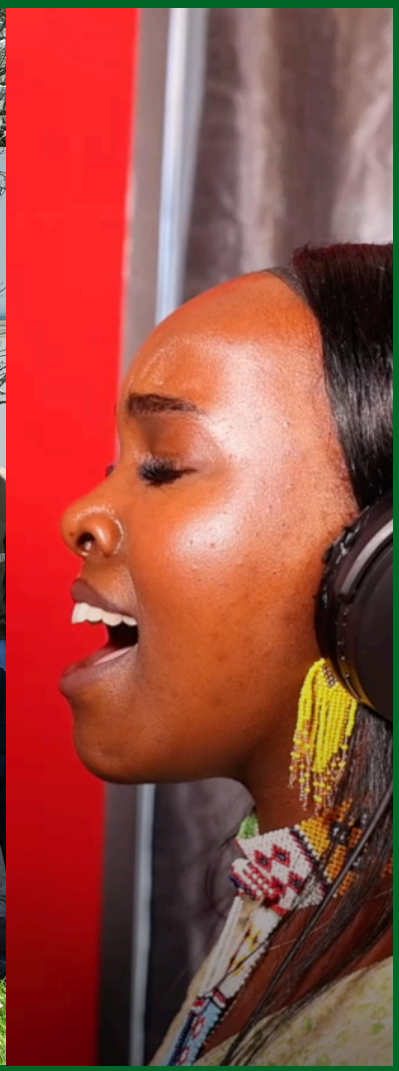
CCIVS Activity Report 2024 2025





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

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

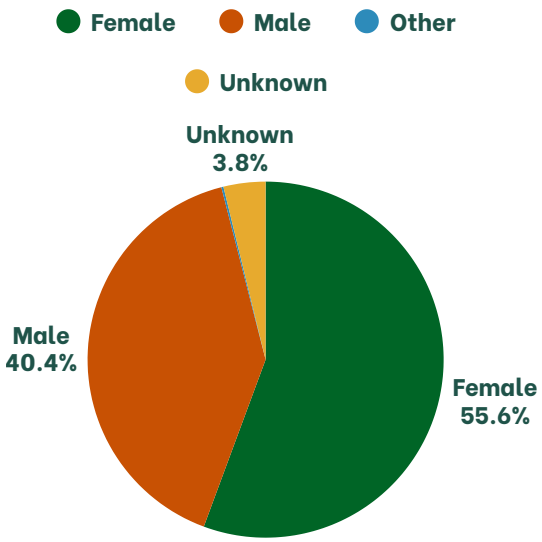

168 in AFRICA


6,144 in EUROPE

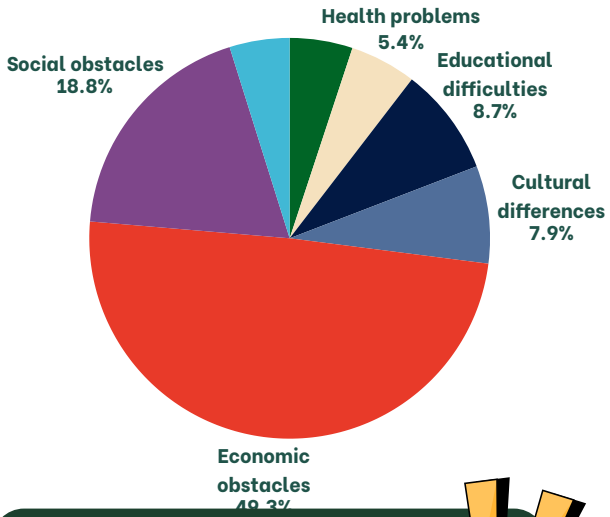

203 in AMERICAS


916 in ASIA-PACIFIC

BASED ON GENDER



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





Photo credit: Raksha Shenoy

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)

Find all the resources here:

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

Coordinating Partners

Partners

Associated Partners

Co-funded by the European Union

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

https://ccivs.org/icon/

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.

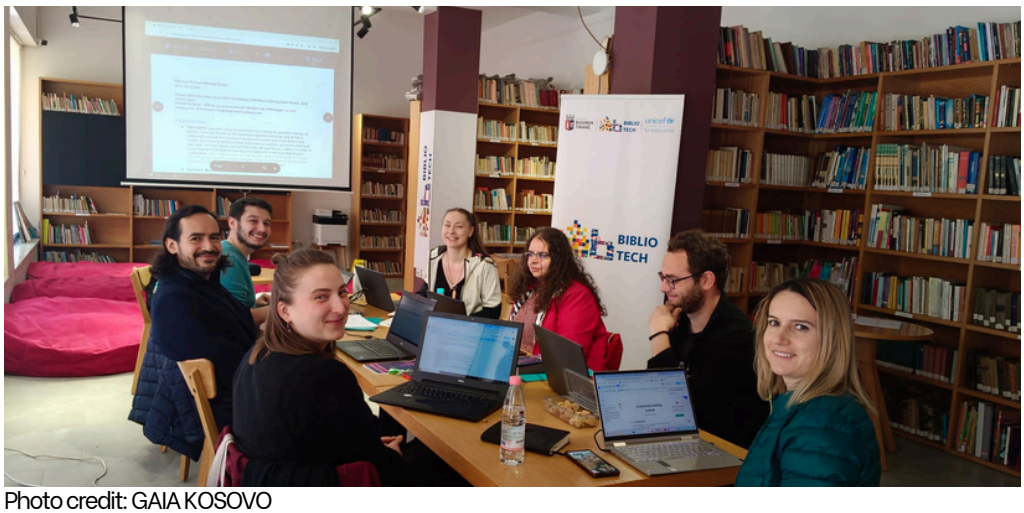


Photo credit: GAIA KOSOVO

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

MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING
FOR A DECOLONIAL 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

ccivs.org/voices-for-change/

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.

Earth Artivist Training and Songwriting Workshop

Date: June 2025
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Hosted by: KVSO 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 Artivists Toolkit for partners to use in bringing artistic methods into their local work.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

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"

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 (KVSO)

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 artivism
- 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 Artivists Training, and Local Actions while featuring the "Echoes of Nature" song and short films.



Photo credit: Sydney Odhiambo

Continuation into 2026

The project continues through 2026, focusing on policy dissemination, advocacy, and long-term sustainability.

MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING
FOR A DECOLONIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AGENDA

January-May 2026

- Partners will refine and validate policy outcomes, holding a Partnership meeting in Palestine to prepare communication materials and the Empower EU Online Summit.

June- August 2026

- Partners will run local level advocacy actions to promote the outcomes of the project.

September 2026

- "Amplifying Voices for Inclusion, Diversity, and Climate Justice" EmpowerEU summit will bring together EU and UN representatives, youth organisations, and IVS partners to present the Change Capsule: a multimedia collection of stories, impact data, the "Echoes of Nature" song, videos, and final advocacy proposals.

Beyond 2026

The network aims to embed the Voices for Change methodology across IVS activities—linking art, volunteering, and policy advocacy as lasting practice. This work will contribute to CCIVS's wider strategy for the International Year of Volunteering for Sustainable Development and reinforce youth-led, community-based approaches to global environmental justice.



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.
Duration: 2025

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.

> “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)





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.

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.

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.

"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

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

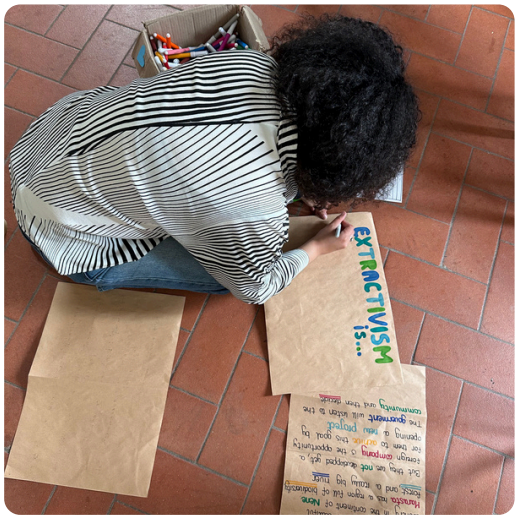
ReAct Now! is rooted in the belief that addressing the climate crisis requires not only environmental action but also social justice and youth empowerment.



Photo credit: Laura Rodriguez Quintairos

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.





Human Connection at the Heart

Local Implementation & Community Response

The project has entered its implementation phase. Youth leaders are implementing local initiatives, engaging young people on issues of climate justice, and linking global narratives to local realities. They are exploring the interconnectedness of topics such as extractivism, water, and fast fashion, reflecting on how unequal access to resources makes some communities far more vulnerable to the climate crisis.

The impact has been deeply felt. Many communities involved have expressed desire to continue collaborating and participate in future volunteer association activities. Sessions ended with brainstorming moments where participants shared ideas for bringing about concrete, community-level change. What emerged was a sense of shared responsibility and optimism—understanding that collective action, even at small scale, can ripple outward.

From the beginning, human connection has been central to the project. During the first Training for Trainers, participants explored how climate justice intersects with human rights and how non-formal education becomes a powerful tool for engaging young people in these discussions.

Talking about climate justice within different communities made the issue feel closer and more urgent, helping participants understand how effects of the climate crisis are distributed unequally and why global cooperation is essential.

Next steps

The next step will be a study visit: a crucial moment for youth leaders to reconnect, exchange experiences, and witness firsthand the situation in Palestine. This visit will deepen understanding of how environmental and social injustices overlap, strengthening commitment to advocate for peace and justice in all forms.

ReAct Now! continues to grow as a movement of young changemakers who believe that a just and sustainable future is only possible through empathy, cooperation, and action.



Photo credit: Laura Rodriguez Quintairos

Co-funded by the European Union

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.





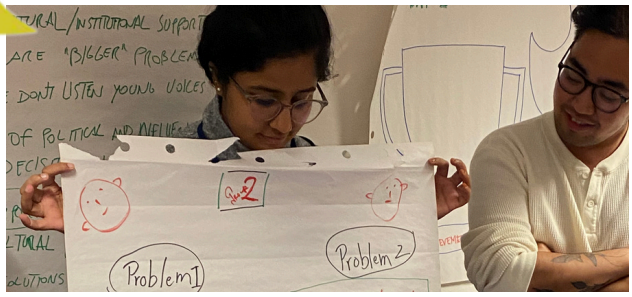
Photo credit: CCIVS

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.



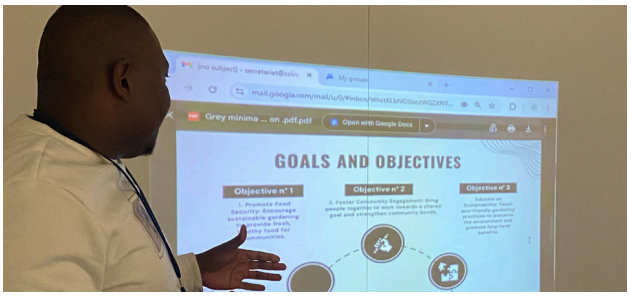




Photo credit: CCIVS

With the support of the
UNESCO Participation Programme

LIVE
Living Earth campaign

03 CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

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.



Photo credit: NICE JAPAN

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/

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 Ratherford 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



Photo credit: EYF-COE

Date: February 2025
Location: European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary
Co-organised by: CCIVS, Alliance, ICYE, SCI
Supported by: Council of Europe

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

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.

Find the toolkit of the International Civil Society Centre:
https://icscentre.org/knowledge-hub/toolkit-for-tomorrow-anticipating-civil-society-futures/



Photo credit: Council of Europe

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 Reylynne 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/



Photo credit: SALTO



Photo credit: SALTO

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

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



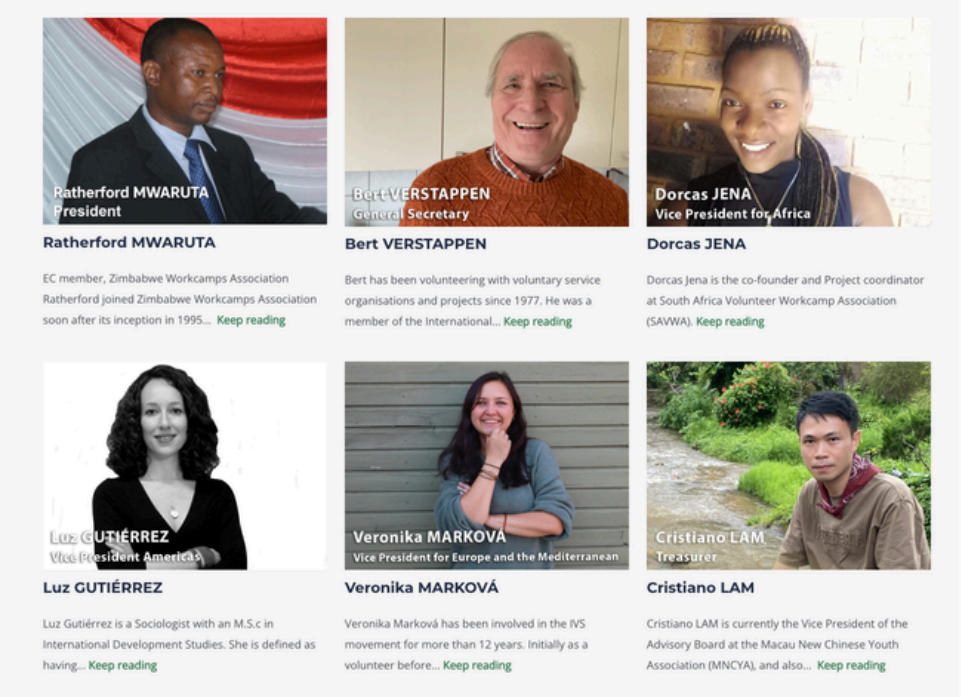
Photo credit: Youth Committee

07 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 (SAVWA), 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.



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.

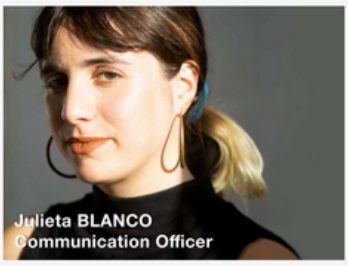
The Team includes:

Julieta Blanco - CCIVS Communication Officer
Linndgberg 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.

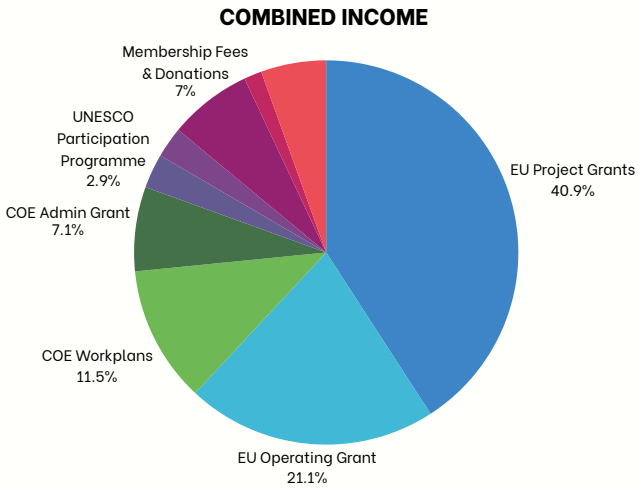
Structural grants: EU and Council of Europe grants remain central income pillars, with the EU grant seeing significant increases in recent years

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

FINANCES 2023 & 2024

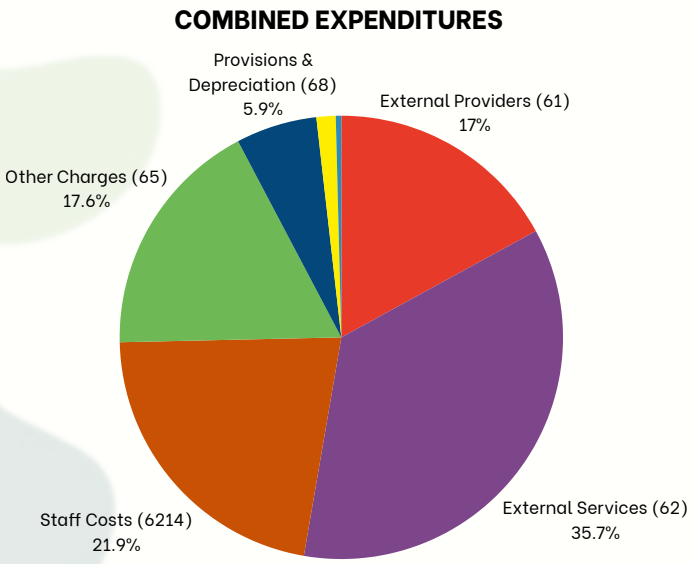
INCOME

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
Total Income	**542,635**	**403,791**



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
Total Expenditure	**483,083**	**343,174**



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



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