

Strategic Priority 3

Girls and Boys, Women and Men – respecting differences, promoting equality and sharing responsibility



The World Organization of the Scout Movement



Workshop on Gender in Yugoslavia

PROMISING PRACTICES

The Results

A workshop on gender was organised as a sub-regional event in Brankovac - Yugoslavia from 14th - 16th December, 2001.



The working principles were experience, interaction, co-operation and activity

The purpose of the workshop was to:-

- examine the facts and figures of involvement of boys and girls in Scouting in the sub-region, looking at the areas of membership, programme implementation and the decision making process;
- gain a better overview of the needs of young leaders;
- make and encourage the setting up of a network of young leaders in the sub-region;
- develop specific activities for young people on equality issues;
- create a platform for renewing the Youth Programme which will better fit the needs of young people in the modern society.

The Reasons

There was need to:-

- examine the needs and aspirations of young men and women in the organization;
- help leaders to analyse the programme implementation, activities and the structure of the organization from the gender specific point of view;

- discuss the possible adaptation of programmes and the statutes in order to create the atmosphere of equality;
- prepare conclusions and possible actions of how to facilitate equal involvement of both genders.



The participants discussed all aspects of the gender issue

The Methods

A three day workshop was organised which involved the following:

Participants

The profile of the participants was:-

24 participants aged 20 - 35, members of the National Associations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Bulgaria, up to six participants from every country (3 male + 3 female).



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Topics

The topics covered during the workshop were:-

- the motivation to join the movement and to stay active, from the gender specific angle;
- the needs and aspiration of both boys and girls, young men and women in the organization;
- the contribution of both sexes on the image, the quality of activities, programme implementation, decision making in the organization;
- how to renew the Programme and Statute of an association to improve involvement of young women;
- how to strengthen young women and motivating them to take higher ranking positions in Scouting;
- how to create a better understanding between the sexes;
- how to deal with stereotypes and personal attitudes towards gender issue;
- how to make the proposal for the image of the Movement for the future from the gender aspect.

Method

The methods used during the workshop included:-

- Meditations and games promoting equality, cooperation and team work, expert input.

Working principles

- Experience, interaction, cooperation and activity.

Materials used

The following materials were used:-

- WOSM Policy on Girls and Boys, Women and Men within the Scout Movement.

- The Education of Young People: " A Statement at the dawn of the 21st century;
- "Girls and Young Women in the 21st century"

Our Learning

Our learning is as follows:

- The topic is interesting to the leaders and needs to be specially treated.
- The participants were highly motivated to deal with the gender issue although there were various comments and doubts in the preparatory period.
- The Associations are led by men, with some individual exceptions, which cannot be the model for future image of the organization.



Participants share their experiences and make plans for their association

- There should be various activities for all the categories on gender issues and equality in general, but first we need to sensitize the leadership and also leaders so that we can make the difference.

Our Future Plans

The future plans are as follows:

- To make materials of the Workshop available to other leaders from the national Scouts associations which participated and to other associations.
- To present the results of the Workshop accurately so that prejudices about its aim and objectives can be avoided.
- To set up a web page to help everyone interested in this issue and to facilitate communications on the topic.
- To encourage similar seminars to be run for other associations on this issue.
- To encourage seminars for female leaders, similar to the one organized in May, 2001.
- To encourage all participants to take initiative relating to the gender issue (especially to realize the recommendations adopted).
- To improve the programme of the Workshop, based on the experiences gained, and publish the results.

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