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## BRIEFING NOTE ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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### NON-FORMAL EDUCATION .. UPDATE ON EVENTS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Recognition of non-formal education is once again on the agenda at EU level. The [European Youth Pact](#), which was agreed by the 25 EU member states in April 2005 aims to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans, and the reconciliation of family and professional life. The [Austrian Presidency](#) will be bringing forward a resolution on the recognition of non-formal and informal education, at the Education, Youth and Culture Council in May 2006.

#### What does this mean?

If the resolution is adopted by the European Council, it does not mean that non-formal education/learning would automatically be recognised in the member states of the EU as each country's education policy is decided at national level. However, a European Council resolution sets the direction of future policy initiatives, and if the resolution is adopted, it would be a significant development in the European youth field, which could be used by organisations working for political and financial recognition on this issue at national level.

#### What can you do?

The resolution is currently being discussed at the various meetings of the Youth Working Party (made up of officials of the EU member states concerned with youth issues) leading up to the Education Youth and Culture Council taking place in May. You can find out if your National Youth Council has already been involved in the discussions at national level, and ensure they are addressing this issue. You will be contacted by the European offices of WAGGGS and WOSM if further action is required in the coming weeks.

### European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Leaders

Other practical initiatives to support young people participating in non-formal education programmes are also underway at a European level. Following a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education, a group of experts have been working on a European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders. It is intended that the Portfolio will help youth workers and leaders to record their experiences and assess themselves on the skills, knowledge and competences they have gained as a result of their participation in youth work, to show to potential future employers, etc.

#### YOUTH Pass

The European Commission, in close co-operation with [SALTO Training and Co-operation](#) is working on a tool which young people can use to help gain recognition of what they have achieved through their participation in activities organized through the next Youth in Action Programme which begins in 2007.

Both of these new tools are scheduled to enter their test phase in 2006, and both regions will keep national Scout and Guide Associations informed as more information on these initiatives becomes available. If you would like more information on the Portfolio or the YOUTH Pass, please contact the [WSB – European Office](#) or the [Europe Office WAGGGS](#).

### NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Congratulations to Giuseppe Porcaro of the European Scout Region and Heidi Jokinen of the Europe Region WAGGGS who were elected to the Advisory Council on Youth of the [Youth and Sport Directorate](#) of the Council of Europe at the last Council of Members of the [European Youth Forum](#) in November.

Congratulations also to Pol Konsbruck (WOSM External Representative) who was elected to the [NGO Liaison Committee](#) of the Council of Europe at the NGO Conference in January 2006

### Calling all Guide and Scout Representatives to the National Youth Platforms...

Do you want to contact other Guides or Scouts working in their National Youth Council in Europe? Are you working on youth participation issues..... recognition of non-formal education....European youth policy, in your National Youth Council and would like to network and exchange information with other Guide and Scout representatives?

#### Here's what you can do.....

Come to the next **Network Meeting**, hosted by Federazione Italiana dello Scouting in Italy between 15<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> September. Look out for the invitation in a forthcoming edition of [Europak](#).

Register on the **Online Database for Guide and Scout Representatives to the National Youth Councils**. The database has been established by the European Scout Region and the Europe Region WAGGGS to help NYC representatives to contact each other – you can find it by following this link: <http://www.europak-online.net/online-databaseE.html>



## YOUTH in ACTION 2007-2013 – latest information

The current YOUTH programme will finish at the end of 2006, and will be replaced by the **YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME**, which will run from 2007-2013. The new programme has the following aims: promote active citizenship; develop solidarity amongst young people; support youth activities; promote European co-operation in youth policies. Five new action lines have been developed which will fund the following activities:

- Youth for Europe - youth exchanges, support for young people's initiatives and participatory democracy projects;
- European Voluntary Service – including opportunities for group voluntary service
- Youth for the World – projects involving young people from non-EU and non-neighbouring countries
- Youth Support Systems – financial support to youth organizations such as WOSM and WAGGGS active on European level, support for the European Youth Forum, networking, training and information activities
- Support for Policy Co-operation – support for meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy, and to promote better understanding in the field of youth.

It is much more ambitious in scope – the age brackets of the programme have been extended for some activities, a greater number of activities have been included, and the Programme covers a wider geographical area.

The programme has to be approved by the Education and Culture Council before it can be implemented by the European Commission and youth organisations, such as Guide and Scout associations, can apply for funding. You may already be aware that lobby actions have been taking place on the funding of the programme, as the budget proposed by the Commission was substantially reduced in the proposals presented by the European Council. Negotiations have also been taking place on the aims, objectives and the specific conditions of the Programme, as it follows the legislative process at European level. To this end the European Youth Forum and the Education, Culture and Youth Commission of the European Parliament have been actively involved in the discussions.

The Youth Programme is an important source of funding for Guiding and Scouting at a national and European level, to enable young people to participate and organise international activities. Contact your National Youth Council and find out if they are involved in the discussions at national level which are taking place on the details of the programme.

You can find more information on what has been proposed in the new programme at

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004\\_0471en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0471en01.pdf),

or contact the European offices of [WAGGGS](#) or [WOSM](#).

## THE EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR YOUTH POLICY

Are you looking for information on youth policy, participation, non-formal education, voluntary activities.....

A new website – Youth Knowledge.net – has been developed as part of the Partnership of the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The web-site is designed to act as a single entry point for accurate and up-to-date research on the realities of youth across Europe. You can use the web-site to access information and documents; help you stay in touch about the latest developments in European youth research and training; and find experts on a youth-related topic. To find out more about what the Knowledge Centre can provide go to <http://youth-knowledge.net/INTEGRATION/EKC/Intro/index.html>

## all different all equal UPDATE

by Giuseppe Porcaro, Chair of the Advisory Council of the Council of Europe 2005

The preparation of the European Youth Campaign on diversity, human rights and participation, "**all different all equal**" is on target. The Campaign Secretariat and the freshly formed National Campaign Committees have the challenging task to put "flesh" on those bones, and if you are still willing to do so... you can still contribute!

A couple of weeks ago, the Youth Directorate opened a website called "Building Together the Campaign". This website IS NOT THE FINAL "CAMPAIGN PORTAL" but it is the website of the PREPARATION OF THE CAMPAIGN.

In other words: it's a website targeted to people like you: potential campaigners that would like to have an active role in the "All Equal - All Different" implementation.

The aim of the website is to keep the preparation of the Campaign as much \*transparent\* and \*participative\* as possible, so that good ideas can be developed online, events can be brought to the attention of other campaigners, discussions and exchanges can be visible (and beneficial) to others, resources can be combined and shared so that what one organisation cannot do on its own can become feasible in a partnership...

So... if you still feel motivated in taking part to the Campaign you are most welcome to join the community! The address is: <http://alldifferent-allequal.info>

and...

...Do not forget to contact your **National Campaign Committee** or your **National Youth Council** to learn more about how your national Scout/Guide association can be directly involved at the national level...

... and to participate to **Roverway 2006**, where a major launch of the campaign in Italy will take place!

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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