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Introduction

38th World Scout Conference

The European Scout Organisations had a very active and positive contribution during the World Scout Conference recently held in Korea. A big "Thanks" is due for the valuable input during the workshops, the openness at discussions with Scouts from other regions, the hard work at delegation meetings, preparing the plenary debates, the friendliness to all while desperately looking for an Italian coffee and the great atmosphere at the party on Friday night. "Thank You", everyone!



Two job opportunities in the Brussels Office



International Commissioners have been circulated with information on two job opportunities in the Brussels Office. Please checkout the website:

www.scout.org/en/around_the_world/europe/our_organisation/job_opportunities

We would also like to thank Mike Walker, a regular contributor to Euro.Scout.Info and the outgoing Director of External Relations and Funding for his commitment to

promoting the profile of Scouting and in particular for the relationships with the European Commission, the regular MEP meetings held over the past 3 years, the extension of the work on Diversity and the re-establishment of the Administrative Grant from the EU. Mike goes to work for an environmental organisation in Brussels and remains committed to the work of Scouting in the Region. Thank-you Mike.

Crisis in the Caucasus

The current crisis in the Caucasus illustrates that, for children and young people, the world can be a very dangerous place. The politicians and military people often forget that the impact of their actions and decisions have a disproportionate effect on the lives of young people.

The European Region has sent a message of solidarity to the Eurasia Region particularly to those young people affected by the crisis. A message was sent to International Commissioners in Europe and we draw attention to a number of resources that might be useful in dealing with issues arising from the conflict.

- Scoutpax
<http://worldnet.scout.org/scoutpax/>
- Wilderdom
<http://wilderdom.com/games/PeaceEducationExperientialActivities.html>
- Norwegian Peace Alliance
www.educationforpeace.no/
- In the Face of Terrorism
www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/special/itfot.pdf

Areas of Work

Educational Methods

First meeting of the Open Scouting Unit

20 – 22 June 2008 Nicosia, Cyprus

The Open Scouting Unit (OSU) held its first physical meeting in June following a series of monthly telephone conferences. The weekend meeting was organised in order to make further progress with various tasks and also offered the opportunity to meet with Marios Christou Vice-Chairman of the European Scout Committee to discuss the work on diversity and related issues.

The OSU was established in the beginning of 2008 to work with diversity issues. The aim is "To recognise the value of diversity and its impact on social inclusion". A number of actions were initiated including an upcoming questionnaire about diversity. Members of the OSU will use the questionnaire to conduct an interview survey with key persons in selected NSOs/NSAs during the coming months.

The main product of the unit is to produce a publication focusing on how to integrate diversity in youth programme design. The publication is expected to be available in April 2009.

The OSU has three members: Ieva Leipute – Lithuania, Theodoros Zarkas – Cyprus and Peter Stubkjær Andersen – Denmark.



Stars have been reached!!!

Monday, 28 July 2008 in FYRO Macedonia

The National Jamboree of FYRO Macedonia had more than 500 participants and leaders who experienced the spirit of Scouting in the beautiful Mavrovo National Park. Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, UK and France also attended.

Despite tough weather conditions, the programme was fully delivered. Many young people had a chance to learn new skills from creative workshops, exploring regional culture and traditions and visiting great places in this region of FYRO Macedonia.

Besides the programme activities, participants had a chance to find out more about the life and work of the WOSM – European Region and KISC through presentations and through formal and non-formal meetings in the "European Tent" which was set up. This was organised by Katey O'Brian from KISC and Mihajlo Atanackovic from WSB – European Regional Office.

All in all, the participants had a great time and have benefited a lot from their participation in the National Scout Jamboree of FYRO Macedonia called "Reaching for the stars".



WOSM – European Region workshop at 'Contura 08'

22-25 July 2008 in Benken, Switzerland

For two weeks, a WOSM – European Region workshop was organised at 'Contura 08,' the Swiss Federal Camp. Joy Morton from the WSB - European Regional Office in Geneva together with Désirée Buchmann from the *Mouvement Scout de Suisse* worked with over 800 children who attended these workshops.

Icebreakers, question and answer games about WOSM and a 'take the bacon' guessing game of the European flags were some of the activities that took place. This was a very successful event as well as a source of inspiration both for the Swiss children that attended and the organisers, Joy and Désirée.

Planning a Workshop - Organizing and Running a Successful Event

Anyone who has ever planned a workshop will tell you that it's a big job. What about planning a good one? Well, that takes organisation, focus, and a lot of creativity. Running a workshop is useful whenever you need a group of people to DO something together, rather than just report on what they've done. Workshops that are not effectively run can be a huge waste of time and money. However, if they are planned well, they can be incredibly valuable for everyone involved. This is why advance planning is vital.

More info can be found at the Tools site, www.mindtools.com, you can subscribe via the subscription email address for the newsletter www.mindtools.com/subscribe.htm.

Development and Support

Scouts and Gidsen Vlaanderen – The "Oracle"

Scouts and Gidsen Vlaanderen has professional staff supporting groups in larger cities where it is typically more difficult to do Scouting. Part of their support is a booklet, which is called the "Oracle".

This booklet (a specific one for each group) contains statistics giving an indication of the current situation and the potential threats. It focuses on the balance between younger and older members and also on leaders. The "Oracle" also is a tool for District Commissioners to motivate their groups to do something about their situation.

One of the key items in the Oracle is the GTP index. GTP is a Dutch abbreviation that stands for 'Healthy Future Perspective.' It indicates the "health" of a group based on current membership numbers. It provides information on the balance between younger and older Scouts and Leaders. The GTP index is calculated with the formula beneath. One will see that more weight is given to older participants.

There are two reasons for this. First, Scouting traditionally loses more members the older they get. Hence it serves to balance the equation. The second reason is that the older members are closer to Leadership age and hence to serve the continuation of the group.

It works with the following formula:

A = 6-8 years old
 B = 8-11 years old
 C = 11-14 years old
 D = 14-17 years old
 E = 18 years old
 F = Leaders
 G = others

Formula:

Sum of (A divided by 3) + (B divided by 3) + (C) + (D multiplied by 2) + (E multiplied by 3) + (F multiplied by 2) + (G) minus ((A + B + C + D + E) divided by F)

Results:

100 or more: The future is safe
 80 to 100: Relatively safe future.
 60 to 80: The future is not completely assured. It's no catastrophe, but you should keep a close eye on the Group.
 40 to 60: The future depends on a few factors; there are still opportunities for growth.
 20 to 40: There are quite a few factors threatening the group, which need a strict rescue-plan.
 20 or less: The group is close to extinction.

Please note that this index only works for Groups of up to 150 members.

Best practice from the Action for Growth Resource

The Growth Network is a good forum for sharing new ideas and best practices that help you and us to grow. In the previous article you have read how the Scouts and Guides of Flanders have tackled the topic of maintaining and increasing their membership in city centres by using a simple statistic.

Does your association have a success story in growth or do you want to learn from others?

We want to encourage you to share best practices and learn from others. The next Growth

Network will take place in Finland, from 6-8 December 2008. Join the Growth Network!

If you have any further questions, just contact Katrin at: ktauscher@scout.org

Relationships and Funding



"The right of the child to protection": Commission launches competition open to all young people in the European Union

"The right of the child to protection" is the title of a competition launched on the 31st July 2008 by Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission with responsibility for justice, freedom and security. European children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 18 are invited to design a poster on the right of children to protection in the European Union. The aim of the

competition is to ensure that these young European citizens are more aware of their right to protection and are better equipped to defend it.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1217&format;=HTML&aged;=0&language;=EN&uiLanguage;=en>

Update on your success

454 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) signed the Written Declaration calling for 2011 to be designated the European Year of Volunteering. Again, a big thank you to all those that contributed! There have been several reports from the European Parliament who have felt the pressure of local Scouting.

Now we must wait for the Commission to make a decision as to whether or not they accept the call. In the meantime we are hard to have the interests of Scouting included in a proposed recommendation of the Council of Ministers by the Commission.

In doing this we would really, really appreciate your support! The decisions being taken at a European level will impact on local Scouting throughout Europe, but if we act now and co-ordinate our actions at a European and member state level we will have a greater chance of influencing the recommendation.

The recommendation touches on fundamental questions like:

1. What is volunteering?
2. How do we recognise voluntary organisations?
3. How do volunteer organisations ensure quality?

If you think you have answers to these questions and would like to work with us, then please do not hesitate to contact:

Jaakko Weuro – jweuro@scout.org

EU funding for UK Scout Groups Canoe Expedition



The 4th Lymm (UK) and the 1st Fredrikstad (Norway) Scout Groups went on a canoeing expedition thanks to EU Youth in Action funding from Thursday 14 to Tuesday 26 August 2008.

A group of 20 Scouts and volunteer leaders from the UK travelled to Norway to camp out in the forest and on the shore of a large freshwater fjord. To make the project possible both Scout groups applied as partners to the Youth in Action.

In addition to the canoeing, the Scouts will be joined by experts from Oslo University to study the environment and the effect of climate change on the local fjords and countryside.

"The application process was, without doubt, demanding but the results are fantastic. We have been jointly awarded about €20,000 ..." If you would like to know more then take a look at:

www.4thlymm.org.uk/pages/Snorway.htm

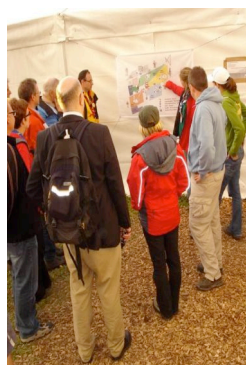
The Youth in Action programme is open to the overwhelming majority of Scout groups in Europe. If you would like to know more or receive support then contact the Tailored Support Unit, http://scout.org/en/spotlight/europe/tailored_support.

Life of the Movement

FOSE meeting during World Scout Conference in Korea

During the World Scout Conference in Korea, most of the Friends of Scouting in Europe attending the Conference met in order to have an update on the life of the European Scout Foundation. Furthermore, our Regional Chairman, Craig Turpie addressed the 50 + Friends attending, highlighting the vital importance of the "Small Projects" for the benefit of Scouting in Central and Eastern Europe. A number of new Friends were welcomed and 11 new FOSE "signed up".

FOSE meeting at Contura 08, Switzerland



At the end of July, Swiss Scouting held their Federal Camp and under the leadership of Frederic Baudin, some 15 + Friends gathered welcoming 4 new Swiss Friends. We also expect more to sign up.

It is the policy of the European Scout Foundation on special occasions such as Regional and World Conferences and at some National events to meet up, share the fellowship and have the latest news of the development of the Foundation.

Work at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre!



kandersteg
international scout centre

Right now applications are being accepted for some great positions at KISC!

Whether you think you can cook up a storm for 400 as the Caterer or fancy helping run the programme department as Assistant Programme Director, there will certainly be something of interest for you in Kandersteg!

These positions last from 9-12 months and you would be part of our Long Term Staff Team looking after the running of the Centre. It is also possible to come and volunteer for 3 months and be part of our Short Term Staff Team.

Our Short Term Staff work in a number of different areas... you could be ski guiding in winter, hiking with groups in summer, renovating rooms in autumn or preparing the Campsite in spring! No doubt you will serve meals, work in the shop and help clean up at some point but some things are guaranteed: you will meet people from all around the world, make life long friendships and have the time of your life while working at KISC!

Applications for Short Term Staff positions during the winter season can be accepted till 14 September 2008. The working period would then be from 14 December 2008 till 14 March 2009.

For 4 month or 7-10 month Long Term Staff positions, you can apply till 1 December 2008.

Details on these positions, and more, is available on the Job Vacancies part of our website at this link, www.kisc.ch/?tkw=jobvacancies.

Come to Kandersteg and live the dream with us!!



The dream is getting bigger!

Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) is already the place where over 11,000 Scouts and Guides visit every year, from over 40 different countries. This year KISC is expanding and making it possible for more people to have the opportunity to stay there. At the moment work is being done on adding a new building, the Kander Lodge, which will offer a higher standard of accommodation, as well as catering facilities to their grounds.

The building will be perfect for groups, families and leaders, with beds for 44 people. Rooms are mostly twin rooms, with every two rooms sharing a bathroom. The building will also have some additional facilities, such as a large indoor programme area and a drying room. You are able to make bookings starting February 1st 2009, but the building will hopefully be finished by the New Year. Find out more on our website www.kisc.ch.

Useful Information

Europak: www.europak-online.net

Stay in contact

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Reminders and Deadlines

The Scout Academy

20-26 October 2008 in Molina, Spain

Deadline: 12 September 2008

Winter Short Term Staff at KISC

14 December 2008 till 14 March 2009 at KISC, Switzerland

Deadline: 14 September 2008

North-South Network Meeting

17-19 October 2008, Luxembourg, LU

Deadline: 15 September 2008

Network meeting for Guide and Scout representatives in National Youth Councils

21-23 November 2008, Dublin, Ireland

Deadline: 30 September 2008

Training for new members of National Boards

First weekend of December 2008 in Latvia

Deadline: 3 October 2008

Long Term Staff Positions at KISC

4 or 7-10 month positions at KISC, Switzerland

Deadline: 1 December 2008