

LETTER OF COMMITMENT

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CAMP: DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG STUDENTS OR MEMBERS OF YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

I, _____, residing at _____ (address), declare that I have read the Regulation of the International Volunteer Camp in São Tomé and Príncipe, organized by the project *"Ecoality: Youth and Local Authorities Together for Climate and Gender Justice."* I confirm that I am fully informed about the rights and duties associated with my participation in this call and express my complete commitment to complying with the provisions stipulated in the Regulation attached to this Letter of Commitment.

I consider that I have the necessary health conditions to participate in this camp and that I will be responsible and follow the guidance provided in the traveler's consultation.

Additionally, I confirm that upon my return, I will implement one or more activities involving other young people or members of my community, raising awareness about gender equality and climate action. I commit to carrying out this action by December 2025.

Attachment: signed regulation

_____/_____/____

Date

(full name as signed on the identification card/ passport)



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CALL REGULATIONS

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CAMP: DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG STUDENTS OR MEMBERS OF YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

**An initiative promoted by the European project “Ecoality: Youth and
Local Authorities together for climate and gender justice”**

1. ORGANIZING BODY

1.1 European Consortium

The 'Ecoality: Youth and Local Authorities Together for Climate and Gender Justice' project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented across ten EU countries: Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Portugal. It is constituted by a consortium of 15 Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities, with Regione Toscana (Italy) taking the lead. As the coordinating country, Italy—also through Oxfam Italia—plays a central role in steering the initiative. The remaining project partners are ActionAid Hellas (Greece), Agenda 21 (Romania), AIDGLOBAL (Portugal), Antropológiai és Közösségi Kutató Egyesület honlapján (Hungary), Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej (Poland), Forum Za Slobodu Odgoja (Croatia), Institut International des droits de L'Homme et de la Paix, Région Normandie (France), Município de Loures (Portugal), Municipality of Bucharest (Romania), City of Linz (Austria), Rauhan-Kasvatus-Instituutti (Finland), and Südwind Entwicklungspolitik OÖ (Austria).

1.2 Local Civil Society Organization & Local Authority

In Portugal, the implementing partner organizations of the “Ecoality” project are AIDGLOBAL and Município de Loures.

AIDGLOBAL is a non-profit Non-Governmental Development Organisation (NGDO) that develops projects in the field of Development Education and Global Citizenship Education, in Portugal, and in the field of Literacy and Early Childhood Education in Mozambique. Its mission is to Act, Include and Develop through Education, because AIDGLOBAL believes that Change happens through Education.



2. FRAMEWORK

This call is part of the project **“Ecoality: Youth and Local Authorities Together for Climate and Gender Justice”**, which seeks to raise awareness and foster a sense of shared responsibility among young European citizens. The project focuses on the interconnection and intersectionality of ecological crises and gender inequalities, emphasizing the impact of individual and collective behaviour.

The climate crisis stands as the defining challenge of our era, with complex and evolving dynamics: ecological changes, poverty and inequality intricately link and profoundly influence the following three dimensions:

1. Inequalities regarding carbon emissions.
2. Impact on affected communities.
3. Communities' capacities to respond to the climate crises.

Both at the local level and globally, response initiatives to climate change can downplay or suppress democratic, equity-enhancing politics. Inequality among women and men and climate change (and more broadly ecological crises) are interconnected and exacerbate each other across societies, but the impacts of climate change affect women and men differently. We must address both issues to contribute effectively to climate justice. Gender often intersects with other categories of vulnerability such as race, ethnicity, sexuality, ability, etc. An intersectional approach between the environment and gender can sketch out a pathway to enable solidarity and agency across and beyond social categories. The Action adopts an ecofeminist lens to facilitate this intersectional approach. Ecoality's ecofeminist lens promotes:

1. The relevance of everyone embracing cross cutting principles and values such as care, participation, non-violence, inclusion, etc. This implies shared responsibility and participation based on concepts of equity as well as equality.
2. Transforming mind-sets, skills, attitudes, actions, which are sensitive to both gender and ecological equalities.
3. Examining relationships (power and privilege) between people as well as between people and the planet, which help and hinder sustainable development.

The project aims to train and mobilise young people to commit to global challenges and strengthen their cooperation with Local Authorities (LA's), in order to raise awareness and sensitise them to the urgency and shared responsibility of taking collective action to support and promote Climate and Gender Justice. Ecoality fully embraces the key role of young people as allies for the transition towards sustainable development and youth's collective agency as one of the most significant resources to combat climate change and social inequalities among women and men.

3. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CAMP

- Mobilise young people for 'ecofeminist activism'.
- Raise awareness among young people and the broader community about climate justice, gender equity, and global interconnectedness through an intersectional perspective.
- Contribute to Global Education in Europe by engaging youth and wider communities on climate justice and gender equity.

3.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CAMP

- Learn about a new culture through local voices and their narratives on global crises;
- Engage in projects that promote climate justice and gender equity;
- Develop awareness of the environmental and social challenges of a country in the Global South, such as São Tomé and Príncipe, and learn about local strategies to combat them.
- Understand the role of NGOs and activism in ecofeminism.
- Explore the relevance of public policies for ecofeminism.
- Gather first-hand insights in São Tomé and Príncipe to inform and develop awareness campaigns in Austria, engaging youth and wider communities on climate justice and equity among women and men.

4. TARGET GROUP

Young people aged 18-29 living/studying in Austria, including school students and youngsters in non-formal settings such as volunteer groups and youth associations.

5. TRIP TO SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

The volunteer camp will last a total of 15 days, including 1 mandatory training day in Lisbon before departure for São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as travel time to and from the destination. The dates are from August 16 to August 30, 2025. Below is an outline of the travel program:

5.1 TRAVEL PREPARATION (August 16, 2025):

- **Friday, 15/08/2025:** Departure for Lisbon with an evening flight
- **Saturday, 16/08/2025 at 10:00:** Full-day meeting and preparatory training session with other volunteers, starting at 10:00 AM.

5.2 TRAVEL PROGRAM (August 17–30, 2025):

- **Sunday, 17/08/2025:** Departure from Lisbon to São Tomé with flight TP 1527 at 9:55 AM, arriving in São Tomé at 5:35 PM (local time)
- **From Monday, August 18 to Friday, August 29:** various activities, including:
 - Visit local projects (companies, community development initiatives, etc.), promoted by young people and/or women, that are good examples of mitigation/adaptation to climate change and/or that promote gender equality;
 - Learn about success stories in terms of female empowerment;
 - Promote a debate, together with local associations, on female empowerment and gender equality and/or climate change;
 - Fieldwork, supporting the creation of briquettes;

- Collaboration with young people in various activities.
- **Friday, August 29:** departure from São Tomé to Lisbon with flight TP 1528 at 7:40 PM, arriving in Lisbon at 5:10 AM on August 30, followed by the first available flight to Austria.

Note: Plan subject to change due to external and internal factors. The flight from Lisbon to São Tomé is a group flight and cannot be changed.

6. ACTIVITY FOR CALL WINNERS UPON THEIR RETURN FROM SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

On returning from the trip, participants will carry out one or more awareness raising activities within their local communities, with the support of Südwind and the City of Linz.

This action has the objective of sensitising and engaging young people and the community in general in issues related to climate justice, gender equity and global interconnection through an intersectional perspective.

Each action must be concluded by the end of December 2025.

Example of possible actions:

- Round-table – debate – talk
- Street action
- Blog or article (school or community newspapers)
- Posters or murals
- Educational workshops
- Podcasts or educational videos
- Exhibition
- Manifestos
- Improvements of the association work plans to better integrate the promotion of ecofeminism, gender equality or climate action
- Other

Example of possible themes:

- Best practices of community engagement in São Tomé and Príncipe
- Success stories of women empowerment in São Tomé and Príncipe related to climate change
- Reflecting on how your local association or school can better integrate gender equality and climate action into their action plans, incorporating the knowledge gained in São Tomé and Príncipe
- Innovative solutions that are currently addressing climate change in São Tomé and Príncipe

7. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- File in an application form
- Sign the letter of commitment
- Send a CV
- Send a motivation letter

[For example, explain why you want to participate, share any previous experience in activities related to climate and gender justice (such as the “Ecoality” project or other initiatives), describe how this experience could be transformative in your personal journey of awareness, etc.].

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Motivation
- Experience in volunteering at the local level
- Ability to communicate and express effectively in English
- Availability to actively participate in the preparatory online training (6 hours), prior to the activity (dates will soon be disseminated)

Notes:

- Participation in the online training is mandatory
- Selected participants will have to sign a commitment letter

8.1 PRIORITISATION CRITERIA

- Being 21 years old or older;
- Having participated in the activities of the “Ecoality: Youth and Local Authorities together for climate and gender justice” project
- The European panel will prioritise gender equality, diverse backgrounds, and balanced age-group representation
- Being the participant’s first experience in volunteering in a country from the Global South

Note: The selection team will select two young people from each country.

9. EVALUATION

Phase 1 – Application

Phase 2 – Interview

Note: the selection board may ask candidates for additional information to help it assess and justify its decisions.

10. PANEL

In the first phase of selection, the panel consists of Julia Weber from Südwind and Katja Fischer from the City of Linz. Following this, a European panel from the Ecoality

project partnership will make the final decision, taking into account the balance of gender, age, and diverse backgrounds.

The members of the selection team are obliged to keep the content of the meetings and the voting decisions of the other members confidential.

11. EXPENSES PAID BY THE PROJECT

Expenses related to São Tomé and Príncipe:

- International travel
- Air travel insurance
- Visas
- Vaccinations
- Local travel
- Meals
- Accommodation

Expenses related to Lisbon:

- Flight
- Local travel
- Meals
- Accommodation

12. EXPENSES PAID BY CANDIDATES

- Passport
- Traveller's consultation
- Telephone card/calls abroad
- Wi-Fi

Any other expenses that may arise, including personal items, which the document does not specify.

13. CALL'S TIMEPLAN

- **Applications:** Until 23.05.2025
- **Pre-selection:** Until 27.05.2025
- **Interviews:** Between 28. and 30.05.2025
- **Decision and acceptance communication:** 06.06.2025

14. ENROLMENT

Send your application to julia.weber@suedwind.at, with the following attachments:

- Application Form
- Letter of commitment signed
- CV
- Motivation letter

All documents can be downloaded from this [website](#).

15. WITHDRAWAL

In the event of cancellation due to force majeure, the participant must provide a valid justification (e.g., medical certificate or bereavement).

If the participant does not provide a valid justification, they must reimburse Südwind for any expenses incurred.

16. QUESTIONS

The promoters of the call will clarify any doubts or omissions in these guidelines.

15. INFORMATION

For clarifications and requests for information, please contact: Julia Weber - julia.weber@suedwind.at.