

CALL FOR ALLIANCE MIGRATION DAY 2016

For 2016, the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations chose Migration, a developing global theme, as a framework under which all actions and events refer to in their planning and implementation.

The Alliance is sending out this call to all the members and partners of the Alliance to participate and spread the message of welcoming refugees/migrants within its network and activities (Workcamps, MTV, LTV, Trainings, EVS...).

Workcamps are a tool to help promote intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service. While European institutions are not succeeding in facilitating the process of the welcoming and supporting refugees among the member state and some governments are building fences and closing borders, Voluntary Service in its essence is a way to open borders, to give space to Volunteers with different cultural, social and economical backgrounds to build peace and tolerance.

We want to invite all our members and partners to choose a date that is convenient to organize one or several activities that are linked with the theme of migration within one Workcamp during summer 2016.

Beside a date every organization is free to choose, we also would like to organize a thunderclap (<https://www.thunderclap.it/?locale=en>) **during the General Conference** to give visibility, putting pictures and messages on the web of the actions already done or planned.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON THE ALLIANCE MIGRATION DAY

The volunteers themselves are foreigners in a different country, though not migrants. But they might have their personal story of migration in their life (family members, friends, colleagues, work place). There is an opportunity here to create empathy and understanding in a very experiential way.

Proposed activities organized during the ALLIANCE MIGRATION DAY

- The Trainings Needs Working Group (TNWG) has developed a workshop on migration (Alliance Workshop on Migration) that we invite your Campleaders to carry out in your Camps. The workshop description can be downloaded at this link: <https://goo.gl/FQhNL4>
- Role playing games ("toolkit to work on the rights regarding migrations, citizenship and freedom of movement in international Workcamps" created from CCIWS). The toolkit can be downloaded at this link: <http://www.alliance-network.eu/?p=3129>
- Besides involving directly migrants and refugees (if possible), invest extra efforts to involve as much as possible the local communities in the Workcamps (The Workcamp as a small community is a concrete example of the richness of an intercultural and socially diverse society).
- Personal stories that Volunteers would like to share with the rest of the group
The above would require a minimum effort on the volunteers' side as well

(bringing stories, materials, pictures, quotes, being prepared to possibly exhibit them) and would require that they are informed before the camp. Special attention should be paid to the case of volunteers for whom the matter can be for any reason, an issue.

- Discussing and adopting national Campaigns and initiatives during the Workcamp (from the whole group) related to topic of freedom of movement, refugees welcome messages, human right declarations...
- Any other creative ideas that you or your camp leaders might have.

Involvement of local communities

Workcamps are a moment of interaction with local communities. Apart from the educational value of the Migration day activities for the volunteers themselves, the actions could potentially be used to sensitize and inform the local communities. In a two-way interaction, the group could organize actions for the community and in turn arrange the space to learn from them.

Apart from the message we want to give, what and how does the local community perceive the matter of migration? Ascertain possible risk with regards to local perception, before proceeding.

- Open public exhibition of materials provided by the volunteers (photos, videos where possible, art, etc.)
- Place for discussion with locals in an open environment
- Interviews
- Learning of local related initiatives and actions (something the volunteers could also take back home as a good practice)
- Other ideas

Comment: *The realization of these can be quite difficult and not always possible and should act as a reservoir of ideas for the individual organizations to build on, knowing the realities and opportunities their camps offer.*

We ask all the members and partners who are involved to send their videos, records, materials and stories to the Global Action Task Force global_action@alliance-network.eu.

#IVS4Peace, #MakeChangeHappen