

# Joint Document 3 Report on Recommendations



**13<sup>th</sup> European Guide and Scout Conference**

Brussels, Belgium

17 – 21 July 2010

# 12<sup>th</sup> European Guide and Scout Conference

## APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS – UPDATED 2010

### **12EGSC/01 Action for Membership Growth and Development**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Recognises that membership growth is the most important challenge for Guiding and Scouting in Europe;
- Recognises that demographic shifts in Europe will have an influence on numbers and thus that membership growth should be measured as a market share of the youth population;
- Recognising the important work done by the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region in the area of membership growth;
- Recognising that each Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations has valuable experiences to share with other associations in similar situations.

Urging The Europe Committee WAGGGS and The European Scout Committee:

- To take membership growth into consideration in all initiatives and actions of the joint work;
- To support the creation of a European Growth Network for Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations working on the issue of growth to facilitate round-table discussions, connecting MOs and NSOs with similar profiles to share best practices and experiences, consultation and other methods to support growth;
- To ensure financial and staff resources are allocated for this network to be a vibrant meeting place for continued work on membership growth and development.

Urging Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations:

- To ensure financial and staff resources to be allocated for this network allowing it to be a vibrant meeting place for continued work on membership growth and development.

The European Committees promoted and established the Growth Network, allocating staff support and Committee members so that an average of 30+ participants were able to build on the experiences of others and of their own organizations. A review has been carried out to evaluate the experiences.

Additionally round tables were organized on membership and diversity which are directly aligned with the focus of this Recommendation.

### **12EGSC/02 A Test Period With One Official Language In The European Region.**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Acknowledges that the globalisation of the world has increased the need for one official language and that many people around the world still have to develop their language competencies;
- Acknowledges that one official language is a great challenge and that at present no one language is the common language in Europe, for which reason The Europe Region WAGGGS and The European Scout Region should assist in the modernisation of how language is used;
- Notes that more and more Europeans speak more than one language and that the most widespread second language is English;
- Notes that the use of one official language at both the formal and informal parts of events will facilitate the dialogue between participants;
- Notes that, having only one official language in the joint work, Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region will achieve a reduction of expenses. The money saved may be used for increased support to Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations.

Recommends that The European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS:

- Continue to develop the way languages are used in the joint work in The Europe Region WAGGGS and The European Scout Region;
- The Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee evaluate the positive and negative effects of having two official languages in The Europe Region WAGGGS and The European Scout Region. This work must be done in an open dialogue with Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations and be presented in a report one year in advance of the next European Guide and Scout Conference.

The European Committees continued to provide support at those events which were primarily offered in English with whispered translations in French. In addition it was often possible to have small groups working in other languages.

The Committees conducted an online survey and compiled a report on the survey and on other research. The report was distributed 10 months in advance of this conference.

### **12EGSC/03 Roverway**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Recognising the success and educational values of the Roverway events held so far;
- Firmly convinced that Roverway is not only a “young Guide/Scout meeting” but a real “educational opportunity” provided to all European Rangers and Rovers as a concrete response to the educational priorities of young people, as stated by both World Conferences;
- Considering the need to provide more relevant educational opportunities for young people in Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations.

Recommends that The European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS:

- Consider Roverway the main event and privileged opportunity for participation of Rovers and Rangers;
- Facilitate participation of Rangers and Rovers by co-ordinating national and regional events scheduled along with that of Roverway.

Both Regional Committees have valued enormously the opportunities provided by Roverway and have reviewed the process of appointing the host organisation(s) and the value of staging such events at Regional level.

The Committees have affirmed that Roverway remains an important regional event, has set in motion the planning of the next event in Finland in 2010 and will support the implementation with central resources, volunteers, staffing and other funding possibilities.

### **12EGSC/04 Recognition Of Guide And Scout Practices In Europe**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Considering that European policies (youth, environment, food safety, mobility, social cohesion...) should facilitate scouts and guides practices, leaders and youth exchanges in Europe

Recommends that the European Scout Region and Europe Region WAGGGS monitor European policies concerning Scout and Guide activities and be proactive with the European institutions (European Commission, EU Council of Ministers, EU Parliament, Council of Europe, European Youth Forum) to guarantee:

- The recognition of Scouts and Guides practices, especially the right to camp with young people in wide nature in all European countries.

Recognising that the gestation of many pan-European policies originates at National level, and therefore urging that Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations remain vigilant and share information on the possible implication of restrictive policies, the Regions have kept a close watch on legislation, worked in common with other organisation to share information and have raised directly our concerns with Members of the European Parliament and Commission representatives. A request was circulated to MOs and NSOs to share specific examples of restrictive practices, the Network of Representatives discussed the topic and WOSM held one of their regular consultations with MEPs on the topic.

### **12EGSC/05 European Seminars**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Considering that the Regional events are privileged places for the implementation of our educational method and that they contribute to the promotion of peace and inter-cultural understanding between young people;
- Considering that these Regional seminars or workshops are privileged places for the sharing of experience and also of the promotion and exposure to new practice and themes towards adult leaders;
- Considering that participation in these events is increasingly difficult due to economic and human reasons;
- Considering that the seminars do not always correspond to the priorities of National Guide and Scout Organisations.

Recommends that Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee implement as a policy, the clarification of the seminar and events calendar:

- Limiting the number of seminars and their financial costs;
- Giving the possibility to open planning teams for keynote speakers and experts from outside of Guiding and Scouting;
- Programming a limited number of Regional seminars focused on new challenges or projects to be developed within the Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations;
- Undertaking in their initiatives, the putting in place of sub-regional or bilateral events responding to the needs and priorities of the Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations', thus positioning the Regions as support and service structures.

The regional Seminar and events programme has been examined carefully and the number of events has been radically reduced to less than half the events offered in the previous triennium.

At the same time there is more cooperation between organisations to follow their own identified priorities with the hosting of networking opportunities and other events.

### **12EGSC/06 Operational Plans**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Considering that the draft operational plans of the European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS mention several areas for which action from a world, national or local level would be more relevant;
- Considering that too great a number of actions and programmes would amount to an absence of a real strategic choice.

Recommends that The European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS:

- Highlight the strategic priorities for which the European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS set a relevant level of action that can bring real added value in relation to the world, national and local levels;
- Proposes a limited number of targets and actions, along with criteria for evaluation.

Work to fulfill this Recommendation was undertaken at the first Joint Committee meeting of the new Triennium when the number of proposed actions was reduced, based on the relative popularity reflected in the workshops which looked at the Joint Actions. The result of this process which involved the working groups of the Regions who met together in Switzerland on realizing the Joint Actions, refined by the Joint Committees and distributed in April 2008 to Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations.

### **12EGSC/07 Funding Research**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Considering that Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations are confronted with a reduction in the national funding apportioned to them and that the national states have transferred the accrued financial resources to the European Union;
- Considering that the European Union has developed programmes, directly concerning young people, in many policy sectors other than Youth Policy (education and training, mobility and intercultural exchanges, professional insertion and social inclusion, housing, health ...).

Recommends that the European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS:

- Support Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations in order to enhance the benefits gained from the policies concerning Youth of the European Union;
- Facilitate the access to European funding for Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations' Projects:
  - By circulating information on the existing measures;
  - By advising Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations on financial means available from European institutions and by providing pro-active support when applying for funding.

Both Office have worked together and separately to identify sources of funding which may help MOs and NSOs to achieve their aims and have regularly applied for Regional Funding opportunities, seeking MOs and NSO/NSAs to be partners and widening the knowledge available.

### **12EGSC/09.1 Education For All, Girls And Boys (1): Programme**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Considering that the education of both girls and boys is an educational issue for the future of Guiding and Scouting and their impact on society;
- Considering the difficulties faced by Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations to achieve the common challenge of Guiding and Scouting to break down barriers;
- Considering that there exists a social and cultural context common to the European Countries with regard to the education of boys and girls but that more important differences exist on World level.

Recommends that the European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS:

- Develops gender-specific and co-educational programmes and practices on the education of boys and girls that is updated and adapted to the needs and aspirations of young people today, emphasising the experiences of Guiding and Scouting, with the aim of:
  - Promoting differences and complementarities between women and men;
  - Building equal gender partnership between women and men.

Work on the topic, Education for All, was done to bring together all the current examples of practice to enable associations to share. The fact sheet was circulated in Europak-online in October 2009.

## **12EGSC/11 Additional Coordination Of The Operational Plans**

The 12th European Guide and Scout Conference notes:

- That the current plans of the Europe Region WAGGGS and The European Scout Region contain overlapping elements that are not addressed in the document outlining the proposed joint actions in the areas of Research, Co-Education, Strategic Planning, Growth, Active Citizenship and Recognition of Volunteers;
- The added value of doing joint work in areas of common interest.

Recommends:

- The Europe Committee WAGGGS and The European Scout Committee to revise the operational plans, respecting the priorities set by all three conferences, to identify the additional overlapping elements and find ways to work with them on a joint basis.

This exercise was carried out up to, during and after the first Joint Committee meeting to ensure the best possible working structure for the Triennium. This initial work was further developed by the first Joint Working Groups meeting.

## **12EGSC/12 Joint work 2007-2010**

The European Guide and Scout Conference:

- Taking into consideration the efforts made in the past triennium on identifying areas of common interest of both operational plans to elaborate the joint plan;
- Convinced that strengthening this co-operation will result in better support for Member Organisations and National Scout Organisations and for the European Scout Region and The Europe Region WAGGGS.

Recommends:

- That both Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee further investigate the possibility of building common objectives after having identified the common interests. Ideally, the same strategic line regarding one relevant common interest (which currently was being expressed with a different objective wording for each organisation) would be written on both operational plans and the joint plan.

As for the above recommendation, the Committees worked hard to ensure that the language of the common areas of work were refined to better reflect the principle working together. The Joint Document – Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together reflects the changes and the process that was adopted.