

Workcamps

2022

Report incoming



PROJECT SUMMARY

Project summary: for the season 2022, we organized 19 workcamps. This is a very important achievement for Lunaria representing the revival of international volunteering in Italy. In 2020 all the projects in Italy had been cancelled due to the Covid pandemic, and in 2021 only 7 projects had been organized.

LUNAR01	Cleaning the coast of Giglio Isola del Giglio(Tuscany)	10-05-2022/21-05-2022
LUNAR02	Carignano Summer Camp - Carignano (Turin)	19-06-2022/03-07-2022
LUNAR ESC03	New Spaces for New Ideas - Roma	20-06-2022/05-07-2022
LUNAR04	Together in the forest - Valgreghentino (Lecco)	01-07-2022/11-07-2022
LUNAR05	I Volunteer 1 - Carignano (Turin)	03-07-2022/16-07-2022
LUNAR ESC06	Teatri Riflessi Festival - Zafferana Etnea	04-07-2022/19-07-2022
LUNAR ESC07	San Siro Community Feast- Milano	04-07-2022/19-07-2022
LUNAR09	ValpoWorkCamp - Fumane	16-07-2022/31-07-2022
LUNAR ESC10	Policaffè: Art, culture, and creativity! Dolcè (Valdadige)	16-07-2022/31-07-2022
LUNAR11	I Volunteer 2 - Carignano (Turin)	17-07-2022/30-07-2022

LUNAR12	Harvest and threshing feasts - Carcariola	18-07-2022/28- 07-2022
LUNAR ESC13	Cilento Fable Park - Stella Cilento	23-07-2022/07- 08-2022
LUNAR ESC15	One World - Carsoli, l'Aquila	10-08-2022/25- 08-2022
LUNAR ESC16	East Side Urban Regeneration - Napoli	24-08-2022/08- 09-2022
LUNAR17	Agape - Prali	16-07-2022/30- 07-2022
LUNAR18	Agape 2 - Prali	30-07-2022/13- 08-2022
LUNAR19	Agape 3 - Prali	13-08-2022/27- 08-2022
LUNAR20	Agape 4 - Prali	27-08-2022/10- 09-2022
LUNAR ESC21	On the path of the mills - Sessa Cilento	26-07-2022/10- 08-2022

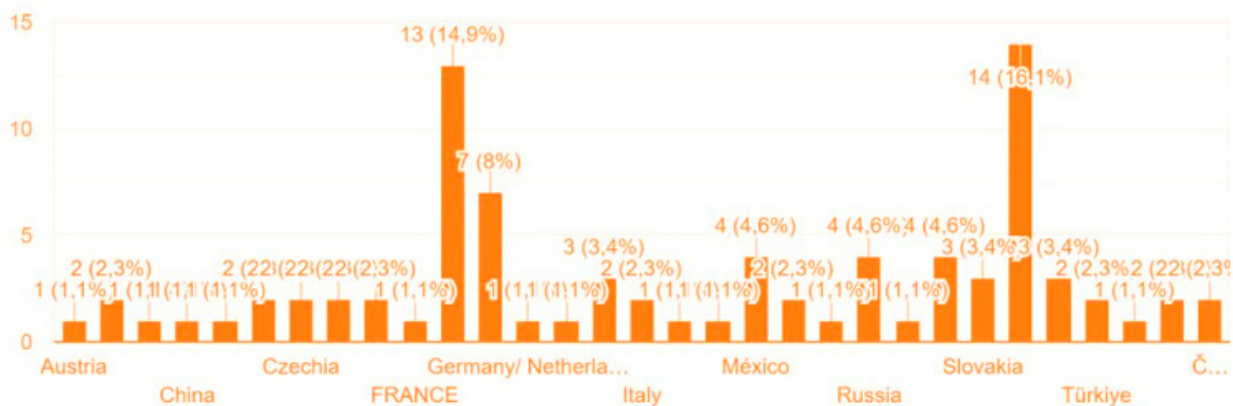
WORKCAMPS ORGANIZATION AND VOLUNTEERS FEEDBACKS

WORKCAMPS COMPOSITION ANALYSIS:

COUNTRIES, AGE, GENERAL STATISTICS (ADULTS AND TEEN WORKCAMPS)

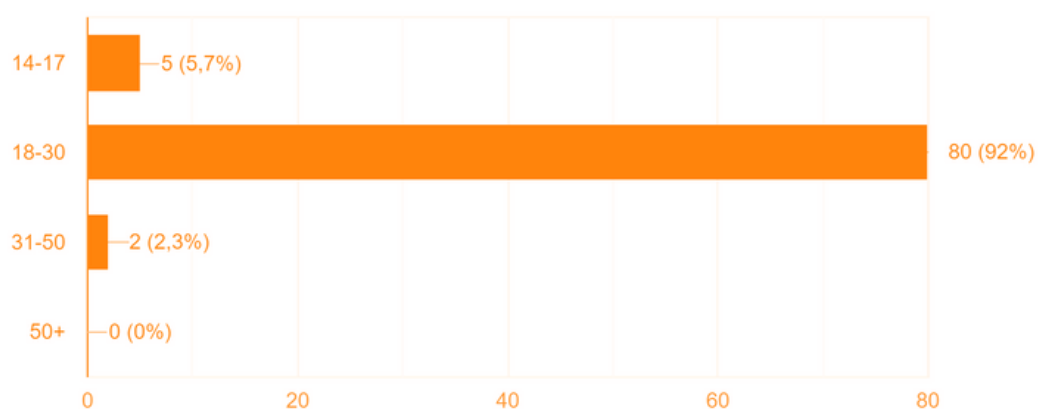
Most of the volunteers that took part in the workcamps organized in Italy were from the European Union (71.8%), and mainly Germany, France, and Spain; but we had also volunteers from countries extra EU, such as Mexico (5.7%), Japan (1.1%) and Turkey (6.8%).

YOUR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE



A we can see from the graph below, the age of the volunteers who decided to take part in these projects is predominantly 18-30 (92%), followed by 5.7% of minors volunteers. Only a small amount of volunteers aged 31-50 participated (2.3%); there is therefore the need to implement informational events aimed at these age groups.

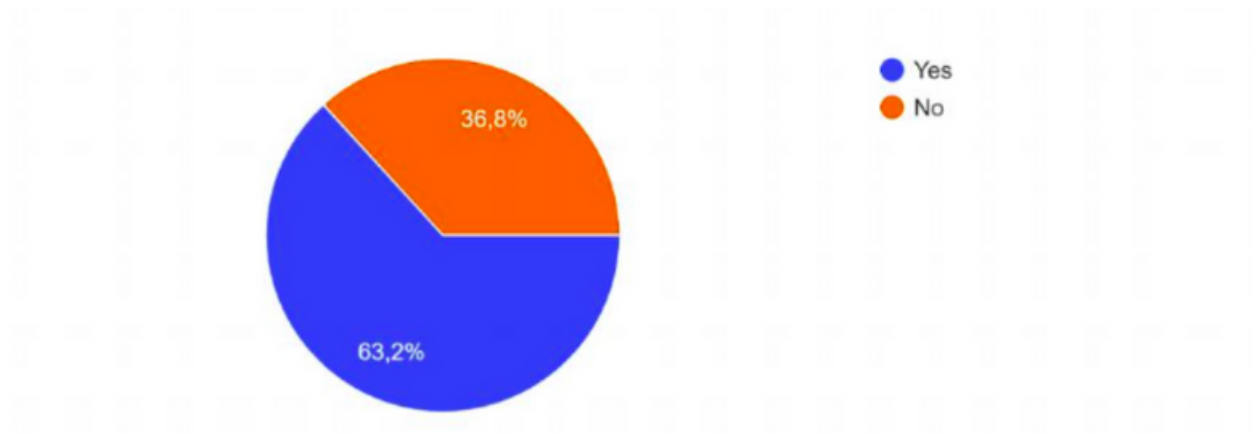
YOUR AGE



"The participation of volunteers that are more than 31 years old is always welcomed, because we believe that not only the intercultural exchange is important on our workcamps but also the inter-generational exchange."

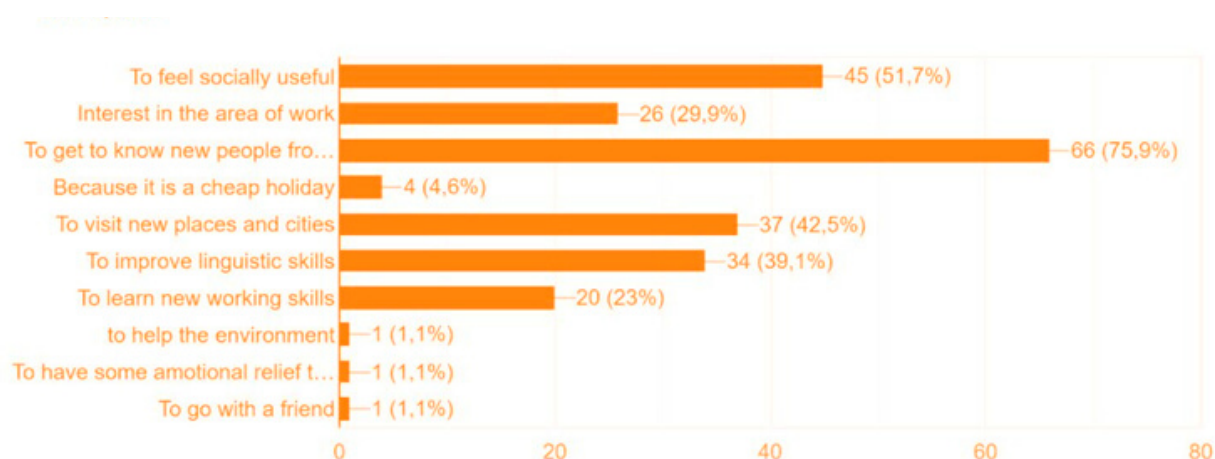
The majority of these volunteers stated that this experience was their first one as a volunteer in a international workcamp: as a matter of fact, 63.2% of volunteers answered “Yes” to the question “was it your first workcamp”.

WAS IT YOUR FIRST WORKCAMP?



There had been several reasons for which the volunteers decided to take part in an international volunteering camp; among the main ones we can find the following.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE TO A WORKCAMP?



Most of the volunteers decided to participate in these kind of activities mainly to get to know new people from different countries (75.9%), to feel socially useful (51.7%) and to visit new places and cities (42.5%).

Volunteers feedback

As every year, Lunaria sends an evaluation form to every volunteer that has participated in one of our workcamp to get their feedback on most topics : the quality of the information given before the workcamp, the accommodation, the food, the work, the camp leaders, the group, etc.

This year Lunaria organized 19 workcamps and hosted 174 international volunteers!

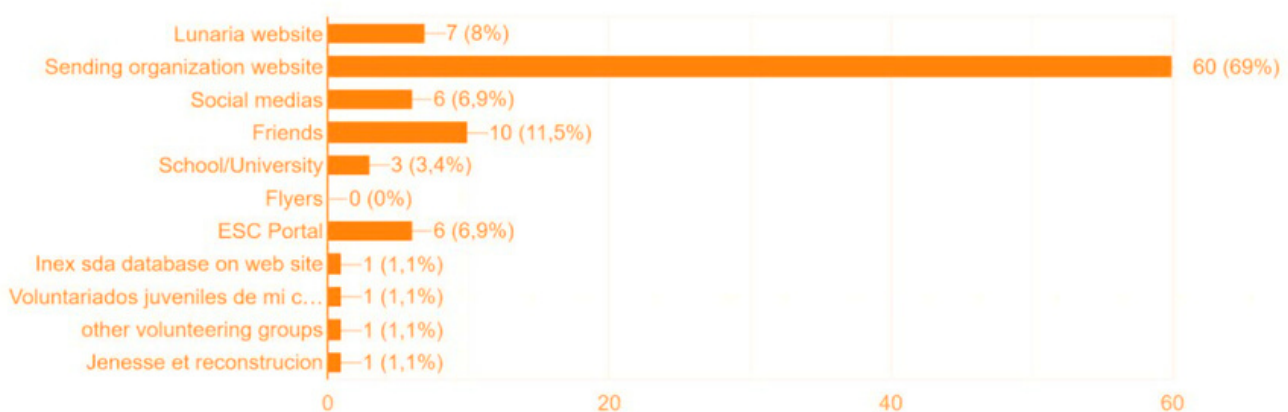
We will also use some statistics gathered from the evaluation sent to our local partners who organized a workcamp with us this year. For this specific panel, we have to precise that 14 different local partners has answered to this form, thus covering 19 workcamps, knowing that some partners organized more than 1 workcamp this year.

Finally, we will also present some testimonies coming from our camp leaders that we gathered through the report they filled after their experience on the workcamp they coordinated.

BEFORE THE DEPARTURE

Analyzing the results of the evaluation questionnaire of the workcamps 2022, we can highlight that most of the volunteers in our workcamps became aware of our activities by consulting the sending organization website (69%); only a small part came in relation with Lunaria through our website (8%), through social media (6.9%) or through friends (11.5%).

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS SPECIFIC PROJECT?



Lunaria promotes two different kind of projects: normal workcamps and ESC workcamps. The ESC (European Solidarity Corps) projects are promoted and financed by the European Union. Most of the volunteers that took part in these projects did not know the difference between a normal workcamp and an ESC project (50.9%); only 1.8% of the volunteers approximately knew the difference, but not in a clear way.

IF YOU TOOK PART IN A SIMPLE WORKCAMP, SKIP THIS QUESTION. WHEN YOU CHOSE YOUR PROJECT DID YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WORKCAMP AND AN ESC PROJECT?

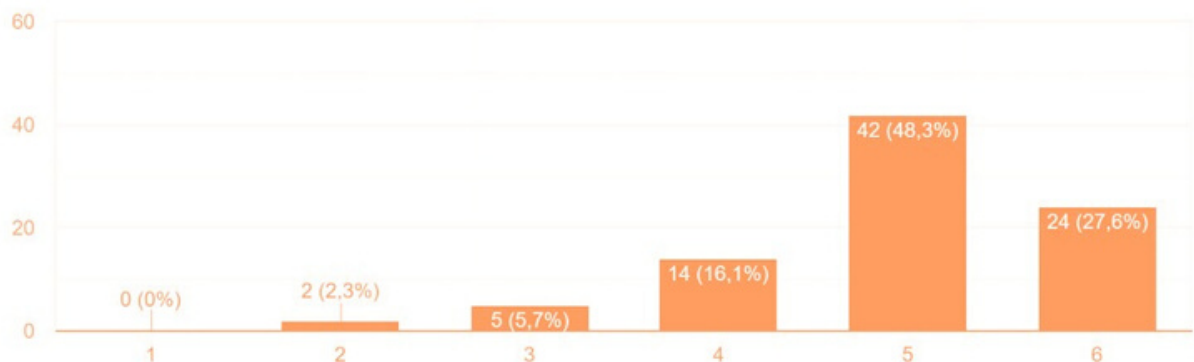


We think that the infosheet is a very important document for the volunteers, especially for volunteers that never took part in a workcamp before, because it gives a glimpse of what will occur during the project and how it will be organized.

It's also very important because most of the time, volunteers can be anxious before leaving, especially teenagers (and their parents).

This is why, in collaboration with our local partners, we always try to send to the volunteers the clearest infosheet possible, with updated and precise information about the work, the accommodation and how to get to the workcamp.

HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BEFORE THE WORKCAMP (INFOSHEET & CO, COVID RULES TO ENTER IN THE COUNTRY)?



Most of the volunteers, as we can see above, positively evaluated the information received through the infosheet (92%); only minimally these informations are considered not enough.

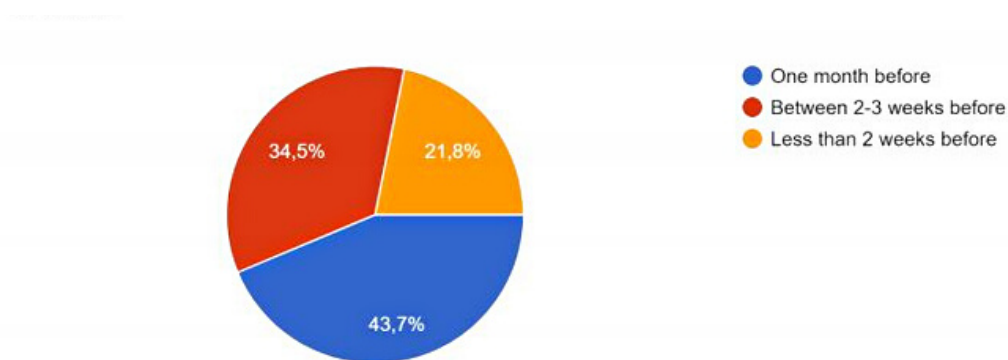
Comments:

"Got everything needed from infosheet."

"The infosheet had all the necessary information."

"All information was comprehensible and clear."

WHEN DID YOU (APPROXIMATELY) RECEIVE THE INFOSHEET BEFORE THE WORKCAMP?



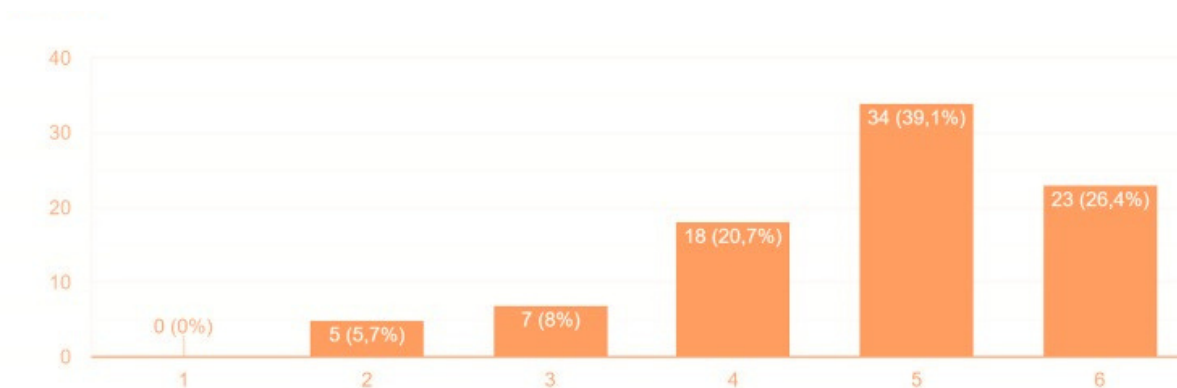
Usually we try our best to send the infosheet one month before the workcamp starts. First of all because it helps the volunteers to organize their trip, especially in taking their plane tickets.

Then, on a more practical point of view, sending the infosheet as soon as possible is efficient for both the sending organization and the hosting organization: indeed, we can avoid a good amount of basic questions coming from the volunteers (like: how is the accommodation, which is the closest airport, how to go to the workcamp, etc.) because the answers are already in the infosheet.

As we see on the graph, we still have margin of progression on that part because 21.8% of volunteers estimated that they received the infosheet only 2 weeks before the workcamp. Most of the volunteers received the infosheet one month before (43.7%).

DURING THE WORKCAMP

WERE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE INFOSHEET CONSISTENT TO THE REALITY OF THE WORKCAMP?

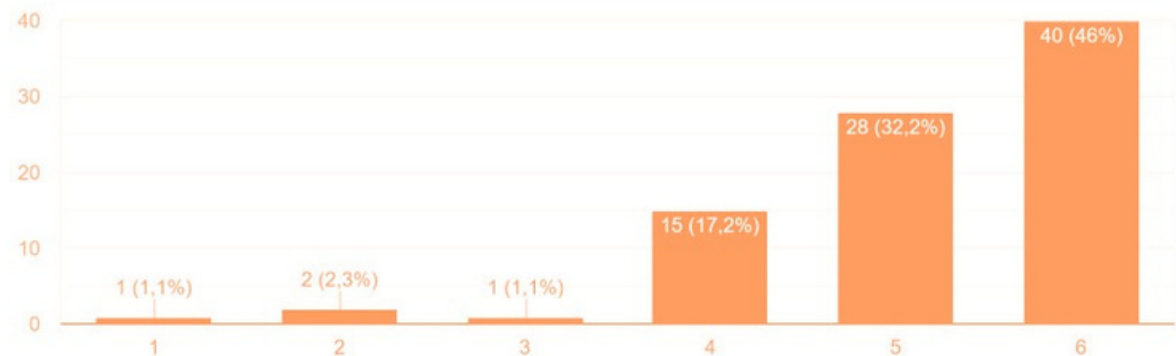


Fortunately, most volunteers estimated afterwards that the infosheet described well the work to be done during the workcamp, which is a good point for us.

Of course there is still a margin of progression on that part too, but we consider that it is a more general issue regarding the organization of the work itself and it requires a better understanding of the work to be done with our local partners.

For what concerns the accommodation, even if it is not the essential part of the workcamp, most of the volunteers evaluated it very positively: 95.4% of the volunteers expressed their appreciation about the place where they stayed during the workcamp.

HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE ACCOMODATION?



Comments:

"Expected living in modest condition, but in reality we lived in big house with separated bedrooms with good equipment."

"Accommodation is simple but good enough. It is not spartan as you mentioned in infopack. I can not say i felt comfortable but it was alright. Way better then expected."

Comfortable beds and a building with a fascinating hisotry."

One of the most important aspects of the international workcamps is the interculturality; this feature is mostly observed during the meals: many volunteers had the occasion, in the workcamp, to present their nationalities through the food. Beside that, Lunaria and the host partners always try their best to provide healthy and balanced food.

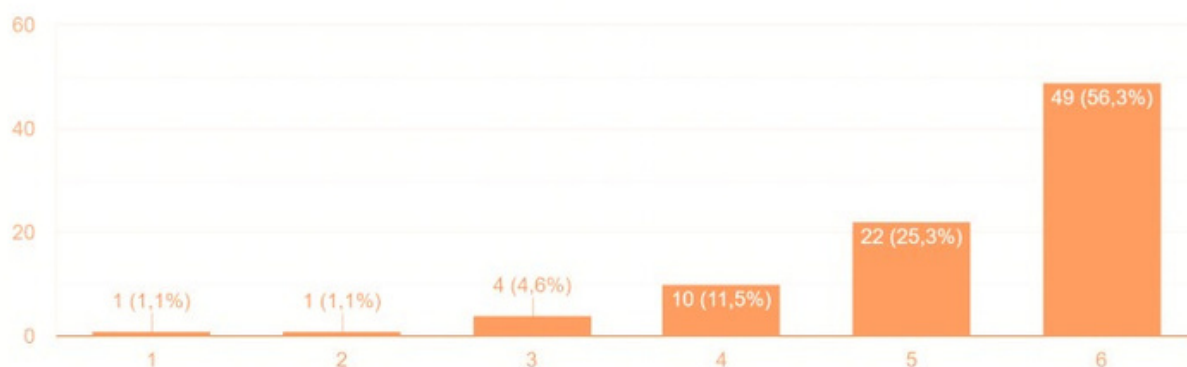
Comments:

"We cooked in groups and so we had different food from different cultures:)"

"The food was typically Italian and very good."

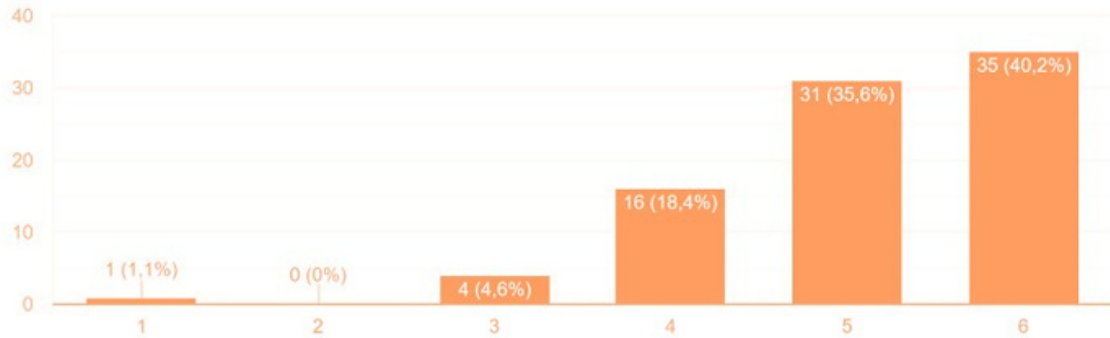
"I tasted different food from different countries. Sometimes, it wasn't like the food we have in my country, of course, but it was really a good experience."

HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE FOOD?



Lunaria and the host partner reserve a special attention to the hygienic conditions, so the volunteers could be as much comfortable as possible. Regarding this aspect, globally, the volunteers expressed a good opinion about it: most of them (94.2%) considered themselves satisfied with the conditions they lived in during the workcamp.

HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE HYGIENIC CONDITION?



Comments:

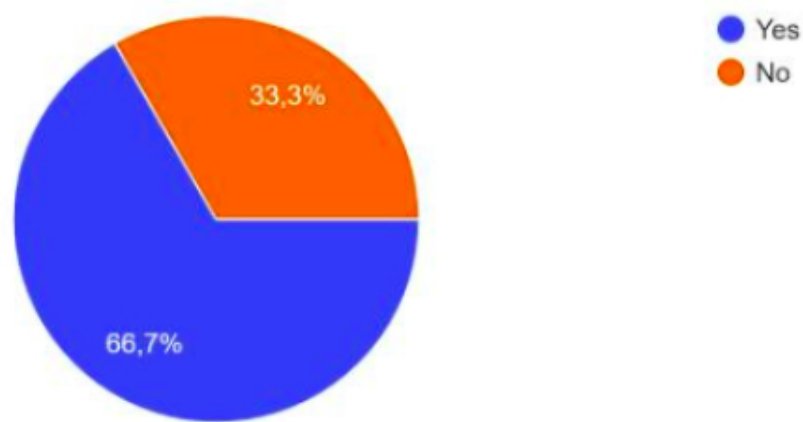
"Multiple bathrooms, all clean, washing machine, beds.. perfect."

"The shower and compost toilet of course weren't the same as at home but we knew that before so everything was fine."

"4 available bathrooms and 2 showers for eight volunteers are more than a volunteer can ask for in a workcamp."

Of course, the most important thing, for Lunaria but also for the local hosts, is to make work enjoyable. This is the reason why, the local hosts make every effort to organize it at its best. As a matter of fact, globally the volunteers thought that the work was well organized (66.7%).

DO YOU THINK THE WORK WAS WELL ORGANIZED?



As we can see from the graph above, a significant part of the volunteers expressed some issues about the organization of the work.

Comments:

"Sometimes we went to places which were not as dirty as we thought and to be honest we could do more if knew earlier and could separate into teams for different places. Apart from that it was good - we had all equipment necessary, everything on time."

"There was a bit complicated communication what our work was supposed to be, but once we understood it was ok."

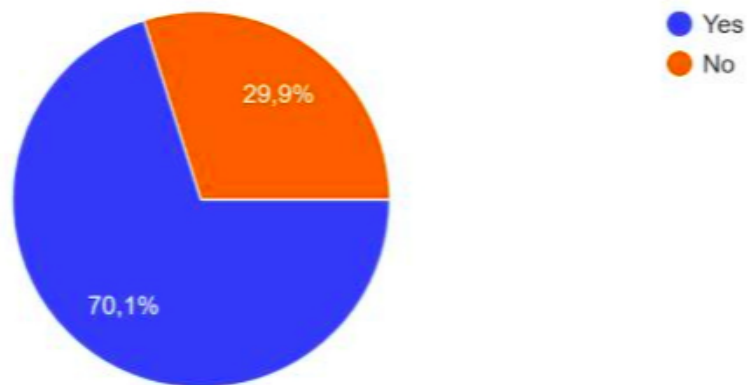
"Sometimes we did not know what we were supposed to do, we had a meeting somewhere then we were waiting with nothing to do. Also, it was usually day by day, we did not really know the organization in advance."

It is very important for us to know also the critical aspects, in order to always improve our local hosts network and job. These aspects need to be taken into account in order to really upgrade our activities.

The works during the camp may be vary, depending on the needs of the local communities and the organization of the local hosts: some of the volunteers spent their time on the workcamps cleaning the local area and picking up the trash; other took part in a more artistic project, and they had tasks such as scratching the wall, painting and making murals. Lunaria, and the local hosts always try to organize different kind of projects in order to reach the interests of many volunteers as possible.

We can analyse a similar pattern for what concerns the tasks: 70.1% of the volunteers stated the tasks carried out during the workcamps were the same written in the infosheet, but there is also the remaining 29.9% who thought that the tasks were not exactly the same as the one described before the departure.

WERE YOUR TASKS THE SAME AS THE ONES DESCRIBED IN THE INFOSHEET?



Comments:

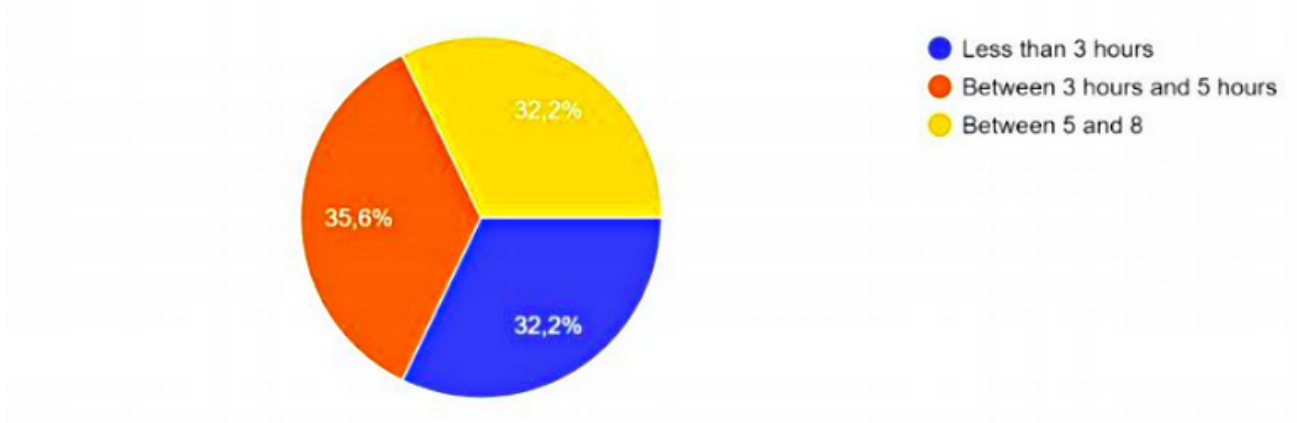
"We didn't spend a lot of time doing the work described in the infosheet, most of the time they sent us to do flyers in the sun or to spam the festival."

"The infosheet for example says the volunteers will help to create, organize and manage the urban arts activities direct to children and young people. However, there was no room to bring ideas how the festival could be organized. It already was organized and we helped more to build the infrastructure of the festival or to join the activities."

"The tasks were partly describes as in the infosheet and partly not. It appeared to be more like the volunteers had to actively contribute and work with the kids."

The workcamp is a mix between work and leisure time; first of all, we will analyse how much time was spent for the work activities. Further to this point, we can highlight many homogeneous answers by the volunteers.

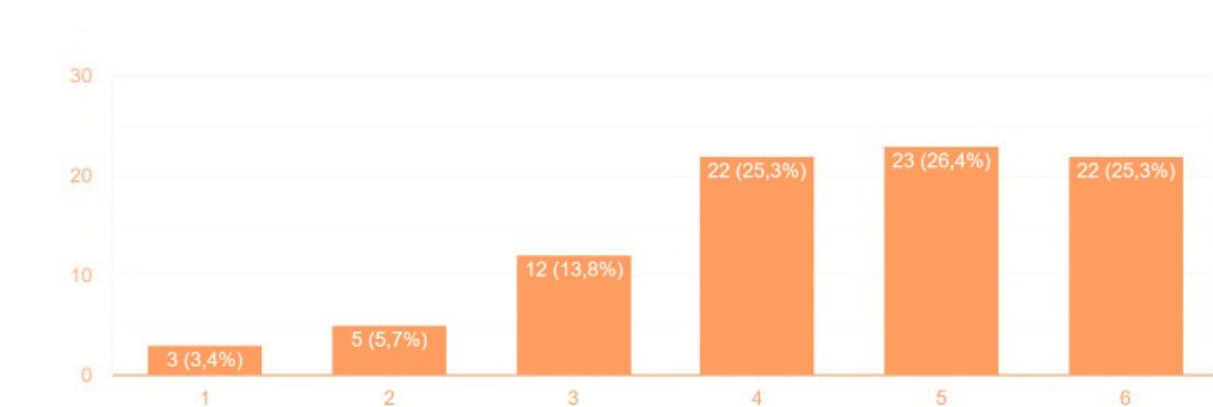
HOW MANY AVERAGE HOURS DID YOU WORK PER DAY?



The average work-time varies depending on the kind of activities that are programmed for the different workcamps. Some of them may required more work hours, and vice versa.

An important achievement that must be highlighted is the usefulness of the work. 77% of the volunteers stated their satisfaction about the work they did during the workcamps.

DO YOU FEEL THE WORK WAS USEFUL?



Comments:

"To clean the coast feels useful."

"We went to beaches in the area and picked up the trash that we found and even though we were a lot of people and worked for some time, there was so much we could still be going on. But I think we did an awful lot of help for the environment with what we already picked up and I am totally ready to come again and do even more work. The amount of trash we found was shocking."

"We were with the community always and the smile of these kind person show use the usefulness of our work!"

As many volunteers stated that they found their work useful, 88.5% of the volunteers affirmed that they enjoyed their work.

Comments:

"I enjoyed painting the murals."

"I picked up new skills, such as furniture building, painting, drilling..."

"I really enjoy it, it was amazing meeting people from other countries, communicating with them, discovering new cleaning items, or in the kitchen with the different spices or in the preparation of dishes that I had not known before."

Here are some general feedback about the work, from the involved volunteers:

"Thanks to Gulio, we had the chance to explore and clean various places at the island. I also appreciate that we were joined by the children and they collected the trash with us."

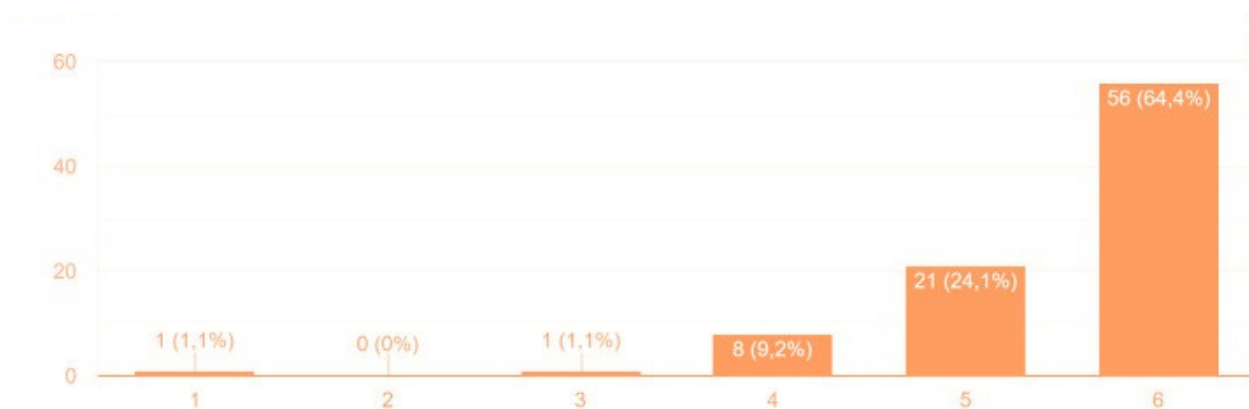
"I really like to play with the children and thus teach us basic things of the country of each one"

"I enjoyed it because I got to do a lot of different jobs instead of just one job every day."

"I enjoyed this job. I liked finding a common language with children without knowing the language. I managed to make friends with them and even get attached. It was very sad to part."

"Amazing, awesome and learnt new things"

DID YOU FEEL WELL IN THE WORKCAMP VOLUNTEERS GROUP?



The majority of the volunteers deem the group well structured and the 97.7% felt well about the group that has been created.

Comments:

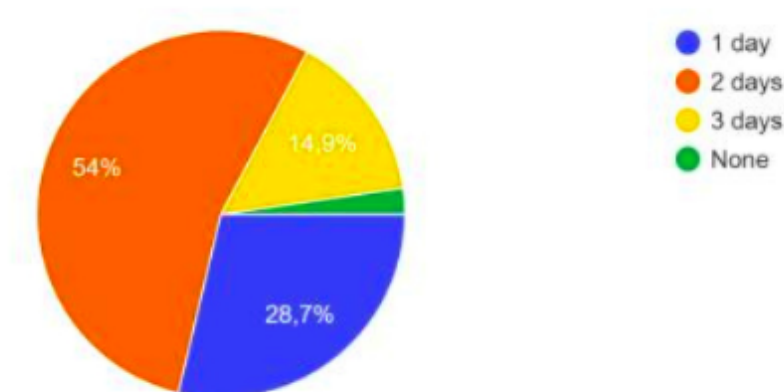
"Everybody was friendly and open-minded."

"The other volunteers were very kind, they always invite me to an activity in the free time we had during the day."

"Volunteers were fantastic."

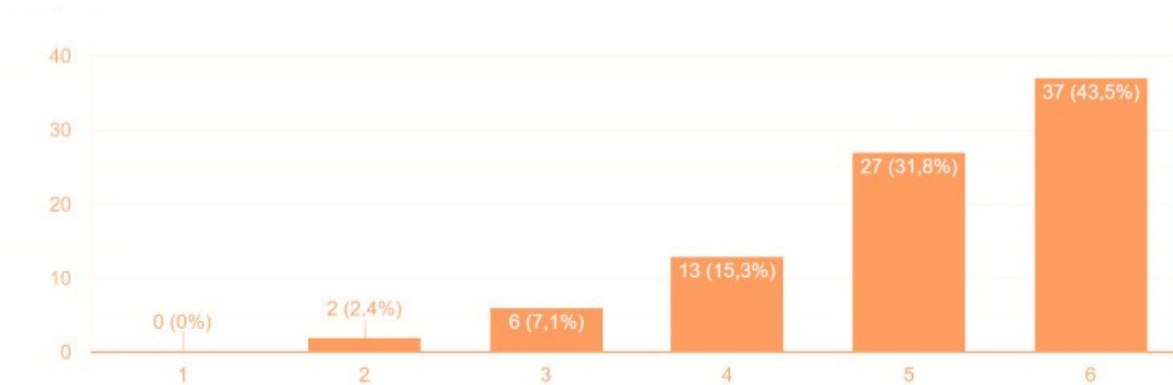
As we were saying before, beside the work-time, there is also the free and leisure time. 54% of the volunteers affirmed that they have 2 free days per week, 28.7% had 1 day per week, 14.9% had three free days per week. Only minimally (2.3%) had no free days.

HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU HAVE FREE (PER WEEK)?



Finally, another important aspect that it is worth to mention is that during these workcamps other significant topics, outside the work, are discussed, such as the environmental practices. These are topics that Lunaria and other organizations have close the their hearts.

DID THE WORKCAMP LOGISTICS RESPECT THE GOOD ENVIROMENTAL PRACTICES?



Generally speaking, almost all the volunteers indicated that during the workcamp in which they took part, they followed good environmental practices (90.6%). These practices concern a vegetarian diet, compost toilets, correct recycling.

Finally, 49.4% of the volunteers also indicated that, during the workcamps, important topics, beside the workcamp ones, were discussed:

"Politics, health, environment, war conflicts."

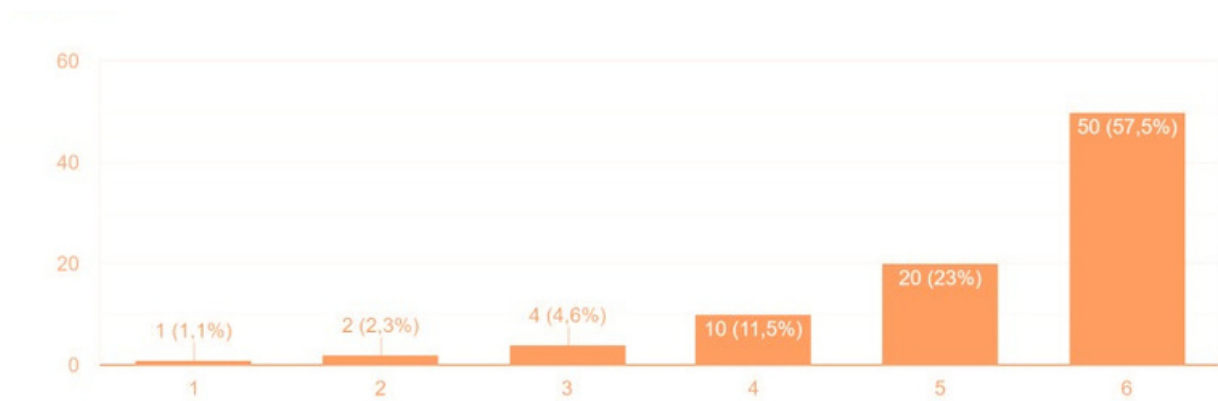
"Equality, discrimination, tolerance"

"With the camp members in our free times we actually talked about sone social problems, inviromentalism, problems of capitalism, and the episodes of military agression, for a several times."

In the workcamps we can find different kinds of figures involved. Mainly there are the volunteers, who play an important role in the creation of the international group, but there are some organizational roles that are important to mention: the group leaders, the local hosts and the local community.

The workcamps are most of the time coordinated by a camp leader, which is a fundamental figure in the organization of the workcamps, as they are the points of reference for all the volunteers. This year, season 2022, 90.8% of the volunteers had a camp leader and most of them stated that their role was very useful (92%).

IF YES, DID YOU FIND HER/HIS ROLE USEFUL?



Comments:

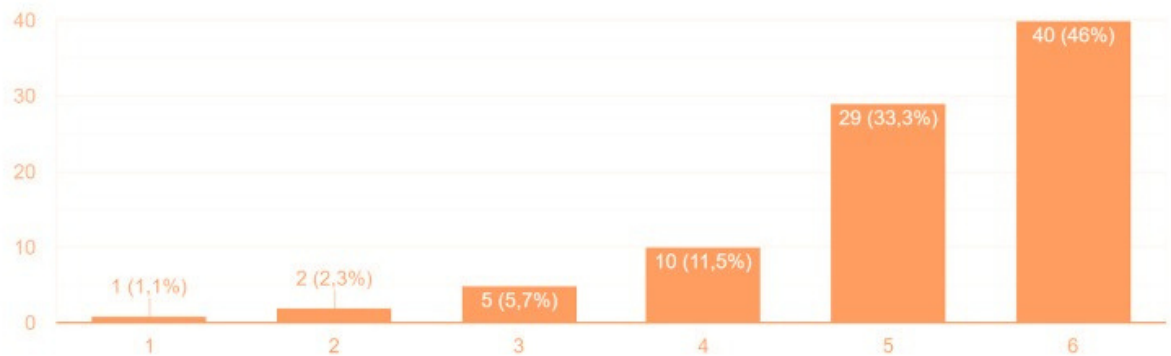
"He was one of us - doing same work, joining free-time activities etc. Only difference was that he organised with our host."

"Nicolas was very chilled, very laid back. He was very friendly, he communicated very often with our local host. This way I would like to thank him for everything!"

"The leaders were very good people with me, they were patient and explained very well how to do each activity during the working hour."

"They always try do the same or more than a volunteer and that I liked because they work with entusiam that share that with the volunteers and is awesome."

DID YOU CONSIDER THEM AS LEADERS (AUTHORITARIAN) OR EQUALS (VOLUNTEERS AS YOU)?



Globally, the volunteers considered that the group leaders covered a more equal role compared to volunteers themselves; this is an important aspect, due to the fact that the group leaders should be more leading (as they cover an organizational role) but they also have to install a peer to peer relations with the volunteers.

Comments:

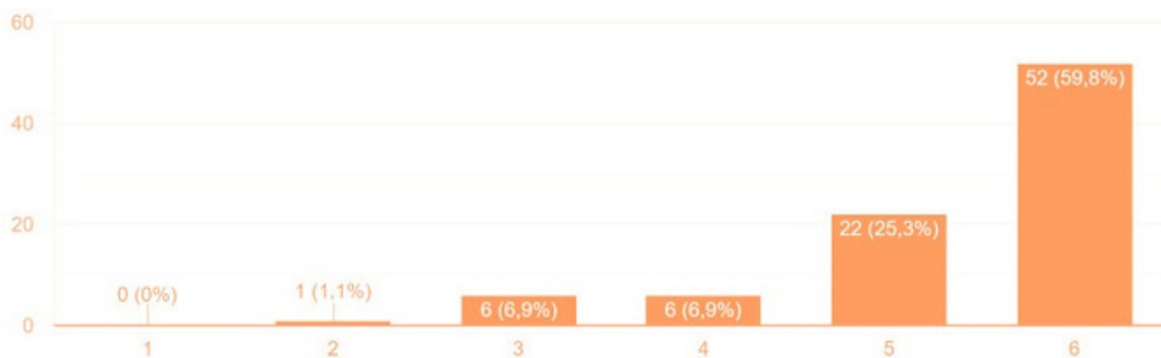
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The other important role, as we were previously saying, is played by the local hosts; these are associations, bodies, and points of reference that collaborate with Lunaria in the organization of a workcamp. There is a close connection between Lunaria and the different local hosts, in order to fully and well organize the workcamps.

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL ORGANIZERS?



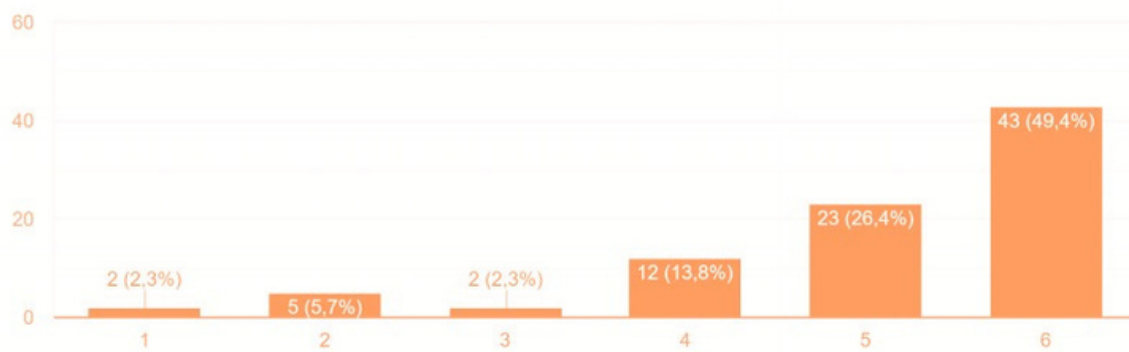
Comments:

"Organizer and his friends were very friendly, helped us with anything needed, made bbq for us or just came to say hi."

"Everyone was very nice and welcoming."

"The local organizer Daniela was extremely helpful and, even though she was working part time, checked on the volunteers regularly and took part in the work. She was also willing to help us in our leisure activities by sharing her car or giving tips."

WERE THEY ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING TO THE LIFE OF THE WORKCAMP?



Specifically, quite all the volunteers believe that the local hosts actively participated in the life of the workcamp (89.6%), helping them with the organization of the work and the camp life (cleaning and tidying up).

Comments:

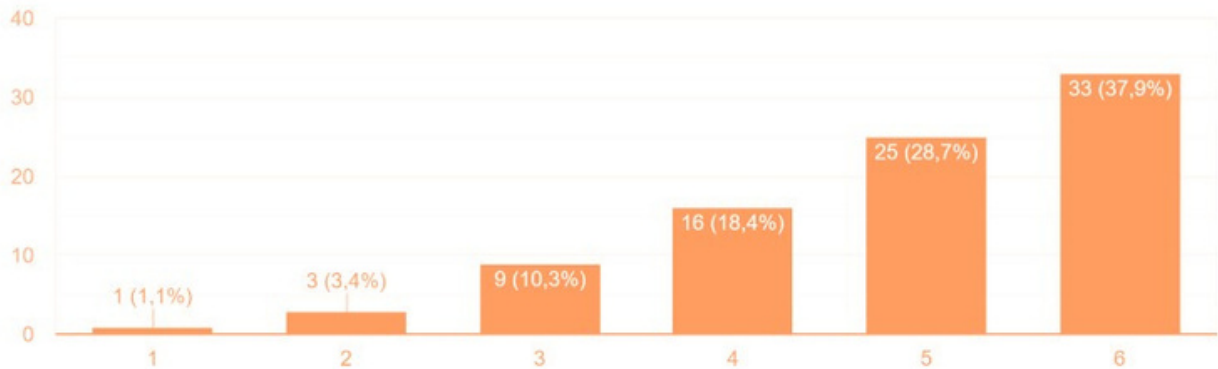
"He took us everywhere we needed to work to work, he provided us the house, the food, the contacts, everything"

"Gulio, Alvaro, Matteo, Simone and others joined us I think everyday (not all of them at the same day, but at least one of them. They helped us with work and drove us on boats."

"They helped us clean stuff, organized bbq."

Finally, the last bit of the organization is played by the local community. This concerns the resident people, who are interested in the project, and have contacts with the volunteers.

DID YOU HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?



Most of our volunteers had contacts with the local community (85%); this is an important element to mention, as this indicates that the local community appreciate the actions carried out by the volunteers with these kind of projects.

Comments:

"There guided us to the cost and pick up with us the trash"

"It was surprising how locals (from shops or organizer's friends) were getting more and more heartwarming as we seen each other every day and worked together."

"There was dinner with locals on the first day, then groups of locals joined us everyday for work. It was a pitty that not all of them spoke English, but still it was very nice to feel support from their side."

LOCAL HOSTS FEEDBACK AND EVALUTATION

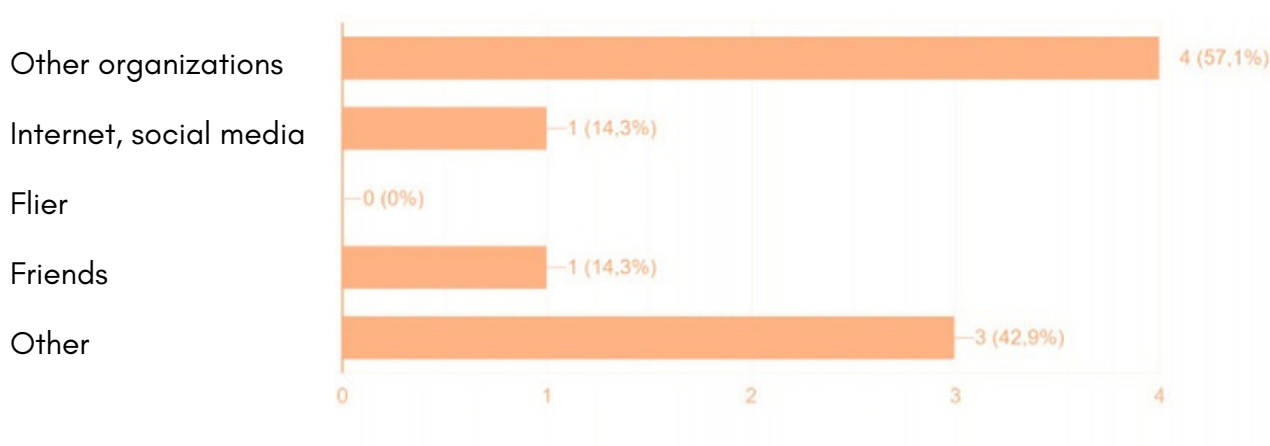
In this second part of the report we will analyse the feedbacks that we received from our local hosts.

This year we had 7 local hosts, that together with Lunaria, organized the workcamps all around Italy; some of these organizations are: Agape Centro Ecumenio, Associazione culturale eclettica, Giovani Insieme onlus, InterCulture, Proloco isola del Giglio, Terradiconfine.

These organizations work with Lunaria since many years and we established a really tight network with them.

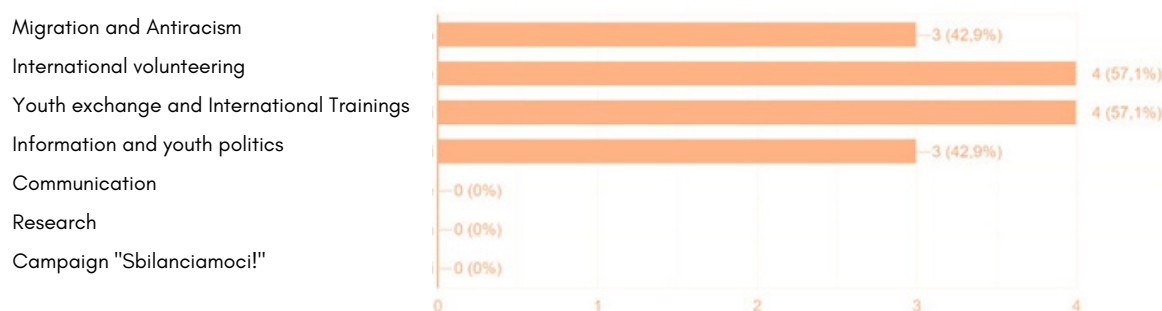
Globally, quite all the local hosts learnt about the possibility of organizing a workcamp with Lunaria through others organizations (57.1%), via internet, social medias and friends (both 14.3%).

1. THROUGH WHAT MEDIA DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMPS WITH LUNARIA?



All of the organizations we work with deeply know about Lunaria's activities and how it works both in local and international level. The activities in which the local hosts are more interested in are: international volunteering (57.1%), youth exchanges and international trainings (57.1%) and anti-racism and migration (42.9%).

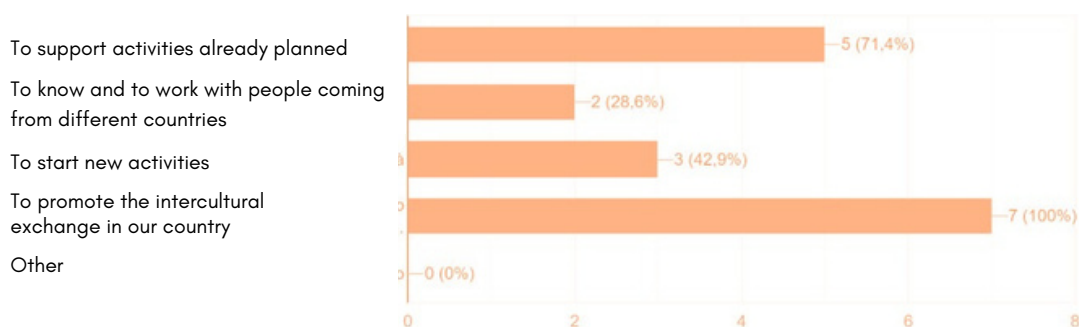
3. IF YES, IN WHICH SECTOR ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?



This year, we registered a full agreement that, by the moment that the local hosts contacted us, received clear and good information. Furthermore, the local hosts found excellent also the volunteers information (day/departure day, specific matters, etc.)

The reasons that bring the local hosts to organize a workcamp can be vary: some of them considered workcamps as a support to planned activities, others to promote the international network and the interculturality.

5. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ORGANIZE AN INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMP?



Here are some comments of the local hosts on the activities that have been carried out during the workcamps:

"The workcamp focused only on the waterfront in S.giovanni a Teduccio. During the two weeks, the activities carried out by the volunteers were: maintenance of the iron railings on the promenade (treatment, painting); maintenance of the 400 flower boxes (cleaning up rubbish and dry plants, cleaning the surface of the flower boxes with water and a brush, painting the flower boxes); creation of a representative workcamp logo to paint on some flower boxes with the help of a graffiti expert; general cleaning of the promenade - of the promenade and the cliff - (manual removal with the help of waste-collecting tongs, brooms, dustpans and a blower)."

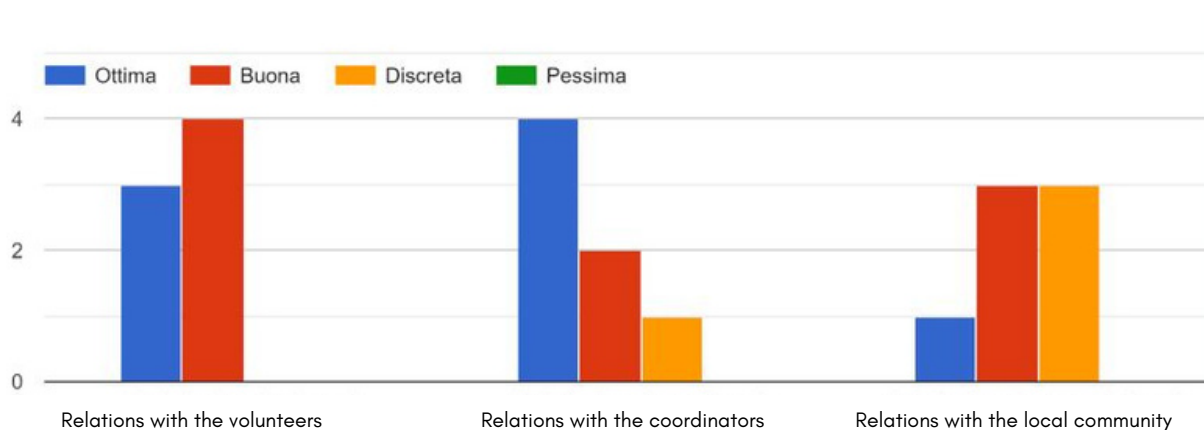
"renovation of our premises (Policaffè) specifically the bocce court and interior rooms with the creation of the study room."

"Support for running the Agape Centre: cooking, cleaning, minor maintenance. Some cognitive and intercultural activities were organised."

Most of the local hosts considered the workcamps balanced by gender, age and nationality (85.7%). Only a lesser extent (14.3%) considered the workcamps less balanced: *"It was balanced but we noticed a 'gap' from 24 to 29, which made the group very tight for the under 24s but probably the two participants of 29 and 30 felt a little excluded."*

For what concerns the relation aspects, the local hosts registered a very strong bond with the volunteers and with the coordinators, a little less regarding the relations with the local community.

A) INTERPERSONAL ASPECTS



We can register a very similar trend also for the cultural and leisure aspects (communication with volunteers, intercultural exchange, evaluation meetings): most of the local hosts stated that these aspects have been optimal. There is just one case that affirmed that some of these aspects have not been accomplished, such as the evaluation meetings: *"I do not recall participating in evaluation meetings."*

All of our local hosts affirmed straight away that they are satisfied with the achievements reached with the volunteers.

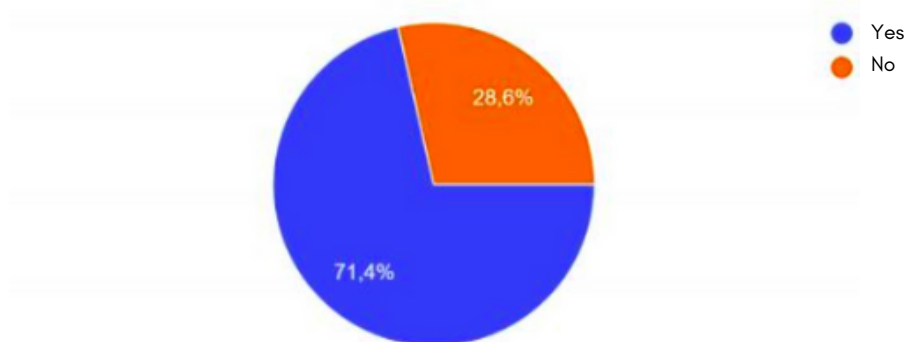
Comments:

"We started out with a project that was perhaps larger and more ambitious than the group's objective strengths and capabilities, but we feel that this was a mistake on our part in anticipating the work. In a nutshell, we thought the work would be quicker and easier than expected, but also due to the heat and the justifiable fatigue of the volunteers who were busy with so many other daily tasks, we struggled to meet the deadlines - and the cost of materials. In general, we adhered to the project deadlines and activities, always keeping the needs of the group in mind"

“Everyone actively collaborated in the required activities, working in groups and sharing their experiences.”

“They all have brought enthusiasm and desire to do.”

12. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE WORK DONE?



71.4% of the local hosts considered themselves satisfied with the work performed by the coordinators.

Comments:

“Dedication, passion, responsibility, teamleader and advanced problem solving skills”

“Very engaging and purposeful! Excellent!”

“Present, positive, responsible.”

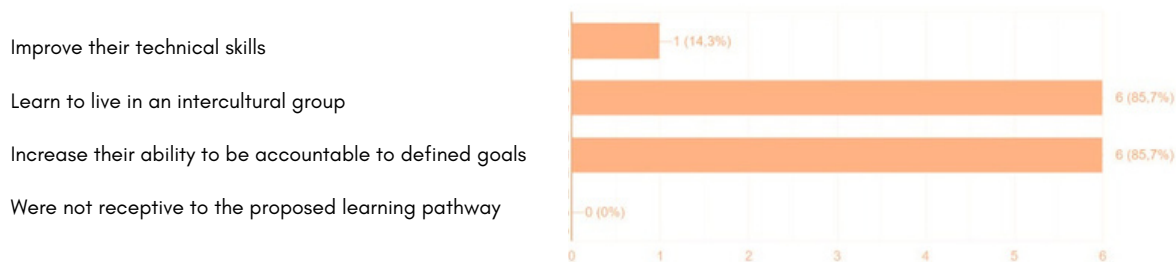
It is fundamental for us, as association, to highlight also the difficulties. Therefore, we want to point out that 28.6% of local hosts is not fully content with the coordinator role.

Comments:

“Bearing in mind that the role of coordinator is not easy, especially in a chaotic place full of unforeseen events like Naples, I personally would have preferred greater complicity with the coordinator. It was initially complicated to define what our respective roles were and what our limits and needs were. I think our 'distance' was probably the result of our different positions on what a workcamp is and what to expect from it. Also, as a constant volunteer, I expected the coordinator to be involved in the work. But in general, when difficulties arose, the approach between the host group and Alessandra was always constructive and never destructive”

Following the volunteers' participation in the workcamps, many local hosts think that the volunteers have learnt to live in an intercultural environment (85.7%), but also they have increased their ability to be accountable to predefined objectives (85.7%). We must not forget, that the workcamps help the volunteers to ameliorate their technical capacities.

13. DO YOU THINK THAT THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE WORKCAMP DID:



These workcamps are not just significant for the volunteers that are involved, but also for the locals and for the communities. As a matter of fact, all the local hosts have pointed out some aspects in which the role of the volunteers has been essential: they have highlighted weaknesses in their organisations (14.3%), they managed to create good relations with the local community, from which we will benefit in the future (28.6%). One of the most critical aspects that has arisen from the local hosts is that the workcamps may represent an important challenge due to the fact that the local hosts deal with volunteers coming from different cultures and background. Although this could be an initial obstacle, it is also the essence of the international workcamps!

14. WHICH WAS THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS ON THE LOCAL CONTEST?



Comments:

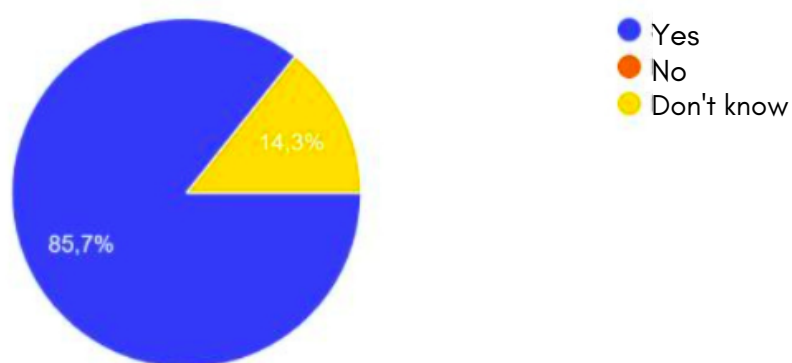
"Our strength was to propose for the first time a workcamp in a very closed neighborhood and to do it in a public place, in the middle of the season, which allowed us to have a great resonance with citizens, other associations, and municipal institutions. Furthermore, being hosts with work and/or volunteer experience in European mobility, I believe, facilitated and made some processes within the workcamp very natural. Our weak point was perhaps the absence/non-support - economic, logistical, manual - of the municipality in the first place and then of the citizens. We tried several times to involve citizens in the work (creating calls on social media, distributing flyers), but we had little time and few resources available to do so, besides the fact that the local community would probably have needed more time to overcome cultural and language barriers."

“Strengths: community life that stimulates and facilitates relationships; group work. Weaknesses: little time devoted to sharing cultures and reflecting on common and/or transversal themes.”

“The strength of being a small group and the weakness of being little involved in the local community.”

Looking to the future, most of our local hosts is willing to host another workcamp in the next years (85.7%). This is an important aspect that symbolizes the desire to continue these activities with international volunteer groups.

16. DO YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL ORGANIZE ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMP IN THE FUTURE?



Globally, the local hosts that answered positively to this previous question would like to propose the same implemented activities (57.1%), but some of them (42.9%) has also new ideas; the area of working could be the same, but the activities may differ.

Comments:

“Definitely a project of urban regeneration and maintenance of green areas, but with a more accurate work forecast.”

"To create wooden displays for artists' exhibitions and to organise an event in which artists from all over Italy could participate (materials needed for exhibitions built by volunteers)."

"Always in the environmental sector but with another activity."

Finally, one important aspect is that all our local hosts agreed and they would be willing to host volunteers with minor opportunities, such as (seniors, migrants, people with economical difficulties, etc.)

Comments:

"We organised two intercultural evenings dedicated to the nationalities of the volunteers. The young people were very happy to propose and prepare one of their typical dishes for us during some lunches and dinners (e.g. lunch prepared by the Turkish volunteer and dinner by the Chinese volunteer). In addition, some of the volunteers prepared beautiful power point presentations or proposed games telling about the traditions of their countries."

"Super fun and very nice to see people of different ages dining at the same table."

CAMP LEADER TESTIMONIES

In this third and final part of the report 2022, we will analyse the group leaders feedback and their testimonies. In this section we will report the comments of our coordinators concerning the relations with the local hosts, the group of volunteers, the type of work and activities, some feedback.

The figure of the group leader is very important in the creation of the international group. They help to create cohesion in the volunteering group, to overcome possible difficulties and obstacles.

RELATIONS WITH THE LOCAL HOSTS

Quite all the coordinators stated that the relations with the local hosts have been very positive and efficient. The local hosts have been welcoming and helpful throughout the workcamps and the activities.

Comments:

"We create a great collaboration and communication with the local hosts that helped and support us under several points of views, and contribute and participate in the work camp and group life in a much more active way. Not only they organize extra activities to let the volunteer discover the surrounding, but they also took part and help during the work activities and in the everyday life tasks, creating a strong bond with the group."

"The relation with the local host couldn't have been better (Vincenzo) and also the guys from Cilento (Angelo and Giuseppe among others). They were so welcoming and helpful and it felt like home from the beginning."

"The local host was the association 'The World in One Room 2'. They proved to be extremely helpful and open to listening. By the time we arrived, everything was ready for the volunteers' arrival. During the first day they took care of picking them up from the train station in Carsoli one by one personally. Each of our requests, both logistical and organizational, were always followed by precise and timely answers.

Needs, suggestions, proposals made by us, and the volunteers were always taken into consideration."

"The relation with the local host has been functional and effective. Daniela (Giovani Insieme) participated with us in most of the activities, providing us not just tools, materials and instruction for work, but also cars for transfer, contacts with locals, proposal for free time and a lot of suggestion for managing the group. Her availability was indispensable for the success of the project."

We could highlight also a similar pattern for the relations with the local communities; many group leaders affirmed that they found the local communities very helpful and present during their workcamps.

Comments:

"The local community turned out to be extremely cooperative and helpful. Several local stores and companies contributed by donating food for the workcamp."

"Some young people from the place were very kind, confident and helpful with the group: they often spend free time together and involved the group in evening leisure activities. This was really appreciated by the whole group and very effective in making a bond with the local place."

"The local community was very welcoming, both in terms of members of the local host associations, as well as older Dolce' inhabitants and young children. During these 2 weeks we lived a true sharing relationship with the local community, transforming the Policaffè in to a place for cultural exchanges. This great experience with the local community was of the feedbacks that lot of volunteers gave us. The elders people of the village either helped in different works and joined the final inauguration festival, some of them offered to cook for us or to help us in general. The meeting with local people of our age of course was very meaningful and also the one with local children that also came to visit us spontaneously during the workcamp."

During the workcamps, our group leaders had the opportunity to organize many different activities, such as "group activities like name games, icebreakers, team building activities", "moment of collective reflection, mutual knowledge and cultural exchange", "walk with the 'friends' collected during the experience at the waterfront of San Giovanni"

In order to improve our work and to make the experience of the workcamps as better as possible we asked our camp leader to highlight some improving points.

Comments:

"It would be better to have a clear schedule with always the same working hours. A more organized work time could mean also a more organized cooking/cleaning schedules."

"The idea of the project is great but there is a need for someone among the participants to have some knowledge of film and theater. I therefore recommend that it be placed among the requirements."

"Communication is the key for a good and effective planning of the activities with the partners. This is for sure a point that if improved would raise exponentially the quality of the project."

We would like to close this report with some overall comments from the camp leaders about their experience:

"It was one of the best experiences of our lives. We are so grateful for it. We hope to come back to Stella Cilento very soon and Cuntaria next year as it was amazing and surpassed our expectations."

"Overall the project turned out to be extremely good. The only flaw remains the lack of time with competent professional figures who could direct the work properly. The group has been cohesive although not having enough time to do the final editing caused disappointment to some."

"I really admired the effort of Giovani Insieme to recover and valorise the city and its huge cultural heritage involving young people from all around the globe. Activities announced in the infosheet were in some points vague and wide, but they resulted concrete and interesting on the field. The general outcome is great and effective."