



WORLD4U

## What is "World4U"

### ⊕ History.

World4U is a non-profit NGO. It began to exist in 1997-1998 like a group of young enthusiastic people - all with a vision that international communication among youth has a tremendous potential in raising intercultural understanding, tolerance and create peaceful life in the world-wide community. In the summer of 2000, the Russian Youth Voluntary Center World4U started to exist as an official NGO, organise international projects in Russia and send Russian volunteers abroad. Now we are one of the biggest voluntary centers in Russia, which manage international voluntary exchange. World4u represent about 2500 creative and bright individuals are united by the idea of volunteering and cross cultural understanding. We have regional partners in many regions of Russia.

Members of World4U consider our organization to be young people's union in the form of a **creative laboratory / center of initiatives**, with the tasks of:

⊕ collecting, processing and spreading **information** on youth social and political activity on the national and international levels with educational and awareness-raising purposes among young Russians - both - individuals and organizations dealing with social issues.

⊕ initiating, organizing and running **national/international events** (e.g. short, mid- and long-term voluntary projects and actions; seminars; conferences; info-meetings) aimed to:

1. promote social and political awareness, particularly among young people,
2. to reveal cultural values of the community and social integration between people of various life paths,
3. to reveal and eventually to eliminate all sorts of social injustice, exclusion and intolerance through non-violent creative communication of people (incl. those from different cultural, religious, social, national backgrounds),
4. to give young people an experience of multicultural community.

⊕ creating, inspiring and supporting especial spirit while uniting our efforts during any type of interpersonal communication within the organization, which gives an opportunity for creative self-realization in a respectful, loving and caring atmosphere of energetic, mature and sensitive community.

## Invitation & Visa to Russia

The volunteering as a social phenomenon here it is still very much unknown and we work a lot in order to promote the status of volunteer in Russia, but we have to admit, that the order of things for now is not really advanced.

People of almost all countries of the globe (except CIS-citizens) unfortunately need visa to come to Russia. To arrange your invitation letter we have to apply for it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it takes normally from few days to 2 full weeks, depending on how much work does the Ministry has at the moment. As soon as we receive your invitation we immediately fax or post it to your sending organization and if needed to Russian consulate in your country. You need to visit consulate site to know the rules and documents.

## Workcamp Terms:

Our summer international workcamps usually consist of mostly **8-20 international** and one or two **camp leaders**. Most of the time the group of international volunteers integrates into big group of Russian volunteers.

### Camp types:

Most of our camps in Russia are multi-type camps – combining different activities and communication with different people.

**Age limits** are usually from 18 y.o. and older, without any upper limit, but in some particular projects there can be special age requirements.

**Insurance** is NOT provided by World4U, but basic medical assistance is always available. Anyway it's good idea to have all medicine you get used to take from you home country as you know all the weaknesses of your health and what pills normally help you.

**Workcamp language** of all World4U camps is English, and of course the knowledge of Russian is welcome.

## Travelling in Russia

It would be quite a blatant remark, but Russia is a truly vast country. Normal average travel distance here is "one night train", means about 7-9 hours by train in any direction from Moscow, the main railway knot in the west of the country. The train transportation in Russia is cheap related to Europe, and we'll also make estimation on the travel cost in the travel directions infosheet.