

Report on EEM 2011 Meeting (18-23/10/2011) in Greece

Notes:

The person sent in this kind of meeting should be more prepared:

- Read all documents sent before the meeting
- Talk about IAL position on the issues pointed out in the EEM program
- Get to know more about IAL structure, workcamps statistics, activities, issues, objectives,... so that he or she will be able to represent the branch properly
- If some problems are uncouncted by IAL or with some other organizations, EEM could be a chance to point it out.

Issues treated or just pointed out during EEM:

- **Icelandic workcamps problems** (extra fees, more quantity than quality, problem contacting them, many volunteers unsatisfied, not enough outgoing volunteers,...)
Decision to cease the collaboration with WF during two years.

- Debates on the term “**active citizenship**” / “activism”

- **Drop of the number** of incoming volunteers and outgoing **volunteers**.

Reasons? Competition due to a variety of opportunities to volunteer abroad (couch surfing, woofing,...), change of attitude regarding volunteering, commercialization of voluntarism, quality of workcamps, procedure (late infosheet), workcamp drop, lack of need of interculturalism (have it in your hometown), economy crisis (host cannot afford welcoming and volunteers cannot fees,...), problem to “hold” volunteers,...

- Should **publish the workcamp as early** in the year as possible

- Reorganize and to think about a **better search engine in OPS**: an other organisation for categories like with keywords

- Importance of promotion, transparence in SCI, solidarity,

- **Financial problems** (SCI France get bankrupt)

- **SCI Insurance**

- **Promotion**: examples: films / Products (T-shirts, bags, Posters,...), dynamic Facebook, blog, Picassa, forum, advertisement on TV, magazines,...

- **Workcamps examples**: NICE Japan most popular formula of workcamps are “weekend workcamps” (local volunteers in their country) and “group workcamps” (locals volunteers who want to do a workcamp abroad together).

- **Lack of incoming volunteers for some organizations** like SVIT Ukraine

- Importance of **Solidarity**, common policy and network spirit inside SCI: if some branches are in difficulties, it's important to help them.

- **Advice for having attractive workcamps:** organize workcamp during the high season, to have a clear and attractive workcamp description, promotion material sent in time, work with local volunteers already sent, ask volunteers support (send pictures, feedback, ...), ...

- **Importance of:**

Promotion of SCI Values, variety of workcamps, local training, workshop, learn from the others in the network, reduced fees,...

Satisfy the local needs and answer the volunteers' needs,

OPS:

To use it for placement

Manuel to use it

Possibility to translate it in our own language (better for the volunteers)

Have to translate the "privacy policy" part in Swedish to not have problem with justice

Plans:

Have a better interface for the volunteers, try to put the evaluation form on the OPS,

Make it easier for the double status, Change the Manuel form,

Encourage using OPS for the next season

Announces:

Looking for volunteers in SCI network to help to promote workcamps in 2012: need people who wants to be part of the prep team, videos/photos form branches/partners, volunteers stories, blogs info... ---> for more info: projects@sciint.org

Looking for people who wants to help SVIT Ukraine to regroup resources about SCI and help to improve SCI promotion website.

Votes:

Yes

- to have more links with Alliance

- to cease the collaboration with Worldwide Friends Iceland (during 2 years)

- to add a clause in the evaluation form

- to improve the visa procedure delays (visa form sent within 1 week to the HO and the visa invitation sent by post within 1 week to the SO)

- to organize 1 mixed age workcamp maximum

- to change the statistic period to December/ January

- 13th of February: deadline to put workcamps on OPS

Next EEM meeting welcome by IVS GB in Scotland