

Report to the European Scout Committee

Volunteering Working Group – June 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:

- A specific session was run during the Educational Methods Forum.

- **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 1.1.3 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage NSOs/NSAs to review role descriptions for adult volunteers in Scouting to ensure that the language used is recognisable by potential volunteers

Progress:

- No progress made.

- **AC 1.1.4 – IN PROGRESS**

Encourage NSOs/NSAs to ensure that training undertaken as an adult volunteer in Scouting is seen as having value outside of Scouting

Progress:

- Progress as part of ROLIS and PAVE

- **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. An electronic survey of VWG is underway.

- **AC 1.2.2 – ACHIEVED**

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 and administrative grants](#).

- **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 ERFCG keep regular contacts and attend various events in the EP. Needs to be ongoing as the economic crisis may impact on available grants and projects.

• **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 – ACHIEVED and ONGOING**

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 was prepared to share the information on the EYV 2011 achievements and gathering more info – deadline extended by the end of June.

• **AC 1.3.2 – ACHIEVED**

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. The evidence of the level of involvement is being gathered at the moment.

• **AC 1.3.3 – ACHIEVED**

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.

• **AC 1.3.4 – IN PROGRESS**

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

Progress:

- 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 at the Educational Methods 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" linked to the Euroscoutinfo posts on this topic 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:

- A session devoted to that was run at the Educational Methods Forum.

- **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 have been 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. Another project meeting took place during the weekend of 8-10 June with WOSM present.

- **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 were done or 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 Roverway. A methodology for the work with the material is available at Euroscoutinfo.

- **AC 1.5.4 – IN PROGRESS**

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

Progress:

- An integral part of training support provided in Turkey and in strategy development in much of SEE.

- **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 prepare a session at the Academy with examples of best practices and raise the discussion at the Euroscoutinfo website.
- **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 were 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 use Volunteering Management "website" and Euroscoutinfo posts to stimulate the discussion
- **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 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 after VWG meeting in Prague, lots of work is being done at the moment – especially two main projects of sharing the results of our work so far.
- We are involved in the Alliance Preparatory VW on the new volunteering platform.

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)
- Coordination around the future volunteering platform and projects to take part in, which requires quick reactions and allocation of resources.

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, projects for funding drafted.
- Relations between staff and volunteers, mutual expectations and planning of resources.

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