



of European
Voluntary Service
Organisations

ANNUAL REPORT

2013



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Introduction

Dear reader,

If you have under your eyes this report, it means that you are interested in international voluntary service and its main actor in Europe: the Alliance. We thank you for this interest! The annual report is meant to provide detailed information on the network life and activities and is a very useful tool to have a whole picture of our work and the cooperation on internal and external level in 2013.

The 2013 was a very fruitful year for the Alliance in different ways. The Alliance was born 31 years ago and the members, due to the recent and fast social changes, felt now the need and the responsibility to further develop their common commitment. For this reason the General Assembly, following the need of member organisations, decided to organize in 2014 the first Congress of the network. This event will bring together 100 representatives of member organisations (board members, active volunteers, youth workers, stakeholders representatives) as well as members of Alliance working groups and committees.

The Alliance started the preparation process for this event in 2013. The identity and the policies of the Alliance will be discussed and the main pillars of a long term strategy will be drafted, with the aim to strengthen our cooperation pattern and to prepare the International Voluntary Service movement to the next challenges.

Conflicts, racism and xenophobia are becoming everyday more tangible, even more we are seeing the widespread of poverty and unemployment among

different levels of society, in Europe and beyond. Young people, the main beneficiary of our actions, are one of the groups that are more affected by these phenomena. Furthermore, also the global situation regarding climate change and environmental challenges is becoming everyday a more serious and urgent concern: for all these reasons it is crucial for us as individuals and more generally as IVS movement to take concrete actions now.

Voluntary service in all its forms and international workcamps are a powerful tool to address the state of play and to practically intervene with and for young people and communities.

This is why the Alliance represents a richness for its members and for the whole IVS movement: the promotion of the exchange, the intercultural learning and understanding, solidarity and active citizenship is grounded on the common vision and values supported by the network. The Alliance has been doing that since decades by promoting group short term voluntary service projects, initiatives, grassroots international cooperation projects and campaigns. International voluntary workcamps are part of the network historical identity and is something that the members are keeping safe as a treasure. All the actions undertaken by the network have been and are important moments to keep the added value of all the initiatives developed along the years and to define the asset of intervention for the future.

Beside the impressive number of volunteers and youth workers involved in our activities in 2013, this report is also meant to provide information and details about the Alliance life.

Going through the report you can have a clear picture of the functioning of the Alliance. The structure of the network might seem complex at a first glance. Nevertheless, having a look at the description of the work done (projects, initiatives, events and campaigns), we can easily understand that this work is developed by individuals and groups who are volunteering together for a better world, and that together represent the richness of a meaningful cooperation. Key words in this process are voluntary-based commitment, participation and development of mutual support links within the worldwide IVS movement.

The Alliance is actually a very dynamic network, where member organizations can find a fertile ground to develop ideas and receive support from the others.

During 2013 many goals were reached, and projects successfully developed. To mention a few:

- the long term project Learning Bridges opened up new perspective for a quality based cooperation between European and Latin America IVS organisations;
- the Alliance updated its online visual identity with a new website that allows better external visibility and improves internal communication;
- the yearly Technical Meeting, the biggest worldwide IVS event, saw in 2013 an unprecedented level of participation;
- the RIVER project for the validation of learning results in voluntary activities constituted an enriching starting point to advance in the field of recognition of volunteering as an educational and empowering learning tool.
- launching new initiatives and campaigns (the International Sustainability Campaign in IVS was re-launched with new tools and a training event, and the Accessing Campaign was evaluated by the group in an Evaluation meeting to update its procedures);
- implementing new projects (for example the video project "Volunteering with the Alliance" and the training on peacebuilding through advocacy for IVS, as well as the short term EVS for inclusion "Go for the NEETs");
- improving existing tools (a fresh and creative online promotional campaign was initiated on social media with excellent results in terms of promotion of IVS among young people worldwide).

The interest to cooperate with Alliance, expressed by many new organizations, show that there is the possibility to widen even more the partnership frame. This is also tangible by the fact that, on 2013 after years of positive cooperation, new members entered the network. Now we are 50 member organizations!

All these elements prove that, in these complex times, the Alliance is still here, stating its will to support volunteers and local communities, sharing the sense of solidarity and inspiring new ideas to make the international voluntary service a lively movement.

Marcello Mariuzzo & Sara Mandozzi
General Secretariat of the Alliance

The working groups and committees were very active along 2013, through:

What is a workcamp?

Since 1920, international voluntary workcamps represent a unique form of voluntary service: they bring together people from different backgrounds to work for micro projects that benefit local communities.

A group experience

Workcamps provide opportunities to explore the potential of an international group to work, learn and act together. The group experience is a commitment to work out 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 local communities hosting the groups of volunteers.



Groups of volunteers

Most workcamps host between 6 and 20 volunteers during 2 or 3 weeks. The group gathers various nationalities and backgrounds. Around 85% the volunteers are between 18 and 30 years old with a majority of female participants.

Food and Accommodation

The group usually shares the tasks of cooking and cleaning in rotating shifts. Accommodation depends on the local possibilities and can be provided in hostels, schools, camping sites etc.



Is it all work?

An important dimension of the workcamp is how the group organises its social activities: time to play, discuss, learn words or recipes from other countries and visit local haunts! Activities are decided by the group, depending on the possibilities. A big input is given to develop local activities with the hosting community.

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 into the group life.



Management of the Alliance



The Working Groups and Committees with the partners of Learning Bridges project - Brussels, September 2013

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 each position lasts for two years, with the exception of the mandate of the Additional member that lasts for one year.

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

All members of the EC are working voluntarily and meet five times per year. Between the meetings the EC members work very intensively on their personal tasks and use internet for 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 Weil der Stadt in November 2013, the EC is composed by:

Chrysafo Arvaniti	President	CiA (Greece)
Jelena Ristic-Beronja	Vice President	YRS-VSS (Serbia)
Kristine Roke	Vice President for External Relations	SJ (France)
Sara Mandozzi, Marcello Mariuzzo	General Secretariat	Lunaria (Italy)
Grégory Van De Put	Treasurer	CBB (Belgium)
Stefano Varlese	Additional Member	YAP Italy



The **Alliance Working Groups and Committees** carry out most initiatives of the network. This was a result of the will of the members to be more involved in the Alliance work, to develop new topics, and to increase the quality of cooperation: sharing of expertise, mutual support and the development of joint training activities between the members are the means to achieve those goals.

The biggest outcome of this, is that a lot of members with their young staff and youth workers *actively participate in the life of the network*. In 2013, they reached the total number of 62 individuals involved.

Working Groups and Committees apart from promoting Alliance main principles, are also responsible for the implementation of the Plan on Action of the network as well as to develop initiatives and bring their ideas to the GA to be voted.

In 2013 the Alliance had the following working groups and committees:

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

These working groups organise their own work, implement meetings and seminars, and prepare workshops and training sessions during the Alliance events. The Alliance Vice President is responsible for the co-ordination between the working groups and committees.



Since 2005 the Alliance also has a larger management body – the **Management Committee** composed by the EC and the coordinators of all 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 Alliance Executive (EC) and Management (MC) Committees held the following meetings in 2013:

Meeting	When	Where
EC	Belgium	11-13 January
EC/MC	Slovakia	25-27 February
EC (with Alliance Development Committee)	Greece	10-13 May
EC/MC	Belgium	3-4 September
EC/MC	Germany	5-7 November

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 the 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 projects applications and other activities specifically assigned to this position by the GA.

Apart from the Alliance Secretary, the second permanent paid staff of the network is the Financial Assistant, which is hosted by Compagnons Batisseurs Belgium and has the responsibility to help the Treasurer in carrying out his duties.



Executive Committee Report¹

Overall Introduction

(President, Chrysafo Arvaniti, C.i.A.)

"Change does not roll on in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle"

Martin Luther King

If I were to describe Alliance's life in the past year, since November 2012, I would choose the image of a beehive, whose "bees" have worked and acted in concert all the yearlong! The result of this integrated effort therefore, can only be seen and felt at the same time, as impressive and tremendously motivating!

This had been my perception and feeling throughout the whole year, as well as at this very moment of composing the EC report, in the position of Alliance's president.

Alliance, at its 31st year, has reached impressive numbers and results, in terms of:

- projects and events being implemented at the same time (12 in total for 2012-13),
- working meetings of Committees and Working Groups, EC and MC (13 in total for 2012-13)
- budget been managed (more than doubled)
- initiatives and ideas shared developed by members, working groups and committees (several initiatives and on average 10 proposals prepared for the GA 2013)

Of course all this not randomly but following up set policies (like inclusion, youth participation, volunteering as an

educational tool a.o) and addressing identified needs of Alliance's members like supporting and learning from one another (s. buddy system, staff meeting a.o).

It is also not at all uninteresting to notice, that in a very demanding and competitive international environment, Alliance has remained "visible" and is recognized by all relevant stakeholders, institutions, policy makers and other networks as one of the most important actors in the movement of international volunteering. Apart from the positive outcomes for the majority of our applications submitted, (only 3 out of numerous, non-approved) this can be mostly measured by the reinforced representation and presence of our network in key events organized by institutions and policy makers, other networks and organizations.

Only to name some, Alliance was invited as an expert network to :

- o "EYF Reloaded- It all starts with You(th)", international conference organized by European Youth Foundation and celebrating its 40 years of existence (Strasbourg, 4-6 February),
- o "Life Long Volunteering" international conference, organized by member organization GSM and supported by United National Volunteers (Ankara, 28-31 May),
- o "II Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Leaders Meeting", Networking and Partnership Development meeting organised by the European Youth Forum (Tunisia, 1-5 July)
- o "Cross-Border Volunteering in the European Year of Citizens-What is it for?", international conference organized by CEV –European Volunteer Centre (Sarajevo, 3-4 October)
- o "European Education Training and Youth Forum 2013, " Working together for Reforms " working meeting organized by the European Commission (Brussels, 17 & 18 October)

¹ This section contains the reports submitted by the Executive Committee and the Working Groups and approved by the Alliance General Assembly 2013.

Another accomplishment we counted this year in April, was the election of the Alliance, among 13 other international NGOs representing youth organizations in the Advisory Council of the Council of Europe.

Last but not least, during our organized open day event for the "Learning Bridges" in Brussels, beginning of September, we were visited by the Project Manager of the European Commission on European Voluntary Service as well as by the European Youth Forum along with representatives of other NGOs (CCIVS, SCI, AVSO, CEV a.o)

It is comforting to know that our work and contribution is acknowledged, however, we cannot fail to recognize one of Alliance's greatest, if not the greatest achievement of the year; this is the democratic participation of its members to the life of the network. Alliance has counted during the year over 70 volunteers, (elected or appointed by the GA as representatives of 30 different member organizations) whose efforts, efficacy and commitment are profiled in details in the reports of my EC colleagues and in the reports of Working Groups and Committees.

This "story of empowerment" goes on, and if to the above number we also add the member organizations who took over the successful realization of Alliance projects and events throughout the year (more than 10), plus the promoters of Alliance projects, I would proudly say that all members have been actively involved in the life of the network.

Moreover, to the implementation of a very demanding plan of action, the contribution of the Alliance Secretary's, Giovanna Pignatti Morano, can only be assessed, as outmost valuable.

At this point I want to thank each and every one of them sincerely and wholeheartedly!

And this is where we stand today! Following my EC colleagues' comments, I would also repeat that Alliance finds itself in one of its most, if not the most dynamic and successful phases of its existence!

However as it would be very arrogant to think that what we did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.

We are not for sure living in a quiet and easy world. This inevitably affects our member organizations, and some much more than others. Therefore the question is what are the lessons learnt so far in the network and if we are drawing any conclusions for the future?

"How can we accommodate', rather than frozen in a world that changes at all levels?, "How can we ensure the functioning and the existence of a network that is there "for its members" addressing their challenges and their critical needs but is also "safe in its ability to survive "by its members and what they bring/invest on it? What are the main disadvantages, if any, we see in our current system and constitutional documents?

And if Alliance uses "specific avenues" such as international volunteering, for change, what kind of difference do we make and what kind of impact do we want to have on member organizations, communities, policy makers, individuals, the world?

These are only some of the open questions raised by all of us involved in the management of the network but most importantly questions that reached us as issues of concern from the members in the past year!

Alliance General Assembly is the space to start reflecting on them and if members decide to support MC's proposal, the coming year will lead to a conference/congress where necessary space and time will be given to go deeper into them.

Vice President report

(Vice president, Jelena Ristic Beronja, YRS-VSS)

It has been a real challenge this year to fulfill the two main tasks of the Vice President "to follow the Alliance projects/events and assure the coherency & communication between the working groups and between them and the hosts of the events" as the events multiplied over the Plan of Action that is becoming larger each year and as all the events were so much interconnected and involved a great number of people.

With this report let me just bring an overview of together's work of more than 70 active representatives in the Working Groups and Committees and one irreplaceable Giovanna Pignatti (Alliance Secretary).

In the year 2012/2013 together we have contributed to the development of IVS in general and members' voluntary projects in particular by networking, promoting, facilitating and recognising volunteering, youth participation, inclusion, mobility, non-formal education, envi sustainability, capacity building of 48 member organizations and countless international, national and local partners and individuals along the volunteering policies and approaches. We have:

- implemented 7 short term projects that define the network's year (Technical Meeting in Slovakia, Training for Trainers in France, Staff Meeting and Information Session in Germany, External Relations Training in Estonia, Volunteer Messenger Project STEP 2 in Ukraine, Study Session in Hungary, Video project)
- 4 long term projects and events ("Learning bridges" project with Latin America, collective EVS short term project "Go for the NEETs", RIVER project, Long Term Training Course);

- submitted numerous written applications and reports for administrative grants and future innovative projects/events
- had fruitful discussions during the working meetings of the network's Working Groups and Committees counting 5 EC/MC meetings, 8 Working Group meetings
- produced policy papers, analysis and strategies
- externally represented the network at numerous occasions
- implemented innovative practices, among which: connecting events for a stronger synergy, such as the Joint Meeting of all WGs and Committees with the Final event of the "Learning Bridges" project with Latin America and the Open Event with the relevant stakeholders in our field (EACEA, EYF, CCIVS, SCI, AVSO, CEV) as the good example of our external representation; implementing the brilliant "Buddy system" as the result of the need for a better cohesion among the members and as a tool of monitoring and support. The system translates in all WGs' plans and its potential is yet to be explored, now that there is a mechanism; implementing the two campaigns, the Accessing and Environmental Sustainability campaigns; used social media, video presentations, open events and other new ways of disseminating our results; participating in joint efforts of our sister networks to provide recognition of volunteering and skills gained by it; exploring connections with universities for giving an academic ground to measuring impact of IVS to volunteers and local communities.

We will all be presented with reports of each working group and committees separately, but this is just a short overview of the commitment to the network by the members, the quality of our results. Nobody could fulfill such an ambitious plan if not volunteers. There were more than 70

member organizations' representatives involved officially in the WGs and Committees. Thanks goes to all who put the effort: hosts of projects/events, prep teams, WG coordinators and members, Secretariat, appointed persons and the EC.

This year we have also seen non approved applications (for Post Camp Event it was applied twice, both times rejected. This influenced the Long Term Training Course, as PCE was supposed to be its final stage; the application for the Study Session was also not approved, as well as the follow-up project to "Learning Bridges").

However, the unstoppable progress of our Plan of Action bound to the commitment of volunteers, asks to be supported by a more sustainable structure that is yet to be determined in the following year.

I don't see anymore the risk of lack of participation, as I did the first year of being the Vicepresident, in 2011. This year the risks have shifted to a more challenging ground: the network's identity search, solidarity issues and ways of sustainable existence. We are facing a year of exploring these issues.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of having this responsible role of the Vice President for the past three years. Next year is the last year of my second mandate and I hope that my so far gained experience will be useful in supporting the network's progress and positive influence on global views as well as personal ones.

Financial Report

(Treasurer, Gregory Van de Put, CBB)

Introduction

As you will notice by reading the figures and comments here below, this document is the report of a positive and very dynamic year and the announcement of a (at least) similar following one.

However, my wish, when presenting you our last accounts and financial results, is not to create enthusiasm and auto-congratulation rather than rational management of our organisation. I would appreciate if we could, after analysis of our financial situation, measure the limits of our situation. And think about the decisions and actions we could take in order to make new steps forward.

This report is composed of:

- Some highlights about our accounts closed at the financial year 2012
- A short review of the on-going year 2013 and the perspectives I see for 2014 and further
- Questions and matters for thoughts I would like to share with the General Assembly

Accounts 2012

The comments written here below illustrate the tables "Balance sheet 2012" and "Final budget 2012" annexed to this document. These tables are fully part of the treasurer report.

All the figures presented at the general assembly have been controlled, corrected and commented by the external auditor "Fernand MAILLARD and C^o". Our accounts and all their related documents have also been checked and commented by Elena GONZALEZ, our internal auditor, during her audit carried out in Marche-en-Famenne on June 19th and 20th 2013.

Balance sheet

At the closing of the accounts 2012, on December 31st, ALLIANCE balance sheet presented a total amount of 220 823 € (48 285€ in 2011 - + 357%). This huge proportional increasing finds almost all its explanations in the increasing of our financial assets.

The assets are summarized in 3 lines:

- Material belongings equivalent to 0€.
- The difference with 2011 comes from the full depreciation of our stock of youth cards, after ending our collaboration with the European Youth Card Association in 2012.
- Third person assets equivalent to 46 488€. These were the 2nd instalment of grants from EYF and EACEA that we expected to be paid after reporting. The increased figure, compared to 2011, come from the increased number of projects developed and grants obtained compared to 2011.
- Financial assets equivalent to 174 335 € (39 150€ in 2011 - + 345%), which were divided in 173 507€ stored in our bank account and 829€ tidied in the cash box. This considerable cash flow available must be seen and read with a lot of reserve and prudence. Most of this money was allocated to projects scheduled in 2013. It must not be understood as a new wealth for the organisation, but only as the result of the considerable advances received in 2012 (TfT, NEETS, Learning bridges...).

The liabilities can also be synthetized in 3 lines:

- 36 455€ of reserves (our result acquired since we started the accounting), to which one, on proposal of the EC, should be added the +8 192€ of result 2012.
- 35 052 € of debts to suppliers. More than 70% of these debts represent the costs of the GC, GA and ALLIANCE anniversary that weren't reimbursed to the host organisation yet.

- 139 033€ accounted in regularization accounts. All this money represented deferred incomes (money received in 2012 and allocated to projects to be implemented in 2013): grants for the EVS ST Neets project, the TfT 2013 and the Learning Bridges project.

Profit and loss account

The financial year 2012 was a good and very dynamic year for ALLIANCE, with considerable modifications compared to the previous year.

In 2012, our total incomes were 240 767€ (124 782,89€ in 2011).

We conceded expenses for 232 575€ (129 052,29€ in 2011).

The year ended with a positive result of 8 192€.

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

- 25 683€ were invoiced to the members for membership fee and budget contribution.
- Our application for an administrative grant from the European Union was successful, which brought an income of 28 000€.
- The European Youth Foundation continued to ensure us of its on-going support, with an administrative grant of 9 074€ and a project grants for 20 302€ (Funding of the general conference and of a study visit in Balkans and South East Europe region).
- Several project grants were obtained within the Youth in Action programme: Volunteer messengers TC, Learning Bridges project, Training for Trainers.

In the outcomes, the following facts can be mentioned:

- The celebration of the ALLIANCE 30th anniversary, for which we invested on new promotional material and invited several guests.
- The implementation of a full staff position all along the year (Alliance

secretary) and a part-time position (financial assistant).

- The implementation of the planned projects: Tft, RIVER, General Conference, Study Visit, Volunteer Messenger TC and launching of the Learning Bridges project with a kick-off meeting in Mexico.
- The organisation of, for the 1st time in the history of ALLIANCE, a joint meeting of the working groups.

Overview of 2013

At the time to present this report to the General Assembly, our accounts for the year 2013 are far to be closed. They haven't been checked and corrected yet. Several activities have to be accounted still.

With all the reserve needed, we can however already mentioned the following facts:

- The year is again very dynamic and show a new considerable increasing of our incomes and outcomes (at the closing of the year, our budget should have increased of more than 50% compared to 2012).
- For the second year, we obtained an operational grant from the Youth in Action programme (action 4.1.), but for an amount slightly less important than budgeted (maximum grant is 32 325€ instead of 35 000€)
- The incomes collected thanks to the membership fees are decreasing: 24 447€ in 2013 instead of 25 683€ in 2013. This is the clear result of the negative trends in the number of exchanges of volunteer (the budget contribution is calculated according to the number of volunteer sent).
- We did not obtain the grant that allowed us to organise the post-camp event.
- We are implementing large scale projects, with important budgets (the budget for the Learning Bridges project only already represents 106 115€).
- We had to account exceptional expenses due to unforeseen operations on 2012

activities (small reimbursements on the 4.1. operational grant and on the Volunteer Messenger TC grant). This exceptional expenses reach the sum of 3 709€, which, indeed, diminish the positive result 2012 of an equivalent amount.

- ALLIANCE benefits from a high participation of its members and the working groups could again meet at the occasion of a joint meeting. All this participation also creates related travel and meeting costs.
- Due to the fact that we have a bit less of incomes than expected and that we conceded several expenses, the final result could be balanced or slightly negative.

Our cash available is also considerably decreasing in the last months and this trend will continue in the following ones. This is normal and foreseen. The money stored in our bank account was allocated for the activities we've been implementing. In the meantime, we are not obtaining new incomes. In consequence, we could fast (at the closing of 2013) return to the situation of 2011 in terms of cash available. Due to the high number of activities we are involved in, it is also important to ensure a strict control of the timing of our payments, in order to avoid a lack of cash available.

Conclusion and matters for thoughts

ALLIANCE is probably in one of the most dynamic period of its existence; but it does not mean that it is richer or in a more secure financial situation than before. This matter of fact brings us to several matters for thoughts:

As mentioned above, our incomes collected thanks to the membership fees are decreasing. The membership fee system adopted at the GA 2007 targeted to collect approximately 25 000€ per year. Today, with 6 new members since 2007, we are not able to reach this amount. From my

position of treasurer, I take this fact as very worrying. Shouldn't we start all to worry about it?

Today, we crucially depend of European grants, but these ones are never "given in advance". It is especially the case of the operational grant from the Youth in Action programme (action 4.1.), which covers a large part of our work meetings and administrative costs. In 2012 and 2013, we had the luck to be part of the "happy few" who received such support. But our applications had failed in 2010 and 2011. And at the time to write this report, it is, still, totally unsure this action will be renewed in the next European programme (Erasmus +). Can we accept to build, every year, our budget on the bet to get such grant? At least, shouldn't we foresee how to cover our basic needs without this unsafe income?

ALLIANCE can bring innovation to its members; the study visit in South-East Europe and the Learning Brings project with Latin America show us how it supports the development of our network.

ALLIANCE can defend our interests and promote our action and values at the European level: the good relationships we maintain with the European Youth Forum and the European Youth Foundation, or our newly obtained position in the advisory council on Youth of the Council of Europe show us good examples of this ability.

ALLIANCE is a guarantee for the shared high quality of our projects and methods: our annual technical meeting, our staff meeting, the trainings, seminars and conferences we organise every year testimony of this potentiality. But means always miss, when needs always grow. This is a very basic in economy and a clear reality in ALLIANCE. Couldn't the members start to think to a new investment in ALLIANCE as a win-win plan?

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 3 parts. In each of them I tried to briefly analyze the recent evolution of the issues, evaluate the work done and propose steps for the future.

Alliance Secretariat

The work of Giovanna as full time Alliance Secretary started in September 2011. After 2 years we can definitely confirm that the decision to establish a full time position was the right one to move the network forward in terms of projects and initiatives carried out by the network.

Apart from the tasks previously carried out by the AAA, she is now closely following all the projects run by the Alliance, supporting the host of the events and preparing the different applications. We couldn't have had such an increase of activities without her contribution.

The next GA will need to do a thorough evaluation of the work done by the Secretariat and decide on the next steps.

Administrative Grant and the future perspectives

Both administrative grant applications submitted for 2013 to the CoE and the EACEA have been accepted. Starting from 2014 the CoE will change its granting system and will only issue 2 years administrative grants. The deadline will be the 1st of October 2013. The EC is preparing the application. We are now waiting to understand if and how we will be able to ask for an administrative grant under the new Erasmus + programme. Hopefully more info will be available about it when we will have the GA. The EC is working on different scenarios to ensure that, whatever it will be the future of the administrative grant, we will be able to carry out all our activities.

Website and Communication

After a major update done by our web service provider, the website of the Alliance has been down for several days due to a compatibility conflict. To solve it, we will need to remake the website. As a temporary solution Lunaria graciously offered to host the website on their own server.

The EC is working on a proposal to make a new website, in order to have a new website compatible with the amount of money budgeted for it in 2013.

The facebook account of the network, created to increase the visibility of the Alliance activities toward a wider public is a good success. As for now the page has 1949 followers. The ERC is in charge of its follow up.

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. For those organizations that are using placement software or have a workcamp database compatible with it, this mean saving hours of work in uploading the workcamp programmes and having an easier placement process.

Conclusion

This year the EC of the Alliance ensured a really smooth year for the network. More activities are carried out, the groups have been very active and also on the external plan the network did a good job to be more visible with the most important stakeholders.

On the other hand we notice that the world around us is changing, and the activities of most of our member organizations too. The decline of the number of volunteers in the workcamps and the decrease of the places offered all over the year are balanced by the flourishing of new projects and learning opportunities that do not correspond to the

initial mission of the network. Some of our members are nowadays working more on other forms of volunteering such as the EVS. Should the Alliance acknowledge this change and open up its focus and its activities also to other fields of action? Should we rethink our working methods? Which are the limits that we have to impose for the membership? All these issues needs to be discussed if we want to ensure the future of the network. The idea of the congress, strongly supported by the EC, aims at that.

If the proposal of holding it next year will be accepted, we will have the opportunity to do all that.

Additional Member Report

(Additional member, Kristine Roke, SJ)

The position of the additional member is the most flexible position in terms of tasks within the Executive Committee as it is relatively new one. AM has a role in assisting the EC with actions as defined in the Plan of Action and ad hoc tasks decided by the EC, as well as support the follow up of some working groups and projects. Especially at this moment when the movement finds itself in such a dynamic period with many projects running and active members involved in the working groups.

This one-year position is also a great learning opportunity, gives possibility to get familiar with the network management bodies and assist interesting and meaningful discussions. It is a tricky position as it is the less defined in terms of concrete tasks but at the same time there is a real space to participate and work on different issues according to the needs of the network, EC team and interests of the person taking this position.

At the beginning of the year within the EC we decided what could be the tasks allocated to the AM which were mainly related to the working groups and some projects. In my case I was in close contact with the A4A working group regarding the EVS NEETs project, with ESWG on some specific issues and ERC concerning the video project and European Youth Forum.

The European Youth Forum and Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is a youth-led platform, representing 99 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across Europe. The YFJ brings up the youth voice to the European institutions, the Council of Europe in order to empower young people as active

citizens and tend towards youth life improvement.

YFJ is advocating on crucial issues for the young people in Europe such as lobbying for volunteering visa, for non-formal education recognition, youth employability, inclusion policies and many others.

After two years break this year we successfully submit our application for the Advisory Council on Youth. Therefore the Alliance is member of the AC for next two years which is a great chance to influence the work on European youth policies, contribute on behalf of volunteering organizations and meet potential new partners in Europe.

I was appointed by the EC to represent the network within the AC for this mandate which I see as interesting and challenging experience and responsibility.

Great thanks goes to Carina Lardy for her involvement and support YFJ related matters as well as to Roman Khun for his great work done during the 6 years of the Alliance involvement within the Advisory Council, for his support and availability for sharing his experience!

This year I had the chance, with Carina Lardy (IBG), to represent the Alliance in the Council of Members meeting of the Forum was held in April 2013 in Brussels. During this CoMem the Alliance candidature to the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe was presented in front of the members of the Forum. We tried to bring the Alliance contribution in the discussion groups and to know more the other members of the Forum. We can say that this was quite successful meeting for our network.

The Plan of Action of the new Advisory Council on Youth 2014, 2015 remains to be adopted by the Joint Council (Advisory Council and Member States representatives) at the meeting in October 2013.

Many different topics concerns the AC, in different format, some are long term

projects, some are political negotiations with Member States (recognition of volunteer time contribution) other are a mix of activities and political processes (regional cooperation), some relate to the management of the European Youth Foundation (funding for youth activities).

The ERC should take an active role in this process in order to cover several of the topics concerned by the AC and YFJ, to make the contribution of the Alliance as rich as possible which could benefit back to the network.

External Relations Committee (ERC)

The Alliance video project application submitted to the Council of Europe was approved and the ERC started to work on the project realization after the last TM. The Greek team "Break the Coach" was selected to work on this video and had a meeting held in Paris in order to define the objectives of the video and introduce the team with the Alliance. During the summer the team travelled around the Europe by visiting some of the members and their projects in order to shoot different type of projects implemented by the Alliance members.

Five workcamps were visited (Germany IJGD, Serbia YRS-VSS, Greece CiA, UNA-Exchange UK, Netherlands SIW).

During the joint meeting in Brussels September 2013 the first results of the great work done by the video makers were presented. The video makers team has got an clear idea on what is the Alliance, volunteering projects implemented by its members.

This video is meant to serve as universal communication tool on the international workcamps and the Alliance towards potential volunteers, financial partners, workcamp hosts, local municipalities and other stakeholders.

Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG)

The new and very motivated working group ESWG has done valuable work during the year by gathering different pedagogical materials on environment friendly and sustainable practices while implementing volunteering projects. These documents are collected from the Alliance members and the sister-networks and are available on the working groups drop box.

The Working Group members had intention actively promote environmental sustainability and the good practices on that field, among young people, camp leaders, youth leaders, local project organizers and local associations therefore a group worked on the training application within the frame of Youth in Action programme. The application was submitted by SJ and was approved by the French National Agency and the trainers team are starting the work on the training programme and specific objectives of the training.

These are only two actions that I was following up, the work done by this group is fully covered by the VP report.

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)

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

1. THE MEMBERS, OUR MEETINGS AND OUR PLAN OF ACTION

In 2013, **17 organizations from 12 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, SJ, UNA EXCHANGE, UNAREC, YAP-IT, YRS-VSS, WS.

The group met 4 times: on 1st and 2nd of November in Mozet (Belgium), during the Alliance GA; on 28th of February and 1st of March in Piestany (Slovakia) during the Alliance Technical Meeting, on 03rd and 04th of September, during the Joint Meeting in Brussels (Belgium) and on 2nd till 6th of October, during the Evaluation Meeting hold in Cardiff (Wales, UK).

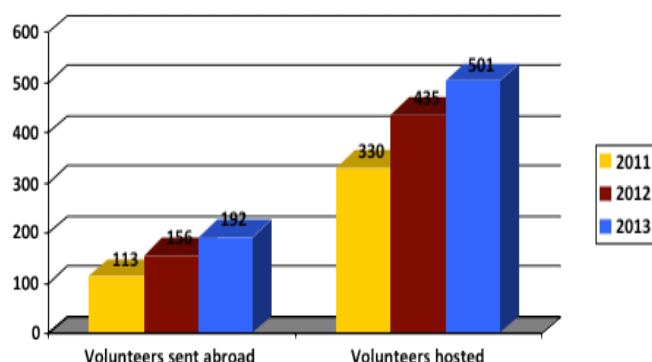
Our **plan of action**, as presented at the GA 2012, was the following:

- Run an Accessibility Campaign in order to reach an increasing participation of accessing volunteers (10% by the end 2013)
- Review the tools of the Accessing Campaign
- Run a specific session on Accessibility in the Alliance Day
- Run collective EVS short term project "Go for the NEETs"
- Support IBG in the new project linked with the General Assembly
- Disseminating, by providing guidelines, the opportunities of the new EU program regarding youngsters with fewer opportunities as soon as the group have more details.
- Propose, gather and disseminate tools within the Alliance members to use in the camp leaders training regarding the inclusion work.
- Support for an evaluation of the NEETs project

2. THE ACCESSING WORKCAMP CAMPAIGN 2013

This year, the Accessing Campaign gathered 30 organizations from 21 countries. 192 volunteers were sent abroad and 501 national and international

volunteers were hosted on a workcamp this year, a positive increase:



More information about the Campaign 2013 can be found in the Appendix of this report.

3. "GO FOR THE NEETs" SHORT TERM EVS PROJECT

During the Technical Meeting 2012 in Parent, France the Access 4 All Working Group decided, with the support of the EC, to apply again in 2012 for a new ALLIANCE "EVS in workcamps" centralised project.

Fortunately, the EVS project, called "Go for the NEETs. Creating Opportunities with Nice, Entrepreneur, Eclectic and Talented Young People" has been approved by the EACEA.

During the GA 2012 in Mozet, Belgium, the further steps of the project were defined.

- At the TM 2013 in Piestany, Slovakia, a session about the NEET's project was organised during the Alliance Day in order to update all the promoters about the last information received as well as gather all the questions they might have.
- In April 2013, a checklist was sent to every member being part of the project. This checklist was listing all the different documents needed and the profile of the volunteer.
- In May 2013, a call for a project assistant position was launched and Franck DESSOMME (SJ) became project assistant from June 2013.
- The exchanges started in June 2013 and ended on the 31st of August of the same year.

At the moment, the project assistant is gathering all the documents needed in

order to write the final report of this project. An evaluation of the project started during the A4A Evaluation Meeting in Wales but it is an on-going process which end once the final report has been submitted.

"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.

4. THE UPDATE OF THE ACCESS FOR ALL TOOLS

During its meeting on the 1st and 2nd November 2012 in Mozet, Belgium, the Access 4 All Working Group evaluated the outcomes of the Training for Trainers 2012 "PEERS' CARAVAN Young Trainers for Inclusion" and of the General Conference 2012 "Volunteering, an opportunity for a better social inclusion and active participation of young people with disabilities". According to this evaluation, the Working Group expressed the will to:

- make the information related with the accessing work (good practices, guide,

volunteer's registration...) easier to apprehend;

- increase the possibilities to find this information;
- improve the collaboration between the actors of the workcamp : hosting organization, sending organization, volunteer, social institution, local host...

In order to fulfill these objectives, two decisions were taken:

1. to update the A4A tools and documents in order to make them more accessible to newcomers, to ease their use, to increase the information quality and to have a document which follows the path of the volunteers.

The following changes were made:

- o standardization of the layout;
 - o reorganization of the tools into three categories: compulsory tools, optional tools and guidance/ background tools;
 - o clarification about the fact that these are generic tools and it is the role of placement officers to adapt them for use with specific volunteers to suit their needs;
 - o the Access 4 All Guide was reviewed as a guidance tool which should provide a reference point for all organisations but will be particularly useful to organisations/ officers who are new to A4A;
 - o several documents were reviewed and merged in order to create the "Access 4 All Volunteer background and feedback report", a Connections form allowing to follow the path of the volunteers from the registration until the end of their workcamp;
 - o in addition to the guide, two documents became compulsory when three others became optional.
2. to create a space where all information can be exchanged – toolkits as well as testimonials, etc.

After the Technical Meeting 2013, Piestany, Slovakia, a Dropbox was created in order to share the documents of the Accessing Campaign.

5. THE ACCESS 4 ALL EVALUATION MEETING: TIME TO REFLECT

The "Access 4 All Evaluation Meeting: Time to Reflect" was hosted by Una-Exchange, Wales. It took place from 2nd till 6th of October 2013 in Cardiff.

This meeting was developed following discussions at the Alliance General Assembly in 2012 and the Technical Meeting in 2013 about the need to evaluate the NEETs ST EVS project and the A4A Campaign more widely.

The stated aims of the meeting were:

- To evaluate activities projects, including the NEETs project;
- To review tools and learning from previous events (e.g. Peers' Caravan, 2011 Study Session, GC 2012) and decide on ways in which this can be used to further the A4A Campaign;
- To share experiences of workcamps and inclusion volunteering;
- To develop future plans for the A4A Campaign.

Nineteen partners signed up to take part in the project. Out of these nineteen organisations, 13 sent representatives. Most partners gave reasons for withdrawing from the project, usually relating to high demands on time and low staff capacity. Eighteen spaces were filled out of twenty-six agreed to in the application.

Feedback from participants clearly shows that this was a useful meeting and that having the time to focus on the single issue of inclusion work was beneficial. It was also beneficial to have a mixture of experienced organisations and organisations new to the A4A Campaign in attendance.

The November Alliance YinA Seminar, Alliance Day and General Assembly provide an important opportunity to share the ideas generated in this meeting further and to finalise an Action Plan for 2014.

- Reviewing the model of the A4AWG and clarifying roles and responsibilities within the group so that the group works more effectively: in particular, this means clarifying the difference between being a member of the A4A WG and the A4A Campaign;

- Identifying funding opportunities that will enable members to continue and develop A4A work beyond 2014 within the new European funding framework;
- Identifying other streams of funding to avoid dependence on European level funding;
- Developing an Alliance-level Leaders' Training Course with a focus on inclusion;
- Identifying further opportunities for a centralized exchange project in the style of the NEETs project, but taking on board feedback and learning from this project;

6. 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.

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

Marche-en-Famenne, October 30th 2013
 Sophie CHIELENS
 A4AWG coordinator

APPENDIX TO A4AWG REPORT THE ACCESSING WORKCAMPS CAMPAIGN 2013

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.

30 organizations from 21 countries joined the campaign² and planned to facilitate the participation for sending more than 181 volunteers and receiving around 167.

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.

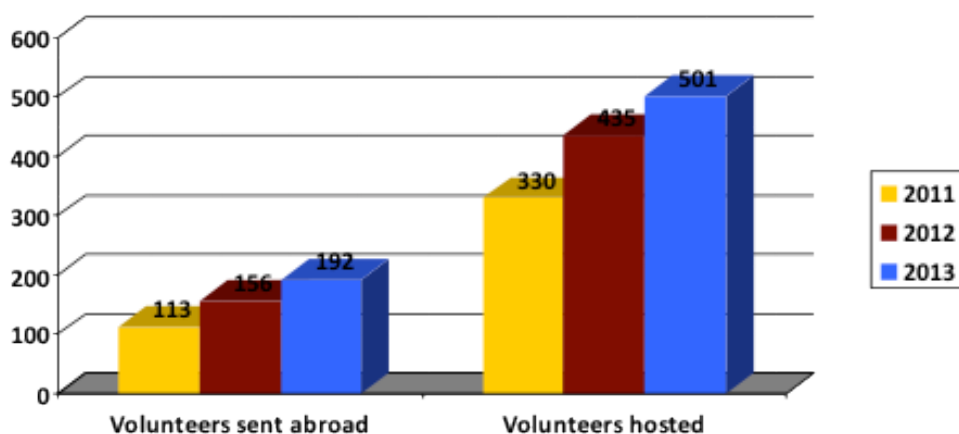
2. The results

At the term of this campaign 2013, we can present the following: **26 organisations from 17 countries sent back their evaluation form** and reported about their participation in the campaign: ALT V, CBB, CBF, CIA, COCAT, CONCF, CONCUK, DE AMICITIA, EGYESEK, ELIX, ESTYES, GRENZENLOS, IBG, INEX-SDA, INEX-SL, JAVVA, LUNARIA, SFERA, SIW, SJ, UNA, UNAREC, VIVE, VJF, WS, YAP-IT

² Among these organisations, four were involved only in the NEET's project and are therefore automatically considered as part of the Campaign

According to these reports:

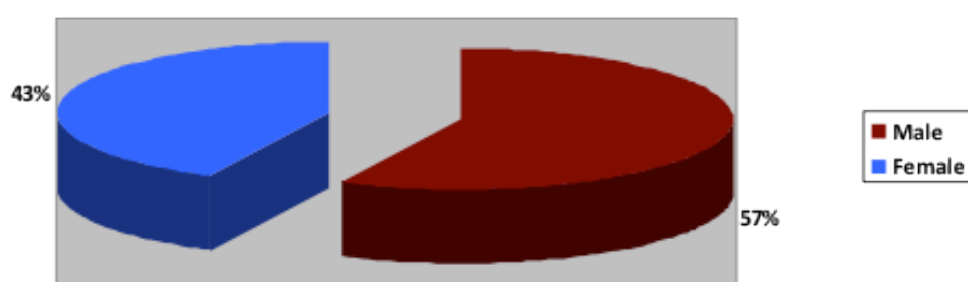
- **192 volunteers were sent to a camp abroad** within the A4A frame - they were 156 in 2012 and 113 in 2011
- **501 volunteers (international and national) are accounted in the hosting** - they were 435 in 2012 and 330 in 2011. Among them, 321 volunteers have participated in an international workcamp in their own country.



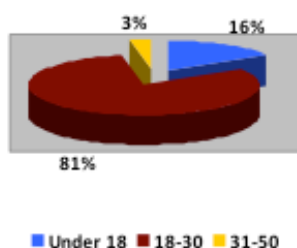
3. Profile of the participants

- A big majority of these volunteers with fewer opportunities are **male**: 57.3% of the volunteers sent; 65.3% 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 (80.7%) are **youngsters** from 18 to 30 years old, and some of them teenagers (16%). However, in the national level the organizations tend to host a big number of minors (62.5%).
- Most of them suffer **social and economical difficulties**, usually linked with educational difficulties, and in some cases, with cultural differences. It can also be observed that family problems as well as behavioural problems are also very often present in such case.
- 7.8% of the "accessing volunteers" who were sent to a camp abroad had a disability or health problem.

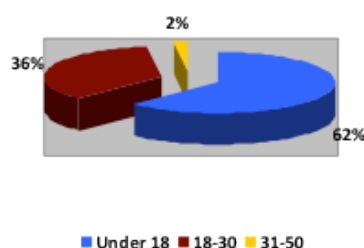
Gender distribution in volunteers sent abroad



Age of volunteers sent abroad



Age of national volunteers



4. Trends

The majority of the trends observed in the last two years are also confirmed in the 2013:

- **Offer complete educational process:** a strong majority of the volunteers sent abroad (81.7%) receive a special preparation process. The 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 the volunteers is to participate in a 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).
Almost half of the hosting organizations provide the leaders with special preparation. Therefore, a complete process is often provided, consisting in the preparation but also including a reinforced mentorship when participating in the project and once back home an evaluation and follow-up. Most of the organizations try to involve the volunteers in their activities, even if this goal is not easy to reach (10.8% of the volunteers become active in the organisation after their international or national project).
- **Financially supported:** A big majority of the international exchanges are financially supported, representing the 83% of the places for volunteers with fewer opportunities. This number has been increased year by year (74% in 2012); therefore, the A4A exchanges seem to be closely linked to the access to specific grants. Among the places financed 75.6% of them were financed by the Youth in Action Program thanks to EVS short term projects. About exchanges not directly linked with workcamps, the organisations also used Youth exchanges, Youth initiative, Youth in Action training course... Some organizations also count on 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 non-formal 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 but there is a will from many organisations to include more partners in the A4A Campaign. The communication among partners is often designated as the most important point to take care of. Some organisations pointed out the late registrations of the volunteers.
- **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, institutions (although they are opened at the same time to receive volunteers directly in their organization) or youth centres. They have partnerships established that continued over the years, and create new ones.

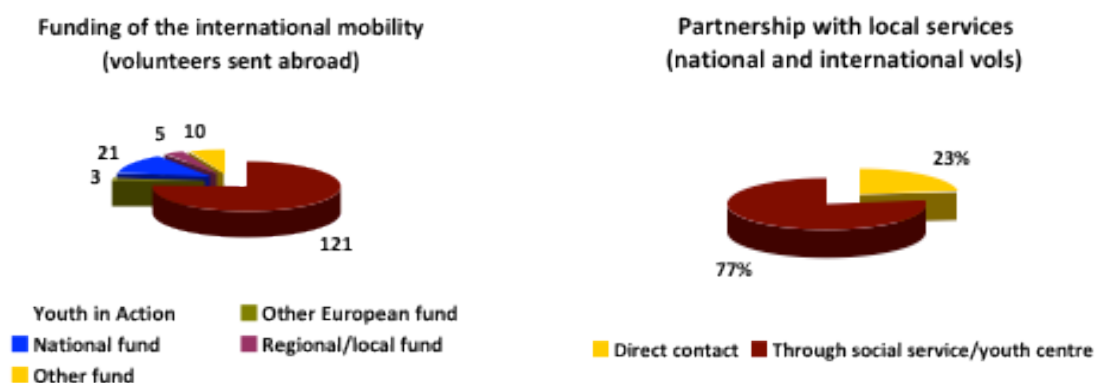
Working with social partners, institutions or youth centres is the basis for the development of an inclusion project and it allows promoting international volunteering in youth who wouldn't have had access or wouldn't have approached to voluntary organizations. Nevertheless, the A4A volunteers coming from social services have represented the 64% (instead of 71% in 2012) of those sent abroad, and the 86% (instead of 93% in 2012) of those participating in a camp in their own country. Although a good local networking seems to be an important factor in favour of more social diversity in the workcamps, some organisations expressed the difficulties to work with such services in the actual context.

Moreover, the organisations stretched out the fact that it is important to have clear basis in such partnership in order to avoid bad experience for the volunteer or the hosting organisations.

Nevertheless, the social organisations can also play a role of mentor, support the follow-up of the experience, and include an experience such as an international

voluntary project in a wider path. It can also encourage the volunteers to involve themselves more in the organisations and to go on with the volunteer path.

- **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 (less than 4 %).
- **Other inclusion activities:** many organizations work on 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 as trainings, workshops, youth initiatives, Grundvigt.... Many organisations express their will to have leader training with the topic of inclusion.
- **Convenience of tools:** in 2013, new tools were used within the Accessing Campaign. Mostly, the feed-back about these new tools was positive. The most used has been the "Volunteer Background and Feed-Back report" (now gathering the former "pre-departure form", the VEF, the "Volunteer evaluation form" given by the hosting organisation, as well as the "Leader's report") which was followed by the "Volunteer evaluation form" (that should be filled in together with the sending organisation) and the "Accessing Workcamp Campaign Guide".



5. Difficulties

In carrying out a bigger number of exchanges: even if the exchanges done have successfully exceeded the ones planned at the beginning by the organizations, this number could have been higher, as in some cases some difficulties have arisen:

- in case of financially supported exchanges: all the sending organisations weren't able to fill in the places there committed to fill;
- the mobilisation of the youngsters as well as their preparation and follow-up is time-taking and asks extra human resources. Moreover, some youngsters eventually don't participate in the projects;
- a lot of non-foreseen costs are not covered and have to be supported by the sending organisations or the volunteers (missed flight, early return...);
- it is very hard to have a long term involvement from youngsters with fewer opportunities;
- the number and type of the exchanges is conditioned by the financial support.

6. Tips and advices from the organizations

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.

- The **preparation of the volunteer** is clue for a successful experience; together with a good preparation of the projects, local hosts and camp leaders.
- The follow-up of the volunteers is also important and allow to include the experience in a longer term perspective.
- 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**.

Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG)

General Overview

The ESWG involves 11 organisations (**Legambiente, Lunaria, Concordia Fr, VJF, IBG, Unarec, Cocat, SJ, YRS and ALT-V**), which worked actively through the year to promote environmental sustainability in their projects. We met at the TM, at the Joint Meeting, and we also had 3 Skype meetings.

Our general evaluation of this season is really good. Despite this has been the first year of this new Working Group, we already have reached some concrete and important results.

New Toolkit

We managed to develop a new and clear Toolkit, composed by:

- Handbook of ecological practices
- Booklet of Sustainable projects from 2012
- Evaluation forms



2013 - Re-launching the SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

The creation of the ESWG brought a strengthening of the campaign, which involved, in 2013, 16 organisations (the 11 from ESWG + Yap Italy, Inex SDA, Inex Sk, GVDA, Grenzenlos, FIYE, SJ Vietnam, CIA).

We created a dropbox folder with a clear division of our documents in order to make it easier to find and exchange information and good practices. We also updated the campaign's [webpage](#) on the Alliance's web site, putting useful links and information.

The campaign's members agreed to implement the Handbook and Evaluation Forms in their projects and seminars, in order to have a common evaluation before the GA of the new framework of the campaign.

We don't have all the numbers and datas of the projects and volunteers involved in this season yet, but we will present them at the GA.

ECO-LOGICAL TRAINING COURSE

We presented and have approved the project for the Training Course Eco-Logical, which will be hosted by SJ in Laguepie in December.

The first aim of this project is to spread the new tools of the Campaign (developed by ESWG) and promote a new coordination of all our actions, raising awareness about sustainability but also about the ESWG and its work.

Here is a brief presentation of the project:

Objectives

- Multiplying principles and practices of the campaign
- Providing tools (using the ESWG toolkit and developing it)

Participants

People who can spread and share the campaign's principles and practices and are active members or volunteers/staff

Outcomes

Involve volunteers in the campaign and make them feel part of it (also part of Alliance), provide the participants with tools and methodologies on running sessions, create follow-up activities with the group

Topics/Contents

- o Environmental Sustainability in general
- o Sustainability Campaign & the Alliance ESWG
- o Sustainability in Workcamps, in the office (of Alliance Organizations) and in everyday life
- o Tools, activities
- o Sharing experiences
- o Follow-up activities/promotion of the campaign

NEW VISION and ACTIONS

We faced some difficulties in explaining the meaning of the international campaign in local contests and a general lack of awareness about the campaign from volunteers and local groups.

So we decided to re-launch the Sustainability Campaign 2014 adopting a **new vision: try to manage common standard of sustainability not only in a few projects and not only in the ENVI ones**. The important it's not the "code" but the practices, so we want to try to raise our standards in all the projects, and not only in workcamps, and **to define and agree some minimum sustainability standards for all the Alliance**.

Proposals and ideas

Toolkit Update

- We developed a **Sustainability Transport infosheet**, which contains information about sustainable mobility networks and means of transport in different countries. We will add it in our toolkit and use in the next campaign adding it to our infosheets, together with a brief presentation of the campaign.
- We created a specific handbook concerning **food topic** and sustainability, because we believe that food and consumption is one of the key factors of sustainability in IVS.
- We will add **some workshop proposals** in the toolkit and share documents with the TNWG, in order to elaborate a **list of workshops linked to sustainability**.
- We will update the **booklet** with 2013 "sustainable projects".
- We developed a **letter of recommendation about sustainable practices and accommodations** for hosting orgs of Alliance events - which the EC will add it in the calls for hosting. The **ESWG will act as a "buddy"** (like in the Buddy system) for hosts and organisations which need support on sustainable good practices
- We want to develop a common **evaluation** system also for the **outgoing** volunteers

Promotion of the Campaign 2014

- Promote the tools and the practices not only with camp leaders, but also during national trainings, and also in our **offices**
- Find another way of **promoting the campaign** in local contest (reach and involve more directly the volunteers).
- Creating a FB page for the campaign, as a possible follow-up of the Eco-Logical training.
- Give new life to our blog <http://sustainabilitycampaignivs.wordpress.com/>
- Strengthen cooperation with other network
- Run Common workshop in different countries

Reduction of consumption of paper in Alliance events (TM)

New proposal for the TM organisation: to send by e-mail the programs one week before the TM and then each organization will decide which ones they want to print.

Avoid printing Yellow pages, and if somebody want to print do it in the same paper of Exchange agreement

Concreteness

We will put all these proposals together and present them to the GA to be voted and adopted by the Alliance. In order to have a clear and open discussion on this topics we proposed to the EC to have time for a specific workshop during the Alliance Day.

External Relations Committee (ERC)

Members

*Nerijus Jankauskas, **Deineta**, VPER; Andrey Sergeev, **SFERA**, Coordinator; Rita Albuquerque, **Concordia FR**; Lardy Carina, **IBG**; Jana Konasova **INEX-SDA**; Iryna Barbukova, **Alternative-V**; Laëtitia PERRIN – **UNAREC**; Miroslava Zvacova, **INEX Slovakia**; Francesca Corney **CONCORDIA UK**; Laurine Goncalves, **UNAREC**.*

There were 2 ERC meetings in person this year during the Alliance days. The ERC has been also presented by Rita Albuquerque during the joint meeting of working groups and EC in Belgium. Furthermore, we have had constant exchange of e-mails.

During the year 2013 a big part of ERC activities dedicates to the video project aimed to create an Alliance promotional video which is going to be presented on GA 2013. However ERC has been and is involved in supporting the external representation of the Alliance as well as in concrete projects.

The volunteer messenger project – step 2

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

The project aimed to evaluate the results of the previous Alliance campaign and plan the future steps. This project allowed 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 took place in Lviv, Ukraine, November 11-25, 2012 hosted by Alternative – V.

Video project

The project "Promotion campaign on raising awareness towards international volunteering by producing a video" was prepared, designed and applied by ERC on behalf of Alliance and supported by CoE European Youth Foundation.

The aim is to produce an awareness raising tool, in order to reach large public and introduce international workcamps and volunteering. Through discussion, creativity, intercultural learning, working together, the barriers can be broken down and new ideas can be born in order to promote peace through exchanges and voluntarism.

During the project the filming team from Greece (Break The Couch) travelled among the workcamps in different countries (United Kingdom, Belgium, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Serbia, France, Germany) and shoot activities there.

Once the video finalized and presented on the GA of Alliance 2013, it will be used during representations and information days as a very concrete visual example on what is an international workcamp and volunteering experience and how this can be a tool to active youth participation. It will be published on the Alliance and on the member organization web-sites as well as on social networks and YouTube.

External Relations training

The training with the official title "Young People building peace and intercultural dialogue through advocacy and cooperation" was prepared, designed and applied by ERC on behalf of Alliance. It was supported by CoE European Youth Foundation. The training took place in Tallinn, Estonia (hosted by EstYes) in February 04-10, 2013.

The training aimed at training and empowering Alliance members and its young volunteers to advocate for values that are implied within workcamps such as cultural understanding, peace and youth cooperation.

The general objective was to train young people in order that they become key

actors of peace and to foster a strong dynamic regarding external relation and advocacy policy within Alliance.

The main themes of the TC were the participation of young people in democratic life, advocating and peace building. 24 participants were selected through Alliance member organizations. They were mainly youth leaders, active volunteers and staff members.

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!
- The ERC has to continue and develop promotion by video. For the next year it could be internet-based campaign aims to promote the created video in social media.
- The Face Book page should be re- born, developed and promoted.

The Pool of Alliance ambassadors has been created but there is a great need to develop it, to involve more people and to encourage these people to represent Alliance on different occasions.

September 20, 2013

Andrey Sergeev,
Alliance ERC coordinator 2012-2013

Staff Development working group (SDWG)

We can say that the year 2013 was very successful for SDWG. I'd say that the composition of the group, balance between experienced members and new, fresh minds, gave this excellent result.

Starting from new, improved and more up to date, newcomers session, more relevant to the event that is preceding. Another, very important thing is new, revolutionary, Alliance support system – the Buddy system. This year 18 individuals from 15 organizations have been involved in this initiative; the system was finally composed by 9 Buddy-pairs. Generally we received a positive feedback from participators about the idea of "Buddy" system in principle, which can perfectly work in case of real interest and need of organisation and people there who request a help. As this idea came from the members (at the Staff meeting) and it was developed and finalized there, it is also one of the tasks for next Staff meeting – to evaluate and go through the comments.

When we are mentioning the Staff meeting we should consider that this is the rare, if not the only place, where members have time to discuss important issues that they have faced during the season. GA and TM are lacking of time for such discussions, it is a pity that not more members are using opportunity to participate and analyze challenges.

Long season is not very helpful, most of the members of the working group are dealing with exchanges, therefore their participation in this group must be highly appreciated. Update of the Alliance guidebook after ten years cannot be considered as pure update as most of the parts had to be rewrite from the beginning. It is clear that this manual should be considered and used as "bible" of placements work. For the future the task should be to update this document annually.

Joint meeting of the working groups, committees and EC was excellent place to exchange ideas and opinions, SDWG had a chance to work on several proposals for this

GA with ADC, which could improve quality of our work.

Such an elaborated document as Guidebook, Standing orders (partly Constitution) is real legacy of the Alliance based on real experience of its members, not only for practical procedures they offer but for level of understanding the values of the network. Now that it is well updated it is on us to respect and upgrade them when needed.

The Alliance is finally fully equipped to support new members or new representatives of old members, monitor its work more carefully and assess it.

In my opinion SDWG plays crucial part in this process, therefore it asks for its members of the group to be experienced, very motivated and systematic in order to fulfil this important tasks. But it also gives opportunities for new representatives to learn and participate.

Bojan Beronja
on behalf of the SDWG

Training Needs working group (TNWG)

In the period after the General Assembly in Mozet, Belgium in November 2012, TNWG have done several activities and took part in all of Alliance events as listed bellow. There have been several Skype meetings as well as one physical meeting in Berlin in July 2013, where the members of TNWG have worked on development of a document titled as Alliance Training Policy Paper.

Call for Pool of Trainers

The call was sent to the Alliance members end of January, but upon receiving insufficient amount of applications for the pool, TNWG have decided to rework the entire strategy and not only write the new call for the pool of trainers, but also to create a document which would regulate rights and responsibilities of all the stakeholders present at an educational event, including trainers, Course Director, hosting and sending organizations and support staff.

Alliance Training Policy Paper

Several members of TNWG have meet in Berlin between July 12-14th in order to work on development of set of regulations which would help organize the forthcoming pool of trainers, which is to be relaunched right upon the end of General Assembly. This document is trying to set the ground for further development of Alliance, especially it's educational capacities, by trying to set as precise description of various levels of trainers, their rights and responsibilities, as well as the rights and responsibilities of all the other actors in an educational event hosted by Alliance. In case it is approved during the GA2013, the call for trainers will be sent together with the call for membership in the working groups and committees and it will be relaunched on December 1st 2013.

Long Term Training Course

Training Needs Working Group was actively involved in development of first LTTC programme, which included the Study Session in Budapest (with 3 members of TNWG present as trainers) and Training of

trainers in Paris (with 1 member of TNWG present). We would like to use the experience we had during these two events to set the standard for future Alliance events, especially those which will together form the core of LTTC – Study Session, Training of Trainers and Postcamp Event, which unfortunately didn't take part this year, due to the rejection of the project proposal.

Other events

Members of TNWG were also present in two more events hosted by the Alliance since the GA – Volunteer Messenger 2 in Lviv, Ukraine (2 TNWG members present) and External Relationship Training in Tallinn, Estonia (1 TNWG member present).

Apart from this, TNWG will be present as well at the training on Sustainability, which will be hosted by SJ in France in December this year.

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.

Along all 2013 the Alliance successfully implemented the long term project **Learning Bridges to Youth Empowerment, Creativity and Participation** in cooperation with European and Latin America organisations and with the support of the European Union.



**January - November 2013, 8 European and 10 Latin America IVS organisations
360 youth workers involved, almost 4000 young people reached in 14 countries**



The main objectives of "Learning Bridges" project were:

- to promote volunteering as a tool to empower youth, develop their creativity and spirit of initiative
- to enhance youth participation in the local communities by enabling the exchange and training of multipliers
- to exchange and develop innovative practices in the field of IVS
- to build international and regional sustainable partnerships among Latin America and European organisations

The project included a variety of international and local activities of small and large scale:

- a Kick-off networking seminar (Tepoztlan, Mexico on December 2012)
- a Multipliers' Training on Youth empowerment in voluntary projects (Morelia, Mexico on February 2013)
- 8 Job Shadowing activities between Europe and Latin America (between April and August 2013)
- a final Evaluation meeting and public dissemination event (Brussels, Belgium on September 2013)
- 16 raising awareness campaigns and events about volunteering as an empowering tool for young people and for local development (implemented locally in 14 countries)
- an international online logo contest addressed to young people
- the creation of a final booklet collecting the lessons learnt and the good practices discovered and exchanged along the way (http://issuu.com/volunteeringwithalliance/docs/building_bridges_booklet_en)

Among the outstanding results, we can register a wide reach of local youth, public authorities and associations in promoting volunteering as an empowering experience for youth and local communities; the increase of exchange and cooperation links between EU and LA, but also within LA; the opening of new spaces and opportunities for IVS organisations from both regions for a cooperation based on shared quality standard and mutual support links.

The **External Relations training course** "Young people building peace and intercultural dialogue through advocacy and cooperation" took place on February with the support of the European Youth Foundation.



**February 4-10, 2013 - hosted by Estyes - Tallinn (Estonia)
23 participants from 12 countries, a team of 4 trainers from External Relations
Committee and Training Needs Working Group**



The training prepared the active volunteers of Alliance members to contribute to the external representation of the network and the voluntary movement and to advocate for interculturality and peace through voluntary service.

The results included a renewed approach to the Alliance Representation plan, the inclusion of new young volunteers in the representation activities of the network and of its member organisations, an improved campaign to promote Alliance values on volunteering through social media (www.facebook.com/alliancenetw) and important contributions from the young participants for the implementation of the Alliance promotional video produced along 2013.

The **Study Session** "*Changing youth projects from multinational to intercultural - Towards a united strategy for intercultural learning and youth participation*" took place on March thanks to the support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.



March 17-24, 2013 – hosted by the European Youth Centre in Budapest (Hungary)
36 young participants from 13 countries, a multicultural team of 4 facilitators



The session constituted the introductory phase of the **Alliance long-term training course 2013**, which aimed at fostering the long term engagement of participants in their organizations' work, mainly as trainers for the workcamp leaders. The most important results show that participants widened their understanding of the history of International Voluntary Service as well as the Alliance role in it and the work of the Council of Europe in the youth field. They also developed competences in running training activities for the workcamp leaders using non formal methodological approach and innovative methods, with a special emphasis on boosting the Intercultural Learning dimension of workcamps.

The **Technical Meeting**, the biggest yearly meeting of International Voluntary Service organisations in the world, was hosted by INEX in 2013. It is organized every year to enable the members and invited partner organisations to exchange annual workcamp programmes and discuss relevant issues, mainly through bi-lateral discussions. It includes the organization of an "Alliance Day", for members to discuss relevant issues in their work and Alliance' life.

From February 27 to March 4, 2013 – hosted by INEX – Piestany (Slovakia)
84 organisations from 45 countries worldwide, 156 participants



The **Training for Trainers** “*Domino Effect: Training for Change Triggers*” was implemented on May in France, with the financial support of Youth in Action Program of the European Union. It followed up the Study Session in the framework of the Alliance long-term training course 2013.



May 5-13, 2013 - hosted by Jeunesse et Reconstruction - Aubervilliers (France)
21 participants from 11 organisations, 2 Alliance trainers



The main objective of the training, which was the second step of the **Alliance long-term training course 2013**, was to prepare new trainers of camp leaders on how to affect more deeply and durably youth participation in the form of volunteering. In the following months, participants implemented their learning results as part of the training team in the national trainings for workcamp leaders implemented by their organisations.

Participants were firstly introduced to the basic trainers' skills (such as feedback rules, presentation, moderation, evaluation) while the second half of the training was left for them to exercise those skills and improve them by designing and implementing workshops on topics of their interest related to International Volunteering (participation, environment, gender, etc.).

The **Short term group EVS** “*Go for the NEETs: creating opportunities with Nice, Entrepreneur, Eclectic and Talented Young People*” allowed 23 young people to have a first international volunteering experience abroad during the workcamps summer season 2013.



June - September 2013
23 young volunteers from 13 countries, 22 organisations involved
coordinated by the Access 4 All Working Group

In the framework of the **Alliance yearly Accessing Campaign**, 23 young people with NEET profile (not in employment, education or training) took part in a voluntary workcamp abroad together with other international volunteers. The projects were planned and prepared between sending and hosting organisations in a way that they would help youngsters to gain self-confidence and acquire “soft” skills (intercultural learning, autonomy, problem solving etc.) in view of applying them in their future studies, job or personal projects, with the help of the extra mentor from the sending organisation.

Following the principle of the Alliance **Accessing policy**, the international volunteers taking part in the workcamps with the EVS volunteers gained awareness and skills about how to live and work in a diverse social environment and how to build inclusion through every day actions.

Following the positive experience of 2012, the [Joint Working Groups and Committees meeting](#) took place on September 2013 to allow members of all Working groups to develop joint 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.

September 2-5, 2013 – hosted by JAVVA - Brussels (Belgium)
18 participants/members of 4 Working Groups and 2 Committees

The Access 4 All Working Group of the Alliance in cooperation with UNA organized an [A4A Campaign evaluation meeting](#) "Time to Reflect" to evaluate the experience of the past years, including the EVS project "Go for the NEETs" and develop a renewed future strategy.



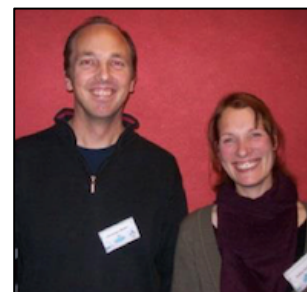
October 2-6, 2013 – hosted by UNA Exchange - Cardiff (Wales/UK)
18 participants from 13 organisations member of the Access 4 All Working Group

This meeting was developed following discussions at the Alliance General Assembly 2012 and the Technical Meeting 2013 about the need to evaluate the NEETs Short term EVS project and the A4A Campaign more widely. The topics included the review of tools and learning points from previous years' events focusing on inclusion, sharing of experiences of workcamps and inclusion volunteering within the group, and the development of future plans for the A4A Campaign. The challenges faced and the successful practices implemented were analyzed, and suggestions to maximize the impact of the **Accessing Campaign** were produced and later included in the Plan of Action adopted by the Alliance General Assembly.

An [International seminar about Youth in Action](#) "Review and outlook: keep best practices and invent new ideas within the following programme" was organized by the host in cooperation with the Staff Development Working Group, as a parallel event of the yearly [Staff Evaluation meeting](#).



November 4-8, 2013 – hosted by IBG - Weil der Stadt (Germany)
34 participants from 25 organisations, a team of 4 facilitators



The **international seminar** was structured upon three pillars: review members' cooperation with the Youth in Action programme that closed in 2013, outlook the future Erasmus+ 2014-2020 and develop ideas for new cooperation opportunities within the upcoming programme. On parallel and partly common sessions, the yearly **Staff Evaluation meeting** provided the staff of Alliance member organisations with a valuable opportunity to evaluate the past season, identify shared challenges and propose future strategies to the network in terms of IVS cooperation.

The **General Assembly** is the main statutory meeting of the Alliance, where all major decisions are taken, new members are accepted, internal positions are appointed and the Plan of Action for the coming year is agreed and adopted.

**November 9-10, 2013 – hosted by IBG - Weil der Stadt (Germany)
78 participants from 39 member organisations**



During GA 2013, Alliance members debated and eventually adopted important policy documents, among others the updated Alliance Quality Charter in IVS and the first Alliance Education and Training Strategy. Two new members were welcomed in the network and the Plan of Action 2014 with the related budget was discussed and approved.

The GA was preceded by the **Alliance Day**, a full day dedicated to the Working Groups and Committees of the network, the campaigns and internal debates on issues that are relevant for the present and future of the network and the members' work.

On November 2013 in Vienna, the Alliance participated in the closing conference of the **LLP multilateral project RIVER** "*Recognition of Intergenerational Volunteering Experiences and Results*", together with the international partners involved. The whole project lasted from 2012 during all 2013.



**February 2012 - November 2013 – coordinated by Die Berater Austria
with the participation of Lunaria (Italy) and other volunteering organisations and
adult education providers from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Finland**



The main aim of RIVER was to contribute to the **validation of the learning outcomes of senior volunteers** by developing a complete methodology for the assessment of competences developed during volunteering, a process that can benefit both the volunteers and the voluntary organisations.

The main result of the project is the RIVER methodology (based on LEVEL5 by Reveal Community) to assess the development of "soft skills" and competences by volunteers during their voluntary service, whether international or local. The methodology is accompanied by a set of guiding tools for the staff of voluntary organisations (www.river-project-eu).

The Alliance is proud to present its first **promotional video** **"Volunteering with the Alliance"** to raise awareness about international volunteering as a powerful educational tool towards youth participation. The project received the support of the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.



April - December 2013
realized by "Break the Couch" film-makers with the participants of 5 workcamps
coordinated by the Alliance External Relations Committee



During 2 months, the film makers travelled across all Europe, from the UK to Greece, interviewing and filming volunteers, workcamp leaders, community representatives and Alliance volunteers in 5 workcamps and one Alliance meeting. The video "Volunteering with the Alliance" is available online at <http://www.alliance-network.eu/our-campaigns/alliance-visibility-campaigns>.

The **Eco-logical training course** "*Environmental sustainability as a key factor in voluntary work*" was addressed to active volunteers, workcamp leaders and trainers of member organisations, in the framework of the Environmental Sustainability campaign in IVS.



December 5-11, 2013 - hosted by SJ - Laguepie (France)
23 participants, 5 trainers and experts
coordinated by the Environmental Sustainability Working Group



The training was prepared and implemented by members of the Working Group with the active cooperation of SJ as host of the event. Among the outstanding results, the initiative of an **"Energy Free Day" in Alliance workcamps 2014** was developed, and participants were fully prepared to include environmental sustainability practices and sessions in the national trainings for workcamp leaders and in the workcamps implemented by their organisations.

Annexes

Annex I - Plan of Action 2014

Action	Who	When
1. Alliance Events and Projects		
a) Technical Meeting	GSM	5-10 March 2014
b) General Assembly	Legambiente-YAP IT	November 2014
c) Alliance Conference (Congress) (part of the Workplan submitted to EYF)	Legambiente-YAP IT	November 2014
d) Training on TEEN camps management	INEX Slovakia	3-13 May 2014
e) Capacity building training on youth social solidarity actions and local communities (part of the Workplan submitted to EYF)	Serbia – Balkan region	19-24 May 2014
f) Study Visit (part of the Workplan submitted to EYF)	Greece - Thessaloniki	2-7 September 2014
g) "Learning bridges" project follow up with Latin America	EC & ERC	November 2013 - December 2014
h) Participation to the 5° Global LMTV meeting	ERC + VPER	January 2014
i) Meeting with southern partners present at the TM	ERC + VPER	TM 2014
g) Eco-Logical Training	ESWG	4-12 December
k) Report and follow up collective EVS short term project "Go for the NEETs"	EC & A4AWG	1 January 2013 - 1 July 2014
l) Follow up the RIVER project	EC & AS	<i>Throughout the year</i>
m) To run an Alliance accessing workcamp campaign	A4AWG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
n) Implement, supervise and follow up the Long Term Joint Alliance Training Strategy (Study Session, Tft)	VP + TNWG + Course Director	<i>Throughout the year</i>
2. Management of the Alliance		
a) Support preparation and implementation of Alliance Congress	EC + WG + Committees + members + AS	<i>Throughout the year</i>
b) Complete update the Alliance guidebook	EC + SDWG + ERC + ADC	TM 2014
c) Follow up the possible call of Administrative grant application under "Youth in Action" or new programme for 2014	EC + AS	From GA 2013
d) Follow up the administrative grant application for the EYF	EC + AS	From GA 2013
e) Improve visibility of the Alliance via the visibility tools of its members "e.g. websites"	AM + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>

f) Promote Alliance video	ERC + members	<i>Throughout the year</i>
g) Work on new Alliance website	EC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
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 2014/ GA 2014
b) Re-launch the Alliance Pool of Trainers	TNWG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
c) Explore new methods and create new opportunities to evaluate the season among Alliance members and partners	SDWG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
d) Follow up on "Buddy" system	SDWG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
e) Support Learning Bridges partners in implementing "Buddy" system	SDWG + AS + LA member organisations	<i>Throughout the year</i>
f) Run a session on the Accessing Campaign on each Alliance Day	A4ALL	TM and GA 2014
g) Promote the Data Interchange Handbook and assist the members	SDWG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
h) Follow up of further development of the statistic analysis and tool	ADC + SDWG + AS & Statistician	<i>Throughout the year</i>
i) Disseminate the Alliance Quality Charter to members, partners and guests	ADC	<i>TM 2014</i>
j) Improve the Alliance Representation Plan and encourage its use	ERC & VPER	<i>Throughout the year</i>
k) Improve and update the Membership Policy paper	EC & ADC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
l) Further implementation and support to the environmental sustainability campaign	ESWG + AM + members	<i>Throughout the year</i>
4. Information and communication		
a) Collect the reports from Alliance events past and present on the Alliance website	AS	<i>Throughout the year</i>
b) Continue with publication of Alliance newsletter with thematic focus	GS+AS+WG	<i>Throughout the year</i>
5. External relations		
a) Follow up the YFJ	VPER + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
b) Follow up and participate at Advisory Council and Programming Committee of EYF	VPER + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
c) Cultivate and follow up public relations with European Commission + EACEA	P + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
d) Explore opportunities of linking and cooperation with UNV	P + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
e) Explore further opportunities of cooperation with sister networks (CCIVS, AVSO, SCI and other)	VPER + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>

f) Support communication and further opportunities of cooperation with regional networks (SEEYN, NVDA and other)	VPER + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
g) Support communication and further opportunities of cooperation with LA organisations	VPER + AS + ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>
h) Follow up the CCIVS 3.2 project "IMPact"	P + VPER + members	<i>Throughout the year</i>
i) Support and participate at Global Leaders Meeting	VPER+ERC	<i>End of 2014</i>
j) To establish a system of internal communication for Alliance about ERC issues	ERC	<i>Throughout the year</i>

Annex II - Alliance Quality Charter

The General Assembly 2013 discussed and approved an updated version of the Quality Charter in IVS (International Voluntary Service).

Alliance Quality Charter

The Alliance Quality Charter has been produced as a target to which all organisations working in the field of international voluntary service should aim. This Quality Charter sets the standards of our work together, thus enriching the experiences for all those involved: the volunteers, the hosting communities and the hosting and sending organisations. This document should be a standard benchmark by which organisations can evaluate their work together and therefore strengthen their partnerships.

For Alliance members, partners and guests those standards are binding. Priority should be given to the cooperation among members, partners and guests of the Alliance.

1. Volunteers' Rights & Responsibilities

1.1 Rights:

1.1.1 All volunteers should be informed of: their rights and responsibilities as volunteers; requirements and conditions of their projects; details of the hosting organisations and background to the workcamp movement in general.

1.1.2 Volunteers should be informed of any language requirements, work responsibilities, the number of working hours, type of accommodation and general conditions of the project.

1.1.3 Volunteers should be informed about any significant changes to the project as soon as possible.

1.1.4 Volunteers must be provided with: accommodation (including washing facilities and toilets), and adequate food or budget for it, according to local standards. The group will not be expected to pay any additional fee which was not included in the project description, for their own food/accommodation whilst on a workcamp.

1.1.5 Volunteers must receive all necessary health and safety instructions regarding the work, accommodation, free time activities and transport (if necessary for the project) and be provided with the necessary safety equipment to carry out the work. A first aid kit should be available in the workcamp.

1.1.6 Volunteers have the right to adequate supervision during their project.

1.1.7 Emergency procedures concerning accidents, during or outside the working time, must be explained to volunteers.

1.1.8 Volunteers should have opportunities to express their opinions/concerns on the progress of a workcamp to a responsible person and where possible be included in the decision process.

1.1.9 Volunteers must not replace paid labour or volunteer on a for profit project.

1.1.10 Volunteers have the right to know how their fees that they give to either/both sending or hosting organisations are used.

1.1.11 Volunteers have the right to extra support to facilitate their inclusion on a project, providing this is agreed beforehand with the host.

1.2 Responsibilities:

1.2.1 Volunteers must accept and abide by the rules and conditions of the hosting organisation.

1.2.2 Volunteers should inform themselves of the voluntary movement, the workcamp philosophy and be motivated to take part on the project.

- 1.2.3 Volunteers must prepare themselves for the project by reading any information given to them by the sending/hosting organisations.
- 1.2.4 Volunteers are responsible for arranging and funding their travel (unless they are going on a supported programme), for seeking professional advice on current medical precautions and arranging their visas with the help of their sending organisation.
- 1.2.5 If the volunteers cancel their place on a project they must inform the sending organisations as soon as possible.
- 1.2.6 Volunteers are responsible for obtaining adequate insurance, especially when it is not provided by the hosting/sending organisation.
- 1.2.7 Volunteers should arrive on time and participate for the entire duration of a project.
- 1.2.8 Volunteers must send any information that has previously been requested to the hosting organisations (e.g. confirmation slips, travel details etc.) and if these change they must inform the host as soon as possible.
- 1.2.9 Volunteers should be flexible and understand that details of the projects can change at the last minute.
- 1.2.10 Volunteers must be active participants and support good group dynamics as this is a key to a successful project.
- 1.2.11 Volunteers are responsible, as a group, for organising their free time activities along with the support of the leader.
- 1.2.12 Volunteers must obey the laws of the hosting country. They are also responsible for their own behaviour on the project and they should respect the culture and traditions of the local host.
- 1.2.13 Volunteers must not engage in violent or discriminatory behaviour (e.g. racism, sexism and homophobic behaviour).
- 1.2.14 Volunteers must inform their sending organisation of any relevant health issues that they might have before they go on a project. This is only applicable if the health issue poses a risk to the volunteer or to other people. This information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.
- 1.2.15 Volunteers are responsible for providing feedback on their experience to their host and sending organisations.

2. Hosting Organisation's Rights & Responsibilities

2.1 Rights:

2.1.1 Any volunteer not abiding by the agreed rules of the workcamp can be expelled from the workcamp.

2.2 Responsibilities:

2.2.1 Each host organisation must implement and respect the rights of the volunteers (see section 1.1).

2.2.2 It is the responsibility of the hosting organisation to ensure that the host community understands the international and social aspects of a workcamp and is motivated to achieving these in addition to the project work.

2.2.3 Hosting organisations should only accept volunteers from a sending IVS organisation, unless there is no IVS organisation in a particular country and a volunteer applies directly.

2.2.4 If a volunteer is refused a place, the hosting organisation should give a reason (e.g. full workcamp, too many females, etc.)

2.2.5 If a workcamp is cancelled the hosting organisation must propose an alternative workcamp for the volunteers already placed on it. The replacement camp should be as close as possible to the original project in terms of dates, type of work and work location.

2.2.6 Hosting organisations should ensure that all communication regarding placements of volunteers is done efficiently. They must inform sending organisations about any changes regarding the project as soon as they occur.

2.2.7 Hosting organisations should do all they can to ensure a volunteer is issued with a visa when required and they should clearly communicate the visa procedures with the sending organisation.

2.2.8 Detailed information (the 'info sheet') should be available no less than four weeks before a workcamp is due to start. This information should include an emergency telephone number of the hosting organisation. Hosting organisations are recommended to follow the template provided in the Alliance Guidebook.

2.2.9 Hosting organisation will provide adequate food and suitable accommodation.

2.2.10 There should be a trained person (usually a project leader) responsible for each workcamp to supervise the volunteers and ensure its smooth running. They should also ensure that the volunteers are included in decision making.

2.2.11 Hosting organisation must inform sending organisation about any no shows within three days from the start of the workcamp.

2.2.12 Hosting organisation must inform sending organisation if a significant problem (health, safety or wellbeing of a volunteer) occurs on a workcamp or if a volunteer leaves early.

2.2.13 If, during the time of a workcamp, a volunteer is hospitalised then the hosting organisation is responsible for their wellbeing until the volunteer leaves the hosting country.

2.2.14 Hosting organisations are recommended to have insurance for their projects but in the event that this is not possible they must inform the sending organisations and volunteers before the projects begin.

2.2.15 If, during the time of a workcamp, a volunteer has to be repatriated for any reason then the hosting organisation is responsible until the volunteer leaves the project/workcamp.

2.2.16 Hosting organisations must inform all the volunteers about any health and safety instructions regarding the work, accommodation, free time activities and transport (if necessary for the project).

2.2.17 Hosting organisation should inform sending ones about any relevant remark concerning volunteers.

2.2.18 Hosts must provide volunteers with meaningful and not for profit volunteer work.

3. Sending Organisation's Rights & Responsibilities

3.1 Rights:

3.1.1 If any significant accident or incident affecting the health, safety and wellbeing of a volunteer (e.g. hospitalisation/arrest) occurs, the sending organisation has the right to be informed.

3.2 Responsibilities:

3.2.1 Each sending organisation should implement and respect the rights of the volunteers (see section 1.1)

3.2.2 The sending organisations must inform volunteers about the workcamp movement, voluntary service, what they can expect on a workcamp and what is expected of them. They must also be clear on how their projects are funded.

3.2.3 Sending organisations are responsible for providing volunteers with all the necessary information including: preparation/training sessions; handbook; infosheets; contact with past participants, etc.

3.2.4 Sending organisations should only recruit volunteers who are resident in their own country unless there is no sending organisation in a particular country.

3.2.5 The Volunteer Exchange Form (VEF) of each volunteer must be sent to the hosting organisation. It is the responsibility of the sending organisation to submit a completed VEF.

3.2.6 The emergency contact section of the VEF must be filled in and the hosting organisations have the right to refuse a volunteer if it is incomplete. It is the responsibility of the sending organisation to submit a completed VEF.

3.2.7 Sending organisations from countries where a visa is required should inform hosting organisations about visa regulation. Sending organisations should do all they can to ensure a volunteer is issued with a visa when required.

3.2.8 If the sending organisation receives significant or outstanding evaluations about a workcamp they should inform the hosting organisation.

3.2.9 If a volunteer cancels his/her participation the sending organisation must inform the host organisation as soon as possible.

Annex III - Alliance Members along 2013

	Acronym	Country	Official address	Phone	General mail	Contact person
1	ADP-ZID	Montenegro	PO box 370,VII Omladinske, 81000 Podgorica	00382-20 207 130	workcamps@zid.org.me	Sanda Rakocevic
2	ALLIANSSI	Finland	Asemapaallikonkatu 1, 00520 Helsinki	+358207552604	vaihto@alli.fi	Tiina Hokkanen
3	Alternative-V	Ukraine	13/21v, T.Shevchenka lane, of. 302, Kyiv, Ukraine 01001	0038 0442880915	alternative.v@gmail.com	Oksana Yuryk
4	C.i.A.	Greece	Gkyzi 59, 11474 Athens, Greece	0030 2103801881	citizensinaction@gmail.com	Xenia Koutentaki
5	CBB	Belgium	Place du Roi Albert 9 6900 Marche-en-Famenne	+32 84 31 44 1	coordination@compagnonsbattisseurs.be	Grégory VAN DE PUT
6	CBF	France	22, rue de la Donelière 35000 RENNES	00 33 299 60 90	cbfrance@compagnonsbattisseurs.org	Miguel BERTHELOT
7	CIEEJ	JAPAN	Cosmos Aoyama, 5-53-67 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8355, JAPAN	+81-3-5467-5503	IVP@cieej.or.jp	Hiroshi KOSUGA
8	CJ	Canada	4545, avenue Pierre-De Coubertin, C.P. 1000, Succursale M, Montréal (Québec), H1V 3R2	1-514-252-3015	cj@cj.qc.ca	Michel Bergeron
9	COCAT	Spain - Catalonia	c/ Calàbria, 120, 08015 Barcelona	0034.93.425.40.64	cocat@cocat.org	Elena Gonzàlez
10	CONCORDIA	France	64 rue Pouchet, 75017 Paris, France	+33 (0) 145230023	info@concordia.fr	Marco Paoli
11	CONCORDIA UK	UK	19 North Street, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1 DH	0044-1273-422218	info@concordiavolunteers.org.uk	Fiona Callender
12	Deineta	LITHUANIA	Savanoriu pr. 16-7, 44253 Kaunas	37037204055	info@deineta.lt	Nerijus Jankauskas
13	ELIX	Greece	Veranzerou 15, 10677 Athens, Greece	0030 2103825506	elix@elix.org.gr	Judith Wunderlich-Antoniou
14	ESTYES	Estonia	Wiedemanni 3, 10126 Tallinn		estyes@estyes.ee	Aleksandr Kurushev
15	FIYE	POLAND	Marszalkowska 24/26, Iok. 5, 00-576 Warsaw	0048 22 672 26 40	fiye@fiye.pl	Agata Frankowska
16	GENCTUR	TURKEY	ISTIKLAL CAD. NO:108 aZNAVUR PASAJI K:5 BEYOGLU 34430 ISTANBUL	0090 212 244 62 30	info@genctur.com	Zafer Yilmaz
17	Grenzenlos	AUSTRIA	Latschkagasse 1/4 1090 Vienna Austria	0043-1-3157636	office@grenzenlos.or.at	Martin Kainz

18	GSM	Turkey	Bayındır Sokak No: 45/9 Kızılay ANKARA	0090 312 417 11 24	gsm@gsm.org.tr	Öyküm Bağcı Sütlü
19	HUJ	ARMENIA	19A Koryun Street, 0009 Yerevan	0037410 522 771	huj@arminco.com	Stepan Stepanyan
20	IBG	Germany	Fuchseckstr. 1, 70188 Stuttgart	0049-711- 6491128	info@ibg- workcamps.org	Nadine Pantel
21	IJGD	Germany	ijgd, Kasernenstr. 48, 53111 Bonn	0049 228- 228000	ijgd@ijgd.de, workcamp@ijgd.de	Ute Siebler
22	INEX	Slovakia	Košická 37, 82109, Bratislava, Slovakia	004219055010 77	inex@inex.sk	Jaroslava Vanjo
23	INEX-SDA	Czech Republic	Varšavská 30, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic	+420 222 362 713	inexsda@inexsda.cz	Jana Konasova
24	IWO	South Korea	504-29 Yonnam-Dong, 121-869 Seoul, Korea	0082-2-568- 5858	jinsu@1.or.kr	Jinsu Yom
25	JAVVA	Belgium	Rue de Parme, 86 1060 Brussels Belgium	+3224782919	javva@javva.org	Roberta Stebel
26	JR	France	10, rue de Trevis - 75009 PARIS - FRANCE	00 33 1 47 70 75 71	camp@volontariat.org	ABISKA Marie- Christine
27	Legambiente	Italy	Via Salaria 403, Roma	0039 0686268324	volontariato@legambie nte.it	Luca Gallerano
28	Lunaria	Italy	Via Buonarroto 39 - 00185, Rome Italy	003906884188 0	workcamps@lunaria.or g	Marcello Mariuzzo
29	LYVS	Belarus	P.O. Box 213 Minsk 220013 Belarus	003752938511 87	yaskevich.natalli@gmai l.com	Natallia Yaskevich
30	MS	Denmark	Faelledvej 12	+45 7731 0022	workcamp@ms.dk	Lasse Jensen
31	NICE	JAPAN	2-1-14-401 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160- 0022 JAPAN	81-3-3358- 7140	nice@nice1.gr.jp	Kaizawa Shinichiro
32	NIG	Germany	Carl-Hopp-Str. 27 , 18069 Rostock	+49 381 - 4922914	nig@campline.de	Jörg Theska
33	Pro International	Germany	Cappeler Str. 12 E, 35039, Germany	+49-6421- 65277	info@pro- international.de	Andreas Kunz
34	SFERA	Russia	Piskunova 27,Nizhny Novgorod,Russia 603005	007831430470 3	sfera@dobrovolets.ru	Mr.Andrey Sergeev
35	SIW	Netherlands	Willemstraat 7, 3511 RJ Utrecht	003130231772 1	general@siw.nl	Karin van Mullem
36	SJ	France	10 Rue du 8 mai 1945, 75010 Paris	0033 1 55 26 88 77	dg@solidaritesjeunesse s.org	Matina Deligianni
37	SVI	Spain	José Ortega y Gasset, 71 - 28006-MADRID	003491782770 7, 003491782771 1	blasmo@injuve.es	Adela Martínez Collazos
38	Union Forum	Ukraine	B. Lepkogo 14, P.O. 2114, Lviv 79007 Ukraine	+38032272693 4	info@union-forum.org	Olena Kolosovych
39	UNA	UK - Wales	Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3AP	0044 (0)29 2022 3088	info@unaexchange.org	Kara Schmieder

			Cathays Park Cardiff, CF10 3AP			
40	UNAREC	France	3 rue des petits gras - 63000 CLERMONT- FERRAND - France	0033.4.73.31.9 8.04	international@unarec.org	François RIBAUD
41	VFP	USA	7 Kilburn ST Ste 316 Burlington VT 05401 USA	802-540-3060	info@vfp.org	Meg Brook
42	VIMEX	Mexico	Plaza de la República 51, 2 Piso, Desp. 2, Col. Tabacalera, C.P. 06030, México, D.F.	0052 55 5591 0265, 0052 55 55662774	vimex@vimex.org.mx	Vidal Flores Girón
43	VJF	Germany	Hans Otto Strasse 7, 10407 Berlin	0049 3042 85 06 03	office@vjf.de	Andrea Kocher
44	Vive Mexico	Mexico	Av. Universidad 2021-5, Fraccionamiento Los Pinos, C.P. 58200, Morelia, Michoacán, México	+52(443)3245 170	international@vivemexico.org	Victor Calderon
45	WORLD4U	Russia	Sretensky blvd, 6/1, build. 1, entrance 6, Moscow, Russia, 101000	007495-748-1- 748	networking@world4u.ru	Tsygankova Marina
46	Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	Badenerstrasse 129, CH-8004 Zürich, Switzerland	043 317 19 30	info@workcamp.ch	Simone Thommen
47	YAP It	Italy	Via Marco Dino Rossi 12/g, 00173 Roma Italy	003906721012 0	yap@yap.it	Stefano Varlese
48	YRS-VSS	Serbia	Bulevar umetnosti 27, 190531 Beograd, Serbia	003811131166 63	office@mis.org.rs	Jelena Ristic Beronja

The General Assembly 2013 welcomed two new members in the network, who received status of Candidate Members. They are Xchange Scotland (UK-Scotland) and De Amicitia (Spain).



Annex IV - Alliance Invitation List for 2014

The Alliance does not work alone. Worldwide we have a lot of 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.

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

- Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS);
- Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA);
- South East European Youth Network (SEEYN);
- Service Civil International (SCI).

According to the Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders, **Members** and **Partners** are invited to take part in the main Alliance events and activities (eg. General Conference, Technical Meeting, Post Camp Event etc.).

A **partner organization** is a structure, which is currently working with Alliance members and well known by the Alliance because they have already joined events they were invited to; they already respect and follow the Alliance Quality Charter in IVS.

A **guest organisation** is a structure, organising short term voluntary service activities, whom the Alliance members would like to meet to start or develop partnership. The main criteria for members to introduce guests is the quality of the work and the potential of the co-operation with as many Alliance members as possible. Guest status entitles organisations to one year participation to Alliance events.

The General Assembly 2013 approved an updated procedure for new organisations to become Guests or Partners in the Alliance (arts. 11.4 and 12 of the Alliance Standing Orders).

Partners after GA 2013

	Organisation	Country
1.	Fundacion SES	Argentina
2.	LYVG	Georgia
3.	ICJA	Germany
4.	Offene Häuser	Germany
5.	VolTra	Hong Kong
6.	Egyesek	Hungary
7.	See Beyond Borders (SEEDS)	Iceland
8.	WF Iceland	Iceland
9.	FSL	India
10.	Ruchi	India
11.	PKBI (IIWC)	Indonesia
12.	Dejavato	Indonesia
13.	Informagiovani	Italy
14.	KVDA	Kenya
15.	Leaders	Kyrgyzstan
16.	Nataté	Mexico

17.	MCE	Mongolia
18.	CJM	Morocco
19.	CSM	Morocco
20.	JEC	Morocco
21.	IPJ	Portugal
22.	Digevu	Russia
23.	Mir Tesen	Russia
24.	Passage Zebra	Russia
25.	Sodrujetsvo	Russia
26.	KNCU	South Korea
27.	VYA Taiwan	Taiwan
28.	Greenway	Thailand
29.	VSA	Thailand
30.	ATAV	Tunisia
31.	UPA	Uganda
32.	VAP-UK	UK
33.	SJ Vietnam	Vietnam
34.	VFP Vietnam	Vietnam

Guests for the year 2014

	Organisation	Country
1.	Red Tinku	Bolivia
2.	ACI	Costa Rica
3.	Fundacion Chiriboga	Ecuador
4.	FEVI	Ecuador
5.	IBO	Italy
6.	GVDA	Kenya
7.	Youth for Smile	Latvia
8.	VIN	Nepal
9.	CEDRU	Nicaragua
10.	BVBP	Peru
11.	Sonqoykipi	Peru

Guests for the year 2014 invited to the Technical Meeting by the Executive Committee

	Organisation	Country
12.	Bridge to the future	Azerbaijan
13.	YCC Bitola	Bosnia-Herzegovina
14.	Sunshine Volunteer Head Group	China
15.	AYA	Russia
16.	Good Deeds Case	Russia



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