



Joining the SCI Movement

The Basics

This document is a summary of [Partnership Procedures and Beyond](#), and the [SCI Constitution](#) on Partnerships. It is intended to provide basic information

- to give organisations an idea of what SCI asks of its partners
- what the process is to join SCI
- and what the expectations of SCI will be.

SCI hopes that when new organisations start on this journey that they have the intention to develop and become full SCI branches and enjoy all the advantages of full membership of SCI. SCI would like to be represented in all parts of the world and to spread the word about a peaceful way of life, and how it is possible to put peace into practice.

Before we start we will refer to:

- The **IS**: the International Secretariat, the Head Office in Antwerp, Belgium
- The **IEC**: the International Executive Committee, the governing Board
- The **ICM**: the International Committee Meeting, the annual meeting and decision-making body of SCI (usually in December)
- The **EPM**: the Exchange Platform Meeting, the annual meeting of SCI branches and partners, dealing with various issues related to volunteer exchanges and evaluating the volunteer placement season (usually in October)

SCI is open to cooperate with new partner organisations, and open new branches in countries or regions where there is no SCI presence yet. All branches and partner organisations of SCI need to share SCI mission and values, and show an eagerness to cooperate.

For SCI, it is necessary that the partner organisations are non-profit organisations with democratic structures that allow for active involvement of volunteers without regard to gender, age, race, colour, religion, nationality, social status, political views, sexual orientation or other grounds for discrimination.

Partner organisations of SCI are also expected to organise activities with international volunteers on a regular basis.

SCI hopes that new organisations that contact us have the intention to develop and become full SCI branches and enjoy all the advantages of full membership of SCI.

However, a new contact organisation can also choose to remain a partner and take part in exchanges but not have a say in the running of SCI and the SCI decision making process.

The check lists on the next pages outline the criteria.



Explaining status categories

Contact

An organisation that would like to be a partner or a full member of the SCI movement. Contacts may exchange volunteers with SCI and attend the ICM and the EPM by invitation but have no voting rights.

Partner

After 2 years and the appropriate evaluation, the Contact can be accepted as an official Partner of SCI. Partners can attend the ICM by invitation but have no voting rights. They can also participate in EPM, with a voting right.

Group

After 2 years a contact can be recommended to the ICM for Group status. Groups can participate in the ICM in an advisory role but not vote, and they take part in other SCI meetings with full rights. Groups also enjoy full support of the SCI International Secretariat and various solidarity schemes. A Group may use the SCI name but must state that they have Group status.

Branch

A full member of SCI that can use the SCI name. If another name is used, it must be stated that it is a Branch of Service Civil International. Branches can vote at the ICM and the EPM and can nominate IEC members. They closely cooperate with other SCI Branches and receive full support from the SCI movement.



How to start

1. First of all, read the checklists below to see if you qualify.
2. A new organisation would then contact SCI. This is through an SCI branch, a working group, the IS or the IEC. Useful links:
[Where we are](#) and [Contact us](#)
3. The regional Working Group (or if there is no working group: the IEC) approves the volunteer exchange with the new organisation and decides on the terms of cooperation. Currently there are Working Groups dealing with exchanges with the following regions: Africa, Asia, the Balkans, Middle East, Europe (see table below). The IEC takes care of the remaining regions.
4. Cooperation starts as a Contact and is evaluated annually. After two years of exchanges SCI decides whether the cooperation is successful or not. If yes, a recommendation is put to the ICM to recognise the Contact as a Partner of SCI or a Group of SCI.

If the Contact wants to become an SCI Group, and have SCI Group status, the Contact has to apply directly to the ICM, supported by the Working Group or IEC. See the checklists below. Full Partnership Procedures are available [here](#).

Groups and Branches are members of the SCI movement and have access to all SCI meetings, internal communication, and may participate in programmes organised by the SCI International Secretariat. When exchanging with other organisations, they have to comply with SCI's Constitution and internal documents (e.g. our Partnership Procedures).

The rules vary according to the circumstances under which new organisations apply for partnership status with SCI.

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Note: In countries where SCI already has a presence, the existing group must approve acceptance of the new organisation.

Paths

1. Contact ⇒ Group ⇒ Branch
2. Contact ⇒ Partner



Checklist for becoming a partner of SCI

1	you share the aims of SCI as stated in the SCI constitution in particular - promotion of a culture of peace, international understanding and solidarity, social justice, sustainable development lifestyle and respect for the environment	
2	you work in a democratic way and to be open to all people without discrimination	
3	you have a democratic structure and involve volunteers and members without regard to gender, age, race, colour, religion, nationality, social status, political views, sexual orientation and other grounds for discrimination	
4	you are a non-profit organisation. Your organisation commits itself to reinvest profits for volunteering activities	
5	you do not have projects competing with paid labor	
6	you regularly organise voluntary service activities that involve international volunteers. These activities have to be in-line with aims of SCI as stated in the SCI constitution	
7	you facilitate the participation of volunteers with fewer opportunities in your voluntary service activities.	

Checklist for Groups

1	you have a written constitution which reflects the aims and objectives of the SCI International Constitution and your actions reflect the aims and objectives of the SCI International Constitution	
2	you have a clearly defined individual and/or local group membership structure, from which the governing body is elected	
3	there is evidence of sound financial management, including the publication of annual accounts	
4	you hold general meetings of members at least once every two years, for the purposes of electing your governing body, receiving reports and planning activities	
5	you undertake to keep the International Committee and appropriate international office informed of your activities and plans	
6	you undertake to make an agreed annual contribution to international funds	
7	your application is supported by at least two Branches and by all other SCI Branches in your country. The Branches supporting the application have to include a mentoring plan in which they describe the measures to take for the integration of the organisation into SCI	



Checklist for branches

1	you have a written constitution which reflects the aims and objectives of the SCI International Constitution, and your actions reflect the aims and objectives of the SCI International Constitution	
2	you have a clearly defined individual and/or local group membership structure, from which the governing body is elected	
3	there is evidence of sound financial management, including the publication of annual accounts	
4	you hold general meetings of members at least once every two years for the purposes of electing your governing body, receiving reports and planning activities	
5	you undertake to keep the International Committee and appropriate international office informed of your activities and plans	
6	you appoint delegates to represent you within the International Committee Meeting (ICM)	
7	you undertake to make an agreed annual contribution to international funds	
8	there is evidence of recognition or registration by relevant authorities or bodies	
9	you have had Group status for at least two years	
10	your application is supported by at least two Branches, by all other SCI Branches in your country, based on the mentoring plan	
11	you have been accepted by the ICM by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote	



Working Groups and IEC

Africa WG	Africa excl. Mauritius, Maghreb, Libya and Egypt	africawg@sci.ngo
Asia International WG	Asia, Pacific and Mauritius incl. Australia and New Zealand, excl. all countries of former USSR (Russian Federation, Caucasian region and Central Asia), and Middle East	aiwg@sci.ngo
MIDI WG	Maghreb, Libya, Egypt and Middle East excl. Turkey	midi@sci.ngo
Sava WG	Balkans (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia)	sava@sci.ngo
BEES	Europe excl. Sava WG area, incl. Turkey and all countries of former USSR	bees@sci.ngo
IEC	Rest of the world not covered by any Regional Working Group: North and South America	iec@scimail.org

That's the basics. We suggest that you read [our website](#) to understand our mission fully. If you wish to join SCI, you can contact the IS and they will put you in touch with the appropriate contact or supply you with the full versions of any documents.

We look forward to welcoming you into the SCI family!