

### **What is your participation fee used for?**

Volunteering with SCI Switzerland costs money. Below we explain what happens with this money.

SCI Switzerland is a certified non-profit organisation. We rely on participation fees, membership fees and donations to organise volunteer engagements, place volunteers and for the preparation and follow-up of volunteers and camp coordinators. The participation fee only covers a small part of the actual costs. SCI Switzerland is mainly supported by its long-standing members and donors as well as government subsidies. The local project partners also contribute a great deal themselves to the realisation of the projects (work camps, long-term engagements, etc.).

### **What does SCI Switzerland spend money on?**

A fundamental principle in the cooperation with the international partner organisations is that the participation fees remain in the country of residence of the participants. This means that the money paid to SCI Switzerland by programme participants resident in Switzerland is used not least to run an exchange programme here in Switzerland for participants from abroad and Switzerland. The money paid by the international programme participants also remains in their countries of residence and thus benefits the programme participants from Switzerland and other countries. This is one of the special features of the programme: We not only enable volunteers resident in Switzerland to volunteer in Switzerland or abroad, but also give participants from other countries the opportunity to have a similar experience in Switzerland. In short, the aim is to enable as many people as possible around the world to take part in an intercultural exchange.

### **Specifically, SCI Switzerland's expenditure can be broken down into the following items:**

- Insurance as well as preparatory seminar and evaluation of the volunteer engagement for programme participants resident in Switzerland.
- Placement and counselling costs: staff salaries, office rent, material, telephone and postage costs (Bern office).
- SCI Switzerland works with an absolute minimum of paid staff. Five part-time employees (one 60% position, two 65% positions, one 70% position and one 80% position) work at the office in Berne. In addition, one or two European volunteers complete a one-year placement at our office (European Voluntary Service EVS). At this point, it is important to emphasise the idealistic and also financial support from the numerous volunteers, which cannot be expressed in monetary terms and who strongly support SCI Switzerland. The SCI Committee, which is the mainstay of the organisation, also contributes many volunteer hours.

### **How is SCI Switzerland financed?**

The participation fees paid by programme participants resident in Switzerland make up a fraction of SCI Switzerland's funding. Membership fees are a valuable part of our funding. However, this income does not fully cover our expenses, so SCI Switzerland is also dependent on subsidies from the federal government (Federal Social Insurance Office FSIO) and donations.

### **What do participants receive in their host country?**

For some participants, the fact that the participation fees of volunteers residing in Switzerland remain in Switzerland is very worrying and the question arises as to what assurances SCI Switzerland can give that the necessary funds will be made available in the host country.

- SCI Switzerland and its partner organisations offer: Simple accommodation (youth hostel, tent, shared room, dormitory, etc.)
- Simple catering (self-cooking, camp kitchen)
- Invitation letter for visa, if required
- Preparation and evaluation of the engagement
- One-year membership of SCI Switzerland (incl. SCI newsletter, reduction on seminar fees, etc.)
- Additional insurance for accidents, illness and liability during the engagement

### **For comparison, we have put together a list of your living costs in Switzerland per month if you live with your parents:**

Food and rent:	CHF	600
Insurance, health insurance:	CHF	250
Pocket money:	CHF	200
Clothing:	CHF	70
Travelling expenses:	CHF	150
Extras (e.g. holidays):	CHF	100
<b>Total per month:</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>1'370</b>

As you can see, the participation fee for a 1-3 week workcamp or a long-term engagement is low compared to the cost of living.

The participation fee is essential so that we can continue to offer our work and the organization of workcamps and other volunteer projects in good quality.

The importance of the voluntary commitment of the many people you will meet at the seminars, for example, cannot be expressed in monetary terms - it is priceless!

***„Volunteers are not paid in money, they are paid in smiles“***