

## Alliance Congress November 2014

### Content:

Based on the compilation of feedback from members, MC and Working Groups there are 5 key topics emerging:

1. Cooperative Network,
2. Membership Policy,
3. Financial but not only sustainability of the network
4. Monitoring /Evaluation,
5. Visibility , Advocacy and the Environment we act

According to the identified needs, members would like to go deeper into these topics in relation to the following main lines:

- 1) **Identity** (who we are-what we do)
- 2) **Vision** (where we would like to go)
- 3) **How?** (with what kind of tools and which strategic approach)

### Process to it:

*-The suggested idea mainly is to split in groups and answer to the questions that have been raised and moving gradually day after day from the identity and vision plan (Day 1 and 2) to the concrete planning on how to implement (Day 3 & 4).....*

*-Participants will be given the chance to participate in different groups and focus on different topics every day (e. g 2 topics per day). We will work out different methods and try to mobilize technology so as to make it as participatory as possible (like interactive prezi boards...)*

*- Our invited guests and the topics they will speak about , will be linked to the main topics been raised below... so as to 'feed' inspiration*

*- As part of preparation of the Congress Working Groups and Committees should support by providing background information on the history and evolution of the network regarding the main thematic. This information has to be brief, precise and focusing on key moments and highlights ( max. x 2A4 pages)*

### Concrete Outcomes/Clear results:

By the end of the Congress we will need to:

- have come out with clear Guiding Principles and an updated Preamble
- instructions for Working Groups and Committees towards which direction to work
- the main pillars of a strategic plan of action

Below are the main thematics and questions linked to it:

<b>TOPIC /KEY OBJECTIVE</b>  <b>Support and background info by whom</b>	<b>Identity</b>	<b>Vision/Guiding Principles</b>	<b>How/Tools?/Strategic Approach</b> <b>What will the criteria be/success indicator?</b> <b>What we measure and how?</b>
<b>COOPERATIVE NETWORK</b> Support info group: <b>EC</b>			<p><b>Main Question:</b> <i>What does cooperative network mean? How do we define cooperation? What are the guiding principles? What we keep from the past, what we add, what we leave behind?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How can a cooperative network support the technical needs of partner &amp; members?</li> <li>✓ Is the network as actor of social development, how? In which areas?</li> <li>✓ What are the limits of our network ?</li> <li>✓ Are there any non-written rules that we need to write and set them as official or revise their relevance?</li> <li>✓ How we prevent risks and solve conflicts? Is there a cooperative way to do so?</li> <li>✓ The network as organisation: which are the managerial needs and how we can cover them? (here comes the secretariat issue, working groups, network meetings etc)</li> </ul>
<b>MEMBERSHIP POLICY</b> Support info group: <b>ADC/SDWG</b>			<p><b>Main Question:</b> <i>what is the membership policy so far, what are the issues?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Who can become a member?</li> <li>✓ Is the membership process we follow so far, enough?</li> <li>✓ Are the rights and obligations of members, in practice so far, enough? Is there something missing?</li> <li>✓ How can we assess membership in a more efficient and long term way?</li> <li>✓ How can someone become a non member ?</li> <li>✓ Which are the criteria for setting limitations in terms of numbers, counties etc?</li> </ul> <p>...</p>
<b>FINANANCIAL AND NOT ONLY SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NETWORK</b> Support info group: <b>Treasurers/internal Audits</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Should the network depend on public funds or members should take the full responsibility of its income? What is the line in between? Can the network support members in need? Is this part of our Cooperative network ethics?</li> <li>✓ Do we have a common financial model of the workcamps and of the international volunteer exchanges? <i>Esp. the ratio costs paid to the sending organisation/costs paid to the hosting organisation</i></li> <li>✓ Are we going to develop common principles and guidelines for the bilateral financial relations of members? <i>Or is it enough to share our specificities in our yellow pages, programs, etc.</i></li> <li>✓ Do we need a fund-raising structure – group?</li> </ul>
			<p><b>Main question:</b> <i>what are the indicators for our work that we need to measure(as a</i></p>

<p><b>MONITORING EVALUATION</b> Support info group: <b>SDWG/ADC/Statistician</b></p>	<p>network and not only as individual organisations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do we need concrete tools in order to measure the impacts of the events that we organise and reflect on why we organise them?</li> <li>✓ How can we evaluate cooperation among all members and partners?</li> <li>✓ How can we evaluate Alliance events, their benefits and impact? (staff meeting in particular evaluation of Alliance working groups and committees/promotion and visibility of our work?</li> <li>✓ Statistics: How can we use them as a tool for planning next steps? For promoting our work? For the empowerment of the network and the IV movements</li> </ul>
<p><b>VISIBILITY AND ADVOCACY AND THE ENVIRONMENT WE ACT</b> Support info group: <b>ERC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How can Alliance lobby for issues such as visas, or cuts in funding of workcamps etc?</li> <li>✓ Trends of volunteering</li> <li>✓ Voluntourism</li> <li>✓ <i>How short term volunteering is a way to address people's civic sense as a prerequisite for sustainable development and focus on ways to connect the short term intervention with lasting impact at the community level</i></li> </ul>

**Next Steps/Timeline for now:**

**till-June 15<sup>th</sup>** : The above information is shared with the MC and then with all members. Feedback is asked and questions to be enriched if and where necessary

**May 21<sup>st</sup>- June 15<sup>th</sup>** : Working Groups and Committees will need to prepare background docs as support to the Congress preparation. It is suggested that every Committee and Working Group focus on the content of its own group by presenting the highlights and the evolution of the network over the years. This will serve as a common solid basis for all to reflect upon before and during the Congress. Also some Working groups and Committees will need to focus in the same way on the above main topics. (e.g EC will prepare the highlights of the history of Alliance as a cooperative network, ADC & SDWG on membership policy, TNWG on training and education policy... etc..) every background doc should not exceed a 2 sided A4 paper. ) After having it finalized, it will be both sent to the members prior to the Congress, as well as been available there, as a common thread to link with...

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup>**: Organising Committee will collect feedback on the above and will make the final content elaboration for the congress itself. Part of the EC meeting in Serbia will be dedicated to it.

**July 10<sup>th</sup> –end of August >Study Visit**: Final program, invitations send out, registrations, dissemination, good practices collection, logistics...

**Study Visit Thessaloniki**: training session for facilitators of workshops of the Congress (Course director+ External facilitator present). Finalization before Congress.