

# CCIVS Activity Report 2024 2025





**Coordinating Committee for  
International Voluntary Service**

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# 01 STRENGTHENING VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORLDWIDE

## President's foreword:

Reflecting on the past two years, the CCIVS network has shown exceptional resilience and commitment to promoting volunteering as a powerful means for justice, peace, and sustainable development. Despite facing numerous challenges, we have celebrated many achievements and moments of solidarity that highlight the strength of our collective efforts. Through our work, we have witnessed the positive impact of volunteering on communities around the world. From working with marginalised groups to promoting environmental sustainability, CCIVS members have contributed to meaningful change. Our network has also served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and advocacy, enabling volunteers to become agents of positive transformation.

As we confront complex global issues, CCIVS remains dedicated to upholding the core values of solidarity, inclusivity, and social responsibility. Our collective actions not only address urgent challenges but also inspire hope and foster a sense of global citizenship. This report outlines the diverse initiatives, achievements, and obstacles faced by our members. It embodies the spirit of CCIVS—a network rooted in collaboration, mutual support, and a shared vision for a more just and peaceful world.

**Ratherford Mwaruta**

CCIVS President



# Overview



The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) was founded in 1948 under the aegis of UNESCO to strengthen International Voluntary Service (IVS) worldwide

## Our Mission

CCIVS strengthens International Voluntary Service by connecting and empowering its members, promoting and advocating for IVS and its values locally and globally.

## Our Vision

CCIVS builds a global inclusive community of changemakers who contribute to a peaceful, just, and regenerative world through International Voluntary Service.

## Our Approach

International Voluntary Service brings people together to co-create meaningful, community-led responses to global challenges. Through workcamps and mid and long-term grassroots projects, volunteers and local communities work according to each person's ability, challenging habits and convictions to create new realities grounded in mutual respect and solidarity.

## Our Work

Over the last decade, CCIVS has centered decolonisation, climate and social justice, as core concerns. CCIVS advocates for volunteering not as charity, but as solidarity; not as a privilege, but as a right rooted in justice and shared liberation.

Based at UNESCO House in Paris, CCIVS works through advocacy and networking, capacity building and training, UN cooperation projects, impact measurement, and global campaigns to ensure International Voluntary Service remains relevant, accessible, and transformative.

## A Global Network

### 173 members

73 Full & Candidate Members  
100 Affiliated Members

### 5 Regions

Asia-Pacific, the Americas,  
Africa, Europe, Middle-East

### 88 countries

represented

### 4 Member Networks

SCI, IBO, ALLIANCE, ICYE

1987 “Messenger of Peace” title attributed by UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar

CCIVS is in official partnership with UNESCO – associate status,  
Liaison status with the FAO and Special Consultative status with ECOSOC.



Find out more: [www.ccivs.org](http://www.ccivs.org)

# Global Volunteer Statistics 2024

In 2025, CCIVS gathered valuable insights from its members through the **CCIVS Annual Report 2024 responses** from 49 out of 73 member organisations (full and candidate members).

Altogether, 11,994 volunteers took part in short, medium and long-term volunteering across the globe, including **6,674 identifying as female**, **4,840 identifying as male**, **23 identifying as other** and **457 with unspecified gender**.

## 11,994 volunteers

engaged in short, medium, long-term volunteering



The volunteers contributed their work and passion in

## 7,431 projects

### PROJECTS BASED ON THEMES & REGIONS

-  **596 ENVIRONMENTAL**
-  **410 DEVELOPMENTAL**
-  **329 CULTURAL**
-  **404 EDUCATIONAL**
-  **123 HUMAN RIGHTS**
-  **112 OTHERS**
-  **5,456 UNKNOWN**



**168 in AFRICA**



**6,144 in EUROPE**



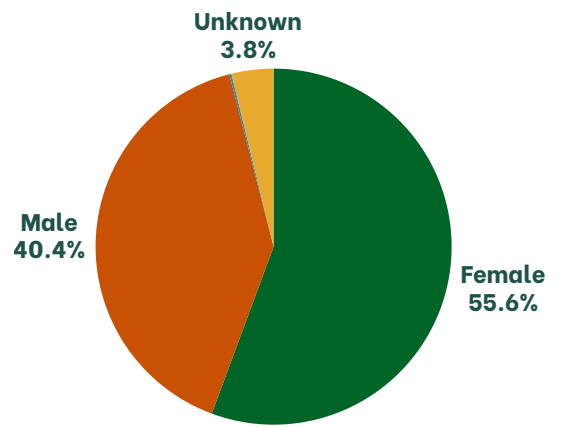
**203 in AMERICAS**



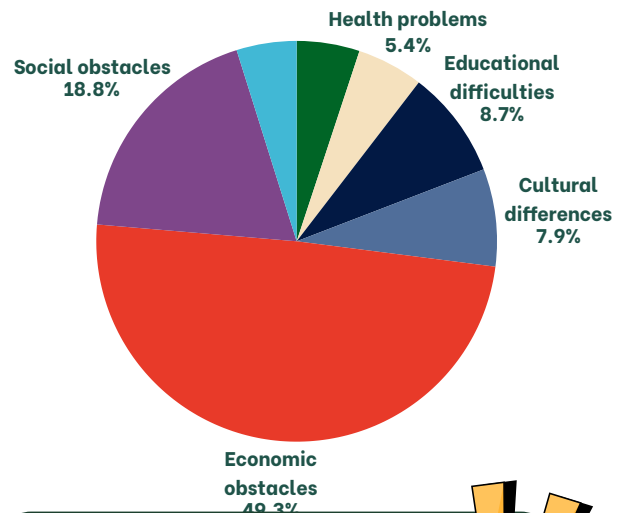
**916 in ASIA-PACIFIC**

### BASED ON GENDER

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Unknown



### YOUNG PEOPLE WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES



#### Access Barriers

- **173 volunteers could not join projects due to visa refusals (2024)**
- **Primary reasons by embassies: concerns about intention to return home, documentation issues, limited financial resources, unclear purpose of visit.**

# 02

## MAJOR INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES



### Decolonise IVS!

A comprehensive 2.5-year initiative led by CCIVS in strong cooperation with ICYE, bringing together 10 International Voluntary Service organisations to confront the lasting effects of (neo-)colonialism and address entrenched power dynamics and structural inequities in international volunteering. Through open dialogue, reflection, and collaboration, the movement deepened understanding of how these issues shape the IVS movement and explored ways to build a more inclusive, diverse, and environmentally sustainable path forward.

#### Advocacy Lab: Advancing Equity in IVS

Date: 25 February – 2 March 2024  
Location: Brussels, Belgium  
Hosted by: SCI Belgium

##### Impact

Participants visited the European Parliament to understand EU decision-making processes and strengthened alliances with organisations including SCI, YMCA, and Politics4Her.

The Advocacy Laboratory brought together international stakeholders to develop strategies for a more equitable International Voluntary Service sector. Participants mapped key advocacy stakeholders, engaged in networking events with youth organisations, policymakers, and civil society groups, and developed strategic advocacy workflows.

Through collaborative discussions, the lab refined advocacy strategy into three key areas:

- Visa Policy Campaign – Addressing mobility restrictions for volunteers, particularly from the Global South
- Funding Policy Campaign – Advocating for fairer and more inclusive funding mechanisms in international cooperation
- Decolonisation in IVS – Promoting structural changes in volunteer programs to ensure equitable participation.

## Visual Storytelling Training: Empowering Change Through Narratives

Date: 6-10 June 2024  
Location: Vienna, Austria  
Hosted by: Grenzenlos

The training explored storytelling as a tool for advocacy and decolonisation. Participants gained skills in narrative construction, photography, videography, and critical media analysis, fostering deeper understanding of how visuals shape perceptions of volunteering, solidarity, and power structures.

### Key Activities:

- Discussions on colonial legacies in international volunteering through quizzes, mind mapping, and policy paper analysis
- Sessions on storytelling fundamentals, creative reflection, and the power of visual media
- Hands-on creation of advocacy videos addressing themes of mobility, privilege, and systemic inequalities
- Cinema Decolonise Showcase featuring participant work

Read Ben's testimony:  
<https://ccivs.org/latest-news-10/>

## Decolonise IVS Tool Fair: Expanding the Movement

Date: 7-13 August 2024  
Location: Emen, Bulgaria  
Hosted by: CVS Bulgaria

**The Tool Fair served as the final event of the Decolonise Now! workplan. While the first project phase engaged a limited number of organisations, this event expanded outreach to new practitioners and networks, ensuring decolonial tools and methodologies reached a wider community.**

### Key Activities:

- Hands-on workshops testing and adapting decolonise tools to local contexts
- Panel debates on decolonisation issues, training needs, and structural change in IVS
- Networking and collaboration between IVS organisations and like-minded initiatives

### Outcomes:

- 28 youth workers trained in using Decolonise tools
- Strengthened trainers' skills through peer learning
- Upgraded CCIVS Decolonise resources incorporating participant feedback
- Expansion of trainer pool for long-term capacity building
- New inter-organisational collaborations ensuring continued dissemination



Photo credit: CCIVS

## Conclusion of Project August 2024



### The Decolonise IVS! project achieved practical tools to support ongoing decolonisation

- Decolonised Long and Medium-Term Volunteering Guidelines
- Decolonising our Narratives Position Paper
- Decolonising the Funding Mechanisms of European Union Youth Programmes Policy Paper
- Decolonising Visa Mechanisms Policy Paper
- REGENERATE RECONCILE RESPECT CCIVS Sustainability/Living Earth Guidelines
- Decolonial practice and discourse in International Voluntary Service
- MOOC (Online Course)
- Decolonise Cards
- Participatory Action Research: guidebook for barefoot researchers July 2023
- Decolonise IVS Organisational Self-Assessment Tool (English Version)



Photo credit: Raksha Shenoy

## Find all the resources here:

<https://ccivs.org/decolonise/knowledgehub/policy-papers-and-guidelines/>

#### Coordinating Partners



#### Partners



#### Associated Partners





# LIVE-EX: Digital Inclusion & Earth Advocacy in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Project Manager:** Nicolaus Novatus Mukasa

**Lead Applicant:** ICYE

**Partners:** AJUDE (Mozambique), ASTOVOT (Togo), CCIVS, COFO (Malawi), ICYE Kenya, ICYE Nigeria, SAVWA (South Africa), UPTZ (Tanzania), ZWA (Zimbabwe)

**Duration:** 2024-2026

LIVE-EX (“Exchange and Cooperation for a Living Earth”) empowers young people from Sub-Saharan Africa by enhancing digital and soft skills essential for the global job market. The project fosters intercultural understanding through structured virtual dialogues and community actions, supporting digital inclusion and the Earth Advocacy Mentorship programme working toward social and climate justice from a decolonial perspective.



Photo credit: UP Tanzania

## Kickstarting the Project in Tanzania

**Date:** 10-14 June 2024

**Location:** Tanzania

**Hosted by:** United Planet Tanzania

The official project launch featured a coordination meeting with participation from 10 countries. Stakeholders, trainers, and youth representatives discussed Afrocentric approaches to virtual exchanges and digital inclusion, focusing on overcoming barriers to digital participation and ensuring equitable access to quality virtual intercultural exchanges.



Photo credit: UP Tanzania

## LIVE-EX Mentor Training in Pretoria

**Date:** 12–18 October 2024

**Location:** Pretoria, South Africa

**Hosted by:** SAVWA



Photo credit: ICYE Kenya

Dedicated mentors developed skills in earth advocacy, digital engagement, and community leadership. The training focused on ecosystem restoration, soil and water conservation, and the role of virtual tools in advocacy.

### Key Highlights:

- Practical advocacy skills: Exploration of Soil4Life Manifesto, fundraising for climate projects, and hands-on social media campaigns
- World Food Day action (16 October): Session on leveraging online tools for advocacy and managing virtual volunteer networks
- Final planning and mentorship strategies: Development of action plans for local communities

## Earth Advocacy Programme Launch January 2025

**Date:** 10–14 June 2024

**Location:** Tanzania

**Hosted by:** United Planet Tanzania

The first cohort of the Earth Advocacy Programme rolled out with the first virtual exchange, aiming to empower youth to lead local actions in response to climate change and biodiversity loss.

### First Cohort Participation:

- 500+ mentees across 8 countries:
  - South Africa: 120
  - Tanzania: 130
  - Zimbabwe: 76
  - Mozambique: 30
  - Nigeria: 51
  - Malawi: 65
  - Togo: 18
  - Kenya: 11
- 16 mentors guided participants through a structured six-month programme using the Earth Advocacy Toolkit and youth resource materials
- Good practice map developed

### Evaluation Results:

- Over 80% of first cohort reported:
- Gained new confidence in their advocacy work
- Learned how to collaborate across borders
- Were inspired to take actions in their communities

### Supporting Activities:

- Series of online dialogues exploring climate change and culture
- Art as mirror for climate change discussions
- Three trainers' and mentors' check-in/evaluation sessions

### Looking Ahead:

LIVE-Ex has begun creating meaningful impact. Young people have developed stronger advocacy skills, formed new regional and international connections, and started shaping projects responding to the climate crisis in their communities.



# ICON: Capacity Building for the IVS Movement in impact assessment, communication, and community building

**Lead Applicant:** INEX SDA  
**Partners:** CCIVS, PVN Albania, GAIA Kosovo  
**Duration:** 2023–2025  
**Status:** Approaching conclusion December 2025

## Aim

ICON sought to increase the quality, impact, and reach of volunteering activities by strengthening IVS organisation capacity in three key areas:

- Impact assessment,
- External communication,
- Community building.

Its long-term vision has been to make International Voluntary Service more inclusive, more environmentally sustainable, and more resilient.

## Achievements Over Three Years

Throughout its implementation, ICON has:

- Built competences of staff in partner organisations through online trainings focused on the three key areas
- Introduced new approaches and tools for impact measurement, including surveys tested in 2024 and implemented across projects in 2025
- Enhanced organisations' skills in communication and outreach
- Strengthened practices of community building, enabling volunteers and organisations to engage more deeply with local realities
- Fostered strategic cooperation among partners through management meetings in Prague (2023), Tirana (2024), and Pristina (2025), with regular online exchanges

### Social & Cultural Impact

#### Understanding Discrimination

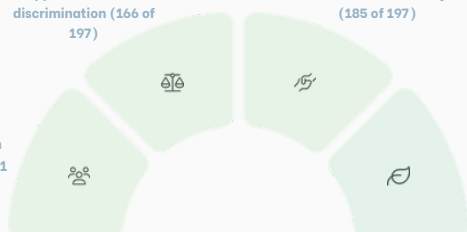
84% better understand opportunities and discrimination (166 of 197)

#### Social Involvement

94% more motivated to be active in society (185 of 197)

**Diverse Interactions**  
97% more motivated to interact with people from different backgrounds (191 of 197)

**Environmental Awareness**  
85% better understand consequences of daily actions (167 of 197)



## 2024 Pilot Testing

The pilot testing of the impact survey provided crucial feedback, which was refined and is being fully applied in 2025. Partners have developed and are finalising practical manuals on impact measurement, external communication, and community building, ensuring project results remain usable beyond its lifetime.

## Final Phase 2025

As the project enters its closing months, partners are focusing on:

- Implementing the final impact assessment survey to gather evidence of how international volunteering shapes volunteers, communities, and organisations
- Finalising manuals and guidelines to support other IVS organisations in adopting improved practices
- Disseminating results through closing events and communication campaigns

## Legacy

By its conclusion in December 2025, ICON will have equipped the IVS movement with tested tools, concrete strategies, and shared knowledge that boost sustainability and impact. Its legacy lives not only in the strengthened capacities of partner organisations, but also in the inspiration it offers to other IVS actors to renew and reinforce their approaches to impact assessment, communication, and community building.

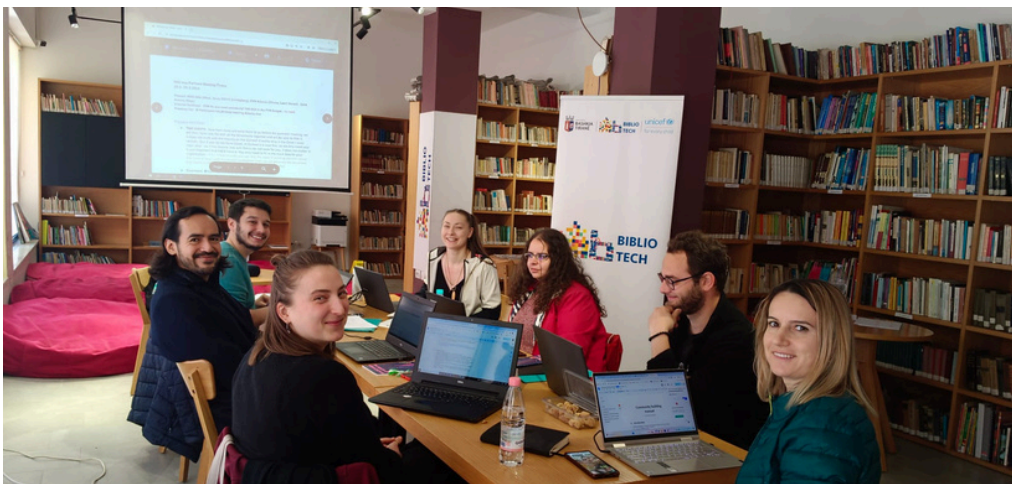


Photo credit: GAIA KOSOVO

# Voices for Change: Music and Volunteering for a Decolonial Environmental and Social Justice Agenda



Voices for Change empowers the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement through music, storytelling, and advocacy. It connects grassroots activism with institutional advocacy, ensuring that local realities inform global decision-making through a decolonial approach to social and climate justice. Voices for Change brought together volunteering, music, and environmental action across 10 countries in 2025, involving 12 partner organisations. The project centred community voices and connected local environmental work with broader policy advocacy.

**Lead Applicant:** CCIVS

**Project Partners:** International Music Council (IMC) – France, GSM – Turkey, EstYES – Estonia, FSL-India – India, FUNPROCH – Ecuador, INEX-SDA – Czechia, Cantiere Giovani – Italy, Legambiente – Italy, KVSO – Kenya, PMCRD – Palestine, SAVWA – South Africa

**Duration:** 2025–2026



Photo credit: CCIVS

## Online Kick-Off and Global Reflection Meeting

The year began with an online kickoff meeting followed by the Global Reflection Meeting in Paris, France during spring. Representatives from across the IVS movement gathered to discuss current challenges and priorities. Based on a needs-assessment survey conducted prior to the meeting, participants identified key focus areas: inclusion, volunteer rights, climate justice, mobility, and decolonial frameworks. These priorities shaped the development of Voices for Change policy work.

Partners received training in the Most Significant Change (MSC) method through online sessions with impact measurement expert Francesco Volpini. This approach measures impact through stories rather than numbers, capturing how volunteering actually changes communities and individuals.

## Local Actions: July-August 2025

During July and August, partners ran environmental projects in their communities. Each project combined hands-on environmental work with music activities, discussions, and storytelling. Each local action aimed to engage at least 100 participants, complete environmental work, use “Echoes of Nature“ creatively, facilitate discussions on environmental and social justice, and collect stories and videos for advocacy purposes.

### India - FSL India

FSL ran activities in several phases:

- Kundapura: Infrastructure improvements, sanitation and hygiene campaigns, tree planting
- Mysore and Mangalore: Discussions with youth, school students, and university groups about climate justice and EU/UN policy impacts
- Adaptation: “Echoes of Nature“ translated into Hindi and Kannada as “SOS: Save Our Sea“

## Earth Artist Training and Songwriting Workshop

**Date: June 2025**

**Location: Nairobi, Kenya**

**Hosted by: KVS0 Kenya**

Participants discussed green colonialism, decolonising ecology, and climate policy. Working with IMC songwriting experts, they created “Echoes of Nature“—the project’s anthem—and developed the Earth Artists Toolkit for partners to use in bringing artistic methods into their local work.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

### Czechia - INEX-SDA

Green Oasis workcamp in Odolená Voda featured:

- Two-day workshop on climate justice and green colonialism
- Creation of “Climate Justice Passports“
- Discussion of the European Green Deal
- Short video responses to “Echoes of Nature“

## Ecuador - Fundación Chiriboga

Partnership with Indigenous communities on:

- Agroecology and forest conservation
- Coastal ecosystem restoration
- Translation of “Echoes of Nature“ into Shuar
- Video contributions from community members

## Palestine - PCMRD

“Green Day“ in Hebron and Bethlehem included:

- Cleanups and tree planting
- School discussions
- Song-sharing
- Videos of youth discussing local climate justice meaning

## Turkey (GSM)

- Climate Justice Youth Working Group established in Ankara
- Integration into five international workcamps (Antalya, Bademler, Demre, Ovakorusu, Milas)
- ~80 participants reached
- “Echoes of Nature“ rewritten in Turkish and translated into sign language
- Discussions on environmental racism and greenwashing

## Italy (Cantiere Giovani)

- Green renovations in Frattamaggiore:
- Youth Center (Il Cantiere): Community garden with neighbour-donated plants; broken umbrellas repaired and reused for shading system
- Centro Astalli (Refugee Center): Space repainted and refurbished; “Garden of Memories“ created with plants from guests’ countries of origin

## South Africa - SAVWA

Multiple connected activities:

- 15-day library renovation project
- Two-day youth orientation to Voices for Change
- Permaculture training and orphan-care support camp
- Music sessions integrated throughout
- Youth development of longer-term engagement plans

## Italy - Legambiente

Workcamp in Ottaviano featured:

- Sessions on green colonialism, environmental justice, and decolonising IVS
- Practical park clean-up work
- Creation of “Climate Justice Passports“
- Traditional local songs as activism tools

## Kenya (KVS0)

Week-long environmental action in Kakamega Rainforest:

- Partnership with Kenya Forestry Service, county authorities, and local villagers
- Tree planting, community outreach, forest education sessions
- 150+ participants through reforestation, cultural exchange, and awareness campaigns
- “Echoes of Nature“ shared with community

## Estonia (EstYES)

Participatory workshops in Paide and Nõva:

- 60+ young people, local community members, and international volunteers
- Exploration of decolonising ecology, green colonialism, and activism
- Learning “Echoes of Nature“ song and creating new verses
- Connection to EU Youth Goals on sustainability and youth participation

## Online Partners Meeting

**Date: October 2025**

CCIVS organised an Online Partners Meeting to consolidate findings from Local Actions. MSC stories, videos, and community reports were analysed to extract policy insights, feeding into Policy and Advocacy Recommendations connecting local experiences to international frameworks such as EU Youth Goals and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



## Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice

**Date: November 2025**  
**Location: South Africa**  
**Hosted by: SAVWA**

The Symposium gathered IVS organisations, policymakers, researchers, and youth leaders to explore how decolonial approaches can transform volunteering, environmental policy, and international cooperation. Sessions showcased results from the Global Reflection Meeting, Earth Activists Training, and Local Actions while featuring the “Echoes of Nature” song and short films.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo



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## Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice

**Date: 11-16 November 2025**

**Location: South Africa**

**Hosted by: SAVWA**

The “Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice” took place in Pretoria, South Africa, hosted by SAVWA (South Africa Volunteer Work Camp Association) and co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The activity brought together 27 participants including facilitators Kate Curtis and Mzwakhe Vilane.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo



The aim was to:

- present and review the results achieved so far in Voices for Change, using the Global Reflection Meeting and local actions as a reference point for the state of the IVS movement;
- share experiences and innovations in environmental and social justice, and reflect on the decolonised approach used in the project;
- discuss and validate policy and advocacy strategies based on impact research findings.

The first part of the programme was dedicated to internal work. Participants revisited the needs analysis, the Global Reflection Meeting, the Impact Measurement Training and the Earth Artists Training and Songwriting Workshop in Kenya.

Updates from related processes, including the Living Earth Campaign, the Palestine Working Group, the youth-led MILE and ICON initiatives and the Youth Committee – helped to build a common picture of the current situation of the IVS movement: reduced numbers of projects and volunteers in many regions, but also strong efforts to work in a more decolonial, community-led and climate-just way.

This phase responded to the objective of showcasing achieved results and using them to assess where the movement stands.



Photo credit: CCIVS



## Open Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice

A half-day hybrid Open Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice created a wider space for exchange with external speakers and online participants.

The programme included:

- a keynote input from the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Southern Africa team on the links between cultural activism, Ubuntu and environmental justice;
- the première of “Echoes of Nature”, the IVS song created through the Earth Artists Training and Songwriting Workshop, presented with the International Music Council (IMC);
- a series of short presentations from local actions in different countries, showing how the song and the project’s approach had been adapted to local realities through environmental and social justice activities.

- a presentation of the CCIVS Volunteer Rights Framework by members of the Youth Committee, outlining volunteering as a right based on non-discrimination and human rights, and identifying key areas such as recognition, safe and equitable mobility, prevention of harassment and decolonised funding practices;
- an overview by IMC the advocacy roadmap, offering a reference for how Voices for Change and IVS advocacy can be structured and communicated in the coming years.



Photo credit: CCIVS

The external expert on impact measurement, Francesco Volpini, joined online to present findings from the use of the “Most Significant Change” technique in the local actions. The stories highlighted local, concrete changes, youth as catalysts of action, and care and solidarity as central responses to crisis.

A round table with invited experts – Dr Vishwas Satgar (University of the Witwatersrand, Emancipatory Futures Studies in the Anthropocene), Helene Perold (researcher on volunteering and civic engagement in Southern Africa), Dr Jacob Mati (Centre for African Philanthropy and Social Investment – CAPSI) and Silja Fischer (Secretary General, International Music Council) – opened discussion on funding, power, decolonisation and climate justice, and how Voices for Change and IVS practice can connect with broader policy agendas. They addressed the persistence of coloniality in economic and political systems, the need for democratic systemic reforms, the risks and opportunities for civil society organisations, the importance of community-based power, and the role of philanthropy and international networks in supporting actors in the Global South rather than speaking for them.

### **Internal consolidation and advocacy planning**

The group worked on drawing conclusions and planning next steps. World Café discussions and working groups focused on:

- refining the draft policy and advocacy proposals on environmental and social justice, resource justice and decolonised funding, building on the impact findings
- reviewing the CCIVS Volunteer Rights Framework as a key advocacy tool for the movement;
- discussing the planned advocacy actions in 2026 and the timeline of events;
- identifying priorities and responsibilities for Voices for Change in the next steps (planning for Palestine partners meeting);

- exploring how Voices for Change results – especially “Echoes of Nature” and the impact stories – can contribute to the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development 2026. an overview by IMC the advocacy roadmap, offering a reference for how Voices for Change and IVS advocacy can be structured and communicated in the coming years.

The Volunteer Rights Framework was discussed as a reference document that can support future advocacy work on recognition, safe and equitable mobility, prevention of harassment and decolonised funding practices.

Across all discussions, three elements appeared repeatedly as conditions for future work: community-led priorities, resource justice, and meaningful participation of young people in decision-making.

### **Main outcomes**

The Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice in Pretoria:

- brought together the different strands of Voices for Change (needs analysis, global reflection, impact measurement, Earth Artists Training, local actions) in one shared space;
- allowed partners to present and receive feedback on concrete environmental and social justice actions carried out in their communities;
- used impact research findings as a basis for discussing policy and advocacy directions;
- positioned the Volunteer Rights Framework as a central reference for future advocacy;
- clarified priorities and responsibilities for the next steps and identified links with the International Year of Volunteers 2026.

**Voices for Change is an innovative first step that will lead to an ongoing process connecting research, arts, local action and advocacy within the IVS movement.**



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

# M.I.L.E.: Measuring Impact of Long-Term Engagement



**Lead Applicant:** CCIVS

**Project Partners:** ESTYES - Estonia, Egyesek - Hungary, GSM - Turkiye, SCI HELLAS - Greece, CISV Kenya, Solidarités Jeunesses - France, FSL - INDIA, SAVWA - South Africa, NVDA, PVN - Albania, BVBP - Peru, SCI - Germany, ICYE Federation, ZWA - Zimbabwe, WE COLLAB - Colombia.

The M.I.L.E. project—Measuring Impact of Long and Medium-Term (LMTV) Engagement—gives voice to volunteers, local communities, and organisations through in-depth interviews and field visits to better understand, improve, and valorise these specific practices of International Voluntary Service.

**Duration:** 2025

“

Since joining, I've noticed that many things I used to be afraid to do in school come more easily now. Even if I still have that voice in my head saying, "What if I mess up?", nothing bad ever happens (laughs). So, this really pushed me out of my comfort zone."  
(Local youth, Hungary)

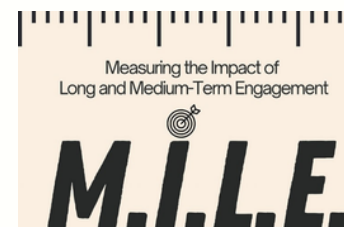
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Photo credit: Youth Committee



# About M.I.L.E.



## Project Approach

The one-year program focuses on critical aspects including decolonisation, inclusive narratives, and tools to measure LMTV impact, ensuring these programmes contribute meaningfully to personal growth, community empowerment, and social change.

A key aspect is the active engagement of youth in all research steps. Building on training provided in Bonn, Germany with SCI-D as hosts, the project engaged former volunteers and young activists in ideation, collection, and analysis of semi-structured interviews with key actors of LMTV projects.

## Key Findings

### Personal Growth & Community Transformation

Interviews revealed overwhelming testimonies of personal growth among volunteers and youth/community participants. More significantly, M.I.L.E. documented the catalyst role LMTV projects play in triggering meaningful youth work around volunteers' presence.

### Decolonisation as Global Education

Young participants and community members emphasised the importance of decolonised IVS as essential to global education.

## Research Scope

Supported by research expertise from network experts and CCIVS Youth Committee insights on IVS decolonising perspectives, 18 young participants autonomously developed three sets of guiding questions. They personally interviewed over 45 volunteers, hosts, and organisations, providing unique access to local insights in 18 different languages across 16 countries

## Youth Participation in Data Analysis

M.I.L.E. trainees directly participated in transforming field data into actionable evidence for improvement and advocacy. This participatory research co-creation and analysis with and by youth confirmed young participants' commitment to a decolonised IVS as a source of global education.

**“In Europe as a continent, I don't think we learn a lot about cultures and history from Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia. If we had volunteers from these regions, I believe we could learn more. I think it would help us realise there's a whole world outside with things going on that we're not aware of.” – International volunteer, Serbia**

# MILE & ICON Online Conference

## Research to Change: Decolonising Long-Term Volunteering through Youth-Led Impact Stories

Online (Zoom) – 16 December 2025

On 16 December 2025, CCIVS and partners held the MILE & ICON Online Conference “Research to Change: Decolonising Long-Term Volunteering through Youth-Led Impact Stories”. The 2.5-hour online event brought together youth researchers, long-term volunteers, host organisations and institutional actors to reflect on how Long and Medium-Term Volunteering (LMTV) can become more just, decolonial and impactful.

A key aspect is the active engagement of youth in all research steps. Building on training provided in Bonn, Germany with SCI- D as hosts, the project engaged former volunteers and young activists in ideation, collection, and analysis of semi-structured interviews with key actors of LMTV projects.

The conference formed part of the M.I.L.E. – Measuring Impact of Long and Medium-Term Engagement Work Plan, co-financed by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, and presented complementary results from the ICON project, co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. Together, the two projects explored impact measurement, narratives, communication and quality in international volunteering.

Impact research specialist Francesco Volpini then provided an overview of the MILE methodology and main findings, explaining how youth-led impact stories and the “Most Significant Change” approach were used to understand the effects of LMTV on volunteers and host communities, and how this work connects to previous impact initiatives in the IVS movement.

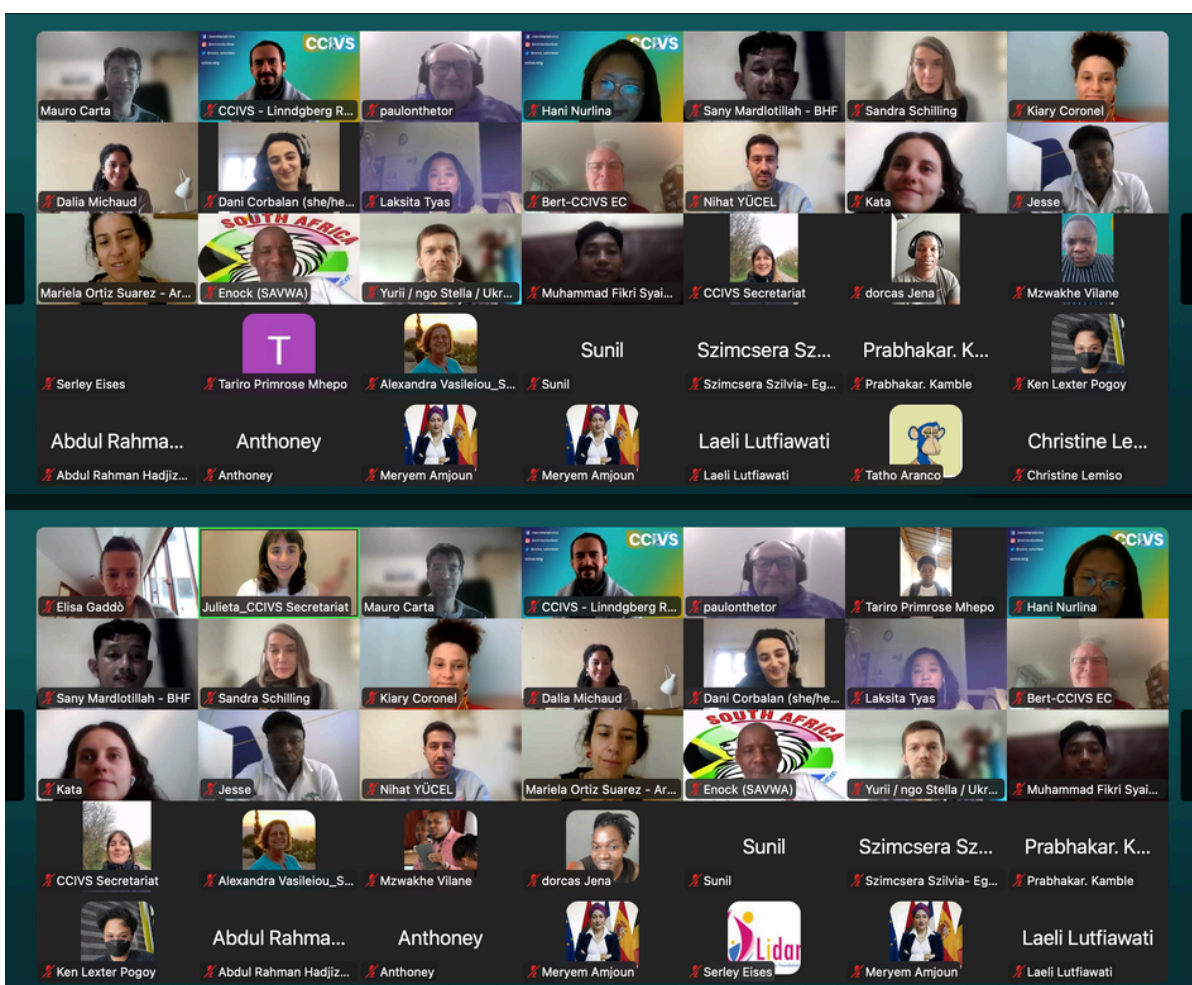
Two rounds of interactive breakout rooms were facilitated by youth researchers, volunteers and trainers. In the first round, Daniela Corbalán presented key learnings from the Bonn Training Course on impact measurement with a decolonial lens; Kiari (Colombia) and Tariro (Zimbabwe) shared youth-led research results from their regions; and Katalin Miklós (Egyesek, Hungary) led a space on stories from long-term volunteers and host communities, focusing on impact and power dynamics.

In the second round, Mauro Carta, non-formal education facilitator, guided a session on decolonising organisational procedures and project design in LMTV, looking at how everyday practices, partnerships and pedagogies can reproduce or challenge unequal power relations. Other rooms deepened specific country case studies and youth-led recommendations to institutions and funders, including contributions from Mzwakhe Vilane on expectations towards donors and policy-makers.

A round table on “Decolonisation, LMTV & Global Challenges” brought together two representatives of IVS organisations and one research guest. The discussion addressed what it means in practice to decolonise long and medium-term volunteering, how LMTV can contribute to climate and social justice, and which changes are needed in policy and funding frameworks to support community-led approaches.

In the closing segment, CCIVS presented the main findings from the MILE impact research and practical tools developed within MILE, alongside key ICON resources on narratives and visibility. The session highlighted how these tools can support youth work quality, advocacy on LMTV and efforts to decolonise organisational procedures. A final Q&A and short reflection round allowed participants to share what they would take back to their own contexts.

The conference recording and a digital report with key messages, quotes and tools is available on the CCIVS website and shared with partners, to support ongoing advocacy on decolonisation and the improvement of long-term volunteering practices.



[ccivs.org/mile/](https://ccivs.org/mile/)

# ReAct Now: Youth Empowerment for Social and Climate Justice



**Lead Applicant:** Legambiente - Italy  
**Partners:** CCIVS, Solidarités Jeunesses - France, IBG - Germany, PCMRD-Palestine, Baladna - Israel, Space for Sustainable Development - Jordan  
**Duration:** 2025-2026

ReAct Now! is rooted in the belief that addressing the climate crisis requires not only environmental action but also social justice and youth empowerment.

## Project Overview

The project gives young leaders of youth organisations from six countries—France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Jordan, and Palestine—the tools, skills, and networks needed to make tangible and lasting impact in their communities. By fostering mutual understanding among youth workers from different countries and backgrounds, ReAct Now! creates a shared space for collaboration and solidarity across borders.



Photo credit: Laura Rodriguez Quintairos



# Human Connection at the Heart

The impact has been deeply felt across the partnership and the communities reached. The project began with a dedicated kick-off meeting for project managers (16 participants), which served to align the partner organisations on the workplan, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish common agreements for implementation and coordination. This initial step created a solid operational basis and a shared understanding of the project's objectives and standards.

From the beginning, human connection and collective learning have been central to ReAct Now!. During the first Training for Trainers (24 youth leaders), participants explored how climate justice intersects with human rights, while strengthening their ability to use non-formal education and informal methodologies as practical tools for youth engagement. The training directly contributed to two core results: improving the competences of youth associations in facilitation and participatory learning, and increasing their capacities to engage young people on climate justice and human rights through accessible, youth-led approaches. Sessions regularly ended with structured brainstorming moments where participants identified concrete ideas for community-level change, reinforcing a shared sense of responsibility and optimism—recognising that collective action, even at small scale, can ripple outward.

By October 2025, ReAct Now! had progressed from capacity-building into tangible implementation. Youth leaders from five partner organisations (Solidarités Jeunesses, PCMRD, Legambiente, Space SD and IBG) delivered the first wave of local trainings and awareness actions in diverse formats—community and university workshops, civil-society sessions, workcamp and youth exchange activities, and regional youth climate meeting workshops. In this first implementation phase, at least 22 activities with reported attendance were carried out, reaching a minimum of 319 participants, with one additional activity cancelled at the last minute due to facilitator unavailability. Participation was recorded across partners as follows: IBG (79 participants), Space SD (77), PCMRD (63), Solidarités Jeunesses (58), and Legambiente (42), with further sessions planned (including school and university workshops) but not yet fully quantified in the reporting file. Qualitative feedback consistently indicates that the project is achieving its intended results: youth leaders applied non-formal education tools effectively (e.g., privilege walk, problem tree, storytelling and facilitated debate), participants demonstrated high engagement and increased understanding of climate justice as a human rights issue, and several groups explicitly requested clearer follow-up actions—providing actionable learning for the next implementation phase to strengthen practical pathways from awareness to local initiatives.



Photo credit: Laura Rodriguez Quintairos

# Youth Empowerment for Climate Action: Bridging Global Perspectives



**Date:** 14-18 December 2024

**Location:** Paris, France

**Supported by:** UNESCO Participation Programme

In December 2024, the CCIVS Youth Committee held its first in-person meeting in Paris through the seminar “Youth Empowerment for Climate Action: Bridging Global Perspectives through International Engagement.” This milestone gathering brought together young activists from across continents who had previously collaborated only online.

## Strengthening Youth Climate Activism

The seminar aimed to strengthen youth activism in addressing climate change through international volunteering and advocacy. Participants explored the IVS movement’s role in climate justice, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and achieving SDG 13, while examining intersections between climate crisis, democracy, gender inequality, decolonial approaches, and social inclusion.

## UNESCO Engagement

Youth Committee members met with UNESCO representatives to discuss Global AI Ethics, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and pressing issues in Africa.

The group participated in the International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) organised by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. During the conference, Youth Committee members contributed to the Collective Contribution of NGOs to the preparation of the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5), adding crucial points on Youth and Global Priority Africa. This experience deepened their understanding of UNESCO processes and created pathways for continued Youth Committee engagement with UNESCO activities.



## Building Capacity

Through workshops and policy analysis, participants examined CCIVS advocacy tools, EU Youth Goals, the European Green Deal, and UN frameworks. They developed advocacy skills, crafted social media campaigns extending through Earth Day 2025, and created strategies to ensure inclusion and diversity in international volunteering.

## Impact

This experience deepened the Youth Committee's understanding of global youth engagement and climate action while establishing foundations for continued UNESCO collaboration. The connections and knowledge gained fed directly into subsequent 2025 initiatives, including the Living Earth Campaign and Earth Day webinars, transforming the Youth Committee into a cohesive force for climate justice within the IVS movement.

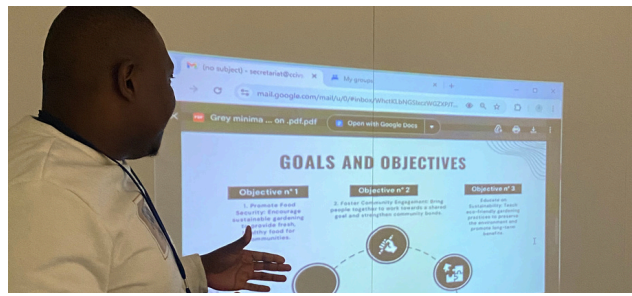
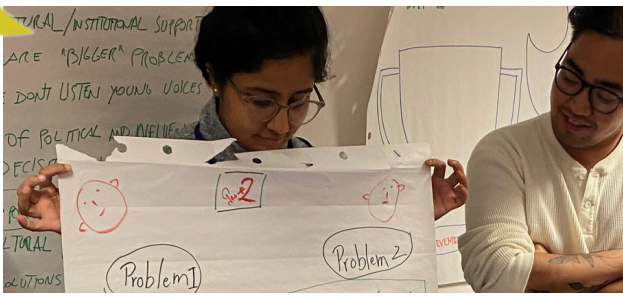


Photo credit: CCIVS

With the support of the  
UNESCO Participation Programme

# 03

## CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY



**LIVE**  
Living Earth campaign

### Living Earth Campaign

The Living Earth Campaign, coordinated by CCIVS, evolved through 2024 and 2025 as a global movement linking volunteering, ecological restoration, and climate justice. It connects IVS member organisations worldwide, amplifying their restoration projects and reinforcing IVS contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Ocean Decade.

#### Campaign Evolution

Throughout 2024, CCIVS members joined the Living Earth Working Group to exchange practices on restoration and advocacy.

By end of year, the campaign entered a new phase—expanding storytelling, podcasts, and visuals while preparing 2025 actions running from December through Earth Day.



Photo credit: SAVWA

## LIVE Podcast

A special part of the campaign has been the LIVE Podcast, where members share experiences in their own words—challenges, successes, and everything in between. The podcasts have made the campaign more personal, turning stories into connections that resonate across the network. Featured episodes include:

- Youth Rising: Mozambique’s Coastal Fight Against Climate Change with Permaculture Power (Adil from AJOV, Mozambique)
- Stories from Beach to the Cloud Forest (Mariel from ACI, Costa Rica)

## Earth Day Webinar (April 2025)

**Title:** “United for Earth: Embracing Our Role in Climate Justice“

**Co-organised by:** CCIVS Youth Committee

The event created an inclusive space where people from diverse backgrounds could engage, reflect, and take action on climate justice—reaffirming shared responsibility and deep interconnectedness with nature.

Alongside the webinar, the Youth Committee published a special newsletter edition and social media campaign on wetlands protection, featuring an inspiring conversation with Dr. Taej Mundkur, global expert in wetland conservation. His reflections encouraged understanding rivers and lakes as living systems that must be cared for and preserved in their natural state.



# LIVE

Living Earth campaign

## 2025 Campaign Momentum

2025 was a year of sustained action for the Living Earth Campaign, featuring 42 restoration and ecological member projects showcased across regions. The following are some examples of the diversity of the projects and organisations:

- Wake Up the Earth (VFP, USA)
- Eco-Cultural Camp (GIED, Philippines)
- Kakamega Natural Forest Project (KVSO, Kenya)
- Hands in Land Workcamp (FSL, India)
- Restore the Moor! Hands-On Climate Action (SCI Germany, Germany)

## Online Information Session

CCIVS launched its first online information session to promote the member projects above. This session spotlighted local restoration efforts and inspired stronger collaboration within the network, raising awareness that everyone can participate in this campaign through International Voluntary Service projects.

**[Click to see the Projects Promoted in 2025 \(Overview\)](#)**





**LIVE**  
Living Earth campaign

## Looking Ahead

The Living Earth Campaign will continue growing as a space for people to connect, learn, and take action together—encouraging members and young people everywhere to play their part in creating a healthier planet and better future.

## Resources

- Listen to the LIVE Podcast Series [here](#) or the latest podcast [here](#)
- Watch the Earth Day Webinar on our YouTube Channel [here](#)
- Read the newsletter about wetlands [here](#)
- Read the website: <https://ccivs.org/livingearth/>



Photo credit: VAP UK

# Palestine Solidarity Working Group



The Palestine Solidarity Working Group established by CCIVS holds profound personal and national importance. Our nation, going through an unprecedented genocide and enforced extraction by occupation forces, is in dire need of this solidarity initiative. What is happening in Palestine will not be stopped without international solidarity and support and pressure against the occupation.

Such initiatives are at the heart of the IVS movement, and we must act to support Palestinians in their seek for peace and freedoms while ensuring those responsible for war crimes are brought to justice. We need to stand beside each other to protect rights to struggle against oppression. We stand together against these unprecedented injustices.

Adli Daana - IPYL Palestine

## At a Glance January 2024 - December 2025

The PSWG coordinates the IVS movement's response with Palestinian members and partners, combining care for colleagues on the ground, clear public positioning, and practical solidarity.

## Key Achievements

- 13 online coordination meetings to share updates, map needs, and agree actions
- 4 public statements issued and widely shared across CCIVS channels
- Weekly social posts amplifying partners, testimonies, calls to action, and PSWG materials
- New online hub launched on PSWG webpage with action guide and curated links
- 1 open online conference with ~80 participants
- CCIVS General Assembly dedication to the people of Palestine
- Resource Hub: [ccivs.org/peace-messengers/palestine-solidarity/](https://ccivs.org/peace-messengers/palestine-solidarity/)

## Palestine Online Conference: Standing in Solidarity Against Racism and Oppression



**Date:** 17 July 2024

**Co-hosted by:** CCIVS and SCI

The online conference brought together more than 80 activists, academics, and volunteers to address apartheid, genocide, and systemic racism faced by Palestinians—and to chart concrete paths for international solidarity.

The event opened with a minute of silence led by CCIVS President Rutherford Mwaruta, followed by interventions connecting lived experience, policy, and action.

### Featured Speakers

- Dr. Husam S. Zomlot, Ambassador of Palestine to the UK – on global accountability and diplomacy
- Mona Shtaya, Digital Action – on digital repression and AI's role in silencing Palestinian voices
- Alaa Amro, SCI volunteer and researcher – on grassroots organising
- Adli Daana, Palestinian Centre for Media, Research and Development – on historical context and media narratives
- Sami Huraini, Youth of Sumud – on resilience and community defence
- Paul Winter, Volunteer Action for Peace UK – on how international volunteering fosters sustained solidarity

### Outcomes

Participants shared testimonies and identified actionable steps—from amplifying verified local reporting and safeguarding digital rights to strengthening IVS partnerships, advocacy, and material support for communities under attack.

### Follow-up Resources

Visit the PSWG Resources hub on the CCIVS website for practical actions and collaboration opportunities. <https://ccivs.org/peace-messengers/palestine-solidarity/>



Photo credit: CCIVS/SCI

# 04 BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

## Archives Working Group & Routes Less Seen Project



Photo credit: Youth Committee

In 2024, the CCIVS Archives Working Group continued exploring materials stored in UNESCO headquarters basement—cleaning and systematising more than 75 years of history. By 2025, while systematisation of archives in Paris continued, the vision of archives as living heritage—far more than “valuable documents to be systematised”—had truly taken shape.



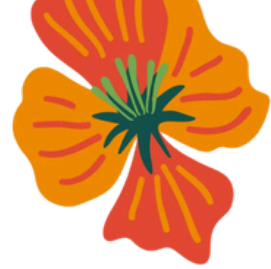
Photo credit: Gianni Orsini

A photo of the Team; Gianni Orsini, François Ribaud and Vicky Lovelock - hard at work planning.



Bert Verstappen - CCIVS General Secretary in the Archives

# The Memory Project: Consolidation & Ambition



The Memory Project was consolidated in 2025 in cooperation with Northumbria University, through a series of meetings involving university staff, the Archives Working Group and– from mid-2025 onwards–CCIVS members FSL India and national partners.

A key moment came in February, when a meeting in Paris enabled Northumbria University and CCIVS to strengthen ties and shape the Memory Project into the draft proposal *Routes Less Seen*, a three-year initiative to be submitted to funders by the end of the year. The project aims to combine physical archives with digital oral testimonies from diverse regions–initially Europe and Asia–creating a decolonised and genuinely global account of IVS. La Contemporaine (Bibliothèque de Nanterre) also joined the meeting. They have been supporting CCIVS with guidance on archiving methods and are being considered as a potential long-term home for the archives.

In April, the launch meeting of *Voices* provided an opportunity to meet FSL India in person and to strengthen cooperation around their role–and their partners’ roles–in the project. In total, eight meetings in 2025 helped build a stable team to lead the *Routes Less Seen – Memory Project*.

In June, CCIVS met with the French National Agency and referents from UNESCO’s Memory of the World programme to explore the possibility of registering the CCIVS archives within the programme. This would not only represent significant recognition of CCIVS’s work, but also highlight the essential contribution of IVS to sustainable peacebuilding, especially in today’s turbulent times.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a decisive year. If *Routes Less Seen* is approved, we will develop a comprehensive plan of action–from Memory to Impact–placing memory and IVS at the heart of sustainable development, both locally and globally.

“We need this. Our world is losing its sense of humanity. Too often, political leaders forget where we come from; collective memory is short. Words are twisted: what history once named clearly is now deliberately left unnamed. This cannot stand.

It is necessary–and urgent–to change it. We believe IVS is a powerful vector for this change.

We can. We must.”

(Gianni Orsini)

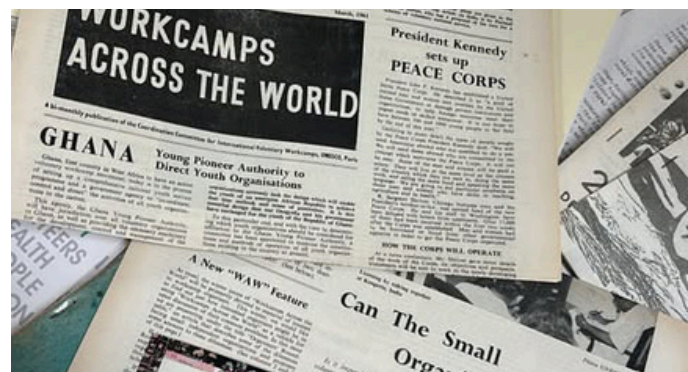


Photo credit: CCIVS

# Anticipating Futures of Volunteering: Insights from Budapest's Foresight Workshop

**Date:** February 2025

**Location:** European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary

**Co-organised by:** CCIVS, Alliance, ICYE, SCI

**Supported by:** Council of Europe



Photo credit: EYF-COE

## At a Glance

In February 2025, thirty young IVS practitioners gathered in Budapest to explore a pressing question: How can international voluntary service evolve and thrive in an increasingly complex world?

The study session addressed a concerning reality—volunteer participation has been declining across networks. Rather than treating this as a recruitment challenge, participants examined deeper shifts in youth engagement, civic participation, and international solidarity.

## Futures Thinking Methodology

Using the “Toolkit for Tomorrow: Anticipating Civil Society Futures,” participants learned to shift from reactive problem-solving to proactive anticipation. Through guided exercises, they explored how to apply foresight tools within their organisational contexts.

## Key Trends Shaping IVS by 2035

**“We should start planning based on future trends, not just current ones.” (Participant)**

Participants identified two trends most likely to impact international voluntary service:

### Climate Injustice:

Environmental degradation will disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, altering who can participate in volunteering and potentially excluding those facing geographic, economic, or political barriers.

### Voluntourism Demands:

The commodification of volunteering as personal enrichment rather than solidarity rooted in social justice.

## Scenario Building

Participants explored four distinct futures for IVS by 2035, ranging from “Volun-Caring” to “Volun-Collapse.” The exercise prompted consideration of uncomfortable questions: What if IVS becomes overly commodified? What if climate change creates insurmountable barriers to cross-border volunteering? What if our networks fail to adapt?

## Commitments

Participants identified concrete commitments including building educational and humanitarian partnerships, learning from grassroots movements, supporting social entrepreneurship, decentralising networks, promoting sustainable travel, strengthening local infrastructure, increasing advocacy, diversifying funding, and experimenting with new formats.

IVS networks also committed to advocacy engagement. Two networks supported relevant motions at the European Youth Forum General Assembly in May 2025, and an SCI activist was elected to the Advisory Council on Youth (2026–2027).

## Resources

You can read the complete report of the Study Session here:

[Report Study Session](#)

Find the toolkit of the International Civil Society Centre:

<https://icscentre.org/knowledge-hub/toolkit-for-tomorrow-anticipating-civil-society-futures/>

## Action Proposals

Concrete proposals were put forward:

- Education partnerships introducing young people to volunteering earlier
- Educator training workshops on integrating IVS into formal education
- Local gender and climate-focused social entrepreneurship initiatives
- Annual international IVS fair connecting organisations, funders, and volunteers
- “Volunteers without Borders” promoting local volunteering within global solidarity networks
- Green travel campaign targeting 75% sustainable travel participation
- University partnerships for formal recognition of volunteering experience
- Study session on decentralising CCIVS governance structures

## Looking forward

As political theorist John Schaar observed: “The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating.” The Budapest study session affirmed that the future of IVS will be shaped by choices and actions we take today. CCIVS remains committed to facilitating ongoing dialogue, supporting implementation of proposed initiatives, and integrating futures thinking into how we collectively navigate the evolving landscape of international volunteering.



Photo credit: Council of Europe

## Decolonise Advocacy Working Group

The Decolonisation Working Group initially focused on preparing and submitting a re-application for the Deco 2 project. Although the application was not approved, the work undertaken during this phase strengthened shared analysis across participating networks and helped consolidate common advocacy priorities. Following this outcome, the group evolved into a broader advocacy-oriented working group, holding regular online meetings throughout the year with the participation of CCIVS IVS member networks (SCI, Alliance and ICYE). The group shifted its focus towards lobbying and strategic engagement in relation to the upcoming EU Youth programme, with particular attention to decolonial approaches, equitable funding for youth projects, and improved access for organisations and volunteers, including coordinated IVS contributions to the European Commission consultation process.

In parallel, CCIVS and partner networks implemented a structured social media advocacy campaign linked to lobbying efforts around the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The campaign consisted of a one-week coordinated action, including seven main posts and reels, complemented by story content and cross-posting by IVS member organisations. Content included an introductory explainer on the MFF, analysis of the European Commission's proposed structure for Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, short video testimonials from young people (including volunteers from non-EU countries), and a series of posts presenting seven joint advocacy demands. The campaign also featured a call to action encouraging young people to participate in the public consultation and to engage with younger and social-media-active MEPs through direct outreach and tagging. Overall, the campaign improved understanding of the implications of the MFF proposal, amplified IVS advocacy positions, and contributed to youth-led mobilisation on the future of EU youth and volunteering programmes.

## UNESCO Working Group

The UNESCO Working Group met online in 2025, the group made up of 7 people were informed about CCIVS historical role within UNESCO and recent projects.

Through 2025 the relationship was developed with UNESCO Green Citizens campaign. And CCIVS actively promoted the campaign to CCIVS members.

Discussions took place about potential collaboration with CCIVS Living Earth Campaign but funding restraints on UNESCO side did not allow for the project to develop.

In addition, the group provided feedback on the Volunteer Rights Framework for the IVS movement and supported the development of the Advocacy Roadmap that accompanies the Volunteer Rights Framework.

# 05 ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH

## External Activities & Engagements

### NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee 2024-2025

CCIVS actively participated in forums and initiatives led by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, which bridges civil society voices with UNESCO's strategies and programmes.

#### Key Participation (2024-2025)

- 15th International Forum of NGOs: Transforming Mentalities (January 2024) – Hani Nurlina spoke on the Youth Panel: Building a More Positive Future
- 16th International Forum of NGOs: Sustainable Cultures (April 2024)
- International Conference of NGOs: Building Capacity for Action (December 2024)
- Brainstorming Session: Greening Education Partnership (September 2025)



Photo credit: CCIVS Secretariat



## Volunteer Groups Alliance

Throughout 2024 and 2025, Luz Gutiérrez CCIVS Vice President for the Americas, actively participated in the Volunteer Groups Alliance (VGA), a global coalition of over 100 organisations operating in 150+ countries, dedicated to advancing sustainable development through volunteering.

Founded in 2013 with UN Volunteers (UNV), VGA advocates for recognising volunteers’ critical roles in achieving the SDGs. Its membership includes international cooperation agencies, NGOs, and domestic organisations representing diverse volunteer models.

### VGA’s Vision (Decade of Action 2020-2030)

A world where volunteers are central to development through:

- Generating evidence to inform national and UN processes
- Creating dialogue spaces to amplify volunteer voices
- Strengthening cross-sector partnerships

### CCIVS Contribution

- Participating in monthly coordination meetings
- Communicating updates to IVS member organisations
- Providing project inputs and expertise

Through VGA, CCIVS connects global volunteer efforts, amplifies their impact in SDG processes, and gains recognition within the UN system.

## International Volunteers Cooperation Organisations (IVCO) 2025

**Date:** 14–18 September 2025

**Location:** Siem Reap, Cambodia

**Hosted by:** Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) and Forum

**Theme:** “Strengthening Civil Society in Challenging Times”

The annual IVCO conference brings together leaders, activists, and volunteers from international volunteering organisations worldwide to exchange ideas, explore innovative practices, and shape sector-wide policies and advocacy.

CCIVS presented in a breakout session titled “Supporting Volunteers to Access Their Work – Responding to Limits on Visas, Work Permits, and Other Barriers for International Volunteers.” Hani Nurlina, shared insights from the Decolonising Visa Mechanism policy paper, part of the Decolonise IVS! advocacy efforts.

The session sparked critical dialogue on neo-colonial structures and collective pathways toward change.

Visa barriers for international volunteers continue to worsen as governments implement stricter policies without practical solutions for volunteer exchange programmes. As keynote speaker Reylynn Dela Paz from CIVICUS reminded participants:

“To make a change is like running an ultramarathon.”

This reflection underscores that while change can be exhausting, persistence remains essential in striving for better conditions in international voluntary service.

<https://ivcoforum.org/>



## UN Civil Society Conference 2024 in Nairobi

**Date:** 2024

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**CCIVS Representative:** Ratherford Mwaruta

For the first time in its history, the UN Civil Society Conference was hosted on African soil. This premier event brought together global civil society to provide preliminary discussions and data ahead of the Summit of the Future in September 2024 at UN Headquarters in New York.

### Key Focus Areas

The conference addressed critical gaps between current global challenges and existing governance systems, including:

- Backsliding on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation
- Climate disasters and environmental degradation
- Financial crises and inequality
- Food insecurity and poverty
- Digital transformation
- Global conflicts

### Conference Outcomes

Participants contributed to policy discussions on reforming world governance across climate, environment, social issues, digital transformation, trade, and the global financial architecture. The conference provided civil society with a platform to shape the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future and advocate for inclusion in the “Pact for the Future”—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvent global governance.

### CCIVS Participation

This conference offered CCIVS a unique opportunity to engage with global civil society players and advocate for common priorities to be reflected in the Pact for the Future, ensuring volunteering and youth-led action remain central to global development frameworks.

## Thriving Children and Youth Conference in Hong Kong

**Date:** 21–25 August 2025

**Location:** Hong Kong

**Organised by:** VolTra

**CCIVS Representative:** Daniela Corbalan, Daniel Mapatac (Youth Committee members)

The conference brought together children, youth, and adults for intergenerational co-creation around authentic intelligence in the age of AI. The Future Makers Forum provided a unique space to co-create visions for the future and showcase youth-led community projects.

Local young people presented initiatives on stage and through interactive stands, while international volunteers provided feedback and facilitated exchange. The group visited a YC Foundation youth center and collaborated with nearly 100 young people preparing to launch a social project in a rural village.

Discussions focused on sustainability, long-term vision, and community involvement. Daniela shared insights from the Decolonise Project, sparking engaging conversations between global and local perspectives strongly aligned with CCIVS values of youth empowerment, volunteering, and social action.



Photo credit: Daniela Corbalan

## Building Bridges, Creating Change Conference in Paris

**Conference:** “Building Bridges, Creating Change: The Power of Youth Volunteering”

**Location:** Paris

**CCIVS Representative:** Vicky Lovelock (Director)

**Hosted by:** SALTO European Solidarity Corps and Agence Erasmus+ France Jeunesse & Sport

CCIVS Director, Vicky Lovelock, served as rapporteur for the Green Volunteering working group and joined a panel discussion alongside Paolo Caridi (DG Climate Action, European Commission), Adélaïde Charlier (Founder, Youth for Climate Belgium), and Gianluca Spinaci (European Committee of the Regions). The IVS movement was well represented, with Alliance President Walter Reekers serving as rapporteur for the Solidarity group.

### Key Focus Areas

- EU volunteering’s role in strengthening communities and local resilience
- Policy developments shaping youth engagement
- Volunteering’s contribution to solidarity, sustainability, and inclusion

### CCIVS Outcomes

- Brought IVS perspectives into Green Volunteering discussions and final recommendations
- Highlighted member insights on climate action and youth leadership
- Strengthened partnerships with key policymakers for future collaboration.
- Promoted IVS Impact measurement and Civil Society expertise in this field.

### More information:

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/solidarity/volunteering/vol25/>



BUILDING BRIDGES, CREATING CHANGE:  
THE POWER OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

“

*We need to make more effort to highlight the results, to measure and communicate the impact effectively. Civil society organisations have been doing this work for years, long before the EU made it a priority - so let us recognise that, consult with them, and compile information about what has already been done.*

**VICKY LOVELOCK**

Coordinating Committee for  
International Voluntary Service



Photo credit: SALTO



BUILDING BRIDGES, CREATING CHANGE:  
THE POWER OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

“

*Volunteer service organisations are crucial for a successful implementation: matching volunteers with the right opportunities, to make connection to those who do not feel addressed. Mentors who support the growth of volunteers in terms of learning competencies and values play a mature role in the ESC. It is important to maximise the local impact of ESC through structural support and sustainable and flexible funding tailor-made to the volunteering sector.*

**WALTER REEKERS**

Alliance of European Voluntary  
Service Organisation



Photo credit: SALTO





## Global Call to Action for the Future of Volunteering

CCIVS provided targeted feedback to strengthen the Call to Action for the Future of Volunteering. Built from a global survey and national, regional and global dialogues across 2025, the Call to Action reflects the perspectives of volunteers, organisations, governments, and the private sector.

A central contribution from CCIVS was reinforcing the need for a decolonised volunteering environment that explicitly acknowledges power imbalances and prioritises mutuality, reciprocity, and locally grounded leadership. CCIVS stressed that this should be treated as a cross-cutting principle across all action areas—particularly Recognition, Support, and Safeguarding—rather than an optional or stand-alone theme.

CCIVS also recommended sharpening the narrative so volunteers are recognised not only as responders and community anchors, but as environmental actors—including contributors to biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration. This strengthens alignment with the climate and ecological imperatives already reflected in the wider evidence base informing the Call to Action.



Photo credit: IAVE

## World Peace Action Day 2025

Held on August 15th – the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII – this event focused on peace in Palestine and Myanmar. It was co-organized by NVDA, NICE (Japan), CCIVS, IPYL (Palestine), and GIVE (Myanmar).

Participants were encouraged to hold local peace discussions, post messages on a shared Padlet, and join a two-hour Zoom event. The online program featured talks from Hashizume Bun (atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima), Adli Daana (IPYL, Palestine), and Thazin Aung (GIVE, Myanmar), followed by a collaborative discussion on future actions.

The event was free and open to anyone worldwide.

# 06 YOUTH LEADING TOMORROW

## CCIVS Youth Committee in Action

Over the past two years, the Youth Committee (YC) has been a driving force in shaping CCIVS initiatives, creating space for youth empowerment and contributing to key discussions within the International Voluntary Service movement. The YC consists of 11 active members representing diverse regions and perspectives.

### Milestone Moments

In December 2024, the YC held its first in-person meeting in Paris during the UNESCO seminar “Youth Empowerment for Climate Action: Bridging Global Perspectives.” This gathering marked a turning point—members who had collaborated online finally met face-to-face, deepening connections and shaping concrete action plans for 2025.

During the meeting, YC members actively participated in the International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) and successfully advocated for crucial additions to the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2026–2029, including subtopics on Youth and Global Priority Africa.



Photo credit: CCIVS Secretariat

# Taith Project

WCIA, together with their youth group YCA and the CCIVS YC embarked on a joint project to engage more young people into climate and Peace building action. In 2025 they launched a survey to gain insights on what issues young people care about and what the obstacles for taking action are. The results of the survey will build the foundation to build a resources that will support young people in taking action.



Photo credit: Daniel Mapatac



## 2025 in Action

Building on the momentum from Paris, the YC transformed plans into concrete initiatives:

- **Earth Day webinar** “United for Earth: Embracing Our Role in Climate Justice“ (April 2025)
- **Living Earth Campaign** activities including social media campaigns, a special newsletter on wetlands, and a podcast series
- **Online workshops** through the ICON project, connecting young people worldwide
- **EU Youth Goals dialogues** creating meaningful spaces for exchange and best practices.

## Capacity Building & Representation

Throughout 2024-2025, YC members strengthened their skills through key training activities under the Decolonise! IVS project, including the Advocacy Laboratory in Brussels, Visual Storytelling Training in Vienna, and Tool Fair in Bulgaria.

They also participated in the IVS Study Session on “New Trends in International Voluntary Service“ in Budapest, exploring strategies for the movement’s future.

Beyond internal projects, the YC represented CCIVS at major international events: LevelUP 2024 in Brussels, IVCO 2024 in Newcastle, the Anna Lindh Forum 2025 themed “The Dialogue Effect – From Knowledge to Action.“ In November 2025, a YC member represented CCIVS at the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg under the theme “Democracy at Risk: How Can We Revive It?“

## Looking Ahead

The Youth Committee continues to demonstrate that young people are not just participants in the IVS movement– they are leaders, innovators, and changemakers shaping its future. Their work bridges local action with global advocacy, ensuring youth voices remain central to CCIVS’s mission.

*For detailed information about Youth Committee activities, outcomes, and individual member contributions, see the [full Youth Committee Report 2024-2025](#)*



Photo credit: Youth Committee

# 07 CCIVS 38TH GENERAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Pretoria, South Africa  
12–16 November 2025**

The 38th CCIVS General Conference and General Assembly (GC GA) took place in Pretoria, hosted by SAVWA (South Africa Volunteer Work Camp Association). Over 70 participants came together to review the past two years, take key governance decisions and shape the next steps for the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement. The meeting was dedicated to the People of Palestine and all those who resist colonialism, apartheid and genocide around the world.

The General Conference opened with a political framing on solidarity, peace and justice, followed by an overview of the programme and practical working agreements. The implementation of the 2024–2025 Plan of Action was presented along with important achievements over the last two years and an overview of the Strategic Plan, highlighting what remains to be completed and what is needed to do.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo





Project spotlights gave space to ongoing initiatives, including Voices for Change, TAITH, ICON, MILE, Routes Less Seen (archives and memory), the Living Earth Campaign, the Palestine Working Group and the Youth Committee. World Café discussions and regional groups fed into the future Strategic Plan (from 2028) and helped define regional priorities and collaboration ideas. A dedicated session on the draft Plan of Action 2026–2027 allowed members to identify realistic priorities and the Working Groups and organisations ready to take responsibility.

The General Assembly (15–16 November) approved the President’s, Executive Committee, Youth Committee, Activity, Treasurer’s and Internal Audit reports, as well as budgets for 2025–2027. It adopted changes to the Constitution, a revised membership fee model, updated internal regulations, new Youth Committee Guidelines, the Plan of Action 2026–2027, the IVS Exchange Guidelines, the Volunteer Rights Framework, the Political and Ethical Charter and a motion to establish a Working Group on gender-based violence prevention.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

Katalin Somlai was selected as Internal Auditor for 2025–2026. The General Assembly elected the following members to the Executive Committee:

- Dorcas Jena – South African Voluntary Workcamp Association (SAVWA)
- Bert Verstappen – Service Civil International (SCI)
- Veronika Markova – Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (Alliance)
- Luz Gutierrez – International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE)
- Daniela Corbalan – Fundación SES (Argentina)
- Richa Ghimire – Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN)

Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú (BVBP) was chosen to host the 2027 GC/GA, marking a return 61 years later, to South America following the 15th CCIVS GA taking place in Rosario, Argentina in 1966.

Participants warmly thanked the outgoing President Ratherford Mwaruta and outgoing Treasurer Cristiano Lam, together with the whole Executive Committee, for their work over the past mandate. The meetings closed with an evaluation that underlined networking, learning, intergenerational exchange and renewed commitment to a decolonial, just and resilient IVS movement.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

# 08 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

## Executive Committee (EC)

The CCIVS Executive Committee is made up of 6 representatives from CCIVS Member organisations including: **Ratherford Mwaruta - President**, Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA), Zimbabwe, **Dorcas Jena - Vice President for Africa**, South Africa Volunteer Workcamp Association (SAVVA), South Africa, **Bert Verstappen - General Secretary**, SCI International, **Luz Gutiérrez - Vice President for the Americas**, ICYE International, **Veronika Marková - Vice President for Europe and Mediterranean** Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations and **Cristiano Lam - Treasurer**, Macau New Chinese Youth Association (MNCYA), Macau.

The CCIVS **Internal Auditor is Katalin Somlai** - Finance and Organisational Development Expert. Nominated by SCI.



**Ratherford MWARUTA**

EC member, Zimbabwe Workcamps Association  
Ratherford joined Zimbabwe Workcamps Association soon after its inception in 1995... [Keep reading](#)



**Bert VERSTAPPEN**

Bert has been volunteering with voluntary service organisations and projects since 1977. He was a member of the International... [Keep reading](#)



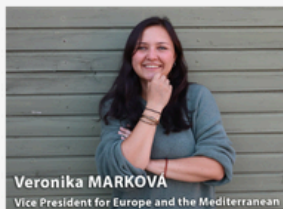
**Dorcas JENA**

Dorcas Jena is the co-founder and Project coordinator at South Africa Volunteer Workcamp Association (SAVVA). [Keep reading](#)



**Luz GUTIÉRREZ**

Luz Gutiérrez is a Sociologist with an M.S.c in International Development Studies. She is defined as having... [Keep reading](#)



**Veronika MARKOVÁ**

Veronika Marková has been involved in the IVS movement for more than 12 years. Initially as a volunteer before... [Keep reading](#)



**Cristiano LAM**

Cristiano LAM is currently the Vice President of the Advisory Board at the Macau New Chinese Youth Association (MNCYA), and also... [Keep reading](#)



# Secretariat

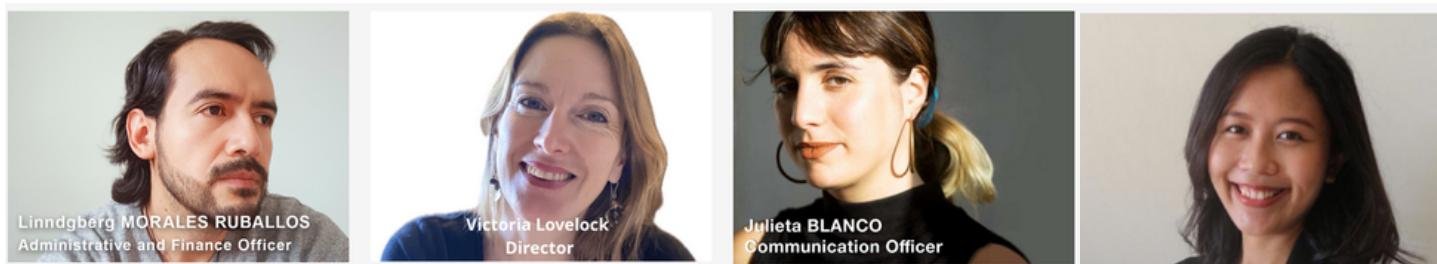
The 2024-2025 period marked continued intense activity for the CCIVS Secretariat team, managing website operations, project applications and reporting, working groups, membership relations, administration, and financial oversight.

The multicultural team ensures global engagement in all work—actively embodying the network’s values. This activity report reflects our collective efforts as we navigate civil society’s rapidly changing landscape, mindful of CCIVS’s critical role and carefully planning to remain relevant, ethical, political, and solvent for the future.

## The Team includes:

Julieta Blanco - CCIVS Communication Officer  
Linndberg Ruballos - Finances and Admin Officer  
Vicky Lovelock - CCIVS Director

With important Freelance Support by Hani Nurlina supporting the coordination of the Youth Committee



## Volunteers, Interns, and Freelancers

Between 2024 and 2025, CCIVS welcomed dedicated interns through the Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility for Learners and Staff in Vocational Education and Training programme. Josephine Prenzel, Paulina Deutschmann, and Samantha Vogt each made valuable contributions to the Secretariat’s daily work.

A diverse group of freelancers brought their skills and energy to CCIVS projects, providing support in administration, communication, research, and training: Ingrid Danckaerts, Anita Venanzi, Eduardo Javier Larios, Hani Nurlina, Katerina Stoyanova, Georgios Konstantinou, Natalie Jivkova, Katalin Somlai, Mauro Carta, Kate Curtis, Hamza Al-Shayeb, Mykola Skrypnik, and Francesco Volpini.

Their collaboration strengthened CCIVS’s capacity and impact throughout this period.



# Communication Impact 2024-2025

Over the past two years, CCIVS experienced remarkable growth in communication engagement. We developed consistent messaging across all projects and initiatives, giving every channel renewed purpose and visibility. This progress was made possible through dedicated teamwork—supported by partners, the Youth Committee, Chinmay Hebbar (April–July 2025), and since October 2025 by Krista and Nikkie from EstYES Estonia working alongside our Communication Officer.

**We steadily increased recognition and visibility of International Voluntary Service with a decolonial, community-based narrative, highlighting voices of solidarity—especially for members facing challenging political, economic, and ecological contexts.**

- 250,000+ people reached (+642%)
- 100% organic growth, zero paid ads
- 252,132 total views across platforms
- 30+ countries engaged through campaigns

## Newsletters & Updates

- 9 external newsletters shared with members, partners, and youth activists
- 80 weekly internal newsletters keeping members engaged and updated

## Content & Engagement

- 300+ social media posts combining institutional updates, advocacy messaging, and youth-led storytelling
- 8 Living Earth Campaign podcast episodes
- “Echoes of Nature“ music video and youth content from Voices for Change released

## Global audience



### INSTAGRAM

Total Audience

**3155**

Predominantly 18–34 years old (59% women), with strong engagement from Indonesia, Turkey, Kenya, Tanzania, France, and Italy.

### FACEBOOK

Total Audience

**9682**

Followers connecting long-standing members and partners. Primarily 25–44 years old, with participation from Italy, France, Mexico, Spain, and Germany.



**Geographic Reach: 30+ countries across five continents—showing that communication builds not only reach but solidarity, trust, and belonging.**

## Diverse Voices and Shared Stories

CCIVS built a rich communication landscape connecting youth, volunteers, and partners across regions:

**LIVE-Ex Virtual Dialogues** explored climate justice themes including “Climate Change & Colonialism,” “Preservation of Wetlands,” and “Nutrition and Climate Change.”

**Youth Series** aligned with EU Youth Goals hosted discussions on activism, well-being, mental health, and gender equality in volunteering.

**Living Earth Podcast** featured voices from Costa Rica (Mariel, ACI), South Africa (Mzwakhe Vilane, SAVWA), Zimbabwe (Ian Tawanda, ZWA), Mozambique (Adil Litos, AJOV), and India (Raksha Shenoy, FSL) on environmental initiatives and community resilience.

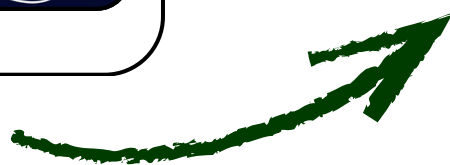
**Voices for Change** brought music into advocacy. Young artists from four continents co-created “Echoes of Nature”—released as a music video on YouTube and audio track on SoundCloud—celebrating Ubuntu and the connection between art, environment, and justice.

**These diverse formats—webinars, podcasts, videos, songs, and campaigns—demonstrate that CCIVS communication goes beyond sharing information. It recognizes and celebrates the many voices moving together as one community, with collaboration, creativity, and innovation at its heart.**

### Top Engagement Content



**Top Engagement Content shows the posts people interacted with the most—likes, comments, shares, saves, clicks, and watch time. It helps us see what truly resonated so we can make more of what works. Click to view them!**



# Financial Overview

CCIVS has maintained positive financial results year after year for over a decade.

Both 2023 and 2024 closed with positive balances, further strengthening CCIVS's financial foundation.

## Building Reserves

Strong financial results in 2023 and 2024 enabled CCIVS to increase reserves and safeguard against potential risks. These outcomes reflect careful financial management and commitment to long-term stability.

CCIVS now stands on firmer ground with means to invest in future sustainability. The coming years focus on maintaining this discipline while continuing to grow reserves that ensure organisational independence and resilience.

## Income Sources

**Several factors contribute to this stability:**

**Funded projects:** The Secretariat manages and participates in numerous projects covering administrative and staff costs, both as lead and partner in international consortia.

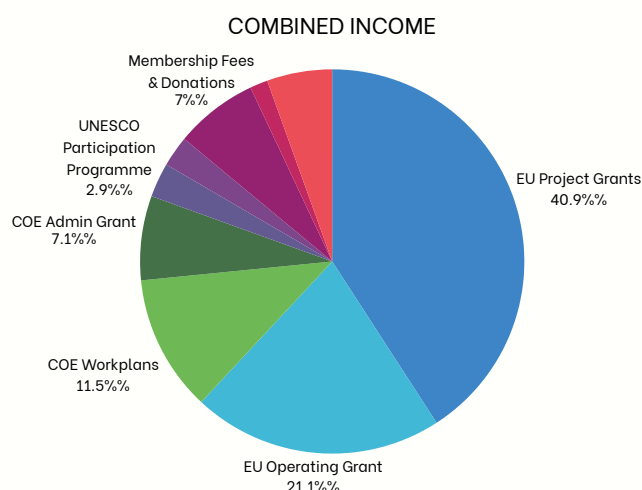
**Structural grants:** EU and Council of Europe grants remain central income pillars, with the EU grant seeing significant increases in recent years

**Additional funding:** Membership fees, donations, and contributions from UNESCO and other partners complement the budget.

# FINANCES 2023 & 2024

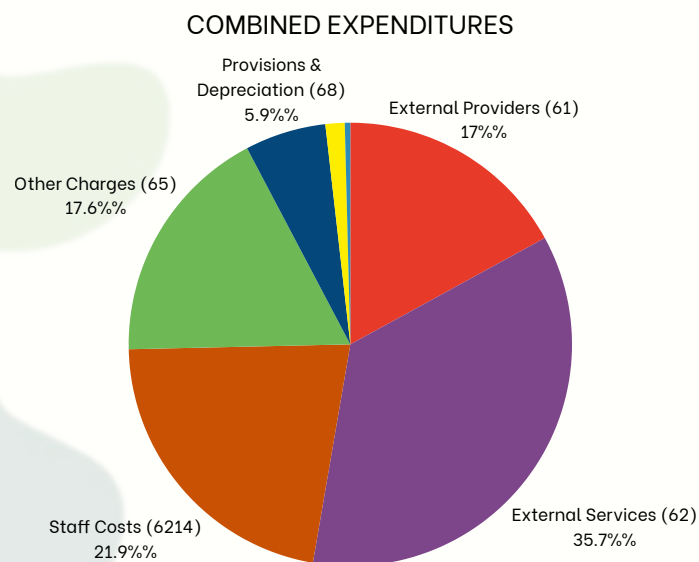
## INCOME

Source	2023 (€)	2024 (€)
EU Projects Grants	268,844	117,895
EU Operating Grant	100,000	100,000
COE Workplans	49,001	59,961
COE Admin Grant	30,000	37,020
UNESCO	13,006	14,145
Other Grants	24,311	-
Memberships & Donations	30,062	36,059
Services & Participation Fees	11,824	2,711
Reversals & Exceptional Income	15,587	36,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>542,635</b>	<b>403,791</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Category	2023 (€)	2024 (€)
External Providers (61)	77,656	63,211
External Services (62)	163,304	131,189
Staff Costs (6214)	79,874	100,822
Other Charges (65)	106,752	38,988
Provisions & Depreciation (68)	44,808	4,337
Exceptional Expenses (67)	9,860	2,077
Purchases (60)	829	2,551
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>483,083</b>	<b>343,174</b>



## RESERVES

Year	Amount
2023 Closing	126,699
2024 Closing	187,303

# Closing

The last two years at CCIVS have been profoundly shaped by world events. During this period, we have witnessed the live broadcast of genocide against the Palestinian people. This reality deeply affects all of us in CCIVS. Many of us have volunteered in Palestine and have friends there, including within two of our member organisations, with whom we try continue to work and support however possible—in what is obviously too small a way—but the only way we could think of, by offering the solidarity that the network could provide. A deep scar remains, the horrors continue, and the fall out will be forever more. CCIVS is a peace network and stands for peace worldwide—against all forms of warfare and oppression. We stand in solidarity not only with the people of Palestine but with all those in conflict zones and those facing persecution and daily trauma.

This year we dedicate our General Conference and our General Assembly to the People of Palestine—and to All Who Resist Colonialism, Apartheid, and Genocide. We also propose our first Political and Ethical Charter as a guiding document for our network, remembering that:

“The motivation of a volunteer cannot be based solely on willingness to serve, but rather must engage with the social, economic, and political realities shaping their environment...

Volunteering is a lifelong process. Volunteers should act as agents of change, promoting justice by helping to meet immediate needs while also confronting systemic injustice and exploitation.”

We are reminded that volunteering cannot be neutral. As we move forward to close our Strategic Plan over the next two years, we must continue adapting as a robust and resilient network. I believe we are becoming very clear about how to take these steps, and that together we can ensure the network remains relevant for all our members and for the thousands of volunteers around the world engaged in meaningful grassroots projects. IVS will always be relevant, because volunteering has always existed. It is part of our societies’ liberation as we move forward together, guided by a decolonised approach and a shared vision.

**Victoria Lovelock**

CCIVS Director



# Annex

## Clarification on Activities Implemented and Adaptations in 2025

### 1. Purpose of this Annex

This annex is submitted to complement the 2025 Administrative Grant Activity Report.

Its purpose is to:

- clarify the status of a limited number of activities foreseen in the Administrative Grant application;
- explain adaptations, postponements, or alternative implementation formats during 2025;
- confirm overall coherence between the approved work plan and the activities actually carried out, in line with the nature of an operating (administrative) grant.

This annex does not constitute a full project report and should be read together with the main Activity Report.

## Network and Platform Coordination Activities

### GMIVS (Global Movement for International Voluntary Service)

Status: It was decided to study the need for the continuation of this meeting, taking into account the inclusion of network representatives in the CCIVS Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee and the CCIVS General Assembly decided that there is no further need for GMIVS meetings taking into account the composition of the CCIVS Executive Committee.

### GLMTV (Global Long- and Mid-Term Volunteering)

Status: Partially implemented (online)

- Exchanges on long- and mid-term volunteering took place through:
  - online meetings;
  - thematic discussions linked to the MILE & ICON projects.

Clarification:

The in-person GLMTV meeting foreseen in the application was postponed, with its objectives partially fulfilled through online formats and project-linked discussions. This adaptation reflects responsible budget management and does not reduce the substantive engagement of members.

# Annex

## Thematic Working Groups

Status: Funding Equity group did not take place.

Clarification:

The Funding Equity Working Group did not manage to find a date to meet and lacked a strong coordinator. In the GA 2025 there were no members that wished to ensure the continuation of this working group and it was removed from the Plan of Action for 2026.

## External Representation Activities

### Conferences and Global Events

Status: IAVE World Conference did not take place in 2025

Clarification:

There was no planned conference in 2025, CCIVS engaged in other fora.

## Projects

ARTivism – Youth Empowerment to Counter Hate Speech. Coordinated by Cantiere Giovani (Italy), CCIVS is a partner.

Status: This project was not approved.

Strengthening International Voluntary Service (IVS): Certification of Volunteer Skills and Advocacy for Recognition and Mobility

Status: The project was approved but activities will start in January 2026 due to funding deadlines and approvals process.

## Living Earth Podcast

Status: Partially implemented.

- The Living Earth Podcast was implemented through:
  - three podcast episodes released in 2025 (January, April, July);
  - online coordination and outreach with potential guest speakers.

Clarification:

While four podcast episodes published quarterly were initially foreseen, only three were implemented in 2025. The final episode could not be produced due to challenges in aligning schedules with potential guest speakers. The activity is therefore ongoing, and it remains in the process of identifying and confirming a suitable speaker to complete the remaining episode.

# Acknowledgements

## THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS:

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CCIVS gratefully acknowledges the support of its institutional partners and funders whose collaboration has made the activities of 2024–2025 possible.

In particular, the organisation extends its appreciation to the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) – Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Aid Volunteers (Unit A.5); the Council of Europe – European Youth Foundation; and UNESCO for the continued support of the Participation Programme.**

Their sustained trust and partnership continue to strengthen CCIVS's capacity to serve the International Voluntary Service movement and advance youth engagement worldwide.

With the support of the  
UNESCO Participation Programme



Co-funded by  
the European Union

