange)*  
 NICE aims to create/develop/revive an ecological, self-sufficient and warm-hearted civilisation. NICE promotes exciting voluntary actions through fresh ideas and mobility as a youth non-profit organisation. NICE encourages and supports activities of local communities, creating opportunities to meet new people and start new actions by involving many locals. NICE makes bridges between isolated communities and invites youth to depopulated areas, promoting global friendship, understanding, and solidarity.

**NIG** Germany 1990  
 NIG is a non-governmental, non-religious private members' organisation aimed at promoting peace and international understanding across borders. It works especially in the fields of the environment, solidarity with 3rd World countries and against discrimination. NIG offers specific Eastern German related issues such as work on unemployment.

**Pro international e.V.** Germany [www.pro-international.de](http://www.pro-international.de) 1954  
 Pro international e.V. is a non-denominational and politically independent registered society. Our roots go back to the years after the second world war, as do those of many other volunteer organisations. Under the influence of the war and the following years with their dreadful consequences, our founders were looking for ways to re-new the bonds between people and nations. With the motto: „working together is better than fighting one another“, the first - yet hardly international - workcamps took place in Tyrol in 1949 and in Marburg in 1953. The aims and objectives of this initiative were basically to offer an international meeting place for young people, especially from Germany and Austria, by doing voluntary work together. Today, Pro international has around 40 international workcamps in Germany each year, a variety of camps together with our partner organisations in different countries in Africa and Asia and sends volunteers to workcamps of partner organisations in almost every European country.

**SIW** The Netherlands [www.siw.nl](http://www.siw.nl) 1953  
*(Internationale Vrijwilligers Projekten)*  
 The objectives of SIW are to encourage international contact and understanding, to stimulate the development of young people, and to do socially, culturally and environmentally useful work. These objectives are primarily realised by sending young people from the Netherlands to volunteer projects in other countries and welcoming young people in international voluntary projects in the Netherlands. SIW refers to itself as a workcamp organisation.

**SJ** France [www.solidaritesjeunesses.org](http://www.solidaritesjeunesses.org) 1956  
*(Solidarites Jeunesses)*  
 The aims of SJ are:  
 1. The voluntary participation of all, particularly young people and those in socially disadvantaged situations, in local, national and international life.  
 2. Local development that takes into account the needs of the individual, the environment and cultural heritage.  
 3. The breaking down of barriers between generations, cultures and nations.  
 4. A concrete construction of peace.  
 SJ organizes short and long-term international workcamps, social integration actions, training activities, international solidarity actions, and run small community centres in rural environments.

**SVI** Spain [www.mtas.es/injuve](http://www.mtas.es/injuve) 1950's  
*(Instituto de la Juventud)*  
 SVI is the International Voluntary Service department of the Youth Institute of Spain and deals only with the workcamp activities aimed at young people who are between 18 and 26 years old. Its main objectives are to stimulate the exchange of ideas and youth global development, strengthening their own intercultural learning processes, their personal development and the reinforcement of democratic values. It also aims at integrating experiences, personal knowledge and the global development of young people in the carrying out of activities in the frame of voluntary work.

**SFERA** Russia [www.dobrovolets.ru](http://www.dobrovolets.ru) 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

**UNA Exchange** United Kingdom/Wales [www.unaexchange.org](http://www.unaexchange.org) 1973

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

**UNAREC** France [www.unarec.org](http://www.unarec.org) 1962

*(Union Etudes et Chantiers)*

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

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

**Union Forum** Ukraine [www.union-forum.org](http://www.union-forum.org) 1989

Union Forum was born 16 years ago as a means to consolidate youth on nonpolitical basis with the purpose to develop the international student and youth exchange, to promote the programs supporting mutual understanding of

youth of the various countries, giving an opportunity to learn better other countries culture and people. By means of involving youth in socially useful activities the Union Forum gives young people the opportunity to improve communication and interpersonal skills, helps them to get experience of independent life and work in other cultural conditions, and to get useful experience. For us the involvement in International Voluntary Service is the mean to contribute to the world in which we live, to help local communities, to promote Ukrainian youth integration into the world community through involvement them in international actions.

**VFP** USA [www.vfp.org](http://www.vfp.org) 1982

*(Volunteers for Peace)*

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

**VIMEX** Mexico [www.vimex.org.mx](http://www.vimex.org.mx) 1985

*(Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico AC)*

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

**Vive Mexico** Mexico [www.vivemexico.org](http://www.vivemexico.org) 1997

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.

**VJF** Germany [www.vjf.de](http://www.vjf.de) 1990  
(*Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger*)

VJF was founded as an independent, non-governmental workcamp organisation, committed to the ideas of solidarity, humanism and mutual understanding among young people from all over the world. VJF believes that common work and other activities should make young people think about such problems as maintenance of peace, preservation of the natural environment, solidarity with developing countries, fight against old and new fascism, against racial hatred and all forms of discrimination, be it social, racial, sexual, political or religious. VJF refers to itself as a workcamp and voluntary service organisation.

**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.

**WORLD 4 YOU** Russia [www.world4u.ru](http://www.world4u.ru) 1998

World 4 You aims to promote youth and cultural exchanges for better understanding, tolerance and create peaceful life in the world-wide community. The activities of the organization:

1. To organize voluntary camps in Russia and send Russian volunteers abroad
2. To organize non-formal educational activities: master-classes, foreign language clubs, youth forums and gatherings on topics devoted to culture, ecology, historical heredity protection and helping disadvantaged people.
3. To carry out free trainings (for volunteers and NGOs) to promote international voluntary service in Russia as a tool for local development and mean of non-formal education
4. To send Russian volunteers to mid- and long-term voluntary services abroad
5. To prepare Russian youngsters for intercultural dialog and participation in conferences, seminars, trainings abroad.

**World Friends** Iceland [www.wf.is](http://www.wf.is) 2001  
(*Veraldarvinir*)

Veraldarvinir/WF works with three main aims:

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

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

**YRS/VSS** Serbia [www.mis.org.yu](http://www.mis.org.yu) 1976  
(*Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia*)

Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia (YRS/VSS) is non-profit non-governmental organisation, the main aims of which are education and exchange of, as well as work with young people. As an umbrella organisation, it gathers 25 clubs and societies from University centres and other towns in Serbia, such as Geographic Exploring Association, Students' Biological Research Society, Ethno Club, etc, whose members take active part in the activities of YRS. The main activity of YRS is research programs.

## Alliance Invitation List

The Alliance does not work alone. Worldwide we have a lot of old and good partners, which also work in the field of voluntary work. More and more organisations would like to work together with the Alliance to exchange volunteers and experiences and to take part in the Alliance work, as you can see it every year at the Alliance General Conference and Technical Meeting.

On international level we work very close together with the following international and regional networks: specific focus on regional networks

1. Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS);
2. Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO);
3. Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA);
4. South East European Youth Network (SEEYN);
5. Youth Action for Peace (YAP);
6. 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.

#### **Alliance Partners:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>
CFD	Germany
CSM	Morocco
CJM	Morocco
FSL	India
Greenway	Thailand
IPJ	Portugal
JEC	Morocco
KNCU	South Korea
Mir Tesen	Russia
MCE	Mongolia
NIFC	Nepal
Offene Häuser	Germany
Digevu	Russia
Passage Zebra	Russia
PKBI (IIWC)	Indonesia
See Beyond Borders (SEEDS)	Iceland
SJ Vietnam	Vietnam
Subir Al Sur	Argentina
KVDA	Kenya
VFP Vietnam	Vietnam
Ruchi	India
VAP-UK	UK
VYA Taiwan	Taiwan
UPA	Uganda
ATAV	Tunisia
Leaders	Kyrgyzstan

#### **Guests for 2011:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Supported by</b>	<b>Remark</b>
INFORMA GIOVANI	Italy	Genctur, JR	



LYVG	Georgia		
Natate Voluntariado Internacional A.C	Mexico		
Sodrujestvo	Russia		
UVIKIUTA	Tanzania	NIĆE, JR, Concordia UK, Alliansi, VFP, Pro International	
Youth for Smile	Latvia		
Grenzenlos	Austria		
YAP Italy	Italy		



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