



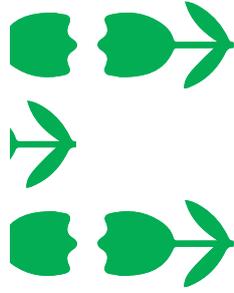
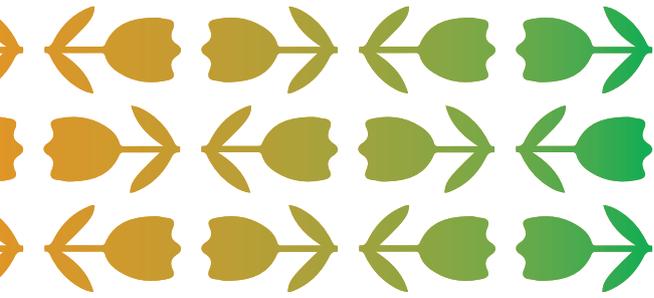
# Conference Report

## The 24th European Scout Conference



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## Foreword



The 24th European Scout Conference – and the concurrently held 17th European Guide and Scout Conference – exceeded the high expectations, both from a participants’ as well as from a organisers’ perspective. The first large in-person gathering in the European Scout Region took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, late July 2022, when more than 400 participants and host members from 37 countries met for a week in Rotterdam after more than two years of unprecedented global pandemic.

Back in the summer of 2019, when Scouting Nederland was awarded hosting the Conference, no one could anticipated the outbreak of COVID-19 only eight months later which has impacted our daily lives as well as Scouting activities ever since.

Together with the WOSM Planning Team – and for the joint elements during the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference with the Planning Team from WAGGGS – Scout Nederland’s Host Team put every effort into planning a memorable event under circumstances the nature of which had not been known before. The evaluation of and mitigation against a series of new risks played a very important role throughout the planning phase as soon as the pandemic was declared, with a tripartite team set up to monitor the ever-changing situation. Quite early in the planning process, the Planning Teams focused on making the event more inclusive, more engaging, and more innovative, by reviewing ways of delivering classical elements expected from a Conference and complementing these with new elements. Doing so, the Planning Team benefitted from regular input from the European Scout Committee as well as from the Coordinators and in particular the work done by the Working Group on Continuous Improvement. The fact that the Conference would be one of the first large scale indoors face-to-face meetings played an important role in the design of the programme: it provided for numerous occasions for informal get-togethers throughout the day and the team planning the social programme made sure that most of the proposed events were organised in open air. The large open spaces in the conference centre also proved a valuable factor.

On behalf of the World Scout Bureau Europe Support Centre, I would like to thank the Planning Teams, volunteers, participants, special guests, and partners who all contributed to making this event such a success.

The present report provides a helpful resource as you take the learnings and experiences of the Conference back to your National Scout Organisations and communities and as we collectively endeavour to achieve the objectives set in the new Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025.

**Abir Koubaa**  
*Regional Director*  
*World Scout Bureau Europe Support Centre*



# Closing Remarks of the outgoing European Scout Committee Chairperson

Teamwork is at the core of the Scout method and we all know every person in a team is important. There's not one more important than the others, they are all cogs on the same machine. I would like to say thank you very much to all of you. I think our machine worked very well. I quote here from hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy "We may not have gone where we intended to go, but I think we have ended up where we needed to be". This is a good summary of the triennium, in my opinion.

The last 3 years throw a lot of things our way as a region and in the end we are here, we delivered on the last Regional Scout Plan and we set the course for the future. That is thanks to you and to everybody in our region. It is very important to say thank you to all the amazing people who dedicated a lot of time and passion into our movement but also to our friends and families who haven't seen us for a long time on weekends or after 7:00 PM on a Tuesday. I also want to make a special mention to the ex officio members of the committee, the treasurer who was very much part of the team and the regional director.

In the last triennium we had very inspiring moments, where we saw scouts rising to fulfil their promises. Sometimes however, in our daily activities, we fall short of our commitments and values, just as we have egos and vanities. Having our scouting politics just shows that we are mirrors of our societies and I think that is still something where we all can work on each other to lead by example, rise to the challenge and show our values in every single thing that we do.

Our inspirational quote is to "leave this world a little better than we found it". I'm very sorry, but it's not time for little anymore. I think that our world has a lot of big problems. If we want to address these problems we need to think big and we need to be bold. We need to be bold on multiple levels!

We need to be bold to be green. We need to be bold to grow because that means we enable more young people to experience Scouting and benefit from our unique and inspirational programmes. We need to be bold to give young people a chance to participate. We need to be bold to call out injustice. We need to be bold to challenge ourselves and challenge the status quo.

So please, if you take one thing home from this conference, be bold, be courageous and be Scout!

**Lars Kramm,**  
*Outgoing Chairperson ESC*

# Message from the incoming European Scout Committee Chairperson

The conferences are a momentum for starting new chapters. We are about to embark on a very exciting and dynamic journey!

I feel very much motivated to start the work with a new team in the committee but also with our staff team and soon dedicated team of volunteers supporting the implementation of our Regional Scout Plan.

I feel encouraged by all the great discussions and ideas that we had during the conference - including the debates about amendments. Lively discussion shows that organisations care about what's happening in the European Scout Region. I feel inspired by the new Regional Scout Plan. It's a great plan. Thanks to all of you for contributing with your ideas. We will make sure we will commit to the Regional Scout Plan as it was adopted.

I feel prepared to work with everyone around us. We need to work together and support each other. Our strength lies in our unity, and our learning lies in our diversity.

I'm looking forward to starting the journey together also with the newly elected committee of WAGGGS and we will actually start right away with a joint conference.

Finally I want to say that I'm looking forward to working with all of you, our Member Organisations. Let's stay united, let's stay connected, let's work together and then we will have a moment of big celebration again when we meet for the next European Scout Conference!

**Matthias Gerth**  
Chairperson ESC



# The Conference in Numbers

**217** Participants from Member Organisation  
(including 143 delegates and 66 observers)

**37** Member Organisation of the bEuropean Region

**23** Guests from other WOSM regions and partner Organisations

**5** plenary sessions with reports, presentations and round table discussions

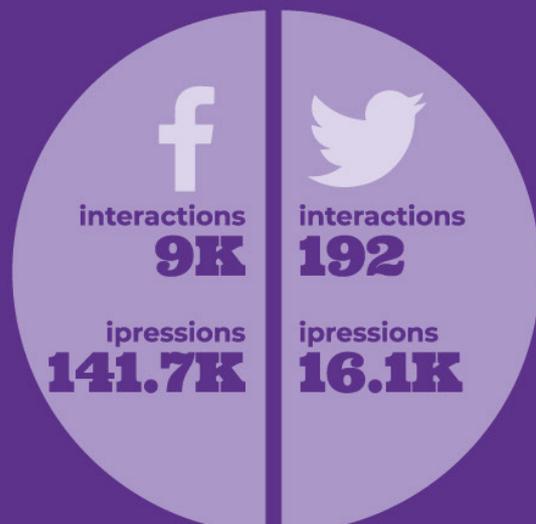
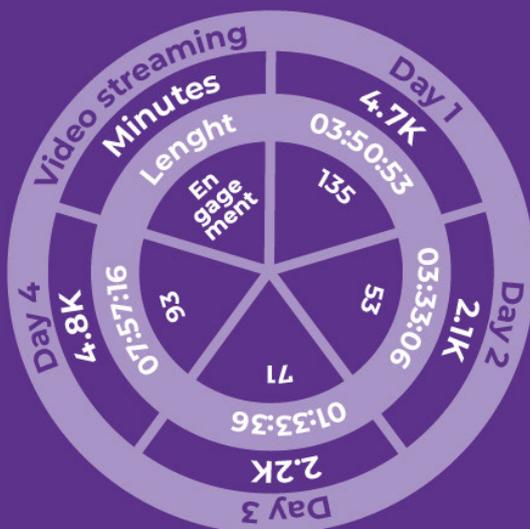
**3** voting sessions

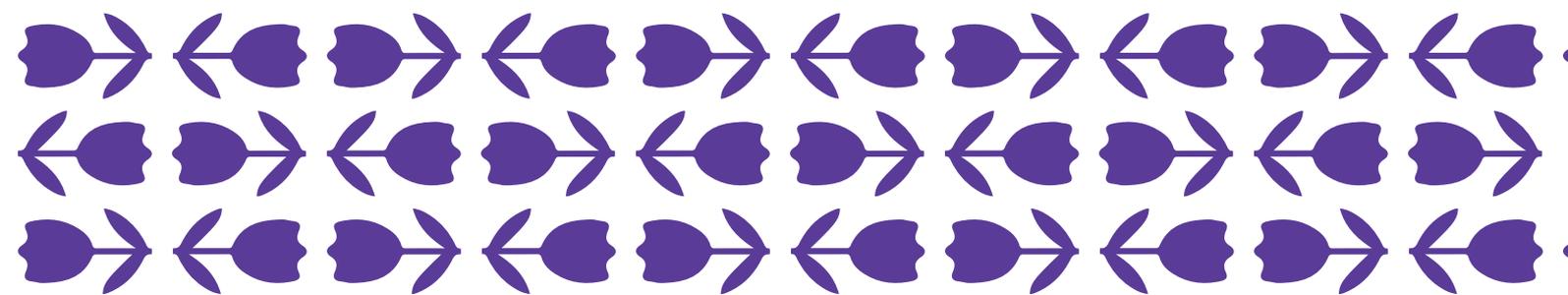


**39** Exhibitors at the International Market in downtown Rotterdam

**6** workshop and networking sessions

**5** opportunities to discover Rotterdam and the Dutch Way of Scouting





## Conference Overview and Outcomes

The 24th European Scout Conference brought together more than 400 participants representing 37 Member Organisations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in the European Scout Region, regional volunteers and staff, as well as host team volunteers, special guests and representatives of partner organisations. The event was the first major indoor face-to-face event in the European Region after more than two years of unprecedented pandemic which had impacted the region's life and activities during most of the outgoing triennium.

During the five-day event which took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, from 22 to 26 July 2022, delegates and observers had the opportunity to take part in plenary sessions, breakouts and workshops to strengthen their capacity and foster networking and exchanges. The workshop topics focused on priorities and objectives of the WOSM World Triennial Plan 2021-2024 (which had been adopted a year earlier at the 42nd World Scout Conference) and on draft objectives proposed for the new Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025. During a Market Session jointly organised with WAGGGS delegations attending the 24th European Scout Conference and the 17th European Guide Conference were invited to present highlights and best practices of their programme activities. The offer at the Market was completed with presentations from WOSM (safe from Harm, WOSM Services, WOSM Better World) and WAGGGS as well as from host associations of future European and World Events.

During the 24th European Scout Conference, delegations representing the Member Organisations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in the European Region:

- received reports on activities undertaken by the Region during the outgoing Triennium,
- elected the members of the incoming European Scout Committee,
- reviewed, debated, and voted on a series of proposed resolutions and amendments to the European Regional Constitution,
- discussed and adopted the objectives of the European Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025,
- and during the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference,
- received the report on joint work of WOSM and WAGGGS in Europe since 2019,
- discussed and approved objectives of future joint work,
- and selected Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs (PPÖ, Scouts and Guides of Austria) as host of the 25th European Scout Conference (as well as the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference) in 2025.



Silja Markkula  
YFJ  
@SiljaMarkkula



Reinout Joostens  
Moderator  
ExRep



# Agenda

22.07.2022	23.07.2022	24.07.2022	25.07.2022	26.07.2022
<b>Arrival Day</b>	<b>Day 1 Reporting</b>	<b>Day 2 Strategic Planning Day</b>	<b>Day 3 Governance &amp; Networking</b>	<b>Day 4 Governance</b>
	<b>Morning Reflection and announcements</b>	<b>Morning Reflection and announcements</b>	<b>Morning Reflection and announcements</b>	<b>Morning Reflection and announcements</b>
	<b>17 European Guide and Scout Conference (EGSC) Opening</b>	<b>Plenary</b> <b>WOSM World level input - Breakout sessions</b>	<b>Elections to the European Scout Committee</b> <b>WOSM events presentations</b>	<b>24th ESC Voting on Resolutions</b>
	<b>Morning break</b>	<b>Morning break</b>	<b>Morning break</b>	<b>Morning break</b>
	<b>24th European Scout Conference (ESC) Opening</b>	<b>Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025 Presentation &amp; Breakout sessions</b>	<b>WOSM World level input - Breakout sessions</b>	<b>24th ESC Voting on Resolutions and Closing</b>
	<b>Lunch break</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
	<b>Regional Scout Plan 2019-2022 Reports &amp; Breakout sessions</b>	<b>Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025 Breakout sessions</b>	<b>WOSM World level input - Breakout sessions</b>	<b>17th EGSC Voting on Recommendations</b>
	<b>Afternoon break</b>	<b>Afternoon break</b>	<b>Afternoon break</b>	<b>Afternoon break</b>
	<b>17th EGSC Meet the Candidates Breakout sessions</b>	<b>Free time</b>	<b>17th EGSC Networking and sharing best practices</b>	<b>17th EGSC Closing</b>
	<b>End of business day</b>	<b>End of business day</b>	<b>End of business day</b>	<b>End of business day</b>
<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	<b>International evening</b>	<b>Rotterdam Evening</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>

# Programme highlights

## Getting Ready Webinars

Prior to the Conference, a series of “Getting Ready” webinars were conducted to support participants in understanding the content and workings of the event, allowing for interactions and answering any potential questions.

In order to give everyone interested an opportunity to participate, all webinars were run twice, at different times and dates. A list of the topics for the Getting Ready webinars is detailed below:

### Delegate 101

What is the role of a delegate in the European Scout Conference? How does the voting work? Will I be able to speak in the plenary? What should I be aware of if I am a delegate at the Conference? If this is your first Conference or you will be a delegate for the first time, this is the webinar for you!

### Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025

The Draft RSP lays out the proposed structure and Strategic Priorities for the 2022-2025 Triennium. The session will walk you through the proposed objectives and potential actions of the Regional strategic priorities for the period 2022-2025, as agreed during the 8th European Scout Symposium.

### Resolutions

Get introduced and ask questions on the constitutional amendments and draft resolutions proposed by the European Scout Committee and Member Organisations during this workshop to help you prepare for the Conference.

### Voting at the Conference

The session will allow you to understand and familiarise yourself with the functionalities of our voting system. We will be testing it together and resolving any issue or question that might occur.

## **Candidates**

A chance to meet and greet the candidates for the upcoming European Scout Committee. A semi-formal space where the candidates can present themselves and their platforms, as well as for the audience to ask questions, seek clarifications and provide ideas for the future work of the Committee.

## **Health, well-being, Safe from Harm and Conference code of conduct**

All the 'need-to-know' information for safe and supported participation in the conference. We will hear about covid measures, how to protect your wellbeing and recap all the compulsory Safe from Harm information.

## **Plenary Sessions**

The Conference proposed a wide variety of plenary sessions, each with a different focus and using a broad spectrum of delivery methods. Several topics were addressed in a two-way manner, with an input delivered in plenary and a consultation/feedback phase offered in small groups/breakout sessions.

The plenary sessions were categorised in:

Institutional - the official Opening session, the voting sessions (for the elections of the European Scout Committee 2022-2025 or for Conference Resolutions, Amendments to the Regional Scout Plan and Constitutional Amendments)

Informational - the presentations of the upcoming World events (Jamboree, Moot), important partners (Kandersteg International Scout Centre, European Scout Foundation) and important developments at World level (update on the World Triennial Plan and WOSM Key Initiatives)

Reporting - the official presentations of the report of the European Scout Committee 2019-2022 and the general presentation of the Draft Triennial Plan 2022-2025

Inspirational - the key-note addresses of guests and the Bronze Wolf presentation

The plenary sessions were delivered through a combination of keynote addresses, shared presentations, panel discussions and interviews.

## **Breakout Sessions**

In order to facilitate for deeper and more meaningful exchanges among the participants, a number of breakout sessions were organised during the Conference, covering a wide array of topics.

Some, as mentioned above, were continuations and follow-ups of general presentations made in plenary, notably the breakout sessions on the report of the Triennial Plan 2019-2022, some were opportunities for feed-back on issues of interest for WOSM at global level (the World Scouting Showcase) and some were opportunities to build together - like the breakout sessions on the Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025.

A list of all breakout opportunities, per area of interest, is provided below:

### **Triennial Report Breakout Sessions**

- Coordination and Support
- Partnerships, Funding and External Relations
- Impact of Scouting
- Sustainability
- Diversity and Inclusion

### **World Scouting Showcase**

- Advocacy for Growth and Influence
- Evidence Based Programming
- Financial Management
- Growth
- GSAT
- Innovation in Youth Programme
- Reaching Out
- Safe from Harm
- Sustainability
- World Events for the Future
- Youth Engagement in Decision Making

### **Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025**

- Organisational Resilience
- Educational Methods
- Environmental Sustainability

## Partnerships

For the European Scout Conference 2022, we engaged with a variety of partners both internal and external. Among them were hosts of future international Scouting events - the next Moot in Portugal, World Conference in Egypt and global Jamboree in Korea.

We would like to highlight the contribution of partner organisations where we invited partner organisations to give their contribution to how they see European priorities aligning with the new European Regional Scout Plan in the coming triennium – participants were Pamela Akplogan, the Head of the Youth, Sport and Citizenship Unit of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and former WOSM Youth Advisor, Silja Markkula, President of the European Youth Forum and Ailbhe Finn, Secretary General of the Social Platform. They emphasised many upcoming opportunities around the Social Pillars, increased engagement on diversity and inclusion and the possibility for Scouts to engage more directly in upcoming priorities like the European Green Deal.

In addition, we hosted a stand for the European Youth Forum sharing some of their key campaigns for the coming period including their paid internships campaign.

## Exhibitions

The conference was a great place for sharing best practices and storytelling. Total of 15 Exhibition Stands were active during the conference presenting the Member Organisations and partnered latest developments, tools and upcoming events.

Roverway 2024  
WOSM Services  
Showcasing Houens Odde International Scout Centre  
Scouting and sustainability – French Federation Best practices  
Help for Ukraine  
Scouts for Ukraine  
Time for Adventure / Tijd voor Avontuur  
Bicycle relay in the footsteps of General Anders' army "jed no LADAMI Andersa"

Kandersteg International Scout Centre  
European Youth Forum  
25th World Scout Jamboree - Korea 2023  
43rd World Scout Conference - Egypt 2024  
16th World Scout Moot - Portugal 2025  
European Scout Foundation  
External Representatives Policy Engagement

A special exhibition area was set up where participants from Day 1 to Day 4 (23 to 26 July) visited the presentations and established new partnerships. **COVID-19** [host guidance](#) was developed to support organisations and ensure a safe environment.

Health, well-being, Safe from Harm

Putting in practice what we preach, the 24th European Scout Conference endeavoured to provide a safe space for all participants, in the understanding that it is the responsibility of each and everybody present to act according to our values, respecting the Code of Conduct.

A quiet, safe space at the venue was dedicated to the Listening Ears and served as an open space for people wanting to rest, or have a quiet moment during the Conference. In order to offer permanent support, a dedicated contact phone number was available to reach Listening Ears during the night and when programme elements happened offsite.

The offer was well received by participants through the duration of the Conference.



# Conference Decision-making and outcomes

[Conference Rules of Procedure](#) => postal vote in advance of the Conference

[Official Conference Circulars](#)

[Official Conference Documents](#)

[Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025](#), as adopted

Elections to the European Scout Committee 2022-2025

[Report of the Resolutions Committee](#)

[Amendments to the Constitution of the European Scout Region](#)

[Courtesy, Business and Emergency Resolutions, as adopted](#)

Rules of Procedure for the 24th European Scout Conference  
Based on experiences gained during the 23rd European Scout Conference in 2019 and the 42nd World Scout Conference in 2021 the proposal for the Rules of Procedure for the 24th European Scout Conference contained a number of measures to further strengthen a more inclusive and stream-lined decision-making process. Further proposed updates concerned provisions to accommodate for different delivery methods, including through online or hybrid formats. The proposals were submitted for approval by the Member Organisations through postal ballot and duly unanimously approved by those casting their vote.

[Conference Document 2](#) - Proposed (and subsequently adopted) Rules of procedure for the 24th European Scout Conference

[Annexe to Conference Document 2](#) - Call for a postal ballot on the proposed Rules of procedure for the 24th European Scout Conference

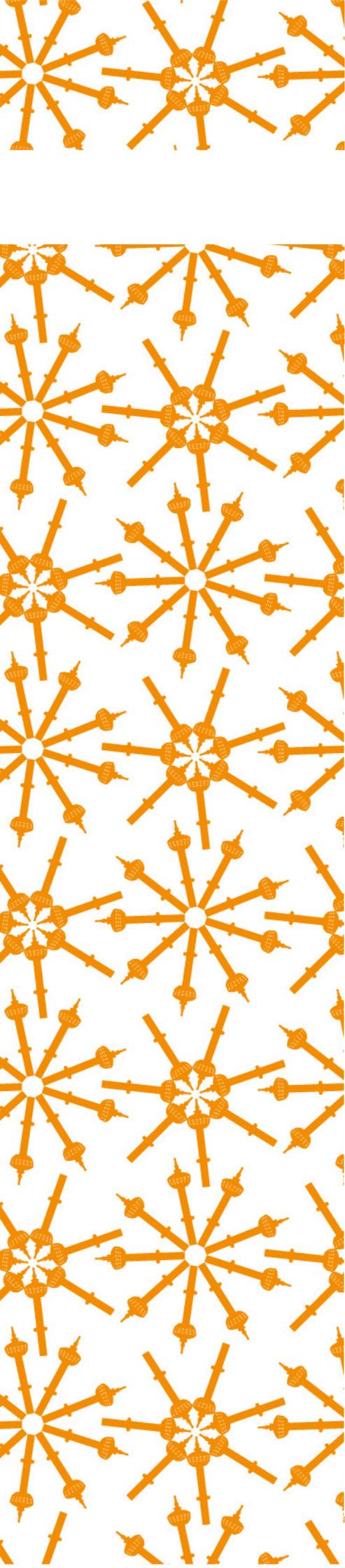
[Conference Circular 2](#): Result of the postal ballot

## Conference Documents

A total of thirteen [official Conference documents](#) and other supporting documentation was published in English and French, WOSM's two official languages. These documents provided information for delegations to become familiar with important aspects of the Conference, including the topics submitted for discussion and decision during the event.

## Support to Committee Candidates

In response to recommendations made by the Candidate Journey Task Force, European Scout Region set up a group (team leader, 2 former ESC members, Mental health professional, WSB Europe) to support



Candidates nominated for the election of the European Scout Committee 2022-2025. The feedback received both from elected and non-elected candidates in the past few triennia showed an increased need to enhance support available for those standing up to the role to facilitate a positive experience of candidacy.

The [support measures taken](#) spanned over the cycle of candidacy and focused on several different aspects including increasing the information available to candidates, clarifying the role & responsibilities of the ESC, offering individual support during the candidacy, creating opportunities for NSOs and candidates to get to know each other better and, overall, aiming to facilitating a worthwhile, positive experience.

## **Elections to the European Scout Committee**

From a total of 8 candidates, the Conference elected 6 individuals to serve as voting Members of the European Scout Committee during the Triennium 2022-2025: Jérémy Apert (Scoutisme Français, France), Matthias Gerth (Mouvement Scout de Suisse, Switzerland), Martin Seemann (Scouterna, Sweden), Diana Slabu (Cercetasii României, Romania), Boris Vujnovic (Savez Izvidaca Hrvatske, Croatia), Wouter Zilverberg (Scouting Nederland, Netherlands)

[Conference Document 7](#) - Candidate for election to the European Scout Committee 2022-2025

At its first meeting held on 25 July 2022 the voting members of the European Scout Committee elected its Officers for the triennium 2022-2025:

Matthias Gerth, Chairperson (Mouvement Scout de Suisse, Switzerland)  
Diana Slabu, Vice-Chairperson (Cercetasii României, Romania)

## **Hosts of Future Regional Events: 25th European Scout Conference in 2025**

As per tradition, the decision on the birds submitted by Members Organisations of the European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS as tabled during a voting session of the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference, when delegations of the 24th European Scout Conference came together with the delegations of the 17th European Guide Conference to discuss and decide on matters of mutual interest (see [Annexe 1](#) for a report of the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference).

To be host of the 25th European Scout Conference, the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference and the 18th European Guide Conference in 2025: Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs, Austria

## Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025

The Draft Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025 (tabled for discussion as [Conference Document 5](#) and its [annexe](#) and as Draft Resolution 24ESC-01 in [Conference Document 4](#) for debate and decision) was discussed, amended and endorsed by the delegations during the voting session on the final day of the Conference. The new Plan will provide the strategic priorities and general operational framework for the European Scout Region during the Triennium 2022-2025. Detailed objectives and concrete plans of action will be developed by the European Scout Committee with support from Regional Volunteers who will be recruited for the new Regional Operational Framework during autumn 2022.

[Annexe to Conference Document 12](#) - Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025, as adopted by the Conference

## Conference Resolutions

During the last day plenary, the Resolutions Committee presented its [report](#) to the Conference on the proposed Resolutions and Amendments. This was followed by delegations debating and voting on a number of Resolutions and Amendments submitted and seconded by Member Organisations. The conference debated and voted on:

- 4 draft Resolutions (of which 3 were submitted by the [European Scout Committee](#) and 1 submitted by one [Member Organization](#))
- 1 [Courtesy Resolution](#)
- 1 [Emergency Resolution](#)

All 6 draft Resolutions were carried providing further guidance to the Region from its Member Organisations.

24ESC-C01 (2022) Thank you to Volunteers in Times of Pandemic

24ESC-01 (2022) Regional Scout Plan 2022-2025

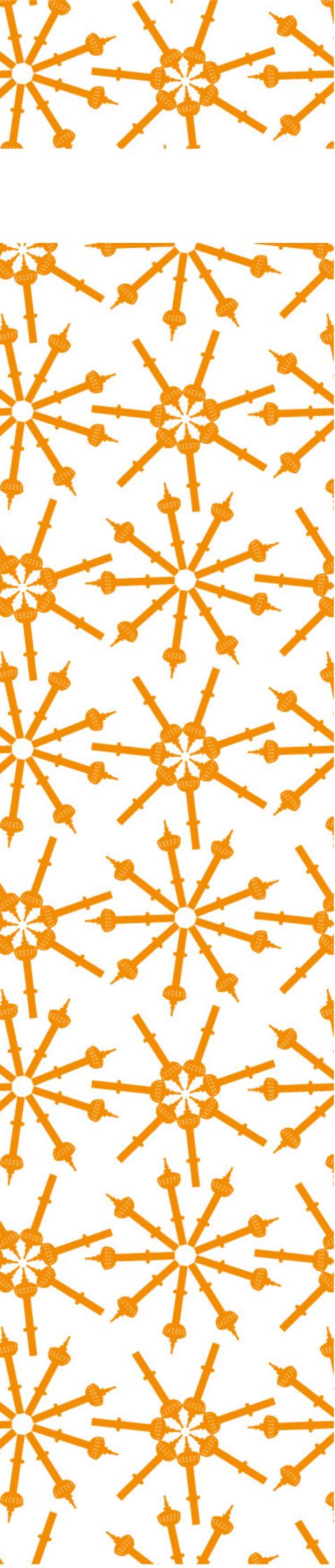
24ESC-02 (2022) Youth Empowerment

24ESC-03 (2022) Regional registration Fees Review

24ESC-04 (2022) Facilitating International Exchange in Scouting and Guiding

24ESC-E01 (2022) Humanitarian Crisis in Europe

This document presents the different Conference Resolutions as adopted by the 24th European Scout Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in July 2022. For the draft versions of the resolutions and proposed amendments tabled for review by the Conference please refer to Conference Documents [4](#), [4a](#) and [11](#).



## Amendments to the Constitution of the European Scout Region

The Constitution of the European Scout Region contains the fundamental principles and rules by which the region is acknowledged to be governed. The document should be reviewed regularly to reflect the most recent changes and current practices of the organisation, as per international good governance best practices.

In light of this best practice, the European Scout Committee [proposed](#) to the 24th European Scout Conference (2022) to adopt the following [Draft Amendments](#) to the Constitution of the European Scout Region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

A brief explanation, the text of the Draft Resolution and background information were included in the [Conference Document](#) to provide Member Organisations with the required information to facilitate discussions before a decision was made by the Conference during a voting session at the Conference.

An online webinar on the proposed amendments to the Constitution was also organised before the conference enabling Member Organisations to open discussions before arriving at the Conference.

The proposed amendments were voted in four voting sessions providing space for discussion for each chapter of the Constitution which was addressed by the proposed amendments.

All Draft Amendments to the Constitution of the European Scout Region were submitted for review to the Constitutions Committee of the World Scout Committee to ensure compliance and alignment with the Constitution of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSMConstitution).

### E-Voting system

The World Scouting's e-Voting system was used during the Conference to make the decision making process possible for delegates of the event. Once again the system has proven itself to be an effective, powerful and trustworthy tool in supporting our democratic processes.

- Total number of votes: 963 votes
- Total number of voters: 37 Member Organisations
- Total number of votes cast: 957 votes cast
- Average voter turnout: 957 out of 963 (99%)

All decisions of the Conference, comprised of a total of 25 votes, were made using the e-Voting system on the following decisions:

Courtesy Resolution

Constitutional Amendments - 4 Voting sessions

Amendments to the Objectives of the Regional Scout Plan - 11 Voting sessions

Regional Scout Plan

Amendments to the Conference Resolutions - 4 Voting sessions

Conference Resolutions - Voting sessions - 4 Voting sessions

## Report of the Resolutions Committee

The Conference endorsed the following members of the Resolutions Committee during its opening session on 22 July 2022. The Resolutions Committee members worked together, providing Member Organisations with support before and during the Conference for the Resolution and Amendment process.

- Marko Petrovic (Serbia)
- Reinout Joostens (Belgium)
- Pierre Arlaud (France)
- Joschka Hench (Germany)

"All in all the work and the spirit in the resolution committee was a great joy. Our team was - planned or by luck - a very enriching good mixture of personalities with different competences and strengths. This mixture gave us a good way of working and very good results and benefits for the Conference."

Joschka Hench (Germany)

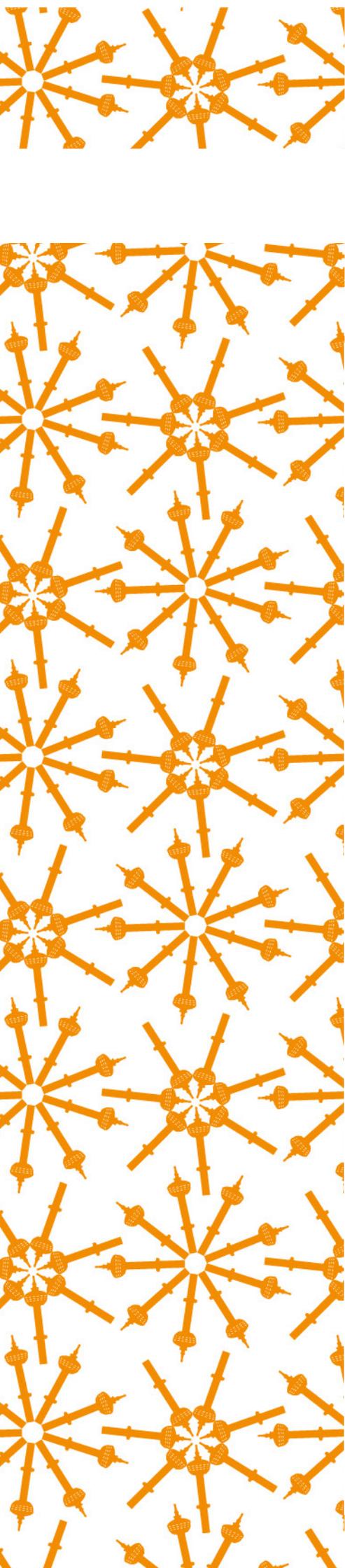
### What can be improved?

"The exact scope of the Resolutions Committee's powers was not always clear and lead to some discussion internally.

Set the deadline for amendments earlier. This will avoid the conference delegates getting the amendments at 2 in the morning, and give them time to actually discuss. Will also help to prevent late-night discussions and last-minute translations

Evaluate how MO's can be better engaged with the creation of the RSP beforehand, and how there can be more room for their input at the Conference itself, considering many MO's do not have the capacity to prepare a long time beforehand."

Reinout Joostens (Belgium)



### **Planning Team and Volunteers**

“The planning and delivery of the Conference was made possible thanks to a dedicated Planning Team of 20 volunteers and staff who worked virtually together for many months. The teams worked in shifts during long days to ensure the event could be planned and delivered to the highest and most professional quality.

Workshops required over 500 staff and volunteer hours to provide support and technical hosting during the week.”

Planning Team members:

Agnieszka Siłuszek (Poland)  
Allan Simpson (United Kingdom)  
Eva Bolha (Slovenia)  
João Armando P Gonçalves (Portugal)  
Mike Borg (Malta)

### **Conference Co-chairs**

The European Scout Committee proposed and the conference delegates appointed at its first day of the conference the following persons as Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 24th European Scout Conference to maintain impartiality in the decision-making process.

Elise Drouet (France)  
Julius Kramer (Sweden)

### **Conference Tellers**

The Conference endorsed the following Conference Tellers during its opening session on 22nd July 2022.

Laurence Vervier (Luxembourg)  
José Pamplona (Portugal)  
Elisaveta Lukanovska (North Macedonia)

The Tellers were critical to ensuring the integrity of the voting process as the Conference experienced the use of the online voting system. The presence of Member Organisations and voter turnout was monitored, and votes scrutinised for accuracy of the results.

# Host Report

As Scouting Nederland we had the honour to host the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference in Rotterdam. After we proposed the bid at the 16th EGSC in Split we have been planning this amazing Conference.

Unavoidably, the global pandemic has challenged us in the planning process. We have developed various plans for alternative ways of hosting the 17th EGSC, from facilitating a hybrid event to an entire online event. Luckily we have been able to organise the EGSC in person. After three long years it was finally possible to meet each other again.

At the opening ceremony near the Lauren Church there was such an incredible ambiance. Everyone was so glad to see old friends again and meet new friends. This evening kicked off what would be five intensive, yet amazing days.

We wanted to use the evening programs to deliver well-deserved breaks to the delegations. So additionally to facilitating the constitutional part of the EGSC we organised several social programs. These evening activities were our opportunities to show Rotterdam and Scouting and Guiding in the Netherlands. During the International Evening on Saturday, delegations could showcase their traditions at a cosy market, located at one of Rotterdam's iconic squares. The Rotterdam Evening on Sunday was our showpiece regarding the social program. Participants could choose between various hubs, such as sailing the waves or Dutch Camp Experience. It was our goal to organise an activity which served as a completely different experience compared to the daily program from the delegations. After hearing all the positive experiences from the delegations, we think that we have achieved this goal majestically. At the closing ceremony we celebrated five successful days of debating, voting, amendments, fietsbellen and lots of breakout sessions.

Our host team, better known as the "Green Team" consisted of 46 volunteers from all parts of the Netherlands. For some members of the team this was their first international Scouting and Guiding experience, but after the inspirational setting in Rotterdam definitely not their last. The Green Team helped delegations during the conference, took amazing pictures and videos, prepared the evening activities and made sure everyone had a prosperous EGSC. Without our amazing team we could not have hosted the 17th EGSC.

Besides our Green Team, several local Scout and Guide groups have been involved in supporting us as host. From facilitating activities during the

Rotterdam evening, to borrowing material to build the helpdesk in the venue, local groups were indispensable in delivering the successful conference.

We would like to wish the Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs a lot of fun in hosting the 18th EGSC. The bar was already set very high after the 16th EGSC, but hopefully we have raised it a bit again.

We want to thank everyone for attending the 17th EGSC and contributing to Scouting and Guiding within the Regions.

The Host Team  
Scouting Nederland

## Sustainable Conference

In the Triennium 2019-2022, the Checklist for Sustainable Events was introduced in the European Scout Region. The Checklist aims to improve the Sustainability of all Regional events and it is highly encouraged that the Checklist is taken into consideration from a very early stage of planning an event. This tool was used for the planning and the delivery of the Conference. It's report demonstrates the great progress made towards organising sustainable events and the areas for further improvement:

### Transportation

The venue was located 0,5 km from the international train station, which is also connected to the airport. Most of the accommodation was booked near the venue, but since the accommodation was up to the participants, this can not be fully measured.

The host team used bikes to travel within the city. The City of Rotterdam has a city bike rental system, which was also brought to the participant's knowledge.

Participants were responsible for their own transportation to the venue. We as hosts only organised, when needed, the transportation. This was the case for the Rotterdam evening. We hired buses for this particular evening. We used public transportation for the closing ceremony. Our goal was to organise the programmes close to the venue.

## Food and Beverages

Most of the food and beverages came from the venue, De Doelen. The venue had the Dutch environmental certificate; the Green Key.

There was a mix of buffets and table serving at the event. Participants were able to send out their dietary requirements in advance. The host had a possibility to influence the menus at the venue, but sustainability was not one of the key aspects in the decision making at the time.

The caterer from the venue made some wrong estimations regarding the amount of lunch needed, so on a couple of days we had to throw away some food. The venue was responsible for the end-purpose of this food. Unfortunately, as far as we know, this food was thrown away. For the meals we provided ourselves we used local caterers and we did not have to throw away any food.

In the preparatory days the caterer used some non-recyclable lunch boxes. We were not happy about this and asked them to change this for the upcoming days. Unfortunately they said that it was not possible.

## Accommodation and Venue of Choice

Since the venue has the Dutch environmental certificate, the Green Key, they are fully committed in aiming for Sustainability. Obtaining the Green Key means the mandatory standards in the certificate are being fulfilled, such as registering and saving gas, water and electricity and reducing the amount of residual waste. The venue has the Gold level of the certificate, which means they also contribute beyond the mandatory requirements.

## Materials, Products and Services

There were no welcome gifts or goodie bags etc. for the participants. The event aimed to be paperless. Some small prints were made, such as name tags, using recycled paper. Information exchange, such as materials and documents, were in electronic format. For the international evening, paper with plant seeds in them was used.

Some flags were ordered specifically for the event, so they are not reusable. There are some companies in the Netherlands which specialise in recycling the flags and banners. The team is considering donating the materials to them.

The participants were encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles.

For the decorations we used some recycled materials, such as cardboard. We used a lot of pre-existing decorations from the national scout museum.

## **Community Engagement**

Local restaurants and catering services were used at the event. For one evening activity, local scouts came to help out. Local scouts were also involved in organising several activities. There was no real community engagement with the citizens of Rotterdam. This did not fit in with our program.

## **Guidelines for Receptions, Stands or International Evenings**

The participants were encouraged to limit the amount of food and giveaways brought to the International Evening or to the stands. In our communications we emphasised that we would encourage it that delegations would think of alternative activities for their stands during the International evening. However a lot of delegations still brought a lot of food to be shared. The stands did bring some goodies, such as badges. This is something we accepted, as it is an important part of Scouting.

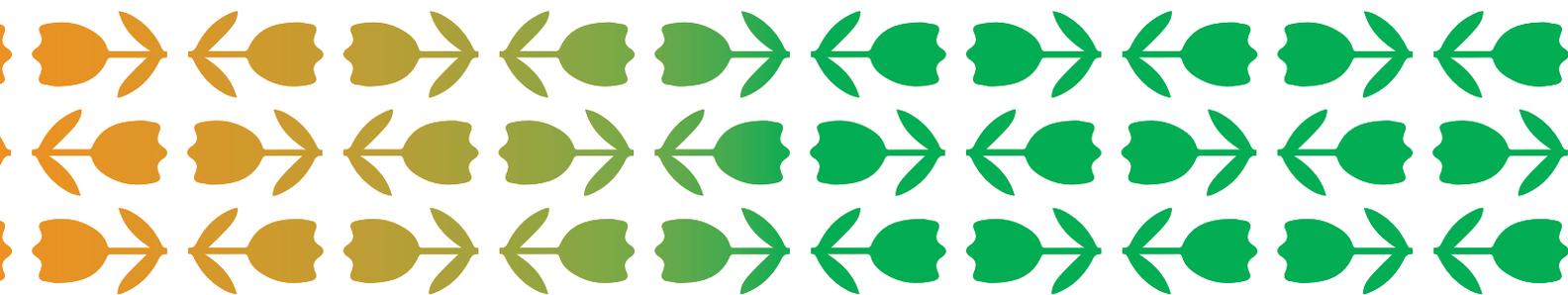
## **Awareness-raising for Participants**

One of the morning reflections was aimed to discuss sustainability and how we as scouts can help improve the world. We tried to challenge the participants to think about what they as individuals as well as groups can do to leave the world a better place.

## Information and Communication for Participants

The participants are being encouraged to contribute to a sustainable event through their choices before the event and at the event. For example, by bringing their own reusable water bottles, using public transport and reducing the amount of giveaways to bring to the International Evening.





# Evaluation Outcomes

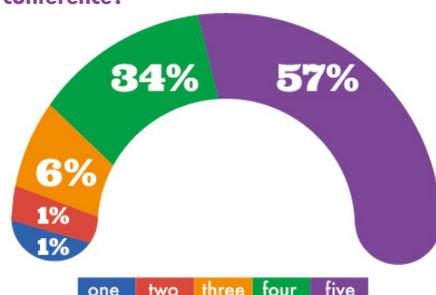
## Daily Evaluations

The approach to data monitoring before and during the conference was developed with the ongoing Regional D&I Data team. The data monitoring aimed to provide;

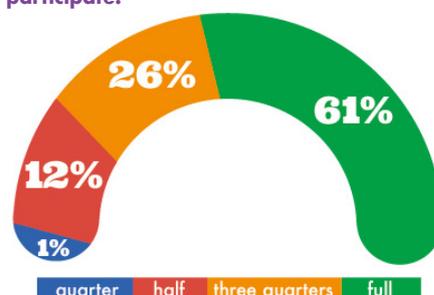
- Learning** - to understand regional representation and participate in a Conference setting and at a national level, to adapt and influence change.
- Awareness** - Increase the awareness of all attendees, regarding the interactions and actions of individuals and groups and how this may impact the inclusivity of the event or depreciate the quality.
- Data informed future** - to ensure that for future conferences and other large regional events, we are able to make informed decisions that increase the potential for inclusivity, sustainability etc.

The collection of the data was organised through QR code accessible surveys, gathering information from delegates in the area of **well-being, sustainability and participation** in the conference. Each day the QR code was promoted via the app and during the morning plenary sessions, with a variety of unique questions each day. Additionally, levels of participant engagement and profile were gathered during the plenaries and breakout sessions, creating opportunities to understand and showcase diversity.

How do you feel about attending the conference?

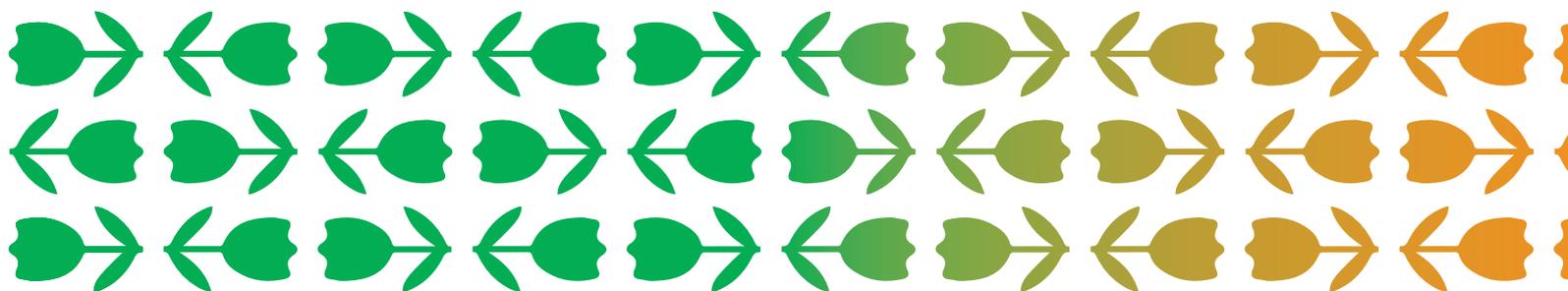


Confidence on capacity to fully participate:



[Here are some of the key learnings from the daily data collection.](#)

Sweden, Germany and France were delegations that had the highest contribution to the data collections. Across the four days it is a success to say that we received data from all 37 delegations participating in the conference.

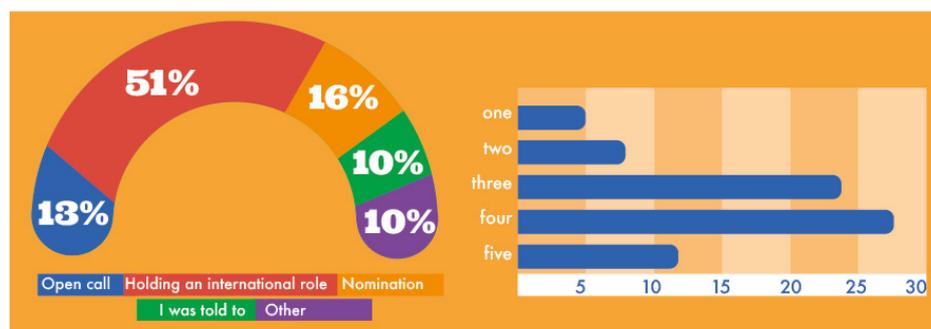


In general the **Well-being** achieved its best submission rates during the second day of the conference. Recording the highest level of satisfaction and the ability to focus for the delegates during that day. Overall, participants' rating of feeling safe during the conference progressed each day. However we saw that during the fourth day, there was a submission of 1 out of 5, for feeling safe. This data prompted the conference team to reiterate the Code of conduct during the plenary and in general observe when and which content may influence in particular this area of well being during a conference. Participants felt more safe every day as they progressed through the days on the conference. Similarly, we can see that 30% of the participants that responded to the survey expressed that their energy level reduced significantly during the last two days of the conference. 40% of the participants wished they could have more time for discussion on the third day.

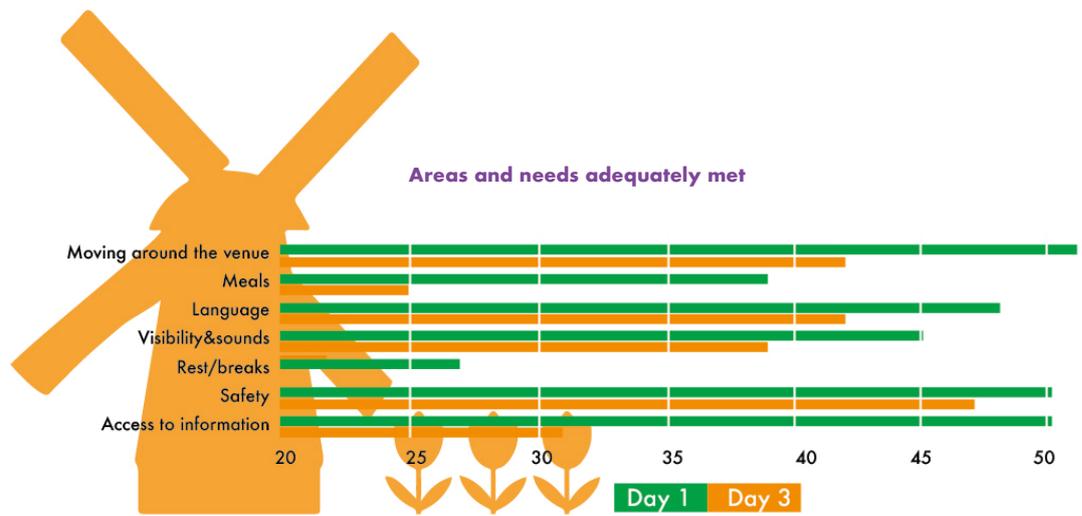
From the **Diversity and Inclusion** perspective data consistently showed that delegates felt safe to raise their voice and contribute to the sessions during the conference. Over 90% of the participants expressed that they were able to participate within the decision making process. The Member organisations established their delegations using different practices, like open calls, nominations and through national teams . 51% of the participants were holding international roles. 85% of the delegates considered their delegation to be diverse, taking into account : Gender, Age, Experience, Religion, language and ethnicity. Through data collection, we aimed to raise awareness on the intersecting aspect of diversity, and encourage reflection on how this may influence input, participation and representation of their local level.

**Process in the MO to include you in the delegation:**

**How diverse do you consider your delegation?**



Additional observation across the Conference, measured in the data gathering, was at the drop between the first to the third day, on how delegates felt their needs were met.



From the **Sustainability perspective** we received encouraging data showing that more than 40% of the participants did not produce any paper waste throughout the event, and over 20% did not produce any plastic waste. Additionally, the daily data gathered showed 48% of respondents minimised their waste in the two categories (paper & plastic) to minimum levels.

Although some of the data is subjective to the individual, it was reported that just 2% of the participants took showers longer than 10 minutes each day and 54% of participants sharing they rationed the water by taking shower for less than 5 minutes. However, we can not conclude that the 13% respondents who had not yet taken a shower on day 3, were rationing water for sustainability reasons.

Based on estimates, during the event we created approximately 80.00 tCO<sub>2</sub> saving 40 tons of emissions with the applied measures (sustainable conference venue, 37% of participants travelling by train, etc) compared to events of similar size.

Overall, 76% of the participants who completed the daily survey believed that the conference programme justified the financial investment and the travel, through relevant programme and decision making.

## Qualitative Evaluation

The evaluation team held a focus group at the end of the Conference involving 27 participants represented at the conference. Through the focus groups, the evaluation team gathered information and feedback from participants on how we can improve the organisation of the conference and the experiences of the participants. The discussion was designed to gather information from the participants in regard to the 7 Outcomes, by using the explication questions and facilitating constructive discussions.

## Participants are happy and satisfied from the conference organisation

Participants expressed that they see the Conference as **“Extremely well organised”** without **“No significant issue”** in their experience.

The conference was a **“great place for participants to meet each other after the pandemic and they felt very happy to be able to have the event in person.”**

The **“data collection was appreciated, but at the same time participants felt that while the event promoted recycling and sustainability it did not fully put this concept into practice at the Conference as we created a lot of waste.”**

Participants shared that **“July is the most expensive month for events and that there are already lots of events. Conferences can be organised in winter also.”**

## Host of the conference was supportive and all needs were satisfied.

**“Volunteers treated the participants very well”** The Host was seen as **“very supportive”** and always available to help the participants.

Participants are **“very satisfied with the host efforts to visually organise the conference and feel the momentum of the conference”**.

Participants felt that there was **“no coordination on host team schedule and event programme.”**

Participants recommended that the **“Host can be more innovative in developing a welcome package.”**

**The Venue and the logistics of the Conference greatly supported the event and facilitated space for an effective conference.**

The **“connectivity to the venue was good and easily accessible from most of the European cities. For the first time a large proportion of participants travelled by train.”**

The venue **“offered all needed technically and truly supported the event needs. Its plenary hall made the event look very professional”**.

Participants were critical of the venue of the conference. The venue location in the centre of the city **“was not appreciated as it accompanied expensive accommodation and less sustainability”**.

The **“venue was very confusing”** for participants. **“More maps and more lines were needed”** to reduce the dependency from the host volunteers.

**Participants felt supported to participate actively in the conference**

The **“conference promoted spirit for participation and my delegation continuously encouraged me to take active participation in the discussions.”**

The **“facilitators of the split sessions invited me to participate and share my opinion”**.

The **“data collection was appreciated, but at the same time participants felt that while the event promoted recycling and sustainability it did not fully put this concept into practice at the Conference as we created a lot of waste.”**

**Participants felt supported to participate actively in the conference**

The participants expressed that **“overall the programme was very dynamic and diverse”** and they like it. **“The Panels were good and very relevant”** for the participants. The **“Best practices from NSOs were a great place”** and more spaces like this should be facilitated.

**“Round tables for NSOs were more needed”** for the participants. In their view we should prioritise the space for NSOs to talk to each other and time to discuss amendments and resolutions and to have fewer panels and implement smart reporting. Participants complained for the **“lack of team building activities and energy in the programme. Most of the conference practised just two delivery methods.”**

## Decision Making processes were democratic and well organised

**“The E-Voting System was great and made participants confident and happy.”**

Participants expressed that they **“felt confident with the decision making environment and the facilitation of the process by the chairs of the conference.”**

Decision Making was **“stressful for participants on a personal level”**. Taking the Amendments on stage was seen as antidemocratic by some of the participants. **“Delegations had no time to read the amendments and consult.”**

## Participants felt safe during the conference

Participants felt **“safe and respected in the venue”**, but further attention could be invested by making everyone aware where to ask for medical support if needed. The Listening ears initiative was appreciated. All participants saw the designed space and some used it as a silent space.

There was **“no guidance and measures on how to deal with positive cases in delegations.”** Participants didn't have information or isolation options.

Participants felt angry due to the violation of the Code of Conduct. In their opinion **“NSOs must be able to table items on the agenda”** during the conference.

# Final Conference Survey

The traditional conference survey was composed of 24 questions chapters evaluating the participants' experience at the Conference. We received feedback from 47% of the participants (103 respondents) enabling us to conclude the evaluation summary.

Participants were explicitly satisfied with the conference registration, the activities provided by the host and conference venue. The areas for improvement were located in the timing of the conference document availability, the food and the accommodation.

95% of the participants felt safe during the event and 74% believed that the Safe from Harm mechanisms (Listening Ear, Code of Conduct, and reporting channels) were sufficient to prevent or minimise abuse and discrimination at the Conference.

88% expressed that they received all the information needed for meaningful participation at the Conference and that there was sufficient information provided before the Conference. The most preferred channel for communication was the Conference website followed by conference emails. Participants did not prefer social media as a venue for conference documents, but they liked that we communicated with the world for the conference developments. Facebook was seen as the best platform to share information.



Average of 60% of the conference believed that the external guests from other (non-Scout) organisations provided useful and relevant information at the Conference.

44% of the respondents used the interpretation service, but only 23% read conference documents that were translated. 63% of participants were very or somewhat satisfied with the interpretation.

91% of the participants expressed that the audio and visual production at the Conference was high quality and 70% that the programme delivery was high quality.

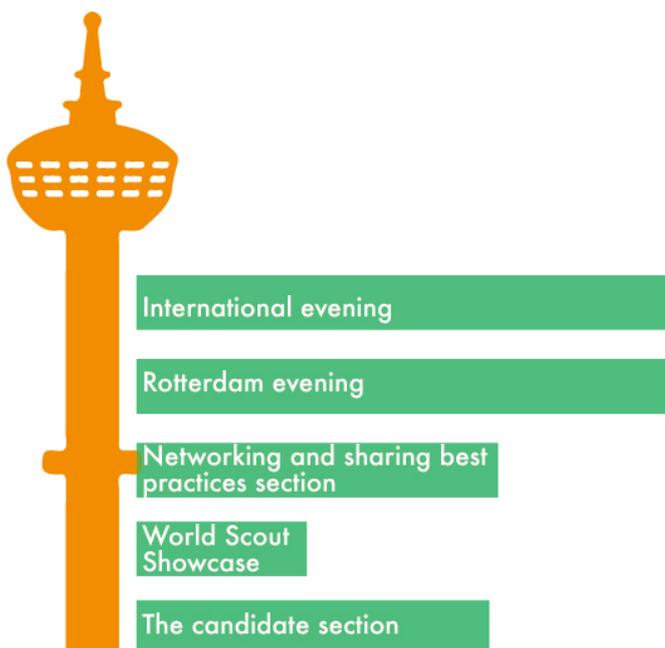
75% were able to easily navigate through the Conference programme and sessions and knew how to participate at the Conference sessions.

86% believed that young people had opportunities to engage in the Conference and that there were sufficient opportunities for active participation at the Conference. 70% felt that they contributed to the decisions and outcomes of the Conference and felt ownership of the Conference outcomes. The Conference was inclusive to the diverse needs of the participants according to 84% of the responders.

The decision-making processes at the Conference were quick and effective for 83% of the responders. The online e-voting tool worked well (94%) and the resolutions and decisions made at the Conference are relevant to their NSO/NSA (78%).

At the conference, 98% of participants had opportunities to connect with Scouts from other NSOs but only 34% had opportunities to connect with people from external (non-Scout) organisations. The exhibitions they attended were interesting and useful for 49%.

## Which of the following online networking sessions did you join?



85% of respondents felt that the Conference achieved its purpose in making key decisions for the Region and directing the European Scout Region through the new Triennial Plan 2022-25.

65% expressed that they will use the decisions and learning from the Conference for implementing further actions in their country.

## **How can the organisers improve the next European Scout Conference**

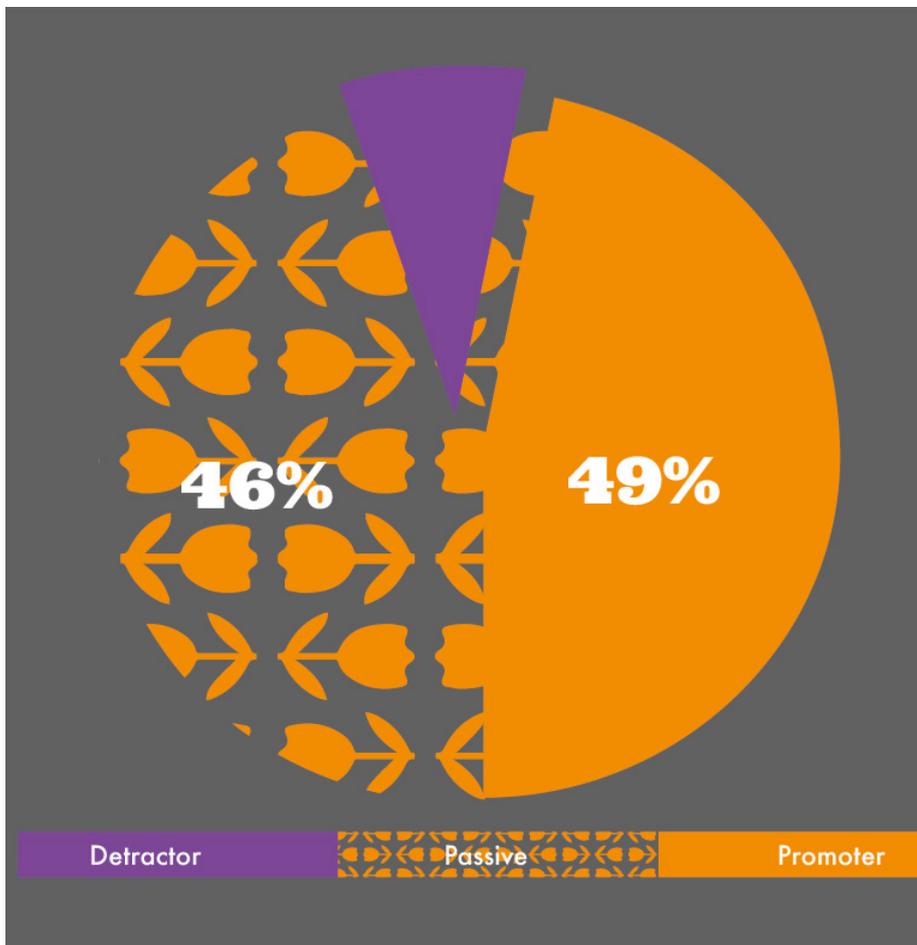
Longer breaks, the sessions are fairly intense (which is not a bad thing) but on some occasions I felt rushed in-between sessions. Time to chat and discuss things can be as valuable as the sessions themselves.

By making sessions focused on what conference delegates and observers are at the conference to do: discuss the strategy for the coming years of the Region, how we implement the world level strategy, and what the plan/strategy for the Region is going to contain. We need to be aware of what mandate the conference members are at a conference to do: that is to have conversations about the strategy and how we move forward and to discuss the things within our mandate. This needs to be done much clearer and the office and the committee needs to help make a conference that caters for spaces for the NSOs to interact and exchange ideas during the conference of the points they actually are going to be voting on.

Get a smaller venue, give public transport tickets, and have some sessions in nature/outside in the sun (it's pretty depressing to have sessions 5h a day in closed rooms (some without windows even).

During the conference there should be sessions to engage, discuss and make amendments to the suggestions being voted on during the conference to make the conference participants take part in the democratic process and decision, not just vote on something decided beforehand by others. The final documents to vote on should be released in time for reading and preparation before voting. The voting process should be transparent and easy to follow, with no doubt what is being voted on and what the results are at any time. The conference (participants) should be respected as the deciding body that should have influence over and be able to follow the process, not just provide acclamation to something decided prior to the conference.

**Based on your experience, how likely are you to recommend a friend from your Member Organisation to attend the next European Conference?**



## Annex 1

### Joint Conference Report

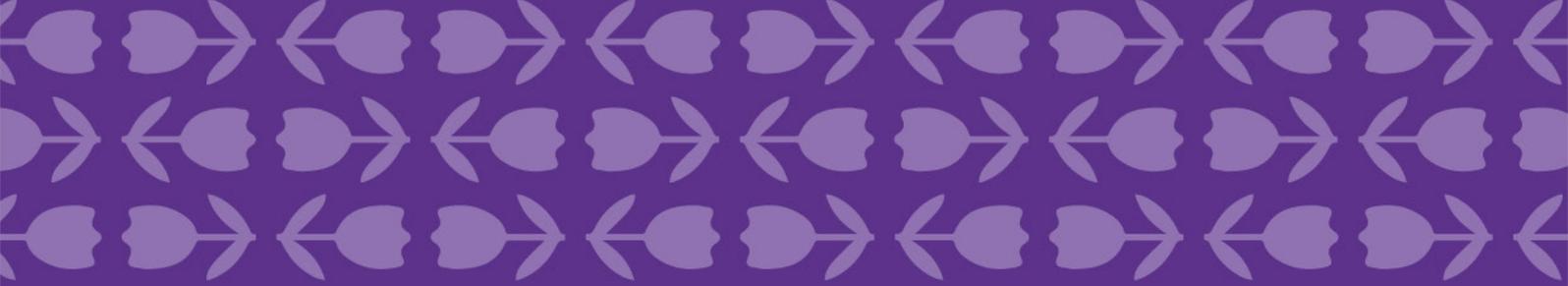
The 17th European Guide and Scout Conference was officially opened in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 22nd July 2022, gathering over 450 Scout and Guide delegates from all over Europe! An exciting opening ceremony welcomed us in front of the Laurenskerk, Rotterdam. Hosted by Scouting Nederland, the ceremony featured a welcoming address by Lars Kramm and Eline Grøholt, the chairpersons of the European Scout Committee and the Europe Committee WAGGGS. Please find the complete conference report [here](#).

## Annex 2

### List of Participants

The complete list is available here: [List of participants](#)





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