# Peers to Peace: Peer learning and peer support for Capacity Building in international volunteer work

## PROJECT RESULTS

### Handbook: SCI-Moving Forward



SCI-Moving Forward is a handbook for volunteers and staff members in SCI and partner organizations focusing on increasing the understanding of how SCI works internationally. This handbook intends to support greater participation and knowledge transfer among International Volunteering Service organizations, including important chapters on finances, knowledge management and volunteering within SCI.

There were many important questions we asked ourselves during this project. At the moment of collecting our project experience and preparing this handbook, the following 3 questions seem to have risen to the top as the most crucial when thinking about better sustainability and effectiveness of the SCI Movement:

1. How do we organize our work in a way that SCI stays attractive and accessible to new volunteers who share the same vision and a passion to contribute?
2. How can we make sure volunteers on a local level can view and understand the international dimension of SCI, benefit from it and cherish it?
3. What tools can help us keep and transfer the knowledge and expertise built within the Movement?
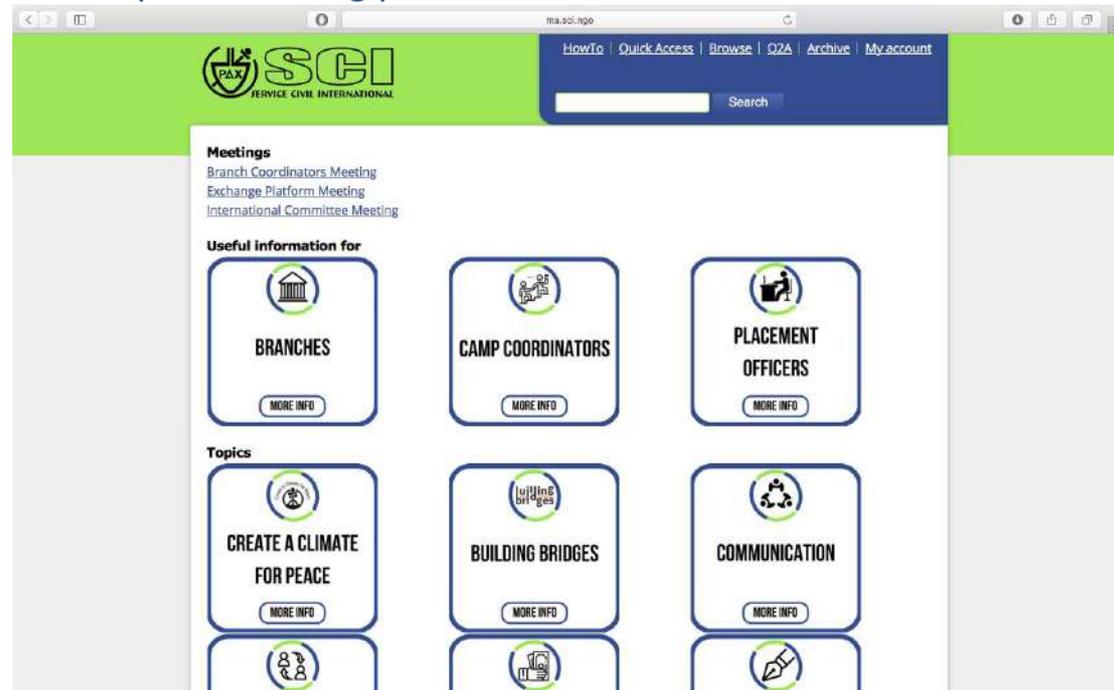
These questions served as a source of inspiration for topics to address when preparing this handbook.

The handbook 1) gives an overview about SCI and the structure of the Movement, 2) summarizes the financial system of SCI, including a brief overview of SCI funds, 3) explains

the knowledge management tools SCI has currently in place, and 4) presents various opportunities for getting involved with key SCI bodies and teams.

Available online: https://www.sci.ngo/images/content/whatwedo/projects/p2p/SCI-MovingForward_web.pdf
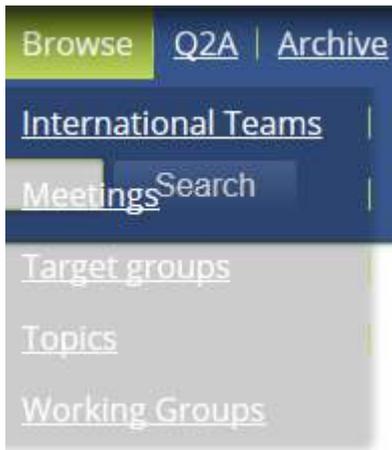
## Online peer learning platform



The development of this online peer learning platform on SCI's Members Area enables the project consortium to access the important data and knowledge as well as share their resources, experience and expertise with their peers from other countries, and as such continue the peer support beyond the duration of this project, reaching also volunteers who were not able to join the project. It will support the activities and work of SCI for long after the project and as such this project output plays a key role in ensuring the sustainable effect of this project.

"*It inspires me to improve sharing of knowledge in my organization. Usually, after I attend a meeting or seminar like this, we have a meeting in our organization to share the knowledge, but I think I can improve it also with social media or write article in blog. I am also glad to know about SCI's Member Area, so the sharing knowledge within branches or sharing about project will be much easier.*" commented a participant in the Focus group organized about impact of Peers to Peace project during the last mobility activity.

Based on the feedback collected from participants and partners of the project, 2 main achievements were realized:

1)Integration of the peer learning tool in the SCI's members' area (MA) and its enlargement to topical sections of the MA that makes it easier to find it and use it.

2)New features were developed in the MA that include more user-friendly structure (info for specific target groups and topical sections), additional and optional fields in the user profiles which help users follow the conversations on specific topics and is an important pre-condition for bigger interaction and engagement of volunteers and staff from SCI members and partners organizations.

More information about the online platform and its new features: https://www.sci.ngo/images/content/whatwedo/projects/p2p/Online_peer_learning_platform-web.pdf

## Other key project outcomes

**Expanded competencies of the members of the project consortium and the volunteers in the fields of project management, volunteer-management, knowledge-management, and fundraising.**



*"All the topics were really relevant for me and for my branch as well. I got a lot of idea about how to recruit and engage more volunteers. I am also happy to had a chance to learn more about fundraising and got a lot of useful information about the donors, how to make pitch and fundraising method. I am also personally inspired about Peace run from SCI Malaysia and other project from other branch and can't wait to share and adapt all these knowledge into our local branch."*

*"The project management and volunteer management was important for me because in my organization there are not so many people working in the office, like 3 or 4 people permanently working and handling several projects, but then it seems there is no transfer of knowledge to other volunteers. So these four project topics are actually important to be transferred to other members, so they can spread the job and get more hand to handle it."*

**Improved quality and financial sustainability of international volunteer and youth activities of the partners as a result of the practical focus of the seminars, knowledge sharing activities and the resources available through the peer-learning online tool.**

*"We established a fundraising group, working more on social media visibility, taking impact perspective from the very beginning, Global Peace Run for 25 years of Jeden Świat, LTV from India and Mauritius."*

*"Through this (project management) seminar I can see the whole perspective of project management and understand more about impact and visibility of our project."*

**Improved knowledge transfer within the project consortium, both through established network of peers, as well as the online tool for peer learning that gives an easier access to information and resources, possibly leading to better efficiency and innovation.**

*"I have learnt the different ways of how knowledge can be shared, stored and retrieved from the SCI website and other tools."*

*"The discussion and the way to transfer knowledge was done really well, so I can understand much better. Thus, I am more confident to bring it back home and share about project management and volunteer management when we have seminar in our branch in the future."*

*"I have had a chance to meet members from other branches, look from different perspective, share ideas and knowledge and strengthen my knowledge on project management."*

**Exchanged best practices stimulating active experimentation with new approaches and tools.**

*"In terms of volunteer management, I really like the idea of golden volunteers where the volunteers can get engaged with the organization and work together with staff and others. Fundraising topics with practical pitch was very interesting and applicable. I'll also bring back the idea about Peace run, and green flights."*

*"I found enriching the fact of comparing what we do in my organization with other branches. I got to learn about this database of volunteers that some branches are using and I think we'll adopt it in my organization too."*

*"I tested my new understanding in environmental education for children in the workplace through a space created by them and for them that stimulates the sense of belonging and curiosity towards nature and agriculture. I also started a project with my own branch of SCI in order to implement the presence of a rural area subject to frequent arson."*

**Raised motivation and expertise to act as multipliers and actors of change in their organizations, bringing fresh ideas.**



*"I gained more awareness of what it means to manage a project and I'm always using the knowledge I acquired in the seminar in my work."*

*"Now I am approaching new partners, a refugee association in Jakarta to propose a workcamp together in refugee and global peace education in Jakarta. Eventually we can try to make a fundraising proposal as well and amplify the knowledge from project management seminar in the workcamp."*

*"We're about to make our new project this year. I'm going to implement what I got from the Project Management Seminar. This will be the 1st time for us. Wish us luck!"*

**Revitalized and enlarged Tech team thanks to the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting while working on the project results.**



*"Joining the Tech team is a great way for IT people to contribute to SCI's mission. There are variety of tasks to be done using different technologies and requiring different kinds of commitment. What makes the Tech team so compelling to me is the fact that the work IT is doing can facilitate the work accomplished by the entire movement."*

**Enforced international cooperation and new projects designed (and some already implemented) on international level as well as on local/national level. Among others, the following activities were developed as a direct follow up of this project:**

1) Gendered Realities aims to combat gender stereotypes and discrimination in SCI activities through awareness raising by a larger gender campaign. The project idea was presented to European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe and the Participation Program of UNESCO.

2) Project Café: Increasing project management skills for grass root activists. The project idea was presented to Erasmus+: Youth/KA1.

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3) A successful Erasmus + traineeship at the applicant organization.



*"I have taken so much from my experiences volunteering with SCI and meeting activists from all over the world in international seminars. In some respect I want to give back to the movement supporting international activities, and on the other hand I want to learn more about the structure, projects and groups within SCI to improve my own possibilities being involved."*
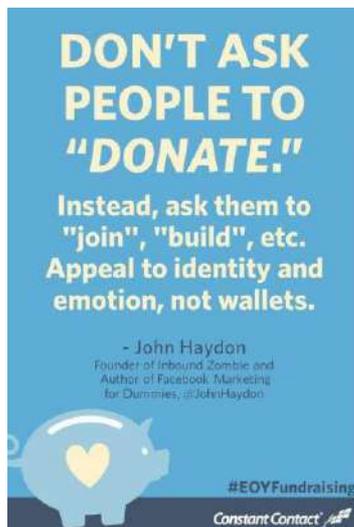
4) A charity lunch organized by SCI Malaysia with benefit going to kids from an orphanage.

5) Possible future cooperation on a world-wide Peace Run in 2020 (based on best practice from SCI Malaysia), training for volunteers in SCI Sri Lanka, new volunteer camp in Australia, and much, much more.

**Enlarged understanding of SCI network, its structure and possibilities of further involvement. More volunteers involved in international teams of SCI (project or topic based teams) or as board members on national level. This also thanks to (but not exclusively) the published handbook addressed mainly to volunteers and staff members in SCI, making it easier to understand how the SCI works internationally, in what ways to get involved and have a say.**

**Materials from the seminars available in Members Area and SCI website.**

Especially, we would like to highlight the following documents:



**Fundraising workshop**: a ppt presentation summarizing 3 session outlines for a day long fundraising workshop run by SCI at the Project Management Seminar in Greece. Created by Martha Oddy.

The presentation is divided into 3 main sessions that cover the following topics:
Session1: Fundraising streams - individual donors, corporate partners, trusts and foundations
Session 2: Opportunities per region (trusts based in USA and Europe, trust funding internationally, individual giving in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, Australasia)
Session 3: How to find and approach funders and donors? (Individual donors, corporate partners, trusts and foundations).

**Tips and tricks for a successful crowdfunding campaign:** An inspiring and easy read for everyone who is considering to run a crowdfunding campaign.

An article written by Jure Fticar, EVS volunteer within Peers to Peace project in SCI Malaysia, May - October 2017.

**Peace Run – an example of best practice in fundraising from SCI Malaysia:** Peace Run is a charity run organized in last 30 years by SCI Malaysia in Penang.

It attracts 1500 – 2000 runners (and walkers) every year. Next to promotion of peace and solidarity, the purpose is to raise funds for the organization to support other voluntary activities.

All documents are available here:
https://www.sci.ngo/what-we-do/projects/peers-to-peace/about-peers-to-peace

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