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To: International Commissioners in the Europe Region WAGGGS and the WOSM – European Region

Subject: European Voluntary Service joint project to ensure a great Guide and Scout contribution to 2011 European Year of Volunteering – Call for partners and volunteers

Date: 2nd December 2009

Dear all,

As you are aware, Scouting and Guiding have been very involved in having 2011 recognised as the European Year of Volunteering. Now, from the advocacy phase necessary to reach this important result, Europe Region WAGGGS and WOSM – European Region are moving to a more operational phase. As explained in the joint circular “*European Year of Volunteering in 2011 Get Active and Involved Now!*” the two Regions are willing to focus on Volunteering in the next years and priority will be given in particular to offer an effective and concrete support to MOs and NSOs in order to use at best the big occasions offered by this important entitlement. It will be very important that MOs and NSOs prepare carefully 2011 with a large advance, and in order to do so, the two Regions are putting in place different kinds of support. One of them will be a European Voluntary Service (EVS) project dedicated to this issue: some young volunteers from all around Europe will offer their time and service with the aim to ensure a great support to MOs and NSOs. In order to do so, WOSM – European Regional Office, with the collaboration of WAGGGS European Office, will submit a new European Voluntary Service project application next 1st February 2010.

For detailed information about the EVS please check out the Programme Guide of the YiA: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc443_en.htm.

The Regions agreed to create a new collective EVS project where 7 young people (18-25 years old) will volunteer to ensure a great contribution of Scouting and Guiding to 2011 European Year of Volunteering and in particular a direct support MOs/NSOs/ that are willing to work on this topic. A full description of the volunteer positions is attached as ANNEX A.

In particular 2 volunteers will serve in the WSB-ERO in Brussels and 5 will work on the field with 5 MOs/NSOs that will decide to join the project. The coordination of the volunteers will be ensured by WOSM – European Regional Office with the collaboration of WAGGGS European Office.

The result of the funding application will be advised approximately 3-4 months after the submission (June – July 2010) and the volunteers (if the project will be approved) will start their service in October 2010.

For that reason with this circular we ask to MOs/NSOs that are really willing to work on this issue two things:

1. To spread the information on the EVS opened positions to their young members and to partner organisations.
2. To think about the possibility to have an European volunteer working on 2011 EYV in their own offices.

1 - How to “Send” a volunteer?

Eligible candidates are young people, resident in the country of the sending organization.

The volunteer interested needs first of all to find a sending organization; in order to take part in a collective EVS project there is the need for hosting and sending organizations and both of them have to be accredited (to know how to get the accreditation please check carefully the Youth in Action Programme guide and WOSM European Circular N° 24/04.09 “*EVS Accreditation*”). The candidates should indicate in their motivation letter where they would prefer to serve knowing that:



- WOSM-ERO will be the hosting organization for the 2 volunteers that will service in Brussels.
- The other 5 volunteers will be hosted in the 5 partner organizations of the project (the countries will be communicated to the candidates as soon as the partner organizations will be identified; see below about that).

Therefore to send a possible volunteer there are two options for MOs/NSOs:

1. Being accredited as a sending organization for the EVS. In this case, the MOs/NSOs are directly involved in the project as a partner.
2. Get in touch with another accredited non-Scout sending organization in the country that will become a partner in the project. (You can always approach your National Agency about that)

Only candidatures presented through accredited sending organizations will be taken in consideration!!!

In order to candidate themselves, the volunteers have to send: a presentation letter from the sending organization + a motivation letter + her/his CV.

The volunteers will be chosen regardless of her/his ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, etc. No previous qualifications, educational level, specific experience or more than basic English or French knowledge is required.

Candidatures have to be sent by email to amasson@scout.org at the latest by the 17th of January 2010.

The result of selection will be communicated at the latest by the 26th of January 2010.

!!! We kindly asks International Commissioners to spread this information to young members of their MOs/NSOs !!!

2 - How to "Host" a volunteer

MOs/NSOs willing to work on 2011 EYV and to keep close relations with WOSM and WAGGGS could host an international volunteer in their organization under the coordination of the European Offices. Of course the service of the volunteer will be focused only on issues related to volunteering in general and in particular to organize, manage and coordinate:

- Events and campaigns organised by the Regions and at National Level
- Coordinate actions at European and National Level leading to action at local level
- Publications
- Research studies
- Discussions within and out the organization
- A amount of time of the volunteers will be allocated also to a concrete service in Scout/Guide Local Groups.

Therefore to host a volunteer there are two options for MOs/NSOs:

1. Being accredited as a hosting organization for the EVS. In this case, the MOs/NSOs are directly involved in the project as a partner.
2. Get in touch with another accredited non-Scout hosting organization in the country that will become a partner in the project. In this case it has to be an organization that is collaborating or that will start collaboration with the MO/NSO on Volunteering.

!!! If your MO/NSO is interested to host a volunteer please contact as soon as possible by email Alix at amasson@scout.org Deadline to receive candidatures to host volunteers is the 17th of January 2010!!!

Information on this issue will be put on www.scout.org/europe and www.europe.waggsworld.org and on other youth portals.

Of course the Offices in Brussels will be available to provide more information and offer suggestions and advice, therefore if you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact Nicolò at npranzini@scout.org or



Rita at rita@europe.wagggsworld.org.

If your MO/NSO is already accredited to EVS please send a message to Nicolò and Rita; this will allow the Offices to create a list that could be used each time that there is the need of partners in other EVS projects. Of course the list will be available as well to MOs/NSOs that are looking for partners!!!

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Penelope

Penelope Cooper
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Europe Region WAGGGS



David McKee
Regional Director
WOSM – European Region

