

Compilation of Feedback from Workshops on Alliance Congress Alliance MC and Alliance Day _March 2014



PART 1 Expectations/Expected Outcomes

WHO	FEEDBACK
MC	<p>We see the Congress as a space where the members will have the chance to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ share our common vision, common practices, problems and concerns ✓ & come out with a clear strategic plan of action for the next 3 years. <p>We see the Congress as a chance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ to find the meaning of the cooperative network we have decided we are , ✓ to discuss how we see the network and our organizations within it today and to make a concrete decision on how we would like to proceed. <p><u>Expectations and Expected Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ to define commonly our vision and to come out with concrete guiding principles (like eg. working out on the preamble...) ✓ to be clear on our identity today, meaning in what we do and what we want to develop (e.g why do we work with local communities? What is the impact? Etc) ✓ to go deeper and analyze the ways we work , the tools we are having and see what needs to be changed, adapted, reformulated, kept, left behind...In that aspect we should come out with ideas on follow up projects, partnerships, working towards the direction we have decided to see us in the coming years.

PART 2 –on the Content

WHO	Vision	Identity	Where we want to go? Strategic Plan	How? Tools
MC	Start with the Vision and why we do IVS/What is the impact of our work? Do we want and how we can combine the local with the global. Can we say we are locally based and globally connected?	what are the actions we develop within the international voluntary service? Have our activities changed over the years? Do we have any good practices we could also share?	Based on specific and commonly decided guiding principles, where do we see us concretely in the coming years? (e. g as the most competitive network within IVS on a European/wider level? What kind of activities do we focus on? What do we lobby for?)	What are the tools we are having ? (e.g TM, buddy system, Working Groups and Committees?) What needs to be changed and updated so that we are consistent with the above decisions?
GROUP 1	Outcome: Vision, guiding	Questions linked to our identity we are	-reflect as a network; how do	-we are not old-fashioned,

	<p>principles, to be clear on 21st century, discuss what we want to develop, discuss the impact of our work, go deeper to analyse our work, our tools, what to change/ to kept/ to left behind us. To have concrete ideas ... coming to a new step in Alliance history</p>	<p>asked to answer: -balance situation on the exchange; problems to find funds; to have all the same policy on sponsorship - reflect on value being a member, i.e. partners of many years but not being a full member gain a lot but pay less, members pay and work more - outcome of workcamps, is workcamp becoming touristic -Value of Solidarity; IVS is a unique movement, it gives competences,</p>	<p>we want to the important stakeholders (i.e. Armenia), how can we change this, how can we have another relationship to stakeholders; reshape the actor conditions; reflect all this and make a strategie as network - The volunteers change, we become old fashioned, we are thinking in a different way than the volunteers; the mentality changed, How to speak to the volunteers what is IVS</p>	<p>our way to communicate is old - It is important to get a certificate</p>
GROUP 2	<p>Feedback from outside about why people are choosing commercial organisations rather than volunteering with the Alliance? Why is there a decreasing interest in IVS?</p> <p>There should be a point in the Congress about the problems that each organisations are facing – to see if there is more to discuss at Alliance level. Acting locally, thinking globally – how do we do this? Are we aware as a network and organisations how we do this on our projects? If we know what we are we know how to act Identity of Alliance: Family, Open, alternative, active and international. This is what we thought when thinking of Alliance identity. There are 3 different positions: act, react, impact... Maybe we could have a space to</p>	<p>Is the Alliance promoting what people what or what we think it's good for them? Should we give what the public wants or what we think they should have as their experience? What is the public understanding of development? Is it building a school in Africa or renovating a castle in France?</p> <p>Vision. We discussed that international volunteering is manifesting in different ways nowadays: volun-tourism, humanitarian aid and IVS. What is Alliance vision on this? Where do we stand? We see the IVS as educational tool. Do we want to do something about the educational process of the workcamp? Do we leave it as it is or do we want to take it further? Do we want to focus as a network on developing educational tools or do we leave it to individual organisations to do it as they want it. Are we a political or only technical network? Why do we want to carry out the</p>	<p>How can we develop as a network? How can we improve our work? We should emphasize positive thinking...involving other types of volunteers: seniors, people disabilities and people socially excluded...we should promote the ideal of A4A; workcamps should be a bridge between different generations, social backgrounds, etc..</p>	

	share the realities of the workcamps in different countries, what is the content? What is the impact of IT, internet?	projects like Learning Bridges or other projects? What is their impact? What will be the motivation of volunteers in 10 years time? What will be the workcamp in 10 year time?		
GROUP 3	<p>Do we want to stay as a European organization only? If yes, why?</p> <p>Alliance should become the referring contact to answer to any questions about volunteering</p> <p>To become the forefront of volunteer training and political thinking on volunteering</p> <p>What is a workcamp for: a tool or a goal? Both?</p>	<p>Alliance is aimed to encourage people to be socially active and to bring help where it's needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to have a weight in decision making at the international level - to make IVS more accessible to all levels of the society by collaborating with private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does it mean to be an European organization? - In order to know who we are we need to know where we come from? - Identity is not an action - What make the Alliance unique and important compared to other IVS organisation? 	<p>Impact: personal development of the volunteers and influence on local community (broadening the mind of local community and so on)</p> <p>Global/Local: everything starts locally and then goes global. We have to start from the local,</p> <p>nothing can start global. Projects and workcamps are local but content are global (because of international volunteers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is more capacity building towards organization members necessary (not volunteers)? - Financial system fees need to be changed, updated... 	<p>Alliance events should use media in order to make its events and initiatives more visible. Do we have a working group for the improvement of the quality of the projects?</p> <p>We miss also a way to improve the communication about the results of the Working Group that are somehow not reaching the organisations</p> <p>Should Alliance be more strict regarding the respect of its rules, documents...? How? A conflict resolution body?</p> <p>Is there a need for a special training for the newcomers? Support body for an organization or member facing special challenges?</p> <p>To focus and train on lobbyism at international level?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To find sustainable financing for the Alliance</p>
GROUP 4	Long term vision-short term strategy	<p>What is our target group?</p> <p>Whom do we cooperate with?</p> <p>What are the need of the members?</p> <p>How much European is Alliance?</p> <p>Identity as the starting point</p>		

<p>GROUP 5</p>	<p>– we'll talk about the vision of IVS, reflect the impact of the work we do; guests can be invited to give their view and vision for the IVS - local authorities; what is the recognition of IVS on national levels and on European level – EYF, European foundation; sister networks; campaigners (Legambiente or others); past EC members – can help with the preparations (Xenia has contacts- "Alliance support club")</p>	<p>Why do we do IVS: to make positive social change empowerment of young people Impact on local community international sensitivity, personal connections breaking barriers, development of tolerance and open society expanding horizons raising the peace tool for spreading democratic values, human rights making a difference, longer engagement personal development cooperation, participation volunteering is the only thing that anyone can do, all people from various background encourage an active and responsible approach to the world strive towards tolerant and open society respecting cultural differences respect and understanding active and responsible citizens who take interest in the world around them impact on local community concentrate on quality</p> <p>Identity Alliance gives general frame which organisations fill with their activities on national levels</p> <p>Projects we implement to achieve this: workcamps as tool of NFE open to all – families, senior, kids MLTV Campaigns</p>		
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on the Methodology/Process

WHO	
Group 2	<p>The congress cannot take decisions for the members, it's the GA that does it.</p> <p>Capacity building training in Serbia is the first action towards the congress, to prepare the content of the congress. This will be 30th June to 4th July</p> <p>There will be a study visit in Thessaloniki + joint meeting of ADC hosted by CIA – 5th to 7th September.</p> <p>These preparatory steps will help the organisations have an idea of where the congress is going to go and help prepare for it.</p>
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share the documents that are already existing (standing order, quality charter...) - to think about how we can involve all the organisations as they won't be able to send a participant to every events - doubts about the connections between the different phases of the preparation - to spread in a clearer way who is in charge for the elaboration of the congress - how to bring all the results till the Congress without discussing it all over again - what preparation should be organized in order to prepare properly the different participants to the different steps? <p>Maybe a good idea to have some documents in order to understand better the process, the methodology and to share it among the organisations (the application form)</p>
GROUP 4	<p>General agreement on the timeline</p> <p>Need for external experts</p> <p>Start the Congress with our Identity and go to the Vision part</p> <p>Collect SWOT from organisations</p> <p>Qualitative data from organisations</p> <p>Experts needed to be included</p>
GROUP 5	Collect the data in advance – questionnaires – ADC, MC, WG

TOPICS EMERGED FROM GROUPS	<p>Trends of volunteering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility • Educational aspect of workcamps • Mentoring and evaluation of the projects we are running • Technical platform and political platform • Measuring the impacts of the events that we organise and reflect on why we organise them • Intercultural dialogue – does it exist and if it does how to make sure there is at all levels • How to improve equal opportunities • Impact of the work that we do • Mobility from countries from where visa is difficult to get...
	<p>Proposals for the Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - revise membership policy (do we need a new one?)– how to support associate members / evaluation of cooperation among all members and partners

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analyse the need and function of secretariat - create the group that will raise the questions, send questionnaires before the event (to unable org. to discuss within their organisations) - space for sharing problems and finding the solutions/ new successes and common challenges - conflict solving among members – do we want to create conflict resolution system - write down some non-written rules – to set them as official or revise their relevance - evaluation of Alliance events, it's benefit and impact– Staff meeting in particular - evaluation of Alliance working groups and committees - promotion and visibility of our work - revise the tools and procedures we use - analyse the statistics – view to the development of IVS towards the current state - focus on the support of cooperation with new organisations (Learning Bridges)
GROUP 4	<p>Membership Policy Agreements and how this is implemented What is the priority for the Alliance</p>