

## TIPS FOR ORGANIZING LTV PROJECTS

*This document was submitted by Chris van der Kooij (VIA Netherlands). Our task at the LTEG meeting is to decide if and how (practical procedures, separate document,...) our working group wants to promote these tips. Check with your organization if you have amendments or further ideas to complete this document.*

SCI is a worldwide organisation organizing mainly workcamps. But it is not the only activity. Besides workcamps SCI organizes also LTV projects for many years. LTVing is volunteering for more than one month. Today many of these projects in European Union countries are financed by the EU subsidy from the YOUTH in action program, the so-called EVS projects.

EVS projects are financially interesting projects, as they cover costs for food, accommodation, insurance, travel, pocket money and preparation and evaluation seminars. But EVS projects are very bureaucratic and do not cover the administrative work which is needed for SCI organizations to run the exchanges and they are limited in which nationalities and ages can take part in it. In general it means that EU citizens up to 30 years old can take part. Contact countries, e.g. Ukraine, can host an EVS project, but they cannot apply for the subsidy themselves. They can only send a Ukrainian citizen to a West European country in being a partner organisation in the framework of so-called "Youth in the World" applications.

SCI is a worldwide organization with participants in all ages and from many different countries all over the world. Therefore it wouldn't be right that these participants couldn't take part in an LTV project. Of course there are other LTV projects, too, not financed by the EU, BUT there is an increasing amount of only EVS projects in Europe. In the last project list of LTV projects (November 2006) more than 75% of European projects are financed by the EU and less than 25% by other funds and therefore open to everybody.

For this reason LTEG (Long Term Exchange Group) wished to promote the LTV projects. LTEG knows that this is not always easy for the branches and groups, BUT there are many possibilities. It might be hard to start to organize it this way but one of the poorest countries and one of the riches countries in this world is able to do it, so your organization can be able to do it as well!

Here below LTEG gives you some tips and advises concerning LTV exchanges. It is worth trying and putting some efforts in it in order to strengthen LTV exchanges. These tips are taken from practise and not mentioned by some office people.

LTEG wants to thank OWA Poland, SCI Switzerland, Gençtur Turkey and VIA Netherlands for their advises.

Tips:

How to find hosting projects

1. Organize a project at a host where food and a place to sleep is already provided, e.g. an elderly house, an orphanage or a community.
2. Present your organization at the World Wide Web as an LTV hosting organization and that you are looking for good partners.
3. Have a look at all your workcamp partners and search for a good hosting organization.

4. Make clear to the hosting organizations what the benefits are for them (new ideas, extra help, international input, language knowledge...)

#### Financial arrangements with the hosting project

5. Arrange with the hosting organization that they will take care/pay for the food and the accommodation. Insurance (SCI insurance scheme) can be discussed with them as well. The same for pocket money. It's of course nice if the volunteer can receive pocket money, but that's not the first important thing.

#### Language courses

6. Language courses are normally not given in these cases. Some of the volunteers took a language course themselves, or in some cases a local volunteer gave a short language course.

#### Funding possibilities

7. Look for other, local funds to cover the overhead and for example the pocket money. Lots of embassies do have some small funds. The Jucker Mauderli fund in Switzerland (ask SCI-CH for the rules and details) can be asked, too.