



Call for Participants for the EYF Work Plan 2023 of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations

“E = MC²⁰ - Empowerment through Management and Coordination”

Deadline to submit application: April 30, 2023

Link to the online application form here: <https://bit.ly/3VaIdFK>

Background

After the successful implementation of its previous editions in 2015, 2017 and 2020, Alliance will organise the EYF Work Plan 2023, which will take place over 1 year and will consist of 3 consecutive educational activities and a practice phase. It aims to link several Alliance events in order to foster the development of Alliance trainers, making them capable to facilitate preassigned priorities of the network and to address current needs of its members.

Generally, the purpose of the training cycle is to develop competences in design, implementation and evaluation of NFE activities in order to improve the quality of Alliance events on every level of the network by establishing high quality standards.

2023 Focus

The 2023 thematic focus will be on **project management**.

Internal assessment in the Alliance network and in the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement has proven that activists and staff members younger than 30 years have developed competences in the area of coordination (as trainers, project coordinators, workcamp leaders), but they still lack competences in two central domains: project design and reporting. As a result of this, “senior” activists (older than 35 years) and more experienced staff members tend to manage the tasks related to these areas. The risk is that young people are not fully involved in all the phases of project management and are excluded from key processes, like needs assessment, definition of aims and objectives, evaluation; this way, they would simply become “passive beneficiaries” of the projects designed by adults, and not active stakeholders and developers.

The Work Plan 2023 intends to reverse this trend, putting young people at the forefront in all the planned activities. By building self-confidence and capacity, young people will increase their sense of ownership and make their voice heard in future Alliance initiatives.



Objectives

Obj 1: to increase project management skills and knowledge of 20 participants coming from Alliance members in the area of project design, project coordination, narrative and financial reporting, impact measurement and evaluation.

Obj 2: to provide the 20 participants with concrete opportunities to practice the coordination and evaluation skills through their involvement in Alliance workcamps and NFE activities during the summer season of 2023.

Obj 3: to increase the quality and impact of youth work and NFE in the key areas of promotion of peace, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion.

Activities

The training cycle will be structured according to the following 4 phases, which mirror the steps of the Project Life Cycle Management:

- **1st residential training course**, hosted by Maison Des Bateleurs – Solidarités Jeunesses in Montendre, France, (<https://bateleursj.fr/>) from **19 (arrival day) to 25 (departure day) February 2023**: this first meeting allowed participants to understand the importance of vision, mission and values in the NGO sector and youth work; the sessions will deal with project design, the project cycle, definition of budgets, creation of solid partnerships, identification of funds and understanding of the donor's guidelines.
- **2nd residential training course**, hosted by Egyesek, in Hollókő, Hungary, (<https://kreativter.hu/en/>) from **25 (arrival day) to 31 (departure day) May 2023**: in this meeting, participants will explore the potential of non-formal education in youth work, practicing techniques to promote conflict resolution, group dynamics, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue; they will learn how to create coherent programmes for their projects, including tools to ensure reflection and to manage debriefing sessions.
- **Practice Phase**: During the summer workcamp season (from 1 June to 30 September 2023), the participants will engage in a **practice phase**, where they will put into **practice** what they've learned in the 2 residential training courses. In this phase, they will be involved in the coordination and evaluation of workcamps and NFE activities in the field of promotion of peace, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion, organised by their organisations, which will receive a micro-grant to co-fund them.



- **3rd residential training course**, hosted by YRS in Veliki Gaj, Serbia, (<https://magnet.house/>) from **16 (arrival day)** to **22 (departure day) October 2023**: in this meeting, participants will learn how to evaluate projects and NFE activities, using impact measurement instruments, how to create narrative and financial reports, how to promote and disseminate results, how to plan follow up actions to ensure sustainability.
- **Final output**: during the last meeting, participants will work on the report of their workcamps / NFE activities, which will be included in a final digital publication, to be disseminated within and beyond the network.
- The learning material will be shared through a **learning platform**, which will be regularly updated by the training team and will be always accessible to the participants.

The trainers will propose a wide range of non-formal education methods, as well as useful exercises to practise project management skills (exercises with application forms, budget tables, reporting templates, impact measurement tools). Constant evaluation, debriefing and feedback sessions will be organised during and at the end of each meeting.

Long term commitment by the same 20 participants

The training cycle is based on the concept that the selected participants will be involved throughout the entire programme, as all events are part of one coherent learning process: in order to be able to fulfil the practice phase (summer 2023), participants will have to put into practice the knowledge gained at the previous events, whereas the third meeting will allow them to evaluate their experience and to continue their learning process.

The training is widely promoted within the network and gives concrete opportunities to the participants, one of which is to build their professional profiles as non-formal educators in the field of IVS, thus enabling them to make the transition from education to youth work.

Training team

The training team will consist of the coordinator, the trainers, the reporter and 1 local support person for each meeting. The coordinator of the project is Alliance Course Director Mauro Carta, the trainers of the second and third meetings are Isabel McLean and Alexandra Vinczi, the reporter is Maria (Masha) Roslyakova.



Profile of participants

This project is for you, if you:

- are not older than 30 years by 20 February 2023 (at the beginning of the second training course)¹;
- are resident in a country of the Council of Europe²;
- are actively involved in an Alliance organisation, as a workcamp leader, trainer, activist, staff member³, board member and/or volunteer;
- are supported by the sending organization to take part in a workcamp or in a NFE activity in the field of promotion of peace, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion during the summer season 2023;
- have a good knowledge of English.

Practicalities

- All lodging expenses (food and accommodation) during the events will be covered;
- travel expenses will be fully reimbursed up to the limit indicated in the infosheet;
- Covid-related costs (vaccinations, tests, masks) will be covered by the participants and will not be included in the reimbursed amount;
- all member organizations based in Council of Europe countries can send applicants;
- due to co-funding procedures (Erasmus+), the majority of the selected participants might come from EU countries; however, efforts will be done to ensure geographical balance and to allow participants from all countries of the Council of Europe to be involved in the programme;
- a nomination letter from a member organization is obligatory;
- a maximum of 4 participants coming from the same member will be selected.

Benefits

- to be certified and recognized through the network of Alliance members and partner organizations;
- extensive experience in project management (all phases: design, coordination, reporting), widen personal portfolio of skills, NFE techniques;

¹ According to the funder's rules, at least 15 participants should not be older than 30 years. In addition to that, the participation is open to 5 participants older than 30 years. However, priority will be given to candidates not older than 30 years.

² There is no requirement concerning your nationality.

³ Including paid staff members.



- to continue his/her personal development in the same or different fields;
- to have a chance to develop new ideas and methods and thereby have an impact on the development of International Voluntary Service in general and Alliance in particular.

Application procedure

If you are interested in applying for the EYF Work Plan 2023, please fill in the online application form attaching **an updated CV and a support letter from your sending organization (full, candidate or associate member of the Alliance), assuring the support during the practice phase, signed and stamped by 30 April 2023.**

Should your support letter not be ready by the deadline, please send an e-mail to course.director@alliance-network.eu to inform us about the delay. Only candidates with a support letter will be able to take part in the activities.

We suggest participants who require a visa to apply as soon as possible in order to start the administrative procedure to obtain the visa.

Criteria for selection

1. application is received on time and in full form (Application Form, CV and support letter from a member organization);
2. availability to fully take part in the 2 events of Work Plan 2023 (in Hungary and in Serbia) and to join the practical phase; if a participant wishes to take part to a specific training course but cannot ensure the participation to the whole cycle, please contact the Course Director and we will find a solution.
3. Compliance with the profile of participants.

Selection procedure

During the selection process the Course Director is responsible for checking the eligibility criteria and selection of the participants. The final selection of participants will be confirmed by Alliance Secretary and the Education Team. Due to the proximity of the training course, eligible candidates might be approved and informed before the deadline.

The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by European, state, or local laws.