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World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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The Partnership for Development and Growth Fund

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Introduction

The Centenary Fund (CF) was developed by the European Scout Committee (ESC) to support National Scout Organisations and National Scout Associations (NSOs/NSAs) to develop specific projects for their own development. The main theme was *Better Scouting for More Young People (in Europe)*. The CF has been running on an annual basis since 1999 and has distributed to date more than USD 2.5 mio. The current CF ends in 2007.

The European Scout Committee examined the impact of the CF on NSOs/NSAs that have benefited by having a project or projects accepted and supported by the fund. Undoubtedly there have been both positive and negative results from the projects. However, it was agreed that, overall, the CF has been a success.

The European Scout Committee has decided to propose the establishment of a new Fund, financed from the Fund for European Scouting, with the name: The Partnership for Development and Growth Fund.

The European Scout Committee, by examining and evaluating the operation of the Centenary Fund, has decided to introduce some changes in the new proposal. These changes have taken into consideration the suggestions and requests made by NSOs/NSAs, including those suggested during the European Scout Symposium in 2006. An initial draft was prepared for the Steering Group meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, April 2006; the paper was referred to the Finance Support Group meeting in Turku, Finland, May 2006 and a further draft was presented to the European Scout Committee meeting in June 2006. The final drafting has taken into account and consolidated all the information and comments received.

Important Considerations

The Centenary Fund was created to give an equal opportunity to all NSOs/NSAs in Europe to have access to it and to benefit from the available funds. This aspect should remain also in the Partnership for Development and Growth Fund and so the Fund should be made available to all NSOs/NSAs in the European Region irrespective of their size, their state of development and their financial strength.

In the design of the Partnership for Development and Growth Fund the diversity of European Scouting and the diversity of the needs are recognized. Therefore, the proposal is to create a flexible new fund, adapted to the different needs that arise, especially due to the differences in the state of development of the NSOs/NSAs across the Region.

Proposal: Partnership for Development and Growth Fund

It is proposed that the Partnership for Development and Fund should integrate all the factors mentioned above and that it should reflect and respond to the diversity of needs and state of development of different NSOs/NSAs. In this respect, NSOs/NSAs, may have reached different states of development, for example, recently re-formed organizations, some of which may have weak management and educational structures and need to receive direct assistance to help in the development of areas such as their internal management structures, programmes (youth programme and adult training and support), recruitment and retention of members etc. The experience of the operation of the Centenary Fund in many of these Associations, proved that any direct financial support provided to them for specific projects, has ended up in financing their existing internal management structures and system(s). Alternatively, there are other, long established associations that have experienced significant loss of membership, which may need to receive assistance in developing different aspects of their development and growth strategy.

Since the Partnership for Development and Growth Fund will be open to all NSOs/NSAs they will be invited to apply for the support of projects according to their specific needs and priorities. In this respect, a prior consultation with the Committee Contact Member and/or the European Office Staff Contact Member, will be essential to agree the fundamental principles and the parameters on which the project will be based and the priorities that it will cover.

All projects will be considered to be partnership projects between the NSOs/NSAs involved and the Region. The degree of Regional involvement will be decided by the Region, on the basis of the importance of the project and the assessment of the expected involvement and contribution from the Region's side to maximize the impact on the NSO/NSA involved. In this decision, a serious consideration should be given on the ability of the Region to provide the necessary support, given its human resources constrains. The projects will be considered as owned jointly by the respective

NSOs/NSAs and the ESR, so they will function on the basis of a partnership agreement, based on equality, reflecting the conceptual issues reflected in the Marrakech Charter. Preference will be given to longer term projects, covering a time horizon of one year or more.

The benefits of applying this approach will be that:

- The European Scout Committee contact system will be enhanced and further supported.
- A focused, tailor-made approach will be implemented.
- The NSOs/NSAs will be assisted to prioritise their needs and develop a more effective and efficient strategic plan.
- The Region will have a clearer overview of the use of the funds made available.
- Partnership agreements between the Region and the NSOs/NSAs will be put into practice, which may be further used as examples of good practice for developing similar or other types of partnership agreements with partners outside Scouting.
- The Region will have a better knowledge of the situation in NSOs/NSAs to enable more effective decision making.
- A better utilization of the financial resources and support to NSOs/NSAs will be achieved.

For example, the Partnership for Development Fund may provide the financial and managerial support required for the employment of professional staff to assist in the development of an NSO/NSA. This may be more efficiently managed if supported by a project manager employed by the Region, to monitor the activity by providing direct support to NSOs/NSAs that may wish to apply for assistance. The assistance provided could be in the form of employing a professional at national level to organize and monitor the development of the NSO/NSA. This person could be selected jointly by the Region and the Association concerned and would be accountable to the Region, as well as to the National Board of the NSO/NSA. Each contract would be approved by the Region and part of it would include the measurable, expected outcomes as these are agreed. The contract period would be for a fixed term up to 2 years.

The Partnership for Development and Growth Fund is important to address the issue of Development and Growth from a holistic point of view, addressing all the priority areas of the Region – Educating Young People, Supporting Adult Volunteers, Developing our Organization and Communicating our Message.

Therefore, the Partnership for Development and Growth Fund will be provided on the following conditions:

1. NSOs/NSAs may apply for assistance for one year or, preferably, two-year projects on Growth and Development or other priority areas as agreed with the Region. The project must be based on clearly measurable outcomes and targets as agreed with the Region.
2. NSOs/NSAs have to make their own financial contribution to the proposed project covering at least 40% of the total project budget.
3. The project will be jointly owned by the NSO/NSA and the Region. The outcomes of the project will be shared with other NSOs/NSAs, as examples of good practice and learning.
4. The project budget will be within the monetary totals that will be agreed between the Region and the NSO/NSA, of which the Region would meet a maximum contribution of up to EUR 25,000 and a maximum of 60% of the project, per year.
5. The number of projects to be funded and the monetary value of support provided will depend on the amount of funding agreed each year from the Regional budget and the European Scout Committee will be the final decision making body regarding the decisions to award or not to award grants.

The conference is requested to:

- Endorse the proposal for continuing focused support to be made available to NSOs/NSAs on the basis of the outline provided in the Partnership for Development and Growth proposal.
- Charge the European Scout Committee with reflecting each year to achieve the full potential of funding to support this work.
- Request a report of the operation of the Partnership for Development and Growth each year, including the sharing of best practices.