

Online seminar

Develop or Self-Develop

Who is the volunteer in relation to colonial history?

12-14 and 18-21 March 2021

Background of the seminar

Colonialism created the political and economic context, in which we live today: Some countries have accumulated resources and wealth over centuries, while other countries have been colonized, their resources exploited, their cultures destroyed and their people murdered, marginalized and structurally discriminated against. Countries of the Global South are still today disadvantaged in their participation in the global economy and in international organisations - and people of color still face discrimination based on the concept of “race”, which was made up by the colonizers. In order to change the heritage of colonialism, we need to create global justice.

International volunteering takes place in this context: White Europeans go as international volunteers to the Global South, often with neo-colonial motivations of imposing Western values and mindsets onto local realities. In this seminar, international volunteering and youth organisations will gather to discuss, learn and exchange about this issue. Some questions that we ask ourselves and that we would like to discuss in this seminar are:

- How can we as international volunteering organisations respond to colonial mindsets and motivations of volunteers and make them aware in an appropriate way about the power structures at hand?
- (How) Can we work with ideas of “development” and “self-development” in a constructive way?
- How do we make volunteers active citizens around global justice rather than passive believers of colonial narratives of developing, helping and saving?
- How do we as critical volunteering NGOs relate to commercial organisations around us that do not critically prepare volunteers (“volontourism”) - should we compete with, ignore, collaborate with or train them?

As an outcome, we will create a new 4th version of the toolkit “**Picturing the Global South: The Power Behind Good Intentions**”, which SCI Austria has been creating with a series of post-colonial seminars in the past few years.

Online seminar

The seminar will take place **on 12-14 March and 18-21 March 2021 from 13:30-17:00 Central European Time (CET)** ([find out what this is in your time zone here](#)) on the video platform Zoom with an optional evening hangout as well as with individual tasks to do in the morning.



You need a good internet connection that works with video calls, a camera and microphone. If your internet connection is too slow for video calls, please let us know in the application form and we might be able to cover the costs for a better connection for you for the time of the project.

It is crucial for us that you are motivated to participate throughout the whole project, that you are not missing on any day of the project.

Participant's profile

The participants will be staff, activists and volunteers from volunteering and youth organisations. All participants will be expected and stimulated to contribute to the activities and discussions. They are very welcome and invited to come up with their own ideas and present some methods or workshops they are experienced in and they want to share. Please contact us in advance to tell us about it and we will see how it can fit best in the seminar agenda. :)

All participants selected for this project must meet the following criteria

- be 18 years old or older
- work with volunteer management or sending volunteers as well as voluntary leaders
- be able to work in English
- be interested in the seminar topics (volunteering in a North-South context, colonialism, global justice) and have a strong motivation to act as a multiplier
- commit to implement the learned knowledge and skills in practice back home
- commit to be present in (almost) all sessions of the seminar

We explicitly encourage participants of all genders, sexual orientations, abilities, races and ethnic backgrounds to apply.

How to apply?

Applications should be sent to your sending organization, which will each select their own participants and then forward the applications to SCI Austria. All those accepted will later receive a detailed infosheet (incl. info on how to access the seminar, more info about the agenda of the project). **Extended application deadline is 14 February 2021.**

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the project and your application, don't hesitate to contact Sara:
sara.andrea.vaca@gmail.com

We are looking forward to your application :-)

Thomas, Sara and the SCI Austria team

Application form

Online seminar “Develop or Self-Develop”, March 2021

Surname

First name

Is your official name in your passport different? If yes, please let us know:

Gender

Birth date

Nationality

Personal Address

(Street, city, country)

Phone Number

E-mail

Specific needs you would like to communicate

(e.g. need you to pay for faster internet connection)

English skills

Very good

Good

Poor

Speaking

Writing

Understanding

Name of your sending

organisation

For the following questions, please write briefly your most important arguments. This will help us to design the seminar according to your and the whole group's needs.

Experiences

How long have you been involved in your organisation and what have been your roles and tasks?

What experiences with sending international volunteers to the Global South have you made?

Motivation and expectations

What are the main reasons you wish to participate and what are your expectations for the seminar?

How do you want to use the acquired tools and knowledge in the future?

Do you have an idea for a method or session that you could share at the seminar?

Please give details, if possible: time needed, number of participants, kind of activity, topic

Further information

You can state here any other information you would like to share:

Declaration and commitment

I am fully aware that my participation in this activity is an investment of the organisers (in terms of logistics, finances, time and personal involvement of all people engaged) in my personal learning experience.

1. I declare that the information provided in my application is true and I commit myself to participate actively in the whole duration of the project.
2. I promise to share the experiences gained in the course with other people from my sending organisation and/ or other people in my professional/ private / volunteer environment;
3. I promise to implement learned experience at the local level;
4. I commit to attending the seminar in full;

I read and understood the text of the declaration.