

We would like to share with you what branches together with their volunteers and partners around Europe organized and implemented. In the frame of *Branching Out: (re)connecting ideas*, we called branches and local groups to organize events to bring together their local communities with volunteers and refugees and asylum seekers.

Goal of *Branching Out:* (re)connecting ideas is to create dialogue within groups of the society, to provide a platform to bring together refugees and asylum seekers and volunteer organizations to promote volunteering as a form to be an active citizen and change maker. With Local Activities project partners were supported to organize actions in their communities with (new) local partners working in the field and trying out new practices.

Contribution: Branches and local groups, together with their partners worked on...

- Bringing local community in contact with refugees and asylum seekers, using volunteering and intercultural dialogue as a tool for empowerment;
- **Providing a platform** for young people and volunteer-based organizations to create a dialogue within the local community and exchange ideas;
- **Engaging** refugees and asylum seekers into volunteer-based activities as to **offer** them a place to connect with peers and local community with an opportunity for developing lasting relationships.

**Numbers:** In total 19 Local Activities were organized under *Branching Out* in 9 countries in Europe, by 11 different local groups. All these events were organized in total in collaboration of 58+ different local partners, with many new connections and many lasting connections, and the vast majority of the groups included individuals with refugee and/or migration background from formulating the idea to implementing the activity (16/19).

The events reached out to at least 802 volunteers, participants of refugee or migration background directly (according to the number of signatures on our participant lists). Yet, the local organizers report to have reached out an higher number of participants, and through the presence in media, promotion, we estimate to have reached out indirectly to individuals way beyond this number.

- 1 Activity was organized in the frame of *Eid al-Fitr* (the end of Ramadan celebration)
- 7 Activities were organized in the frame of **World Refugee Day** (20th of June)
- 1 Activity was organized in the frame of *International Day of Peace* (21st of September)

Selected and uploaded to our Flickr Account, you will find more pictures of the events in Europe.

#### Other output of this activity:

In the frame of this activity we tested and finalized our interactive tool to bring together your local community in interesting ways: *Diverse Communities: Visual Method Cards*. Moreover, this project ran under our <u>BuildingBridges Campaign</u>. The tools, practices and stories we gathered throughout the years you find in this handy <u>toolkit</u>.













Date(s)	Organization	City, Location	Title: Local Activity	
JUNE				
15/06/2018	SCI Germany (Munich)	Germany, Munich, Bayernkaserne	Zuckerfest	
16/06/2018	CVS Bulgaria	Bulgaria, Sofia, Park Zaimov	Meeting in the Park	
20/06/2018	CVS Bulgaria	Bulgaria, Sofia, Cinema House	Human Library	
20/06/2018	SCI Catalunya	Spain, Barcelona, El Raval	Cineforum for Refugee Day	
20/06/2018	Útilapu Hálózat	Hungary, Budapest, Open Doors Hungary	Community Fest	
22 - 23/06/2018	SCI Italy	Italy, Rome, La Città dell'Utopia	No Border Fest	
23 - 24/06/2018	CVS Bulgaria	Bulgaria, Sofia, Regional History Museum	Solidarity Fest	
23/06/2018	VCV Serbia	Serbia, Novi Sad, Youth Center CK13	Community Lunch	
JULY				
01 - 09/07/2018	VCV Serbia	Serbia, Novi Sad	Solidarity Workcamp with Refugees	
22/07/2018	SCI Germany (Leipzig)	Germany, Leipzig, Querbeet Public Garden	Sommerfest	
20 - 22/07/2018	SCI Germany (Munich)	Germany, Munich, Bayernkaserne	Sommerfest	









AUGUST				
01 - 09/08/2018	ArmActive Youth Center	Armenia, Yerevan	Coloring with Children	
12 - 26/08/2018	KVT Finland	Finland, Helsinki	Intercultural Relations and Active City Communities	
SEPTEMBER				
20 - 22/09/2018	VCZ Croatia	Croatia, Zagreb, Images of War - Museum of War Photography	Taste, Sound and Images of Peace	
15 - 16/09/2018	Útilapu Hálózat	Hungary, Zebegény	Kite Festival	
23 - 29/09/2018	Útilapu Hálózat	Hungary, Budapest, Bokréta utca	Bokreta Street Fest	
27/09/2018	SCI Madrid	Spain, Madrid, La Latina	City-Tour for Families	
29/09/2018	SCI Germany (Munich)	Germany, Munich, Café über den Tellerrand	Human Library	
29/09/2018	KVT Finland	Finland, Helsinki, The Peace Union of Finland	Volunteer Day	











### IFTAR COOKING EVENT

**SCI Branch:** SCI Germany - Munich Local Group **Location:** Bayernkaserne, Munich, Germany

Date(s): 15/06/2018

#### Partner(s):

Über den Tellerrand kochen München e.V.

Refugee Center München

**Information:** Iftar Cooking Event: Bringing together different groups of the community. Local Germans and refugees were able to meet and to get to know each other. Non-Muslims were able to learn about the celebration of Eid al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan. There were also some games and activities for everyone to join in together and have another chance to interact.

The partner organizes cooking events for people from the community and for people from the Reception Center in Munich.

















### MEETING IN THE PARK

SCI Branch: CVS Bulgaria

Location: Zaimov Park, Sofia, Bulgaria

Date(s): 16/06/2018

Partner(s):

UNHCR Representation in Bulgaria Sofia Municipality State Agency for Refugees

Caritas Sofia

**Information:** *Meeting in the park* was an event dedicated to World Refugee day, it took place at Zaimov park on 16th June 2018. The event was organized by the UNHCR Bulgaria Representation in Bulgaria in collaboration with CVS Bulgaria, Caritas Sofia, Sofia Municipality and State Agency for Refugees.

Throughout the day, CVS Bulgaria hosted and supported various workshops for henna painting, preparing authentic Arab cakes, jewelry and souvenirs, artwork for children, games, photo exhibition, and a number of other activities for the young and the older. Also, the local group managed volunteers to organize dance and musical performances by adults and children and provide food and beverages from the Middle East to visitors.

Facebook Event: https://www.facebook.com/events/189810538336873/

**Radio** Promotion on Bulgarian National Radio (BG audio) with Katerina Stoyanova (CVS Bulgaria) and Margarita Spasova (Caritas Sofia) (Recording: <a href="here">here</a>).

Report by bTV, with Katerina Stoyanova (CVS Bulgaria) in the interview (Stream: here).

Video about the event (Facebook Video Link: here).











### HUMAN LIBRARY: VIBRANT STORIES

SCI Branch: CVS Bulgaria

Location: Dom na kinoto (Cinema House), Sofia, Bulgaria

Date(s): 20/06/2018

Partner(s):

**UNHCR** Representation in Bulgaria

Mo•tif

**Information:** More than 61 participants were able to experience the vibrant stories of 15 human books (migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, people who work with these groups). Additionally during the event we had an exhibition of student pictures and essays on the topic of forced migration, participating in the "Escape and Salvation" competition UNHCR launched earlier during the month. At the end of the event we had Syrian and traditional Bulgarian food and a short documentary screened: *Alla*. Thanks to the human books, this activity made it possible to bring attention on the positive side of migration - a palette of knowledge, skills and attitude, which generate colorful bridges between different cultures and offer our own culture a vibrant diversity and complexion.

Facebook Event: Human Library: Vibrant Stories

Radio Promotion with Katerina Stoyanova (CVS Bulgaria) on Bulgarian National Radio (BG

audio) (Recording: <a href="here">here</a>).

"Thank you for organizing this event! The format of Human Library is very interesting and made me change my perspective on the migration topic. Having the chance to meet real people, "reading" their real stories, made me look on the humanitarian side of the topic. I can't wait to meet my friends and share with them this experience!" - **Anonymous**, visitor.















### CINEFORUM FOR REFUGEE DAY

SCI Branch: SCI Catalunya

Location: Agora Juan Andrés Benítez (El Raval), Barcelona, Spain

Date(s): 20/06/2018

Partner(s):

**FOTOMOVIMIENTO** 

**Information:** The group screened the documentary "Los muros de agua" about the Mediterranean crisis. The documentary was presented by the collective who created it, called FOTOMOVIMIENTO, which was born during the 15M movement in Barcelona and wants to show the social reality through real images. The program was designed to have a debate and discussion on the documentary with critical vision on the refugee camps in the Greek islands of Lesvos and Chios with witnesses who explain the situation of migrants, volunteers, activists and big NGOs.

#### Facebook Event: Cineforum for Refugee Day











### COMMUNITY FEST

SCI Branch: Útilapu Hálózat

Location: MiraDoor & Ferenc Ter, Budapest, Hungary

Date(s): 20/06/2018

Partner(s):

Mira Door

Bohemian Betyars Colours of a Journey

**Information:** The event brought people together and encouraged a dialogue about refugee situation in the world and obstacles in Hungary. Besides that, it was also a possibility for the group to spread the spirit of diversity, friendship and creativity among people living in this area. The activities were held at two different locations:

**Ferenc Ter**: Organised some board games from foreign countries for children (e.g., Iran, Japan), a human library and an exhibition of Colours of the Journey project.

**MiraDoor** (Community Space): The group organized a concert of a well known, Hungarian music band Bohemian Betyars which attracted lots of people including our members, volunteers but also some residents from the neighbourhood.

Facebook Event: Community Fest
MiraDoor Introductory Video
Colours of a Journey: Website













### NO BORDER FEST

SCI Branch: SCI Italia

Location: La Città dell'Utopia, Rome, Italy

Date(s): 22 - 23/06/2018

Partner(s):

La Città dell'Utopia Laboratoria 53 Eduraduno

**Information:** The 10th edition of the No Border Fest offered workshops, roundtables and debates aspects to what in Italy is called "institutional racism", namely all those practices at institutional level aiming to obstacle the well being of migrant people.

400 hundred people attended the No Border Fest. One of its main features is the potential to attract several groups of people and not only specific ones or activists. This approach is guaranteed by its wide range of activities, from public debates to projections and music. Thanks to this feature the festival is renowned as a pivotal event in Rome concerning migration issues.

Main activities have been as following:

- Debate on "institutional racism", with Andrea Segre (movie director) and Annamaria Rivera (journalist);
- Forum Theatre performance "L'altro straniero/l'altra straniera";
- Human library on the role of language classes run by associations and informal groups of people as first step of social inclusion for migrant people;
- Concert by Nosenzo and a photo exhibition.

Facebook Event: No Border Fest













### SOLIDARITY FEST

SCI Branch: CVS Bulgaria

Location: Regional History Museum, Sofia, Bulgaria

Date(s): 23 - 24/06/2018

#### Partner(s):

Multi Kulti Collective; Caritas Sofia; Hrankoop Sofia; Experian Bulgaria; Sofia Municipality;

Bread House Sofia; Food, No Bombs – Sofia; Listen up; Amnesty International;

Synergia Foundation; I CAN TOO; Let's Humanize; The Craft of Life Collective; HI TOUCH;

Zero Waste Bulgaria; Agbu Sofia

**Information:** 15 volunteers helped organising the event as well as a team of professionals who were responsible for the photo and video documentation of the event.

The festival included different activities:

- Workshops, offered by different organisations and collectives;
- Movie Screenings; Public Readings; Painting and Photo Exhibitions;
- Live music; Dance lessons; Photo Corner with traditional costumes from all over the world:
- Banner photo corner with solidarity messages; tactile walks; Henna drawing and various activities for children.

#### Facebook Event: Solidarity Fest

**Radio** Promotion with Katerina Stoyanova (CVS Bulgaria) and Margarita Spasova (Caritas Sofia) on Bulgarian National Radio (BG audio) (Recording: <a href="here">here</a>).

**Video** Report by TV Europe (Youtube Video: <a href="here">here</a>).

"We met a few mothers who visited the Solidarity Fest and thanked us that we are giving them an example for their kids by showing them what solidarity is and how people can live and collaborate together, no matter that they come from different cultures and backgrounds." - Shirin Hodzheva, Bulgaria































### COMMUNITY LUNCH "NEW TASTE OF A SHARED LIFE"

SCI Branch: VCV Serbia

Location: Youth Center CK13, Novi Sad, Serbia

Date(s): 23/06/2018

Partner(s):

Youth Center CK13

**Information:** On the day of the event, the team set up the exhibition of drawings, of the artist **Sami Rasoulia**, and photos, taken by **Jenny Brover**, another team took care of the cooking workshop. A group from Belgrade with the Afghanis joined the preparation a bit later together with the local citizens who enrolled online to help. Members of NGOs who had arrived for a discussion later.

"During lunch, it was beautiful to see a Serbian family gathered at the same table with a new comer from Afghanistan". The day ended with a round table where the NGOs presented their work and the situation in Serbia and Bosnia, critical points in the Balkan Route nowadays.

"Perfect Saturday afternoon, spent with great people from different countries, united to try some new kind of food, prepared by refugees from Afghanistan. I really enjoyed the combination of sun, food, and positive vibrations all around the place." — Nina Kemera, present at the Community Lunch.

Facebook Event: Community Lunch



















### SOLIDARITY WORKCAMP WITH REFUGEES

SCI Branch: VCV Serbia Location: Novi Sad, Serbia Date(s): 01 - 09/07/2018

Partner(s):

Refugee Aid Serbia

Info Park BelgrAid

Refugees Foundation Serbia

ADRA

Balkan Steps

**Information:** Volunteers arrived to Belgrade for 7 days working and studying. Study parts were organized by the main partner Refugee Aid Serbia and four other partners: Info Park, BelgrAid, Refugees Foundation Serbia, ADRA. Volunteers' tasks have been organizing and implementing leisure workshops for clients of the learning and well-being center. In a workshop they supported staff and volunteers of BelgrAid in cooking meals for 800 residents of Obrenovac Refugee Camp, supporting both organizations in the preparation and implementation of the awareness-raising event *Kabuli Chorba*, and organizing one educational workshop for teens at Info Park. Study sessions concerned Western Balkan route, asylum system in Serbia, code of conduct and ethical aspects when it comes to working with refugees and the SCI network. Also the group organized a football match in a pitch in Karaburma suburb, not far from the city's refugee camp.

Blog: Balkan Steps
Article: Press Release













### SOMMERFEST (LEIPZIG)

SCI Branch: SCI Germany - Leipzig Local Group

Location: Querbeet Community Garden, Leipzig, Germany

Date(s): 22/07/2018

Partner(s):

Querbeet

Start with a friend

Watarna

**Information:** During the whole time the activity displayed a photo exhibition about South America from the Chilean photographer Miguel in a surprise black box, a clothes-swap and a creative corner. From 17:00 to 19:00, Georg, a local volunteer, facilitated a music workshop and jam session. Meanwhile Amjad and Mouaz gave a Syrian cooking workshop.

After that we all had a community dinner, cooked by the workshop and then the Syrian band *Watarna* gave a performance in the garden.

#### Facebook Event: Sommerfest

"On time for dinner the rain come down - now we can finally cuddle up under the tent!" - Sarah Dürnberger, Volunteer and member of the local group.

"I haven't been in company with so many nice people in a garden for a long time - this place is something very special." - **Anonymous**, visitor.

















### SOMMERFEST (MUNICH)

**SCI Branch:** SCI Germany - Munich Local Group **Location:** Bayernkaserne, Munich, Germany

Date(s): 19 - 21/07/2018

#### Partner(s):

Über den Tellerrand kochen München e.V. Refugee Center München

**Information:** The summer festival itself took place on July 20th. During that day the team was involved in logistics, setting up tables, preparing the food, serving visitors and organising music and games. The groups of participants was quite diverse with plenty of guests and refugees who attended, the atmosphere was cheerful, people were dancing, singing and most importantly getting to know each other and chatting.

The local team gathered beforehand to plan, prepare and organize music and game activities. The day after the event was used to support the organizing groups of the location with logistics and to look ahead and plan future activities with the main partner Über den Tellerrand kochen München e.V. and the local group.

















### COLORING WITH CHILDREN

**SCI Group:** ArmActive Youth Center **Location:** Armavir & Yerevan, Armenia

Date(s): 01 - 09/08/2018

Partner(s):

Myasnikyan Community Kindergarten

Armavir Art College

Information: The activity started out with a training organized for the volunteers in Armavir city. Volunteers were active young people with diverse backgrounds, including students from Armavir Art College, journalists and individuals of different professions. During the training, the participants discussed refugees' difficulties and obstacles in different areas of everyday life. Then through individual work the participants painted the most memorable episodes from their childhood fairy tales. Images were selected by voting, which would be painted on the walls of Myasnikyan Community Kindergarten. In the time 06 - 10 August the volunteers participated in the camp by painting on the walls of the kindergarten of Myasnikyan Community. At the gate of the kindergarten, they depicted the sun and children around it with different races, ethnicity, gender, symbolizing inclusion and equality. The other images symbolized their childhood heroes who were all happy, kind and symbolic characters. At the end of the camp an opening ceremony took place.

Press Announcements <u>1</u> & <u>2</u> Facebook Live <u>Video</u>

"Now I feel very happy that I have been able to do little work and make children happy and by the intercultural communication promote inclusiveness and tolerance in society increase. The camp gave me the opportunity to develop teamwork, communication, leadership, and drawing skills. We are very good team and that made our job much easier. We will continue our friendship and carry out many initiatives together." - Marusya Ayvazyan, Volunteer.















### INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS AND ACTIVE CITY COMMUNITIES

SCI Branch: KVT Finland Location: Helsinki, Finland Date(s): 12 - 26/08/2018

#### Partner(s):

Finland's Somalia Network; Badbaado ry; Miitti; Pro Lapinlahti mielenterveysseura ry;

Puhos X People; MEH Ry; Funky Amigos

**Information:** This Workcamp was planned and coordinated by a diverse working group of 9 young volunteers from KVT Finland and 2 main partner organizations: Finland's Somalia Network (FSN) and Badbaado ry. The project also included collaboration with third partner organization, multiculturality project Miitti. The project involved young people with asylum seeker and migration background both as organizers, camp coordinators and participants.

The camp program took place in different areas of Helsinki and was divided between the 3 partner organizations that each invited the participants to learn about their work and to help them with organizing the following events:

- Carnival Costume workshops with a closing carnival event during the *Night of the Arts* (Miitti);
- The group supported hosting the *Somalian Night* as an evening program of a conference held by the partner (FSN);
- Puhos Loves People City Festival (Badbaado): The volunteers also implemented their own photography project about people of Puhos area and their stories, eventually resulting as an exhibition at the festival. But the group was also supporting Henna drawing and Screen Print activities for children during the event.

Facebook Event: Carnival of People

Facebook Event: Puhos Loves People 2018

Website: Puhos <3 People
Video: Puhos <3 People 2018

"I Never thought Finland could teach me so much. It's funny how such an advanced country still has so much to learn, and how we have so much to learn with them. The camp gave the chance to see people and hear stories so different from mine, and for that I will be forever grateful." - Marta Sofia Barbosa de Carvalho, Volunteer from Portugal.

"Our Workcamp was a place where we all became one group of Buddies in Helsinki, a group of really close friends, no matter of such a little time together, our different views or diverse backgrounds. I am sure Workcamps are the ideal places where you can change your previous understanding of the world and fully understand it's beauty and diversity." - **Ekaterina Shevehenko**, Volunteer from Russia.



























### KITE FESTIVAL

SCI Branch: Útilapu Hálózat

Location: Zebegény, Sárkány domb, Hungary

Date(s): 15 - 16/09/2018

Partner(s):
MiraDoor

Zebegényi Sárkányfesztivál

**Information:** The team offered an Afghan Kite Building workshop, led by Sayed Mustafa Reza, during which all of the participants could learn what materials are needed and how to create and decorate their own kite. The activity was a joint programme organized in collaboration with the *Zebegényi Sárkányfesztivál*, including concerts celebrating solidarity and inviting all surrounding communities.

The second day the kites were brought to the field where the festival was taking place. The group learned and thought how to make them fly among dozens of other people. The platform of the festival was an ideal space to present MiraDoor - a newborn intercultural and creative community collective to new people to promote the hub and community space in Budapest.

Facebook Event: <u>Kite Festival</u> MiraDoor: <u>Introductory Video</u>

















### TASTE, SOUND AND IMAGES OF PEACE

**SCI Branch:** Volonterski Centar Zagreb (VCZ)

Location: War Photography Museum, Zagreb, Croatia

Date(s): 20 - 22/09/2018

Partner(s):

Colours of a Journey Image of War - Museum of War Photography Udruga Balkon Africa Cuisine & Bar

**Information:** To promote the event, the team hosted a film night for the public at the office of VCZ, where documentaries on the subjects of peace and the plight of refugees were screened. Group discussions were an opportunity to raise public awareness of the event. The event was organized in the frame of the *International Day of Peace* and offered an exhibition with drawings from Refugee children, collected by the initiative *Colours of a Journey*, a performance by the group *Domaćigosti*, and African delicacies.

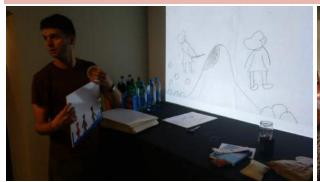
The impact and benefit for those who took part, such as the musicians and artists, is an increased level of awareness of the challenges they face as refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. The benefit for VCZ is this event allowed an opportunity to increase the visibility of Service Civil International.

Facebook Event: Taste, Sound and Images of Peace

Article: Press Release

Colours of a Journey: Website

"Peace between people is knowing that, no matter what, we will take care of each other. With love, empathy, and selflessness." - Anonymous, Visitor













### BOKRÉTA STREET FEST

SCI Branch: Útilapu Hálózat

Location: Bokréta Utca & Ferenc Ter, Budapest, Hungary

Date(s): 23 - 29/09/2018

Partner(s):

MiraDoor

Artemisszió Alapítvány

Open Doors

Mira

**Information:** Offering a creative community space to their local community, MirDoor joined with their volunteers of different partner organizations (Artemisszió Alapítvány, Open Doors, Mira) to celebrate and bring together their local community. Working with diverse groups and being situated in a district with diverse backgrounds, this project was a perfect opportunity to initiate a colorful program, inviting the neighborhood and strengthening the connection among the partners.

The activities, organized and held by various partners of the event, included:

- Black and white **Photography workshop** which revealed the history of Bokreta street;
- **District tour** with an expert who shared stories about the past of that area;
- **Games for children** related to the topic and their neighborhood;
- Interviews with residents to gather information and emphasis the present identity;
- Artistic workshops aimed to create items presenting Bokreta street brand;
- **Media workshop** showing the identity of the street;
- **Photography exhibition** presenting past and present of the area;
- **Neighbor's Table** as final celebration to gather neighborhood and celebrate solidarity.

Facebook Event: Bokréta Festival
MiraDoor Introductory Video





















### FAMILY CITY TOUR

SCI Branch: SCI Madrid

Location: La Latina, Madrid, Spain

Date(s): 27/09/2018

Partner(s):

**AIAH Refugiados** 

**Information:** The local group of volunteers of SCI Madrid organized a guided city walk with Refugee families from Syria. AIAH and SCI Madrid collaborate on a Spanish learning program for refugees and aimed to offer an alternative activity to discover with volunteers and families the Arab roots of Madrid. The tour included a visit of the Museum of San Isidro and closed with a communal dinner.

El País: Article

Website: Press Release

"I want that the participants feel themselves integrated in the city and that they see that Madrid has an Islamic past that is being rescued now, and that they know about it in order to decrease the harshness of the city. In that way they happen to know that Madrid was Islamic and that it still is in some way and that it is good for us to keep that present." - Juan Cortés, Guide and Historian.













### HUMAN LIBRARY

**SCI Branch:** SCI Germany - Munich Local Group **Location:** Café über den Tellerrand, Munich, Germany

Date(s): 29/09/2018

#### Partner(s):

Über den Tellerrand kochen München e.V.

**Information:** The local group in Munich, Germany, decided to invite interested people for an Human Library on the topic of refugees, religion, ethnic minorities and LGBTQI. The event was a great opportunity for the group to promote their and their partner's activities.













### VOLUNTEER DAY

SCI Branch: KVT Finland

Location: The Peace Union of Finland, Helsinki, Finland

Date(s): 29/09/2018

Partner(s):

Finland's Somalia Network Peace Union of Finland

**Information:** The *Volunteer Day* was an activity organized by the local group in Helsinki to invite volunteers of KVT Finland and their partner organizations to gather, evaluate the past season and look ahead. For the team which is volunteer-based it is a challenge to find ways to implement local actions sustainably. Therefore the team took time with partners, exchanged ideas and asked for help from external actors for inspiration to overcome these obstacles for future collaborations.

Facebook Event: Volunteer Day

"Coming together and getting the chance to know some other great volunteers was fantastic. In short, helping others also helps me in some way." - Hassan Musse, Volunteer of KVT Finland











