

Service Civil International Deutscher Zweig e.V. (SCI Germany), Servizio Civile Internazionale (SCI Italy), Volonterski Centar Zagreb (VCZ Croatia), Útilapu Network – SCI Hungary, with support of No More War and CR teams invite you to apply for:

### International Training Seminar on:

## “Volunteering for peace – Capacity building for work in and with conflict regions”

20 – 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2014, in Barnsdorf (near Bremen), Germany

With financial support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe

### *The idea of the project*

The question of what peace and voluntary organisations such as SCI can do to help prevent conflicts occurring, promote conflict transformation and contribute to **post-conflict rebuilding of communities and reconciliation** remains acute and a high priority on the agenda of international peace and voluntary work. Numerous seminars took place in the past, setting up theoretical guidelines for voluntary work in conflict regions. Seminars need to prepare volunteers for **real-life situations** in conflict or post-conflict regions. Seminars should address questions of how to meet and overcome challenges volunteers will likely encounter, and how to **relate working in conflict regions** with the need to **promote awareness-raising** and educate others about the causes, nature and consequences of the conflicts in their home countries. As SCI runs projects in post-conflict regions, this seminar will serve as an incentive to enhance the quality and **support our existing peace-building projects**, such as the current work of the Syria working group (Pathfinders mission in Jordan).

### *Aims and objectives*

This training-for-trainers seminar is an attempt to empower our activists with the necessary practical skills, know-how and competencies to train young volunteers to work in and with conflict regions. The main topics that will be addressed are:

- **Exchanging** ideas and experience on (work with) conflict
- **Facilitation** skills (Non-violent communication techniques, methods of group leadership)
- Learning about **psychology of war**, national stereotyping, prejudice and group processes that take place in war time
- The role of the **media**/reporting; good and bad practice
- Practical issues of working with people from conflict areas: what helps; **what can we as volunteers do?** (safety, role, possibility for help and limits of responsibility)
- Practical issues of working with people from conflict areas: **psychological supervision** of volunteers involved in work in conflict areas – preventing the burnout syndrome of helpers
- **Identifying, discussing and planning SCI's involvement** in conflict regions, further exploring SCI **cooperation network** within conflict regions
- **Training activists** to be able to work with volunteers going to conflict or post-conflict regions – selection and preparation of volunteers, monitoring of their activities, mentoring and follow up
- Writing a **manual** for training volunteers for and working with volunteers in conflict regions

## **Participants**

We are looking for motivated participants with a strong interest in the topic, who are preferably activists from SCI branches and partner organisations or active in other organisations with a similar working background and philosophy. All participants selected for this project must meet the following criteria:

- be **18-30** years old (5 places available for people over 30 years)
- be able to work in **English** language
- preferably be active in the **organisation**, know the capacity of the organisation and have the opportunity to be active in the future;
- have strong motivation and opportunity to **act as multiplier** in the field of promoting peace work;
- have facilitation skills and opportunity to further **act as a trainer** for volunteers on a local level
- have nomination and **support** of the SCI branch or Partner organisation;
- be committed to be active in **conflict resolution activities** in practice back home – actively participate in the follow up of the project;
- be willing to prepare a **short presentation** of an example/story of a conflict and its resolution, or of peace building project or social reconstruction project from which s(he) has first hand experience. The choice of the exact topic and the means of presentation (text, photo, collage, video, theatre, poetry, etc.) is free for the participants to choose.

**Please send the completed application form before the **15<sup>nd</sup> of November 2013****

**to your Sending Organization: voluntariat@sci-cat.org**

(why you are a good choice to act as a multiplier, how the organization can support this work)

**Candidates will be informed of the decision around three week later.**

A group of 25 participants (in addition to group coordinators and trainers) will be selected on the basis of the profile outlined above by the international preparation team. The team will seek to ensure a geographical balance, gender balance, different types of experiences and motivation, cultural backgrounds, organisations. Participants will be chosen mainly on the basis of their experience, need for this type of training, and opportunity to act as a multiplier.

### **Trainers of the seminar:**

**Zdenka Pantic** is a psychologist and psychotherapist living in Zagreb, Croatia, is one of the leading experts in the Balkans in the field of working with victims of torture and trauma therapy. For the past 17 years she is the president of NGO Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma (RCT Zagreb), member of the International Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma (IRCT). She has extensive experience in working with conflict and post conflict communities in the region. She is authored and co-authored numerous publications on the topic.

**Emanuela Piccolo** is active in SCI Italy for seven years as an activist and a staff member. Her main field of interest within SCI has been North/South solidarity. Her area of expertise is Middle East, with a special focus on Palestine and Israel, where she has been volunteering, studying and working for a relatively long period. She is a PhD candidate in World Politics at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests revolve around “institutional” or “juridical” pacifism.

### **Financial and practical conditions of participation:**

All costs of the programme (including food, accommodation, internal travel) will be covered by the organisers and 66% (airplane), 75% (other than airplane) of international travel costs will be reimbursed. Registration fee of the seminar is 50 Euros.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions regarding the project and your application, don't hesitate to contact us!  
voluntariat@sci-cat.org

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## APPLICATION FORM

(Please type in English!)

**Personal data:**

Surname (as written in passport)					
First name		Female	Male		
Birth date					
Nationality					
Personal Address					
Passport number	<i>(If you need visa, please send the application A.S.A.P. because of the length of the visa procedure.)</i>				
<b>Phone</b>					
Home					
Mobile					
Email					
<b>Language skills</b>		Native tongue	Very good	Good	Poor
<b>English</b>					
<b>Other languages spoken</b>					

**Sending organisation:**

Name of your sending organisation:

**Motivation & contribution** *(Please write briefly your arguments!)*

What is your motivation for applying to this seminar?

**How do you plan to use the experience of the activity at the local level? (Describe concrete action/ ongoing project / cooperation)**

### **Experiences**

What is your current or past role in your organization? What work, topics, etc. are you involved in?

What are your experiences in peace work or in the field of activities within conflict regions?

How can you contribute to the seminar? What personal work experiences can you share?

Does your Branch at the moment have any project with SCI branches or partners outside of Europe (peace-building or reconstruction activities)? – If yes, please briefly describe the project and your involvement.

### **Expectations & needs**

What are your expectations and needs that can be covered/ addressed in this project? (Practical, regarding field work, knowledge/skills, networking, etc.)

What do you want to learn here? What would help you in your work?

### **Other relevant information**

You can state here any other information you would like to share, which you consider relevant for the activity. (e.g. studies, hobbies, civil society involvement, life experience, personal interests, you think is relevant to the activity and you would like to mention)

### **Logistic questions / Special needs**

Do you have any special needs or requirements (e.g. dietary, disability, etc.)? Please specify:

## **Declaration and commitment**

I am fully aware that my participation in this activity is a big investment of the organisers (in terms of logistic, finances, time and personal involvement of all people engaged) in my personal learning experience.

1. I declare that the information provided in my application is true and I commit myself to participate actively in the whole duration of the project.
2. I promise to share the experiences gained with other fellows from my sending organisation and/ or other persons in my professional/ private / volunteer environment;
3. I promise to implement learned experience at the local level;
4. I promise to attend the youth exchange in full, with no late arrival and early departure or leaving sessions;

I read and understood text of the declaration.

***Date:***

***Signature:***

**We are looking forward to your application 😊 ! – The Organisers' team**