

SCI School Project 2013



**“Crisis everywhere? How do we shape the world
of tomorrow?”**

***Alles Krise oder was?
Wirtschaftskrise, Klimakrise, Wohlstandskrise –
Wie gestalten wir die Welt von morgen?***

04/09 – 03/10 in Cologne and Bonn

Editorial Information

Published in January 2014 by

Service Civil International – Deutscher Zweig e.V. (SCI Germany)
Blücherstr. 14, D-53115 Bonn
Tel: +49-228-212086
www.sci-d.de

Banking Details

Service Civil International (SCI)
Bank: Sparkasse KölnBonn
SWIFT-Code: COLSDE33
IBAN: DE62 3705 0198 0009 6009 41

Coordination and Editing:

Katharina Merz
schulprojekt@sci-d.de

Printing

kessoprint
Nikolausstr. 43
53129 Bonn

printed on FSC certified paper

Pictures

SCI

This project has received financial support from the following institutions:



Thank you for your support!

1. Introduction.....	4
2. The participants.....	5
3. The school project 2013	7
3.1. The training	7
3.2 Workshop preparation	9
3.3 School workshops.....	10
3.4 Other activities	13
3.5 Evaluation and Farewell	15
3.6 Impressions	16
4. SCI.....	18
5. Outlook for 2014	20

1. Introduction



These were the leading questions of this year's Incoming school project. They were discussed by around 400 pupils and 20 volunteers from all over the world during the SCI school project 2013.

As in previous years, SCI Germany invited ten international volunteers from partner organisations in the Global South to live and learn together with ten volunteers from Germany. For four weeks, the young people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds stayed together, learned about the topic and prepared workshops that they performed with local pupils at schools in Cologne and Bonn.

Their workshops focused mainly on pupils aged 15-18 from five different schools in the region of Cologne and Bonn. In their workshops, the group of volunteers intended to create awareness about the different crises in the world and how they affect people in the Global South. They wanted to have a look at the concept of growth and at alternatives for a fairer world. It was their aim to make young people understand the connections between the situations and lifestyles in countries of the Global South and situation and lifestyles in western countries like Germany. The pupils did not only receive a lot of background information about the economic and the climate crisis or the concept of growth, but also had a very personal view on their concept of quality of life and what they really need for it. They also gained access to a very individual and personal view on the topic as the international volunteers reported about their own settings and experiences in their home countries. This way, the global challenge of the worldwide crises became much more visible and concrete for the participants of the workshops. The international group especially encouraged the pupils to reflect about solutions, alternatives and attitude changes in their daily lives.

2. The international group

Participants

Adegbenga Oluseum from Nigeria (Voluntary Workcamps Associaton of Nigeria)

Ali Al-Adawy and **Sameh** Al-Hlawany from Egypt (Gudran for Art and Development)

Hang Vu Thi from Vietnam (Volunteers for Peace Vietnam)

Hari Krishna Prajapati from Nepal (Service Civil International Nepal)

Indika Jayaweera from Sri Lanka (Service Civil International Sri Lanka)

Itsnani Mardlotillah from Indonesia (Indonesia International Work Camp)

Juan Acevedo Castro from Ecuador (Fundación Ecologico Chiriboga)

Kagiso Moatshe from Botswana (Botswana Workcamps Association)

Sofía Flores Ontiveros Mexico (Nataaté)

Anja Schlegel, **Carolyn** Winkendick, **Dawn** Hodorowski-Braun, **Emma** Gottwald, **Jana** Demuth, **Larissa** Jaeger, **Max** Supplieth and **Sofie** Steinberger from Germany

Camp coordinators

Michael Rösser, **Ronja** Kopp

Trainers

Philipp Sieg, **Verena** Schneeweiß

theatre: **Heike** Hundeiker

Housekeeper

Johannes Kiefl

Project coordinator

Katharina Merz





some of the participants on a trip to Bonn

The group was composed of 20 participants coming from eleven different countries who all came from different situations and backgrounds and had various interests. The international participants had a lot to talk about, exchange and discuss. As in every group, misunderstandings happened, but the international group managed very fast to create an atmosphere where people could talk and discuss freely about their impressions and feelings. After a few days, everyone felt comfortable already, so that an intense group feeling could grow and make the collective living and working successful.



Very fast, the participants felt like home in their new surrounding!

3. The school project 2013

The school project consists of two different parts: the training and the school workshops. Of course there has been more going on than working, cooking and sleeping. During the four weeks, lots of free time activities have been organised by different local volunteers and the group members themselves.

3.1. The training

As all pupils know, successful learning is more than just giving some theoretical input. So the programme started with different methods and games to create a pleasant and comfortable working and living atmosphere. The first day had only one topic: getting to know each other. The camp-coordinators Michael and Ronja had prepared different games and exercises so that everyone learned more about each other's background and what brought him or her to participate in this project. The participants also had the opportunity to talk about their expectations and their fears regarding the programme.

When the training started, the trainers Philipp and Verena continued doing activities that supported the group feeling and brought the participants together even closer. The methods of non-formal learning that were chosen to inseminate the complex topic helped the participants to receive a deeper understanding of it.



Using creative methods

Would you like to know what topics were covered during the training for the international group? Here's an overview:

	morning	afternoon	evening
1st day <u>Introduction</u>	Introduction to the topic – brainstorming, definitions	The situation in the world and specifically in the countries of the international participants	Open discussion
2nd day <u>Crises</u>	Crises: types, definitions, aspects Background: economic crisis	World Trade Game Consumption	movie ‚Story of Stuff‘ & discussion
3rd day <u>Climate change</u>	Background: climate change Climate expedition (Germanwatch)	International stakeholders	Present your organisation!
4th day <u>Theatre</u>	Introductory exercises Exercises for group dynamics	Presentation Working with the topic I	Working with the topic II
5th day <u>Economic growth</u>	Background: the world's economic system and the concept of economic growth	Scenic and thematical work	Preparation for Flashmob at ‚Tag des Guten Lebens‘, Cologne
6th day <u>prosperity and wealth</u>	Wealth & good life Happiness	Example: Bhutan Ecological footprint	Free evening
7th day <u>alternatives</u>	Alternatives and individual options for action Cooperation game	Stakeholders in civil society: lecture Simpol Create a new world! Examples of local initiatives	Evaluation of the training

This year's was a wide one and the participants learned and discussed a lot. But they also experienced a lot of interesting exercises that they could use afterwards in the school workshops. Depending on their home country, the perspectives and experiences regarding the topic were very different so that an enriching exchange for everyone took place.

Especially the days of the theatre workshop were quite intense. The participants enjoyed to act in different exercises and to perform different characters and different topics. From the

beginning, there was the idea of performing something at 'Tag des Guten Lebens' in Cologne-Ehrenfeld, a car-free day with space for artistic actions, neighbourhood initiatives, presentation of local initiatives and much more. At the end it became clear: the participants really wanted to be part of it! They created a Flashmob that they performed several times during that day. It was a good starting point to discuss with passers-by about the topic and to exchange perspectives. The participants also learned a lot about things that are going on in Germany at the moment and got in touch with local people.

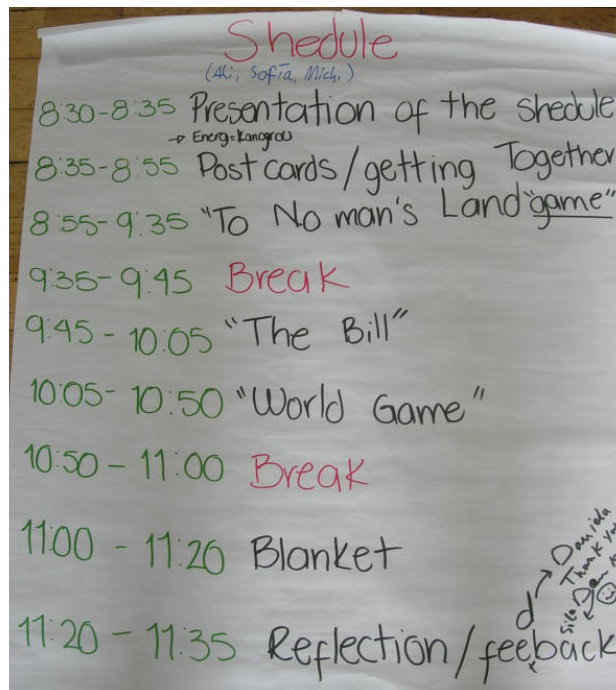
Studying and learning takes a lot of energy, so the participants also needed good food. Luckily, the group was supported by Johannes, who cooked and coordinated the cleaning during the training time. The participants were so happy to have two great and warm meals every day!



Great food made with love!

3.2 Workshop preparation

Before the participants started to create their own workshops in small groups, they received more information about how to develop and run a workshop. The group had already developed a tool kit with different methods that people brought with them or used or experienced before. So they had a good basis to create their workshops and to work with the pupils in a successful way.



Schedule for a Workshop day

School systems all over the world are really different. To understand how the school system works in Germany, a teacher of one of the schools met the group and explained the system and the way pupils are taught in Germany. It was quite interesting for everyone to learn how the German school system differs to the ones in Egypt, Mexico or elsewhere, but it became also clear that there are similarities between teenagers all over the world.

After the session, all the participants felt well prepared and looked upon the upcoming workshops in an optimistic way.

An important topic during the whole Camp was the concept of 'self-organisation': after the training finished, the group had to take care of all the daily tasks themselves. So it became very important to talk about sharing responsibilities and duties for the rest of the programme.

3.3 School workshops

During the second part of the project, the group started to run their workshops. This year we were invited to visit the following schools:

- *Gymnasium Schaurtestraße, Köln-Deutz (18.09.13)*
- *Willy-Brandt-Gesamtschule, Köln (20.09. + 27.09.13)*
- *Lise-Meitner-Gesamtschule, Porz (24.09.13)*
- *Integrierte Gesamtschule Bonn-Beuel (26.09.13)*
- *Apostelgymnasium, Köln (30.09.13)*

A typical school workshop day: 2 perspectives

"I participated in the Incoming programme this year and I had a really wonderful time in the group and especially with the pupils. There was only one thing I didn't like at all: giving a workshop meant getting up so early! So at most of the workshop days, we met tired and quiet at the breakfast table, around 6 a.m. to get ready for the day. After the journey to one of the schools, which was often pretty long we were usually really awake and full of energy to start with the workshop. As we had made this experience already within our group we thought that the best way to start a workshop and to learn from each other is to get to know each other better, so we always started with an exercise to do that and to work with the pupils in a nice atmosphere.

We had heard about a lot of interesting things in our own training and we were eager to share and discuss it with the pupils. For me, it was especially interesting to hear more about young German pupils perspective on the global crises and to inform them about the present situation in my own country. We showed them some little movies and made a lot of interesting games to make the pupils reflect on the topic of crises, wealth & happiness and growth. So they usually started of their own initiative to think and reflect about their own lifestyle, but also their own and the worlds future and how it is related to the topic.

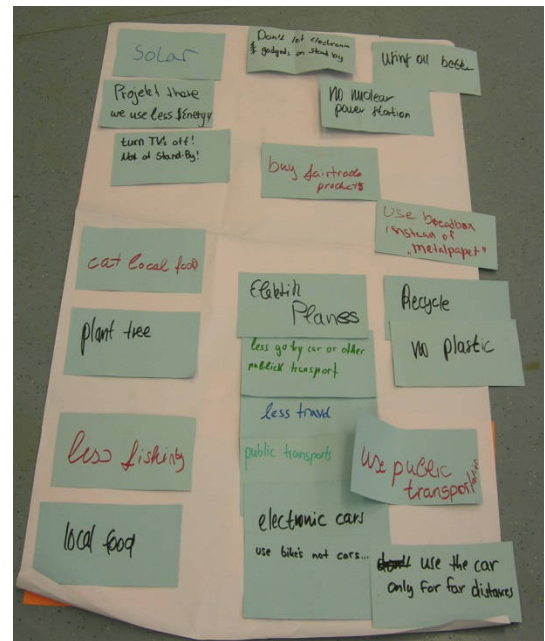
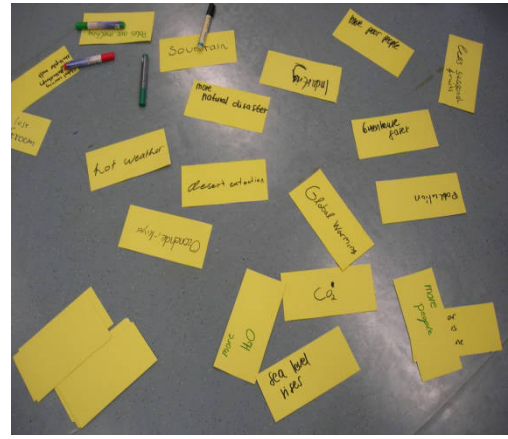
I had a lot of great interaction with the German pupils, who were interested to attend our workshops, and who were happy to meet me and my colleagues!

Hang, participant

"On a normal Friday morning, some volunteers of SCI arrived in my classroom – I had already forgotten that they would come and what they wanted to do, but then they started their programme with some games and me and my classmates, we really had fun and got interested in them! Afterwards we talked about more serious topics and I learnt a lot about the effects of the global crises in the world. Of course I had heard about it before, but when my teachers talk about it or I read it in a newspaper, it's so abstract for me. But when these young people from different countries spoke about it, I could imagine it much better. I also discussed a lot about what makes me happy and what I really need in my life and if there are maybe things that are unnecessary. We also talked about economic growth and I learnt some new things about it.

We discussed our ideas and how we together could make a difference. I liked that part a lot because I would like to change something."

Julian, pupil



Working with the pupils

3.4 Other activities

Of course there was more going on during the project time than learning and working. After the training had finished, the participants could enjoy a delicious dish every day, either from one of the participant's home countries or an innovative mixture, as the volunteers took care of all their meals themselves during the workshop time. During weekends and in their free time the group organised several activities:



The volunteers also had the opportunity to visit the office of SCI in Bonn and to meet and discuss with the staff members.



Lunch with SCI staff

One highlight was the Weekend Workcamp at a buddhistic hospice garden ‘Hortus Dialogus’ in Nideggen-Abenden. Together with local SCI volunteers the group supported the project for one weekend. They enjoyed working in the garden, helping with tree trimming and some renovation work. Here are some impressions:



The members of local group of Cologne and Bonn also planned different activities for the group or accompanied them to visits and events in Cologne and Bonn.



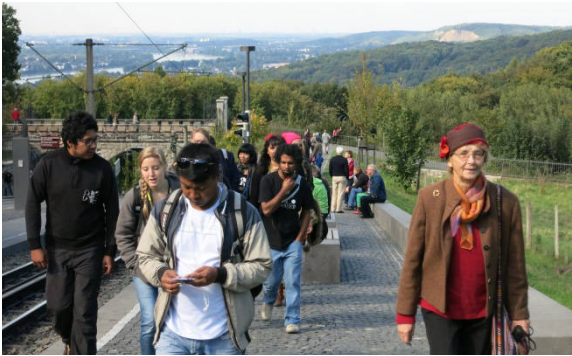
dinner invitation

3.5 Evaluation and Farewell

At the very end of the School Project, it was time for a reflection of the time spent together: the training, the school workshops and the other activities. Each participant evaluated the programme individually in written form. Additionally, there was time for a group evaluation in the plenary. Afterwards, the participants came together for a follow-up workshop in small groups in which they developed project proposals to transfer their experiences and ideas into new projects.

After this it was time to clean the rooms and pack up. Lots of the participants went to an SCI-seminar to introduce the project to other volunteers. But as most of the volunteers from Germany went home the last project day ended in a huge 'Sustainability Party' with the pupils!

3.6 Impressions





The topic this year was very relevant for me because these crises affect our countries more than other as we still have problems solving them. For the pupils, it was great to make them realise that the lives they live affect other countries and people they have never reached.

In the group, we had a great team spirit and experienced how great cooperation in a group of people can work.

Thank for this opportunity to learn and teach!

(Kagiso from Botswana)

„The concept and the topic of the school project gives an opportunity to the pupils to understand what is going on in the Global North and the Global South. I learned a lot and gained a lot of good and very helpful experiences. I also got a new perspective on some things. I will start again to work in my association when I'm back to Indonesia. I want to implement new methods and topics in our programmes there.”

(Itsnani from Indonesia)



5. SCI

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world's largest international volunteering movements with more than ninety years of experience in coordinating international voluntary projects. Through these projects SCI aims to break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds and promotes a culture of peace. The roots of Service Civil International lie in very practical peace projects. In 1920 a group of volunteers gathered to reconstruct a war-torn village near the French Verdun.

This very same idea still lies at the heart of all activities of Service Civil International. International voluntary projects are used as a tool to create intercultural understanding and solidarity between people of different backgrounds. SCI volunteers are now active all over the world in projects of reconstruction, ecology, social inclusion, North-South solidarity and many others.

When are you joining?



For more information visit: www.sci-d.de

4. Outlook for 2014

In 2014, the SCI School Project will take place from 3rd of September till 2nd of October.

We are going to talk about the topics of land use, earth capacity and its connection with the problems of climate change.

SCI will offer workshops on this topic in different schools in Cologne and Bonn.

Do you want to know more about the school project?

Would you like to be one of the volunteers?

Or even help with the preparation and realisation of this project as a camp coordinator or trainer?

Or would you like to invite us to run a workshop in your class?

Please contact Katharina Merz:

schulprojekt@sci-d.de or 0228-212086

