

Report to the European Scout Committee

Volunteering Working Group – March 2012

1. Introduction

This report deals with 'Strategic Objective 1 – Volunteering' 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 1.1.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Initiate an exchange of best practices amongst NSOs/NSAs on the recruitment of adult volunteers with no previous experience of Scouting

Progress:

- No progress since June 2011. A specific session is being prepared for the Forum on YP and AR.

- **AC 1.1.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Establish contact with European Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) organisations and business networks in order to promote the value of volunteering in Scouting

Progress:

- Informal contacts established during the EYV 2011 within the Alliance. ERCG is going to build upon their contacts from the Academy.

- **AC 1.2.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Initiate an exchange of information on legislation that affects volunteering, both positively and negatively, and Scouting activities in particular

Progress:

- Some results were achieved through the work of the EYV 2011 Alliance Working Group on Legal Framework.

- **AC 1.2.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Improve the legal and financial conditions for volunteering through the European Year of Volunteering Alliance

Progress:

- We contributed fully to the work of EYV 2011 Alliance to raise the issue and propose various solutions to the EU and continue to ensure the legacy by promotion of [the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe \(P.A.V.E.\)](#). We are involved in the fight to ensure the independent Youth in Action Program.

- **AC 1.2.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Improve contact with Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission, to promote Scouting as a key player in volunteering

Progress:

- Besides last year's work in the Alliance EYV 2011, our colleagues in the ERCG keep regular contacts and attend various events in the EP.

- **AC 1.2.4 – IN PROGRESS**

Review existing materials and encourage NSOs/NSAs to strengthen how they promote and encourage volunteering inside and outside of Scouting

Progress:

- We are gathering the materials from NSOs/NSAs to be included as examples of best practices in the Euro.Scout.Doc on Volunteering.

- **AC 1.3.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Gather and promote practical information about the European Year of Volunteering 2011 through an online toolkit

Progress:

- The on-line tool <http://eyv2011.europak-online.net/> and Volunteering section of the euroscoutinfo.com share examples from the EU level as well as from the NSOs/NSAs. A joint letter of Chairmen is being prepared to share the information on the EYV 2011 achievements and gathering more info.

• **AC 1.3.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage NSOs/NSAs to engage with National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) in the planning and execution of campaigns and celebrations, and to network with others

Progress:

- This was promoted at the Volunteering Event. Regular updates are published in Europak. The evidence of the involvement is being gathered at the moment.

• **AC 1.3.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Contribute as an active Member of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance and promote the work of the Alliance to NSOs/NSAs

Progress:

- Our representatives actively contributed to defining the first and the second draft of the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe, through the Working Groups and Steering Group of the EYV 2011 Alliance.
- We continue to be active in the discussions of Alliance Preparatory WG on the new structure at the EU level.

• **AC 1.4.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Promote the theories and practices associated with the management of adult volunteers in Scouting through training and events

Progress:

- VWG representatives actively participate in planning of tailored support projects
- A session was delivered at the last Academy and is being prepared for the Forum.

• **AC 1.4.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Initiate an exchange of information and knowledge relating to the management of adult volunteers in Scouting through the Scout Library and other platforms

Progress:

- Volunteering Management Website is being prepared with examples of best practices.

• **AC 1.4.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage NSOs/NSAs to identify what actions are required at local level to sustainably retain adult volunteers in Scouting

Progress:

- No progress since Autumn 2011.

• **AC 1.4.4 – IN PROGRESS**

Identify tools and approaches that can be used by NSOs/NSAs to ensure diversity in recruitment of adult volunteers in Scouting at local level

Progress:

- Should be dealt with by a workshop at the Overture Network this Spring.

• **AC 1.5.1 – IN PROGRESS**

Provide support and resources to assist NSOs/NSAs in demonstrating the personal value of volunteering in Scouting and the impact it has on society

Progress:

- This issue is dealt with through the Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting.

- **AC 1.5.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Support the personal development of adult volunteers as well as the self-evaluation and self-recognition of competencies acquired through Scouting

Progress:

- This issue is dealt with through the Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting.
- [English translation of Valorise-toi!/Empower yourself! together with a methodology was published at the Euroscoutinfo and is quickly spreading around Europe, some other national translations are being expected soon.](#)

- **AC 1.5.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Stimulate the implementation of self-evaluation and self-recognition measures at world, regional and national events

Progress:

- This issue was dealt with through the Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting.
- [A session using Valorise-toi!/Empower yourself! is being prepared for the Forum and Reverway. A methodology for the work with the material is available at Euro.Scout.Doc.](#)

- **AC 1.6.2 – IN PROGRESS**

Share results and continue to exchange best practices in internal and external recognition of volunteering through online platforms

Progress:

- This issue is dealt with through the Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting.

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

Until next meeting of the European Scout Committee

- **AC 1.1.1**

- *Initiate an exchange of best practices amongst NSOs/NSAs on the recruitment of adult volunteers with no previous experience of Scouting*

Next Steps:

- We will use the Volunteering Management Website to gather examples of best practice

- **AC 1.1.2**

Establish contact with European Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) organisations and business networks in order to promote the value of volunteering in Scouting

Next Steps:

- [ERCG will be dealing with this subject.](#)

- **AC 1.2.1**

Initiate an exchange of information on legislation that affects volunteering, both positively and negatively, and Scouting activities in particular

Next Steps:

- Will be further developed during the work on the Euro.Scout.Doc on Volunteering.

- **AC 1.2.4**

Review existing materials and encourage NSOs/NSAs to strengthen how they promote and encourage volunteering inside and outside of Scouting

Next Steps:

- We will use the Volunteering Management Website to gather examples of best practice

- **AC 1.3.4**
Strengthen links with other Members of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance and assist in securing the legacy of the European Year of Volunteering

Next Steps:

- We will continue to contribute actively to the discussions on the future of the Alliance through our participation in its Preparatory WG

- **AC 1.4.1**
Promote the theories and practices associated with the management of adult volunteers in Scouting through training and events

Next Steps:

- We will use Volunteering Management Website to gather examples of best practice. Sessions are being prepared for the Forum.

- **AC 1.4.2**
Initiate an exchange of information and knowledge relating to the management of adult volunteers in Scouting through the Scout Library and other platforms

Next Steps:

- We will create and Volunteering Management Website to be presented at the Forum.

- **AC 1.4.3**
Encourage NSOs/NSAs to identify what actions are required at local level to sustainably retain adult volunteers in Scouting

Next Steps:

- [An article for Euroscoutinfo is being prepared.](#)

- **AC 1.5.1**
Provide support and resources to assist NSOs/NSAs in demonstrating the personal value of volunteering in Scouting and the impact it has on society

Next Steps:

- Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting and dissemination of its results will be further supported by the coordinator of the VWG.

- **AC 1.5.2**
Support the personal development of adult volunteers as well as the self-evaluation and self-recognition of competencies acquired through Scouting

Next Steps:

- Examples of best practices will be shared through the Project on Recognition of Learning in Scouting.

- **AC 1.5.3**
Stimulate the implementation of self-evaluation and self-recognition measures at world, regional and national events

Next Steps:

- [English translation of Valorise-toi!/Empower yourself! together with a methodology was published at the Euroscoutinfo and is quickly spreading around Europe. National translations will be supported by an open layout available from Junak.](#)

- **AC 1.5.4**
Encourage NSOs/NSAs to understand the concept of Lifelong Learning and factor this in to the design of training systems for adult volunteers in Scouting

Next Steps:

- A project on quality of NFE was announced by the European Youth Forum. We will work on this issue together with the Growth Through Quality Working Group and the Educational Methods Core Group

- **AC 1.6.3**
Follow the development of the on-going project on 'Recognition of Learning in Scouting' and share the results with NSOs/NSAs

Next Steps:

- VWG will help with the promotion in the course Spring and with dissemination of the results once the project has finished in August 2012.

4. Successes

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

- We were actively contributing to and are benefiting from the European Year of Volunteering 2011
- During the EYV 2011 many NSOs got involved at the national level, therefore we have a number of examples of best practices available to be shared with the whole Region
- We have held two Skype meetings and one VWG meeting in Prague, lots of work is being planned for this Spring – especially two main projects of sharing the results of our work so far.

5. Challenges

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

- Change in the personal support from the European Scout Office – some of the unique knowledge and materials disappeared.
- So far limited level of structured co-operation with WAGGGS in some areas (except for the EYV 2011 Alliance, where the coordination was very intensive and fruitful)

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

- Future of the work in the area of volunteering in Europe – new Alliance being prepared
- Advice on where to have an on-line platform for volunteering management (Volunteering Management Website) and how to interconnect it with other tools in order to keep its dynamics.

10 March 2012