



# ICYE Annual Report

2022-23





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# Preface

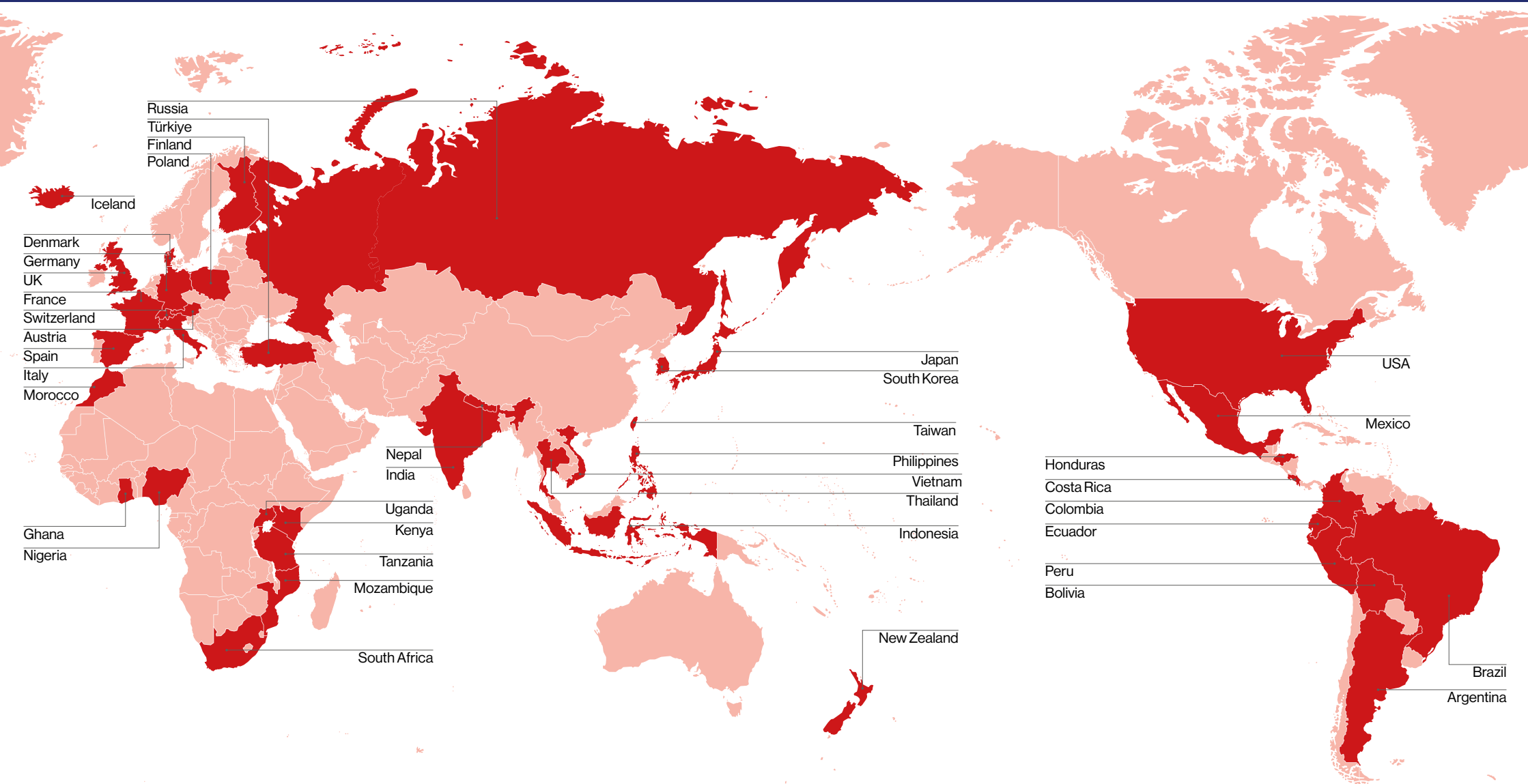
**Our programme year 2022-2023, has finally shown a positive trend in volunteer numbers again and a corresponding financial recovery of the Federation's finances.**

Programmatically, ICYE has focused in 2022-23 on the implementation of our new policies. This included preparing various global templates, guidance and the organisation of two trainings of trainers on how to address sexual violence in our work. Moreover, we organised two baseline surveys and opened spaces for discussion around such topics as the role of influencers in our promotion work and how to engage with our alumni. A self-assessment checklist on whether our members are applying environmental considerations in their offices and events has been shared.

We continued to discuss the Future of the ICYE Federation: programmatically, strategically and financially. Another focus was on improving the cooperation among members and to strengthen and explore digital opportunities. The International Office together with ICYE/ SES Argentina, ICYE/ Grenzenlos Austria and ICYE/ Maailmanvaihto Finland participated actively in the Decolonize IVS project with CCIVS and other partners. ICYE has also been engaged in the work of the CCIVS Executive Committee.

The preparations for the ICYE General Assembly in November 2023 started in early 2023 as well as those for the CCIVS General Assembly which ICYE supported through their engagement in the CCIVS EC.

# ICYE in 2022-23



In 2022-23, the ICYE Federation consisted of 30 full members and 11 associate members. While - with a heavy heart - we had to say goodbye to our members Kerica/ ICYE Slovakia and SVI/ ICYE Belgium, we were at the same time happy to welcome two new members:

### **PI Youth Association**

*Pi Youth Association was established in 2014 to enable young people in Türkiye to develop knowledge, skills, positive attitudes, and behaviours. The association also works on youth rights to solve the problems experienced by young people in the country and for this, it carries out various projects with public and non-governmental organizations at regional, national, and international levels. As of 2023, we are happy to have been included in the Federation as an associate member.*

**K. Anıl Biçer** PIYA

### **VSA Thailand**

*Volunteer Spirit Association or VSA Thailand collaborates on international voluntary projects for people of all ages, cultures, religious and economic backgrounds with the aim to bring people together to promote cultural diversity and understanding. To be a member of ICYE is a great opportunity for Thai youth to connect with local communities in other countries. We believe that our strength and ICYE's powerful network will have an impact on strengthening global solidarity. Let's work together!*

**Jarinya Krittikon** VSA

In the programme year 2022-23 ICYE members offered volunteering opportunities to 558 young people (compared to 295 the year before). 58 volunteers engaged in virtual volunteering and the South – South exchanges increased from six to 15 volunteers. At the same time members exchanged 1.190 volunteers outside of the ICYE

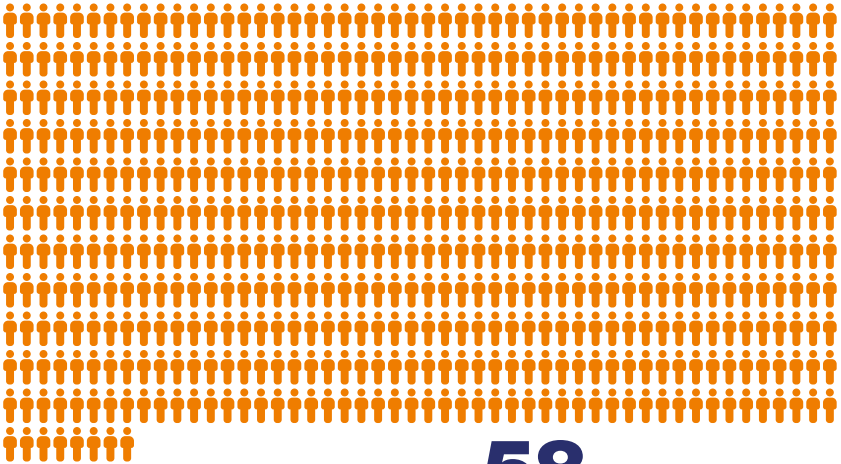
programme. These exchanges included the European Solidarity Corps programme, Erasmus+ projects and exchanges with other organisations in countries where ICYE doesn't have a member or with organisations from other networks like Alliance or NAVO, often for short term workcamps which ICYE does not offer.

In 2022-23, the ICYE Federation had 522 active host projects – the majority of them offering opportunities for volunteering in the educational field, which includes schools and kindergartens.

40 young people were denied a visa and were not able to take up their volunteering time. Several of them were not given any reasons why their visa was denied while some embassies implied that the young people would not return to their own country. 10 young people were not able to travel due to long delays with the visa procedures in South Africa.

## Our volunteer numbers in 2022-23

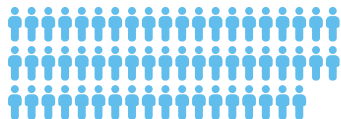
**558** ICYE international volunteers



**15** South-South exchanges



**58** virtual volunteers





## Challenges

Even though the pandemic is over, many members still struggled in the programme year under revision with fewer volunteer applications than hoped for, as well as last minute dropouts and the overall difficulty in finding young people interested in volunteering abroad. Due to high inflation, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, overall prices have gone up in many countries. Members have tried to keep the price for the volunteer programme low but are struggling to cover all the costs. Several of them are also finding it more and more difficult to find local volunteers or co-workers to support with programme implementation while the incoming volunteers are often more demanding and difficult than before the pandemic. The social and political insecurity in some countries is posing an additional challenge for a few members. Several have highlighted the challenges due to high staff turnover in the past programme year and others mentioned the difficulties to access other forms of funding. The Ebola outbreak posed a specific challenge to ICYE Uganda while the war with Ukraine disrupted the work of ICYE Russia, making it impossible to host any volunteers from abroad.

## Achievements

Despite the challenges, 2022-23 was also a year of reconstruction for many members in which they again began to receive larger numbers of volunteers to offer them high quality programmes. New alliances and partnerships at local level, with universities, and with other organisations were built. Several members revised their hosting programmes and added new thematic profiles. Six members (ICYE Nigeria, ICYE/ VPV Vietnam, ICYE/ PIYA Türkiye, ICYE Brazil, ICYE Ghana, ICYE/ VASE Ecuador) received the Quality Label for Humanitarian Aid Volunteering in 2022. Other members reported that they have increased their cooperation and exchanges with partners in their region. ICYE Finland and ICYE Austria/ Grenzenlos have further strengthened their capabilities to host people with disabilities.

While the ICYE Federation is only starting to increase their advocacy and campaign work, several members have been partnering with other organisations to promote international volunteering in their country or engaged in actions around the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, participated in anti-racism or environmental campaigns, like the Living Earth Campaign<sup>1</sup>.

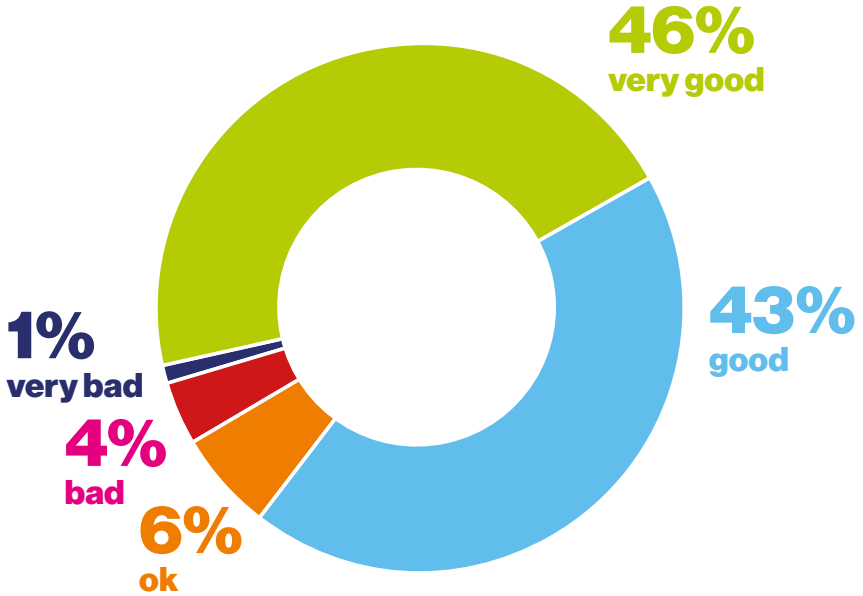
11 members participated in grant funded projects, including Decolonize IVS!, Frame[V]work, Evolve, GiveLab, Recalibur – Eco tools in youth work, Globe, Youth Work Can Unite, Our World, Care What You Wear, Time for Tea, Youth Responsive Budgeting and Hand in Hand.



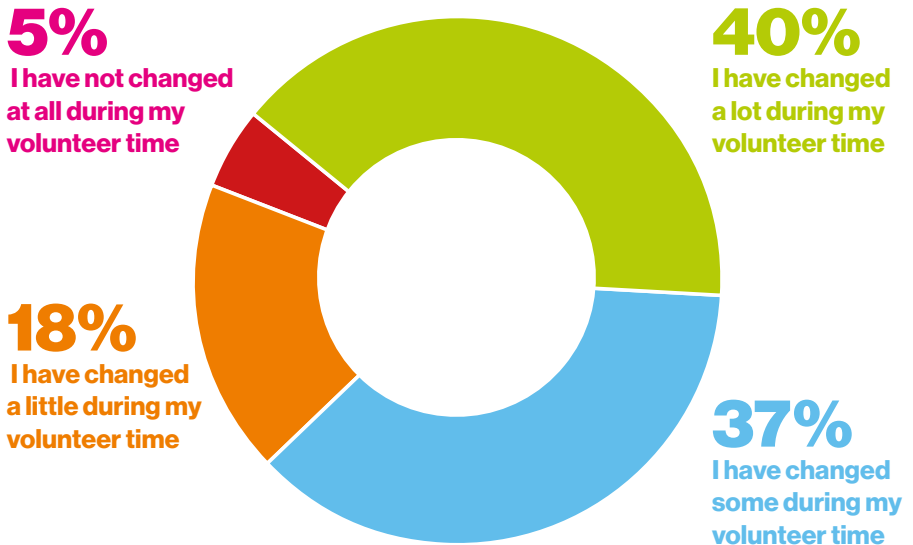
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1 <https://regenerate-reconcile.ccivs.org/living-earth/>

## Overall satisfaction with the exchange programme



## Perceptions on change



# Voices from our volunteers



## Changing the perspective

By Sophie Bader

Most people who have not had the experience of an intercultural exchange in a foreign country imagine it to be some kind of adventure holiday where you are just travelling and enjoying life. And yes, one part of the experience is indeed about enjoying yourself, but honestly, in my eyes the exchange is about so much more.

My name is Sophie, I am a volunteer from Germany, and I have done my voluntary service in Costa Rica from August 2022 to August 2023. I lived with a host family and volunteered in “Asociación Costarricense de Interculturalidad” (ACI/ ICYE Costa Rica).

About the “enjoying”: It is an important part of the volunteering. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel a lot in Costa Rica and get to know national parks with the most beautiful and fascinating animals and plants I have seen so far as well as tropical beaches, mountains, waterfalls, volcanoes, sloths, hummingbirds, monkeys. Yes, I liked these moments, not having to worry about anything.

But there was also another part. It was the daily life you lead while volunteering and this is challenging in a foreign country. Especially at the beginning I did not understand how and why things worked and was quite confused. Things such as buying a sim card for the

phone, or a bus ticket felt almost impossible. I already knew some Spanish, but really using it was different from a school lesson. I remember one sentence from our introduction seminar that helped me through many of these strange situations: 'Behind every fact, there is a reason.' It does not mean we cannot discuss different points of view, nor that we have to approve every aspect of the culture, but rather that we should question our own points of view and be slower to judge. There is nothing 'better' or 'worse' about other cultures. It depends on our point of view. We do not have the right to judge other cultures, because cultural competence and cultural integration will never reach a 100 percent. I took some time to understand this phrase and change the perspective from judging to observing, but it opened a new world to me - it is not necessary to reach the 100 percent, as the experience itself is enough.

Working in an office was not my preference at the beginning, but turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to me. On the one hand, I could use many strengths of mine in administrative work, and there was a lot of variety in the contents of work. On the other hand, while doing tasks such as visiting other volunteers' projects, host families and attending meetings of international organisations, I improved my language and communication skills and met great people who inspired me.

One day, talking to the others in the office, I realised that the Costa Rican way of communication (although it does differ from person to person) felt more natural to me than the German. The fact that people usually try to avoid conflicts and use indirect messages made me consider communication from a different perspective. Not always speaking out what I thought gave me time to consider and question my own opinions. I became more calm, relaxed and conscious about my interaction with others. What remained was a more honest communication. I also noticed that many people liked who I am, which gave me a lot of self-confidence.

I was lucky to have an opportunity only few volunteers have: My Costa Rican and my German family met. My host family had



received me as if I was their daughter, and they received my sister and my parents as if they had always been part of their family. I am so grateful for my Costa Rican family who showed me that if we are kind and open, friendship does not need a language.

What I learned during my year in Costa Rica: an intercultural experience is not a vacation. It is challenging and frustrating. But every failure, every disappointment will make you grow. The more you immerse in the culture, the harder it is to leave. At the beginning of the year, I could not imagine how hard it would be saying goodbye to all the great people that accompanied my experience in Costa Rica and gave me such unique insights into their culture and lives. For me, it is a privilege to have found a second home at the other end of the world.



## Amazing volunteer experience in Cañar Ecuador

By Yuki Noda

Hello, my name is Yuki Noda. I'm from Japan and I spent two months as a volunteer in Ecuador. I lived in Cañar, which is the rural and southern part of Ecuador. I supported with teaching English to students from 8 to 16 years old in the school Primok.

My experience in Primok was absolutely amazing. I gave classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. And the rest of the days, I was planning for the classes. The students who come to Primok are so charming and energetic. The style of Primok school is quite unique. The focus is on improving the speaking skills, so we prepared a lot of activities to speak English. It's also fun for the teachers to come up with activities. I loved the time we spent preparing the activities as well.

To be honest, before my first class, I was so nervous, but my host family encouraged me, and the teacher also supported me a lot. Basically, I spoke in English, and she translated into Spanish, so I didn't have to worry about the language. But personally, I really wanted to talk to the students, so I learned Spanish every single day. And after 2 months, I could communicate somewhat with the students. I realized that these students were my great motivation to study Spanish.

I also made a new textbook with one of the volunteers from France. It was a totally new experience. We talked a lot and asked the locals for advice. Especially the relationship with my host family was wonderful – Antonio and Paula are very kind, smart and funny. When I needed help, I could rely on them to support me.



I lived in the house with six friends. We all came from different countries. We were a really good team. We jointly prepared the classes, travelled, laughed together and created beautiful memories. The good thing was that we could share about our own culture. For example, there was one day when I had to make dinner for them, so I cooked Japanese food and shared the recipe with them.

My host family invited us to many places. Because of that, we were able to make a lot of friends in the city. So, I never felt lonely in those two months.

To be honest, I was so nervous before going to Primok, but the decision to go there was totally right. I will never forget this experience and I made many precious friends in Ecuador. Thank you to all the people who supported me in this experience.



# Our new policies

In the programme year 2022-23, the ICYE developed guidance for the implementation of our new policies.

## Greener Together

ICYE's commitments for a sustainable and regenerative future.

*Thinking green' is a continuous process, requiring creativity and adaptability while making the best choices for the future of humanity and our planet.<sup>1</sup>*

To implement the Greener Together Policy, the Sub Committee developed a baseline survey to understand where the members are starting from. The survey results showed that most of the members are aware of environmental issues and are addressing them in their work but so far neither strategically nor consistently. While most offices rated themselves as average on being a 'green office', and many applied some environmentally friendly practices, there are still clear gaps towards the more comprehensive policy commitments. Particularly in the areas of training and orientation as well as in the systematic use of the policy in the volunteer cycle, more progress needs to be made. However, responses also indicated that there was an appetite amongst offices to do more in the future, particularly as some of them were slowly emerging from the effects of the Covid19 pandemic.

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1 Neringa Tumenaite (2021), Greening the Youth Sector – Sustainability Checklist. Page 16.

Additionally, the Sub Committee:

- prepared a self-assessment checklist to support members to ensure that their activities and events as well as their office culture is contributing to environmentally friendly practices,
- developed a concept on promoting green volunteering in ICYE that will be presented at the upcoming General Assembly so that some members can start piloting it in 2024 and
- considered how to address the CO2 emissions from the volunteer exchanges.

## **Safer Together**

**ICYE's policy addressing sexual violence in international volunteering.**

In the programme year 2022-23, two trainings of trainers were organised in Nairobi/ Kenya and Vienna/ Austria to build staff capacities on how to address, prevent and respond to sexual violence in international volunteering in a professional and survivor-centred way. The trainings were supported financially by the UNESCO Participation Programme and the Mekriba Foundation, as well as the Erasmus + programme. In the workshops, the new training manual to address sexual violence was piloted and tested. This handbook will be available in the next programme year of 2023-24.

Additionally, the Sub Committee prepared global templates and guidelines and organised a baseline survey. The survey results showed, that before the Safer Together Policy was implemented, systematic and institutionalised prevention and response measures to address sexual violence only existed in very few offices, most of the members dealt with sexual violence cases on a case-to-case basis to the best of their abilities. The majority of the members had already raised awareness on the topic of sexual violence in 2022 but not in a systematic way.

## Responding to Cases of Sexual Violence

In the programme year under review, 11 members reported 14 cases of sexual violence. In most of the cases the victims were female volunteers, except for one case where it was a child in a host project and another where the victim was a male volunteer. The perpetrators were all male – either other volunteers, staff from ICYE or the host projects, host family members or a random person from the local community. Four cases were reported to the authorities (other cases, especially those of sexual harassment, did not necessarily constitute a criminal offense in the specific country or the survivors decided not to report the case). Both the sending and hosting members were involved in addressing the cases. Members who already have a dedicated focal point involved this expert in managing the cases. Measures taken always included direct assistance to the survivors (taking them out of the host family, project or community and explaining the survivors the options to report to the local authorities, referring them to psychological or trauma counseling or health services). Regarding the perpetrators, two volunteers who had been found guilty were dispelled from the programme. In cases of sexual harassment, ICYE staff talked to the perpetrators and also closely coordinated with the coordinators of the host projects. They clarified ICYE's zero tolerance policy regarding all forms of sexual violence and took case by case decision on sanctions.



**NOTE:** We have set up an email where volunteers, staff and others can report cases of violence against children or cases of sexual violence/ harassment: [reporting-cases@icye.org](mailto:reporting-cases@icye.org)

# Care to Engage

## ICYE's Policy on Safeguarding Children

In 2022-23, the Sub Committee developed several global templates, which included codes of conducts for different stakeholder groups, consent forms and safeguarding guidelines regarding ICYE's communication and promotional work as well as guidance on ICYE's position regarding orphanages and corporal punishment. Regarding volunteering in orphanages, ICYE has committed to phase out offering international volunteering opportunities in orphanages, as volunteering in orphanages poses huge child protection risks, contributes to attachment disorders and is often contributing to a global industry that is separating children from their families (80% of children living in orphanages have living relatives<sup>2</sup>). Regarding corporal punishment, ICYE sees this as a violation of children's rights and promotes positive concepts of parenting and education instead.

## Responding to Cases of Violence against Children

For the programme year 2022-23, three members reported cases of violence against children, committed by female or male staff in host projects. The children were victims of corporal punishment and other forms of physical and emotional abuse, child neglect and sexual violence. The members communicated with the host projects' coordinators, but no reports were filed with the authorities.

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2 <https://thecode.org/voluntourism-orphanages-child-sexual-exploitation-the-connection/>



LANDES  
BEZ! O KRONE

WIE GEHTS  
WIE STEHSTIS?

mit  
nutella  
BUTTER  
ohne

# Our projects in 2022-23



get ready for equality..

## Decolonize IVS!

Decolonise International Voluntary Service is a project which aims at building more equitable, diverse and environmentally sustainable long term international voluntary service projects. The project has set out to understand more about continuing forms of neo-colonialism including climate colonialism and is set up to challenge current practices and mind-sets in the IVS sector. How are the relations between IVS organisations in different continents? Where do we see the impact of a long history of exploitation, the perpetuation of colonial behaviours and the inequality in the exchanges.

Decolonise IVS is coordinated jointly by CCIVS and the International Office of ICYE. Full partners are: ICYE Austria/ Grenzenlos, ICYE Finland/ MaaIlmanvaihto, ICYE Argentina/ Fundación SES, SCI Projets Internationaux Asbl (Belgium), Solidarités Jeunesses (France), IBO (Italia), Volunteers Initiative Nepal and Zimbabwe Workcamp Organisation.

To kick off the project, several online dialogues were organised, initiating a debate about key concepts to explore in relation to decolonisation, such as global justice, power and privilege, neo-colonialism, culture and cultural appropriation, volunteering, and intersectionality. For many participants this was the first time they had

this kind of discussion with counterparts from other countries. The online dialogue in Spanish gave opportunity to discuss these issues with grassroots organisations from Latin America and showed how important it is to have these discussions in different languages.

A group of young activists came together for one week in Vienna in October 2022 for a study session to work on finding definitions to the concepts. A rich debate about how to define decolonisation in the framework of International Voluntary Service and other related concepts took place during these days.

Then in February 2023, a group of young people from various IVS organisations worldwide came together in Brussels, Belgium to dive deeper into the topic using participatory action research (PAR). In the same month, 20 young people from over 15 countries gathered in Paris for a week-long training session on advocacy. The participants explored the concept of decolonisation, reflected on how neo-colonialism is linked with global injustices, and discussed how advocacy could contribute to social justice globally. They identified broad areas for their advocacy work and have been doing research on the topics as well as developing supporting social media campaigns launched in October and November 2023.

In March 2023 the steering committee of the project had its second meeting in Helsinki, Finland and took stock on the progress and the challenges during implementation. It became clear that the topic of decolonisation is complex, and many deep discussions are needed to find a common approach and language.

Before the project ends in mid-2024, it will provide different tools for IVS organizations to deconstruct their neo-colonial mechanisms, but will also produce advocacy documents and campaigns to shape a fairer framework of relations in the volunteering movement.



## Our World

Our World is an Erasmus+ funded project that started in 2023, connecting four partners from Kenya, Estonia, Nigeria, and Slovakia. The objective is to engage students between 14 and 19 years in a transformative remote experience that combines cultural exchanges and skill development. As more and more volunteering experiences are moving online, the experiences from this project will help ICYE to develop minimum quality standards on virtual volunteering.

The students are divided into four virtual exchange cohorts, with the first cohort having concluded in June 2023. Each cohort runs for six months and incorporates virtual interactions with their peers and informative in-person gatherings. These in-person sessions, scheduled monthly, will revolve around diverse themes, with a focus on skill enhancement and intercultural exchange. At the end of every cohort the participants receive a digital certificate to validate their contribution to this project.

One theme a cohort is addressing is “The View Outside My Window” with guided dialogues in the following topics

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Social Inclusion
- Holistic Health
- Intercultural Exchange and Global Citizenship

The name of the project shows how My world and Your world are interconnected, creating OUR WORLD.



## Strengthening Inclusive Organisations



Inclusive Organisation is an EU funded project that started in 2023 and is based on materials by Ljubljana Pride. ICYE Austria/ Grenzenlos is working together with Asociacion Cazalla – Intercultural (Spain), Lunaria – Associazione Di Promozione Sociale (Italy) and Ljubljana Pride (Slovenia) to support organisations in the self-reflection of their own inclusion standards. The aim of the project is to reinforce inclusion processes in organisations and support organisations in the process to become more inclusive towards youth from marginalised groups.

So far, the project has set up or strengthened networks of inclusive organisations across the partner countries and tasked them to develop concrete activities/ resources that can be used to create more inclusive work environments. Through a certification scheme, organisations can test their progress towards inclusivity and be recognised for their effort and knowledge through a (self-) certification process. As ICYE is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in our work, this project will support our members to analyse and strengthen their own processes of inclusion.

In spring 2024, online materials will be accessible through a dedicated website.

## Frame[V]work Project



The project Frame[v]work – coordinated by the Coordinating Committee of International Volunteering Service (CCIVS) - aims to improve the capacity of IVS organisations for the coordination of their international voluntary activities in order to tackle the issue of decreasing number of volunteers in a cooperative way. In three regional labs, partners have started to discuss how to harmonize exchange procedures among the members, unify the promotional strategy on IVS, strengthen the participation of young people, revise the IVS quality standards and strengthen impact assessment of our work. A representative from GIED/ ICYE Philippines has been participating in the regional lab held in Indonesia in March 2023 while representatives from SES/ ICYE Argentina and the ICYE International Office will be participating in the regional labs in Costa Rica in July (hosted by ACI/ ICYE Costa Rica) and in Zimbabwe in September 2023.

During the regional lab in Indonesia, the participants reflected about the trend of voluntourism and its effects on the IVS movement, exchanged about how to decolonise the work of IVS organisations, developed first ideas for a joint vision statement and strapline for IVS and started to identify quality elements and standards of IVS organisations and their projects. The group also presented a proposal to the CCIVS Executive Committee (EC) to recommend to the GA to reserve three positions in future ECs for the networks (Alliance, SCI, ICYE). ICYE will propose a candidate from Latin American in the upcoming GA of CCIVS in Greece in November 2023.



KODABLE

REFLECTION



# Our Finances

In the program year 2022-23, the Federation made first steps to financially recover from the loss of previous years, which were strongly affected by the COVID pandemic, and is closing the year with a profit of 4.704,66 €.

A raise in volunteer numbers contributed to a financially relieved situation compared to the last program years, not only for the Federation but also for many of its member organisations. The contributions from members rose accordingly from 141.950,57 € to 206.780,65 €.

Additionally, the International Office has been able to acquire structural funding for 2023 again, as well as project funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme and a Germany based foundation. This amounted to 113.257,89 €. Overall our total income rose from 376.464,53 € to 429.118,79 €.

Due to the higher income, it was possible to reverse some of the temporary measurements put in place in the last program years and to implement e.g. a necessary raise in working hours for the staff in the International Office or in-person meetings with the Board of Managers. Overall, the year closed with the total expenses amounting to 424.414,13 € in comparison to 393.469,12 € in the year before.

From this year onward, it is hoped that the Federation will again be able to build up the reserve funds that had been depleted during the COVID 19 crisis and in that way prepare in case another crisis

affects the sector of international volunteering service. The reserve funds at the closing of the books have increased from 159.283,21 € in 21-22 to 163.987,87 € in 22-23.

In 2023-24, ICYE will continue to collaborate in projects with other IVS organisations and networks, as well as apply for funding to further support the work and the training of staff of our members. This and the approval of the EC Administrative Grant for three years leads to a prospect of more financial stability and the possibility of future contributions to the Federation's own reserve funds and financial support structures.

## THE ICYE FEDERATION

### Balance Sheet

	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash in Bank or Hand	610,807.71 €	549,667.85 €
Federation's Credits (Member Organisations)	8,457.55 €	13,782.56 €
Other Assets	10,031.40 €	17,698.02 €
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>629,296,66 €</b>	<b>581,148,43 €</b>
<b>Liabilities And Funds</b>		
Federation's Debts (Member Organisations)	446,092.36 €	400,991.11 €
Liabilities Erasmus+ Projects	13,341.79 €	0.00 €
Other Debts	10,579.30 €	16,169.45 €
Restricted Funds (GA Fund, TPDF, Insurance Fund)	66,860.56 €	71,565.22 €
Unrestricted Funds (Operating and Salary Reserve Fund)	92,422.65 €	92,422.65 €
<b>Total Liabilities And Funds</b>	<b>629,296.66 €</b>	<b>581,148.43 €</b>

# THE ICYE FEDERATION

## Financial Overview

	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Income</b>		
Fees and Contributions by members	141,950.57 €	206,780.65 €
Income for volunteers' insurances	75,110.08 €	95,367.33 €
Grants	121,615.69 €	113,712.92 €
Other Income (including Corona support from the German Government)	38,675.36 €	13,257.89 €
Interests	-887,17 €	318.82 €
<b>Total income</b>	<b>376,464.53 €</b>	<b>429,437.61 €</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Overall Federational Costs	59,052.17 €	75,786.51 €
Insurance Costs	75,278.48 €	93,221.24 €
Grants Project Expenses	83,210.69 €	45,960.35 €
Staff Costs	134,036.12 €	163,606.94 €
Office and Communication, IT Costs	18,039.74 €	24,764.93 €
Bank and Audit Costs	6,964.86 €	5,912.77 €
Other Expenses	16,887.06 €	15,480.21 €
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>393,469.12 €</b>	<b>424,732.95 €</b>
<b>Program Year Result</b>	<b>-17,004.59 €</b>	<b>4,704.66 €</b>
Depletion of reserve funds	17,004.59 €	
Allocation to reserve funds		4,704.66 €
Restricted Funds	66,860.56 €	71,565.22 €
Unrestricted Funds	92,422.65 €	92,422.65 €
<b>Total Reserve Funds</b>	<b>159.283,21 €</b>	<b>163.987,87 €</b>

# Outlook

While the future of International Voluntary Service (IVS) is more contested than ever, we are also presented with a new opportunity to get back to our roots and take clearer positions when it comes to peace and justice. Together with CCIVS and partners, ICYE is working to strengthen our joint advocacy work to promote international volunteering service and our core values around peace, diversity, social justice and environmental sustainability.

ICYE also acknowledges the need to develop a journey of change on how to strengthen intercultural understanding and global citizenship and how ICYE's long-term volunteering programme supports this. In 2024, the Federation will also develop an impact measurement tool and revise the current volunteer evaluation survey.

More impact will also come from improved cooperation. ICYE will propose joint projects to encourage improved collaboration among members at the upcoming GA. Further, to address in particular the unspoken power dynamics in the ICYE Federation, the Decolonize IVS consortium will publish and distribute a self-assessment test to improve relationships between IVS organisations as well as with the communities in which they work.

In general, the focus of the programme year 2023-24 will be on revising our quality standards, strengthening collaboration, and supporting members in their work.

# Our Partnerships

**Coordinating Committee on International Volunteer Service (CCIVS):** In 2022-23 the IO has continued to actively engage alongside the other major networks (Alliance, SCI, and NVDA) in CCIVS' working groups. At the CCIVS General Assembly in November 2021, three members from ICYE got elected to the Executive Committee: Rolando Kandel (Fundación SES Subir al Sur/ ICYE Argentina), Rhenelyn Queen Dadulo (GIED/ ICYE Philippines) and Anja Stuckert (ICYE International Office) and have been actively working as EC on the promotion of IVS worldwide.

**United for Intercultural Action (UNITED):** ICYE is a member of this European-wide network to stand against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants, refugees, and minorities.

**CIVICUS:** ICYE is a member of the global alliance of civil society organisations and activists CIVICUS. The network promotes citizen action and strengthens civil society throughout the world for expanded civic and democratic spaces.





# Acknowledgements

The ICYE Board of Managers would like to thank all the ICYE members for their unwavering commitment to international volunteering and the promotion of peace, social justice, diversity, and environmental regeneration.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the team of the International Office who coordinated the work on developing global guidance for the new policies, fundraised for operational and programmatic resources and strengthened the cooperation with all the members and with our sister networks.

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International Cultural Youth Exchange

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