



A Europe of Opportunities

Scouting vision for the future Europe

Scouting in Europe is a growing movement of over 1.7 million people, engaged as active citizens in their local communities to 'Create a Better World'. Scouting is a non-formal education youth movement working with and for young people through non-formal education and volunteering to develop skills and values necessary to promote youth empowerment, social inclusion and active citizenship.

Europe is facing a period of historic challenges and decisions. In the current economic crisis Europe's common history and its resulting responsibility for democracy, freedom, solidarity and social justice is in danger to be left aside. Crisis decision-making provides only a short-term course of action, failing to show a future vision on how Europe, and the EU, can develop as a community of European citizens.

The vision of Scouting for Europe is based on the principles of European integration. The idea of the Europe we want stands for shared values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, tolerance, diversity, solidarity, justice and the tradition of the welfare state. Looking forward to the European Parliament Elections in 2014, we urge European Union and other policy makers to join us in working to make this Europe a Europe of opportunities for all young people.

An opportunity to empower European citizens

Scouting as an educational movement is committed to promote active citizenship and youth participation in the community. The elements of European Citizenship that define Scouting are solidarity, cooperation, peace education and intercultural dialogue. Especially in times of crisis, a sustainable democracy depends on the participation in democratic decision-making processes. To make this possible we believe that young people need to be more strongly associated to the debate on the future of our societies from local to European level and to be fully integrated into the decision-making system and political representation.

An opportunity to recognize skills for life gained through volunteering

Investing in Scouting means also investing in the skills that young people can gain for life, such as – but not only – leadership, teamwork and project management. A comprehensive set of National Qualifications Frameworks and a European Qualifications Framework recognizing skills for life gained through volunteering and non-formal education would foster young people's entry in the labour market and a smoother transition from education to employment.

An opportunity for global partnership for development

The challenges of the 21st Century cannot be tackled without involving and engaging the younger generations in promoting global equity, in the name of justice, solidarity and peace across regions and generations. In order to achieve this, the EU and the whole of Europe must promote greater engagement of youth organisations of all kinds into forming long-lasting, sustainable global youth partnerships. A strong youth dimension must be added in the External Action Service of the EU and in projects supported by national development agencies.

An opportunity for promoting diversity and social inclusion

Access to youth rights, such as quality education and employment, social services, housing and participation in decision-making must be ensured for all young people, regardless of their background. The success of better social inclusion policies lies in the cooperation and synergy between legislation and community. Scouting is a movement open to all and focuses its work to promote social inclusion and integration. A shift is needed in EU and wider European policy on migration, bringing forward the richness of mixed cultures, society and its benefits for economic development. Common values, such as dignity, equality and the defense of human rights must be brought back at the centre of the European agenda and youth organisations should be given recognition of their key contribution to the education to diversity.

An opportunity to remove obstacles for Scouting

Scouting, as a youth movement involved in civil society, faces more and more challenges to realise its activities due to increasing regulations on all aspects of life outdoors, international mobility, safety regulations and funding access. Measures that strengthen the recognition of youth volunteering across the whole of Europe and reduced administrative and bureaucratic procedures would contribute to the acceptance of the value of Scouting's role in the promotion of participation and active citizenship and remove obstacles for Scouting to reach out to more young people.



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

An opportunity to think about the Europe we want beyond the crisis

We believe in an inclusive, democratic and globally engaged Europe. In order to overcome the current challenges of youth unemployment, sustainable development and social inequalities the EU and others must recognise the key role of young people as actors of change.

The Europe we want beyond the crisis must invest in young people, putting an end to the cuts that are affecting local and national youth structures such as National Youth Councils, local youth clubs, national funding to youth organisations. Strengthening social cohesion and equal opportunities means implementing more transparency, more access to decision-making and giving a greater value of civil society in the creation of a true Europe of citizens.

European Scouting thinks the European Parliament Elections as an opportunity to renew its commitment in 'Creating a Better World' and contribute to make young people aware of the importance of European integration and design participatory processes for young people to share their ideas and proposals on European issues.

About Scouting in Europe

The European Scout Region is the representative of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in Europe and the coordination body of National Scout Organisations in the 28 EU Member States and 41 European Countries. We work actively with European institutions and other youth and civil society organizations in order to shape policies to strengthen the participation and living conditions of young people as well as to guarantee a sound regulatory environment for volunteering organisations.

For more information: www.scout.org/europe

