

Call for participants



A Peace Circus Lab on Antiwar street activism

Key Details

Lead Organisation: Service Civil International Österreich (SCI Austria)

Title: Clown Peace! A Peace Circus Lab on Street Activism

Location: Vienna, Austria

Mobility Date: 16-24 June 2026 (16th is the arrival day, 24th is the departure day)

Deadline for Expression of Interest: [15th May 2026](#) | Apply [HERE](#)

Contact Email: hamzaalshayeb1@gmail.com or coordination@sciaustria.org

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Across Europe, young people face exclusion, unequal power dynamics, and growing polarisation around justice and peace. Many lack safe spaces to express themselves, explore activism, or understand how power, intersectionality, and oppression shape their daily lives.

Clown Peace! offers a different path. Through circus pedagogy, movement, and embodied creativity, participants learn to understand power, reclaim their bodies, and transform knowledge into action. Moving together helps us see new perspectives, feel what we discuss, and create from a place of empowerment.

Clowning and physical theatre invite vulnerability, presence, and humour, powerful tools for **peacebuilding**. They allow us to tell stories, question injustices, and challenge structural violence while staying non-violent, accessible, and deeply human.

The course connects the **SCI's legacy of peacebuilding** with today's realities, from rebuilding houses in the 1920s to rebuilding relationships, narratives, and communities in 2026. Participants will explore how listening, empathy, and nonviolent communication can become the foundation for collective creation and safe, context-sensitive street actions.

Join us to explore how movement becomes activism, how humour becomes resistance, and how circus becomes a tool for inclusive peace.



The first workcamp in 1920

WHO ARE WE?

SCI Austria is the Austrian branch of Service Civil International (SCI), an **international peace organisation** dedicated to fostering a culture of peace through volunteer projects and peace education. We aim to connect individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting solidarity, peace, and mutual understanding. **Founded in 1920** by Swiss peace activist Pierre Ceresole, SCI has been a leader in advocating for **non-violent, community-based change**. SCI Austria operates from Vienna, engaging in international volunteer initiatives that reflect the core values of peace, equality, and social justice.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

By the end of this training course, you will:

- Express yourself confidently through creative, physical, and non-violent methods, using circus, clowning, and embodied storytelling as tools for activism and communication.
- Understand key peacebuilding concepts and practices, and explore how peace theory connects with real-life experiences.
- Strengthen essential social and personal competences such as teamwork, cooperation, resilience, and self-confidence, while developing practical activism and street-action skills.
- Design and safely carry out a peaceful street action, learning how to assess risks, follow local regulations, and adapt your action to different national and cultural realities.
- Practice inclusive activism.
- Engage in non-formal learning and critical reflection, and deepen your understanding of youth participation and your role in social change.
- Co-create a public Peace Circus / Clown Intervention, shaped by the group's visions, needs, and creative process.
- Build connections with European organisations working in circus, activism, and peace education, strengthening networks for future collaboration.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

The learning journey of “Clown Peace!” unfolds in two interconnected stages.

- First, you will build a basic foundation in clowning and circus pedagogy, peacebuilding, inclusion, creativity, and activism during the on-site training in Austria.
- Then, you will put your learning into practice by designing and implementing local Peace Activism actions.

Your Learning Journey Includes:

- Online Preparation Session — 2 June 2026



Co-funded by
the European Union

-
- Meet the team, get to know the group, and explore the core concepts that will guide the training.
 - On-Site Training Course in Vienna, Austria — 16–24 June 2026
 - Dive into circus pedagogy, clowning, peacebuilding, inclusion, and creative activism through experiential, movement-based learning.
 - Practice Phase — June to August 2026
 - Apply what you learned by creating your own local Peace Artivism initiative and contributing to collective educational resources.
 - Online Evaluation Meeting — September 2026
 - Reflect on your journey, share your outcomes, and celebrate the impact created across Europe.

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR

We welcome participants who meet the following criteria and are excited to join a creative, intercultural, and peace-driven learning journey.

Are open to intercultural learning, collaboration, and co-creation within a European context.

- ★ Be 18 years or older.
- ★ Be youth workers, educators, facilitators, or community leaders working directly with young people facing exclusion, discrimination, or limited opportunities.
- ★ Use or wish to use artistic, physical, and creative approaches to address local social issues.
- ★ Facilitate learning with diverse groups, including adults, young people with fewer opportunities, and communities affected by conflict or inequality.
- ★ Be motivated to explore circus, clowning, and embodied methods as tools for empowerment, expression, and peacebuilding.
- ★ Want to integrate inclusive, accessible, and non-violent activism into their work.
- ★ Be open to intercultural learning, collaboration, and co-creation in European and international contexts.
- ★ Participants must be based in one of the following countries:

- EU Member States or third countries associated with the Programme
- Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro
- Eastern Partnership Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- Southern Mediterranean Region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia

We strongly encourage applications from people of all backgrounds, genders, abilities, and life situations. Our aim is to create a safer and more inclusive space for learning, creativity, and growth.

PRACTICAL INFO

Travel: Travel costs will be reimbursed after the training course up to a maximum indicated below. We strongly encourage **green travel** (i.e. avoid travel by plane, if possible; instead, travel by train and bus). Other necessary expenses, such as visa fees, will be reimbursed after approval by the organisers.

(Distance calculated from participants' place of residence to the venue based on the [Distance Calculator | Erasmus+](#)):

Travel distance	Green travel	Non-Green travel
10 – 99 km	56 EUR	28 EUR
100 – 499 km	285 EUR	211 EUR
500 – 1999 km	417 EUR	309 EUR
2000 – 2999 km	535 EUR	395 EUR
3000 – 3999 km	785 EUR	580 EUR
4000 – 7999 km	1188 EUR	1188 EUR
8000 km or more	1735 EUR	1735 EUR

- You can arrive from one country and fly to another one; the important thing is that there is justification and at least one connection with the sending country.
- Other necessary expenses, such as visa fees, will be reimbursed after approval by the organisers.

Accommodation: The training course will take place in a community space at the [4lthangrund cultural centre](#), with simple living conditions. You will sleep in a room shared with other people. Showers and toilets are shared with other people.

Food: We will offer vegetarian food, including vegan options, during the project. This choice aligns with SCI's commitment to sustainability and climate justice. By rejecting industrial animal agriculture, we aim to promote a more peaceful planet.

This activity is alcohol-free to ensure a safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environment for everyone. Keeping the space free from alcohol prevents social pressure or exclusion, supports participants who avoid alcohol for personal, cultural, or health reasons, and helps maintain the clarity, trust, and emotional presence needed for peacebuilding, creativity, and collaborative learning.



THE PROGRAMME

Below is the **provisional programme** for “Clown Peace!” Training Course. The agenda may be adjusted throughout the week to respond to the group’s learning needs, energy, and interests.

Because this project is based on non-formal education, the programme remains flexible, participatory, and co-created with the participants to ensure an inclusive and meaningful learning experience for everyone.

Sessions	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
Morning	Arrival Day	Start the journey	Peacebuilding & Inclusion	Clowning 1	Field visit	Activism	Rehearsal	Reflection	Departure Day
Afternoon		Community building	War & Power	Clown & audience	Me time	Co-Creation Lab	Public Performance	Closing	

INTERESTED IN TAKING PART?

To apply, please fill out the application form [here](#) as soon as possible. The deadline is **15th May 2026**. We will review your application and contact you to confirm your participation.

Best regards,
Clown Peace Project Team,
Hamza, Susa and Serena

For any questions, please reach out to hamzaalshayeb1@gmail.com or coordination@sciaustria.org



Photos from the project ClimeART, organised by SCI Austria and SCI Climate Team in August 2025