



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

2012

With the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the Youth in Action Programme of the European Union





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#### Introduction

Alliance celebrates this year its 30th anniversary. The world in 1982 was radically different: the Berlin Wall was there, internet and mobile phones were subjects for science fiction and Ryanair still had to change the meaning of travelling. Looking back to these 3 decades one cannot be impressed by the tremendous changes occurred in our societies and life stiles.

Alliance was created as an initiative of 7 organizations, (MS Denmark, Concordia France, IJGD Germany, SIW Netherlands, SVI Spain, QISP United Kingdom, UNA Exchange United Kingdom) to reach proudly, gradually its current composition with 48 members and 31 partners worldwide. In these 30 years, the network with its members, has reached thousands communities and people, has created strategies based on values like the inclusion strategy, has resisted difficulties and challenged the conditions of international voluntary work which also changed dramatically in the past 30 years.

As every year with this report we want to highlight all the activities performed by the network during the past year.

Our biggest event, the **Technical Meeting**, this year have been hosted in Parent, France from the  $1^{\rm st}$  to the  $6^{\rm th}$  of March. 154 participants, the highest number ever reached for this event, representing 79 organizations from 41 different countries attended it to share, discuss and exchange their workcamp programmes.

The **General Assembly** hosted in Mozet (Belgium) in November was the occasion to celebrate the anniversary of the network with discussions on the future of volunteering and the role of the Alliance in it. Guests from the European Youth Forum, the Belgian National Ministry of Youth and

the South East Europe Youth Network (SEEYN) joined us to celebrate it.

As you will notice reading this report 2012 was a year full of initiatives, many of them organized for the first time by the network and aimed at increasing the support we provide to our members in terms of learning and training opportunities and in term of services.

To name a few: the **Study Visit** in South East Europe organized with SEEYN gave us the opportunity to meet representatives of different organizations of the area and discuss trend and needs of the voluntary and possible cooperation sector exchanges. As a concrete results many organizations of the area are considering to workcamps and organize some representatives of SEEYN decided to join the TM 2013. The Buddy System introduced by the Staff Development Working Group materialize the principle of network adopted by cooperative Alliance. With this system new partner organizations or members willing to develop a specific area of knowledge in their work can receive concrete support by other members and individuals willing to offer their expertise in those fields.

These are only few example of the work done, you will discover the rest reading the report. Anyway, all this work would not have been possible without the precious aid we received from the Council of Europe and the European Union. To these institutions go our thanks.

In the next pages you will find a detailed report about our activities and our internal management.

I hope you will enjoy the reading

Sergio Crimi

General Secretary of the Alliance

### What is a workcamp?

Since 1920, 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 years old with a majority of female participants.



#### **Food and Accommodation**

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

#### Is it all work?

The other part of the workcamp is how the group organises its social activities: time to play, swim, discuss, sing, write letters learn local phrases and visit local haunts! Activities are decided by the group depending on 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 the local community. They are the heart of the project, and have a special attention to the individual integration of any volunteer.

## **Management of the Alliance**

The Alliance organises its internal life and management according to its Constitution and the Standing Orders approved by the General Assembly of the network.

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.

No member of the Executive Committee may serve on the Executive Committee for more than six consecutive years in a core position, and not more than seven consecutive years in total in the Executive Committee.

The mandate for the core position lasts for two years, the mandate of the Additional member lasts for one year.

In order to preserve a certain balance, the President, the Treasurer and the Vice-President for External Relations should be elected one year and the General Secretary and the Vice-President the following year.

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.

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

After the General assembly held in Mozet in November 2012 the EC is composed by:

President	Citizens in
	Action
	(Greece)
Vice President	Young
	Researchers
	of Serbia
Vice President	Deineta
for External	(Lithuania)
Relations	
General	Lunaria
Secretary	(Italy)
Treasurer	Compagnons
	Batisseurs
	(Belgique)
Additional	Solidarites
Member	Jeunesses
	(France)
	Vice President Vice President for External Relations General Secretary Treasurer Additional



Most of the work and the initiatives of the network are carried out by its working groups and committees. 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 workcamps. They run trainings, organise long term voluntary projects, etc. So, the GA decided to give these activities, wishes and plans a place in the Alliance life. That is why working groups and committees are appointed by the GA.

In 2012 the Alliance had the following working groups and committees:

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

These working groups organise their own work, with their own budget, organise meetings and seminars, and prepare workshops and training sessions during the Alliance events. So, this work is a great support for the EC and for the Alliance in general. The Alliance Vice President is responsible for the co-ordination between the working groups and committees. The biggest outcome of this is that a lot of members and young staff and youth workers actively participate in the life of the network

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 and Committees of the network.



In order to boost the participation of the member organizations in 2012 the network held a big **Joint Meeting** that gathered at the same time the Executive Committee and all the working groups of the network. The positive evaluation given by the members to the event pushed the Executive Committee to propose it again for 2013.

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 Secretariat**

Since September 2011 the Alliance established a secretariat in Athens, hosted in its office by Citizens in Action. Currently there is one full time person working as Alliance Secretary to support organization of all the initiatives and activities of the network. The decision of establishing a secretariat is part of a coherent strategy of enlargement and amelioration of the network activities in favour of its members.

This person, in fact, is not only in charge of the administrative tasks previously covered by the Alliance Administrative Assistant, but also in the preparation of all the projects applications of the network and the other activities specifically assigned to her by the GA.

Apart from the Alliance Secretary the second paid staff of the network is the Financial assistant, which is hosted by Concordia and has the responsibility to help the Treasurer in carrying out its duties.

# **Executive Committee Report<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Overall Introduction**

(President, Chrysafo Arvaniti, CiA)

Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable!

#### **William Pollard**

Within this report we would like, on behalf of the Executive Committee to share with you our input and experience from the implementation of the adopted Plan of Action from GA 2011, and the Alliance EC life from November GA 2011 till today, almost 1 year after that. Apart from the informative part, we wish to form with this, a common knowledge basis for constructive feedback and discussions at our upcoming GA, in Belgium. Therefore, it is essential that you are not discouraged by its length and dedicate some time to read it.

This report starts with the internal process, then continues with the external representation and presence of the network. Following this as a basis, you will find some conclusions and suggestions for the future.

For details on each field you can refer to the separate EC members' reports, later on to the WGs' reports and of course we will be open to questions and specific information during Alliance Day and the GA.

As an overall assessment of the year, I would say that we tried, based on identified needs and challenges by the members themselves (GA/GC discussions of previous years), to "orchestrate" our activities in

<sup>1</sup> This section contains the reports submitted by the Executive Committee and the Working Groups and approved by the General Assembly of the network.

such a way so that we reinforce the network in its inner life, as well as externally in its ability to connect and ensure cooperation with other networks, institutions and organizations, we share common goals with.

#### **Internally:**

order to support long term commitment to the network we linked a common thematic, activities. In this way the upcoming 2013 Study Session, TfT and PCE will form an one-year training plan for young trainers active in the Alliance and its member organizations, providing them with background information, resources and direct experience on voluntary projects and their impact.

Additionally, the **buddy system** was developed by the **SDWG** in an effort to use our own resources, so that we register and address specific needs of our members.

In terms of **updating the members** an **Alliance newsletter** was created and its first issue disseminated to the members. Its continuation depends a lot on everyone's contribution and we hope it will be a space where members share issues of common interest and concern in between the annual meetings.

Moreover, this year we tried to have a reinforced collaborative and interactive communication and cooperation with Alliance Committees and Working Groups so as to achieve better results both in the implementation of the plan of action, as well as to the development of ideas for Alliance members, on how to face the challenges of today's reality in the voluntary field. In this way, in June of 2012 we combined the EC meeting with an ADC meeting and we designed some common working time. Following this practice and an idea suggested by ADC, to work more

collaboratively, in the end of Augustbeginning of September 2012, we had a bigger joint meeting of EC, MC and Alliance working groups and committees members. This has been one of the highlights of the year, as an applied example of good practice, where working groups committees' members, coordinators and ec members had the chance to feedback on each other's activities, work closely and prepare the Alliance GA. The meeting hosted by VSS in Serbia and a local partner organization, while a workcamp was on process, gave us also the chance to go back to the roots of our work , while visiting the workcamp and meeting with the volunteers. EC plans to suggest the continuation of such practice, if our resources allow it.

Concerning the projects Alliance applied for, since last November, it has been a successful year, as all our applications up to this very moment of writing this report, both to the EACEA and the EYF, have been approved and in many cases received very high rate (e.g Admin Grant, 3.2 Latin America project). Especially, the approval of the admin grant after 2 consecutive years of non- approval, has been of great relief, as we have had the possibility to implement and foster our adopted PoA.

In addition to that, it gave us the possibility to have as decided during previous GAs, for the first time in the Alliance history, a full time staff in the position of the Alliance Secretary. Evaluating the first year of its implementation, with Giovanna Pignati Moranno in the position, we can only assess it as of an added value to the network. This is reflected especially to the successful realization of a very ambitious and with high standards plan of action of last year, where EC needed especially secretarial/administrative support. Certain is that by growing and setting even higher standards, Alliance Secretariat will need to be secured and reinforced.

Alliance events and projects: The GA was followed by the Technical Meeting hosted in France, the Study Session, the Training for Trainers in Italy and the Study Visit of SEEYN in Sremski Karlovci Banja Luca and Sarajevo. It has been successfully applied for the Study Session 2013, Volunteer Messenger, **VOLMES** 2(YiA. 3.1.2), Learning Bridges (3.2 YiA), the ERC training, and the short term EVS (YiA,2). Also we are awaiting results on: the TfT 2013, the PCE2013 and the project on Alliance video at EYF.

"River", GMP Project: at this point , we should state that out involvement in the Grundtvig Multilateral Project "RIVER" is being continued. In the coming period a specific methodological more tool addressing adult education will he developed and in the coming year, we will be able to see ways in which it could be applied within the work that we develop.

#### Externally:

Details on the external representation activities of the network are to be found in VPER 's and ERC's report.

From my part I just want to add, that the Study Visit in SEEYN, the planned activities within the 3.2 approved project with Latin America, that focus especially on exchange of expertise and examples of good practice among Alliance and its Latin America members and partners, lobby activities in close collaboration with other INGYOs to promote our interests and values, have been a central focus since the previous GA and have brought positive results in concrete ways.

Our presence in centralized events like the info days in Brussels in September 2012, where we are given the chance to cultivate closer relations with institutions like EYF and EC (EACEA) and YFJ, has been also assessed as beneficial to the network and its interests. One very concrete result out of this policy, is the case of the new generation of projects 2014-2020, where our demand for a separate youth sector and independent youth programme, as well as admin grant for INGYOs, seems to be taken into serious consideration in the amendments, presented by CULT Committee to the European Parliament.

Finally, the Alliance 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Belgium, is seen as an opportunity to make our work and its impact visible among other networks and official institutions. Special time has been dedicated to its preparation and representatives from the different above mentioned fields are invited. Along with the material prepared for Anniversary have we updated refreshed our visual image, with a new promotional material that will be distributed to the network during the upcoming GA, as well.

**Concluding,** even though the time since last GA has been an especially successful time for the goals set by the Alliance GA and even further steps were made, I do not want to finish this part by referring just to "success" stories. Of course, it is essential to mention them, because they help us see clearly, where we are at specific times.

However, I want to stress out, that what is included in this report, is not just about success, it is about the efforts, energy, time, commitment and taking over of responsibility of those who made it possible; the EC members, the Working Groups and Committees coordinators and members, the host organizations of Alliance events and projects, the individuals of members organizations who supported this process, the Alliance Secretariat...At this point I would like to thank them all together and each one personally, wholeheartedly!

Alliance has come a long way since it was created, because of the people who constitute it and who engage in it.

Moreover, because of the quality content they have put forward as a fundamental element of the network and constitution. Experiencing an era of rapid changes, social and political fragmentation and conflicting values, we need continue working on quality issues. Quantative benefits cannot be stable and long lasting, if they are not accompanied by qualitative changes. It is not wise to think, that what we did until today, will be enough for tomorrow. We need to keep on learning from our weaknesses, focusing on our strengths and benefiting from each other's perspective. Remaining stable in the vision of a cooperative network, we have decided we are, is the next mile we have to walk!

On behalf of the EC, I wish us all a constructive and inspiring 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and GA!

Chrysafo Arvaniti Alliance President

#### **Report on External Activities**

(Vice President on External Relations, VPER, Nerijus Jankauskas, DEINETA)

The position of vice president for external relations is established to help coordinate external relations (representation) activities of the Alliance in close cooperation with the ERC (external relations committee) as well as keep contact (cooperation) with the sister voluntary networks, and participate in international youth policy shaping.

This year, 2012, yet again emerges as a very notable period for the Alliance which celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Following the last year's success with the volunteering flag tour campaign, we've been very active running the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign which has been a great support for the Alliance external representation. A very big "Thank you" here goes to the members of the External Relation Committee.

The idea of branding selected camps with the 30<sup>th</sup> Alliance anniversary logo and having a common event (the Wish tree) during the Alliance day 2012 stands out as the axis among many other festive initiatives. All in all there have been 44 branded events in projects and camps organized by 32 Alliance member and partner organizations in 21 countries with participation of more than 1000 volunteers all over the World! A dedicated blog has been created to help coordinate further showcase the campaign (http://allianceanniversary2012.blogspot.co <u>m/</u>).

2012 is also a successful year in terms of trainings and other projects.

The external relations training "Young People building peace and intercultural dialogue through advocacy and cooperation" prepared by the ERC was supported by CoE European Youth Foundation. It will take place in Tallinn, Estonia (hosted by EstYes) in February 03-09, 2013.

As a follow up of the last year's volunteer messenger campaign "Volunteers Messenger Project – step 2" has emerged.

This is a common work of ERC and TNWG (training needs working group). The training for trainers as the kick-off for this project will take place in Lviv, Ukraine, November 11-25, 2012 hosted by Alternative – V.

This year Alliance has made a big step towards making the cooperation with the Latin American organizations stronger by starting the implementation of a common "Learning Bridges Empowerment, Creativity and Participation" is a project funded by the European Union through the Youth in Action Programme (action 3.2). It is coordinated by the Alliance with the participation of 8 European and 10 Latin American organizations. The main goal of the project is to create a space to explore and analyze innovative and alternative ways for the reinforcement of social cohesion, civil society development and inclusion. Concerning external relations of the Alliance, one of the expected results of this project is the development of a solid network of voluntary organizations at international and regional level. As planned, the first event will be the kick-off seminar right after the GA 2012.

The Alliance as a network is also participating in the CCIVS project under "Youth in Action" (action 3.2) on measuring the impact of volunteering. It involves NGOs and Universities, which is a good opportunity for the Alliance to find ways to measure the work being done. The role of the Alliance will be to send and host some participants in trainings and field visits. This will be clarified at the Kick-off meeting of the project in February 2013. President and General Secretary of CCIVS have been invited to celebrate the Alliance Birthday. In turn, the Alliance has the invitation to attend the next CCIVS GA in Mexico.

Members of the MC of Alliance have joined the study visit with the SEEYN (South East Europe Youth Network). The project was supported CoE European Youth Foundation. It took place from 30<sup>th</sup> of August till the 6<sup>th</sup>

of September in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. During the study visit we met several member organizations of SEEYN as well as had a meeting with the steering board of SEEYN to discuss the past and rekindle the future cooperation between the two networks.

Alongside participation in the campaign for the new Youth programme, the Alliance has been following other developments at the European Youth Forum. The last YFJ Council of Members approved the strategic priorities valid for the next 6 years. The Exchange Group (with Alliance as member of this group) managed to push for more visibility of mobility issues in this document. The Alliance has been invited to join a meeting on the structured dialogue that will take place in Zaragoza on 8-12 February 2013.

Since following the YFJ requires more time and attention, ERC in turn proposes to have a special position for this specific task.

The external relations and representation of the Alliance has not been limited to the projects and initiatives mentioned above. Together with the ERC we are currently working on proposing new improvements to aid the Alliance representation and external relation in general. To mention a couple, the pool of Alliance ambassadors (proposed as a response to the lack of involvement of Alliance representatives in international events, to be launched during the external relations training), a promotional video on what the Alliance is and what are its goals and activities (applied for at the CoE EYF grant "B", 1st October deadline), the on-line Alliance calendar created on the Google platform (with the purpose of having a commonly maintained web space listing the Alliance internal affairs and external events (sister networks, European institutions etc) where Alliance could be potentially represented).

All these and many other initiatives (often interlinked with other "departments" of the Alliance) have materialized in close cooperation and support from the EC and members from the other working groups, to whom we are very grateful.

#### **Financial Report**

(Treasurer, Financial Year 2011, Gregory Van de Put, CBB)

#### **Introduction**

After my election as ALLIANCE treasurer at our last General Assembly, in Botley (UK) in November 2011, I am especially happy to present today to the members my first annual report. I must however admit that, taking into account that the treasurer's report comments the last closed annual accounts, the the following lines concern much more the work done by Marco PAOLI, our previous treasurer, than by myself.

Marco is the one who managed the accounts of the ALLIANCE in 2011. It was obviously the case during the period when he was still appointed treasurer; but, I must also underline that he continued to be deeply involved in this task until the external and internal audits have been carried out and that the accounts could finally be considered as closed. Thank you, Marco, for the very smooth transition period!

#### **Accounts 2011**

All the figures presented at the general assembly have been controlled, corrected and commented by the external auditor "Auditeurs associés Francilien – Groupes AF". Our accounts and all their related documents have also been wisely checked and commented by Elena GONZALEZ, our internal auditor, during her audit carried out in Paris on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2012.

At the closing of the accounts 2011, on December  $31^{st}$ , ALLIANCE balance sheet presented a total amount of 48 285 $\in$ .

The assets were summarized in 3 lines:

- Material belongings equivalent at 1 226€. This was our stock of youth cards
- Third person assets equivalent at 7 909€. These were the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of grants from EYF that we expected to be paid after reporting.

 Financial assets equivalent at 39 150€, which were divided in 37 223€ available at our bank account and 1 927€ tidied in the cash box.

The liabilities were also synthetized in 3 lines:

- 36 455€ of reserves (our result acquired since we started the accounting). For your information, we had reserves of 40 724€ in 2010 and 51 050€ in 2009.
- 6 500 € of debts to external suppliers
- 5 329 € of debts to internal suppliers (members)

This balance sheet shows us the clear matter of fact that, financially speaking, ALLIANCE is far away from a heavyweight (which is absolutely not a problem in itself).

It also shows us that the organisation has become, financially speaking, even thinner in 2011. Compared to 2010, our total assets were reduced of 12 666€, which was consequent to the depreciation of our stock of youth cards, to fewer accounted third person assets and to the decrease of the available money we had in bank.

This situation was not really alarming. On January 01<sup>st</sup> 2012, we had clearly enough reserves to respond our financial obligations and to start a new year without any reason to worry about our close future. However, this decrease of our assets for the second consecutive year was also a negative indicator that could not be ignored. Such a trend must always be reversed or becomes obviously problematic.

Therefore, it is clear that the financial year 2011 was, on more time, not a good year for ALLIANCE. With little differences, its budget was a copy paste of 2010: fewer incomes than expected, consequent reduction of the budgeted expenses, deficit at the final result.

In 2011, our total incomes were 124  $782.89 \in$ .

We conceded expenses for 129 052.29€. The year ended with a loss of 4 269.4€.

In the incomes, the following facts can especially be mentioned:

- 25 391€ had been invoiced to the members for membership fee and budget contribution. It was 902€ more than in 2010, but 609€ less than budgeted whereas three new members had been admitted in 2010.
- Our application for an administrative grant from the European Union had been rejected, which created a hole of 50 000€ in the initial budget.
- The European Youth Foundation continued to be our main support, with an administrative grant of 8 849€ and a project grant of 21 000€ (for the post-camp event).
- Incomes on projects and activities, and corresponding expenses, were really lower than budgeted. Either because our application for project grant was rejected: it was the case of the LA-Europe training project. Either because the projects were managed by member organisations were not accountable ALLIANCE accounts: it was the case for the "Training for Trainers", for the "Local active youth participation seminar" for the and preparatory visit".

In the expenses, after the negative decision of EACEA about our application for administrative grant, we find a consequent cut on meeting costs and administrative costs, which were obviously the ones on which the EC and members (the ones who organised ALLIANCE meetings and kept the costs as reduced as possible; the ones who provided staff positions to ALLIANCE and continued to ensure a considerable amount of work for fewer retribution) could the most easily intervene.

- The expenses on constitutional meetings were kept at 22 990.93€, when 34 000€ were budgeted.
- Only 18 624.59€ were spent on administration, whereas the planed budget foresaw 51 200€. Like in 2010, most of the money was saved on the staff positions. The ALLIANCE administrative assistant only worked at part time from January till June. When the secretary position has been opened in September, it was also

- decided to keep it as a part time job until the end of the year instead of implementing the originally planned full staff position.
- Only 1331.53€ were spent by the working groups, instead of the foreseen 6000€. This prompt reaction, explainable by the very flexible internal organisation of ALLIANCE, permitted to keep the final loss at an acceptable level.

Analysis: The support of the European Union, though administrative grants, is crucial to sustain ALLIANCE management and own development. It can be seen as a basis, that permits the organisation to assume running costs, and then daily work, and then to make steps forward. However, it happens to be a very unsafe source of incomes. The rejection of our application, for the second consecutive year, had a really strong impact on the budget and obviously disabled the capacity of the organisation to implement an ambitious plan of action. To be honest, as citizen of the European Union, the EU funding policy of the youth preoccupies me. I do not understand the utility to give support to an organisation (to invest public money in this organisation) one year, and to deny this support to the same organisation the next year after analysis of a simple application form. According to me, there is there a clear lack of coherence and liability from the EU public body. And I would even dare to use to word that there is a lack interest about what we do and what we are.

But, prosaically, I also believe that we can only take into account this lack of coherence, of liability and of interest. This means that we must give ourselves the means to compose with them and to ensure our financing in a more sustainable way. To be much more "project oriented", which means to develop more centralized activities, to enable ourselves to account them as ALLIANCE activities and to cover the coordination work done by ALLIANCE is a clear and obvious track to follow in this sense.

In parallel, we must certainly consider the fact to make appeal to other EU programmes that *Youth in Action*. I would nevertheless highlight that this must not perverse our own coherence and interest for what we are and what we do. At this regard, we have also to assess the on-going and liable support that the European Youth Foundation gives us; a support which is clearly based on common values and the will to develop youth non-formal education.

Finally, and obviously, we must follow with the highest attention what Youth in Action is going to become, and especially to follow which future will be given to its operating grants (action 4.1.). At the time to write this report, this question is still unclear. But, in case of renewal of the action 4.1., in case of renewal of the currently existing multiannual partnership agreements between EACEA and European youth organisations (the agreements that give access to multiannual administrative grant), and in case ALLIANCE really desires to grow up as European organisation, we must also, and undoubtedly, consider the fact to adapt our structure (legally and financially) in order to be able to benefit from such agreement.

#### **Secretariat Report**

(General Secretary, Sergio Crimi, Lunaria)

This report focuses on the main aspects of the work I've done as GS of the network. The document is divided in 4 parts. In each of them I tried to briefly analyze the recent evolution, evaluate the work done and propose steps for the future.

#### **Alliance Secretariat**

The work of Giovanna as full time Alliance Secretary formally started on the 1st of January 2012 but her involvement since the previous month of September 2011 was fundamental for us to start setting the work for this year and namely to prepare the administrative grant application. Since the last GA she started to be more and more familiar with the Alliance structure becoming fundamental for the work of the EC. Her work is monitored on an everyday basis by the President and through weekly updates by the EC.

Apart the tasks previously carried out by the AAA, she is now closely following all the projects run by the Alliance, supporting the host and preparing the applications. The rate of successful applications submitted by the network is for the EC a clear benchmark to evaluate her work. The overall evaluation of the EC of her contribution is very positive.

One of the main obstacles we are facing today in the development of the Alliance is linked to the official registration of the network under the Danish legislation. Our network, which is a truly international organization, has to follow for many aspects the Danish legislation and this is not acceptable in a longer perspective. Uncertainty about the legislation and difficulty in managing the applications are

hindering the development of the network. For these reasons we need to think about registering the network in countries that

are more represented into the network or that in any case can have a more accessible and understandable legislation.

# Administrative Grant and the future perspectives

The administrative grant application received an even greater care from the EC this year. Submitted right after the GA in Southampton is the result of the intense work undertaken by the EC members and the long work of preparation done by the AS. Finally our application received a good score and was one of the 27 granted out of 102 applications. At the time of writing this report, the EC is starting to work on the application for the administrative grant 2013 and we will finalize it after the GA with the newly approved plan of action. The deadline to apply is the 15th of November.

On the CoE side, we received an administrative grant for 2012 and we presented our financial and narrative report for the previous one. From the next year the Youth Foundation will start to give structural/administrative grant on the basis of a bi-annual programme. This should be seen as a very positive news in terms of stability and security of the funding, but will mean that we will need to adopt a longer perspective for our work-plans if we want to be able to apply for it.

#### **Website and Communication**

Not so much happened under this point during this year. Some updates have been done on the website, but still a deep analysis of our IT needs should be undertaken in order to update and make it more effective.

Last year we decided to create an Alliance fanpage on facebook. In order to increase the publicity of the Alliance activities to a wider public and not only for those who are looking for us on the net. The results are quite positive with more than 700 followers for the page. The ERC is taking care of keeping it updated. Still, if we want to acquire an even more relevant position to promote and lobby for our interests, we should define a communication policy to be more visible on the out side world. Up to now the activities and the results achieved by the network are not enough promoted among the different stake holders.

The implementation of the Data Interchange Handbook among the member organizations is increasing year by year, showing the value and the significance of the work done in the past. During the TM we managed to have almost all the programmes in PEF (Programme Exchange Format). For those organizations that are using placement software or have a workcamp database compatible with it, this meant to save hours of work in uploading the workcamp programmes. Of course still some agreements on the management of the DIH, on the share of responsibilities concerning its update and its respect are to be found. It is time this year to start early outside the season to start discussing this issue.

#### **European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

The Forum is the biggest and most important political subject representing youth at European level. The forum is actively involved in several campaigns and projects related to our daily work such as the recognition of non-formal education and of the youth work and the simplification of the visa procedures for volunteering and educational issues. In September 2011 I was chosen to participate on behalf of the

network to the Council of Members meetings. I did it bringing as much as possible the voice of the Alliance into the debate but to be more effective, and in my opinion we need to be more effective in that kind of contexts, the Alliance should find a person focusing only on it and for a period of time of at least 2 years. For this reason I particularly welcome and sustain the proposal presented by the ERC.

#### Conclusion

The work of the Secretary General requires a lot of time to be interiorized. I spent almost all the first year trying to understand exactly which was my role in the organization and what I could do to help the members and the structure in their functioning. On the contrary this year, with all the other EC members, we focused more on a process of growth in terms of quality and quantity of the projects organized by the network as well as in terms of external visibility. The work done towards this objectives has been a lot. Still, much more has to be done to make the Alliance an even stronger and respected network.

### **Working Groups Reports**

# Access for All Working Group (A4AWG)

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 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)

A4AWG promotes the accessing principle: to offer a "complete educational that process 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 2012, **16 organizations from 11 countries composed the A4A working group**.

More widely, the Access for All working group was supported by the following organizations: ALTV, CBB, CBF, COCAT, CONCORDIA, ELIX, GRENZENLOS, IBG, INEX-SDA, JAVVA, LUNARIA, SFERA, SJ, UNA EXCHANGE, UNAREC, YAPI.

The meetings of the group are always open to any organisation interested to participate

in the WG life. Indeed, it is even a wider group of organisations that showed interest and participated in the A4A and to the Alliance Accessing Campaign.

The group met three times: on November 3rd and 4th in Southampton (England), during the Alliance GA, and on March 2nd in Parent (France) during the Alliance Technical Meeting.

Our **plan of action**, as presented at the GA 2011, was the following:

- To support the General Conference and the Training for Trainers
- To apply again for the collective EVS short term project within the Alliance and do an evaluation meeting
- To launch an Alliance accessing workcamp campaign
- To run a session on the Accessing Campaign on each Alliance Day
- To develop and implement a strategy on how to increase participation of accessing volunteers (10% by 2013)

#### 2. THE TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

The ALLIANCE training for trainers 2012 "PEERS' CARAVAN Young Trainers for Inclusion", the was the result of cooperation among the Access 4 Working group and the International Campaign for Sustainability in Voluntary Service. The A4A Working Group launched the proposal to organize a training course to define a wide inclusion strategy where sustainability may be considered the "Kword" to ease the participation of young people coming from less privileged backgrounds.

The topic of the training was the development of youth policies on social inclusion and sustainability to fight against any form of discrimination based on economic, cultural, geographical, religious and gender reasons. The aim was to provide participants from EU and EEC

countries of new concrete tools on social inclusion and sustainability, to make them able to transfer their knowledge to other less beneficiaries on their way back home. The implemented activities were workshops on intercultural learning, accessing policies, language barriers, good practices and working methods sharing, inclusion through sustainability, study visits and interactive laboratories. The working methods were based on the principles of non formal to promote education, the constant interaction of trainers and trainees and followed a peer to peer approach.

The preparatory work, to afterwards implement some of the training topics, was developed through the comments and feed backs of some representatives from LUNARIA, CBB, CONCORDIA, COCAT, IBG, VJF, SFERA MOVEMENT. Jelena Ristic Beronja, vice president from Alliance, assumed the role of the contact person for the EC.

The training was organized between April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup> in Rispescia (GR), Italy and the association Lunaria was the hosting partner. It was successfully attended by 41 participants from 14 ALLIANCE members and partners.

During the seven working days of the session, the participants created new concrete tools on social inclusion and sustainability. They explored implement them in their organizations and networks. Participants, thanks to the daily evaluations and the group discussions had the chance to reflect on their personal learning assessment, they analysed the competences and skills gained during the workshop and looked for the most suitable ways to adapt them on their daily work, targeted to youth with fewer opportunities. The ""One Day As A Trainer! - switching roles" and "Tool kits in practice" session have to be considered a powerful tool. In thanks to these workshops, participants had the chance to spend before the end of the project the knowledge gained and to taste it, practically, with a group of potential beneficiaries. In this way they had the possibility to put in practice the working methods learnt and to reshape them on process, basing them on the needs of the potential beneficiaries.

#### 3. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The ALLIANCE General Conference 2012 "Volunteering, an opportunity for a better social inclusion and active participation of young people with disabilities" has been prepared and facilitated by the Alliance and CBB with the financial and pedagogical support of the directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

The prep team – composed of representatives from CBB, CONCORDIA, INEX-SLOVAKIA, and IJGD, (Thibault LEZY, from CBB, assumed the role of course director)- met previously in Marche-en-Famenne from 24<sup>th</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 and again on 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2012.

The GC takes place between October 28th and November 1st in the Domaine de Mozet, Belgium. It is foreseen that 42 participants (facilitators included) will attend to the event.

During the four working days of the session, the objectives of the General Conference are the following:

- To disseminate a change of perception and a better awareness of the capabilities of the persons with disabilities amongst the participants and, further, amongst ALLIANCE members and partners;
- To identify barriers (cultural, juridical, practical,...) that make obstacle to the participation of young people with disability in the activities of the ALLIANCE;
- To enhance the reasonable accommodation that allows the participation of persons with disability in the activities of the organisations;
- To favor the development of new projects and collaborations within the ALLIANCE supporting the active participation in the society of persons with disability;
- To offer a space to young people, with and without disability, for selfdevelopment, non-formal learning and empowerment.

Moreover, one of the aims is that the A4AWG gathers the results of the General Conference and work on how to implement these concrete ideas.

#### 4. THE PREPARATION OF A NEW EVS IN WORKCAMPS PROJECT

During the last TM in Parent the A4AWG decided, with the support of the EC, to apply again in 2012 for a new ALLIANCE "EVS in workcamps" centralised project. After the work done previously for preparing this project during the last year (including a feasibility visit with all the partners), the project is still considered a priority as a tool for continue improving the work and exchanges for youngsters with fewer opportunities, and therefore as an action to give continuity.

Fortunately, the EVS project, called "Go for the NEETs. Creating Opportunities with Nice, Entrepreneur, Eclectic and Talented Young People" has been recently approved by the EACEA. The process done to make it possible has been:

- Previous work done in 2011 to prepare a first application, which defined the basic principles of the project and set the collaboration among the organizations.
- Contact with the EACEA of Youth in Action Programme to analyze their contributions to improve the project.
- One specific meeting in the GA 2011 in order to prepare the next steps and one specific meeting in the TM 2012, when deciding to continue applying for the project. In this meeting, the organizations participated again making contributions to the project and taking the decision of focusing on a target group of young people facing socioeconomical difficulties (NEETs).
- Contacts among the A4AWG and the promoters; sending the call to the Alliance members and receiving the 23 partnerships from 15 countries and their contributions.
- Contacts among the EC and the A4AWG and work in collaboration with the Alliance Secretary
- The application for a new EVS in workcamps project was reformulated in the course of april and may 2012, taking into account the new target group focused on the profile of NEETs, and providing details about the specific target group of each promoter and the work done locally with local partners.

- The application for the project "Go for the NEETs. Creating Opportunities with Nice, Entrepreneur, Eclectic and Talented Young People" was sent for the 1<sup>st</sup> june deadline to the EACEA.
- The project has been approved recently, even if the budget has been considerably reduced.

The next steps will be decided in the next GA in Belgium 2012.

"Go for the NEETs" aims to develop a wide scale EVS short term project that will permit to 30 youngsters with fewer opportunities to live a first voluntary and mobility experience by participating in an international workcamp in the course of the year 2013.

This project is designed for young people with fewer opportunities aged 16 to 30 years old facing economical, social and educational problems, who are not in employment, education and vocational training (NEETs) and who have no prior experience in participating in international voluntary actions.

The project is related to the theme of social inclusion, but it also aims at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable ways of life amongst the volunteers and their different hosting organisations.

In this project, 23 organizations of the Alliance from 15 different countries participate making possible the 30 exchanges that will take place between June and September 2013 in the international workcamps.

# 5. THE ACCESSING WORKCAMPS CAMPAIGN 2012

#### 5.1. Start of the campaign

The A4AWG launched its international campaign on the thematic of social inclusion in workcamps, sending a call to all the Alliance's member and partner organisations to participate in the annual "Accessing Workcamps Campaign".

The campaign is meant to raise awareness, encourage and support IVS organisations to participate in inclusion work, inviting them

to reserve places in their camps for volunteers with fewer opportunities. It proposed the organisations to develop their communication and pedagogical methods in order to better involve volunteers from diverse social origins, facing specific difficulties or presenting special needs.

**25** organizations from **17** countries joined the campaign and planned to facilitate the participation for sending more than 100 volunteers and receiving around 250.

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 (sent by email and in the Alliance website) that facilitate the preparation and follow-up of the exchanges. As last year, a specific emphasis was also given on the collect of datas, in order to enable the ALLIANCE to valorize the results.

#### 5.2 The results

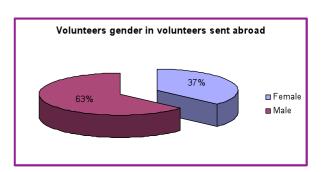
At the term of this campaign 2012, we can present the following: 19 organisations from 14 countries sent back their evaluation form and reported about their participation in the campaign: ALT V, CBB, CBF, CIA, COCAT, CONCF, CONCUK, GRENZENLOS, JAVVA, IBG, INEXSDA, LUNARIA, PRO INT, SFERA, SJ, UNA, UNAREC, VIVE, WS- the same number than 2011 and 9 more than in 2010; plus 2 organizations who reported not having had exchanges under the Accessing Campaign, even though they have been compromised in this issue and had opened places for volunteers with fewer opportunities.

According to these reports:

- 156 volunteers were sent to a camp abroad within the A4A frame
   they were 113 in 2011 and 80 in 2010
- 435 volunteers (international and national) are accounted in the hosting they were 330 in 2011 and 211 in 2010. Among them, 311 volunteers have participated in an international workcamp in their own country.

#### 5.3 Profile of the participants

- A big majority of these volunteers with fewer opportunities are **male**: 63% of the volunteers sent; 69% of the national volunteers. This is a confirmed trend and express the opposite of the data referred to the usual figures of participation.
- Most of the volunteers sent abroad (84%) are **youngsters** from 18 to 30 years old, and some of them teenagers (14%). However, in the national level the organizations tend to host a big number of minors (57%), as a first step for them in the voluntary service.
- Most of them suffer social and economical difficulties, usually linked with educational difficulties, and in some cases, with cultural differences.
- 15% of the "accessing volunteers" who were sent to a camp abroad had a disability or health problem.
- 71% of the volunteers sent abroad were introduced to the IVS organisation by a **social service**; they were 93% of the national volunteers.



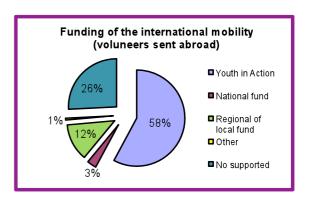
#### 5.4 Trends

The majority of the trends observed in the last two years are also confirmed in the 2012:

Offer complete educational process: a strong majority of the volunteers sent (84%)abroad receive а special process. The preparation sending organizations usually provide different actions to prepare the volunteer for the project; the most used are the previous meetings and preparatory activities, but other ideas are implemented, such as trainings, or short workcamps. A first experience often proposed to participate in volunteers is to workcamp or other initiative in their own

country as a previous step (it can be seen in the statistics the big number of youngsters with fewer opportunities participating in a local project). The hosting organization usually provides the leaders with special preparation. Therefore, a complete process is often provided, consisting in the preparation also including а reinforced mentorship when participating in the and once back home evaluation and follow-up. Most of the organizations try to involve volunteers in their activities, even if this goal is not easy to reach.

- Financially supported: A big majority of the international exchanges financially supported, representing the 74% of the places for volunteers with fewer opportunities. This number has been increased year by year; therefore, the A4A exchanges seem to be closely linked to the access to specific grants. Among the places financed 80% of them were financed by the Youth in Action Program; EVS short term projects and Youth exchanges are often mentioned. Some organizations also count regional or national funds, depending in many cases on the country. 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 nonformal learning and social inclusion.
- Quality of the partnerships: almost all the organisations are either happy, either very happy with their collaboration under the A4A frame. In general the collaboration between partners is good, even when there are difficulties; the communication is considered an important and necessary part of the partnership, which often determines the success of the experience.
- **Partnerships** with social organizations or institutions: As it was already identified last year most organizations (especially those with a longer path of social inclusion issues) maintain stable and successful collaborations with social organizations or institutions (although they are opened at the same time to receive volunteers directly in their organization). They have partnerships established that continued over the years, and create new ones.



Working with social partners allows promoting international volunteering in youth who wouldn't have had access or wouldn't have approach to voluntary organizations. The A4A volunteers coming from social services have represented the 71% of those sent 93% abroad, and the of participating in a camp in their own country. Therefore, а good local networking seems to be an important factor in favour of more social diversity in the workcamps.

The cooperation with social organizations is also useful to promote volunteer monitoring at medium and long term, after seeing the results arisen in this experience. This gives the possibility to go further in their path, and search new opportunities in volunteering, work, and training.

- Positive evaluation of these participations: the experience for the A4A volunteers is successful and very few volunteers left, or had to leave, their camp before its end (around 4%, taking into account that most of them left for personal reasons not related with any problem with the camp).
- Other inclusion activities: many on organizations work the social inclusion further than the exchanges of volunteers with fewer opportunities. Thus, other inclusion activities are done, with local or international partners, using different techniques and formats, such workshops, trainings, youth initiatives. Some organizations are planning or have already done international trainings for leaders on these topics based in partnerships within the Alliance.
- Convenience of tools: Having a toolkit available for the organizations participating in the Accessing Campaign

been considered very positive, especially for those starting in this topic. The most used have been the predeparture form (used by the 75% of the organizations), and the leader report half of (70%).More than the organizations have used the WC evaluation form, accessing workcamp list and the Guide. Even if some partners have their own tools corresponding to their projects, they use some of the tools and the new organizations appreciate having them at their disposal.

#### 5.5 Difficulties

- · In carrying out a bigger number of exchanges: even if the exchanges done have successfully exceed the ones planned at the beginning by the organizations, this number could have been higher, as in some cases some difficulties have arisen: in certain cases, the hosting organization had more available places for the A4A volunteers than the ones that have been finally on the other hand organizations have had ddifficulties in finding participants available or have prepared more participants than the ones that at the end were able to join the project; finally, the number of the exchanges have been conditioned by the financial support.
- With reasons, some organisations are afraid to put stigmata on their volunteers when they use the A4A process. A challenge is to provide the volunteers with the preparation and the follow-up they need, but without creating new difficulties and differences of treatment.

# <u>5.6 Tips and advices from the organizations</u> Some tips and advices expressed by the organizations this year have been:

- The most common recommendation refers to establish partnerships (both with local social services and international organizations) and the regular communication among them. Promotion and contacts among the partners can lead to a bigger number of exchanges and is crucial for the good development of the project.
- One of the main requirements of the organizations is to have enough

- **information** on the volunteer profile and his/her needs.
- The **preparation of the volunteer** is clue for a successful experience; together with a good preparation of the projects, local hosts and camp leaders.
- It's important not to make participant feel different than the other ones, avoid labelling.
- The presence of another national volunteer could be helpful in some cases as a peer-to-peer support.

#### 5.7 Conclusion

The social inclusion work appears to have a crucial importance within the Alliance and it is present as a key issue in many of its member organizations, who are strongly committed with the accessibility in the voluntary projects. Regarding the network, the main projects in the Alliance of this 2012 (Training for Trainers, General Conference) refer to this topic and the approval of a new EVS in workcamps project makes this trend also clear for the next year.

At the same time, the partners are taking the initiative creating and developing multilateral projects, mainly within the YiA program, to promote the participation of youngsters with fewer opportunities. Many of them have a long path of inclusion projects and stable partnerships in the local level with social institutions, and new organizations of the network express interest and become committed, which is encouraging for the future.

However, new hindrances are appearing: the future changes in the YiA program, as well as the reduction of fundings for working on social inclusion make arise some possible difficulties in the next future.

All the previous work done in the last years have helped us in terms of having tools and methods to improve our work, approach new topics and having had experiences and concrete practices related to the A4A. And these efforts of our organisations and our network should continue, investing time and human resources on trainings, seminars and specific projects directly oriented on the fight against exclusions.

Even if the results are encouraging (every year the number of A4A increases) it is still needed to work and promote the participation of all the organizations if we

want to reach the goal of 10% of the exchanges related to youngsters with fewer opportunities. But we can be satisfied beyond the results, of the work done and the conviction of the organizations to move towards social change by promoting volunteer projects and offer a voluntary experience based on real diversity.

Barcelona, October 19th 2012

Cristina Simon A4AWG coordinator

#### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Dear Members,

there were 3 ERC meetings in person this year: 2 during the Alliance days and 1 in Serbia during the joint meeting of working groups and EC. Furthermore, we have had several Skype-meetings and constant exchange of e-mails.

The year 2012 Alliance celebrates its 30th birthday; that is why a big part of ERC activities this year dedicates to the Anniversary. However ERC has been and is involved in supporting the external representation of the Alliance as well as in concrete projects preparation and implementation.

#### 30th Alliance Anniversary CAMPaign!

Last year (2011) we celebrated the European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, with our very successful "Alliance Flag Tour". This brought Alliance visibility through 60 projects in 33 counties! This year we have invited all Alliance members and partners to another common campaign on a special occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Alliance. The idea for the campaign is that each organisation selects one of those already planned camps and brand it with the 30th Alliance Anniversary Campaign name and logo. Then during the season each of us has organised a common action at this camp.

The common action is a creation of a WISH TREE where volunteers from each camp can post their 30 wishes for the 30th Anniversary of the Alliance, wishes of peace and a better world. In the General Assembly all the wishes will come together and create one big Alliance WISH TREE which will be completed by the participants and guests of the GA and Alliance birthday.

We have had **44** branded events in projects and camps organized by **32** Alliance member and partner organizations in **21** countries with participation of more than **1000** volunteers all over the World!

Everybody could and can follow the CAMPaign by the blog:

http://allianceanniversary2012.blogspot.com/

The ERC is right now collecting the data, photos and stories, in order to produce a visual outcome to be presented at the GA and then can used as an Alliance promotion tool which will be widely spread and highlight the impact of the CAMPaign!

#### **External Relations training**

The training with the official title "Young People building peace and intercultural dialogue through advocacy cooperation" was prepared, designed and applied by ERC on behalf of Alliance. For the moment it is supported by CoE European Youth Foundation. The training will take place in Tallinn, Estonia (hosted by EstYes) in February 03-09, 2013. The prepconsists of **ERC** members, representatives of local host and trainer from TNWG (coordinated by Jeremie Chomette).

The training aims to empower Alliance members and its young volunteers to advocate for values that are implied within workcamps such as cultural understanding, peace and youth cooperation. After the training the team of trained Alliance representatives is expected to be formed (the core of the Alliance ambassador's pool).

# The volunteer messenger project - step 2

This project follows up the volunteer messenger campaign from the year 2011. It has been successfully designed, prepared and is carrying out by the ERC and the TNWG together! The main purpose is to define and spread the message of volunteerism on our Workcamps and to the locals by volunteer messengers.

The project aims to evaluate the results of the previous Alliance campaign and plan the future steps. This project allows us to increase the knowledge of the Alliance to a numerous number of people and to raise awareness about volunteerism and voluntary service through a multiplying approach.

The training for trainers for volunteer messengers as the kick-off will take place in

Lviv, Ukraine, November 11-25, 2012 hosted by Alternative – V.

#### On-line Alliance calendar

This year ERC is happy to introduce yet another tool for our common use and benefit. The idea of having a joint calendar has finally materialized and the on-line Alliance calendar has been created on the Google platform (to use the calendar you will need a Google account).

To access the calendar please contact Nerijus Jankauskas (VPER) by vper@alliance-network.eu.

The purpose of this tool is to have a commonly maintained web space listing the Alliance internal affairs (constitutional meetings, projects, WG meetings, events, other notable dates etc.) and external events (sister networks, European institutions etc) where Alliance could be potentially represented.

#### **External representation**

This year Alliance has been presented on a numerous events, but we have also missed a lot of them. Sergio Crimi (the General Secretary) is following the meetings of the European Youth Forum and its working groups, however there is a need to have an Alliance person responsible only for YFJ Kristine Roke (ERC member) issues. participated in CCIVS events. Sergeev (ERC coordinator) has participated in CoE Youth Event and 9th Council of Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth Saint-Petersburg, Russia in September 21-25, 2012.

#### **Conclusions and proposals**

- First of all, I have to say a great Thanks to all ERC members, EC and other WGs members who supported the ERC a lot!
- We have to continue and develop promotion and information campaigns. For the next year it could be a promotional video – creation campaign!
- There is a need to have an Alliance representative for YFJ in order to strengthen Alliance position and influence in its very important

European platform (the proposal will be prepared for GA).

- In order to support the external representation of Alliance there is an idea and plan to create Pool of Alliance ambassadors – experienced people who will be able to represent Alliance on different occasions. This could be one of the follow ups of the External Relations training.
- ERC is thinking to propose a creation of the Alliance Solidarity fund, however there are many questions we have to answer before and it could be a proposal for workshop during GA 2012.

September 25, 2012

Andrey Sergeev, Alliance ERC coordinator 2011-2012

# TRAINING NEEDS WORKING GROUP

In 2012 TNWG managed to meet 3 times, twice at regular meetings during the Alliance days and 1 time during the joined meeting hosted by YRS in Serbia. Joined meeting was the first and very successful experience that allowed us to develop and finalize many issues, including proposal on Alliance training strategy.

In 2012 TNWG had a lot of objectives in the Plan of Actions that besides supporting the Educational Activities of Alliance are strongly linked to the Alliance training strategy, unfortunately 2 objectives were not reached (to create an educational video on how to be a campleader and guide book) due to the fact that not all TNWG members were able to contribute equally because of personal and professional reasons especially during the workcamps season.

#### **Alliance events:**

There were 3 Alliance events where TNWG was involved, Iryna Bodnar and Dushan Milojevik were facilitators in Alliance Study Session 2012; Iryna Bodnar is one of the trainers at Volunteer Messenger Step 2 that will be held in Lviv Ukraine, and Natalia Chardymova participated in Study Visit to SEYEN in August 2012.

#### Alliance Training Strategy

Development of Alliance Training Strategy (ATS) was our main focus in 2012 because it unites different issues that TNWG was working on last years such as Alliance pool of trainers, coherence of Alliance educational activities, LTTC for trainers and recognition of trainers work.

The Alliance Training Strategy (ATS) is based on our vision of coherent, high quality Alliance events based on actual priorities of Alliance network and addressing current needs of Alliance members.

By ATS we wish to achieve the following objectives in upcoming years:

- 1. To achieve coherence of Alliance (training) events
- 2. To assure sustainability of Alliance (training) events

- 3. To ensure efficiency of Alliance (training) events
- 4. To empower the work of Alliance Pool of Trainers (PoT)
- To have transparency of TNWG activities
- 6. To motivate young trainers by providing a platform for self-development
- 7. To gain recognition for NFE and for the work of trainers at Alliance level
- 8. To support the Alliance network to achieve its greater goals

Therefore Alliance already provides several training activities based on non-formal education: General Conference, Study Session, Post Camp Event, International and national training activities and the Alliance Training Strategy (ATS) aims to link these Alliance training activities in order to foster the development of Alliance trainers who are able to facilitate the preassigned development of the Alliance - based on actual priorities of the network and addressing current needs of its members.

We see Long term training course (LTTC) as central part of the ATS. It targets capable trainers in order to insure quality and sustainability of Alliance (training) events. Therefore LTTC consists of 3 progressive stages aiming trainers on different levels and ambitions:

<u>Stage 1:</u> Training for Trainers (TfT) is aimed to develop basic training skills of participants from member organisations in order to support local training activities. In order to cover all mandatory elements of the TfT such training should last at least 6 working days. After the training we expect participants to be informed about Alliance, its events and to be able to run some local NFE activities such as workshops or trainings for campleaders.

<u>Step 2:</u> Advanced Training Modules (ATM) are aimed to support the development of young trainers by offering special trainings to improve their skills in (very) specific fields. They take place on demand for a smaller group of high-performers – organised by experienced trainers (e.g. from PoT).

<u>Step 3:</u> Evaluation meeting (EM) aims to evaluate and to access the learning process of trainers in order to improve future

training activities and to introduce possible ways of involvement in International Voluntary Service experiences (IVS). Especially in the context of the Alliance network and its member organizations.

Basically LTTC will become a recruitment instrument for Alliance Pool of Trainers, that will have necessary set of competences required for the activity and will ensure quality for each Alliance event.

#### Pool of trainers:

So, we came up to a vision of functional and effective Alliance pool of trainers and we see it consisted **o** f maximum 20 trainers, participated in LTTC that will be mandated by the sending organisations for the period of 2 years and is primarily meant to be a trainer source for Alliance events. Also members of the network can address the Alliance Pool of Trainers (PoT) and ask for (technical) support by experts. And in order to make the PoT sustainable we will present the proposal ob recognition of trainers work to the GA.

#### Conclusion

Despite the fact that we faced some challenges and problems this year, such as not equal involvement of TNWG's members and lack of time for personal or skype meetings, some misunderstands and long discussions by e-mail, we see a big step forward that we made comparing to the last year, and we really hope that our proposals will be accepted by the GA as well as that we manage to recruit active and high committed members for the next year.

Natalia Chardymova TNWG coordinator

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

In 2012 SDWG was formed by six members who had the chance to meet together in person four times during the year 2012 – right after the GA, during the Alliance day, twice during the TM and in August for the 2 days joined EC/MC/WG's meeting in Serbia hosted by Young Researches of Serbia. Many points from our agenda for this year were fulfilled, some new topics were addressed and developed, other issues stayed opened to the future improvements, suggestions and discussions.

#### **Newcomers' sessions**

Newcomers' session is already a standard activity SDWG implements in order to help the newly involved in the network to get acquainted with Alliance structure and with the format of each of the two main meetings. At the TM we ran 2 sessions – for members and later for partners.

The idea of having a longer Newcomers' session at TM has been considered but showed practically beyond practical and organizational possibilities of individuals coming for the first time and of SDWG members.

However the current format proves as satisfactory and can be continued in the future events. Another session will be run at GA 2012.

#### Staff meeting 2012

Staff meeting was for the first time organized by SDWG in 2011 before the GA in Botley, UK as separate event from the GA (Alliance Day). The outcome showed a need of staff members to share, evaluate and bring suggestions on the practical procedures, common issues as well as the quality of cooperation and projects within the network. This year the staff members were invited to join the Staff meeting from 30.10. – 01.11.2012 in Le Domaine de Mozet" (Belgium), just before the GA 2012.

16 participants with various levels of experiences (6 months to 11 years) signed in for this event with aim to learn from each other, share experiences and give suggestions for improvements.

#### The Buddy System

To establish a "Buddy system" was one of the goals of SDWG group for this year. The idea was created by staff members during the Staff meeting 2011. "Buddy" is an experienced staff member that supports new staff from member, partner or guest organisation in daily routines and helps in implantation and development of tools, projects etc. This will further support the network in increasing the quality of projects and creating solid base for common standards to be followed by everyone.

The call to join the "Buddy system" was spread among the members and partners in February 2012 (and March 2012, right after the TM) to which 13 people replied showing interest to be a "Buddy", to receive help from a "Buddy" or both. SDWGs' task was then to evaluate the needs and offers and pair those interested to join the system. Since the offers and needs did not always meet each other (often there was higher demand for support in certain topic than number of those providing it) we faced challenging situation of how practically create pairs that would be well balanced and that would answer the participants' needs in the best way. We have not found a clear answer during the season and we will work on the improvements of the system further in next moths in order to enable all staff members to benefit from it. The "Buddy system" will be re-launched in the earliest term.

#### **Evaluation of cooperation**

A new form of a Questionnaire for evaluating the cooperation was developed and launched by SDWG with the aim to

support an informed discussion during the GA, based on feedback and data collected on the main elements that are set by the Alliance so to measure the quality standards within its projects and cooperation among members and partners.

It is one of the long term goals of SDWG to explore the possibilities for development of tools for online monitoring, supporting and collective qualitative evaluation of the work of the network. "Questionnaire evaluating the cooperation" can be perceived as a first step which through an open discussion and evaluation can lead to the further improvement and development for the future benefit of the whole network.

**Other tasks** from the Plan of Action will be discussed during the Staff meeting 2012. We believe these are the things important for future development, closer cooperation and improvements we need within the network and that they should stay as tasks for future plans of action.

- To improve evaluation forms and standardize them – to check docs at Alliance website
- To analyze members needs and the problems they face – questionnaire (evaluation and technicalities – every second year); problems they face – research about the solidarity fund (CCIVS) or develop the list of tools to be used: e.g. exchange of campleaders, additional promotion of camps in certain region/country, low/no fees for that camp/country...
- To explore new trends in the international voluntary service movement – change of needs/expectations/attitude of vols; CSR; voluntoursim; group projects
- To develop new methods and to create new opportunities for evaluation of the season between Alliance members and partner
- To research about further possibilities of mentoring system in order to help the new members or new representatives of old members

to understand better the procedures, applications and the Alliance life in general (more concretely for this year to think of a mentoring system for WF and Mir Tesen, like offering them places at the TfT, PCE, Study Session, in members' international training for trainers, helping them to understand the procedures from the Alliance Guidebook, especially with the visa issues, to help promotion) - throughout the year.

In 2011 SDWG was a part of ADC mainly because of the small number of members in both groups. Having very enthusiastic plan of action for this year the Alliance GA 2011 decided on having SDWG as separate working group. It is composed of six members, two of them continued to be a part of the group. Although numerous not all of them were able to reply to the needs of the group and proposed tasks. Some of the members were involved only as "emembers" as it was only possible to them, not being able to attend meetings. Some members were active in other working groups as well.

Knowing that all of the group members are involved as placement officers in their organisations it is clear that during the high season it was hard to dedicate more time for the tasks within the SDWG. Yet, it is clear that existence of this working group is a priority knowing that Alliance has grown to almost 50 members; there is a clear need - not only in practical matters and topics but also in one more "philosophical". This might be something that we feel within the group, maybe the members don't see it as an issue. One point is confirming this short list of participants at the Staff meeting (only 16 participants from 14 organisations!). Majority of the group members are willing to continue their work within the group.

SDWG

### **Alliance Events and Projects**

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

The <u>Study Session</u> "Strengthening intercultural learning impact of voluntary programs for the local communities" took place on February thanks to the support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.



February 19-26, 2012 – hosted by the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (France) 34 young participants from 22 countries, a multicultural team of 5 facilitators



The <u>Technical Meeting</u> in March, which enables the members and invited partner organisations to exchange annual workcamp programmes and discuss relevant issues, mainly through bi-lateral discussions.

March 1-6, 2012 – hosted by UNAREC – Parent (France)
79 organisations from 41 countries worldwide, 154 participants



The <u>Training for Trainers</u> "PEERS' CARAVAN – Young trainers for Inclusion" was implemented on April in Italy, with the financial support of Youth in Action Program of the European Commission. It was organized with the finite of the Assessance and the Training Needs working ground



with the joint effort of the Access4All and the Training Needs working groups of the Alliance.

# April 11-19, 2012 – hosted by Lunaria – Ripescia (Italy) 33 participants from 15 organisations, a multicultural team of 5 trainers



The <u>Study Visit</u> "Study and act in SEE" between Alliance and South East European Youth Network (SEEYN) took place on August/September in Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina, allowing representatives of the two networks to share opinions, best practices and future plans for the development of international



volunteerism and improve mutual cooperation. It was realized with the support of the European Youth Foundation.

August 30-September 6, 2012
Sarajevo and Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sremski Karlovci (Serbia)
19 participants from 11 countries (Europe and SEE region)



For the first time, the Alliance organized in 2012 a Joint Working Groups and Committees meeting. Members of almost all Alliance Working groups met during two days to develop proposals for the General Assembly, advance in the implementation of their Plan of Action and update each other on real time so to work in synergy. It was a very positive experience that will be replied in future years.

August 31-September 3, 2012 - hosted by YRS-VSS - Sremski Karlovci (Serbia) Members from: Alliance Development, External Relations and Management Committees, Staff Development and Training Needs Working Groups





The General Conference on "Volunteering, an opportunity for a better social inclusion and active participation of young people with disabilities" saw the enthusiastic participation of a varied group of active volunteers and staff from Alliance member organisations. It took place on October/November 2012 and OFENROPE DELEUROPE was supported by the European Youth Foundation.



October 28-November 2, 2012 - hosted by CBB in Mozet (Belgium) 44 participants and facilitators from 19 countries





The Staff Evaluation meeting was organized by the Staff Development Working Group to evaluate cooperation among organisations during the past season and to produce recommendations for the GA about measures that should be undertaken to guarantee minimum quality standards for voluntary activities.

> October 30-November 1, 2012 - hosted by CBB in Mozet (Belgium) 17 participants from 16 member organisations

In 2012 the Alliance celebrated its 30 years of activity, since the foundation in 1982. During the Alliance Day preceding the General Assembly, members, old and new friends and supporters of the network gathered for the **30th Alliance anniversary celebration**. A roundtable was organized with guest speakers Mr. Marc Chambeau (representative of Evelyne Huytebroeck, Ministry of Youth from Brussels-Wallonia Federation), Mr. Peter Matjašič (president of YFJ), Mr. Bogdan Imre (Programme Director of CCIVS), Ms. Irena Topalli (Board member of SEEYN) and Ms. Chyrsafo Arvaniti (president of the Alliance). Followed the closure of the Wish Tree CAMPaign, (http://allianceanniversary2012.blogspot.cz/)

### November 2, 2012 – hosted by CBB in Mozet (Belgium) 105 participants from 25 countries worldwide







The <u>General Assembly</u> is the main statutory meeting of the Alliance, where all major decisions are taken. In 2012, new proposals resulting from the Joint Working Groups meeting of September were discussed and finally adopted, together with the Plan of Action 2013.

# November 3-4, 2012 – hosted by CBB in Mozet (Belgium) 66 participants from 32 member organisations





The Volunteer Messenger training STEP 2 took place in Ukraine as follow up of the previous edition 2011. The main aim was to train active volunteers to spread the message of volunteering to other young people in their own communities and organisations. It was supported by the Youth in Action Program of the European Union.



### November 18-25, 2012 - hosted by Alternative-V in Lviv (Ukraine) 34 young participants from 11 organisations



The Kick-off Networking seminar of Learning Bridges project was the launching event of this one-year project, funded by the Youth in Action Program of the European Union, that aims to foster cooperation between voluntary organisations from Europe and Latin America and to



allow more young people in both regions to learn and develop their skills through volunteering.

December 13-18, 2012 – hosted by VIMEX in Tepoztlan (Morelos State, Mexico) 20 participants from 15 Latin American and European organisations



## **Annexes**

### **Annex I**

## Plan of Action 2013

Action	Who	When
1. Alliance Events and Projects		
a) Technical Meeting	INEX Slovakia	27 February - 4 March
b) General Assembly	IBG	5 -11 November
c) Post Camp Event	HUJ	16-22 September
d) Training for Trainers	J&R	5-13 May
e) Alliance Staff meeting	SDWG	4-5 November
f) Study Session 2013	Course Director/Alt-V	17-24 March
g) "Learning bridges" project with Latin America	EC & ERC	November 2012 - August 2013
h) Meeting with southern partners present at the TM	ERC + VPER	TM 2013
Participation to the 4° Global L-MTV meeting	ERC + VPER	4-8 March
i) External Relations Training	ERC + VPER	3-9 February
j) Run collective EVS short term project "Go for the NEETs"	EC & A4AWG	1 January 2013 - 1 July 2014
k) Participate in the RIVER project	EC & AS	Throughout the year
To run an Alliance accessing workcamp campaign	A4AWG	Throughout the year
m) Implement, supervise and follow up the Long Term Joint Alliance Training Strategy (Ss, TfT, PCE)	VP-TNWG. Course Director, HUJ, J&R	Throughout the year
n) Volunteer Messenger project STEP 2	ERC/Alternative-V	18-25 Nov. 2012
2. Management of the Alliance		
a) Update the Alliance guidebook	EC + SDWG + ERC + ADC	TM 2013
b) Administrative grant application under "Youth in Action" or other for 2013	EC + AS	15th of November 2012
c) Prepare the administrative grant application for the EYF	EC + AS	1st of February 2013
d) Improve visibility of the Alliance via the visibility tools of its members "e.g. websites"	AM + ERC	Throughout the year
e) Create Alliance video	ERC	During 2013
f) Work on new Alliance website	EC	During 2013
3. Co-operation between members		

a) Run an introductory session on the Alliance and the exchange work for newcomers at the TM and at the GA	SDWG/ADC	TM 2013/ GA 2013
b) Re-launch the Alliance Pool of Trainers	TNWG	Throughout the year
c) Explore new methods and create new opportunities to evaluate the season among Alliance members and partners	SDWG	Throughout the year
d) Follow up on "Buddy" system	SDWG	Throughout the year
e) Run a session on the Accessing Campaign on each Alliance Day	A4ALL	TM and GA 2013
e) Promote the Data Interchange Handbook and assist the members	SDWG	Throughout the year
f) Follow up of further development of the statistic analysis	ADC & Statistician	Throughout the year
g) Create space during the Alliance day dedicated to share opinions on the Alliance vision and mission	EC & MC	TM and GA 2013
h) Encourage the use of the Alliance Quality Charter	ADC	Throughout the year
i) Improve the Alliance Representation Plan and encourage its use	ERC & VPER	Throughout the year
j) Improve and update the Membership Policy paper	EC & ADC	Throughout the year
<ul><li>k) Further implementation and support to the international sustainability campaign</li></ul>	AM/Members	Throughout the year
I) Suggest a long-term plan (3years) of Alliance	ADC+EC	Throughout the year
4. Information and communication		
<ul> <li>a) Collect the reports from Alliance events past and present on the Alliance website</li> </ul>	AS	Throughout the year
b) Continue with publication of Alliance newsletter	GS+AS	Throughout the year
5. External relations		
a) Follow up the YFJ	VPER + ERC	Throughout the year
b) Explore further opportunities of cooperation wtih NVDA	VPER + ERC	Throughout the year
c) Participate at CCIVS 3.2 project "IMPact"	P+VPER + members	Throughout the year

### **Annex II**

# **Alliance Members along 2012**

	Acronym	Country	Official address	Phone	General mail	Contact person
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#### **Annex III**

#### **Alliance Invitation List for 2013**

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:

- Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS);
- Association of Voluntary Service Organisations (AVSO);
- Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA);
- South East European Youth Network (SEEYN);
- 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 (eg. GA, GC, TM, and PCE).

**Guest** organisations are invited for a one year term to the Alliance TM and Alliance GC. Guest organisations are new organisations and international network branches.

#### Partners after GA 2012

Organisation	Country
Fundacion SES	Argentina
CFD	Germany
Offene Häuser	Germany
Egyesek	Hungary
See Beyond Borders (SEEDS)	Iceland
WF Iceland	Iceland
FSL	India
Ruchi	India
PKBI (IIWC)	Indonesia
Dejavato	Indonesia
KVDA	Kenya
Leaders	Kyrgyzstan
MCE	Mongolia
СЈМ	Morocco
CSM	Morocco
JEC	Morocco
IPJ	Portugal

Digevu	Russia
Mir Tesen	Russia
Passage Zebra	Russia
KNCU	South Korea
De Amicitia	Spain
VYA Taiwan	Taiwan
Greenway	Thailand
ATAV	Tunisia
UPA	Uganda
VAP-UK	UK
SJ Vietnam	Vietnam
VFP Vietnam	Vietnam
Nataté	Mexico
Sodrujetsvo	Russia
VolTra	Hong Kong
LYVG	Georgia
Xchange Scotland	United Kingdom

## Guests for the year 2013

Informagiovani	Italy
Volunteer Spirit Association	Thailand



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