



# Zone 7

Germany



Austria



Belgium



Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



Finland



Germany



Hungary



Ireland



Latvia



Lithuania



Netherlands



Norway



Poland



Slovakia



Sweden



United Kingdom

# ZONE 7 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Austria	8	55	1		
Belgium	7	86			
Czech Republic	3	33			
Denmark	7	68	1	1	
Estonia	2	5			
Finland	1	11			
Germany	30	342	29		
Hungary	4	77			
Ireland	3	35			
Latvia	2	32	8		
Lithuania	4	64	17		
Netherlands	25	315	10		
Norway	1	17			
Poland	13	138			
Slovakia	1	4			
Sweden	3	39			
UK	81	4,385	1,173	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>2</b>	





# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Austria**

Inspired by the annual global SSIO Serve the Planet initiative, with its 2016 focus on service to animals, the Sathya Sai Group of Gmunden organised the construction of 14 structures to facilitate hibernation of ladybirds (ladybugs) and butterflies during the frigid winter months.

In Linz, SSIO volunteers celebrated Christmas with displaced children and their families. Children from the Sathya Sai Centre handed out gifts and bags full of homemade cookies to these needy children.

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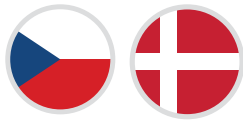
### **Belgium**

With millions of refugees arriving in Europe, Sathya Sai volunteers across Belgium and Holland undertook projects to serve them. The displaced people in Steenberghe in the Netherlands and Norrent-Fontes in France received fresh food, firewood, blankets, sleeping bags, and camping gas for cooking during early 2017.

To usher in the Kurdish New Year, the SSIO hosted a concert on 21st March 2017 by the Dutch/Kurdish band Belan, at a refugee camp near Dunkirk, France. Volunteers also played soccer with the displaced children at the camp.



Austria



## ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### **Czech Republic**

In October 2016, SSIO members and their families volunteered at an animal shelter to take the caged animals for a walk, giving them a taste of freedom.

To celebrate Christmas 2016, SSIO members in Prague prepared a Bible reading from the Gospel of Luke about the birth of Jesus Christ. A few volunteers dressed up as monks, creating a festive atmosphere and uplifting all who joined the event.

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### **Denmark**

The European Sathya Sai Education (ESSE) Institute hosted a public outreach seminar in Denmark, 18th–19th March 2017. The interfaith event united different segments of society through community engagement. The seminar highlighted the universality of human values and messages of environmental stewardship common to all faiths.

In October 2016, Danish SSIO members demonstrated a commitment to practising these values by feeding neglected dogs and cats at an animal shelter, as a contribution to the global Serve the Planet initiative.





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## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Germany

Almost 70 SSIO members participated in a summer camp for children in August 2016. The children participated in outdoor excursions, creative activities, sports, and in presenting a musical concert at a home for senior citizens in a local village.

As part of the Love for Animals focus of the Serve the Planet initiative, German Sathya Sai Young Adults prepared postcards using images of animals and quotes from Sathya Sai on love for animals. These postcards were then distributed among SSIO members and the public in October 2016 during Avatar Declaration Day celebrations. SSIO volunteers also rendered service to aged and handicapped animals at an animal farm in the foothills of the Alps.

### Hungary

The SSIO of Hungary organised a summer retreat, 12th–16th August 2016, at the scenic Angel Garden Camp.

Hungary's SSEHV programme received a fresh start through a seminar organised by the ESSE Institute on 4th–5th February 2017. New and existing SSEHV participants delved into the general philosophy and basic concepts of human values education.





## ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### **Ireland**

Butlerstown Castle in Wexford, Ireland, played host to 35 SSIO members from all corners of Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales, as part of an annual Sathya Sai Summer Retreat, which took place 24th–26th June 2016.

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### **Latvia**

More than 40 people celebrated Human Values Day at a park in Sguda on 17th July 2016. The event included a study circle on the five human values, narration of values-based stories, and other activities to deepen understanding of the fundamental human values.

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### **Lithuania**

Seventy choir members from Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia attended the First International Workshop of the Sarva Dharma Choir in Palanga, Lithuania, during 19th–28th September 2016. The programme commenced with a three-day national meeting of the SSIO of Lithuania, and on the second day, the choir presented a beautiful performance.



Latvia



Lithuania



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



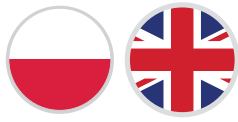
On 10th December 2016, SSIO volunteers from the Lithuanian towns of Kaunas and Elektrenai visited a rehabilitation and nursing centre in Rukla that provides care for the elderly and disabled. The volunteers brought joy to the seniors with Christmas carols and Lithuanian devotional and folk songs.

### **Netherlands**

Sathya Sai volunteers in the Netherlands treated refugees from Syria, Eritrea, and Afghanistan to a day out on 2nd July 2016. A caravan of cars transported refugee families to a rural farm in Amstelveen, near Amsterdam, where the children played with animals.

Dutch SSIO volunteers continued to sew clothing for new-born babies in India. The clothes are then shipped in packets containing two dresses, two diapers, a shawl, and a cap to the Sathya Sai Easwaramma Trust or to the Sathya Sai General Hospital in Puttaparthi, India.





## ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### **Poland**

SSIO members in Poland organised a workshop on service, during 17th–22nd June 2016, in which SSIO members from Italy and the UK shared their experiences in rendering selfless service.

On 22nd January 2017, the International Sarva Dharma Choir, with 54 members from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, and Finland, presented a concert at a Catholic church in Trzemesina, Poland. The parish priest expressed sincere gratitude, thanking the choir members for filling the church with divine love.

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### **United Kingdom**

In April 2016, the UK celebrated National Human Values Day with activities across the country. A Walk for Values was organised in the city of Leicester on 24th April 2016, emphasising unity and love across religions. The occasion brought together different faith groups, whose leaders also participated in an interfaith forum in conjunction with the Walk for Values, sharing the teachings of their respective faiths.





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## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Sathya Sai young adults led an initiative, supported by Sathya Sai Centres across the UK, to deliver at least 2,000 Easter eggs to children and the elderly in various hospitals in May 2016.

As in other years, the SSIO UK conducted many service projects in July 2016. The SSIO received a note of thanks on 11th July 2016 from a food bank for donating more than 110 kg of food for needy recipients.

On 6th November 2016, 600 attendees celebrated Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday at the esteemed Athena theatre in Leicester. The festivities included uplifting talks by SSIO leaders and music and dance performances by SSE children.

### United Kingdom





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United Kingdom



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