

Learn and Get Inspired from the Past

10-15 March 2017, Alt Empordà, Catalonia, Spain

Call for Participants

Background of the seminar

“Learn and get inspired from the past” is an international seminar organised in the framework of two projects that contribute to the work SCI does in the field of refugees: PATH - Peace activism through lessons from history of forced migration and A Route to connect: youngsters crossing borders for a better Europe.

The seminar will be held at Alt Empordà, Catalonia, a meaningful place on the border between Spain and France, where, between January and February 1939, "la retirada" took place, i.e. 500000 people crossed the border to escape from the Spanish Civil, after the franquist troops took Barcelona. Participants will follow the refugee route and be introduced to historical spots, among which the Exile Memorial Museum (MUME). Related to that, the participants will also examine (other) examples of SCI actions related to refugees (in the past and nowadays).

The seminar's main result is recognising memory as a strong tool for understanding the present and mobilizing activism and solidarity within the actual situation. Another important part of the seminar is raising awareness about the refugee situation and its main components connected with the origin of conflicts, migration flows and routes, legal framework, destinations and new hosting countries. Working with media, participants will collect significant information and stories from the past that could function as an inspiration for working in the actual situation. These media outcomes will contribute to the final video and remembrance exposition about the project.

Objectives

- To raise awareness about the condition of refugees on their route to and in Europe, with a focus on the past
- To spread and disseminate stories of refugees
- To activate youngsters in being actors of social change, together with older generations of activists, and to strive to shape society as they wish it would look like, through the exposition of examples coming also from the past.

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Specific objectives

- To learn how forced migration was bedded in the past, and relate that to the present situation in Europe
- To examine the role that SCI had in supporting affected people as to inspire activation of youngsters nowadays
- To discuss the current refugee-issue in Europe and its effects on local society
- To set a proper framework and create guidelines/materials to be used for future activities within SCI (field study trip on Balkan route, Building Bridges campaign)
- To examine the concept of social inclusion in its historic context and compare that to youth-and volunteer work today and then.

Target group

The seminar is meant to inspire young refugees, youngsters and youth workers working and/or willing to work with refugees by connecting the past with the present and possibly near future.

Are you?

- Interested and/or active in working with refugees
- Interested in history of Spanish civil war
- Interested and/or experienced in working with media
- Motivated to collect and spread powerful stories
- Motivated to raise awareness on the topic
- Willing to be an actor of change within and beyond your local context

Please consult your interest with your local SCI branch and **apply online by 12 February**.

Link for the application: <https://goo.gl/forms/KqPjksQswRih6STW2>

Arrival and departure

Your arrival is foreseen on **Friday 10 March 2017 before 2 p.m.** Your departure is foreseen on **Wednesday 15 March 2017 after 4 p.m.** IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOOD RUN OF THE PROJECT THAT YOU ARRIVE BEFORE AND LEAVE AFTER THESE INDICATED TIMES.

Participants fee and travel reimbursement

All food and accommodation costs during the seminar are covered. Travel reimbursement is foreseen up to 180 € (conditions apply, please read our Travel policy).

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About PATH

The project spans over 17 months and brings together 279 participants from 13 countries. Participants are invited to explore the history of e.g. the Spanish Civil war and the Yugoslav wars and to relive stories of people who have walked a long path, seeking refugee back then and nowadays. How can we use lessons learnt to (re)shape our current reality? Throughout five activities, the participants are working with media to cover the experience of 3 generations with forced migration and present their stories and good practices that can lead to innovations in our diverse society. The exhibition and video, leveraged by the use of unique documents from the International Archives of SCI, will be available both offline and online and presented at the final event in Bulgaria in January 2018.

Other PATH activities

- Seminar focusing on forced migration during Yugoslav War, 8-14/5 2017, Serbia
- Study camp and raising awareness event in summer 2018 in Greece, Italy and Germany
- Final visibility event and evaluation meeting, 25-30/1 2018, Bulgaria

More information: <http://www.sci.ngo/path>

About A Route to connect

The aim of the project is to build bridges between European society and refugees, as to promote a more inclusive and peaceful society.

We foresee three subsequent phases:

- Learn and get inspired from the past seminar, 10- 15 March 2017, Spain
- Field Study Trip across the Balkan route from Slovenia down to Greece (May/beginning of June, dates to be confirmed)
- Awareness Raising Campaign that will include a number of live events (e.g. organization of ad hoc voluntary projects with international volunteers developing street actions, public hearings and meetings, but also roundtables with experts and more ideas).

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