



**European Approaches  
to Inter-Generational  
Lifelong Learning**

**International Voluntary Service**

**FINLAND**  
**Case Study Identity Card**  
**2007**



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## EAGLE CASE STUDY

# FINLAND

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Executive Summary*

Kansainvälinen vapaaehtoistyö (KVT i.e. International Voluntary Service) is the Finnish branch of Service Civil International (SCI) which was established in 1920. The main activities of KVT are work camps designed to help local organisations achieve a particular task, as well as supporting their longer-term goals and working for a more just and peaceful world.

Work camps are a unique form of doing voluntary work. They bring people together from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds to live and work on projects of benefit to local communities. The projects are designed to support and encourage local initiatives which are continued after the work camp has ended. Work camps are designed to help local organisations achieve a particular task, as well as to support their longer-term goals and work for a more just and peaceful world.

KVT believes that all the people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflicts. Peace can only be built if people with different backgrounds and cultures learn to co-operate and work together.



## 2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

<i>Title</i>	International Voluntary Service (Kansainvälinen vapaaehtoistyö )
<i>Country/ Countries of origin</i>	KVT was established in Finland in 1947. KVT is the Finnish branch of Service Civil International (SCI) which was established in 1920.
<i>Duration</i>	Starting Year: Established in Finland 1947 End Year: Open ended
<i>Status</i>	Running
<i>Managing institution</i>	Voluntary/social sector/foundations
<i>Contact details</i>	Institution: Kansainvälinen vapaaehtoistyö ry Street: Veturitori 3 Town: Helsinki Post Code: 00520 Phone: +358 9 144 408 Fax: +358 9 143 657 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:kvt@kvtfinland.org">kvt@kvtfinland.org</a> URL: <a href="http://www.kvtfinland.org">http://www.kvtfinland.org</a>
<i>Funding</i>	No funding e.g. own contribution, own resources <u>Comments:</u> The European Commission Voluntary Service funds long-term voluntary work of unemployed persons who are 18-30 years old.
<i>Partnership arrangement/ organizational form</i>	Bottom-up, grass root initiative
<i>Scale</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community based</li> <li>▪ International</li> </ul> <u>Comments:</u> International projects for the benefit of local communities.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF COLLABORATING GROUPS

<i>Collaborating Group I</i>	Local host & camp leader The main activities of KVT are work camps designed to help local organisations achieve a particular task, as well as supporting their longer-term goals and working for a more just and peaceful world. Local host in charge of supervision of the work whereas camp leader has the ultimate responsibility for running the camp and will deal with all major issues.
<i>Total number of Collaborating Group I</i>	In Finland approximately 20 work camps are organised yearly.
<i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group I</i>	Variable depending on the local host and camp leader, but normally from the middle ages.
<i>Collaborating Group II</i>	Anybody who is over 18 years old and interested in voluntary work for the benefit of communities.
<i>Total number of Collaborating Group II</i>	In Finland, approximately 20 work camps are organised yearly. In every camp 5 up to 20 international volunteers work together.
<i>Age group(s) of Collaborating Group II</i>	<u>Minimum Age:</u> 18 <u>Maximum Age:</u> No age limit

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## 4 DESCRIPTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING PRACTICES

### *Description of Learning Arrangement & Learning Practice*

KVT is a peace organisation that aims to promote equality, social acceptance and respect for the environment. The full name of KVT, Kansainvälinen vapaaehtoistyö, literally translates as International Voluntary Service.

KVT's most important activity is organising international work camps in Finland and sending volunteers to work camps abroad. In addition, KVT coordinates long-term volunteering projects of 3-12 months. KVT is run by volunteers working in various working groups and local groups (currently in Turku, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Oulu and Helsinki). A newsletter for members, *Vatupassi*, is published four times per year (mainly in Finnish).

KVT was established in Finland in 1947. The first volunteers came to Finland to help to rebuild Finnish Lapland after World War II. KVT is the Finnish branch of Service Civil International (SCI) which was established in 1920. There are SCI branches, groups and partner organisations in over 50 countries around the world. More than 5000 volunteers participate in hundreds of work camps each year.

SCI was the inspiration of the famous Swiss pacifist, Pierre Ceresole. Ceresole organised the first work camp in Verdun, France. Volunteers from Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain and Hungary worked side by side rebuilding a village destroyed by the First World War and fostering grass roots reconciliation between the former enemies.

The vision and mission of SCI:

The VISION is a world of peace, social justice and sustainable development, where all people live together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflict.

The MISSION is to promote peace and intercultural understanding through volunteering and international voluntary projects.

SCI bases its work on the following values that shape all its work:

- Volunteering - in the sense of acting out of self-initiative, without seeking material reward and for the benefit of civil society, as a method and a statement for social change, whilst never competing with paid labour nor seeking to contribute to strike-breaking;
- Non-violence – as a principle and a method;
- Human Rights – respect for individuals as stated in the universal declaration of Human Rights;
- Solidarity – international solidarity for a more just world and solidarity between human beings at all levels;
- Respect for the Environment – and the ecosystem of which we are a part and upon which we are dependent;
- Inclusion - to be open and inclusive to all individuals who share the aims and objectives of the movement, without regard to gender, race, colour, religion, nationality, social status or political views and any other possible grounds for discrimination;
- Empowerment – empowering people to understand and act to transform the social, cultural and economic structures that affect their lives at all levels;
- Co-operation – with local communities as well as other local, national and international actors to strengthen the positive potential within civil society as a whole.

SCI believes that all the people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflicts. SCI organises international volunteer projects all over the world because we know that peace can only be built if

	<p>people with different backgrounds and cultures learn to co-operate and work together. SCI has consultative status with the Council of Europe, operational relations with UNESCO and is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CCIVS: Coordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service Organisations</li> <li>▪ YFJ: Youth Forum Jeunesse</li> <li>▪ AVSO: Association of Voluntary Service Organisations</li> <li>▪ UNITED for Intercultural Action</li> </ul> <p>The United Nations awarded SCI the title 'Messenger of Peace' in 1987 in recognition of its work for peace and international understanding.</p>
<b><i>Location of the Learning Activity</i></b>	<p><u>Comments:</u> The location of the learning activity depends on the nature of the camp. Work camps are divided into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anti-racism, anti-fascism, refugees and ethnic minorities</li> <li>▪ North-South solidarity</li> <li>▪ Peace and disarmament</li> <li>▪ Disabilities</li> <li>▪ Children, teenagers and elderly people</li> <li>▪ Environment</li> <li>▪ Sexuality and gender</li> <li>▪ Socially disadvantaged (homeless people, poverty, etc)</li> <li>▪ Arts, culture and local history</li> <li>▪ Ideology and spirituality</li> </ul>
<b><i>Learning Activities (related to policy objectives)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community development, living &amp; safety</li> <li>▪ Social inclusion/participation, active citizenship</li> <li>▪ Environment &amp; environmental protection</li> <li>▪ Travel, excursions &amp; leisure time</li> </ul>
<b><i>Fields of Learning</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Skills for the Knowledge Society</li> <li>▪ Development and continuity of societal values</li> <li>▪ Productive cultural assimilation;</li> </ul>
<b><i>Knowledge &amp; Learning Exchange/Flow between the target group(s)</i></b>	Balanced and/or bi-directional e.g. shared activities
<b><i>Interactions between the target group(s)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ one-to-many</li> <li>▪ group based</li> <li>▪ physical/offline interaction</li> </ul>
<b><i>Categories of the learning activity</i></b>	Informal
<b><i>OECD/DeSeCo Competences addressed by the CS</i></b>	<p>2 = Competence Category 2: Interacting in Heterogenous Groups</p> <p>2.1 = The ability to relate well to others</p> <p>2.2 = The ability to cooperate</p> <p>2.3 = The ability to manage and resolve conflicts</p>
<b><i>EC Key Competences addressed by the CS</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication in a foreign language</li> <li>▪ Interpersonal and civic competences</li> <li>▪ Cultural awareness</li> </ul>

### *Success factors and barriers of the CS*

Workcamps are a unique form of doing voluntary work. They bring people together from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds to live and work on projects of benefit to local communities. The projects are designed to support and encourage local initiatives which are continued after the workcamp has ended. Workcamps are designed to help local organisations achieve a particular task, as well as to support their longer-term goals and work for a more just and peaceful world.

KVT was established in Finland in 1947. The first volunteers came to Finland to help to rebuild Finnish Lapland after World War II. KVT is the Finnish branch of Service Civil International (SCI) which was established in 1920. It bases its work on the following values that shape all the work of SCI:

- Volunteering - in the sense of acting out of self-initiative, without seeking material reward and for the benefit of civil society, as a method and a statement for social change, whilst never competing with paid labour nor seeking to contribute to strike-breaking;
- Non-violence – as a principle and a method;
- Human Rights – respect for individuals as stated in the universal declaration of Human Rights;
- Solidarity – international solidarity for a more just world and solidarity between human beings at all levels;
- Respect for the Environment – and the ecosystem of which we are a part and upon which we are dependent;
- Inclusion - to be open and inclusive to all individuals who share the aims and objectives of the movement, without regard to gender, race, colour, religion, nationality, social status or political views and any other possible grounds for discrimination;
- Empowerment – empowering people to understand and act to transform the social, cultural and economic structures that affect their lives at all levels;
- Co-operation – with local communities as well as other local, national and international actors to strengthen the positive potential within civil society as a whole.

KVT believes that all the people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflicts. Peace can only be built if people with different backgrounds and cultures learn to co-operate and work together.

Every camp has its own tensions and problems. As this case study describes Finnish branch of Service Civil International (SCI), the problems of particular camps are not described.

### *Results of the CS*

The specific output of a work camp is to achieve a particular task defined by a local body. The activities organised by KVT are not linked to any formal accreditation.

The participants benefit from their learning experience e.g. in the following ways: higher self-esteem, skills development, social cohesion, personal development/fulfilment, active citizenship.

KVT believes that all the people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflicts. Peace can only be built if people with different backgrounds and cultures learn to co-operate and work together.