

Peace messengers are coming !

The Peace Messengers Network Newsletter

N°4- February 2009



PM ready for action!

As we told you in our last issue, we received funding to organise a PM seminar beginning of May near Paris, and we already sent you the Call for Participants and Application form. We hope to receive many applications from new and experienced Peace Messengers, and that this training will be the opportunity to exchange experiences and tools, inspire each other- and have good fun! Don't forget to apply (even if you already confirmed on FaceBook (- :)), before the 27th of February.

But even if you cannot make it, there will be plenty opportunities to gain and practice Peace Messengers skills this summer. In your branch of course, but also in specific projects: the SAVA working group will indeed organise a Travelling Workcamp in the Balkans this summer (see below, page 3), and if you come from Armenia, Russia, Georgia, the UK, Italy or Germany, under 30, and have 3 months free this summer, you have the chance to take part to a Interreligious dialogue messengers programme in Poland (see below). Other projects in other branches are in the pipeline- we'll keep you informed of new opportunities!

Interreligious dialogue messengers in Poland - July 2009/September 2009

This project is a group EVS project aiming at enable 6 volunteers to act as promoters and multipliers of Interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

During the first phase the 6 volunteers send by HUI-Armenia, SCG-Siberia, YGE-Georgia, IVS- Great Britain, SCI-Italy and VJF-Germany will meet with religious communities in Poznan, be presented to educational tools and methods and given space and time to exchange their views and knowledge on interreligious dialogue. They will then work together on the creation of non formal educational activities based on their personal background, experiences and interaction with each other. These educational activities, promoting interreligious dialogue will be ran to various communities in Poland.

In the meantime, the volunteers will document their activity with a media tool such as a blog, video, pictures which will be publicised and spread throught various web pages and publications.

OWA-Poland applied for a YIA grant and is waiting for answer. If you want more information or if you are living in one of the 6 countries mentioned above and are interested by the project please contact Laëtitia laetharry@hotmail.co.uk ASAP.

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Peace Messenger of the (beginning of the) Year!

In every issue of the newsletter, we will now present one Peace Messenger, in order to give a human face to the network. If you would like to share your experience and be the next Peace Messengers interviewed, write to peacemessengers@gmail.com

Lorena took part to last Peace Messengers seminar and was so enthusiastic about the project that she set up a peace messengers group in her home branch, PVN-Albania, with whom she shared her knowledge and who visited most of PVN work camps last summer, delivering high-quality, appreciated PM sessions. She has since become one of the pillars of the Peace Messengers network and if you come to the PM training seminar, you will have the pleasure to meet her!



What was your greatest joy as a Peace Messenger?

My contribution to peace promotion has become more concrete since I became a Peace Messenger. Through Peace Messengering I found my place at SCI and I think here is where I can give more. My greatest joy as Peace Messenger is when I see that our group is growing more and more and the enthusiasm brings new ideas and activities: training organized from SCI France, drafting PR materials like handbook, leaflet from different Peace Messengers, spreading the word to involve new Peace Messengers etc. The cooperation between group members is becoming stronger and we are working to involve also other SCI branches and partners. I am looking forward to experience other projects within this group.

What was your greatest surprise as a Peace Messenger?

It is difficult for me to notice surprises, because every thing has a cause and a root :), but if I connect joy with surprise, yes, every experience as Peace Messenger was a big surprise for me, experiencing the exchange between camp participants from different countries and backgrounds, having discussion with PVN members on peace related issues, and working all together to improve our life and to protect the environment and disadvantaged groups.

What is your greatest hope as a Peace Messenger?

As Peace Messenger I hope that this working group will extend its projects also in other continents, especially in Africa, as it has become my new interest field within SCI. My dream for a peaceful world is also a hope. Like Pierre Ceresole says: "Even if it will take a long time to achieve peace, we should start right now working on it", so I keep on following his advice :).

Check PVN's Peace messengers page: <http://www.pvnalbania.org/spip.php?rubrique23>



May 2009 Peace Messengers Training Seminar

2nd-8th May, near Paris, France

The 2009 Peace Messengers training seminar is open to all SCI activists who have been implementing Peace education activities, or who want to gain skills to become Peace Messengers. It is open to experienced people as much as to non-experienced people; the only requirement is to commit to organise Peace Messengers activities upon return to your home branch.

So, if you're interested, don't wait to send us your application form! You can ask it to your branch, or to the Peace Messengers Network : peacemessengers@gmail.com.

We look forward meeting you!



Traveling Peace Messengers workcamp in Balkan !

In the framework of action plan of SAVA and Peace Messengers working group, PVN Albania is organizing for this summer a travelling workcamp in Balkan countries. Peace Messengers will first meet in Albania to prepare the study part program of the workcamps. The program is about peace promotion issues, with focus on Human Rights and social issues. Time of the camp is 15th – 31st of July. After visiting the camps all Peace Messengers will be gathered again for evaluation and discussing about initiatives after the camp.

All interested branches can participate as Peace Messengers or as hosting organization.

Contact Lorena for more information: lorena.xhagjika@gmail.com

facebook

Yes, yes, we know, Facebook is spied on by the CIA, or something like that, but OK, we still think it's a great place to meet and exchange. So, if you belong to this global network, join us in the **SCI Peace Messengers** group!

Peace Messenger branch contact persons:

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Write to peacemessengers@gmail.com to get individual contact details