



## 9<sup>th</sup> Europe Conference/ 9e Conférence européenne Tours, France 12-15.09.2016

Document 2

### Europe Region report for the period 2013 - 2016

2013 started with the final decisions concerning the Europe Conference. The countries of the Nordic/Baltic Sub -region worked together to organise the conference “Crossing Borders”. In March 2013 the European Workshop took place in Berlin/Wandlitz, Germany, where we discussed our steps to the future and how to make our program attractive to interest new members. 50 members from most of the European Countries participated in that event.

In the beginning of September 2013 we met in Stockholm, Sweden, to join the European Conference. The conference started in a typical conference hall. As keynote speaker a former prime minister of Norway had been invited, who is now working for a NGO in the field of peace keeping. After all necessary reports about the work that had to be done, about the experiences with our third language German, and after voting on the different proposals changing the Europe Constitution, the participants went on board a huge ferry boat, cruising to Helsinki, Finland. During the Conference, the members were informed about the new Europe Committee: Hans Slanec, CESR, Austria, chairman, Doris Stockmann, NBSR, Finland, vice chair and treasurer, Katharine Diver, WESR, UK, secretary, Sara Milreu, SESR, Portugal, PR and contact to WOSM and WAGGGS. In a short statement the members of the committee promised to work as a team and to meet regularly on skype to develop our region.

As one of the first tasks the Committee had to organise the transfer of the accounts. It was necessary to close the Europe Region account in Cyprus and open a new one that would be easy to handle from anywhere in Europe. Finally we were able to open a new account in the ING Bank in Brussels and sign all relevant papers at the ING branch bank in Vienna. We want to thank Anthony Florizone, ISGF treasurer, for his kind help.

The European workshop held in March 2015 in Pannonhalma, Hungary, continued in setting further steps for ISGF and the Europe Region. Besides a week of information and work with different ways of recruiting new members of ISGF, we were offered an attractive program with excursions and visits as well as a farewell dinner in a Hungarian “Csarda” (restaurant) with typical food and wine of western Hungary.

During its three-year mandate, the Europe Committee had regular meetings. The four members of the Committee met for the first time in person at the 5<sup>th</sup> workshop in Berlin, in March 2013, together with the previous members. Face-to-face meetings also took place at the European Conference, in October 2013, and at the Pannonhalma Workshop in March 2015, as well as at the World Conference in Sydney. In addition to these, until this date, there were also 22 Skype meetings (03/10/2013, 10/02/2014, 24/02/2014, 10/05/2014, 08/09/2014, 18/01/2015, 3/05/2015, 01/06/2015, 12/10/2015, 03/11/2015, 16/11/2015, 14/12/2015, 11/01/2016, 08/02/2016, 14/03/2016, 23/03/2016, 13/04/2016, 02/05/2016, 09/05/2016, 10/05/2016, 16/05/2016, and 23/05/2016)

Members of the Europe Committee took part in nearly all meetings, gatherings and conferences of the Sub-regions in Europe. Our committee members gave their comments to several discussed points and tried to interest the participants in the development of our Europe Region that is still the base of our common organization ISGF. Currently about 75% of all members in ISGF come from Europe!

A huge problem is the loss of members in some NSGF's. In the Baltic countries, but also in Hungary and Romania, we have decreasing numbers of membership. On the one hand our members are getting older and on the other hand it's nearly impossible to recruit "young blood", because the elder rovers and leaders are needed to help to hold the scout and guide associations in their countries alive. But nevertheless we will continue to find ways and solutions for a pleasant future of ISGF Europe.

For several months now, we have been working on preparation for this conference. To attract members to participate in the conference, the committee decided to give full or half grants for the conference fee to members from countries, where the average income is very low, especially for retired persons. Our application form has been sent to member countries, which were encouraged to apply for grants. We know that France is a fairly expensive country and that the costs for accommodation and additional meals are high. With the help of ISGF we had been able to give additional grants to our members and we are convinced that this money will be used very efficiently.

As a conclusion, we can say that all the members of the committee have done good work and set the course for a prospering future of our common ISGF Europe Region. With your understanding and support we will get the result we expect.