



## An introduction to the decisions taken during the 32<sup>nd</sup> GA of the CCIVS in San Cristobal de las Casas

The 32d General Assembly of the CCIVS was celebrated in San Cristobal de las Casas, in the state of Chiapas, in Mexico. There were up to 32 voting rights present (between present organisations and proxy votes), from African, American, Asian and European members.

*What follows are not the official minutes of the General Assembly, but a first document to have members informed about the main decisions and flow of the GA. The official minutes will take some more time for revision, but the present EC wants to share this still unofficial information with all members so that those who could not attend have already some information about its main points.*

The GA was a quite beautiful **cooperative** experience. These are the main decisions taken:

1. **Adoption of the EC report** (including President Report, Secretariat and Activity Report, EC members report, Treasurer's Report):
  - Concerning the Activity Report, a time to annex actions by members or reports of the CCIVS has been open until mid January.
  - Concerning the Treasurer's report, the members discussed in a very constructive way according to the difficult situation.
  - Concerning the financial report, it was approved but there was a recommendation that 2012 should be at least projected or updated up to June, at least.
2. **New host GA:** The new host for the GA of the CCIVS (in 2014) will be IWO Korea. For the dates proposed, it was suggested that they should be flexible and ensure that they will be celebrated in different dates than those GAs of the member networks.
3. **Elections for the Executive Committee:**
  - The recommendation (done by some members of the EC) to reduce the number of EC members to 6 for financial reasons was accepted, and members quite followed this recommendation when voting.
  - **The new Executive Committee is composed by:**
    - Matina Deligianni, for SJ, President;
    - Kaizawa Sinichiro, for NICE Japan, Treasurer (and Focal Point for Asia);



- Yonghan Kim, for IWO, Vice-President for Inter-Regional Cooperation;
  - Nicolas Aguilar, of Vimex, Vice-President for Programmes (and Focal Point for America);
  - Oriol Josa, for YAP Italia, General Secretary (and Focal Point for Europe and Mediterranean);
  - Kolawole Aganran, of VWAN Nigeria, EC member and Focal Point for Africa.
- **Internal Auditor:** Roberta Stebel, for JAVVA Belgium is appointed as Internal Auditor
4. **Adoption of the White Paper for International Voluntary Service:** It was adopted by applause. (It included an improvement of the part regarding Asia, within the Regional Cooperation chapter). Now (as decided in the first EC meeting after the Assembly) it will be worked on during the Global Meeting in February, to agree with the sister networks how to put it in practice. Also, the WP was the starting point to build the Plan of Action 2013-14.
  5. **Adoption of the Position paper on age groups in the CCIVS:** This position is to be used for representation and networking purposes, when relevant, and also as an internal reflection and self-proposal, recognising the value and specificity of any age group, and how CCIVS approaches it.
  6. **Reccomendation to improve the Document on Membership and Quality improvement:** The document looked too much towards affiliation and disaffiliation, and it was pointed that it should be more focussed on quality improvement. A paper on how to develop and improve the original document was adopted by the assembly.
  7. **Adoption of the Plan of Action 2013-14:** Priority actions for each Thematic (Sustainability and Environment, Human Rights and Peace, Poverty Reduction and Health, Participation and Social Inclusion, Cultural Heritage and Diversity) and Support measures (Networking and International Representation; Finances; Capacity Building and Human Resources; Impact and Recognition; Promotion and Visibility) have been designed and approved.
  8. **Budget 2013-14-15:** It is approved, with the main mission to obtain a surplus during the next 3 years that can cover the losses of the last years, and solve the cash and balance sheet challenges. The budget reflects the need of the network that member organisations cooperate with the CCIVS (by co-organising projects, paying their membership fees, make donations, negotiate long-term plans for the debts from the CCIVS, etc.).
  9. **Reccomendations by the EC about Financial management and development:** Approved the analysis and proposals to be developed for a management system, follow up and control of the financial development of



the CCIVS.

**Others:**

- IPYL's message celebrating and sharing the recognition of Palestine as a state by the UN was applauded by the Assembly.
- Nigel Watts (VAP UK) and Peter Coldwell (VFP) were applauded as for their commitment and relevant role in IVS movement during the last decades.

**Evaluation:**

a) **It was great to celebrate a GA in Latin America** (after more than 30 years), in Chiapas particularly, supporting and underlining the important moment for IVS in America, after years of priority to empower the movement in this region.

b) **There is a number of aspects to be improved for the future:**

- Documents and proposals were sent very late, and this is assumed to be not democratical (people are not prepared, and absent members do not have the time to communicate their position to the org who holds their proxy vote) besides making decision process and work very difficult
- Facilitation and time-keeping were quite badly prepared/managed. More workshops to debate, more dynamism, better management of time are needed and requested.

c) **We debated (and decided) about very inspiring issues, approved very significant documents, and made a promising Plan of Action.** (it will be sent very soon)

d) **The atmosphere has been very positive and cooperative**, with interesting and constructing dialogues among the members.

e) Therefore, most of the results of the GA are very positive (which is very important, knowing that the CCIVS is in a very difficult moment), and the critical methodological aspects have to be addressed for the next General assembly.

*Please, don't doubt to contact the EC members for any relevant question about this document or for the good management of the CCIVS.*