

Youth Committee Guidelines

2023

Background Purpose

The Youth Committee is envisaged as supporting the CCIVS Executive Committee and Secretariat with the development of the youth dimension and the implementation of the CCIVS strategic plan, itself approved among other motions in the CCIVS General Assembly 2021. Although the main task of CCIVS is to support IVS organisations and advocate for IVS broadly, it is necessary to ensure that CCIVS can directly communicate with young people or where they can express their needs and/or advocate for the role of young people in relation to volunteering. Youth are the principal participants in IVS activities, it seems pertinent that young people themselves be the ones who represent and advocate for themselves within CCIVS. An organisation that works for a better future together with young people and does not have a youth organisation misses an important point of view about reality and needs. When CCIVS attends youth events, it should be young people themselves who take the floor. It is therefore essential that CCIVS gives a space for young people to give direct input, learn to advocate for IVS, take up advocacy work in youth platforms and give direction to CCIVS policies from their youth perspective.

Objectives

These objectives are guided by the conviction that young people are powerful agents of change and that their involvement is essential for building a more just, inclusive and sustainable world. By working with CCIVS, we are committed to achieving the following objectives:

1. Be the representative of the diverse youth in the internal CCIVS structure and external events, by prioritising the issues that concern youth on the agenda;
2. Contribute to the internal agenda of CCIVS by being a part of the decision making process and create an exchange between the needs of IVS organisations on the one hand and youth on the other hand;
3. Strengthen local, national and international networks by fostering collaboration among IVS organisations and multistakeholders;
4. Share the mission and vision of the IVS and CCIVS to the world through youth advocacy;
5. Integrate the youth perspective in order to develop a strong and efficient worldwide networking aiming to reach the IVS and CCIVS values.

These objectives aim to ensure that the CCIVS Youth Committee effectively engages with young volunteers, supports their development, and integrates their perspectives into the organisation's activities and policies. These objectives align

with the justification and purpose outlined in the CCIVS Youth Committee Guidelines.

Term of Appointment

The Youth Committee consists of 10-12 Youth Representatives nominated by the CCIVS full-member organisations through a selection process held by the former Youth Committee members and a representative of CCIVS Executive Committee for a 2-year period of service between two CCIVS General Assemblies. Terms of service longer than this period can be agreed upon as necessary. Terms will be staggered to ensure continuity and transfer of knowledge between existing Youth Committee members and incoming Youth Committee members.

Organisation

The Youth Committee will organise itself in a holacratic and self-organised way. This means that there will be no prescribed roles or positions in the Youth Committee but that the members will organise themselves in teams according to their interests, motivation and the tasks they decide on. This allows for each member to take on different responsibilities and equally shape the work of the CCIVS Youth Committee. The Youth Committee will be supported - as far as funding allows - by the CCIVS Youth Action Officer.

Functioning and Meetings

Recurring online meetings of the Youth Committee are called on a monthly basis (once a month) and minimum 10 online meetings of working groups in a year, relevant to the CCIVS' current programme of work.

A. Online Participation

- The CCIVS Youth Committee shall adopt communication mechanisms and digital technologies that allow members to participate online in committee meetings, discussions and decisions. This online participation will be encouraged to ensure inclusion of members from different geographic regions and to facilitate real-time participation in activities and projects;

- Members who choose to participate online must be assured that they will have access to all relevant information and materials to meaningfully contribute to the committee's deliberations and activities;
- Youth Committee Members who miss the monthly meeting three times in a row with or without reason(s) will be given one month's notice, if within this month there is no response and/or change in commitment, they will no longer be a member of the Youth Committee.

B. On-site Participation

- Members of the CCIVS Youth Committee will be encouraged to participate in meetings, events and face-to-face activities. This face-to-face participation aims to strengthen interaction and collaboration among members, providing an environment for dialogue and networking;
- If members find it difficult to participate in person due to financial, health or other relevant reasons, they may ask for support from CCIVS for alternatives for remote or subsidised participation.

Target Group and Selection Criteria

The members of the Youth Committee should be selected based on the following criteria:

- Be aged between 18-30 during the admission;
- Be nominated with a support letter by a CCIVS full-member organisation/network;
- Have experience in at least one of the fields of action of CCIVS (e.g. be an alumni of previous CCIVS or MO projects, be engaged in local/national/international actions on the participated in IVS projects, etc.);
- Composing a group of 10-12 young people from different regions (America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe);
- Creating a gender and region-balanced team;
- Holding a working level of English;
- Motivated and committed to attend the recurring monthly meeting and hold a 2-year period of service between two CCIVS General Assemblies;
- Being aware of the context and main issues of their country and understanding the youth needs and concerns.

Admission Process

- The admission of new members to the CCIVS Youth Committee will be carried out based on a selection process, which will take into account the experience, skills, motivation and representativeness of the candidates;
- The selection process will be conducted by an evaluation committee composed of members of the Youth Committee and representatives of CCIVS affiliated organisations;
- Candidates interested in joining the Youth Committee must submit an application with information about their profile, relevant experiences and motivation for joining the committee;
- The admission process must be transparent and based on clear and objective criteria, with the objective of guaranteeing representation and diversity in the committee.

The Role of the Youth Committee

- Contributing to the inclusion of a youth dimension in the CCIVS organisational structures and programmes by formulating opinions and proposals on general or specific questions in relation to internal structure (developing a CCIVS youth policy) and integrated into the decision-making process, advocacy, communication or campaigns;
- Each member of the Youth Committee should be involved, where relevant and where possible in at least one CCIVS project, campaign or working group.
- All CCIVS projects and campaigns should, where relevant and where possible, involve a representative of the Youth Committee to ensure that projects address the specific needs and interests of youth involved in IVS.
- Formulating opinions and proposals concerning the CCIVS priorities and projects;
- Creating biannual recommendations for the General Assembly through a participatory process led by youth with youth. These recommendations will be concrete and realistic around topics tackled by CCIVS and will result in concrete actions involving youth within the CCIVS network. Before the recommendation is presented to the GA, a member of the EC will help the YC finalise the recommendations and adjust them to CCIVS competencies;
- Promoting IVS values and take on youth-led advocacy work through a local community, within the CCIVS member organisation the Youth Committee members are affiliated with, or in any relevant external event;
- Working on the steps through the Plan of Action to create a multi stakeholder group for youth advocacy;

- The members who finish the period of service will be categorised as alumnae with the opportunity to transfer knowledge and become the advisor to the next batch of Youth Committee members.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- The Youth Committee has an internal evaluation every trimester
- The Youth Committee has to create a report and submit it to Secretariat and Executive Committee every trimester
- The Executive Committee will be in charge to monitor the work of Youth Committee
- The Youth Committee Guidelines will be reviewed prior to a CCIVS GA and evaluated periodically during the CCIVS GA
- CCIVS will be responsible for implementing the policies set out in this policy. A monitoring and evaluation system will be established to track the impact and effectiveness of CCIVS youth policies.

Financial Subsidy

CCIVS may offer financial grants to Youth Committee members who face economic difficulties in participating in in-person or online activities and events.

- The criteria for granting subsidies will be defined by the CCIVS Secretariat and Executive Committee, considering the availability of resources and the needs of the activities or projects.
- The Youth Committee can propose candidates who are qualified to receive the financial support when it is necessary to participate in any activities or projects.
- The Youth Committee shall ensure transparency and impartiality in awarding grants, ensuring that funds are allocated fairly and efficiently.
- The Youth Committee may seek sponsorships from external organisations or institutions which are aligned with the IVS values to increase the resources available to support member participation on agreement of the CCIVS EC.
- Any sponsorships obtained by the Youth Committee will be managed by CCIVS Secretariat and may share a report for transparency.

Conclusion

With the following Youth Committee Guidelines we want to highlight the importance of listening, representing and respecting the diverse voices of youth within the CCIVS structure and within the IVS movement. This policy paper builds upon the needs within CCIVS governance to enhance the intergenerational work in the IVS movement. Very much concerned about the lack of youth involvement in IVS management positions or on the elected boards and participation in the development of CCIVS projects, the CCIVS Youth Committee makes a proposal on how to promote a more inclusive IVS movement for all.

Establishing that this Youth Committee works horizontally, transversally, honestly and representatively on all topics, projects and activities that it is part of, advocating for our future: the future of youth. Noting that CCIVS will provide special attention to the feedback, comments and/or suggestions that this Youth Committee will give.

The commitment of the members of the Youth Committee is to represent and advocate for the rights, values and concerns of youth and bring the youth perspective inside CCIVS, whether in decision-making, providing new opportunities, or being part of various projects/activities of CCIVS. With the hope that in the future it will be the youth themselves who lead, in a participatory way, the IVS movement with the objective of transforming to a more just, honest, diverse and equal reality.