



Voices for Change

Music and Volunteering for a Decolonial Environmental and Social Justice Agenda

Voices for Change empowers the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement through music, storytelling, and advocacy. It connects grassroots activism with institutional advocacy, ensuring that local realities inform global decision-making through a decolonial approach to social and climate justice.

Project Overview

The “Voices for Change” project aims to strengthen the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement by developing new partnerships, integrating volunteer actions and connecting with the International Music Council to address global environmental and social justice challenges. This project focuses on amplifying marginalised voices, fostering inclusion and diversity, and advocating for policy change through participatory processes. It seeks to revolutionise the perception of IVS, emphasising to young people that it entails more than just participating in a volunteer project – it is also about the life-changing experience of volunteering.

The activities include capacity building, knowledge exchange, hands-on community actions, and advocacy. Voices for Change will culminate in a “Change Capsule” comprising a Song, Videos, Policy Proposals, and an Advocacy Strategy, all underpinned by Impact Measurement. The project underscores the imperative of global solutions to global challenges, rejecting limiting regional approaches and affirming the right of people worldwide to contribute to EU and UN policymaking for a decolonised environmental and social justice agenda.



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Below is a detailed description of each project activity, including its objectives, purpose, and participants who should attend.

1. Project Management Meetings

Objective: To ensure effective coordination, project planning, monitoring, and evaluation throughout the project lifecycle.

Description: The 4 management meetings include at least one representative from each consortium member and are strategically placed in the project timeline, to ensure proper preparation of the activities, and to take into account the cost-effectiveness principle (the 2nd management meeting will take place one evening during the Global Reflection Meeting (GRM) to reduce costs). The main goal, is to enhance organisational capacity and foster collaboration among the consortium, ensuring at the same time the effective preparation and implementation of the activities.

The first Management Meeting, to be held online in January/February 2025, will develop the Management Plan and plan a Needs assessment survey; during the GRM the Management Meeting will validate the Quality Assurance Risk Management Plan including financial management tools, and review the Needs assessment survey from



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IVS organisations and associated partners; future meetings will monitor the development of Policy and Advocacy documents and measure the project progress.

In the last in-person meeting in April 2026 a timeline will be drawn up for advocacy actions and project applications to be implemented by CCVS and the Consortium around the time of the EU Online Summit and for the mid to long term once the project ends, monthly catch-ups will maintain connection

Who Should Attend:

- 1 representative from each partner organisation, ideally project coordinator
- CCIVS coordination team members responsible for the project.

Meeting Format:

- First Management Meeting: Online, January 2025. This meeting will focus on establishing the project's structure, defining timelines, and aligning partner expectations.
- Second Management Meeting: In-person during the Global Reflection Meeting (GRM) in Paris. This meeting will review the implementation progress of early activities and prepare for upcoming phases, including the Impact Measurement Training and Earth Artist Workshop.
- Third Management Meeting: Online, October 2025. This meeting will assess the outcomes of the Local Actions phase and plan the structure and content of the Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice.
- Final Management Meeting: In-person, Hebron, hosted by PMCRD Palestine, April 2026. This conclusive meeting will focus on evaluating the project's overall achievements, finalising deliverables, and strategising dissemination plans for the project outputs.

These meetings are critical touchpoints that ensure the smooth functioning of the "Voices for Change" project, fostering transparent communication and effective collaboration across all participating organisations.

2. Needs Assessment Survey



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Objective: To collect data from partner organisations and the broader IVS network, identifying key needs and priorities for inclusion in project activities.

Description: The Needs Assessment Survey is a foundational activity designed to ensure the “Voices for Change“ project addresses the most pressing challenges and priorities within the IVS movement. The survey will target IVS member organisations and associated partners, gathering detailed insights on their experiences, needs, and expectations regarding inclusion, environmental justice, and advocacy. Questions will be tailored to identify gaps in resources, challenges faced in local contexts, and opportunities for collaboration.

The data collected will serve multiple purposes: it will guide the development of the Global Reflection Meeting’s agenda, provide actionable insights for subsequent activities like the Impact Measurement Training and Local Actions, and establish a baseline for measuring the project’s progress and outcomes.

Once responses are collected, the CCIVS coordination team will analyse the data and summarise key findings. These findings will be shared with project partners and discussed during the Global Reflection Meeting to refine strategies and align activities with the identified needs.

Who Should Participate:

- All members of the IVS movement

Format:

- The survey will be distributed online
- Data collection will be open for several weeks and will conclude in time for results to be integrated into the planning of the Global Reflection Meeting in early 2025.

Expected Outcomes:

- A comprehensive understanding of the IVS movement needs and priorities.



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3. Global Reflection Meeting (GRM)

Objective: To assess current trends in IVS, share best practices, and develop strategies for inclusion, environmental sustainability, and advocacy.

Description: The Global Reflection Meeting (GRM) will bring together participants to evaluate the existing tools and approaches used within the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement, taking into account the results of the ‘Future Trends of IVS Study Session’ taking place in February 2025 and to provide a space to have a deep reflection in the future of IVS. The GRM will enable a comprehensive assessment of IVS including current trends in IVS in the topics of inclusion and diversity, environmental sustainability, current digital trends (AI) and a decolonised approach. It aims to increase the knowledge, skills and understanding of the consortium members, through an analysis of current geo-political scenarios and existing tools developed by the IVS movement such as the 5 IVS Advocacy Asks. Two facilitators will lead the process and an expert will be invited from the IMC to train the participants in advocacy and policymaking, and to hear the feedback from the GRM.

We intend to invite experts coming from the field of EU/international policy and advocacy to enrich discussions.

The final agenda is to be finalised together with the project management team.

Who Should Attend:

- 1 representative per partner organisation having a deep knowledge and understanding of their organisation and willing to reflect on the future needs and potential path of the IVS movement (total: 28 participants).
- Additional participants will join from the CCIVS EC and Youth Committee



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- The IMC will have one person following the full meeting and 1 expert joining for the session on advocacy.
- Policy and advocacy experts.
- CCIVS coordination team

Location:

Paris, France dates end of March/April to be defined.

Duration:

5 full days (including arrival and departure: 7 days total).

4. Impact Measurement Training

Objective: To train partners to use the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique for collecting and measuring project outcomes.

Description: Online Training by Francesco Volpini to use the Most Significant Change (MSC), a technique which involves the collection and selection of stories of change emerging from the local communities. A participatory technique, it relies on engaging stakeholders in a process of discussing, analysing and recording change.

During the course, partner organisations will learn how to define the essential “domains of change” and identify the most relevant projects and communities to collect feedback. After the online training, the organisations will start the Impact research. It is expected that each partner will work up to 10 days for the whole Impact

Measurement tasks: 1–2 days for training, 2 x 2 days collecting stories, 3–4 days to write/edit and send them; 2 days for translation from local languages.

Who Should Attend:

- 2 participants per partner organisation with roles in monitoring and evaluation (e.g., project managers, impact officers, youth workers, volunteers).
- Impact measurement expert (trainer).



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Format: Online training sessions (March 2025). This event may take place before the GRM.

Duration: 2 days.

5. Impact Measurement in Communities

Description: After completing the training, participants will implement the MSC technique in their local communities as part of the Local Actions. During this phase, partners will engage with community members to collect and document stories of significant change, focusing on personal and collective impacts resulting from the volunteer activities. The collected stories and data will be analysed and shared during the Earth Activist Training and Songwriting Workshop, providing rich material for the creation of the multilingual song and Earth Activist toolkit. This process will ensure that community voices are authentically represented in the project outputs.

Impact measurement will continue after the Songwriting Training, though August, ensuring data collection from the local actions.

Who Should Attend:

- Those trained during the online Impact Measurement training
- local communities who are engaged with your local volunteer work.

Duration: March – August 2025

6. Earth Activist Training and Songwriting Workshop

Objective: To empower youth participants with skills in songwriting, community engagement, and advocacy for climate justice.

Description: The Earth Activist Training and Songwriting Workshop is a transformative 10-day residential program designed to equip youth participants with tools to advocate



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for climate justice. Held in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by KVS0 Kenya, it will leverage the profound impact of music as a vehicle for social change and awareness-raising. Each partner organisation will send at least 1 participant, who will join the Local Actions after the Training, facilitating the sharing of the Song and Hands on actions. The 10-day program will be led by two trainers, one person to focus on the environmental training and community engagement, and one person from the IMC for songwriting training. Participants will collaborate in the second part of the training to craft and produce a song, taking into account the impact measurement results and building on the results of the first part of the training that includes deep listening and reflection-sessions on:

1. Participants sharing about their local issues on climate change causes and effects, Green colonialism and what this means for each of the partners, how this affects local reality;
2. Decolonising ecology, decolonising your mind - what does this mean for you?;
3. Eu Policy for Social and Climate Justice;
4. Advocacy Approaches for promoting Climate Justice, building advocacy needs and skills.
5. Community work - go out into the community and learn from the hosts;
6. Awareness raising and campaigning and building and awareness raising campaign.

Ultimately, this workshop will not only empower participants as “Earth Activists” but also advance the project’s overarching goals of promoting peace and climate justice through a decolonised IVS approach. Outputs will include a report, a multilingual song, a video, and an Earth Activists toolkit that can support the implementation of the local actions.

Training programme:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wPfkWB0lqigtmsq7K2TTCJlMgDC_KW303XNreKEHhp0/edit?usp=sharing

Who Should Attend:



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- 1 youth participant per partner organisation (16 participants total).
- Trainers: an environmental expert (CCIVS) and a songwriting expert (IMC) with support from KVSO.
- CCIVS coordination team.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya.

Duration: 10 days (June 2025).

7. Local Actions: “Voices for Change”

The Local Actions taking place in Estonia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Italy, Turkey, Palestine, Kenya, South Africa, Ecuador and India in July and August 2025, entitled “Voices for Change: Music and Volunteering for Environmental Justice” (will include the Earth Activists issue from the training, who will bring the song from the training to local communities; they will work with Consortium members to organise a volunteer caravan.

The hands-on volunteer actions will take place in existing projects that focus on developing competencies in the field of sustainable farming, regenerative and fair management of natural resources, soil protection, ecosystem restoration, reforestation, organic farming and agro-ecological practices.

The activities of the Local Actions will include:

- volunteer climate action for nature;
- awareness raising sessions about Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy, UN decade ecosystem restoration, EU Youth goals and how communities can share their views related to these policies/, documents - how the project will take this feedback forward in the form of policies and music;
- collective music workshops, sharing of the song created during the international training;



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- participants coming from the local communities active in the Local Actions contributing to the song – words, music, dance, which will be filmed and edited into the final video;
- individual videos will also be made of the participants' inputs, they will be asked to share their “voices” by answering four questions about the workshop experience: “What did you learn?”, “How did you feel?”, “What are your concerns related to ecosystem restoration and climate justice in your community?” and “What message would you like to share with world leaders?”.

Those trained in impact research and MSC technique will join participants after Local Actions to gather community stories. These stories will be recorded to highlight the role of local perspectives in fostering sustainable changes in the relationship between culture, nature, and humans. The artistic interpretations of these stories will offer valuable feedback on identified areas of change from earlier project phases.

Outputs include a report, Digital Toolkit for “Earth Activists,” and a video.

Who Should Attend:

- Local volunteers and teams.
- Trained Earth Activists.
- Partner organisation representatives.
- Community members.

Locations: Estonia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Italy, Palestine, Kenya, South Africa, Ecuador, and India.

Duration: 2–3 weeks per location (July–August 2025).

8. Between the Local Actions and the Symposium

The Impact Measurement expert will collect all the results and present the first findings, these will also be shared with the Policy and Advocacy expert from the IMC who will build the final Policy and Advocacy Asks taking into account the results from



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the different actions (GRM, Training, Local Actions and existing documents in CCIVS). Both experts will present the document to the online Management Meeting taking place in October 2025 who will review these, give any feedback and finally validate them to be taken to the Symposium. The meeting will also work with the facilitators and hosts of the Symposium to better develop the agenda.

9. Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice

Taking place in Pretoria, South Africa, hosted by SAVWA, in November 2025.

The Symposium through discussions, dialogues, and participatory group processes will:

1. Showcase achieved results, providing updates on progress and outcomes, and leverage insights from the Global Reflection Meeting (GRM) to assess the state of the International Voluntary Service (IVS) movement;
2. Facilitate the sharing of experiences and innovations from different project actions, along with evaluating the effectiveness of the decolonised approach and collectively charting out next steps;
3. Enable the discussion and validation of the proposed policy and advocacy strategies – these recommendations, previously reviewed by the Management Meeting and presented by the expert from the International Music Council (IMC), will be based on the results of the impact research findings. The external expert on impact Measurement will also join online to present the findings from the MSC technique prior to the discussions on the policy recommendations.

Furthermore, the Symposium will include a hybrid (online and offline) Open Conference taking place over one half day; this space serves as a crucial platform for knowledge sharing, best practice exchange, and comprehensive feedback collection on environmental and social justice issues.

Consortium representatives will be joined by external stakeholders, and we intend to invite guest speakers such as: representatives from local government, the Delegation of the EU to South Africa, the South African Commission for UNESCO, and the University of Witwatersrand.



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The hybrid format of the activity aims to reduce costs while maximising transnational participation and inclusivity. Ultimately, a comprehensive report will be published following the Symposium to document outcomes and recommendations.

As noted above under Management Meetings, following the Symposium the results will be taken to the in-person Management Meeting in Hebron, Palestine, in April 2026, which will review all the work and prepare the step towards the “Online Summit EmpowerEU”.

10. Running up to and including the Online Summit: “EmpowerEU”

Objective: To present project results, tools, and policy recommendations to a global audience, fostering further engagement and advocacy.

The Consortium will engage in advocacy actions to disseminate the project results, enhance visibility and promote outcomes. Partners will identify local-level advocacy opportunities where they can present the Change Capsule (detailed below) including the finalised policy proposals and advocacy asks issue from the Management Meeting. These events will take place before and up to the “Online Summit EmpowerEU”: Amplifying Voices for Inclusion, Diversity, and Climate Justice” (WP4) taking place in June 2026. This Summit will provide the space to present the overall project and its results, featuring speakers such as project participants and the CCIVS Youth Committee.

The agenda will include:

1. Detailed presentations of the online Knowledge Platform and a presentation of the Change Capsule, showcasing innovations related to the project’s approach;
2. Broadcasting the final music video and including individual videos of people with their specific request and concerns related to the topic coming from the Training and the Local Actions with reflection on What does it show? What does it change when people take power?
3. Highlighting inspiring impact research results;
4. A round table that will include the presentation of the policy and advocacy asks, and a discussion about these with an invited EU representative (to be defined);



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5. A call will be made for more organisations and communities to join the advocacy actions foreseen after the projects ends. Following the summit, efforts will focus on disseminating conference proceedings and maintaining ongoing communication, including approaching EU institutions with the project's results – this is more defined in the point below.

Format: Online.

Duration: 1 day (June 2026).

11. The Global Communication Campaign

Will provide ongoing updates during the project, promote the events and enable the successful dissemination of the “Change Capsule” which includes: a multimedia collection of stories of change gathered during the project, an Impact Booklet, a song with a video that conveys the global community voice, especially from those affected by EU policies and directed to EU policy-makers. The Song will include a film from the Earth Artists Training and the Local Actions and will have subtitles in English, French, Zulu, Swahili, Maasai, Luhya, Ewe, Kannada, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, Czech, and Estonian.

Suitable platforms for policy influence will be identified by the Partnership, included in an advocacy timetable.

As part of the digital outputs, the project includes the creation of a knowledge platform/dedicated page on the CCIVS website bringing together Impact Measurement training tools .



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