Constitution of the

Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations

PREAMBLE

The Alliance is a European based International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation of like-minded organisations not aligned to other structures at a European Level. It is a cooperation network of independent and active national organizations, which work together on the quality and development of International Voluntary Service.

The Alliance provides a structure that facilitates and supports events, projects and activities aimed at cooperation between its members and partners on technical aspects, exchange of knowledge and further development of International Voluntary Service activities.

The Alliance is an organization for its members, but also by its members. This is reflected in the structure, which is aimed at coordinating, monitoring and facilitating initiatives from members and primarily managed and executed by members.

Membership is open to national organizations involved in International Voluntary Service, in particular short-term voluntary projects – workcamps, as a tool of non-formal education and open space for informal learning.
Alliance members support and encourage local communities in organizing voluntary projects that answer the needs of the community and foster the active participation of citizens, especially young people, allowing them to encounter and understand different cultures and people.
Through International Voluntary Service Alliance members promote intercultural understanding, peace, democratic participation and equality, in the spirit of respect for universal human rights.

The Alliance does not impinge upon the autonomy of member organizations. The Alliance aims at the widest possible co-operation at a European and a Global level.

Constitution with changes adopted:

1985 GA. Piles, Spain

1987 Ex. GA. Bonn, Germany

1988 GA. Svendborg, Denmark

1990 GA. Weil der Stadt, Germany

1991 GA. Weil der Stadt, Germany

1993 GA. Durham, UK

1995 GA. Prague, Czech Republic

1997 GA. Chantilly, France

1998 GA. Rabat, Morocco

2001 GA. Litomysl, Czech Republic

2003 GA. Soest, Netherlands

2004 GA. Yerevan, Armenia

2006 GA. Marly-le-Roi, France

2007 GA. Marino, Italy

2008 GA. Lviv, Ukraine

2009 GA. Jambville, France

2010 GA. Ankara, Turkey

2013 GA. Weil der Stadt, Germany

2014 GA. Rispescia, Italy

2016 GA. Petnica, Serbia

2017 GA. Athens, Greece

2018 GA. l'Alfàs del Pi, Spain

ARTICLE I

NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE

1.1. The name of the Organisation is the **Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations**. In the following referred to as the Alliance. In every reference to "members" all types of members are meant unless otherwise stated.

1.2. The Alliance is an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation (INGYO) not pursuing the goal to receive profits and not distributing any generated surplus among members.

1.3. The Alliance has its registered office in one of the member countries as decided by the members of the Alliance in the General Assembly. The financial archives are hosted by the member organization mandated for the Treasurer position.

1.4. The Alliance is constituted for an unlimited period unless dissolved under Article 9.

1.5. A list of members who accept the provisions of this constitution is included as Annex 1 to this constitution.

ARTICLE 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The Alliance consists of like-minded national organizations involved in International Voluntary Service, in particular short-term voluntary projects – workcamps, as a tool of non-formal education and open space for informal learning.

Alliance members support and encourage local communities in organizing voluntary projects that answer the needs of the community and foster the active participation of citizens, especially young people, allowing them to encounter and understand different cultures and people.

Through International Voluntary Service Alliance members promote intercultural understanding, peace, democratic participation and equality, in the spirit of respect for universal human rights.

2.2. The aims and objectives of the Alliance are:

(i) To provide voluntary service organisations with opportunities to discuss and exchange experience and information within Europe.

(ii) To facilitate and improve the co-operation between voluntary service organisations.

(iii) To promote and work together in the field of International Voluntary Service, primarily on the issues related to intercultural understanding, peace, active citizenship, social inclusion, respect of human rights, gender equality, youth mobility, sustainability, recognition of non-formal education.

(iv) To look after the interests of its members through exercising influence on international bodies involved in voluntary service, youth policy, youth training and youth exchange, as an initiative for the furtherance of International Voluntary Service.

(v) To inform members about debates and developments at a European and non-European level which are of relevance to the Alliance members.

(vi) The Alliance aims at the widest possible co-operation at a European and a non-European level.

(vii) The EC ensures that the functioning of the Alliance is in accordance with the common interest of its members.

1. To realise the aims and objectives mentioned in Article 2.2, the Alliance will organise meetings, seminars etc., and take other relevant initiatives to further the co-operation between voluntary service organisations.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERS

3.1. The Alliance is formed of independent national organisations involved in international voluntary service. The members of the Alliance must have a legal personality in their own country. Membership is open to all organisations with a structure that encourages young people to play an active role in the organisation, and who accept the provisions of this constitution.

3.2. The Alliance has three statuses of membership

i) - full membership

ii) - associate membership

iii) - candidate membership

3.3. Full membership

Full members should fulfil the following criteria in addition to those mentioned in Article 2.1 and Article 3.1:

i) Only organisations from European countries can become a full member of the Alliance

ii) A European independent national voluntary service organisation can become a full member of the Alliance if it has carried out international

voluntary service in its own country for at least two years and if it has been a candidate of the Alliance for at least the two years before applying for full membership.

iii) Full members are entitled to:

- participate and host all Alliance events and projects
- Be represented by the Alliance at the European political level
- Have the right to vote at the General Assembly
- Be elected at the Executive committee
- Make proposals for constitutional changes and changes of the standing orders
- Make proposals to Executive Committee for decisions at the General Assembly or Executive Committee
- Propose and coordinate working groups, seminars etc.
- Receive support in case of problem
- Use the centralized database network and website
- Propose updates of all technical matters
- Propose new organisations for invitation list or membership
- Use the Alliance as a medium for the exchange of human resources and experiences
- Receive information and influence on international organisations, which the Alliance is in contact with
- Have their organisation included in the Alliance publicity

v) Full members have the responsibility to:

- Approve and respect the Alliance' Constitution and the Standing Orders
- Approve and follow the Alliance Quality Charter
- To be present or represented to all Alliance plenary sessions
- Provide all necessary document (program, evaluation, statistics, questionnaire, report, financial aspects….) when requested
- Participate in working groups or at least give their opinion when requested
- Pay on time the membership fees and any other contribution voted by General Assembly
- Introduce and support organisations proposed to the invitation list or membership by them

3.4. Associate membership

i) A Non-European independent national voluntary service organisation can become an associate member of the Alliance if it has been a candidate of the Alliance for at least the two years before applying for associate membership and if it fulfils the criteria mentioned in Article 2.1 and Article

3.1..

ii) Organisations from all Non-European countries can become an associate member of the Alliance.

iii) Associate members are entitled to:

- participate and host all Alliance events and projects
- Be represented by the Alliance at the European political level
- Have the right to vote at the General Assembly, except the voting right for changes of the constitution
- Be elected to the Executive committee, except the positions of the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer
- Make proposals for constitutional changes and changes of the standing order
- Make proposals to Executive Committee for decisions at the General Assembly or Executive Committee
- Propose and coordinate working groups, seminars etc.
- Receive support in case of problem
- Use the centralized database network and website
- Propose updates of all technical matters
- Propose new organisations for invitation list or membership
- Use the Alliance as a medium for the exchange of human resources and experiences
- Receive information and influence on international organisations, which the Alliance is in contact with
- Have their organisation included in the Alliance publicity

iv) Associate members have the responsibility to:

- Approve and respect the Alliance' Constitution and the Standing Orders
- Approve and follow the Alliance Quality Charter
- To be present or represented to all Alliance official meetings, such as GA, plenary meeting
- Provide all necessary document (program, evaluation, statistics, questionnaire, report, financial aspects….) when requested
- Participate in working groups or at least give their opinion when requested
- Pay on time the membership fees and any other contribution voted by General Assembly
- Introduce and support organisations proposed to the invitation list or membership by them

3.5 Candidate

i) An independent national voluntary service organisation can become a candidate of the Alliance if it has carried out international voluntary service

in its own country for at least two years and if it has had exchange relationship with Alliance members for at least two years and if it fulfils the criteria mentioned in Article 2.1 and Article 3.1.

ii) Organisations from all countries can become a candidate of the Alliance.

iii) The organisation has to apply for full or associate membership not later than five years after becoming candidate. If not, it looses its status automatically and will be a partner again.

iv) Candidates are entitled to:

- Participate in all Alliance events and projects
- Be represented by the Alliance at the European political level
- Make proposals to Executive Committee for decisions at the General Assembly or Executive Committee
- Receive support in case of problem
- Use the centralized database network and website
- Propose updates of all technical matters
- Use the Alliance as a medium for the exchange of human resources and experiences
- Receive information and influence on international organisations, which the Alliance is in contact with
- Have their organisation included in the Alliance publicity
- Apply for membership after 2 years

v) Candidates have the responsibility to:

- Approve and respect the Alliance' Constitution and the Standing Orders
- Approve and follow the Alliance Quality Charter
- To be present or represented to all Alliance official meetings, such as GA, plenary meeting
- Provide all necessary document (program, evaluation, statistics, questionnaire, report, financial aspects….) when requested
- Give their opinion when requested
- Pay on time the membership fees and any other contribution voted by General Assembly
- Apply for full or associate membership within 5 years

3.6. Written applications for membership must reach the General Secretary of the Alliance at least six weeks in advance of the date of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee must inform the member organisations of the Alliance at least four weeks in advance of the General Assembly about the organisations that are applying for membership.

3.7. New members will be admitted by an absolute majority of the full and associate members of the Alliance present at the General Assembly (see Article 4.10).

3.8. The period of membership begins following the end of the General Assembly.

3.9. Any member not respecting the rules and regulations set up in the Constitution or the Rules of Procedures (Standing Orders) can be dismissed. The dismissal of members shall be decided in General Assembly by a majority of three quarters of the full members present. Written notification of such a proposal shall be sent to the members at least four weeks in advance of the General Assembly. The dismissal comes into action from the moment the decision is taken.

3.10. Any member may resign from the Alliance after having informed the President in writing and given four weeks notice. Any member who leaves the Alliance forfeits all rights.

3.11. Partners:

i) The Alliance can accept organisations to become partners. Partner Organisations can be only organisations, which are involved in international voluntary service. The exact system to get an Alliance partner status is described in the Rules of Procedures (Standing Orders).

ii) Partners are entitled to:

- Take part when invited to the Alliance Events
- Use the standard exchange system of the Alliance
- Propose update of all technical matters

iii) Partners are responsible to:

- Respect the Alliance philosophy (explained in the preamble of the Constitution) & Alliance Quality Charter.
- Pay on time the contribution to the Alliance budget
- Provide all necessary documents (program, evaluation, statistics, questionnaire, report, financial aspects….) when requested

ARTICLE 4
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4.1. The General Assembly shall be held once a year.

4.2. An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened by the Executive Committee (as hereinafter defined) at any time and shall be convened by the Executive Committee on written demand signed by one third of the full members of the Alliance and stating the reason for the Assembly.

4.3. Written notification of any Assembly shall be sent to the members of the Alliance at least eight weeks in advance by the Executive Committee.

4.4. The President presides over all formal meetings. The President may delegate this authority to any member present as approved by the meeting. In the President's absence such meetings shall be chaired by the Vice-President and in the absence

of the Vice-President by a chairperson to be elected. All the other meetings may be presided over by any person present as appointed by the meeting.

4.5. An Assembly shall form a quorum when at least half of the total number of the full members of the Alliance is present. If the total number is an odd number the quorum shall be the highest number nearest thereto.

4.6. In the event of an Assembly not being in quorum the Executive Committee will call an Assembly within three months. This Assembly does not require a quorum of members.

4.7. The working language of the Alliance in all matters will be English.

4.8. The General Assembly shall receive and approve the following from the Executive Committee:

(i) The EC report.

(ii) The Internal Auditor's report.

(iii) External Auditor's report.

(iv) Report on exchange activities of Alliance members.

(v) A plan of action.

(vi) Budget.

(vii) A list of persons representing the Alliance.

4.9. Each full member of the Alliance shall have the right to send up to two representatives (excluding Executive Committee members) to all General Assemblies of the Alliance or such other number of representatives as may be decided by full members of the Alliance in General Assembly. All other members shall have the right to send one representative to all General Assemblies of the Alliance or such other number of representatives as may be decided by full members of the Alliance in General Assembly.

4.10. All motions shall be settled by vote by a show of hands or an electronic voting system, but the Chairperson of the Assembly may impose vote by ballot and shall do so if more than one of the present full and associate members so demands. Each full and associate member shall have one vote only and unless otherwise stated in the constitution all resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the full and associate members present.

4.11. The General Assembly appoints an Internal Auditor for the period of one year who reports to the next General Assembly on the finances of the last financial year.

4.12. The General Assembly may decide on "Rules of Procedures" to accommodate for anything not being settled in this constitution. "Rules of Procedures" will be decided upon by a two/third majority, abstentions counted.

4.13. The General Assembly appoints the „Board of Arbitration" for the period of two years aimed at solving the conflicts between the members. The BoA reports the results of its work to EC, and to the General Assembly every year.

ARTICLE 5
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

ARTICLE 5a
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5a.1. The Executive Committee 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 and is accountable for its decisions to the GA.

5a.2. The Executive Committee is composed of at least five members: a President, a Vice-President, a Vice-President for External Relations, a General Secretary, and a Treasurer. These five members are elected by the General Assembly according to Article 5a.3. The General Assembly can appoint additional members whenever appropriate and for a period of one year. The Executive Committee can appoint for a certain period any persons necessary for external representation under the recommendation of a member. Every such appointment has to be confirmed by the following General Assembly.

5a.3. The President, the Vice-President, the Vice President for External Relations, the General Secretary and the Treasurer will be elected for a two year term. In order to preserve a certain balance, the President, the Treasurer and the Vice-President for External Relations should be elected one year and the General Secretary and the Vice-President the following year.

The mandate of the EC members ends with the closure of the General Assembly.

There is a transition period for the President, Treasurer and General Secretary.

5a.4. In case of resignation of one of the Executive Committee members between General Assemblies, the Executive Committee may nominate a new member to replace it. This nomination must be confirmed by the following General Assembly.

5a.5. 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.

5a.6. The Executive Committee may delegate the day to day management of the Alliance to one of the Executive Committee members.

5a.7. Acts carried out by the Alliance shall be signed by two members of the Executive Committee who do not have to show their authority to any third party.

5a.8. The Executive Committee shall form a quorum when three or more members of the Executive Committee are present.

5a.9. The decisions of the Executive Committee shall be passed by a majority of votes of the Executive Committee members present, the President having a second or casting vote.

5a.10. Any person employed or remunerated by the Alliance or any person who receives fees or any other payment from the Alliance other than reimbursement of authorised expenses incurred in the business, shall not be eligible for the membership of the Executive Committee.

5a.11. All meetings of the Executive Committee are open to all members.

5a.12 The President shall represent the Alliance in all legal matters, in their absence the Vice-President.

ARTICLE 5b
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5b.1. Management Committee is the Alliance Consultative Body and shall assist the Alliance Executive Committee in management and the operation of the Alliance in accordance with the decisions of the Alliance General Assembly. It supports the Executive Committee in the decision-making process and provides for broader involvement of the Alliance members in strategic management of the Alliance.

5b.2. Management Committee is composed of the Alliance Executive Committee members, Coordinators of the Alliance Working Groups or others as mandated by the General Assembly.

5b.3. The term of Management Committee is one year. The personal composition of Management Committee changes after every General Assembly, which elects new Executive Committee members and appoints new Working Group Coordinators.

5b.4. Management Committee meets at least twice a year in connection with the Alliance Technical Meeting and General Assembly. More meetings may be called by the Alliance President or Executive Committee. Management Committee meetings are open to all members.

ARTICLE 5c
BOARD OF ARBITRATION

5.c.1. Board of Arbitration (BoA) is the Alliance Constitutional Body which shall assist Executive Committee in preventing and resolving conflicts between the Alliance members.

5.c.2. Board of Arbitration consists of 1 EC representative according to the topic of present conflict issues and 4 members appointed by the General Assembly for the period of 2 years.

5.c.3. Board of Arbitration meets when there is a need to resolve the conflict situation between members of the Alliance.

ARTICLE 6
TREASURER

6.1 The Treasurer is responsible to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly for keeping the accounts of the Alliance and has the duty of accepting and making payments on behalf of the Alliance and shall administer the funds of the Alliance in accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The member organization that holds the Treasurer position hosts the Financial Archives in its registered office.

ARTICLE 7
SECRETARIAT

7.1. The Executive Committee may appoint any number of persons as may from time to time be necessary for carrying out the work of the Alliance and may fix their duties and their remuneration according to the budget.

7.2. The Alliance may employ an Assistant who will be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The tasks of the Assistant may include:

(i) Day to day running of the Alliance.

(ii) Coordinating the activities of the Alliance.

(iii) Any such duties as the Executive Committee or the General Assembly may decide.

7.3. The Assistant shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall nominate one of its members to be responsible for directing and supporting the Secretary.

7.4. The General Assembly will decide on the terms of reference and a job description in the event of the employment of a Secretary.

ARTICLE 8
FINANCES

8.1. The Executive Committee shall keep an account into which all sums belonging to the Alliance shall be paid. All financial documents shall be signed by persons authorised by the Executive Committee.

8.2. The Executive Committee may make all investments necessary according to the budget for the achievement of the objectives of the Alliance and shall give an account of such investments at the following General Assembly.

8.3. The financial year of the Alliance shall be the calendar year, and the accounts of the Alliance shall be presented by the Treasurer to the Alliance at the following General Assembly. The accounts shall be certified by an external auditor appointed for this purpose by the Executive Committee.

8.4. All costs and expenditure incurred in the operation of the Alliance shall be paid out of the income of the Alliance.

8.5. An annual subscription shall be payable by the members of the Alliance. The amount is to be fixed by the Alliance in the General Assembly and is due annually on 1st of January and must be paid and must be paid before the beginning of the General Assembly of the same year. The annual subscription for new elected members is due on the 1st of January following the General Assembly.

8.6. Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription in full forfeits their voting rights at the following Assembly.

8.7. Any member who is two years or more in arrears with their subscription payments automatically forfeits their membership at the following General Assembly.

8.8. A General Assembly may make exceptions to Article 8.6 and 8.7 above.

ARTICLE 9
DISSOLUTION

9.1 The Alliance may be dissolved by a majority of three quarters of the votes of the full members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened to discuss this question according to the procedure described in Article 4.2. On dissolution and after payment of all expenses and debts, the assets and funds of the Alliance may be given to a purpose or organisation determined by the Extraordinary General Assembly by a majority of three quarters of the full members present.

ARTICLE 10
AMENDMENTS

10.1. This Constitution may be amended or replaced by a General Assembly. Any motion from full members or the Executive Committee to amend the Constitution in force must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary at least six weeks in advance of the General Assembly, which will consider the motion. The General Secretary will circulate the received motions to the members four weeks prior to the General Assembly. The amendments come into action after the rise of the General Assembly.

10.2. Amendments to the Constitution will be decided upon by a two/third majority of present full members, abstentions counted.

10.3. Amendments of Annex I of this Constitution are decided based on the membership changes and thus are not subject to the procedure presented in Articles 10.1 and 10.2

ANNEX I – MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, November 2018

FULL MEMBERS

Allianssi, Finland
Alternative–V, Ukraine
ANEC - Association Nationale Etudes et Chantiers, France
CBB - Association des Compagnons Batisseurs, Belgium
CBF - Association des Compagnons Batisseurs, France
CoCat - Coordinadora d'Organitzadors de Camps de Treball, Catalonia/Spain
Concordia, France
Concordia, United Kingdom
CiA - Citizens in Action, Greece
De Amicitia - Spain
DEINETA, Lithuania
Egyesek, Hungary
Elix - Conservation Volunteers in Greece, Greece
EST YES - Estonian Youth Exchange Service, Estonia
FIYE - Foundation for International Youth Exchange, Poland
GÖNÜLLÜ HİZMETLER DERNEĞİ, Turkey
Grenzenlos – Intercultural Exchanges, Austria
GSM - Genclik Servisleri Merkezi, Turkey
HUJ - Voluntary Service of Armenia, Armenia
IBG - Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten, Germany
IJGD – Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste, Germany
INEX-SDA - INEX Sdruzeni dobrovolnych aktivit, Czech Republic
INEX Slovakia (Association for International Youth Exchange and Tourism), Slovakia
JAVVA - Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs, Belgium
J&R - Jeunesse et Reconstruction, France
LYVS - League of Youth Voluntary Service, Belarus
Legambiente, Italy
Lunaria, Italy
MS - Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, Denmark
NIG – Norddeutsche Jugend im Internationalen Gemeinschaftsdienst, Germany
Pro international, Germany
SFERA - Nizhny Novgorod Voluntary Service, Russian Federation
SIW - Internationale Vrijwilligersprojekten, Netherlands
SJ France - Solidarités Jeunesses, France
SVI - Instituto de la Juventud/Servicio Voluntario Internacional, Spain
UNA EXCHANGE, Wales/United Kingdom
Union Forum, Ukraine
VJF - Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger, Germany
Workcamp Switzerland, Switzerland
World 4 You, Russian Federation
Xchange Scotland – Scotland/United Kingdom
YAP Italy– Youth Action for Peace, Italy
YRS-VSS – Young Researchers of Serbia – Voluntary Service of Serbia, Serbia

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

CJ - Chantiers Jeunesse, Canada
CIEE - Council on International Educational Exchange Japan, Japan
IWO - International Workcamp Organisation, South Korea
NICE - Neverending International workCamps Exchange, Japan
VIMEX - Voluntarios Internacionales Mexico
VIVE MEXICO, Mexico

CANDIDATES

Open Houses - Germany - **Youth For Smile** - Latvia