



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL  
YOUTH EXCHANGE

# ICYE

## Activity Report 2025



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# ICYE

## Summary of ICYE's work in 2025

2025 has been a busy year for ICYE, culminating in our 34th General Assembly (GA) from 22nd to 26th November 2025 in Lima, Peru. During the GA the members approved the ICYE strategic plan 2026-2030 with commitments on quality assurance, youth engagement, collaboration, impact and financial sustainability.

Our activities in 2025 contributed to supporting high-quality, inclusive, and sustainable cooperation among youth organisations in the IVS movement, to strengthen youth stakeholder participation and their awareness on European Youth Goals, to equip member organisations in implementing mechanisms to ensure safe, equal, and sustainable voluntary service and to promote youth engagement in equitable and inclusive IVS on a local and global level. With our work, we reached the following numbers:

- In the programme year 2024-25, our members exchanged 1.184 volunteers, of which 733 were participants in the European Solidarity Corps and 451 in the ICYE long-term volunteering programme. 98% of the volunteers rated their ICYE volunteering experience as 'excellent', 'very good', or 'good'. 226 young people participated in virtual volunteering and 56 volunteers participated in the ESC Humanitarian Aid programme.
- 1.002 young people with fewer opportunities participated in the first two cohorts of the LIVE-Ex project and were trained as Living Earth advocates.
- We organised 20 trainings and community of practice calls with 852 participants to build the capacity of youth workers and young people.
- 63 meetings were held with the Board of Managers, different Sub Committees, the Youth Engagement Committee and members in the regions.



# ICYE

- ICYE published five social media campaigns: on ICYE's Greener Together Policy from 15.-24. February, a campaign during anti-racism week from 17.-21. March, on ICYE's Care to Engage Policy from 3.-16. June, posts from our Youth Engagement Committee during YEC week from 25.-29. August and an advocacy campaign on the EC MFF proposal from 29.10 – 12.11 to advocate for an Erasmus+ framework that empowers youth. Additionally, regular posts on our LIVE-Ex project and its activities were published as well as individual posts on specific days, like International Volunteer Day, World Peace Day, Disarmament Week or inviting to specific events.
- We published our ICYE [Global Annual Review Report](#) and a [Report on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion](#), developed the [Greener Together Training Toolkit](#) to address climate justice, finalised our new competence framework, published an open letter with recommendations on the proposed Erasmus+ Framework together with the other three European IVS networks and developed a [Good Practice Map](#) for virtual exchanges.





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# WHO WE ARE

The International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) is a global Federation of 39 non-profit organisations dedicated to intercultural learning and international volunteering. Through lived experience, mutual exchange, and solidarity across borders, ICYE supports young people to challenge prejudice, build understanding, and take active roles in shaping a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. Our programmes are about connecting volunteers with local grassroots projects, about learning together, questioning inequalities, and growing as active global citizens.

In 2025, ICYE has continued to innovate and advocate. Advocacy collaborations with our sibling networks Alliance, CCIVS and SCI have sought to increase the visibility of the IVS movement and contribute to collective “future thinking” about where intercultural exchanges must go next. Members have shown creativity and resilience in diversifying funding streams, developing new forms of projects and cooperation, and even experimenting with virtual exchange through the promising LIVE-Ex mentorship programme and its online dialogues that reach even wider.

In the programme year 2024-25, ICYE members exchanged a total of 1.184 participants, of which 733 were participants in the European Solidarity Corps and 451 in the ICYE long-term volunteering programme (2024-25). 226 volunteers additionally engaged in virtual volunteering, 10 went on a South – South exchange and 56 volunteers participated in the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps – allowing for a diversity of young people to engage in different forms of volunteering.

## OUR VISION

We envision a world of diverse, engaged individuals and communities who can contribute to social justice, solidarity, peace and environmental sustainability.

## OUR MISSION

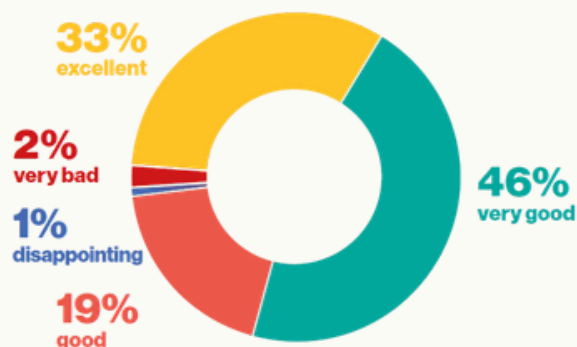
To provide high quality and impactful intercultural learning experiences and opportunities, as well as capacity building, to all involved in our work, so that they can better contribute for a just, peaceful and sustainable world; especially supporting young people in building personal and professional competencies.

More volunteers were also exchanged outside of the ICYE programme:

- 254 through other government funded programmes and
- 286 with non-ICYE organisations in countries where ICYE doesn't have a member or with organisations from other networks like Alliance, often for short term workcamps which are not considered a part of the ICYE programme.

Volunteers valued the quality of the ICYE programme and their rewarding intercultural experience with 98% of volunteers rated it as 'excellent', 'very good', or 'good'. Volunteers also increased their intercultural and personal skill: 50% of them reported that they have changed a lot during their volunteer time, and 38% have changed somewhat

**Volunteers' Overall Satisfaction with their Exchange**



79% of participants involved in virtual volunteering through the LIVE EX project rated their experience as 'excellent' or 'very good', valuing the opportunity to volunteer online and to increase their competences.

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The [Youth Engagement Committee](#) (YEC) counted with 10 active young people in 2025. They met online each month to implement the work-plan they had developed in 2024. They organised their tasks through working groups aligned with the objectives of their action plan: a) Engaging young people in volunteering, b) Making young people's voices heard in ICYE, c) Decolonise the narrative on IVS.

Key activities in 2025 included: Anti-Racism Week Campaign, Meaningful Youth Engagement Workshop, LIVE-EX Exchange Programme, Decolonise Together – Advocacy Training, YEC Week, YEC Newsletter, CCIVS YC x YEC Webinar: Rethinking Gender (In)equality, Homecoming Dialogue. They developed a paper on decision making, participation guidelines and a concept paper to improve homecoming of volunteers.



YEC members additionally participated in capacity building training together with other young people and youth workers:

- Meaningful Youth Engagement workshop (Aarhus, Denmark) – 22nd to 26th March (19 participants)
- Canva training (Online) – 8th April (39 participants)
- Greener Together workshop (Vienna, Austria) – 5th to 9th May 2025 (20 participants)
- Decolonise Together – Advocating for Youth Engagement (Brussels, Belgium) – 14th to 18th July (20 participants)

In online calls and during ICYE's General Assembly (GA) they presented the work done so far. Three YEC members participated in the GA where the YEC was approved as a permanent structure by the full members.

ICYE delegates highlighted their appreciation for the work done by the YEC members and their strong commitment for youth engagement in ICYE.



## LIVE EX

- **Project Manager:** Nicolaus Novatus Mukasa
- **Lead Applicant:** ICYE
- **Partners:** AJUDE (Mozambique), ASTOVOT (Togo), CCIYS, COFO (Malawi), ICYE Kenya, ICYE Nigeria, SAVWA (South Africa), UPTZ (Tanzania), ZWA (Zimbabwe)

LIVE Ex is a three-year, EU funded project that strengthens the digital inclusion of young people in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project trains cohorts of local youth to implement community projects on environmental regeneration and to advocate for climate justice issues.

On 28th January 2025, the first (89 pax) and on 1st July the second cohort (45 pax) of the LIVE Ex Mentorship Programme

was launched. 16 youth workers, who had been trained in a five-day workshop and mentored through ongoing online support, guided the young people through advocacy learning, project development, and community mobilisation. In the two cohorts, 1002 young people with fewer opportunities were reached. 90% of the respondents rated the project positively and more than 80% said they had strengthened their skills in advocacy, collaboration, and leadership.

Two dissemination events were held (in May and October) where the young participants showcased their activities in their communities. Across the two virtual 300 young participants shared their ideas and feedback on how to contribute to climate justice and environmental regeneration through local action.



A [Good Practices Map](#) was developed to ensure more impactful, safe and engaging virtual and hybrid exchanges. For the map, the participants gathered inputs on mentorship, local actions, and advocacy activities and shared effective methods of how to engage young people on climate justice.



The project strongly engaged in communication activities through social media, newsletters and the [LIVE\\_Ex](#) website. The posted content on Instagram and Facebook reached more than 6,500 unique accounts and generated over 11,000 views, supported by more than a dozen posts and reels promoting dialogues, youth-led actions, and calls to participate.

In 2025, the project additionally conducted five [virtual exchanges](#) on the following topics:

- Climate Change & Colonialism: Unpacking the Past, Shaping the Future on 25th February (20 pax)
- Climate Change and Culture on 16th April (60 pax)
- Art as a Mirror of Climate Change on 15th May (59 pax)
- Wetlands on 26th August (29 pax)
- Nutrition and Climate Change on 16th September (44 pax)



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION

*"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating." -John Schaar*

In 2025 ICYE finalised its new **Strategic Plan 2026-2030** with four strategic objectives. Along with the action plan for 2026 this was approved by the full members during the General Assembly in Lima in November. The plan provides clear strategic guidance for the work in the next five years with commitments on quality assurance, youth engagement, collaboration, impact and financial sustainability.



To finalise the strategic plan and to develop the action plan the responsible Sub Committee on the Future of the Federation met four times during the year (25th February, 3rd June, 23rd September, 4th November) plus several more meetings of the working group on NC Cooperation that took a deeper look into power dynamics among the members and developed recommendations and a checklist to improve fair and respectful collaboration.

The **ICYE Board of Managers** had six online meetings (23rd January, 6th March, 10th April, 12th June, 11th September, 22nd October) and seven GA preparation meetings. To inform the action plan for 2026 and the challenges around financial sustainability regional calls (23rd April, 29th April and two calls on 30th April) were conducted to understand the challenges members are facing and to develop first ideas on how to address them in the action plan 2026.

The strategic plan and the specific regional topics were discussed in regional meetings. Eight of the European Members met in Switzerland on 6th and 7th April 2025 to report on the situation of each member, prepare the General Assembly and discuss the new Strategic Plan as well as exchange ideas on how to improve the cooperation and support within the region.

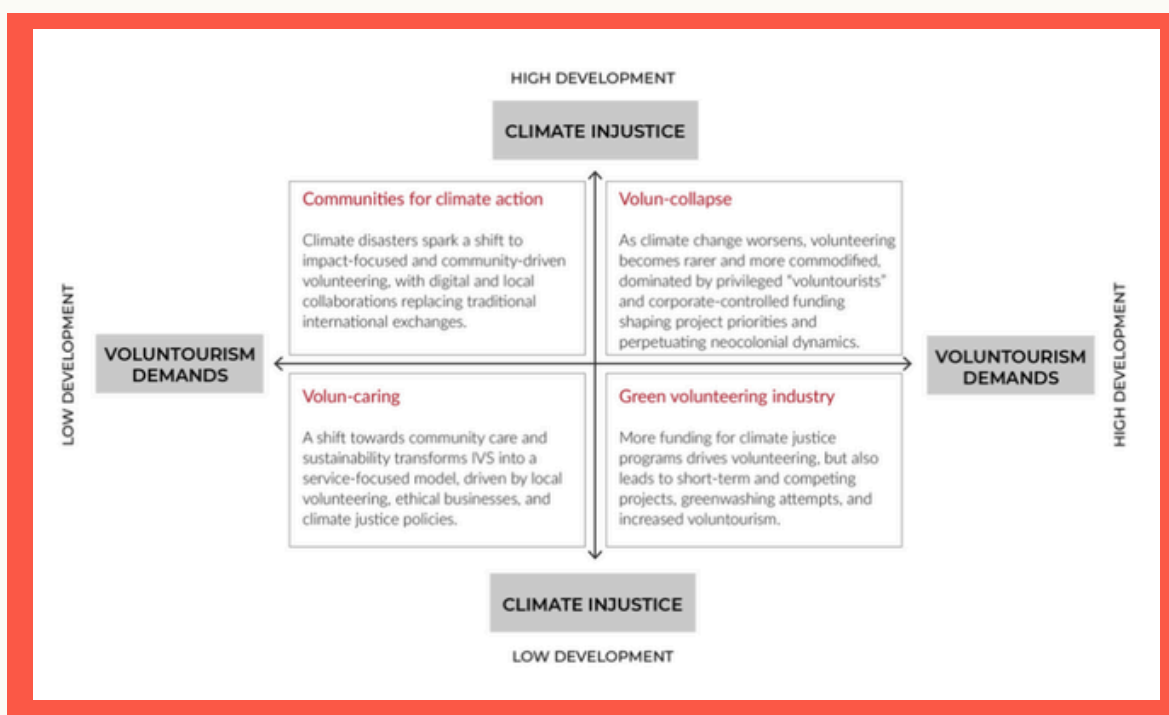
Input into the discussions gave the **Study Session “New Trends in IVS” at European Youth Centre** (3rd to 7th February in Budapest, Hungary), that was co-facilitated with CCIIVS, SCI, and ICYE. Based on declining volunteer numbers across the IVS movement, the 30 participants representing IVS networks and organisations from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas asked themselves: “How can international voluntary service evolve and thrive in an increasingly complex world?”.



To guide the discussions, the "Toolkit for Tomorrow: Anticipating Civil Society Futures" was used — a resource to explore trends, think critically, and imagine different possible futures. Looking into the interests of young people, their motivation to engage, their ideas of solidarity and their civic participation, the participants identified two key trends that are already starting to impact IVS:

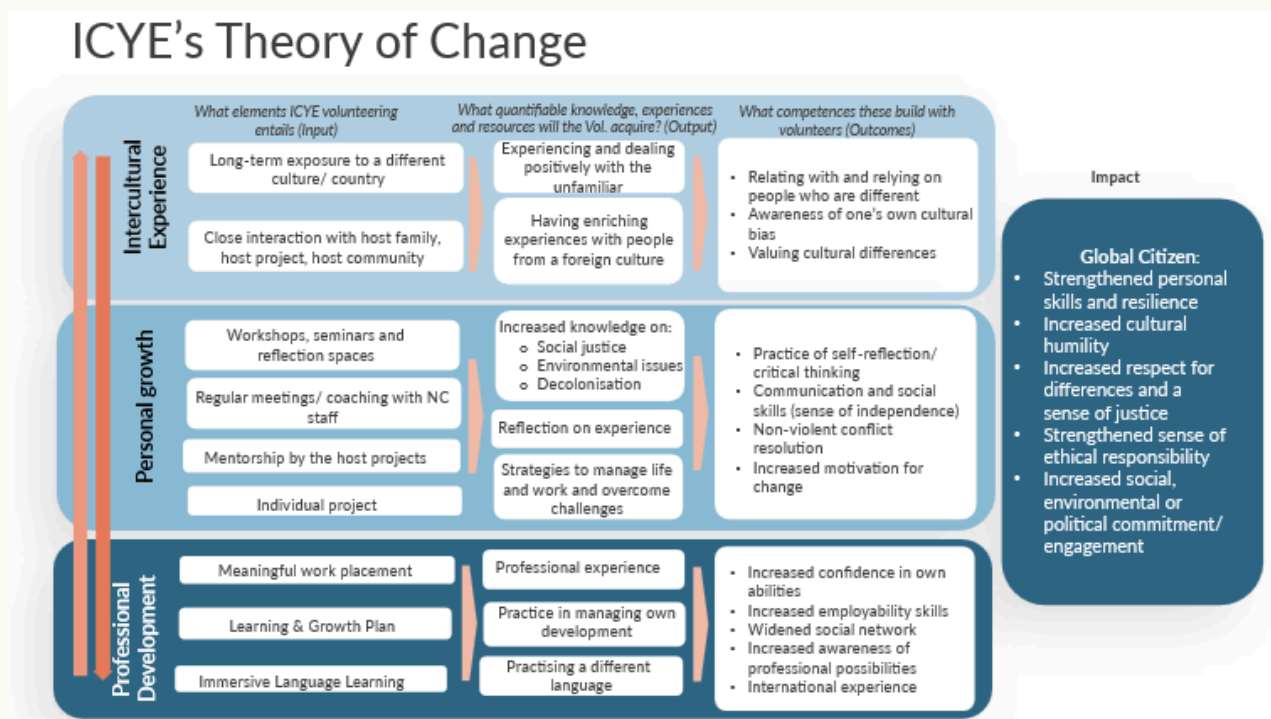
- Climate injustice — how environmental crises and inequalities will shape who can engage in volunteering and who is left behind.
- Voluntourism demands — the increasing risk of volunteering being treated as a product for personal experience rather than as solidarity-driven action.

In the scenario building activity, participants imagined four distinct futures for IVS by 2035, each shaped by the varying influence of climate injustice and voluntourism demands.



The workshop concluded with a key insight that IVS organisations need to be more active inside of advocacy and decision-making spaces related to the identified trends can support the implementation of the networks' strategic planning and shape the future of IVS.

Another strategic focus in 2025 was on the quality of the ICYE programme. The Sub Committee on Quality Assurance finalised **ICYE's Competence Framework** - based on our new Theory of Change – along with the corresponding Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.



The new competence framework is divided into four levels:

- 1.- The personal skills that encompass soft skills (self-reflection and self-management, confidence and self-esteem, resilience and dealing with challenges) and intercultural understanding (awareness of one's own culture and cultural biases, knowledge about the host country, communication)
- 2.- The skills for the world that encompass skills on environmental justice, gender, diversity, inclusion and social justice as well as decolonisation.
- 3.- The skills for work include language skills, work skills, managing one's own learning and professional development and digital literacy.
- 4.- The skills for change include the skills needed for activism.

The Sub Committee applied the new competences to ICYE's global volunteer evaluation survey which is being tested in the programme year 2025-26, allowing for a more structured evaluation of the volunteers' progress on their individual competences and skills.

To strengthen the work on impact measurement, ICYE members from Italy and the Philippines participated in the [M.I.L.E.](#) (Measuring Impact of Long and Medium-Term Engagement) project, coordinated by CCIVS. The aim of the project was to understand the impact of long- and medium-term volunteering on volunteers and host communities. The young researchers learnt in a training course on impact measurement (8th to 12th April in Walberberg, Germany) how to do youth-led research, using the “Most Significant Change” approach. The M.I.L.E project concluded with an online conference on 16th December 2025.

Participants reiterated the importance of a decolonised IVS while highlighting the transformational character of long-term volunteering both on the volunteers and the communities.

To strengthen our partnerships with other IVS organisations, we implemented the following joint actions:

- 11<sup>th</sup> April – meeting with IVS organisations from NVDA in Asia Pacific to share updates on our work.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May – we presented the research from Decolonise IVS at the DEI meeting of Forum
- 28<sup>th</sup> May – we participated in a webinar by SCI on their toolkit for mental health
- 30<sup>th</sup> June – the YEC met with the CCIVS Youth Committee to share good practices in regard to challenges faced and to plan joint activities.
- 15<sup>th</sup> August – participated in the webinar organised by NVDA on World Peace Action Day 2025.
- 30<sup>th</sup> August – participated in the Alliance Joint Meeting session on ‘External representation and advocacy’ with CCIVS and SCI - to reinforce ongoing efforts in the field of advocacy.
- 5<sup>th</sup> September – Webinar organised by the YEC and the CCIV Youth Committee on “Rethinking Gender (In)Equality in Global Volunteering”
- 8<sup>th</sup> October – online call with sister networks and organisations who sent participants to our advocacy training in Belgium to strategize how to move forward our advocacy plan also with national-level policy makers



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Our Federation’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) has continued this year. The DEI Sub-Committee carried out important interventions, including the launch of new tools and the hosting of Community of Practice sessions, while many member organisations advanced DEI at national and local levels. Together, these actions strengthen our ability to create truly inclusive spaces for youth participation.

In 2025 the DEI Sub Committee organised three Community of Practices sessions that opened space to connect, reflect, and reignite ICYE’s shared commitment to meaningful and inclusive volunteer engagement. They allowed for a greater understanding of diverse audiences, their realities, challenges, and motivations:

- 22nd May on Decolonial Communication (15 pax)
- 9th July on Diverse Testimonials (18 pax)
- 18th September on Language and Responsibility (19 pax)

## Embracing diversity through online groups

Group 1 A B C D E

Embrace the difference: Diversity in small groups – how to do it more inclusively?

**Before the online-event**

- Online Registration Form with questions on diversity
- Gender/ Pronoun/ Languages spoken (+Mother tongue); Dissabilities to take into account
- Person of contact during session

**During the online-event**

- Pre-planning the groups
- Preference selection by the participants
- Encouraging Diversity

**After the online-event**

- Evaluation form regarding diversity
- Which aspects from the online event have encouraged you to try more diverse groups?
- Which recommendation would you like to give us regarding diversity for online sessions?

**Aspects to consider...**

- Transparency on the creation of the groups
- Clarifying the Importance of working in diverse groups
- Ask for the expectations of the groups during the online session: common rules

The Sub Committee also prepared the [DEI Planning and Evaluation Tool](#) which was disseminated online on 11th March among member organisations. With this tool youth organisations can identify where and how to make their workplace, interventions, and communications more inclusive. To improve the knowledge and skills of staff on the inclusion of people with disabilities in volunteering, ICYE organised an online dialogue on 14th August 2025 where the expert explained how different models on disability – like the medical model - simplify representations and influence how societies or organizations understand disability. He highlighted the need to see inclusion as a process and way of thinking. The six dimensions of barriers that need to be recognised when talking about inclusion (physical, social, communication, economic, information, institutional) were explained.

At ICYE, we believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are fundamental to building a stronger, more compassionate global community



The DEI Sub Committee additionally promoted the online [Course on Intersectional Volunteering](#) among member organisations so that volunteers are more aware of neo-colonial attitudes and how to reflect on their own biases. The topic was also discussed during a joint meeting of Alliance, CCIVS, SCI and ICYE on ‘External representation and advocacy’ (Marche-en-Femmen, Belgium, 30.8).

For campaigns around DEI see below.

# CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

In 2025, ICYE's advocacy work with young people focused primarily on our response to the proposal from the European Commission on Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) in the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2033.

From 14th to 18th July 2025, 20 young people from 18 different countries and representing various IVS networks (CCIVS, ICYE, SCI) participated in an advocacy training to promote a fair Erasmus+ and ESC programme that empowers youth. The training build on the advocacy work and policy papers from the [Decolonise IVS](#) project and refined the advocacy plan on how to advocate for more equitable funding, power relations, and distribution of resources in the field of volunteering. During the training, the young people were able to meet two advocacy experts and three policy makers (Policy Assistant DG EAC, assistant to MEP, trainee with CULT Committee). When participants were asked in the evaluation whether they felt that their understanding of youth-led advocacy improved, 14 out of 19 participants rated their change as significant or very significant and 90% of the participants indicated that they will or probably will be able to use the learnings back home.



After the workshop, the young people together with the four European IVS networks (Alliance, CCIVS, ICYE, SCI) developed an open letter on the MFF, proposing the following recommendations:

- Substantially increase Erasmus+ funding.
- Safeguard the Youth Chapter with dedicated funding
- Reorient Erasmus+ objectives toward solidarity and active citizenship
- Secure and strengthen the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)
- Preserve and adequately fund the three Key Actions
- Create a Fourth Key Action for global cooperation
- Ensure access across EU funding programmes



The open letter was shared with the European Commission and widely disseminated among the network members for their advocacy work at local level.

In a coordination call (8th October), the group of young activists shared their progress and strategies with representatives from IVS member organisations (30 pax).

Meanwhile, another group of young activists worked on the policy paper [“Advocating for a just, inclusive and sustainable Erasmus+ and ESC Programme”](#) that will be shared in early 2026 with the CULT Committee of the European Parliament for their consideration. Another working group launched an advocacy campaign in October and November on social media (Instagram and LinkedIn) targeting and informing young people on what the MFF is about and how the current EC proposal for Erasmus+ and ESC risks access for grassroots, youth-led, and community-based organisations to EU funding.



In the General Assembly, ICYE approved CCIVS's Volunteer Rights Framework that will guide our advocacy work in the coming years. The volunteer rights include the following overall rights:

- IVS participants have the right to have their skills, knowledge, and competencies formally recognised as legitimate contributions to education, employment, and civic life.
- IVS participants have the right to engage in international volunteering regardless of country of origin, income, gender identity and sexual orientation or ability. IVS participants have the right to have their contributions to environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and social justice formally recognised, valued, and supported.
- IVS participants have the right to engage in volunteering opportunities supported by funding systems grounded in fairness, transparency, and decolonial values.
- IVS participants have the right to engage in volunteering experiences that are safe, inclusive, and grounded in robust rights-based protections.
- IVS participants have the right and the responsibility to engage with host communities in ways that respect their cultures, values, and leadership.
- IVS participants have the right to be protected, informed, and supported when volunteering in contexts affected by conflict, occupation, political repression, or systemic violence.
- IVS participants have the right to be meaningfully involved in the governance, decision-making, and strategic direction of IVS organisations, networks, and projects.

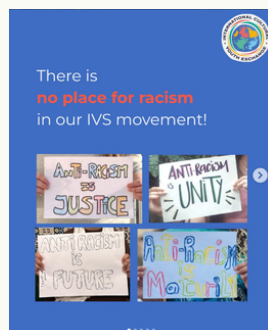
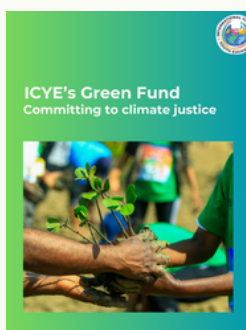
# COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2025, we launched a new Communications Hub on the platform Coda, to promote the coordination of joint campaigns among member organisations. While there is a learning curve using the new tool, we are happy to report more joint campaigning than in previous years.

In our [annual report 2024-25](#) we annually report on our volunteer numbers, finances, projects, policies, YEC activities and volunteer experiences. In the current edition the thematic focus was on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Social media campaigns of relevance included:

- To promote Greener Together policy (ICYE's commitment for a sustainable and regenerative future) – 15th to 24th February
- Antiracism week campaign coordinated by the DEI Sub-Committee and Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) – 17th to 21st March
- To promote Care to Engage policy (ICYE's policy on safeguarding children) – 3rd to 16th June
- YEC Week, coordinated by the ICYE's Youth Engagement Committee to promote meaningful youth engagement – 25th to 29th August
- MFF campaign, in collaboration with sister networks to advocate for an Erasmus+ framework that empowers youth – 29th October to 12th November

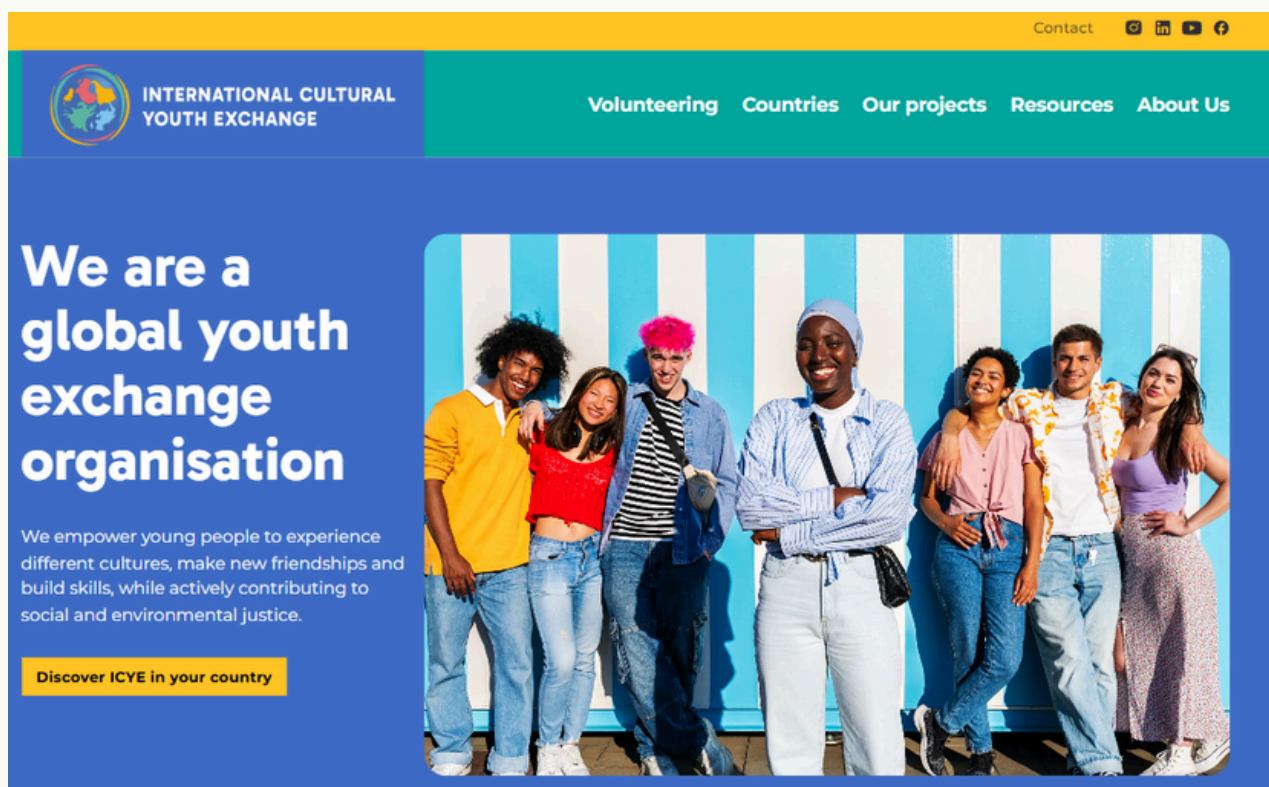


We published 6 posts on average per month, on Instagram and Facebook. We were also able to increase interactions, thanks to the engaging content, up to 50 interaction per post on average in 2025. Our LinkedIn presence is still limited but we hope to increase our outreach and connect with other potential institutional partners in 2026.

The two editions of the [ICYE Newsletter](#) (the first one on our policy Care to Engage to address the safeguarding of children, the second one from the YEC) were spread widely via email lists, social media and our website. These Newsletter launches were timed with their corresponding campaigns.

The two Newsletters (March and August) within the LIVE-Ex project were disseminated to more than 500 unique email addresses, as the subscriber list continues to grow midway through that project's implementation.

We tasked both a graphic designer and a website tech-company (pro-bono partnership with Tech to the Rescue) with overhauling the website, revamping it with the new branding, and producing a more accessible interface: [icye.org](https://www.icye.org).



To strengthen staff capacity and exchange knowledge, ICYE organised three thematic calls, creating non-formal learning setting to share good practices:

- 31st July - Diploma in IVS (16 pax)
- 14th August – Inclusion (12 pax)
- 25th September – Homecoming camps (15 pax)

With our members we shared the annual quality assurance report in which we analysed the feedback from the volunteers in the programme year 2024-25 to continue improving our programme quality.

Our media reach in 2025 was as follows:

Activity	Output
Reach of the 2 ICYE newsletters	2.500 readers via social media, website, and email lists
Reach of the 2 Live-Ex newsletters	547 subscribers and growing.
Increased number of Unique Website Visitors (UWVs) to ICYE's website	8280 /month unique website visitors
Increased social media presence	6 posts on average per month, with a total of 79 posts in 2025 (to date mid-December)
Number of social media followers	78.000 total followers (including accounts of member organisations)
Number of interactions with social media posts	50 interactions per post on average in 2025.
Cooperation among members has improved through joint campaigns and projects.	Campaigns to promote our Greener Together Policy 15.-24. February and our Care to Engage Policy 3.-16. June Anti-racism week campaign coordinated by DEI Sub-Committee and YEC – 17-21st March YEC week 25th - 29th August MFF campaign 29.10 – 12.11 to advocate for an Erasmus+ framework that empower youth.

# OUR POLICIES

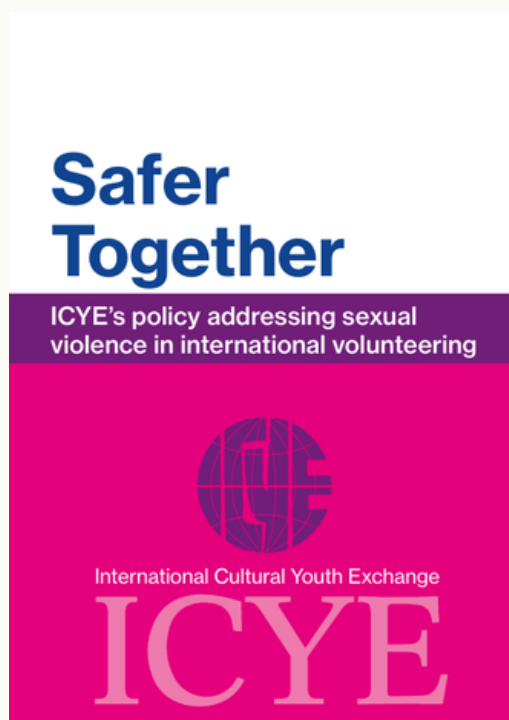
In 2021 and 2022 ICYE approved three new policies to guide the work of the members: [Greener Together](#) – ICYE’s commitment to a regenerative and sustainable future, [Safer Together](#) on addressing sexual violence in international volunteering and [Care to Engage](#) on safeguarding children.

In 2025, the Sub Committee on Policy Implementation had seven online meetings on Safer Together and Care to Engage (13th February, 14th March, 15th May, 19th June, 24th July, 17th September, 9th October) and eight online meetings on the Greener Together policy (22nd January, 19th February, 12th March, 9th April, 18th June, 23rd July, 28th August, 25th September) to ensure the implementation of the commitments of the three policies. In our annual report, the progress on the implementation of the three policies is documented.

Implementation of the policies has been achieved at different levels:

## a) Safer Together

153 staff have been trained to date on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence, using ICYE’s [Our Policy in Action](#) toolkit. The network of 35 focal persons communicates in a Whatsapp group and has met a few times online to discuss specific case studies on sexual violence (20<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> September and with additional regional meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September). By exchanging good practices and discussing cases, the network of focal persons has built their capacity to address cases of sexual violence in a professional way. Additionally, an Advisory Committee was set up to support with difficult cases (meetings on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and 19<sup>th</sup> May).



Moreover, staff, co-workers and board of managers from 35 members have signed a code of conduct highlighting their commitment regarding the topic of sexual violence. 24 members have submitted comprehensive action plans on Safer Together, committing themselves with concrete actions to addressing sexual violence in their work.

## b) Greener Together

20 young participants together with YEC members participated in the Greener Together workshop (5th to 9th May in Vienna, Austria) to compile training materials aligned with ICYE's new competence framework relevant for the implementation of our Greener Together policy commitments. The [Greener Together Toolkit](#) was disseminated to all members and is now being tested by them. In an online meeting on 22nd October, members were able to learn more about the content.

To compensate for the impact ICYE's work has on the environment, a Green Fund was set up that collects donations for host projects in the Global South to address climate change and bio-diversity loss.

30 members are actively implementing ecological commitments in their office and their work with volunteers and engage young people in local actions (like tree planting, waste collection).



# ICYE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



From 22nd to 26th November 2025 the 34th [General Assembly \(GA\)](#) of ICYE took place in Lima, Peru with 52 participants from 32 members organisation, including three members of ICYE's Youth Engagement Committee. In preparatory calls the Sub Committees had shared updates on the work they had realised in the time since the last GA. Documents that were put forward to vote had been discussed in online calls beforehand to ensure the broad participation of the members in the development of these.



During the GA itself, the discussions and working groups centred mostly on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and the activities proposed for 2026. The members in the GA set clear strategic guidance for the work in the next five years with a strong focus on youth engagement, stronger regional

regional collaboration and quality assurance. Five Sub Committees were set up to implement the action plan 2026.

Moreover, the new Board of Managers and the GA presidents were elected. The Youth Engagement Committee was approved as a permanent structure and regional coordinators were identified. 23 motions were approved and two associate members voted in as full members: [VSA Thailand](#) and [VIVOL Peru](#). The GA also approved the external financial audit of the closing of the books of the International Office and the new budgets.



# ANNEX

In this section, we want to highlight and explain the changes to the original activity plan for 2025.

This annex does not constitute a full project report and should be read together with the main Activity Report and the project report submitted to the EACEA as requirement for the grant.

While most of our activities were implemented as planned, there were also some changes:

Overall, the numbers of young people who want to engage in international volunteering is decreasing. We had hoped to reach 1200 young people with our ICYE and ESC opportunities in the programme year 2024-25 but only achieved 1184. This is an overall trend within the IVS movement that is not only affecting ICYE, as the [Global Statistics](#) clearly show. The analysis done in 2025 for our strategic plan along with the results from the Study Session on Trends helped us identify key barriers and challenges and inform the way forward for the ICYE programme.

In 2025, the ICYE Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) together with the advocacy working group of young advocates were able to carry out youth-led advocacy work with EU-level policy makers, however not to the extent as we had planned. Our funding for a follow-up project to Decolonise-IVS was not approved, so we were left with minimal human resources to mentor the youth in the continued achievement of their advocacy goals. We were able though to rely on support from our sister networks to further push for our funding advocacy asks related to the Erasmus+ MFF, which served as a unifying collaborative effort. In 2026, once the policy paper on the MFF is finalised, we will connect with more policy makers at the European Parliament to inform their discussions on Erasmus+ and ESC from an IVS perspective.

Our intervention to introduce staff to the self-assessment tool for Decolonial Understanding has been postponed to 2026.

We have not managed to develop the DEI action plan, as the Sub Committee focused on other activities. As the mandate for the DEI Sub-Committee was extended for another two years at the GA 2025, the Sub Committee will work on putting into place the DEI action plan.

To identify the number of participants with fewer opportunities in ESC and ICYE programme, we identified the need to include an improved monitoring mechanism in our candidate application to be better able to understand the needs and specific challenges of participants with fewer opportunities.


As the technical launch of our website took longer than expected the updated digital interface to make the website more accessible for people who use screen readers is postponed to 2026.





# icye.org

## ICYE International Office

Große Hamburger Straße 30  
D-10115 Berlin  
Germany

 +49-30-28 39 05 51

 [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org)

 [facebook.com/icyeio](https://facebook.com/icyeio)

 [instagram.com/icye.federation](https://instagram.com/icye.federation)



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