



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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. The organisation consists of 40 branches and an ever growing number of partner organisations.

SCI is open to all. 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.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends all over the world,

Our Annual Report 2023 is presented to you here with great pride and pleasure. We invite you to read through our numerous and diverse activities which aim at contributing to a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

Numerous research institutions focus their studies on identifying significant interconnected polycrises that our world is encountering. The sheer number of ongoing challenges include conflicts, climate change, health issues in fragile communities, financial inclusion of all peoples (especially the most vulnerable ones), education, and civic engagement.

Many scholars wonder whether our global “new normal” is a return to basics such as food, energy, security, the most fundamental human rights that our globalised world was supposed to be on a good path to offer solutions.

More than 32 countries were involved in armed conflicts in 2023 including the most prominent ones between Russia-Ukraine, and Israel-Palestine, but also in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Libya, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Colombia, and Mali. The arms race expenditure, which reached the amount of \$2,443 trillion in 2023, could have been well spent instead for the sustainable development of the communities.

Human values on peace and non-conflict came out of the ashes of the different geopolitical tensions, where millions of people paid

with their lives in the past. Humanity is currently watching in devastation the genocide (according to Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council) of the Palestinian people. We cannot help but ask if we’re going back to those barbarous times.

SCI as a Civil Society Organization is committed unwaveringly to working collectively, to further our impact and to ensure that the efforts of our volunteers contribute meaningfully to our mission for peace and non-violence as well as to a sustainable future. Furthermore SCI, abiding with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, organised projects on raising awareness in climate and social justice, promoted healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, worked against inequalities by promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

In addition, we take pride in the fact that, amidst increased violence and disregard for human rights globally, our projects and activities are aimed at supporting initiatives which promote peace and understanding while maintaining high quality educational and lifelong learning standards. Our newly introduced impact measurement tool aims to be able to manifest that our projects make a positive impact in our volunteers and the communities we work with through time.

Our flagship project of the year, “No War Anywhere,” allowed us to reconnect with our antimilitarist roots and reinforce our dedication to peace. Born from the need to counter the rising trend of global militarisation, accelerated by the full-scale war in Ukraine, it fostered a community of young activists engaged in local and international peace-building ac-

tivities. These individuals now possess the knowledge and skills to advocate for a world-view where positive peace prevails. The project's significance was further underscored as military violence escalated in Gaza, leading to subsequent activities focusing on the situation in Palestine and extending support to our Palestinian partners. One highlight is the inception of "Talks Against War," a series of online events, which is still ongoing.

Recognising the paramount importance of solidarity within our movement during times of crisis, we were once again reminded of the invaluable contribution of volunteering, and the international volunteering service in particular. To fortify our movement and enhance our volunteer exchange practices, numerous projects and meetings facilitated the exchange of best practices and capacity-building initiatives.

With the completion of the project Grassroots Change, we launched an online training course to support preparation of volunteer exchanges between Africa and Europe. The annual Placement Officer Training was conducted to equip our volunteers with the skills necessary for efficiently managing volunteer applications, and an online Exchange Platform Meeting took place allowing organisations to discuss how to improve our international projects and cooperation.

Another increasingly pertinent topic for SCI is that of climate justice, and our international climate team has been actively advocating for this cause within the movement. Participation in COP28 in Dubai, the creation of a Climate Manifesto, and the successful application for a climate activism project scheduled for 2024 are notable achievements of the team.

This year marked the inception of our "Partnership in Peace" program, supported by the CERV structural grant, enabling us to implement ambitious changes. Initiatives included the modernisation of our placement system, piloting an impact measurement process as mentioned above, and supporting many EU branches' projects through a regranting scheme.

Furthermore, we had the opportunity to convene in person for our International Commit-

tee Meeting, marking our first in-person ICM gathering post-COVID. This served as an ideal platform to conclude our Strategic Plan cycle for 2020-2023 and collaboratively finalise our new Strategic Plan 2024-2027, ensuring that we keep evolving to meet the needs of the present.

I would also like to mention here that, after numerous personal meetings and discussions with most of the organisations below, we proudly welcomed during our December ICM the upgrade of Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN) from Group to Branch, the upgrade of Zimbabwe Workcamp Association (ZWA) from Partner to Group, the upgrade of The Space for Sustainable Development (SSD) from Jordan from Contact to Partner, the return of Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA) to SCI as a contact organisation, as well as the introduction of WeCollab from Colombia, Society for Peace and Sustainable Development (SPSD) from Pakistan, and World Solidarity Voluntary Organization (WOSOVO) from Ghana as contact organisations.

I could not end this note without highlighting and acknowledging the dedicated contributions of our global movement of branches, working groups, partners, and volunteers, coming from every corner of this world and from every area of life. They all worked for the interest of the local communities in an effort to make a positive change to this world. I thank you all wholeheartedly for your altruistic engagement with the SCI family while embracing its values and for inspiring us all in the International Executive Committee. I would also like to extend our appreciation to our donors for their support to our projects and to the functioning of our international structure.

Motivated by our collective achievements, we are resolute in continuing our mission for peace with a forward-looking strategy. I would like to assure you that we are determined to reinforce international volunteering as a powerful tool for advancing antimilitarism, climate justice, inclusion, and solidarity.

Amitiés,
Alexandra Vasileiou
International President

WHO WE ARE



SCI'S VISION

is a world of peace; social justice and sustainable development, where all people live together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflict.



SCI'S MISSION

is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact.

SCI'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The work to accomplish our mission was guided by our new [Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#), highlighting two goals with six objectives.

Goal 1: Reasserting the values of volunteering for peace

Goal 2: Empowering all people around the world to actively practice peace

Objectives:



1.1 Re-emphasise the connection between volunteering and peace



2.1 Continue cultivating the culture of peace across the SCI movement



1.2 Maintain our high-quality approach and versatility of opportunities to peaceful volunteering



2.2 Support individuals to become peace envoys



1.3 Increase global participation in volunteering for peace



2.3 Foster the network of peace efforts

In 2023, after a thorough and participatory process exploring SCI's priorities and vision for the future, the movement finalised and accepted a **Strategic Plan for 2024-2027**. Read more about SCI's priorities for the next four years on [our website](#).



SCI'S VALUES

SCI is guided in all its activities by its core values:



VOLUNTEERING

in the sense of acting out of self-initiative, without seeking material reward and for the benefit of civil society, as a method and a statement for social change, whilst never competing with paid labour nor seeking to contribute to strike-breaking



NON-VIOLENCE

choosing peaceful resistance and conflict resolution without recourse to violence as a principle and a method



SOLIDARITY

international solidarity for a more just world and solidarity between human beings on all levels



HUMAN RIGHTS

respect for individuals as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

and the ecosystem of which we are a part and on which we are dependent



INCLUSION

to be open and inclusive to all individuals who share the aims and objectives of the movement, without regard to gender, colour, religion, nationality, social status or political views and any other possible grounds for discrimination



EMPOWERMENT

providing people with means (knowledge, tools) to understand and act in order to transform the social, cultural and economic structures that affect their lives at all levels



COOPERATION

with local communities as well as other local, national and international actors to strengthen the positive potential within civil society as a whole



OUR MOVEMENT



40

**SCI branches
and groups**

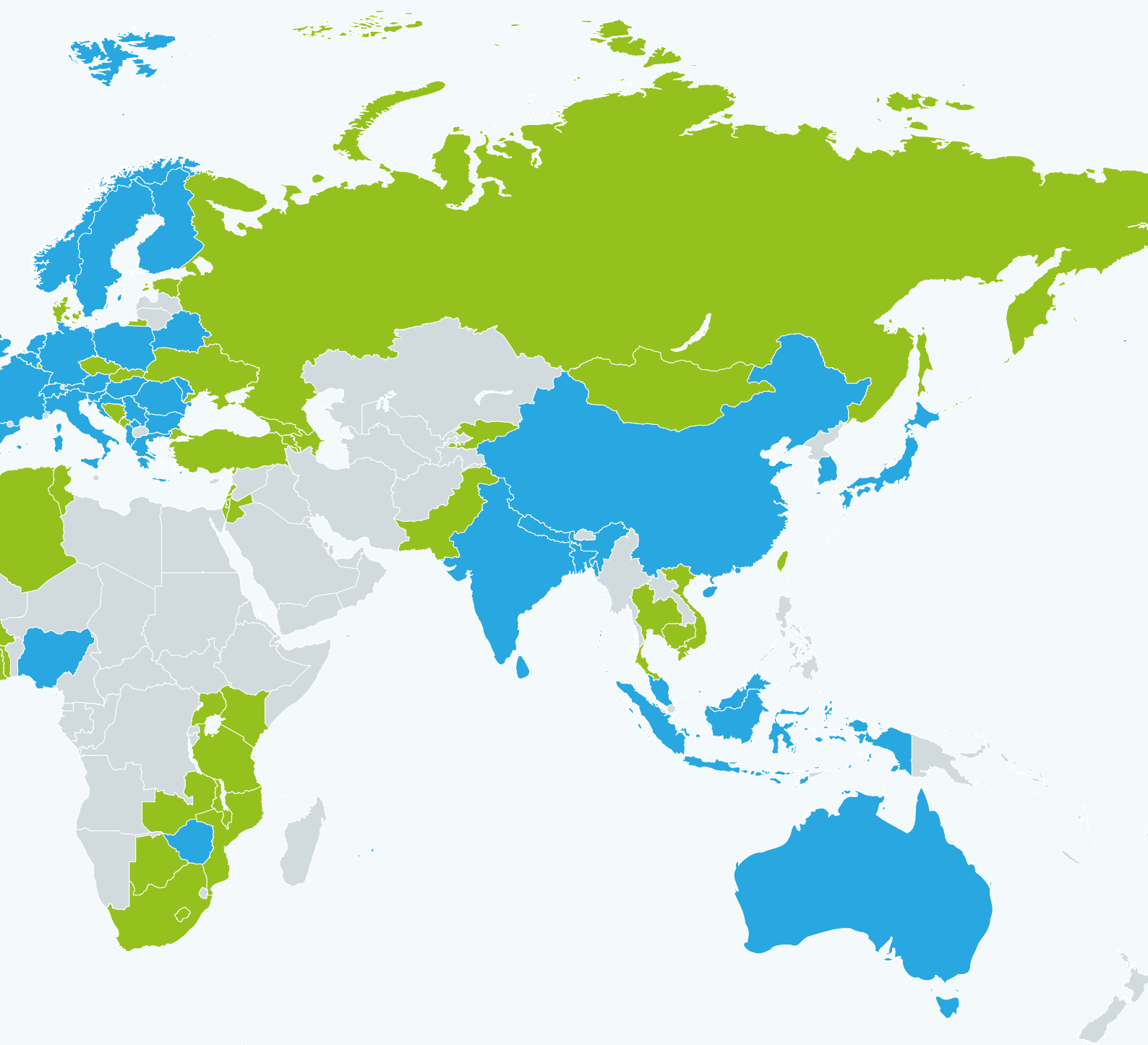
96

**SCI partners
and contacts**

OUR MEMBERS

AVI Moldova
CVS Bulgaria
GAIA Kosovo
ID Norway
IVP Australia
IVP Indonesia
IVS Great Britain
KVT Finland
New Group SCI Belarus
PVN Albania

SCI Austria
SCI Bangladesh
SCI Belgium
SCI Catalunya
SCI France
SCI Germany
SCI Hellas
SCI Hong Kong – China
SCI Hungary – ÚTILAPU
SCI India



SCI Italy
 SCI Japan
 SCI Madrid
 SCI Malaysia
 SCI Nepal
 SCI Poland
 SCI Romania
 SCI Slovenia – Zavod Voluntariat
 SCI South Korea
 SCI Sri Lanka

SCI Sweden
 SCI Switzerland
 SCI-IVS USA
 SVI Mauritius
 VCV Serbia
 VCZ Croatia
 VIA Netherlands
 VSI Ireland
 VWAN Nigeria
 Zimbabwe Workcamp Association

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

All branches come together twice a year in the International Committee Meeting to make common decisions.

This year's International Committee Meetings happened on **17 June online** to discuss financial matters, and **from 6 to 10 December in Vienna, Austria**. In December's meeting, branches voted to welcome new partners and branches, approved our working groups in SCI and made recommendations to strengthen regional working groups, adopted the SCI Child Safeguarding Policy, planned to collaborate in strengthening internal education on Israel and Palestine and agreed to join ICAN. Other urgent resolutions aimed at improving and simplifying our internal processes. Important documents were also approved, namely the Strategic Plan 2024-2027, Plan of Action 2024 and International budget 2024.



THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our international movement is guided by the International Executive Committee, which makes sure that decisions taken by branches at the International Committee Meetings are implemented throughout the year.

In 2023 the International Executive Committee was composed of the following members: Alexandra Vasileiou (International President), Silvio Martinelli (International Vice-President), Nico Verzijden (International Treasurer), Antonios Sifakis, Bert Verstappen, Femi Aganran, Alena Lemisev (members). Dr. Shobha Rani joined as a co-opted member.



”

For the next 100 years, I just hope that people continue to be aware of the fact that there are 100 years already that have been working and that those 100 years contain all the ingredients to make another 100 years work.

Anita, CCIVS delegate and SCI activist



”

We have the opportunity as SCI to be an example for other people, that we actually can work and live in a peaceful way.

Nico, IEC member and SCI activist

”

I see the opportunity for SCI to become more political, in the sense of being involved in activism, advocacy and to really be a relevant voice for the values we care about.

Claudia Strambini, SCI IS delegate



09-December -23
- Vienna -

SCI 2023

OUR VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

Each year, SCI organises international voluntary projects for people of all ages and backgrounds to promote a culture of peace.

In 2023, a total of **201 camps** took place. Camps lasted an average of 13 days.



201

SCI workcamps



2583

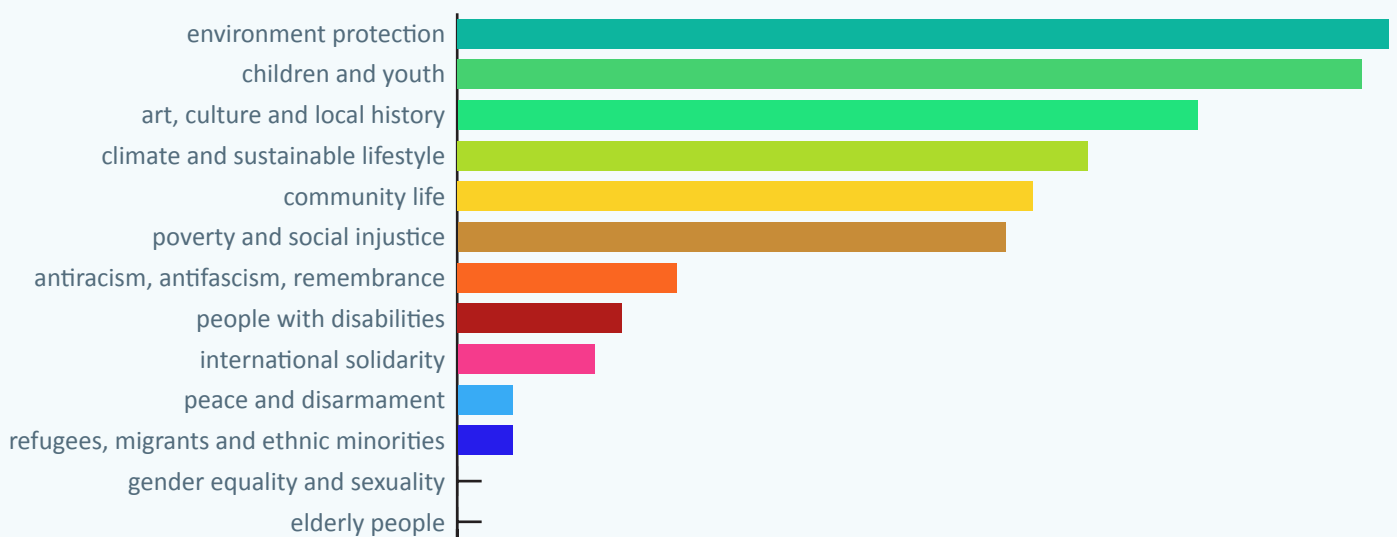
days of volunteering in
workcamps



13 days

average duration of workcamps

Workcamps focussed on **different themes**, many centering their activities on environment protection, children and youth, and art, culture and local history.



In 2023, 821 volunteers participated in SCI workcamps and 324 volunteers participated in long-term volunteering or special programmes, for **a total of 1145 volunteers** participating in SCI projects.



1145

International volunteers

821

Workcamp participants

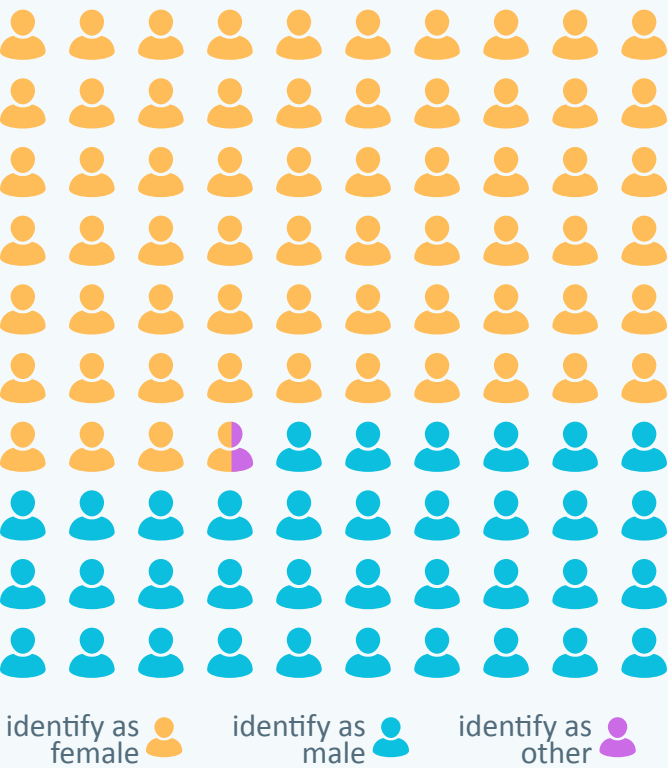
324

Long-term and other participants

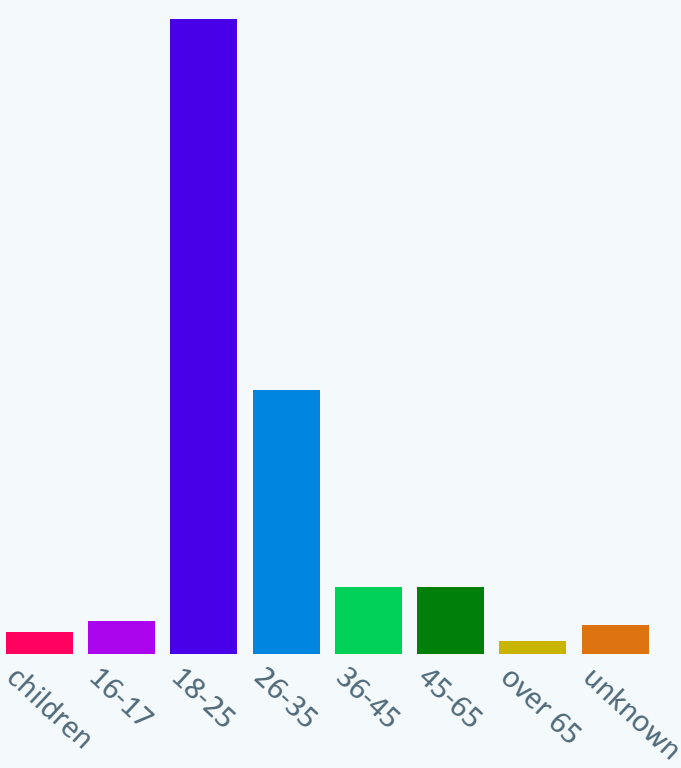
OUR VOLUNTEERS

SCI’s volunteers have a wide mix of backgrounds and life experiences - take a look at some of the statistics of this year for workcamp volunteers!

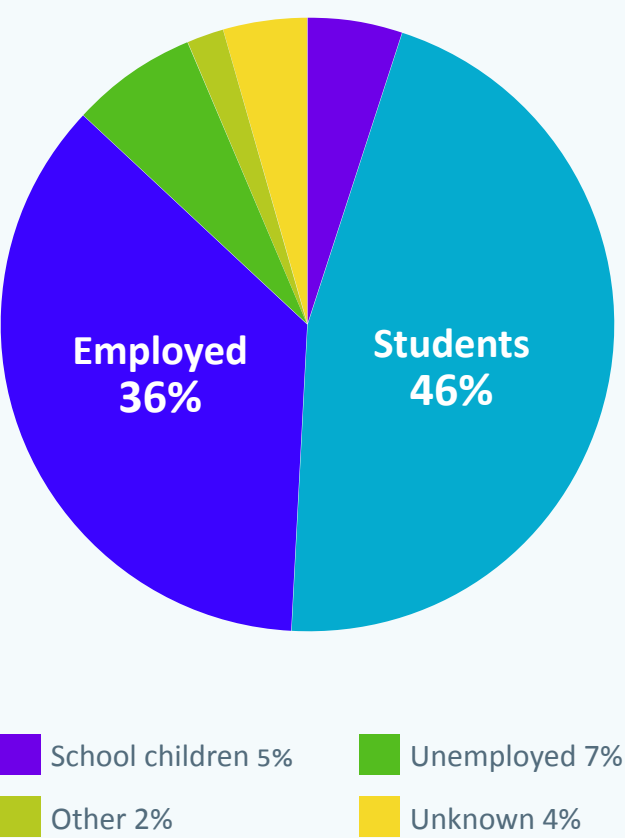
Gender



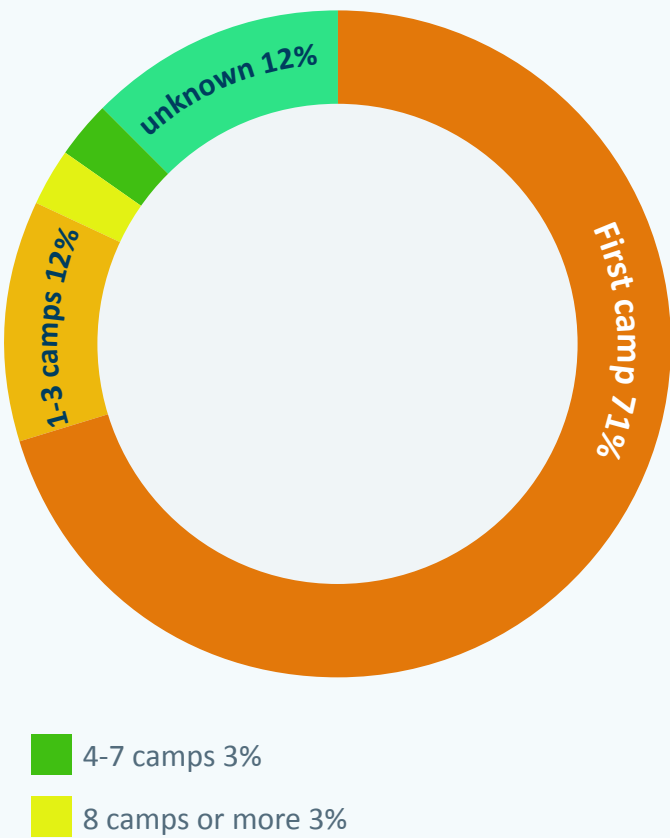
Age



Employment status



Camp experience



OUR CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS

NO WAR ANYWHERE! ENGAGING YOUTH IN ANTIMILITARIST EDUCATION



No War Anywhere! Engaging youth in antimilitarist education was an annual work plan co-funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and CERV. It addressed urgent and important questions such as antimilitarist utopias, nuclear disarmament, military-industrial complex, and offered young people the space and tools to stand up for peace. The project involved 15 partner organisations located in Albania, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Switzerland, Spain.

The idea

The project aimed at bringing together young people from different European realities to exchange on the topic of antimilitarism and to get active together.

After exploring alternatives to militarism and map possibilities for antimilitarist action, the project aimed to create spaces for young people to discuss, exchange, and organise grassroots peace campaigns, particularly on International Peace Day 2023. To carry the goals further, the project created an open and accessible online learning course on communication, advocacy, and campaigning for peace, and strengthened cooperation with other antimilitarist networks.

The activities

No War Anywhere consisted of 6 components: two in-person activities, local campaigns, an event for International day of peace, a virtual exchange and an online course.

Seminar “Utopias Against War”

In April 2023 a one-week international seminar was held in Italy with the participation of 22 young people. The seminar focused on learning and brainstorming about antimilitarist futures, what local and network-wide actions can be taken to strengthen antimilitarism and peace.

“We got to know each other as future activists with the background of militarism and created a web of people that could help each other in the future.”

- Jac, seminar participant

Training “Strategies Against War”

In June-July 24 young people gathered in Vienna for an advocacy and communication training. It allowed participants to know more about advocacy around the topic of peace and antimilitarism and to initiate their local peace campaigns.





“There were people from all over Europe, with different perspectives on militarisation specific to their own country.”

- Training participant

Communication campaigns

Between July and December 2023, participants in the previous activities organised communication and advocacy campaigns for peace, in their own countries and online. The aim was to advocate for change and to bring visibility to antimilitarism and its effects and consequences. Six activities were organised in Switzerland, Hungary, Greece, Serbia and online reaching around 200 people in total.

Virtual exchange and No More War Working Group

A virtual exchange took place in September, involving all those interested in continuing the antimilitarist work in SCI. The two-day meeting allowed participants to grasp the project’s current status and draw connections between the past, present, and future of SCI to develop a concrete plan for continued action on antimilitarism. This initiated the creation of a renewed “No More War” working group in SCI.



Online advocacy and communication course

Towards the end of 2023, the online course “Speak up for Peace” was created. It is a free, self-paced, interactive course on advocacy and communication, available to the public on our online learning platform learning.sci.ngo. Participants in previous activities contributed to the testing phase. This course was promoted on social media throughout the course of a month, leading to the launch.

NO WAR ANYWHERE: COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

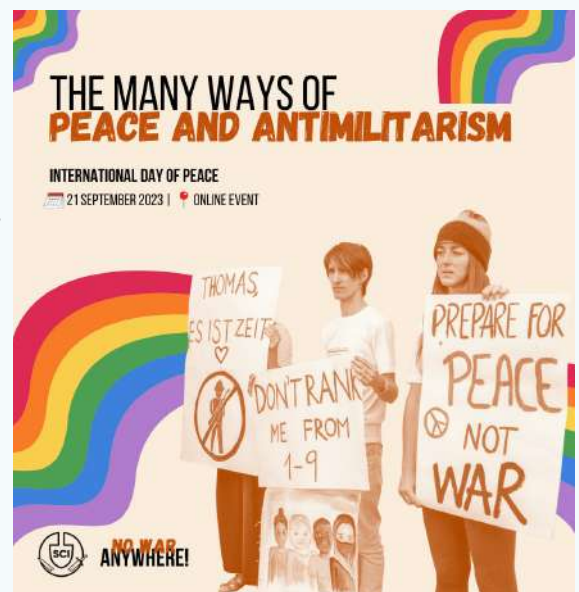
The many ways of peace and antimilitarism

Online, 21 September 2023

For International Peace Day, 21 September, 2023, SCI held an online discussion on the many ways of peace & antimilitarism. This was a space for guest speakers from different regions, namely Palestine, Ukraine, Ireland, and the No War Anywhere project team, to share their experiences and discuss grassroots efforts for peace. 54 people attended, including speakers, out of the 82 people who registered. After the guest speakers' presentations, a fruitful discussion around peace continued in breakout rooms. The event was recorded then edited for our Youtube and social media channels.

"I don't think we can get anywhere without solidarity. Solidarity is integral and well embedded in the main principles of IVS. All the different issues that we are working on, like peace, human rights protection, LGBT issues, climate change, gender equality are very important and inter-connected. And through all these efforts, together we can grow our movement and reach more people. Slowly, but surely, we can dream and work with likeminded people for a better world."

- Adli Daana, guest speaker from Palestine



Peace Work in Palestine

Switzerland, 21 September 2023

Members of SCI Switzerland and members of Tent of Nations, a Palestinian partner organisation of SCI, organised an event for International Day of Peace to draw attention to the situation in Palestine. During this event 2 speakers – Daoud Nassar from Tent of Nations (by Zoom) and Tamara Gerber from Peace Watch Switzerland – related their experiences in Palestine,



the daily struggles, conflicts, and efforts to create dialogue, peace and anti-militarism on the ground. Daoud showed the example of the family Nassar from the project "Tent of Nations" and Tamara shared her experience of a few months in Palestine as a human rights observer. They engaged with the audience on questions related to peace work in a conflict area: how is peace work possible in such a conflict zone? What does it mean for activists? How do they find their strength to go on? What can be achieved? 12 people participated in the event.

PeaceBox – Peace up!

Hungary, October-Novembre 2023

PeaceBox was an art-driven campaign engaging young and socially disadvantaged individuals. The campaign consisted of 5 workshops aimed at promoting positive messages of peace through various art forms, providing a platform for creative expression to transcend language and cultural differences.

“It was a peaceful journey when I needed it the most. Sometimes life is difficult and it’s rare to find a place where you can share what’s inside of you without receiving any judgement. Achik [the organiser] created this place for us.

- Participant

Object Militarism

Greece, September - November 2023

In Greece, SCI Hellas led a two-month campaign to promote civic service as an alternative to mandatory military service for male Greek citizens. The comprehensive campaign included multimedia components such as video and audio spots in Greek, a multilingual web platform featuring interviews and antimilitarist materials, a podcast interview of a conscientious objector (Lazaros Petromelidis), and a public networking event. The latter provided an opportunity for young people to learn about the alternative service, connect with those who had experienced it, and engage with legal experts on conscientious objection. Concluding the campaign was a poignant documentary, encapsulating the history, concept, and practice of conscientious objectors, spanning from the foundation of SCI by Pierre Ceresole to contemporary actions taken on national and EU levels due to the war in Ukraine.



Palestinian Film Cycle

Serbia, November 2023

VCV Serbia organised a series of cultural events in support of the Palestinian cause, featuring movie screenings and a reading event. The films included “Little Palestine, Diary of a Siege” (2021), “Sarura - The Future is an Unknown Place” (2020), and “Gaza Surf Club” (2016), accompanied by a reading of “The Gaza Monologues” in Serbian and English. Each event drew approximately 20 attendees, with the final event being held on the International Day of Support for the Palestinian people.

Talks Against War

Online, December 2023

The No More War international team started a new monthly series of online talks called “Talks Against War”. Talks Against War #1 focused on pinkwashing in a war, when the Israeli army used a rainbow flag during the assault on Gaza and the false justifications linking the assault to LGBTQ+ issues. The speakers, Maria Sham and Udi Raz, discussed the intersection of queerness, the fight against war, and Palestinian liberation.

GRASSROOTS CHANGE: VOLUNTEERING, LEADERSHIP AND EMANCIPATION THROUGH HANDS-ON WORK AND MENTORING

The idea



The *Grassroots Change* project was a 2-year project funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union. It aimed to improve the quality of short- and long-term voluntary projects in the defined Sub-Saharan African and European countries by investing in leadership and mentoring training courses for the youth organisations involved as well as by creating tools for the sending and hosting organisations. The final goal of the project was to create grassroots change in the communities of each organisation, paying special attention to global

challenges and focussing on the gender perspective, climate justice and decolonisation. The project started in late 2020 and ended in May 2023; it was coordinated by SCI Catalunya while the International Secretariat of SCI was a project partner, together with SCI Italia (Italy), KVT Finland (Finland), VWAN Nigeria (Nigeria), AJOV (Mozambique), SAVWA (South Africa), and ZWA (Zimbabwe).

The activities

Main activities of the project in 2021 and 2022 were a mapping exercise, a webinar “Decolonise volunteering: dream or reality?”, an African Regional Training in Zimbabwe, a European Regional Training in Italy, Job Shadowing, First Steering team meeting in Mozambique combined with an LTV Mentors Training, and a Training of Trainers for Camp Leaders in Catalonia (Spain). In 2023 there was a second Steering team meeting in Catalonia (Spain) and the publication of different outputs.

Second steering team meeting and production lab

In February, key representatives from each of the partner organisations of the project met for 6 days in Barcelona, Catalunya (Spain) to evaluate the activities and outcomes delivered by the overall project. The Steering Team meeting was combined with a production lab to finalise the production of the project tools and documents on volunteer exchanges. At the same time, the partners involved participated in the first steps of the creation of a MOOC (massive open online course) about exchanges between Europe and Africa (both sides). This in-person meeting was an opportunity to strengthen relations and trust between African and European countries.



PLACEMENT OFFICER TRAINING

31 international participants took part in the SCI Placement Officer Training (POT) in Switzerland, for one week in February 2023. Volunteers or staff in SCI who place (other) volunteers in workcamps got to know all the practical procedures, the online database, tips, tricks, possible challenges, and good practices around that – as well as to get a better understanding of SCI as a movement and the possibilities of getting active in it and making it more inclusive.



EXCHANGE PLATFORM MEETING

SCI's annual meeting to evaluate and improve volunteer exchanges, the Exchange Platform Meeting (EPM), was held online from 9 to 17 October. 2023 EPM, happening in the European Year of Skills, was focussed on skills and capacity building. SCI activists, branches, groups, partners and contacts came together for the event, with an average of 16.6 participants per session. The agenda for this year encompassed a wide array of topics, including a review of the previous year's achievements and challenges, updates on key projects, follow-up decisions from EPM 2022 and EPM 2019, informative workshops and training sessions, and an exploration of future goals and initiatives.



COP-28 PARTICIPATION

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also referred to as COP28, took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between November 30 to December 13, 2023. SCI has observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, so we could send a delegation of 5 young climate activists from Pakistan, Bangladesh/Germany, UK/Singapore, and Nepal, and allow 5 more people to participate online from Spain, Palestine, Switzerland, UK and Ireland. The participants were either SCI activists or selected in cooperation with the Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO). This allowed us to support activists from the least represented geographical regions to push for their own agenda at the conference, as a small step for increased climate justice.

“Youth like us face challenges when working and engaging in the fight for climate justice. Nevertheless, there are organisations like SCI that are dedicated to supporting young individuals, and significantly ease our path in this collective struggle.”

- Sharmin Shara Mim, SCI delegate from Germany/Bangladesh



PARTNERSHIP ON PEACE: REGRANTING PROJECTS

For the first time in 2023, in the scope of SCI's Operating Grant under CERV, the International Secretariat of SCI invited proposals from its member organisations based in EU member states, for projects to be supported throughout the year. The aim of the Re-granting Scheme is to financially support network branches to carry out activities which promote the core values of SCI and the values of the European Union (EU). In 2023, 10 projects were submitted and 5 selected.

VOLUNTEERING FOR PEACE



SCI Poland

SCI Poland organised a 7-month project working on building knowledge and skills for peace-building among Polish elementary and high school students, as well as their teachers. They organised events and trainings, an information campaign and an awareness-raising activity. Participants in the two four-day training programs, "Educators for Peace. Peace in Practice", used their new knowledge by conducting workshops in schools and other educational institutions, spreading peaceful values among young people. Thus, 21 dedicated volunteers led a series of 44 workshops across 14 schools and institutions, reaching a total of 924 participants. Educational materials focussed on the three pillars of peace were also created and made accessible to the public.

EU FOR ALL

SCI Hellas

SCI Hellas organised a 8-month project with the goal of building knowledge on how human rights work, what EU rights and values are and how important their promotion and protection is. Their participant target group was children from refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Athens.

After a survey concerning the European Union values and rights was sent out to understand what the knowledge of the participants was, tailored workshops were implemented. Children learn about human rights and their history, with each workshop focussing on one particular right and using non-formal education methods. Afterwards, supported by experts, the children created a series of podcasts sharing their experiences and knowledge. The children, after this experience, are able to explore their own series of podcasts, finding new topics with



SCI Hellas' support and even bring more people in and create their own activity for other children. A final event brought everyone together to the podcasts and exchange views on the project. The project involved 102 children: 80 in the workshops and 22 in the podcasts.

LOCAL RE-ACTIVATION: 75 YEARS OF SCI ITALY ACTIVISM

SCI Italy



SCI Italy organised a 6-month project aimed at re-activating the grassroots movement of SCI Italy by strengthening the engagement and value of local and regional groups of activists. The pandemic had significantly impacted participation in local volunteering, so the project focused on supporting the implementation of local activities with geographical barriers and strengthening the cooperation among the local groups, the board and the national secretariat. Several activities were organised by the local groups as part of this initiative, such as a training, a minicamp, a workcamp, which attracted new young volunteers and established new local partnerships. In addition, a national event celebrating SCI Italy's 75th Anniversary was organised, raising awareness about the organisation's history, evolution, and impact over the years. The program boasted an impressive participation of 105 individuals, exceeding initial expectations, and significantly bolstered organisational capabilities within local groups.

SOLIDARITY PROJECT

CVS Bulgaria

CVS Bulgaria organised a 7-month project aimed at providing volunteer support to asylum seekers, refugees, holders of temporary protection and migrants. The objective was to engage local and international volunteers to collaborate with different stakeholders (local and international non-profit organisations, State agency for refugees staff, businesses and others) towards the integration of the target group in Bulgarian society and to facilitate the welcoming process and acceptance of the new-comers in the local community. They organised educational, recreational and sport activities and outings for children, unaccompanied minors and adults, as well as psychological support within individual and group sessions. Considering integration a double sided process, they also worked with the local communities organising different awareness raising events and community building celebrations. Within the project, a summer workcamp “Solidarity Volunteering academy” was also organised. The project reached 713 people in total.



LEARNING FROM HISTORY! MEMORIAL CAMPS IN TIMES OF WAR

SCI Germany

SCI Germany organised a 7-month project consisting of seven study camps in collaboration with memorials and antifascist organisations. Each camp had a work component and a study component, focusing on the history of National Socialism, right-wing extremism, and antifascism today. The seven study camps facilitated an increase in knowledge among the participants regarding the topics of remembrance and the nurturing of international dialogue among participants. In addition, the work projects played a pivotal role in preserving memorials, expanding their facilities and creating new material, advocating for tolerance, and actively combating right-wing extremism within their communities and beyond. Two short programmes were also made for television, and one photo exhibition was organised. The project reached a total of 124 participants, with 88 workcamp participants (of which 11 camp coordinators) and 36 participants in the dissemination seminar.



SCI 2023 IN PICTURES



Women's day celebration in India



Workcamp in Austria



Event in Serbia



Workcamp in Catalunya



Event in Italy



Workcamp in Belgium



ICM in Austria



Workcamp in Catalunya



Event in Italy



Training in Austria



Workcamp in Croatia



Workcamp in Sri Lanka

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

SPEAK UP FOR PEACE

Created in the context of the project “No War Anywhere”, the online course “Speak up for Peace” is a free, self-paced, interactive course on advocacy and communication for peace. It comprises three modules: General communication concepts, Advocacy for peace, and Working together, and is directed at SCI communication officers, activists and anyone who wants to speak up for peace!



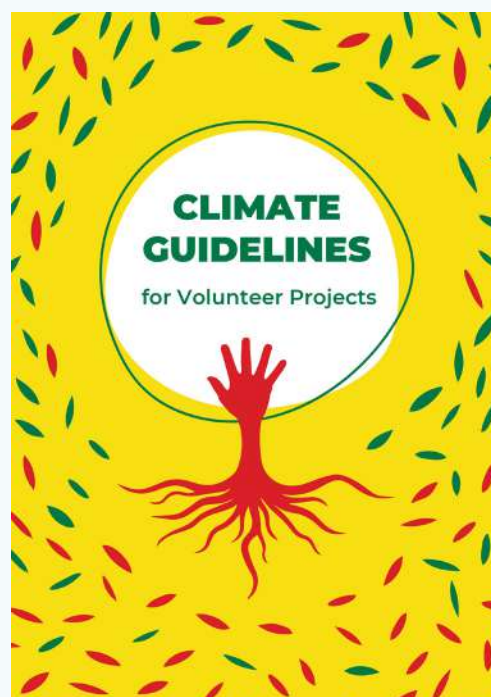
MOOC: PREPARE YOURSELF FOR CROSS-CULTURAL VOLUNTEERING!



This online course focuses on exchanges between Europe and Africa (both ways), with the objective to prepare those who want to go from Europe to Africa and from Africa to Europe for a volunteering experience by giving them some food for thought. Without expecting to give volunteers all the answers to their questions, it aims to start a reflection on important concepts like voluntourism, white saviour mentality, culture shock, expectations, prejudices, stereotypes.

CLIMATE GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

This toolkit is an output of the project Grassroots change and is based on the conviction that climate change is for us today what World War I was to Pierre Cérésolle, the founder of SCI in the early XX century: a growing threat to peace, nonviolence and human rights. The toolkit is meant to map existing resources, and educate on the climate crisis in order to lower the impact of our activities on the environment.



DETOX YOUR PROJECT

The booklet, created by SCI Madrid as an outcome of the training by the same name, contains information about gender and discrimination, an introduction to masculinities and guidelines on how to deal with toxic masculinities on a daily basis as well as in our organisations.



FACILITATOR'S CARDS



Facilitator's Cards help facilitators, trainers, educators plan and implement an educational activity. These cards support users with ideas, checklists, and spaces for notes and reminders so that everyone can deliver a high-quality learning process. They are accompanied by a supplement that gives additional, theoretical insights into the card topics. The tool was created by SCI Poland as part of the project "Learning Lab(oratory) – quality non-education in the digital world".

INFOGRAPHIC ON ENVIRONMENTALLY NON-FORMAL EDUCATION!

This infographic comes as a result of the "Learning Lab(oratory) – quality non-education in the digital world" project and can support creating educational events that are more environmentally sustainable.

SUSTAINABLE



INFOGRAPHIC ON INCLUSION IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION



This infographic on inclusion tackles the topic of how to make our non-formal learning activities more inclusive. A result of the "Learning Lab(oratory) – quality non-education in the digital world", it collects and summarises practical information and tips & tricks shared during the project activities and gives specific advice on how to equally include participants with fewer opportunities.

FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS



Honestly, I can't be more grateful for the opportunity that SCI France has given me, for how well they have treated me from the first day and how warmly I have felt welcomed. Elie, Nathalie and Emilie: thank you.

Paula from Spain, long-term volunteer at SCI France



Throughout my time at IS, I learned valuable lessons about the importance of community, giving back, sustainability, and creating societal value. Every person I met gave me a life lesson and I will always be grateful for that!

Ambra, long-term volunteer at the International Secretariat of SCI



These two condensed weeks forged some wonderful friendships, friendships that had an invasive tree that's hard to uproot, a horse ride or a few drinks as witnesses. Because that's what volunteer projects are all about for me: getting together around a cause that you feel is right, sharing both effort and conviviality, acquiring knowledge and know-how, and forging precious friendships.

Sarah, SCI Belgium volunteer at a workcamp in Portugal



The amount of fun that we had during that day was unbelievable. I never laughed so much during any of the camps I had participated in. Participants laughed until they could not any more. I believe that evening changed the whole group and it made the group very close and the group remained close until the last minute and still to this day we are in contact and do group calls always.

Brelyantika Indra Jesa (Indonesia) & Hewad Alikhil (Afghanistan), workcamp volunteers with SCI Germany



This training helped me to confront a lot of my biases as a white privileged European. It's so easy to forget that in Europe we are approaching international volunteering projects from a very privileged position. This training was very good at creating the space for critical self-reflection about 'critical whiteness' and how to deal with it using different methods.

Isabel, Irish participant at a training in Austria

SCI INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2023

674.463 €

Income

-615.807 €

Expenditure

<i>* all amounts in EUR</i>	FIN 22	BUD 23	FIN 23
Income	263.120	673.110	674.463
01. Branch Contributions	41576	46200	46200
02. Insurance Premiums Received	38567	48450	€ 45282
03. Vol Exch Fee (excl Insur Prefs)	3931	0	2812
04. Fees for Office Work Done	720	1300	816
05. Participation Fees	11307	18310	16279
06. Grants	107648	534500	534073
07. Donations / Fundraising	6679	10000	4980
08. Financial income	16805	650	3950
09. Other Income	27358	13700	7237
10. Extraordinary Income	8528	0	12834
Expenditure	-304.792	-648.039	-615.807
11. Staff and LTV Costs	-146716	-230080	-240827
12. Office Costs	-30033	-48714	-43186
13. Projects & activities	-78257	-233565	-210953
14. Travel & Meeting Costs	-1405	-95740	-56269
15. Insurance premiums and Claims Paid	-41377	-35200	-30503
16. Membership Fees	-1601	-3640	-3623
17. Financial Costs	-183	-500	-3842
18. Taxes	-555	-600	-497
19. Miscellaneous	-3139	0	0
20. Extraordinary Expenses	0	0	-14462
21. Provisions	-1526	0	-11645
Grand Total	-41,672	25.071	58.656

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

In 2023 we received 4,269.53 € in donations from individuals, either from SCItizens - the subscription program for people to regularly contribute to the international activities of SCI - or spot donations. Of the SCItizens amount, 20% was redistributed as financial support to branches in need.

The donations we receive are used to realise all the international projects that you find in this report, as well as statutory meetings of the Movement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SCI's work is the result of the collaboration of all our branches, groups, partners, international volunteers, activists, staff workers, hosts, donors and everyone who has worked with us in our mission to promote a culture of peace. We are very thankful to all of them for their engagement and passion.

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With the support of UNESCO's Participation Programme

Thank you!





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