



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



“After a year of preparation, the IVO4ALL project has officially started in February 2015.

It aims at increasing the accessibility to international volunteering towards the reform of European and national public policies. It is run by a consortium of 8 high level European partners, which France Volontaires as project leader will be happy to present you in this first newsletter. This first edition will introduce you further to the [objectives and expected results](#), the [strategy foreseen](#) to reach the main goal, the [3 field trials](#) and the [quality](#) of the field trial. We hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter.”

Jean-Daniel BALME, Executive Director, France Volontaires

“International voluntary service is source of opportunities for young people, for territories and for the whole society in general.

IVO 4 All, it is five partner countries which gathered around a common will: make sure that these opportunities of voluntary service are accessible to all the young people. Thanks to genuine collaborative work, ministries, national agencies, NGO platforms work together to develop innovative measures to facilitate the access of all to voluntary service opportunities : more inclusive tools of information and selection of young people, missions of voluntary service which favour the participation of all, even the least experienced, supporting returning volunteers through identifying and adding value to the experiences, etc.

France commits itself completely to the success of this project and will integrate its results into its strategy of developing a universal civic service.”

Jean-Benoît DUJOL, Interministerial Delegate for youth affairs



SUMMARY

- [The IVO4ALL consortium – a transnational cooperation between high level authorities](#)
- [Organisation of the project](#)
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- [How the consortium works in practice](#)
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- THE IVO4ALL CONSORTIUM – A TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES -

All partners involved in IVO4ALL work on national policy design and implementation either through youth policies, volunteering and / or international cooperation.



The consortium has been set up under the initiative of the French Ministry for Urban Policies, Youth and Sports and integrates specific and complementary skills.



As the coordinator, France Volontaires, a network of NGOs and public authorities, relies on its experience in managing European and international project aiming at designing public policies on volunteering and youth.



As the evaluation body, Ernst and Young - Global Government and Public Sector Centre brings strong and experienced knowledge into the evaluation process. They provide specialized tools and methodology to measure the impact of IVO4ALL deliverables.

PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING THE FIELD TRIALS:



The French National Agency for Civic Service, who is a key partner to French Ministry for Youth regarding its extensive knowledge of youth volunteering.



The Department of Youth and National Civic Service from Italy will bring its strong experience in conducting a national civic service. Contact: ivo4allitaly@serviziocivile.it



Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) from UK is a leading international development charity and develops youth programs accessible to a wide range of young people. VSO also brings its experience on quality assurance and is the leading partner of this work package.

PARTNERS INVOLVED HAVE A STRATEGIC POSITIONING, ON DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION:



The Department of Youth Affairs in Lithuania runs a project called National Youth Voluntary Service and wants the IVO4ALL results to influence the development of an international volunteering service.



The National Youth Service from Luxemburg, which is a public administration under the Authority of the Ministry for Education, Children and Youth, will also play a key role in highlighting project experience and results through its national and international networks.

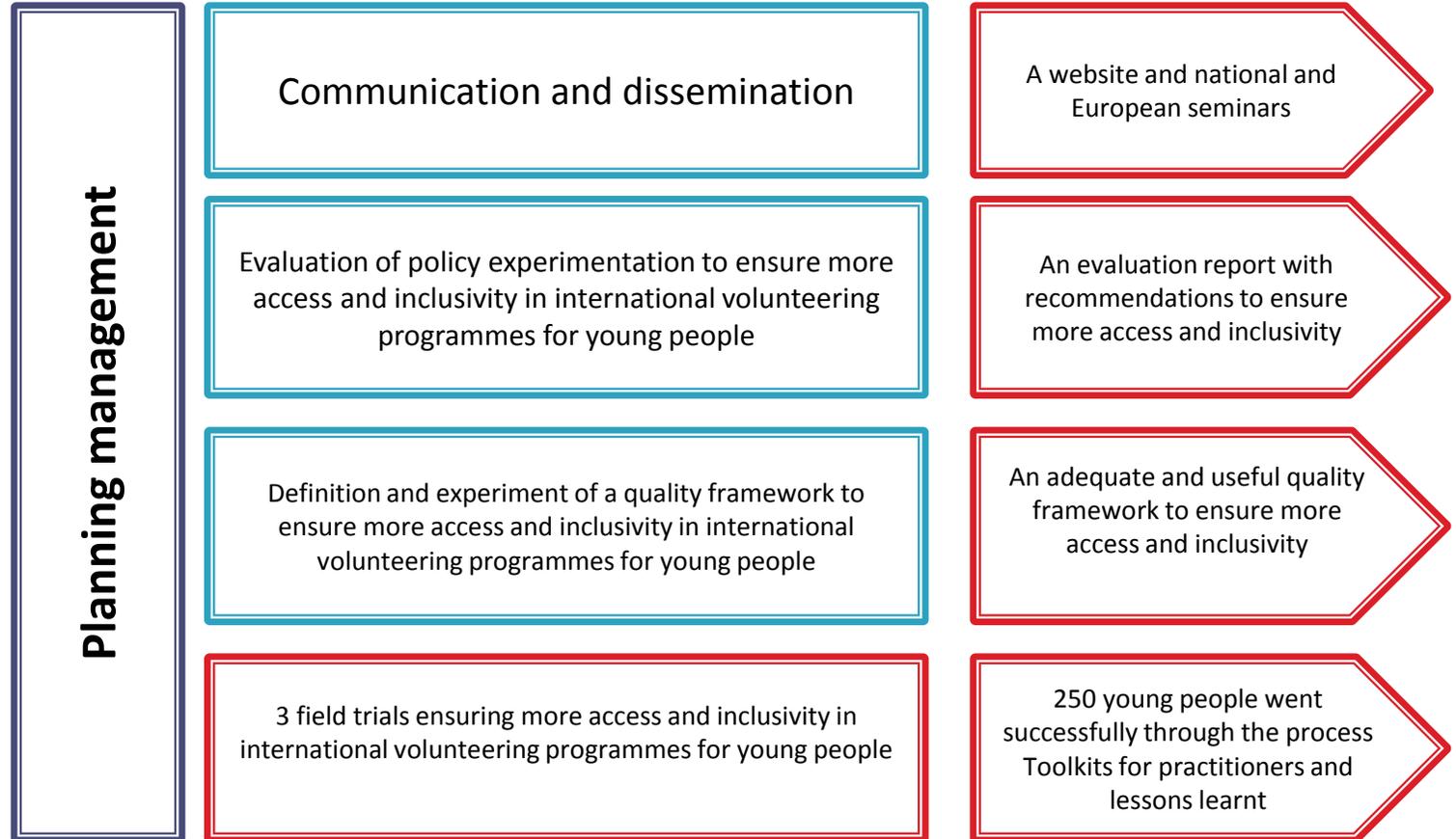
NEW POLICIES FOR MORE INCLUSIVENESS

The Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the EU, adopted in 2008, invites Member States to develop opportunities for cross-border volunteering while giving particular attention to young people with fewer opportunities.

The IVO4ALL project aims to develop the European and international dimension of volunteering policies. It is planning to test an alternative management process of international volunteering schemes that would ensure a better inclusiveness towards young people with fewer opportunities.

This refers to a common analysis according to which young participants sent as volunteers outside their country usually have a specific profile. Young people with fewer opportunities rarely access the positions of international volunteers that are rather taken by participants with a higher education level and a sound economic and social background.

It is thus important to remove obstacles to international mobility in order to give all young people the opportunity to gain new competences and to prevent them from social exclusion through international volunteering.



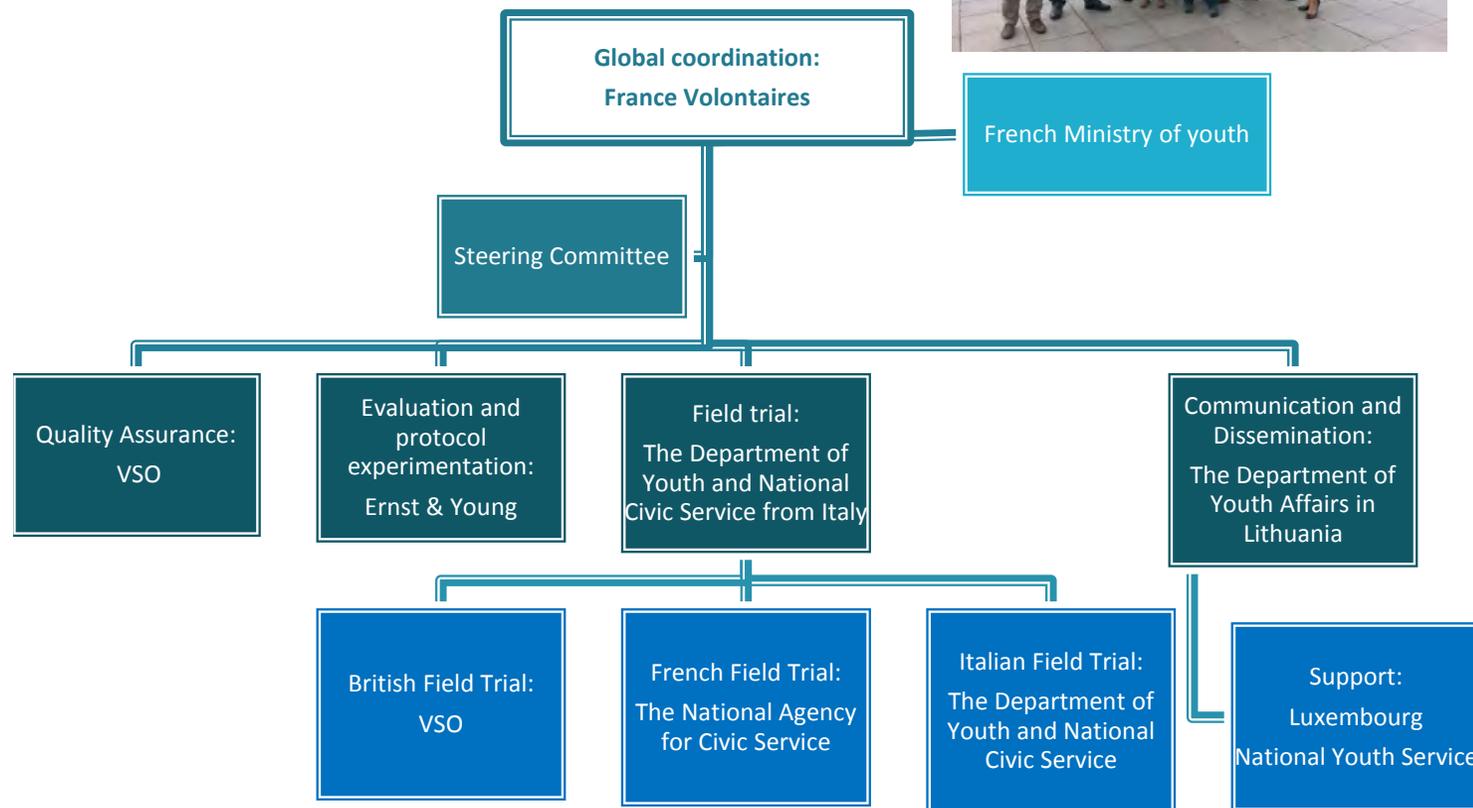
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS : OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE CONVERGENCE AND COLLABORATION

The management board and the Steering Committee have been set up since the beginning of the project. The Steering Committee met 2 times since project launch. In February the first meeting of the project IVO4ALL took place in London and was intended to devise an operational framework. On the 9th and 10th of June Vilnius (capital of Lithuania) hosted the 2nd Steering Committee meeting. Representatives of partner organizations from France, Italy, United Kingdom and Lithuania participated in the meeting. The head of the Lithuanian department of youth has opened it.

The Steering Committee shared their practices, discussed and agreed on the new management processes of international volunteering schemes (which are related to application, selection of volunteers, maintenance, training, tutoring, etc.). The Steering Committee agreed on the future research principles. The main goal of the research is to test the effectiveness of the new volunteering schemes and compare them with the old ones, to share results and recommendations with other Member States of EU, youth, organizations, policy makers and society in general. Committee members agreed on the importance of cooperation, sharing of knowledge and experience and highlighting the benefits of international volunteering.

Participants of the meeting also had a chance to have a short glance at [Vilnius old town](#). They remained impressed with its beauty and sincere charm.

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QUALITY PLAYS A CONSIDERABLE ROLE: A FIRST WORKSHOP WAS HELD IN APRIL

The quality plays a considerable part in IVO4ALL project. It is made up of three key elements: evaluation, monitoring and quality assurance, which would ensure more access and inclusivity in international volunteering programmes for young people.

A first workshop on the 13th of April 2015 was held with all partners at EY France in order to look into evaluation and quality. This workshop was an opportunity to

collectively work on logical frameworks and in indicators for each field trial as well as for EU.

First of all France, Italy and UK presented their expectations on the field trial. The main questions which was discussed was about the approach of the target group: how they should be prepared in each country. Should it be the same preparation everywhere? The preparation also depends on what we want to evaluate during and after the volunteering services.

The several gatherings have confirmed that one of the main concern is to have a shared understanding of the terminology used in the project. A glossary is being set up, questioning what's the role of a tutor, a mentor etc. The outcome of the workshop has been very useful for all of us. We have assessed the progress and the preparedness of each work package and we have identified that we would require better preparation and more discussions to be able to agree on common quality principles and framework. Although there is still a lot of work to do for everybody, we got new energy to continue on this project.

Since then the board has agreed on the following 5 quality principles: accessibility, support, learning, usefulness and partnership. In addition, the quality, evaluation and monitoring frameworks are nearing completion.

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EXPERIMENTAL MEASURES AND SYSTEMIC IMPACT ENVISAGED

The project, which started on 1st February 2015 and which is running for three years, will experiment an alternative management process of international volunteering schemes that would ensure better inclusiveness, especially for young people with fewer opportunities.

The experimental measures relate to the type and duration of placements offered by the organizations, application and selection processes that are implemented, pre-departure training, management of the partnership between sending and hosting organizations and support to young volunteers that have fewer opportunities anticipating the impact of mobility.

A new protocol based on those measures will be designed and implemented by partner organizations. 500 young volunteers will be targeted, half of them will benefit from these alternative measures whereas the other half will not, in order to compare effectiveness and impact of these measures. The analysis will be based on understanding of inner dynamics created by volunteer schemes' current systems. Impact of tested measures on those dynamics will be assessed.

Read more about Field trials on the following pages:

[French field trial](#)

[Italian field trial](#)

[British field trial](#)

The Civic Service scheme, which celebrated its 5th anniversary in March, is in an intensive development phase. Following the tragic events that have shaken France earlier this year, the President of the Republic wished to strengthen national cohesion by proposing a universal Civic Service scheme. Any young person wishing to engage himself/herself in a Civic Service mission in France or abroad should therefore be able to do it regardless of his/her situation. The objective is to welcome 70,000 volunteers by the end of 2015.

The IVO4ALL project's French experiment will enable to qualitatively support the development of Civic Service scheme missions abroad especially for young people who are furthest away from them. The experiment launched in France aims to send 100 young people over two years. It aims to create, test and evaluate more inclusive measures for young people distant from mobility. Recommendations will be eventually issued and should enhance the international Civic Service by equipping organisations and thus making it more accessible to all young people.

The target group of the experimentation are young NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) coming from sensitive geographical areas (sensitive urban zone and overseas) with few or no qualifications (A level or qualifications below A level baccalaureate) and / or recipient of minimum social benefits (Income of active solidarity or grant holders).

It will run on two phases of sending 50 young people in 2015 and 2016. The 6-month placements will take place internationally and in Europe and will cover all the themes of the Civic Service scheme (education, environment, culture, health, etc.)

The French consortium, made up of the Ministry of Urban policies, Youth and Sports, France Volontaires and Agency for Civic Service, has chosen to implement a participatory approach to facilitate the ownership of the project by youth and mobility stakeholders. Two bodies were established to contribute to the implementation of this experiment:

A national steering committee comprising youth and mobility strategic stakeholders that provides policy guidance and monitors the proper implementation of the project.

A working group composed of organizations that responded to a call for expressions of interest. 12 organizations were selected to develop and test measures through sending volunteers abroad. Among them, NGOs or community education organizations, as well as a local authority and a "Mission locale" (office for young people integration). These organizations, all approved for the Civic Service scheme, reflect the variety of structures and their geographic diversity and offer a wealth of experimentation.

The working group met three times and has identified measures to improve information for young people, adapting the selection procedure to avoid bias lead by practitioners, adapt the content of placements target audience (including combining courses in France and abroad for a period of 6 months), offering two-day pre-departure training, strengthen tutoring throughout the placement involving the receiving partners, and post placement follow up.

Meetings of the steering committee and the working group have triggered an active and regular participation which demonstrates the interest of the participants to issues of accessibility of volunteering devices.

The measures are being finalized (pooling of existing tools and capitalization of good practices) for the welcoming of the first volunteers in October 2015.

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FROM AMICUS TO IVO 4 ALL – WHY THE ITALIAN CIVIC SERVICE PARTICIPATES IN A NEW EUROPEAN PROJECT

For the Department of Youth and National Civic Service, the project IVO 4 ALL represents an extraordinary opportunity to implement the lessons learnt through a previous European project called AMICUS.

A survey conducted in 2009 by the National Civic Service in the framework of the project AMICUS actually showed that young people participating in the international civic service:

- come from families with higher income and higher level of education than young people who choose to serve in Italy;
- have high academic qualifications;
- have had previous experience of volunteering abroad, and
- have a good knowledge of a foreign language.

Moreover, the research highlighted a strong correlation between some key variables such as family income and education levels that are often linked to the knowledge of a foreign language and a previous experience abroad.

Therefore, through the project IVO4ALL the Department intends to test measures that will break down barriers and thus improve access to international volunteering for those young people who are excluded, i.e. those who have a low level of education, who come from families with low income, and are unable to communicate in a foreign language.

How do we differentiate the participation in the civil service for the group of 50 volunteers who will take part to the IVO4 ALL field trial?

First, the length of service will be reduced from 12 to 6 months and the foreign destinations will be limited to the European Union member States. Before departure, the volunteers of the field trial will participate for four weeks in an intensive English course and during the service abroad will be supported by a bilingual tutor. In addition, the criteria for the selection of the volunteers and the type of tasks to be performed will be adjusted to the profile of young people with fewer opportunities. Finally, the project will be advertised through alternative channels in order to reach young people living in particularly disadvantaged areas.

In short, IVO 4 ALL should lead to the creation of a truly European citizenship opened to all.

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“VALUING VOLUNTEERING”

[VSO](#) is the world’s leading, independent international development organisation that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. VSO brings people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and ultimately change lives to make the world a fairer place.

VSO currently holds the contract to deliver the UK’s [International Citizen Service \(ICS\)](#). ICS is an international youth international volunteering programme for 18-25 year olds funded by the UK government and led by VSO in partnership with 11 other development organisations. Young people from around the UK work in partnership with local young volunteers in developing countries on projects that make a sustainable contribution to fighting poverty. Over the last 3 years, ICS has worked with 14,000 young people around the world. ICS is closely linked to National Citizen Service, the UK’s civic service for 16 and 17 year olds.

VSO will be participating in the IVO4All project through ICS. VSO will pioneer new ways to enable young people with traditionally fewer opportunities to access ICS by piloting a range of measures in the pre-departure phases through the field trials, as well as leading the development of a Quality Framework for the programme. VSO’s field trials will explore the impact of additional support mechanisms such as workshops, mentoring and adapted training on the participation of young people with a low educational achievement and NEET young people in international volunteering.

VSO has a long history in innovation in volunteering and people-led development, including youth volunteering programmes. Whilst a wealth of research has explored how volunteering affects the volunteers themselves; there has been very little research exploring how volunteering actually brings about change for communities on the ground. In March 2015, in partnership with the [Institute of Development Studies](#) in the UK, VSO published their groundbreaking research paper, [‘Valuing Volunteering.’](#)

This research explores how volunteers, both young volunteers on ICS and professional volunteers, impact community development and social change in developing countries, as well as the factors that can prevent them from doing so. The research was undertaken in Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal and the Philippines between 2012 and 2014 in the areas of health, education, governance and the environment. It engaged more than 3,700 participants, including community, national and international volunteers, government officials, young people, community leaders, teachers and health practitioners, making this the largest study of its kind to date.

The findings from the research demonstrate that volunteering contributes to sustainable development in the following ways:

- Inclusion:** extends the reach of public services to the poorest and most marginalised;
- Innovation:** creates new forms of collaboration that lead to social innovation;
- Ownership:** strengthens local ownership of development processes;
- Participation:** creates a pathway to people’s participation and active citizenship;
- Inspiration:** modelling different norms.

The research highlights that it is not just *what* volunteers do, but *how* they support change that makes their contribution unique. Volunteering has a unique role to play in contributing to sustainable development both through youth volunteers and professional volunteers.

- More information on [‘Valuing Volunteering’](#)
- More information on [ICS](#)

- IVO4ALL –

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The next newsletter will be on-line.
More information in september on :

www.ivo4all.eu