

Report to the European Scout Committee

External Relations and Funding Core Group

1. Introduction

This report deals with 'Strategic Objective 8 – External Relations and Funding as outlined in the Regional Scout Plan 2010-2013. It should be read in conjunction with the Regional Scout Plan 2010-2013, which can be accessed at www.scout.org/europe

2. Progress in implementing Objectives, Actions and achieving KPIs

Since the last meeting of the European Scout Committee

- **AC 8.1.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage NSOs/NSAs to participate in the creation and development of National Youth Councils

Progress:

- We provided consultancy to the following Serbian National Scout Organisation regarding the newly established National Youth Council
 - Online support via emails and skype
 - Meeting in Brussels with relevant actors
 - Sponsored participation to the Council of Members of YFJ
- We have been contributing to the YFJ revision of the Ukrainian Youth Forum (Eurasia) ensuring Scouts contribution from Ukrainian side as well as the Eurasia Regional Office

- **AC 8.1.4 – IN PROGRESS**

Act as a conduit for the introduction of issues of concern to actors including wider civil society, government, institutions, formal education and the private sector

Progress:

- CONCORD:
 - CONCORD Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness has finished its paper on the Enabling Environment that we contributed to last November.
 - Following continued development of Open Forum process
- YFJ - Following and contributing to:
 - Youth rights debate
 - Volunteering : EYV and European Charter of the rights of the volunteers
 - Youth in Action: WOSM is represented by a volunteer in an expert group looking at our contribution for the next Youth in Action programme
- Alliance – see other sections
- ICMYO: representing and contributing on behalf of WOSM views on youth policy and other interests of Scouting
- European Commission: Attended workshop on the role of volunteers in humanitarian aid and development, related to the development of European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (for young people)

- **AC 8.2.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Cooperate with the European Parliament, European Commission, Economic and Social Committee on relevant topics and hold meetings with Scout representatives

Progress:

- Participating to the series of hearing of ESSC in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering.
- See other sections
- Holding a training for external representatives (10-12 June) in order to ensure quality, knowledge and skills for all representatives. Due to late holding of the training, representatives in EYV Alliance WGs are not part of the training.

- **AC 8.2.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage and convene annual meetings of the 'Big 6' youth organisations in Europe to discuss issues of common interest

Progress:

- This has taken place during the last YFJ COMEM (6-7 May 2011), not including IAA as they are not members of YFJ
- Monitoring a possible training to happen in November (lead by IAA)

• **AC 8.2.3 – NOT STARTED**

With NSOs/NSAs, review and develop policy positions on issues relevant to the needs of young people including employment, mobility and human rights

Progress:

- This has not been started because core group was still reflecting on how to proceed

• **AC 8.2.4 – NOT STARTED**

Develop contact with external organisations having consultative status with WOSM, including but not limited to ISGF and WSPU, and share outcomes with NSOs/NSAs

Progress:

- ISGF relationships are being dealt with directly by Secretary General and Regional Director

• **AC 8.3.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Lobby with and on behalf of NSOs/NSAs for the necessary legislation through other platforms, including the European Chapter on the Rights of Volunteers sector

Progress:

- Contributing to the ongoing process with the European year of Volunteering Alliance, especially through the policy development taking place in the 6 working groups of the Alliance
- Contributing to the European Youth Forum process regarding volunteering, especially regarding the European Charter on the rights of volunteers
- Taking on a new legislation with potential impact on Scouting in Europe: VAT reform (refer to the Briefing note)
- WOSM has one member in the YFJ WG working on volunteering.

• **AC 8.3.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Promote the value of volunteering and participate in consultations on the promotion and validation of non-formal and informal learning

Progress:

- Region has been contributing to a consultation of the European Commission
- Monitoring the process in order to ensure that Scouting views will be taking into consideration
- Contributing to hearings and various meetings (see above)
- Considering joining a project of the European Youth Forum on Quality Assurance scheme in NFE delivery

• **AC 8.2.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Support NSOs/NSAs in their efforts to develop their lobbying techniques and encourage them to promote the value of volunteering

Progress:

- Study Session, Europe Eurasia (February 2011): focused on advocacy, external relations and funding (25 young people participating) – see report
- Volunteering event in Turkey (March 2011): focus on EYV, Volunteering and external relations – see report

• **FUNDING – IN PROGRESS**

- Youth in Action
 - Youth in Action project for the Volunteering event in Turkey: rejected.
 - Youth in Action project 4.3 c Project with Romania: to host an intern from the Romanian NSO in the office in Brussels for 6 months; the project has been approved and Alexandru Iambrowski started in the office on the 1st of April (Grant received: 9.740 EUR)

- Youth in Action project 4.5 about communication and web 2.0 tools: rejected.
- Youth in Action project for the Training Commissioner Network Meeting (Spain): the final report has been submitted by ASDE but there was no feedback from their side and still the situation is not clear (Grant received by ASDE: 15.696 EUR).
- Youth in Action Admin Grant: approved as a triennial framework (50.000 EUR each year for the next 3 years).
- Youth in Action project for the Europe-Eurasia meeting: rejected.
- Youth in Action project for the Academy 2010: final report submitted and approved. (Grant received: 28139.13 EUR)
- Youth in Action project 3.1 G&S in NYC: submitted the 01/06/2011 by the Italian NSO with the support of the office. Waiting for results
- Youth in Action project 3.1 Europe/Eurasia meeting: submitted the 01/06/2011 by JUNAK with the support of the office. Waiting for results
- Council of Europe – European Youth Foundation
 - CoE Admin grant 2011: due to a mistake no application has been submitted for it and will not be received in 2011
 - CoE project for the Academy 2010: the final report has been submitted, waiting for results; (Grant received 15.000 EUR)
 - CoE Study Session with Eurasia: the event took place and the final report will be published in the next months. Reimbursement received by the CoE for preparatory and travel costs: 8249.14 EUR. This figure does not include the costs of accomodation and activity that were fully covered by the CoE
 - CoE project for the Volunteering event (March 2011- Istanbul): grant received and project was implemented by the Volunteering WG. The final report has been submitted, waiting for results (Grant received 15.000 EUR).
 - CoE project for a Study Session on Advocacy to take place in 2012: submitted 01/04/2011, waiting for results
 - CoE project for Agora 2012: submitted 01/04/2011, waiting for results

3. Next steps in implementing Objectives, Actions and achieving KPIs

Until next meeting of the European Scout Committee

- **AC 8.1.1**
Encourage NSOs/NSAs to participate in the creation and development of National Youth Councils
Next Steps:
 - Waiting for assessment of needs from NSOs/NSAs
 - Monitoring the work of YFJ in this regards, in order to approach and offer support to NSOs. Countries identified so far: Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland and Bulgaria
- **AC 8.1.2 & 8.1.3**
Ensure networking between NSOs/NSAs in the area of External Relations and Funding, including support for network meetings
Strengthen the existing network of Scouts in relevant positions and ensure the monitoring of issues and trends that could affect NSOs/NSAs
Next Steps:
 - Organising the network meeting of representatives in NYCs and European Platforms (December 2012) – planning meeting foreseen in October 2011
- **AC 8.1.4**
Act as a conduit for the introduction of issues of concern to actors including wider civil society, government, institutions, formal education and the private sector
Next steps:
 - CONCORD: continued involvement
 - Organising the participation of Scouting – WOSM and NSOs to the next European Development Days (Warsaw, Poland, December 2010)

- Continued involvement with diverse platforms and institutions
- **AC 8.2.2**
Encourage and convene annual meetings of the 'Big 6' youth organisations in Europe to discuss issues of common interest
Next steps:
 - Pending on budget, CG will plan and organise such a meeting in the coming months (looking at core issues for Scouting such as retention of volunteers, trends, etc...)
- **AC 8.2.3**
With NSOs/NSAs, review and develop policy positions on issues relevant to the needs of young people including employment, mobility and human rights
Next steps:
 - CG analysed that consultation with NSOs/NSAs on that specific point is not easy or part of the "culture".
 - CG will prepare, in a three steps process, a broad consultation targeting young people. It will be a questionnaire to be realised at Roverway. The questionnaire will be experimented first at Network Meeting in December and the Agora in April. It will look at policy elements and concerns of young people
 - Liaise with youth empowerment group and EMT to ensure coherence of actions as well as synergies
 - Liaise with roverway organisers to present it to HoCs.
- **AC 8.2.4 –**
Develop contact with external organisations having consultative status with WOSM, including but not limited to ISGF and WSPU, and share outcomes with NSOs/NSAs
Next steps:
 - WSPU: a new employee, Charles Revkin, is starting in July 2011 to work for WSPU
 - contact will be made with the secretariat regarding supporting the content (upon their request) and to consider the possibility to open WSPU to MEPs
- **AC 8.2.3 –**
Support NSOs/NSAs in their efforts to develop their lobbying techniques and encourage them to promote the value of volunteering
Next steps:
 - Made an application for a study session on advocacy to the Council of Europe for first semester of 2012 – focus on Eurasia and South Eastern Europe
 - Proposal of a specific session at the Academy – related to growth

4. Successes

Please list the key successes since the last meeting of the European Scout Committee

- Good representation regarding the volunteering agenda
- Effective cooperation with external representatives in the European Youth Forum: elected bureau member, vice president and two representatives in the working groups (Volunteering and Youth in Action)
- First steps for a stronger cooperation with Big 6 network
- Starting of the consultancy process

5. Challenges

Please list the key challenges since the last meeting of the European Scout Committee

- A shortage of external representatives to be compensated by the training and recruitment of new external representatives
- Coordination regarding WOSM contribution to EYV
- Consultancy process needs still to be better formalised in order to ensure coherence of the Region action

6. Issues for the consideration of the European Scout Committee

In brief, please list significant issues that you would like the European Scout Committee to consider

- A continued involvement with CONCORD while postponing a formal membership as reduction of the budget for the upcoming year
- Proposal from the External Relations Core Group: when an NSOs (or NSAs) express the need for consultancy on a specific topic, to envisage that a country visit by Committee member will be done in conjunction with "consultants" who should deliver the specific support
- Potential presentation of a candidate for the upcoming elections for the Advisory Council of the Council of Europe. Candidate would be Alexandru Coica (from Eurasia Region). Elections are in November 2011.
- Review and agree on the points proposed regarding VAT reform in the briefing note
- Future of the Alliance: proposal is made through the Volunteering report

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