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Pope Francis presides over MoU signing ceremony between WOSM and SCHOLAS

9 June 2017, Vatican City: Representatives from the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and Pontificia Scholas Occurrentes (SCHOLAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance environmental awareness among young people and, to improve education and achieve education inclusion in low-income communities.

The MoU is based on Pope Francis' encyclical letter ([Laudato Si](#)), subtitled "On care for our common home", which mainly calls on the Catholic Church and the world to acknowledge and seek ways to address current environmental challenges.

It was signed by World Scout Committee Chairperson, João Armando Gonçalves, and SCHOLAS President-Global Director, José María del Corral, in the presence of Pope Francis. The ceremony was held at the Vatican after the inauguration of the offices for Pontifical Foundation Scholas Occurrentes in by His Holiness, who also spoke to young participants of the foundation's projects in Colombia, Mexico, Haiti, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Italy and the United Arab Emirates via Google Hangouts.

Also present at the ceremony were Father Jacques Gagey from the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), and Juan Manuel, the Executive Director of Scouts de Argentina.

To be implemented over a period of two years, the MoU covers jointly developed programmes and activities that will support Scouting's aim of helping young people achieve their full potential as individuals and responsible citizens.

About the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Scouting is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Since 1907! Founded by Lord Baden-Powell, [WOSM](#) is a confederation of 165 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million members. As it has been doing for more than a century — creating a better world — it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

About Pontificia Scholas Occurrentes (SCHOLAS)

[Pontificia Scholas Occurrentes](#) is an International Organization of Pontifical Right approved and erected by Pope Francis at Vatican City on 13 August 2013. It integrates technology with art and sports to promote social integration and the culture of encounter for peace. It is present in 190 countries through its network that integrates more than 446,000 schools and educational networks. Its mission is to achieve integration of communities, focusing on those with fewer resources, resorting to the commitment of all social players, integrating schools and educational networks worldwide, stemming from technological, sports and art related proposals. SCHOLAS operates with all kind of schools, both public and private as well as of all religious practices. Interaction among art, sports and technology is what SCHOLAS suggests to enable the culture of encounter through education.



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