

Impact on Communities of international workcamps



846 pages of transcribed interviews, which correspond to
53 interviews in

11 languages

12

countries

Belgium, Czech Republic, France,
Greece, India, Indonesia,
Italy, Korea, Philippines,
United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam

23 hosting
projects

1/3 Envi 1/3 Reno 1/3 Social
32% 1-4 years 21% 4-9 y. 47% 10+y
34% Asia 66% Europe

local community

governments

civil society organisations

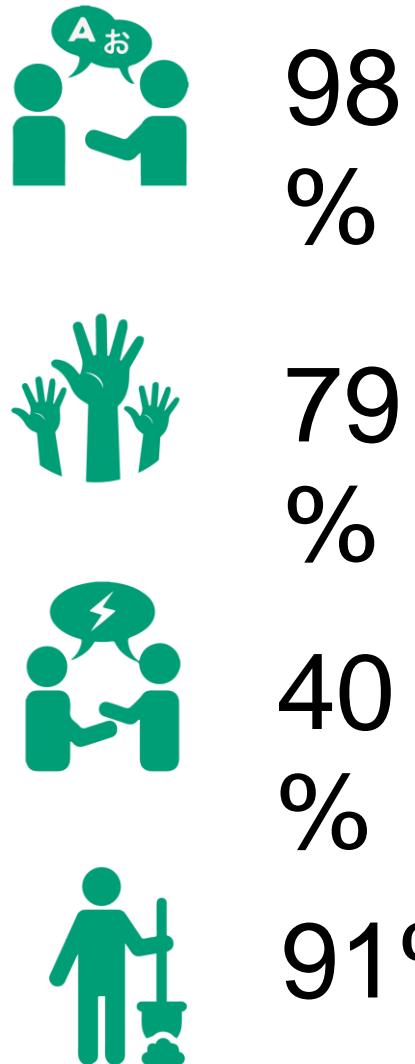
local volunteers and

camp leaders

65

representatives

Workcamp is a tool for peace:



98
%



impact on cultural/intercultural competences

- > intercultural learning?
- > Does it change anything within the community?
- > On the self-image?
- > On the image of others?

79
%



impact on active participation within the community

What's the impact regarding

- > active participation within the community (higher involvement), or
- > in IVS projects or other international opportunities? (participate or think to participate)

40
%



impact on conflict management

Did it (and how) affect the way the community members/collectives deal with conflicts?

(personal, interpersonal, social,...)

- > where there any conflicts
- > did they find specific ways to deal with them?

“At first we organised **international coastal cleaning day**, by involving local people and volunteers, but **now** every year this program is continuing as a tradition. Every year local youth, government and community people organise **beach cleaning day** in their village by themselves and clean the beach.”

Mr Chinnanna Doreswamy, Kundapur, local Partner,
FSL India

Method

Universities: Johns Hopkins, Salzburg, Malaysia, Illinois

IVS: Solidarités Jeunesses, CCIVS, Better World, 50 partners

Interviews, by trained IVS professionals

11 countries, local languages,

Participatory analysis

25 IVS professionals, from 11 countries

40 interviews, 3 days

5 people coordinating team

Workcamp is a tool for peace:



98
%

impact on cultural/intercultural
competences



79
%

impact on active participation
within the community



40
%

impact on conflict management



91%

impact Technical work



new capacities to understand and appreciate cultural diversity

impact on cultural/intercultural competences

Nicole Jones, parent in the local community Blancelau, UNA Exchange, Wales

“We normally think of Spain or Greece as places we go on holiday... we don’t think about people that live there outside the holiday resorts and that life is normal and people face the same issues there as we do here. [...]”

Michel Lafay, former Mayor, Bocage Sud/Creneau, SJ France

“There was someone who told me “ha!, these youngsters are good people, even the Algerian ones. And we had an Algerian on the workcamp.[...]

And someone told me: this has changed totally my way of looking at others.

You see, through these two testimonies, I think we simply achieved our aim.”



new capacities to understand and appreciate cultural diversity

Hypolite Kissendeh, president local host organisation, Rixensart, CBB Belgium

"In our relationships, I would say, with the municipality for example, it enables also to demystify some rumours, I mean, sometimes strangers are seen as dangerous people, people that we should fear...and when we see some young English girls that come here to spend their holidays participating to the project of the centre and that come back safe and sound, that they were not abused , not robbed...All of this makes that at the end, we can live with those people for 20 days without any consequences, and thinking that it is nice...it is an added value.."

98

%



a change
on how
people
perceive
their own
people,
value,
culture

impact on cultural/intercultural competences

Young-hoon Kim (김영훈 회장), chief in Young Men Community in Songjung, Better World Korea

“Songjung is a very small community. I don’t know, maybe it may be having an “inferiority complex”. I feel the small communities fall behind the big communities. Through workcamps, we came to have a lot of confidence in our community, and some courage to feel our community is not just small.”

a change
on how
people
perceive
their own
people,
value,
culture

B. Guillemette, regional director Concordia, Le Mans, Concordia France

"The young people, the older ones, 18 to 25 years old, they thought "Fuck, they did this big travel, they are volunteers, only to come and do animations, for us, for young people, for the children, for the inhabitants, it is great, respect!" So here is the interest of the international in a neighborhood, that allows young people or residents to really get conscious of their competences, their ability to take an active role in their neighborhood, and in their life. To show them, to open up new possibilities."

98

%



a change
on how
people
perceive
their own
people,
value,
culture

impact on cultural/intercultural competences

Gerald Miles, manager of host organisation, Carhys, UNA Exchange, Wales

“[...] I think it has changed [the community] approach to young people in general to see that they are interested in farming and organics issues and are prepared to work hard to make things change. That is true regardless of where they came from.”

98%

impact on cultural/intercultural competences



A new vision
towards
community:

Young people
looking at
public space

Jean-Claude Ligot, local politician, GRIMM, CBB

“Youth [in the area] appropriated themselves of the shelter and its surroundings. And it is one of the only places that is clean. Actually, one of the only...one of the the cleanest.”



A new vision
towards
community:

Community
looking at the
own
association

Pauline Rogers, community member, Caerhys, UNA Exchange, Wales

“When people come in from the outside they realise how much of a community we have here, it makes us think about how important having the organic farm is, it makes us realise that we are something special and a bit unique, we do something together which is special.”



A new vision
towards
community:

Community
members
changing
their look at
their
environment

**Mr. Dasi Vankata Kharvi, Local Partner (Sea turtle conservation),
Kundapur, FSL India**

“ Before starting the project fisherman and some local people would consume turtle eggs as a food. If people would find turtle eggs, they used to sell those eggs for money. So this is the main threat for turtle hatchings. Now this problem is solved after giving many awareness programs, training to people after successful intervention of this project. Now people protect turtle eggs and worship turtles as a God.”



A new vision
towards
community:

Community
members re-
discovering
their heritage

Lucette Mazars, Technical Leader, SJ Citrus, France

“People talk more about the Périé bridge. People are curious about this project functioning, they ask more questions, they were positively surprised by all the work achieved by those « unskilled » international young volunteers. Some people never came during any project, but then come to see me and say that they have been to the bridge. Those people act as if they are not interested, but still they go visit, and they are positively surprised. Contrary to what we thought at the beginning... it made them discover a bridge they did not know the existence before”

79%

impact on active participation within the community



Will to
participate
in the camp
as
volunteers
in a
community
project

***Ji Hyo Jung, local partner coordinator (Haeundae-Gu Volunteer Center),
Busan, Better World Korea***

***“After university students saw the paintings by the campers
and the Korean volunteers, they asked us if they can paint the
opposite side too. So they painted it with lots of small fish.”***

Pastor, Wando, Better World Korea

***“So, these days, schools even get quite interested in the
workcamps, so they wanted to let their children participate
in the camp. In the past, we had to try hard to get the
students participate in the camp, but now the schools found
the value in the workcamp and sent some students to the
camp.”***

79%

impact on active participation within the community



Generating dynamics of volunteering and participation

“Has created a great impact in the Local community, people are really aware about what they need to do. Waste warriors and volunteers together has created an excellent impact to our local community. Local people also had a chances to learn from the volunteers. What should we do for our own community and they also realized that if the volunteers are doing such things, why we couldn’t also follow the same.”

79%

impact on active participation within the community



Generating
dynamics of
volunteering
and
participation

“And on the site of the Mine, there is a museum, coordinated by an organisation, and it warms the heart of the organisation, because most of the volunteers are not from here, they come from far sometimes. All the years go by and sometimes people are fed up with daily work; the international workcamp warms up the heart of the people in charge of the museum, and everyone does its share for 8-10 days. So it recreates a nice dynamic.”

79%

impact on active participation within the community



Synergies for participation between regions at diverse levels

“St-Hilaire is not a municipality we were working with. We each of us have our destinations if you want so... we were not on the same administrative district, the community of municipalities gathered us but... It allows us also to work. We are lending each other equipment for workcamps. There are links being created?”

Yes, and it overcomes all political division.”



40
%

impact on conflict management

Elen DeBost, elected, Le Mans, Concordia France

An opportunity to dynamise specific situations in a community

“About the kiosk, from the beginning it is about conflict. We wanted to do something there because there was conflict, because it was a place where they [young people in the neighbourhood] hang out, they fight, it is a place of insecurity, so it creates a perimeter of emptiness around, all those problems... it creates a center of "shit", in the heart of the neighborhood [...]”

But in my point of view, the international workcamp participates as well to the regulation , not to the point of solving the conflicts, but regulating them.”



40
%

impact on conflict management

Competences:

Managing diversity in the community

“I think some people feel a bit nervous when they see a group of strangers, we are a fairly close knit community and not used to having strangers living here. They can be a bit surprising. Like I said, though, the more we can do to get to know them the more effort we make the more get from the experience.”



40
%

impact on conflict management

Competences:

Managing interpersonal relations/communication/conflict in a context of diversity

“My colleagues were learning this now... how to save the lunch. Volunteers starts to cook and you see it will be at half past two and it wont be enough... so you join with a suggestion: „hey what about adding this?“ And somehow it works. We considered it as a something special at the begining... but now I saw that it tourned into a something totally normal when some of us came to the kitchen and checked it. To take care not make them any trauma...”



40
%

impact on conflict management

Competences:

Managing interpersonal relations/communication/conflict in a context of diversity

Gerald Miles, manager of host organisation, Carhys, UNA Exchange, Wales

“They thought we were giving them bad food!! There was a bit of a fuss. Anyway we now explain our principles and where we are coming from and give them a choice about whether to eat it or not so.”



40
%

impact on conflict management

Competences:

Learning how to mediate and understand different groups of interests

Marc DELVIGNE, social worker, Rixensart, CBB Belgium

“Ok so and it affected, I mean, did it change the way people apprehend conflicts here?

M- No, unless for us. We are more exigent concerning this, since the beginning, we pay attention to this.... We explain to the volunteers that we need to pay attention to this kind of relationships, that the residents of the centre here want some things that you don't want, here you go, we need not to interpret things the wrong way, so we explain some previous cases from the past and that we need to pay attention...”



91
%
Heritage

impact Technical work

Jérôme Ragot, Mayor's Secretary, Fort Liedot, SJ France

“We have an undeniable heritage conservation. The wall walk rebuilt, which is a big part of the workcamps projects since some years, was conserved thanks to the workcamps. It means this place, this wall walk which is part of visit tour is still open. It is in a good state, pleasant to walk on, so we have a complete visit tour.

[...] It is real and now it is permanent. So it is official, the Liédot fort won't become a warehouse, it will be a place to spread culture, linked with heritage... So, this is done.”



91
%
Public Health

impact Technical work

Maria Domenica Misita, Deputy Mayor, Collesano, by LUNARIA Italy

“Yes, of course we have improved a lot, also because thanks to this cleaning that you have made, we will be able to start the sanitization in the way that the animals, flea and tick that were characteristic of our community for a long time, can now be eradicated more easily.”



91
%
Education

impact Technical work

Kang Dian, Local Partner, Cikapundung, by IIWC Indonesia

“The impact of mini library is that children gain more interest and habit in reading. Even though not yet to every child, but I see more children are interested to the library and stay to read something here. Not only during the workcamp. It is still happening until now”



91
%
Environment

impact Technical work

Mr Chinnanna Doreswamy, Local Partner, Kundapur, FSL India

“Yes. Sea-turtle conservation and environment interlink together. The work done by volunteers helped to protect environment. If fishermen conserve sea-turtles then only it helps to sustain their livelihood because turtles help fishermen to get more fish. So that trainings, awareness programs helps fishermen to participate in this project and ensure the sustainability of the project.”



91

%

Generating local dynamics

impact Technical work

Environ-
ment
+
Partici-
pation

Mr. Balvir S Singh, Local Partner (Headmaster), Daramashala, FSL India

“As a result we started door to door collection of waste, so that people would not need to throw away [garbage]. So this idea which we got from international volunteers is working well with the community.”



91

%

Generating local dynamics

impact Technical work

Support to
local
associative
dynamics

“But now, more and more, we notice the ones that use them mostly are local institutions, and this is very good. We are pleased. We try to build facilities that are accessible to people that have limited mobility, with, of course, an interesting environmental framework; and actually we notice that, now, locals organise barbecues, fishermen’s meetings, anniversaries or family meetings....

Also, some people not from the locality, even from Netherlands, that meet up on those shelters. That is, for me, a total success.”

a change



which comes from within the community

based in the quiet and positive experience of diversity,
non-violence and participation

that valorises every person, every community

micro level

10 volunteers

15 days

728 hours

...budget?

cumulative
figures

400
volunteers

600 days

14 k
hours

...budget?

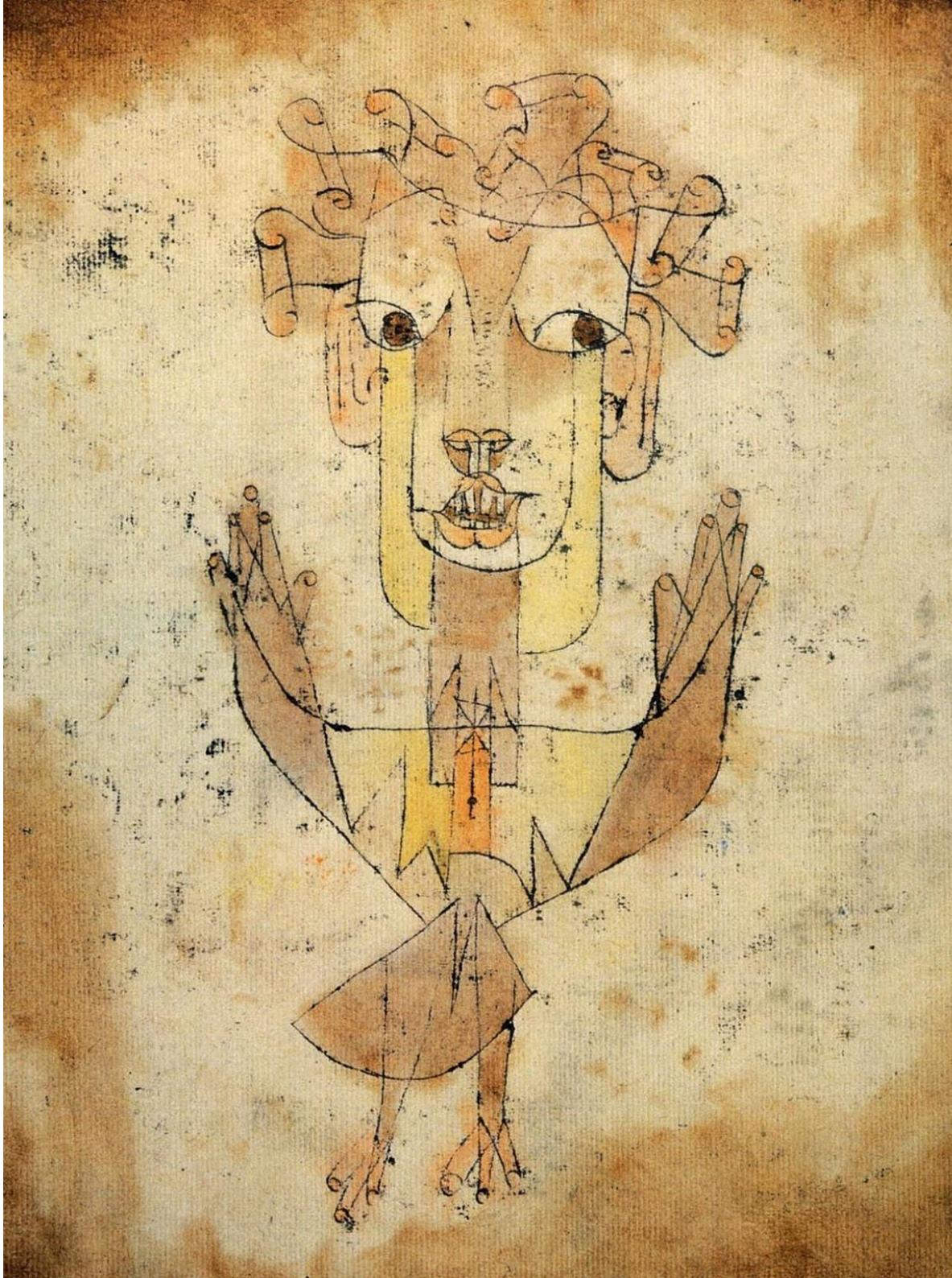
40.000
volunteers

2 M
hours

400.000
volunteers

20 M
hours

the angel
of history



community development



revalorises communities,

dynamics of living together in diversity,

active participation in our communities,

developing local networks,

increasing the capacities to deal with conflicts

a culture of peace in practice



love workcamps