

- **ICJA01 Performing Peace Project / German Protestant Church Conference / Blomberg - Dortmund 10.06. – 23.06.2019**

Vols 15

Language: English, German

### **ICJA – Performing Peace Project: What is your contribution to peace?**

- Are you interested in participating in a unique intercultural learning experience?
- Do you embrace the idea of promoting peace among young people?
- Would you favor learning more about the fields of peace and conflict resolution and theater pedagogy?
- Are you willing to develop a joint performance and show it in public during the German Protestant conference – “Kirchentag”?

If so, you will definitely benefit from our “Performing Peace Project” and we would be more than happy to receive your application!

### **The project**

This workcamp is a very special one. Instead of doing manual work, volunteers will get a two-day personal training in conflict resolution and a four-day training in theater and performance. The overall idea is to invite international young people to discuss the topic of peace with them and to train them to become young activists for peace.

The workcamp starts in the small town Blomberg: Living in former holiday apartments, the volunteers will join interactive workshops and prepare a performance. Finally, the group will move to Dortmund and participate actively in the German Protestant Kirchentag presenting their performance

Literally translated, “Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag” means German Protestant Church Day and it is a nation-wide German church festival which attracts all kind of visitors, Christian and non-Christian. It also can be seen as kind of fair or festival, where you will have the opportunity to get to know a wide range of social commitment and civil society initiatives and organizations in Germany.

During the Kirchentag, the tasks will be to support the exhibition booth of ICJA, inform visitors about our workcamp activities and to perform small theater scenes. In addition, you will have the opportunity to join concerts, meditation sessions, and various panel discussions with personalities from the world of politics, science, art, business and the church. Most importantly, you can get in touch with many representatives of different organizations and visitors of the Kirchentag!

Moreover, the activities during the workcamp will be documented (photos and videos) for public relations work of different organizations dedicated to peace work in Germany.

We would like to point out that applications of all applicants are welcomed, regardless of their religious affiliation.

### **The accommodation:**

In Blomberg, you will be accommodated in holiday homes, including beds, cooking (self-catering!) and sanitation facilities. During the Kirchentag in Dortmund, you will be accommodated in a school or community center. Volunteers will get breakfast and vouchers for meals. Please note that you need to bring a sleeping bag and a sleeping mat!

### **The region:**

Blomberg has about 16.000 inhabitants and is situated in the eastern part of North Rhine Westphalia, a region which is characterized by farms, hills (up to 500 meters) and plenty of forests.

Blomberg has a beautiful old town area with half-timbered houses and old alleyways. The old town is also home to a historical castle which now is established as a hotel.

**Additional fee and Remarks:**

Good knowledge of English language and interest in the topic is needed! Please send us a short motivation letter where you underline your motivation together with your application.

Due to additional costs for the trainers, the entrance to the Kirchentag and the shift to Dortmund, we ask for a contribution towards the cost of 150, - Euro. If you are not able to afford the amount, please contact us.

The work camp starts in Blomberg 10.06.19 and ends in Dortmund 23.06.19.

Please, bring clothing also for cold and wet weather, sportive clothes for theater training and dancing, musical instruments and please, do not forget your sleeping bag and sleeping mat!

**Terminal:**

Arrival: Schieder train station, next airport Hannover

Departure: Dortmund train station

• **ICJA02 Blomberg 22.06.-06.07.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 15

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

Since 2009 now we successfully organize workcamps in Blomberg in cooperation with local youth center and the town hall. Youth center is situated at the edge of the inner city and surrounded by play yards and green areas. The perfect place for a youth center, where kids have enough space for noisy outdoor activities!

**Work:**

Your help is requested in the further development of a project called “Garden of Paradise” for children. It is a yard designed according the concept of “Naschgarten”. In this “snack garden”, children can play like in an adventure park but they can also plant vegetables and fruit and then eat as they like. This year we can harvest fruits and finish this garden. Another project will be to build a playground for volleyball. We plan that volunteers of the workcamp will be the first playing a match there !

It’s manual work outside, sometimes with heavy tools. This project is a co-operation with the town council of Blomberg and the local EUWATEC GmbH, offering employment schemes.

In previous workcamps the international volunteers helped to improve the play and sporting opportunities around the local youth center. A BMX course and a climbing park for the children has been already completed.

**Study part:**

We can learn about pedagogics of nature how it is practiced in the youth center. Beside this we are invited to a cultural program, which offers us the opportunity to get to know Blomberg and its region.

**Leisure time:**

According to the good experiences of the previous camps, volunteers will get in contact with local young refugees living in the same holiday village. There will be some meetings with young people from Blomberg in the evenings and on the weekends. Furthermore the participants have the opportunity to take part of fieldtrips and get to know the local school. The participants are entitled to 1-2 days off for personal use.

**Region:**

Blomberg is a small historical town of about 16,000 inhabitants in the area of the ancient principality “Lippe” (Fürstentum Lippe). Nowadays it is called the Lippe district. Blomberg has a

beautiful old town area with half-timbered houses and old alleyways. The old town is also home to a historical castle which now is established has a hotel. The region is characterized by farms, hills (up to 500 meters) and plenty of forests. Nearby of Blomberg there are some bigger cities: Detmold (75,000 inhabitants, distance: 15km) and Bielefeld (330,000) inhabitants, distance 50km) in the west and Hannover (600,000 inhabitants, distance: 70km) in the northeast.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation will be carried out in a holiday village. Accommodation always includes rooms with beds and cooking facilities. Sufficient sanitation facilities will be available, too. Please bring a sleeping bag or a warm blanket with you.

**Terminal:**

Schieder train station, next airport Hannover.

• **ICJA03 Eschenhof Groß Ruenz 06.07. – 20.07.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 12

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

Situated in the beautiful landscape of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Schaalsee the members of association “Eschenhof – Gardening together.” aims to run an organic farm together.

Since 2015 the members plant and grow different vegetable crops, potatoes and herbs in foil tunnels and in the field. There is as well an orchard with trees, shrubs and berries and you can find cozy little spots where members socialize together and kids can develop how to live close to nature.

The work together is closely connected to the name of the association – “Gemeinsam Gärtnern” - Gardening together: The essential aspect of the farm is combine social commitment with an alternative way of producing and consuming food by acting in an ecological, climate-friendly and sustainable manner. For further information about Eschenhof please visit [eschenhof-verein.de](http://eschenhof-verein.de) .

**Work:**

The volunteers are welcome to help the association to domesticate a piece of abandoned land and make useful for sustainable gardening. Together you will create garden beds and afterwards plant there herbs, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Later on this area will be used for social purposes and as a meeting place as well.

There will be all kind of gardening work to do, sometimes physical demanding (for the one which like to feel and act with the personal strength !).

**Study part:**

During your volunteering you can learn a lot about “Perma Culture”, which is a concept where selected plants are grown together in a way that a reduced input of energy and fertilizer is needed. There was given the Alternative Nobel Price to the inventor of this cultivation method ! You will learn gardening work by doing them. It is a great chance to get experience in the agricultural area, learn about permaculture and sustainable use of nature.

At the same time you can see the association as an good example of an alternative and very social way of producing and consuming food.

As there will be close contact to German native speakers, this workcamp is good possibility to improve your German language skills.

**Leisure time:**

Groß Rünz and Carlow are small villages located in the Northwest-Mecklenburg region, which is famous for its beautiful alleys and lakes. In about 2 km distance you can find a beautiful place for swimming. The medieval town of Lübeck, with its numerous sights, is about 23 kilometers away. The Baltic Sea with its nice beaches and coves is not far either. A visit to selected places of the nature reserve is planned as well.

There will be a joint decision which places the group will visit.

**Accommodation:**

You will live in a very big house at the edge of the village Carlow which is surrounded by a beautiful garden and landscape. It lies approx. 2 km away from Eschenhof. There are different options where volunteers can stay overnight: a common room, rooms for 2-3 persons or even a tent. However most of the time you will spend outdoor. There is a shelter with tables and benches where you can eat and play all together, a bar and a fireplace, as well as many beautiful areas for chilling. It would be great if you bring some musical instrument you can play. There will be a lot of time in the evening to sing and dance all together. There is a supermarket nearby where you can buy daily products.

Please find first impressions about the place of your accommodation: [pappelweg-drei.de/haus.htm](http://pappelweg-drei.de/haus.htm)

**Remarks:**

Volunteer will need sleeping bag, towel and swimming costume. For gardening please bring sturdy shoes and working clothes. As the region is rural, it is possible to make trips with bicycle. Everyone is welcome to bring a music instrument, as some friends of the association are musicians and would be happy to meet foreign musicians for playing together.

**Terminal:**

Lübeck, Next airport Hamburg or Hannover. There is no public transport to the venue of the camp, pickup from main station Lübeck will be arranged.

• **ICJA04 University in Farmhouse Gossberg 06.07. - 20.07.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 15

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The "University of the Farmhouse" once was a farm, built in the local stile of half-timbered houses. Nowadays it is a center of education for nature, culture, youth work and sustainability. The former stable and all other rooms are renovated and offer a cosy ambience for the visitors. The general aim of this project is to demonstrate different ecological cultivation methods and then to practice these methods.

**Work:**

In the last years with the help of several workcamps there was created a new seminar room. It is set up in a sustainable manner, which means that are only used ecological materials. This year volunteers are invited to help to start a new project which once will be an "innovative and interactive schoolyard" where visitors can experience the sustainable use of natural resources.

Additional work like making firewood can be done. As 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 this the possibility to harvest fruits. Of course there is also the opportunity to get to know about the idea of a Permaculture with its, plants, animals and environment.

Therefore we are looking for 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 and evenings, also weekends are free for personal use: sports, fieldtrips in the region and to Freiberg, swimming. There will be a group of around 6 local German volunteers participating in the workcamp. Good possibility to improve your German language skills. In the last weekend, volunteers will join the summer party of the University in the Farmhouse.

**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.

**Terminal:**

Freiberg, near Dresden.

- **ICJA05 Ban Nuclear Weapons Mutlangen Buechel 30.06. - 14.07.19**

Age: 18+ , Vols 14

Language: English, German

**Project:**

Several organizations of the German peace movement are currently running a campaign to ban the last nuclear weapons which are stationed in Germany. In the eighties huge protests out of the civil society has been successful and most of the intermediate-range missile, called Pershing II, has been disarmed in Germany. But the treaty was just this February canceled by the US and Russia. In our world there are still more than 14.000 nuclear weapons remaining! The peace-workshop "Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen" invites international volunteers from East and West to study peace and support activities against nuclear weapons.

The workcamp will start in Mutlangen, a former location of nuclear missiles, 40 km east of Stuttgart. There the blockades against the missiles have been successful. In the second part we move on to the military air-base Buechel on the Eifel hills, where still nuclear weapons are stationed. Participants will get to know and discuss history and actual questions of nuclear disarmament, trust-building and non violence.

All volunteers are invited to stay in the resistance camp until 16th of July. If you are interested please contact camp leader.

**The campaign:**

Twenty nuclear bombs are still kept in the airbase Buechel. They belong to the US Army and in case of war, they would be flown by German pilots on the command of the president of the USA. Instead of abolished, as the international law demands, these weapons are going to be upgraded. The campaign "Buechel is everywhere - Global Zero Now" demands the stop of the so called modernization of the bombs, the removal from Germany and a legal ban of all nuclear weapons. The campaign is part of ICAN, (International Campaign to abolish Nuclear Weapons), which got the Nobel Peace Prize few years ago.

**Work:**

Volunteers are invited to join our campaigns and activities for promoting peace during the time of the workcamp. You will help us through your participation and through some manual and artistic work: In Mutlangen we will have promoting actions for a peaceful world in the "Rems garden show". We will have a peace bicycle ride 40 km along the river Rems. And together we will design and create an artistic installation for the so called "peace meadow" in Buechel and support the campaign against the remaining nuclear weapons. We believe that campaigns for nuclear disarmament and nonviolence conflict resolution are messages worth to be spread in the media. We invite you to learn from best examples in peace building and to help us to share these examples in social media as messages of peace. If possible you can translate them into your language. Such skills are particularly welcome!

**Study part:**

Volunteers will receive information about nuclear weapons, ongoing nuclear armament programs and efforts of disarmament and reconciliation. We will share experiences about different forms of action for peace. As there will be contacts to German native speakers, workcamp is good possibility

to improve your German language skills.

**Leisure time:**

Volunteers can visit attractions in the “Swabian Jura” and the “Eifel”.

**Accommodation:**

We sleep in tents. In Mutlangen in the garden of the “Pressehütte”. In Büchel in a peace camp on a field beside the military airfield. You will need to bring sleeping pad and sleeping bag. Vegetarian food will be prepared together.

**Participation fee:**

We ask for a contribution of 50.- Euro for the travel costs during the workcamp.

**Please note:**

Official end of the workcamp will be in Buechel, not in Mutlangen. Next train station in Buechel is Cochem, from there you can go with train to Frankfurt, Stuttgart or Cologne (via Koblenz). Another option is to use airport Frankfurt Hahn, which is much nearer, you can reach it by bus.

**Additional remarks:**

You will need sleeping bag and isolation sheet. Food will be vegetarian. The workcamp starts and ends in Mutlangen. A motivation letter is needed. Please let us know about your studies, work interests and concerns. Do not forget to bring a warm sweater and clothes, nights can be rather cold.

**Terminal:**

Arrival Train station Schwäbisch Gmünd, about 40 kilometers in east of Stuttgart. Next airport: Stuttgart.

Departure Next train station in Buechel is Cochem.

- **ICJA06 Muellerhof Mittweida 19.07. - 02.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 10

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The camp takes place at the “Müllerhof”, which is a reconstructed traditional half-timbered farmhouse. It runs a socio-cultural center of the local community which offers creative workshops and courses aimed to the personal development. Nearby is the so-called “garden of senses” which consists of a small park, a play area, trees for climbing and a natural stage for events with an 80 year old circus-wagon. It also has an area with herbal garden and berry bushes. Lots of workcamps helped to embellish the house and the garden.

**Work:**

With the help of the concept artist Jens Ossada the participants of the workcamp will help to secure an old wall which would otherwise fall into our beautiful half-timbered house. They will work mostly with wood and concrete. Afterwards the wall can be creatively decorated with stones and other material. We are open to the volunteers ideas.

Important is the work in the “Garten der Sinne”, which needs maintenance every year. Especially the tunnels made of wicker. Volunteers will be integrated into the household and are asked to cook the typical food of our country for approximately 20 guests and staff of the Müllerhof. In the end of the workcamp an international evening is planned, to introduce the countries of the participants.

This will be open to the public.

**Study part:**

Volunteers can explore the possibilities and activities of the Müllerhof as an example of a socio cultural center.

**Leisure time:**

There is a range of possibilities for excursions and visits of interesting places:

Guided tour through the University of Applied Sciences, visits to the town hall, museum and church of Mittweida. We will also offer outdoor activities and guided hiking-tours in the area (e.g. a hike to a barrier lake, the fortress Kriebstein or the Rochlitzer Porphyberg). It’s also possible to visit the

cities nearby: Dresden, Leipzig or Chemnitz.

**Region:**

Mittweida is surrounded by a nice landscape with nice places waiting to be visited. Next interesting cities are Freiberg, Leipzig, Dresden. There is a university for applied science with lots of international students.

**Accommodation:**

The participants will sleep in the big loft of the Muellerhof (80m<sup>2</sup>) which includes a shower and toilets.

**Special requirements:**

Please bring a sleeping bag and working clothes with you.

**Terminal:**

Mittweida near Dresden.

**Airports:**

Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin.

- **ICJA07 Youth Center Eilenburg 20.07. – 03.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 15

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The small town Eilenburg offer successful workcamps for more than 10 years now. Host of the workcamp is always the youth club House6 CLOUD (former name was “Falle” - “trap”) which is located in former barracks. In the same building there are situated some more social, sportive and cultural projects.

**Work:**

After the successful workcamps of the last year, volunteers will again help in renovating some facilities in the town and in the local zoo. Beside this volunteers help is needed in the renovation of the surrounding of the local youth center. You can select from various tasks waiting: to set up benches, to renew a volleyball field, to repair different enclosures, etc.

**Study:**

Volunteers will learn about different types of youth culture in Germany. As there will be contacts to German native speakers, workcamp is good possibility to improve your German language skills.

**Leisure time:**

The leisure time program will be organized together with the local Eilenburg youth groups and clubs. The focus lies here on the encounter and the exchange with local adolescents. Also there are sports activities such as soccer, volleyball, swimming and bowling. In addition there will be a cultural program. A trip to Leipzig and Dresden is scheduled. You can get to know the rich history of Eilenburg through guided tours in the museum and in the cellars, located in the hill in the center of the city.

**Region:**

Eilenburg is a small town with approx. 17 000 inhabitants, situated on the border of the „Dübener Heide“ and approximately 25km from the exhibition city Leipzig. Its rich history of over thousand years, makes it easy to call it one of the cradles of Saxony. The continuous rule of the Wettins-Dynasty beginning with the Earl of Ilburg in the 11th century was carried on until 1918. Part of their territory is the state of Saxony today.

In medieval times and during industrialization Eilenburg was a rich city. At the time of Martin Luther its main business was brewery and in the 19th century it was a national center of textile industries. But Eilenburg also was devastated several times in its history. In April 1945, Eilenburg was almost completely destroyed. As the only evidence of former rich times remained the „Sorberturm“ as a remaining part of the Ilburg. It was assumedly built in the 12th century at the highest part of the 220m x 150m plateau. A loop footpath outside the castle wall connects the

„Sorberturm“ with the „Amtshaus“(deanery), the former county court. This path has been renewed with the help of the volunteers in the last workcamps.

**Accommodation:**

The volunteers will live in the local youth center called „House IV“. The group can cook for itself in a modern kitchen.

**Remarks:**

Sleeping bags and camping mats should be brought by you, it is also necessary to bring work clothes, raingear and sturdy shoes.

**Terminal:**

Eilenburg via Leipzig.

**Airports:**

Leipzig-Halle, Berlin.

- **ICJA08 Heavens Rock Spangenberg 22.07. - 12.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols: 10

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

Spangenberg is a small village south of Kassel, in the middle of Germany. The „Himmelsfels“(Heavens rock) in Spangenberg is with 8 hectares attached to it. In Himmelsfels are embassies of different countries - caravans that have been modified artistically by international guests of the Himmelsfels. Every year in Himmelsfels there are events concerning art, culture, gospel music and youth Encounter. This summer season, there will be several international youth camps and a special camp with about 150 young people from various countries.

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

The “Himmelsfels” foundation is a Christian organization which aims: to developing spaces for intercultural and ecumenical exploration, as well as to motivating people for a life characterized by equality and common values. The project is especially directed to young people who support and are eager to join the community of Christian spirituality. For more information please see:

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

**Work:**

Workcamp participants are invited to work in different fields: Manual, artistically, pedagogical. During the youth camps, you will have contact with kids from diverse background and join their activities as well. You are requested to be prepared as “ambassador” of the peoples living in your country. It would be helpful to be prepared to offer your own workshop artistically, musically or athletically at home and bring lots of ideas. In addition all volunteers will have the chance to introduce their country. You should gather ideas at home and bring material for a creative presentation including pictures, food, common games dances or other typical things from your country. Further information will be prepared after the placement in the workcamp. Beside 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 encourage encounters between people from different cultures and diverse background.

**Leisure Time:**

The small town Spangenberg is situated between hills in a green countryside in the middle of Germany. Leisure activities will be arranged according the needs of the group. There will be the



possibility to visit Kassel, town of the world wide know art exhibition "Documenta".

**Remarks:**

Basic knowledge in German language is helpful in the contact with the Kids. Volunteers with interest in performing arts are very welcome and it would be great if you are interested in Christian spirituality. After confirmation, you will have to sign a self-commitment statement in terms of legal protection for children and young persons. Please bring a sleeping bag. As some summer nights can get cold in Germany, please bring some warm clothes and raingear!

**Accommodation:**

There will be basic and simple accommodation. You will be sleeping in caravans. 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.

**Next airport:**

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

• **ICJA10 Peace Center Sievershausen 29.07. - 11.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 20

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The Peace Studies Centre Sievershausen (Antikriegshaus Sievershausen) was established in the rooms of the Sievershausen Lutheran Church community almost 50 years ago. Those were the times when the Vietnam War escalated. Constant expansions followed, now there are several buildings, surrounded by a nice park, including a guest house and a museum with an assembly hall. The peace centre shows within its diverse program, that peace work has political, historical, pedagogical and cultural aspects. Through the year one can visit exhibitions, literary readings, lectures and many cultural events. In the seminar house students get trainings in nonviolent conflict resolution and every year an international workcamp is offered. For further information please visit [antikriegshaus.de](http://antikriegshaus.de).

**Work:**

Volunteers are invited to help in maintaining and improvement of our seminar house. Volunteers will work on the renewal of the garden chess figures using artistic means (i.e. painting on wood...). Volunteers are welcome to develop their talents in designing and handcraft. Participants, who prefer to do physical labour, are invited to do some garden work or help with renovating the garden chessboard.

**Study:**

We will learn some essentials of peace work and get basic non-violent conflict management training. In the second week we will visit the former concentration camp of Bergen Belsen, and have some lessons on European history in the first part of the 20th century.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to spend an evening in a German family and reverse, the group will invite the people of the village and region to an "Evening of encounter" (Abend der Begegnung) in the rooms of the Peace Center.

**Leisure Time:**

In the leisure time, the group can use facilities of the seminar house and make an excursion to Hannover or Braunschweig.

**Accommodation:**

The accommodation of the participants is carried out in rooms with 4 beds each. There are bed sheets available. Food will be prepared together in the kitchen of the seminar house.

**Region:**

The Peace Center is at the verge of a village with about 2500 inhabitants. The Peace Center is near

the historical location where in 1553 a battle took place. Sievershausen lies 30 kilometers east of the Lower Saxony provincial capital Hanover on the freeway to Berlin.

**Terminal:**

Haemelerwald near Hannover (train from Hannover to Braunschweig).

**Airports:**

Hannover, Berlin, Hamburg.

- **ICJA11 Asylum Centre Giessen 03.08. – 17.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vol: 15

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 is located at the edge of the city Giessen. There are currently around 600 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 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. In addition, our goal is to get in contact with the young members of the local protestant church to raise greater awareness for the refugees and to break the isolation of the refugees. We will prepare contact with students of the 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 will also get in contact with students of the University who medicate people without legal status. We especially invite volunteers to participate, who are able to speak Turkish, Arabic or Farsi. Besides organizing common activities with the refugees, we plan to construct some furniture made from old palettes together. They can be used outside, and will be nucleus of a meeting point of the inhabitants of the center.

**Work:**

Together with the refugees we want to organize common activities, where the women and children are taken into consideration. In addition, our goal is to get in contact with the young members of the local protestant church to raise greater awareness for the refugees and to break the isolation of the refugees. We will prepare contact with students of the 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 will also get in contact with students of the University who medicate people without legal status. We especially invite volunteers to participate, who are able to speak Turkish, Arabic or Farsi. Besides organizing common activities with the refugees, we plan to construct some furniture made from old palettes together. They can be used outside, and will be nucleus of a meeting point of the inhabitants of the center.

**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 airport.

**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, pillow (if needed), isolation sheet, 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. A motivation letter is needed.

**Terminal:**

Giessen

- **ICJA12 Focus Festival – RABRYKA Goerlitz 05.08. – 18.08 2019**

Vols: 15

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. In the moment it offers a wide range of possibilities for kids, youth and adults: Repair shops, do it yourself and creative workshops, a youth center and urban gardening. There is enough in- and outdoor space for gatherings and sports, sharing things and opinions, playing music and party together and ... even much more !

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

RABRYKA is a made-up word and connects the Polish word for factory **fabryka** and the first letter of the colour red. **Red** are the bricks of the buildings of the former factory.

**Work:**

Your help is needed to prepare space and the facilities for the Focus Festival. You are invited to bring your individual creativity and your talents and 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, you can help to expand the BMX trail and by designing a luminous advertising. Also quite important is the support of the kitchen team. It would be great if the group can contribute something special for the focus festival. At the end volunteers will support the focus festival itself and you will come in contact with the visitors discovering your creations. For further information please visit [www.rabryka.eu/justlab/index.php/d/projekte/fokus-festival.html](http://www.rabryka.eu/justlab/index.php/d/projekte/fokus-festival.html)

**Study and leisure time:**

Goerlitz is situated in the very east of Germany. After Second World War, 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. You will learn as well about the current network of initiatives in this city, which offer a wide range of

cultural and social work. Beside this there will be time for a cycling tour to a lake nearby, long evenings at the bonfire and party.

**Accommodation:**

Volunteers will stay in a flat near to the youth and culture center. There are three sleeping rooms, bathroom including washing machine, living room and a kitchen. Volunteers will need a sleeping bag. It is planned that volunteers will prepare breakfast and dinner for their own and lunch will be offered at Rabryka.

**Remarks:**

Volunteers which are skilled in handcraft and creative arts will find a great atmosphere to fulfill their own talents and abilities. Please be ready to work together in teams. Please bring sleeping bag, pillow (if needed), work clothes, bathing suit, music and your talents. After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection.

**Terminal:**

Goerlitz train station, Next Airport Berlin

• **ICJA13 Datteln 10.08.-24.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 14

Languages: English, German

**Project:** Commemorating as a way towards peace!

The Evangelical parish of Datteln is the origin of the movement of the Christian voluntary service, nowadays known as yap-cfd. The Parish of Datteln aims to remember a historical encounter, which took place after World War I during the French occupation of the Ruhr area. It happened on the 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 “Young activists for Peace“ lies in this international encounter 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 to be shown in public places: They designed „benches of encounter“ and a big mural in the local kindergarden. Two years ago, volunteers designed a big picture for the entrance hall of the local church. It was done as reflection of a memorial in the same room, which still shows a very militaristic and nationalistic approach.

This year volunteers are invited to work with old porcelain. With coloured pencil or paintbrush, volunteers can design old tableware, which can be used to build up an installation called “a table of peace and reconciliation”. As every time, this installation will be shown to public in a final exhibition. Again the artist is happy to help you to get in a creative process of painting. For information about the artist, please visit [ulrike-speckmann.de](http://ulrike-speckmann.de). In addition to this artistic activities it is foreseen to visit the local kindergarden, to play with the children and to do some gardening there. 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 subject peace artistically, local history as starting point of an international movement.

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

**Region:** the town 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 the region Münster are nearby. Next bigger towns are Recklinghausen, Dortmund and the very nice and famous students' town Münster.

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

**Remarks:** Volunteers with interest in creative arts are very welcome. After confirmation, you will have to sign a self-commitment statement in terms of legal protection for children and young persons. Please bring a sleeping bag.

**Terminal:**Castrop-Rauxel, (near Dortmund train station)

**Next airport:** Düsseldorf International (80 km).

- **ICJA14 Farm Community Kotthausen 17.08. - 28.08.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 10

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The organic farm community “Kotthausen” consist of approximately 40 hectare farm and grazing land, woodlands, different farm buildings and five houses build in regional style. Currently 13 children and 26 adults are living in our village. Chickens, sheep, a goat, horses, cats and dogs are an integral part of our community and part of our voluntary community work. Inclusion of people with diverse handicaps is part of our living and working within the community. We also practice farming for self-sufficiency and sale via our organic food delivery organisation. For further information please see [www.hof-kotthausen.de](http://www.hof-kotthausen.de)

As there will be close contact to German native speakers, this workcamp is good possibility to improve your German language skills.

**Work:**

There is a wide range of different tasks, where you can help the community. This summer we want to devote ourselves to our woodland. A young reforestation needs attention and care by weeding and clearing of scrub). Our forest suffered from two heavy storms last year so there is lots of clearing and cleaning to do. We also require help on our organic fields. Here you can learn a lot about organic agriculture and self-sufficiency. There will also be handicraft activities like fence repair or cable laying as well as creative jobs like building with willow, painting benches and tables or creating new signs for our “peace pile”. If you like to, taking care of our animals can become your daily routine. You will also be involved in the every day cooking for the workcamp group. Work is mostly outdoors and can be physically demanding (for the one which like to feel and act with the personal strength!)

**Study:**

Camp participants will be part of the farm community for the duration of their stay. Almost all jobs will be performed together with inhabitants of our farm community so there will be lots of exchange, encounter and contacts to German native speakers. Therefore this workcamp is a good possibility to improve your German language skills.

**Accommodation:**

The accommodation of the participants will be in “Family tents”. (These are tents with high roof which offer private space for 5 people in “inner tents”). In case of extended bad weather a big barn will also be available. A community kitchen with two showers and toilettes is close by. Please bring your own sleeping bags, sleeping mats, towels and warm cloths. Please be aware that nights in this region can be quite fresh with temperatures down to ten degrees even in summer!

**Region:**

The farm village Kotthausen is 295m above sea level and has first been mentioned in medieval times. So it's quite a special and historic place with a long history of community life and youth work. The region “Bergisches Land” is famous for its wet weather, but has amazingly beautiful

nature with stunning skies, beautiful fresh water lakes and lots of green forests.

Kotthausen is at the end of a small road most remote from any big roads or cities. The nearest towns are in about 5 km distance. There are no shopping possibilities nearby, but the region's best ice cream café is only a 30 minute walk away and worth while visiting. The famous and beautiful castle "Schloss Burg" is in 30 minutes driving distance, the city of Wuppertal can be reached by public transport in about 45 minutes.

**Remarks:**

After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection. We ask for a respectful behavior towards all farm members, especially our inhabitants with various handicaps as well as our animals.

**Please note:**

Volunteers will sleep in big tents on our farm. For your own fun, please bring warm sleeping bags, warm cloths, sturdy shoes and rainwear with you.

**Terminal:**

Train station "Remscheid-Lüttringhausen". The closest airports are Düsseldorf and Köln (Cologne)/Bonn.

• **ICJA15 VSS-Ilmenau 17.08.-31.08.2019**

Age: 18-26, Vols 14

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

The Association for Sport and Experience-oriented Integrative Social Work VSS-Ilmenau offers a variety of social, sporting and cultural projects for children and young people. This includes support for social work and family assistance, social meeting points such as the youth club "Oasis" and many sports and adventure-oriented activities for young people. Within the workcamp international volunteers can experience the social life of the association and help to beautify the green areas of the city.

**Work:**

The volunteers of the workcamp are invited to cultivate selected green areas. In the area of a former spa, you can help to preserve a river bank as a biotope and create a nice environment for recreation. This includes the cutting of trees and branches of hedges. You can learn willow weaving in order to create fancy furniture from pastures. There is also a lot of gardening work to do in the outdoor area of the youth club: laying and harvesting of the raised beds, moving the compost, repairing a fence. The work always takes place outside and in a green surrounding!

**Study and leisure time:**

The leisure activities are arranged together with the youth centers located in Ilmenau. There are many possible encounters with young people in the area; Common sporting activities such as swimming, football, billiards, summer toboggan-run, table tennis or climbing are possible. Volunteers can also get to know the diverse facets of Ilmenau: his historical testimonies as a former spa and health resort (The classical German author Goethe was a frequent visitor), his importance as a mining and university town and also the charm of his pond landscapes and biosphere reserves within the urban area. The history of Ilmenau can be explored by visiting the local museum and the show mine. As cultural program, excursions to the local mountain "Kickelhahn" and Lindenberg, to Erfurt or Eisenach are possible. During the workcamp, there will be the traditional Kickelhahnfest with open air music, dancing and games.

**Accommodation:**

Volunteers will be accommodated in a social center. Kitchen and showers can be used there.

**Region:**

The town of Ilmenau is located on the northern edge of the Thuringian Forest. It is surrounded by

forests and is home to a technical university, which has some 6,200 students enrolled. But it is also a sport city, especially in winter sports; Ilmenau even is home of Olympic champions. The main industry nowadays is mechanical engineering. In the past the mining industry (copper, silver and manganese) was also of great importance, since 1777 there was a significant porcelain industry. At the time of Goethe and in the following decades, Ilmenau was a popular tourist attraction and until the First World War it was a spa.

**Remarks:**

After registration, we require a self-declaration concerning the children and youth protection. Please bring workwear and raincoats, sleeping bag, camping mat, bathing suit, music, your talents and something specific from your country.

**Terminal:**

Ilmenau train station, the closest airport is Erfurt.

• **ICJA16 Bedheim Castle Bedheim 31.08. - 14.09.19**

Age: 18-26, Vols 12

Languages: English, German

**Project:**

Bedheim castle was first mentioned in the year 1169 and was devastated and reconstructed several times in its long history. In the time of German Democratic Republic (GDR) it slowly rotted. Now renovation is done by the family of Ruehle von Lilienstern. A non-profit association is supporting the renovation work and using part of the castle for its own activities. Since 1992 this association has been organizing workcamps. Year by year new working fields has been developed: A social therapeutic nursery was added, the association is running an organic garden and since 2007 the castle also runs a garden café and a small castle museum where you can admire the bones of prehistoric dinosaurs, once living in this region.

During the last 20 years the castle became a sociocultural center for this remote region: In the castle there is a perfect room for celebrations, around the castle one can find various types of gardens and meadow for goose and goats. In addition there are training courses and cultural activities available.

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. The website gives an impression about the specific and very nice character of this place

[schloss.bedheim.de](http://schloss.bedheim.de).

Inhabitants of the castle are looking forward to meet us, to work with us and hear our suggestions and ideas and to create a peaceful world together!

**Work:**

Volunteers are invited to help in the care and preservation of this ancient monument. We will work 6 hours daily, to do painting and cleaning inside or to maintain the garden around the castle. In the garden kind of work depends to the season, usually it is harvesting fruits, cutting trees, bushes and hedges. Encounters with kids and people of the region are foreseen. Every year Bedheim castle is part of the nationwide event called "day of the open monument". The castle will be opened in the weekend for guests and we can support with doing some service and show an artistic performance. In the last years volunteers showed a dance and played piano music. You can develop something according your talents. There will be the possibility to take on day of during the week as compensation.

**Study:**

We may learn more about the following topics: 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 seminar house. There are beds with mattresses and pillows, but sleeping bag is needed. 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 solar collector.

**Region:**

Bedheim castle is located in the west of Thuringia, close to the Bavarian border. Next bigger town is Coburg (28km 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 8km from the train station of Hildburghausen and 15km from the train station of Bad Rodach.

**Airports:**

Leipzig, Frankfurt/Main, Nürnberg.