

Alliance Congress:

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

**Topic: Invitation to Alliance Congress 2nd-7th November 2014/ 2nd call
for registrations**
New extended deadline 30th September 2014,
Registration Form at: <http://goo.gl/7604qr>

Dear members,

Following the joint meeting of the Alliance that has very successfully taken place at Thessaloniki, I would like with this mail, on behalf of the EC and the Congress Organizing Committee to update you on where we stand till now, regarding the Congress preparation.

The aim, objectives as well as the main questions opened for the Congress so far, are all based on the results of a consultation process, including all members, as well as members of working groups and committees that started over a year ago, following the GA 2013 decision, taken.



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Aim & Objectives

The First Congress of the Alliance is meant to be an open space where members are invited to think critically about and reflect on the past, present and future of the Alliance. The main aim of the congress is a dialogue among member organizations, but also among individuals that contribute to the daily work of the organization. Having worked together for more than 30 years, having grown into a major player in the field of volunteering, it is time for us to take a moment to see how we got here, how we can sustain our work, and how we want to develop further.

Structure

The structure of the congress is built to give everyone a possibility to contribute their opinions to aspects related to cooperation, sustainability, evaluation, membership policy, visibility and advocacy. We will answer questions like: *How do we define cooperation in the Alliance? What do we keep from the past, what do we add, what do we leave behind? What is the membership policy, and is it adequate? How do we deal with non-active members? Should the network depend on public funds or should members take the full responsibility for its income? How can the Alliance make its work more visible and how can we*



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advocate our values in a way that ensures our sustainability? What are the indicators for our work that we need to measure?

To put it briefly, participants will be moving from where the network is now to where they want it to be in 10 years' time, and will reflect on how we should get there.

[What the congress is not](#)

The Congress is not about making major decisions or about changing what we are or voting for Constitutional Changes – those are tasks that need longer than four days and only the GA body can decide on that. But we will answer essential questions, and these answers will provide a general strategic direction to the General Assemblies of the next years and to the Executive Committee.

[People involved](#)

In order to organize and run the congress in the most effective way, several people will be involved. For the first time in the Alliance we have the help of an experienced external facilitator Mr Radu Szekely. But as we are experts in cooperative projects several other people (a total number of 50 people) are involved in different roles: Course Director, trainers from the Alliance PoT,



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Facilitators and Reporters from different working groups, Guest speakers. Some positions are still open so soon you will be asked to volunteer!

Note 1: Facilitators and Reporters should make sure when planning their travel to arrive on the 2nd of November before 16:00 for the final Coordination Meeting!

Note 2: As prior to the Congress, Legambiente organizes its General Assembly at the same venue, delegates who will arrive before 14:00 on the 2nd of November will have the chance and are also encouraged to if they wish to attend part of Legambiente’s General Assembly, as well.

[Registration Process:](#)

The maximum number is 2 delegates /organization. If the places are not filled till the 30th of September, then we will open the registration for a 3rd delegate /organization.

In any case both for those of you who have applied till now and those who will apply till the 30th of September for the maximum of 2 delegates/ organization, are automatically accepted and could proceed with the purchase of your tickets.



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I would kindly ask you to register as soon as you have decided on the delegates of your organization to the Congress. The sooner we have the final number, the better and more efficient both the host and the Organizing Team can complete the preparations of such a demanding event.

Congress Dates:

Opening: Sunday 2nd November 2014 at 18:00

Closing: Thursday 6th November 2014 at 18:00

Participants should arrive on Sunday the 2nd of November and leave on Friday the 7th of November.

Note: Those who will stay for the Alliance GA 2014 that follows on the 7th and 8th of November, should depart on Sunday the 9th of November.

Program/Congress Timeline:

Attached you will find some first timeline and Provisional Program on the Congress

Online background material for the congress

<http://www.alliance-network.eu/alliance-congress-2014/>



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Next Steps:

In order to have fruitful discussions, we need to prepare ourselves. Working Groups and Committees are preparing background documents on the main topics to be discussed, that will be communicated to you in due time so as to study them. Having a first idea on the questions opened, please try to get feedback from your organizations,(boards, staff, volunteers etc) on the topics that are to be discussed.

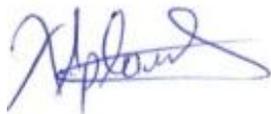
Also for any support or feedback we will need from your side, you will be contacted in the coming days from the Course Director and the External facilitator on this.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact:

a) the Alliance Secretariat concerning the content at: alliance@alliance-network.eu

b) the host organizations concerning the travel and accommodation info at: infoalliancecongress@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,



Chrysafo Arvaniti
Alliance President



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Enclosed:

- Alliance Congress Provisional Program
- Travel Reimbursement Request Form
- Financial Conditions
- Infopack by host organizations (Legambiente_YAP Italy)

