

GAIA MICROGRANTS PROGRAMME

FINAL REPORT FOR PHASE 2

May-November 2015



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1. Overview

The 2nd phase of the GAIA MicroGrants Programme lasted for 6 months. The general mechanism of the initiative remained similar to its initial form - each SCI branch or partner could submit a project proposal for up to 500€ with minimum paperwork but maximum impact. The main goal of providing such opportunity to SCI activists is to increase the number and quality of climate justice and sustainable lifestyle related projects taking place across the movement.

There were 22 project proposals submitted, out of which 17 were granted support through the GAIA MicroGrants¹. Another 5 projects were branded as GAIA MicroGrants projects, as their scope overlapped with the goals of the programme, however the financing came from the European Youth Foundation project “Create a Climate for Peace: Youth Empowerment for a Sustainable Europe”². However in this report we focus on projects financed by Terra 21 Foundation, as the other 5 projects are still in progress as of end of November 2015. Applications were very diverse both in terms of topics as well as quality, although the Selection Team looked after maintaining a quality standard for all applicants.

5 of the awarded projects were submitted by organizations from the Global South - from Mexico, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Bangladesh. The level of involvement of the Southern branches remained an issue throughout the project (despite the attempt to establish a Global South Liaison position for Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia), however it is a challenge for SCI as a whole. The other 12 projects took place in Europe. Only two approved project were implemented by SCI partners (not branches) and it was IWC Indonesia and Natate Mexico, with which we had a very good experience of cooperation in the 1st phase of the programme.

In its 2nd phase the programme moved geographically more towards Europe and thematically more towards raising awareness. In the future more stress will be put on involving branches from the Global South and focusing on practical work for climate change adaptation and managing climate change impacts.

¹ Reasons for rejecting projects were following:

- activity focused solely on environment protection without consideration for its social impact; it was not redesigned after the feedback provided by the Selection Team (OWA SCI Poland),
- activity focused on social justice but showed no link to climate change or sustainable lifestyle; it was not redesigned after the feedback provided by the Selection Team (SCI Catalunya, SCI Croatia),
- there were no more funds available in the particular funding window (two projects from SCI Hellas),

² Participants of three regional workshops taking place in Kosovo, Poland and Germany were eligible to apply for funding for follow up activities. They are all taking place in Europe and focus mainly on awareness rising activities.

2. Objectives and structure

The objective of the project remains the same as in the beginning of the programme: to strengthen and multiply initiatives related to climate justice and sustainable living across all SCI activities and volunteers groups. The programme is oriented on activities related to raising awareness and/or taking action. It is supposed to keep administrative procedures at necessary minimum and have learning and making impact as its priority.

In this phase we have again defined 4 funding windows:

- **Thematic Campaign: Food and Agriculture** - the main theme of the thematic campaign was different in each phase. The “Food and Agriculture” theme proved to be a very good choice, as we have received 6 strong applications tied to the World Food Day. Four projects focused on setting up some form of community gardens, while the other two raised awareness about consumption (preventing food waste and promoting informed choices).
- **Frontline Communities** - Unlike in the 1st phase, this time the second funding window was the least popular, with two projects submitted and only one awarded the grant. It is not clear why the situation turned out that way, but it might also be that the second and fourth funding windows overlapped to some extent. The project from Sri Lanka focuses on preventing soil erosion by planting trees, while building intercultural understanding in a post-conflict community at the same time. Implementation of the project was disrupted by the changing political situation in the region, but the project was successful.
- **Capacity and Network Building** - There were 6 applications submitted and 5 granted the support; all focusing on raising visibility of climate justice and sustainability projects, encouraging new volunteers and empowering the activists in that field through trainings, workshops and even one bicycle tour.
- **Innovation for Sustainability in Workcamps** - This was the most popular funding window, with 8 projects submitted and 5 granted the support. All supported workcamps either clearly focused or had a strong element of taking action for sustainable lifestyle. In most cases, GAIA MicroGrants allowed to fund innovative workcamps, rather than just add the sustainability dimension to them.

3. Impact on the ground

GAIA MicroGrants Programme is a very important tool in increasing awareness and involvement in the field of climate justice and sustainable lifestyle across SCI activists and branches. Thanks to GAIA MicroGrants the topic of links between peacemaking and climate change comes up much more often in official SCI meetings and other communication channels.

18 projects supported by GAIA MicroGrants directly involved close to 100 international and over 600 local (to the project venue) volunteers. However all activities consisted an awareness raising elements, so the indirect impact was much wider. Activities mostly took form of day long events (independent or organized within a longer activities, e.g. workcamps), however some of them lasted over a longer time periods - even up to 3 months (in case of IIRC Indonesia and SCI Sri Lanka). The form varied - from hands-on work, through a bicycle tour to workshops with experts. Overall 10 workcamps were supported (usually lasting for 1-2 weeks) and 9 workshops (usually 1-2 days long) were supported thanks to the programme (for local and international volunteers or for local communities). What is worth mentioning is that together 4 community gardens were set up in various projects, from Mexico, through Kosovo, to Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

What is worth noticing is a vast learning recognized by organizers of all projects. Organizers, in their evaluations, recognize their successes and importance of their initiatives, even though they usually notice areas for future improvement. This is a great tool for empowerment for local volunteers and mobilization method that can be used by SCI branches.

The projects implemented through the programme represent a good mix between awareness rising and impact on the ground (even if it shifted more towards the first one, as mentioned above). Some applications concerned activities like workcamps or creating community gardens, while others helped to raise awareness about food waste or climate justice in general. Impact on local communities is one of the selection criteria for the projects, although it is difficult to measure it and the Selection Team has to depend on declarations coming from the project organizers. There is a similar challenge regarding the long-term impacts of the activity - we ask about follow up plans in the report form, but no specific tool was foreseen to measure the sustainability of results.

4. Promotion and communications

In the 2nd phase of the programme we managed to promote information about it much better, which resulted with more applications being submitted. Communication about the programme and the projects was more regular and it will continue beyond November, as most of the projects are taking place in last weeks of the programme, so we will have promotional materials ready only later.

The following channels are being used to communicate about the programme and its results:

- **Create a Climate for Peace Campaign newsletter** – Friday Updates – GAIA MicroGrants programme is mentioned in every edition of the newsletter. These are either informational notes ([example 1](#), [example 2](#), [example 3](#)) or reports from activities ([example 4](#), [example 5](#));
- **SCI social media outlets** – mainly Facebook, where the [main banner](#) is promoting GAIA MicroGrants;
- **SCI mailing lists** (SCI Announce and SCI Exchange) reaching all offices and many individual activists – reminders about the opportunity were sent out to these mailing lists regularly;
- **SCI international events** (Asian Platform Meeting, June, Australia; Branches Coordinators Meeting, June, Serbia; Evaluation Platform Meeting, October, Bulgaria; International Committee Meeting, December, Sri Lanka) – special presentations devoted to the programme were or will be held during these events, follow up emails were sent to participants; Additionally during ICM in December more time will be devoted to gather input from the branches representatives in order to develop a long-term strategy for the programme;
- **A promotional video** was prepared and used as a tool for raising visibility of the programme;
- **Visibility materials** (like [the infographic](#) and [other posters](#)) were developed both in English and in Spanish;
- **Photo exhibition** will be presented in the alternative meeting space [Place2B](#) during climate negotiations (COP21) in December in Paris; A **workshop session** devoted to the meaning of voluntary action to promote climate justice and sustainable lifestyle will be held in the convergence space during that same event - the session will also focus of the GAIA MicroGrants Programme.

5. Process

Based on experience from phase 1, supporting documents were developed in the run up to phase 2. All relevant documents were shared with the applicants in order to ensure that same standards will be applied to all submitted projects.

- [Application](#) and [evaluation](#) forms were updated,
- [Beneficiary guide](#) was expanded and each applicants was supposed to confirm reading and accepting it by sending an email to their contact person,
- Terms of reference were defined for the role of [program coordinator](#), [Selection Team members](#) and [Global South Liaisons](#).

The document explaining the background and rules of the programme was combined with the application form, in order to ensure that each applicant has to read it before submitting a project proposal.

Application process

Each application was reviewed by the Selection Team within 10 days from submission. If a member of the Selection Team was not available or involved in the application, they were substituted by the alternate member. In most cases the programme facilitator needed to request additional information from the applicants in order to ensure that the application is complete and clear to the Selection Team. The team used email and Skype to raise concerns and make their decision.

The decision was communicated to the applicant by the contact person assigned to each project. Becoming a contact person was voluntary and depended on availability of Selection Team members. Quality of applications varied, but the Selection Team did their best to ensure that they understood the project's objectives and methods, and that only quality projects are approved.

In several cases, projects submitted less than 10 days before the implementation were reviewed and awarded the grants, because they seemed important and worth the support. However the 10-day deadline presented an issue on several occasions, so it could be approached differently in the future.

Special measures

Organizers of the projects related to Thematic Campaign funding window were invited to participate in a networking Skype meeting with the programme facilitator (minutes [HERE](#)). Out of 6 projects two were represented and one more provided information afterwards. The meeting was a chance to explain clearly the link of the project with the "Food and Agriculture" focus, as well as discuss the strategies to achieve sustainability of the project results and follow up plans. Participants of the call, even if only few, said it was very useful and expressed a lot of interest in learning more details about other projects. This should be taken into consideration in the future planning.

6. Governance

The programme was facilitated by a group of 6 people and followed by a representative of SCI's International Executive Committee (IEC). The roles were as following:

- Programme facilitator, Selection Team alternate Member - Marta Sykut
- SCI International Secretariat (SCI IS) representative - Sara Turra
- Selection Team - Irmina Czysnok, Victoria Marinova, Linndgberg Ruballos
- SCI IEC liaison - Ernest Kovac
- Review coordinator - Ivo Knoepfel

Additionally two people were designated as Global South Liaisons, but without the expected outcomes.

Programme facilitator, Selection Team members and Global South Liaisons had their terms of reference defined in separate documents that were communicated to them ahead of start of phase 2.

All functions were voluntary, except for the programme facilitator, who received 100€ per month for the engagement (the total of 600€).

The entire team met on Skype once every 2 months to discuss current issues. The Selection Team and programme facilitator remained in permanent contact via email with occasional Skype meetings. Apart from this, Google Drive was a very useful tool, where all supporting documents, applications and report materials were gathered. The programme proved to be more intense than in phase 1 (mainly because of more applications submitted and being approved), so communication inside the team was more frequent. However not all team members were able to remain equally engaged throughout the programme, which presents a challenge that needs to be addressed in the future.

All funds awarded to projects taken into consideration in this report came from the Terra 21 Foundation. SCI IS was in charge of signing the agreement and completing all reimbursements (via bank transfer or pinkslip system). The International Secretariat also provided a lot of support in terms of promotion of the programme (mainly through the engagement of Victoria Marinova, the long-term volunteer at the office).

Towards the end of the programme the team developed evaluation and input questionnaires, through which opinions are being gathered about the programme performance so far, possible directions for improvement, development and role of GAIA MicroGrants in the overall SCI activities and strategy.

In the course of phase 2 a cooperation was established with a newly formed Disaster Relief Team of SCI. The team aims to provide training, volunteer and financial support in situations of

natural catastrophes and this way turns towards the origins of SCI as a movement. Planning is still in progress, but the documents developed for the GAIA MicroGrants programme served as a starting point for the Disaster Relief Team. In the future we hope to develop this cooperation and make sure that the two programmes are in synergy but not overlapping. It is important that disaster relief situations require different rules of governance due to emergency of the target situations.

7. Use of funds

According to reports submitted by the programme beneficiaries, the total cost of the 18 projects supported through GAIA MicroGrants by Terra 21 Foundation added up to 7465.50€. These are the activity costs (together with compensation for the project of SCI Hong Kong that submitted corrected report from a project carried out during 1st phase while 2nd phase was already ongoing). Additionally the programme coordinator received the total of 600€ remunerations. The costs of bank transfers were covered with SCI's own resources. As a result the sum covered by Terra 21 Foundation adds up to 8065.50€.

List of all reimbursements together with links to copies of proofs of payment are available in the online file [HERE](#).

8. Summary of implemented projects

Thematic Campaign - Food and Agriculture:

- **Berne eats Berne - Urban methods to reduce food waste (Berne, SCI Switzerland)**

With this initiative SCI Switzerland is fighting against food waste with a very practical approach: They were opening Community Fridges for food sharing in Bern, the capital of Switzerland. Together with the local partner they organized an Opening Event for their newest Community Fridge on the World Food Day 16th of October 2015. The Community Fridge is now available for the local community in Bern to share their food and will continue to run on voluntary basis. SCI Switzerland planned the event together with the people from Bern isst Bern and volunteers from both SCI Switzerland and Bern isst Bern participated in the event. They served a hot soup, tea, hot juice and leftover bread and pastries donated by [Äss-Bar](#) and [Foodsharing Bern](#). A local musician, [Novemberkind](#), played two sets during the evening.

- **Introduction to permaculture (Gračanica, Gaia SCI Kosovo)**



With this project, on World Food day, SCI Kosovo took on the challenge of bringing together people from diverse backgrounds (young people from different cities in Kosovo, as well as students from the agriculture faculty) and giving them, for the first time in Kosovo, an introduction to permaculture. This is a holistic approach to living, showing how our lives can be organized in a way that benefits both people and environment. It often starts from growing own food in gardens maintained according to permaculture principles.

The main goal of the event was to promote an alternative food production model, with the intention that people could become inspired, think in a holistic way about the links between their consumption and state of the environment and put their knowledge to use by creating their own gardens. However this was just the first step - more events were planned and they should keep bringing together people of various backgrounds to address human relationship issues through common work and simply spending time, playing music and talking together in the meantime.

- **Lauriano Food Forest (Lauriano, SCI Italy)**



Lauriano is a small town approximately 30 km far from Torino. For many years landscape and territory have not been maintained, so that now many areas are abandoned. The local administration and the citizens, in collaboration with Torino University, prepared a plan for environmental recovery and production, through agroforestry (growing edible plants in forest complexes). Through SCI Italy's project Lauriano community was supported

in implementation of the first experimental path for agroforestry system demonstration and promotion. The initiative was also an opportunity for the association to have more intense interaction with local people, as they became more interested in the project thanks to the presence of the international volunteers during the workcamp. In fact many locals joined the works. In the future the project will hopefully become a source of job opportunities and will be expanded (there are already plans to introduce beekeeping and biointensive gardening). Together people find hope and ideas for the future - they can manage their valuable local resources together.

- **A Day with Coffee (Ljubljana, SCI Slovenia)**



Using coffee as a starting point, activists of SCI Slovenia carried out a whole day workshop about responsible consumption. They celebrated the World Food Day by sharing their perspective on the importance of knowing the products that we consume and how impact people and the environment. During the workshop, those that attended learned where coffee comes from and what is its entire production cycle. They were asked to take photos of themselves drinking coffee with inspirational quotes that can raise awareness of responsible consumption through the social media.

- **Kuxul Lum: Family Gardens for Food Sovereignty (Chiapas, Natate Mexico)**

In an extremely impoverished community in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, the training center Kuxul Lum carried out a two-day work camp which aimed at training members of about 20 rural indigenous families in agricultural sustainability, food sovereignty and responsible consumption. By creating family gardens at the homes of the families involved, they involved the participants in the entire process concerning the care of edible plants. The training included soil preparation, development and use of organic repellents, production of organic fertilizer, direct seeding and transplanting, and seedbed preparation. In consequence, the project endows the people the knowledge to allow them to meet their immediate and long-term needs for food to break a hunger cycle and to raise awareness about food sovereignty, as well as improve the quality of their nutrition.

- **Batu Loceng Youth Eco Garden (Suntenjaya, Indonesia International Work Camp)**



In the middle of a conventional farm in Kampung Batu Loceng (West Java, Indonesia) a group consisting of around 20 people: local farmers, international and local volunteers and children, set up a permaculture garden. They have learned about sustainable agriculture, regenerating ecosystems, communities and economies. They created a garden, build a greenhouse and raised flower beds, designed their individual gardens, experimented with organic liquid fertilizer and organic pesticides and of course by all this, they learned to grow

organic fruit and vegetables! The group decided to start with food, because everybody needs food everyday. *“By making a permaculture garden, we learn about sustainable agriculture to regenerate the ecosystem, community, and economy. We prepare ourselves and the next generation to produce our food in an eco friendly way. This is really good, because we can show them that sustainable farming is much better for their environment, their health, and their economy. We can all share the healthy and yummy food”*, says the project organizer.

Frontline Communities:

- **Peace through Environmental Protection (Uda Inguruwatte, SCI Sri Lanka)**



Volunteers of SCI Sri Lanka started preparations for this project with a visit to the local municipality. They told local authorities about the plan to prevent soil erosion and promote organic farming. Municipality representatives liked the idea and ensured organizers of their support.

As a next step a representative of the local government joined the team of volunteers in their visit to the project site. The delegation met with the priest of the local buddhist temple, the headteacher and other village activists to discuss next steps and take into

account their views and recommendations. Finally seedlings were provided by the Department of Forestry, which also advised the project team on planting and plant maintenance.

During 4 workcamps that followed these detailed preparations, participants planted 2500 plants! They also organized workshops and meetings for the local youth about tackling environmental issues and living together in a diverse society. A group consisting of: 20 school leavers from the village, religious leaders, school teachers and community leaders was formally appointed to monitor the growth of the plants, and protect them from any damage.

- **Think globally, act locally (Cagliari, SCI Italy)**



In the work-class district of Cagliari (Sardegna) SCI Italy volunteers brought back the concept of “popular school”, where local people joined together to work and to learn from each other. They participated in cleaning actions, workshops about climate justice, round table session about sustainable management of their district and... a recycle kite laboratory! As the result they decided to claim the abandoned school building, which will serve as a community centre for the future popular school sessions.

Capacity and Network Building:

- **Strengthening the Capacity of SCI Volunteers and Partner Organization of Climate Change Issues (Kuakata Sea Beach, Patuakhali, SCI Bangladesh)**



Activists from SCI Bangladesh joined together with members of other local NGO's, college students and local community to participate in a weekend workcamp that focused on climate change impacts and how to prevent them. The goal of the event was to increase knowledge of climate change related hazards, so that participants can put that knowledge to use and organize activities to protect the climate.

They listened to lectures by local experts and had the opportunity to share what they learned with tourists visiting the Kuakata Sea Beach. The impact of climate change is very wide and Bangladesh is at its frontline. *"If you think about it, our initiative might seem very small, but we want to be part of the solution. Hopefully through this experience, we will be empowered to take action again and again in the future"*, says Maniruzzaman Bachchu, one of the organizers. A two-day workcamp followed the training. Participants cleaned the local beach and at the same time informed passers by about issues related to climate change.

- **Climate justice in VCV Serbia (Fruška gora National Park, Volonterski Centar Vojvodine Serbia)**



A team of activists from VCV Serbia organized a capacity building training for volunteers coming from 10 different Serbian organizations., They met for 5 days in Fruška gora National Park, where they have learned about climate justice and local solutions, like permaculture and reconnecting with nature. All activities combined theoretical input (lectures by a climate scientist, journalist and permaculture expert), documentary

movie screenings and as much as possible practical experience (hiking in the nature, visiting a permaculture farm). *"The results of this activity are amazing, we created a working group and an*

action plan for this and whole next year to tackle the problem of climate change on local and national level”, says Jelena Amzirkov, one of the organizers. One of the first activities on the agenda is to create an urban garden in a nearby city - Novi Sad. “We came to realize that within the problem lies the solution and that we have to unite in solving this problems. We also decided to focus on these challenges more systematically and with more focus and efficiency”, sums up one of the participants.

- **Volunteer Day - Come and Share (Helsinki, KVT Finland)**

KVT Finland ran their workcamp at a Peace Station in Helsinki from the 3rd to the 4th of October, 2015 with the participation of 55 people: camp leaders, short and long term volunteers, camp hosts, asylum seekers and KVT board members. Their project had three main goals, 1. networking with local volunteers, camp leaders, participants of a migrant project they had ran before, active members of their organization and local partners, 2. to raise awareness on sustainable lifestyles and how volunteering can positively influence it and 3. furthering the local partners’ and volunteers’ involvement in KVT’s initiatives.

- **Climate for peace - Bicycle tour (Mauritius, SVI Mauritius)**



A group of 29 cyclists from all around Mauritius came together for a bicycle tour under the name of "Climate for Peace Caravane de l'amitie". The caravan went through many villages around the island. Every day participants received potted plants and their task was to encourage families that they met along the way to plant them in their yards. All families accepted the plants. They were happy to have a plant in their yard and they promised to take care of it. *“Our participants made new friends on the road and*

promised to come back again to see the plant when it grows up”, says Dimitry Duval, one of the organizers. “Our organization obtained more visibility and many participants expressed their interest to join us and continue the good work”, he adds. Evening activities consisted of quizzes, poems, energizers and workshops about climate change and nature conservation. Participants stayed in tents, lived close to nature and this way tried to implement the ideas they shared with them also in their lives.

- **GAIA Hiking Day for sustainability (Budapest, Utilapu Hungary)**



Hiking Day for Sustainability was a 12km walk in the nature with 7 stations. Each stop provided a challenge to the visitors and allowed them to check their knowledge about: seasonal fruit and vegetables (by putting them in baskets with the right name of the season of the year), attitudes for the use of energy (by marking activities that help use it in an efficient way), recognize plants by their smell and birds from their

voices and others. On the way volunteers were waiting with snacks and drinks. After completing all tasks, hikers (amongst them many children) could also have a hands on experience of vermicompost, urban beekeeping and learn about the Create a Climate for Peace Campaign. Those who completed the entire programme received something to remember the day by: a memory game about composting (for children), or Fair Trade products (for adults). *“Our biggest positive surprise was that not only the children but the adults took part in the games with pleasure”*, says Dóra ..., one of the organizers. *“During the organising work we could make the connection between different working groups in Utilapu stronger, as many members joined preparation work and were present at the spot”*, she adds.

Innovation for sustainability in workcamps:

- **Transition and Princess Garden Initiative (Berlin, SCI Germany)**



The two initiatives both the Transition Town Tour and the tour and workshop in Prinzessinnengarten were part of the 10-days workshop “Refresh the Climate and Rewrite the Future”. Both initiatives raised awareness on the topic of urban sustainability and possible ways of sustainable living where every available space in big cities is used to let new green spaces bloom. Increasing awareness of critical consumption, healthy

food, less CO2 and better microclimate. Participants could get inspired by the core activists who established this urban experience (both Transition Town Movement in Wedding and the urban garden Prinzessinnengarten). They were also encouraged to reflect about their role in the strive for peace and climate justice, for a more sustainable and inclusive society. Thanks to this initiatives participants were inspired to organize local actions once they got back home and several of them joined the COP21 climate summit in Paris as part of SCI Delegation.

- **Head On! Knowledge for Sustainability (Ponoviče, Zavod Voluntariat Slovenia)**



Main topic of the ‘Head on! Knowledge for a sustainable future” workcamp were bees. International and local volunteers learned everything about: their role from cultural and ecological perspective, their habitats and basic rules of beekeeping. They made bee products, build bug hotels and planted bee-friendly flora. Participants of the workcamp lived sustainably and in environmentally responsible way.

- **There are other ways (Sveti Filip i Jakov, Volunteers' Centre Zagreb)**



“There are other ways” was a project inside a workcamp. Participants of the “Deeds and Needs” camp, which goal was to support local volunteers in manual work around local Rehabilitation Centre, joined field trips and workshops about traditional, ecological production in the region. They were accompanied by a group of residents of the centre.

“We have organized a workshop after our first excursion to saltworks, and demonstrated to the residents in

Centre for rehabilitation in Sveti Filip i Jakov what we have learnt and seen there by preparing a natural toothpaste”, says Blazena Stranska, the workcamp coordinator. Later the group visited a Rehabilitation Centre in Zemunik Donji, where the residents themselves introduced them to their lavender production and conducted a lavender workshop.

The topic of this workcamp was volunteering with people with disabilities. Thanks to this initiative, the study part was widened up to ecological level and the topic enriched by learning about other ways of social care.

- **Into the bear forest 3 (Kuterevo, Volonterska Udruga Kuterevo)**

The workcamp “Into the bear forest 3” took place in the forest, 3km from Kuterevo village in Croatia. It gathered 18 international participants (16 volunteers + 2 camp coordinators) The main goal of the workcamp was to design and set up an educational trail from Kuterevo village (where is situated a refuge for bears) to a forest camp, going through a forest where live bears and other wild animals. The concept of this trail is to give a chance to people coming to visit Kuterevo bear refuge (about 25000 visitors each year) to go for a 5km-long hike in the wild, discovering natural habitat of bears and a well preserved forest. Main topics included in the trail were local ecosystem and geology, natural bear habitat, coexistence of wild animals and humans in a healthy natural environment, impact of human activities on nature.

- **Green Belt Camp Northern Weinviertel (SCI Austria, Austria)**

This project was carried out by SCI Austria in Poysdorf, Northern Weinviertel from the 22nd to the 27th of September, 2015. Seven volunteers from all over the world along with local volunteers participated in this workcamp, whose primary objective was to conserve species-rich dry grasslands endemic to Lower Austria, which are endangered, and to protect the habitat of rare animals and plants species. They took this opportunity to implement a sustainable work camp, and to raise awareness on ecological sustainable development, endangered species, climate change impacts on food, as well as promoting the “Climate for Peace” campaign and Climate Justice to many communities around them.

8. Organizations involved

Foundation Terra 21 - needs to be completed

Service Civil International

SCI is a volunteer organisation dedicated to promoting a culture of peace by organising international voluntary projects for people of all ages and backgrounds. The organisation consists of 45 branches and an ever growing number of partner organisations. Living and working together with people of different backgrounds helps volunteers to break down barriers and prejudices. It allows them to experience a world of mutual respect and understanding. In this sense, volunteering can be seen as a way of life- a demonstration of the possible reality of a peaceful and cooperative world.

Since 2013 SCI is organizing an international Create a Climate for Peace Campaign, which goal is to mainstream awareness and action for climate justice and sustainable lifestyle across all branches, workcamps and other activities organized. GAIA MicroGrants programme is part of this initiative.

