



Values and role of IVS in the current political, social, economic situation

Alliance Congress - Rispescia (Italy) - from 2nd to 7th November 2014

“Looking into a Youth future with hope and trust” Workplan 2014 - with the support of the Council of Europe

About the Thematic Workshops

Dear Congress participants,

As you might already know during the first two days of the Congress there will be **five parallel series of workshops** on **five different themes** chosen through a consultation process with members. All five series of workshops will have **the same structure**, focusing first on the current situation in the network in relation to a specific theme before putting forward ideas on how that specific theme should be dealt with in the near future. Over two days of intensive discussion, participants will explore **the identity of the network**, its shared past and present, and will be moving on towards **a vision for the Alliance** for the next 10 years.

The descriptions below will help you decide **the theme** in relation to which you want to discuss the network's identity and propose a vision. After having read them, please consult with your organisation and choose **two themes/workshops** that you will be interested to address. **Please put these two themes/workshops in priority order, as your first and second choice.**

For every theme below there will be a working group of maximum 20 participants. Each participant will follow **ONLY ONE GROUP (one single theme)** throughout the two days; there will be no moving from one theme to another. We will try to form the groups according to your preferences.

Please indicate your choices to the Course Director, Xenia Koutentaki, by filling in this online form <http://goo.gl/forms/zTfcwFpr3l> **before the 24th of October.**

If you have specific questions about the content of the workshops, we would prefer that you keep them for the Congress, rather than asking them in advance. However, if you need help with understanding the theme, you can contact the Course Director (xeniagreece@gmail.com) or directly the facilitator in charge of the specific theme.

Theme 1 – Cooperative Network

Facilitation team: **Sara Mandozzi**, Lunaria, Italy, Facilitator

Jana Gander, VJF, Germany, Rapporteur

Jeremie Chomette, Unarec, France, Prezi Communicator

Key Words: cooperation, identity, principles, organisation, management, participation, support

Description: This series of workshops will explore the meaning that members associate with the concept of cooperative network. We will answer questions that allow participants to define a common understanding of cooperation. We will discuss the current guiding principles of the Alliance, and see how the Alliance fulfils the technical, political and cooperative needs of the members. We will identify strengths and limitations in terms of cooperation between members. During the second day we will try and see what we must definitely keep in terms of cooperation and how we can overcome the limitations identified. We will agree together on how far and deep cooperation should go, and what is the ideal level of involvement of each member.

Theme 2 – Membership Policy

Facilitation team: **Bojan Beronja**, Young Researchers of Serbia, Facilitator

Lisa Zaytseva, YAP ITALY, Rapporteur

Valentina Campomori, COCAT, Prezi Communicator

Key Words: membership policy, membership advantages, limitations, membership evaluation, future members of the network, quantify the quality, progress

Description: Membership policy has been one of the hot topics in the Alliance over the last years. We will analyse together the added value of membership and how the membership policy reflects this: does the network expand where and as members want? Then we will look at how the Alliance sees the increasing number of members, the quality of cooperation between them, and the lack of qualitative evaluation of member involvement: how come that there are more members yet less exchanged volunteers and common projects? The second day will give us the opportunity to look into what the rights and obligations of members should be, what the membership base of the Alliance can be, and whether the membership policy can be used to guarantee the quality of work and cooperation within the Alliance.

Theme 3 – Sustainability of the Network

Facilitation team: **Yulia Utenkova**, W4U, Russia, Facilitator

Stefano Farina, Legambiente, Italy, Rapporteur

Vassilis Tikos, CiA, Greece, Prezi Communicator

Key Words: costs ratio, public funds, bilateral relations of members, “big senders” and “big hosts”, financial regulations, support for members, exchange of resources, fund-raising structure, sustainability policy

Description: The workshop will examine the current system of financial management and human resource management of the network, from dependency on public funds and other

limitations in terms of financial sustainability to the lack of balance in volunteer exchanges between organisations and the decreasing number of volunteers. We will discuss the current model of charging fees from volunteers and the transparency of those fees, as well as the network management structure and the related costs. During the second day we will work on a vision of sustainable development principles for the Alliance, trying to agree, among other things, on whether there is a need for common rules for bilateral financial relations between members and whether the network should financially support members in need. We will look at the possibilities for accessing funds from the private sector, at a managerial structure that makes best use of human resources available in the network, and at possible mechanisms for the exchange of resources among members.

Theme 4 – Monitoring and Evaluation

Facilitation team: **Oykum Bagci**, GSM, Turkey, Facilitator

Fiona Callender, Concordia UK, Rapporteur

Martin Avila, Xchange Scotland, Prezi Communicator

Key Words: monitoring, evaluation, Quality Charter, statistics, impact, indicators, management

Description: This workshop will be about what we monitor and evaluate but also about why we evaluate and for whom we evaluate our work. We will search answers to questions about our most useful tools for monitoring and evaluation and we will reflect on how the results of these processes are used to improve the impact of our activities, of Alliance events, projects, campaigns and action plans. The workshop will also look into ways of measuring the quality and the impact of cooperation among all members and partners. During the second day, we will explore concrete indicators that need to be measured both by the network and by individual organisation. We will discuss in what ways quality monitoring and evaluation can be integrated fully and organically in the management of the Alliance over the next 10 years.

Theme 5 – Visibility, Advocacy and our Action Environment

Facilitation team: **Dushan Milojevic**, IJGD Germany, Facilitator

Sophie Chielens, CBB Belgium, Rapporteur

Alessio Scarapazzi, YAP Italy, Prezi Communicator

Key Words: visibility, advocacy, management, participation, support, international relations, international cooperation

Description: The workshop will help us single out current visibility and advocacy strategies within the network, but will also create the space for member organisations to share their good practices in this field and bring up new ideas for the forthcoming years, which should help Alliance open more towards other networks and share its values with other organisations and networks. We will explore relevant questions raised by the Alliance member organisations about the network's vision, expectations and desired impact on both national and international level. We will propose ideas on how to improve representation of the Alliance abroad and how to support the External Relations Committee in their attempt to share the values the Alliance stands for. We will reflect on ways to create greater visibility of all outcomes we have had over the past years through projects implemented or through campaigns we have been running inside the network.