

International Commissioners' Forum (IC-Forum)

24 - 26th of October 2003

Cologne/Germany

Workshop	External Partnerships
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Introduction: Keywords of the presentation	Benefits to Guiding/Scouting of partnerships with other NGOs How to make contact Reaching agreement on objectives and methods Examples of successful partnerships
Relevant Material from WAGGGS and WOSM and any other useful documents	Marrakech Charter (WOSM) How to work with the UN (WAGGGS)
Keywords of the experiences of the other associations	See next page
Demands to the 2 European Regions	See next page

Guidelines for Partnerships

Choosing your partner (or do they choose us?):

- Look for partners at international events and seminars and on the internet.
- Use your own Association for advice and approval.
- Use the world/regional offices of WOSM/WAGGGS for advice.
- Be aware of the priorities and restrictions of your own country. Sometimes it is difficult for some countries to co-operate.
- Take time to establish contacts.
- Common interests and a common desire to have a partnership are required.
- Share as much information as possible about the people involved and their expectations.

Choosing the project:

- Discuss the options widely with your partner. Consider more than one option, where possible.
- Select the date of meetings etc carefully, to meet the requirements of all concerned.
- Obtain the approval of your Association.
- Make sure that the approach is learning by doing.
- The project should be interesting and based on the expectations and needs of young people.
- Young people should be involved in the choice of project, its implementation and evaluation.
- Projects should be of real value: challenging and attractive.
- The project should be based on a strong desire to live and share something together.
- Get advice from people with relevant experience or skills.
- Use the world/regional offices of WOSM/WAGGGS, or other national Associations, for advice.

Making your plans:

- The definition of the project and its objectives are the most important aspects to consider. They must be clear, complete, concrete, comprehensive – and measurable.
- Choose the leadership team carefully and make sure that they all know their responsibilities.
- Give activities the priority.
- Make sure that safety and health of all participants are considered.
- Obtain the approval of your Association.
- Check for laws or rules which may affect the project.
- Good planning is vital from the very beginning.
- The partners should each understand the purpose of the project in the same way.
- Set up working groups involving young people and adults on topics such as programme, finance, etc. to manage possible difficulties and disagreement.
- Remember the cultural diversity and interests of young people.
- Provide cultural awareness training.
- Check the cost of travel and other expenses. Make a careful budget.
- Seek funding and grants from government and international institutions.
- How easy is it to get to the partner country?
- Make sure that the authorities in the host country approve of the plans, where necessary.
- Have clear agreements on financial matters.
- Provide the necessary training for the young people and adult leaders.
- Make everyone aware, so far as is necessary, of the social and cultural attitudes of their partner: what to do and what not to do.
- Set a clear timescale.
- Make sure that the partner is clear about Guiding and Scouting.

Communications:

- Start with an intermediary (such as a representative of the world or regional offices or an International Commissioner) to facilitate contact.
- Use the world/regional offices of WOSM/WAGGGS for advice.
- Draw up a communications plan.
- Involve the young people as much as possible.
- Use email and the internet.

- Find the right person who will be responsible for communications for each partner and who will be responsible for cascading information to all levels.
- Provide full information on the programme and plans to everyone: participants and their families.
- Develop positive media and public relations.
- Keep in touch with sponsors or other supporters.

Running the project:

- Prepare the first two days of any visit carefully, bearing cultural and language differences in mind, with games and activities for ice breaking and discovering cultures – but allow time to recover from the journey.
- Be informal and adaptable.
- Give young people the opportunity to express their own opinion. Involve them fully.
- Guide and Scout Methods should be used to implement the exchange.
- Exchanges should fulfil the needs and expectations of participants.
- Activities should be acceptable to the community being visited.
- Leaders and young people should accept and respect cultural and religious observances of the partners.
- Remember local conditions: the place, the weather and the way of life.
- Follow up and support are very important.
- Remember risk management and contingency planning.

What are the conditions for success?

- Understanding of cultural characteristics, educational objectives and benefits for the young people taking part, from both partners.
- Quality of programme and leadership.
- Participation of young people in decision-making and evaluation.
- Clear and transparent finances.
- Careful evaluation at all stages.
- Evaluate the relationship with the partner.