



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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,

Despite the transition into 2025, the global landscape remained bleak as we witnessed the continuation of more genocides all over the world and a surge in violence and human rights violations. However, our network’s refusal to normalize war fuels our resolve. Guided by the **Strategic Plan 2024-2027**, we have intensified our peace education programs to better empower SCI volunteers, focusing our collective impact on fostering peace with ourselves, our communities, and the environment. Furthermore, we felt it essential to reaffirm our anti-militarist and pacifist foundations, which have taken on a renewed sense of urgency given the state of the world today.

As militarization continues to shrink civic spaces, SCI stepped up its presence in international decision-making spaces. Our contribution to the European Youth Foundation reforms and the EU’s long-term budget consultations have shown that international volunteering is a key part of making the world a fairer place. We also celebrated the election of our colleague Tobias Drilling to the Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth, a milestone that allows us to challenge the fears dominating current security narratives.

Through our educational programs, we have had the chance to empower a new generation of volunteers, equipping them with technical expertise in database management, human rights, global justice and more, thanks to the organization of training courses like **FLOW** and



POT (Placement Officer Training).

We also celebrated the successful conclusion of the **“Peace in Diversity”** project. This initiative supported actors of change across 11 countries and culminated in the **“Tools for Peace”** webinar series that provided our network with a holistic framework for social transformation, tackling topics like transformative justice, non-violent communication and Shinrin Yoku (forest bathing) as a method for relaxation.

Peace education was also a strong component of national projects realized in the framework of our **“Partnership on Peace” programme’s regranting scheme**. Funded by the CERV structural grant, it enabled us to support our branches in a year of extreme global tension, strengthening their capacity and impact. Their projects developed peace education activities in schools, created spaces for improving volunteering activities in terms of inclusion and climate justice, and continued our critical work on historical remembrance at sites like Ravensbrück to counter modern antimilitarist challenges.

Volunteers from all around the world dedicated their time to contribute to local communities, learn from each other, and improve through our volunteer camps and long-term projects. From experimental archaeology in Spain to alpine gardening in Switzerland, these projects had a positive impact on all dimensions of peace, empowering hundreds of people to

be better peace actors and agents of change in the face of systemic violence.

The awareness of the central role of volunteering in our peace work motivated us to continuously improve our processes. We have been providing common and open spaces to our branches and partners to be able to meet -both offline and online- during the year, in order for them to share best practices and initiatives and to grow up together.

The **Exchange Platform Meeting (EPM)** allowed organizations to discuss how to improve our international projects and cooperation. Furthermore, we continued to strengthen our global governance through the **International Committee Meeting (ICM)**, which served as an ideal platform to harmonize our response to global crises and strengthen the bonds within our global movement.

Energized by all the activities implemented this year, we are standing strong in our commitment to peace, and we keep cultivating the spirit of solidarity within and outside our movement. In a world that is driving deeper and deeper divisions between people, collective practices of resistance to the logics of hate and war are more essential than ever for our future.

None of the achievements mentioned could have been possible without the dedicated contributions of our global network of branches, working groups, partners, volunteers, and generous donors. We express our heartfelt appreciation to all those who continuously inspire us and embody the SCI values in these challenging times.

Amitiés,

Antonella Di Matteo

International President



WHO WE ARE

Mission, vision, values

Service Civil International (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 conflicts. SCI's mission is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact. All SCI activities should be in line with SCI's values: volunteering, non-violence, respect for human rights, solidarity, respect for the environment, inclusion, empowerment, cooperation.

Goals and objectives

The work to accomplish our mission was guided by our **Strategic Plan 2024-2027**, comprising four goals and 17 objectives.

Goal 1: Expand SCI

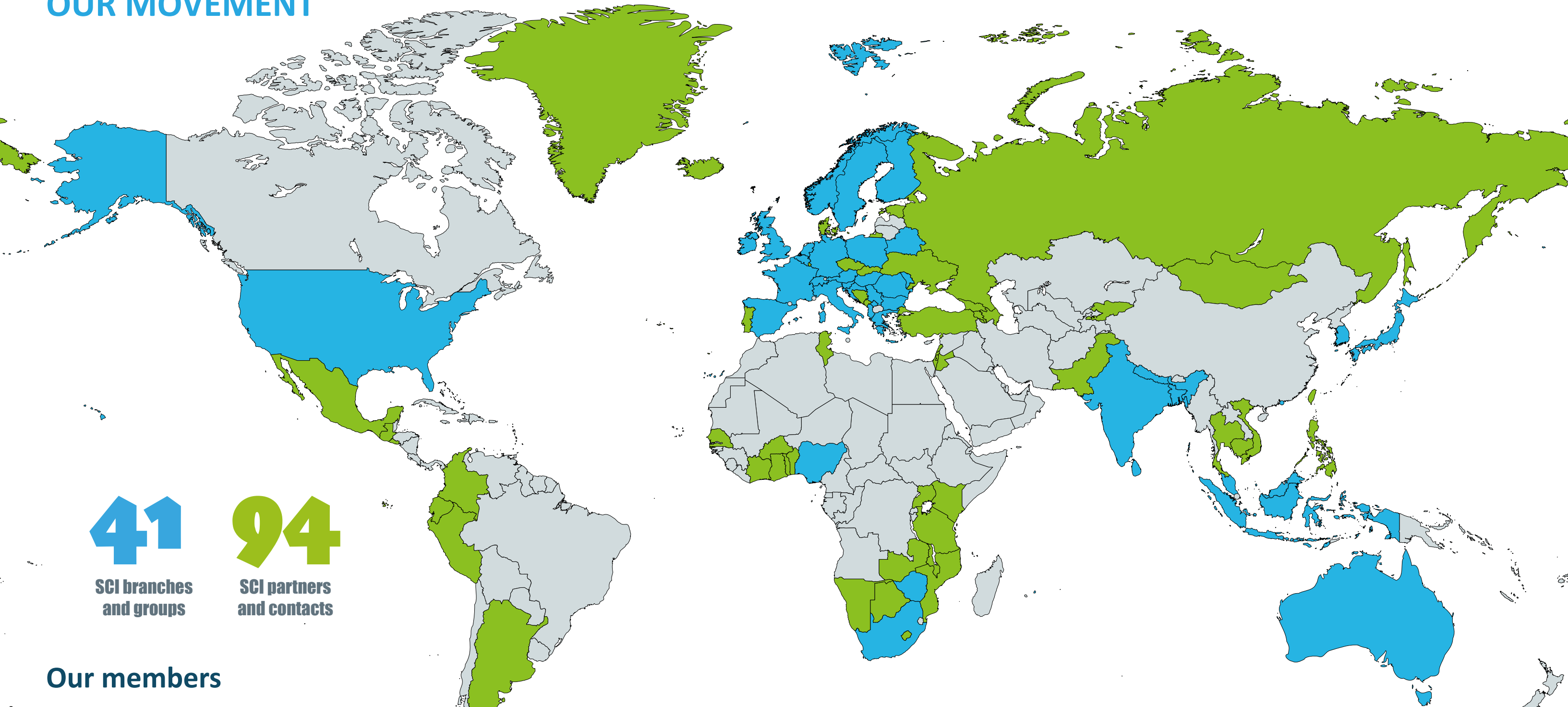
Goal 2: Reach a higher level of sustainability at branch and international levels by capacity building and diversifying financial resources

Goal 3: Empower SCI activists with peace education activities to increase our impact around Peace with self, others and nature

Goal 4: Be proactive in the areas of Climate and Social justice, recognizing the ongoing and future developments in society



OUR MOVEMENT



41
SCI branches
and groups

94
SCI partners
and contacts

Our members

- AVI Moldova
- Bumi Horta Foundation
- 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
- South Africa Voluntary Workcamps Association
- SVI Mauritius
- VCV Serbia
- 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 14 June online to discuss financial matters, and from 3 to 7 December in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the June ICM, a new Vice President was also elected. In December's meeting, branches voted to welcome new partners, approved our working groups in SCI and adopted several resolutions aimed at more climate just approaches in our work, rebranding the word "workcamp" to "volunteer camp", changing the way we calculate our network fee and rethinking aspects related to our insurance. We also reaffirmed our commitment to collaborate in strengthening internal education by adopting a common definition for genocide. Important documents were approved, namely the Plan of Action 2026 and International budget 2026. Finally, elections for the International Executive Committee were held and we elected one Executive Committee Member, re-elected another member and co-opted two new ones.

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 2025 the International Executive Committee was composed of the following members: Antonella Di Matteo (International President), Sarah Koeksal (International Vice-President), Nico Verzijden (International Treasurer), Antonios Sifakis, Femi Aganran, Dr. Shobha Rani, Andrea Loddo and Bert Verstappen.



INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND TEAMS

Our work is supported by international working groups and teams of volunteers that care for the quality of our projects in different geographical areas and on specific themes.

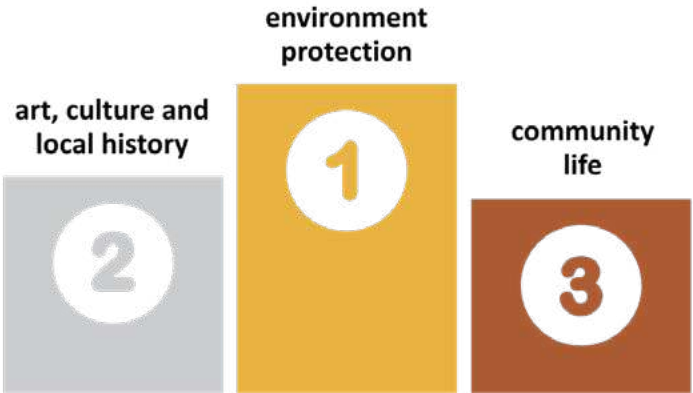
These working groups looked at the quality of projects and partnerships in Asia, Africa, the Midi region, and the Americas, also enabling some regional cooperation and common projects. Other teams led the development of climate justice projects and procedures, worked on the topic of antimilitarism and genocide prevention, advocated for the end of volunteering in orphanages in SCI, and introduced the idea of a sustainable mediation structure inside of SCI.

OUR VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

Each year, SCI organises international voluntary projects for people of all ages and backgrounds to promote a culture of peace. In 2025, a total of 116 camps took place, totalling 1530 days of volunteering. Camps lasted an average of 13 days.



Volunteer camps focussed on different themes, many centering their activities on the protection of the environment; art, culture and local history; and community life. Other camps allowed volunteers to participate in climate and sustainable lifestyle activities, work with children and youth, galvanise efforts regarding antiracism, antifascism, remembrance, volunteer alongside people with disabilities, and contribute to peace and disarmament. In a few camps, volunteers contributed to international solidarity, raised awareness on the topics of poverty and social injustice and worked in support of refugees, immigrants and ethnic minorities.

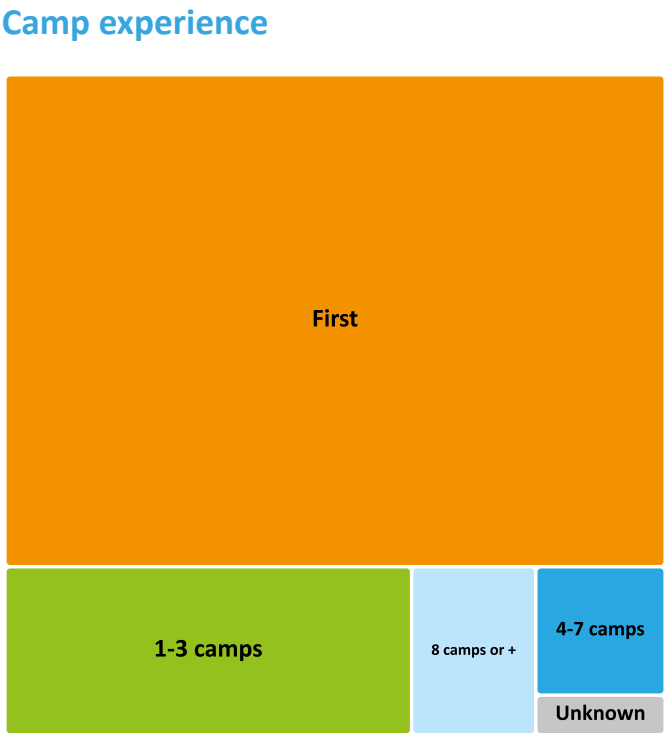
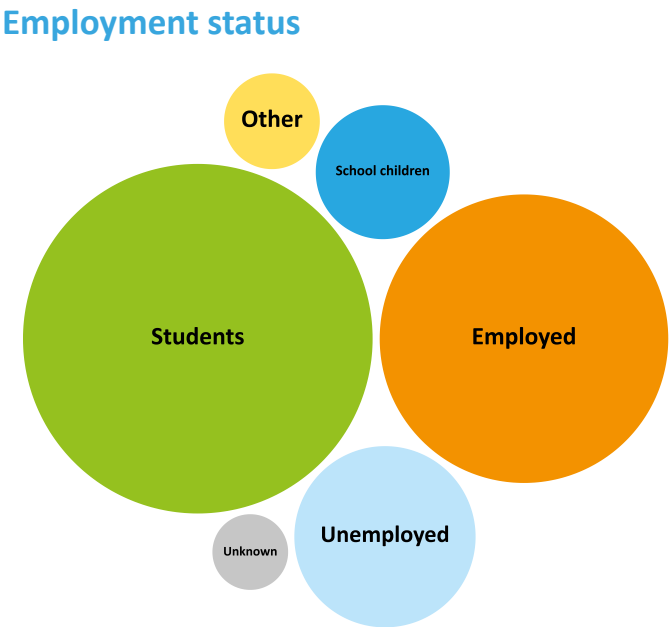
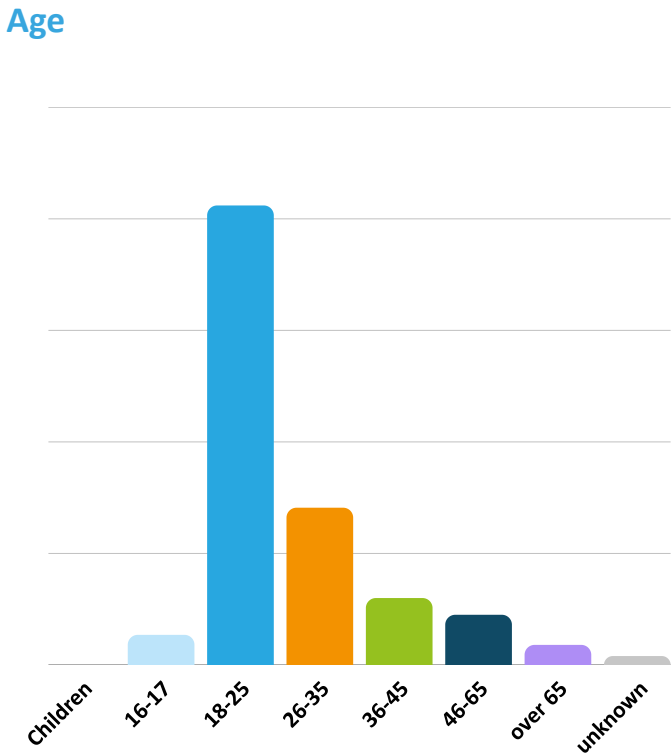
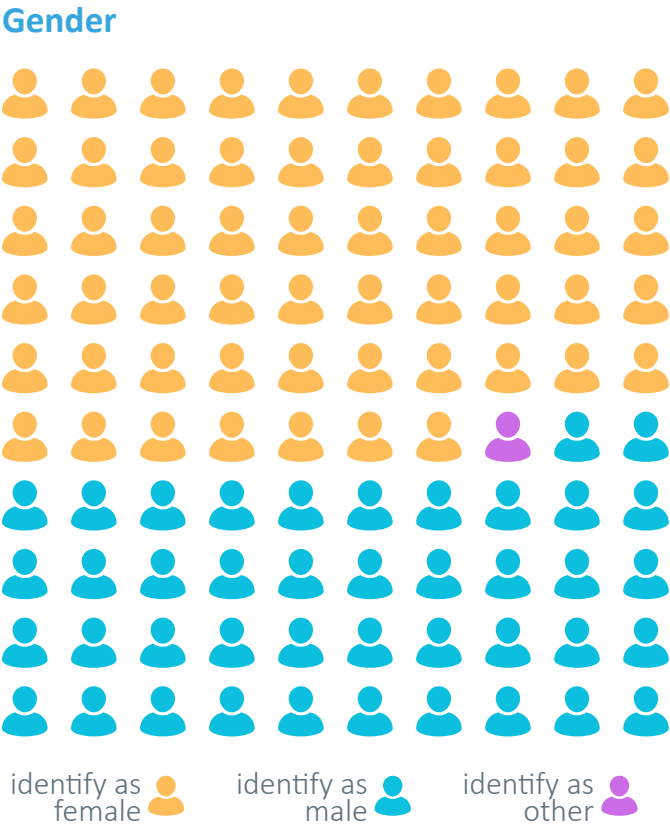


In 2025, 743 volunteers participated in SCI volunteer camps and 198 volunteers participated in long-term volunteering. For a total of 941 volunteers participating in SCI projects.



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 volunteer camps' volunteers!



OUR CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

NO MORE WAR: ANTIMILITARISM IN CONVERSATION AND ACTION



No More War: Antimilitarism in Conversation and Action was a project running from January to December 2025. It brought together a diverse group of young people active in education, activism, and the arts, based in SWANA and Europe, supporting them to take action against war and militarism.

The project responded to the growing global resurgence of militarism, including rising defence budgets, the return of conscription, and ongoing conflicts causing humanitarian crises. It also highlighted the connections between militarism and other forms of injustice, such as violent border regimes, climate crisis, and the rise of authoritarianism.

Through a combination of international and local activities, the project created spaces for young people to connect, exchange ideas, and build strong antimilitarist communities. Its main activities included a 5-day Open Forum and Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria, bringing together activists from across the world, as well as follow-up actions in local communities, from Barcelona to Bethlehem and beyond.

The project was co-funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.



The activities

The project included 2 main activities:

No More War Forum & Festival

The activity took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 28 April to 5 May 2025, where No More War and CVS Bulgaria co-organised a Festival and an Open Forum for people interested in antimilitarism to meet, network, and develop follow-up actions. During the [festival](#), participants, local activists, and the wider public created, shared, and built a community together through panels, screenings, and hands-on creative activities.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Following the activity in Bulgaria, No More War distributed microgrants to young people organising antimilitarist actions in their local contexts. In total, 10 actions were supported across multiple countries.



Netherlands “Counter-summit for Peace and Justice” (The Hague)

A two-day action organised as a response to the NATO War Summit. It included a counter-summit with 17 panels and workshops, followed by a public protest gathering around 5,000 participants from the Netherlands and beyond.



Tunisia “Peacebuilding and Community Engagement” (Tunis)

A 4-day training focused on peace, civic engagement, identity, and intersectionality through non-formal education. Participants developed initiatives, one of which was selected as a follow-up action implemented later in the year.



Greece “Antimilitarist Action and Mobilization during the KRAMA Festival” (Athens)

A week-long action within an antifascist and antimilitarist festival featuring co-listening sessions, workshops, radio performances, and artistic contributions focused on war, genocide, and resistance.



Greece “Civic Service vs Military Service” (Athens & Kyparissia)

A series of information events and an online survey on conscientious objection and alternative service in Greece, reaching around 500 survey responses and approximately 50 participants in discussions.



Spain “Raval to Palestine – Films Against Genocide” (Barcelona)

A film screening and discussion event featuring *Where Olive Trees Weep*, Palestinian snacks, and a silent exhibition, gathering over 50 participants.



Belgium “When You Take the Streets” (Brussels)

An exhibition and film screening exploring protest movements, followed by discussions on collective action and personal experiences of activism. Around 21 participants attended.



Italy “On My Land” Screenings (Milan & Rome)

Screenings and discussions of the documentary *On My Land*, including roundtables with organisations working on Palestine and migration issues. Across three events, around 140 people participated.



Germany “XPOSED Films Against War 2025” (Berlin)

A queer antimilitarist film festival presenting short film programmes on war, militarism, and resistance, including Q&A sessions with filmmakers.



United Kingdom “Art Against War: Creating Change Together” (Nottingham)

A series of creative workshops exploring antimilitarism and propaganda through art. Participants co-created educational materials and a beginner’s guide to antimilitarism.



Palestine “Workshops on War, Peace, and Freedom” (Al Ma’sara)

Workshops with over 30 young participants addressing daily experiences under occupation, rights awareness, militarisation, and community resilience. A youth group initiative was agreed upon, alongside additional activities supporting children.



BEYOND BORDERS: A PAN-AFRICAN APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE



Beyond Borders: a Pan-African approach to international voluntary service was co-organised by Service Civil International’s International Secretariat and partner organisations in the Sub-Saharan African region, with support from UNESCO’s Participation Programme and the Africa Working Group of SCI. The project ran in 2025 and focused on re-thinking international voluntary service from an Afrocentric and decolonial perspective, strengthening South–South cooperation and reducing dependency on traditional North–South volunteer models. The project aimed to deconstruct and reconstruct international voluntary service through an Afrocentric approach. It supported voluntary organisations across Africa to strengthen South–South cooperation and develop more autonomous and locally rooted volunteering systems. Voluntary service was understood as a tool for transformation, active citizenship, youth leadership, and intercultural exchange. It was based on reciprocity rather than expertise transfer, where volunteers and local communities learned from each other through shared daily life and collaboration.



The activities

The project included 2 main activities:

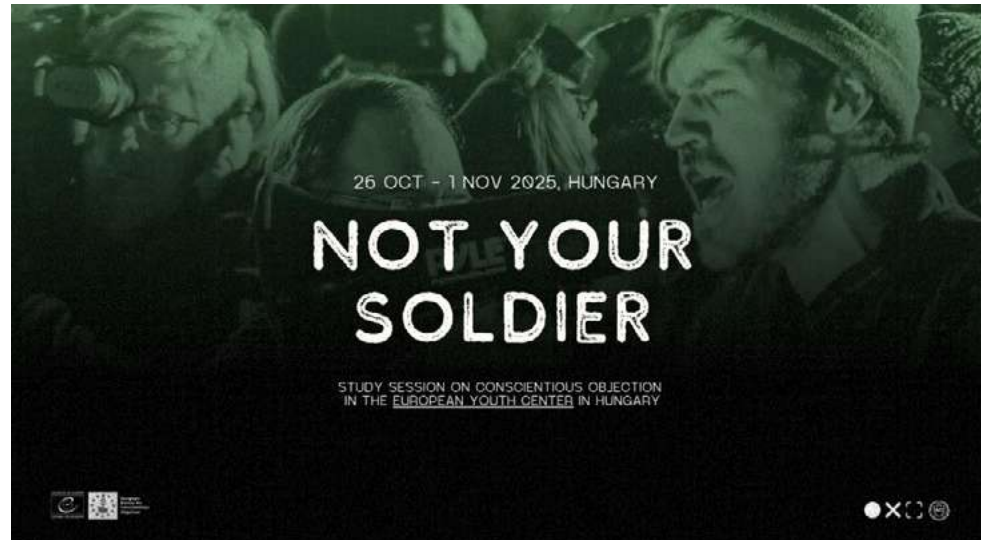
African Voluntary Summit (Nairobi, Kenya | June 2025)

The African Voluntary Summit brought together relevant stakeholders to discuss the strengthening of international voluntary service (IVS) in Africa from an Afrocentric and decolonial perspective. A key focus was placed on gender equality in the IVS sector and the potential of volunteering to empower young women in personal, social, and economic spheres. The Summit addressed the evolving landscape of IVS, highlighting the importance of South–South cooperation and the need to shift away from traditional North–South volunteer models towards more inclusive and locally grounded approaches. It promoted inter-regional integration, youth exchange, and Pan-African cooperation as key tools for building a more peaceful and prosperous Africa. It also supported inter-African volunteer exchange, including diaspora engagement, building on existing networks such as CCIVS and other partner organisations linked to UNESCO, reinforcing grassroots collaboration and knowledge exchange.



[Documentary Video](#)

A documentary-style video was produced to capture and share the experience of the project. It serves as a storytelling tool to disseminate results and multiply impact. It also reflects the project’s Afrocentric and decolonial approach by valuing oral histories and preserving lived experiences from participants.



NOT YOUR SOLDIER

The study session “Not Your Soldier” took place in Budapest, Hungary, at the European Youth Center. It was coordinated by the No More War group in collaboration with SCI IS and the European Bureau of Conscientious Objection (EBCO).

The session aimed to raise awareness on (anti)militarism,

compulsory military service, and conscientious objection in the current global context of increasing militarisation and discussions around the reintroduction of conscription. It particularly focused on engaging young people, who are most affected by military service policies but often excluded from decision-making processes.

The study session created an inclusive space to explore (anti)militarism from decolonial and queer-feminist perspectives, ensuring broader participation and critical reflection on militarisation systems. Participants and facilitators worked together through non-formal and experiential learning methods to build knowledge, share experiences, and develop collective approaches to resisting militarism. The process aimed to strengthen solidarity among young people affected by conscription and support the development of future follow-up actions.

Documentary Video

During the study session, video material was produced for a documentary that highlights how rising militarism and conscription policies affect young people.

The video aims to serve as an educational and advocacy tool, amplifying youth voices and encouraging critical reflection on militarisation. It will be used in future events, workshops, and public screenings as a call to action against compulsory military service and militarism.



PEACE IN DIVERSITY (2024–2025 Closing Activities)

Peace in Diversity was initiated by SCI’s International Secretariat in Belgium and implemented with 12 partner organisations. Participants from 11 countries became actors of change within their organisations and communities.

As a continuation of Peace in Diversity, the “[Tools for Peace](#)” webinar series explored practical approaches to peacebuilding, decolonisation, conflict transformation, and wellbeing. The series brought together facilitators, activists, researchers, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds.



#1 The First 3 Steps to Decolonise Your Life – Dr Anita Venanzi

This webinar invited participants to reflect on privilege, disadvantage, resources, and constraints that shape lived experiences. It aimed to develop a shared language for justice and peace and to support the creation of new alliances and perspectives on decolonisation.



#2 Discover Your Peacebuilding Superpower – Taylor O'Connor

This session introduced a framework to identify individual strengths for peacebuilding. It supported participants in recognising their unique abilities and applying them to social change through creative and collaborative peace actions.



#3 Non-Violent Communication as a Tool for Systemic Transformation – Timo & Laura

This webinar explored non-violent communication (NVC) as a tool for conflict transformation and systemic change. It focused on empathy, feelings, needs, and the political dimensions of communication, while addressing power and privilege in activist spaces.



#4 Transformative Justice: A Tool to Transform Oppressive Systems – Timo & Laura

Building on the previous session, this webinar introduced Transformative Justice as an alternative to punitive systems. Rooted in Indigenous and Black feminist practices, it focused on accountability, empathy, and collective approaches to address harm and systemic injustice.

#5 Peace in Progress: 7 Steps to Conflict De-escalation – Iolanda & Adrian

This webinar presented practical tools for conflict de-escalation in youth work and community settings. It focused on building understanding, reducing harm, and supporting mental health and resilience in conflict-affected contexts.



#6 Shinrin Yoku – Forest Bathing for Everyday Wellbeing – Loretta

This final session introduced Shinrin Yoku (forest bathing) as a method for relaxation, mindfulness, and reconnection with nature. It combined theory and practice to support participants in slowing down and integrating wellbeing into daily life.



FLOW is an ongoing Training of Trainers programme designed to develop facilitation skills in non-formal education settings, with a strong focus on peace education, inclusion, and sustainable project design.

The programme supports (future) youth workers, activists, and trainers in strengthening their capacity to design, implement, and manage educational projects that foster a culture of peace. It combines theoretical input with practical learning, offering participants the opportunity to apply their skills in real contexts after the training.

FLOW also explores key aspects of project design and management, including institutional frameworks, EU funding opportunities, and the integration of peace values into all levels of educational and social initiatives. A key focus is placed on reflecting on power dynamics in group processes and strengthening more inclusive and equitable approaches within non-formal education.

The programme is organised annually by the International Secretariat of SCI, with a special emphasis on peace education and inclusion, aiming to strengthen the quality and impact of non-formal education across its networks.

FLOW was co-funded by the European Commission’s Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme.

PLACEMENT OFFICER TRAINING

16 international participants took part in the SCI Placement Officer Training (POT) in Switzerland from 13-19 February 2025. Volunteers or staff in SCI who place (other) volunteers in volunteering camps had the opportunity to get to know all the practical procedures, the OPS online database (SCI's Online Placement System), tips, tricks, possible challenges, and good practices around that. Moreover, the theme of POT 2025 was "Making Volunteering User-Friendly" and this came as a perfect opportunity for participants to familiarise themselves with the new OPS system and to give their constructive feedback to the new system. This space also opened opportunities for renewed conversations around the different types of social, economic, cultural, physical and ethnic barriers still present within the network and strategise around ways to become even more inclusive. Participants explored the relations between colonialism and volunteering, wrote anti-discrimination guidelines for placement officers and re-started the international working group on gender called Gender Blenders.

EXCHANGE PLATFORM MEETING



SCI's annual meeting to evaluate and improve volunteer exchanges, the Exchange Platform Meeting (EPM), was held in Bonn, Germany from 29 September to 5 October and online on 23 September and 9 October 2025. This year's EPM was focused on the topic of Common ground for Peacebuilding and Youth Work. 49 participants representing SCI branches, groups, partners and contacts came together for the in-person event. Participants came from all over the world, but not all those who applied could participate due to visa barriers. The agenda for this year encompassed a wide array of topics, including international activism in SCI and our Peace Activism

Campaign, discussions on SCI's protocol on integrity, different ways to strengthen our collaboration and improve procedures, working group meetings, exchange of good practices and thematic workshops on climate justice manifesto, our Online PLacement System and ways to better engage younger generations in SCI.

COP-30 PARTICIPATION

The 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also referred to as COP30, took place in Belém, Brazil. Due to its observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, SCI was represented by a delegation of youth and indigenous climate activists. A youth delegate supported by Save the Children participated, representing Youth for Climate Netherlands and the Local Conference of Youth Netherlands.

During the conference, the delegate followed the Just Transition negotiations, engaged in youth coordination through YOUNGO, and contributed to discussions on the Belém Action Mechanism. They also took part in panels on locally led adaptation finance and a press conference on the Climate Debt Risk Index, focusing on links between adaptation, mitigation, and vulnerability in Least Developed Countries.



PARTNERSHIP ON PEACE: EU REGRANTING PROJECTS

In the third edition of SCI's Regranting Scheme, developed in the scope of its 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 Regranting Scheme was 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 2025, 9 projects were submitted and 8 were selected.

Circular Lab | SCI Poland

SCI Poland organised a 9-month project called "Circular Lab".

The project aimed to promote sustainable lifestyles, responsible consumption and community engagement. Activities included a two-day training course, two culinary workshops, four upcycling workshops and three thematic webinars.

The activities included 178 direct participants with distribution of online and print media succeeding in reaching approximately 30,000.

The volunteer camps organised were the following:

- 2-day training course "Conscious Consumption and Local Ecosystems in the Practice of Circular Economy": giving participants the opportunity to learn more about sustainable consumption patterns, circular economy models and how to apply them into practice.
- 2 Cook like grandma workshops, July and September: promoted sustainable food practices like plant-based diets, and low-waste cooking.
- 4 Do it like grandma upcycling workshops, September-December: promoted waste reduction through reusing and creative use of material.
- 3 online webinars, November-December: deepening the understanding of systemic sustainability challenges.
- Dissemination: Creation and dissemination of 9 educational materials through online posts and educational posters.

The project increased participants' motivations to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle by increasing their knowledge and awareness on the impact of consumer choices, responsible consumption, alternative consumption models and circular economy principles. It also increased the competences of educators and strengthened SCI Poland's positions within the local sustainability ecosystem. The project helped to establish new connections with educators, strengthened collaboration with external moderators, reinforced local networks, strengthened community cohesion and social inclusion and facilitated exchange. The creation of 9 high quality and engaging educational materials on sustainable and circular lifestyles on SCI's website spread information on the project to the public and served as inspiration for future activities.

A Step Forward: Upskilling of SCI Italy | SCI Italy

SCI Italy organised a 9-month project called "A step forward, upskilling of SCI Italy". The project worked on building capacity of volunteer camp coordinators and trainers by transmitting vital knowledge on the SCI movement, international volunteering and solidarity and peace work.

SCI Italy organised a coordinator training, a training of trainers, an international council reaching a total of 165 participants. The project enabled SCI Italy to maintain and foster partnerships with current and former partner organisations which included Camere d'Aria and Comunita di Berzano and Artemista which provided space for realising SCI Italy's projects as well as funding. This close contact allowed for networking, successful exchange of best practices and inspired some partner organisations to host new volunteer camps in 2026.

The number of participants for the coordinator training increased significantly in comparison to previous years which resulted in sufficient coordinator capacity for all current Italian volunteer camps. Moreover the trainings led to increased understanding of SCI's internal structures which prompted many participants to step up to coordination roles like positions as board members or in working groups.

The project also led to the creation of a toolkit that was written in cooperation with activists, SCI staff members, volunteers and the board and includes knowledge gained as well as reflections on the organised activities.





DOBRO Project | CVS Bulgaria

CVS Bulgaria organised a 7-month project called “DOBRO Project”, which consisted of two activities, the DOBROfest and the DOBROcast.

The aim of the project was to raise awareness on and promote active citizenship and volunteering by amplifying the voices of volunteers and activists.

This initiative was created in order to counteract the trend of shrinking civic space and NGOs being labeled as threats in Bulgaria. 139 participants were directly involved in the project

with indirect effects through online promotion and dissemination spreading to up to 8,453 participants.

DOBROcast: 7-episode podcast with 14 guest speakers on the importance of NGOs, volunteering, anti-militarism and intercultural exchange

DOBROfest, 10th of December 2025 in Sofia, Bulgaria: information stalls giving 30 local and international NGOs the chance to promote their causes, poster workshops, write for rights action, human library, human rights talks .

The project successfully provided a platform to unite civil society by removing stigmas around migration and minority inclusion, discrediting nationalist narratives and promoting the importance of NGOs in society and thereby amplifying activist and volunteer voices. This was especially meaningful for young people who are particularly vulnerable to the influence of these divisive narratives and helped to inspire a new generation of active citizens. Additionally the project achieved to strengthen bonds between the participating organizations as well as deepen relations with Amnesty International Bulgaria who assisted CVS Bulgaria in the organization of the DOBROfest.

No More War in 2025 | No More War Group and VIA Netherlands

The project was a collaboration between SCI’s No More War Group and VIA Netherlands and it featured a wide variety of activities aimed to educate about anti-militarist and anti-war principles and overall act against war and further militarisation in a world with several ongoing wars and genocides. The project included film festivals, online webinars, a counter NATO-summit and a closed assembly. Including the impact through dissemination it reached almost 31,000 participants of which 5,204 participated directly in the project.



Films against war was a series of 3 film festivals hosted in Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels, featuring documentaries by Palestinian filmmakers, a short film on Congo and queer antimilitarist films on themes like homonationalism, postcolonialism, and peacebuilding. Overall, the 3 festivals gathered around 115 participants.

Talks against war was a series of 5 online discussions in collaborations with scholars, activists and experts. Topics included less well-known genocides and conflicts in Armenia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Kashmir. Overall, the talks engaged more than 74 participants.

Counter NATO-Camp was organised by VIA, to support the Counter-NATO summit in the Hague, organised together with a coalition of other peace organisations in the Netherlands in June 2025. It was a typical SCI volunteer camp which provided logistical support to the counter-summit and the demonstration. A representation of VIA’s sister organization “Vredensbeweging Pais” at a council meeting and conference of War Resisters International in Barcelona further helped to solidify the position of VIA and No More War as part of the antimilitarist movement internationally.

A closed assembly in the Hague (Netherlands) allowed 9 core No More War members and 15 total participants to meet and discuss internal organization, evaluation of past activities and planning of future activities.

Social media campaigns aimed at reaching the wider public for awareness-raising on topics such as nuclear disarmament, less well known conflicts, Palestinian solidarity, and No More War’s mission.

The project succeeded in raising awareness on the importance of anti-militarism and positive peace as a final goal for SCI as an organization through the means of volunteering. This awareness triggered the passing of a new resolution on working together with other peace organisations to counter ongoing militarism at the International Committee Meeting 2025.

Learning from History III: 80 years after WWII, where are we now? | SCI Germany

Over the course of a 9-month project, SCI Germany involved 131 participants in the “Learning from History III: 80 years after WWII, where are we now?” initiative, a 3 stages learning process of learning outcomes of the Second World War.

The project aimed to preserve, improve and promote the work of the memorial sites, educate participants on forced labour, concentration camps and persecution of marginalised groups in the context of WWII and promote world peace and human rights.

Eight international work and study camps on historical and political topics related to the Second World War were organised at memorial sites of three former concentration camps, a former forced labor camp and a former prisoner of war camp as well as in an anti-fascist vacation and recreation home founded by survivors.

The program significantly helped to improve the memorial camps without having to spend large sums. Their infrastructure was enhanced through gardening, and the establishment of footpaths, art installations, terraces and hollywood swings and the refurbishment of old furniture that can now be used to build a seminar house. Moreover, learning opportunities for public visitors were improved through the creation of Wikipedia articles on the persecution of marginalized groups under national socialism, social media and newspaper content on the camps, the creation of an online exhibition and the excavation, cleaning and recording of archaeological finds for the exhibition.

Publications made by the volunteers in newspaper and online as well as interactions with visitors and the local community additionally helped to promote the memorial sites and their causes, improve their reputation and reduce prejudices against foreigners thus limiting the spread of right wing movements.



Shaping the future: sustainable and inclusive volunteering | SCI Catalunya

SCI Catalunya, based in Barcelona, Spain, organized a 10-months project called “Shaping the future: sustainable and inclusive volunteering”.

The project aimed to increase inclusion, sustainability and accessibility of volunteering through green travel grants, inclusion grants and mini volunteer camps.

Overall participant numbers counted 72 direct participants and 50 indirect participants. The

inclusion grants successfully revitalized the interest in volunteering and improved relations with young people in the neighbourhood and the communication campaign achieved that the grants were able to extend their reach beyond Barcelona this year. The grants also helped to establish connections with other inclusion organizations and merged talks with El Avets contributed to deepening and improving the relations with SCI.



They/Them (a series of discussions on LGBTQIA+ matters) | SCI Hellas

SCI Hellas organised a 4-month project called “They/Them (a series of discussions on LGBTQIA+ matters)”.

The project aimed to explore gender identity and queerness, challenge social narratives around the topic and foster a safe, inclusive and respecting community of LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. It included 4 workshops with group discussions, guest sessions with LGBTQIA+

activists and visual storytelling and performative activities. In total 50 participants got involved. The activities of the project included 4 workshops with group discussions, visual storytelling activities, performance activities and guest sessions with LGBTQIA+ activists. These workshops supported in challenging common stereotypes and fostering meaningful connections and local community-building.

The project succeeded in building an inclusive environment for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies and fostered meaningful connections with and hear new perspectives and experiences from a diverse group of people. It allowed participants to explore their own identity and queerness, challenge social narratives, and reflect on their own and others experiences through the creation of visual storytelling pieces and performances.

160 years of peace volunteering and activism | VSI Ireland

VSI Ireland organised a 7-month project called “160 years of peace volunteering and activism”, to celebrate 160 years of its existence and of the existence of its partner organizations Comhlamh and Afri, aiming to raise awareness on the work of VSI and SCI.

The project also promoted peace, solidarity and intercultural dialogue, strengthened regional co-operation within civil society and increased citizens’ awareness of EU rights and values. In total, 210 participants directly participated in the project with another 600 being reached through dissemination.

The activities included the 160 years of Solidarity Anniversary Celebration on the 5th of December 2025: Event celebrating VSI Ireland’s and its partner organizations Comhlamh and Afri’s joint 160 year anniversary. The event reflected about the history of the organisations and showed their achievements through exhibitions, collective tapestry, poetry and spoken word performances. The results also included a time capsule video with messages for the future.

The project strengthened the relationship between VSI Ireland, Afri and Comhlamh and the contact with other attending organizations and individuals helped to promote peace and intercultural dialogue.



REGRANTING TO NON-EU MEMBERS: 2025 PROJECTS

SCI IS invited proposals from branches and groups based outside of the EU, for projects planned to take place in the 2025 year. This was possible through SCI's Regranting Fund, created during the 87th ICM. The aim of the Regranting Scheme was to financially support SCI activities which support SCI's core values and would otherwise be difficult to fund.

Volunteer for Peace – VCV20 (Volontiraj za mir – VCV20) Volunteers Centre of Vojvodina (VCV Serbia)



VCV organised a 7-month-long project aiming to promote volunteering and increase volunteering opportunities, through the organisation of an event celebrating the 20 year anniversary of VCV. This event celebrated volunteering as a tool for peace and allowed old and new partner organisations to connect and reflect on VCV's successes. The project also included the volunteer camp "Rebellious Folk of the Restless Plain" which cleared and prepared the land on which the regenerative homestead RE-habitus will be built. Overall, the project involved 362 participants.

Harnessing the Power of Volunteerism: Enhancing Sustainable Food Production Through Ecosystem Restoration Against The Backdrop Of Climate Change Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA)



Zimbabwe Workcamps Association organised this 2-week long project with the aim to develop and empower communities (particularly youth) with training and capacity-building sessions. The programme was designed to address climate-change induced challenges which negatively impact food security and economic security. The focus was on practical skills, like the establishment of a sustainable food production chain of resilient crops, the integration of traditional farming practices with modern ecological principles, knowledge on permaculture and sustainable land management. 33 participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined the activity.

Boost and Revitalize Albanian Volunteering Peace Volunteering Network Albania (PVN Albania)



PVN Albania carried a 6-month long project with a large-scale impact across Albania: the project had 344 direct participants and reached more than 20,000 indirect participants.

The project aimed to promote and reactivate volunteering and reverse the trend of declining volunteer numbers in Albania. A volunteer camp coordinator training aimed to increase capacity; dialogue meetings with potential host organisations aimed to strengthen organisation's interest in hosting volunteer camps; and promotion of volunteer camps through open days and community events at schools, universities, community centers and online aimed to increase awareness of volunteer opportunities and the benefits of volunteering.

Peace Building and Environmental Protection Initiative Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN)



In Nigeria, VWAN coordinated a 7 month-long project which provided access for local citizens to structured peace education and environmental education programs. Its purpose was to empower youth and the community, and counteract rising trends of bullying, gang-related activity, and poor environmental practice fueling climate change. Activities were organised in Sagamu and in Eruwa, and promoted active citizenship, community engagement and volunteerism in the participating communities.

Peace Across the Sea International Volunteers for Peace Australia (IVP Australia)



IVP Australia together with Bhumi Horta Foundation carried out "Peace Across the Sea". Through a series of 4 online sessions. 20 participants from Australia and Indonesia learned skills in project coordination, conflict management and resolution and leadership. After learning the theory, the participants could put their learning into practice through the organisation of local actions in Australia and Indonesia, ranging from Day festivals to Eco-Farming camps.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS-RAISING

During the course of 2025, SCI became more present in advocacy and awareness-raising spaces at European and international levels. These efforts focused mainly on challenging the shrinking space for civil society, and the need for Peace Education in the context of continuous militarization around the world.

As a result, SCI was involved in various consultations and processes. We supported the reform of the European Youth Foundation funding opportunities through several consultations, with the goal to improve funding access for youth organisations. We also advocated for Peace Education through participation in the drafting of a Council of Europe Recommendation. Continuing its advocacy in protecting citizens' active participation in civic and social life, SCI contributed to joint initiatives of International Voluntary Service (IVS) networks, in shaping the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 of the European Commission. The IVS movement, together with its member networks and organisations, welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the public consultation on the proposal for the European Union's next long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework, MFF). As organisations working directly with and for youth and international solidarity, SCI joined its sister networks in urging the European Commission to take the IVS priorities into account when deciding the future of youth funding in Europe (and beyond), particularly in relation to Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and related youth and civil society programmes.

SCI Presence in the Advisory Council on Youth 2026-2027

Tobias, a former staff member of SCI Switzerland, was nominated by SCI to be a candidate to the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth and an advocate for youth rights & global justice.

With 1576 votes, Tobias was voted in as a member of the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth for the mandate 2026-2027.

The Advisory Council on Youth brings the voices of young people to the Council of Europe and co-creates standards and work priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector.

Tobias shared that they feel "very excited and honoured" to bring "our values and peace-related topics" to the Advisory Council.



Their priorities include:

- Youth, peace and security
- Peace education and activism for youth engagement
- Decolonising youth mobility and international cooperation

Tobias highlights that it is important for SCI to be present in spaces where Europe is "polarised on topics such as militarisation" and where "fears dominate narratives on peace and security".

Tobias' message to young people: *"Be bold! ... stand up for your perspectives."*



Stop the Occupation, Not the Flotilla!

Statement by SCI's Exchange Platform Meeting 2025 participants

EPM participants took a clear stand against the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the occupation-apartheid suffered by the Palestinian people.

They stand by the Global Sumud Flotilla, a civil society-led maritime initiative that set sail to challenge the illegal blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid. They denounce the seizure of the boats and the detention and deportation of activists as violations of international law.

They call for an immediate ceasefire, lifting of the blockade, protection of activists, release of civilian hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and a peace process involving Palestinians towards a viable Palestinian State.

They affirm that any genuine peace must be grounded in international law and the right to self-determination.

Tobias' message to young people:
"Be bold! Stand up for your perspectives."



Peace Conversations Podcast

To mark International Day of Peace 2025, Service Civil International (SCI) launched a new podcast series: *Peace Conversations*.

Produced in collaboration with *Talks&Cakes*, the series explores what peace looks like in practice through personal stories, activism, and dialogue. Each episode brings together voices from

SCI volunteers, educators, and peacebuilders reflecting on peace, justice, nonviolence, solidarity, and climate responsibility.

The podcast invites listeners to reflect, learn, and take action for a more peaceful world.



Episode 1 features Justine and Cecilia, SCI volunteer campers, sharing volunteering stories and practical steps to build peace.

Episode 2 features Danai Tessa, discussing political education, decolonisation, antimilitarization, and community empowerment.

Episode 3 features Nour Da'na, reflecting on solidarity in peacebuilding and what support for Palestinians can look like.

The **final episode** features Alexandra Vasileiou, reflecting on nonviolent communication, advocacy, and standing up for justice.

SCI joins more than 200 organisations in affirming that inhumane deportation rules should be rejected

SCI joins more than 200 organisations in rejecting the European Commission's proposed Return Regulation, which is based on coercive, traumatising and rights-violating measures aimed at increasing deportation rates. The proposal is driven by detention, deportation, externalisation and punishment, particularly affecting racialised people, and risks pushing more people into legal limbo and dangerous conditions. It expands detention, surveillance and punitive measures, while weakening access to protection, appeal rights and fundamental safeguards.



SCI and the signatories call on the European Commission to withdraw the proposal, and urge the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to reject it in its current form. They call for migration policies rooted in safety, protection and inclusion, ensuring dignity and rights for all people regardless of status.



RESOURCES AND TOOLS



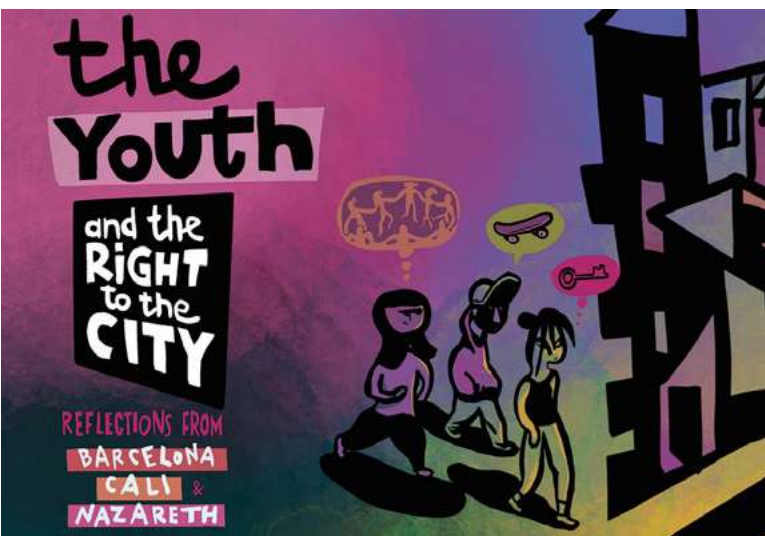
From Chains to Bridges

The handbook is designed for NGOs, youth education stakeholders, and civil society organisations seeking a deeper understanding of global supply chains and practical ways to promote fairer, more responsible practices. It offers a variety of tools, including criteria catalogues, self-assessment tests, examples of political engagement, and interactive methods for youth work, showing how every institution can contribute to positive change.



E-TICK – E-T(r)ICK Your Mind Project

E-TICK 2.0 is a free online course that helps individuals develop critical thinking, understand the impact of communication and improve their media literacy. The course offers interactive content such as videos, quizzes and practical assignments that guide you through eight sessions. E-TICK – E-t(r)ick Your Mind developed a range of innovative tools to support educators, youth workers, volunteers, NGO workers and all those who want to contribute to a more just, inclusive and connected society.



The Youth and the Right to the City. Reflections from Barcelona, Cali, and Nazareth

The Youth and the Right to the City is a toolkit that draws on participatory research with young people in Barcelona, Cali, and Nazareth to explore their experiences of the right to the city. It highlights key challenges such as housing, mobility, insecurity, precariousness, and sustainability through collective and creative methods.

It addresses the need for stronger youth

perspectives in urban policies and supports more inclusive, participatory approaches to city making. The toolkit is aimed at young people, youth organizations, and practitioners or policy-makers working on urban and social issues.



SCI Moving Forward booklet

The new edition of the SCI Moving forward edition is primarily addressed to volunteers and staff at SCI branches and Groups who are interested in (re)discovering the international level of SCI. It aims to help you better understand how SCI works internationally, the different ways you can get involved, have a say, and actively shape our Movement from within.



SCI Blueprint

This online course is designed for anyone who is new to SCI and wants to better understand how the organisation works, preparing for their first International Committee Meeting (ICM), or simply curious about how international networks function. Inspired by the latest edition of SCI's handbook SCI Moving Forward, the course offers a clear and accessible introduction to SCI's structure, values, and ways of working. It is also a practical tool for new delegates to the ICM, supporting them in understanding procedures and confidently taking part in decision-making spaces. The course is divided into two main modules. The first introduces SCI, its structure, and the different

ways you can get involved depending on your interests. The second focuses on the organisation's decision-making processes, offering practical insight into how discussions and decisions take place within the network. Together, they provide a solid foundation for anyone interested in understanding or engaging with SCI on a deeper level.

Peace Activism Campaign

SCI's Peace Activism Campaign is a global initiative that reclaims nonviolence as a powerful, creative, and necessary response to today's social, political, and environmental crises. At a time marked by war, injustice, climate breakdown, and shrinking civic space, SCI believes one thing clearly: peace is a form of active resistance. This campaign invites individuals, groups, and organisations across the SCI movement and beyond to take action for peace, locally and globally. The poster of the campaign introduces how to Give power to nonviolence by explaining the concept of nonviolence and representing a starting point for a conversation on peace activism. The poster is accompanied by stickers which you can download and use in your own organisation.



THEY SAY ABOUT US: QUOTES FROM VOLUNTEERS

“Diyarbakır, often described as the capital of Türkiye’s Kurdish region, is a city where gender issues, civic participation and community policies play a central role. For many participants, the experience was an intense learning journey that allowed them to closely observe the social dynamics of a multicultural context still marked by limitations and challenges related to the local political situation. ”

Marta (Italy), Erasmus+ youth exchange in Diyarbakır



“I think this training was very much needed and so important in the current global context. There should be more spaces like this to support young people’s voices against militarism! ”
Aleksandra (France), training course in Hungary



“I had several reasons for participating in an ESC project. First, I wanted to do manual labor. My studies were very theoretical, and I felt the need to test myself in a practical way, improve my skills, and devote myself to something concrete. Secondly, I was curious to start a project with people I didn’t know, to find out what it feels like to collaborate with strangers and build something together. Finally, I wanted to support a place that was in line with my values. The City of Utopia in Rome seemed perfect for this, with many opportunities where my commitment could really make a difference. ”

Malte Fischer (Germany), ESC Volunteering in Italy

“The feeling of helplessness is going away with every new day, the change is coming, and I like to follow the saying “where there is a will there is a way”. ”

Nour (Palestine), long term volunteering in Spain



“This is a project that will forever linger in our minds, full of wonderful memories and a community united by art and a love for the world and its wellness. Throughout the week, we explored how art can foster empathy and promote collective empowerment, and it quickly became clear that this exchange was much more than just an artistic journey. ”

Rita, Mafalda, Maria, Mónica and Gonçalo (Portugal), youth exchange in Germany



“I chose India out of three options because it seemed the perfect fit for my first volunteer camp experience. What I loved most was the connection with the local community and how much my age was valued. As an older participant, compared to the younger volunteers, I was treated with great respect, almost like a mentor or guide. They would come to me often, sharing their stories and seeking advice. This mutual exchange was deeply enriching for me. ”

Debora (Italy), volunteer camp in India

“Meeting activists from around the world also opened my eyes to the global nature of environmental struggles. Whether it was deforestation in South America, industrial pollution in Europe, or plastic waste issues in Asia, I saw how our challenges are interconnected, and our discussions confirmed that local efforts contribute to a global movement and that no action is too small to matter. ”

Mohammed Hamadat (Jordan) , training in Switzerland

OUR ACCOUNTS IN 2025

In 2025 we received 3,952€ 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.

SCI international accounts 2025

All amounts are in EUR.

	717,679 €	-734,744 €	
Income		Expenditure	
Income	736,313	681,890	717,679
01. Branch Contributions	46,200	46,200	46,200
02. Insurance Premiums Received	33,708	45,100	46,200
03. Vol Exch Fee (excl Insur Prems)	3,318	3,000	1,765
04. Fees for Office Work Done	171	1,000	569
05. Participation Fees	15,256	18,305	12,534
06. Grants	604,826	554,985	580,947
07. Donations / Fundraising	2,168	10,000	3,952
08. Financial income	4,490	1,500	2,298
09. Other Income	3,656	1,800	4,643
10. Extraordinary Income	22,551	0	32,019
Expenditure	-714,178	-695,889	-734,744
11. Staff and LTV Costs	-280,200	-291,384	-304,918
12. Office Costs	-57,806	-65,272	-54,422
13. Projects & activities	-286,407	-246,200	-268,977
14. Travel & Meeting Costs	-53,418	-58,080	-48,803
15. Insurance premiums and Claims Paid	-16,741	-29,843	-28,317
16. Membership Fees	-3,461	-3,960	-4,786
17. Financial Costs	-184	-500	-1,456
18. Taxes	-497	-650	-451
19. Miscellaneous	0	0	0
20. Extraordinary Expenses	-16,697	0	-28,068
21. Provisions	1,233	0	5,454
Grand Total	22,135	-13,999	-17,065



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Thank you!

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