



Document D :

Self Governance in workcamps – a letter from a volunteer

Dear friends,

I found the project excellent, also the work was excellent for a workcamp. From the beginning the leadership of the camp was completely free, There were fixed working-times, but nobody looked, that it was started at time and so nobody started at time. The leader was mostly one of the latest to start, instead that she gave a good example. So it happened that a small group of volunteers did most work, and the rest spent three weeks of holidays. The cleaning and the dish-washing was done by the same volunteers, too. So this group got more and more angry. Unfortunately it waited too long for some activity of the leader instead of asking a meeting themselves. So it was too late to stop this antiauthoritarian trial. There was also a lack of information from the leader to the volunteers, so nobody knew, which materials were to use and which not, or what the project partner discussed with the camp-leader.

- I'm not against antiauthoritarian workcamps, but the following conditions must be respected:
- It must be announced at the beginning of the workcamp, that the leadership will be antiauthoritary. It's very authoritarian to start an antiauthoritarian workcamp without asking the volunteers if they like it.
- There must be fixed a way, how to discuss rising problems. So problems can be solved before they are too big.
- The leader must go ahead with a good example.
- The leader must organize all the information, every volunteer should know, what's going on in the camp.

The number of volunteers shouldn't be too big. I think about 15 volunteers are the maximum for an antiauthoritarian camp.

Because this conditions weren't respected, there was more and more confusion in the camp. The work wasn't really finished:

Most wood was painted only once instead of twice, and some small pieces weren't painted at all.

I hope you will continue to organize workcamps next year, but with antiauthoritarian and not a chaotic leadership.

Faithfully

A quite experienced volunteer