

Document 3



12TH_E WORLD SCOUT
YOUTH FORUM
FORUM DES JEUNES
DU SCOUTISME MONDIAL
SLOVENIA 2014

Report to the 12th
World Scout Youth
Forum from the
Youth Advisors to
the World Scout
Committee(2011-
2014)



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Table of Contents

Report to the 12th World Scout Youth Forum from the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee (2011-2014)	1
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. <i>Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee 2011–2014</i>	1
2. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE YOUTH ADVISORS DURING THE TRIENNIUM	1
2.1. <i>Meetings of the World Scout Committee</i>	1
2.2. <i>Four Priority Area Working Groups</i>	2
2.3. <i>Other Standing Committees and Task Forces</i>	3
2.4. <i>International Scout Events</i>	4
2.5. <i>Planning of the 12th World Scout Youth Forum</i>	4
2.6. <i>Communication</i>	5
3. FUTURE CHALLENGES	5
4. CONCLUSION	5

REPORT TO THE 12TH WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUM FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORS TO THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE (2011-2014)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes, for the consideration of the 12th World Scout Youth Forum, the work and actions undertaken by the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee during the triennium 2011-2014.

During the triennium, and in line with their role description (included in the World Scout Youth Forum Guidelines), the Youth Advisors have participated in the meetings of the World Scout Committee and served as members of several world level Working Groups, Task Forces and subcommittees.

This report presents the main work and achievements accomplished by the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee. The report closes with a reflection upon the main challenges for the future regarding the work of Youth Advisors. The participants of the 12th World Scout Youth Forum are invited to debate how the work and achievements of this triennium can be used for improvements in the future.

1.1. Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee 2011–2014

The following six Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee were elected at the 11th World Scout Youth Forum in Brazil for the triennium 2011–2014:

- Felipe de Paulo (Brazil)
- Esben Holager (Denmark)
- Sarah-Rita Kattan (Lebanon)
- Doina Postica (Rep. of Moldova)
- Vemund Ovesen (Norway)
- Muath Zmaili (Jordan)

Muath Zmaili stood down in September 2013 due to changes in his personal circumstances.

2. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE YOUTH ADVISORS DURING THE TRIENNIUM

2.1. Meetings of the World Scout Committee

The World Scout Committee met seven times in the triennium 2011 – 2014. There was also an additional informal meeting during the 22nd World Scout Jamboree (Sweden 2011).

The World Scout Committee decided to have some of their meetings outside Geneva, Switzerland, and three meetings were held in other Regions. In September 2011 the World Scout Committee met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where it also met with the Arab Regional Scout Committee and attended the launch of the Messenger of Peace initiative. In March 2013 the World Scout Committee met in Jakarta, Indonesia, where it also met with the Asian-Pacific Regional Scout Committee. In September 2013 the World Scout Committee met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where its members attended the 25th Inter-American Regional Scout Conference and met with the newly elected Inter-American Regional Scout Committee. One informal meeting of the Committee was also held at the 22nd Jamboree in Sweden. At every meeting, the Youth Advisors delivered a report on the work they had completed since the previous meeting.

The World Scout Committee revised its reimbursement policy for the 2011-2014 triennium, and granted reimbursements to Youth Advisors for both of its meetings in each year. Due to this, no more than one Youth Advisor was absent from any World Scout Committee meeting.

The Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee took part in the interviewing process for the final three candidates for the position of Secretary General WOSM.

During the triennium the Committee conducted a mid-term review process and the Youth Advisors participated in this review in order to help improve the functioning of the World Scout Committee.

The World Scout Committee has welcomed the Youth Advisors and there has been a friendly atmosphere in the meetings and in other work situations. The Youth Advisors have always been welcomed to voice their opinions and it has been standard to involve one or more Youth Advisors in Task Forces, Working Groups and similar.

2.2. Four Priority Area Working Groups

a. Our Strategic Path

Vemund Ovesen served in the Our Strategic Path Priority Area Working Group. Mr John Neysmith headed the working group, with the other members being: Mr Nicholas Tang, Ms Lidija Pozaic Frketic and the late Mr Eric Khoo. Mr David Berg and Ms Kristin Frilund served as WSB staff support for the group.

The working group was created in response to resolution 6/11 from the Brazil Conference. Its main objectives were to clarify the existing strategic elements, evaluate these, and create a clear strategy for WOSM.

The major outcome of the Our Strategic Path working group was the Vision 2023 Workshop held at Gilwell Park November 2013. An external facilitator, Ms. Pamela Lupton-Bowes from the ICRC, led a group of key leaders, both volunteer and professional, from all 6 Regions through a weekend of dreaming, discussion and defining that resulted in a draft Vision Statement. During this weekend, the draft Vision Statement was also translated into 6 areas of development, strategic priorities, which formed the structure of the Triennial Plan.

The Strategy for Scouting and the Triennial Plan 2014-2017 are put forward to the World Scout Conference by the World Scout Committee as two proposed resolutions.

b. Youth for Change

Sarah-Rita Kattan and Felipe de Paulo served as members of the Youth for Change Priority Area Working Group. The focus of this workgroup was to improve youth involvement at world, regional and national levels. Structures enhancing youth involvement at world level were evaluated, such as the WSYF and the YA system and the World Scout Youth Involvement Policy was reviewed (with an updated version presented for adoption to the 40th World Scout Conference). Sarah-Rita Kattan and Felipe de Paulo contributed actively to the discussions during the Youth for Change meetings and their input as Youth Advisors was essential in thinking of innovative ways that would increase youth involvement at world level through intergenerational dialogue.

The Youth for Change group developed four training modules (Generations in Dialogue, Life Skills, Youth Changing Communities and Youth Involvement), and one of them (Life Skills) was developed and facilitated by Youth Advisors at the World Scout Education Congress (Hong Kong 2013) and will be delivered to NSOs at the Conference. Along with these, the implementation of the Messengers of Peace, Scouts of the World Award, and World Scout Environment Programme in the national Youth Programmes was an interesting topic to tackle at different world/regional events. In order to highlight the impact of young Scouts, several projects have been published to show the changes done by young active citizens to their communities.

One particular achievement of this group was the Impact Assessment of the World Scout Youth Forum and the Youth Advisors System Report.

c. 21st Century Leadership

Vemund Ovesen served as part of the 21st Century Leadership Delivery Team. The working group had two main deliverables: To develop a concept paper on leadership, and to develop an assessment tool for NSOs on leadership development.

Vemund Ovesen contributed to the group by running workshops on leadership at different regional and world Scout events. The workshops helped to articulate the model on leadership in Scouting, and to collect personal experiences from young people on how Scouting has helped in the development of their leadership skills.

d. Global Support

Doina Postica served as a member of the Global Support priority area working group. This group had a wide membership, as Regional Chairpersons were also involved, along with World Scout Committee members. This group developed the Global Support Assessment Tool (GSAT) that can be used by NSOs in order to assess their strengths and weaknesses and, as an outcome, to improve their accountability to stakeholders. Additionally, upon the ideas presented by this group, a pool of global support consultants was formed, who have different areas of expertise and can support NSOs on different levels. For an easy access to the information developed by this group, we have the Global Support web portal on scout.org. In this priority area, Doina Postica was emphasizing the need for more young global support consultants, and gave specific advice when designing the Assessment tool.

2.3. Other Standing Committees and Task Forces

a. Educational Methods Team

During this triennium, the Educational Methods Team made sure that the "educational dimension" of the on-going work is sufficiently present throughout the Four Priority Area Working Groups. The main achievement of this team was the review process of the World Scout Youth Programme Policy, as well as a thorough Report on Global Youth Trends.

Felipe de Paulo served as a member of this group and worked on the Adults in Scouting Policy, in particular, the Wood Badge Framework (3 and 4 Beads Framework).

b. Finance Committee

Esben Holager served in the Finance Committee for the triennium. The Committee met a few times during the triennium and mostly worked through Skype meetings. The Committee is responsible for putting forward WOSM's annual budget for approval by the World Scout Committee. The Committee also overlooks the fees and arrears of WOSM and can suggest NSOs to be fully or partially suspended due to unpaid fees. Esben Holager had no special role in the Committee and undertook the same tasks as the other members.

c. Communications & External Relations Task Force

Doina Postica and Esben Holager were both members of this Task Force. There was a meeting where the Strategy on Communication and External Relations was discussed, as well as WOSM's involvement with UN structures. Doina Postica represented WOSM in both the UN Advocacy meeting, and the UN high level meeting on Youth in July 2011. Meanwhile, Esben Holager represented WOSM at the UN General Assembly in 2011. Doina Postica also served as a WOSM representative recently at the World Youth Conference in May 2014, in Sri Lanka, where WOSM advocated for inclusion of recognition of non-formal education in the Colombo Declaration.

d. Membership Task Force

Esben Holager served on the Membership Task Force, which was created to look at the membership anomalies in WOSM and suggest solutions to the World Scout Committee. The Task Force undertook a study of other worldwide organizations such as FIFA, WAGGGS and YWCA to collect best practices regarding membership policies. After thorough analysis and consultations with Regions and NSOs that would be directly influenced by the suggested changes, the Task Force made recommendations to the World Scout Committee. At the end of the triennium the World Scout Committee decided not to put forward the suggestions of the Task Force to change the constitution to the World Scout Conference. Esben Holager contributed to the work of the Task Force by undertaking research tasks in order to collect best practices in the area. He also helped draft the final proposal as well as coordinated a special paper on Scouting Abroad, which highlighted the area of NSOs providing Scouting activities outside their country.

e. Human Rights Task Force (HRTF)

This Task Force was formed as a result of an adopted Declaration from the WSC on Scouting and Human Rights to the 39th World Scout Conference 2011, in Brazil. It started its work in the spring of 2013, and had two meetings, both in Geneva. During these meetings, documents about human rights issues in NSOs were analysed, as well as human rights education practices.

As a result, the Task Force developed tools for delivering workshops at Regional Conferences and the World Scout Education Congress. Through these activities, the Task Force engaged members of NSOs in discussions about human rights education. In terms of specific products, at the requirement of World Scout Committee, the following documents were produced: a Statement on respect for Human Rights and a Resolution to be presented at the Conference in Slovenia. Doina Postica served on this Task Force and in the undertaken work with the whole group she brought examples from the Youth Programme and the perspective of youth on different issues. Doina Postica also delivered a workshop on Human Rights Education in Scouting at the World Scout Education Congress in Hong Kong.

2.4. International Scout Events

a. 22nd World Scout Jamboree, Sweden 2011

The Youth Advisors were invited to attend the Jamboree and serve in different roles in the World Scout Centre. Vemund Ovesen participated as a troop leader. The event was well planned and carried out and the World Scout Centre had many visitors. The Jamboree also gave an opportunity for the World Scout Committee to meet informally.

b. 14th World Scout Moot, Canada 2013

Vemund Ovesen participated in the Moot and helped deliver activities during the event.

c. 1st World Scout Education Congress, Hong Kong 2013

At the WSEC, four of the Youth Advisors were present, undertaking different roles such as: Planning team member (Sarah-Rita Kattan), facilitator (Doina Postica), participant (Esben Holager) and WSB team (Vemund Ovesen). As this was the main World Event on education in Scouting in this triennium, the presence of Youth Advisors was very important, as it offered the direct possibility to engage with people from different NSOs around the world, mainly the responsible ones for the Youth Programme. It was an opportunity to seize the 'heartbeat' of our Movement, and this helped to design the concept of the WSYF sessions better.

d. Regional Scout Conferences and Youth Forums

Doina Postica participated as a member of the Planning team for the Eurasia Regional Youth Forum, where resolutions on the institution of the Youth Forum were voted, together with acceptance of the role of the regional Youth Advisors.

Youth Advisors facilitated workshops about the four priority areas in regional conferences, such as the Arab Scout Conference (Sarah-Rita Kattan) and the Asia-Pacific Scout Conference (Vemund Ovesen).

2.5. Planning of the 12th World Scout Youth Forum

Our first official meeting took place at the Boy Scouts of America Sea Base in Florida, and it was a perfect surrounding for fruitful discussions. We extend our sincere thanks to the BSA for this opportunity. In Florida, after a 3-day team building exercise on sea, we were inspired to think about our main theme: One tree, many branches, which signifies - our Movement, our community, and our future. The draft agenda was built around the following four big blocks: Scouts change society, Society changes Scouts, Scouts change individuals and Individuals change Scouts. At this meeting, we also established the concept of the international teams as main actors at the Forum, instead of national delegations.

Part of the planning was also a weekend spent in Rogla, at the location of the 12 WSYF, in September 2013. Here we discussed: the decisions taken in Florida, the guidelines and rules of procedure, external speakers, the marketing strategy, as well as the division of tasks, responsibilities and deadlines. The impact assessment of the Youth Advisor system was also analysed during this meeting. Significant work was done on the draft agenda, along with an in-depth discussion about the training sessions.

A great proportion of the work was coordinated through our Skype meetings, which switched from taking place once in 2 months, to once in 2 weeks as we were progressing to the World Scout Youth Forum.

2.6. Communication

The Youth Advisors were interested in using ScOutPost, the communication channel created for an on-going communication between Youth Advisors and participants of the World Scout Youth Forum. In the beginning of the triennium, the Youth Advisors wrote updates after World Scout Committee meetings and also asked for input on certain topics. The responses and interactions were very limited. The Youth Advisors therefore decided to stop using the platform, as it did not create the intended effect. At the end of the triennium the Youth Advisors created a new platform, called "Youth Wall", together with the World Scout Bureau, which will hopefully be more effective than ScOutPost in the future.

3. FUTURE CHALLENGES

Several individual Scouts and NSOs noted that not all Regions were represented among the Youth Advisors in the 2011-2014 triennium. The Youth Advisors were aware of this and tried to reach out to the regional Youth Advisors from the Regions which were not represented. The Youth Advisors have recommended the Youth for Change working group to note as a proposal in their work the inclusion of regional Advisors (if necessary) in the planning of the World Scout Youth Forum.

The coming Youth Advisors will have a task in trying to improve the communication and interaction with the youth of WOSM including participants of the 12th WSYF. Hopefully the new WOSM website will provide the necessary technical means for this.

The Youth Advisors have noticed that the size of the World Scout Committee and representatives invited to its meetings have increased to an amount that might hinder the effectiveness of the Committee. Discussions about the number of people the Committee can accommodate during its meetings will probably be discussed in the following period, with the intention of ensuring the effectiveness of the Committee's work. The Youth Advisors emphasize the valuable contributions of the Youth Advisors team, and strongly recommend that all efforts should be done in order to ensure the continued involvement of Youth Advisors in all areas of work of the Committee.

4. CONCLUSION

The Youth Advisors are very proud of the high attendance to World Scout Committee meetings and involvement in all other aspects of the Committee's work. The Youth Advisor system has proven to be a good way to secure the voice of young people at all levels in WOSM.

The triennium was very intensive and mostly change-oriented and the Youth Advisors are happy to have taken part in the creation of the new vision for WOSM, which they hope will set a good framework for the future work of WOSM. It will be up to the elected Youth Advisors and the new World Scout Committee to fill out this framework and secure that we deliver better Scouting to more young people.