



Young Researchers of Serbia

Voluntary Service of Serbia

WORKCAMPS 2020

About YRS – VSS

Young Researchers of Serbia - Voluntary Service of Serbia (YRS-VSS) is a non-profit, non-political NGO officially established in 1976 as a network of organizations, societies, clubs and sections with research programmes, gathered around the coordinative office on the national level in Belgrade. Through its history the number of members changed, but there were over 50 different organizations taking part. In the 90's YRS-VSS leaves the *organizational form* of vertical relationships following the current direction of civil sector development. Today YRS-VSS represents the organization on the national level and it unites three thematically different but interconnected sectors – Environmental Protection and Conservation Sector, Youth Sector and Voluntary Service of Serbia.

Young Researchers of Serbia - Voluntary Service of Serbia involves mostly young people aged 15-30, but there is no upper age limit. We have developed in delivering good preparation and follow up of young people with fewer opportunities.

THINK BIG - do little: start an avalanche! is our motto.

Our vision is to be the driving force for all those whose aim is to make our planet a more peaceful, just and healthy place.

Driven by science and education, our mission is to contribute:

- to environmental protection and nature conservation,
- to development of voluntarism and its values,
- to scientific creativity and active participation of the youth.

Our main aims are environmental protection, environmental education, youth exchange and work with young people, as well as the promotion of sustainable development, scientific creativity and volunteerism.

We have organized hundreds of research projects and educative programmes for young people in various areas of natural and social sciences.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

We usually send approx. 400-500 volunteers from Serbia abroad and host over 400 foreign volunteers at 20-30 workcamps each year. Since 2015 our work on international volunteers exchange is supported by the Ministry for youth and sports of the Republic of Serbia.

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

YRS-VSS is a member of: Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations, CCIVS – Coordinative Committee of International Voluntary Service, YEE – Youth and Environment Europe, ANPED – Northern Alliance for Sustainability, CEEWEB – Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity, and a partner of the network SCI in Serbia. YRS-VSS is one of the founding members of SEEYN – South East European Youth Network.

IN THE ALLIANCE

We are full members of the Alliance since 2005 and in the IVS movement since 1980's. Our main contribution to the network has been in delegating representatives to the Executive Committee (Jelena Ristic Beronja, Vice President of the Alliance 2010-2016, senior trainer in the Pool of Trainers since 2014) and Management Committees (Bojan Beronja as SDWG coordinator 2012 – 2014 and again in 2016 – 2017) and hosting EC meetings, the first Joint Meeting in 2012, Alliance Capacity Building Training in 2014, Alliance General Conference and General Assembly 2016.

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Website: www.mis.org.rs

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mladiistrazivacisrbije>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MISVSS>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mis.vss/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/YRSVSS>

Placement officers: Marija Peric and Jelena Tatalovic (outgoing) Marija Peric (incoming)

To get a better look at workcamps in Serbia, through the perspective of workcamp leaders, please have a look at our web documentary we made in 2017 and feel free to use it to promote the workcamps among your camp leaders! If you are an Alliance member, your organisation is on the map of the web documentary too! – go and check out for yourself! www.youthleaders.online

Since 2015, workcamps in Serbia have been recognised by the Ministry for youth and sport of the Republic of Serbia and since then been a part of the national youth volunteering programme which is financing approx. 30 workcamps each year and trainings for camp leaders.

GENERAL CONDITIONS for incoming volunteers:

In some workcamps there is an age limit; it is clearly marked for each workcamp. For workcamps where we accept the volunteers who are 18 and older, volunteers who are 17 but have participated in a workcamp before, can apply and we will try to place them in our workcamps, upon the host's approval. Don't hesitate to ask us!

The language of the camps is English.

All our workcamps follow the Alliance' guidelines of the Environmental Sustainability to the extent the local conditions allow. We are committed to the gender equality values and principles outlined in Alliance' policy papers.

Technical details (Alliance website use, Friday list and infosheet...)

For all exchanges we use Easy-placement system – we will provide our partners with our program (PEF) and volunteer exchange forms (VEF) following exchange principles and procedures and adopted document – ADIH. Therefore our partners can expect our VEF both in .xml and .pdf format.

CAMPLIST*

Camp code	Name	Type	Dates	No. of vols	Age limit
VSS01	POTTERY CAPITAL	ENVI/CULT/MANU	03/07 – 12/07	10	18–30
VSS02	HIDE AND SEEK	MANU/CONS/RENO	03/07 – 17/07	10	18–30
VSS03	FULL HOUSE #1	DISA/AGRI/KIDS	05/07 – 24/07	6	18+
VSS04	THE SOUL OF DANUBE	ENVI/FEST/MANU	07/07 – 21/07	10	18–30
VSS05	WORLD FOR SCHOOL	RENO	16/07 – 27/07	12	18+
VSS06	STORIES BY THE LAKE	ENVI/MANU	18/07 – 25/07	12	18+
VSS07	ACTIVE SUMMER	MANU/ART	20/07 – 01/08	10	18+
VSS08	WETLANDS CONSERVATION I – SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS	ENVI	25/07 – 07/08	10	18+
VSS09	ALCHEMY OF MUD	RENO/CULT/CONS/SOCI	01/08 – 15/08	12	18+
VSS10	FULL HOUSE #2	DISA/AGRI/KIDS	02/08 – 16/08	6	18+
VSS11	ARTOPOLIS I – STREET GALLERIES	ART	08/08 – 22/08	10	18–30
VSS12	ARTOPOLIS II – SOUNDING	ART	08/08 – 22/08	10	18–30
VSS13	ARTOPOLIS III – JOGGING	ART	08/08 – 22/08	10	18–30
VSS14	ARTOPOLIS IV – PHOTOGRAPHY	ART	08/08 – 22/08	10	18–30
VSS15	BLOOMING OF THE TISA	RENO/ENVI	15/08 – 26/08	9	18+
VSS16	BIRDS' ELDORADO – OBEDSKA BARA	ENVI	16/08 – 29/08	12	18+
VSS17	FULL HOUSE #3	DISA/AGRI/KIDS	16/08 – 02/09	6	18+
VSS18	THE DAYS OF THE DRAGONS	ARCH/MANU	31/08 – 14/09	10	18+
VSS19	FRIENDSHIP GAMES 2020	KIDS	September	TBC	18+

30 years of workcamp tradition in Serbia
Young Researchers of Serbia – Voluntary Service of Serbia

VSS01 POTTERY CAPITAL, Uzice

Type: ENVI/CULT/MANU

Dates: 03/07 – 12/07

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18 – 30

Partner: Zlakusa is tourist village in Western Serbia well known because of rural tourism, Ethno park "Terzica avlija", old pottery craft, monument of nature Potpecka cave (with biggest cave entrance on the Balkans). Ethno park Terzica avlija is one of the most successful and most beautiful village tourist household in Serbia visited by over a 7000 tourist per year (www.zlakusa.com). Until now Ethno park Terzica avlija (<http://www.zavicaj.info/eng/ethnopark-terzica-avlija/>) and Ethno association Zavicaj have organized seven workcamps (<http://www.zavicaj.info/eng/events/international-eco-camp/>) with many volunteers from different continents. Aim of these camps is cleaning all rivers banks and springs in the village and removing illegal dumping from forest and fields, so that Zlakusa can be the first "clean" tourist village in Western Serbia.

Work: Volunteers will clean the coast of river Detinja, paint bridge fence, decorate monument from WWII, clean up old small landfills, fix signs and marks on hiking routes, help organize a local dance manifestation.

Study part: Volunteers will be able to attend pottery class and presentation (international pottery festival has been held for 22 years in this village) after which the volunteers can try making something by themselves; also they will learn about Serbian traditional costumes, songs and dances and take part in local manifestation "Zlakusa in song and dance" wearing local traditional clothes.

Accommodation and food: in tents, bring your own sleeping bag; the food will be prepared by the volunteers.

Location and leisure: Village Zlakusa is nearby Uzice (14km) in west part of the Serbia. The village Zlakusa is between mountains Zlatibor and Tara. It is famous for its pottery, hiking paths, salmon rich rivers, trumpet players and well preserved ethno villages as a part of ethno tourism. Volunteers will visit important cultural and historical spots in the area, Potpecka cave, museum part of ethno village, pottery households with presentation of craft work and chance to make pots by themselves. They will also see local festival dedicated to old craft of Zlakusa pottery.

Camp will take place at same time as the manifestation "Zlakusa in song and dance" where volunteers could have their performance learn about Serbian culture and tradition.

Airport: Belgrade

Station: Pozega/Uzice

Requirements: it is necessary to bring your own sleeping bag; bring a flag of your country which we will leave in the Ethno park after the workcamp; some spices, national food for intercultural night.

VSS02 HIDE AND SEEK, Pozarevac

Type: CONS/MANU/RENO

Dates: 03/07 – 17/07

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18 – 30

Partner: JAZAS youth of Pozarevac was founded in 1997. It promotes volunteerism and youth participation, youth health and safety and society development. JAZAS organizes workcamps since 2014. The town of Pozarevac has been a local partner who has organized Equestrian event in Ljubicevo for many years now and has experience

with volunteers on that event. This workcamp is being organized in partnership with Red Cross of Pozarevac and Touristic organization Pozarevac.

Work: Constructing and painting benches, tables, requisites for climbing for kids, playgrounds made of old tires etc. Volunteers will work on improving and decorating the yard of the kindergarten. The work will be strictly using hand tools, and only the qualified persons will work on machines. The volunteers will also plant the trees and set up a playground.

Accommodation and food: The volunteers will be accommodated in the rooms of the elementary school, sleeping on flammable matrices will. Volunteers will be in charge for preparing their meals with the ingredients provided by the host. Sometimes they will share meals with the locals. It is possible to prepare vegetarians and vegans meals.

Location and leisure: The town of Pozarevac is an important administrative, economic and cultural center of Serbia. It is located 80 km south east of Belgrade, between three rivers: Danube, Great Morava and Mlava, just beneath the heal Cacalica. Pozarevac is the center of Branicevo region.

During free time, volunteers will get to know local area, field trips will be organized (local monasteries, monument park Cacalica, Stable Ljubicevo and hippodrome, visit to the ethno park Tuluba, archeological park Viminacijum, Milena Pavlovic Barili's art gallery), playing social games, learning old Serbian games, sports activities...

Requirements: It would be preferred that volunteers have some painting skills, to be willing to work with tools (shovels, carts...) It is necessary that you bring your sleeping bags. Bring summer clothes and swimming suits. Also, bring some warm clothes as well since the nights could be cold. We have planned some walking tours so make sure to bring shoes suitable for long walks and hats to protect you from the sun. Bring some games from your country, costumes, spices, local food etc. If someone is playing an instrument, be sure to bring one.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade, Nis

Bus station: Pozarevac

VSS03 Full house #1, Belgrade

Type: DISA/AGRI/KIDS

Dates: 05/07 – 24/07

VSS10 Full house #2, Belgrade

Type: DISA/AGRI/KIDS

Dates: 02/08 – 16/08

VSS17 Full house #3, Belgrade

Type: DISA/AGRI/KIDS

Dates: 16/08 – 02/09

Number of volunteers: 6

Age limit: 18+

Description: This workcamp is planned to support the realization of the Summer Day Care for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Belgrade. These children have no activity during the summer and we have been implementing this summer program for the fifth consecutive year. The volunteers will help children with disabilities who are beneficiaries, as this will widen their social network of friends, will assist the employees of the stay because the work with children will be much better and access more individual and will help our entire organization to "push" this the period with the highest volume of work. Otherwise, the stay has an intergenerational approach and is inclusive, so often children with no disabilities (siblings and interested children from the

neighbourhood) and other interested people of all ages come often, so this is a nice opportunity to share knowledge and make new acquaintances but and language learning.

Partner: "Evo ruka" is an organization founded by parents of children with disabilities, who fosters social activism and a proactive approach to solving problems in the local community, especially in relation to the target group. The organization developed sustainable agricultural production in Belgrade in order to provide financing for the work of the association and the Inclusive Centre, launched in 2013 "Evo ruka" has a great experience in organizing summer program, various volunteer actions and corporate volunteering, good cooperation with socially responsible companies and visibility in the media and on social networks: <http://evoruka.org/>

Work #1: At this camp, volunteers will have the opportunity to organize activities for children in the day care together with the defectologists 4 days a week. They will also assist in the organization and functionality of the inclusive centre (cooking assistance, hygiene assistance ...) the focus will be on art / art workshops that will hopefully bring out the beautiful artwork. The rest of the time is planned for the maintenance of the property (two greenhouses with tomatoes) and the production of homemade chills (apricot juice and jam), all depending on the weather.

Work #2: Volunteers will have the opportunity to organize activities for children in the day care together with the defectologists 4 days a week. They will also assist in the organization and functionality of the inclusive centre itself (assistance with cooking, hygiene maintenance...) The rest of the time the volunteers will spend in maintaining the greenhouses, picking tomatoes as well as making homemade winter (dried tomatoes, tomato juice).

Work #3: Within the camp, volunteers will have the opportunity to organize 4 days a week activities for children in residence together with defectologists. They will also help in the organization and functionality of the inclusive centre itself (assistance with cooking, hygiene maintenance ...)

The rest of the time the volunteers will spend in maintaining the greenhouses, picking tomatoes as well as making homemade winter delights (ajvar and dried tomatoes). As this camp is at a time when our local incubation centre is closing for children as they move to school, volunteers will help us do general inclusive centre cleaning (sorting and sorting materials for workshops, cleaning, tidying up the production area, wintering list we made during the summer ...)

Study part: Volunteers will be introduced to the development and growth of a grass root organization such as ours. Also they will hear the story of our social enterprise. We encourage volunteers to share stories about similar topics from their countries.

Accommodation and food: Volunteers will be housed in a home near the place of work. Sleeping bags are required. Volunteers will prepare the breakfast and dinner on their own while lunch will be prepared for volunteers and beneficiaries by the staff of the organization with the help of volunteers.

Location and leisure: Workcamp will be situated in Zemun polje, in suburbs of Belgrade, away from the centre of 16 Km, and from the centre of Zemun 9 km. Zemun is a particularly interesting municipality with a great tradition and touristic aspect. It is very interesting to tourists. An excursion to Zemun - tour of Gardos Gardens and the island of Lido is planned. Within their free time, volunteers can visit Kalemegdan fortress, Ada Ciganlija lake and the Belgrade city centre (since it is easily reachable by public busses) There is a swimming pool nearby and volunteers can go to the Danube and visit the Great War Island.

Requirements: Volunteers should have a high motivation to work with groups and want to work and help. Desirable previous experience in work with young people with

disabilities. A motivational letter is required. Short motivational letter is required. Introduce yourself to us, and tell us something about your motivation to participate in our work this summer.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train/Bus station: Belgrade

VSS04 THE SOUL OF DANUBE – camp, bike and wine, Kusjak/Negotin

Type: ENVI/FEST/MANU

Dates: 07/07 – 21/07

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18 – 30

Description: The aim of the project is to develop an eco-tourism offer in this area. Considering the European cycling routes and the wine route, the idea is to provide additional content for tourists. This will encourage local people to become involved in the development and creation of better-quality tourism offer.

Partner: The Ecological Association "Familia Nature" was founded in 2020 with the intention to be involved in the development of environmental awareness through concrete projects in local communities of Serbia. Members of the association bring with them years of experience from camps around the world.

Work: This region is one of the most attractive regions in Serbia due to its position right besides Danube River and its canyon. Main road is also part of EU bicycle routes Euro Velo 6 and Iron Curtain 13, which brings each year more and more tourists to this area. Volunteers will do manual work with locals on the Danube shoreline, clearing cycling and hiking trails and setting up signposts and information boards. Last few work days will be directed towards participating in the local Danube Festival. Possibility to use bicycles for transfer from accommodation to working site.

Study part: Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn how to use topographic maps, how the wine is made and other activities which are specific for this area. Visit to local manifestations for cultural exchange is planned as well as workshops on cycling and wine tourism, ecology in rural areas and rural environments.

Accommodation and food: Volunteers will be accommodated in Camping on Danube shore. Volunteers will sleep in tents so please bring your sleeping bag and mat. Tents will be provided by the organizers. Food will be prepared by volunteers in kitchen in the camping.

Location and leisure: Camp is located on the Danube shore with access to the river and possibility for swimming and fishing. One of the most beautiful National parks in Serbia, National Park "Djerdap", is located in this area.

This region is also known for its wineries and important EU bicycle routes.

Requirements: Please bring sleeping bag and mat, swimming suits and working clothes and shoes. Nights can be a bit cold next to the river. International night will be organized, so please be ready to present your country. It is advisable to apply for this workcamp if you can ride a bicycle and know how to swim so that you can fully enjoy all the leisure time activities.

Languages: English

Airport: Belgrade and Nis (SRB), Craiova (ROU)

Station: Negotin

VSS05 WORLD FOR SCHOOL, Lucani

Type: RENO

Dates: 16/07 – 27/07

Number of volunteers: 12

Age limit: 18+

Description: The camp is addressing the issue of rural depopulation in villages of Western Serbia. The village of Turica is, like many others, facing the rural out migration especially of young people. Local infrastructure that should provide access to education, social activities and enrich the quality of life is in poor condition. The camp aims at renovating the elementary school premises in the village of Turica, near Guca. Similar action was organised last year in the village of Tijanje, and the impact of the action was felt throughout the entire village. The school that was about to close down due to lack of students was saved as the parents decided to enrol their children in newly redecorated school instead of taking them to city every day. The entire village got engaged in community activities around the school and the volunteer camp. The similar action will be done in the village of Turica and adjusted to the specific needs of this school and community.

Partner: IDC (Initiative for Development & Cooperation) is a group of enthusiasts led by the principles of solidarity, active inclusion, equal rights, decent jobs and satisfied people. These principles are integrated in all our programs and activities which we continually keep on innovating. Among the many activities we do mostly we work with vulnerable social groups who live below the poverty line, and with them we are trying to fight for a greater social inclusion.

Camp is organised by IDC and Municipality of Lucani. This is 4th camp organised by IDC and second one organised in partnership with this small and predominantly rural municipality. After great success and impact of the camp organised last year in nearby village, the partners decided to make similar intervention in the village of Turica.

Work: Volunteers will work on creating a more comfortable and quality space for elementary school education for children in the village of Turica through painting, carpentry, decorating the yard and renovating the sports grounds. Also, through various cultural and free time activities, volunteers will create opportunities for socializing, sharing experiences and learning about the concept of volunteering and international volunteer camps for young people in the village.

Accommodation and food: The volunteers will be accommodated in the school that is being redecorated. The beds will be provided and the clean sheets. The volunteers can bring their own sleeping bags if they want so. The lunch will be provided by the organiser every day and the volunteers will prepare breakfast/dinner with the food provided by the organiser. The food will not be exclusively vegetarian, but it is possible to provide vegetarian dishes.

Location and leisure time: The camp is located in the village of Turica, Municipality of Lucani, Western Serbia. The place is located in a mountainous area of the country with beautiful green landscape. During the camp we will explore the vivid nature and interesting historical heritage of the village and nearby small town Guca, famous for its trumpet festival. During the camp we will organise the visit to the Municipality of Lucani, last year's camp place in the village of Tijanje and one field trip to explore the nearby city of Cacak and its surrounding.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train/Bus station: Pozega and Cacak train stations or Lucani, Guca and Cacak bus stations.

Notes: Camp is located in rural area. Nearby village of Guca is providing limited opportunity for urban activities (going out for a drink, shopping, etc). The organiser will make it possible for volunteers to go to nearby town of Guca when needed and one trip to closest city of Cacak will be organized. The internet access is also limited in the rural areas and the best option is for participants to by pre-paid sim card with internet promotion on arrival (3-5 EUR). The organised will contact the participants prior to arrival in order to arrange transport from closest cities given that village bus is operating only once a day in summer period.

VSS06 STORIES BY THE LAKE, Deliblato

Type: ENVI

Dates: 18/07 – 25/07

Number of volunteers: 12

Age limit: 18+

Partner: The Sport Fishing Association "Deliblatsko Jezero", a local NGO from Deliblato, is the manager of the Special Nature Reserve Kraljevac, with the special initiative to engage youngsters and youth in the active nature conservation. The Reserve was declared "the first category protected area of greatest national importance" in 2009. The Sport Fishing Association "Deliblatsko Jezero" protects its biodiversity, maintains order in the Reserve and organizes the Park Ranger Service. This workcamp is going to be organized for the seventh time.

Work: This workcamp directly contributes to the sustainable tourism in the Special Nature Reserve Kraljevac. The volunteers will reconstruct picnic areas, construct the Eco trail (brushing and painting), cut and remove invasive plant species, make two small bridges and rubbish bins with a help of professionals, arrange the indoors and paint walls of the Visitors' Centre. The volunteers will present the results of the workcamp to the general public at the Reserve's Open Day.

Accommodation and food: Accommodation will be provided in the Research and Education Centre of the Special Nature Reserve "Kraljevac", in twin rooms and 6-bed dorm with shared facilities (toilets, showers and kitchen) in the Visitors' Centre. Sheets and pillows will be provided. The volunteers will prepare meals, from the ingredients provided by the organizer.

Location and leisure: On the outskirts of Deliblatska Pescara (Deliblato sands, the only remaining desert in Europe <http://www.serbia.com/visit-serbia/natural-beauties/unique-nature/deliblato-sands-the-european-sahara/>), in the midst of the Vojvodina plains, in the picturesque village of Deliblato, lies an oasis of peace and tranquillity, the Special Nature Reserve Kraljevac. Lake Kraljevac with its floating and permanently anchored islands, surrounding reed beds, woodlands, meadows, and pastures supports a rich diversity of plant and animal life. <http://srpkraljevac.rs/en/2015/10/18/snr-kraljevac/> Volunteers in the Reserve can enjoy sport fishing and other leisure activities, such as rowing and swimming in the clean and peaceful waters of Lake Kraljevac, hiking, birdwatching, nature photography, painting, as well as sport fishing. During the Eco camp two field trips will be organised, to the recently declared protected area of meandering rivers Karas Nera situated at the border with Romania and to the Special Nature Reserve Deliblatska Pescara, the largest sand-steppe area in Europe.

During the workcamp, series of workshops will be organised covering a variety of environmental issues, nature conservation and basic carpentry techniques.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade, Timisoara (ROU)

Train/Bus station: Belgrade, Pancevo

Special remarks: Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

VSS07 ACTIVE SUMMER, Ruski Krstur

Type: RENO

Dates: 20/07 – 01/08

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18+

Partner: The Tourist Association "Ruski Krstur" was founded in 2013 in order to promote the touristic potential of the village. Seven associations joined their work and activities in order to represent, enable and create the touristic profile of the village Ruski Krstur.

Work: Volunteers will create a more comfortable and enjoyable space for elementary school students in village Ruski Krstur. We want to paint murals on the schoolyard's fences. Also we will be working on setting up the flower garden in the school park and backyard and thus making it more appealing for the students to spend their time there. The volunteers will also help painting school benches and the entrance gate. Some old students will join as well.

Accommodation and food: The volunteers will be accommodated in a sports hall in the centre of Ruski Krstur. Sleeping is on the mattresses, so you need to bring your sleeping bags. There are two bathrooms available. Volunteers will prepare their own meals from the ingredients provided by the organizer.

Location and leisure: Ruski Krstur is a village in the municipality of Kula. The village is mostly inhabited by Ruthenians who in this region have a centuries-old tradition and the cultural centre of the Ruthenian nationality in Serbia, in Ruski Krstur. The workcamp will take place on two locations. The first one is in the centre of the village (kids' amusement park) and the other is at the end of the village by a small lake. The volunteers will meet the activists from youth association "PACT RUTENORUM" Touristic sightseeing of Ruski Krstur will be organized (museum, Vodica, pool, a tour of the village in a carriage...) A workshop with women's association "Bajka" (making homemade pasta, traditional Ruthenian dishes). A field trip with bicycles. An excursion is going to be organized in consultation with the volunteers, creative and educational workshops as well.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade, Budapest (HUN)

Train/Bus station: Novi Sad, Kula

VSS08 WETLANDS CONSERVATION – SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS, Sremski Karlovci

Type: ENVI

Dates: 25/07 – 07/08

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18+

Description: The aim of the workcamp is to enhance the ecotourism offer of Sremski Karlovci, by developing the infrastructure for its implementation and increasing the visibility and accessibility of "Karlovacki dunavac" area within the special nature reserve "Kovilj–Petrovaradin Wetlands". This is the sixth year VEM is organizing "Wetlands Conservation" workcamp.

Partner: Partner Vojvodina Environmental Movement (VEM) is one of the contact points of YRS–VSS involved in sending and hosting volunteers for more than 10 years now. The organisation has organised more than 55 educational and volunteering camps all

across Vojvodina. VEM is a non-governmental organization that aims at the creation of sustainable communities, through implementation of education for sustainable development, local sustainable development and advocacy programmes.

www.pgv.org.rs

<https://www.facebook.com/PokretGoranaVojvodine/>

Work: Volunteers will be clearing the invasive vegetation and cleaning the riverside areas of "Karlovacki dunavac" (part of the "Kovilj-Petrovaradin Wetlands). They will also work on preparing the sites where new wooden watch tower and outdoor terrace will be built. Just 6 years ago, the area was inaccessible for people (both locals and tourists) and there were no activities implemented in the area. Nowadays the area has basic infrastructure and is partially accessible to locals and tourists, but there is still a lot of work ahead of us. Ultimately, the aim of the camp is to contribute to raising awareness on the importance of conservation of special nature reserves through implementing quality ecotourism programmes.

Study part: The volunteers will get the chance to know more about the "Karlovacki dunavac" through workshops about flora and fauna, bird watching trips and other specially designed outdoor activities. Additionally, there will be possibility to know more about the concept of volunteering and energy efficiency.

Accommodation and food: Volunteers will be accommodated in a youth center "Eco center Radulovacki". The center has bathrooms (towels provided), working rooms, rooms with beds, from 4 to 6 beds in each (bed linen and pillows provided), access to computer and internet. The center has a small kitchen equipped for making some meals (breakfast and dinner will be made at the center, lunch will be provided at the local restaurant).

Location and leisure: Sremski Karlovci is situated on the slopes of the Fruska Gora mountain, just by the river Danube, in the region of Vojvodina, North Serbia. It is a small, picturesque town with rich past and represents the centre of the Serbian culture and history. It is the place of the oldest Serbian high school and the oldest Serbian theological school, together with the Chappell of Peace (place of peace treaty between the Ottoman Empire and the Holy alliance, famous for the first usage of the "round table" in history). It is situated between two important natural areas, "Kovilj-Petrovaradin Wetlands" on one side and oldest National park "Fruska gora" on the other. During the leisure time we can offer guided tours around Sremski Karlovci and Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia and Fruska Gora mountain, depending how we make an agreement with volunteers.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train/Bus station: Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci

Special remarks: Volunteers should be prepared to work in the open area, with high temperatures. During work breaks and place with shadow will be available.

VSS09 ALCHEMY OF THE MUD, Mosorin

Type: RENO/CULT/CONS/SOCI

Dates: 01/08 - 15/08

Number of volunteers: 12

Age limit: 18 +

Description: Volunteers will spend 2 weeks learning and putting in practice acquired knowledge in the field of earth architecture. The workcamp activities and outputs will contribute to the concept and the level of sustainable living in the village of Mosorin. Hub of the workcamp will be the Fine art and crafts club, located in this village. The

volunteers will contribute to building of the Earth architecture centre and implement knowledge and ideas they breed in hub, in the local community.

Partner: Fine art and crafts club (KFZ) is an association established in 2010 in the village of Mosorin in order to achieve objectives in the field of education, promotion, conservation and contemporary applications of traditional building crafts, especially – building with earth. The main objective is establishment of the first Centre for earth architecture in Serbia, self-sustainable workshop place for training students, self-constructors and craftspeople for the (re)construction of earth houses.

KFZ is working on promotion and raising awareness of richness of our local and traditional earthen building techniques and importance of protection of building crafts and their improvements, both through theory – public lectures, presentations and articles, as well as through numerous workshops, trainings and summer schools of architecture, in cooperation with many institutions and organizations in Serbia and in the region.

Work: Main work activity is alchemy, by putting our hands in the mud we will make magic. By making wooden moulds and earthen bricks, clay plasters, clay reliefs and earthen floor, we will learn traditional building crafts and contribute to building Earth architecture centre. KFZ has for many years been building the centre through work of many enthusiasts, groups of volunteers, school children, architects and many other keen travellers, that head towards this interesting village. We will help build self-sustainable workshop place for training students, self-constructors and craftspeople for the (re)construction of earth houses. We will contribute to preservation and passing on knowledge on traditional crafts. We will learn about permaculture and promote locally the ideas that lie in core of these techniques. By making small interventions in local community such volunteers will spread the idea on importance and benefits of living in harmony with nature to local community.

In last 10 years, we've been doing many workshops in this field and during the 3rd edition of Regio Earth festival in 2019, we made a wooden structure and a green roof for a 40 m² classroom. During the camp, we would like to finish infills of this wooden structure using different techniques: adobe, wattle-and-daub, light clay etc. In order to do it, we would do some earth tests and produce many adobes in first few days of the camp. During the second week of the camp, we would make a fired brick floor with several layers (dig earth, put pebbles, geotextile, sand and bricks.) In last few days we will make clay plasters – different layers and we would finish the camp by doing some clay decorations.

We will use this classroom for future lectures and trainings.

Study part: All the workcamp activities will be realised through learning and knowledge and ideas application process. Through workshops on earth architecture and building volunteers will first learn about the basic ideas that underlie these techniques and have a chance to apply gained knowledge. In order to put the knowledge in wider frame the volunteers will have a chance to get to know and experience local culture and tradition as well as a way of living of local community.

Accommodation and food: The volunteers will be accommodated on the property of the local football club (FK Miletic), in tents. Bring your own sleeping bag. The volunteers will use the shower rooms and toilets of the club. Food will be prepared by volunteers in the traditional kitchen of the Centre for earth architecture. Food will be fully vegetarian

Location and leisure: KFZ is located in the village of Mosorin, municipality of Titel.

In leisure time, we will visit the village and some of the typical Pannonian houses (designed by Austro-Hungarian engineers.) The volunteers will have the opportunity to explore rich natural and cultural heritage of the village and its surrounding such as Titel hill, exploring protected plant and animal species, nearby and you can also go for

swimming to Tisa river (6 km from the camp) or we can organize a visit to nearby Titel (14 km) with a nice beach.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade and Budapest (HUN)

Station: Novi Sad

Requirements: working in old clothes (that will get dirty), working shoes (forbidden to work in flip flops), hat, sun's cream, sunglasses.

VSS11 ARTOPOLIS I – STREET GALLERIES, Kosjeric

Type: ART

Dates: 08/08 – 22/08

Number of volunteers: 10

Age: 18+

Description: Kosjeric will host four different camps this year at the same time, trying to connect different art form and bring more cultural activities to this place for the 16th year. Local youth will get a chance to participate in workshops related to different art forms, organized by the volunteers and during the workcamp each group will perform in the village while preparing for the final manifestation.

The primary goal, on which the work of this group will be based, is introducing new forms of expression, graffiti art and spreading popular culture through interaction with young people. An art that's been marginalized throughout decades and classified as subculture gets its own legitimate place and recognition, through a phenomenon of a "street gallery". Possible synthesis and collaboration between these two groups is possible depending on ideas and agreement among members. The participants will, according to their own affinities, decide between 2 groups, where they will express their creativity to the full extent. First days in camp will pass in getting acquainted with basics of mural painting and graffiti, as well as in exchanging ideas among participants themselves. Apart from the team masterpiece (mural in some public place), there is also a possibility of creating stencils, tags.

Partner: The idea of the Kosjeric Art Camp originated from The Club of Friendship based at The Centre for Anti-War Action in Belgrade. The camp was deliberately set outside the city of Belgrade in order to make a smaller local community benefit from international inputs, but also to give a chance to international participants to explore the capacities of a Serbian inner city and its surrounding natural beauties. This will be the 16th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowngroup.org.rs>

Work: The workshop will consist of multicultural group, organized around the idea of "street galleries". Task will be finding a location for mural and then painting team mural and introducing innovations to the technical procedure of the wall painting itself. The basic medium shall be acrylic facade paint and potentially spray; however, interventions and experimenting with the third dimension are also sought after.

Accommodation and food: Local host families or rooms in a shared house.

Location and leisure: Kosjeric is a small town in the western part of Serbia (120 km south from Belgrade), well known for its beautiful nature. Thanks to its natural features and well organized authentic rural tourist households, Kosjeric is one the leading destinations of rural tourism in Serbia. Main agricultural activities of Kosjeric are cattle-breeding and fruit production, so the whole area is abundant in fruit orchards of extraordinary quality, around which livestock enjoy the freedom to roam in the pastures.

Requirements: Participants are expected to have basic painting skills. Please fill in the motivation letter form - <https://istrazivaci.wufoo.com/forms/z1cr35w21max7en/>

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade
Train station: Kosjeric

VSS12 ARTOPOLIS II – SOUNDING, Kosjeric

Dates: 08/08 – 22/08

Type: ART

Number of volunteers: 10

Age: 18+

Description: Kosjeric will host four different camps this year at the same time (plus separate workshops with kids), trying to connect different art form and bring more cultural activities to this place for the 16th year. Local youth will get a chance to participate in workshops related to different art forms, organized by the volunteers and during the workcamp each group will perform in the village while preparing for the final manifestation.

The main point of the sounding group is to combine the songs and sounds from all over the world (mostly from home countries of the workshop participants) using different instruments and connect them all into one compound performance in accordance with the theme of the camp.

Partner: The idea of the Kosjeric Art Camp originated from The Club of Friendship based at The Centre for Anti-War Action in Belgrade. The camp was deliberately set outside the city of Belgrade in order to make a smaller local community benefit from international inputs, but also to give a chance to international participants to explore the capacities of a Serbian inner city and its surrounding natural beauties. This will be the 16th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowntgroup.org.rs>

Work: Also, the idea for this workshop is based on picture, movement and sound interaction and wider communication as well as possible collaboration with other workshops that take place in Kosjeric camps (STREET GALLERIES, PHOTOGRAPHY, JOGGING).

The work process will be separated into three phases:

1. Sound and spaces – participants would carry out music for the video material that will be recorder in various localities.
2. Sound and colour – in cooperation with mural workshop, participants will produce several compositions connected with mural and graffiti that will be produced during the camp.

Accommodation and food: Local host families or rooms in a shared house.

Location and leisure: Kosjeric is a small town in the western part of Serbia (120 km south from Belgrade), well known for its beautiful nature. Thanks to its natural features and well organized authentic rural tourist households, Kosjeric is one the leading destinations of rural tourism in Serbia. Main agricultural activities of Kosjeric are cattle-breeding and fruit production, so the whole area is abundant in fruit orchards of extraordinary quality, around which livestock enjoy the freedom to roam in the pastures.

Requirements: It is necessary to be able to play at least one music instrument on advanced level. Please fill in the motivation letter form - <https://istrazivaci.wufoo.com/forms/z1cr35w21max7en/>

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train station: Kosjeric

VSS13 ARTOPOLIS III – JOGGLING, Kosjeric

Dates: 08/08 – 22/08

Type: ART

Number of volunteers: 10

Age: 18+

Description: Kosjeric will host four different camps this year at the same time (plus separate workshops with kids), trying to connect different art form and bring more cultural activities to this place for the 16th year. Local youth will get a chance to participate in workshops related to different art forms, organized by the volunteers and during the workcamp each group will perform in the village while preparing for the final manifestation.

The main goals of juggling group are to promote the art of juggling among the local community (especially kids) and to prepare exciting and extraordinary final team performance combining the knowledge and skills of all participants collaborating with other workshops at the camp (street galleries, sounding, photography and kids).

Partner: The idea of the Kosjeric Art Camp originated from The Club of Friendship based at The Centre for Anti-War Action in Belgrade. The camp was deliberately set outside the city of Belgrade in order to make a smaller local community benefit from international inputs, but also to give a chance to international participants to explore the capacities of a Serbian inner city and its surrounding natural beauties. This will be the 16th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowntgroup.org.rs>

Work: During the camp, participants will be divided into few groups depending on the level of skills and personal preferences to improve one's skill level. Besides final performance preparation, participants will be engaged into some interventions in public space during some local community activities by promoting the art of juggling.

Accommodation and food: Local host families or rooms in a shared house.

Location and leisure: Kosjeric is a small town in the western part of Serbia (120 km south from Belgrade), well known for its beautiful nature. Thanks to its natural features and well organized authentic rural tourist households, Kosjeric is one the leading destinations of rural tourism in Serbia. Main agricultural activities of Kosjeric are cattle-breeding and fruit production, so the whole area is abundant in fruit orchards of extraordinary quality, around which livestock enjoy the freedom to roam in the pastures.

Requirements: It is necessary to have at least basic juggling skills with 3 objects. Please fill in the motivation letter form - <https://istrazivaci.wufoo.com/forms/z1cr35w21max7en/>

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train station: Kosjeric

VSS14 ARTOPOLIS IV – PHOTOGRAPHY, Kosjeric

Dates: 08/08 – 22/08

Type: ART

Number of volunteers: 10

Age: 18+

Description: Kosjeric will host four different camps this year at the same time (plus separate workshops with kids), trying to connect different art form and bring more cultural activities to this place for the 16th year. Local youth will get a chance to participate in workshops related to different art forms, organized by the volunteers and during the workcamp each group will perform in the village while preparing for the final manifestation.

The main point of photography group is to combine all knowledge and experience of photography art between the participants, organized by workshop leader.

Partner: The idea of the Kosjeric Art Camp originated from The Club of Friendship based at The Centre for Anti-War Action in Belgrade. The camp was deliberately set outside the city of Belgrade in order to make a smaller local community benefit from international inputs, but also to give a chance to international participants to explore the capacities of a Serbian inner city and its surrounding natural beauties. This will be the 16th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowntgroup.org.rs>

Work: The workshop will consist of 3 sections, documentary, portrait and freelance photography. Participants will be engaged into taking photos of the whole camp development (other 4 workshops), collaborating with other workshops, taking portrait pictures and taking some freelance photos depending on the participants preference. At the final day of camp there will be an exhibition of selected material taken by all participants. The photos taken will be used to promote workcamps and volunteering among youth, there is a possibility to make a "moving gallery" which would move to other villages in the region and promote volunteering and art.

Accommodation and food: Local host families or rooms in a shared house.

Location and leisure: Kosjeric is a small town in the western part of Serbia (120 km south from Belgrade), well known for its beautiful nature. Thanks to its natural features and well organized authentic rural tourist households, Kosjeric is one the leading destinations of rural tourism in Serbia. Main agricultural activities of Kosjeric are cattle-breeding and fruit production, so the whole area is abundant in fruit orchards of extraordinary quality, around which livestock enjoy the freedom to roam in the pastures.

Requirements: It is necessary to be able to have some basic knowledge and experience in art of photography and own a camera. You MUST bring your own camera to the camp. Please fill in the motivation letter form -

<https://istrazivaci.wufoo.com/forms/z1cr35w21max7en/>

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train station: Kosjeric

VSS15 BLOOMING OF THE TISA, Titel

Type: ENVI

Dates: 15/08 – 26/08

Number of volunteers: 9

Age limit: 18+

Partner: The public enterprise "Titelski breg" coordinates and directs activities for the protection and maintenance of natural and cultural resources of the special nature reserve "Titelski breg", organizes and organizes events to promote its natural, cultural and tourism potential. This is the fourth year that workcamps are organized there, as a part of the reserve conservation.

Work: The volunteers will be working on the revitalization of the reserve: cutting and removal of invasive species, waste disposal, production and installation of birdhouses and info boards (using hand tools), photographing and preparation of internet presentations or the nature reserve "Titelski Breg". One joint activity will be organized with the local community of Titel.

Accommodation and food: In the premises of the public enterprise "Titelski Breg", sleeping on mattresses, so bring your sleeping bag, pillow etc. Rooms are equipped with toilets. Solar showers will be installed. Volunteers will prepare their own meals from ingredients that will be provided by the organizer.

Location and leisure time: Titelski breg is the loess plateau that extends for 18km in the province of Vojvodina, in Northern Serbia. It is located near the Tisa River and the town of Titel. Even if the altitude of the "breg" (eng. hill) is only 128m, as Vojvodina is the biggest European plain, when standing on the top of the hill, one has a feeling of standing on an island overlooking the sea. Titel's confluence of two rivers and the vast surrounding green leave a deep impression.

Excursions by boat on the river Tisa will be organized. During free time, the volunteers can stay at Titel's beautiful beaches and the courts for beach volleyball. Several workshops and lectures will be organized, for the volunteers to gain basic knowledge of the location, Special Nature Reserve "Titelski breg" and its national and international importance. See more at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3lIjuqH8ew>

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train/Bus station: Novi Sad

Special remark: Volunteers should be prepared to work in outdoors.

VSS16 BIRDS' ELDORADO – OBEDSKA BARA, Kupinovo

Type: ENVI

Dates: 16/08 – 29/08

Number of volunteers: 12

Age limit: 18+

Partner: The Special Nature Reserve "Obedska Bara" is the second oldest protected area in the world (the oldest in Europe) and a wetland of international importance (listed as a Ramsar site and IBA and IPA area). Obedska Bara, a famous ornithological site, is an oxbow lake surrounded with marsh and forest habitats. Wetlands are among the world's most threatened ecosystems and this one has been gravely degraded, the most important problem being the overgrowing and disappearance of wet meadows. This year it will be full 23 years Young Researchers of Serbia organises the workcamp and the results are wonderful - so far because of our activities several bird species have returned and the working site has the richest bird fauna in the reserve. For the projects in Obedska Bara we have received several national and international awards and we are often mentioned as example of good practice in involving volunteers in nature protection and active measures of conservation.

Work: Volunteers will be included in the project of wet meadows revitalization by removing tree branches and clearing other vegetation. In this way we are helping fighting overgrowth of the wet meadows.

Accommodation and food: The volunteers will stay in two renovated houses in the Ethno Park, sleeping on mattresses. Volunteers need to bring their own sleeping bags. Food will be prepared for volunteers by a local cook.

Location and leisure time: Obedska Bara www.obedskabara.rs is located at 50km from Belgrade and 75km from Novi Sad. Lectures on wetlands and Obedska Bara's recent environmental problems will be given. Volunteers can also swim in the lake and the river Sava, watch the birds and explore the beautiful nature of the area.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Train/Bus station: Belgrade

VSS18 THE DAYS OF THE DRAGON, Kupinovo

Type: ARCH/MANU

Dates: 31/08-14/09

Number of volunteers: 10

Age limit: 18+

Description: The Srem Region has been permanently inhabited since the early Stone Age with many clear signs of life just below the ground surface. Thanks to those signs we are able to see activities, ways of life even the way of thinking of the inhabitants of past time. The overall excavations of all historical layers show that this part of the region has an extraordinary rich cultural background. The locality "Ethno house" in Kupinovo village should provide evidence on communities living here since the Iron Age. Many of the localities are endangered due to agriculture or construction, especially in industrial zones, but not this one. The first excavations started seven years ago and after four workcamps the results were very positive.

Work: The volunteers will continue the work from the previous years in the area of the fortress Kupinik, destroyed in 1521 when Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent conquered this region. You'll join the team of volunteers led by a local archaeologist in the continuance of the field works in the compound of the Kupinik fortress in Kupinovo. The workcamps of last years and this year are the first conservation works on the fortress probably since it was destroyed. The volunteers will clear the area under the vertical parts of the fortress walls and the paths towards the fortress connecting it with the village. The volunteers will also participate in organizing and help during the local manifestation – The days of the DRAGONS. This manifestation is being held in the honour of Serbian Despot Vuk Grgurevic Brankovic, remembered by people as The Dragon Fiery Vuk, who was a member of the Knight's Order of the Dragon, and he used to rule in Kupinik, where he died 533 years ago. The core of the program are knight games, an exhibition of medieval weapons, a medieval bazaar and table and a concert of spiritual music, and trying out medieval armour and weapons to illustrate knightly struggles. Also, organizing several workshops: calligraphy (art of fine writing) and forging, as well as archery workshops, in an attractive and interactive manner, visitors will conjure up the beauty of old crafts and skills.

Accommodation and food: in two renovated houses in the Ethno Park, sleeping on mattresses. Bring your sleeping bag! Food will be prepared by a local cook.

Location and leisure: Kupinovo is 50 km south-west of Belgrade in the Srem Region. It is well known by the famous special protected area "Obedska bara", the oldest protected area in Europe. There are some very important cultural and historical monuments in this area which will be shown to the volunteers during leisure time.

Remarks: This is a perfect workcamp for students of archaeology/history or anyone especially interested in archaeology and history.

Language: English

Airport: Belgrade

Station: Belgrade