



of European
Voluntary Service
Organisations

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

With the support of the European
Youth Foundation of the Council of
Europe and the Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union.



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Statistics	5
What is a workcamp?	7
Alliance Management	8
Executive Committee Report	11
Reports of Working Groups, Committees and task Forces	22
Report of Alliance Secretariat	36
Report of Course Director	42
Alliance events and projects 2017	45
Annexes	49
ANNEX I - Alliance Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2019	49
ANNEX II - Alliance Members after General Assembly 2017	52
ANNEX III - Alliance Invitation list after General Assembly 2017	54

Introduction

Dear reader,

I am very happy that you are about to read this annual report, because we believe that it is a sign that you are interested in International Voluntary Service and because you will be able to discover the activities of its key actor in Europe: the Alliance.

This document will uncover for you the journey we lead for the 35th year of Network's existence and create a clear picture of our annual activities, projects, and democratic life.

Following the GA 2016, this year focused on the persisting downward trend in numbers of volunteers in our projects and sought solutions for this crisis. Our members have been empowered to tackle this issue through capacity building initiatives on promotion and marketing; they were supported by Alliance solidarity measures and given space for sharing concerns and practices. Furthermore, the topic of previous years - migration and freedom of movement - has been showcased this year as well and it was outlined in the final event on multi-network level with an "Open Forum on Freedom of movement" in Athens on 31 October 2017, prior the Alliance General Assembly.

Even though in 2017 yet again we see a decrease in volunteers' numbers overall, the numbers of teenage volunteers are going up, which provides hope that this trend can be reversed. This year for the first time a workshop on marketing has been offered at the Technical Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia), which should provide new approaches for the network to reach

the change-makers and to bring them to join our efforts. The topic of inclusion has been prominent inside the network, which is visible from the campaigns run by Alliance in 2017, including the common action 1Table4All and Not in my camp! campaign.

As every year, this year brought changes and developments to the network. One of the biggest ones was change of Secretariat, as was foreseen already in 2016. On behalf of the whole network, we are grateful for the work and support provided for many years by our former Alliance Secretary, Giovanna Pignati Morano, and are excited to welcome her successor, Serena Verlatto, in this vital position for the network's well-being. There is an increase in participation of young people in committees, working groups and annual meetings, which has its fruits for the network, in such areas as revision of annual events and eventual adoption of Alliance placement tool by the General Assembly.

In 2017 Alliance Long-Term Training Course was organised for the second time. It gathered young trainers and Alliance members that were fully trained and contributed to national trainings attended by more than 200 workcamp leaders, who then coordinated almost 400 workcamps, which empowered the member organisations and provided capacities for further development of common practices.

I hope that this report will provide you with a good overview of the Alliance year and I believe that the achieved results will be an inspiration for continuing reflection on global issues and bringing change to our communities.

Enjoy the reading!

Philipp Melikyan
General Secretary of the Alliance

Alliance statistics

The data related to the year 2017 are not available at the moment of publishing this report.

They will be presented and adopted by Alliance General Assembly of November 2018.

Statistics 2014	Statistics 2015	Statistics 2016
<p>Member organisations at the end of 2014: 50</p> <p>Volunteers Volunteers participating in workcamps abroad and in their own country: 14339 3% of volunteers with fewer opportunities</p> <p>Gender ratio 64% female 36% male</p> <p>Age of volunteers under 18: 13% 18 - 30: 82% 31-50: 4,5% over 50: 0,7%</p> <p>Destination of volunteers Europe 75,3% Asia 16,8% Americas 4,4%</p> <p>Projects proposed</p> <p>Number of workcamps: 1198</p> <p>Main Types 29,1% Environment 24,9% Renovation 8,5% Kids 6,0% Conservation 31,5% Other</p> <p>6,5% Camps for teenagers</p>	<p>Member organisations at the end of 2015: 50</p> <p>Volunteers Volunteers participating in workcamps abroad and in their own country: 13643 4,4% of volunteers with fewer opportunities</p> <p>Gender ratio 63% female 37% male</p> <p>Age of volunteers under 18: 14% 18 - 30: 81% 31-50: 4% over 50: 0,6%</p> <p>Destination of volunteers Europe 74,7% Asia 16,2% Americas 3,1%</p> <p>Projects proposed</p> <p>Number of workcamps: 1210</p> <p>Main Types 31,7% Environment 23% Renovation 6,3% Manual 6,2% Kids 4,8% Construction 28% Other</p> <p>7,3% Camps for teenagers</p>	<p>Member organisations at the end of 2016: 50</p> <p>Volunteers Volunteers participating in workcamps abroad and in their own country: 13985 3,5% of volunteers with fewer opportunities</p> <p>Gender ratio 60,2% female 39,8% male</p> <p>Age of volunteers under 18: 15,2% 18 - 30: 80% 31-50: 3,8% over 50: 1,2%</p> <p>Destination of volunteers Europe 79% Asia 19% Americas 2%</p> <p>Projects proposed</p> <p>Number of workcamps: 1238</p> <p>Main Types 32,1% Environment 22,2 Renovation 4,1 Manual 8,4 Kids 4,3 Construction 28,9 Other</p> <p>6,5% Camps for teenagers</p>

<p>Mid and long term projects:</p> <p>Volunteers sent: 1809 (EVS: 30,5%)</p> <p>Volunteers hosted: 1103 (EVS: 31,4%)</p> <p>1448 camp leaders</p> <p>324 staff persons to run the workcamp programmes 2014</p>	<p>Mid and long term projects</p> <p>Volunteers sent: 1630 (EVS: 30,4%)</p> <p>Volunteers hosted: 773 (EVS: 33,2%)</p> <p>1598 camp leaders</p> <p>339 staff persons to run the workcamp programmes 2015</p>	<p>Mid and long term projects</p> <p>Volunteers sent: 2226 (EVS:25,11)</p> <p>Volunteers hosted: 881 (EVS: 27,4)</p> <p>1437 camp leaders</p> <p>270 staff persons to run the workcamp programmes 2016</p>
--	--	--

What is a workcamp?

Since 1920, international voluntary workcamps represent a unique form of voluntary service: they bring together people from different backgrounds to work for micro projects that benefit local communities.

Workcamps are the main common tool that Alliance members use to work with and for young people and local communities. Even if they are organized and managed by the member organisations, without the Alliance network's standards, policies and networking activities, they wouldn't be part of an IVS movement but individual random activities.

A group experience

Workcamps provide opportunities to explore the potential of an international group to work, learn and act together. The group experience is a commitment to work out decisions and problems together. The work is important and not a mere occupational time: all projects answer real local needs, with strong expectations by the local communities hosting the groups of volunteers.



The volunteers

Most workcamps host between 6 and 20 volunteers during 2 or 3 weeks. The group gathers various nationalities and backgrounds. Around 85% the volunteers are between 18 and 30 years old

with a majority of female participants.

Food and Accommodation

The group usually shares the tasks of cooking and cleaning in rotating shifts. Accommodation depends on the local possibilities and can be provided in hostels, schools, camping sites etc.



Is it all work?

Workcamps, apart from primarily addressing local needs, also provide opportunities for informal and non-formal learning to the volunteers and the local hosting communities: intercultural competences, autonomy, communication, problem-solving, active citizenship... this is the kind of learning that happens when international volunteers meet local communities and work, live, have fun together!

Workcamp leaders

Workcamp leaders prepare the project, facilitate the life of the group, lead the work and create links with the local community. They are the heart of the project, and have a special attention to the individual integration of all volunteers into the group life.

Alliance Management

The Alliance organises its internal life and management according to its Constitution and the Standing Orders approved by the General Assembly of the network.

According to article 5.1 of the Constitution the **Executive Committee** (EC) shall be in charge of the management and the operation of the Alliance in accordance with the decisions of the Alliance in the General Assembly.

No member of the Executive Committee may serve on the Executive Committee for more than six consecutive years in a core position, and not more than seven consecutive years in total in the Executive Committee.

The mandate for each position lasts for two years, with the exception of the mandate of the Additional member that lasts for one year.

In order to preserve a certain balance, the President, the Treasurer and the Vice-President for External Relations are elected one year and the General Secretary and the Vice-President the following year.

All members of the EC are working voluntarily and meet five times per year. Between the meetings the EC members work very intensively on their personal tasks and use internet for communication.

During the meetings the EC is going through the Alliance daily life, that means the EC discusses the running or planning of events and projects, the financial situation, communication with members and working groups, strategic questions and relations with other regional and international networks. The meetings are important for the exchange of views among members and for the planning of future events/projects and evaluation of past events/projects.

After the General assembly held in Athens (Greece) in November 2017,

the EC is composed by:

Mattia Lolli - President - Legambiente (IT)

Yulia Utenkova - Vicepresident - W4U (RU)

Philipp Melikyan - General Secretary - HUI (AM)

Martin Avila - Treasurer - MS (DK)

Jana Gander - Vicepresident External Relations - VJF (DE)

Jannika Mumme - Additional Member - IBG (DE)



Alliance Executive Committee 2017

The Alliance Working Groups and Committees carry out most initiatives of the network. This was a result of the will of the members to be more involved in the Alliance work, to develop new topics, and to increase the quality of cooperation: sharing of expertise, mutual support and the development of joint training activities between the members are the means to achieve those goals.

The biggest outcome of this is that a lot of members with their young staff and youth workers actively participate in the life of the network.

Working Groups and Committees apart from promoting Alliance main principles are also responsible for the implementation of the Plan on Action of the network as well as to develop initiatives and bring their ideas and proposals to the GA to be voted.

In 2017 the Alliance had the following working groups and committees:

- Access4All Working Group
- Alliance Development Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Working Group
- External Relations Committee
- Staff Development Working Group
- Gender Equality Working Group
- Training Needs Working Group

Moreover, by decision of the General Assembly 2016, three task forces were active along 2017:

- 1) Global Action task force, to coordinate Alliance' reaction to emergency and relevant topics (such as the chosen theme of the year "Migration")
- 2) Volunteers' engagement task force
- 3) Common Placement tool Task Force

In 2017 these network bodies entailed 114 positions, all voluntarily covered by 86 representatives of 34 member organisations.

Alliance working groups, committees and task forces organise their own work, implement meetings and seminars, and prepare workshops and training sessions during the Alliance events. The Alliance Vice-President, with the support of other EC members, is responsible for the co-ordination between the working groups and committees.



A meeting of Access 4 All Working Group

Since 2005 the Alliance also has a larger management body – the Management Committee composed by the EC and the coordinators of all Working Groups, Committees and Task forces of the network.

In order to boost the participation of the member organizations, the network organizes since 2012 the Joint Meeting, that gathers at the same time the Executive Committee and all the working groups of the network. In 2017, it took place in Anticoli Corrado, Italy.

As European NGO and cooperative network, gathering independent national youth organisations, the Alliance management structure allows all members, even small organisations, to be involved in such international network. Members are very active in taking responsibilities, and most of the initiatives and campaigns are carried out by members with the support of the EC, the Secretariat and the Course Director. This light management is adapted to our present development and keeps the Alliance an efficient and friendly cooperative network.

In 2017 the Alliance Executive (EC) and Management (MC) Committees held the following meetings:

Meeting	When	Where
EC	Istanbul, Turkey	21-23 January
EC/MC	Nizhny Novgorod, Russia	28 February-2 March
EC	Berlin, Germany	20-21 May
EC/MC	Anticoli Corrado, Italy	1-3 September
EC/MC	Athens, Greece	30-31 October

The staff positions

Since September 2011 the Alliance established a secretariat in Athens, hosted in its office by Citizens in Action.

From October to December 2017 the network saw a transition period from the

previous Secretary Giovanna Pignatti Morano to the new one, Serena Verlatto.

Following the decision of GA 2016, Alliance Secretariat is currently hosted by Lunaria organisation, based in Rome, Italy.

Alliance Secretary is a full-time position whose role is to support the organization of all the initiatives and activities of the network.

Apart from the Alliance Secretary, the second permanent paid staff of the network is the Financial

Assistant, which is hosted by the organisation holding the Treasurer position and has the responsibility to help the Treasurer in carrying out his duties.

In 2017 the network also counted on the support of a third part time staff position, the Course Director, whose role is coordinating the preparation and implementation of the Long Term Training Course and the Alliance Pool of Trainers, and to monitor the implementation of the Educational and Training policy paper, in cooperation with the relevant appointed bodies and elected positions of the network.



Executive Committee Report¹

President report

(Mattia Lolli, Legambiente)

Dear Alliance friends,

The report of the Executive Committee for the year 2017 shows once again the incredible work that our network is doing to promote volunteering, peace and solidarity all over the world. The number of activities and projects in which the Alliance has been involved keeps increasing, as the number of people involved in the democratic life of the network.

Our main priority for the year has been to provide more support and to empower our members, to tackle the decreasing numbers of volunteers. We worked on this issue from different angles: sharing capacity building on promotion and marketing, experimenting solidarity measures and providing more space and opportunities for our members and Working Groups to meet.

It has been a very intense year also from the political point of view, with a strong advocacy activity on the issue of European Solidarity Corps. Thanks to the impressive work done by our Vice President for External Relation (Jana Gander), the secretariat (Giovanna Pignatti) and many of our active members, we managed to have an active role in influencing the shape of the program, participating in a number of key meetings. We can proudly say that the Alliance is a relevant stakeholder recognized by institutions like the European Commission and the European Youth Forum. The struggle for a better ESC is still open, and we ask all of you to keep advocating in the next weeks, especially towards national Governments and MEPs.

In 2017 there has been also a boost in our cooperation with other

networks. We played an active role in the Global IVS Meetings, hosting one in Russia after the TM and soon the next one just before our GA in Greece. We also strengthen the ties with networks such as the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), participating in several common activities together also with Voices of Young Refugees (VYRE) and Phiren Amenca (network of Roma young people). In order to keep building bridges among these different worlds, we developed, submitted and have approved a KA3 project with CCIVS and YEN to foster mutual cooperation on social inclusion of migrants and refugees. Among the relevant activities carried out by the network this year we also need to mention the Long Term Training Course 2017, which provides a strong capacity building and training empowerment for our members and the Study Session on Gender, hosted by the European Youth Center in Strasbourg. As EC we also tried to develop some innovative practices, with the Mini Joint Meeting in January that gathered together different Working Groups coordinator to elaborate a common strategy for our Campaigns and common action promotion. As a result of the meeting we had the 1Table4All, a strong common action carried on and promoted on multiple level by our WGs and with a good participation of our members. We also kept having an active role during our meetings, with field visits and concrete actions, as we did for example in January in Istanbul or in September in Rome. Another important objective we worked on is to make the Alliance management more open, transparent and efficient. As EC we are trying more and more to focus on empowering our members and Working Groups so to decentralize and share mutual tasks. That's the aim of ERSI project, the KA1 application that IBG will submit for the October deadline and that will link a January Joint Meeting, a Training on Social Media and a General Conference on Monitoring and Evaluation for 2018. It is also a way to address one of the key area of development, that we identified as EC,

¹ The reports of Alliance Executive Committee members available in this section were approved by Alliance GA 2017.

to ensure the impact and quality of our projects and also to be able to develop innovative practices. All these objectives come from the 10 year goals that we shared at the 1st Alliance Congress in 2014, but we believe that it is time to think about a mid-term evaluation and discussion based on the Congress results that can support and guide our work in the next years. We called it a "Congressino", and we would like to propose it to take place in 2019. Among the main challenges we had to face there has been the new Secretariat transition. We had a successful and transparent selection process, that brought us to select Serena Verlato, a very active staff member from CBB, that will start working full time for the Alliance from January, based in the new Secretariat hosting organization, Lunaria. There are not enough words to thank our Secretary Giovanna Pignatti for the amazing contribution and support she gave to the EC and to the life of the network in these years. We also want to thank Citizen in Action for ensuring such a strong Secretariat and being an active and reliable member. It is difficult to summarize the huge amount of work developed by such a diverse and creative community as the Alliance, but in this report you will find a mapping of the main outcomes and achievements of the year, reflected in the activities of the different Working groups and Alliance bodies. We are aware that these are tough times for all of us. We see the drama of hundred thousands of people displaced and risking their life for a better future. We see conflicts and wars continuing in several areas of the world, while the effects of climate change are starting to show the concrete impacts on the life of our planet. The future of European Union itself is at

a turning point, with the raise of intolerance, xenophobia, individualism and indifference. In this difficult situation we, the International Voluntary Service Movement, have now more than ever the will to stand and continue working for peace, human rights, freedom of movement, inclusion, gender equality, social and climate justice. We are aware that we are the antibodies that need to spread in our society to make the dream of a better world getting real everyday. We may be far from the attention of the media and the politicians, but we are aware of the incredible impact of our grassroots work to empower local communities and young people. Our multi-culturality, mutual understanding and care for each other are the seeds from which a better world can flourish. Let's feed them together!

Mattia Lolli, Alliance President

Vice-President report

(Yulia Utenkova, World 4 You)

Dear members of the Alliance,

It has been the first year of my mandate as VP, which as expected has been both a fruitful experience and a challenging responsibility to continue the work done by former EC members. I wish to give my special thanks to Alliance Secretary Giovanna who throughout the year took care of many tasks related to coordination of internal life of the Alliance (very extra for AS).

Below, I will summarize the major achievements and challenges of internal life of the network, using some good practices of previous VP for the format. For the full picture of achievements, please see the reached indicators in 2017 in the report of PoA 2017 (Annex_13 in GA mailings).

Achievements.

Here are major indicators of success for internal life of the Alliance in 2017:

2 usual projects and events of the Alliance were organized (Technical Meeting in Russia and General Assembly in Greece).

3 groups of usual internal meetings were held: 1

Joint Meeting, 5 EC and 3 MC meetings, Working Groups meetings. Please see the details in the PoA 2017 report (Annex_13) in the column of reached indicators for activities: PoA/3, PoA/4.

1 central educational activity of the Alliance – Long Term Training Course – composed by 3 stages was run in Greece, Italy and Spain. Please see the details regarding LTTC preparation, implementation and outcomes in the report of Alliance Course Director Dusan Milojevic.

1 Alliance Study Session "SAGE: Self-assessment on gender equality" took place in Strasbourg. Please see PoA/66 in Annex_13.

7 Working Groups and 3 Task Forces were composed by 114 positions covered by 86 people from 32 member organisations (last year 2016 numbers: 120 positions by 86 people from 36 member organisations).

We started to address the issue of synchronizing the WGs work by bringing 4 coordinators together for a specific meeting at the beginning of the year alongside the EC meeting held in Istanbul in January, which resulted with implementing Alliance common action under the heading 1Table4All as a joint effort of several working groups and one task force: A4AWG, GEWG, GATF, ERC and ESWG as coordinating group.

Alliance Course Director (ACD) as a staff position took a solid part of work from the EC on educational activities. Though finding a solution for workload distribution and decentralization is still an issue. You can find Alliance Course Director's report separately, which contains important information regarding Alliance educational activities and recommendations from the current ACD for the future of the Course Director position. EC also developed a proposal for the future of Course Director, which will be presented at GA2017.

Challenges. I would like to highlight the important current challenge for internal life of the network that should be addressed next year: a growing speed of the network in terms of amount of ambitious projects

and thus growing operational work. The tasks within PoA become more complex and thus require more time and efforts/ skills from EC/ MC/ WG members. Next year we should find a way to fulfil the network's growing operational needs on a sustainable way, not overcharging particularly the EC and MC members.

Recommendations for the following year:

To run an (additional) early Joint Meeting of WGs for further synchronization of WGs work and proper kick-off of PoA at the beginning of the year.

The issue of peer assessment system, monitoring & evaluation which has been one of the priorities in last years should be addressed as soon as possible. In order to address the two above mentioned recommendations, the application for KA1 project under Erasmus+ for financing 3 Alliance events 2018, including January Joint Meeting and General Conference on monitoring and evaluation, is currently prepared for October 2017 deadline. Set up the mechanism to ensure a sustainable implementation of Alliance educational activities. Proper evaluation of LTTC 2015 and LTTC 2017 should be done next year in order to measure the impact of this project. In order to address the two above mentioned points, EC will prepare proposals for: the evaluation of impact of LTTC, vision for Alliance projects & events in 2018 and 2019, future profile of the Course Director. 5. Since Alliance currently joins a lot of projects as official partner - external projects of likeminded networks (CCIVS, YEN) and internal projects of Alliance members (SJ, YRS, Genctur, Legambiente, IJGD) - the idea, appeared on latest EC meeting, is to facilitate the WG members participation in these projects on behalf of Alliance thus empowering them through such involvement of representing their WG, plus foster diversity in participation and decentralization of Alliance work. This probably should become a part of description of WG member's opportunities in the Call for Working Groups.

Yulia Utenkova, Alliance Vice-President

Treasurer financial Report

(Martin Avila, MS Denmark)

Dear friends, colleagues and members of the

Alliance, please find attached my report for the work of the Treasurer for the operational years 2016 & 2017.

This report will outline the provisional figures for the financial year 2016, which have yet to be closed or to be investigated by the external or internal auditors. The internal audit will take place at the start of October 2017, by Marcello Mariuzzo, of Lunaria and the external auditor will be appointed immediately after.

Highlights from the last financial year include:

Income

Strong revenue generation from administrative grants of Erasmus+ and European Youth Foundation

Erasmus+ Operating grant providing 50,000 Euros

European Youth Foundation grant providing 19,573 Euros

Slight decrease in membership fees collected from members (last year of old system) due to decrease in sending numbers from members No spend on work plan grant to improve Buddy System due to non-approval of the project by the European Youth Foundation High level of contribution from the members to the network through funding of travel to Alliance events such as the TM Expenditure Lower level of expenditure over all due to non-approval of Buddy system work plan grant All other administrative spending and project spending roughly as predicted Overall result The over all result for the year 2016 will show a positive result for the year of around 12,511 euros. This amount was carried forward into the budget of 2017 in order to provide co- financing towards the LTTC, which was approved to be carried out in 2017. The final confirmed result will be presented at the General Assembly 2017, alongside the provisional result for 2017. Financial sustainability of the network During the EC meetings of 2017 a lot of discussion and time has been devoted to the financial sustainability of the network.

Over the last number of years, strong financial performances under the previous Treasurer has led to a build up of a good level of reserves. In the view of the current Treasurer, it is necessary to maintain a level of reserves of at least one years Administrative expenses due to the fact that the current financial strategy being 5 heavily reliant on operating grants from Erasmus+ and the European Youth Foundation. There is no guarantee that we shall always continue to be awarded these grants.

As a result significant discussion was given and time invested on the elaboration of a strategy proposed by the Course Director, outlines as the M.E.S.S. (Model for Economics Sustainability and Self Sufficiency)

This idea, which will be further elaborated at the GA 2017, proposes a model for funding training courses and events on more sustainable format and provides a small financial incentive for member organisations to host Alliance activities and provides a method for working groups to meet physically. If a number of mobilities per year are approved it would also provide a small surplus that could be used to fund the position of the Course Director, who would ensure that continuity across all events is maintained.

Analysis of Treasurer performance

During the course of the year it has been apparent that the following improvements could be made to improve the functioning of the Treasurer role;

Creation of guidelines for reimbursement to aid the smooth and efficient reimbursement of costs incurred by the members – This has been created during the Joint Meeting of 2017

More speedy and efficient reimbursement (timescales to be agreed with Internal Auditor)

Fixed deadlines for Alliance closing of accounts and mid-term financial report for the year The above issues will be addressed with the Internal Auditor in early October and an additional final financial report to be included in the final mailing before the GA 2017.

Martin Avila, Alliance Treasurer

General Secretary Report

(Philipp Melikyan, HUJ)

This year was the first year of my mandate as General Secretary of Alliance and I would like to express my gratitude to the former GS (Stefano from YAP-Italy) for his support during the transition period, and to Alliance Secretariat Staff (Giovanna), who was always available for professional and efficient support in most of daily tasks of this EC position.

The role of Alliance General Secretary is to manage the general means of Alliance to fulfil the Plan of Action. GS acts as a link between EC members in the period between EC meetings and between EC and members in the period between Alliance meetings.

Nowadays many GS's tasks are daily managed by the Alliance Secretariat:

- prepares applications and reports for administrative grants
- maintains up-dated version of the Constitution
- writes and spreads the minutes of the EC meetings
- keeps the archives up to date
- ensures proper registration of official Alliance's documents
- keeps an up to date list with addresses of Alliance members, partners, and guests
- distributes information to the members
- update of Alliance web site You can find more specific info about these tasks in the Secretariat Report. So in this report I will only add some short highlights and comments about the developments of last year and the work in progress. Alliance Secretariat Transition One of the greatest changes of the year is the start of transition period for Alliance Secretariat that is being transferred to Lunaria office with new staff joining Alliance for the position. This is a big change for the network and a significant challenge for us, as EC, to select and prepare (of course, mainly from the current AS) the new person for the job. I am

delighted to report that we developed a sustainable selection model that may be used for the staff selection in the future. Revision of Alliance Events This year also saw the first steps of restructuring Alliance Events, which would be impossible without the work done by ADC. The rationale for changes is to change the way the main events of the year are currently organised to be able to cater for the needs of the Members and to address the changes in the ways we cooperate. There is much to be done in this regard yet, but we are confident that the outcomes of the process will allow the Network to become more efficient and the annual activities will reflect the current developments. Partners Aiming to ensure transparency of the Network and our decisions this year one of highlights of the year is that the partners have been more informed about the developments in the life of Alliance and especially about the Evaluation of Partners. Thanks to big support from ADC and SDWG the process of evaluation has been further developed. Moreover, since this year it has been an important step not only to inform them better about the process, but also to involve them in it to provide the GA with more complete data for decision-making.

There remains more work to be done in this regard, including the need to identify the most reliable ways to evaluate the Alliance organisations and to develop further the process of post- evaluation period. It is also important to elaborate more the support that we, as EC, and GS in particular can provide to the evaluated organisations in order to keep the process as a means for improvement and maintaining the quality of Network's projects.

Grant applications (more specific info in my colleague's reports)

- March: interim report of EYF admin grant 2016-2017
- May: final report of EACEA admin grant 2016
- May: interim report of EYF Workplan 2017 (LTTC)
- September (in progress): application for EYF admin grant 2018-2019
- October (in progress): application for KA1 Project for 2018 Events (Erasmus+)
- In progress: application for EACEA admin grant 2018-2020 Some reflections about TM Most

of the time before the TM was dedicate to the communication with Partners and Guests. On this side, we can recognize as a constant trend that most of the guest candidatures are sent to the GS after the GA and the EC taking a decision according to Standing Orders. This year the flow of Guest applications was reinforced by Alliance's presence at the GA of CCIVS (President Mattia Lolli joined on behalf of the network) and interest of present organisations to approach the Network. It is one of the tasks in progress for the GS to work on internal guidelines for further development of reasoning and procedure of invitation of Guest organisations to the TM after GA's vote on invitation list. This year it was also decided to involve the Partners and Guests more in the network's life by inviting them to Alliance Day, which had very fruitful outcomes and is also included in the foreseen changes in the Alliance events, mentioned earlier. Some reflections about the next GA This year, as usual, was very active for the working groups, committees, EC and MC, which was reinforced by the January meeting, where some coordinators partook. Several major proposals and developments have been introduced for the network, and this, in my opinion, represents a strong trend in the Network which shows a very active participatory approach. This being said, however, one of outcomes of many discussions within EC and MC is the identified need to have a mid-term evaluation of Congress after five years to be able to evaluate the pathway towards the developed 10-year vision and to see, if there are any adjustments that need to be implemented.

Philipp Melikyan, Alliance General Secretary

Report on External Relations

(Jana Gander, VJF)

The upcoming General Assembly marks the end of my mandate as Alliance Vice-

President for External Relations. I started with a lot of respect for this position and the trust the GA 2015 has put in me. My aim for the two years was to firstly understand the role and then, contribute to making the Alliance visible in all major institutions and networks. Alliance should not only be a reliable partner but rather a body that is valued for its expertise on working with projects – especially workcamps - that promote peace, intercultural learning and understanding, non-formal education, inclusion and sustainability.

Firstly, I'd like to thank my colleagues and friends in the Executive Committee (EC) for the intense year, the support, the countless hours of discussing and working together on making the Alliance network strong by finding ways to support its members. This year, we put a strong focus on advocacy and lobbying on the upcoming European Solidarity Corps (ESC). Our intense advocacy and lobbying actions have made us a very visible and relevant stakeholder to consult when discussing the future of (International) Voluntary Service in Europe. I would like to thank CBB, Javva, EstYes and Allianssi for the their support in this. Special thanks to the Alliance Secretary Giovanna Pignatti also for her dedication and sustenance and of course, the President Mattia Lolli.

In 2017, Alliance representatives have been present at a number of events, from seminars to meetings with institutions. Once again, it has become visible that we lack resources to advocate properly and be present at relevant meetings and events in Europe where our main stakeholders (from funders to supporters to potential project partners) are present. This report is a brief overview of what happened throughout the year. For detailed information, I invite you to read through the reports that we create on all major external representation events – a practice we want to develop further in the future to support future representatives of Alliance.

The Position

The main aim of the Alliance representations is to promote the concept of International Voluntary Service and to spread the values of the Network. It furthermore seeks to contribute to quality improvement in the field of IVS, especially workcamps, but also other Non-Formal Education activities and programs. The role of the VPER is to maintain the relations and cooperation with the IVS networks (CCIVS, NVDA, SEEYN, SCI), represent the Alliance in and support the

representatives on behalf of the Alliance in the Youth Forum Jeunesse (YFJ) as well as other institutions and partners, and work with ERC to ensure external communication in line with Alliance principles. One very clear focus of the VPER should be to oversee the strategic development of a pool of representatives and the events they go to. Some main events should be attended by the representatives of the EC, the Management Committee (MC) as well as the External Relations Committee (ERC).

Alliance Campaigns

The annual campaigns run and supported by the Alliance are an essential part of our external representation – they transmit our values and carry our messages. During the past years it became clear that they need to be coordinated to be effective in terms of outreach towards our volunteers as well as in terms of sending the messages they mean to send. Internal development of the campaigns as well as developing the common campaigns with our sister networks to mirror the current reality and developments in Europe and the world is important to create an impact. For this, a strategy to promote them needs to be developed and implemented.

At the beginning of this year, at the EC meeting in Istanbul we also invited the coordinators of the different thematic working groups as well as the ERC coordinator to bring the campaigns forward and develop an idea for promotion. The result was the #1Table4All Common Action which was implemented this year and coordinated mainly by the ESWG coordinator Jannika Mumme, IBG. The results of the action will be presented in the ESWG report. Supporting working groups and task forces are: A4AWG, ESWG, GEWG, GATF and ERC.

The main learnings for the coming year(s) is that internally we need to work better on promotion beforehand, especially towards our target group, but also during the season. However, the term campaign needs to be defined and applied accordingly and a systematic monitoring and follow-up would be helpful to understand better how we can use the common action and campaigns to

support our members with promoting their camps. Institutions, institutional events, other partners Youth Forum Jeunesses (YFJ)/ European Youth Forum

The Alliance has attended the YFJ GA in November 2016 (represented by VPER and a member of the ERC, Tiffany Alleron) and the YFJ COMEM in April 2017 (represented by VPER and Alliance Course Director Dusan Milojevic). At the COMEM in April, Alliance ran for a position in the Advisory Council on Youth of the CoE, part of the co-decision making body of the CoE which establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budgets. Unfortunately, we were not elected in the Advisory Council (AC) but we are first on the waiting list. Chances are high that we will be called to join the AC within the upcoming mandate (2018-19). Our representatives there will be Dusan Milojevic or Kristine Roke.

At the April COMEM we also had a representative from ELIX, Tilemachos Boni, presenting a local project in the category "From Local to Global".

Alliance also has a member at the YFJ Pool of Trainers: Marija Pantelic, IJGD. We are furthermore present in two networks: the Volunteering Network, i.e. thematic working groups, as well as the Sustainable Development Network.

Additionally, the Treasurer of the Alliance, Martin Avila, attended the Info Day on Funding for Youth Organisations, in November 2016.

Being an active member in the YFJ can open doors towards the European Commission and Parliament, we can showcase our campaigns and lobby on behalf of our network and MOs. We have room for improvement in several fields: support for representation at events such as the COMEM, events in Brussels, on promotion (campaigns and projects we are running) through the YoNews, follow up on what is happening in the YFJ networks and the advocacy actions and campaigns the YFJ is running and supporting. It is time to start building up human resources, people who understand the Alliance and the institutional setting and are willing and have the capacities to attend on behalf of the network. This should be our focus in the field of external representation. It cannot rest upon VPER and the ERC coordinator solely.

European Commission

Vicepresident Yulia Utenkova attended the Stakeholder Seminar on the impact of

transnational volunteering through the European Voluntary Service (EVS) in November 2016 in Brussels.

European Solidarity Corps

As mentioned above, much of our energies have been absorbed by the new programme of the European Commission. From its early consultations stages at the end of 2016 until the development of the legal basis in summer 2017 and its upcoming ratification by the Parliament in November 2017, we have managed to influence the discussion on the programme. It remains yet to be seen how strongly we were able to lobby for our member organisations.

However, we have become a relevant stakeholder, recognized in the YFJ and through them also the Commission. We must build on this perception and lobby for the recognition of workcamps, the educational and intercultural dimensions in our voluntary services as well as the inclusion of all people in voluntary projects. European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe

Alliance, represented by President Mattia Lolli and VPER Jana Gander visited the Study Session SAGE on Gender Equality which took place in Strasbourg, using the opportunity to meet Jean Claude Lazaro, Head of the European Youth Foundation, and speak about Alliance developments and how we can foster cooperation with the EYF. The meeting has shown us that it is important to regularly stay in contact with our stakeholders to understand what they want, how cooperation can work and to stress the importance of our work. We are now invited to receive participatory status with the Council of Europe.

European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

One of the last events prior to the Alliance GA will be the European Conference on Volunteering, organized by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the CEV. The aim of the conference is to conduct a European exchange on current activities and initiatives in the voluntary sector, to focus on common developments of volunteering and to elaborate a common

point of view towards future challenges as well as to consider new strategies for volunteering. We expect about 180 participants from volunteering organisations, political and administrative authorities and the academia from across Europe. Alliance will be represented by Marcello Mariuzzo, Lunaria, who will be a speaker at the Conference. We expect to use the opportunity to promote the impact of transnational volunteering, share and learn about good practices, identify current challenges and develop perspectives for the future.

United Nations Volunteers

Alliance stays connected with the UN, particularly through the ESWG and through our projects' direct relevance in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it seems to make more sense to leave the advocacy and lobbying actions on the UN level in the hands of CCIVS, which as the Global Network and Coordinating Committee of IVS has the more direct connection. As part of the IVS movement we will in any case benefit. Considering scarce resources it makes even more sense to share responsibilities and focus on Europe as Alliance network.

Das Progressive Zentrum – Dialogue on Europe Due to other more important issues, the participation in the project could not be followed up. However, VPER will most likely attend the final summit at the end of October.

International Voluntary Service and other Networks

Global Meeting of IVS Networks (GMIVS)

In 2017 Alliance has become even more active and present in the global meetings. Represented by the EC members Martin Avila, Treasurer, and Mattia Lolli, President we participated in one GMIVS in March just after the Technical Meeting. A follow-up meeting took place at the end of March during the Steering Team Meeting of the STEPS project (see below) with VPER as representative. The focus in the future will and should be on a common advocacy strategy, working towards the recognition of workcamps, IVS, NFE. Good examples are the participation in the STEPS project, the participation in the Global Task Force "What is our IVS", represented by Alexandr Kurushev, EstYes or the support of the GLMTV Meeting in France in November 2016. At the GLMTV Meeting Julia R. Nieto supported on behalf of Alliance in the trainers team. Unfortunately, in 2017 we were not able to find a representative

from Alliance. Participation of Alliance members does not seem to be very high. It is advisable to open the discussion on Alliance (centralized) representation at this event. Just prior to the GA in Athens we will attend the next GMIVS taking place at the venue of the Alliance GA.

Common Campaigns & Theme of the Year

In terms of campaigns with the Sister Networks we have been working on the development of the common Campaign IVS for Climate Justice (#IVS4Climate), supporting in the Raising Peace Campaign Steering Committee and we discussed the development of the Freedom of Movement Campaign. The ERC is going to actively support the Global Human Rights Week in October 2017 in terms of online promotion. Once again, it has become apparent that it is necessary to have support in the development and support so that we can start making use of these campaigns in lobbying forums such as the YFJ or when we meet with other institutional stakeholders. Examples are the UNESCO (through CCIVS), the UN (at the COP23 in Bonn 2017), YFJ (through our common position paper with YEN) or the EYF of the Council of Europe (especially with our efforts on gender equality and solidarity as well as our common campaigns).

Additionally, as last year, the EC together with the coordinators and members of the WGs, made use of the opportunity to meet different stakeholders relevant to our theme of the year "Migration" during its meetings with the intention to identify possible partnerships but also to link the work the Alliance does with the current situation in Europe and the world. We also used these meetings to show solidarity, e.g. at the January EC and campaigns coordinators' meeting in Istanbul or the Joint Meeting in September in and around Rome. We are also going to give space to different stakeholders at our "Open Forum on Freedom of Movement" at the end of the year to discuss the topic. Please do not forget to send us material about your projects on the topic of "Migration", "Freedom of Movement" and "Refugees"!

Youth of European Nationalities

The Alliance has joined the project "Building Bridges together" run the Minority Youth Network YEN. Other partners were the Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE) and Phiren Amenca International Network. The project receives the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The main aim of this project and partnership itself are to educate youngsters in raising their voices for a diverse Europe, to come up with a common statement against xenophobic, racist attacks, stigmatization of people and groups due to sex, religion or minority background and to spread the message across Europe. The latter will be done especially during a bus tour through Europe where Alliance will be represented by Annabelle Guillot (from Concordia France). It is also planned to take the common statement to the YFJ. Please also see the Alliance Website for further information as well as the report of the Vice- President, Yulia Utenkova, who has represented Alliance in the first three events of the project.

Impact of IVS – STEP to Change

Alliance is an official Partner in the "STEP to Change, build the common path", where Alliance contributes as member of the steering team (VPER) and as reporter during the visit in Asia (Dusan Milojevic, Course Director). The project runs for two years with Alliance being one of four IVS networks participating as partner. The aim is to strengthen IVS organisations globally, with trainings and practice phases according to the needs of each region, in the areas of organisational management and impact assessment. This process shall also be the start of a global diagnosis on IVS organisations worldwide, and will constitute the basis for the Monitoring and Empowerment System that CCIVS is developing. A final seminar which summarized the results will take place in June 2018. Further information on the project will be delivered at the GA.

Challenges The identified challenges at the end of last year were the development of a Campaigns' (promotion) strategy, a (Social Media) Communication strategy and an Advocacy Strategy. The campaigns promotion is planned to be tackled through the support of the Additional Member in 2018. A Social Media Strategy has been developed by the ERC and is planned to be implemented and spread through the second event of the KA1 application to be submitted by Alliance (through IBG) in October 2017. The

seminar itself will take place in spring 2018. The development of the advocacy strategy had to be delayed towards the end of my mandate due to the ESC advocacy coordination as well as the advocacy meeting at the EYF in spring. It is being finalized and will be available for discussion at the GA.

As it becomes clear also in this report, the topics of and for external representation are manifold and need human resources to be placed appropriately. While I believe that we have already achieved to involve a considerable number of people from different countries and backgrounds in our external representation which subsequently reflects the diversity of our network, there is still room for improvement and development especially in terms of advocacy and involvement of new and younger representatives of Alliance. From my point of view, we should be making use of our Pool of Trainers and those young people who have been educated through the LTTC. They are representatives of Alliance, having been trained for one year by members of the A-PoT and should be familiar with Alliance life. We should involve the members of our Working Groups more, especially when we plan to participate in projects. However, these people should also receive some input on external representation, on advocacy and on what is going on in the Alliance network. The challenge remains to start developing a pool of people who feel comfortable representing Alliance. Together with the ERC this will be the primary task for the next year(s) while it is still important to have the EC present at external events, especially the President and the Vice-President for External Relations.

Towards the end of this report, I would like to come back to my vision. Some of the challenges and tasks have been achieved: we are being acknowledged by major stakeholders and consulted as experts. However, there is still room for development. Not all issues are as present as they could be and some stakeholders still need to become more aware of what our member organisations offer for the

vision of Europe and for all (young) people in Europe..

Once again I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all organisations and volunteers who have worked on spreading the values of IVS and our network and who have taken time and energy to represent the Alliance during this past year and beyond. And last but not least, I thank everyone who has supported and trusted me with the position and task of Vice-President for External Relations of the Alliance. It has been an honor.

*Jana Gander,
Vice-President for External Relations*

Additional Member Report

(Lasse Jensen, MS Denmark)

My main focus of time as Additional Member 2016/2017 has been how to make a turnaround in the serious drop in volunteers signing up for workcamps.

The last 5 years has shown as serious drop in outgoing volunteers by app 25% each year, so the numbers have come to a point where some member organisations are so weak that they are so fighting for survival.

This happens in a time where volunteerism (and voluntourism) is a growing industry where both commercial agencies and small peer-to-peer organisations are moving into the domain of The Alliance members. Commercialization of volunteering has been going on for 10 years and first reached mainly new volunteers who was the result of the globally growing interest for short and middle term volunteering. The later years, when the growth slowed down it started eating into our domain from one side, and small peer-to-peer NGOs from the other side. Especially during the refugee crisis in Greece and Italy, a growth has been seen in local NGOs ability to create easy to navigate web pages to attract short term volunteers looking for projects.

Due to this one of my first task was setting up a full day Online Marketing Workshop at Technical Meeting in Russia. The workshop was conducted by Eva Karlsen, MS Denmark's online marketing and web expert and was highly successful, where almost all participants at the TM joined. The

workshop was a toolbox workshop where members got hand-on knowledge and tools on how to improve their websites, online marketing and Facebook posts. The workshop was first of a new approach on workshops at joint meetings, focusing more on skills than traditionally knowledge sharing. These toolbox workshops will continue in the future to make sure everyone gets the needed skills to be relevant and visible for potential volunteers in the coming years.

On a smaller note we also introduced the Grand Opening of workcamp season as a fixed date and contributed to the improving of the evaluation system of partners.

I also coordinated the first activities of the

Volunteers Engagement Task Force that is aimed to elaborate a mid-term strategy to tackle the decreasing numbers of volunteers. Turnaround to make more volunteers signing up for Alliance member's work camps and projects is not a simple task or quick sprint. It will take years and will not only be about marketing and visibility. It will also be about quality of project descriptions, transparency, quality of workcamps and easy procedures to inform the volunteers whether they can be accepted or not. To me this year was an important first step on this journey, but I am certain we are moving in the right direction and will come out on the successful side.

Lasse Jensen, Additional member

Reports of Working Groups and Committees

Alliance Development Committee (ADC)

Mission

The Alliance Development Committee (ADC) is a permanent body focused on the strategic development of the Alliance and IVS movement in general.

ADC acts as a think tank coming up with ambitious more distanced from daily routine long-term proposals to ensure development of the network and IVS movement in Europe and world-wide. The empowerment of the Alliance and IVS movement in reaching its strategic goals and enlarging its influence is the core of the ADC mission, which involves implementing analysis, generating proposals, taking initiatives.

The ADC feeds the Alliance with new ideas, approaches and proposals regarding its development as well as development of IVs world in general. It also tackles the needs of the Alliance when developing new programmes but also procedures and tools. The "development" is therefore intended as "external" when it concerns the enlargement of the Alliance actions and influence at international level, and as "internal" when the Alliance life and regulations are under revision and innovation processes.

The ADC can address to and be addressed by the EC, WGs, Task Forces and members when ongoing developments are planned and implemented.

Dear Members,

I would like to start this report with a very personal comment. When I decided to apply for the ADC coordinator position, I expected it would be a challenging experience. Even though I have been participating in Alliance life since 2011, I'm far less experienced than all the other people being members of the ADC. This would imply a totally different way to coordinate the group and deal with the Plan of Action than what I was used to until now.

At the same time, I was also convinced this experience would be very enriching. I'm not disappointed at all about this part! Thanks to the ADC members' motivation and commitment, as well as the former coordinator support, the challenging side of

the experience was easy to overcome.

Through this experience, I confirmed the feeling I had that "coordinating" is not "knowing everything". As coordinator, you can (and you have to) rely on your group (as well as other WG's by the way) to bring the knowledge, while you take care of the structure. It means that you don't need to have a lot of experience in the Alliance world; you don't need to know all the official documents existing; you don't need to learn every single event that happened in the last 30 (and more) years of the network life. That's why I strongly encourage the motivated young members to involve themselves in the working group and committee life, and eventually take the coordinator position: have no fear; you're far from being alone in the process. The only risk you take is to gain a lot of experience!

ADC members in 2017

Sophie Chielens	CBB
Anthony Crochu	Concordia France
Thomas Hauptvogel	VJF
Aleksandr Kurushev	EstYes
Marcello Mariuzzo	Lunaria
Luca Stasi	Legambiente
Stefano Varlese	YAP

ADC meetings in 2017:

Meeting at TM: 2 members of the committee

Meeting in June in Roma: 6 members of the committee

Joint meeting in Anticoli Corrado: 4 members

Challenges faced by ADC

1. ADC at a cross-road (and all it implies)

This year, ADC had a lot to achieve: as the former coordinator mentioned in his last year report, ADC is indeed at a cross-road. Not only ADC changed its mission statement to work on "development" concept with a more comprehensive meaning, but also kept its former role of keeping the coherency within the network.

Willing to take care of both aspects, it became somehow difficult for ADC to deal with all the tasks we committed to accomplish at GA 2016. To revise Alliance main events, while evaluating the partner assessment process and launch a brand new initiative (Flagship Workcamp Initiative) at the

same time became somehow “mission impossible”.

But a cross-road is a very interesting place: we had the great opportunity to link the old with the new (for example, while we worked on the new partnership fees system linked with TM revision, we came to review the guests status, which clarified the position of the organisations being part of the Involvement Program); to link innovation with tradition.

ADC still has to find its balance between its internal and external roles, in order to be efficient in its actions at both levels. This year taught us several things we shall keep in mind for the next years, among which the way to deal with new initiatives. These should be well prepared before being proposed to GA, with every single step of the implementation properly defined beforehand. This year, two initiatives were to be implemented and improved (Flagship Workcamps Initiative and Involvement Program), but none could receive the attention it deserved. That’s why ADC members agreed not to go on with both initiatives in the future. The FWI will be momentarily stopped, until ADC can propose a better designed plan for implementation.

2. The agents defined in the PoA

Another challenge experienced is to share the tasks of the Plan of Actions when these are assigned to several agents at the same time. Who is taking the lead, and the responsibility of these tasks? This should be better defined, maybe during the future January Joint Meeting.

Pending issues, future tasks and achievements

- Partner’s evaluation process is going on for the second year. The procedure was reworked and improved, in order to give the space for the assessed organization to react to its evaluation score. A work has been done on the support which could be provided to the organization being assessed for a second year. The document still has to be created and the supporting process had to be finalized.

- Evaluation of the membership fees system was launched shortly after Joint Meeting. The results of this evaluation will be shared and worked on with all the members during GA 2017.

- The Involvement Program allowed one new organization to be present at the TM 2017. A second organization with the Involvement Program guest status sent one participant to the ALLIANCE LTTC this year. The IP will be launched again prior to the GA 2017, with an improved call. A clear written procedure for the Program (support by tutor/Alliance, monitoring/evaluation) is developed. A proposal of reviewing the guest status will also allow the Program to be more coherent and more attractive to new organisations we want to involve in the network. The IP is nevertheless a not ended mission, as it now needs to be systematized. We also need to develop a communication strategy around this Program in order to inform the member organisations about it, as well as the potentially interested organisation.

- Self/peer assessment for members was again a big topic addressed by both ADC and SDWG. Plan was to take advantage of the Staff Meeting 2017 in order to develop a step-by-step assessment. Instead of Staff Meeting 2017, the plan is to have one extra day prior to GA 2017, then a General Conference in 2018 dedicated to this topic.

- Solidarity Scheme - A compendium of solidarity measures, divided between short and long term measures is foreseen for 2018. The objectives of this document are to be a source of inspiration and showing good practices... The information is mostly gathered but is not at the moment structured and available for the network.

- Reviewing the methods of work of Alliance main events – focus on Technical Meeting - ADC was asked to revise Alliance events, starting with TM. While doing so, it became obvious that other aspects of the network life should be changed accordingly. We therefore ended with six proposals of changes. These changes are trying to answer to many issues arisen during the last years about: difference between members and partners; the guest status conditions; the financial sustainability of the network; the capacity of the network to support the new organisations approaching Alliance for cooperation; the support to the Alliance events hosting organisation with simplified structure and more adequate financial resources.

- A proposal to adopt a new partnership fees

system coherent with the space given to them in the Alliance life, and encouraging them to contribute equally to the financial sustainability of the network.

- Solidarity Scheme - the Flagship Workcamps Initiative was properly launched during TM 2017 and went on during the season. Evaluation is being done at the moment, but it seems the Initiative didn't reach the expected objectives, mostly because lack of structure and preparation beforehand.

Conclusion

This was a fruitful year for the ADC in terms of work accomplished, but also in terms of lessons learnt. In the future, ADC shall pay attention to the balance between proposing innovative ideas, and its available resources to implement it effectively. The proposals shall be more in-depth before being implemented. Nevertheless, ADC is doing really well in its new vision of what "development" of Alliance should mean and this new vision of the ADC is very promising for the future of the network, which I wish to be very long.

*Sophie CHIELENS, Compagnons Bâtisseurs Belgium,
ADC Coordinator*

Access for All Working Group (A4AWG)

Mission

The Alliance Access for All working group exists to reinforce the inclusion of volunteers with fewer opportunities in the international voluntary service movement. Through the creation of tools and activities that promote and support their active participation we create richer and more meaningful experiences for all. These actions develop volunteers as individuals and help us move together toward a more tolerant and open society that respects individual and cultural differences.

In 2017 the A4A Working Group was formed by: Aureliano Baldi (ANEC), Ariadna Isern Creus (Cocat), Eric Hugentobler (Concordia France), Fara Lledó San Mauro (De Amicitia), Paula Armiñanzas (De Amicitia), Judith

Wunderlich Antoniou (Elix), Andres Santiago (Elix), Alicia Holzschuh (IBG), Natalie Rossow (IBG), Jana Konasova (INEX- SDA), Ruedi Roth (Workcamp Switzerland), Simone Okoye (Workcamp Switzerland), Victoria Okhapkina (World4U), Konstantin Gorshkov (World4U), Richard Smith (Xchange Scotland), Julia Rodríguez Nieto (Xchange Scotland), Eric Palange (Solidarités Jeunesses), Claire de Roos (JAVVA), Daniela Fellingner (Grenzenlos), Birgit Fetty (Grenzenlos), Flavia Sorohan (Lunaria), Tamás Mahner (Egyesek Youth Association) and Monica Garcia Porto (Concordia France).

This year we have mainly focused on the development of tools in order to improve the visibility of the working group.

In 2017 some active members of the working group met twice: the first time during the TM at Nyzhny Novgorod (Russia) and the second time during the Join Meeting at Aticolo Corrado (Italy).

Tools and visibility

Following the last year's work of improving the tools and visibility, the WG managed to finish the story database and the infographic.

The idea of the database was to collect many inspiring stories of our volunteers in order to show the results of our work and to motivate volunteers as well as organisations to try and create/join A4A camps. A blog was created and it is open to all the members and individuals. The working group has also prepared a questionnaire for local partners and camp leaders so in the next coming years the idea is to have a database not only for volunteers, but also for trainers and local partners.

Regarding the infographic, the main goal was to create a user friendly document to present the A4WG. This document will be uploaded in the Alliance website and can be used by any organization.

The policy paper has been updated and the modifications will be voted during the GA 2017. The main changes are linked to the fact that there is not an Access for All Campaign and new tools have been created and are available.

Statistics

As in the previous year, we keep evaluating the work of our working group. We sent an evaluation form to the members in order to monitor the

involvement of volunteers with fewer opportunities in the workcamps but also in other intercultural activities such as Youth Exchanges or ST EVS.

In September 2017 we sent the evaluation form and we got 27 replies. At the international level 10 of them didn't sent volunteers, among the organizations who replied, in total they hosted 64 foreign volunteers with fewer opportunities and they sent 74. Over 50% of these volunteers are male under 30 years old. At a national level, 12 organizations hosted national volunteers in their workcamps, in total 261 youngsters with fewer opportunities. More than 75% were male under 30 years old. These figures are lower than in 2016 probably because less organizations replied and because the general number of volunteers are decreasing. However, it is important to highlight that none of them left the camp earlier. In order to improve the inclusion of people with fewer opportunities, the organizations will need: more promotion, more time and staff to follow up the volunteers, increase the number of local partner willing to host A4A workcamps, to be more proactive, raise awareness of local partners, to have A4A training for trainers and to have more institutional support (more grants and funds for these kind of projects).

Challenges in 2017

The main challenges for the A4AWG are the following:

- Have a long term vision
- Improve the handbook and volunteers background and feedback questionnaire
- Increase the active members of the group
- Keep alive the story database, we need to find a way on how to feed this website properly on a regular basis
- Raise awareness about migrant issues since the global task force is no longer active.
- Work closely and create sinergies with CCIVS network and their project focused on inclusion.

Conclusions

As in the previous years, the working group

members are willing to exchange and become more active during the meetings such as the Technical Meeting and the Join Meeting. To discuss face to face and have time to talk about the different tasks and projects, is more convenient than only exchange emails.

In 2017, members of the WG and organizations supported the common Action called One Table for All. After a short evaluation during the joint meeting, all the working groups decided to keep the idea for the next season because the message is clear, meaningful and many tools have been created to support this action. Besides this might be an opportunity to make workcamps as tool to promote more inclusive societies, aware about the value of diversity and the contribution to intercultural awareness among local communities. Thanks to all the working group members for their motivation, time and inspirational contributions.

*Monica Garcia Porto, Concordia France,
A4AWG Coordinator*

Environmental Sustainability Working Group

Mission

Our aim as Environmental Sustainability Working Group of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is to raise awareness for sustainability within the Alliance IVS organisations, in their camps and among volunteers.

Be giving advice, providing information and learning material and organising common events, we want to encourage them to reflect on and deal with sustainability, and to facilitate the implementation of sustainability in offices, camps and everyday life.

Besides that, we aspire to build a bridge between the Alliance and other networks and initiative active in the field of sustainability, giving consideration to the global character of the sustainability challenge and the need to tackle it conjointly.

(ESWG)

Members

In 2017, the Alliance Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) consisted of 11 members (including the coordinator) as well as three observers. The members represented 9 organisations from 7 different countries.

Organisation & Meetings

The major means of communication used by the group was email. We used google drive to work on shared documents, and dropbox to “archive” our work. In the course of the year, we had two Skype calls as well as a physical meeting at the Joint Meeting in Anticoli Corrado (Italy).

Name	Organisation
Jannika Mumme	IBG (Germany)
Florence Mazzocchetti	Concordia France (France)
Aitziber Miguel Oyarbide	De Amicitia (Spain)
Marta Santos	De Amicitia (Spain)
Sara Andrea Vaca Sanchez	Grenzenlos (Austria)
David Schlecht	IJGD (Germany)
Antje Springer	IJGD (Germany)
Peter Husák	INEX Slovakia (Slovakia)
Rossella Fasano	Legambiente (Italy)
Élodie Caille-Bonnot	Solidarités Jeunesses (France)
Grigorii Diatchin	World4U (Russia)
Lukas Wurtinger	IBG (Germany)
Laura Marino	Legambiente (Italy)
Birgit Fetty	Grenzenlos (Austria)

Representatives of the group were also present at the TM in Russia and promoted this year's common action 1Table4All.

Work & PoA 2017 The mini Joint Meeting of working group coordinators held in Istanbul in January 2017 was great to kick-start the year: It was very motivating to exchange with other groups right in the beginning,

and the few days we spent together allowed us to elaborate common plans for the year ahead.

In 2017, the Alliance common action (PoA/54) was for the first time a joint effort by several working groups and one task force: A4AWG, GEWG, GATF, ERC and ESWG as coordinating group. Under the heading of 1Table4All, we invited volunteers to organise community meals in their camps, and to invite local hosts, partners, friends, citizens etc. to share the meal. With this action, we wanted to give consideration to the still tense situation of migrants and combat xenophobia: In times of global unrest and movement, we need to build longer tables, not higher fences. The idea was born and developed at the mini Joint Meeting in Istanbul, promotion and launch followed right with and after the TM. Unfortunately, we saw only little engagement from member organisations and volunteers, but all working groups involved in organising 1Table4All decided to make it happen again in 2018. We used the Joint Meeting in Italy to identify challenges, brainstorm solutions and make first plans for our future work.

The meetings with other working groups served not least the further development of a common promotional strategy (PoA/30) for the common action as well as campaigns supported by the Alliance. The promotion of 1Table4All went really well in the beginning, but got neglected in the course of the year, which leaves room for improvement. Questions on the action (as well as sustainability in general) were included in the common evaluation form for workcamps (PoA/43), and a separate evaluation form was created to increase chances we get some feedback on the common action by member organisations and volunteers. A common approach to contribute to this year's Global Human Rights Week (16-21 October 2017) was discussed at the Joint Meeting in Italy.

The support of sustainability-related campaigns (PoA/29) – IVS for Climate Justice and People4Soil – could have been more intense from our side. The ESWG coordinator joined a Skype call with representatives of several Alliance sister networks in March 2017, but after that there was very little interaction and contribution to IVS for Climate Justice. To be mentioned in this context: NVDA shared with us an initiative for carbon offsetting by means of IVS projects – a really interesting idea that has unfortunately not sparked off this year. However, we want to follow up the initiative next year. The People4Soil petition ended 12

September 2017, but no information on the outcome was available when this report was written.

The update of the Alliance policy paper on

SVictor Petersson	Concordia UK
UKristine Roke	SJ
SJavier Larios	ELIX
tLuna Carmona	Xchange Scotland
aTiffany Alleron	Concordia France
nMarija Pantelic	IJGD
aTilemachos Boni	ELIX

bility (PoA/12) will finally be finished till the GA 2017. A draft was created during the summer and discussed at the Joint Meeting in Italy.

Regarding the Alliance application for observer status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), we are still waiting for a final response. However, the Alliance was already invited to join this year's COP23 in Bonn, which takes place 6-17 November 2017. Three Alliance representatives were nominated for the event. The ESWG is currently trying to get in touch with other youth organisations joining the event in order to possibly plan for common activities. We want to use our presence in Bonn to take a stand against climate change, but as well to extent our network and contacts (PoA/25).

Pending Issues Not all tasks in the Plan of Action (PoA) were (fully) fulfilled in 2017. Collaboration with the Global Action Task Force (PoA/45.a and 45.b) did not happen after the pre-season meeting in Istanbul. This was mainly due to the fact that the task force ran without coordinator this year. Furthermore, the ESWG did not contribute to the organisation of the Global IVS (Leaders) Meeting or the Global MLT meeting (PoA/18), and no work was done to promote the use of the Alliance e-learning platform (PoA/65).

Challenges A considerable challenge faced was low engagement of group members in the course of the year. Tasks were shared in the very beginning, but we faced difficulties living up to all of them. It was also not easy to find times for Skype meetings or people to carry out certain tasks. Other commitments, work and a lack

of internal deadlines made it hard to gain momentum (which we always experience at Joint Meetings where we can meet and work face-to-face!). We found it also difficult to reach member organisations and volunteers – be it when inviting them to join the common action or when asking for feedback on our activities and support. We often had to ask us the question if we actually reach our audience by what we are doing.

Lessons learned & conclusions Our major insight this year was that it is crucial to keep the spirit high amongst group members. We can achieve great things, but need to work together and commit time to the group in order to progress and succeed. At the Joint Meeting in Italy, we therefore set up a sophisticated system of measures that are meant to keep us going. To be tested next year! Besides that, we acknowledge that more promotional and capacity-building measures need to be taken by the ESWG in order to spread sustainability among member organisations and volunteers. Last but not least, we want to intensify networking as well as collaboration with our sister networks as it bears great potential to make our work more powerful and far-reaching.

All in all, we can still look back on a great season 2017. Thank you to all Alliance members and volunteers who made use of our support or supported our purpose – this is what motivates us and keeps the ESWG pot boiling. Kudos as well to the great group I had the pleasure to work with this year, lets top it next year!

External Relations Committee (ERC)

Mission

The External Relations Committee (ERC) aims to develop a sustainable and coherent communication within Alliance for the International Voluntary Service. ERC's main goal is to share the principles, values and mission of the Network, catching the attention of potential members, funders, volunteers and other stakeholders. From members to volunteers, ERC work to develop consistent channels, which will support the projects and actions, resulting in increased visibility and impact.

ERC members in 2017

The E

In 2017 External Relations Committee (ERC) have continued working towards its wider aim; creating a sustainable and coherent communication within the Alliance, and share the principles, values & mission of the network towards partners and sister networks in the International Voluntary Service movement. Additional to this, ERC have focused this year on supporting the fellow work groups in their communication & campaigns in the network with digital promotion and visual support and reaching the wider networks member & partners.

ERC have, due to the need of the members, moved more from the "formal" skype meeting, to have a wider exchange with e-mails and using WhatsApp, this due to difficulties to find a good time where everyone were available. Despite this, following ERC has had meetings on following dates;

skype 09/12/2016

Skype 30/01/2017

Skype 22/02/2017

ERC meeting during TM Russia 2017

Skype 17/03/2017

Skype 30/05/2017

These dates do not include the discussions done via WhatsApp/messenger, which without it would be very difficult to do quick covers of events/campaigns.

CHALLENGES, ISSUES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The year has proposed several challenges, where lack of advocacy have played a central role, & achievements in digital promotion and member outreach, preparatory work for the media training & writing of the social media strategy.

ERC is strong when it comes to communication and digital promotion, but lacks in human resources and, to some extent, interest in advocacy and networking. This has become more and more obvious during the year, where several of the tasks in the Plan of Action 2017 weren't successfully carried out due to

this. The low amount of active members has forced the committee to prioritise certain points as well.

The largest pending issue for the ERC is the media training, which will also for next year serve as the main focus for the communication side of the ERC. With the project writer, the missing piece is hopefully found making the social media & communication training, set for May 2018, possible which will empower the participants.

The digital media channels of the Alliance has also this year continued being the most active side of the ERC, having common actions published to mention one. The ERC have successfully provided support to the #1Table4All campaign and to some extend the Flagship Programme. The digital share & storage link has been put into wider use, supporting the savings of the network activities, and overall there's been a wide cover of the activities in the network, which also can be seen via the social media sites.

To avoid sitting in the same chair next year, a one year trial of a second coordinator, hereinafter referred to as "ERC Advocacy Coordinator", have been put into place to improve the ERC's advocating and networking role, and better cover the expected results from the PoA 2018/19. With a coordinator 100% involved in the advocacy, ideally the Alliance will become more active in its advocating form & networking, but also be better on supporting the VPER. It will also leave more room for the communication coordinator to further empower & support development of effective & sustainable visibility, cooperative social media strategies & tools for the members. Having reached this consensus should count to the achievements as well.

LESSON LEARNT, CONCLUSION & FUTURE FOR ERC

Having the responsibility as ERC coordinator over the past year have provided a deeper understanding in how the Alliance is working, the working groups involved, and the people in the network driving. It has also surfaced issues balancing the ever-changing need of promotion and media cover, with organising an sustainable advocacy policy that put Alliance in the centre where we can do long time difference.

Having two coordinators will not come without its own challenges; they need to work good together, balance the need of the working group and ensure that the members are feeling part of the whole

ERC, not necessarily only in their subgroups 'Advocacy' & 'Communication'. However, we need to learn from the past and take new steps to continue supporting the network in ways best possible which this hopefully will prove over the next year.

With two coordinators and the support from the EC, the ERC 2018/19 are in a better position to cover a wider field, will ideally take the group from a 'reactive', which is an energy taking and less desirable way of working, to a 'proactive' state where the ERC will create & maintain the coherent and sustainable work the ERC is here to do.

*Victor Petersson
Concordia UK
ERC coordinator*

Staff Development working group (SDWG)

Mission

The SDWG takes care about the quality of the concrete work done by Alliance members. It works on everything linked to the practicality of work of the placement officers and analyses members' needs and challenges they face. It focuses on topics such as exchange of volunteers, new trends and how they affect these exchanges, common monitoring and evaluation. It is offering tools and support systems in order to facilitate the everyday work of the member organisations and react on common issues. Among other tasks, it organizes every two years the Staff Evaluation meeting in October/November, as well as the Newcomers' Sessions for new staff and organisations participating to the Technical Meeting and General Assembly.

Members of SDWG in 2017:

Bojan Beronja YRS-VSS, Serbia – SDWG coordinator

Anna Isaieva Alternative-V, Ukraine

Fotis Anastasiadis Citizens in Action, Greece

Gladys HUGHES Concordia, France

Oykum Bagci GSM-Youth Services Centre, Turkey

Lukas Wurtinger IBG, Germany

Luiza Boykanych Union Forum, Ukraine

Sylwia Jedra FIYE, Poland

Chiara Varesio Xchange Scotland, Scotland

and two members of other working groups, who were on a mailing list:

Jana Konasova INEX-SDA, Czechia

Baris Bilim GENCTUR, Turkey

Overview of group work

In 2017 the group was composed of 11 (two were also in another working group) members representing 11 organisations, 2 members joined the group for first time.

In general group was active and showed interest to work on proposed tasks from the PoA, especially in the Spring time while preparing application for the Staff Meeting.

Therefore, the group met during the TM where the concept paper for the Staff Meeting was developed and later was used as a starting point for development of the E+ application.

Second and last meeting, was at the Joint Meeting hosted by Legambiente in September.

Some of the usual challenges detected by WGs coordinators were repeated. Participation and management depends on the availability of the each WG member. Early enthusiasm and interest to be involved and participate at WG usually calms down after first few months. This is easy to understand as the members are all involved placement in their offices, which leads to work overload. This also involves the WG coordinator.

Possible measure – when planning work of the group we have to take into consideration the fact of work overload of members during workcamp season.

General comment on tasks and work of SDWG

The year was planned as big year with great Staff Meeting but as the application was not submitted due to technical reasons, this influenced the rest of the group. Even the attempt to run a 'self-organised/financed' Staff Meeting was refused as not even a core of the group was available. WG coordinator included.

The rest of the tasks was easier to follow and in some cases were "not in hands" of the WG. For example, low response rate at the calls for the Buddy system and almost impossible pairing resulted that this part of the PoA should be considered as unsuccessful. But at the same time, it helped us to assess it and come with few new proposals.

As usual, the tasks and actions within PoA (but also by direct request from other WGs) become more complex and require more time and efforts from members.

Self-assessment evaluation tools for member organizations

Challenge: SDWG and ADC members had another special meeting during Joint meeting dedicated to self and peer assessment evaluation tools. As the Staff Meeting with this topic was postponed to the next year, for the General Conference 2018, the success will depend on the possibility for the event to take place and

the interest of the members to take part in it.

Bojan Beronja
YRS, SDWG coordinator

Training Needs working group (TNWG)

Mission

Mapping and addressing the needs in terms of Training and Education in the level of Alliance as network but also in the level of the member organisations.

Monitoring the implementation of the Training and Education policy

Developing the Training and Education policy paper
The group functions as a strategic partner for the other working groups, committees and task forces in order to support them to answer to their training needs. At the Member organisations level the group provides the overview on the training and activities and strategies of the different Alliance organisations.

The TNWG this year consisted by 11 mandated individuals representing 9 member organizations: Tamás Mahner (Egyesek Youth Association), Lenka Polcerová (INEX-SDA), Sara Mandozzi (Lunaria), Denis Denisiuk (World4U), Mojca Pusnik (De Amicitia), Konstantin Gorshkov (WORLD4U), Peter Husák (INEX Slovakia), Angelina Garipova (World4U), Luiza Boykanych (Union Forum), Paula Armiñanzas (De Amicitia).

The Training Needs Working Group maps and addresses the needs in terms of Training and Education in the level of Alliance as network and also in the level of the member organisations.

The members of the working group had the chance to meet already twice, during the ALLIANCE Day in the Technical Meeting in Russia and of course the Joint Meeting in Italy.

Apart from physical meetings, we had a Skype meeting in the beginning of the year in order to split between the different tasks and start working on them independently.

Challenges

Most of the members of the working group are at the same time working for the member organisations that they represent. This meant that there has been limited availability during the season with result that most of the work was done during the Joint Meeting.

According to that there has been a prioritization of the activities that were outlines that were accomplished this year with some of them remaining pending for the next year.

Achievements

This year the efforts were much more concentrated in specific issues with the most important to be, the Training and Education Policy paper, which is presented for the General Assembly 2017 for adoption.

Through the revision of the policy paper, the TNWG had the chance to reflect once again on our mission/vision which now is also included in the document and takes a better and clearer shape.

Moreover, the TNWG starts also working directed towards the needs of the member organisations and answering to them through decentralized educational activities. This year INEX-SDA applied through a week long Training Course, the concept on anti-discrimination education for camp leaders that has been developed by the TNWG during the Joint Meeting 2016 in Brussels.

Lesson learnt and conclusions

After the creation of the Pool of Trainers and the establishment of the LTTC as regular educational activity of the Alliance, TNWG had to find again its' vision and reestablish the foundations of its existence as a working group.

This year is my last year as TNWG coordinator, where I believe that I offered (sometimes more sometimes less, as life is always in the corner), what I could offer. Now I see that there are members already dedicated, experienced and well prepared to bring forward the TNWG with the new vision it has.

A crucial point for this working group but for any of the working groups and committees of the Alliance in general, is the commitment of the members of the working group. I believe that it's more beneficial when it's not restricted to one year term but it takes the form of a longer commitment. For that I would like to especially thank Lenka Polcerova from INEX-SDA for her effort and energies

invested in the TNWG. She has been actively involved in the working group since my first term as coordinator in the TNWG, and has participated in the last 2 consecutive Joint Meetings offering her invaluable support and fresh ideas for the advancement of this working group.

Tilemachos Boni, TNWG Coordinator

Gender Equality Working Group (GEWG)

Working Group mission:

Gender Equality Working Group of Alliance had been transformed from a task force to a working group at the 2016 General Assembly of Alliance in Serbia.

It has the purpose of promoting gender equality as one of the core values of the Alliance. and to assure the development of the network and its member organisations with regard to the topic.

It will do so by providing educational opportunities for Alliance members as well as awareness raising strategies such as Common Action Days. It will also function as a body that assesses the needs for development of the network regarding the topic of gender equality as well as providing information and tools that can be implemented to address these needs.

Apart from that, it will also support networking with the sister IVS networks in order to join forces and create a common strategy on how to address the topic within the IVS movement.

1. Group members:

Adeola Aderemi, Citizen in Action
Baris Bilim, Genctur
Ettore Ismael Borghetto, Lunaria
Eva Chancé, Concordia France
Ana Choza Mayor, Xchange Scotland
Nadia Duhacek, IJGD

Angelina Garipova, World4You
Natalija Radivojevic, YRS

2. Meetings of GEWG

Members of GEWG met several times during the year. Dynamic of scheduling the meetings was depending on different deadlines and other events

which were happening through the year. There has been 7 online Skype meetings which were planned for division of further tasks, follow up on present activities and for updating on certain information or status of the tasks. Beside online meetings, some members of the group had a chance to meet in person and work together on GEWG tasks. Some of these meetings are Alliance Technical Meeting, Joint Meeting and Study Session on Gender Equality.

3. Pending tasks and issues

Since GEWG started functioning as working group just this year, many tasks in PoA 2017 have been planned to be done in collaboration with other Working Groups, especially TNWG but also LTTC. Numerous tasks were initiated and will continue through the year 2018.

Campaing "Not in my camp!" is active also in 2018 and we will continue to produce tools and materials usable by organisation to raise awareness on Gender Equality.

We will plan to intensify the communication with TNWG and LTTC to be able to plan building a Gender Equality skilled new PoT in 2018 and online courses.

We also plan to have at least one person from GEWG to each key meetings during the year 2018 (JJM, TM, JM, GA) and we hope on new recruits to help us in this goal.

We plan to dig even more into specific topics while keeping "beginners topics" alive. The more specific topics would be non-binary, intersectionality and a global strategy on how to address difficult and shameful topics in the Alliance Network.

We will increase our link to the common action 1Table4All reconducted in 2018 and emphasize how meal preparation and time is related to Gender Equality and how participating to the common action can actually help creating a great opportunity to break down gender stereotypes.

We will support the actions of SDWG.

We initially were supposed to participate to the Buddy System but this operation being unsuccessful to meet the network needs, it will be renovated next year with a more interactive online system.

Task number 13: Update the Alliance training Policy based on results of 2017 work, mainly LTTC but also other educational events. The problem with this task and why it is not finished is because LTTC will be finished by the end of the year and Alliance Training Policy is being currently updated by TNWG. So, first this things need to happen so that we can work further on inclusive language.

Task number 15: Revise official Alliance documents on inclusive language and so they reflect the importance of gender equality. This activity is one of the pending issues on which we will work further and it depends on EC which has to provide all the updated Alliance official documents. This is activity which will be copied onto PoA 2018 since it will demand more time.

Task number 33: No Hate Speech campaign Follow up. This was one of the joint tasks of GEWG, VPER, ERC and MOs and it is planned to happen also during 2018. Part of the follow up happened during Study Session on Gender Equality where members of the GEWG had a chance to talk directly with implementors of No Hate Speech campaign and discuss about further plans and how this could be implemented into further work of Alliance and MOs.

Task number 30: Implement, evaluate and improve the common promotional strategy for the campaigns. This task is still under full process and it is joint action of all WG and TF.

4. Achievements

Not in my camp! Campaign;

Launched with presentation on the Alliance Day at the Alliance Technical Meeting in March 2017. Campaign explanations and tools created by the WG added to the website. Specific tumblr page had been created by the WG. It still is active and the campaign will keep running in 2018 as planned in the PoA.

1Table4All Common Action;

This common action started in March 2017 at the Alliance Technical meeting, cooperation with Global Action Task Force, Environmental Sustainability Working Group and Access 4 All Working Group. The call has been made for all workcamps within IVS at the website and by e-mail to get in action for the campaign. The campaign was under coordination of ESWG during the season and this common action will continue next year.

S.A.G.E - Self Assessment on Gender Equality, Study Session;

This Study Session was initiated by Task force and has been one of the plans proposed at GA 2016 as one of the activity of newly formed working group. During Study Session, participants have been developing different tools which will be further developed within GEWG and it will be used by MOs. Beside developing documents, participants reviewed official documents on topic of Gender by Council of Europe and gave their proposals. Material that has been developed during Study Session:

Policy paper for GEWG

Manuals for individuals and organisations on how to approach the challenges addressed (3 parts: Self-assessment tool on Gender Equality; Organisational assessment tool; Educational Events Assessment Tool)

Critical Remarks of the Council of Europe's practices on gender equality

5. Challenges during the year

Since this was the first year of the working group in action the expectations from whole network but especially from EC were at high level. So we knew we had to create some concrete outputs about our subject which was also supposed to be useful for workcamps since they are the biggest field for us to spread our ideas. Our campaign "Not in my camp" didn't have the feedback we expected (there was barely any, really), so we plan to raise even more awareness among the members next year. This might also be solved next year as the global feedback platform will include GE-related questions.

We tried to make Skype meetings to talk about our actions regarding POA and share the tasks between us but this wasn't easy always to have these meetings with everybody since people have their other things to do. But still we managed to make 7 meetings which improved cohesion among the WG. We definitely hope we will have more people in the WG so it's easier to share tasks and have new vision and input.

6. Conclusion

While we come to the end of the first year of our workcamp we realize we still have much more to do but realizing that we can create safer environment in the workcamps for everybody no matter who they are and whatever their identities is just making us more dedicated to move on.

Before this WG and even before the Task Force, most of the network was unaware about the inequalities, harassments and gender based conflicts happening in the workcamps. Since the WG had been established we hope we managed to raise awareness on the subject. There is still room for improvement this is why we need to be sure to maintain this working group in the upcoming years.

Eva Chance, GEWG Coordinator

Global Action Task Force (GATF)

The yearly mandate of the Global Action task force was renewed at the GA 2016 for one more year.

The members of the task force in 2017 were representatives from the following organisations: Allianssi, ANEC, Citizens in Action, Concordia France, De Amicitia, Elix, Genctur, IJGD, Legambiente, Workcamp Switzerland, Xchange Scotland, World4U. No coordinator was appointed for 2017.

Recap of the year and concerns

After almost the second year of the existence of the Task Force, we have the need to share the state of the art, the difficulties encountered and the scenarios for the future. The TF was, in fact, not very productive as expected by its same members.

The biggest difficulties (linked among them) have been: poor communication, the lack of a coordinator and the insufficient involvement of the TF members, despite an initial strong motivation.

Apart from personal situations that prevented some members to be actively involved, one of the reasons of the poor effectiveness was that the aim of the TF was perceived as too much general, as the issue on which the TF was focused - migration - is continuously to be defined and discussed further among Alliance members.

Future direction

A great challenge is now to decide on the follow-

up of the TF. An important aspect to consider is that the GATF was born to empower Alliance to promptly react to global issues that occur and that affect our mission, the way we run workcamps and the relationships we build with our stakeholders. Migration was identified as the topic of the year in 2016 and 2017, not excluding that the TF could have dealt with other global issues.

The TF identified several options for its future:

stay as TF also for the following year, with tasks to be defined; become a WG with the appointment of a coordinator as a mandatory element, with aims and activities related also to other global issues;

get implemented in an existing WG (for example A4A WG) and continue to work on migration and other global issues.

be closed.

In all cases, it has been discussed about the opportunity to pass some tasks to the A4AWG, namely the ones concerning the inclusion of migrants in voluntary activities (It has not only been discussed, the statistics of the A4A WG are already showing asylum seekers/refugees as a target group, so the A4A WG is counting asylum seekers already as a group of Volunteers with fewer opportunities (economical, social obstacles). It's not a problem to include asylum seekers in the statistics of A4A WG, but when it comes to Trainings, preparation and tools, it is advisable to adapt the material for the target group of migrants.

Other ideas that were mentioned

The creation of a basic manual/guidelines and collection of good practices on how other WG maintain an effective communication

Turning the TF into a working group, taking advantage of opportunities for in person meetings (bettering communication) and starting with the need of an identified coordinator

Delegating tasks to existing relevant working groups (A4A for example mentioned above).

GATF members

Volunteers' Engagement Task Force (VETF)

Composition:

DE ROOS Claire from JAVVA

FASSANO Rossela from LEGAMBIENTE

HANSMEIR Janina from IBG

JENSEN Lasse from MS

MARIUZZO Marcello from LUNARIA

TALBOT Shelley from Xchange SCOTLAND

VAN DE PUT Grégory from CBB

Role and mandate:

The role given to the tasks force is to address the issue of decreasing number of volunteers and to come up with a KA2 application plan, which allows an extensive analysis of various aspects of why the decreasing is happening and to lead towards setting concrete Mid- and Long- term measures to be further applied by the network and adapted by member organisations to their national level.

Meetings held during the year:

There are no physical meetings the task forces are entitled to within the Alliance budget.

Consequently, we organize ourselves in order to meet via Skype.

2 meetings have been organized throughout the year, but all faced the difficulty to gather a majority of the group members.

The 1st meeting was held on May 12th 2017

The 2nd meeting was held on July 28th 2017

The challenges experienced by the task force

The tasks force faced 2 mains challenges:

It has been impossible to find an adequate moment, when a majority of its members could be involved in an effective working session.

The mission given to the Tf was very broad and it was needed to narrow more precisely the directions it should follow.

We had to decide on which of the following directions we could focus:

1. Online marketing/ online promotion.

One of our first objectives should be establishing connections with volunteers using youth-friendly online tools.

2. Quality of the workcamp; monitoring and evaluation.

Young people first care about quality of the project. Therefore, we need to focus on our own

quality and monitoring.

3. Impact assessment.

Need of learning from members and partners about successful strategies that imply also cooperation with universities and high social impact on local communities.

4. Research whether the workcamp construct is outdated.

Is the word "workcamp" still appropriate? Do the main pillars of a workcamp address current needs of young people and local communities?

Achievements, tasks not completed and conclusion

At the time of writing this report, we have to acknowledge that the task force has not found the clue in order to invert the trend of the decreasing number of volunteers.

Nevertheless, we think that, concerning the on-line marketing, very interesting and effective tools and working methods have been presented at the ALLIANCE DAY during the Technical Meeting. Such on-line marketing practices should be more integrated in ALLIANCE members practices. Trainings and new info sessions should be organized at this purpose by ALLIANCE on the topic.

The tasks force has neither succeeded to design a project of Ka2 to be submitted in 2017, under the ERASMUS+ programme. We have nevertheless discussed a proposal and sent it to the MC meeting of September. Our proposal of Ka2 links the volunteer engagement strategy to the new opportunities and threats that the European Solidarity Corps create for the workcamps organisations. This proposal could be further elaborated during the autumn 2017 and be submitted by a member organisation at the February deadline of 2018.

We did not feel we had the ability to address the challenge of the quality of the workcamps. At least, we did not see how we could do this in the frame of the tasks force. To ensure the best quality at all time should be the 1st priority of all ALLIANCE members and the challenge should be embraced collectively in all transparency.

We did not feel neither we had the capacity to assess the impact of the workcamps.

Moreover, we were afraid to follow a work direction that had already been very well addressed via previous Ka2 project that ALLIANCE joined as promoter: the Changing Perspective Project, coordinated by SJ, and the I'VE project, coordinated by LUNARIA. The results of both project should be further consulted and used

VETF members

Common Placement Tool Task Force

The idea of a Common Placement Tool has a long history inside the Alliance. This idea has been officially shared and adopted in the resolution of Congress 2014 among the main objectives of the network. Then in 2015, 2016 and 2017 the tool has been developed by MS and further discussions on the adoption process have been shared through the Common Placement System Task Force. The adoption of a Common Placement Tool is strictly connected with the main priority we are currently working on: tackle the decreasing number of volunteers by increasing visibility, promotion and outreach; develop our monitoring, evaluation and self-assessment methodologies to ensure quality in our projects and cooperation; provide capacity building and mutual support among member organisation. A Common Placement Tool (CPT) can support us in developing an easy and high-quality communication between members, guests and partners. We need a common placement tool to make sure that all members, both small and big have the capacity to reach the volunteers. This can be done in many ways, but one thing is certain, we need strong communication and visibility. In 2017 the Task force has been evaluating Plato system, which is already used by 25 Alliance members.

Plato survey shows that 91,5% of all users believe that using PLATO affected their work 'very positive' or 'positive'. 1/5 used independent systems and 14% didn't have a system before starting with PLATO. On non-users side numbers are also very good. 56% believe that PLATO had a positive effect, 35% weren't bothered and 7% believe it has been a negative experience cooperating with PLATO. That doesn't mean that PLATO is perfect, but it shows that the system has proved its worth in general.

Report of Alliance Secretariat

The report is composed of an explanation about the working methods of the Secretariat in relation to the other bodies of the network, an overview of the main tasks developed in the last year, the evolution of the tasks since 2012 in numbers, few comments and conclusions from my perspective in this position since September 2011.

If you have read the Secretariat report presented to the General Assembly 2016, then you already know part of the content of this report and you can skip directly to chapter 3, the Evolution graph!

This is because the tasks of the Alliance Secretary do not change much year after year: of course the amount of support required in one or another field will change, but the "AS year" and the tasks assigned to this position stay pretty much the same.

1. Where and how does the Alliance Secretariat work?

The Secretariat is currently composed of one staff, the Alliance Secretary, based in Athens in the office of Citizens in Action, and working from Monday to Friday, from 11.00 to 19.00 (except during the network meetings).

The work of the secretary is recorded in a timesheet where the hours and tasks are described on a daily as well as monthly basis. One function of the timesheet is to keep track of how many working days are spent on different tasks. In this report, a summary of these data is presented, taking into consideration the period between September 2016 and August 2017, and comparing these data with the previous years.

The Secretary develops a big variety of tasks, depending on the needs of the moment and the period of the year: for example, April to June is usually the time when the reports for the administrative grants must be prepared and submitted, or September to December are the months of GA preparation and follow-up.

The tasks are meant to support several

bodies of the network: the members of Executive and Management Committees, the Working Groups and Committees, and of course the Member organizations whenever there are specific requests for information or supporting material. Part of the Secretariat tasks, also involve a first communication with external structures and organisations that approach the Alliance for the first time in search for cooperation or information. Last but not least, the Secretary participates to all the constitutional meetings of the Alliance and coordinates with the host in the preparatory phase.

Since its establishment in 2011, the Secretary has gradually become a reference point for the main bodies of the network not only for practical administrative tasks, but also to guarantee the continuity from one year to the other, supporting the handover process from old to new positions after each General Assembly and keeping track of the "Alliance yearly calendar" (deadlines in relation to the donors, standard procedures to be followed every year, reporting duties, all IT tools update etc.).

2. What has the Secretary been doing lately?

The tasks are do not vary much from year to year, as you can see in this list, but the people I have been working with, do change, and this is what makes also this position different every year: the Secretary role grows not only with the activities of the network and with the capacities of the person, but also greatly with the teams of volunteers (in the working groups, in the EC etc) who contribute to the network. This is the greatest source of learning for the person who works as Secretary! Here is a list of the main tasks considering the last 12 months:

Internal administration

- participation in the constitutional meetings of the network where the Executive Committee is present.
- administrative support to different bodies and appointed persons for ad hoc tasks
- support to the EC in the preparation of the mailings for the GA
- preparing the minutes of each meeting and of the General Assembly
- yearly collection of the statistics
- coordination and communication between EC, hosts of events and trainers on logistics
- internal systematization work (keep the archives

up to date, accounting etc.)
 update of the Alliance mailing lists and maintenance of various IT tools
 support in the preparation of the selection and transition process for the new Secretary

Grant applications

Work on the application process and redaction of the narrative application (the budget is done by the Treasurer). It includes:

- the administrative grant to the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe (the application is submitted every two years)
- the administrative grant to EACEA-Erasmus+ (the application is submitted every year, in order to have the 3-year framework grant reconfirmed)
- occasional support for other project grants applied by sister networks/members where Alliance participates as partner, by the Working Groups through member organisations, or the Course Director.

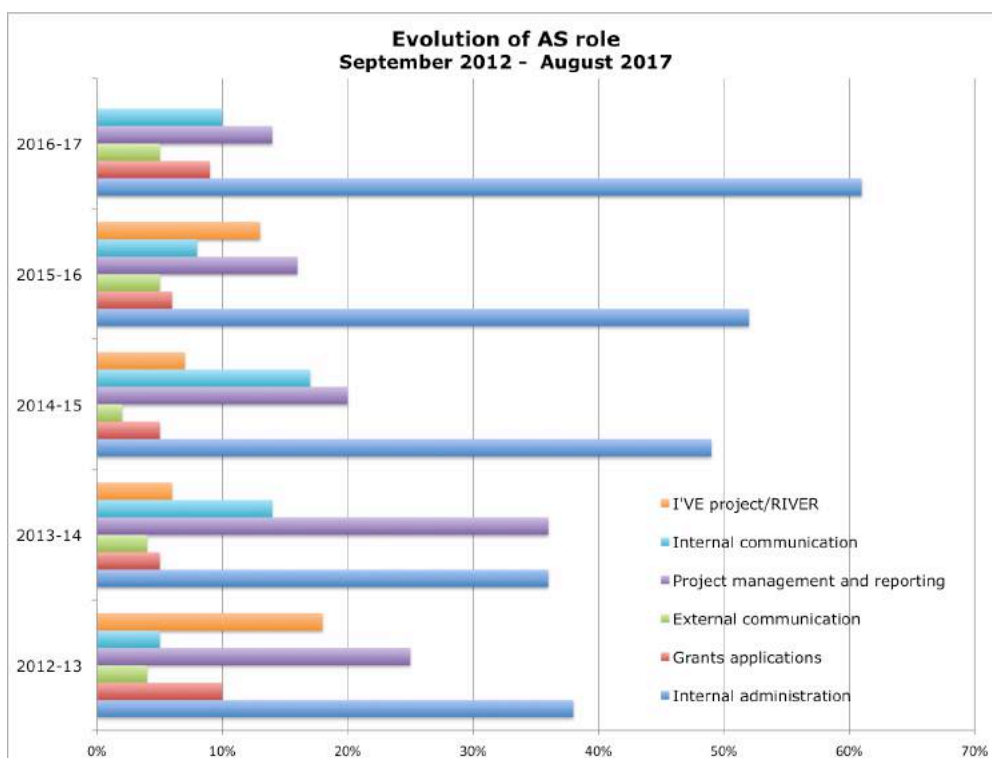
External communication

addressing requests for information from third-party organizations, individuals and institutions, supporting VPER and ERC in issues dealing with YFJ, European Solidarity

Corps, sister networks etc.
 assisting the ERC in the management of the facebook page, if needed signaling to EC and ERC, activities of YFJ and EYF that might be useful for the network

Internal communication

- update of the Alliance website (news, calendar, upload of projects results etc.)
- upload of official documents in the private area of Alliance website
- issuing the internal newsletter
- forwarding relevant calls and information to members, or providing support materials requested for local activities
- Project management and reporting
- monitoring the administrative development of granted events and projects, and making sure that the needed reporting documents and information are collected, shared and archived properly.
- communicating with the funding agencies for what concerns technicalities of the administrative grants.
- reporting on the administrative grants and redacting the Annual Activity Report (which is also part of the official report for EYF administrative grant). This task is developed in cooperation with various EC members and the people in charge of specific initiatives or events along the year.



Few facts that help to understand the above graph:

In 2012-2014, the Secretary was in charge of coordinating and reporting the Group EVS "Go for the NEETs" and the Youth in Action project with Latin America "Learning Bridges" (under the category "Project Management and Reporting").

RIVER (2012-13) and I'VE (2015-16) projects co-financed the salary of the Secretary, in the form of staff costs foreseen within the projects. There has been no such extra income directly to Alliance budget since October 2016. The management tasks of these two projects are calculated separately, but they should be added to the "Project Management and Reporting".

2016 was the first year that we had to report on the new shape of the Erasmus+ administrative grant. The reporting requirements are more complex than before and need several days, if not weeks, of work. For this reason, despite the Course Director staff position took over the management of the LTTC (since the end of 2016), the category "Project Management and Reporting" remains quite a busy one.

From a merely support role, particularly to the GS, the Secretary gradually became a staff that would develop the everyday practical tasks that before fell on various EC members. Therefore the variety and number of "Internal Administration" tasks grew considerably, particularly after the Congress (2014) and the boost in initiatives that it brought to the network.

External communication through social media and other channels, has been largely taken over by the ERC and VPER in the last couple of years. The numbers in the graph remain the same because I have been representing the Alliance in some external events during 2016, while during 2017 I have supported the EC in coordinating Alliance' response to the European Solidarity Corps initiative.

In the middle of 2013 we acquired a new shiny website that had to be filled little by little with all the history and current projects of the network, including the documents available for members in the

private area (the website is mainly intended for IVS organisations and particularly the members, therefore its update is accounted under "Internal Communication"). A plugin called Mailpoet was added to the website in 2014 and we started issuing the updated Alliance Newsletter, a task that continued on a monthly basis until the end of 2016. Since January 2017, this task, which requires a constant update of the website with all that happens in the network, has been replaced by the current need to support the EC in the internal communication within the network for a smooth management of the many activities running in the Alliance.

Giovanna Pignatti Morano
Alliance Secretary

Report of the Course Director

This report contains an overview of the work conducted by the Alliance Course Director for the period of one full year. Between September 2016 when the last report of the AC was submitted to the GA, and September 2017 all the tasks envisioned in description of the job of the Course Director as voted at the General Assembly 2015 have been fulfilled. The report is divided into different sections and it is covering the main achievements reached during the second half of the 2-years mandate of the ACD. This includes short reports on implementation of the two main projects Alliance Course Director was supposed to deliver: Study Session, implemented in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, implementation and coordination of the Workplan funded by the European Youth Foundation which was used to cover the second edition of the Long Term Training Course.

In addition to the projects, the annual report contains an overview of the M.E.S.S. – Model for Economic Sustainability and Self-sufficiency, a model was developed as a joint effort of the Alliance Course Director and the EC, with an idea to support sustainable development of the role of the ACD in the future and overall sustainability for the Alliance Educational and Strategic events which are to address the needs of the network in the upcoming two years. Finally, this report will conclude with the general recommendations on the position and its continuations, as seen by the current Course Director and based on extensive discussions on different models of the role with the EC, as well with the members of the working groups and the LTTC trainers.

Study Session SAGE: Self-Assessment on Gender Equality

Following the Alliance Plan of Action 2017, one of the tasks assigned to the Alliance Course Director was development, submission and implementation of the Study Session to the Youth Department by the Council of Europe in April 2017. After

successful development of the application and submission, Alliance got the positive response and approval for its application for the Study Session. The Study Session was designed to address the needs of the network identified through the work of the Task Force on Gender Equality, bringing in focus the question of individual and organizational assessment on gender equality, gender sensitive approach organizations use when developing IVS projects and respect for different genders and sexual orientations in our projects.

Study Session brought together an international team of 5 trainers and youth educators, representatives of 5 member organizations: Dusan Milojevic as Alliance Course Director, Jelena Ristic Beronja as Senior Trainer (YRS), Nadja Duhacek as representative of the Gender Equality Working Group (IJGD), Adeola kafylat Aderemi Naomi as representative of the GEWG and yoga teacher during the event (Citizens in Action) and Javier Larios as the social media coordinator (VIVE Mexico). Study Session had high participation and included 30 participants, coming from 20 member organizations of the network. The full list of the participants and organizations present can be seen in the final report of the Study Session. It was hosted by the European Youth Center in Strasbourg, over period of 6 days, between May 15th and May 20th. The outcomes of the Study Session contain following:

- -
- - -

Self-assessment tool designed for the individual assessment on gender sensitivity
Organizational assessment tool designed for the assessment on how much gender sensitive approach is applied at working place in member organizations
Event assessment tool, designed for the assessment on the gender sensitive approach applied in the IVS project organized by the Alliance and its members (workcamps, youth exchanges, trainings, etc)

Critical analysis of the Youth Department and its gender sensitive approach to gender equality, through the analysis of the space, staff structure and promotional materials produced by the YD and its bodies involved in the work on gender equality; Draft Policy paper on gender equality for the Alliance, which was finalized by the GEWG at the Joint Meeting in Italy in September 2017

All the Department of the Council of Europe in

August 2017. Further development of the tools is required, due to the limited time and resources available at the Study Session and therefore it

tools are the part of the final report which was submitted and approved by the Youth remains with the Gender Equality Working Group to be finalized through its Plan of Action 2018. Final report of the Study Session with all its outcomes will be presented by the Alliance Course Director at the General Assembly, in November 2017, and you can find it [HERE](#) as well.

Long Term Training Course 2017 (LTTC)
General overview

The central educational activity of the Alliance – Long Term Training Course – designed in order to address the need of the member organizations to get their active volunteers trained to deliver quality training for the future camp leaders – has been submitted to the European Youth Foundation in April 2016 and resubmitted in October 2016. The approval of the application was announced beginning of December 2016, followed by the launch of the call for the training team and for the participants.

The international team of 6 trainers selected from the Alliance Pool of Trainers was proposed by the Alliance Course Director and appointed by the EC on January 3rd and it consisted of:

- Dusan Milojevic, Alliance Course Director and the coordinator of the PoT
- Jelena Ristic Beronja, Senior Trainer (YRS)
- Sara Mandozzi, Senior Trainer (Lunaria)

- Antje Springer, Junior Trainer (IJGD)
- Julia Rodriguez Nieto, Junior Trainer (Xchange Scotland)
- Marija Pantelic, Junior Trainer (IJGD)

Host of the events of the LTTC 2017 were following:

- Preparation Meeting took place in Belgrade, Serbia, hosted by YRS in January 2017
- Induction Seminar took place in Athens, Greece, hosted by ELIX in February 2017
- Training for Trainers took place in Spoleto, Italy, hosted by Legambiente in April 2017

- Practice Critical Evaluation took place in Moraira, Spain, hosted by DeAmicitia in September 2017

The team of the trainers had a preparation meeting in Belgrade, Serbia, where the programme for the first event was designed, together with the communication strategy and the prep tasks for the group of 22 participants, selected from 18 member organizations. Interim report was successfully submitted and approved by the European Youth Foundation in July 2017, leaving ACD with the task to submit the final report, which will consist of the report on the last event of the LTTC and financial reports for all three events.

All four events were successfully implemented over the period of 9 months, leaving the network with the clear structure of the entire programme, which was to a large extent based on the LTTC 2015, but which, nevertheless, brought some new practices evaluated as good by the participants of the LTTC.

For the general feedback on the LTTC by the participants, please check the Prezi presentation at the following link [HERE](#).

Outcomes and Innovative practices

The LTTC 2017 has redefined and included several outcomes of the LTTC 2015, as well as a couple of innovative practices to its approach, which are added to the general structure of the standardized approach to implementation of this central educational event of the Alliance.

One of the outcomes of the LTTC 2015 – standardized models of the training for camp leaders for three days, five days and seven days long training courses for the workcamp leaders, were attached as the annexes to the Training and Educational Policy Paper of the Alliance. The idea behind this is to have ready-made models of the minimum standards to train workcamp leaders on national level, as a recommendation of the LTTC training teams and participants, based on different realities of the member organizations. Each programme includes a set of workshops linked into what the LTTC 2015 and LTTC 2017 found as the essence of the programmes depending on the duration of the national programmes of the trainings for camp leaders. This way, each member can use this recommendation to organize their trainings in accordance to the Alliance standards if wished so, making trainings for the leaders as close to each other as possible.

In addition to this, training team of the LTTC 2017 has developed an approach on how to assure transfer of the junior trainers who are members of

the Alliance PoT towards becoming Senior trainers of the Alliance. Each junior trainer who is the member of the LTTC PoT will be assigned to one of the Senior trainers, with whom they will develop their personal assessment and identify the missing elements towards becoming seniors. Over the course of the LTTC, working jointly on the set agendas, every junior should get an opportunity to become senior by the end of the programme, if fulfilling the planned path. With this approach, LTTC team is proposing to set up the structure of the team to 3 senior trainers who will be fixed and attending all three events of the LTTC, while the each of the juniors would attend one of the events, gaining experience in running an Alliance event and learning about the LTTC structure, online courses and programme on the spot throughout the duration of the entire LTTC.

An additional innovation LTTC brought is the proposal to introduce one day at the evaluation meeting for the participants to get familiar with the I'VE methodology, which can be used in the dissemination phase of the programme on national level. In addition to this, one of the days of the last event of LTTC should be allocated for the participants to work on understanding and updating the Training and Educational Policy Paper and understanding better opportunities they have after the LTTC is over. This way, we would assure higher participation in the bodies of the Alliance by the people who already got familiar with its structure and are highly motivated to continue with their involvement on international level.

Finally, one of the innovations defined in this programme was setting up one additional day for the training team after the activity is concluded, which would provide to the team an opportunity to evaluate the event, finalize the report and summarize the outcomes of each of the activities as part of preparation for all the next activities.

The LTTC participants have also worked on their proposals for updates of the Training Policy of the Alliance. These updates are given to the EC and to the TNWG to incorporate them with their proposal for

update and are expected to be presented during the General Assembly 2017.

General conclusion of the Course Director and the training team of the LTTC 2017 is that the structure and the outcomes of the programme are bringing very big contribution to the network and to its members, not only in terms of training new trainers and delivering the high quality training for new camp leaders, but it also presents a great opportunity for the network to get new generation of highly motivated active individuals to the future of the governance of the network, who will have rounded up overview of the network and its structure and will be ready to join its working groups and the PoT without difficulties that newcomers often face in their first terms.

Dusan Milojevic, Alliance Course Director

Alliance Events and Projects in 2017

The activities of the Alliance are arranged to support and develop the programmes and answer the interests and needs of members. An online presentation of the Alliance Year 2017 is available at the following link: <https://goo.gl/SWfUe2>

We would especially like to highlight the following activities among the ones carried on by the Network in 2017:

The **Technical Meeting 2017**, the biggest yearly meeting of International Voluntary Service organisations in the world, was hosted by Sfera member organisation. The Technical Meeting is a self-funded event organized every year to enable the members and invited partner and guest organisations to exchange annual workcamp programmes and discuss relevant issues, mainly through bi-lateral discussions. It includes the organization of an **"Alliance Day"**, for members to discuss relevant issues in their work and Alliance' life. Two welcome and informative **New Comers' Sessions** are organized by the Staff Development Working Group for new staff from member, partner and guest organisations, as a form of peer support and training within the network about the Alliance composition and policies, as well as procedures for the IVS placement season.

Alliance TM 2017 was attended by 132 participants coming from 40 Alliance member organisations and 31 partners and guests.



Alliance Technical Meeting
Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, 2-7 March 2017



The LTTC- Long Term Training Course "Workcamp studies 2.0"



Alliance LTTC aims sustaining the non-formal education quality framework of the annual national trainings that Alliance members organisations implement every year for their camp leaders.

Thanks to the LTTC **17 young trainers from 12 countries and 15 Alliance members** were fully trained in understanding the value of workcamps as a powerful pedagogical tool. The trainees have consequently contributed to 37 national training attended by 217 workcamp leaders,

who then coordinated 388 workcamps.

The LTTC 2017 consisted of **3 meetings**:

- **Induction seminar**, hosted by Elix, Greece, from 22nd to 25th **February 2017**;
- **Training for trainers**, hosted by Legambiente, Italy, from 20th to 24th **April 2017**;
- **Evaluation seminar**, hosted by De Amicitia, Spain, from 20th to 24th **September 2017**.



The Study Session SAGE - Self Assessment on Gender Equality



The aim of the Study Session was to raise awareness about importance of gender equality in working spaces of IVS organisations and in our main activities namely workcamps. An inclusive and safe setting was created for discussing questions that usually are uncomfortable for many but essential for the youth work: the right to self-identification, how to combat discrimination against women and how to include them and people who don't fit into the heteronorm in the decision-making processes. Thanks to the study session many Alliance youth workers and volunteers gained further knowledge of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities

and Expression (SOGIE), learnt skills and methods to work with them in their own organisations, and learnt how to implement self-assessment on both personal and organisational level. The issue of perceptions and stereotypes of gender roles, heteronormativity and LGBTIQ persons was discussed as well as how to be empowered to be active citizens who fight for equality.

15th - 20th May 2017, hosted by the Youth center in Strasbourg, France
Participants: 30 youngsters coming form 20 Alliance MOs.



The Joint Meeting of Working Groups and Committees



Following the positive experiences of the previous years, Alliance Joint Meeting took place also in 2017. It was hosted by Legambiente, in Anticoli Corrado, Italy.

The Joint Meeting allowed members of all Working groups to develop joint proposals for the General Assembly, advance in the implementation of their Plan of Action and update each other on real time so to work in synergy.

**1st-3rd September 2017 – hosted by Legambiente, in Anticoli Corrado, Italy
30 members of Alliance bodies, working groups and committees**



A Voluntary Action in Baobab center of Rome



The Baobab is a citizens' movement of local activists in Rome, Italy. These activists have been supporting since May 2015 about 72.000 migrants transiting through Rome in their travel towards northern countries. Baobab Experience shows that a conscious and human civil society does exist, despite the efforts to "hide" the emergency that thousands of migrants live everyday in the streets of the Italian capital. Baobab has been evicted around 15 times from several buildings and open spaces in Rome. Baobab volunteers come from very different backgrounds, and together they

provide psychological support, health care, legal assistance, clothes, food, a place to sleep and free time activities to the people living in the camp. On 4th September, right after the Joint Meeting of Working Groups, around 20 representatives of Alliance organisations, accompanied by Legambiente volunteers and the former president Rossella Muroli, had an informative meeting with a member of Baobab center and then contributed with a small but important voluntary action to the place maintenance: all together, locals, migrants and international volunteers cleaned the area of the camp from the trash and brought their concrete solidarity to the migrants and the local volunteers.



**4th September 2017, Baobab experience - Legambiente, Rome, Italy
20 participants**



The Open Forum on Freedom of Movement "Open Space for Migration"



Migration was chosen by Alliance GA 2016 as the central theme for Alliance in 2017.

A Global Action task force was in charge of coordinating all the network actions reflecting the topic. Tackling the theme of migration meant for the Alliance spreading a message of solidarity and inclusion among organisations and young people and raising its voice for human rights respect.

To give the topic all the needed visibility, it was decided to organise an event on migration as the kick-off moment of GA 2017: an Open Forum whose aim was to showcase the best practices implemented by IVS organisations to involve in their projects youngsters with a migrant or asylum seeking background. The Forum also aimed at providing a space to share experiences and challenges among organisations, find a common ground with likeminded network on the issue and raise together our voice standing for Freedom of Movement and solidarity.



**31st October 2017, hosted by Elix, in Athens, Greece
70 participants among Alliance members' representatives,
GA delegates and representatives of other IVS networks and likeminded non IVS networks.**



The General Assembly is the main statutory meeting and highest decisional body of the Alliance: all major decisions are taken, new members and partners are accepted, internal positions are appointed and the strategic Plan of Action and Budget for the coming years are agreed and adopted.



**1-4 November 2017 – hosted by Elix, in Athens, Greece
68 participants from 43 member organisations**

Annexes

Annex I - Strategic Plan of Action 2018-19 adopted by the GA 2017

Strategic Priorities and General Objectives 2018-19

This PoA has 2 main **Strategic Priorities** that are supported by 5 **General Objectives**.

Strategic Priority 1: Increase social impact of IVS and meaningful participation of young people by engaging them into democratic processes on network's and members' level

Strategic Priority 2: Promote Peace, Cultural Diversity, Solidarity and Social Inclusion in today's societies within and beyond borders through voluntary service, advocacy and educational activities/tools

General objective 1: Increase active participation of member organizations through an open, democratic, inclusive, transparent, accountable, efficient governance of the network.

General objective 2: Increase the outreach to and involvement of young people and local communities in IVS through strong member organizations, common strategies and innovative forms of volunteering engagement.

General objective 3: Develop new and sustain existing cooperative and solidarity measures, common monitoring and assessment strategies and internal communication tools for a higher quality of IVS.

General objective 4: Empower and support the development of effective and sustainable advocacy, visibility and recognition strategies/tools for IVS, in the framework of the Global IVS movement and the European field of youth work.

General objective 5: Develop educational tools and strategies through non-formal and informal learning practices to contribute to the strategic priorities of the network.

Underlying principles and target groups

The design and implementation of this strategic approach plan is guided by the following principles:

Full and effective participation especially of young people Interculturality, diversity and gender equality Social inclusion and accessibility Promotion of peace and mutual understanding

Promotion of sustainable development Promotion of the freedom of movement as a key element to ensure youth participation Acknowledgement of lifelong learning through non-formal education Promotion of solidarity by cooperation and networking

This strategic 2-year approach plan of Alliance is relevant directly to Alliance member organisations and all young people participating in its Working Groups and Committees, Task Forces, as well as to participants and hosts in all Alliance projects and events that yearly gather around 400 people. Beneficiaries are also the wider group of the approximately 12 000 young volunteers (aged between 18-30) participating in the 1 100+ international volunteering local communities projects (workcamps) implemented yearly.

To a wider extent the partners of the network, relevant policy makers and other INGYOs are also benefited by the contribution of the network to international voluntary movement with innovative approaches, policy paper development and networking activities supporting not only its members but also regional and local networks. Currently, Alliance has close relations with and supports the following regional and international networks: Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS, worldwide), Youth of European Nationalities (YEN, Europe), South-East European Youth Network (SEEYN, Balkan Region), Network of Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA, South-East Asia and Pacific), Service Civil International (SCI, worldwide), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), a.o.

Background information about the Alliance

The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation. It represents national voluntary service organizations which promote democratic youth participation, intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service. The Alliance, founded in 1982, is presently made up of 50 members from 28 countries in Europe, Asia and America. Each member organization runs an annual programme of International Voluntary Service (IVS) projects in their own country and exchanges volunteers with each other following the Alliance Quality Charter and the Standards of Exchanges that stress on the added value of volunteering, its educational aspect and follow quality standards decided by members. According to the latest Alliance statistics, every year at least 12000 young volunteers participate in more than 1100 local community projects organised by member organisations.

Alliance is a network for its members and by its members, promoting democratic competences among young people. Alliance is very proud to have succeeded over the years to engage in its management and development an impressive number of young people, who in this way are trained to develop democratic competences and act as multipliers. More specifically, **the network is run and co-managed by the Alliance Executive Committee** (6 elected representatives, aged 18-35 on average) **and the Coordinators of the 7 Alliance Working Groups and Committees** (appointed by the Alliance General Assembly) that promote specific commonly decided policies and work towards the quality of IVS development. They are:

- Alliance Development Committee (ADC)
- Access for All working Group (A4AWG)
- External Relations Committee (ERC)
- Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG)
- Gender Equality Working Group (GEWG)
- Staff Development Working Group (SDWG)
- Training Needs Working Group (TNWG) In all working groups and committees young people are appointed on behalf of their organisations. Apart from promoting Alliance main principles, they are also responsible for the implementation of the Plan on Action of the network and the involvement of the members, as well as to develop initiatives and bring their ideas to the GA to be voted. Currently around 90 volunteers, representing 65% of organisations, are members of the network's Working Groups and Committees with a 1-2 year mandate depending on the position they have in the group. The originality and innovation of the Alliance lies therefore in the fact that **it has managed to guarantee its internal democratic function creating a structure that allows the widest participation on behalf of its member organizations**. The **Pool of Trainers** continues being promoted and acting as a resource team for Alliance and members' educational activities. The PoT and the network's educational activities are supported by the position of the Course Director, with specific tasks assigned by the GA. The **Secretariat**, composed of the Alliance Secretary (AS) and Alliance Financial Assistant (AFA) support the managing bodies and the members throughout the year.

The detailed Alliance Plan of Action 2018-2019 is available at this link: <https://goo.gl/ASLUsx>

Annex II - Alliance Members after the General Assembly 2017

Full members

	Organisation	Country	Status
1.	HUJ	Armenia	Full member
2.	Grenzenlos	Austria	Full member
3.	LYVS	Belarus	Full member
4.	CBB	Belgium	Full member
5.	JAVVA	Belgium	Full member
6.	INEX-SDA	Czech Republic	Full member
7.	MS	Denmark	Full member
8.	EstYes	Estonia	Full member
9.	Allianssi	Finland	Full member
10.	CBF	France	Full member
11.	Concordia France	France	Full member
12.	J&R	France	Full member
13.	Solidarités Jeunesses	France	Full member
14.	ANEC	France	Full member
15.	IBG	Germany	Full member
16.	IJGD	Germany	Full member
17.	NIG	Germany	Full member
18.	VJF	Germany	Full member
19.	Pro-International	Germany	Full member
20.	CIA	Greece	Full member
21.	Elix	Greece	Full member
22.	Egyesek	Hungary	Full member
23.	Legambiente	Italy	Full member
24.	Lunaria	Italy	Full member
25.	YAP Italy	Italy	Full member
26.	Deineta	Lithuania	Full member
27.	SIW	Netherlands	Full member
28.	FIYE	Poland	Full member
29.	SFERA	Russia	Full member
30.	World 4 U	Russia	Full member
31.	YRS-VSS	Serbia	Full member
32.	INEX	Slovakia	Full member
33.	CoCat	Spain/Catalunya	Full member
34.	De Amicitia	Spain	Full member
35.	SVI	Spain	Full member
36.	Workcamp Switzerland	Switzerland	Full member
37.	Genctur	Turkey	Full member

38.	GSM	Turkey	Full member
39.	Alternative-V	Ukraine	Full member
40.	Union Forum	Ukraine	Full member
41.	Concordia UK	United Kingdom	Full member
42.	UNA Exchange	United Kingdom/Wales	Full member
43.	Xchange Scotland	United Kingdom/Scotland	Full member

Associate members

	Organisation	Country	Status
1.	CJ	Canada	Associate Member
2.	CIEE	Japan	Associate Member
3.	NICE	Japan	Associate Member
4.	VIMEX	Mexico	Associate Member
5.	VIVE Mexico	Mexico	Associate Member
6.	IWO	South Korea	Associate Member

Candidate Members

	Organisation	Country	Status
7.	Open Houses	Germany	Candidate Member

Annex III - Alliance Invitation List for 2018

The Alliance does not work alone. Worldwide we have a lot of partners, which also work in the field of voluntary work. More and more organisations would like to work together with the Alliance to exchange volunteers and experiences and to take part in the Alliance work.

On international level we work close together with the following international and regional networks:

- Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS);
- Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA);
- South East European Youth Network (SEEYN);
- Service Civil International (SCI);
- International Cultural Youth Exchange network (ICYE).

According to the Alliance Constitution and Standing Orders, **Members, Partners** and **Guests** are invited to take part in the main Alliance events and activities (eg. General Conference, Technical Meeting, etc.).

A **partner organization** is a structure, which is involved in IVS, implements workcamps, is currently working with Alliance members and well known by the Alliance because they have already joined events they were invited to; they already respect and follow the Alliance Quality Charter in IVS.

A **guest organisation** is a new organisation organising, or planning to organise, international voluntary service activities, which Alliance members would like to meet to start or develop partnership. The main criteria for guest organisations are the quality of the work and the potential of the co-operation with Alliance members. Guest status entitles organisations to one year participation to Alliance events.

Partners after GA 2017

	Organisation	Country
1.	Fundacion SES	Argentina
2.	Bridge to the Future	Azerbaijan
3.	CYA	Cambodia
4.	ACI	Costa Rica
5.	ICJA	Germany
6.	VolTra	Hong Kong
7.	SEEDS	Iceland
8.	WF Iceland	Iceland
9.	FSL	India
10.	Ruchi	India
11.	PKBI (IIWC)	Indonesia
12.	Dejavato Foundation	Indonesia
13.	IBO	Italy
14.	Informagiovani	Italy
15.	KVDA	Kenya

16.	Leaders	Kyrgyzstan
17.	Nataté	Mexico
18.	MCE	Mongolia
19.	CJM	Morocco
20.	VIN	Nepal
21.	IPDJ	Portugal
22.	Digevu	Russia
23.	Passage Zebra	Russia
24.	Sodrujetsvo	Russia
25.	KNCU	South Korea
26.	VYA Taiwan	Taiwan
27.	Uvikiuta	Tanzania
28.	VSA	Thailand
29.	ATAV	Tunisia
30.	UPA	Uganda
31.	VAP-UK	UK
32.	VFP	USA
33.	SJ Vietnam	Vietnam
34.	VPV	Vietnam

Guests after GA 2017

* some guests were invited to join the Technical Meeting 2018 by the Executive Committee after the GA2017, according to the procedures set in the Standing Orders.

	Organisation	Country
1.	Dreamwalker	China
2.	Sunshine Volunteers	China
3.	FUNPROCH Chiriboga	Ecuador
4.	GREAT	Indonesia
5.	GVDA	Kenya
6.	Youth for Smile	Latvia
7.	BVBP	Peru
8.	GIED	Philippines
9.	IGEEI	Philippines
10.	LLP	Romania
11.	AYA	Russia
12.	Smart Travel Bureau	Russia
13.	SAVWA	South Africa
14.	Green Volunteers for Green Future	Sri Lanka
15.	PeaceWorks	Sweden



of European Voluntary Service Organisations

Registered address:

c/o MS/Action Aid Denmark
Fælledvej 12
2200 Copenhagen N
Denmark

Secretariat address:

c/o Lunaria
via
Buonarroti 39
00185
Rome, Italy

alliance@alliance-network.eu

www.alliance-network.eu

