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Contact Making to Youth Participation; The Strengthening of a Culture of Peace Focusing on Active Participation and Social Inclusion among Young People in the EU And The Southern Mediterranean

Contact Making Seminar
8th to 14th December 2014
Laguépie, France

Activity Report



Organised by: CCIVS and Solidarités Jeunes

Hosted by: Solidarités Jeunes Midi Pyrénées Citrus

Participants:

Baladna Association for Arab Youth – Palestine
Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) – Macedonia
Chantiers Jeunesse Maroc (CJM) – Morocco
Chantiers Sociaux Marocains (CSM) – Morocco
Hébron-France Association for Cultural Exchanges (AECHF) – Palestine
I Dare for Sustainable Development (I-Dare) – Jordan
International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL) – Palestine
Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs (JAVVA) – Belgium
Servei Civil Internacional de Catalunya (SCI Catalunya) – Spain
Internationale Vrijwilligersprojecten (SIW) – The Netherlands
Solidarités Jeunes (SJ) – France
Etudes et Chantiers (UNAREC) – France
Youth Action for Peace Italia (YAP Italia) – Italia
Zavod Volontariat (SCI Slovenia) – Slovenia



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Day 1 – 8th December 2014

Arrival, inscription and welcoming of the participants to the seminar in Laguépie's Base Nautique.



Day 2 – 9th December 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Getting to know each other

The participants and members of the facilitating team gathered in Laguépie's municipal hall to begin the first day of the Seminar. Games to get to know each other were organised and energizers to begin the day were done.

1.2 Garden of expectations

In order to know each participant's expectations for the Seminar, an imaginary garden of expectation was drawn. For the first day the seed represented the expectations, allowing them to grow into plants as the days went by if their expectations were achieved.



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Here is a summary of what the participants were looking forward to:

NETWORKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a strong network between the volunteers, the organisations and the staff.
SHARING EXPERIENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share knowledge and experiences from different organisations around the Mediterranean Sea. - Learn from different points of view. - Have the chance to exchange with other organisations. - Learn how to organise a youth work camp, learn about good practices. - Get the chance to present their organisation to the other participants.
PARTNERSHIP BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a high quality project on youth participation, active citizenship and social inclusion. - Build projects in order to exchange, make programs together and make partnerships. - Internationalize the exchanges of their organisations.
MAKING FRIENDS & HAVE FUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make friends, learn about new cultures, and know the background of each one and how they became activists. - Keep in touch for good friendship relation in order to build strong projects together.

According to the forest drawn by the end of the Seminar, it is possible to conclude positively on the achievement of the expectations:





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1.3 Objectives of the Seminar

The objectives of the Seminar were listed and explained:

- Contact making: introduce IVS/ CCIVS/ ORG
- Define the approach of IVS – Organisations on inclusion and active participation
- Map IVS projects: tackling inclusion and active citizenship
- Exchange good practices

2. CCIVS PRESENTATION

Creation and philosophy

In 1948, during the International Workcamp Organisations Conference held in UNESCO, was discussed the need to coordinate and encourage the efforts of volunteering because of the flourishing number of volunteer organisations and facing the challenges of post-war reconstruction. As a result the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service was established and based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The humanistic spirit of promoting a culture of peace, repairing the material damages and remedy the human misery caused by war was established, constituting a basis for IVS workcamps. The main philosophy of CCIVS is the idea of working together on equal basis in order to achieve the concrete goal of peace and not the idea of “helping” in a negativist sense. In order to achieve its goal, the CCIVS supports five thematic:

- Human rights and Peace
- Environment and Sustainability
- Poverty Reduction and Health
- Social Inclusion and Active Participation
- Cultural Heritage and Diversity

Activities

- **Networking and international representation**

The CCIVS is an umbrella network, which has approximately two hundred member organisations in more than eighty countries and includes two international networks and several regional structures and platforms. The CCIVS offers an international platform in order to network all the national organisations and networks by organising inter-regional projects of IVS organisations, global meetings and by participating in institutional forums to defend the priorities of the IVS movement. The CCIVS has partnerships with different United Nations agencies, European institutions and international foundations.

- **Training and capacity building**

The CCIVS provides trainings for volunteers, leaders, trainers and staff of IVS organisations to develop the organisational capacities of its members.

- **Communication and Campaigns**

The CCIVS puts IVS organisations and other institutions in contact and provides information, materials and tools. It also promotes campaigns to raise visibility and strengthen the work of IVS organisations.



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Campaigns

The CCIVS runs two annual campaigns:

- World Heritage Volunteers
 - Raising Peace
- And two projects :
- 2015: Vision to Action
 - 2015: Contact to Participation

The White Paper

In 2011, the White Paper on IVS was created; it's a policy tool for networks and organisations engaged in the field of IVS aiming to provide guidelines, strategies and recommendations to support the goals of IVS. The White Paper also retraces the history of IVS and helps understand the results of the work carried out until now on IVS and focuses on sustainable strategies for the following years within the network.

The White Paper doesn't give us a definition of social inclusion and active participation but includes the vision for the next 10 years which is to have "a society which allows freedom of movement in which all members without distinction are empowered to exercise active citizenship".

3. MOVING DEBATE

Two groups of participants were separated. In each group multiple affirmations about IVS, social inclusion and active participation were asked. Each participant had to take position on whether they agreed with the affirmation or disagreed. It was called *Moving* because the participants were walking from one field to another, according to their degree of (dis)agreement, and *debate* because they were exchanging their opinions and arguments. All the participants agreed it was difficult to take up a position on certain statements; due either to some specific details of the statements or to different interpretations of certain terms.



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Statement: IVS projects are the best way for people to become active participants.

Disagree: 50% of participants

It is important to have statistics on the impact of IVS on active participation in order to show if it is actually the best way to become active. This would also allow highlighting the achievements and failures in IVS and considering if it's really effective. For many participants IVS is a way to become active but maybe not the "best" one because it is difficult nowadays to become a real volunteer because of various obstacles (economic, political, visa etc.).

Agree: 50% of participants

Many participants were partisans of saying that being a volunteer makes people more active in a community because it allows them to change themselves and indeed change their community. Moreover, IVS is sometimes the only option for some persons to contribute to active because of financial reasons. It's enriching because going abroad is the best way to become active and once back home after a workcamp, volunteers can talk about their experience and spread the world. It can change people's habits allowing them to be stimulated by new lives and context that they discover during IVS. It is also effective because it's the fastest way to become active, indeed School takes 10 years, IVS may take just a couple weeks.

Through this debate one main agreement emerged from the participants concerning the terms *participation* and *active participation*. According to them, participation is realized through self-managed horizontal structures and active participation means creating mechanisms and tools for structured dialogue so that young people can take active part in restructuring local/national/international policies that concern them. It is about allowing them to take an active role in shaping the society trough engaging them as equal partners in decision-making processes.



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Statement: Social inclusion means to develop projects, which aim to provide long term projects leading to employment.

Disagree: 99% of participants	Agree: 1% of participants
It has been said that unfortunately, social inclusion is not a solution for unemployment because it cannot destroy our capitalist world. Social inclusion is only a way for people to have a voice in a group and to be listened to but not a way of creating employment.	One participant agreed that social inclusion helps for employment and also for many other things such as participating in a community and being active.

Statement: IVS projects are open to all members of the society despite their social, economic and cultural background.

Disagree: 90% of participants	Agree: 10% of participants
This statement is controversial because it depends on the country and the background of the person. It is true that in theory programs are open to everybody but it seems not possible to offer IVS to everyone effectively. Indeed, in some countries (Iran for example), IVS structures do not exist and the government does not support IVS. Moreover, for some countries, volunteers and staff need a visa to enter the territory, which can enable the person to do an IVS. Another barrier to IVS is the language. Because of lack of NGO's capacity it isn't possible to have a translator on the workcamps for volunteer how do not speak the language. Indeed language knowledge is a mean of selection.	IVS is open to everybody, no matter where people come from, their background, their religion, their nationality or their gender. For example, in workcamps places are left for people with fewer opportunities. It is true that some obstacles can render difficult the access to IVS, but the aim is to give access to anybody. In order to fight against the visa problems it is important to be member of different networks to facilitate the traveling between the countries. Regarding the language, it has been said that very often body language is more effective than talking, moreover the organisations always helps and finds a solution for translation when a volunteer doesn't speak the language.



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Statement: Active participation is to take part in political instances at local, regional and international levels.

Disagree: 50% of participants	Agree: 50% of participants
<p>According to half of the participants, active participation isn't only about politics and it is possible to become active without being part of a political instance. It has also been said that in some countries it is better to stay far away from politics because of oppression.</p> <p>After reflexion, it has been questioned the actual definition of a political instance and a political decision that wasn't clear for everyone.</p>	<p>This statement depends on the country; in some you need to be in a political instance to be active, in some others you don't. Moreover, all problems that face weak against strong such as gender problems are political issues.</p> <p>According to the participants any kind of decision in life can be a political one. For example; buying something from a petrol company is politics, because it means you support the petrol company. Culture is also used for the politicians to control the citizens.</p>

Statement: If you want to include people in a project of social change, you need to present them challenges which are of concern and a common enemy to fight against.

For this statement it was difficult to determine a percentage of pros and cons because of the ongoing debate which made the participants change their mind as argument were developed. The expression 'fight against enemy' was an important subject of debate. First, there were some discrepancies in their interpretation of the word *enemy*; it does not necessarily mean people, it can also represent ideas, concepts, regimes etc. Second, the ideas depend on political context: while some of the participants believe they should strive for something positive rather than fight against something negative, they were also presented a case where a common enemy is needed in order to activate people and their participation.

4. MAPPING OF ORGANISATIONS

Each organisation had to talk about one concrete example of project they implemented or that is in project concerning social inclusion and active participation. They had to be specific about:

- Type of projects
- Target groups
- Focus/objectives
- Stakeholders



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<u>Org. Name</u>	<u>Type project</u>	<u>Target group</u>	<u>Focus objectives</u>	<u>Stakeholders</u>
IPYL	“Media centre”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people - College students graduates 	Training for young people on media skills documentation for social change & active participation	SCI EU commission
ZAVOD	SKUHNA “World kitchen social enterprise”	Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration - Social inclusion - Sharing cultures by cooking together 	Zavod
BALADNA	“Youth leadership programme”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active students from Universities - Organise youth - Groups, school students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active participation - Train students to be active agents in the social and political change - Civic engagement - Embrace Palestinian identity - Promote democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipalities - Principals - Active students



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JAVVA	Local inclusion with social organisations	Young people with fewer opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring - Introduce the objectives of JAVVA - Provide pre camp training to become trainer in work camps - Reach people who don't know voluntary service and empower them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU - Government - Solidarity funds
SCI Cat.	"Petjadd Jove " (Youth footprint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people under 25 with fewer opportunities - Local volunteers at SCI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentorship groups with fewer opportunities - Exchange good practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood organisations - Erasmus + - Barcelona grants - SCI branches - SCI international
CSM	Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students and other young people with less opportunities - Unemployed young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create jobs - Give skills and competences to create enterprise - Increase employment in Morocco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University
AECHF	"Identities" - Reflection group	Young Palestinians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange ideas about daily life - Learn languages - Promote heritage, cultural exchange, share different points of view, encourage active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French consulate - Other associations
SCI Italy	Open doors	Migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expression on needs of social inclusion in EU - Social inclusion in Europe on migrant rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCI Catalunya - Local group Italy - Prefecture in Italy
CJM	International encounter forum on active participation (for 2016)	Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote implication of young people in society - Help young people to think globally - Active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associations - Cultural centres - Ministers



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CID	Inclusion of young people decision making processes and creation of young council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth - Organisations - Org. working in youth field - Political youth parties - High school students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including the young in the decision making process on local levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipality - Council - Young people
UNAREC +EMMAUS	Ecological building and restoration - Inclusion work camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people facing social exclusion - Local and international volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore old building (ecologic) - Work together for social inclusion and active participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange - EMMAUS
Solidarités Jeunesses	Inclusion in all projects Euro - Africa project	Volunteers with no age limit (inclusion of all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Match volunteers expectations with objectives on the field - Exchange region : Europe – Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Commission - YIA - Municipalities - Local associations - SJ local organisations - International partners (JAVA, YAP Italy)
YAP Italy	Training IVS youth exchange work camps	Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social inclusion - Active participation - Sustainability : culture heritage & diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCIVS + WHC - Communities - Private enterprises
I Dare	“Active citizenship” National projects for pluralism, identity and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth 18-30 years old - Hearing disabilities (any age) - Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active citizenship inclusion - Support local initiatives (for finance and resources) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jordan Youth Commission



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Day 3 – 10th December 2014

1. WALKING GALLERY: CHALLENGES FACED – DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR SOLUTIONS

The participants were divided into different groups to talk about the challenges faced and had to discuss for solutions concerning:

- Communication and visibility
- Partnership
- Finances
- Political and cultural context

The different organisations went from group to group to share and fill in the different charts about the challenges they are facing in their organisation and the solutions they thought of in each theme.

2. PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Communication

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Lack of resources</u>: not enough money for the communication and visibility to have experts. - <u>Difficulty to reach youth in rural areas</u>: problems to reach new public, youth and people from remote areas, need of more awareness. - <u>Official medias don't reach the organisations.</u> - <u>Political background enables communication</u>: for example lack of communication tools for Palestinians inside Israel. - <u>Irresponsibility</u>: unresponsiveness of partners. - <u>Difficulties to measure the impact of the actions.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Media and communication training staff</u>: train the staff to give them better communication skills. - <u>Develop better relation with educational structures</u>: in order to reach remote areas in the local level. - <u>Include a communication part to the C2P project.</u> - <u>Prepare and give responsibility to volunteers</u>: make them "ambassadors" of the experience they have in order to promote them among traditional and new media. - <u>Focus on international events in south countries</u>: for a better visibility of local partners. - <u>Have a quality charter</u> - <u>Alternative communication</u>: for example make photos or video



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	contests for young volunteers. Or develop a mobile application.
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2.2 Partnerships

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Reciprocity and partnerships</u>: more networks should ensure the same quality and standards because it's not always the case. - <u>Lack of resources</u>: find a solution to support partners in need. - <u>Establish new long term partnerships</u>: with local partners (municipalities for example), international and national and also ensure more South-South partnerships. - <u>Establish more mutual knowledge</u>: lack of meetings and field visits. - <u>Centralise more the networks</u>: to many local networks who do the same thing. - <u>Reinforce voluntarism</u>. 	<p>EQUALITY & RECIPROCITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Provide contacts</u>: EU organisation could provide other organisations with some local contacts that already have experience in IVS projects and that could help new organisation to develop more activities. - <u>Database for funds and grants</u>: gather information about funds and grants for which organisations can apply for. - <u>Be aware of other cultural uses</u>: EU organisations should not impose their way of working and their frames to their partners. Let organisations have some space for proposals. - <u>Build common standards</u>: organisations should work on building same definitions (of work camp for example) in order to have one common project with the same definitions. - <u>Identify the networks and organisations</u>: share information on how to enter a network. - <u>Contact person for each region</u>: in order to coordinate all the information and communicate about the partners. - <u>Privileged partners</u>: communicate regularly with a few privileged partners in order to have several groups in a network how communicate on a daily basis.



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2.3 Political and cultural context

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<p>OCCUPATION POLICIES - DISCRIMINATION - RESTRICTED TERRITORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Short term political vision</u>: in some countries (France for example) the governments mandate is too short, not allowing a long term vision of partnerships. - <u>Slow acceptance to change</u>: Some governments are not favourable to youth projects. - <u>Influence of the political context</u>: makes it difficult to host volunteers in an instable political context. - <u>Gender inequality</u>: Enables some volunteers in the Palestinian society for example. <p>DIVERSE COMMUNITIES & SOCIAL CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Communication problems</u>: there is a lack of knowledge of the cultural and political background from both sides organisations, hosting and sending. - <u>Promote mixity</u> in the respect of the culture. - <u>Develop better social conditions</u>: in order to improve the attention of local, regional, national and international institutions about IVS. - <u>Have better dialogue between youth and institutions</u>: in segregated multicultural societies where there is no structured mechanism for dialogue. <p>VISA ISSUES & MOVEMENT OBSTACLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Laws</u>: some laws are not favourable for volunteering. 	<p>OCCUPATION POLICIES - DISCRIMINATION - RESTRICTED TERRITORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Raise awareness campaigns</u>: such as No hate speech movement, Use media and communication to make people aware. - <u>Lobbying and advocacy</u> <p>DIVERSE COMMUNITIES & SOCIAL CHALLENGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Exchange culture events</u>: organise events where every country can exchange on their culture in order to facilitate the exchanges and the project creating. <p>VISA ISSUES & MOVEMENT OBSTACLES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Visa</u>: fees should be free, take less time to get or less expensive for the students or volunteers etc... - <u>Negotiation in the European level</u>: should have a campaign of freedom of movement. <p>SECURITY ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Pre-departure traineeship</u>: provide mentorship to prepare the volunteers on the cultural and political context of the hosting country, in order to secure the hosting in good conditions. - <u>Depicting the correct image</u> of the country.



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<p>SECURITY ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Responsibility of hosting and sending organisation:</u> they need to ensure security 	
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2.4 Finances

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<p>LACK OF FUNDRAISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Cut down of budgets:</u> crisis and cutting of funding on long term projects. - <u>No government support:</u> organisations have to be self-financed. - <u>Inequality:</u> there is neither sustainability nor equal relationship between north and south (North countries have advantage of resources). - <u>Lack of long-term funding:</u> funding and grants are per project, which means a lot of work, especially when the projects are rejected for grants. - <u>Fundraising:</u> cut down on budget should develop new forms of fundraising and have trainings and capacity building about fundraising. 	<p>FIGHT THE CRISIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Co-work for fundraising:</u> in order to have a knowledge database about fundraising partner organisations should work together on fundraising. Organisations need also to share good experience. - <u>Networking in cost:</u> in order to buy the no-material service such as hosting for website or similar print or insurance. If the organisations stay united in network they have more power. (Example: use the same insurance as the network to reduce the costs). - <u>Lobby and advocacy</u> - <u>Crowd funding and small donors:</u> it is near to merchandise but it is important to have small donations threw paypal. Follow the idea of solution from Wikipedia. - <u>Ethical private donor.</u> - <u>Historical volunteers:</u> maintaining a contact with historical volunteers who could donate money and who know about lobbying. They are the best "client" for merchandise. - <u>Merchandise:</u> follow the SCI Italy experience with wine or calendar selling or other ideas. - <u>Change balance of finance from public to small private donor.</u>



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3. PARTNERSHIPS and INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

For this activity, three questions were marked down and each participant had to think and write one idea per question.

Question 1: What do you expect from international partnerships?

Ideas:

- Share experience and tools
- Capacity building
- Share and build common projects
- Cultural exchanges
- Equal participation
- Sustainable international cooperation
- Financial support and solidarity

Question 2: How can you contribute to the international partnerships?

Ideas:

- Share experiences and knowledge
- Acquire knowledge on local level
- Realise common projects
- Human resources
- Financial resources and fundraising
- Provide equal projects

Question 3: What is the added value of being part of an international network?

Ideas:

- Lobbying and advocacy
- Recognition
- Share experiences and tools
- Have common standards
- Build new partnerships with likeminded organisations
- Polling of resources



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Day 4 – 11th December 2014

PRESENTATION OF “CITRUS”, VISIT ON THE FIELD AND FREE TIME IN CORDES

9h10	Walk up to Hameau la Mayounelle (Citrus)
9h50	<p>Presentation of Citrus and visit of the site. Citrus is the delegation of Solidarités Jeuneses in Midi-Pyrénées Region.</p> 
10h45	Departure in minibus to Cordes
11h00	<p>Visit of the social centre of Cordes. The recyclerie: recovers old objects and repairs them in order to sell them and recycle them.</p> 
12h00	Pic-Nic at the social centre
14h00	<p>Free time in Cordes</p> 
17h00	Return to Citrus



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Day 5 – 12th December 2014

1. HOW TO INCLUDE YWFO (youth with fewer opportunities) IN PROJECTS

The participants of the Seminar had to gather the ups and downs of their past projects. Then in groups of six, divided in three groups the participants wrote down their recommendations to have a successful project taking into account their good and bad experiences.

1.1 Skeletons in the closet

Here is a summarize of what went wrong or problems encountered during projects:

- Drug problem within the project.
- Not being able to include all groups of young people, leading to structural exclusion. Sometimes, young people with fewer opportunities are not well accepted / included in the group of volunteers (leded to an early leaving).
- Not enough institutional support.
- Lack of information and preparation about YWFO: sending a volunteer with not enough information on his background and issues leded to projects implanted with many problems. Camp leaders are not always well-prepared to deal with young people who have problems. Indeed camp leaders see that the group is not functioning but they feel useless.
- Lack of in advance communication and training.
- Difficulties to ensure projects because of funding or visa problems.
- Thematic and objective of the project is not clear: lack of precise goal of a project determined in advance.
- Burocracy problems: authorization not accorder for the work in heritage site.
- Logistic problems: non respect of timing in the project (For example: late to give the material).
- Lack of preparation of the vvolunteers for the projects.
- Partners are not involved well in the projects.
- Expectations of volunteers versus reality: lack of information and preparation (For example: info sheet with leader contact, pre-departure etc.).
- Partnership with social structure: educators for young people were not prepared enough in the project.
- Bad selection and preparation of volunteers.



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1.2 Plenary presentation of recommendations

Problem 1: Organise correctly time, need of schedule work, responsibility

Suggestions:

- Motivation: increasing involvement.
- The recognition and reward: it's the best volunteer certification. Have a prize of encouragement.
- Start small then grow: begin with a minimum of projects on target groups and once they succeed multiply the project.
- Recommendations: write a description on recommendations for the volunteers so they can follow them.
- A kind of punishment "if you don't do": or example asking the volunteer to pay if he isn't responsible and has consequences on the success of the project. This idea is subject to debate because some participants think that it can be motivating to reward people if they do things on time, rather than punish them if they don't.
- Have an employee: volunteers who are engaged in a project sometimes change and it is very bad for the success of it, because the new team has to start again from the beginning to understand the project and the camp.

Problem 2: Encourage the real active participation of Young people and YWFO

Suggestions:

- Adopt a young language: because many people in the organisations are older their language doesn't match with young people. Give arguments, plans, communication tool in direct link with young people. Example: some meetings can be in pubs, in informal places where it is easier to talk. The yapperitivo!!! (YAP Italy).
- Balance formal time / informal time: sometimes it is hard to talk to volunteers in terms of objectives, talking to them about work camp is also about meeting new people, have fun, discover the world, other cultures etc.
- Access for all: international volunteers are often people with money or elite because the travel costs are high. It is important to ask the sending organisation to send volunteers from all backgrounds, money capacities, opportunities etc. not only people with better opportunities and money. One solution could be a solidarity fund between sending and hosting organisation.(some organisations has this – CCIVS also has this)
- Raise awareness on the possibilities: sometimes it can only be a reason of lack of information that YWFO aren't part in a volunteer activity. Organizing workshops go in schools, use Medias and social network to raise awareness.
- Work in partnership with social structures: street educators, justice etc.



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Problem 3: Have a good preparation

Suggestions:

- Responsibility of both sides: camp leaders and volunteers. And also the sending organisation and the receiving organisation have responsibilities. The receiving organisation should give information to the volunteers on the first day of arrival (alcohol, dress code, culture etc.). It could be a good idea to write a list of five things the volunteers have to bring on the work camp.
- The info sheet: it isn't always enough, it is indeed important to put all the rules on the paper together on the first day (example: no alcohol on the camp, drugs etc.)
- Choose good camp leader: camp leader should be trained to work with young people from difficult background. And remind him that his role is to help incorporate the YWFO with the others (example: energizer activities etc.)

Example of project that went well:

IPYL had a project called Schools across borders: in Palestine, children from High School in H2 zone (occupied) are often confronted to problems such as repetitive checkpoints and military checking their bags several times per day. Indeed, the organisation prepared the volunteers about the checkpoints and these young volunteers would do preparation trainings in schools for young from the same age to prepare them with the checkpoints issues.

3. NETWORK INTERVIEW

Organisations that are part of a network:

	CCIVS	SCI	ICYE	IBO	ALLIANCE
Organisations	Solidarités Jeunesses JAVVA SCI ICYE IBO UNAREC SJ YAP Italy IPYL SIW	SCI Catalunya SCI Slovenia ZAVOD Voluntariat CID	CSM		JAVVA Solidarités Jeunesses UNAREC CJM YAP Italy SIW CSM



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The participants on the Seminar interviewed each other asking two questions to learn more about the network of each organisation.

Questions:

- Why are you in a network?
- What does a network offer you?

Answers:

- Facilitates the fundraising
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Cooperation
- Sharing and exchange
- Discover new projects
- Have support regarding visa, financial needs
- New opportunities
- Reciprocity
- Global Actions
- Participation in global events
- Become stronger, have ideological support, being part of something big and worldwide
- International dimension of projects
- Creates better relations between partners
- Offers larger solutions

Questions asked during the presentations:

How to choose the good network for my organisation?

Answer: Different network have different topics, thematic. It is possible to find the network that has the same values as the organisation.

Did network become a problem for your organisation at some point?

Answer: There are rules in the network but the rules and values were made by the members, the rules don't enable the organisation to do something because the organisation was part of the decision making of the rules.

4. POOL OF COMPETENCES

Each participant had to share a precise expertise from its organisation. This activity was interactive because it was bilateral. One participant shares to another his organisation's pool of competence and this person has to share it to the whole group during a plenary presentation.



With the kind support of:

UNAREC :

- Short term work camps: focus on ecological education; integrate ecology and citizenship topics, cultural topics are added in the work camps.
- Long term voluntary service: in different regions but social inclusion is the common theme with all the regions. Social economy: UNAREC does LTV in activities that can bring revenues for the organisation (example: recycling centres). Most of LTV are with disadvantaged background volunteers, in order to work with social inclusion mainly.

IPYL:

- Media tools training: using tools such as video, film making, interviews IPYL helps social inclusion by teaching new skills to people and indeed helping them to find a job.
- Training about international social issues: IPYL works on what is a citizen, democratic values, work camps with ecological issues

Baladna:

- Youth leadership programme: it's training for trainers. Baladna provides training for students of universities on gender, pluralism etc...

SCI Catalunya:

- No hate speech movement: several partners (one of them is SCI international) participate to this campaign. On a local level they create a network for youth organisations against hate speech; it's a local network with 400 associations against fascism and racism.
- Youth and employment working group: aims to offer self-management to young people.

SCI Italy:

- Obtain EU funding for human rights project: SCI Italy gained a good expertise on how to succeed in getting funds for projects.
- Social centre CITTA DEL UTOPIA

SIW:

- Non-formal training: which provides a good team working.
- Work camps for marginalized people: SIW organises work camps for homeless, drugs or alcohol addicts.

Solidarités Jeunesses:

- Staff exchange: volunteers accompany the staff in international work camps in order to get trained to become staff on work camps themselves.
- YWFO: social centre.



With the kind support of:

JAVVA:

- Migration group: in Calais, France. Volunteers go there and talk with the illegal immigrants to know them and know their problem because they want to go to UK illegally.
- Patrimonto: they complement world heritage work camps. JAVVA organises these projects because in Belgium there is a big history of mining industry.

CSM:

- Teaching: activities for local communities (languages English, French, Spanish) and international communities (Arabic teaching). Activity supported by the ministry of education.
- Social works: in orphanage with kids who are handicapped, CSM organises with them a programme for learning. It involves local and international volunteers. CSM also organises hospital activities with kids in the children hospital.

YAP Italy:

- National activities: YAP Italy organises after school activities such as homework and also workshops with recycled bicycles.
- Trainings: in the trainings they make tools, alimentary tools, renewable energy, books to sensitize on energy saving and food. Promotion of cultural heritage

CID:

- Training on policy making projects
- Capacity building for volunteers

I Dare:

- Social marketing: I-Dare has a programme of brain washing in positive ways that result with a positive change by changing the behaviour in the community. Instead of selling a product I-Dare sells an idea.
- Media campaigns: I-Dare organises media campaigns about social marketing, in order to sell it.

CJM:

- Trainings: during work camps CJM provides trainings to volunteer in order to learn them real professional skills on protection of heritage. It is very important and efficient for professional inclusion.
- Staff exchange

AECHF

- Alternative tourism: AECHF organises training for local Palestinians to become guides and sensitize the tourists on their political situation and their local heritage. This tourism activity benefits directly to children and families.



With the kind support of:

- Social worker: the organisation welcomes children and mother to play together, this relaxing moment makes it easier for everyone to talk and open themselves on their issues.

5. PROPOSAL WORKSHOPS

The participants divided themselves in three workshop groups (IVS common standards and values, risk management, exchange on local realities), choosing the one that interested them the most according to what they had to share from their experience and what they wanted to learn.

5.1 Workshop 1: IVS common standards and values

International Voluntary Service is:

- Promoting peace and a better understanding in the world
- Promoting solidarity
- Promoting active participation
- A non-formal education tool
- Contributing to active citizenship and participation in decision-making

International Voluntary Service principles:

- Volunteer (their knowledge, time, energy)
- Collective effort ie cooperation
- No negative effect on paid employment
- Mutual benefit: on local communities and on the volunteers
- Intercultural learning
- Raising awareness of local context
- Reciprocity to achieve material and social equality between countries
- To promote through popular and democratic participation the greatest possible political, social, economic independence

5.2 Workshop 2: Risk Management

- Publicity: to guarantee enough participation.
- Fight against bureaucratic obstacles: obtain support letters from network, invitation letters for visa etc...
- External variable factors: logistical aspects, sudden cut of funds etc...
- Offer proper preparations for participants to avoid any cultural offenses.
- Volunteers departing IVS projects for personal matters: visit family, tourism etc...
- No insurance for incoming volunteer: volunteers should provide proof of insurance in advance as a condition.



With the kind support of:

5.3 Workshop 3: Exchange on local realities

The participants had the chance to exchange on each country they are from and talk about the local realities, political background, social issues and economic system.

Day 6 – 13th December 2014

1. ABOUT STAFF EXCHANGE

Between March and May of 2015, there will be a staff exchange (maximum of 5 days), allowing each organisation to discover the work environment, the culture of the country and the structure of another organisation, which participates in the Contact to Participation project. This should allow helping partnerships to grow stronger between the organisations.

SENDING STAFF

SCI Catalunya
 SJ France
 YAP Italia
 SCI Italia
 JAVVA
 IPYL
 ATAV
 AECHF
 Baladna
 CSM
 CJM
 IDare

HOSTING STAFF

IPYL
 I Dare
 CSM
 ATAV
 Baladna
 SCI Catalunya
 SJ
 CID
 YAP Italia
 SIW
 UNAREC
 JAVVA

2. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

On this last day of the Seminar, the participants had the chance during this activity to talk about the plans for the future. Each participant went from one topic to another (Four in total) adding on the flipchart his idea for future projects.

- IVS projects
- International meetings and capacity building
- Advocacy and visibility
- Impact measurement



With the kind support of:



2.1 IVS projects

Have high school exchange:

Organise exchange of high school students from conflict area and other countries.

Help each other:

It would be interesting to use the closest geographical organisation to help in a partnership or in organising a workcamp. For example, Hebron France can obtain help from IPYL who knows about IVS in order to help them organise workcamps.

Have more reciprocity in EVS:

Promote more EVS projects in the Mediterranean region with a larger reciprocity because it shouldn't always be the same countries sending or receiving the volunteers.

Have yearly evaluation meetings:

Have yearly evaluation meetings and preparation for the next year in a representative way between European countries and Maghreb/Middle East countries.

Have an online sharing tool:

Have an online tool in order to share by topics the experience between the volunteer, for example: if a volunteer wishes to share about gender equality, about its' experience in his country, this platform would allow him to share it with the other volunteers.

2.2 Advocacy and visibility

Have a network platform:

It would be interesting to have a task group of communication for each event the organisations take part in, allowing to define the target group, the ways of communication and the objectives.

Help countries with less Internet accessibility:

In order to inform everyone, even the ones in countries with less internet accessibility it is Important to still use the traditional media such as TV, press and radio, or even posters.



With the kind support of:

[Have a Viral video:](#)

The viral video would spread the word about what was done Laguéprie for example.

2.3 Impact measurement

[Have a framework for monitoring and evaluation:](#)

It could be helpful and important for the improvement of the project to have someone external from the organisation to make the evaluations.

[Map the data:](#)

This can help to visualise.

[Have e-tool trainings:](#)

It is important to have web analytics and use impact measurement tools (online FAQ) and have training on it because not all staff knows how to use them. Adapt the tools to the countries.

2.4 International meetings and capacity building

[Have staff exchanges:](#)

The staff have to work with the volunteers and go on the field, in order to know about the work in the camps. In the morning it would be possible to discover the workcamp and in the afternoon to discover the political background of the country, training courses on the geopolitical context, history of the site etc. It could even be possible to imagine to have staff conferences with experts on historical and political context of the country.

It would be interesting to focus also on regional exchanges and not only international. Exchanging in smaller regions would eventually make it easier and indeed more frequent.

[Monitoring and evaluation of staff exchange program:](#)

There is a necessity to build a checklist in order to evaluate the program. It is important to have more global meetings between the same organisations than the ones present during the Seminar. It would allow sharing the knowledge achieved during the seminar with the staff and the participants to the events of the organisations. It would also help the different organisations working together to build common standards.

[Have regional meetings:](#)

Have regional meetings between organisations from countries with the similar realities (Example: Arabic/Maghreb or Spain/Italy).

[Capacity building:](#)

Have tools to fight against stereotypes with the youth organisations work with. Revive the main topics of the networks.



With the kind support of:

3. EVALUATION



How was the logistics? (Besides the food and accommodations)



45% of participants



45% of participants

Some participants encountered problems with their trains because of the train strike in France on the day of their arrival but the problems were quickly solved thanks to the CCIVS and the Citrus team who managed to find individual solutions for everyone. For some participants the trip was very long to get to Laguëpie from their country, which tired them. There was a very bad Internet connection but on the good side it allowed the participants to be less connected and to bond with each other.



10% of participants

Few participants were annoyed by the cold weather, which enabled them to work.

How was the food?



45% of participants

The food was great even if it came late sometimes. For some participants the quality of the meals was more than expected because prepared by Citrus volunteers.

A good point was adapting to different regimes such as Halal, no lactose, no gluten etc.



50% of participants

Many participants would have liked more fruit for meals and breaks.

The quality of the food was medium but the participants want to highlight the fact that it was prepared by very motivated volunteers



With the kind support of:



5% of participants

There was too many carbs according to few participants and the cultural food difference made it sometimes difficult to adapt to the tastes.

How were the accommodations?



70% of participants



20% of participants



10% of participants

Some participants had too much heat in their rooms making it difficult to sleep and it would have been nice to have a living room for everyone to hang out together. Moreover, some participants had spiders in their room.

How was the visit to Cordes/Citrus?



94% of participants

The large majority of the participants really enjoyed visiting and discovering a nice case study with Citrus and even think of bringing the example back home. The bad weather on that day was just bad luck!



5% of participants

It was beautiful but the weather too cold to enjoy fully the visits.



1% of participants

One participant outlined that it would have been nice to have lunch that day together with volunteers from Citrus.

How was the methodology of the Seminar?



90% of participants

For the large majority of the participants it was one of the best seminars they have been to regarding the method, the content and the facilitator team. There was a good balance between the structure organised by the facilitators and the activities allowing active participation from the participants. The facilitators were flexible and open to suggestions. Many participants came alone without knowing anyone and they never felt alone or bored.



With the kind support of:



10% of participants

Few participants felt that the content of the activities was sometimes repetitive and that they needed a conclusion of the seminar.

About the content: for the first two days?



65% of participants

It was appreciated that the facilitators took the time to explain everything to the new organisations in the network.



30% of participants

Some participants felt a little bit lost at the beginning but they really appreciated that the facilitators took into account each day the critics and adapted the activities according to them.



5% of participants

Very few participants who already knew about IVS and the CCIVS thought that the general presentation was too long and would have liked to go faster into the topic rather than have long general topics.

About the content: for the last two days?



90% of participants

It was good that the team took the time to explain to the new organisations that entered in the network.



9% of participants



1% of participants

It was sometimes too repetitive regarding the activities.



With the kind support of:



Day 7 – 14th December 2014

Departure day.

Thank you to all the participants for their great work during the Seminar, the CCIVS is looking forward to see many partnerships emerge from this Contact Making Seminar.