

IBO-NEDERLAND ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

PROJECTS, STATISTICS & FEEDBACK



JANUARY 2025

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1. FOREWORD

Welcome to IBO-Nederland's Activity Report of volunteer season 2024! In this report we look back on the past year in quantitative and qualitative terms, supported by statistics and project evaluations written by our highly esteemed volunteers.

In terms of the total number of volunteers, 2024 has been a meagre year. Unfortunately, this was in line with a decrease that was already witnessed in 2023. With less subscriptions and many cancellations, both for group projects and individuals in customised projects, we experienced a decline in numbers. This can partly be explained by the aftermath of the years of pandemic social distancing measures related to COVID-19 (resulting in less word of mouth advertisement) and the tumultuous times of many personnel and board changes over the past years, hampering the internal structure of the IBO organisation.

On the bright side, the volunteers who did participate in an IBO project made a positive local impact and experienced cultural exchange in practice in 35 projects spread over 11 different countries in Europe and Africa. Volunteers have, among others, contributed to the renovation of a care farm and an eco-centre in Belgium, restoring a spiritual centre in Austria, participating in a living-working community in Germany and supporting a school for vulnerable youth in Ghana. Our volunteers have filled in an evaluation and were most positive about the hospitality of the project partner, the quality of the meals and the atmosphere in the group of volunteers. Areas that still need improvement are the necessity of the project, the technical guidance and contact with the local population. Most of the volunteers have joined an IBO project for the first time, so we hope they will join again in the near future.

In 2023 we established a CO2 emission compensation program, in collaboration with our Ugandan partner, through which volunteers (and anyone for that matter) can offset the emissions for their travel to and from a volunteering project.

Unfortunately, this program has not been used frequently last season. However, our IBO Supporters group of active members within our organisation, established in 2022, has been expanding with new members of which half went on an IBO project in 2024. In 2023 we reestablished the 'Returning Drinks' (where all volunteers of the past season are invited for a get-together) and this year we gave it a new twist by adding the IBO element of volunteering to the mix. This year we organised our 'End of Season Day' at a healthcare facility in our town of residence, where we baked pancakes, played old fashioned Dutch games and assisted in repairing and construction work. We celebrated with a lovely lunch and a drink afterwards. This could prove to be a new tradition!



2. PROJECTS

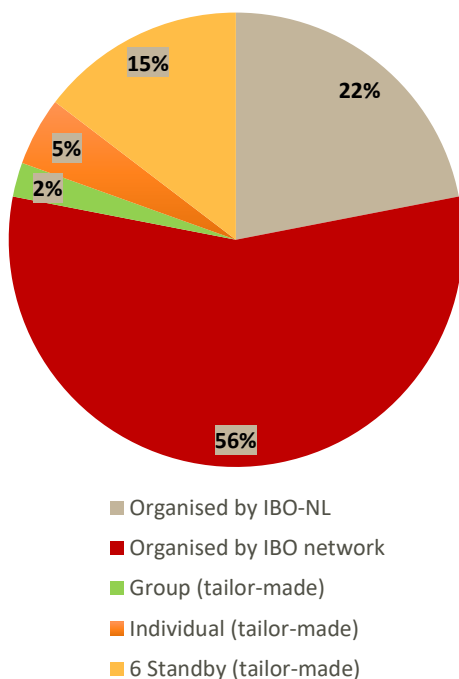
2.1 PROJECTS ORGANISED BY IBO-NEDERLAND

In 2024, we offered a total of 41 projects on our website. 6 tailor-made projects did not receive interest and were standby. Therefore, we actively organised 35 group projects and individual tailor-made projects within our national borders (3), in other European countries (29) and beyond (3). Of all these projects, IBO-Nederland organised 3 projects in the Netherlands, 3 projects in the rest of Europe and 3 in Africa and South-America. Due to the low number of participants, we had to cancel 4 of the projects organised by IBO Nederland. We have sent a group of students to Poland. The Camper Club, who have been going to Moldova for several years, have organised their trip themselves this season. One group of students has been cancelled. A few volunteers have set out to go on a tailor-made project in Europe and Africa.

In the diagrams below, we distinguish between different project categories:

- National project: organised by IBO-Nederland
- International project: organised by the international IBO network
- Group (tailor-made): organised by IBO-Nederland
- Individual (tailor-made): organised by IBO-Nederland

PROJECT CATEGORIES (41 TOTAL)



PROJECTS TAKEN PLACE (15 IBO-NL PROJECTS)

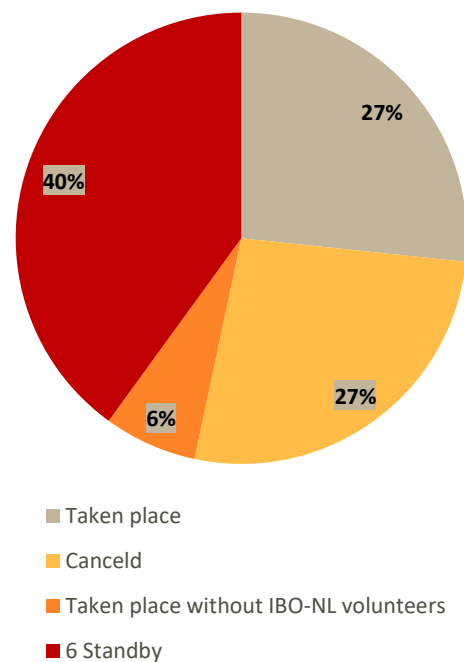


Table 1. Volunteering projects 2024

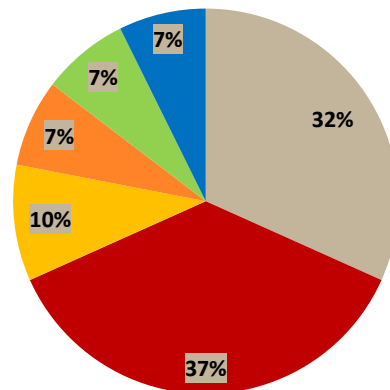
#	Project City - Description	Project category Construction, Ecological, Social	Data 2024	Country	Organised by
1	Imsweiler - Reconstruction of a ruin	Con	18/2 - 2/3	DE	IBO DE
2	Meißen - Renovate historic building for inclusive sports	Con	3/3 - 16/3	DE	IBO DE
3	Zierenberg - Construct recycled shelter	Con	14/4 - 27/4	DE	IBO DE
4	Herne - Move Circus Snick Snack	Con	23/6 - 6/7	DE	IBO DE
5	Heiligenkreuz - Renovate spiritual centre	Con / Eco	30/6 - 7/7	AT	IBO AT
6	Fano - Support healthcare, socio-cultural projects and human rights	Soc	30/6 - 13/7	IT	IBO IT
7	Brugge - Maintain a school for special education	Con	1/7 - 5/7	BE	IBO BE
8	Straseni - Bring some sunshine to the seniors	Con / Soc	1/7 - 14/7	MD	IBO NL
9	Kayunga - Building sanitation and water storage ecologically with bottle bricks	Con / Eco	7/7 - 27/7	UG	IBO NL
10	Nijmegen - Care for people with mental disability	Soc	7/7 - 20/7	NL	IBO NL
11	Poitiers - Renovate the inside walls of a church	Con	10/7 - 30/7	FR	SDJ
12	Heule - Renovate an organic care farm	Con / Eco	14/7 - 28/7	BE	IBO BE
13	Toro en Colle d'Anchise - Help build the community towards solidarity	Con / Eco / Soc	15/7 - 30/7	IT	IBO IT
14	Voorst - Help paint the walls of youngsters with complex problems	Con / Soc	21/7 - 28/7	NL	IBO NL
15	Kaspi - Renovate a centre for underprivileged children and youngsters	Con / Eco	21/7 - 3/8	GE	IBO DE
16	La Ferté-Alais - Support an international and educational eco-village	Con / Eco	21/7 - 4/8	FR	SDJ
17	Île d'Oléron - Renovate a traditional eco peasant house	Con / Eco	25/7 - 8/8	FR	SDJ
18	Brezovica - Give children with disabilities the holiday of a lifetime	Soc	29/7 - 11/8	HR	IBO NL
19	Quaregnon - Restore an eco centre with clay techniques	Con / Eco	29/7 - 2/8	BE	IBO BE
20	Topolovec - Experience ecological living	Con / Eco	31/7 - 11/8	SL	IBO BE
21	Tipu - Renovate a natureschool for children and youngsters	Con / Eco	11/8 - 24/8	EE	IBO DE
22	Arndorf - Help to build homes for people in need	Con	18/8 - 31/8	AT	IBO AT
23	Houttuin - Support a cultural youth centre	Con / Eco / Soc	24/8 - 15/9	SR	IBO NL
24	Spilamberto - Help reuse and recycle at a non-profit	Con / Eco	28/8 - 11/9	IT	IBO IT
25	Srebrenica - Help to build a peaceful ecovillage	Con / Eco	1/9 - 14/9	BH	IBO DE
26	Vendoli - Renovate a horse ranch for children with social problems	Con	1/9 - 14/9	CZ	IBO DE
27	Meckelenburg - Participate in a living-working community	Con	15/9 - 28/9	DE	IBO DE
28	Königsfeld-Weiditz - Cheers, hustle and bustle in the village	Con	15/9 - 28/9	DE	IBO DE

29	Meißen - Renovate a historical building for inclusive sports	Con	15/9 - 28/9	DE	IBO DE
30	Srebrenica - Help to build a peaceful ecovillage	Con / Eco	15/9 - 28/9	BH	IBO DE
31	Heiligenkreuz - Renovate a spiritual centre	Con / Eco	29/9 - 6/10	AT	IBO AT
32	Kemberg - Transform a mustard mill into a creative workshop	Con	29/9 - 12/10	DE	IBO DE
33	Voorst - Help paint the walls of youngsters with complex problems	Con / Soc	27/10 - 3/11	NL	IBO NL
34	Adawso - Support the school for vulnerable children and youngsters	Con / Soc	Tailor-made	GH	IBO NL
35	Presov - Activities with people with disabilities	Soc	Tailor-made	SK	IBO NL
36	Houttuin - Support a cultural youth centre	Con / Eco / Soc	Tailor-made	SR	IBO NL
37	Timulazu - Support an integration project for underprivileged young people	Soc	Tailor-made	RO	IBO NL
38	Oyugis - Build classrooms and support the community	Con / Eco / Soc	Tailor-made	KE	IBO NL
39	Chorzów - Exchange project with the Chorzów Youth Association	Soc	Tailor-made	PL	IBO NL
40	Kayunga - Building sanitation and water storage ecologically with bottle bricks	Con / Eco	Tailor-made	UG	IBO NL
41	Straseni - Bring some sunshine to the seniors	Con / Soc	Tailor-made	MD	IBO NL

2.2 PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL IBO NETWORK

In total IBO-Nederland could offer 41 projects on her website – organised by IBO-Nederland, Internationaler Bauorden DE, IBO-Italia, Bouworde BE, IBO Austria and Solidarité de Jeunesse. We also offered a few projects from Sol de Jeunesse, which is not a part of the International IBO network. After IBO-Nederland, Internationaler Bauorden DE was represented the most in our listing of projects, IBO Austria the least. Most of the projects organised took place, some were cancelled.

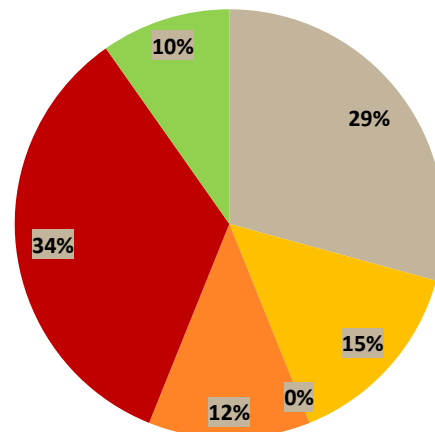
PROJECTS OFFERED PER ORGANISATION



- IBO - DE
- IBO - NL
- IBO - BE
- IBO - IT
- IBO - AT
- Sol de Jeunesse (not part of IBO)

The International IBO network offers projects under several categories. Most projects were a combination of construction and ecological work, the smallest part was a combination of construction, ecological and social work. No projects were listed as solely ecological this year.

TYPE OF PROJECT



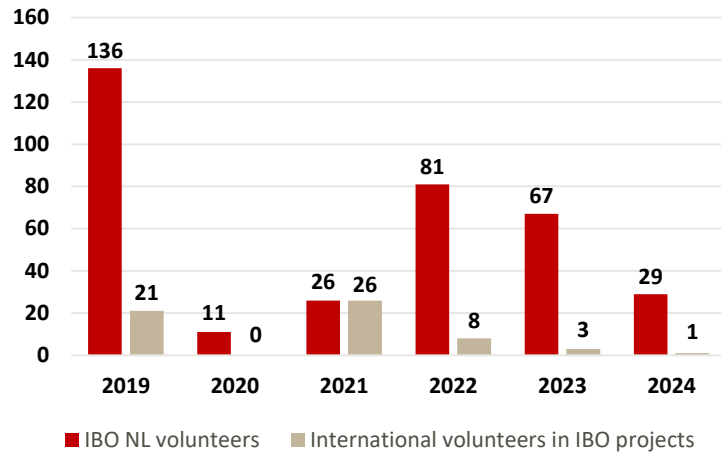
- Construction
- Social
- Ecological
- Combi C + S
- Combi C + E
- 4 Combi C + S + E

3. VOLUNTEERS

3.1 PROJECTS AND GROUPS

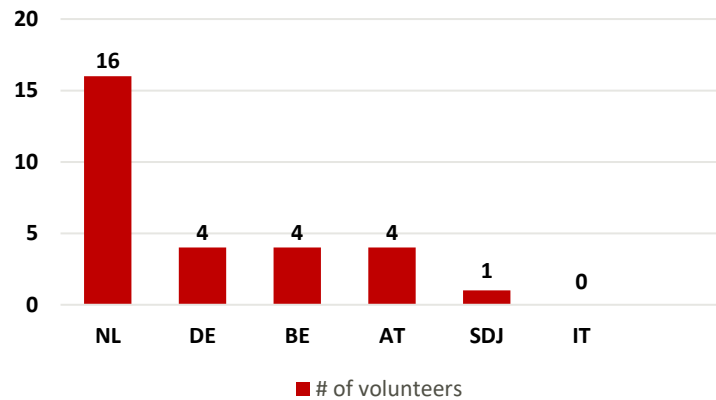
A total of 29 volunteers enrolled with IBO-NL and participated in one of the international projects, both individual (21) and in groups (8), teachers guiding the group of students not included. In addition, 1 international volunteer from IBO-BE joined the project in Kayunga (Uganda), organised by IBO-NL.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS (NL / INTERNATIONAL)



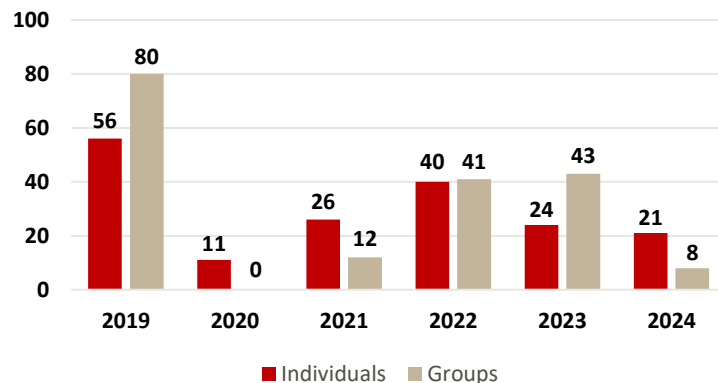
The 29 volunteers that enrolled with IBO-Nederland went to projects organised by the IBO's in Austria, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. No volunteers have joined a project in Italy this year. 1 volunteer joined a project organised by Sol de Jeunesse in France.

VOLUNTEERS IN PROJECTS ORGANISED BY:



In 2024, most IBO-volunteers joined a project as an individual volunteer, the other volunteers joined as a group. The group consisted of a class of students. Usually an association joins an IBO NL project each year. This year they have organised their trip themselves, which explain the decrease in size.

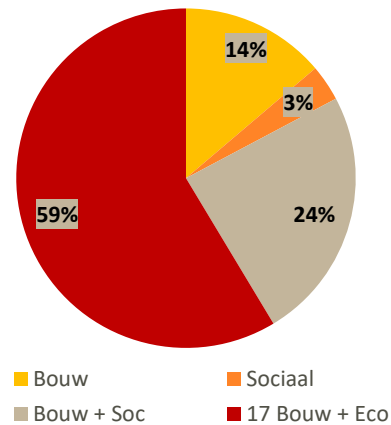
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS (INDIVIDUALS / GROUPS)



3.2 VOLUNTEER CHARACTERISTICS

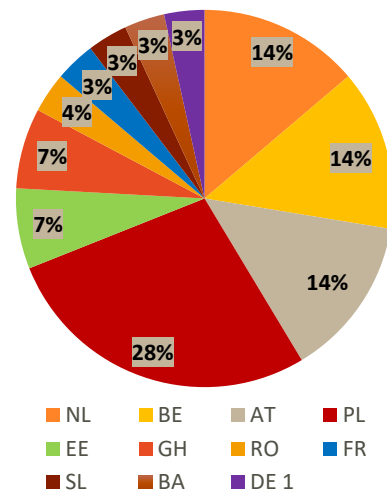
Most individual volunteers chose to join a project with a combination of construction and ecological work, followed by a combination of construction and social activities. The others joined either a social or construction project.

TYPE OF PROJECT



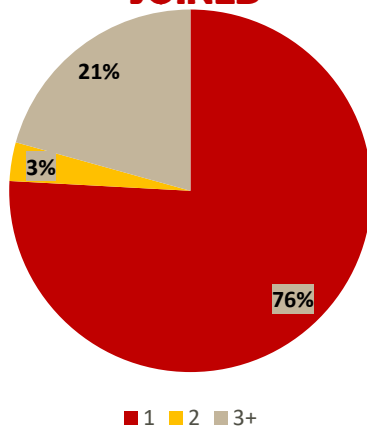
Volunteers went to a range of different countries, 11 in total. Most volunteers went to European countries. 2 volunteers went to Ghana.

PROJECT COUNTRIES

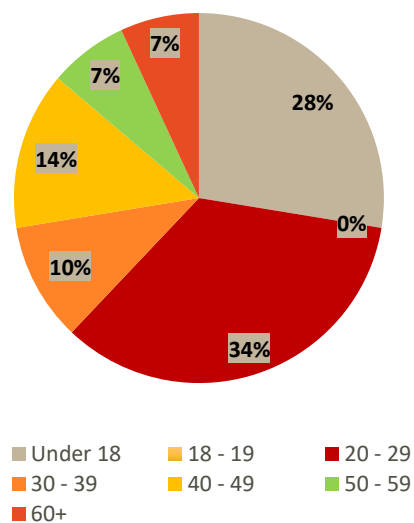


Volunteers from different age groups participated, with the majority being 20 to 29 years old. Most of them joined an IBO project for the first time, but some had done at least two projects before.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS JOINED

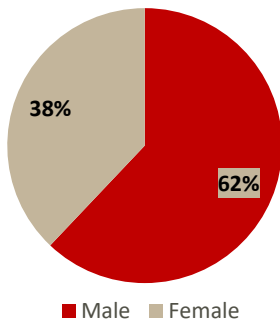


AGE VOLUNTEERS

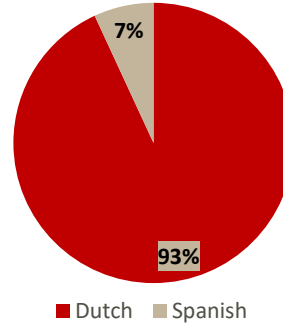


Most volunteers identified as a male and were Dutch. Two international volunteers joined projects through the platform of YES Europe, both coming from Spain. They joined projects in Belgium and Austria.

GENDER VOLUNTEERS

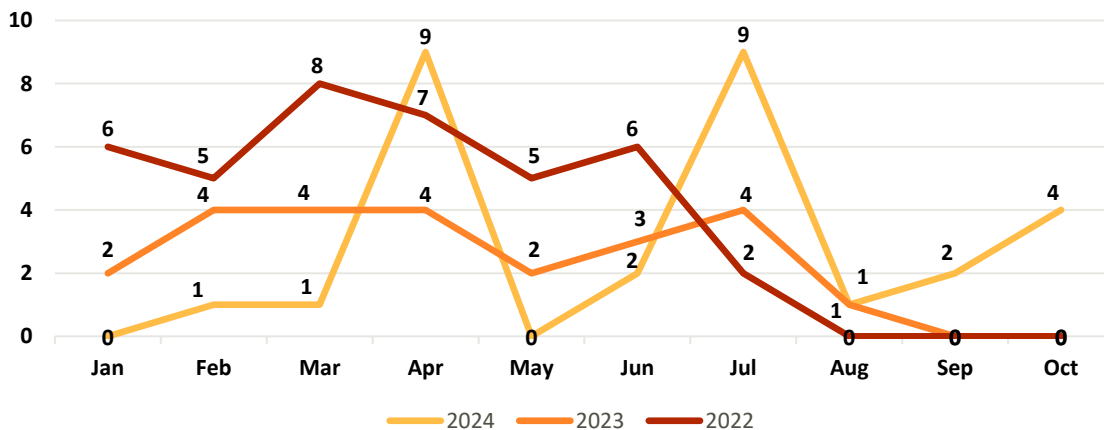


NATIONALITY VOLUNTEERS



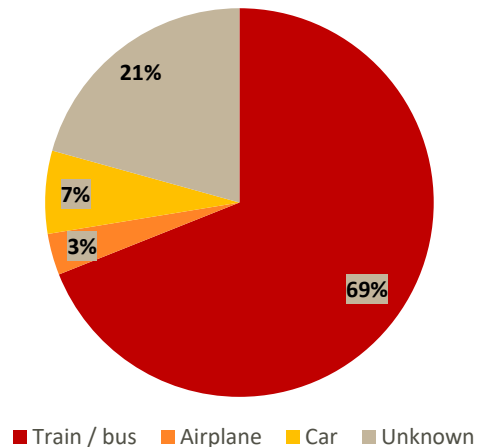
Volunteers applied mostly in April and July. The group of 8 students, together with two teachers, applied in April and in July 9 individuals registered. There seems to be a decrease of registrations around May, as witnessed in all the years showed in the graph below, in June and July there is a peak. This year there was a new peak in October due to the last project of the year with fixed dates. The graph only includes volunteers who went on a project, not those who cancelled their participation.

MOMENT OF REGISTRATION



We actively encouraged volunteers to travel in the most sustainable way possible, while also introducing our carbon compensation program in collaboration with our partner organisation in Uganda. Most volunteers chose to travel over land, with the majority travelling by train or bus.

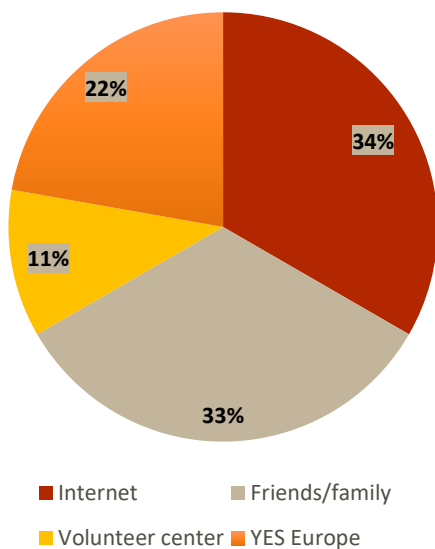
MODE OF TRANSPORT



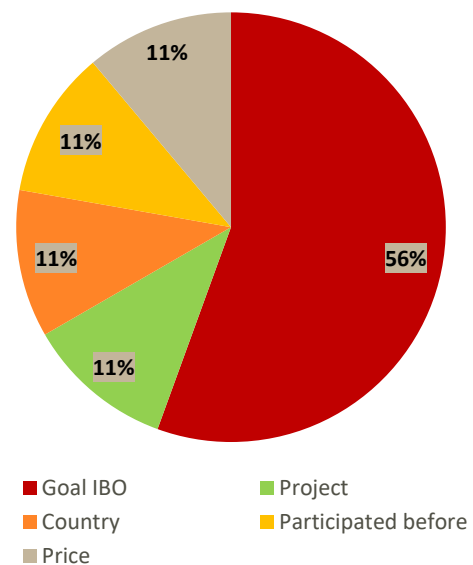
3.3 FINDING AND CHOOSING IBO

In the evaluations we ask volunteers how they found IBO-Nederland and why they chose to join a project with IBO. Many volunteers filled in their evaluation form and answered these questions, resulting in the insights below.

HOW VOLUNTEERS FOUND IBO



REASONS TO CHOOSE IBO



4. OFFICE UPDATES IN A NUTSHELL

4.1 COMMUNICATION

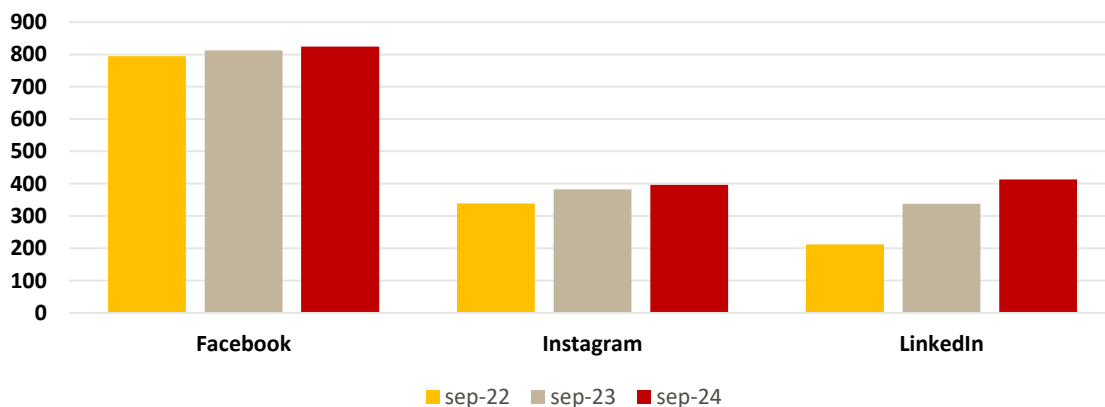
4.1.1 ONLINE NEWSLETTER & 'BUILDING MESSAGES'

The online newsletter (focused on potential volunteers) is sent about 6x a year and has around 1470 recipients, which has slowly been increasing over time. Around 40% of the recipients opens the newsletters and the click rate differs around 6%. *Bouwberichten* ('Building messages'), our physical newsletter (focused on donors, former volunteers and other interested parties) is sent 3x a year to around 2000 addresses. All the recipients who are not structurally donating to IBO also receive a debit card, to encourage them to donate. In 2023 we have started the digitalisation of the *Bouwberichten*. Donors can still ask for the paper version. This is both a cost-saving measure as well as a sustainability consideration, resulting in less paper newsletters.

4.1.2 SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

In 2022, we harmonised the looks and content of all social media channels and implemented the IBO 'house style' that was only used on the website and print before. We reviewed the target groups and related tone of voice and content for the channels, resulting in focusing LinkedIn on (potential) donors, Instagram for younger volunteers and Facebook for older volunteers. In general, we have been updating our social media channels more frequently, which has paid off in a slightly higher engagement and more followers, but we intend to increase the impact the coming year. Especially on Instagram we are looking for ways to reach new crowds, since our main target group (young adults 18-30) is mostly found on this platform. In the coming year we intend to reorganise our website and provide 'to the point' information.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



4.2 STAFF

Over the past years there have been major changes both in staff and board members of IBO-Nederland. In January 2024 two new employees started at the office with a short transition stage, which partly explains why the past season has been quite meagre in terms of volunteers. However, after a volunteering season of growing and learning, the brand new office team is more skilled and highly motivated to facilitate an upward trend in the time to come.

5. ONLINE SURVEY FOR VOLUNTEERS

In order to evaluate the projects, all volunteers receive an evaluation form with questions about the project, accommodation, meals, group and project information. These questions could be answered with marks from 1- 5. 16 volunteers filled out a form in 2024, which is similar to the year before. The school class of 8 students was represented by their teacher in 1 single form.

Marks

- 5 = very positive/ totally agree
- 4 = positive / agree
- 3 = blank / no opinion
- 2 = negative / disagree
- 1 = very negative/ totally disagree

Average marks (1 – 5)	2021 (19 forms)	2022 (26 forms)	2023 (17 forms)	2024 (16 forms)
Goal	4.76	4.64	4.65	4.50
Project is useful	3.88	4.52	3.88	4.19
Project is necessary	4.06	4.00	3.94	3.94
Contact with target group	3.41	4.36	3.31	4.13
Enough work to do	3.65	4.52	4.00	4.44
Enough materials	3.88	4.60	4.12	4.13
Technical guidance	3.53	4.16	3.82	3.94
Safety at work	4.12	4.28	4.12	4.38
Work was feasible	4.35	4.48	4.29	4.50
Hospitality	4.18	4.96	4.65	4.81
Accommodation	4.06	4.24	4.47	4.25
Info local situation	4.00	4.44	3.88	4.19
Meals	4.24	4.52	4.76	4.81
Contact local population	3.76	4.52	3.88	3.75
Atmosphere in the group	4.59	4.56	4.47	4.69
Number of volunteers	4.06	4.52	4.41	4.38
IBO-information	4.29	4.40	4.12	4.50
Expectation versus reality	3.88	4.48	4.00	4.19
Mean of all the questions above (1-5)	4.04	4.45	4.15	4.32
Mean of all the questions above (1-10)	8.08	8.90	8.30	8.64
Volunteers rate project with a (1-10)	8.30	8.54	8.06	8.06

The highest marks in 2024 (score above 4.6) were given to the hospitality of the project partner, the quality of the meals and the atmosphere in the group of volunteers. The lowest marks (score below 4.0) show that the necessity of the project is not always clear, the technical guidance was not always adequate and that the contact with the local population was limited in some cases.