

**Call for participants  
Advocacy laboratory  
February 25th to March 2nd 2024  
Brussels, Belgium**

**Creating a long-term advocacy plan to decolonise  
International Volunteering Service**



**The Decolonise IVS project**

Since March 2022, 10 IVS organisations have joined forces to reflect on what it means to Decolonise! the IVS movement. During these 2 years, they

- held online dialogues to explore the topic and build common definitions;
- initiated a Participatory Action Research with the aim to involve different layers in their organisations in this process and to start bringing change on a local and an international level;
- produced some tools to support internal reflection such as a self-assessment tool and a short online module for outgoing volunteers
- worked on revising internal guidelines to make IVS more equitable and environmentally sustainable;
- created social media campaigns to bring broader awareness on this topic;
- started defining advocacy issues to support the advocacy work that should enable structural changes.

And now, In the final part of the Decolonise! Project we are planning to work on reaching out to different stakeholders to make sure the changes we want to see will be supported by them. We will bring together the findings from these 2 previous years and use these to develop an advocacy strategy for the following years. Using the fact that we will be meeting in Brussels, we also hope to connect with like-minded organisations and European policy makers to explain our project and our advocacy asks.

## The Decolonise! Advocacy strategy

The **Advocacy strategy** should serve as a framework for IVS organisations to work together on key advocacy issues for the IVS movement. The critical reflection that happened in the Decolonise project should serve as an input for the advocacy work in the next years. The strategy should outline the two advocacy areas all IVS organisations want to work on in their advocacy work (from a decolonial perspective) and should define pathways to do effective advocacy work. This means having clear advocacy asks and goals, defining stakeholders, and mapping resources and tools that can be used so that all can have a clear understanding of what has to happen and who is doing what. The strategy should define the scope of our advocacy work, give direction to the advocacy work of CCIVS and its member organisations so that together we can effectively influence policies.

## The Advocacy lab in Belgium (Feb 25th - March 2d 2024)

The **Advocacy lab** wants to bring together a **group of around 20 participants** who will be able to develop a long term advocacy strategy for CCIVS and its member organisations and/or are really eager to work on the implementation of the advocacy strategy.

In the lab we will take time to :

- Have a recap of all the work that has been done by the Advocacy team regarding 2 external and 2 internal issues : changing the narrative and promoting climate justice is targeting IVS organisations. Addressing visa barriers and advocating for decolonising funding mechanisms is targeted towards decision and policy makers.
- Take a look at the results of the analysis of the general questionnaire filled out by many IVS organisations globally.
- Make a map of the stakeholders we need to address in order to achieve our advocacy asks
- Meet some representatives from EU institutions as well as people from different networks and/or organisations working on similar issues
- Build the framework for our advocacy work for the next 2-3 years

## Who should be there?

We are looking for **staff/volunteers/activists** who:

- have a genuine interest in International Voluntary Service and decolonisation
- have experience with or demonstrate a strong interest in advocacy work
- can commit to contributing actively to the advocacy process (doing research, drafting documents, work on policy proposals, developing

advocacy material and tools, follow-up on existing policies, participate in policy influencing spaces,...)

- are actively involved in an International Voluntary Service organisation or like-minded organisation with similar advocacy issues.
- are fluent in English (intermediate level at least).

The selection will take into consideration inclusiveness principles such as gender balance (including LGBTIQ + groups) , accessibility for people with disabilities and ensuring geographical, ethnic and socio-cultural diversity.

The priority will be given to participants from the project partners (see below) but there are also extra places for representatives of IVS networks, other IVS organisations and experienced youth advocates.

We will reserve 5 places for participants from the Global South.

### Some practical information

Participants are expected to **arrive on February 25th and depart on March 2nd 2024**. The training will take place in Brussels, Belgium.

Accommodation will be in a **youth hostel in shared rooms** and participants are expected to participate in the full programme. An info pack with more practical and preparatory information will be sent in the middle of January.

European participants (or their organisation) are expected to buy their own travel tickets once they get their confirmation (financial guidelines will be provided including the maximum travel reimbursement). Travel will be reimbursed by CCIVS the latest 2 months after the activity has taken place.

For non- Europeans, CCIVS will contact you to buy the travel tickets. We will use strict deadlines for visa applications and ticket confirmation in order to keep the expenses within the budgetary limits. The maximum travel and visa costs will be communicated together with the confirmation.

### Maximum travel grant

In country travel	20 Euro
Less than 500 km	120 Euro
Between 500 and 1500 km	275 Euro
Between 1500 and 2500 km	450 Euro
Over 2500 km	According to average travel price to be agreed upon with CCIVS

In case tickets were pursued in time but there is an exceptional high travel cost, exceptions can be made after consultation with CCIVS.

## Application procedure

Fill in the [online application form](#)

**[For those who need a visa](#) : before December 15th 2023**

Others: January 15th.

Applicants who need a visa for Belgium will be notified before December 16th so they can start the visa process immediately.

For further information contact: [joelle@scibelgium.be](mailto:joelle@scibelgium.be)

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### Coordinating Partners



**CCIVS**  
Coordinating Committee for  
International Voluntary Service  
Est. 1969



### Partners



Interkultureller Austausch



**fundaciónses**  
Con todas las juventudes



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Empowering Marginalised Communities  
स्वयंसेवी अभियान नेपाल  
Volunteers Initiative Nepal



### Associated Partners

