



**Volunteer's centre Zagreb / Volonterski' centar Zagreb**

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**Croatia**

**<http://www.vcz.hr/>**

**Volunteers' Centre Zagreb** (VCZ) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation which promotes volunteering through initiating, coordinating and organising short-term and long-term volunteer projects in the City of Zagreb, organising international volunteer work camps of diverse thematic in various parts of Croatia and coordinating short term and long term international exchange of volunteers. We also provide education and counselling for volunteers and volunteer organisers. VCZ is actively involved in promoting and applying the Law on volunteerism and informing citizens on the volunteer possibilities in Zagreb, Croatia and abroad. In addition to that, we are periodically publishing works covering the field of volunteerism.

**Volunteers' Centre Zagreb** was founded in 1998. VCZ has its roots in a 1996. Croatian Anti-war Campaign project started up with the help of Service Civil International (SCI) through which the first foreign volunteers came to the town of Pakrac to help rebuild war-devastated areas. This was the project which initiated our **International Volunteers' Exchange** programme, which marked the first decade of our organisation. We became associate member of SCI in 2001, and went on to become a branch of this global network in 2007.

In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, we implemented the '2001 volunteer' project – our first project which focused mainly on the development of local volunteering. In the last seven years, and more intensively since 2006, we have continued working on different projects intended for the development of local volunteering which were the bases of our second main programme – **Zagreb Volunteer Service**.

In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, Croatian Government awarded VCZ with Award for contribution to development of voluntary work in the Republic of Croatia.