

# Project description



Co-funded by the  
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of the European Union





“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

**Margaret Mead**

# Foreword and acknowledgements

This booklet aims to any civil society organization which is curious about hosting international workcamps of volunteers as a resource for their local and community-based projects.

This booklet is the result of several months of reflection and it comes out from the experience of several volunteers, NGOs, associations, local governments and other public and private structures that in the past years hosted International Voluntary Service (IVS) projects, giving concrete answers to their local needs, offering hundreds of volunteers every year the chance to commit themselves and to meet different environments, cultures, social backgrounds, lifestyles and points of view.

Thanks to EU support, projects like PROMETEUS can be implemented. This initiative is focused on sharing experiences and good practices between four European and Latin-American organisations, around hundreds of participants were involved both international and local volunteers. Several international and local initiatives were developed in order to foster voluntary projects implementation in their local community.

Without their assessments, judgments and feedbacks, this publication would not exist. So, the first big “thanks!” is for all the participants of this project, volunteers, youth workers, trainers, staff and hosting organizations that allowed these exchanges. This booklet is mainly the result of several discussions and actions undertaken by the different partner organizations whose commitment to the project was always been higher than requested. We registered that all organizations involved really enjoyed running this project and greatly contributed.

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Concordia International Coordinator



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# General background

Concordia is working since 1950 on volunteering, mobility and non-formal education and is part of the European Alliance of Voluntary Service Organisations and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) networks.

With this project, Concordia wished to widen its field of action and explore new possibilities of exchange and improvement through the Erasmus+ programme Key Action 2. We participated to several projects of Capacity Building in the field of youth and during our past discussions, our partners mentioned the need for support in order to improve their practices and adjust their youth projects, international workcamps and voluntary services.

We decided to set up this project on International Voluntary Service implementation in order to answer our needs, learn new practices from each other, improve our project management skills in the field of youth, strengthen our cooperation and intensify our volunteers' exchanges.

**Project Management Empowerment by Trainings in EU and South America (PRO.M.E.T.EU.S)** was a long-term project funded under the **Key Action 2** of the **Erasmus+ program**. The project aims to exchange and improve youth working competences and good practices between Concordia France, Lunaria Italy, FPEC Ecuador and BVBP Peru through mobility activities, youth workers and volunteer exchanges.

The main goal was **to promote the cooperation between youth organizations** in the education and training fields, launch, test and implement youth work practices, recognizing the contributions of youth organizations of volunteering and developing approaches on cross-border mobility of young volunteers.

This project aims to **strengthen the capacity of the consortium to organise international workcamps** by sharing practices with a focus on project management, communication and training.

We planned to reach our aims through the mobility of Long-Term volunteers (EVS) and youth workers in job shadowing periods as well as international training and the implementation of local training courses and workshops.

The objectives of the project were:

- To improve the knowledge and competences of the project partners in workcamp organisation and management
- To train coordinators and leaders both in Latin America and Europe
- To increase the quality standards of the workcamp projects organized
- To capitalize and share the experiences and competences developed.

This project was also contributing to the implementation of European policies as follow:

Strategic framework – Education & Training 2020 main objectives:

- Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training
- Promoting equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship

European Strategy for Youth Field of Actions objectives:

- Participation: Developing quality standards on youth participation
- Social inclusion: Realising the full potential of youth work and youth community centres as means of inclusion, developing intercultural awareness and competences for all young people
- Volunteering: Recognising the contributions of youth organisations of volunteering, developing approaches on cross-border mobility of youth
- Youth and the world: Promoting volunteering opportunities with regions outside of Europe Supporting the development of youth work on other continents.

Erasmus+ programme Capacity building in the field of youth objectives:

- Promote the cooperation between youth organisations and organisations in the education and training fields
- Enhance the management, governance, innovation capacity and internationalisation of youth organisations in Partner Countries
- Launch, test and implement youth work practices, such as:
  - tools and methods for the socio-professional development of youth workers and trainers
  - non-formal learning methods, especially those promoting the acquisition/improvement of competences
  - new forms of practical training schemes and simulation of real-life cases in society; new forms of youth work, notably strategic use of open and flexible learning
  - cooperation, networking and peer-learning activities fostering efficient management and leadership of youth work organisations.

PROMETEUS is also based on the experience of PANDORA'S BOX Young Women, Community Development through EU and LA Cooperation, organised by Lunaria in 2015-2016. During the implementation of Pandora's Box, we realised the interest of Latin American partners in our training methods and their demand to improve cooperation in order to exchange good practices and competences.

It's important to highlight that even though the organizations taking part in PROMETEUS have different sizes, experiences and fields of specialisation, they all have the same goals and they all stand for the same values as stated in the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations Constitution:

National organizations involved in Voluntary Service, who promote international understanding, peace and voluntary service, common search for human betterment, and encourage and support wherever possible local voluntary programs enabling people, especially youth, to make new friends, encounter and understand different cultures, with an educational objective.

According to our values, we didn't expect to "teach" to the Latin-American partners how to improve their workcamp projects, but rather to create a positive environment where we could all learn from each other, exchange tools and good practices and, as result of that process, define improved common standards.

For that reason, each member was essential to PROMETEUS and all our skills and attitudes were complementary to increase the quality of our projects.



# The actors on stage

## Concordia - France



Concordia is a non-profit organization, founded in 1950 and aims to:

- Educate young people by allowing them to develop through cooperative learning.
- Encourage young people to experience new cultures through international youth exchanges, whilst emphasizing the importance of peace, friendship and a mutual respect for others.
- Encourage young people to get involved as part of a harmonious society, through actions of solidarity whilst developing tolerance for the environment around them.
- Contribute to development, through educating young people on issues regarding the environment, patrimony, tourism, society and gender.

Workcamps are a perfect tool to reach these goals:

Participating in a workcamp means working voluntarily during three weeks at a project of a common utility, such as environment, archaeology, culture, heritage. It is a tool of non-formal education, but also an opportunity to get to know the real life of a small community, as well as the culture and customs of other volunteers coming from all around the world.

Every year Concordia sends more than 700 French participants abroad in its partners' projects and hosts around 700 foreign volunteers on its own camps in France.

Concordia is a member of three international and national networks:

- The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations, which is a network of 51 national organisations in 30 countries.
- The Co-coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), which is an organisation founded under the aegis of UNESCO in 1948. CCIVS coordinates about 300 organisations worldwide.
- COTRAVAUX, the French national network of workcamps' organizations.

The other activities of the association take place throughout the year, during the weekends or short holidays workcamps. Concordia is also an active organization sending and hosting mid and long-term volunteers within the European Solidarity



Corps framework (former European Voluntary Service) and Service Civique. One of the main aims of our projects is the integration of people with fewer opportunities using non-formal tools.

Concordia also organises various trainings during the year along with local partners and international organisations. Today the board committee has 15 members; there are 1500 subscribers, 34 employees and 200 activity leaders.

## Lunaria - Italy



Lunaria is a not-profit association, non-governmental body, autonomous from religious and political affiliations created in 1992. Its activities focus on IVS and mobility, EVS, trainings, intercultural exchanges targeting young people and youth workers, researches, communication, anti-racism, gender.

The organization has 12 employees, counts on a wide range of experts and trainers and in 2016 involved 800 national and international volunteers in the different initiatives and projects.

All the actions realised aimed to empower the active participation of young people by stimulating their learning possibilities so to become able to act as promoters of new initiatives within their community.

Lunaria is member of the Alliance network and launched in 2012 a medium-term strategy aimed to promote gender equality. Within this strategy, different projects in cooperation with European and partner countries organisations were implemented:

- 2011 SHAKING UP THE WORLD: Euro-African stories promoting youth inclusion, Action 3.2, to involve local youngsters coming from suburbs and slums in active citizenship actions through storytelling;
- 2013 TAG CLOUD Respecting and Valuing Gender and Generational Differences, a training course to develop new tools for youth workers so to promote gender equality;
- 2014-2015 JAMBO Young Women Empowerment to Improve Quality of Youth Work and Volunteering in EU and Partner Countries a KA2 to empower youth and social workers from Africa and EU, by providing them with new tools to favour the women participation in IVS projects;
- 2015-2016 PANDORA'S BOX Young Women, Community Development through EU and Latin American Cooperation, a KA2 to follow up the

work already started in Jambo, developing work in the field of gender equality in EU and LA;

- 2015-2016 THE POT OF GOLD Education and exchange to fight hate speech and discrimination, a TC and YE to raise awareness on the hate-speech wide-spread toward individuals and LGBT communities and to develop tools to fight the phenomenon.
- 2017-2018 STAGED! Struggling Against Gender-based Discrimination through Youth Work in EU and Asia is set to answer the needs of empowering women and young girls in Europe and South East Asian countries, identifying and addressing power imbalances and giving them more autonomy to manage their own lives. The project aims to enhance gender equity and young women empowerment by providing youth workers, peer educators, local organizations and international NGOs, in EU and SEA, with new tools and methods to favour young women participation in projects and IVS activities.

## Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú - Peru



Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Perú (BVBP) is a national youth organization, which develops voluntary service activities at national level. It was created on 23 November 1982, as an Agreement following the 2nd encounter of mayors of the main cities of the Andean Pact (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru), in preparing the bicentennial commemoration of Simón Bolívar's birth date. Their headquarter is in the city of Lima, with local branches in most regions of the country.

Main goals:

- To train youth leaders
- To deliver services to the community as an answer by young people to the problems they are faced with and affected.
- To foster youth work as well as the integration of the youth sector in Peru
- To promote active citizenship and a sense of responsibility among our members

Activities:

- Seminars and Training on leadership, personal development, youth participation, project management

- Campaigns to enhance awareness about health, sexuality, ecology, education, drug prevention, etc.
- Generation of youth micro-enterprises. We train young entrepreneurs to develop competence and skill development of young people.
- Social welfare: visits to hospitals, orphanages, homes of the elderly, shelters of children with HIV, vocational training, support to other welfare institutions, etc.
- Cultural dissemination: artistic exhibitions, visits to museums, theatres, etc.
- Exchange programs with national and international youth organizations.
- Recreation and use of free time (camping, strolls, internal tourism, etc.)

## Foundation Chiriboga - Ecuador



Foundation Chiriboga is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, does not have religious, racial and political conflicts, legally constituted by Ministerial Agreement N° 47 of the Environment Ministry of Ecuador – South America on March 19th, 1999 and updated legalization N° 100 of the same Ministry.

Their main objective is the Protection and Conservation of the Environment, to promote development of the community whose activities are related with the environmental scope and local economy development.

They want to help people to realize the importance of reforestation and agriculture in the area, with help of the community, international volunteers and the participation of the government institutions related to urban conglomeration, environment, life quality, equity relations between the population and its environment. They feel responsible in protecting the western Andean mountains forests remain, in the Pichincha province. They are protecting approximately 200 hectares of primary forest.

The Community development is one of their objectives, in this area Foundation Chiriboga chose the education to promote the increment of academic level in the students of the primary schools, from country areas and urban conglomerations.

# The activities implemented

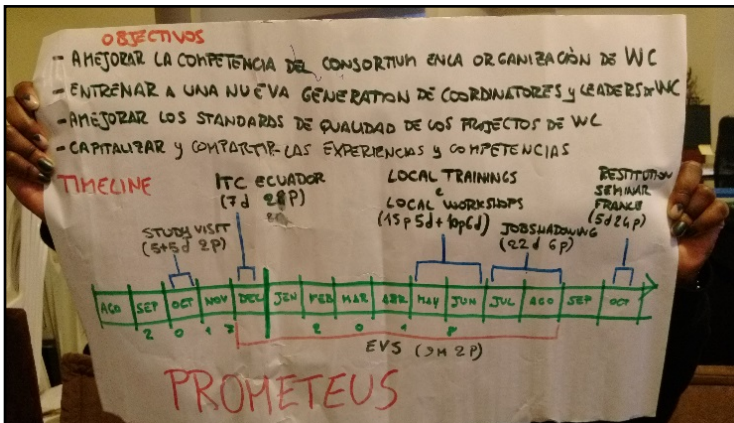
## Study visit

10 days, from the 12th to 22nd of October 2017.

2 members of Concordia went to Latin America in order to meet FPEC and BVBP staff members, visit the structures, discover the activities and evaluate the needs. The visit allowed the preparation of the EVS volunteers' arrival and the organization of the International Training Course.



In Peru







In Ecuador



## EVS Volunteers

7 months, from December 2017 to June 2018.

Each Latin American partner hosted 2 volunteers sent by Concordia and Lunaria (4 in total). The EVS supported the partners in their daily activity of preparation and implementation of international workcamp projects and organized and facilitated local trainings for camp leaders. Concordia and Lunaria developed a 2-day preparation training before departure in November 2017.



EVS in Peru



APPLY TO OUR WORKCAMP IN

**ICA**  
**HUACACHINA**  
07/12/18 - 02/08/18

**THE OASIS ISN'T  
JUST A  
MIRAGE, LET'S  
PROTECT IT**



Communication realised by the EVS in Peru

APPLY TO OUR WORKCAMP IN

**PUNO**  
7/27/18 - 8/17/18

**FIGHT THE  
COLD WITH  
THE TROMBE  
WALLS**



BVBP

## International Training

**In Ecuador, 7 days, from the 11th to the 17th of December 2017.  
5 participants per partner, 3 Concordia trainers.**

The participants included the EVS, member and staff of each partner organization. Hosted in Quito by FPEC, Ecuador, the training was mainly based on non-formal learning methods and peer to peer approach such as debates and role-play workshops, learning by doing, visual facilitation and participative evaluation.

These tools were combined with some more theoretical moments, in order to achieve the objectives of this training:

- Create a common vision of what is an international workcamp of volunteers and its educative outcomes
- Reflect on how to create a workshop based on non-formal learning and share a maximum of non-formal tools.
- Foster a team spirit between EVS and staff
- Understand and experience what are the main topics to tackle in a Workcamp leader's training.















The training had two main parts: the first half was focused on what is a Workcamp and what are the main topics to tackle in a camp leader's training. The second one was focused on non-formal learning: the participants were divided in groups and each group prepared and implemented a workshop based on non-formal learning methodology.

This phase provided both EVS and local staff with new skills and tools, which will be useful in order to implement non-formal education-based trainings and workshops. One of the first tasks of the volunteers was to create a handbook of this training. The handbook was used as a guide during their project and has also been disseminated in our network.



## Visiting Chiriboga

During the training course in Ecuador, participants visited the natural reserve of Chiriboga. This activity allowed them to reflect on the touristic dimension of workcamps and the importance of the impact in local communities.



# Workcamp experience

During the training, participants did a mini workcamp in order to implement actions and reflect on the productivity dimension of a workcamp.





## Local Trainings

**1 training in Peru, 4 days in June 2018, 37 participants.**

**1 training in Ecuador, 6 days in June 2018, 13 participants.**

The EVS and the Latin-American organisations provided trainings based on non-formal and informal learning in order to empower hosting organizations' members to lead a workcamp. The main topics were team building and group dynamics, interculturality, problem solving and self-organization, leadership and conflict management, logistic and administrative tasks.



## Local Workshops

**6 workshops in Peru (Huaraz, Pachacamac, Chorrillos, Chaclacayo, Puno and Ayacucho) from February to May 2018, 73 participants in total.**

**1 workshop of 2 days in Ecuador in May 2018 with 11 participants.**

The workshops, facilitated by the EVS, were held in the villages hosting workcamps in order to prepare the local youngsters to the experience. Due to the difference of activity between BVBP and FPEC, 6 workshops were organized in Peru and 1 in Ecuador. The EVS, using non-formal and informal learning methods, raised awareness topics like intercultural experience, gender equality, environmental sustainability, social inclusion etc.

One of the aims of the workshops was to address groups of young people with fewer opportunities: youngsters facing social and economic obstacles or educational difficulties or affected by disabilities. Our aim was to include in the workcamp dynamics a public typically excluded from mobility projects. The EVS defined the structure and topics of the workshops.

Workshop at CHORRILLOS





Workshop at PACHACAMAC (Peru)







Workshop at PUNO



## Job Shadowing

**15 days in Ecuador and 21 in Peru in July and August 2018**  
**6 participants sent by Concordia and 6 by Lunaria.**

European camp leaders participated to international workcamps organized by Chiriboga and BVBP and shared their experience with Latin American counterparts. They could discuss the activities, exchange their opinions, share their experience, address the problems observed, etc.

The idea in the beginning was to build complementary teams of 3 participants: one from Lunaria, one from Concordia and one from the local team. In Ecuador, due to a lack of projects, the 6 European leaders (3 from Lunaria, 3 from Concordia) went to the same Chiriboga project but still could share a lot during their meeting.

During the whole period they observed and supported the local camp leaders while taking part to all the workcamp activities as any other participant would; they lived, worked, cooked, visited and had fun with an international group of young volunteers.

### PUNO (Peru)





PUNO (Peru)





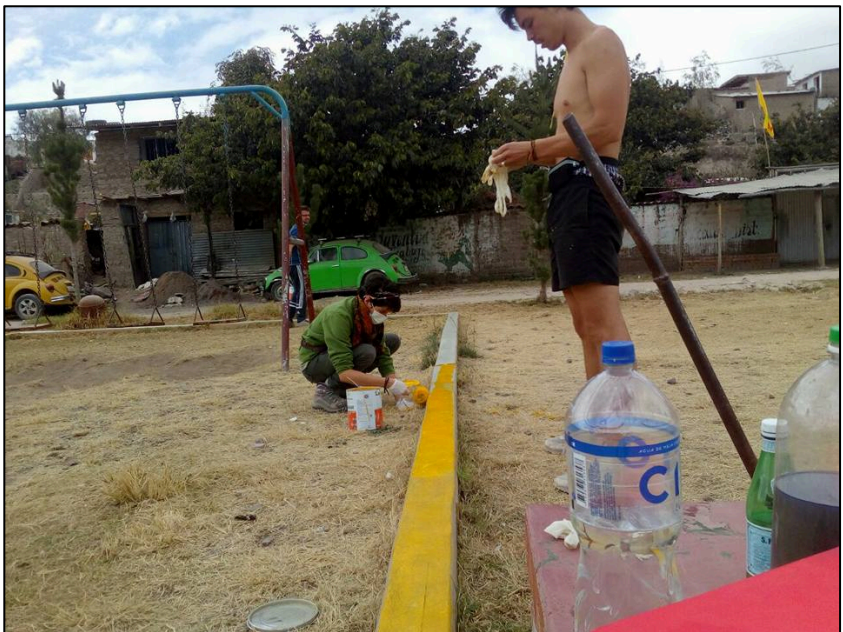




AYACUCHO (Peru)













PALCA (Peru)





ECUADOR











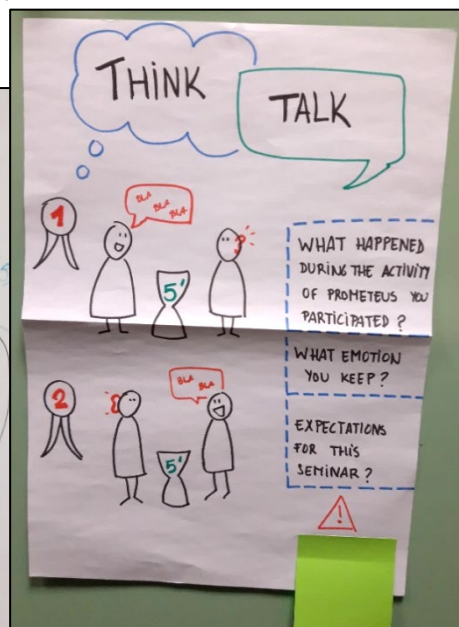
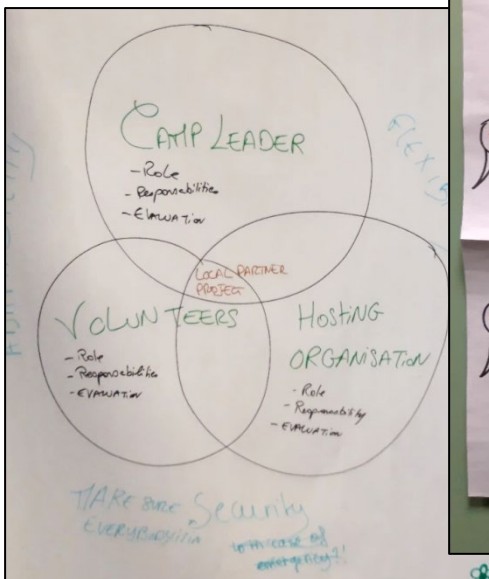
## Restitution seminary

**Chamarande (France), from the 28th of January to the 1st of February 2019**  
**15 participants from Ecuador, Peru, Italy and France**

All the participants, members and staff involved in the project were invited for a restitution seminar, aiming to capitalize and start the dissemination of the project results. The aim of this activity was to allow the stakeholders of the project to share their experience and to capitalize and disseminate the outputs in terms of knowledge and competences.

The main objectives of the seminary were:

- To provide a space to reflect and share many participants' experiences
- To allow participants to meet and discuss, exchange their points of view on workcamps and discuss about future improvements
- To capitalize and disseminate the project in order to reach a wider target group (organization's members and staff not directly involved, as well as networks)
- To present the outcomes of the project in terms of results and supports (handbooks, toolkits, Prezi etc.)
- To raise awareness about the importance of youth mobility projects
- To evaluate collectively the project.





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## A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PARTNERS ORGANIZATIONS :

FRANCE	<b>CONCORDIA</b>	<a href="http://www.concordia.fr">www.concordia.fr</a>
ITALIA	<b>LUNARIA</b>	<a href="http://www.lunaria.org">www.lunaria.org</a>
PERU	<b>BRIGADA DE VOLUNTARIOS BOLIVARIANOS DEL PERÚ</b>	<a href="http://www.bvbperu.org">www.bvbperu.org</a>
ECUADOR	<b>FUNDACION PROYECTO ECOLOGICO CHIRIBOGA</b>	<a href="http://chiribogaecuador.wordpress.com">chiribogaecuador.wordpress.com</a>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION :

[HTTPS://CONCORDIAFRANCE.WIXSITE.COM/PROMETEUS](https://concordiafrance.wixsite.com/prometeus)