



POLAND

CHURCH WITH BLACK MADONNA, CZĘSTOCHOWA

Zone 7

HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 7

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Austria	8	32	1		
Belgium	7	84	1		
Czech Republic	3	29			
Denmark	5	47		1	
Estonia	1	5			
Finland	1	6			
Germany	26	305	11		
Hungary	4	60			
Latvia	2	30	9		
Lithuania	3	48	24		
Netherlands	22	321	6		
Poland	11	164			
Slovakia	1	4			
Sweden	2	64			
TOTAL	96	1,199	52	1	

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Austria

During October 2018, seven Austrian SSIO members helped a farmer to harvest apples from the orchard. The recipient of this service was a lady who was preoccupied with caring for her sick, elderly mother. She was very appreciative of the loving assistance of the SSIO volunteers who helped to pick nearly 2,800 kg of apples over a two-day period.



Czech Republic

On 28th October 2018, 20 SSIO volunteers marked the centennial of the Czech Republic with the planting of a Linden Tree. In Czech culture, this tree is a symbol of goodness and righteousness that dates back to 1,500 years of cultural history. Moral values were shared through an inspirational speech and a devotional programme which expressed gratitude to the motherland.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 7



Estonia

SSIO members joined in the celebration of Independence Day in Holy Grove on 24th February 2019, with the chanting of traditional prayers.

During spring, Estonia's SSIO members helped with agricultural activities including soil preparation at a farm that grows organic food. The owner called it a 'Friendship-Farm' and allowed every participant to share in the harvest they had helped produce.



Germany

Since 2013, YAs from the Karlsruhe Sathya Sai Centre have participated in the 'Food for the Needy' project, which has served the homeless people in southern Germany. SSIO volunteers served a delicious lunch to the needy on 22nd April 2018.

During 2018, several Sathya Sai Centres in Germany participated in an environmental project for three months wherein SSIO members stitched 1,008 bags from used fabrics, which were distributed at the Go Green Conference in Puttaparthi in July 2018. The recycling project served to raise awareness among SSIO members about protecting Mother Nature.



Hungary

On 12th January 2019, 15 SSIO volunteers served a freshly cooked meal of bean soup and vegetarian dumplings with tejfol (sour cream) to 20 homeless people residing at the Táblás Transitional Shelter in Budapest.

On 9th March 2019, volunteers from the Budapest Sathya Sai Centre visited a nursing home for the elderly, who have been abandoned by their families and communities. The SSIO of Hungary has been serving the residents of this nursing home for the last ten years. During these visits, the seniors were entertained with heart-warming Hungarian songs, poems, and short stories, followed by distribution of delicious home-made desserts and fresh fruits.



Latvia

On 22nd April 2018, commemorating Earth Day, 17 adults and 10 children from the SSIO of Latvia came together to share their experiences with nature and created impressions in paintings and small handicrafts based on their experiences.

ZONE 7 | COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Lithuania

SSIO members of Lithuania along with their children attended classes on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. After discussions about cultural activities, they created traditional Lithuanian handicrafts.

During autumn 2013, members of the SSIO in Kaunas, Lithuania decided to expand their service activities and offer freshly prepared food to indigent residents in their neighbourhood. Since the first 'Sunday Breakfast' served in January 2014, the Soup Kitchen has operated continuously for the past five years. Every Sunday, seven Sathya Sai devotees prepare porridge, salad, and a sweet dish, and serve 20 needy people.



Netherlands

Over the years, Dutch SSIO members have participated in the 'Ceiling on Desires' programme and used the savings to purchase and transport urgently needed tents, clothes and hygiene items for a refugee camp in Calais, France. In cooperation with a Non-Government Organisation in France, they made 15 trips to Calais to deliver the goods.

As part of an ongoing 'Baby Project', SSIO members met regularly to knit baby clothes for the Easwaramma Trust in India. These clothes were further distributed to mothers in need.



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Poland

From 29th to 31st March 2019, 33 SSIO volunteers from eight countries participated in an 'Eco Boot Camp' in Warsaw, Poland. Over the three days, the attendees joined in workshops, short talks, nature walks, and devotional singing. They also received a crash course in 'Go Green' principles and practices.

In 2019, the Sarva Dharma Choir, composed of musicians from Baltic countries, celebrated its tenth anniversary. Promoting the five fundamental human values: truth, righteousness, peace, love, and nonviolence, the choir has brought joy and happiness to many people over the years. On 17th November 2018, the choir delighted 300 guests with a rousing concert in Legionowo, Poland.



Sweden

After years of holding devotional meetings in private homes, the Sathya Sai Centre of Stockholm celebrated a key milestone by establishing a permanent location. On 17th February 2019, 15 SSIO members held their first regular meeting in the new premises. The evening programme included a presentation on the life and teachings of Sathya Sai Baba, the activities of the SSIO, and uplifting devotional songs in English, Swedish, and Sanskrit. The evening concluded with a wonderful guided light meditation session.

