



Short review of SCI's historical development 1920 - 1990

- 1920 Pierre Ceresole and Hubert Parris organize and carry out with a small international team a reconstruction service in the war devastated village Esnes near Verdun in France.
- 1924 First international voluntary work camp in Switzerland to clear rubble after avalanche.
- 1928 710 volunteers from 28 countries clear the Rhine valley in Liechtenstein after heavy floods.
- 1930 Second international voluntary work camp in France (Lagarde) to clear up after flood devastation.
- 1931 During the economic crisis in England a work camp is organized to restore self-confidence in a distressed mining town. Volunteers with unemployed men build a swimming pool and layout a public park.
- 1934 First service in India: re-building of an earthquake stricken village in the area of Bihar.
- 1936 First voluntary work camp in Sweden.
- 1937 Assistance to civilians during the Civil War in Spain: evacuation of refugees and other transport services; setting up a maternity and feeding programmes for children and old people in Madrid; installation of homes for evacuated boys and girls.
First work camp in Norway.
- 1939 IVS-SCI service is recognized in Great Britain as alternative to military service.
- 1940 Long-term re-forestation service in Britain for Conscientious objectors. First work camp in the Netherlands at school of Kees Boeke.
- 1944 Relief work in Palestine, Egypt and Greece.
- 1945 Relief and reconstruction work by international voluntary work camps in France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. -First international meeting of European SCI representatives.
- 1946 First work camps in Belgium and Czechoslovakia. - Second meeting of representatives from Great Britain, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands, setting up an International Coordination Committee and electing an international president and full-time secretary.
First joint meeting of European branch secretaries.
- 1947 First work camp in Austria.
Community development services in Greece and Italy.

- Recognition of Norwegian, Belgium (Bruxelles) and German (Federal Republic) branches.
Pressure to cease SCI activities in Czechoslovakia by new government.
Transformation of International Coordination Committee into International Consultative Committee to prepare an SCI International constitution.
- 1948 First international voluntary work camp in Algeria, followed by social work.
Workcamp in Denmark.
First policy making SCI International Delegates' Meeting.
- 1949 Adoption of international constitution at 4th Delegates' Meeting.
Recognition of Austrian and Italian branches.
- 1950 Significant expansion of work camps and social work in Europe. Again activities in India (work with refugees).
- 1951 First service in Pakistan.
- 1952 Recognition of Algerian branch.
- 1953 Long-term reconstruction service after floods in the Netherlands.
- 1954 Assistance to earthquake stricken villages near Orléansville in Algeria.
First Orient-Occident work and study camp.
International constitution amended.
- 1955 International voluntary work camps with local partners in Lebanon and Jordan.
First East-West camp in Poland, in cooperation with national youth organizations and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.
- 1956 Community development project in Tunisia and first SCI work camp in the USA.
Recognition of Indian branch.
Due to insufficient freedom to operate the Algerian branch is compelled to suspend its activities from 1956 to the end of the liberation war in 1962.
The SCI insurance scheme is established.
Strengthening of policy-making powers of the International Committee in view of the expansion of the movement.
- 1957 A well prepared SCI emergency team goes for the first time into action to assist flood stricken population in the French Alps.
- 1958 SCI work camps in Israel and Japan; East-West camp with the Union of Soviet Youth in the USSR.
First USA Conscientious Objector allowed to do his alternative service with SCI.
- 1959 Cooperation with emigrated Algerian Trade Union to establish homes for Algerian refugee children in Tunisia and Morocco.
Work with Tibetan refugees and long-term community development services in India.
Creation of SCI international development fund.
A North-Africa Sub-Committee is formed.
Re-organization of the SCI International Secretariat to consist of secretaries for Asia, Europe and an international coordinating secretary.
- 1960 First SCI work camp in Sri Lanka.
Social, educational and work camp activities in Mauritius.
Extensive help to Tibetan refugee children in India.
- 1961 First work camp in Iceland. Cooperation with "Les Volontaires au travail" in Togo.

- SCI in the Federal Republic of Germany is authorized to organize construction and social work for Conscientious Objectors as alternative to military service.
- 1962 Renewed activities in Algeria: reconstruction of a war destroyed village, medical, educational and community development activities in various villages near Tlemcen.
First work camps in Ireland and East-Pakistan (Bangladesh).
- 1963 First work camps in cooperation with national youth organizations in Yugoslavia and the German Democratic Republic.
The French branch organizes camps for Conscientious Objectors.
The British branch sends long-term volunteers to Cameroon, Botswana, Swaziland, Malaysia and Thailand.
- 1964 Important change of the SCI international constitution: an International Executive Committee is set up to give leadership between the meetings of the Delegates' Meeting.
Recognition of the Japanese branch.
- 1965 First work camps in Botswana and the Republic of Korea. Work camps in Ireland again. Long-term volunteers working in the Seychelles.
French branch sets up a permanent centre for orientation and training of leaders and long-term volunteers.
- 1966 Work camps again in Mauritius. Long-term volunteers In Lesotho, Senegal and Nepal. First SCI camps in Thailand and Canada.
Appointment of SCI Asian Advisory Council. Acceptance of international 5 year development plan.
- 1967 First SCI work camp in Nepal.
First Asian Regional Training Seminar.
An International Africa Committee is appointed.
- 1968 Abandoning attempts to reconstitute branch in Algeria because of Impossibility of receive governmental approval.
Agreement of possible offer to work in South- and/or North-Vietnam cannot to be reached within SCI.
Change of international constitution: International Delegates' Meeting is abolished, then replaced by policy-making International Committee in new composition.
- 1969 Recognition of Internationella Arbetslag as Swedish SCI branch.
- 1970 Creation of an SCI international Commission for the activities of the Action d'Urgence Internationale (International Emergency Action).
- 1971 Work in India with refugees from East-Pakistan.
- 1972 Recognition of Bangladesh branch.
SCI group registered in Penang/Malaysia.
- 1973 Recognition of Irish branch.
An Asian Regional Committee is set up.
- 1974 Flemish section of SCI Belgium (VIA) becomes an SCI group on its own.
- 1975 A European Regional Committee is set up as follow-up of the European biannual Secretaries' Meeting.
- 1977 Recognition of Vrijwillige Internationale Aktie (VIA) as Flemish branch of SCI in Belgium.
- 1979 SCI branch in Italy revived.

- 1980 L'Action d'Urgence Internationale (AUI) becomes an independent organization, headquarters remain in Paris.
- 1981 Recognition of Kansainvalinen Vapaaehtoinen Tyoteirijarjesto (KVT) as SCI branch of Finland and Service Volontaire International as branch in Mauritius. Austrian branch revived.
- 1982 Work with Sri Lankan repatriates in India and Sri Lanka.
- 1983 SCI group revived in the United States.
German branch helps to organise work camps in Greece again.
French and German branches establish links with organizations in Nicaragua.
French branch sends exploratory team to Lebanon to investigate possible SCI work: no immediate action is possible.
The Immigrants Commission with secretariat in Bruxelles/Belgium becomes an independent organization.
- 1984 Affiliation of Servei Catala de Camps de Treball in Barcelona/Catalonia/Spain as a group of SCI.
SCI Selangor, Federal Territory, is registered in Malaysia.
- 1985 Work with Afghan refugees in New Delhi, India.
- 1986 SCI teams are sent from Europe to Nicaragua to work in agricultural development projects.
The International Secretariat moves from Europe to Asia (Bangalore/India).
- 1987 Northern Ireland group is recognized as a branch and Austrian branch status is confirmed.
An international sub-committee of Solidarity, Exchange and Education of Development (SEED) is established at the 52nd ICM in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- 1988 SCI organizes a solidarity project for Namibia on European level: The UNIMOG-Campaign,
- 1989 New perspectives for long-term voluntary services and East-West exchange are discussed in international SCI-bodies.
- 1990 The Baltic Sea Campaign is organized as a new type of environmental SCI-work.
70th Anniversary of SCI in Verdun and India.