No-More-War team and SCI Hellas warmly invites you to apply for:

“Europe: paradise lost? Volunteering in a past and future Europe”
October 28th - November 4th
Athens, Greece

Call for participants

Background of the project

Around ninety years ago, Europe had mostly been a dream and only after having suffered the Second World War, the politicians of Europe formed tools for uniting the people of Europe instead of creating division or even wars: The council of Europe and what today is the European Union. Especially the latter not perfect or even democratic, they created a framework for countries to actively remove borders concerning culture, economy and travelling. Now, the financial crisis, born out of greed and inequalities is seriously threatening to undermine the values of peace and respect for human rights that the European institutions were built for. We believe that our response to this great challenge should be “more Europe, more caring for each other; not less”. To strengthen this symbolically, the seminar is going to take place in Greece, one of the countries, most affected by the current financial countries.

Aims and objectives

For that reason we want to bring together 25 youth leaders from 10 different European countries for an international seminar, in order to focus on the origins of the European idea, analyse in depth the reasons why this dream is no longer appealing to many Europeans and is in danger of falling apart, and last but not least what we, as an international volunteer movement, can do to get the original vision of people in Europe living united back on track. Taking the above concerns into consideration, we believe it is time to discuss in depth what we want and expect from a future Europe and make our views publicly known.

The program will consist of workshops, discussion with local experts, study visit in Athens, brainstorming on follow-up projects and developing concrete steps to realize them.

Participants’ profile: active volunteers, staff & project organizers - priority will be

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given to volunteers from marginalized groups e.g. unemployed or affected by the current financial crises in Europe, facing poverty, immigrant background.

All participants selected for this project must meet the following criteria:

- be able to communicate well in English language
- be strongly motivated to act as a multiplier (e.g. follow-up projects)
- commit to implement the learned knowledge and skills in practice back home
- be ready to give a short presentation or to speak about current developments in their countries related to the topic of the seminar (e.g. crisis causes and consequences, youth unemployment, “Europe Fortress” and new borders in Europe, nationalism vs. international solidarity, stereotypes vs. intercultural understanding)
- commit to actively participate from the beginning to the end of the seminar and during its follow-up

Application procedure

- Deadline for applications is **September 15th, 2012. Decisions will be taken by 20th September 2012.**
- Application form can be found [here](#)
- A completed **application form**, accompanied by a **motivation letter**, shall be sent by email to: voluntariat@sci-cat.org
- All candidates will be informed by email about the decision

Financial conditions:

All costs concerning meals and accommodation as well as the program and materials will be fully covered for the whole duration of the seminar. **Travel costs will be reimbursed 70%, given that participants used cheapest way of travel as well as consider environmental impact of the trip.** Following partners have signed partnership agreements for the project and are eligible to participate: SCI Italy, SCI Germany, Utilapu (Hungary), SCI Hellas (Greece), SCI Romania, SCI Austria, Zavod Voluntariat (Slovenia), SCI Switzerland, VIA Belgium, SCI Catalunya (Spain). Participants from other YiA Program Countries can still apply, but their participation is subject of YiA approval. There is no additional registration fee.
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<th>Name of the branch</th>
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<th>Travel cost per participant in euros</th>
<th>70% of the travel cost</th>
<th>Travel cost paid by the participant</th>
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Looking forward to meet you in Athens!

Warm regards,
SCI Hellas and the No More War team