

15th European Guide and Scout Conference
Oslofjord Conference Centre – 17-21 June 2016

Joint Conference Document 4

The way forward

- further development of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region



Proposal for the work in partnership between the Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region 2016-2019

1. Introduction

For many years, Europe Region WAGGGS and the European Scout Region have been working in partnership. This partnership went through different phases over those years, the ways of working together differed – from having one common plan to having overlapping plans, from having working groups working jointly to having different working groups. At the end of the last triennium 2010-2013, the Joint Committee which consists of the Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee decided to have an external evaluation on the work done in partnership.

The external evaluation, which included input from a wide range of MOs/CAs and NSOs/NSAs, highlighted the following implications for future work together:

- The Regions should focus on what the work will achieve for MOs/CAs and NSOs/NSAs and their members, rather than many joint activities for their own sake;
- The achievements of working together should support the delivery of outcomes in the strategic plans of both Regions;
- There should be a documented description of how the Europe Region WAGGGS and WOSM-European Region will work more effectively together;
- Working in partnership is effective when it is project-based and when the right skills, competences and financial resources are available and assigned to achieve objectives;
- High level reporting should take place;
- Each Region has different ways of working, structures and resources. This needs to be considered when planning how to achieve outcomes.

The two Regions share members, values, history and practices. When working together in partnership, the two Regions can support the achievement of more than would be possible if each Region was working alone.

Based on the evaluation, the two Regions achieve most together when:

- The pool of knowledge for associations to share experience and expertise is enlarged;
- The voice and influence of Scouting and Guiding associations is amplified with key decision makers and target audiences;
- The scale and range of participants at events are enlarged making these more practical, cost-effective, attractive and influential.

2. Triennium 2013-2016

Following this evaluation, the two Regions proposed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together. This MoU was to cover two triennia: 2013-2016 and 2016-2019 after which the partnership would be again evaluated.

This proposal was accepted at the Joint Conference in Berlin 2013.

The same conference also accepted the proposal that the partnership would concentrate on two outcomes in the triennium 2013-2016. Those outcomes were:

i) Development of effective and sustainable Guiding and Scouting associations

- Enabling associations to network, gain new ideas and exchange experiences that support the development of their organisations and increase the quality of what they are offering to young people and volunteers;
- Enabling associations to access relevant, inspiring and streamlined information for their organisational development through relevant, high quality communications;
- Enabling funding personnel in associations to shape improved donor policies and practices that provide strategic support to Guiding and Scouting associations;
- Enabling Scouting and Guiding associations to benefit from additional funding streams (e.g. Leadership Training Fund) .

ii) Valuing the contribution of youth and adult Volunteering including to skills development and employability

- Enabling associations to exchange good practice (and benefit from external expertise) that support the effective engagement and recognition of volunteers;
- Working with MOs/CAs, NSOs/NSAs, European Alliance for Volunteering and other forums to influence positive volunteering - policy and practice. Promote and support youth and adult volunteering as a key route to skills development and employability in Europe;
- Working with MOs/CAs and NSOs/NSAs to use association experience, and our influence and networks to improve volunteering policies, practices and recognition for example, of skills gained through volunteering, at national level.

3. Proposal for the triennium 2016-2019

The Joint Committee had a short evaluation on how the partnership is now working framed by the MoU and it was recognised that having the MoU has made things clearer and easier. It also became clear, that the two outcomes from the triennium 2013-2016 could continue to be developed and delivered in the coming triennium. (see also report on the work done in partnership)

At the same time, it became clear that the topic of “social impact” has become more and more important for many associations. Many have experienced the social impact they can have when they worked with refugees and there are many who plan to continue their work in this topic, also linking it to a more diverse membership. At the same time, the “skills for life” report has created loads of attention but has also shown that the impact Guiding and Scouting has on society is not (yet) known enough. A bigger emphasis on social impact could therefore not only match Guiding and Scouting values, but also be used in communicating with stakeholders, among them possible donors.

Together, we can help our members to put more emphasis on social impact. Be it when developing strategies to diversify our membership, encourage additional partnerships and contribute to how our communities can respond to the challenges of changing society with people coming from other countries and cultures e.g. because they had to leave their countries because of war and danger. Be it in other matters where associations are working on topics with a social impact. We can develop and benefit from a larger pool of knowledge to share experience and expertise.

It is therefore proposed that the work being done in partnership under the MoU would be working towards the following two outcomes which have been enlarged by the topic of “social impact”:

Recommendation to be taken by the Joint Conference

i) Development of effective and sustainable Guiding and Scouting associations

- Enabling associations to network, gain new ideas and exchange experiences that support the development of their organisations and increase the quality of what they are offering to young people and volunteers;
- Enabling associations to access relevant, inspiring and streamlined information for their organisational development through relevant, high quality communications;
- Enabling funding personnel in associations to shape improved donor policies and practices that provide strategic support to Guiding and Scouting associations;
- Enabling Scouting and Guiding associations to benefit from additional funding streams (e.g. Leadership Training Fund).
- Supporting Guiding and Scouting Associations wanting to change the lives of young people while consequently increasing their social impact
- Encouraging the development of national and local community projects and partnerships

ii) Valuing the contribution of youth and adult Volunteering including to skills development and employability

- Enabling associations to exchange good practice (and benefit from external expertise) that support the effective engagement and recognition of volunteers;
- Working with MOs/CAs, NSOs/NSAs, European Alliance for Volunteering and other forums to influence positive volunteering - policy and practice. Promote and support youth and adult volunteering as a key route to skills development and employability in Europe;
- Working with MOs/CAs and NSOs/NSAs to use association experience, and our influence and networks to improve volunteering policies, practices and recognition for example, of skills gained through volunteering, at national level.

For the triennium 2016-2019, the two organisations have already committed to organising the following events in partnership:

- Roverway 2016 in France
- Academy 2016 in Cyprus
- Roverway 2018 in the Netherlands
- The Joint Regional Conference 2019

Dependent on available resources, networking opportunities targeting the following groups responsible for effective and sustainable Guiding and Scouting organisations could be considered: International Commissioners, Chief Executives, Chief Volunteers, educational specialists, National Youth Council Representatives, Committees and staff teams etc. The Regions will also consider other strategic opportunities to provide access to high quality organisational development events

and activities that will be assessed on their contribution to agreed outcomes through on-going event evaluations.

Events and activities, including the European Alliance for Volunteering, Roverway, National Youth Council Representatives' Meeting, influencing the institutions of the Council of Europe and European Union in partnership etc. could be considered to contribute to Valuing the contribution of youth and adult Volunteering including to skills development and youth employability.

As for the work on refugees and other topics linked to social impact, sessions at other events as well as other activities will contribute to this outcome. There may also be the opportunity for the development and enhancement of other partnerships, particularly at local level where local Scouting and Guiding can create a power for good.

In order to more effectively achieve the outcomes identified for the period 2016-2019 and recognising that there are limited resources available, the Regions will monitor the best means and activities to achieve these outcomes. This might mean stopping, starting, continuing or changing specific established events or activities delivered in partnership, in order to achieve more benefits for MOs/CAs and NSOs/NSAs.

To assist in providing guidance, a short session on the development of the MOU and its outcomes will precede the session on Recommendations of the Joint Conference – 30 minutes in discussion groups where your input and advice to the new Joint Committee will be invaluable – taken in conjunction with existing practice, current and anticipated resources, and the need to move forward positively.



14 April 2016