

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL  
European Secretariat

37th ICM working paper r. 7

Report of the European Secretariat, October 1965 - March 1966

Note. This report is very brief, and should be read in conjunction with the minutes of the 31st ESM.

1. General Programme

1.1 Winter - Spring. Every branch and group in Europe is now in the process of training leaders systematically, which is an improvement on past achievement in this field. More needs to be done about exchange of information about the training camps and courses, by written reports and by exchanges of course-participants, including committee and staff members.

A few workcamps took place in France and Britain at Christmas, and there were more than enough volunteers to fill them. The Easter programme covers more countries than last year, but the total number of places had not increased much. At the time of writing, it is doubtful whether all places will be filled, probably because detailed information was not issued early enough.

Volunteers from Eastern Europe took part in Christmas camps for the first time, and have been accepted for Easter camps and leaders' training.

1.2 Summer programme. The summer programme planned will be larger than last year in most countries, but not in the case of some smaller branches and groups. There will be one camp in Denmark for the first time for several years, and some organised in Southern Ireland by the Irish group, with a certain amount of special support from the British branch.

There will probably not be any camps in Greece : the Swiss Committee is giving detailed consideration to the best way in which activities can be re-established there, and will refrain from organising camps until plans are worked out properly. The Italian branch has stopped working in the south, due to the difficulty and expense of organising camps there, and is concentrating on projects in the north for the time being. Further summary information is given on the bottom half of page 2. Several branches have made deliberate efforts to provide more places for female volunteers in summer camps, in response to growing demand.

A close eye must be kept on the quality of the workcamps in Europe, and also on the administration of those smaller branches which have more work as a result of the overall increase in Programme but no corresponding increase in resources.

2. Long-term and middle-term service. The most striking development in Europe as a whole has been the increase in planning for reception of non-European LTVs and MTVs, in order to establish a slightly better balance in the intercontinental exchange. This is linked with the establishment of projects continuing in off-season months, either for teams or individual volunteers, skilled and unskilled : the increase in social-service work in northern Europe, bringing contact with institutions in continuous need of voluntary aid indoors, is another factor promoting this trend.

The sending of LTVs and MTVs from Europe to other continents is (with the exception of the British branch) still small, limited by financial and administrative resources. Interest continues, however, and improved administration is expected as a result of IS activities such as the frequent publication of summary information on places available, and coordination (see also working paper nr. 10). The British branch programme is improving steadily as a result of experience in project selection and overall administration, since the sharp increase in the programme three years ago. Regular exchange of views and colder joint planning is now better established at international level.

3. East-West programme. Exchanges are planned as listed on the last section of this page, although not confirmed in all cases. The number of volunteers to be received from Eastern Europe is larger than the number to be send (except in the case of Eastern Germany), as all SCI volunteers must have previous experience before being accepted for Eastern Europe. Several branches have made special efforts to recruit suitable volunteers to send, and all have cooperated very well in preparing to receive more Eastern Europeans.

A member of the office-staff of the Eastern European coordinating body, BITEJ, will take part in workcamps and training-courses and learn SCI office procedure in the ES during the summer, this programme has been arranged in cooperation with the friends, UNA and the British branch of SCI.

A joint East-West course concerned with organising and leading international voluntary workcamps will take place in Yugoslavia in autumn 1966, provided adequate preparations can be completed in time.

#### 4. North Africa

4.1 Algeria. 4/5 short-term volunteers will be sent to the SCI project in Algeria this summer, and an exchange may be arranged, through the SCI Delegate and the ES, with Jeunesse FLN.

4.2 Morocco. An exchange of volunteers for short-term projects will be take place through the Moroccan Union of Workcamp Organisations (UMAC).

5. ES Administration. The staff of the ES and Clearing House has been slightly increased for the summer season, and more office space and equipment has been obtained. This should improve efficiency.

### OUTLINE OF SCI SUMMER PROGRAMME IN EUROPE, 1966

-----

Country	camps (approx. no.)	periods
AUSTRIA	26	mid-July to end August
BELGIUM	7	July / August / September
DENMARK	1	end July to mid-August
FRANCE	92	July / August / September
GERMANY	14	April to mid-October
GREAT BRITAIN	120	end March to October
ICELAND	1	mid-July to mid-August
REP. OF IRELAND	4	July / August
ITALY	6 - 8	July / August
NETHERLANDS	5	July / August
NORWAY	7 - 10	July / August
SWITZERLAND	14	April to mid-September

#### EASTERN EUROPE :

BULGARIA / CZECHOSLOVAKIA	)	Participation in international workcamps
EAST GERMANY / HUNGARY	)	organised by national youth councils.
POLAND / USSR / YUGOSLAVIA	)	Most camps are in July and August