



# FROM DREAMS TO ACTIONS

TOGETHER FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE



## Training Course “From Dreams to Actions” by Service Civil International

Belgium, 16-22 September 2021

*for brave young changemakers  
who make the world a better place*



**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

*APPLY UNTIL 31.05.2021!*

- ✓ Do you prefer to be **an action taker** rather than an observer?
- ✓ Do you agree that **we all deserve peaceful lives**, with peaceful minds, non-violent interactions, and without the horrors of war and conflict?
- ✓ Are you willing to learn and put into practice how we can **make this dream come true**, step by step?
- ✓ Are you a **resident** of one of the following European countries: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Kosovo, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland?
- ✓ Are you ready to meet **amazing people from 12 countries**, make new friendships and get inspired by their ideas and projects?
- ✓ Would you like to spend a week in a beautiful green surrounding, a stone's throw away from the **noble city of Antwerp**, a gem of architecture and style?
- ✓ And all this without any cost?!

If your answers are "Yes, this is me!", then...

... we have an offer for you!! :-)

## ABOUT US

**Service Civil International** is the oldest voluntary peace movement in the world, with over 100 years of experience. Our mission is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact. We are present in 41 countries on 5 continents, and we cooperate with partners in almost all countries of the world. Read more here: <https://sci.ngo/>.

During 100 years of operation, SCI has accumulated lots of expertise in peacebuilding and community work, which had been recognised by many institutions, including UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

And do you know that SCI was even nominated numerous times to the Nobel Peace Prize?!



## THE PROJECT IN SHORT

With the **"From Dreams to Actions: together for a peaceful future"** project, we are ready to share our expertise with you, and support you in becoming a **changemaker for a more peaceful world!**

With the project **we aim to:**

- promote the values of peace and non-violence,
- promote active participation and civic engagement,
- increase the quality and the number of youth projects for peace, inclusion, and non-violence.

Our project has 3 main components:

1. Design and production of **Peace Cards** for facilitators and educators, with quotes that spark discussion on peace and non-violence (April-August 2021);
2. **"From Dreams to Actions" Training Course** which will build capacity and empower 35 volunteers, activists, and youth workers to become active citizens and peace envoys (September 2021);
3. **Local follow-up actions** for peace supported by microgrants (October-December 2021).

## THE TRAINING COURSE

We are ready to invite you to join a one-week training course "From Dreams to Actions", which will take place in September 2021, and will include:

1. Workshops dedicated to expanding **knowledge on peace** and its different levels (intrapersonal, interpersonal, with nature);
2. **Parallel session** (upon the choice of participants) related to different ways of working for peace, including among others:
  - street actions and campaigning,
  - advocacy and lobbying for political change,
  - Nonviolent Communication and ways to educate about/through NVC,
  - communication campaigns in social media;
3. **Common street action in Antwerp or Brussels** during the International Day of Peace (21.09);
4. Preparation of the **local follow-up actions**.

### At the training course, you will:

- learn how to live peace and act for peace through small-scale actions that can be done even without big resources,
- get equipped with various peace-related tools and methods you can later use in your work and everyday life,
- exchange good practices, inspirations, and share resources and ideas,
- plan a follow-up action to take place in your local community upon the course completion.



The detailed programme can be found on the last page of this call.

All in all, we offer you not only an **excellent learning opportunity** that will support you to increase the quality of the work you and your organisation are doing in connection to peace, but also a **unique networking experience** with fellow-minded people from across Europe.

What is more, thanks to the **co-funding by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe**, we will offer **microgrants of 200 euro each** for the country teams to implement local peace-related actions, to take place before 12 December 2021.

**We believe that the TC will increase your self-confidence, make your work more efficient, and help you have a greater impact on your surrounding community and reality.**

We will help you to turn your dreams into action!

*Please read the following points to check if you are eligible to apply!*

## FOR WHOM?

Our ideal course participant belongs to one of the following categories:

- youth workers with a strong interest in the topic of peace and its appliance in their work with young people,
- trainers, educators and facilitators working with various target groups such as migrants, (young) people with fewer opportunities, minorities, etc.,
- educators on the topic of peace and peacebuilding,
- activists, enthusiasts, volunteers willing to learn more about peace and apply it in their actions.

**The most important for us is your willingness to become a change maker** – a multiplier in your local community, and a person promoting and willing to live peace in your everyday routine (on a personal and professional level).

**There are a few formal requirements you need to satisfy to join the training course:**

1. You need to be a resident of one of the following project countries: **Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Kosovo, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland.**
2. You must be able to **communicate in English** (the working language of the course).
3. You must be **at least 18 years of age.**
4. You need to **attend the whole course duration** (there is no possibility to make exceptions).
5. You commit yourself to organise a **follow-up action on peace** in your local community/country upon the course completion (it can be e.g. a workshop, street action, online campaign, presentation, screening, peace caravan, discussion, workcamp, etc.).

**We explicitly encourage participants of all genders, abilities and ethnic backgrounds to apply!**

## WHEN?

The training course will last 7 days. **Arrival** at the training venue is foreseen on **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 before 2 p.m.** The course finishes on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, in the late evening, therefore, **departures** are planned for the morning of **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.**

## WHERE?

We are thrilled to invite you to a dream place not far away from Antwerp! [De Hoge Rielen](#) is a charming lush green area designed for groups who want to have a creative space for work and rest.

We will live close to nature and in simple, yet comfortable living conditions with rooms for 3-4 persons, adhering to all health & safety precautions. Meals will be served in the nearby canteen. Have a look at [this clip](#) to see the serenity of the place!

And yes, there will be wi-fi available. :)

The exact position and more photos [here](#).



### Important note relating to the COVID-19 pandemic:

*In case the grip of the pandemic does not lessen on Europe, we will move the Training Course to the online space. You will get a confirmation on the form of the Training Course **by 15.07** and you will have the opportunity to take the final decision on the participation in the course.*

## METHODS

Our working methods used will base on the principles of adult learning, creating a stress-free and motivating environment where the human brain has a full capacity to learn. You will often work in smaller groups to achieve the best results. All the methods will encourage active participation, creativity, initiative, and responsibility for one's own learning process.

Our training courses are also very colourful, with many visuals used in the learning process. We include the proof! :)



## MEET THE TRAINERS

We are happy to announce that the training course will be facilitated by a few experienced and certified trainers, and – at the same time – peace practitioners. The main trainers will be:



### **Natalie Jivkova, Bulgaria:**

*I am a trainer and facilitator, passionate about non-formal learning and ways to support the learning process and personal development and growth of youngsters and adults. I have been involved in SCI activities on a local and international level since 2002. Happy to meet you soon!*

### **Gośka Tur, Poland:**

*I am a sociologist, trainer and educator, a certified member of the Polish Association of NGO Trainers and owner of Pracownia Interakcji training company. I love helping participants to learn, reflect and grow, and I've been doing it for more than 20 years now. Between 2015 and 2020, I was the International President of SCI.*



Other experts leading sessions dedicated to certain topics will be:

- street actions and campaigning: **Thomas Schallhart** and **Genti Behramaj**,
- advocacy: **Chantal Doran**, the International Coordinator of SCI,
- communication campaigns in social media: **Claudia Strambini**, the Communication and Volunteer Coordinator in the SCI International Secretariat.

## CERTIFICATES

You will be awarded a training completion certificate, issued by Service Civil International.

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The food, accommodation, insurance and visa costs of the participants, as well as all organisational costs (training materials, etc.), will be fully covered thanks to the financial support by:

- JINT, the Flemish Agency of Erasmus+,
- and the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.



Reimbursement of the travel tickets will be 100% up to the maximum amounts after the receipt of original documents. Maximum travel reimbursement will be according to the Erasmus+ rates (e.g. 100-499 km up to 180 euro, 500-1999 km up to 275 euro).

We intend to cover also the expenses of COVID-19 tests, should they be required to enter Belgium at the time of the Training Course.

Even though this is not a “getting to know Belgium” project, you may also stay in Belgium a few days before or after at your private expense, as long as the travel cost is not higher than the cost which you would bear if coming only for course duration - otherwise you will be asked to cover the difference.

## SUSTAINABILITY

**Sustainable food:** The food we provide will be vegetarian with vegan options. This is not just a practical decision, but also an ideological one: SCI believes in the values of sustainability and climate justice – and if we want to contribute to a more peaceful planet, we need to give up on animal agriculture and its destructive effects on our planet.

**Sustainable travel:** We encourage you to use environmentally friendly transport (bus, train, car sharing) when possible.

## HOW TO APPLY?

If you find yourself a suitable candidate for the course, please fill in the application form at [http://bit.ly/apply\\_FDTA](http://bit.ly/apply_FDTA) by 31.05.2021, 23:59 CEST.

You will be notified of the selection results by 15.06.2021.

All those accepted will receive a detailed infosheet (incl. info on how to get to the venue, how to book your travel, more info about the agenda of the project).

## Q&A SESSION FOR CANDIDATES

If you'd like to meet the team of trainers and organisers and get instant answers to your questions about the project and the Training Course, join our online Q&A Session!

- **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 18:30 CEST**
- Link to join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82649611031>.

## MORE QUESTIONS?



If you have further questions regarding the project and you don't want to wait until the Q&A Session, contact **Hasna El Hiyani**, our team member from the International Secretariat.

Hasna is involved in the *From Dreams to Actions* project on a daily basis and she is more than eager to support you with her knowledge, smile, and enthusiasm! :-)

You can write to her at [training@sci.ngo](mailto:training@sci.ngo).

*We are looking forward to your application!*

The coordinating team

Hasna, Natalie, Gośka and the SCI International Secretariat

P.S. And do not forget to have a look at the **Training Programme** on the next page!

*See you hopefully at the lovely premises of de Hoge Rielen in Belgium!*



# Preliminary programme of the “From Dreams to Actions” Training Course

by Service Civil International

16-22 September 2021, de Hoge Rielen near Antwerp, Belgium

DAY	1 – Thu, 16.09	2 – Fri, 17.09	3 – Sat, 18.09	4 – Sun, 19.09	5 – Mon, 20.09	6 – Tue, 21.09	7 – Wed, 22.09	
08:00-9:00	Breakfast until 8:45							
9:00-10:30	Arrivals	Formal / non-formal / informal learning for peace  Youthpass Intro	Group 1: Daily peace activism Group 2: Civic engagement through peace education	Group 1: Advocacy and political change Group 2: Online awareness-raising actions	"Deeds not words" and other strategies for becoming visible	Street Action: briefing for all participants and departure to the centre of Antwerp	From theory to practice: planning local follow-up actions	
10:30-11:00		Break at 10:30						
11:00-12:15		What is Peace? For us and our organisations Peace on 3 levels	Parallel groups continued  Reflection groups	Parallel groups continued	Practical tips + thoughts on Street Action	Street Action: our voice on the International Day of Peace!	Open Space - sessions and discussions depending on the needs and initiative of participants	
12:15-14:15	Lunch at 13:00	Lunch at 13:00						
14:15-15:30	14:00 - Opening of the project / Getting to know each other	Sharing good practices: our organisations' experiences in peace work	Free afternoon - exploring Antwerp	Campaigning for peace: the Inspiration in the Action	Team 1: Street Action preparation Team 2: Communication around 21.09 Team 3: Advocacy Team 4: Peace Cards	Debriefing of the Street Action	Feedback session on the follow-up actions  Next steps	
15:30-16:00	Break at 15:30							
16:00-17:30	Programme / Learning Diary / Best Hopes / Group agreement	Many paths, same aim: how to be a change-maker Me as a peace-builder	Free afternoon - exploring Antwerp	Campaigning for peace: the Action in the Dream	Parallel teams continued	Circle of influence  How to make a difference?	Evaluation of the TC Closing of the TC	
17:30-18:00	Reflection groups			Reflection groups				
18:00-20:00	Dinner at 19:00							
20:00- ∞	Welcome evening	Storytelling time: peace stories	Free evening	The evening of inspirational peace quotes	Video night on peace activism	To the future: networking and partnership building evening	Final Party Certificate awarding ceremony	

**Departures** from the training venue are foreseen for Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, before noon.

The **final programme** may be slightly modified depending on the profile of selected participants and their specific needs and interests.