



# WORKCAMP PROGRAM ICJA / YAP-CFD 2024

ICJA e.V. FREIWILLIGENAUSTAUSCH WELTWEIT  
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## Who are we?

### **ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.**

#### *yap-cfd workcamps*

ICJA was founded as a reconciliation program between the U.S. and Germany in 1949. The original mission of ICJA was to promote international understanding and to work towards a world in which tolerance and peace prevail. By the inclusion of various partner countries, the idea to form a development cooperation became gradually more important. Thus, the ICJA is founder member of the international federation "International Cultural Youth Exchange" (ICYE), which consists of several National Committees in 34 countries. In 1987, the ICYE received the award as "Peace Messenger". Since 2009, ICJA is approved as an official project of the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

ICJA is both, a sending and hosting organization for long term volunteers. ICJA organizes volunteering services for German citizens of different ages in over 40 countries on every continent. ICJA simultaneously accompanies and supports volunteers from across the world working in social, political or ecological projects in Germany. Our volunteers usually stay for 12 months, in exceptional cases for 6 months. For further information, please consult our website: [www.icja.de](http://www.icja.de)



### **Youth Action for Peace – Christlicher Friedensdienst or yap-cfd**

started in the year 1923 as a circle of people engaged against the war. It expanded to an international union of people who try to build bridges of understanding and to mitigate misery. The main request of yap-cfd is to reduce national and cultural prejudices and animosity among people and to promote mutual tolerance.

Since 2013, yap-cfd is part of ICJA but still organize international work camps in Germany. These international meetings are supposed to help young people to get to know different cultures and social systems through first-hand experience so that they can reflect on their own cultural ideas and communicate with others about cultural norms and differences. Yap-cfd gives young people the opportunity to learn about other people, other cultures, how to live in a group, how to make decisions together... Yap-cfd fights against all kind of discrimination and racism and wants to support all participants to become active citizen in their societies.

Volunteers with special needs: International workcamps should be open to everyone. If there are volunteers who need individual support to join a workcamp, please contact us. We will try to find a way to host them.



## General conditions for participation in our Workcamps



**Age limit:** 18 - 26 (if there is no remark as exception)

**Common language:** English (German always possible as second language)

**Extra fee:** Generally no fee (only exception is ICJA2409 Dachau)

**Insurance:** Accident, personal liability and against illness for participants from outside Europe

## Types of Workcamps & Sustainable Development Goals

- AGRI – Agriculture
- ART – Art
- CONS – Construction
- CULT – Cultural
- DISA - Disabilities
- EDUC – Educational
- ENVI – Environmental
- FEST – Festival
- KIDS - Kids
- MANU – Manual Work
- RENO - Renovation
- SOCI - Social
- SPOR – Sport
- STUDY – Study



## Contacts:

**Please send VEF of your volunteers to:**

**We ask you for hosting volunteers with:**

**General e-mail:**

**Website:**

[workcamps.in@icja.de](mailto:workcamps.in@icja.de)

[workcamps@icja.de](mailto:workcamps@icja.de)

[workcamps@icja.de](mailto:workcamps@icja.de)

[www.icja.de](http://www.icja.de)

Your contact persons are:

### Outgoing:

*Outgoing Placement*

Marco Curro English, German, Spanish

Nikolaus Ell, English, German

### Incoming:

*Workcamps in Germany*

Esmá Tari: English, German, Turkish, Mandarin

### ICJA is PLATO User

Emergency number is +49 (0) 176 207 309 39 Nikolaus Ell.

Working hours are usually **between 9 am and 5 pm in German time.**



## Programme of ICJA workcamps 2024

| Campcode | Place            | Start  | End    | Vols | Fee<br>€ | Min.<br>age | Max<br>.age | Type                      |
|----------|------------------|--------|--------|------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| ICJA2401 | Gossberg         | 31.05. | 14.06  | 12   | -        | 18          | 26          | AGRI/CONS/ENVI/STUD/MANU  |
| ICJA2402 | Darmstadt Forest | 30.06  | 13.07  | 10   | -        | 18          | 26          | CON/ENVI/MANU             |
| ICJA2403 | Datteln          | 13.07  | 27.07. | 14   | -        | 18          | 26          | ART/STUDY                 |
| ICJA2404 | Eilenburg        | 13.07  | 27.07  | 15   | -        | 16          | 26          | MANU/CULT/SPORT           |
| ICJA2405 | Spangenberg      | 13.07  | 02.08  | 7    | -        | 18          | 26          | FEST/ART/KIDS/CULT        |
| ICJA2406 | Klein Katern     | 20.07  | 03.08  | 11   | -        | 18          | 26          | AGRI / ENVI / ARCH        |
| ICJA2407 | Neuendorf        | 20.07  | 03.08  | 12   | -        | 16          | 26          | FEST/MANU/STUDY           |
| ICJA2408 | Tunsel           | 03.08  | 17.08  | 8    | -        | 18          | 26          | AGRI / ENVI/STUDY         |
| ICJA2409 | Dachau           | 27.07  | 10.08  | 8    | 250€     | 18          | 26          | EDU/CULT/STUDY            |
| ICJA2410 | Görlitz          | 30.07  | 13.08  | 10   | -        | 18          | 26          | FEST/ ART / MANU          |
| ICJA2411 | Kloster Lehnin   | 03.08  | 17.08  | 12   | -        | 18          | 26          | ART/ RENO/ MANU           |
| ICJA2412 | Sievershausen    | 05.08  | 19.08  | 20   | -        | 18          | 26          | RENO / STUD / ART / PEACE |
| ICJA2413 | Giessen          | 10.08  | 24.08  | 12   | -        | 18          | 26          | SOCI/STUDY/REFUGEE        |
| ICJA2414 | Jamlitz          |        |        |      |          |             |             | <b>canceled</b>           |
| ICJA2415 | Bedheim          | 28.09  | 12.10  | 12   | -        | 18          | 26          | RENO/ ENVI/STUDY          |

# ICJA2401 Universitas in Farmhouse Gossberg

## 31.05. - 14.06.24

**AGRI/CONS/ENVI/STUD/MANU**

**12 International Vols + approx. 3 German Vols**

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Project:** The "Universitas in Farmhouse" is a center of education for nature, culture, youth work and sustainability. The aim of this project is to demonstrate different ecological cultivation methods. It is a long-standing partner of successful workcamps and a wonderful place to feel at home.

**Work:** Volunteers are invited to continue the special project GARDEN OF ENVIRONMENT – FIELDS for PLAYING AND LEARNING at our gardening land. It will offer different stations where visitors can learn and experience about nature and sustainability ... very creative, surprising and funny! – There will be physical work, using tools and working with materials like wood, rocks, soil. You will work outdoors most of the time. Volunteers who like to exercise can make firewood.

Every year, volunteers are invited to get to know the local Perma Culture garden and do some gardening there.

While looking after the plants, there is the possibility to harvest fruits. Of course, there is also an opportunity to get to know the idea of a Permaculture with its plants and environment. Therefore, we are looking for 12 motivated young people who are interested in handicrafts, advanced training and gardening/landscaping.

Every year, volunteers are invited to get to know the local Perma Culture garden and do some gardening there. While looking after the plants, there is the possibility to harvest fruits. Of course, there is also an opportunity to get to know the idea of a Permaculture with its plants and environment. Therefore, we are looking for 12 motivated young people who are interested in handicrafts, advanced training and gardening/landscaping.

**Study part:** How to create a productive garden which grows plants and feeds animals in a way that only a minimum input of energy and resources are required to achieve maximum



sustainability to the environment? Interesting ecological and cultural projects/information from your country is very welcome.

**Leisure time:** The afternoons, evenings and weekends are free for personal use: sports, fieldtrips in the region and to Freiberg, swimming.

In the last weekend, volunteers will join the summer party of the University in the Farmhouse: Youth Music Festival WILD ART with many musicians. If you are in the mood, bring an instrument with you – drums and guitars can be provided.

**Region:** The project will take place in a famous river hill and cultural landscape in the middle of Saxony at the foot of the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains), 35 km from Dresden, 15 km from Freiberg.

**Accommodation:** The participants are accommodated in the big seminar room. Food will be prepared together in the big kitchen of the seminar house.

**Remarks:** Please bring a sleeping bag with you and an isolation sheet. Gossberg is situated in a remote area; you can enjoy nature and countryside.

**Terminal:** Freiberg, near Dresden. **Nearest airports:** Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig



## ICJA2402 Darmstadt Forest

30.06. - 13. 07.24

### ART/STUDY/CULT

**Vols:** 10

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Description will follow**



## ICJA2403 An artistic way towards peace Datteln

13.07. - 27. 07.24

### ART/STUDY/CULT

**Vols:** 10

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Project:** Commemorating as a way towards peace! The Evangelical parish of Datteln is the origin of a Christian Peace Movement, which builds up a European network for international encounters and voluntary service as a contribution to peace. The Parish of Datteln aims to remember a historical event, which took place after World War I during the French occupation of the Ruhr area. It happened on Good Friday in 1923 in Lutherhaus (former parish center): the French lieutenant Etienne Bach and the German official Karl Wille found the strength for reconciliation. Following their example, representatives of many nations, which could see each other only as enemies for generations, found a good way to communicate. The root of the movement "Youth Action for Peace, YAP" lies in this international encounter that took place more than 90 years ago. Lots of volunteers have learned that reconciliation is possible, even if contradictions seem to be unbridgeable.



**Work:** In the last workcamps with the help of the local artist Ms. Ulrike Speckmann, volunteers created colorful messages of peace, which were shown in public places. For example, they designed „benches of encounter“, a “table of peace and reconciliation” also a big mural in the local kindergarden. And again, the artist is happy to help you to get in a creative process of painting and designing. For information about the artist, please visit <http://ulrike-speckmann.de/>.

This year there will be offered a graphic art project in the first week. It will be based on the short story "Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch" (English title "Rats Sleep at Night") by Wolfgang Borchert, written in 1947 right after Second World War. It is considered as "Rubble literature" and shows how a future perspective can emerge for the traumatised boy



in the midst of a destroyed environment when two strangers meet. and talk together. Volunteers are to translate the short story into picture ideas, which can then be graphically designed using the linocut technique. The result will be a graphic novel in book form, which we can be printed in a small edition.

In the second week, the volunteers are invited to renovate and beautify the outside area of a social centre. Either in a kindergarten or an institution for adults with

mental disabilities

Members of the parish will be happy if volunteers are ready to contact the different social groups of the town, especially the children and the older generation.

**Study part:** How to tackle the topic "peace" artistically; local history as a starting point of an international movement.

**Leisure time:** Excursions to local places of interest, like crossing 4 channels and other sites.

**Region:** The town of Datteln has approx. 35 000 inhabitants and is situated on the edge of the mining region in the north of the Ruhr area. Four waterways for shipping traffic are crossing in Datteln. The river Lippe and Münster region are nearby. Next bigger towns are Recklinghausen, Dortmund and a very nice and famous student town Münster.

**Accommodation:** The participants will be accommodated in the modern community center of Datteln „Etienne-Bach-Haus“. Please bring with you a sleeping bag. Camp beds and pillows will be provided.

#### Remarks:

Volunteers with interest in creative arts and social work are very welcome. After confirmation of placement in this camp, you will have to sign a self-commitment statement in terms of legal protection for children and vulnerable persons. Please bring a sleeping bag.

#### Terminal:

Castrop-Rauxel, (near Dortmund train station) **Next airport:** Duesseldorf International (80 km).



## ICJA2404 Youth Center Eilenburg

13.07. - 27. 07.24

### MANU /CULT / SPORT

**Vols:** 15

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

### Description will follow

## ICJA2405 Heavens Rock Spangenberg

13.07. - 02.08.2024

### FEST/ART/KIDS/CULT

**Vols:** 7

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Project:** The „Himmelfels“ (Heavens rock) in Spangenberg is the territory that occupies 8 hectares. In Himmelfels there are so-called embassies, i.e. caravans that have been modified artistically to be tiny houses for German and international guests of the Himmelfels. Every year in Himmelfels there are events dedicated to art, culture, Christian gospel music and youth Encounter. This summer season, there will be three international youth camps comprising about 80 – 150 young people from various countries.



The volunteers will help to enrich the current youth camps by becoming part of our international staff, by supporting the activities for the youth and the infrastructure of the camps. The program will take place on the “Himmelfels” itself.

The "Himmelsfels" foundation is a Christian organization, which aims: to develop spaces for intercultural and ecumenical exploration, as well as to motivate people for a life characterized by equality and common values. The project targets especially young people who support and are eager to join the community of Christian spirituality. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.himmelsfels.de/>

**Work:** Workcamp participants are invited to work in different fields: manual, artistically, pedagogical. During the youth camps, you will communicate with kids from diverse backgrounds and join their activities as well. You will support the camp in logistic areas and support the construction and decoration of an artistic project called "the archive of dreams" connected with the World Prayer Day Project ([www.weltgebetstag.de](http://www.weltgebetstag.de)). It would be helpful to prepare to offer your own workshop whether artistically, musically or athletically in advance and bring many new inspiring ideas. In addition, all volunteers will have the chance to introduce their countries. You should collect ideas at home and bring necessary materials for a creative presentation including pictures, food, games, or other typical things from your countries. Further information will be prepared after the placement in the workcamp. Besides the announced activities, the volunteers will also need to take responsibility by leading groups of young campers in daily works like catering and cleaning.



**Study part:** The study part of this workcamp will be dominated mostly by the question about life between past and future, tradition and modernity, small-town-life and global correlations. Working on the "Himmelsfels" always encourages encounters between people from different cultures and diverse background.

**Leisure part:** Spangenberg is a small village in the valleys in the south of Kassel. Excursions can be made to local sites of interest and to Kassel. Kassel is known by an international art festival called Documenta.

**Remarks: A letter of motivation is needed!** Basic knowledge of the German language is helpful to communicate with the kids. Volunteers with interest in performing arts are very welcome and it would be great if you are interested in a Christian spirituality. After registration, we require a self-declaration in terms of legal protection for children and vulnerable persons. Please bring a sleeping bag. As some summer nights can get cold in Germany, please bring some warm clothes and raingear!



**Accommodation:** Spangenberg is a small German village that lies in the Schwalm-Eder district some 35 km southeast of Kassel. There will be basic and simple accommodation. You will be sleeping in caravans with some other people in one room. Please bring a sleeping bag. As some summer nights can get cold in Germany, please bring some warm clothes and raingear!

**Terminal:** Melsungen train station (Melsungen Bahnhof).

**Nearest airport:** Frankfurt/Main. Please note: Airport Frankfurt Hahn is about 150 km distance from Frankfurt.

## ICJA2406. Horses And Ponies Farm Kleinkatern

20.7. - 03.8.2024

**AGRI / ENVI / ARCH**

**Vols** 11

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English and German

**Project:** The Lichtpferdehof is a small community with 8-9 horses and ponies, founded in summer 2023. Four adults take care of the small farm with horses, dogs and cats. Three of our horses are therapy horses and are mainly used with children. Unfortunately, we cannot offer the horses for riding.

We have many meadows and a small field for self-sufficiency.

It is important to us that we are in harmony with nature and all visible and invisible beings. We create places of silence and contemplation but also places to celebrate.

Our farm is a 10-minute drive from the nearest town and more than an hour's walk away.





### **Work:**

We would like you to join us at an international camp to help us improve the stables, create a chicken house, build fences around the meadows, plant hedges and help with our small, self-sufficient field.

We also look forward to your help working with the horses, e.g. grooming, feeding, walking, or perhaps helping with therapy with children. Some jobs require a lot of physical effort, but you can learn many new skills.

We work about 3-4 hours every morning, and after lunch and a break, we continue working another 2 hours. On some days we offer excursions, e.g. to the lake, a castle or a small town. Saturday and Sunday are days off.

### **Study:**

Volunteers can gain an insight into a small, young community and how it is organised. We are happy to show you how we treat animals and the nature around us. Our horses are our very special partners at work, so we provide them with the most species-appropriate husbandry possible. You are also welcome to gain an insight into the equine language.

You can also join us for some spiritual rituals.

We will also visit a larger community in the neighbourhood and an organic farm with solidarity farming (also called "community based agriculture").

### **Accommodation and food:**

We have various options for accommodation. If the weather is fine, we will sleep in 3-4 person tents with tarps in the garden. If the weather is bad, there is a large room where everyone can sleep together. Maybe some would like to sleep in the hay for a few nights.

Please bring warm sleeping bags and sleeping mats.

The garden also has an outdoor kitchen, and meals are mainly eaten outside.

With our help, the volunteers will prepare the food from mostly certified organic vegetables and fruit. The food will be mainly vegetarian and vegan.

### **Region and leisure time:**

The Lichtpferdehof is located in the Bergisches Land. A region that is internationally renowned for the production of tools and knives. Klein Katern is a small village and quite remote; you will experience a picturesque landscape. In the next town called Hückeswagen, you can visit an old castle, 'Schloss Burg'. A little further, but easy to reach, is the lovely cathedral city of Cologne. A large lake is relatively close by, which is great for swimming when the weather is nice. We can sit around the campfire in the evening and admire the starry sky.

### **Remarks:**

This camp is perfect for nature lovers and anyone who love to get in close contact with animals. Please bring warm sleeping bags, sleeping mats and swimwear.

It is important that you bring mosquito repellent, as there are many mosquitoes.

Please also remember to bring rainwear and sturdy, waterproof shoes. In our area, it can rain even in summer. After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection.

**Terminal:**

Remscheid/Lennep train station

## ICJA2407 Bridging past, present and future in Neuendorf im Sande. 20.07. - 03.08.24

**ART/EDU/STUDY**

**Vols:**12

**Language:** English, German

**Project**

In the project "Gutshof Neuendorf im Sande", the history of the site is documented and made accessible to the public. In the 1930s, the estate was a hachshara site, an agricultural training estate where the increasingly persecuted Jews were to be enabled to leave Nazi Germany through agricultural training. From 1941, the estate became a forced labour camp, and in April 1943 the last Jewish residents were deported



to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where many were killed. In GDR times, the farm was a state-owned property. The project offers workshops on history and political topics, organises concerts, readings, film evenings and theatre performances and wants to become a meeting place for the region. We see the project as a place where a shared vision of a solidary and democratic society without racist exclusion can be developed. For more info, please visit: <https://www.zusane.org/> and <https://geschichte-hat-zukunft.org/>



## Work

Your support is needed to improve facilities of the community: The estate is to become a place where people can discuss, learn and spend time together all year round. Up to now, the art, culture and political education events have mainly taken place in summer and outside - also because there is not yet a heatable roofed room for them. Together with the work camp, a room in a former stable building is

to be renovated so that meetings and events are also possible in the colder months.

Secondly, we would like the group to help in the build up of the actual highlight: From July 26 to July 28 there will be an international festival. We will offer a number of workshops on the topics of promoting democracy, combating anti-Semitism and racism. The festival will address current issues in the region relating to anti-democratic structures, as well as the current situation in Israel and Gaza. It is all about exchange and networking.

## Study part

The study part is about the history of the estate, a history of Jewish self-organisation under the pressure of National Socialist persecution. How can culture of remembrance function in rural areas? What is the significance of remembering the past at all for our societies today? What are the challenges? Theoretical aspects of democracy and the possibilities of developing a place for meeting and learning in orphaned rural areas are the focus. If desired, excursions to other sites can also be organised.

## Accommodation and food

Accommodation is in tents on the farm and some rooms. The tents are provided by the project. There are indoor and outdoor cooking facilities.



## Location

The Neuendorf im Sande estate is about 5 kilometres from the small town of Fürstenwalde and can easily be reached by bicycle from the railway station there. In Fürstenwalde there are shopping facilities, a swimming pool, cultural and leisure activities. There is a public bathing area at Lake Trebus about 15 minutes away by bike. From Fürstenwalde train station it takes about 30 minutes by train to the centre of Berlin. Bicycles are provided by the project. The Neuendorf im Sande estate is run by a collective of people from a wide variety of backgrounds who organise cultural, art and educational events or work the estate's land agriculturally. There are often evenings together around the campfire and a lot of desire to meet and exchange with international guests. Visits to other, similar community projects in the region can also be offered.

## Remarks

An interest in Jewish history and remembrance work, a willingness to do light manual work indoors and outdoors and a desire to get to know the project and its people are desirable. Motivation letter is needed. You should be able to ride a bike so that the group is mobile in the countryside.

**Terminal :** Train station "Fürstenwalde", next airport Berlin

## ICJA2408 Market Gardening In Tunsel 03.08. - 17.08.24

### AGRI / ENVI/ STUDY

**Vols:** 08

**Age:** 18-26

Community based agriculture

**Language:** English, German & Spanish

### Project:

Michels Kleinsthof is working for the utopia of a sustainable, resilient, and grandchild-friendly agriculture to come true. More than 50 different crops are grown on one hectare using the "Market Gardening" principle. We are part of the movement "Community based agriculture" (in Germany it is called "Solidarity Farming- Solidarische Landwirtschaft" ). This means

members are involved in the work on a weekly basis in order to bring sustainable food production to the people. School classes are allowed to experience agriculture first hand and enjoy looking after chicken, sheep and bees.

There is a great variety of tasks in our diverse garden! Diversity makes us independent of the agricultural industries. And it is also useful for our fellow creatures of all kinds.

We deliver a big part of our products to our 80 members of Solidarity Farming and another part we sell at the market in the picturesque nearby town of Staufen.

However, Michel's micro-farm sees itself not only as a food producer, but also as a place of learning and a nature conservation project!

Agriculture is the number one cause of species extinction worldwide and is responsible for 25% of the greenhouse gases that are harmful to the climate. On one of the most fertile soils in Germany, in a beautiful spot between the Vosges and the Black Forest, the micro-farm sets a counter-example to the monocultures of the rest of the Rhine Valley.



**Work:** Your help is needed in the construction of a tiny house for multifunctional using, made from straw bales, clay and wood. First structures has been build up by the workcamp in 2023 and now you have the chance to finish the facility. Another manual labour will be to renovate

other facilities on the farm. In August, every garden is in the fullness of its harvest season! Tomatoes sweetened by the sun, courgettes and cucumbers growing at a fast speed and need hard-working hands and hungry mouths. But the weeds don't stop growing either. That's why there will be the opportunity to help out in



the daily business of Market gardening like harvesting, weeding, planting seeds and caring of small plants in the nursery all the time! In other words, there would not only be the opportunity to experience the multifaceted gardening at first hand, but also to master manual and physical work in a team. So if you have extra energy, you are more than welcome!



**Study part:** In our work, we follow the principle of "Market Garden": Here is what it looks like:



on the smallest possible area, as many crops as possible are cultivated without the use of groundwater-damaging fertiliser, only with the help of compost. The most important idea here is the idea of recycling, in order to work with as little labour, pesticides and land as possible. Learning gardening skills, the cycle concept and environmental aspects in agriculture are therefore important learning elements during the work camp. Permaculture and biodynamic principles can be experienced here. The care and feeding of

chicken and sheep can also be learned in practice. Another important part is building with natural materials. We plan to implement old craft techniques that were used to build houses and infrastructure without modern technology, yet were very energy-efficient.

**Accommodation and food:** Most of the organic seasonal food comes directly from the field to your plate. Everything else that is needed will be purchased. The diet will be predominantly vegetarian. Cooking will take place together in the outdoor kitchen and there will also be the possibility to cook a "classic" dish from your country of origin. Next to the kitchen, there is also a fireplace for sitting together in the evening, so your musical instruments are most welcome! We will also use the clay oven for pizza at least once.

As far as sleeping is concerned, we will either set up a communal tent directly on the field or will provide some beds in construction trailers. A small hutch will serve as our shower, a composting toilet is already part of the sanitary facilities in the field.

Please be ready to live in very basic conditions; you will live outdoors most of the time and near to nature. The work can be physically demanding.

**Region:** Michels Kleinsthof is located between the Black Forest and the Vosges in the border triangle in one of the most beautiful regions of Germany. A nearby quarry pond can be easily reached after work with bicycles provided by the farm and the young, alternative and beautiful student city of Freiburg is also less than 10 minutes away by train. The farm itself is located in a small village called Tunsel, but the entire region is bursting with nature and cultural tourism opportunities. If you are



travelling by plane, we would very much appreciate it if you could extend your stay in Central Europe even further, so as not to use climate-damaging mobility just for our project.

**Remarks:** Please bring a sleeping bag, swimwear and preferably sturdy shoes for working in the garden. Please note that you will get dirty in the garden, so clothes that can get dirty and are old are recommended. Remember that the sunshine and heat peaks in August and you should bring suitable headgear and sufficient sun protection. Long-sleeved, thin clothing will also work for this.

**The living conditions will be very simple, so please be prepared. Note that it is not recommended to attend if you are allergic to weed.**

**Terminal:** Bad Krozingen, near Freiburg. **Nearest airports:** Basel, Stuttgart

## ICJA2409 International Youth Meeting In Dachau 27.07 – 10.08.2024

### EDU/CULT/STUDY

**Vols:** 8/75

**Age:** 16-26

**Languages:** English

### Please note!



This is not a classical Workcamp, but an International Youth Meeting.  
Good command of English and interest in the topic is required.

**Participation fee: 250,- Euro to be paid in advance.**

**Project:** Since 1983, the International Youth Meeting Dachau is a place for young people from all over the world to discuss issues concerning the past, the present and the future. They will take a look at the history of the former Dachau concentration camp, National Socialism and present forms of exclusion, racism and discrimination. The principles of exchanging ideas, experiencing different cultural backgrounds, as well as Holocaust education are the core ideas of the International Youth Meeting. It is primarily organized by a team of international volunteers. Survivors of the National Socialist regime and their descendants will talk about the experiences and personal consequences of persecution.

**Background:** In March 1933 one of the first Nazi concentration camps was established in the town of Dachau, near Munich. The Dachau concentration camp soon became a model for other concentration camps and also a place where SS-Men were trained. Until 1945, over 206.000 people from different countries were imprisoned in Dachau. About 41.500 prisoners died from terror and the consequences of inhuman practices, diseases, exhaustion and hunger. In 1965 because of the initiative of some survivors of the concentration camp the place became a memorial site. And in 1983 the first IYM Dachau organized by young people of the region took place.

**Program:** Remember – connect – understand - shape the future is our guiding slogan. We will learn about the history of the concentration camp Dachau and other aspects of National Socialism in Germany. We will always ask: What did we learn? How do we remember today? Where do we still find racism, antisemitism, and discrimination? The program consists of different workshops, talks of eyewitnesses or their descendants, guided tours through the Memorial Site, tours in Dachau and Munich and day trips. There is also time for personal conversation, sports, and parties.

We will offer volunteers to give a contribution to the programme: You can Send us your ideas for our show at the public Garden party in the middle of IYM Dachau (dancing, singing, theatre,...) Feel free to contact project management in advance.

**Leisure time:** There will be free time for fun and games, entertainment, getting to know the people, going to cafés, etc. However, please notice that there is not enough free time for self-organized day trips during the IYM Dachau.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation is at the Max Mannheimer House in rooms for four people. The participation fee includes: full board and lodging, together with the costs incurred by the program. The hostel will supply bed



linen, sleeping bags are not allowed.

**Region:** Dachau is very close to Munich.

**Remarks: A letter of motivation is needed!** Please bring clothes which suit the weather, musical instruments, games, songbooks or whatever you want for the leisure time...

**You should have a working knowledge of English to communicate without any difficulties.** You should be interested in various subjects and in taking part in workshops.

**Additional costs:** Additional fee of 250,- EUR is including boarding, lodging and the program. We recommend to pay via banc transfer to the account below. Please **do not forget to mention your name** as reference.

**Early bird discount:** If you apply before April 14<sup>th</sup>, the fee is only 200,- EUR.

**Terminal:** Dachau. **Nearest airport:** Munich.

## ICJA2410 FoKus Festival – RABRYKA In Goerlitz 30.07. - 13.08.2024

### FEST/ ART / MANU

**Vols:** 10

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Project:** "RABRYKA" is a unique space for youth culture and social life, situated in an abandoned factory ground. You can see it as an open space for all kinds of youth and social culture. Currently it offers a wide range of possibilities for kids, youths and adults: Repair shops, DIY and creative workshops, a youth center and urban gardening. There is enough inside and outdoor space for gatherings and sports, sharing things and opinions, playing music and partying together and ... much more!

At the same time, RABRYKA is a part of an initiative, which highly motivates people to develop the civil society of Goerlitz. Everyone is invited to join meetings that focus on the vision of a society, which respects the values of tolerance, equality and cross-cultural empathy. RABRYKA



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is a fictional word connecting the Polish word for factory **fabryka** and the first letter of red. **Red** are the bricks of the buildings of the former factory.

**Work:** Your help is needed to prepare space and facilities for the Fokus Festival. A 2-day festival (09. – 10. August) – several stages, many workshops, speakers' corners, food and drinks! You are invited to show your individual creativity and talents; you should be ready to work together in international teams. Supported by a carpenter and a metalworker, you can create fancy furniture for the visitors, colorful decoration for the stage, or help by expanding the BMX trail and designing a luminous advertising. In addition, the support of the kitchen team is quite important. It would be great if the group could contribute something special for the Fokus Festival. Plus, volunteers will offer support during the festival itself and will encounter the visitors discovering their creations. For further information, please visit <https://www.rabryka.eu/de/Fokus-Festival.html>



**Study and leisure time:** Goerlitz is situated at the very east of Germany. After WWII, it was divided and the area in the east of the river Neisse is now the autonomous town Zgorzelec and part of Poland. Volunteers will get a guided tour through Goerlitz and will learn about its eventful history. Moreover, you will learn about the current network of initiatives in the city, which offers a wide range of cultural and social work. In addition, there will be free time for a cycling tour to a lake nearby, bonfire evenings and a party.



**Accommodation:** Volunteers will stay near the youth and cultural center. There is a single room for the group for sleeping, there are bathrooms, a shower and a kitchen. Volunteers will need a sleeping bag. It is planned that volunteers will prepare breakfast and dinner on their own. Lunch will be offered at RABRYKA and will be vegan.

**Remarks:** Basic German knowledge is helpful, but not required. Volunteers who are skilled in handicraft and creative arts, will enjoy great atmosphere to reveal their talents and abilities.

Please be ready to work together in teams. Please bring a sleeping bag, a pillow (if needed), work clothes, a bathing suit, music and be prepared to show your talents. After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection.

**Terminal:** Goerlitz train station. **Nearest Airports:** Dresden and Berlin.

## ICJA2411 Culture Camp Kloster Lehnin 03.08. - 17.08.24

### ART/ RENO/ MANU

**Vols:** 12

**Age:** 18-26

**Language:** English, German

**Project:** The Kunstort Lehnin (Art Place Lehnin) is nestled between a forest and a lake near the village of Lehnin. It's a picturesque location that provides inspiration and workshops for visual art and culture. Within its premises, you'll find an art gallery, a summer academy, a seminar venue for visual arts, music, and theatre, as well as yoga seminars and professional training. More information is available at <https://kunstortlehnin.de>. The institute is beautifully situated on the edge of Klostersee Lake, surrounded by a park-like garden featuring a small jetty and an integrated art sculpture park. The site also boasts a café with a lake-view terrace. The Kunstort was established in 1991 by the artist Eckhart Haisch, making it a special place for volunteers who have a keen interest in contemporary art to offer their support.





**Work:** On the first day, volunteers will receive an orientation about the project, the institute, and the local area. Alongside members of the art association, volunteers will contribute to redesigning and beautifying the outdoor spaces. Key tasks include reconstructing the lakeshore fortification and pathways, performing plaster and paint work on buildings, and engaging in gardening. Additionally, volunteers will clean sculptures in the nearby forest of grass and moss. The project offers a

wide range of tasks, generally involving physical labor and the use of tools for construction, renovation, gardening, and woodworking.

During the same period, an artist symposium is planned, and it is conceivable that the volunteers could support the artists. This would need to be arranged on a case-by-case basis with the artist.

During your stay, you'll encounter other guests and groups on the premises, providing opportunities for interaction. At a certain point, you will collaborate on tasks with some of the association members, followed by a small get-together in the evening, which also welcomes guests of the institute. Volunteers from the workcamp are encouraged to contribute to this event as well.

**Study Part/Leisure Time:** Volunteers will explore the cultural concept and efforts of Kunstort Lehnin and how it fosters integration among Lehnin residents from diverse cultural and social backgrounds. There's a piano available for those who play, or you can bring your own instrument and find others to make music with. Volunteers interested in art can participate in an art workshop. Swimming in the lake is encouraged, provided it's done responsibly. Excursions to the cities of Potsdam, Werder, or Brandenburg are possible. A highlight includes a ride on our Canaletto boat on the lake connected to Klostersee, where you can admire its rich flora and fauna. The workcamp offers a great opportunity to interact with German native speakers, making it an excellent chance to improve your German language skills. Volunteers are welcome to use the Kunstort's rowboats and will be offered a guided tour through the monastery premises.



**Region:** Kloster Lehnin is a vast municipality (>200km<sup>2</sup>) comprising 14 villages centered around the main village of Lehnin, located 65 kilometers southwest of Berlin. The closest cities are Brandenburg an der Havel and Potsdam. On the opposite shore of Klostersee Lake lies Brandenburg's oldest Cistercian monastery, established in 1180 by Margrave Otto I. Today, it houses a guesthouse, a clinic, a retirement home, and a museum. The village of Lehnin has always been linked to the monastery and is set in a picturesque landscape with numerous lakes and woodlands. During the European Middle Ages, the monastery was a significant religious, cultural, and commercial hub, with many ancient buildings still standing. The church is notable for its architecture and hosts many concerts in the summer.

**Accommodation:** Volunteers will prepare and eat their meals in the outdoor summer kitchen of Kunstort Lehnin, which is sheltered yet open to nature on one side. Sleeping arrangements are in the seminar rooms, equipped with 6 – 7 mattresses each (bed linen provided). You are also welcome to bring your own tent and set it up by the lake shore. Showers and toilets are available for personal hygiene. Note: Summers can be hot, requiring sun protection, but they can also be cool, especially when it rains, so warm clothing is advised.

**Remarks:** Please bring workwear and raincoats, a bathing suit, music, your talents, and something unique from your country. As there will be opportunities to spend time at and in the lake, knowing how to swim is essential. If you're bringing your own tent, don't forget a sleeping bag and an insulation mat.

**Terminal:** Groß Kreuz Bahnhof (as one option, there are some more options to reach Lehnin).

**Nearest airport:** Berlin Branderburg (BER). There is a regional train connection from BER to Groß Kreuz.



# ICJA2412 Peace Center In Sievershausen

05.08.2024 - 19.08.2024

## RENO / STUD / ART / PEACE

**Vols:** 20

**Age:** 18-26

**Language:** English, German

**Project:** The Peace Studies Center in Sievershausen (Antikriegswerkstatt Sievershausen) was established in the premises of the Sievershausen Lutheran Church community more than 50 years ago. During that time, the Vietnam War escalated. Nowadays there are several buildings, including a guesthouse and the well-known "Anti-War House" with an assembly hall for our events, located in a park-like area along with a church older than 1000 years on the edge of the village. The peace center shows



through its diverse program, that peace work has political, historical, educational and cultural aspects. Throughout the year one can visit exhibitions, author readings, lectures and many cultural events. The peace education offers of the seminar area include teaching units, trainings for school classes and church groups on current and historical topics.

**Manual and Creative Work:** The Peace Studies Center is located on the edge of a former battlefield. An exceptionally bloody battle took place here on a Sunday afternoon in July 471 years ago. Analogous to the well-known motto "swords to ploughshares" we redesign this to "battlefields to playing fields". The participants of the work camp will design different elements of this playing field. This means manual work with wood, metal, earth and colour. Anyone who appreciates creative work can work on some



piece of art under expert guidance, which is to be developed on the topics of the reconciliation work done by "Community of the Coventry Cross of Nails", CCN. This is an international [Community](#); a worldwide network of churches, institutions and places which works closely with Coventry Cathedral for peace and reconciliation. In total, there are 50 members across Germany and over 200 worldwide. Coventry was one of the first towns which was destroyed by German Bombers in World War II. For the Community of the Cross of Nails,

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standing up for peace and reconciliation means to heal the wounds of history, to recognize differences and to value diversity, and to create a culture of peace.

**Study part:** You will learn some essentials of peace work and receive basic training in non-violent conflict management by professional trainers. Moreover, the respect for Human Rights und circumstances of war and climate change is being discussed. We will visit the memorial in the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.



Volunteers will have the opportunity to meet young people and families in die region, the group will also invite people of the village and region to an "Evening of encounter" (Abend der Begegnung) at the Peace Center.

**Leisure Time:** For the leisure time, the group can use facilities of the seminar house and take part in excursions to Hannover and Braunschweig.

**Accommodation:** The accommodation for the participants is offered in rooms with four beds each. There are bed sheets available. Food is prepared together in the kitchen of the seminar house.

**Region:** The Peace Center is at the verge of a village with about 2500 inhabitants. Sievershausen lies 30 kilometers east of the Lower Saxony provincial capital Hanover on the freeway to Berlin.

**Terminal:** Haemelerwald near Lehrte (train from Hannover to Braunschweig), 3 km from the peace center. **Nearest airports:** Hannover, Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen.

## ICJA2413 Spend Quality Time with Asylum Seekers –In Giessen 10.08. – 24.08.24

### **SOCI/STUDY/REFUGEE**

**Vol:** 12

**Age:** 18-26

**Languages:** English, German

**Project:** Since many years now we offer this successful workcamp together with the protestant community center "Petrusgemeinde". The international volunteers are invited to the Asylum Centre for two weeks to take part in the daily life of the refugees. In the study part of the camp, we want to inform about the situation of refugees in Germany and Europe, as well as the current developments in the area of Asylum-policies. We want you to get in contact with the residents of the Asylum Centre so that we can learn about their stories, difficulties and perspectives.

The Asylum Centres for asylum seekers in Hessen are located at the edge of the city Giessen. There are currently around 2 000 asylum-seekers hosted in former army barracks. The refugees are in

Germany because of various reasons, e.g. political, ethnic and religious persecution or poverty. Usually, they stay at the facility for few months until a decision has been made about their application. Sometimes they are sent to other centers or to other "safe countries" where they entered the European Union, or to their countries of origin. Most of the people living in the Asylum Centres in Giessen are from Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Eritrea, Ukraine and Balkan countries: Young men, women, children and older people. The asylum seekers live in simple conditions and are not allowed to work or leave the district in which they live. Their permission to stay in Germany often is limited and so is their contact with the locals living in the city.

**Work:** Together with the refugees we want to organize common activities, where the women and children are taken into consideration: Playing games, making sports, being creative, in short to have some fun together.... Besides organizing games for the kids and special activities for women and men, there is the option to create some scenes in a puppet theatre.

In addition, our goal is to get in contact with the young people in Giessen to raise greater awareness for the refugees and to break the isolation of the refugees. We will prepare



contact with students of the local university that are willing to take care of the medical issues of the refugees and to pursue the legal issues of the asylum law.

We especially invite volunteers to participate, who can speak Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic or Farsi.

**Environment:** Giessen, a city populated mostly by students located in the mid-west of Germany. It is easy to reach via Frankfurt airport and Frankfurt Hahn.

**Leisure Time:** There are plenty of possibilities for leisure time activities: playing football or canoeing as well as possibilities to visit some other cities. (e.g. Marburg, Frankfurt or Heidelberg)

**Accommodation:** The workcamp will be hosted by a local protestant church which is already involved in working with the refugees. The premises of the church are plentiful and volunteers will have a lot of space for sleeping, cooking, dining, relaxing, and for indoor and outdoor activities.

**Remarks:** Please bring sleeping bag, a pillow if needed, towels, camping mat, work clothes, bathing suit, music, your talents and something specific from your country. After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection. Please send a motivation letter together with your application. The local host requires that all participants are **vaccinated against measles**, to protect the people in the shelter.

**Terminal:** Giessen. **Nearest airport:** Frankfurt am Main.



## ICJA2414 Social Center Jamlitz

24.08. - 07. 09.24

**MANU /STUDY**

**Vols:** 15

**Canceled**

## ICJA2415 Cultural Center in Countryside In Bedheim 28.09.- 12.10.24

### RENO/ ENVI/ STUDY

**Vols:** 12

**Age:** 18-26

**Language:** English, German

**Project:** Bedheim castle was first mentioned in the year 1169 and was destroyed and reconstructed several times in its long history. During the last 20 years, the castle became a sociocultural center for this remote region. Currently it offers meeting places for social and cultural initiatives. With historical rooms, the garden café, various types of gardens and being surrounded by beautiful nature, it is a perfect place to meet with friends, to enjoy a good piece of cake or even to celebrate a wedding.

Since 1992, this association has been organizing workcamps. Volunteers enjoy spending their time to meet and work together with the inhabitants. An organic garden, a painter's studio, a goldsmith's workshop and an architect's office are the basis for the existence of the residents. There is even a small castle museum, where you can admire the bones of prehistoric dinosaurs, once living in this region.

Last but not least: nice cats and dogs are waiting to be petted by the volunteers!

The aim of this project is to create an atmosphere where people with or without disabilities may come, live and work together without any prejudice against handicap, nationality, or religion.

### Work:

Volunteers are invited to help with the care and maintenance of this social centre and its various areas. There is work outside and inside: The meadow orchard must be cleared of bushes and, depending on the weather, apples can be collected and processed into apple juice. The work in the organic vegetable garden also depends on the weather, usually the volunteers help with the harvest of fruit and vegetables. In the castle itself, there is painting and cleaning work to be done to maintain the building. Encounters with kids and people of



the region are foreseen. Overall, there is a wide variety of tasks - something for everyone!

**Study:** We may learn more about natural beauty of the environment. We can make excursions to places of cultural and historical interest (e.g. Weimar, the city of Goethe and the concentration camp Buchenwald). We can have discussions and lectures about German history, society, culture and politics (the German East-West border was only 9 km away from Bedheim).



There will be the possibility to encounter with young people of the region and getting to know more about the countries of the participants.

**Accommodation:** Bedheim castle offers a simple group accommodation in a seminar house. Beds will be provided. Meals will be prepared by the group (less meat but a lot of very good vegetables and fruits from the nursery). Warm water is provided from a solar collector.

**Region:** Bedheim castle is located in the west of Thuringia, close to the Bavarian border. Next bigger town is Coburg (28 km away). Bedheim is surrounded by the extraordinary beautiful Franconian landscape.

**Remarks:** Some basic knowledge of German or English is recommended. Please bring rain and working clothes as well as swim suits, a sleeping bag, slippers, towels and warm pullovers with you. You can also bring a map, pictures or special food items from your country.

**Terminal:** Bedheim is 8 km from the train station of Hildburghausen and 15 km from the train station of Bad Rodach. **Nearest airports:** Leipzig, Frankfurt/Main, Nuernberg.



