



## Training Course

# **“From Conflict to Collaboration: Building a Culture of Peace in Diverse Communities”**

*for youth workers, peace activists, leaders, volunteers*

**Herentals, Belgium, 2-9 April 2024**

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

*Apply by 21.02.2024!*



- ✓ Are you a **resident of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia or Spain?**
- ✓ Are you **interested** in the topics of **peace, diversity and collaboration beyond differences?**
- ✓ Would you like to get the **expertise and tools** to build and sustain peace on a micro level among people living in **diverse groups and communities?**
- ✓ Are you motivated to **grow as a leader and changemaker?**
- ✓ Are you ready to meet **amazing people from 11 countries**, make new friendships and get inspired by their ideas and projects?
- ✓ Do you have time between the **2nd and 9th of April 2024?**
- ✓ Would you like to combine *learning* and *nature*, **staying a week at a youth centre in the lovely Flemish countryside** and enjoying the Belgian spring?
- ✓ And all this **without any cost** or just a small membership fee?!

If your answer is "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.

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

We are present in 40 countries on 5 continents, and we cooperate with partners in almost all countries of the world.

During over 100 years of operating globally, we have accumulated lots of expertise in non-formal education and peacebuilding, which has been recognised by many institutions, including UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and numerous Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

Read more at <https://sci.ngo/>



# “FROM CONFLICT TO COLLABORATION: BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES” TRAINING COURSE, 2-9.04.2024, Belgium

Join us to build your capacity as a competent professional and volunteer!

## At our training course, you will:

- get a better understanding of the concept of peace and its 3 levels – intrapersonal, interpersonal and with nature;
- enlarge your knowledge about building peace on a micro level in diverse groups;
- learn tools and mechanisms for sustaining peaceful coexistence of teams and communities;
- strengthen your nonviolent communication skills;
- develop confidence to apply conflict resolution instruments in daily work;
- improve skills for presentations, active listening, learning and collaboration in an international and multicultural environment;
- exchange ideas, good practices, inspirations, and share resources;
- plan a follow-up action to take place in your local community upon the course completion.

The training course is a part of the “Peace in Diversity” project implemented in 2024-2025 by Service Civil International and co-funded by the European Union.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



The “Peace in Diversity” project develops conflict resolution skills in youth leaders, equips professionals and volunteers with tools for peacebuilding in daily lives, enhances partner organisations’ capacity as peace promoters, and takes co-responsibility for the peaceful future of Europe.

## In particular, we aim to:

- demonstrate to the young people that peace starts with how we treat our neighbours and community members and motivate them to consciously support peaceful coexistence;
- equip professionals and volunteers with expertise and tools to build and sustain peace on a micro level among the youth living in diverse groups and communities;
- work with the youth so that they grow into leaders who can resolve conflicts without recourse to any type of violence.

The project foresees 2 international training courses (April and November 2024), local follow-up actions, the “Tools for Peace” webinar series, and an online workshop.

Learn more at <https://sci.ngo/peace-in-diversity>

## TRAINING COURSE PROGRAMME

DAY	1 – Tue, 2.04	2 – Wed, 3.04	3 – Thu, 4.04	4 – Fri, 5.04	5 – Sat, 6.04	6 – Sun, 7.04	7 – Mon, 8.04	
<b>08:15-9:00</b>	<b>Breakfast at 8:15</b>							
<b>9:00-10:30</b>	Arrivals and discovering the neighbourhood	The project and training topic overview	Perceptions and Misconceptions	Nonviolent Communication workshop	Emotional intelligence	Inclusion and diversity	From theory to practice: individual and group level	
<b>10:30-11:00</b>		<b>Break</b>						
<b>11:00-12:30</b>		Erasmus+ and inclusive societies	Exploring different perspectives	NVC workshop (continued)	Social intelligence	Inclusion and diversity (continued)	Local follow-up actions: planning and feedback	
<b>12:30-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch at 12:30</b>							
<b>14:30-16:00</b>	14:00 Opening of the training, orientation	What is peace? 3 peace levels	Knowing for understanding: Cultural dimensions	NVC workshop (continued)	Free afternoon	Open Space on the topics of importance for the participants	What's next?	
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Break</b>							
<b>16:30-17:30</b>	Getting to know each other and the place	Peace with others; Me as a peacebuilder	Cultural dimensions (continued)	NVC workshop (continued)	Free afternoon	Open Space	Evaluation and closing Certificate awarding ceremony	
<b>17:30-18:00</b>		Reflection time				Reflection time		
<b>18:00-20:30</b>	<b>Dinner at 18:00</b>							
<b>20:00- ∞</b>	Welcome evening	Guess My Passion	Free evening	Games? Games. Games!	Free evening	Chit-chat evening	Final Party	

**Arrivals:** Tuesday, 2.04.2024 before 2 p.m. (or 12:30 p.m. if you want to join us for lunch).

**Departures:** between Monday, 8.04.2024, 7 p.m. and Tuesday, 9.04.2024, 10 a.m. Breakfast is still provided on 9.04.

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

All in all, we offer you **an excellent learning opportunity** that will support your development and **a unique networking experience** with like-minded people from across Europe.

## FOR WHOM?

Our ideal course participants are youth workers, peace activists, leaders and volunteers with an interest in the topic of everyday peacebuilding, especially in relation to working with diverse youth groups and with local communities (with people from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds).

You should have some experience in working or volunteering with young people (aged 13-30).



**What is most important for us is your willingness to become actors of change – multipliers in your local communities, and persons 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 meet to join the training course:**

1. You need to be a **resident (not necessarily a national) of one of the 11 project countries** (Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia or Spain).
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 of making exceptions).
5. You commit yourself to organise a **follow-up action** in your local community/country upon the course completion (it can be e.g. a workshop, training, an activity for the local community, a peacebuilding activity with your youth group, etc.).

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

## WHEN?

The training course lasts 7 days.

You need to arrive at the training venue on 2.04.2024 before 2 p.m. CEST.

The course finishes on the evening of 8.04.2024. Departures can take place any time between 8.04, 7 p.m. and 9.04, 10 a.m. We encourage you to stay until the morning so that you don't miss the final party! :)



## WHERE?

Our event will take place in **Herentals near Antwerp, Belgium**.

Antwerp is a lovely city with great transport connections (international trains and buses, proximity to the Eindhoven and Brussels airports).

**De Brink** in Herentals is a youth centre located 30 km from Antwerp, in the charming forested area. It is a retreat designed for groups who want to have a creative space for work and rest.

There will be 3 meals and 2 coffee breaks per day. And yes, wi-fi is available. :-)



Remember that De Brink is a youth centre and the living conditions will be simple!

**You will share a room with 5-7 other participants in a dormitory. You need to bring your own sleeping bag, sheet and pillowcase.**

But changemakers don't sleep in 4-star hotels, do they? ;-)

Still, prepare to have limited privacy during this week and do not apply if you feel uneasy about this simplicity of living.



## METHODS

Our working methods will be based on the principles of adult learning, creating a stress-free and motivating environment where the human brain has the 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 learning process.

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



## MEET THE TRAINERS

The training course will be facilitated by two experienced and certified trainers, experts in adult education, and – at the same time – peace activists.



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

*Inspired by and passionate about peace, well-being, and non-formal learning, Natalie supports the learning processes and personal development of youngsters and adults.*

*She is continuously learning how to bring and practice peace at all levels.*

*Natalie has been involved in SCI locally and internationally since 2002 and has co-developed the Peace Education in Practice online learning course.*

### **Goška Tur, Poland:**

*Goška is a sociologist, trainer and educator, a certified member of the Polish Association of NGO Trainers and owner of Pracownia Interakcji training company. She has been active in the training field for almost 25 years and led numerous national and international training courses on peace issues, including NVC, conflict resolution, and intercultural learning.*

*Between 2015 and 2020, Goška was the International President of SCI*

*Natalie and Goška are proud creators of the [Facilitator's Cards](#), [SCI Peace Cards](#), and [My Peace Journal](#).*

## CERTIFICATES

You will be awarded a training completion certificate, issued by SCI International Secretariat, and additionally, you will receive a Youthpass certificate.

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The food and accommodation during the training course as well as organisational costs (additional insurance, training materials, etc.), will be **fully covered** thanks to the co-financing by the European Union.

**Reimbursement of the travel tickets** will be 100% up to the maximum amount after the receipt of the original documents. Maximum travel reimbursement will be according to the Erasmus+ rates:

- travel by plane: distance 100-499 km up to 180 euro, 500-1999 km up to 275 euro,
- green travel (bus, train, car sharing): distance 100-499 km up to 210 euro, 500-1999 km up to 320 euro – foreseen only for participants from Germany and Poland.

**NB.** We run this project in a partnership between SCI – International Secretariat and PVN Albania, EdUcAntwerp, CVS Bulgaria, SCI Germany, Útilapu Hungary, VSI Ireland, GAIA Kosovo, CID North Macedonia, SCI Poland, Young Researchers of Serbia and SCI Catalunya. Some of the partners may ask for a small sending fee to cover their placement costs. Please check with the relevant organisation.

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.



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## 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, and we will explicitly ask participants from Germany and Poland to choose this type of transport instead of a plane. Questions or doubts? Contact us!

## HOW TO APPLY?

**If you find yourself a suitable candidate for the course, please fill in the application form [here](#) by 21.02.2024, 23:59 CET.**

You will be notified of the selection results before 3.03.2024.

All those accepted will receive a detailed info sheet with all essential practical and programme-related information.

We will also support you in the pre-departure phase together with our project Partner Organisations.

If some places remain available after 3.03.2024, we will continue accepting applications until the free slots get filled in.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions regarding the project, write to us at [training@sci.ngo](mailto:training@sci.ngo).

***We are looking forward to your application!***

The coordinating team

Gośka Tur, Natalie Jivkova and the SCI International Secretariat