



MT07/16

## “The spirit of Russian Country Estates and Monasteries”

Dates: 01.08- 12.08

Lang.: Russian

Age: 18+

Volunteers: 8

Type: Manu/Envi/Cult

Location: Saint Petersburg/Leningrad Region

**PROJECT:** Work camp is relocating and it is the third year NGO Mir Tesen will organize it. There are many historical and cultural heritage sites of the St- Petersburg region, which were built in 12-19 centuries. Orthodox Monasteries are the great part of them. Many of the Monasteries are damaged; especially the landscapes and interiors and now they are being restored. These objects are located in the beautiful landscapes and untouched nature near the lakes. Therefore, it is a unique workcamp for volunteers, who want to get in touch with the spirit of history and mystic of Orthodox Monasteries. The big advantage of this workcamp is an opportunity to see both the imperial city St. Petersburg and the real Orthodox Monasteries. During this workcamp the volunteers can visit and work in several the most famous Monasteries. For example, Saint Alexander Nevsky Lavra in St. Petersburg that was founded by one of the most outstanding tsar of Russia Peter the First in 1710, Coastal Monastery of St. Sergius located in the suburb of St. Petersburg, in Strelna and the other famous Cherevneny Monastery. It is placed in Leningrad region near the top of the island on a leveled hill, surrounded by Cherevneny Lake. It takes 1 hour by train to get there.



**WORK:** Volunteers will be involved in the variety of activities. They will collect vegetables, help priors, and restore monasteries. Besides, volunteers will be engaged in improving gardens: take care of trees, flowers and harvest, mow the meadows, cure the trees, and clean the paths.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Because of the camp mobility, participants will live in several places during the camp: for 2-3 days in each monastery in St.-Petersburg and in Leningrad region. Host organization provides a basic condition accommodation (wooden house/school/office/dormitory/rental flat) and food. More information will be announced in Infosheet later.

**LEISURE TIME:** St-Petersburg is a cultural capital of Russia. Volunteers will have an opportunity during the weekend to visit numerous museums, theatres, galleries and exhibitions, country residences of Emperors, Grand Princes and grandees: Peterhof – city of fountains ([www.peterhofmuseum.ru](http://www.peterhofmuseum.ru)), Lomonosov, Tsarskoye Selo ([www.tzar.ru](http://www.tzar.ru)), Pavlovsk ([www.pavlovskmuseum.ru](http://www.pavlovskmuseum.ru)) and just restored palace in Gatchina. Also at this time of the year, the city hosts a variety of festivals, concerts and folk events. At the monastery sites, volunteers will be able to take boats for little trips, swim in the lake, go fishing or pick different berries. In addition, there will be organized sport activities, meeting with local people and evenings of international cuisine will be organized, so it would be great if volunteers bring their traditional recipes and food.

**SPECIAL REMARKS:** Dates coincide with the camp for English speaking volunteers, living in EU. Volunteers from both camps will meet and undertake joint activities. Volunteers should bring working clothes, gloves and sleeping bags. Besides, it would be good to take something special from their country (photos, food and small flags) for international party in the workcamp and demonstrate others characteristic features of home country. Volunteers and local youth will create a video – a visual memory - of works and activities done during the workcamp. The museums fees and local transport expenses aren't going to be covered, volunteers will have to pay on their own. However, due to the euro-ruble currency this year the journey will be rather cheap.

