

October, 2004

Partnerships in Action

Guidelines for North-South Co-operation

This document is based on text developed by the North-South Network of the European Region, formerly published on the European Scout web-site.

1. The Co-operation Framework

Development and cooperation: a duty for educational movements.

Guiding and Scouting are educational movements, not development agencies. However, we consider that it is our duty to make young people more aware of the unbalanced relations and the interdependence which exists between the North and the South. It is our mission to prepare citizens for tomorrow: that means individuals who are sufficiently motivated and skilled to contribute to the development of society. It is because of the purpose of our educational movement, that we are interested in cooperation and development.

The main focus of our action: local groups

Education in Guiding and Scouting takes place at local group level. Therefore, local groups should also be the main actors in the field of cooperation and development. The development activities and projects run by Guide and Scout Associations should primarily involve local groups. We need to set priorities for activities and projects undertaken by local groups; small short-term projects should be our goal.

Let us make the most of being part of an international network

National Associations have a key role to play, as well as the international structures of the two World Organisations.

The unbalanced relations between North and South are a worldwide problem. Guiding and Scouting are world movements and, thus, have a big advantage in trying to tackle this issue. We can use the structures and networks of our World Organisations to transfer information rapidly and find partners.

We are able to put into practice the famous motto: "Think globally, act locally".

Our main partners should be the Guide and Scout Associations which already exist in developing countries.

Voluntary organisations: the best tools for development

Specialists state that the best tools for development are voluntary organisations. The developing countries which are progressing most are those which have strong voluntary organisations capable of training and mobilising people on key issues.

Through their educational programmes and adult training schemes, Scout and Guide Associations can be reliable partners in development, because they educate young people to be skilled individuals who are keen to play an active part in the development of their society.

Guide and Scout Associations are important for development, because they can spread skills, knowledge and positive attitudes throughout the country.



One of the best ways of cooperating with developing countries is by supporting their Guide and Scout Associations.

A cooperation framework between partners

If a national Guide or Scout Association from an industrialised wishes to be involved in development and cooperation projects, it should start by finding a partner Guide or Scout Association from a developing country and setting up a cooperation framework.

This may seem complicated, but is in fact simple.

A cooperation framework is an agreement between two or more partner Associations, which defines the following issues:

1.1 Specific and common aims in three main areas:

A. Educational objectives

Since the partners are educational Associations, they should cooperate primarily on educational issues. Both have priorities and objectives in the field of education (youth programme). They can share these objectives and decide how to support each other in order to achieve them.

They can identify common fields of interest. For example, a European Association and an African Association may discover that they would both like to develop a better programme in the field of environmental education. They may decide to develop an educational programme

together (the methods can be similar even if the content is different).

Other possible common fields of interest may be: development education, community involvement, civic education, inter-cultural learning, refugees, etc.

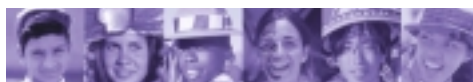
B. Participation in the development of society

Guide and Scout Associations, in industrialised and developing countries, frequently contribute directly to the development of society. In most developing countries, Guide and Scout Associations are actively involved in community development. Many European Associations have also started similar work and our partners' experience can be extremely useful to us.

Let us take a look at some specific examples:

Youth unemployment is a crucial issue in industrialised countries, as well as in developing countries. Many African Associations, for example, have valuable experience in this field and cooperation with them could be very beneficial.

Adolescent health. Various Associations in Asia and Africa have started to work very successfully with UN agencies to improve young people's health. Young people in Europe are also facing serious health problems, such as AIDS, and Associations could benefit greatly from the experience of partners in other parts of the world.



Street children. In this field too, Associations from Africa, Latin America and Asia have developed some very interesting programmes. Why not cooperate with some of them, in order to tackle the problem of homeless adolescents that also exists in Europe?

We could also quote a number of other issues, such as conservation, child abuse, inner cities, ethnic minorities, refugees, etc.

C. Strengthening Associations' infrastructures

In order to cooperate with another Association, more human resources need to be mobilised and more money spent. This is true for both partners. It is, therefore, essential to include the objective of reinforcing the Associations' infrastructures within the cooperation framework.

This could include, for example, better means of communication (fax, telephone lines, e-mail, newsletters), training centre equipment, a full-time executive, etc.

1.2 A joint plan of action

It may seem very ambitious to identify several objectives in these three areas. It may be better to choose just a few objectives to start with, for example one in each area.

In order to fulfill the selected objectives, various activities can be proposed, such as joint camps, youth exchanges, leader exchanges, joint programme seminars, joint training

courses, joint publications, etc. A plan of action is necessary and should be established for a long period; at least three years, because real partnerships need time to develop well.

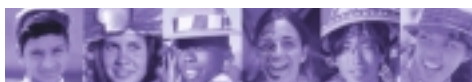
Some activities should be undertaken at national level, but not all. The cooperation framework should encourage local groups on both sides to develop small projects related to the common objectives. The cooperation project needs to be as broadly-based as possible, in order to have a multiplier effect.

The cooperation framework must give local groups more opportunities to find partners and to propose practical and valuable actions for development to young people.

In practice, the plan of action will evolve gradually. It will start with a few realistic activities planned at national level. At the same time, local groups and districts will be encouraged to play their part and develop their own projects, according to the priorities identified in the cooperation framework and taking available resources into account.

1.3 Fund-raising

Anyone experienced in cooperation and development will say that it is easier to find funds for large programmes than for small projects. The advantage of the cooperation framework proposed here is that it can be presented to specialised agencies, in order to obtain funds.



Let us take an example: A European Association has established a cooperation framework with an African Association. They have identified the following priorities:

- a) Youth programme (educational priorities)
 - i. Aim: environmental education.
 - ii. National activity: a joint seminar to train leaders and develop programme topics adapted to needs on both sides.
 - iii. Local activity: encourage twinning between local groups for inter-cultural exchanges and development education.
- b) Participation in development
 - i. Aim: prevention of pollution in the North, fight against desertification in the South.
 - ii. National activities: work camps involving Rangers/Rovers and youth exchanges.
 - iii. Local activities: twinning and youth exchanges.
- c) Strengthening infrastructures
 - i. Aim: support the development of a training centre for the Southern Association and publish handbooks for both sides.
 - ii. National activities: support the building and operation of the training centre (find funds and expertise).
 - iv. Local activities: fundraising activities.

A plan of action is established for a three-year period, in order to implement these activities. A budget is prepared, showing the funds and resources coming from each Association and the funds to be found outside. Applications are submitted to several development agencies.

Such a cooperation framework or programme puts the emphasis on equal partnership and on development education on both sides. It shows how the proposed activities respond to development priorities, but at the same time reinforces voluntary organizations' ability to spread motivation and skills among young people. It, thus, has a greater chance of attracting the interest of development agencies and obtaining funding.

