



**European Approaches
to Inter-Generational
Lifelong Learning**

**Summer Workcamps
(Citizens in Action)**

**GREECE
Case Study Identity Card
2007**



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EAGLE CASE STUDY

GREECE

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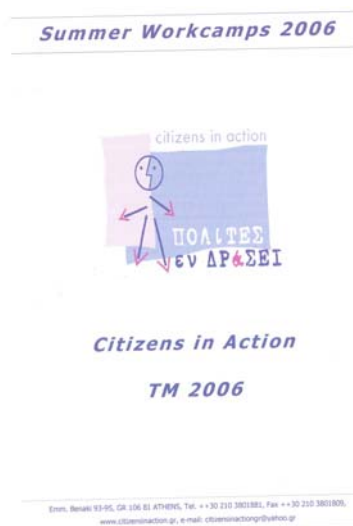
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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The *Summer Workcamps* programme is organised by the organisation Citizens in Action. Citizens in Action is a non-profit, non-governmental, youth organisation based in Athens, member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, which is an International Non-Governmental Youth Organisation promoting intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service. The Summer Workcamps project is one of the International Volunteer Projects, which are organised by Alliance members either on a national or regional basis but always in collaboration with local communities. They engage the volunteer groups in a wide diversity of community development tasks including environmental, construction, and renovation, social, cultural and archaeological work. The project generally lasts two to three weeks and consists of about 10 - 20 volunteers drawn from a number of countries.

Projects are often in remote areas, in regions where local people may have minimal opportunity for meeting others from different countries. The volunteer groups bring new ideas and experiences into communities, providing a stimulus for ongoing work. The individual volunteers benefit from the interaction both within the group and with the local communities. The experience gives them the opportunity to travel to another country, use their time productively and make a positive contribution to the local community. They also have the chance to widen their horizons through meeting and learning from each other and local people. The objectives of these projects are not only the community and local development, but also the promotion of active citizenship and intercultural learning. Alliance collaborates with 50.000 volunteers in many countries across the world working in workcamps. Recently, the European Commission manifested great interest in getting informed about the workcamps activities and function.



2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

<i>Title</i>	Summer Workcamps (Citizens in Action)
<i>Country/ Countries of origin</i>	Greece <u>Comments:</u> These workcamps take place in many countries of the world.
<i>Duration</i>	Starting Year: 2002 End Year: ongoing <u>Comments:</u> This project is running since 1997 by other volunteer organisations.
<i>Status</i>	Running
<i>Managing institution</i>	Voluntary/social sector/foundations
<i>Contact details</i>	Last Name: Arvaniti First Name: Chrysafo Title: Project Officer / Trainer Position/Role: Designing and implementation of projects Institution: Citizens in Action Street: 93-95, Benaki St. Town: Athens Post Code: 10681 Phone: 0030 210 380 18 81 Fax: 0030 210 380 18 09 E-Mail: citizensinaction@gmail.com URL: http://www.citizenship.gr
<i>Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public <u>Comment:</u> The work camps' activities are funded by local authorities (municipalities and communities).
<i>Partnership arrange- ment/organis- ational form</i>	Bottom-up, grass root initiative <u>Comments/Description:</u> According to the organisation's philosophy, the organisation of the project is based on people's needs.
<i>Scale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community based ▪ Local ▪ Regional ▪ National ▪ European ▪ International ▪ Trans-national <u>Comments:</u> This project is implemented in several Greek communities with the participation of volunteers from many countries of Europe and other Continents. There are 500 exchange programmes running in the whole world.



3 DESCRIPTION OF COLLABORATING GROUPS

<i>Collaborating Group I</i>	The Collaborating Group I consists of youth workers where females are majority. Most of them are social workers, have a bachelor degree (usually in political sciences), come from urban areas and belong to the middle social class.
<i>Total number of Collaborating Group I</i>	100 per year in all workcamps <u>Comments:</u> There are 20-25 coordinators / educators and about 80 workers.
<i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group I</i>	<u>Minimum Age:</u> 18 <u>Maximum Age:</u> 34
<i>Collaborating Group II</i>	Kids, young teenagers, young adults, parents aged adults, young seniors, old seniors, local community where the project is taking place. Also: representatives of local associations and local groups of young people. Females are the majority (about 70%). The participants live in semi-urban areas, their educational level is mainly the secondary school and they belong to the middle social class.
<i>Total number of Collaborating Group II</i>	Some thousands per year <u>Comments:</u> The number of participants depends on the population of the village, given that the whole population of the local community participates in the activities.
<i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group II</i>	<u>Minimum Age:</u> 5 <u>Maximum Age:</u> 80+ <u>Age distribution:</u> No age distribution is available. We can accept though the statistic data concerning the population of the Greek Province, provided by the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

4 DESCRIPTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING PRACTICES

The practice description of intergenerational learning practices serves a twofold purpose: i) a qualitative practice description of the case and ii) a quantitative assessment of additional case descriptors.

Description of Learning Arrangement & Learning Practice

The aims of this learning are:

- To support and promote the idea of active citizenship to the young people, through new forms of social commitment and participation, for a democratic and open society.
- To encourage the circulation of people and ideas through international exchanges, with the aim of the enhancement of knowledge, mutual understanding and peace.
- To contribute to community and local development through the participation of local and foreign volunteers in projects of benefit to all, with an emphasis on rural areas.
- To promote people's participation to defend and define their quality of life, aiming at the protection of the human dignity and the environment.

To achieve its aims, Citizens in Action invites its members to practical action, with emphasis on youth voluntary work, youth mobility and communication, international exchanges and non-formal education.

Work camps are a very efficient training tool. The aim of this activity is to promote the idea of voluntary work for supporting local development and cover needs related to the protection of the environment and cultural heritage. For the realisation of these projects Citizens in Action is closely co-operating with local authorities and local youth groups.

We cite here the example of "Parelia Workcamps" in 2006 in Corfu:

C.i.A 01	Parelia I	Corfu	04/7 - 19/7	Envi/Kids	18+	15 Vols
C.i.A 02	Parelia II	Corfu	20/7 - 06/8	Envi/Kids	18+	15 Vols
C.i.A 03	Parelia III	Corfu	07/8 - 22/8	Envi/Kids	18+	15 Vols

The location i.e. the Municipality of Parelia is in the South West Part of Corfu, one of the most beautiful areas of Greece. Beautiful hills and gorgeous beaches surround it. Among them the bay of Ermones, which is according to tradition the place where Odysseus met Nausika and the beach of Myrtiotissa, perhaps the most exotic beach on Corfu.

The volunteers will be accommodated at the villages of the area (16-30km from the city of Corfu city). During the workcamps volunteers will try to visit all the Parelia villages.

The work of the programme is comprised by two parts:

- Part A: Volunteers will organise during some afternoons of the week free time activities for the children of different villages of the area, Vatos, Ag. Ioannis and Giannades. Most of the activities will be organised on the spot according to the needs of the kids and the experience of the volunteers. To give you some ideas, volunteers will organise: theatrical plays, construction of ecological toys, English (other languages) lessons etc.
- Part B: Volunteers will participate in the creation of a footpath network connecting all the historical and natural monuments of the area. Work will be hard at moments, as we will have to work under the strong sun. The local partner, hosting the project, decides on the priorities and the co-ordination of the work. Volunteers will work 6 hours per day, 6 days per week.



	<p>Each camp covers particular local needs without interfering or “stealing” the job of normal workers. They work on projects, which are not high priority according to local authorities’ planning process.</p> <p>The pedagogical approach is participatory, action based, tutoring and mentoring following the principle of non-formal education according to the standards of the Council of the E.U.. Learning materials are conventional texts, simulations and role-playing considering the activity and the age group to which it is addressed, while experts cover theoretically the practically provided knowledge. The interaction is organised with standard activities with focus on particular topics. Volunteer instructors and people provide the learning from the community.</p>
<i>Location of the learning activity</i>	<p>Informal setting i.e. Community facility/building</p> <p><u>Comments:</u> Schools, cultural centers and foundation, open air places.</p>
<i>Learning activities (related to policy objectives)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community development, living & safety ▪ Education, training & learning ▪ Mentoring i.e. intergenerational support, services and consultancy ▪ Mediation ▪ Social inclusion/participation, active citizenship ▪ History and reminiscence ▪ Arts incl. culture, theatre, play, music ▪ Environment & environmental protection ▪ Grandparents and grandchildren ▪ Travel, excursions & leisure time <p><u>Comments:</u> Development of skills and competences like team building, project management, teamwork.</p>
<i>Fields of Learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills for the Knowledge Society ▪ Individual competence development (for private and professional purposes) ▪ Societal/economic exchange and consultancy ▪ Development and continuity of societal values ▪ Productive cultural assimilation
<i>Knowledge & Learning Exchange/Flow between the target group(s)</i>	<p>Balanced and/or bi-directional e.g. shared activities</p>
<i>Interactions between the target group(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one-to-one ▪ one-to-many ▪ many-to-one ▪ group based ▪ many-to-many ▪ physical/offline interaction

<i>Categories of the learning activity¹</i>	Non-formal
<i>OECD/DeSeCo Competences addressed by the CS:²</i>	<p>1 = Competence Category 1: Using Tools Interactively</p> <p>1.1 = The ability to use language, symbols and text interactively</p> <p>2 = Competence Category 2: Interacting in Heterogeneous Groups</p> <p>2.1 = The ability to relate well to others</p> <p>2.2 = The ability to cooperate</p> <p>2.3 = The ability to manage and resolve conflicts</p> <p>3 = Competence Category 3: Acting Autonomously</p> <p>3.1 = The ability to act within the big picture</p> <p>3.2 = The ability to form and conduct life plans and personal projects</p> <p>3.3 = The ability to assert rights, interests, limits and needs</p>
<i>EC Key Competences addressed by the CS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication in the mother tongue ▪ Communication in a foreign language ▪ Learning-to-learn ▪ Interpersonal and civic competences ▪ Cultural awareness
<i>Success factors and barriers of the CS</i>	<p>Since summer 2002 Citizens in Action has organized 12 international workcamps in Corfu. These workcamps fulfilled successfully their aim: support the local community to preserve the natural & cultural heritage and bring local youth in contact with the international voluntary movement. Local young people reacted very positively to the presence of the international volunteers and they were organising many free time activities, involving the volunteers too. The success factors to be identified are the empowerment of the local populations, the development of group dynamics and awareness.</p> <p>Different cultural backgrounds have led to conflicts but in all cases there has been a constructive synthesis out of it. The learning how to respect different cultural identities has as a result the development of tolerance of ambiguity. Nevertheless, it seems that conflicts have been inevitable.</p> <p>Sometimes the content and the topic of the activities had to change in order to be adjusted to the needs of the people. For example, once the volunteers had planned to speak about environment to children, but after a while they realised that they should speak about children's rights, so they changed immediately the scheduled activity.</p>

¹ The full definitions are based on the Commission Staff Working Paper SEC (2000) 1832 of the Commission of the European Communities (2000): A Memorandum on Lifelong Learning; URL: <http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/pdf/MemorandumEng.pdf>

² The Executive Summary is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/47/61/35070367.pdf>

Results of the CS

As specific outputs of Summer workcamps in Perelia can be described the restoration of monuments, the openings of walking paths connecting natural and physical monuments of the area, the creation of gobble path with traditional technique, series of educational activities (training kit of how to train young people or children on human right, environment and intercultural learning issues, a photo exhibition organised with the collaboration of volunteer students of the School of Fine Arts.

As far as evaluation is concerned, it is made by volunteers on an annual basis, is considered very positive and indicates problems to be solved, activities to be added and new perspectives to be gained during next summer.

The benefits for the participants concern are to be identified at a personal and collective level (higher self-esteem, skills development, social cohesion, quality of life, personal development/fulfilment and active citizenship). There are local groups of young people developing activities within the municipality and many individuals who are extremely willing to participate in international projects abroad.