



Zone 6

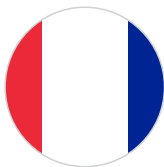
Alpine Ibex



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Croatia



France



Greece



Israel



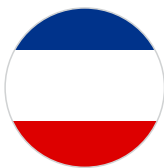
Italy



Macedonia



Romania



Serbia/Montenegro



Slovenia



Spain



Switzerland

ZONE 6 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Bosnia/Herzegovina	2	21			
Croatia	14	121			
France	4	82	6		
Greece	6	112	18		
Israel	2	75			
Italy	38	615	9	1	
Macedonia	2	27			
Romania	1	10			
Serbia/Montenegro	4	27	4		
Slovenia	2	50			
Spain	6	349	110		
Switzerland	11	272	39		
Total	92	1,761	186	1	



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sathya Sai volunteers helped indigent families with sick and disabled family members in Banja Luka, Prijedor, Doboj, and other villages. Volunteers also served two families in Sarajevo. The SSIO assisted 16 families by providing each family with a laundry machine, a kitchen stove, cooking utensils, bed sheets, blankets, food, hygiene items, clothing, and firewood.

In Croatia, the SSIO started a community project called “Tracing Good Thoughts,” as part of the 2015 Serve the Planet initiative. The project involved organising several workshops for writing good and inspiring thoughts and publicly displaying wise proverbs and uplifting quotations. The objective was to create a positive atmosphere and to engage the community, especially children and youth, in selfless service.

In late 2015, the SSIO of Croatia assisted the villagers of Letovanic, near the river Kupa, by continuing work begun in 2014 after a major flood. On 14th November, Sathya Sai volunteers visited Letovanic to distribute warm clothing, footwear, and toys. The volunteers also donated a much-needed printer/scanner/copier to a local primary school. On 20th December, SSIO volunteers from Zagreb and Sisak visited nine of the poorest families in Letovanic, offering Christmas gifts of fresh fruits and sweets. The group also provided basic household appliances to three indigent families, and a furnace for cooking and heating to an elderly woman subsisting in frigid conditions. In addition, a Sathya Sai physician offered free medical consultations.





On 12th November 2015, two members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Bjelovar led an evening programme titled “Wakie Wakie Stories,” on SSEHV in Petar Preradovic, at the National Library in Bjelovar. The volunteers arranged for the reading of folk tales and stories with a spiritual message in an intimate atmosphere created by candlelight. Forty visitors filled the gallery of the National Library and listened with rapt attention to the narration of tales that transported them back to their childhood days.

In France, Sathya Sai youth participated in a Serve the Planet project themed “Human Values for Nation Building.” In April 2015, the youth distributed clothing, shoes, school supplies, and food to about 20 families residing in a blighted area. In June and September, they offered 30 full bags of food to homeless people in Paris. In September, they also distributed inspiring messages to the public on human values, including quotes from Sathya Sai Baba, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Einstein, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Buddha and the Dalai Lama.

In Greece, 56 SSIO members from 21 countries participated in the annual meeting for Zones 6, 7, and 8 at Sai Prema, Athens, from 4th to 6th September 2015. Volunteers continued visiting the Children’s Recuperation and Rehabilitation Centre in Voula, Attica, to serve the children with disabilities.

A fourth Sadhana Camp, held 10–19 July 2015 in Sai Prema, Athens, attracted 36 SSIO members from 12 European countries. One of the participants expressed the group’s prevailing sentiment, stating, “We are a necklace of God – each one of us a precious pearl, strung together by Swami’s love.”

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

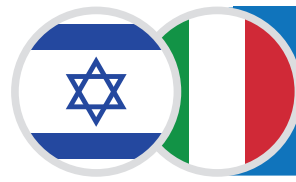


During 2015–2016, about 6,000 refugees arrived at Greece’s borders monthly, to join about 50,000 people living in temporary camps at 45 locations around Greece’s mainland and islands. Notwithstanding their own domestic problems, the Greeks accepted the refugees with love and compassion, and distributed food and essential items at several refugee camps.

The SSIO also participated in two major exhibitions, one in Thessaloniki on 17–18 October 2015, and the other in Athens on 22nd November 2015. Volunteers set up booths for the display and sale of books and gave talks on human values based on the message of Sathya Sai Baba.

In Israel, throughout 2015, SSIO members visited children in the Rambam Hospital in Haifa and worked with them on art projects to teach human values and provide a welcome respite from the hospital routine. Many of the children were Arab Muslims, or of Russian descent, but still managed to communicate with the volunteers, with some help from their parents.





COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

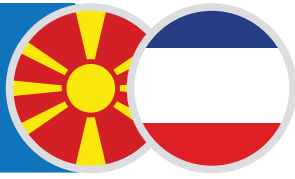
On 11th and 12th March 2016, the SSIO sponsored Course 1 of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values in Kfar Monash, Israel, which was attended by 50 people of Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu-Nepalese backgrounds. The workshop was offered by the ISSE South Europe, on human values and educational topics.

In Italy, on 17th January and 14th February 2016, the SSIO organised educational workshops for families participating in SSE programs, at Mother Sai House near Milan. The children engaged in various educational activities focusing on the core of Sathya Sai’s teachings on the five human values and the practises of placing a “Ceiling on Desires” and “Love All, Serve All.” The parents attended a workshop on good parenting and the practises outlined in the Ceiling on Desires programme.

Sai volunteers in Milan served food regularly to homeless people at an emergency centre managed by the Adventist Church in partnership with the City of Milan. The volunteers provided breakfast weekly and dinner occasionally to 40 guests of the emergency shelter. An elderly homeless person complimented the volunteers for their loving service, comparing their work to that of “angels in paradise.”



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



In Macedonia, on the weekend of 31st May 2015, the ISSE of South Europe, the SSIO of Macedonia, and the educational centre, Lighthouse, held a public seminar on SSEHV. The two-day seminar, attended by 25 individuals including teachers from public and private schools and school psychologists, focused on SSEHV teaching methodology and Educare.

In Serbia, clothes, shoes, food, and school supplies were given to indigent families with disabled children in Valjevo and in Jamena, as part of the Serve the Planet initiative. In Sremski Karlovci, Sathya Sai volunteers supplied 19 pairs of shoes to children in need. In early 2016, members of the SSIO continued to visit orphanages in Belgrade and Novi Sad and conducted SSEHV workshops that were very well received.

On 4th October 2015, SSIO volunteers offered loving services to refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq, who were fleeing their homeland. The displaced people were living in tents, sleeping on park benches, and using public fountains. Volunteers distributed food and clothing to the refugees staying at a park near Belgrade's main bus station, and also shared homemade sweet cakes and fruits with them.





COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In Slovenia, in cooperation with the Novo Mesto Sathya Sai Centre, food supplies, personal hygiene material, washing detergents and cleaners were distributed to help a mother with two children in Ljubljana. A Sai volunteer also helped with the renovation of an apartment.

In Spain, a few young adults, while travelling in Nepal, witnessed the devastation caused by the 2015 earthquake. Upon returning home, the youth organised a concert on 12th September 2015 in the town of Campodrom, Girona, to support the disaster relief activities.

In October 2015, the city of Guia de Ozora invited the Sathya Sai group of Tenerife South to present a talk on human values in society. After the meeting, Sathya Sai children distributed school bags with supplies to about 70 needy children. In addition, about 770 kg of cereals and 800 boxes of juice were donated to needy families.

In Switzerland, the Ticino Group carried on a “wishing table” project to support the needy, by giving 108 bottles of oil, packages with rice and lentils, and so on. Basel Sathya Sai Centre supported refugees at the Serbian-Croatian border by providing 108 packages of toilet articles and 108 packages of different utensils.



Spain