

PEACE MESSENGERS NEWSLETTER n15

It has been great developing the PM newsletter into something deeper and with more contents, and we hope we managed to give you some food for thoughts...but unfortunately human resources to run such an improved version of the PM newsletter are currently lacking, so we go back to the former bulletin formula, where we will mostly be sharing news and announcements, with the occasional article. You're still welcome to contribute, to share news and announce training seminars, events and any ongoing project; longer articles about your PM experiences or background ideas would also be welcome. And if you'd like to revive or create a PM magazine- get in touch!

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Other news and announcements

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- Update of the No More War toolkit- call for contributions



Peace Messengers training in Sri Lanka

To contact us:
peacemessengers@gmail.com

Check our Facebook page!



Peace education training in Nigeria

Peace Messengers network news

A new series of online courses starting

In previous issues of the newsletter, we mentioned the launch of a Peace Messenger online course. After a first pilot session, with 6-7 students active until the end, we repeated it with a larger group, from 3 continents, and improved infrastructure (with a real online classroom this time). It was successful again, with mostly positive feedback, and even better : participants who wanted more, and some of them deciding to become online trainers themselves.

So we decided to do better and more this year : we will run an advanced PM online course, open only to previous participants, but also two courses open to all :

- a three-week module on the Galtung conflict-resolution theory (a few places still available), starting on 7March

- and a new session of the four-week beginners' PM online course, 11 April- 7 May 2011- we will advertise it, but if you're interested contact us already !





Update of the Peace Messengers Handbook

One of the first achievements of the PM network was producing a Peace Messengers Handbook, which was then distributed to the participants of the 2009 Peace Messengers seminar and to all the branches, and is available online. A long document, including as much theoretical and philosophical topics as practical tips, it was a source of inspiration for many Peace Messengers.

It is now time to update it and to improve it, and the PM network has decided to make this update one of the priority action for 2010-11.

We are inviting every one to contribute to edit the handbook:

1. Editing the current content of the handbook
2. Developing Workshop models on the topics
 - What is Peace
 - Nonviolent communication & conflict resolution
 - Social inclusion, equal opportunities
 - Gender equality
 - Intercultural learning
 - Human Rights & Nondiscrimination
 - Racism and & Xenophobia
 - Peace & Environment
 - Other topics you think are important

All interested can write to: lorena.xhagjika@gmail.com . Please fill free to write any comment, criticism, suggestion etc.

Peace Messengers developing an Intercultural Dialogue toolkit

At last ICM the new SCI Strategic plan was adopted and the PM network was glad to see that its role and contributions to the movement were clearly defined. One of the tasks allocated to Peace Messengers is to design a toolkit on Intercultural Dialogue on work-camps, and already a Peace Messenger has volunteered to lead this process. So if you're interested in this topic and would like to work on this tool, join us!

Contact Valerie: val_weidinger@yahoo.com



Balkan Travelling Workcamp

Other News and announcements

“Volunteers wear PRADA (PR. A.ctivism D.evelopment A.chievement)”

fashion trends in international youth and volunteer movement

March 21-28 2011 - Kharkov, Ukraine

Fashion and PRADA (as well as Chanel and Dior) have not much in common with SCI and international volunteering, however do not let yourself to be misled by the title. The project has something to do with fashion, but of another kind – what is now ‘fashionable’, current and important for SCI. It has a structure of summer university with four parallel blocks, which include such important issues for SCI, as capacity of organization, networking and partnership. Usage of internet, ICT (internet communication technologists) for promotion of volunteering, and how to bring sustainable lifestyle to international youth and volunteer projects are rather new issues but of high importance for the movement nowadays.

The project is realized by SCI-IS and SVIT-Ukraine, with connection to SCI strategic plan and support of the Executive Agency of Youth in Action programme, and will take place in Ukraine (Kharkiv) from 21st to 28th of March, 2011.

The program will be organized with parallel workshops and activities on the four main blocks:

- networking and partnership, successful examples of networking and coordination of international activities on certain topics, international communication and coordination, difficulties and challenges in international cooperation on volunteer and youth field
- capacity development of youth and volunteer organization what are our capacities, identifying and analyzing them (strong and weak points) on national and international level, needs, tools and steps for developing organization
- internet and creative ways to promote volunteering and international youth work. Usage of Internet for promotion of international youth and volunteer projects, which methods of promotion are used now, what works and what not, sharing experiences and best practices, creativity and innovation in online promotion (flash, youtube etc.), using internet for learning and sharing information
- sustainability in international youth and volunteer work. This block is dedicated to global problem of climate change and environmental sustainability – how can we make our activities more sustainable, minimize harmful impact on environment, make international youth and volunteer projects a practical examples and models of sustainable lifestyle

The four blocks are closely connected with each other, and will include both theoretical inputs prepared by the prep-team, as well as practical workshops aimed to work on ideas and specific proposals for future activities, discuss issues of common interest for activists of different branches; participants will have possibility to propose workshop topics and discussions, and organize them. The program will be built in such a way, that several workshops on each block will be running parallel. It is also planned to have open space and plenary sessions to share the results and address common issues.

Participants profile: active volunteers, board members and staff of SCI organizations and partners, with experience of leading workcamps or organizing other SCI activities (as EVS or youth exchanges), activists of international working groups dealing with specific themes in SCI as environmental issues and climate change, or social inclusion, peace education and other issues, who are interested to get new skills and discuss ideas for joint activities and cooperation, usage of internet tools for raising awareness. There is no age limit. Working language is English.

Financial conditions:

All costs concerning meals and accommodation as well as the program and materials will be fully covered for the whole duration of the training. Travel costs will be reimbursed 70%, given that participants used cheapest and environmentally friendly way of travel. The participation fee for CIS and SEE participants is 20 Euros, for 'new' EU countries (Poland, Slovenia etc.) is 25 Euro, and for 'old' EU countries and Switzerland – 35 Euro.

Following partners have signed partnership agreements for the project and are eligible to participate: SCI Italy, SCI Romania, KVT Finland, SCG, OWA Poland, Utilapu, Ecocenter Zapovednics, VCV Serbia, AVI Moldova, VCZ Croatia, Zavod Voluntariat Slovenia and SCI Germany.

Participation of representatives of other European SCI organization is possible upon approval of Youth in Action Programme Executive Agency. Unfortunately, due to funding limits the project is only open to European branches and partners of SCI.

Application procedure

- * Deadline for applications is February 20th, 2011

- * A completed application form with any other relevant information shall be sent by email to: incoming@svit-ukraine.org

- * All candidates will be informed by email about the decision

- * For any questions do not hesitate to contact the us at info@svit-ukraine.org

Applicants will be informed about the outcomes of selection by 25th of February.

For more information and with possible questions please contact SVIT-Ukraine at info@svit-ukraine.org

Looking forward to welcome you in Ukraine!

SCI-IS and SVIT-Ukraine



Germany, Herbstfest

Call for contributions from the No More War team

Dear SCI friends,

the NO MORE WAR team has already informed you about our meeting that will be hosted by SCI Italy in February. We are working on several actions to start a new season of NO MORE WAR in 2011 and **welcome every SCI organisation (branch, partner) and single activist to join and support us!**

This is a very specific request for everyone interested in Peace Education & Study Parts:

As you can find it on our blog <http://www.no-more-war.net/> the NO MORE WAR team created and published a **study part tool kit in 2010!** The tool kit is dedicated to camp coordinators on the NO MORE WAR workcamps as well as to everyone else interested in Peace Education! The tool kit was and will be developed in co-operation with SCI's Peace Messenger network and the new PM handbook that is going to be created soon! The tool kit provides information on:

- What is NO MORE WAR? (background information on SCI, special focus on the start and our anti militaristic roots of SCI – as this actions were initiated in connection to “90 years of SCI”)
- Peace Education methodology – how to set up and run a workshop, introduction into facilitation skills, giving feedback, etc.
- model outlines of peace education workshops with a special focus on: peace & war, antimilitarism, non-violence, structural violence, etc.

PLEASE SUPPORT: we are looking for NEW WORKSHOPS!

Does your branch or you individually (as an SCI activist, camp coordinator, peace messenger,...) have any workshops you'd like to share with us and that fit the criteria of NO MORE WAR? We'd be happy to include them into the tool kit. It could also be a workshop you've already published in one of your own materials. In this case we would promote the materials of your branch for further references!

Any kind of feedback towards the current edition is also welcome!

NO-MORE-WAR tool kit 2010: <http://www.no-more-war.net/2010/05/29/toolkit/>

Please send your feedback to: jenny.kuhn@aon.at

Thank you very much for your support!

Jenny (SCI Austria)
on behalf of the NO MORE WAR team

