

INFOSHEET

for EVS in SCI Cat

SCI IN THE WORLD AND IN CATALONIA

Service Civil International (SCI) is a volunteer organisation dedicated to **promoting a culture of peace** by organising international **voluntary projects** for people of all ages and backgrounds. It was one of the first organisations to divest itself of all political or religious affiliations in its work of promoting peace and intercultural understanding through practical action. Throughout the years SCI has made a major contribution to the **development of the main forms of volunteering**. Year after year, the organisation enables thousands of volunteers to participate in community projects. Living and working together with people of different backgrounds helps volunteers to break down barriers and prejudices; it allows them to experience a world of **mutual respect and understanding**.

SCI offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to people, such as short, mid- and long term projects, but also the possibility to become active for a local branch or participate in a seminar or training. Nowadays, around 14000 active members and volunteers belong to SCI, gathered in **44 national branches and groups**. In the international arena, SCI has got an advisory status at **UNESCO** and **Council of Europe** and is a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service (**CCIVS**), Association of Voluntary Service Organisations and European Youth Forum. In 1987, it was awarded the title of **Messenger of Peace** given by the United Nations, in acknowledgement of its efforts to promote peace and understanding. Many of national and local programmes of SCI are supported by governments and by the authorities of local level.

SCI-Catalunya is the oldest of the two SCI branches in Spain. It is based in **Barcelona**, and, since 1982, it assists volunteers of Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands, organizing in turn workcamps and other projects in these same territories. The scope of activities through which we aim to contribute to a culture of peace and of justice and sustainable development has been gradually expanding. Currently, our working lines are:



- **Workcamps** (short-term volunteering);

- **Medium and Long Term Voluntary Projects** (such as EVS);
- **Actions and projects on raising awareness and education**, aimed at creating a space for exchange and training on issues that are significant for us (sustainable development, post-conflict reconstruction, international action in contexts of war, peace education, origin and causes of violent conflict, North-South relations, experiences of successful international cooperation, etc.);
- **International Youth Exchanges** (exchanges of youth groups based on the issues of intercultural coexistence, peace education and violence prevention);
- **Projects of international cooperation for development;**
- **Local groups of volunteers.**

ABOUT CATALONIA, BARCELONA AND THE RAVAL DISTRICT



Catalonia is a land of more than **two thousand years of history, tradition and culture**. A land with beautiful scenery, rich cultural heritage and open-minded, enterprising people. A land of nature and sports, of gastronomy and entertainment. It has always been hospitable and open to the outside world, thanks to its long tradition of international trade. Catalan culture is then both **national and cosmopolitan**, generally belonging to the Mediterranean tradition, but different from most other places of the Iberian peninsula in

several aspects, starting from its language, the **Catalan** (spoken by around 14 million people) or its **traditional folk culture**. With over seven million inhabitants and an area of almost 32 thousand km², Catalonia basks in a privileged, temperate, Mediterranean climate all year round. Moreover, it offers visitors a tremendous range of opportunities to enjoy culture and history, with several architectural and artistic treasures, sites and monuments, and with its unique **seaside** (like Costa Brava), **mountains** (like Pyrenees or Montserrat), or **cities** (like Barcelona or Girona).



Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, the largest metropolis on the Mediterranean Sea. Its population counts more than 1,6 million people within its administrative limits on a land area of 101.4 km². However, the urban area of Barcelona extends beyond these administrative city limits, counting more or less 4.5 million people within an area of around 800 km².





It has a rich cultural heritage and is today an important cultural centre and a major tourist destination. The city's cultural offer is extensive and varied, both in the diversity of the activities that go on during the whole year and in the number of venues and facilities where they're held in. Particularly renowned are the architectural works of Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner, which have been designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is today also one of the world's leading economic, trade fair/exhibitions

and cultural-sports centres. Barcelona is a dynamic and open city, a perfect city to enjoy, explore, relax and have fun. It has its own way of life which makes it unique and worth to visit or even live in for a while!

To know more on the city and its on-going events, you can check, among others, these websites: www.barcelonaturisme.com; <http://barcelonacultura.bcn.cat/en>; www.timeout.com/barcelona.

The EVS project takes place in the SCI-Catalunya premises (although occasionally some activities can take place outside the office), in the very centre of Barcelona, one of the oldest part of the city: a district called **Raval**. This district is characterized both by a high percentage of immigrant population and by the recent urban transformation and modernisation. The combination of these two factors has created a neighbourhood where people belonging to different groups (both as regards their origin and their socio-economic stratum) harmoniously live together. Immigrant communities are mostly from Asian, North African and Latin-American countries; some of them are newcomers, while some others are already deep-rooted in the city, where they own their own businesses and generate their own social fabric. In the neighbourhood there are also immigrants from other European countries who, together with foreign students, usually come from more privileged socio-economic contexts. All the inhabitants, new or old, harmoniously live together in Raval.



The resulting mix makes the district **rich, vital, culturally diverse**, in constant change and transformation, but also delicate in its equilibrium. For these same characteristics it is also an ideal working environment for SCI-Catalunya, especially suitable for topics such as multiculturalism or coexistence. For this reason, we strength the implementation of training and awareness activities in our premises, where volunteers can gather in a dedicated space and which allow us to better circulate information to the people of the neighbourhood and to contribute to their associative life.

THE EVS PROJECT

Project description: As described above, SCI-Catalunya is an organization that works to promote peace and social justice, with an international perspective. We are a quite small but very active and dynamic organization: every year we organize around 10 local workcamps, where almost 100 volunteers from other

Vacancies: 2
Theme: others
Location: Barcelona, Spain
Start: 22.09.2014 End: 22.09.2015
Deadline for application: 03.03.2014
Final decision: 10.03.2014

countries are placed and hosted, and we send and support around 200 local volunteers to other projects abroad. We also select and prepare volunteers for medium and long term volunteering projects, for International Youth Exchanges and for international seminars and trainings. Last but not least, we coordinate various groups of local volunteers and we arrange awareness raising actions in the areas of our influence.

Tasks description: The EVS volunteer will give support mostly in the Volunteering Area of SCI-Catalunya, working as Volunteers Placement Officer. Her/his main tasks will be: giving information to local people who want to participate in a workcamp, collecting and sending their application forms and keeping in contact with the hosting associations. She/he will also give information about other volunteering opportunities, such as Long Term Volunteering (LTV) or EVS. In addition, during the summer, the volunteer will have the opportunity to directly participate in a local workcamp. The EVS volunteer is expected to work 6 hours per day, 5 days per week. The volunteer may be asked to work on weekends for special activities, whenever her/his presence will be considered important (both for the organization and for her/his personal learning). Free days will be given to compensate

Requirements: The volunteer need to be fluent both in Spanish and English, and have excellent writing skills. A basic knowledge of Catalan is also valued, however not compulsory before the arrival. The volunteer will be asked to learn Catalan during her/his stay, as it will be the main language in the office as well as during the activities organized with and for local volunteers. Highly valued skills are: flexibility, sense of responsibility, self-initiative and the ability of working in a team. Previous experience in other SCI branches, workcamps, youth exchanges or international trainings will be also considered.

Accommodation and Food: SCI-Cat will give to the volunteer a monthly sum for rent and food. The volunteer will manage it as he/she prefers.

Pocket money: 105 € per month

Insurance: AXA insurance covered by the EVS programme.

Fees: None

Visa: Visa costs, if any, will be covered by money of the project.

***Notice:** This is a European Voluntary Service project. Restrictive rules concerning the age and country of residence of the participants apply. Please contact an SCI branch, group or partner organisation in your country for further information.