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EXCELSCOUT 05

Executive Summary

From April 2 to 8, 2004, EXCELSCOUT 05 took place in Switzerland. This leadership-training course for young leaders was initiated by the Eurasia Scout Region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and organized by a group of two guides and one scout in Switzerland.

Seven young leaders - three women and four men - from each of the seven countries in the Eurasia Scout Region participated in the event. They were accompanied by the President of the Regional Committee, as well as by the Region Director. A professional cameraman closely followed the event.

The objective of the training course was to give the participants the opportunity to experience life in a democratic and liberal society.

The main goals of the event were:

- Getting an impression of the work of international institutions promoting universal values
- Gaining of knowledge about the structure of a democratic state
- Experience of the reality of small and medium private companies of all economic sectors, as well as of the banking system in a liberal state
- Acquaintance with the everyday life in a democratic and liberal society
- Experience the different aspects of the work the



scout movement does on the local, as well as on the international level

The event started in Geneva. The young leaders of the Eurasia Scout Region met with the members of the World Scout Committee at its annual meeting in the headquarters of WOSM. In an informal reception provided opportunity of direct contact. This meeting was followed by visits both at the United Nations Office in Geneva and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Dr. Jacques Moreillon, former Secretary General of WOSM and member of the Committee of the Red Cross, gave an introduction into the fundamental ideas of the organization, and a guided tour through the museum.

The second part of the training course took place in Berne. The participants of EXCELSCOUT 05 spent one and a half days with local guide and scout leaders (home stay). In this close contact with their Swiss counterparts, the young leaders from Eurasia had the opportunity to learn more about their host country, its culture, its environment, and its people. Moreover, they got a chance to exchange their experiences as scout leaders and build friendship.

This part was followed by two intensive days with visits to different Swiss institutions. The first day was dedicated to the public sector. The participants followed a lecture of Prof. Walter Kalin, University of Berne, about the political system of Switzerland

and its institutions. This talk was followed by a visit to Mr. Christoph Wyss, a lawyer specialized in the field of civil law. The day was closed with a visit to the Federal office of Social Security, where Ms. Verena Brombacher gave an introduction into the Swiss social security system.

The next day focused on the private sector. It was opened by a talk by Mr. Thomas Steiner and Mr. Patrick Eyholzer at the Berne office of UBS Switzerland, touching on the characteristics and specificities of the Swiss banking system. Next, the participants of EXCELSOUT 05 visited Gimelli Engineering, a small private company, where they got a theoretical and practical input into starting a small business. This company being specialized in design and tool engineering, the visit was followed by a visit to a second company, producing the actual tools. Like this, the participants got an overview over the production chain of an industrial good. The day was closed by a visit to the local cheese factory in Affoltern. The participants thus got an insight into all three economic sectors of the Swiss economy.



The final part of the training course took place in Kandersteg at the WOSM World Scout Center. Upon arrival, the participants were introduced into the organization and the logistics of the center, as well as to its human resource management. Further, the stay in Kandersteg provided an opportunity to reflect intensively about the experience of EXCELSOUT 05. A topic of special importance in this reflection was how the participants would transfer their experience in Switzerland to their situation as scouts and young leaders in their society back home.

The EXCELSOUT 05 was carried out in its original form. Due to the participants' extremely high level of motivation, the event turned out to be a full success. The exchange among the participants themselves, and between the participants and leaders, was intensive and marked by a warm and friendly atmosphere. The participants engaged in critical reflection on their personal situation and the one of their native countries.

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