



# Young Researchers of Serbia

## Voluntary Service of Serbia

### WORKCAMPS 2019

#### **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 to 35+ 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](http://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 Lena Micic (outgoing) Bojan Beronja (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](http://www.youthleaders.online)**

### **7 contact points for outgoing volunteers in Serbia:**

Since 2010 we have entered into partnerships with voluntary organisations or local youth offices all over Serbia in order to give more support for volunteers who want to go to workcamps abroad, but also to have local partners that act as regional centres, following up the volunteers on their way back to the country, organising regional promotional campaigns of international voluntary service and local youth activism and to organise regional workcamps. We invite you to recognize their involvement: Youth Offices of Obrenovac and Novi Pazar, Environmental movement of Vojvodina, Proaktiv Nis, Interaktiv Kragujevac, Timok Youth Center Zajecar, Center for Local Democracy Knjazevac.

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. 35 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. There are TEEN workcamps as well (15-17) with 120€ fee to be paid on arrival to camp leaders. 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	BUILDING BRIDGES IN KOBRALAND, Donja Toponica	MANU/ENVI/AGRI/ART	24/05 – 03/06	8	20+
VSS02	SWAN LAKE, Hajdukovo	ENVI	01/07 – 14/07	12	18+
VSS03	HIDE AND SEEK, Pozarevac	ENVI/RENO	01/07 – 15/07	14	18-30
VSS04	HIKILICIOUS, Uzice	ENVI/CONS/ART	02/07 – 12/07	8	18+
VSS05	UNITED IN DIVERSITY, Draca	TEEN/CULT/MANU	03/07 – 14/07	16	15-17
VSS06	THE OASIS GOLUBINCI, Golubinci	AGRI/MANU/DISA	06/07 – 20/07	10	18+
VSS07	THE URBAN GARDEN #1, Belgrade	DISA/AGRI	06/07 – 21/07	10	18+
VSS08	ECO PATH, Draca	TEEN/ENVI/MANU	16/07 – 27/07	16	15-17
VSS09	TOTH'S VILLAGE, Kanjiza	MANU/RENO/CONS	20/07 – 30/07	12	18-40
VSS10	STORIES BY THE LAKE, Deliblato	ENVI	20/07 – 02/08	12	18+
VSS11	ACTIVE SUMMER, Ruski Krstur	RENO	22/07 – 03/08	10	18+
VSS12	WETLANDS CONSERVATION – SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS I, Sremski Karlovci	ENVI	27/07 – 06/08	10	18+
VSS13	THE URBAN GARDEN #2, Belgrade	DISA/AGRI	03/08 – 17/08	10	18+
VSS14	LIGHT THE TOLERANCE, Draca	TEEN/CULT/MANU	04/08 – 15/08	16	15-17

VSS15	PREPARE FOR SCHOOL, Obrenovac	RENO/ENVI	04/08 – 18/08	15	18+
VSS16	ARTOPOLIS I – STREET GALLERIES, Kosjeric	ART	04/08 – 19/08	10	18+
VSS17	ARTOPOLIS II – SOUNDING, Kosjeric	ART	04/08 – 19/08	10	18+
VSS18	MORIEK – SOME LIKE IT HOT, Bor	ENVI/RENO	05/08 – 18/08	13	18–30
VSS19	WETLANDS CONSERVATION – SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS II, Sremski Karlovci	ENVI/TEEN	07/08 – 16/08	10	15–17
VSS20	THE NEST-ART COLONY, Krusevac	CONS/ART/ CULT	10/08 – 25/08	10	18–40
VSS21	THE LEGEND OF A DIFFERENT ALPHABET, Trsic	ENVI/RENO	15/08 – 25/08	12	18–35
VSS22	BLOOMING OF THE TISA, Titel	ENVI	15/08 – 26/08	10	18+
VSS23	ECO KITCHEN, Draca	TEEN/ENVI/ MANU	17/08 – 28/08	16	15–17
VSS24	THE URBAN GARDEN #3, Belgrade	DISA/AGRI	18/08 – 01/09	10	18+
VSS25	BIRDS' ELDORADO – OBEDSKA BARA, Kupinovo	ENVI	18/08 – 31/08	12	18+
VSS26	THE DAYS OF THE DRAGONS, Kupinovo	ARCH/MANU	02/09 – 16/09	10	18+
VSS27	GUARDIANS OF DANUBE, Novi Sad	ENVI	15/09 – 28/09	12	18–30
VSS28	WORLD FOR SCHOOL, Lucani	RENO	25/07 – 08/08	12	18+

**30 years of workcamp tradition in Serbia  
Young Researchers of Serbia/Voluntary Service of Serbia**

**VSS01 BUILDING BRIDGES IN KOBRALAND, Donja Toponica #1**

**Dates:** 24/05 – 03/06

**Type:** MANU/AGRI/ENVI/ART

**Number of volunteers:** 8

**Age limit:** 20+

**Project:** This workcamp is the first of several the local NGO “Grupa Kobra” is going to organize this year aiming to provide the conditions for their activities and further development in the future. This will build the basic for the future work in the youth centre “Kobraland” which is very important for the local community. The volunteers will renovate the house of the youth centre “Kobraland”, in order to become functional and sustainable. One long-term volunteer from France and local volunteers will contribute with their ideas and work.

**Partner:** The local partner organization “Grupa Kobra” has put a lot of effort in the past years in developing and improving life conditions of its small community concerning its environmental protection and encouraging youth activism in this rural area. It is a group of 11 young people that got active since 2007, when they realized that if they do not

do something for their village and for themselves, no one will. Although young, they received twice an award for their activities from the Ministry for Youth. It has been eight years that they organize international workcamps with the aim to familiarize the local young people with their peers from other countries as they do not have opportunities to travel. It is simply phenomenal, but during the workcamp, 100% of the local community (all 300 of them) get involved in one way or another, whether is for working with the volunteers, baking pies, organizing excursions, or simply hanging out or welcoming the volunteers at the station.

In the past workcamps they turned an illegal dump into a children's park, they created a small resort with a beach volleyball terrain, reconstructed and repaired an abandoned cultural center. Gatherings and activities together with the local youth are essential to this workcamp, the hosts would use the opportunity to present their local community, tradition and customs and, together with the participants of the camp, to encourage rural development, youth mobility and intercultural understanding. This will be 15th international workcamp in Donja Toponica.

**Work:** The work will be consisted of three parts where volunteers will:

**Manual:** install the summer terrace and open kitchen outside, installation of a fence and construction of a stage in the open air.

**Agricultural/Environmental:** plant the organic garden in the garden of the Kobraland and they will be cleaning the space inside the Kobraland.

**Artistic part:** will paint out the front wall in the "Kobraland", using their creativity and ideas.

**Accommodation and food:** The volunteers will be accommodated in a house inside the "Kobraland", sleeping on mattresses and in sleeping bags (which are provided for the volunteers). The space has necessary facilities needed for the camp. Small kitchen and small bathroom with shower. Volunteers will cook for themselves in shifts from the material provided.

**Location and leisure:** Donja Toponica is a small village 15 km away from the third biggest city in Serbia, Nis. There will be organized a visit to the historical sites in the city of Nis (the birth place of the Constantine the Great) and other interesting excursions.

**Special requirements:** It is expected from participants to be creative and team players and to be ready for manual and physical work.

**Participation fee:** 30 EUR. The fees will be used as support to camp budget for obtaining food and materials for work.

**Languages:** English

**Airport:** The closest airport is in Nis (INI). You can use also Belgrade (BEG). The same distances (approximately) from Nis are airports in Sofia (Bulgaria) and in Skopje (Macedonia)

**Train station:** Train – The closest train station is in Nis (approximately 20 km away from Donja Toponica)

Bus – The closest bus station is in Nis. There are connections from Belgrade to Nis every hour.

## **VSS02 THE SWAN LAKE, Hajdukovo**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 01/07 – 14/07

**Number of volunteers:** 12

**Age limit:** 18+

**Project:** In the changed ecological conditions, the reeds spread over the steppe habitats located on the loess slopes of the eastern bank of Ludas Lake, “suffocating” the populations of rare species of the Red List of Serbia, and changing the structure of existing plant communities. Due to strict protection measures, all activities not of scientific or educational importance are strictly forbidden. In certain areas, a small amount of controlled exploitation of resources may be allowed.

The work will generally focus on revitalization of the area. Possible tasks are removal of invasive plant species endangering the natural habitat, preparing the area for educational children camps planned later during the summer, or renovating the old fisherman's cottage typical for the area. We may also work in the nearby protected areas, such as Selevenj heath or Subotica sands, as to, at the same time, explore the natural diversity northern Serbia has to offer.

**Partner:** Public enterprise Palic-Ludas, the manager of the nature protected area organizes this workcamp for the last 18 years.

**Work:** The Special Nature Reserve Ludas Lake is one of the oldest protected areas in the world, known as wetlands of international importance as well as an ornithological reserve. The lake has rich bird fauna consisting of 214 recorded species, 140 of which are protected as natural rarities. They represent an essential feature of this valuable reserve for Serbia and Europe. Ludas Lake is the habitat of many endangered species, and is also an important station for migratory bird species. The volunteer activities will mainly focus on the revitalization of areas: cutting and removal of invasive plant species that threaten the natural habitat; repairing of educational paths in the woods of Ludas and Selevenjska; taking part in mowing and maintenance of steppe meadows at the Ludas Visitors' Center; repairing the facade of the Fishermen Huts. These activities are carried out as measures of active protection of nature in order to preserve habitats, as well as the maintenance of the site's infrastructure. Volunteers interested in projects related to the village and nature conservation are more than welcome.

**Study part:** Local ecologists, biologists and ornithologists will be frequenting the camp site, providing the information on the lake's history, importance and long-term effects of our work, as well as on the environmental problems currently affecting the area.

**Accommodation and food:** In small houses, so-called research stations, in the attic with sleeping mattresses, male and female toilets and showers. Bed sheets will be provided but volunteers can bring their sleeping bag. Lunch and dinner will be served in a restaurant, and breakfast will be prepared by participants, from the ingredients provided by the host.

**Location and leisure:** Hajdukovo and Ludasko Lake are 12km from Subotica, in the far north of Serbia. The free time is planned for various activities like birds watching, boating on the lake, as well as the education of participants in relation to the conservation of biological and landscape diversity, ecological corridors and other habitats of importance for nature conservation.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade, Budapest (HUN)

**Train/Bus station:** Subotica

### **VSS03 HIDE AND SEEK, Pozarevac**

**Type:** ENVI/RENO

**Dates:** 01/07 – 15/07

**Number of volunteers:** 14

**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 be making requisites children from the kindergarten will use to play, and decorate the yard of the kindergarten. The work will be strictly using hand tools, and only the qualified persons will work on machines. Planting the trees and setting up a playground.

**Accommodation and food:** The volunteers will be accommodated in the local school on mattresses. Showers will be provided inside. Volunteers will be in charge for preparing their meals with the ingredients provided by the host. Sometimes they will share meals with the locals.

**Location and leisure:** The town of Pozarevac is an important administrative, economic and cultural centre of Serbia. It is located 80 km south east of Belgrade, between three rivers: Danube, Great Morava and Mlava, just beneath the hill Cacalica. Pozarevac is the centre 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, archaeological park Viminacium, 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...) Bring warm clothes because nights can be cold, sun hats and comfortable shoes for long walks. It is necessary that you bring your sleeping bags.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis

**Bus station:** Pozarevac

### **VSS04 HIKILICIOUS, Uzice**

**Type:** ENVI/CONS/ART

**Date:** 02/07 – 12/07

**Number of volunteers:** 8

**Age limit:** 18+

**Partner:** Tour Guides Association Kapedunum (<http://www.kapedunum.rs/>) is non-governmental organization which gathers tour guides, nature lovers and extreme sports instructors in order to promote extreme sports, eco-tourism, rural development and protection of cultural heritage and environment.

**Work:** Surrounded by picturesque nature and the river canyon Djetinja, numerous bikes and walking trails, the town of Uzice is increasingly visited by environmentally conscious tourists, nature lovers and young travellers who want to explore small towns in Serbia.

Volunteers will participate in a photo safari in the protected nature area of Djetinja Gorge and they will build hiking trail that leads to the stunning viewpoints above the town. Volunteers in this workcamp will mainly be focusing on two things:

- They will help build a hiking trail from Zabucje to Djetinja gorge by clearing debris away and superfluous vegetation.

- Making photos and videos for promotion of protected nature area and hiking trail. Special themes for photography will be announced every day.

Excursions will be organized for volunteers where they will also take photos of nature and cultural monuments.

The volunteers can expect some heavy lifting, clearing the bushes and garbage, in order to prepare hiking trails. The international volunteers will work around 6/7 hours per day. During free time the volunteers will have the opportunity to explore the area, visit cultural events, etc.

Please note that flexibility and adaptability are required, and there might be some physically demanding work from time to time. Be ready to work with locals and to get familiar with local customs. We expect the locals to get involved too, as they have already started asking about you, our international volunteers!

**Accommodation and food:** In a student campus in a 4-bed rooms with shared toilets and showers. The volunteers will prepare meals from ingredients provided by the organizer.

**Location and leisure:** The city of Uzice in western Serbia is geographically located in the middle of the world-famous tourist attractions such as Mokra Gora, Drvengrad, the National Park Tara, Zlatibor, Sirogojno, Drina River House etc. The city is just the step away from the untouched nature and is ideal for an active vacation, cycling, paragliding, climbing etc. Uzice has significant cultural and historical heritage, starting from its mention in the writings of Dubrovnik from the 14<sup>th</sup> century whose witness is a medieval fortification "Stari Grad" which still stands on the hillside of the city, offering outstanding views over the city. There is the first hydropower plant in Europe and the second in the world, built by Tesla's principles. Probably the most famous historical value of the city is The Uzice Republic is - the first liberated territory in the World War II. Guided excursions will be organized to the natural, cultural and historical sites of Uzice. The volunteers will also participate in workshops on the topic of environmental protection.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Uzice

**Special Remarks:** Volunteers should bring their own photo camera or go pro camera with them. They will use it for photo safari tasks.

## **VSS05 UNITED IN DIVERSITY, Draca**

**Dates:** 03/07 – 14/07

**Type:** TEEN/CULT/MANU

**Number of volunteers:** 16

**Age limit:** 15 – 17

**Project:** The aim of the project is to promote unity of youth in spite of their cultural differences and different backgrounds. In today's world a big problem is losing a national identity because people are forgetting old traditions, national costumes, songs, dances, languages... We believe that the world would be a much more interesting and richer place if we learn how to cherish these differences and learn about them. That is why we want to enable these young people to learn about different cultures and



preserve this priceless knowledge.

**Partner:** This workcamp is organized by the NGO "Interaktiv" from Kragujevac, the regional contact point for the promotion and organization of workcamps of Young Researchers of Serbia. The Association "Interaktiv" organizes workcamps since 2013. So far, ten camps were organized, with the participation of more than 70 foreign and 40 local volunteers. The association is engaged in the development of traffic safety of the children, environment protection, youth activism and volunteering in this region.

**Work:** Camp will promote richness of diversity in culture and tradition between participants of the camp. Through the workshops, volunteers will learn about the importance of preserving of culture and tradition and exchange information about different lifestyles in the world, national songs and dances, habits, costumes and symbols. Beside this, we will present Serbian national heritage and costumes of the people from the countryside, and the volunteer can also participate. Workshops will include activities of promoting tolerance of national differences as something that unites people, breaking prejudices about different nations.

In the second part of the camp, volunteers will prepare part of the programme for traditional manifestation in Draca with local young people „Petrovdan u Draci (st. Peters day in Draca)“, and present it on the stage for people from the village (national traditional dances, songs, all together). There will be some Serbian costumes and dances. Beside this, manifestation will promote richness of diversity in national symbols. Volunteers will prepare and present their countries as a part of manifestation. Part of the manifestation will include national dances and songs of professional ethnographic groups from Kragujevac too.

Camp is a mix of workshops and manual work. During the morning, we will paint the stage and benches, as well as arrange the courtyard of the museum by collecting grass and dressed leaves. In the afternoon workshops will be organized.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in Ecovillage in Draca. Ecovillage is household of Association Interactive, established in 2019. The aim of this place is to promote environment protection for kids, youth and others, to promote volunteering, camps, nonformal education, more sustainable way to grow vegetables without pesticides. The house has 4 rooms, 2 kitchens (inside and outside the house), place for tents, terrace, and 10 greenhouses for planting vegetables, toilets and showers inside and outside the house. Volunteers will sleep on beds in the rooms. Food will be prepared by hosts, with the support of volunteers.

**Location and leisure:** Camp will be organized in Draca, village 8 km far from Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Village Draca is geographical centre of Serbia, there is Ethnographic museum and orthodox monastery from 17th century. In the village live about 800 residents. All programs will be organized in household in Draca, planned to be first Ecovillage in central Serbia. First programs of Ecovillage will be implemented in 2019. It is near to the regional road, there is one shop and bus station near the place.

Kragujevac is city in central Serbia. During 19th century it was capital of Serbia, and old military industrial centre. Today, there is car industrial centre of Serbia. There is about 200.000 residents. During the camp excursion and city tours will be organized.

In the free time, participants will learn how to grow plants, composting, prepare healthy meals, and spend time with local youth and kids from the village, by organizing workshops or just casually talking and sharing experiences between each other.

**Special requirements:** There are no special requirements, but it is preferably to know something about national costumes, dances, songs.

**Language:** English

**Participation fee:** 120 EUR used for obtaining qualified coordinators for teen groups.

**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis  
**Train/Bus station:** Kragujevac

**VSS06 THE OASIS GOLUBNICI, Golubinci**

**Dates:** 06/07 – 20/07

**Type:** AGRI/MANU/DISA

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Age limit:** 18+

**Project:** The Oasis Golubinci hosts people with disabilities who are trying to live a more independent life. The camp will help improve the quality of life of the users as they need some help with raising animals, working in the greenhouse and around the house.

**Partner:** The "Living Together" association was founded in 1997 by a group of parents who wanted to improve the quality of life of their children, families and the entire social community. The mission of the Association is to make people with disabilities visible, present and active in all segments of social life and to enable them to have a dignified and fulfilled life.

**Work:** Volunteers will help users of The Oasis with their everyday activities. Maintenance of working and living spaces; cleaning yards and plots; weeding and working in the garden on two different locations (planting, watering, crop protection and harvesting - depending on current needs); sorting out fruits and vegetables - separation for camp nutrition, distribution to socially vulnerable members of the local community, livestock and compost; animal feeding and maintenance of premises where animals live; collecting recyclable PET packaging from the surroundings, separating it and preparing it for the recycling process; visiting vulnerable families from the local community.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will stay in house with bedrooms (double or triple), bathrooms and kitchen. Food will be prepared together with the host.

**Location and leisure:** Golubinci is a settlement in Serbia in the municipality of Stara Pazova in the Srem district, with the population of around 5000 people. In addition to the working tasks, some activities are also planned to promote the sense of a community, socializing, relaxation and entertainment for all participants of the Oasis. Table tennis, bowling, basketball is just some of the activities that will be available to volunteers during free time. At the end of the camp, a farewell party is planned for all volunteers (both for those from the camp and for volunteers from the local community).

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Golubinci/Stara Pazova

**VSS07 THE URBAN GARDEN #1, Belgrade****Type:** DISA/AGRI**Dates:** 06/07 – 21/07**VSS13 THE URBAN GARDEN #2, Belgrade****Type:** DISA/AGRI**Dates:** 03/08 – 17/08**VSS24 THE URBAN GARDEN #3, Belgrade****Type:** DISA/AGRI**Dates:** 18/08 – 01/09**Number of volunteers:** 10**Age limit:** 18+

**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 Center, 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:** Volunteers will be engaged in several different tasks:

- Facilitation of workshops for children during the day – 4 days a week (participants are invited to share a topic of their interest and prepare some workshop accordingly – sport or music skills are more than welcome);
- Field work – 2 days a week (picking tomatoes and peppers, production of "ajvar", a traditional Serbian side-dish -twice during the camp);
- 2-days a week -renovating local sport courts for soccer and basketball.
- Assistance in preparing meals for children and cleaning-up of the center;
- Organization of a public event (with a topic to be agreed upon).

**Study part:** Considering that "Evo Ruka" is in close cooperation with the organization "Permaculture of Serbia" and the Foundation "Intergenerational Volunteer Center", there is a possibility to organize thematic workshops in this field (healthy food production, composting and recycling, making homemade cakes, fractals). We will agree on these activities and topics at the first meeting with volunteers.

**Accommodation and food:** "Evo ruka" has accommodation capacities for 8-10 volunteers. The accommodation will be organized in their Inclusive Center. Volunteers will prepare meals on their own, with ingredients provided.

**Location and leisure:** Workcamp will be situated in Zemun polje, in suburbs of Belgrade, away from the center 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 center (since it is easily reachable by public busses)

**Requirements:** Volunteers should have a high motivation to work with groups and want to work and help. Desirable experience. A motivational letter is required.

**Language:** English**Airport:** Belgrade**Train/Bus station:** Belgrade

**VSS08 ECO PATH, Draca****Dates:** 16/07 – 27/07**Type:** TEEN/ENVI/MANU**Number of volunteers:** 16**Age limit:** 15 – 17

**Project:** The aim of the project is to promote environmental protection. As the camp will be organized in Eco village, participants will learn about different ways to protect the nature, exchange practices used in their countries, and share it with local kids and youth. Part of the camp will be to build eco part in Eco village, using natural materials in a creative way.

**Partner:** This workcamp is organized by the NGO "Interaktiv" from Kragujevac, the regional contact point for the promotion and organization of workcamps of Young Researchers of Serbia. The Association "Interaktiv" organizes workcamps since 2013. So far, ten camps were organized, with the participation of more than 70 foreign and 40 local volunteers. The association is engaged in the development of traffic safety of the children, environment protection, youth activism and volunteering in this region.

**Work:** Camp will promote environmental protection. Through different workshops during the camp, participant will gain knowledge about nature protection. They will learn how to reduce pollution and be ecologically responsible citizens. Also, they will help organize some workshops on this topic for local children and youth.

During the camp, volunteers will help grow vegetables in the greenhouses, cut the grass, prepare the food, using fruits and vegetables they collect in Eco village. As Eco village do not have a regular path from the main road to the house, during the camp volunteers will build it using natural materials, and create it in a way they decide.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in Ecovillage in Draca. Ecovillage is household of Association Interactive, established in 2019. The aim of this place is to promote environment protection for kids, youth and others, to promote volunteering, camps, nonformal education, more sustainable way to grow vegetables without pesticides. The house has 4 rooms, 2 kitchens (inside and outside the house), place for tents, terrace, and 10 greenhouses for planting vegetables, toilets and showers inside and outside the house. Volunteers will sleep on beds in the rooms. Food will be prepared by hosts, with the support of volunteers.

**Location and leisure:** Camp will be organized in Draca, village 8 km far from Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Village Draca is geographical centre of Serbia, there is Ethnographic museum and orthodox monastery from 17th century. In the village live about 800 residents. All programs will be organized in household in Draca, planned to be first Ecovillage in central Serbia. First programs of Ecovillage will be implemented in 2019. It is near to the regional road, there is one shop and bus station near the place.

Kragujevac is city in central Serbia. During 19th century it was capital of Serbia, and old military industrial centre. Today, there is car industrial centre of Serbia. There is about 200.000 residents. During the camp excursion and city tours will be organized.

In the free time, participants will learn how to grow plants, composting, prepare healthy meals, and spend time with local youth and kids from the village, by organizing workshops or just casually talking and sharing experiences between each other.

**Special requirements:** There are no special requirements, but it is preferably to know something about national costumes, dances, songs.

**Language:** English**Participation fee:** 120 EUR used for obtaining qualified coordinators for teen groups.**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis**Train/Bus station:** Kragujevac

### **VSS09 TOTH'S VILLAGE, Kanjiza**

**Type:** MANU/RENO/CONS

**Dates:** 20/07 – 30/07

**Number of volunteers:** 12

**Min age:** 18-40

**Partner:** Local Democracy Agency - LDA Subotica is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering good governance and active participation through cross-sectoral partnerships, for sustainable and inclusive local development. Enhancing the culture of participation and civil dialogue at local level, supporting youth activism and volunteering as well as promoting intercultural dialogue and regional cooperation are our main types of activities, including also networking at regional and European level.

**Project:** The voluntary workcamp is part of the local community rural tourism development plan, implemented in Totovo village. The volunteers will contribute to the work in progress in this rural community, which has an ambition to improve the tourist offer and further utilize the natural and cultural heritage, by engaging all the community members. Work of the volunteers will add value and a new way for the improvement of sustainable local development.

**Work:** Volunteers will be in charge of cleaning and greening of mini "skansen" (open-air museum) and arboretum (botanical garden), arranging appropriate green areas around the village, and assisting in the construction of the Danube river model, as one of the future tourist attractions of the village. Work will also include assistance in refurbishing the old local school which will be transformed into the School Museum and the House of traditional crafts. The tasks will generally include preparing the area for planting, planting trees, lawn mowing, cleaning the terrain, construction and painting.

**Accommodation and food:** Accommodation will be provided in the Youth Centre with beds, bathrooms with showers and a kitchen. Sleeping bags are not required. Meals will be provided by the organizers. The volunteers will also have the opportunity to prepare meals by themselves with the available groceries.

**Location and leisure:** Totovo selo is a village in the Municipality of Kanjiza, in northern Serbia, region of Vojvodina, approx. 30 km from the Hungarian border and about 200 km from Belgrade. This rural community, known for its long tradition in farming, is continuously developing rural tourism, which is initiated by the local community and based on the preservation of their natural heritage.

During leisure time volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in creative workshops of traditional handicrafts, enjoy bird watching and horse riding. Also, a field trip to the nearby Tisa River and the City of Subotica will be organized.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade, Budapest

**Train station:** Subotica

### **VSS10 STORIES BY THE LAKE, Deliblato**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 20/07 – 02/08

**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' Center. 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 Center of the Special Nature Reserve "Kraljevac", in twin rooms and 6-bed dorm with shared facilities (toilets, showers and kitchen) in the Visitors' Center. 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 (ROM)

**Train/Bus station:** Belgrade, Pancevo

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

## **VSS11 ACTIVE SUMMER, Ruski Krstur**

**Type:** RENO

**Dates:** 22/07 – 03/08

**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:** The work will be held in different locations in the village.

In cooperation with the sports association "Rusin" and with the help of the locals, the volunteers will set up and renovate old basketball, handball and soccer courts. Also we will set up the benches, tables, sports equipment...

The volunteers will take part in organizing different sports tournaments and activities for the local youth and work on promoting healthy and active lifestyle.

**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

#### **VSS12 WETLANDS CONSERVATION #1– SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS, Sremski Karlovci**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 27/07 – 06/08

**Age limit:** 18+

**Number of volunteers:** 10

#### **VSS19 WETLANDS CONSERVATION#2 – SECRET LIFE OF BIRDS, Sremski Karlovci (BILATERAL WITH CONCORDIA UK)**

**Type:** ENVI, TEEN

**Dates:** 07/08 – 16/08

**Age limit:** 15-17

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Partner:** Vojvodina Environmental Movement (VEM) is one of the contact points of YRS–VSS involved in sending and hosting volunteers for more than 8 years now, and has organized more than 50 educational and volunteering camps all across Vojvodina. VEM is a non-governmental organization that aims at the creation of sustainable communities, by working on development of environmental protection, ecotourism, youth and volunteer programmes. Educational camps have for their goal to improve Kovilj-Petrovaradin swamp. [www.pgv.org.rs](http://www.pgv.org.rs)

**Work:** Volunteers will be clearing the invasive vegetation and cleaning the riverside areas within the 'Kovilj-Petrovaradin Wetlands).

Just 5 years ago, the area was inaccessible for local population and tourists and there were no activities implemented in the area. Nowadays the situation is better (certain parts are accessible, some wooden infrastructure has been set up, ecotourism programmes are being implemented), but there is still a lot of work ahead of us, thanks to previous work camps. 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.

The volunteers will get the chance to know more about the 'Kovilj-Petrovaradin Wetlands' through workshops about flora and fauna, bird watching trips and other

specially designed activities. Additionally, there will be possibility to know more about the concept of volunteering.

**Accommodation and food:** Ecological Center Radulovacki. The room is equipped with baths (towels provided), work rooms, beds (bedding and pillows provided), access to the and the Internet. The volunteers will be accommodated in rooms with four to six beds. The room is equipped with a kitchen for preparing meals.

**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). Besides natural richness (Danube and Fruska gora) there is Kovilj-Petrovaradin wetlands (international protected bird area), The Court's garden and Strazilovo.

During the leisure time we can offer guided tours around the town and Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia or 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 for outdoor work, at possible high temperatures.

## **VSS14 LIGHT THE TOLERANCE, Draca**

**Dates:** 04/08-15/08

**Type:** TEEN/CULT/MANU

**Number of volunteers:** 16

**Age limit:** 15 – 17

**Project:** The aim of the project is to promote unity of youth in spite of their cultural differences and different backgrounds. In today's world a big problem is losing a national identity because people are forgetting old traditions, national costumes, songs, dances, languages...We believe that the world would be a much more interesting and richer place if we learn how to cherish these differences and learn about them. That is why we want to enable these young people to learn about different cultures and preserve this priceless knowledge. One of activity will be event for local youth by celebrating International Youth Day on 12th of August.

**Partner:** This workcamp is organized by the NGO "Interaktiv" from Kragujevac, the regional contact point for the promotion and organization of workcamps of Young Researchers of Serbia. The Association "Interaktiv" organizes workcamps since 2013. So far, ten camps were organized, with the participation of more than 70 foreign and 40 local volunteers. The association is engaged in the development of traffic safety of the children, environment protection, youth activism and volunteering in this region.

**Work:** Camp will promote richness of diversity in culture and tradition between participants of the camp. Through the workshops, volunteers will learn about the importance of preserving of culture and tradition and exchange information about different lifestyles in the world, national songs and dances, habits, costumes and symbols. Beside this, we will present Serbian national heritage and costumes of the people from the countryside, and the volunteer can also participate. Workshops will



include activities of promoting tolerance of national differences as something that unites people, breaking prejudices about different nations.

In the second part of the camp, volunteers will prepare a part of the programme for celebrating International Youth Day (12th of August) in the city, with local young people. Volunteers will prepare and present their counties as a part of manifestation. Other part of the manifestation will be artist program.

Camp is a mix of workshops and manual work. During the morning, we will paint the stage and benches, as well as arrange the courtyard of the museum by collecting grass and dressed leaves. In the afternoon workshops will be organized.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in Ecovillage in Draca. Ecovillage is household of Association Interactive, established in 2019. The aim of this place is to promote environment protection for kids, youth and others, to promote volunteering, camps, nonformal education, more sustainable way to grow vegetables without pesticides. The house has 4 rooms, 2 kitchens (inside and outside the house), place for tents, terrace, and 10 greenhouses for planting vegetables, toilets and showers inside and outside the house. Volunteers will sleep on beds in the rooms. Food will be prepared by hosts, with the support of volunteers.

**Location and leisure:** Camp will be organized in Draca, village 8 km far from Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Village Draca is geographical centre of Serbia, there is Ethnographic museum and orthodox monastery from 17th century. In the village live about 800 residents. All programs will be organized in household in Draca, planned to be first Ecovillage in central Serbia. First programs of Ecovillage will be implemented in 2019. It is near to the regional road, there is one shop and bus station near the place.

Kragujevac is city in central Serbia. During 19th century it was capital of Serbia, and old military industrial centre. Today, there is car industrial centre of Serbia. There is about 200.000 residents. During the camp excursion and city tours will be organized.

In the free time, participants will learn how to grow plants, composting, prepare healthy meals, and spend time with local youth and kids from the village, by organizing workshops or just casually talking and sharing experiences between each other.

**Special requirements:** There are no special requirements, but it is preferably to know something about national costumes, dances, songs.

**Language:** English

**Participation fee:** 120 EUR used for obtaining qualified coordinators for teen groups.

**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis

**Train/Bus station:** Kragujevac

## **VSS15 PREPARE FOR SCHOOL, Obrenovac**

**Type:** RENO/ENVI

**Dates:** 04/08 – 18/08

**Number of volunteers:** 15

**Age limit:** 18+

**Partner:** Obrenovac is one of the 17 Belgrade municipalities. It is named after the royal family Obrenovic, whose summerhouse and library are still there. It is surrounded by three rivers, with a recreational area and a spa. Obrenovac is proud of its rich cultural life. In May 2014 the town was severely flooded. In some parts of the town the water remained for more than six weeks. The damages were terrifying. Our five workcamps organized since gave great results as the volunteers were helping families in the renovation of their homes. Dozens of homes were renovated. The host of this workcamp for the past six years are Youth office of Obrenovac and Obrenovac Youth Foundation.

They say now it is time for something different.

**Work:** Volunteers will be engaged in preparing school for the start of the new school year. Volunteers will arrange the yard, paint windows and walls, but also help teachers in the preparation of the teaching cabinet.

**Accommodation and food:** The volunteers will be accommodated in in the elementary school "Posavski partizani". They will sleep on mattresses, so sleeping bag is needed. There are bathrooms with showers. The volunteers will eat in the local restaurant.

**Location and leisure:** Obrenovac is situated only 30 km from Belgrade, the capital city of Serbia. The picnic area Zabran is an oak wood isolated from the traffic noise and one of the favourite places among the local inhabitants. There are several excursions planned, one of them to visit Belgrade. Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in various workshops which is organized by the Youth Office over the summer.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Obrenovac

### **VSS16 ARTOPOLIS I – STREET GALLERIES, Kosjeric**

**Type:** ART

**Dates:** 04/08 – 19/08

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Age:** 18+

**Description:** The primary goal, on which the work of the second 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 masterpiece, 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 15th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowngroup.org.rs>

**Work:** The workshop will consist of two groups, organized around the idea of "street galleries". First group's task will be painting murals and introducing innovations to the technical procedure of the wall painting itself. The basic medium shall be acrylic facade paint; 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.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train station:** Kosjeric

### **VSS17 ARTOPOLIS II – SOUNDING, Kosjeric**

**Dates:** 04/08 – 19/08

**Type:** ART

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Age:**18+

**Description:** The main point of the sounding workshop 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 15th year of art workcamp in Kosjeric. <http://artcamp.ktowngroup.org.rs>

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

The work process will be separated into three phases: Sound and spaces – participants would carry out music for the video material that will be recorder in various localities; 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.

**Special requirements:** It is necessary to be able to play at least one music instrument on advanced level.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train station:** Kosjeric

## **VSS18 MORIEK – SOME LIKE IT HOT, BOR**

**Type:** ENVI/RENO

**Dates:** 05/08 – 18/08

**Number of volunteers:** 13

**Age limit:** 18 – 30

**Partner:** Young Researchers of Bor is a non-governmental organization founded in 1976, which gathers youth interested in volunteering, scientific and research work in the natural and social sciences, ecology and protection of the environment. It used to be a branch of YRS-VSS.

[www.mibor.rs](http://www.mibor.rs) and <https://www.facebook.com/moriek2014/>

**Work:** The volunteers will work on the renovation and marking of European hiking trail E4 and local touristic trails on the mountains Stol and Veliki Krs, they will renovate a little pond mountain picnic place using sand paper, paint and hand tools for work. Two working days the volunteers will spend in the village of KRIVELJ, where they will work together with the locals on renovation and cleaning of the village. Volunteers will participate in the celebration of the International Youth Day (August 12th) in Bor, International day of the miners (August 6th) and The Day of Brestovacka Banja (17th August). Different visits and excursions will be organized to the local sights, monuments and museums. In the case of bad weather suitable indoor activities will be organized.

**Accommodation and food:** The volunteers will be accommodated in the mountain hut Stol, 16 km from Bor. Hut has a dining room, a kitchen, toilets and showers. Meals will be provided by the organizers during the workcamp. If someone would like to bring their own tent, there is a suitable place for it. Volunteers will prepare the food themselves with the groceries provided by the organizer. On the arrival day, the first meal provided will be dinner.

**Location and leisure:** MORIEK– Some like it hot will take place on the mountains Stol and Big Krs and a village Krivelj. Stol and Veliki Krs are mountain chains situated 10-15km from the town Bor. European hiking trail E4 is passing through these mountains and it is the main source for developing rural and mountain ecological tourism in this area. There is a small lake that is perfect for swimming in the summer. The village Krivelj is situated 5km from Bor, on the mountainside of Veliki Krs. Krivelj is known for its rich cultural-artistic tradition, well preserved folk customs and traditions (festivities, fairs, celebrations...). There are many historical monuments nearby.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Nis, Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Bor

## **VSS20 THE NEST – ART COLONY, Krusevac**

**Type:** CONS/ART/CULT

**Dates:** 10/08 – 25/08

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Age limit:** 18 - 40

**Description:** Centre for the alternative culture "The Nest" is a house dedicated to the revival and promotion of modern art through exhibitions, festivals, music shows, cinema theatre, discussions and workshops. It is a place where the young people gather and connect with each other, so they could develop and fulfil the cultural needs of both themselves and the local community of Krusevac.

Through different volunteering actions and workcamps in previous years, we cleaned up, renovated and repurposed the space that is now used as Alternative Cultural

Centre "The Nest". The furniture reflects the urban and ecological style that is visible in "The Nest". This year we would like to include more young people to take part in the artistic and cultural activities in The Nest together with the international volunteers.

**Partner:** Association "Fakiri sa juga" is a non-profit organization based in Krusevac, engaged in activities to promote art and culture for young people, which, by the words of this organisation Krusevac is greatly lacking. Their goals are creation and nourishment of modern artistic expression, revival and promotion of culture, the promotion of both the local and non-local artists and building a network that connects them, informal education of the youth, intermediating the dialogue with vulnerable social groups and developing their creative potential.

**Work:** The workcamp will have two parts. One artistic and one ecological.

The volunteers will participate in two workshops (painting on the canvas and painting of the walls) together with the local youth, where they will, in the course of two weeks, learn how to use these techniques and develop their own style. Each volunteer will paint one canvas and brainstorm ideas about the "blacklight" mural. The mural should promote the idea of the unity.

In order to maintain the center clean and ecological, the volunteers will plant some trees nearby The Nest, help clean the riverside of Rasina, that flows on one side of the "Nest", and also set up the trash bins alongside of the river. This way we will help the environment stay clean and more enjoyable for the locals to spent their free time in the nature.

Last weekend of the camp, an exposition will be organized, where all of the work that the volunteers have done together with the local young people will be displayed, hopefully inspiring the locals to continue these type of activities in the future.

**Accommodation and food:** The volunteers will be accommodated in a house, the social center for young people, with kitchen and common toilets and bathrooms, in double rooms. The solar showers will be installed. It is necessary to bring a sleeping bag. The volunteers will independently prepare meals from ingredients provided by the organizer. The house is located near the workplace.

**Location and leisure:** Krusevac is a city located in Central Serbia, on the river Rasina and has about 75,000 residents. In the Middle Ages, it was the capital of Serbia. One day of the workcamp will be reserved for visiting nearby locations: Lake Celije and Jastrebac Mountain. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the rich cultural and historical heritage of the city of Krusevac. Also the volunteers will have the opportunity to take part in the activities of the center, different expositions, concerts, yoga lessons...We will hold discussions and workshops on the possibilities of abandoned spaces converted into useful ones.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis

**Train/Bus station:** Krusevac

## **VSS21 THE LEGEND OF A DIFFERENT ALPHABET, Trsic**

**Type:** ENVI/RENO

**Date:** 15/08 – 25/08

**Number of volunteers:** 12

**Age limit:** 18 - 35

**Project:** Besides the goal to protect and preserve nature, our idea is to revive activities of volunteerism in Trsic and to try to solve the issue of garbage being left behind the campers and tourists. The main goal is to at least partially resolve some important

problems in Trsic, such as neglected areas, damaged bridges, planting some new trees instead of the ones that were cut.

**Partner:** The partner is the Youth Office of Loznica. Youth Office of Loznica has an important role in the implementation of the Youth Policy at the local level, and has a significant number of youth activities covered (over 5000 young people annually).

During the year, we carry out five projects on the topics of ecology, gender equality, inclusion of young people with disabilities, prevention of violence, sports, and we are involved as partners in over 10 projects with Serbian Youth Offices and local civic associations. Around 3000 young people annually go through our educational programs and courses (free of charge). In the past few years a large number of young people have participated in different trainings and seminars throughout Serbia, which has a goal to increase mobility of youth through non-formal education.

**Work:** The main working activities will be carried out in the nature and woods of Trsic. Large number of river bridges are damaged and they need to be repaired. The work will consist of clearing the woods, cutting the bushes, removal of smaller tree trunks and burning the smaller branches. The plan is to work on renovation and marking of the hiking/biking trail. Also, we will do some cleaning work – collecting garbage. In order to make this camp sustainable, we will plant 100 seedlings of different trees where forests existed before but due to logging have disappeared. Our goal is to provide free seedlings through a sustainable development program. In addition to ecological activities, we want to help wild animals of the area by providing food and setting up some feeders for them. Also we would organize a special activity to gather the food and put some bird houses on the trees (Trsic is known for a number of different bird species).

**Study part:** Workshops and lectures about ecology and environmental protection will be organized. Participants will also get an opportunity to take part in various photography and tourism workshops, where they will learn about use and misuse of the touristic potential of Loznica and Trsic and share experiences from their countries on this topic.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in [Konak Cuvarkuca](#). This is a place that is hidden from city traffic lights, noise and fast life; people come here to rest and relax. We will have traditional Serbian meals, and there will be options for different vegetarian dishes. This is also the place where participants can meet young people from Trsic and make new friends.

**Location and leisure:** Trsic is a village in Western Serbia, famous as the birthplace of Vuk Karadzic, the reformist of the Serbian language. The historical part of the village is under the protection of the country and it is the most visited open air museum in Serbia. There is the Vuk's birth house, the Museum of languages and scripts, an outdoor amphitheatre, the House of writers, a gallery and a number of buildings of traditional architecture, characteristic for the 19th century. Beside its cultural heritage, Trsic is surrounded by beautiful hills, forests, streams, meadows and it is a place very much visited by tourists.

In agreement with the participants we will organize hiking to a nearby mountain, movie nights, sport activities (basketball and volleyball), camping (hanging out by campfire next to the hotel, organizing musical evening for participants). In addition to these activities, we plan to organize a Youth excursion to Fruska Gora National Park where young people will have the opportunity to socialize with the Youth Office volunteers but also to get to know natural potentials of Serbia and learn about flora and fauna of the national park.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Loznica

**VSS22 BLOOMING OF THE TISA, Titel**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 15/08 – 26/08

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**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=t3lljuqH8ew>

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Novi Sad

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

**VSS23 ECO KITCHEN, Draca**

**Type:** TEEN/ENVI/MANU

**Dates:** 17/08 – 28/08

**Number of volunteers:** 16

**Age limit:** 15 – 17

**Project:** The aim of the project is to promote environmental protection. As the camp will be organized in Eco village, participants will learn about different ways to protect the nature, exchange practices used in their countries, and share it with local kids and youth.

**Partner:** This workcamp is organized by the NGO "Interaktiv" from Kragujevac, the

regional contact point for the promotion and organization of workcamps of Young Researchers of Serbia. The Association "Interaktiv" organizes workcamps since 2013. So far, ten camps were organized, with the participation of more than 70 foreign and 40 local volunteers. The association is engaged in the development of traffic safety of the children, environment protection, youth activism and volunteering in this region.

**Work:** Camp will promote environmental protection. Through different workshops during the camp, participants will gain knowledge about nature protection. They will learn how to reduce pollution and be ecologically responsible citizens. Also, they will help organize some workshops on this topic for local children and youth.

During the camp, volunteers will help grow vegetables in the greenhouses, cut the grass, prepare the food, using fruits and vegetables they collect in Eco village.

Main activity will be to organize cooking events, where the volunteers will prepare meals with the locals, from locally grown fruits and vegetables, and also learn how to prepare local specialties.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in Ecovillage in Draca. Ecovillage is household of Association Interactive, established in 2019. The aim of this place is to promote environment protection for kids, youth and others, to promote volunteering, camps, nonformal education, more sustainable way to grow vegetables without pesticides. The house has 4 rooms, 2 kitchens (inside and outside the house), place for tents, terrace, and 10 greenhouses for planting vegetables, toilets and showers inside and outside the house. Volunteers will sleep on beds in the rooms. Food will be prepared by hosts, with the support of volunteers.

**Location and leisure:** Camp will be organized in Draca, village 8 km far from Kragujevac, in central Serbia. Village Draca is geographical centre of Serbia, there is Ethnographic museum and orthodox monastery from 17th century. In the village live about 800 residents. All programs will be organized in household in Draca, planned to be first Ecovillage in central Serbia. First programs of Ecovillage will be implemented in 2019. It is near to the regional road, there is one shop and bus station near the place.

Kragujevac is city in central Serbia. During 19th century it was capital of Serbia, and old military industrial centre. Today, there is car industrial centre of Serbia. There is about 200.000 residents. During the camp excursion and city tours will be organized.

In the free time, participants will learn how to grow plants, composting, prepare healthy meals, and spend time with local youth and kids from the village, by organizing workshops or just casually talking and sharing experiences between each other.

**Special requirements:** There are no special requirements, but it is preferably to know something about national costumes, dances, songs.

**Language:** English

**Participation fee:** 120 EUR used for obtaining qualified coordinators for teen groups.

**Airport:** Belgrade, Nis

**Train/Bus station:** Kragujevac

## **VSS25 BIRDS' ELDORADO – OBEDSKA BARA, Kupinovo**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 18/08 – 31/08

**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 22 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](http://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. An excursion to Belgrade will be organised.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Belgrade

## **VSS26 THE DAYS OF THE DRAGONS, Kupinovo**

**Type:** ARCH/MANU

**Dates:** 02/09 – 16/09

**Number of volunteers:** 10

**Age limit:** 18+

**Partner:** 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 five 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.

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

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Belgrade

## **VSS27 GUARDIANS OF DANUBE, Novi Sad**

**Type:** ENVI

**Dates:** 15/09 – 28/09

**Number of volunteers:** 12

**Age limit:** 18 – 30

**Partner:** Association "Environmental Protection Engineers" was founded in 2005 by engineers, lawyers, students, young people and environmental lovers, united around the common vision of a better and healthier future in which the environment will be respected and not exploited and destroyed. Members of the association contribute to the development of ecological awareness, preservation and improvement of the environment. [www.activity4sustainability.org](http://www.activity4sustainability.org)

This is the second year of organizing a workcamp in the City of Novi Sad, the capital of Vojvodina province, as a part of preparation for the year of 2021, when the city will bear the title of European Capital of Culture. Foundation 2021 realizes diverse activities promoting the cultural values, heritage and diversity. In 2019, Novi Sad bears one more important title, the European Youth Capital, so the following period and planned activities will be devoted to young people.

**Work:** "Guardians of Danube" is a 14-days international voluntary youth camp that will gather 12 young people from all around the world in European Youth Capital 2019 - Novi Sad. The volunteers will work on cleaning river's coast which is a popular summer spot. They will also set up trash bins and help the locals clean the trash left by the visitors and create conditions for keeping those places clean. The camp will be followed by a raising awareness campaign of waste reduction and water protection. Volunteers and locals will join the global movement "Let's do it- World Clean-up day" on 21st of September, when people worldwide will organize clean-up events in their local communities. All activities will be outdoor, and since in middle of September some rainy days can be expected, activities will be adapted to the weather and free-time activities will be organized, as well.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will be accommodated in a hostel located near

the working site, at a distance of about 15-20 minutes by walking. They will be in rooms with multiple beds and with shared bath. All meals will be organized at the hostel, participants will prepare meals by themselves. It would be nice if volunteers would bring recipes and spices, so that they can present the gastronomically tradition of their culture.

**Location and leisure:** Novi Sad (Serbian Cyrillic: Нови Сад) is the second largest city in Serbia. The capital of autonomous province of Vojvodina is settled down on the banks of the Danube river and northern slopes of Fruska Gora mountain. According to the 2011 census Novi Sad has a population of over 340000 inhabitants. During 18th and 19th centuries it became an important trading and manufacturing center, as well as center of Serbian culture earning it nickname Serbian Athens, which is strengthened after it was selected to be "European Capital of Culture" for the year 2021. The places where volunteers will work, Danube's beaches and quay are located near by the city center, across the Petrovaradin fortress. This region is very beautiful and volunteers will have enough time to discover its history and culture. There are a lot of things to discover, Petrovaradin fortress, museums, churches and old architecture buildings, banks of Danube river... The visit to Sremski Karlovci, a historically and culturally important place is planned during the free day. Two titles assigned to the city, the European Youth Capital for 2019 and the European Capital of Culture for 2021, will also be presented to volunteers, as well as the positive changes they are bringing to the city and its inhabitants.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade, Budapest, Timisoara

**Train/Bus station:** Novi Sad

## **VSS28 WORLD FOR SCHOOL, Lucani**

**Type:** RENO

**Dates:** 25/07 – 08/08

**Number of volunteers:** 12

**Age limit:** 18 +

**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.

**Project:** This year's camp aims to renovate a village school in the municipality of Lucani, bring international participants closer to the historical, cultural and social heritage of the municipality and surrounding towns, the intercultural exchange of local youth and camp participants from around the world, in order to increase inclusion and intercultural exchange. In this way, we will contribute to raising awareness among the local population about volunteerism, activism, ecological awareness and the importance of intercultural exchange. The main idea is to help villagers and schoolchildren get better education conditions, get acquainted with different world cultures through informal socializing, work on a joint project to improve the local community.

**Work:** The volunteers will: help renovate a village school (painting, sculpting, lighter painting works, etc.); clean some tourist sites in order to further contribute to the

ecological aspect of the camp; also, the volunteers will organize intercultural evenings, social gatherings etc.

**Accommodation and food:** Volunteers will stay in the student's home. Food will be provided by the organizer.

**Location and leisure:** Lucani is located in south-west Serbia, within the Moravica district. In addition to the Municipality of Lucani, this geographical and administrative unit includes the territories of the municipalities of Gornji Milanovac, Ivanjica and the city of Cacak. The area of Lucani municipality covers an area of 454 km<sup>2</sup> and belongs to the municipalities of medium size in Serbia. The most prominent relief forms in the Municipality of Lucani are: Dragacevska potolina, Golubac Mountains, Krstac, Lis, Jelica and Ovcar, Ovcarsko-Kablarska gorge, as well as karstic forms of reliefs, of which the Raca Cave is especially distinguished. In the free time we will organize some excursions.

**Language:** English

**Airport:** Belgrade

**Train/Bus station:** Lucani