## WHV - Solovki Botanical Garden

Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, Russia

 Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1992 19/07/2016 - 03/08/2016

The Solovetsky Archipelago comprises six islands in the western part of the White Sea, covering 300 km<sup>2</sup>. The islands have been inhabited since the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and important traces of a human presence from as far back as the 5th millennium B.C. can be found there. The archipelago has been the site of fervent monastic activity since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and there are several churches dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Project objectives:** The project aims at assisting in preservation of the site and enriching the biodiversity of the islands' ecosystem by carrying out practical and educational activities. It also aims at raising awareness of preservation of the World Heritage site among local community and visitors.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will work at the Botanical Garden founded by the monks in 1822. The main activities will be planting, weeding, and fertilizing trees, herbs, and flowers. The international volunteers will make visual materials such as videos and photos album to promote the site. They will also participate in workshops and presentations and discuss with locals population, tourists and Russian volunteers about the importance of heritage preservation to raise awareness on different levels.

Partners: State Solovetsky Historical, Cultural and Natural Reserve Museum.