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Educational Methods



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Educational Methods Committee (EMC) was formed following the World Scout Conference in Tunisia, Resolution 10/05 Educational Methods Structures, with the aim of bringing together the support and development of Youth Programme and Adults in Scouting at world level to offer a more holistic approach to National Scout Organizations. The EMC covers work in the first five strategic priorities: Youth Involvement; Adolescents; Girls and Boys, Women and Men; Reaching Out; and Volunteers in Scouting.

In the triennium 2005-2008, five task teams were set up to progress work in specific topics.

In the recent triennium, 2008-2011, three strategic areas were identified as a focus by the World Scout Committee.

- i. Young People, enhance the growth of the Movement (More Scouting) -** believing that Scouting is a quality youth programme that supports young people in becoming global citizens locally, nationally and internationally and that all young people in member countries should have access to Scouting.
- ii. The Regions – improve the support to NSOs to provide better Scouting –** believing that the support to NSOs is best delivered at Regional level, the EMC has been working in close co-operation with Regions to strengthen and extend the support they provide.
- iii. Tell the Story - develop effective communications with all stake-holders** – believing that effective communications are important to establish networks, share information, facilitate learning and strengthen partnerships, all of which enhance the image of Scouting at all levels.

The EMC has used these three areas as a framework for its work since the Conference in Korea. The context, approach taken and the results achieved are set out below.

2. THE CONTEXT OF OUR WORK

The EMC set out the context of its work in relation to NSO responsibilities for Youth Programme and Adult Resources, its relationship with the work of the Regions and the relationship with the host NSOs for World Scout Youth Events.

The EMC recognises that:

- Each NSO has a responsibility to develop a Youth Programme, based on the fundamental principles of Scouting, that meets the needs of young people in their country. It also has the responsibility to recruit and motivate volunteers to deliver the Youth Programme effectively and support the development of Scouting.
- Some NSOs are working at the cutting edge, either in relation to Youth Programme development and meeting the needs of young people in their societies or in relation to the management and support of volunteers. These associations are 'setting the trends' for the future, but there are often insufficient opportunities to share this knowledge and expertise with others and actively support development in other associations.
- Some NSOs are struggling to provide a quality Youth Programme for young people and have insufficient adults with the necessary skills to support the growth and development of the Movement.
- Each of the WOSM Regions has a particular history, contains very different and diverse Scout populations and has different capacities in relation to the finances and personnel available to support NSOs. It is recognised therefore that the partnership with each Region will be tailored to the individual needs of each

Region and the plans for development that the Regional Committees have put in place.

- World Scout Youth Events are opportunities for Scouts and leaders from all around the world to come together and share their Scout experiences and values with other members of the Movement. These events however are also an opportunity to share developments in the Youth Programme and offer an opportunity to demonstrate excellence in recruiting and motivating volunteers. It is important that the EMC helps Scouting around the world to use these events for maximum benefit, while recognising that there are many logistical, managerial, financial and safety aspects that are not the responsibility of the EMC.

3. METHODOLOGY

The EMC worked to build on the many positive initiatives that have been undertaken in recent years, particularly in relation to the developments in Youth Programme and the communications tools that were developed as part of the Centenary of Scouting. There was also much work related to educational methods in the Resolutions agreed at the World Scout Conference in Korea and the results in relation to each Resolution are set out in Conference Document 5.

The EMC was committed to develop open and inclusive ways of working. It continued to develop networks using electronic communications and set up processes to ensure shorter time-frames to develop and deliver work with more specific task groups. It focused on changing incrementally and achieving greater impact.

4. THE MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED

i. Young People – enhancing the growth of the Movement

- a. *Youth Involvement* – a vision and strategy on youth involvement has been developed and will be presented to the World Scout Conference. This is designed to help young people of all ages to be empowered, through all aspects of the Youth Programme, so that they will find Scouting more attractive, challenging and fulfilling – see Conference Document 14. Implementation of this work will be in the next triennium.
- b. *Reaching out to underserved segments of society* has continued to be supported at world and regional levels and new aspects have been included.
 - Scouting in the community is being actively promoted in the Asia-Pacific Region, where Scouting has been predominantly school based.
 - Scouting in Schools is being actively promoted in the Africa Scout Region, following up on very encouraging results in Kenya. This project will be developed in the Africa Scout Region in the coming triennium with a view to sharing successes more widely.
 - Scouting for young people who are marginalised continues to be well supported in the Arab, Africa, Asia-Pacific and European Scout Regions.
- c. *Membership Management* was supported through a meeting of WSB staff from the Central Office and all Regions so that approaches and resources could be shared. There are interesting innovations in many NSOs and membership management and growth is increasingly becoming a priority at national and regional levels.

ii. Support to the Regions

- a. A key area of work has been the support to Regions to *help NSOs to identify their needs* as a first step towards growth and development. The NSO Checklist was used at the Second Africa Scout Summit. This has been followed up in the Eurasia Region and Asia-Pacific Regions and other Regions have developed their own tools to support needs assessment in NSOs at national level
- b. *Programme development and delivery* has continued to be supported through the tools that have been developed over recent years. There has been a steady

increase in the number of NSOs that have adopted the World Scout Environment Programme and the Scouts of the World Award, both of which are designed to support the delivery of good Youth Programme. Tools such as RAP (Renewed Approach to Programme) continue to be used to support programme development in NSOs.

- c. There have also been developments in the last triennium in relation to *educational research in Scouting* and we hope that there will be some opportunities to undertake research at the World Scout Jamboree. Measuring the impact of Scouting needs to be one of our priorities in the coming triennium so that the excellent work in NSOs can be recognised more widely.
- d. *Volunteer Recruitment and Training* has been supported by the development and production of new tools – Volunteers in Scouting Toolkit 2 and consultation and development of the updated World Adults in Scouting Policy (see Conference Document 15) which is an update of the World Adult Resources Policy. Next year, 2011, will celebrate the International Year of the Volunteer +10 and the European Year of Volunteering. Scouting will build on these opportunities to celebrate the volunteers that we have and strengthen volunteering in the Movement. Support materials, posters and certificates will soon be distributed to NSOs.

iii. Tell the Story - develop effective communications with all stake-holders

- a. An *electronic newsletter* on Education Methods was developed and to date four editions have been distributed with a fifth planned before the World Scout Conference. This should be further developed in the coming triennium, with more targeted newsletters for leaders with specific appointments and interests.
- b. The *World Trainers Network* was established to provide a forum for trainers from around the world to share information and best practices. This network was used to support the work on the Wood Badge and gather information on training systems in NSOs. This network continues to be used as a network of individual 'consultants' to support tasks and projects in educational methods.
- c. One *electronic library* for WOSM was developed on the web-site in partnership with the Scouting's Profile team. This greatly facilitates finding documents produced by WOSM. It has the capacity to offer resources by NSOs and although some are available this needs to be developed in the next triennium.

5. THE FUTURE

This triennium has seen the Educational Methods Committee entering a period of transition, focusing on delivering support in a new and different way. Rather than starting and developing new initiatives, we are increasingly engaging with NSOs that are already taking initiatives in order to learn from and spread their good practice. e.g. with the work on the Adult Resources Policy and the Wood Badge, the work on research in conjunction with Swedish Scouting and the Jamboree Team, supporting SCENES and working in partnership with NSOs to develop these further.

This consultancy approach is still in its very early stages and with the introduction of a global concept this approach will be further developed in the near future. Our vision is that expert support should be provided to NSOs where and when they need it; from individuals, NSOs and groups of NSOs in their own region and from the wider WOSM family around the world, co-ordinated where appropriate by the EMC and the WSB.

The relocation of staff to the Regional Offices to strengthen this new approach is also still in progress and it is too early to assess the impact of this on the support that is being provided.

The foundations are being put in place to support new ways of working and it is important that these are built upon and further developed in the next triennium.

The EMC is aware that there is a desire to share innovations, examples of good practice and results around the world. In the next triennium, in the context of exploring new

ways of working and discovering fresh approaches and opportunities to support the continued development of the Youth Programme and strengthen volunteering in NSOs, budget provision has been made to enable Regional representatives with responsibility for educational methods to meet, share ideas and develop a plan on how to move this forward.

