

# 100 years of Workcamps

## It's time to celebrate!

Did you ever ask yourself where workcamps are actually coming from and since when they do exist? Well, the idea goes back to the engineer and pacifist Pierre Cérésolle who organised the very first international project on the doorsteps of Verdun in 1920 with volunteers from France, Switzerland, England and Germany. With WWI having ended only a couple of months before, his idea and effort can be considered a brave step towards reconciliation and reconstruction at that time. And still today, workcamps carry those roots in the spirit of being a particular tool for mutual understanding, peace and solidarity beyond borders.

100 years – breaking it down makes us count 10 decades marked by different political, societal and economic developments, fears and opportunities, societal changes, technical evolution, new peace and new war over the globe. In this terms 100 years of workcamps also means 100 years of bringing together people from all over the world and with different backgrounds, enabling exchange and dialogue, affecting people, those from abroad and those from the local project place, creating friendships and even families – and this is impressive in terms of impact, in terms of supporting peace and solidarity and in terms of millions of single stories hidden behind this number 100.

For all those reasons the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a good time to show to the world what international workcamps can actually achieve and to make those achievements visible. Saying this, it's the moment to acknowledge that none of this would be possible for workcamp organisations without their motivated volunteers, campleaders, trainers, local hosts, and so on. And that's why we want to celebrate this anniversary together with all those indispensable persons and in diverse ways:

### Stories of volunteering

As just said – workcamps wouldn't work without all those engaged people just listed. So, let's have a closer look! What motivated people in different decades to join or host a workcamp? What impact did it have on their life, back then and (maybe) till today? What memories are connected to their workcamp experience? Our collected stories of volunteering will give an insight in some of the million single stories through the season. If you belong to those having a story to share let us know!

### Workcamps 2020

How does it feel to be part of the 100th anniversary camp year? Those who want to know should definitely join a workcamp in 2020 as we will for sure have a lot of anniversary parties in this year's running workcamps. Cakes, candles, music and other creative ways of celebrating will be shared throughout the season on social media in pictures under the hashtag #100YearsofWorkcamps.

### The 100th challenge

To make it even more fun we will last but not least challenge you! Grab some friends, colleagues (or even strangers in the street) and be ready to join the 100th challenge that will be launched soon! The more, the better to make workcamps known around neighbourhoods, cities, countries...well the globe!