**Development
Initiatives**

IVCO Survey Results 2006

The following report presents results from the IVCO survey conducted by Development Initiatives.

The questions include those asked in previous years, so that there is a continuous monitoring of main trends, but also some further questions.

Agencies included:

1. ACODEV, Belgium
2. AKHLUE, Germany
3. AVI, Australia
4. CCI, Canada
5. CESO, Canada
6. Comhlámh, Ireland
7. CUSO, Canada
8. DED, Germany
9. DESH, India
10. European Perspective, Greece
11. FOCSIV, Italy
12. Fredskorpset, Norway
13. Hungary NGO Platform
14. JICA/JOCV, Japan
15. Kehys, Finland
16. Mahitahi, New Zealand
17. Peace Corps, USA
18. Progressio, UK
19. PSO, Netherlands
20. Skillshare, UK
21. Unité, Switzerland
22. Uniterra, Canada
23. UNV
24. VSA, New Zealand
25. VSO, UK

Question 1: What is the overall trend in your government's bilateral aid programme? Are there any major shifts in policy or direction? Any policy changes that might influence the volunteer / personnel sending sector?

The eradication of poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have remained a key focus of many bilateral aid programmes over the last five years. There is also a stronger emphasis on the Paris Declaration for aid effectiveness which means in practice for volunteer sending organisations an increased focus on coordination, local ownership and concentration on fewer programme countries. Overall, the environment for volunteer sending organisations appears to be positive with increased and increasing aid budgets reported by the majority of bilateral agencies. However, the extent to which these increases will benefit IVCOs is not always clear with one agency reporting a lack of a clear policy on volunteer cooperation and another stating there has been no major effort towards international volunteering programmes.

ACODEV	• The MDGs are central to Belgium's co operation policy.
	• Belgian aid is targeted very much at the least developed countries (LDCs) and that Belgian co-operation remains substantial in the fragile States of Central Africa. It ought in future to prompt Belgium to give more attention to access to basic social services and gender equality, and also to measures to combat HIV/Aids and the protection of children's rights – two themes which are at present somewhat neglected.
	• The minister has also identified the promotion of effectiveness and improved consistency as strategic priorities.
	• In 2005, Minister De Decker (development cooperation minister) created the SVCD The SVCD is based on three observations : more and more young people are stating an interst in development issues. These young people are expressing a wish to volunteer their time/services to developing countries. Sending young people without any form of training isnt however a good response to the needs of the local poplulation ; the average age of volunteers is going up each year ; in spite of the amount of work in this area, there is still lots to be done in terms of education/awareness-raising on development issues in Belgium
	• SVCD project is to be overseen by the CTB – the bureau in charge of bilateral projects in belgium.
	• The project envisages a maximum of 100 volunteer posts a year for young people aged between 20 and 30 who have little or no professional experience. This means that there will be continually 100 volunteers in the field.
AKHLUE	• The German government tends to increase the bilateral and multilateral aid programmes over the coming years. However, the extent to which non-government volunteer programmes might be able to increase their programmes and projects is unclear at this moment.
	• The main focus is in following the Paris-Declaration compared with the results of a DAC Peer-Review, recommending a stronger "joined-up development policy".
	• Programmes co-funded by the BMZ have to be more and more in line with German government policies.
	• NGO´ s are faced with more bureaucracy and less flexibility.
	• A positive sign seemed to be the introduction of a Civil Peace Service almost 10 years ago. The government created a field of distinct cooperation with the NGO ´s running private volunteering programmes.
AVI	• The Australian Government released a 'White Paper' on Aid and Development in April 2006, providing a new strategic framework for the delivery of development co-operation over the medium term.
	• The WP focuses on creating an enabling environment for the promotion of

	economic growth through increased trade and capital investment as the primary means of addressing poverty reduction. • Also lays out continued focus on the Asia-Pacific region. • Emphasis on governance, institutional reform and enhanced performance and effectiveness. . Additional funding allocations are to be dependant on performance measures. • Development co-operation expenditure is planned to increase to AUD 4 billion by 2010.
CCI	• Overall trend of more bilateral aid and less aid to NGOs in Canada. • More recently however the government through CIDA has increased some funding to NGOs and to international volunteering programmes in particular.
CESO	• There was a change of government at the beginning of the year but no major shifts in policy. • The new government is committed to a gradual increase in foreign aid over the next 10 years. • The new prime minister is in favour of using Canadian volunteers as a means of providing foreign aid and to promote Canadian values. • Still lack a clear policy on Canadian expectations of Canadian volunteer cooperation. • More focus on Africa, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS
Comhlámh	• Greater amounts of finance available for development aid • Increased professionalisation of development work and an increased reliance by agencies on local people to work in the field • Increased interest, but more difficulty in finding an entry point into development work • Increased recognition of the need for accountability to the agency or community and not primarily to the foreign donor government • The dissolution of the Agency for Personal Service Overseas • Changes in the Irish economy, which mean that people may not be able to make a long-term commitment to overseas work • Increase in the number of organisations that offer short term placements.
CUSO	• Canadian bilateral aid is following the international (DAC) trend toward concentration and on support to "locally-owned" program-based/sector-wide approaches in specific sectors in fewer countries. • Emphasis on the MDGs and donor coordination. • After a decade of significant cuts to aid budgets, the trend in recent years has been increased funding for bilateral programs. • A major increase in funding for development programming linked to Canadian military engagement in Afghanistan. • The involvement of Canadian NGOs in the bilateral aid program, as "executing agencies", has diminished, as has the proportion of ODA allocated to support the NGOs' own development initiatives. • These trends have called into question the future of government support for civil society initiatives in the South, for the programming of Canadian NGOs in general and for the various Canadian volunteer sending agencies in particular. • The shift that has had the greatest practical effect on volunteer sending programs to date is geographic concentration, with pressure to reduce or eliminate programming in what are now considered to be non-priority countries.
DED	• The overall trend of Germany's bilateral aid programme follows the MDGs and the Paris Declaration. • Specific affects on international volunteer programmes are: transfer of

	greater responsibility to the partner countries (Ownership); emphasis on consolidation and harmonization among international development organizations; emphasis on poverty alleviation; Engagement in basket or budget funding and SWAPS rather then project and programme activities • DED is directly influenced by these key shifts as it a governmental organisation, therefore part of Germany's ODA.
DESH	• The government does not a clear policy regarding bilateral aid program of NGO's. There is no integration of policy frame work with foreign policy, Internal policy, Development policy, Defense policy etc. • There needs to be an International policy statement for every country to abide for minimum direction of development. • Promoting infrastructure development, public sector reform, transparency, privatization, commitment, strong ideology towards human development and NGO's.
European Perspective	• The main priorities of the Greek government's development aid program are the following: health, basic education, vocational training in particular for vulnerable social groups, sustainable and viable development. • The Hellenic Aid programme for the last year included 35 countries from Africa, Asia, Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus and South Mediterranean Countries. • The priorities of the programmes conform to the MDGs. • The Hellenic Aid program has been enhanced over the last years but there are no major changes in direction that might affect international volunteer programs.
FOCSIV	• Since May 2006, Italy now has a new center left coalition Government. • The Premier made a lot of promises during the electoral campaign about his intention to increase the budget for development cooperation (including sending volunteers) but currently waiting to see how far these promises have been accomplished. • In the last five years of the former Government coalition registered a significant decrease of funds reducing to the 0.11% of the GNP the allocation for development cooperation. • Only 10% of volunteers are financed by the Italian Government (about 300 out of 3,000).
Fredkorpset	• There is no major shift. However our new government (left/centre) has selected four areas where we think Norway may best contribute to development (gender, environmental issues, peace and reconciliation, energy). • Minister Solheim put higher priority on Latin America as would like to support the positive trends in the continent.
JICA/JOCV	• The new Japanese ODA charter states for more emphasis on poverty reduction, sustainable development, action for global issues and especially on peace building. • Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) have been revised in accordance with JICA's country specific programme which specifies operation priority by area and sector. • JICA emphasizes human security and field-based cooperation. • To widen public participation, "short-term dispatch" and "dispatch with temporary retirement"* have been introduced. • JICA will be merged with JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) in 2008. There is a possibility for a new JICA to provide more efficient and more responsive to the actual field needs of the recipient countries.
Kehys	• Development policy is part of Finland's foreign policy, but not only that:

	development policy also involves activities within Finland itself. • As a responsible member of the international community, Finland promotes development and a more equitable division of the benefits of globalisation. • The main goal is the eradication of extreme poverty • Development cooperation is a key instrument of development policy. • Finland's development policy is steered by the government resolution on development policy from February 2004. • Not any big efforts towards international volunteering programmes.
Hungary NGO Platform	• Focus on ex communist countries • Working closely with the Balkans
Mahitahi	• Increased focus on post-conflict reconstruction, targeting poorest of the poor –in the Pacific that means the Melanesian emerging states.
Peace Corps	• Currently over 7,800 Volunteers in 75 countries, responding to requests from host countries, work primarily in the areas of education, health, HIV/AIDS, small business development, youth, agriculture, and environment. This is the highest number of Volunteers in service in 30 years. • Safety and security of volunteers is primary focus. • Effective volunteer training and communication are key, as well as the volunteers' full integration and participation in the work and activities of their communities. • Programmatically, Volunteers are increasingly involved in community based HIV/AIDS activities.
PSO	• No dramatic shift took place over the past year that affected volunteering programmes. • A policy change developed last year (2005) was implemented changing the way non-governmental organisations are being financed
Progressio, UK	• There does not seem much change in DFID's approach to funding international volunteering programmes. • The four main volunteer sending agencies all have six year Partnership Programme Agreements (PPA) • A National Audit Office review of civil society funding pointed to the lack of objective impact assessment in the sector, but did not specifically draw attention to sending agencies.
Skillshare	• The UK government has declared its intention to meet the target of 0.7% no later than 2013. • A substantial amount of the resource for this is directed through multilateral agencies, particularly the European Union, or is related to major policy approaches, such as debt relief or direct budgetary support. • DFID published a White Paper in July 2006, setting out its strategy. A major plank of this is "good governance", and within this a statement that "….(a)s with financial aid, we believe technical assistance should be provided through government systems." • DFID also recognises the role of civil society in monitoring governance. • DFID is also concerned about "brain drain" from developing countries, particularly in the area of health. However, no clear view is apparent in the White Paper of how international volunteering relates to these points.
Unité	NEGATIVE: • budget reductions • cohesion funds for EU: in order to support the 10 new EU members, money will be taken partly from the development cooperation budget. • threat that international liquidation of LDCs' indebtedness can affect SDC budget negatively • strengthening the multilateral sector (e.g. UN/MDG) in disfavour of the

	bilateral sector
	• right wing tendencies in Parliament and Government, the 2007 election will be important
	POSITIVE:
	• SDC is on the way to formulate a new NGO policy
	• SDC taking into account NGO points of view: direct negotiations between SDC and a broad Swiss NGO coalition
	• Positive NGO side effect: for the first time a broad Swiss NGO platform is emerging as an new interlocutor of SDC
	• specific for UNITÉ : further intensification of a close and open/critical programme dialog with SDC and <u>for the time being</u> no shortenings in the financial contributions to personnel sending development services (2007 – 08) were announced
Uniterra	• Canada has endorsed and is trying to implement the principles of the International Aid Efficiency Agenda.
	• CIDA has reduced its programming to fewer countries and we are seeing a focus on bilateral programming.
	• In order to get funding, volunteer cooperation agencies have to fit their programming to bilateral programming.
	• Canada now has a new minority Conservative government and it is difficult to see how this government will implement the international policy from the previous government.
VSA	• This year the New Zealand government increased its development assistance by 21% to 0.27% of GDP. It is scheduled to increase to 0.28% next year. A target of 0.35% by 2010 was promised in the current government's manifesto.
	• NZAID has focussed its support to 18 countries of which 11 are in the Pacific and 6 in South-east Asia, and South Africa. It will focus on strengthening support to a focal 6 countries: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Viet Nam and Indonesia.
	• At present NZAID will support in-country costs for volunteers in countries with bilateral programmes where VSA can show alignment of its programme with NZAID priorities.
VSO	• Commission for Africa report
	• DFID White Paper
	• Russell Commission Report on young people and volunteering – significant for every agency

Question 2: What is the standing of international volunteers/volunteer support vis-à-vis the government or other major stakeholder groups? How has this changed over the last five years?

There has been mixed support for international volunteering over the last five years. Some agencies (CUSO, AVI) have seen support within government dwindle and then recover whilst others have seen government support grow considerably (DED, Peace Corps). Some governments and donor organisations still question the value of volunteer sending but in general political interest is strong. International volunteering is seen as a mechanism to promote value systems, civil society engagement and increase public support for ODA programmes and foreign policy more generally. Public perceptions are mostly positive however agencies such as European Perspective and NGOs in Hungary are focusing heavily on development education to increase public support for international volunteers.

ACODEV	• The volunteer sending organisations are asking for a fundamental debate with the government on the volunteering question. This debate must lead to a clear, shared and up-to-date vision that will guide future policy. • Volunteer organisations are also asking for coherent government policy: the creation of a voluntary civic service by the minister must be coherent with support given to NGOs in their volunteer sending activities. • Competition between the different volunteer-sending channels must be avoided.
AKHLUE	• Volunteerism has become a bigger issue in public debates. The political interest in discussing volunteerism lies in the necessary / needed civil society engagement when a compulsory military service in Germany could be stopped. • Demographic factor in Germany - the government is interested in getting all ages involved in volunteerism. • An increase on expectations of the professional and personal skills of volunteers from the side of the receiving partners in the south. • There is an increase of funding partners only willing to support short-term volunteers instead of a long term commitment for a 2 or 3-year contract. • There is a tendency of the government to centralize volunteer services (e.g. international youth exchange) at national or European level. • There is also a tendency of the German government to move towards a closer cooperation between military and volunteer programmes.
AVI	• Australian Government remains committed to international volunteering as a form of development cooperation and has increased the 2006/07 budget for volunteer programs by AUD 5 million to a total of AUD 32 million. • However, that increase has gone directly to the Australian Youth Ambassadors for development program increasingly its allocation by nearly 30%. • Overall, total allocations for volunteer programmes declined from 2002/03 to a low point of AUD 19.1 million in 2004/05. In the two years since, total allocations have increased by 67.5% to AUD 32 million • Increasingly, managing contractors are also looking to AVI to meet their project – based personnel needs, and AVI is responding to these commercial opportunities.
CCI	• Profile of international volunteering has increased dramatically in the last five years. • Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Agencies (VCAs) were given five year agreements in 2004 which has stabilised funding and allowed to build a strong relationship with CIDA. • CCI have recently received some additional funding to support collaborative efforts between the 9 VCAs to carry out public engagement work and to begin exploring possibilities for closer collaboration in the field.
CESO	• The public engagement program for volunteers, which is funded by CIDA, has been put into motion. It is a priority for CIDA, although CIDA is not quite sure how to approach it. • There remains little interest in the corporate sector for international volunteer programs • The Canadian press is positive and various good testimonial articles have been published • Constructive cooperation among the VCA's in Canada, in forming partnerships and in communications on foreign aid strategy and volunteer issues with the government.
Comhlámh	• Through Irish Aid, the government is supporting Comhlámh's Volunteering

	• Options programme, which aims to encourage responsible, responsive overseas volunteering. • Specifically, the programme aims to develop best practice in the sector of overseas volunteering and to support volunteers in a longer-term commitment to development.
CUSO	• Five years ago, volunteer sending agencies were in danger of becoming completely marginalised as the Canadian government sought to redefine its approach to international development assistance and volunteer-sending was not included as one of the key development strategies. • Attention to government relations, as well as to operational efficiency, program relevance, and a re-emphasis on partnership both internally and in the "local ownership" focus of CIDA's aid programmes has helped reduce this vulnerability but it remains an uphill struggle. • Major Canadian VSAs are now all on the same contract timelines until 2009.
DED	• DED continues to have a strong standing as it is part of ODA and therefore integrated in Germanys bilateral agreements • The international strategy of greater direct financial aid to the partner countries is an opportunity for the DED to be directly co-financed by partner countries.
DESH	• The government wants volunteers/volunteers support to be confined of relief works. • As volunteers are involved with field work or work with major stakeholder groups, the volunteer wants to work with people according their present needs. When they want to do this the government then withdraws support and claims that volunteers are involved with politics or disturbing govt. policies. • It has been changed little a bit last 5 years by people's pressure, people's awareness, strengthening civil society organization and globalisation.
European Perspective	• Although volunteers are considered by the government to be an important aspect of the development work as they can contribute in different ways, there are no specific mechanisms in place that promote volunteerism and facilitate the work of volunteers. • A consultation process was launched last year between the government and the Greek Platform of NGDOs including this issue. • Last year some work was also accomplished by Greek NGOs in order to raise awareness about development cooperation and volunteerism in Greece.
FOCSIV	• Despite several political declarations supporting and encouraging voluntary work, no changes in concrete actions. • The only exception is the new law (2001) about "civil service" that now gives the possibility to include volunteers abroad (young people from 18 to 28 years old). • FOCSIV have 280 volunteers covered by this new instrument.
Fredkorpset	• The standing of Fredskorpset as the only agency in Norway for volunteering in the South is good. • The budget has increased since the relaunch of Fredkorpset in 2000. • Good standing with the Norwegian society and there is always a queue of applications.
JICA/JOCV	• Personnel and volunteer sending has received strong support from the public and government.
Hungary NGO Platform	• Still a lack of financial support from government. • Lack of awareness within the public of international volunteering.
Kehys	• Centre for international mobility started a year ago to send university

	students to southern countries.
Mahitahi	• NZ Government funds the secular NGO VSA (Volunteer Service Abroad) to a significant degree but does not offer similar assistance to other volunteer sending agencies, especially church based organisations. • We are able to access some funding through project funding avenues. In some cases this may include a volunteer as part of the project.
Peace Corps	• The Peace Corps, funded by the U.S. Government through the Congress, has its highest budget mark in 45 years and enjoys strong support from both the Administration and Congress. • President Bush called for a doubling of the Peace Corps in his 2002 State of the Union Address and has continued to advocate for increases since that time. • Former Peace Corps Volunteers are represented throughout business, non-profits, and local, state, and federal government, including Members of Congress.
Progressio	• It generally remains pretty much the same. Earlier questions about volunteer sending by the previous Secretary of State are now muted. • Other donors such as Comic Relief are more questioning about the value of placing volunteers.
PSO	• It seems that volunteering receives more support in general, particularly small private initiatives and initiatives stemming from the private for-profit sector. • Official aid-organisations, NGO's and "experts" are increasingly blamed for what is labelled the lack of effectiveness of international aid and the new, "real" volunteers are considered a good alternative. • The military are the other "alternative actor" that does well according to political and popular opinion.
Skillshare	• DFID UK still appears uncertain on where the role of volunteer cooperation organisations sits within the MDG framework. However, DFID acknowledges the poverty reduction role of IVCOs - and hence our contribution to meeting DFID's own strategic objectives - and therefore remains committed to supporting volunteer cooperation. • DFID funds the British IVCOs through a strategic funding scheme. Some other agencies funded through the scheme have been envious of the proportion of total funding that IVCOs receive from DFID. • The debate about technical assistance has resurfaced in a small way in the UK. Action Aid International published a strong critique of it in June 2006, and DFID was forced to defend itself against some allegations of inappropriate use of funds.
Unité	• Slowly improving but generally rather low among Government and other development stakeholders. • Varied perception inside the Foreign Ministry (especially the SDC) and also in Swiss society: old fashioned, (too) missionary, too politicised versus accent on human relation (professional, cultural and personal), exchange between civil society in the North and South, model of "another (alternative) development". • Deepening of the new programme dialog with SDC (insisting on "Northern effect": advocacy / "sensibilisation" work) • Integration and increasing acceptance among other NGOs (e.g. active participation in the Swiss NGO platform conc. the new NGO policy of SDC, bilateral contacts / collaboration, campaigns)
Uniterra	• During the last five years, volunteer cooperation was questioned, in particular by assistance technicians.

	• A recommendation to stop technical assistance cooperation circulated at CIDA's highest level. • VCA's arguments resulted in a renewal of Canadian volunteer cooperation by integrating a much wider participation of the Canadian civil society as partner and by integrating public engagement as a programme component.
VSA	• VSA has a four-year (2003-2007) co-operative agreement with NZAID. To date the government has shown strong support to international volunteering.
VSO	• Positive – meeting with other government bodies who want to do something practical but not necessarily volunteering. • Developing a programme to engage diaspora communities in the UK, welcomed and supported by the UK government.

Question 3: What do you think the government currently values most about your organisation, has this changed over the last few years?

There are a number of aspects which governments value about IVCOs. In particular, they value IVCOs ability to act as a link between state and civil society, engaging citizens and helping them to make a positive contribution to society. They also value IVCOs long history of working in developing countries, with grassroot organisations and the expertise that has been built up over time. The majority of agencies report that what their governments value about their organisation has not changed in recent years though governments do not always articulate exactly what it is they value about IVCOs.

ACODEV	• The perception of volunteer sending and voluntary service hasn't undergone much change • One notable and important change to highlight is the new law: volunteer sending by NGOs will no longer be 100% financed by public subsidies. Government inputs will be limited to a fixed amount with additional expenses having to be met by the NGO.
AKHLUE	• Ability to work with grassroot organisations. • Spirit of volunteerism is seen as high value for a healthy society. • Would not say that there have been big changes but it might be that the government values these areas of work less than before.
AVI	• Undoubtedly, the Government continues to value AVI's long history of international volunteer sending and the expertise that has accrued from that. • While the delivery of the Government's core Volunteer Program has now been split across three providers, there is little doubt that AVI is still viewed as the lead agency.
CCI	• Ability to engage Canadians in our work and to speak to concrete development results. • This has changed significantly in the last five years. There is renewed interest in public engagement by government.
CESO	• The government values that Canadian citizens are engaged in reducing poverty in developing countries by improving gender equality, human rights, eliminating discrimination, and assisting in improving sustainable economic growth. • The new government has not given specific comments about the VCA organizations but considers their activities positive. • Skills, expertise and commitment of CESO volunteer advisers.
Comhlámh	• The services provided for returned development workers and our Volunteering Options programme.
CUSO	• Volunteer sending seems to be valued most to the extent that it serves as a

	vehicle for directly/indirectly educating Canadians about international development issues and Canada's role in addressing them. • Also for building public support for Canadian ODA and foreign policy generally. • The profile of volunteers as "good-will ambassadors" for Canada is also valued. This has not changed in recent years. • However, specific government emphasis on the inclusion of public engagement goals in all projects funded currently by CIDA has refocused our attention on the type of public engagement work we can do. This emphasis on public engagement has undergone a complete 360 degree turnaround in the last 15 years.
DED	• In the spectrum of German development organizations the DED exhibits an exceptional cost / benefit proportion • Acting as an important connector between State, local authorities, civil society and private sector • The DED appears as a precursor in countries where German governmental development cooperation is not already settled.
DESH	• To some extent, the government values NGO work due to their dedication and commitment, sincerity and transparency.
European Perspective	• The most important element is the professionalism and the capacity of our organisation, built over the years, to implement sustainable development projects.
FOCSIV	• FOCSIV is perceived more and more as lobbying organization, but still remains some reluctance about sending volunteers considered as "an old fashion" to act in development cooperation. • Militarization, emergencies and priorities given to conflict resolution also are factors influencing the new priorities of the Government.
Fredskorpset	• The key issues are getting bigger and better – a need to grow in quality and quantity to fulfil objectives. • Major player in the MDG campaign. • Major player on development education/public awareness. • Established an organisation for returned participant to work for the important global issues in Norway. The participants are very important to visit schools and address the new generation on the challenges of meeting the MDGs.
JICA/JOCV	• JICA became an independent administrative institution which proceeds ODA activities from 2003. Our effort to streamline ODA activities has been highly evaluated. • Main targeting area is shifting to Africa. • JICA also provides more opportunity for ex-JOCVs to contribute to Japanese society.
Kehys	• Finnish NGDO platform t has very good relations with MFA. • Kehys has a lot of cooperation, especially now during EU presidency. • Most of platforms funding comes from MFA
Mahitahi	• Working in partnership for capacity building, and our ability to work effectively at the grassroots.
Peace Corps	• Programmatically, continued to strengthen our response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and natural disasters, such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami and Hurricane Stan in Guatemala. • HIV/AIDS: We have strengthened our partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR or Emergency Plan). • Peace Corps Volunteers are active in Focus Countries in which we have a Peace Corps presence (9 of 15 countries), as well as a growing number of non-focus countries globally. • Peace Corps has responded to both the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the

	aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala through our Crisis Corps. Returned Volunteers can become Crisis Corps Volunteers, a short-term Peace Corps program where Volunteers generally serve from three to six months.
Progressio	• As far as we can tell, the government appreciates the fact that we combine skillshare with advocacy work. • Appreciate some of the books and documentation we produce. • As they seek increasingly to engage with faith based organisations, or faith roots are also valued.
PSO	• As an umbrella organisation, the government appreciates PSO's capacity to influence the quality and sustainability of the work of a large group of Dutch development organisations. • The government also values PSO's expertise in the area of capacity development
Skillshare	• At strategic level, the facility we offer for people (increasingly from diaspora communities) to engage as volunteers, as part of an overall government agenda of voluntary and civil society engagement. • At operational level, we are low-maintenance. The National Audit Office report on the funding scheme published in June 2006 showed that the DFID costs of administration of the scheme (not just IVCOs) was just 0.15% of the value of the funds provided.
Unité	platform and members: • professionalisation of the approach "Personnel Development Co-operation", specially: • outcome considerations • enhanced awareness building • presenting "Personnel Development Co-operation" as a coherent development approach (tending to innovation) • open dialogue between Unité/members and SDC • increasing profile of (some) member organisation (own institutional programmes).
Uniterra	• The credibility to deliver and manage adequately programmes and projects meeting the populations needs, the capacity to innovate and adapt to an ever changing environment, the capacity to mobilise Canadians on international cooperation issues and the spirit and ability to collaborate with other organisations. • The fact that two organisations (CECI and WUSC) have set up a joint programme was greatly valued.
UNV	• Increasing number of governments are seeing UNV as resource for the development of national volunteerism policies and volunteering schemes.
VSA	• That VSA plays a role in international development in the region, and provides opportunities for a wide range of New Zealanders to make a contribution to development. • That volunteers do build social capital and strengthen connections between New Zealand and other countries. • Also the role VSA can play in development education and shifting public opinion towards more and better aid.

Question 4: What were the key issues faced by your organisation over the last year? Are there any key changes over the last five years that you would like to highlight?

There is a wide range of issues affecting volunteer sending agencies but some common themes do emerge. A key issue that has remained over the last five years is funding and fundraising which was noted as a challenge

for seven agencies be it through funding shortages (DESH, PSO), diversifying funding streams (AVI), or adjusting to a more competitive funding environment (CESO, AVI). Agencies are also noting an increased focus on partnership models and innovations with Southern agencies. This is articulated through south-north learning, enhancing networks with Southern partners and identifying volunteer assignments in partnership with overseas employers. Thematic, sectoral and regional concentration is also reported by a number of IVCOs (CUSO, Kehys, Progressio, CESO).

ACODEV	• There is growing recognition that Belgian NGOs cannot be put aside if development cooperation is to evolve with any seriousness. • The tendency to decentralise decision-making and resources to the south, as well as the emergency of a wide range of new actors, is better recognised. • Attempts have been made to better match classic project management to the new dynamics (lke PRSPs, national and sectoral policy) or to administrative changes (like decentralisation). • Developments in international cooperation are also raising big questions, like the maintenance of individual NGO idenities and their value-add in a multi-player approach.
AKHLUE	Church related NGO´s: • Deteriorating inter-religious relations within Germany and at international level. This means on the one hand we have to become more competent about other religions, especially Islam, and look for new and more creative ways to integrate people of different religions into our work. On the other hand we must be careful not to overemphasize religion. On programmes: • Facing the HIV/AIDS-situation prompted the volunteer-sending organisations to develop HIV/AIDS-policies for volunteers as well as discussing HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue. In management: • Quality management in volunteer sending organisations is becoming an expected feature to prove professionalism. • Security for volunteers has become more problematic.
AVI	• AVI continues to deal with the issues of transition necessitated by the changed conditions and focus that underpinned the competitive tendering process and the new contract for the delivery of the volunteer program that came into effect in July 2005. • Core among these has been the organisational changes necessary to adopt a structure of in-country management and the opening of overseas offices. • AVI has continued its implementation of a 'programmatic approach' to the identification of volunteer assignments and the placement of volunteers. The adoption of a 'program based approach', with its emphasis on strategic planning in partnership with overseas employers has been the major operational shift over the past five years. • In line with a more programmatic approach, AVI is looking to develop 'issues-based' concept papers that will inform the development of 3-5 year programs, support for which would be sought among the broader Australian community. • AVI is continuing to try and diversify its funding stream and has developed joint submissions for non-AusAID funds.
CCI	• CCI adopted a new strategic plan that more clearly focused our work on development results and increases concentration in key sectors and regions of the world. • Implementing strategic plan, including exiting countries and identifying new partners has been the focus of our work. • Fundraising remains a challenge.

	• Demands from our funders have increased accountability for our finances and results which have placed additional burdens on us for reporting and audits.
CESO	• The organization's direction has become more results orientated which caused a turnover of staff. • Direction change is in creating growth for the organization in areas where CESO is strong and it can make a difference. • Roster plan has been updated and selection process of VAs has also been adjusted to partner requirements. • Funding strategy has been adjusted to a more competitive environment. • Number of countries in which we operate has been reduced from 40 to 16. • Country Representatives have been directed to develop sector focuses for their programming.
Comhlámh	• A major organisational development has been the establishment of the Volunteering Options programme. • Prior to this, Comhlámh focused more on returning development workers. • Comhlámh has co-ordinated a sector-wide effort to improve standards within the overseas volunteering area, through the development of a Code of Practice for Sending Organisations and a Volunteer Charter. • There has been a lot of buy-in to the process of developing these standards from sending organisations, who are very supportive of the idea of self-regulation as a means of introducing better practice. • The implementation mechanism for the Code of Practice will encourage organisations to work together and share their resources and experience.
CUSO	• Over the past year, CUSO has undertaken a restructuring of the organisation, reducing and reorganising infrastructure in Canada and slightly increasing staffing levels overseas. • Recruitment has become more challenging, even though technically we believe we are doing the right things to find and attract suitable candidates. Recruitment challenges are possibly tied to the hottest job market in Canada in over 30 years; increased concerns about the stability of countries where we have placements and the risks of international travel in general; and the fact the level of expertise and experience required for typical placements means our ideal candidate is mid-career – a time of life when young families restrict mobility and prospects for paid employment are at their most interesting. • Over the past 5 years, programming has become more focused thematically around four key result areas (Inclusive governance, social & economic sustainability, community-based natural resources management and HIV/AIDS) and regionally/globally integrated. • We have been revisiting principles and practices of ' partnership' in the overseas programming, and taking a longer-term more strategic approach which may span several years and several volunteer placements with a given partner. • We have integrated southern cooperants into our programming in a strategic way both for alliance-building across the South. • On the domestic front, CUSO has had to explore new and innovative ways of mobilizing volunteers, pursuing public engagement and raising funds. • Decreasing core funding from CIDA for CUSO's volunteer sending programme has forced CUSO to diversify its resource development and fundraising programmes in the past several years.
DED	• The implementation of international agreements and the positioning of the DED in respect to the great spectrum of German governmental development organizations
DESH	• Funding shortages which affect ability to continue old programmes and

	develop new and innovative programmes. • Political intervention, Religious intervention, ideological differences etc. • DESH has changed its policy towards strengthening civil society and promoting sustainable development in the light of civil society and good governance.
European Perspective	• There was a particular focus on the quality of services rendered through the projects implemented by the organisation. • Emphasis was placed on enhancing our network of local partners and European partners. • Additionally, the number of volunteers supporting our teams of work in different countries and in our headquarters has increased. • No major shifts have occurred concerning our policy or direction in our organisation.
FOCSIV	Beginning of 2006 we have renewed the Board of FOCSIV who has to approve the "Triennial Strategic Plan" before end of this year. The main priorities resulting at the moment form internal discussions are: • advocacy & lobbying and campaigning on: trade, food sovereignty and agriculture, global governance, volunteers • improvement of joint development programs between members • development of specific programs for young people, both in the South and in Italy • reinforcement of partnership with southern actors, including in campaigning and lobbying activities
Fredskorpset	• Focus on poverty • Reluctant to change priorities due to certain calls for action. • Responded to the tsunami as partners in Sri Lanka could not do their ordinary work due to the catastrophe.
Hungary NGO Platform	• Need to focus on gaining financial support • Working on development education issues • Joining together with other volunteer sending organisations in Hungary to do joint work. • More and more young people are interested in taking part in voluntary programmes but mostly only for a few months rather than making a two year commitment.
JICA/JOCV	• Issues of peace building and the concept of development assistance for human security. • The JOCV programme has a strong role as one of the major grass-root cooperation schemes which reaches local communities through a human-centred approach. • Donor coordination has been promoted.
Kehys	• Kehys focuses on four areas of activities 1) consultation and training on EU funding 2) development education 3) advocacy
Mahitahi	• Key focus of activity: Youth development work in the Solomon Islands. • Major shift in policy – undertaking to pay volunteer costs and attempt to recover these costs from the local NZ Church community. Previously volunteers have been asked to fund their travel, medical and insurance costs themselves. • Another major policy shift – a requirement that partners provide a local counterpart so that volunteers may focus on local skill development rather than doing a job more cheaply for partner organisations.
Peace Corps	• As noted, we continue to place Volunteer Safety and Security as our most important element. We have a two part strategy: • First, we ensure Volunteers have good work assignments, have close

	connections with host families and neighbours, are learning the local languages and cultures, are integrating into the communities where they live and serve, and know how to live and travel safely in the country. Three months of pre-service in-country training with follow-up in-service training focuses the Volunteers on these goals. • Second, we have a safety and security infrastructure immediately available if or as needed.
Progressio	• A key issue over the past year are about how better to focus our work within our three strategic themes – we have now defined sub-themes to sharpen our focus. • Another key issue is how to increase the scale of our work, given the difficulty of increasing institutional funding and the challenge of getting public donations for this type of work. Another is how to make our advocacy more effective and how to link it more clearly with our skillshare work.
PSO	• Knowledge sharing and learning become increasingly important including south-north sharing. • Financial situation is tighter. Also because of the pressures on the development cooperation budget that reconstruction and peacekeeping activities of the government represent.
Skillshare	• Two major shifts: first, the work begun in 2005 through the development of our new five-year strategy, to rebuild the "solidarity" component of international volunteering, by focusing more on social change. • Second, the building of new types of partnership, for example within the IVCO sector (with AVI), or across sectors (with conflict transformation networks).
Unité	Concerning the platform: • concentrating on lobbying / advocacy / formation in favour of Personnel Development Co-operation • mission statement, network policy, membership criteria and communication policy of Unité • Personnel Development Co-operation as complementary to other development or humanitarian aid approaches (added value) • Searching coherence with other (inter)national agendas as MDG, AIDS programmes etc. • socio-political advocacy/empowerment • inter-religious dialog, "religion and spirituality in Development Co-operation" (potential and threats of religion in development co-operation, role of FBOs) • N-S-N partnership model(s) and innovations • communication / public engagement in Switzerland • "peace work" Are there any key changes over the last five years that you would like to highlight? • The turning-point was the restructuring of Unité 2002/03: From a more or less mere distributor of SDC funds to a platform with the main activities in advocacy and formation -> on the way to become an actor in Swiss development policy (platform as well as some members).
Uniterra	• For WUSC – introduction of new student mobility programmes, new strategic plan under development for 2008 – 2012 • For CECI – decrease in programming due to new financing rules by CIDA which transfers funds directly from government to government; militarization of humanitarian assistance in Canada.
UNV	• In addition to the replies provided to the 2005 survey, the Executive Board of UNV accepted the organization's results framework that highlight UNV areas of distinct contribution to development and peace, and allow for enhanced

	analysis and understanding of UNV activities and impact on the achievement of the MDGs. • UNV's focus is on advocating globally for volunteerism for development (V4D), integrating volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers. The three distinctive contributions that characterize UNV's work are: (i) access to services and service delivery; (ii) inclusion and participation; (iii) community mobilization through voluntary action.
VSA	• The emphasis has been on moving to be seen as a development organisation promoting international volunteering for development and not a volunteer-sending agency. Focus on improving monitoring and learning within the organisation.
VSO	• Migration issues – questions about sending volunteers to Malawi to fill skill gaps. • Recruiting volunteers from India and the Philippines directly and in collaboration with Indian NGOs • Meeting with Health Ministry in the UK, not just development cooperation departments. Government bodies wanting to do something practical – doesn't have to be volunteering. • On the White Paper, lobbied for sensible link between commitment to debt reduction and something practical the public can do. • Commitment to supply volunteers as practical action, young people and diaspora. • As a result of the Tsunami, VSO received a huge number of offers from the British public but VSO couldn't capitalise on it. 90% of the people VSO couldn't have used. • The proportion of people VSO can use if falling as work becomes more specialised.

Question 5: When was the most recent statement of your mission, objectives and policy? In what ways has your mission statement changed over the last five years?

With the exception of Peace Corps, Kehys and JICA/JOCV whose mission statements have remained the same, a number of agencies are reporting changes in their mission statements reflecting changes in line with domestic and international trends in development cooperation. DED for instance produced a strategy paper in January 2005 on the DED contribution to the realisation of the future German development cooperation. Other agencies such as CESO have placement greater emphasis on governance in their mission statements. CCI are now concentrating on fewer programme countries, regions and sectors.

ACODEV	• Quite a few NGOs have been keen to adopt this more modern approach over the last few years. • Focusing on quality of partner relationships; added value of the volunteer, especially in facilitation; defining whys and wherefores of volunteer sending more clearly.
AKHLUE	• Several NGO´s are in a process of re-writing their mission working on their strategic objectives.
AVI	• Mission statement was last reviewed in 2005 as part of an annual review cycle. Essentially, the mission statement remained the same, with some minor changes to the strategic priorities and the refinement of all the leading strategies.
CCI	• Our board adopted a new mission, vision and values statement in the past year along with a new strategic plan. • The most significant change is our new vision statement that focuses our resources in three key areas: to promote women's equality, to combat

	HIV/AIDS and to reduce poverty through community economic development. • Also decided to work on fewer countries and in three regions: West Africa, Southern Africa and the Andean region South America. • While we increase our concentration geographically and sectorally, we will expand our work with partners beyond volunteer cooperation. Key to this will be supporting networking and collabotation amongst our partners.
CESO	• This year we have rewritten our mission statement. In the past we concentrated on economic development and now we place greater emphasis on governance.
Comhlámh	• Comhlámh's strategic plan runs from 2005-2007 • Volunteering Options programme aims were first formulated in 2004
CUSO	• Our mission statement and principal programming policies date from 1993-94. They were reviewed and their validity reaffirmed in a series of global planning meetings (involving partners in all program regions) in 2003. Our current program objectives were established in 2004, for the 2004-2009 period.
DED	• The most recent strategy paper is from January 2005 • The changes that have taken place stand in line with the German and international trend in development cooperation • A detailed strategy for the DED contribution to the realization of the future German development cooperation is currently brought into being in collaboration with the "Federal Ministry For Economic Cooperation And Development" and other German development organizations
European Perspective	• The last statement of mission of our organisation was issued in 2003.
FOCSIV	• The last mission FOCSIV statement has been redacted on 2004 (triennial strategic plan). There are no significant changes in mission.
JICA/JOCV	3 points: JICA Volunteer • Contribution to social and economic development in the partner country • Promotion of friendly relationship and mutual understanding between the partner country • Promotion of Japanese citizen's understanding through the activities of returned volunteers
Kehys	• The mission, objectives and policy has been the same in principle during the whole existence of Kehys.
Mahitahi	• 2005 Term of Reference were established. Full Statement of Mission Objectives and Policy is yet to be fleshed out. We are planning to host a weekend workshop of members to do this, possibly late 2006.
Peace Corps	• The Peace Corps Mission and Three Goals are as follows. The mission and goals, have remained constant for the last 45 years, and have not changed: • To promote world peace and friendship by • Helping people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women. • Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served. • Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.
Progressio	• Our most recent mission statement is contained within our strategy document, which was completed in 2005.
PSO	• Objectives and policies are currently being adapted with more focus on learning and knowledge sharing and more space for south-north learning
Skillshare	• Restated at the beginning of 2005-2006, with our new 5 year strategic plan. Main change the reintroduction of the social change agenda.
Unité	• 2006 (in final elaboration): mission statement, network policy, membership criteria

Uniterra	• WUSC: Setting the course 2004-2007; the mission has not changed, programming has increased; diversified revenue sources; emphasis on links to colleges and universities.
	• CECI: mission statement was reviewed May 2000; 2003-2008 strategic objectives approved May 2003; mid term review done in 2005; gender policy currently under review.
UNV	• In 2002, UNV's mission was expanded to include the role of focal point in the United Nations to raise awareness of volunteerism, increase reference and networking resources available and provide technical cooperation to developing countries in the field of volunteerism.
VSA	• A new strategic intent for 2007-2011 has recently been developed. The new mission and objective more strongly reflect good development practice.

Question 6: What are the main issues in the external environment that have impacted on your work in the past year? What are the main issues that have affected your work over the last five years, for example the Millennium Development Goals strategy, the Make Poverty History campaign and the global security agenda?

Over the last five years, the main issues that have impacted on IVCOs are the global security agenda and the Millennium Development Goals strategy. In this years survey, nine agencies state the global security agenda has impacted on their work in some way, often through increased risks in programme countries (Uniterra, AVI) and security concerns for volunteers (UNV, Mahitahi). AKHLUE state that security issues seem to be dominating the development agenda and FOCSIV refers to an increased 'militarization of development cooperation'.

Seven IVCOs have noted the huge impact of the MDGs on their work and two further agencies have referred to the importance of PRSPs which enable them to take advantage of decentralisation processes to support civil society participation. Changes in government policy in donor countries have affected four agencies which has caused funding issues and uncertainty within the political environment.

Other issues in the external environment noted include the Make Poverty History Campaign (AVI, CUSO); HIV/AIDS (AKHLUE, CUSO, Skillshare); increased competition with the private sector (CESO); natural and manmade disasters and increased public interest in development work (Comhlámh, JICA/JOCV). One agency described how the aid effectiveness agenda has impacted on their work over the last five years through pressure to close some country programmes and increase focus on fewer countries and sectors.

ACODEV	• Attempts to create better coherence between the different players and harmonisation of procedures
	• Evaluation of the paradigms of aid – less aid by project, more aid by programme and budget
	• Decentraliastion and the emergence of new players
AKHLUE	• The global security agenda became a major concern for the volunteer sending NGO´s. Security issues seem more and more to dominate the development agenda instead of seeing development and justice as a pre-condition of security.
	• The global security agenda in many cases limits the scope and the area of activities of development programmes.
	• In regional seminars HIV/AIDS and poverty reductions papers (PRSPs) have been the focus for volunteers and their local partners for some NGO´s. Insights and conclusions of these seminars have influenced the work of volunteers.
AVI	• AVI continues to use the MDGs to frame the work that they do and to orient volunteers during their pre-departure training.
	• Make Poverty History campaign.

	• In reality, the global security agenda has had little impact on the work that AVI does. The global security situation, on the other hand, has had an impact on the countries in which AVI works and chooses to send volunteers, but this has always been the case.
CCI	• Very active in the Make Poverty History campaign • Returned volunteers are eager to stay involved in development issues and to take action upon their return to Canada
CESO	• Increased political instability in a number of our program countries has led to reluctance of our VAs to undertake assignments there. • Increased competition from other NGO's and private consulting companies for limited government funding. • Changes in government policies have resulted in major changes in budgets and the organization. • The foreign affairs travel directive website is overly cautious and severely impacts the decision of VAs to travel to a specific country.
Comhlámh	• An increased interest amongst the general public in shorter-term volunteering, and in finding routes into development work.
CUSO	• The past year has witnessed a number of natural and manmade disasters and political events which have directly or indirectly impacted on CUSO's work worldwide. They have affected our programming priorities and focus, our recruitment efforts, our policies on humanitarian relief and our public engagement and fundraising initiatives in Canada. • In Canada the political climate and the election of a minority conservative government are causing some concerns in the NGO community. • On a programming level in Canada, CUSO has been very active in the Make Poverty History campaign and in preparations for the international AIDS 2006 conference in Toronto and the Global Microcredit Summit in Halifax. • Over the past 5 years, we have had to respond to increasing pressure to demonstrate that our overseas programming is in harmony with the Canadian government's "aid effectiveness" agenda. • One negative consequence has been external pressure to reduce or end programming in some countries. Positive consequences have included new resources available for work in governance, and increased collaboration among Canadian volunteer sending agencies.
European Perspective	• The Millennium Development Goals strategy has raised awareness about major problems of development in different parts of the world. Furthermore, it has contributed to the development of a common language over the borders and the continents which facilitates effective communication, as it makes the dialogue about these issues more focused. • The GCAP has contributed in a similar way.
FOCSIV	• Millennium development Goals • Doha round and others WTO policies • Militarization of development cooperation • Change of Italian Government • Diversification of national and international actors acting in development cooperation and globalization
Hungary NGO Platform	• Tsunami – huge response from the main NGOs in Hungary • The MPH campaign
JICA/JOCV	• MDGs, poverty reduction, global security etc • JICA responded to emergency situations such as the Tsunami by dispatching ex-JOCVs as Indonesian translators.
Kehys	• EU development policy and international commitments are important issues to follow.

Mahitahi	• Main issues in past year –renewed conflict in Solomon Is and Timor Leste, threatening security of volunteers etc. But situation in both these countries seems to have stabilised again. • Aware of MDG and MPH campaigns but rather than seeking ways to enact these, we respond to local initiatives for assistance. • Aware of the importance of rights based development policies –these principles underpin all our work.
Peace Corps	• In terms of federal agency initiatives that could potentially impact the work of Volunteers, it is reduced greatly by the fact that the Peace Corps is independent, and is not considered part of U.S. foreign policy. • An issue in the external environment that often impacts the work of Volunteers in countries where they are: civil conflicts, political instability, lack of a functioning host government, safety and security, and even natural disasters.
Progressio	• A key issue in the external environment is that many more agencies have taken up advocacy work. This was a niche we had previously, which is increasingly occupied by bigger players. The challenge is to find a role for ourselves in this new scenario. Changes in the funding environment are also key, since we are so heavily dependent on institutional donor funding. • Participated in Make Poverty History, although it has not had a major impact on our work. • Tried to take advantage of decentralisation processes, PRSP processes etc. to support civil society participation in governance processes.
PSO	• The MDGs have been critical and the new funding policies re. NGO's.
Skillshare	• The most significant by far is HIV/AIDS, which has a huge impact on the societies in Africa and Asia with which we work, in areas such as social behaviour, demands on health provision, the labour market and the demands for renewal of skills. • MPH reinvigorated public awareness of, and support for, international development, and helped us to have a benign political environment.
Unité	• Swiss interior politics (i.e. context of development policy like Government budget shortages, EU cohesion, asylum etc.) rather than development issues per se (effectiveness of development co-operation, PRS, peace, MDG, AIDS) • Increasing co-operation with other Swiss NGOs on behalf of the MDG
Uniterra	• Volunteer programme has a direct link with the MDGs and we mobilise our partners so they bring a concrete and useful contribution to reach them. • Change of government, international policy now more around security issues. • CIDA is planning a review of its partnership policy with NGOs • WUSC and CECI: Global security agenda, working in countries of increasing risks, increased security issues in countries of intervention.
UNV	• The global security agenda has impacted on UNV's work as security costs for UNV volunteer assignments increased - this resulted in higher costs for UNV assignments in particular countries; • There is an increasing demand for UNV volunteers in peacekeeping operations and electoral support. • MDGs: UNV is working under the premise that by mobilizing an increasingly broad range of volunteers for development and peace, extending the integration of volunteerism into development programming, and scaling-up its global advocacy work, the contribution of UNV towards achieving the MDGs will be maximized. • UNV has introduced mechanisms, such as an MDG facility which emphasizes partnerships with Civil Society Organizations in programming countries to increase awareness of the MDGs.

VSA	• Strengthened relationship with NZAID (newly formed 4 years ago).
	• Conflict situation in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands resulting in short term suspension of volunteer programmes in the centres of conflict.
	• Political situation in Zimbabwe – no new placements planned for the near future.

Question 7: Do you think increases in access to information through the internet and globalised media, together with access to cheaper travel and increasingly mobile populations, have significantly changed the environment for international volunteer cooperation over the last 5 years?

There is no doubt that increased access information through the internet and cheaper travel has changed the environment for international volunteer cooperation. For the volunteer, IVCOs have noted both positive and negative impacts. On the positive side, it means volunteers are able to research a wider range of organisations and placements and stay in touch with their family and friends whilst overseas. They have also been able to take part in online volunteering (UNV) and maintain links with host organisations when they return home. However, it was noted that access to ICTs and cheap travel have changed the volunteer experience which means that volunteers may be slow to integrate and adapt to their new communities (Peace Corps, CUSO, AKHLUE).

For IVCOs, there has been an increased demand for short term volunteer placements (Unité, Mahitahi) and their recruitment campaigns are now reaching a wider audience which can put a strain on their human resources (CUSO, Focsiv). Uniterra also note how access to the internet has helped to facilitate and increase South-South exchanges.

ACODEV	• The mobility of populations and migration phenomena have a significant impact on strengthening capacities in the south. This reinforces the instability of certain categories of people/
	• The HIV/AIDS pandemic is a central issue in the question of human resources in development. This must be tackled on all levels.
AKHLUE	• More volunteers come from a migrant background.
	• Interested people have better chances to select a volunteer organisation which fits their specific interest. This is a positive aspect. It might mean however that projects who are in need of voluntary work might not be selected, because they are not attractive.
	• Volunteers, even if they do their service far away, can always stay in close contact with their families, friends, etc. which has advantages and disadvantages, too.
	• Positive aspects are that dialogue and exchange between sending and receiving organisations have become more intense and that there are better chances for exchange among receiving organisations.
AVI	• There is little doubt that the expanded access to the internet has had a significant impact on the way in which AVI works. Electronic communication now underpins a substantial part of AVI's operational processes, including contact with overseas employers and volunteers in the field. It has also become increasingly important as a means by which AVI recruits potential volunteers into its programs.
	• It is difficult to say whether cheaper travel and more mobile populations has significantly changed the environment for international volunteer co-operation.
CCI	• A renewed interest in international volunteering by young people
CESO	• The very cost effective and efficient e-mail systems allow our volunteers to communicate directly with foreign partners and exchange pertinent information. E-mail also facilitates continued assistance to the partner even when the volunteer had completed the assignment and has returned to Canada.

	• Internet information provides our volunteers with detailed information about the regions where they work in and they are better prepared in the field. • Global media has improved the awareness of the need of volunteers for southern partners.
Comhlámh	• There is an increasing interest in shorter-term overseas volunteering, from periods of one week upwards. The factors mentioned above have contributed towards this increase, but it is also a function of other factors such as economic constraints that may prevent people from going for longer periods.
CUSO	• ICTs offer new opportunities for networking among our volunteers, for "virtual volunteering" and for getting our message out (Internet publishing of stories, digital photo library, podcasting). Population mobility is creating a growing pool of potential CUSO volunteers among "new Canadians" with prior experience working in the developing world and/or relevant language/cultural skills. • One drawback: our recruitment campaigns now reach a global audience to which we are not equipped to respond because most of our placements are restricted to Canadian nationals. At the same time, candidates have easy access to other VCAs and "shop around" until they sign a contract – a practice which has proliferated in the paid employment world since the advent of internet recruiting. Several candidates have withdrawn well into the selection phase in order to accept a placement with another VCA. • ICTs and cheap travel can actually slow volunteer adaptation, because the "immersion" experience is no longer as complete. These factors have also contributed to the proliferation of international initiatives by northern civil society actors other than development NGOs (new competitors and/or potential partners for traditional NGOs).
DED	• Yes, greater worldwide access to information and higher mobility are advantageous for the deployment of international volunteers
European Perspective	• It has definitely facilitated a lot
FOCSIV	Yes, at least on acknowledgment of southern Countries (often with distorted perception). The issues of development and globalization are now concerning many more people than in the past.
JICA/JOCV	• Thanks to the better access to information technology, networking among volunteers/ between volunteers and people in Japan has been promoted. • For young Japanese, uniqueness of JOCV dispatching to foster global view as a cosmopolitan has been decreased
Mahitahi	• Yes. We have moved to shorter term volunteer assignments as relative cost of travel has decreased (although most recently it has increased again), and shorter term assignments (3 weeks to 3 months) allow ownership of the project to be retained in local hands. The volunteer goes to fill local skill gaps and train counterparts, not to do a job for them. Longer term assignments (2 years) tend to result in a vacuum being left once the volunteer leaves, and the locals wondering who is going to step in to fill it. It often does not result in increased local skills capacity.
Peace Corps	• The ability for Volunteers in the 21st century to have access to cell phones and the internet, for example, changes the Volunteer experience from what it was in the early decades of Peace Corps in that Volunteers now have the ability to stay in touch with their families and friends back home on a more regular basis. • In some cases, if used too often, the use of cell phones to contact home can prevent a Volunteer from fully integrating into his or her community. Additionally, in some countries, it poses a safety and security risk for a Volunteer to be seen with a phone because it indicates possible wealth. • On the positive side, an increased communication infrastructure assures

	• posts of the ability to reach Volunteers immediately in an emergency. • Another negative to Volunteer internet use is when Volunteers post personal information on the internet or information not sensitive to the host country culture. Posted information is available for all to see, and Volunteers may become potential targets. • Finally, with global media networks such as CNN, the agency and the world can monitor situations that could affect Volunteers as they unfold. Such ability has both positive and negative implications.
Progressio	• There is now more opportunity for volunteers to communicate with each other and access information resources. On a practical level, the internet has completely changed our recruitment, which is now nearly entirely through websites and email.
PSO	• Absolutely, although they are not yet used effectively
Skillshare	• Hugely! And it links to membership of the EU, which had already meant that our own focus moved from recruiting solely British volunteers. So there was in place an environment for recruitment beyond the UK. Once we started recruiting on the web, geography became even less relevant. • Against this, it's much easier for individuals to make their own choices and arrangements. The humanitarian relief agencies face this as a greater problem, with volunteers (with few or inappropriate skills) arriving in countries to offer their help with disasters.
Unité	Ambiguous: NO: Interest concerning a long term professional work in the frame of North – South issues (abroad and in Switzerland) continues. YES: Demand for short missions (1– 12 months) increases clearly ("doing a little bit more than only tourism", but no long-term engagement). Increasing political and social abstention in Western societies produces individual(istic) schemes: no more the idea(ls) of social change but individual self fulfilling (own carrier, "life style"[1]) is dominant. This becomes obvious during the selection and preparation of future development workers.
Uniterra	• Contributed to encouraging direct North-South and South-South exchanges • Uniterra is a programme which supports the networking of partners between countries and continents, and the internet maintains communication between organisations. • Some volunteers keep in touch with their field partners after their return and others provide support from abroad. • Noticing a great number of Canadians are reaching retirement and there is an untapped pool of expertise within the various diasporas. • Youth are extremely engaged as global citizens.
UNV	The UNV online volunteering service connects development organizations with volunteers over the Internet and supports effective online collaboration. The service facilitates capacity-building of host organizations by providing access to a broader pool of knowledge and resources and extends additional opportunities to individuals to volunteer for development. After a dedicated website was set up in 2004, use of the service doubled, with over 5,000 online assignments undertaken during the biennium providing technical expertise in areas such as technical expertise; project, resources and knowledge management; communications; and partnerships.
VSA	Yes, these do allow New Zealanders to know there are more options to explore either to volunteer in the long term, or do short term volunteer options (paid or

	opportunistic).

Question 8: Has your organisation introduced new or innovative programmes or embarked on new initiatives that you feel could usefully be shared with the IVCO group?

There have been several new initiatives within the IVCO group which are useful to share. These include collaborating with volunteer cooperation agencies; approaching development INGOs who do not focus on international volunteer sending and working on the potential role of volunteers in emergency response. There are also a number of agencies who are working on partnerships with Southern agencies (Unité) and engaging young people (UNV, European Perspective) and also research initiatives to measure the impact of volunteering (UNV, Comhlámh).

AKHLUE	• One NGO will start a new programme in some states neighbouring the EU with a component to promote inter-religious actions. It is too early however to share experiences.
AVI	• As part of an 'Innovation Fund' attached to the core Volunteer Program, AVI launched a 'Cross-Regional Physiotherapy Mentoring Program'. The Program allowed for Fijian paediatric physiotherapists to come to Australia to participate in a staff development program run by the Spastic Centre of NSW, building skills in clinical practice and training delivery. Following that the Fijian volunteers travelled to Papua New Guinea, along with staff from the Spastic Centre to deliver training to local community rehabilitation workers. Finally, the Fijian volunteers travelled back to Fiji to participate in clinics facilitated by AVI volunteer physiotherapists and supported by the Spastic Centre.
CCI	• CCI has been working with other VCA in Canada over the past year to engage returned volunteers in international issues with a focus on the MDGs and the Make Poverty History campaign. • CCI has been implementing a new model of volunteer cooperation over the past 4 years that builds partnerships between domestic civil society organisations in Canada and civil society organisations in the South who are working in our three sectors of concentration. Volunteer placements are based on the needs of the partners and the overall goals and can be north-south, south-north, and south-south.
CESO	• Introduction and implementation of clustering model in the Philippines, Senegal, Colombia, which will be expanded to other country programs • Signing MOUs with partners for longer-term collaboration • Collaborating/partnering with other Canadian NGOs and volunteer cooperation agencies (for example, Haiti, Public Engagement, VCA Coalition for work in Africa) • The "piggyback approach" whereby the VA undertakes two or more assignments consecutively thus reducing global assignment costs. • Cost recovery assignments whereby the client/partner makes a significant contribution to the cost of accessing the CESO roster.
Comhlámh	• Comhlámh's Code of Good Practice for Sending Organisations • Comhlámh's Volunteer Charter • The Volunteering Options website (www.volunteeringoptions.org) and resource book • Research into the impact of volunteering on host communities • Training and information resources for volunteer sending organisations
CUSO	• We have been actively approaching other development INGO's who do not focus on volunteer-sending (i.e. OXFAM GB, Conservation International, CARE) to develop projects/initiatives together, and for CUSO to provide the volunteers/cooperants/human resource component of the project. We have

	been considering carefully our role in humanitarian response efforts, especially supporting local partners, considering the role/mobilisation of volunteers within the relief efforts, and how to promote longer-term development goals into relief efforts.
DED	• Public Private Partnerships
European Perspective	• Last year our organisation developed cooperation with Greek universities and more specifically with study programmes focusing on international development assistance. The aim of this initiative was double: to promote volunteerism as well as to provide the opportunity for people who finish their studies in the field of international development cooperation to acquire a better understanding of the actual work in the field.
FOCSIV	• Certainly, from our point of view, the new program for young volunteers conceived at the same time as "service to the South" and opportunity for themselves.
Fredskorpset	• Not introduced new programme lines as recently introduced FK-Senior. • Started with an idea to develop distinct programme lines for different age groups. • It seems that thematic programmes should be increased for exchange corporate social responsibility programmes in the corporate sector.
JICA/JOCV	• Short-term dispatch • Collaboration with other JICA/ODA schemes such as technical cooperation, grant aid or loan assistance. • Group dispatch (with ex-JOCV as a coordinator) • Donor cooperation • JICA also provides more opportunity for ex-JOCVs to contribute to Japanese society.
Kehys	• Policy coherence
Mahitahi	• Yes –the whole shift to short term volunteer assignments. This shift has also allowed us to draw on a much larger pool of expertise in NZ –many professionals may take 3 weeks leave from their work to do a volunteer assignment, and in many cases their employers are even happy to sponsor them and retain them on full salary. This means the quality of the volunteer professionalism is enhanced, and there are often positive spin-offs for the companies involved –an enlarged perspective of development issues, social responsibility on a global scale etc.
Peace Corps	• Volunteer support: Several Peace Corps staff teams are strengthening training, staff support, and Volunteer systems to help Volunteers adjust and be effective throughout their two year commitment. • Management and infrastructure: Enterprise Architecture is an Agency wide initiative to review / integrate / upgrade our processes throughout the Volunteer cycle and enhance technology to better support these systems. This includes finance and human resources systems as well as recruitment, placement, and even services when Volunteers return home. • General public awareness, greater diversity among those who want to serve, and support at home for Peace Corps service: We are expanding public awareness outreach to groups across the country. • Peace Corps 45th Anniversary Year in 2006: We are using this anniversary to build public awareness and show the Agency's legacy at home and abroad. About 182,000 have served in Peace Corps and giving voice to those experiences and what difference it has made both in communities where Volunteers have served and at home once they have returned are critical elements of the anniversary year.
Progressio	• We do have a number of interesting programmes, but not sure if there is

	anything sufficiently innovative to share with ICVO.
PSO	• E-learning
Skillshare	• Our work with AVI is still fairly new. It may be useful for us to share experience on this next year.
Unité	• At members level: • E-Changer: socio-political paradigm N-S-N in Brazil (advocacy N-S-N in the frame of "altermondialisme", implementation of Southern partners in Northern structures, aiming social exchange between Southern and Northern Civil Society) • Mission 21: Implementation of Southern partners in Northern (decision) structures (common synod council), aiming social and church exchange between Southern and Northern Civil Society and Churches, inter-religious dialog & conflict solving • Interteam: capacity development as guiding axe to Personnel Development Co-operation • Bethlehem Mission: deepening partnership with the South
Uniterra	• Joint programme implemented by two organisations, CECI and WUSC. Adopted a sectorial approach in each country we work. Support a group of partners in their capacity building towards delivering services in these sectors with the effect of improving the populations access to these services. • It is a twinning programme between partners of Canada and the South or between Southern partners. Cooperation of multidirectional.
UNV	• Over the past years, a few new modalities gained ground in UNV's business and/or UNV embarked on new initiatives: (i) online volunteering (see Q7), (ii) fielding of younger volunteers under an internship scheme, (iii) support to fostering domestic volunteering infrastructure, (iv) national volunteering scheme; (v) corporate volunteering (vi) research initiatives to measure the impact of volunteering: UNV and John Hopkins University are collaborating to support the implementation, in a few pilot countries, of the "Handbook on Non-Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts" published by the UN Statistic Division to account for the contributions of Non-Profit Institutions to the GDP, including that of volunteering. UNV also embarked with other FORUM members on developing a 'Participatory Methodology for Assessing the Impact of Volunteering for Development'.
VSA	• Undertaken a review of 7 years involvement in post-conflict Bougainville, PNG together with recommendations for work in post-conflict societies. Case study available on CD.
VSO	• Working and engaging with diaspora communities. • Open ended offers for volunteers – some organisations want people for the long term (more than five years).

Question 9: Looking to the future, what do you think the main issues will be for international volunteering in the next year?

So far this survey has mainly looked at trends over the last five years but there are also a number of issues emerging now which may be relevant for international volunteering in the future. Demonstrating impact and evaluating volunteer sending programmes will continue to be a key issue to tackle. Several agencies are also pointing towards global economic and political stability as issues that will continue to be relevant in the future. CUSO notes how agencies will also need to establish their niche in relation to the aid effectiveness agenda and CCI feel there could be some fall out between NGOs and governments as they have so far been left out on these discussions. Working with young and older people and developing shorter term and longer term programmes in line with Southern partner requests will continue to be an important issue for IVCOs.

ACODEV	• Sustainable capacity building for southern partners

	• Faced with the ageing volunteer population, allow younger people to get field experience • Reinforce south-south exchanges and cooperation • Get the HIV/AIDS issue taken into account in HR policies
AKHLUE	• Security, Civil Peace Corps, independence of private volunteer organisations who work with government funds. There is a tendency of older people (e.g. retirement age) being interested in volunteering services. The potential and chances in this development have to be looked into.
AVI	• The continuing need to demonstrate impact both at the individual placement level and at the level of the overall programme. • Also, important will be the ongoing need to focus on organisational performance and effectiveness.
CCI	• We anticipate there may be some fall out for NGOs as governments look to implement the Paris Declaration. NGOs have up until this point been left out of the picture. • There is a need to clearly define the role and contribution of civil society to development goals. • There remains a strong need for a responsive aid programme that supports civil society relationships north and south.
CESO	• Global economic and political stability • Continuation of government policy to expand foreign aid through the use of volunteer organizations • Increased fundraising in a very competitive environment.
Comhlámh	• Ensuring that any growth in overseas volunteering programmes focuses on quality rather than quantity • That volunteering programmes are established as a result of requests from host communities • That the general public are more informed about the differences between volunteer programmes (eg short-term/intercultural vs. long-term development or humanitarian interventions) • That people are encouraged to consider whether they could make the best contribution to development through going overseas or through working from home. • That the continuing engagement of returning volunteers in the area of development is highlighted and promoted • That reciprocal south-north volunteering visits are encouraged
CUSO	• Ongoing issues: establishing our niche in relation to the "aid effectiveness" agenda and the role of volunteers in development initiatives; addressing pressures to rationalise the international volunteer-sending sector in Canada – currently comprising several long-established volunteer-sending NGOs, doing very similar things with shrinking resources, and facing increasing competition from new initiatives from Canadian civil society and government; developing partnerships and placements that allow for our volunteers to provide the service and expertise that they have, while also supporting the development needs/challenges of our partners.
FOCSIV	• At national level the reform of the law on development cooperation; at international level the process of adoption of European Constitutional Treaty (the creation of the "European peace corps")
Fredkorpset	• Do research on own programmes to see if reaching objectives set. At present, FK Norway is going through a big evaluation of activities in order to learn more and improve the quality.
JICA/JOCV	• Evaluation of volunteer programmes
Mahitahi	• For Mahitahi it is getting governments to recognise faith-based volunteer agencies

	such as ours, and to increase funding opportunities available to us –to develop a trust in us that we are not about proselytising etc., and to see volunteering as an effective means of doing development –not just a junket for westerners to have an exciting exotic experience. Volunteering is about creating a human face on development –real people-to-people partnerships which build relationships that cross international and cultural boundaries. This investment in future global relationships is what will create the basis for increased peace and security for us all, and I believe is vitally important for all our futures.
Peace Corps	• In the next year, the Peace Corps will continue to face some of the same challenges it faces now. • One key challenge it will face, however, is its continuing efforts to keep its relevance in the 21st century, while still being true to its mission and goals.
Progressio	• Issues will be the ongoing debate around the legitimacy and role of volunteers, to what extent the 'volunteer' gets professionalised, funding for volunteering, how to link with other types of organisation.
PSO	• Working with new actors (military, private sector) and using new means (e-learning etc.)
Skillshare	• Global security, and the measures that governments are taking around identity, money laundering and the like, are increasing the administrative burden. • The technical assistance discussion needs to be monitored.
Unité	• deepening partnership, specially increase reciprocity • quality: strengthening outcome, eventually also programmatical approaches • enhance awareness rising and advocacy • continuation of the discussion around added value (demonstrating relevance) of Personnel Development Co-operation, including links to main global agenda (AIDS, MDG etc.) and co-operation with other actors/forms of co-operation • peace building and Personnel Development Co-operation • "religion and spirituality in Development Co-operation" (potential and threats of religion in development co-operation, role of FBOs) • implication of migrant Diaspora
Uniterra	• Deteriorating global environment, ie security agenda. • Although there is still demand from the south, there is a change in what is wanted, more around the concept of exchanges rather than service delivery from the north • Also strongly progressing is the concept of exchanges between south countries. • Challenge to connect the international volunteer with the south volunteer. • Rising number of retired people coming to the volunteer cooperation market, challenge to reach a good balance between retired and youth placements. • Change of role of volunteers, more capacity building than delivery of services. • Public engagement
UNV	• Measuring results and results reporting on volunteering for development will be an issue that many, if not all, organizations are increasingly having to address.
VSA	• Answering from a New Zealand perspective, the public's perceptions of security in some countries in Melanesian Pacific means recruitment is more difficult. For many people a one year commitment is preferable to a two year one.
VSO	• Youth coming on agenda • Rise of national volunteers, UNV played a catalytic role in 2000. • Value added of volunteering • Capacity building • Impact of HIV/AIDS. • Public/Private partnerships with corporate supporters eg Pricewaterhouse, Accenture etc.

Question 10: Are there any other areas you would like to highlight?

AKHLUE	• There is a need for a new definition of the role of the government and non-government organisations in volunteering programmes. • The possibility to support south-south-volunteering as well as south-to-north-exchange (especially for the youth) needs to be strengthened.
CESO	• Results Based Management tools are being implemented for projects, VAs and staff • Concentration is in areas where we can make a difference and have impact.
CUSO	• We need to globally promote/raise the profile of volunteer-sending as a viable, constructive and positive development approach, which can be integrated into other development initiatives. Can IVCO take this on? Some global events around the International Day of the Volunteer (Dec 5th)? A year-long, strategic plan to convince governments and donors to work with us?
Fredskorpset	• Need to make IVCO a bigger organisation with more resources to a professional secretariat. IVCO must be more ambitious and the members must be more willing to pay higher contributions to IVCO. We need a much higher international profile of our movement of volunteers. All international NGOs have gone through this process to create a bigger and better international body to act on behalf of the national agencies.
JICA	• Database to provide FORUM members' information: targeting countries, expertise, number of volunteers, main fields, logistics management on sight (ex. housing or security or procurement). • it would be useful as a volunteers-dispatching organization.
PSO	• Just to keep the debate going: Let's look into the extent that NGO's and other volunteer/voluntary organisations become each others look-alikes: competitive implementation channels for bilateral donor funding, no longer representing civil movements in the north, nor serving civil movements in the south………….
Uniterra	• The Paris Declaration on the efficiency of international assistance and the position/place of civil societies in Canada and the South.
VSO	• VCAs are not engaging with the domestic private sector in eg Zambia.