WHV – Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley

Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley, Armenia
Cultural site inscribed in 2000

The monastery of Geghard contains a number of churches and tombs, most of them cut into the rock, which illustrate the very peak of Armenian medieval architecture. The complex of medieval buildings is set into a landscape of great natural beauty, surrounded by towering cliffs at the entrance to the Azat Valley.

Project objectives: The project aims to help preserve this historical site, so that the visitors can experience the spiritual enrichment and contemplate the beauty and splendor of the monument. Furthermore, the clergymen of the monastery had expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the highly motivated work of the volunteers from past work camps, as well as their sincere wish and need for getting regular support the work of the staff.

Project activities: Twenty-one volunteers both from Armenia and abroad will participate in the work camp. The volunteers will clean and maintain the territory surrounding the monastery and the river bank, collecting rubbish and clean the information posters and signals. Cultural trips to the Geghard Monastery and other places of interests in Armenia will be organized by HUJ for the volunteers.

Partners: Ministry of Culture of Armenia, Member organizations of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations.
WHV – Zvartnots Cathedral Ruins, ARMENIA

**Cathedral and Churches of Echmiatsin and the Archaeological Site of Zvartnots, Armenia**

25 June – 27 August 2013

Cultural site inscribed in 2000

The cathedral and churches of Echmiatsin and the archaeological remains at Zvartnots graphically illustrate the evolution and development of the Armenian central-domed cross-hall type of church, which exerted a profound influence on architectural and artistic development in the region.

**Project objectives:** The objective of this project is to provide continuous assistance to the limited staff members of the museum-reserve for the protection of the ruins of this magnificent masterpiece of medieval Armenian architecture, standing out against the background of the nation’s pride – graceful Ararat Mountain. It is of great importance to raise awareness among more and more people about the importance of taking actions and contributing to the preservation of this cultural and historical heritage for the future generations.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will participate in the maintenance of the territory: picking up garbage, cleaning stones and removing the over-grown grass, weeds, haying, building fence, painting benches and the information desks, cultivating and taking care of plants. They will learn Armenian national dances and songs (“National sounds at Zvartnots”). The volunteers will also participate in the cultural program entitled “My impressions about Patrimonito 2013”, in which they will present their impressions and feelings about the project and plans for the future, using power point presentations.

**Partners:** Ministry of Culture of Armenia, Member organizations of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations, Directorate of ZVARTNOTS museum.

"World Heritage Volunteers 2013 – Patrimonito Voluntary Action - Inspiring change"
The Wachau is a stretch of the Danube Valley between Melk and Krems, a landscape of high visual quality. It preserves in an intact and visible form many traces - in terms of architecture, (monasteries, castles, ruins), urban design, (towns and villages), natural biodiversity (dry grasslands, free-flowing Danube, hillside forests) and agricultural use, principally for the cultivation of vines on stone terraces - of its evolution since prehistoric times.

Project objectives: The project aims at maintaining the natural hot spots and traditional stone terraces, preserving biodiversity in Wachau Cultural Landscape, and raising awareness of the significance of the site. The medieval landscape serves as an excellent natural habitat, that has evolved organically and harmoniously over time. At the end of the 2 weeks project, five to ten hectares of dry grasslands are expected to be maintained.

Project activities: The main activity is preservation of natural hot spots. Under supervision of experts, local and international volunteers, together with local workers from the communities will build traditional stone terraces. The volunteers will be in charge of the public relations and will organize press conferences, so as to involve local farmers, landowners and hunting club members and raise awareness about the significance of natural habitats.

Partners: Arbeitskreis Wachau, Jauerling Wachau Nature Park, Lanius (Reseach Group for Regional Fauna Studies and Applied Protection of Nature), Agricultural Community of Rossatz, Fire Department of Rührsdorf, Hunting Club Spitz. International volunteers are sent by Service Civil International and the Austrian Alpine Youth Association invites Austrian volunteers. The group will be half international and half Austrian.
WHV – The Causses and the Cévennes l’Espinias hamlet, FRANCE

The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape, France
Cultural site inscribed in 2011
07 July – 27 July 2013

This 302,319 ha property, in the southern part of central France, is a mountain landscape interspersed by deep valleys that is representative of the relationship between agro-pastoral systems and their biophysical environment, notably through draillies or drove roads. Villages and substantial stone farmhouses on deep terraces of the Causses reflect the organization of large abbeys from the 11th century. Mont Lozère, inside the property, is one of the last places where summer transhumance is still practiced in the traditional way, using the draillies.

Project objectives: The project aims to contribute to making the site that was once in ruins, lively once again and raise its historical and cultural importance. Expected results include renovation of a stonewall finished and a part of the ruin cleared by the volunteers. Furthermore, it is expected to contribute to safeguarding of cultural knowledge of making dry stonewalls and terraces.

Project activities: Volunteers will work on two places. Firstly, they will start by clearing a ruin, which is made from schist stones and arches. Secondly, they will construct a dry stones wall that will support a natural terrace. They will work with a technical leader who will explain and teach them traditional renovation methods to make dry stonewalls and terraces. During the workcamp, volunteers will organize an international meal where local people and media will be invited. The event will be an opportunity to present their work on the site, and the technics they learned to preserve the heritage.

Partners: The Sports, Youths, Non-Formal education and Asociative Life Ministry, Ministry of Culture and Communication, Regional Council, Solidarités Jeunesses National Secretariat, Municipality of St Andéol de Clerguemort, Community of municipalities “ Cévennes au Mont lozère”, the local people, the association: “Artisans Bâtisseurs en Pierre Sèches” (craftsman), local newspaper and radio.
WHV – L’île d’Aix Fort Liédot fortifications, FRANCE

Arsenal de Rochefort et Fortifications de l’estuaire de la Charente, France
Cultural site included on the Tentative List of France in 2002

Louis XIV created Rochefort arsenal in 1666 after the advice of Jean-Baptiste Colbert to endow the Atlantic façade of France with a safe maritime base. Housing prestigious monuments such as the royal rope factory (designed by Blondel) and dry docks, the arsenal is situated 24km from the coastline, following the course of the Charente River in order to be protected from invasion. The city of Rochefort was built on a grid pattern plan close to the arsenal and in time was surrounded by its own wall which was finished in 1690. The defense of the arsenal was assured by the fortification of Pertuis, in particular the ‘l’Île d’Aix’, which was the only defense of the natural harbour. The estuary of the Charente encompasses a collection of forts that had pre-existed, or been built or planned around the same time as the arsenal for its own defense.

**Project objectives:** The project aims to contribute to regular maintenance and restoration work of the Fort, as well as to raise awareness about Fort Liédot.

**Project activities:** The activities will take place in two different places of the Fortification and the volunteers will work in two groups with the possibility to rotate and experience different tasks and renovation methods. One group will work on the second walk-way renovation in order to create a larger sightseeing tour. Volunteers will have to de-construct walls, to sort and recalibrate stones in order to rebuild them identical to the beginning. The other group will work on the renovation of the ancient kitchen of the Fort.

**Partners:** The project is supported by Commune of l’Île d’Aix, School of d’Île d’Aix, High school of Fouras and Rochefort, Mission Locale of Rochefort-Îléron, Cultural and athletic associations of the Pays Rochefortais territory, “Architectes des bâtiments de France”, Conservatoire du Littoral, The Sports, Youths, Non-Formal education and Associative Life Ministry.

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Tentative List since 2002

06 September – 27 September 2013

“World Heritage Volunteers 2013 – Patrimonito Voluntary Action - Inspiring change”
Viticulture was introduced to this fertile region of Aquitaine by the Romans, and intensified in the Middle Ages. The Saint-Emilion area benefited from its location on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela and many churches, monasteries and hospices were built there from the 11th century onwards. It was granted the special status of a 'jurisdiction' during the period of English rule in the 12th century. It is an exceptional landscape devoted entirely to wine-growing, with many fine historic monuments in its towns and villages.

**Project objectives:** In partnership with the municipality of Saint-Émilion, the project is aimed to contribute to renovation and restoration of this remarkable town. For the volunteers, the project will be an opportunity to experience a community life, learn various traditional techniques for heritage restoration, and deepen their knowledge of heritages.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will participate in activities such as traditional stone masonry and stone cutting. Some activities will be organized to discover the region. The volunteers will be divided into two groups to carry out restoration tasks.

**Partners:** The project will be supported by Association Adichats and Municipalité de Saint-Émilion.
In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the small Thuringian town of Weimar witnessed a remarkable cultural flowering, attracting many writers and scholars, notably Goethe and Schiller. This development is reflected in the high quality of many of the buildings and of the parks in the surrounding area.

**Project objectives:** The project aims at contributing to the preservation and protection of World Heritage, and raising awareness about World Heritage. The objective is to bring the idea of World Heritage Volunteering to a wider public, broadening the view and deepening the understanding of the locals for World Heritage sites.

**Project activities:** Volunteers will participate in various activities such as the Restoration of the second part of an historical path at Belvedere Park; different gardening, preservation and protection works at Ilmpark, Park Tiefurt and Park Ettersburg as common practical work in small groups composed of both international volunteers and local workers; and the presentation of a photo exhibition about World Heritage.

**Partners:** The project is supported by local partners: Weimar Classic Foundation, Weimar University, German Green League, and others.

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Cultural site inscribed in 1998
Pingvellir (Thingvellir) is the National Park where the Althing, an open-air assembly representing the whole of Iceland, was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798. Over two weeks a year, the assembly set laws - seen as a covenant between free men - and settled disputes. The Althing has deep historical and symbolic associations for the people of Iceland. The property includes the Pingvellir National Park and the remains of the Althing itself: fragments of around 50 booths built from turf and stone. Remains from the 10th century are thought to be buried underground. The site also includes remains of agricultural use from the 18th and 19th centuries. The park shows evidence of the way the landscape was husbanded over 1,000 years.

**Project objectives:** SEEDS and the Icelandic National Parks Service want to give volunteers the opportunity to work at this unique site and to support the work of the staff in some of the daily tasks in the premises of the park.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will work in the woodlands of Pingvellir, cleaning up dead branches, thinning where needed, digging up some non-native species, planting birch, making walking paths and possibly doing other projects that are required in the National Park and heritage site. This year, for the first time, the volunteers will have the unique opportunity to participate in a new project working at the only UNESCO world heritage site in Iceland that is open to visitors: The National Park of Pingvellir - literally "Parliament Plains".

**Partners:** SEEDS and the Icelandic National Parks Service have been working since 2007 on a number of projects including environmental work camps, trail management and research on invasive species.
Historic Center of Naples, Italy

Cultural site inscribed in 1995

Naples is one of the most ancient cities in Europe, whose contemporary urban fabric preserves the elements of its long and eventful history. Its street pattern, its wealth of historic buildings from many periods, and its setting on the Bay of Naples give it an outstanding universal value without parallel, and one that has had a profound influence in many parts of Europe and beyond. Much of the significance of Naples is due to its urban fabric, which represents twenty-five centuries of growth.

**Project objectives:** Piazza Bellini (Bellini square) is one of the most known meeting places of the historic centre of Naples. Despite the beauty and the artistic and architectural value of the square, it is suffering from negligence. The project aims to protect one of the most important sites of the historic center of Naples through renovation and raising-awareness activities. The main objectives of the project are the sensitization of locals to their heritage and the promotion of active citizenship.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will participate in 2 day long training about World Heritage, Patrimonito and International Volunteers Service as a tool to increase awareness about heritage. They will participate in maintenance activities, such as collecting garbage and planting flowers, and be involved in the organization of a cultural event and the realization of a documentary on the work camp, which will be broadcasted on the Internet, at schools and within the local associations.

**Partners:** Y.A.P. Italia – Youth in Action for Peace will be in charge of the international diffusion of the project and the incoming of the international volunteers. Ambaradam! will help in the realization of the video and the organization of the cultural event. Both organizations will support Vedi Napoli in the coordination of the project. The City Hall of Naples, as institutional partner, will support the visibility of the project and the recognition of it on an institutional level.

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Cultural site inscribed in 1995

13 June - 27 June 2013

“World Heritage Volunteers 2013 – Patrimonito Voluntary Action - Inspiring change”
WHV – History lives at Herculaneum!, ITALY

Archaeological Area of Herculaneum, Italy
Cultural site inscribed in 1997

When Vesuvius erupted on 24 August AD 79, it engulfed the two flourishing Roman towns of Pompei and Herculaneum, as well as the many wealthy villas in the area. These have been progressively excavated and made accessible to the public since the mid-18th century. The vast expanse of the commercial town of Pompei contrasts with the smaller but better-preserved remains of the holiday resort of Herculaneum, while the superb wall paintings of the Villa Oplontis at Torre Annunziata give a vivid impression of the opulent lifestyle enjoyed by the wealthier citizens of the Early Roman Empire.

**Project objectives:** The project aims to raise awareness about Ercolano, one of the richest archeological areas of Campania region, among the local community and tourists from all over the world, as well as to improve the welcome area close to the old ruins, for better site management.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will participate in both manual and promotional activities at the site such as: collecting garbage; cleaning gardens at the entrance; welcoming visitors as guides to the site; preparing and running daily workshops about the archaeological site. As final events, the volunteers will organize a flash mob or/and a theatre performance about new approaches to site management, a documentary about the workcamp experience and a photo exhibition.

**Partners:** The project is supported by the Youth Forum of Ercolano, Municipality of Ercolano, Municipality of San Giorgio a Cremano, Youth Policy Office of San Giorgio a Cremano, The Herculaneum Centre, Pro Loco Hercvlanevm.

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Cultural site inscribed in 1997

28 September - 12 October 2013
The Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie is a military defence line that marked the administrative and economic heart of the Netherlands - Fort Holland. It was designed to keep out invaders by the controlled flooding of a chain of inundation fields to a depth of up to a metre. The line consists of a system of waterworks and over 1,000 forts, casemates, sluices and wooden houses. The Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie is one of the largest projects ever undertaken in the Netherlands. The fields of fire and inundation basins around the forts consist mainly of open land, since the Strategic Defences Act (Kringenwet) of 1853, which was only repealed in 1963, prohibited any building on such designated areas until 1963. The Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie links up with, and is an extension of, the Stelling van Amsterdam, which already has World Heritage status.

**Project objectives:** The project aims at coordinating land-use of the site, exchanging knowledge and experiences among participants, and promoting World Heritage and the WHV program.

**Project activities:** During the workcamp, international and local volunteers will participate in the construction of walking tracks at the site, and create promotional and educational materials which will be used for awareness-raising workshops. Main activity is the making of a promotional film with the help of a professional production team. The content of this film is focused around the construction of walking tracks and development of educational material. The film will be first shown at the Volunteer Day organized by the regional volunteer organization, Landschap Erfgoed Utrecht (LEU), with the presence of the WHV-volunteers.

**Partners:** The project will be supported by local volunteer organizations specialized in the activities mentioned before: Landschap Erfgoed Utrecht (LEU), Polderwachter, Buitenmakelaar.
WHV – Historic Centre of St Petersburg & Related Groups of Monuments

Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments, Russian Federation
Cultural site inscribed in 1997

The 'Venice of the North', with its numerous canals and more than 400 bridges, is the result of a vast urban project begun in 1703 under Peter the Great. Later known as Leningrad (in the former USSR), the city is closely associated with the October Revolution. Its architectural heritage reconciles the very different Baroque and pure neoclassical styles, as can be seen in the Admiralty, the Winter Palace, the Marble Palace and the Hermitage.

Project objectives: The main objective of this project is to raise awareness about values of the World Heritage among young people and youth organizations. The project is expected to establish a dynamic dialogue between all the stakeholders and contribute to strengthening the sense of ownership of the local population for the local World Heritage protection.

Project activities: The volunteers will be engaged in improving the parks in the St-Petersburg suburbs: taking care of trees, mowing the meadows, sweeping the grounds and cleaning the site. There will also be workshops, where the international volunteers will present different methods and models of World Heritage promotion and protection in their home countries. World Heritage experts from the Culture Comity of the St-Petersburg Government will be invited for discussions with the volunteers. These activities will be documented with photos and videos in order to organize a PR campaign and engage the local mass media.

Partners: The Culture Committee of the St-Petersburg Government, The Culture Committee of the Leningrad Region’s Government will offer institutional support. The State Museums Reserve: Tsarskoe Selo (Pushkin), Gatchina, Pavlovsk, Local Municipalities (Vasileostrovsky District, Pushkin, Gostilitsy and other) will provide experts, tutors, tools.
Lake Baikal, Russian Federation

Natural site inscribed in 1996

Situated in south-east Siberia, the 3.15-million-ha Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world. It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.

Project objectives: The main aim of the project is to promote the value of Lake Baikal, and the importance of preserving our heritage for future generations, among tourists and local people. The educational activities are aimed to preserve Lake Baikal as one of the main reservoir of all fresh running water on the planet, and to raise awareness among local people and international youth on the problem of pollution. This camp is also meant to serve as an important step in permanent work of the volunteer movement in Lake Baikal.

Project activities: The international volunteers will participate in the following tasks: collecting, sorting (plastic, glass, paper, aluminum) and preparing garbage for transportation; organizing various forms of educational activities about the environmental and ecological situation of Lake Baikal and nearest territories, such as promotional campaigns and an exhibition on “Second life of garbage”; preparing fodder (from birch brooms and other plants) to feed wild animals (such as deers and roe deers) in the winter time.

Partners: The project will be supported by local partners such as Baikal Biosphere Reserve, School #21 in Tanhoi, Regional and republic mass media, local business organizations.