



Zone 7

Horseshoe Bend, Vltava River, Czech Republic

ZONE 7 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Austria	8	51	1		
Belgium	7	81	22		
Czech Republic	3	29			
Denmark	6	65	1	1	
Estonia	1	7	5		
Finland	1	9	25		
Germany	28	303	18		
Hungary	4	67			
Latvia	2	30	9		
Lithuania	3	58	37		
Netherlands	22	328	6		
Poland	13	127			
Slovakia	1	4			
Sweden	2	43			
TOTAL	101	1,202	124	1	



ZONE 7

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Austria

A team of ten SSIO volunteers came together in support of refugee children in the small village of Walchsee, in the Kufstein district. They visited the refugees between May and July 2017, incorporating SSEHV in educational activities such as teaching German. The volunteers also helped the children with homework and organised entertaining activities, including storytelling, singing, dancing and painting, with the help of the parents.

The series of visits by Sathya Sai volunteers inspired the children to participate in the class with interest and discipline. The children also joined in organised activities incorporating human values themes, such as musical experiments with a sound-bowl, role-playing, drawing, paper crafts and a memory game created by the European Sathya Sai Education (ESSE) Institute.



Czech Republic

About 30 SSIO members attended the 2017 national meeting of the SSIO of the Czech Republic, 10th–11th June 2017, in Prague. The event was marked by devotional songs, group activities, and a talk by Mr. Manfred Müller-Gransee from Germany, who emphasised seeing the world with love.



ZONE 7

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Estonia

On 24th April 2017, members of a local Sathya Sai Group and several newcomers engaged in a course on meditation in the town of Pärnu. They received basic information on meditation as a tool for spiritual advancement and watched a video on meditation. The SSIO presented a similar programme on 23rd April 2017 in the central Estonian town of Viljandi.



Germany

A regional retreat, themed “God–Man–Nature,” took place in the picturesque surroundings of Wartaweil, near Lake Ammersee, 12th–14th May 2017. About 90 SSIO members participated in the event, which featured in-depth study circles on a variety of environmental topics. Attendees discussed Sathya Sai’s teachings on how nature serves mankind selflessly and in an exemplary manner. They also studied a German translation of the Bhagavad Gita and composed a song based on the 12th chapter of the Gita, which was subsequently presented at the retreat. Putting into practice their love for nature, volunteers cleaned a nearby lake, built habitats for smaller insects and collected seedlings of oak trees to plant at home.



ZONE 7

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The retreat concluded with a musical programme showcasing Indian classical dance, a cello concerto and devotional songs based on world religions.

During 26th–27th August 2017, 60 SSIO members in Germany celebrated the Silver Jubilee (25 years) of the landmark facility, Stilles Haus (“House of Silence”). They also celebrated several other milestones: 30 years of the ESSE Institute; 35 years of the publishing house, Sathya Sai Vereinigung, and the magazine, *Sathya Sai Briefe*; 40 years of the first German Sathya Sai Centre at Nuremberg; and 10 years of the German edition of Radio Sai and the online magazine *Heart2Heart (H2H)*.



Hungary

Members of the SSIO and the local community attended a regional public meeting in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged, including an introduction to the life, teachings and mission of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Thirty people congregated on 16th–17th September 2017 to sing devotional songs from different faiths and serve the local community. The participants also cleaned the kitchen and dining area of a community kitchen at a Franciscan monastery. The Sathya Sai Centre of Szeged has had a long-standing relationship with this monastery in serving meals to the homeless.

Hungary



ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Earth Day, 22nd April 2017, the SSIO of Hungary presented a lecture in the city of Kaposvár, titled “Our Planet and the Universal Human Values.” The programme began with a comprehensive overview of the life, teachings and works of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as well as the activities of the SSIO at national and international levels with respect to nature. SSIO musicians presented an uplifting musical programme, combining elements of all major world religions.

Members of the SSIO of Hungary organised the 10th Annual Sai Summer Retreat, 29th July – 1st August 2017, at Angel Garden Camp, in the scenic Cserhát Mountains. Thirty participants of all ages and walks of life spent four days at the camp in spiritual rejuvenation. A cultural programme, “Theatre of Human Values,” showcased theatrical skills while extolling the power of truth, right action, peace, love and nonviolence.

On 25th November 2017, 110 members of the SSIO in Hungary celebrated the 92nd Birthday of Sathya Sai with a national meeting, including colourful programmes and devotional singing. The meeting highlighted the importance of the environment and included a drama depicting the selfless love offered by nature and all life on earth. The next day, 14 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Budapest visited a nursing home to entertain the senior residents, bringing holiday cheer by



ZONE 7

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

singing heart-warming Hungarian songs and reciting poems and short stories. The volunteers also served homemade desserts and fresh fruits to the elderly, who expressed heartfelt gratitude for the loving service.

Latvia



About 50 SSIO volunteers from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia participated in a human values day in Sigulda on 16th July 2017, themed “Nature Is Our Teacher.” Young adults organised study circles on reducing food and plastic waste and conserving water.

Netherlands



More than 40 SSIO volunteers in the Netherlands, organised in groups, rendered selfless service 20th–24th April 2017, in honour of Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsavam. One team helped the elderly and disabled people with their gardening, embellishing 13 gardens with flowering plants. Another group of volunteers visited lonely and abandoned people to bring them love and cheer. A third volunteer team escorted 15 wheelchair-bound residents of a retirement home to a park for an outing.



ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In another instance, SSIO volunteers cooked dinner for the needy at a shelter, while others engaged in a game of bingo at the request of a group of elderly people living near their Sathya Sai Centre.

Some volunteers took families with children, living in a shelter, to a petting farm, to lift their spirits. In another community, children participated in arts and crafts activities, based on human values. Volunteers of the Sathya Sai Centre of Rotterdam invited elderly guests to attend a bhajan session and served them dinner.

