

## SCI School Project 2015



**“Is there life after waste?”**

***Gibt's ein Leben nach dem Müll?***

*02/09 – 01/10/2015 in Cologne and Bonn*

## Editorial Information

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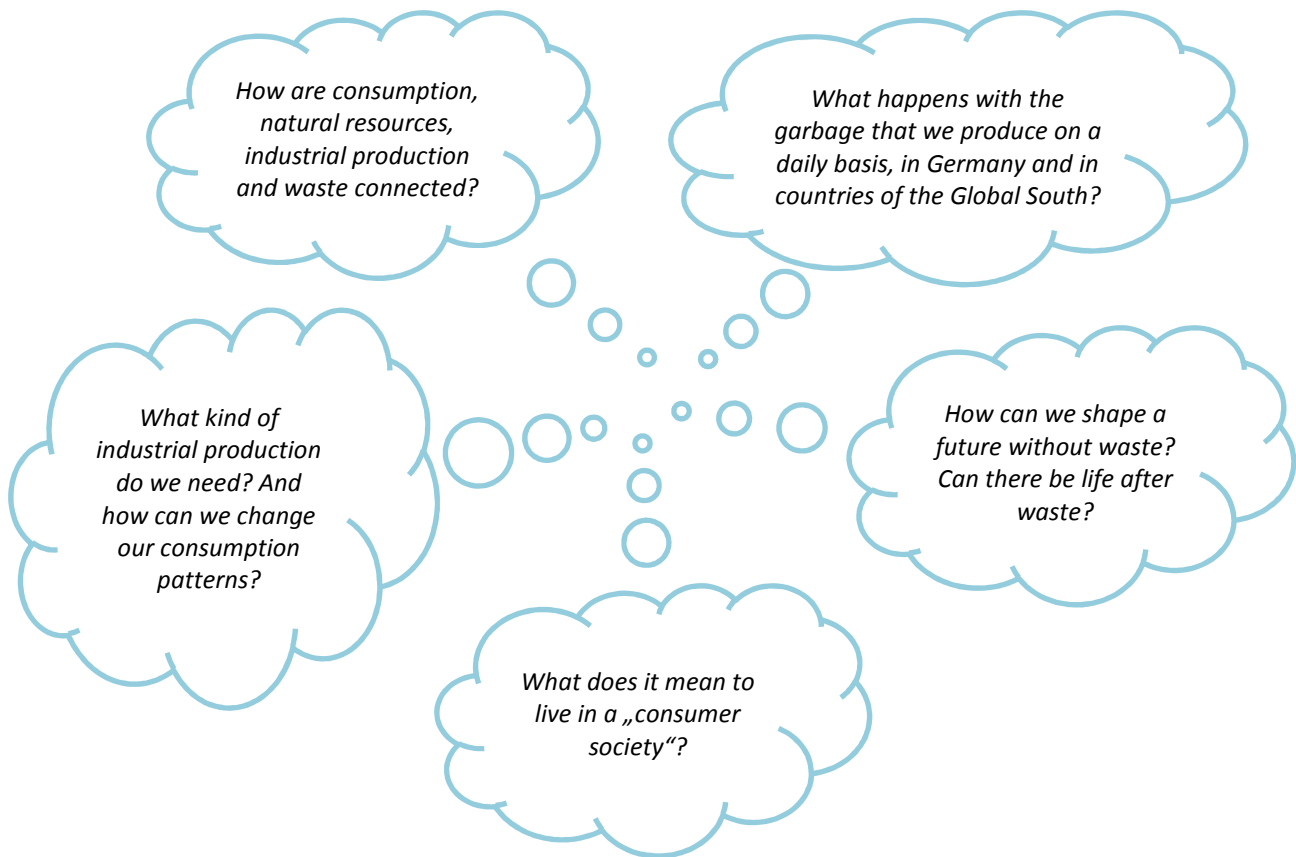
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## 1. Introduction



These were the leading questions of this year's Incoming school project. They were discussed by around 600 pupils and 20 volunteers from all over the world during the SCI school project 2015.

SCI believes that personal exchange promotes international solidarity and understanding between people of different backgrounds. In international voluntary projects, people from all over the world have the chance to get to know each other and break down prejudices. In the special context of the SCI school project, pupils from Germany come in close contact and exchange with young volunteers from countries they have, so far, mostly only heard about. Global learning becomes possible on a very personal level.

As in previous years, SCI Germany invited ten international volunteers from partner organisations in the Global South to live and learn together with ten volunteers from

Germany. For four weeks, the young people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds stayed together, learned about the topic and prepared workshops that they performed with local pupils at schools in Cologne and Bonn.

The workshops focused mainly on pupils aged 15-18 from seven different schools in the region of Cologne and Bonn. In their workshops, the group of volunteers intended to create awareness about the consequences of global waste production. It was their aim to make young people understand the connections between consumption, industrial production and waste. By taking a look at the situations and lifestyles in countries of the Global South and countries of the Global North like Germany, they discussed the effects of various lifestyles on natural resources and the environment. There were lively discussions about measures to reduce waste in our everyday lives. How could waste be reduced on an individual basis? And is there a willingness to change individual consumption patterns? The volunteers also invited the pupils to shape their own visions of a future without waste.

The pupils gained access to a very individual and personal view on the topic as the international volunteers reported about their own settings and experiences in their home countries. This way, the global challenge of waste reduction became much more visible and concrete for the participants of the workshops. The international group especially encouraged the pupils to reflect about solutions, alternatives and attitude changes in their daily lives.

## **2. The international group**

### **Participants**

**Sengkeo** Frichitthavong from Laos (Sae Lao Project)

**Mike** Deo Ngarasi from Kenya (Kiburanga)

**Kmar** Gazzou from Tunisia (Club Culturel Ali Belhouane)

Wirot **Hasan** Rattana from Thailand (DaLaa)

**Fernando** Arancibia from Chile (Feria Walung de Curarrehue)



**Emmanuel** Dominic Kihampa from Tanzania (UVIKIUTA)

**Mohinee** Sookram from Mauritius (SVI Mauritius)

Nagnimban **Marcel** Camara from Côte d'Ivoire (DUNIA)

**Thu** Thi Pham from Vietnam (VPV)

Edith **Silvia** Olvera Hernández from Mexiko (Nataté)

**Antje** Roth, **Jessica** Sondermann, **Johannes** Kiefl, **Karen** Verdonck, Ewura Adwoa **Oye** Felde,

**Steffi** Koch, **Sarah** Lagotzki and **Serdar**-Veli Sari from SCI Germany

### Camp coordinators

**Jasper** Hoffmann and **Laura** Wille

### Trainers & instructors

**Alli** Kamalanathan and

**Laura** Häußler

Theatre: **Heike** Hundeiker

### Housekeeper

**Jannik** Bäumer

### Project coordinator

**Astrid** Böhmerl



The group of volunteers was composed of 20 participants coming from eleven different countries. They all came from different situations and backgrounds and had various interests. So there was a lot to talk about, exchange and discuss. At the same time, the volunteers found many interests they had in common.

The group dynamics were very (emotionally) intense and harmonic. The participants could profit a lot from each other – in a personal way but also in regard to their different cultures and life circumstances. Activities like group games and having fun while dancing to songs from all over the world brought the group close together.

The international group managed very fast to create an atmosphere where people could talk and discuss freely about their impressions and feelings. After a few days, everyone felt comfortable already, so that an intense group feeling could grow and make the collective living and working successful.



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



### 3. The school project 2015

The school project consisted of two different parts: the training and the school workshops. During the training, the group gathered and exchanged their knowledge on the topic, discussed alternatives and solutions. In the second phase of the programme the volunteers visited seven schools in Cologne and ran their workshops with around 600 pupils. Of course, the volunteers did not only work, cook, sleep and work again! During the four weeks, lots of free time activities were organised by different local volunteers and the group members themselves.

#### 3.1. The training

Successful learning is more than just giving some theoretical input. So the programme started with different methods and games to create a pleasant and comfortable working and living atmosphere.

The first day had only one topic: getting to know each other. The camp-coordinators Jasper and Laura had prepared different games and exercises so that everyone learned more about each other's background and what brought him or her to participate in this project.

The participants also had the chance to talk about their expectations and their fears regarding the programme. In a creative game, they explored their new surroundings in Mülheim, the district of Cologne that would, for one month, become their home.

When the training started, the trainers Alli and Laura continued doing activities that supported the group feeling and brought the participants together even closer. In a theatre workshop, participants gained self-confidence to stand and act in front of a group. They exchanged their views and ideas on various subjects in very creative ways.





Would you like to know what topics were covered during the training for the international group? Here is a short overview:

	<b>morning</b>	<b>afternoon</b>
<b>1st day</b> <u>Introduction</u>	Communication rules „A day with waste“ Definition of waste	Waste memory World game Waste statistics “Umsonstladen”
<b>2nd day</b>	Guiding questions for the training Waste situation in Germany	Getting to know Cologne
<b>3rd day</b>	Theater workshop – part 1	
<b>4th day</b>	Recycling in Germany Waste incineration in Germany Discussion on atomic waste	Consequences of waste production Where to start?
<b>5th day</b>	“Stadt-Land-Welt”: Plastic Waste	Upcycling Workshop
<b>6th day</b>	Mid-term evaluation Waste exports and e-waste	Getting to know SSM Planned obsolescence ?!
<b>7th day</b>	Commercials and cravings Food waste	City tour on critical consumption and globalisation
<b>8th day</b>	How to reduce waste? Where to continue?	Sharing visions A letter to myself How to report about my country
<b>9th day</b>	Theatre workshop – part II	German school system
<b>10th day</b>	Challenges in school workshops Giving a good example	Guiding principles for workshops Workshop preparation ( <i>to be continued on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> day</i> )

Methods of non-formal learning helped the participants to gain a deeper understanding of the complex topic. This year’s leading question “Is there life after waste?” opened up a broad range of issues. It was quite challenging for the volunteers to get an overview in only 10 days. Supported by capable trainers, the group learned and discussed a lot. And they also participated in a lot of interesting exercises that they could use afterwards in the schools.



Depending on their home country, the perspectives and experiences regarding the topic were very different so that an enriching exchange for everyone took place.



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

every day. And even more: when the training got too exhausting, a little nap or a coffee break helped to build up new energy.



There were so many topics to discuss about! Often, the training continued in the evening. The group watched movies and documentaries that related to the topic of waste. No matter if participant, trainer, camp leader or housekeeper – everyone was busy from 8 in the morning until late in the evening!

With enthusiasm, positive attitude and a great willingness to learn the volunteers participated actively in the 10 days training and almost never complained about the high work load ☺...





### 3.2 Workshop preparation

At the end of the first ten days, the volunteers had heard, discussed, exchanged and thought about a lot of different topics, so they felt well prepared to carry on their knowledge, experiences and ideas to a wider range of people. Before the small groups started to create their own workshops, they received more information about how to plan and run a workshop. The group had already developed a tool kit with different methods that people brought with them or had experienced before. So they had a good basis to create their workshops and to work with the pupils in a successful way.



To understand how the school system works in Germany, a local teacher met the group and explained the system and the way pupils are taught in Germany. It was quite interesting for everyone to learn how the German school system differs to the ones in Laos, Mauritius or elsewhere, but it became also clear that there are similarities between teenagers all over the world.



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

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



Type of waste treatment	Description	Statistics	Further use	Problems	Waste hierarchy
Compost	Decomposing of organic matter in order to use it as fertilizer	17%	Fertilizer		↑ Best waste
Upcycling	Is the process of creating new products or materials from waste products	0%	Different uses		
Recycling	Regain raw materials	44%	raw material	Not recycled or composted materials are not fully used	
waste incineration	It is a waste treatment process that involves the combustion of waste	28%	energy	Emission of pollutants in production of incinerated waste or glass melting	
waste disposal	waste is disposed	0%	NO	Without reaction pollution of air, ground water & soil	

### 3.3 School workshops

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

- *Deutzer Gymnasium Schaurtestraße, Köln (16.09.2015)*
- *Willy-Brandt-Gesamtschule, Köln (17.09.2015)*
- *Integrierte Gesamtschule, Bonn-Beuel (18.+23.09.2015)*
- *Bertolt-Brecht-Gesamtschule (21.+25.09.2015)*
- *Lessing Gymnasium, Köln (22.+23.09.2015)*
- *Berufskolleg Kartäuserwall, Köln (24.09.2015)*
- *Alexander-von-Humboldt-Gymnasium, Bornheim (28.09.2015)*

Some schools were quite far from Köln-Mülheim, so school workshop normally often meant to wake up at 5 in the morning. Fortunately, there was also a free morning or afternoon once in a while to collect some fresh energy!

In small groups of 4 people, the volunteers ran their workshops with 10 to 25 pupils, normally for half a day. Each group had developed their 'own' workshop with a certain focus, so that the international and national volunteers could bring in their knowledge and link the subject to their own country.

The workshops were conducted in English, but when necessary, the participants from Germany helped with translation into German.



During the workshops, the teams worked well together and supported and complemented each other in challenging moments. One special moment, showing the strong team spirit of the volunteers, was the self-written song that the volunteers sang together with all the pupils in the beginning of each workshop day.





### 3.4 Other activities

Of course there was more going on during the project time than learning and working. After the training had finished, the participants took care of all the meals themselves. So they could enjoy a delicious dish every day, either from one of the participant's home countries or an innovative mixture, as the volunteers cooked in small teams for the whole group.

Because of everyone feeling responsible for the team, the self-organisation of the group concerning cooking, cleaning and shopping worked well. Especially in the second phase of the program it was great that the volunteers could count on each other, because they did not have the support of the housekeeper anymore.



After visiting schools in the morning, the group normally had free afternoons or took part in common free time activities. Among others, they visited museums in Cologne and Bonn, went on a boat trip and on a hiking trip. They were also invited to the homes of local



volunteers and SCI staff members, participated in a city rally in Cologne and a guided city tour in Bonn. During two visits to the SCI office in Bonn, the group met and discussed with the staff members. Here are some impressions:



*Visit to "House of History"*



*Guided city tour ...*



*... and rally through Cologne*



**Guided city tour on critical consumption and globalization with "Kölle Global"**

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



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

Hard work, but also lots of fun!

The participants also learned a lot about things that are going on in Germany at the moment and got in touch with local people. In Köln-Mülheim they lived in a seminar house of SSM, a group of people promoting alternative lifestyles. It was interesting for the group of volunteers to learn how they administer their community project.

### **3.5 Evaluation and Farewell**

During the weeks spent together, the thematic and methodical knowledge and the intercultural understanding between the participants increased rapidly. Not only their factual knowledge expanded, but also skills that are vital for living together. Not everyone in the group was used to cook for a larger amount of people; some people were not even used to cook for themselves at all. So some participants also gained lots of practical knowledge in the social and community sphere that they took home proudly.

Towards the very end of the School Project it was time for an extensive reflection to pass all the activities in review and to learn for the future. Each participant evaluated the programme individually in written form and there were evaluation activities in the plenary. Afterwards, the participants came together for a follow-up workshop in small groups in which they developed project proposals to transfer their experiences and ideas into new projects.

Then it was time to say goodbye. The group spent their last evening together looking at pictures they had taken during the last month and thinking about all the warm moments, small and bigger adventures and challenges they had gone through together.

After the end of the school project, some participants took part in an SCI-seminar to introduce the project to other volunteers. Some of the international participants then travelled to the "Exchange Platform Meeting" in Bulgaria, an annual meeting of SCI branches and partners worldwide dealing with international exchange programmes, where the participants presented their project and their sending organisations.







### 3.6 Impressions



*“The incoming program gave me the opportunity to meet different people and learn about different cultures, learn to accept the differences and learn from it. I believe once we learn that we are different and respect one another that would be the solution of preventing conflict in our society. If there's no conflict there will be no war among our human kind. Thank you so much SCI for this program. I was able to have so many friends around the world and can still learn more from them by keeping in touch with them for exchanging ideas.”*

**Sengkeo from Laos (participant)**

*“The fact that the program had people from different countries, different continents, was such an opportunity of learning from each other and having a lot of fun together. Learning political, socio-economical and cultural aspects of other countries as well as their geographical surrounding and historical background played an important role towards gaining knowledge, and created a deep feeling of solidarity, as we are all people in the same world.”*



*“The school workshops were very successful. Students testified to have learned a lot from the workshops in the evaluation made at the end of each workshop by each group. These feedbacks from the students energised us and we felt that we were implanting such an important seed towards sustainable development.”*

**Emmanuel from Tanzania (participant)**





#### **4. About SCI**

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

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

**When are you joining?**



**For more information visit: [www.sci-d.de](http://www.sci-d.de)**



## 5. Outlook for 2016/17

In 2016, SCI will not be able to realise the School Project due to funding constraints. But, nevertheless, volunteers from our partner organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America will be invited to Germany, as in previous year. Up to 10 volunteers will participate in a new long-term voluntary service. After a common on-arrival seminar in Cologne in September 2016, they will work in non-profit organisations and institutions all over Germany until September 2017.

The SCI school project will hopefully continue in 2017, once a new funding option has been found. Then, SCI will offer again workshops on a specific topic in different schools in Cologne and Bonn.



**Do you want to know more about the school project?**

**Are you interested to participate as volunteer, camp coordinator or trainer?**

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

Please contact Astrid Böhmerl:

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