



# 2<sup>nd</sup> WORLD SCOUT EDUCATION CONGRESS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Scouting Development  
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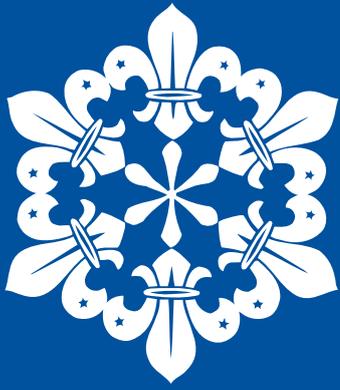
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The logo for the 2nd World Scout Education Congress. It features a colorful graphic of overlapping circles in shades of blue, green, red, and yellow, with a white fleur-de-lis in the center. Below the graphic, the text reads: "2<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Education Congress", "KANDERSTEG", and "11-15 May 2017".

**PREPARED:  
FOR A CHANGING  
WORLD**





## Executive Summary

The 2nd World Scout Education Congress took place at Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland between 11 and 15 May 2017. A total of 204 participants from 98 National Scout Organizations (NSOs) from all Regions of World Scouting were present. Keynote addresses and selected sessions were also streamed live to hundreds of people who were unable to participate onsite.



The theme of the Congress was 'Prepared - For a Changing World' and the purpose was to offer those working in the fields of Youth Programme and Adults in Scouting, a platform to share experiences, assess the relevance of the Movement in today's society, and point a common direction for the future development of Scouting – with the aim of reinforcing that the education of young people is the core of Scouting.



The Congress discussed and identified a number of global challenges facing society and Scouting. These are summarised below. In exploring these challenges, the Congress identified a number of points that need to be directly addressed by NSOs and World Scouting;

- That a relevant, high-quality, well-delivered Youth Programme was essential for good Scouting. Many NSOs requested support from and increased collaboration with other NSOs as well as from World Scouting, to review and update their youth programme to ensure it was relevant and fit for purpose.
- In order to achieve the above, a focus on the whole Adults in Scouting process was essential. The sharing of good practices and overall support in relation to Adults in Scouting is required to implement effective strategies in this area.
- Both of the above required focussed support from the Governance structures of NSOs. Many participants felt that the current governance structures required re-focusing or updating to ensure they were fit for purpose.
- Support to improve all aspects of internal and external communication. In particular, support was requested in improving and updating the image of Scouting and new approaches to sharing good practices both within and between NSOs.
- Considerable work is required to effectively measure and communicate the impact of Scouting as an outcome from the educational experiences young people participate in. Many participants recognised that NSOs need to do substantial work to evidence Scouting's impact.



The participants of the Congress explored the impact of current global trends on society and Scouting. They considered how Scouting should respond to these trends and challenges whilst remaining true to its core values. Scouting will need to continue to adapt to the needs of modern society, both with regard to the Youth Programme content as well as the ways we deliver and promote Scouting.

Five key trends were identified by participants as having a significant impact on young people and Scouting worldwide. Actions were proposed to address these trends:



## Key Trend 1

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The first key trend was the **increasing non-formalisation of formal education.**

As the world's leading educational youth movement, Scouting has always championed non-formal education delivered in diverse settings. However, it was noted that formal education in all parts of the world is increasingly adopting these methods and recognising them as highly effective methods of encouraging the holistic development of young people.



**The Congress felt that Scouting should respond by:**

- Forming mutually beneficial partnerships with formal education institutions
- Helping young people to not only learn 'soft skills' (such as leadership, empathy, teamwork and emotional intelligence) - but also 'hard skills' (such as vocational skills) and that these are recognised in Youth Programmes
- Promoting '21st Century Skills' (such as) as part of our Youth Programmes using the element of 'learning by doing'





## Key Trend 2



The second key trend was the **shifting demographics** and **an ageing world population**. Whilst there has never been so many young people in the world, it is also true that there has never been so many older people as well. The challenges and opportunities this scenario presents to Scouting and society were discussed from many aspects during the Congress.

**The Congress felt that Scouting should respond by:**

- Changing training methods to address the increasingly intergenerational profile of our adult leadership
- Recognising the importance of developing the so called “soft skills” of adults rather than focussing on only on the outdoor skills many associated with Scout training
- Recognising the challenge of recruiting and retaining young adults in leadership roles in Scouting and the needs to be more flexible in how our adults are supported.
- Developing a youth programme which enables young people to be empowered with skills for entrepreneurship, volunteering, decision making and taking responsibility.





## Key Trend 3

The third key trend was migration, **mobility** and **urbanisation**. The movement of people in the world (both forced and voluntary) has never been higher than we are seeing today. The ability of people to live farther away from their families and community roots means a substantial change in the ways communities operate and are viewed by all people.

The reduction of the number of those living in rural areas translates to an increasing distance from nature and the natural world, which leads to a disconnection from nature, an overcrowding of our city environment and pressure on all aspects of urban living.

**The Congress felt that Scouting should respond by:**

- Increasing flexibility in volunteering opportunities for young adults, moving away from the often-rigid models of volunteering displayed by many NSOs
- Being prepared to support children and young people in circumstances where they face harm outside Scouting and increasing emphasis on child protection policies
- Ensuring that Youth Programmes contain relevant aspects concerning how to respond to emergency situations and enabling NSOs to offer assistance to others in need





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## Key Trend 4

The **virtual world** and the increase in prominence of **digital natives** was the fourth key trend identified. The expansion and availability of mobile technology makes access to information easier and also increases the expectation of access to that information.

These developments also enable young people to engage with each other and activities as and when they choose and in ways that were unimaginable five years ago. The development of virtual reality and augmented reality continues at a rapid rate and presents both challenges and opportunities for Scouting.

**The Congress felt that Scouting should respond by:**

- Making greater use of flexible and mixed learning methods when delivering training for adults
- Exploring new methods to deliver Youth Programmes which maximise the opportunities new technologies offer





## Key Trend 5

The final key trend identified by the Congress was **globalisation** and the **emergence of a global culture**. The continuing trend towards a global culture and the globalisation of supply, goods and services continues to be both a positive and concerning trend.

The loss of community cultures and individuality continues to make the world feel like a less diverse place but the sharing of employment opportunities across borders (providing it is ethical and legal) and the inevitable interactions with people from all over the world brings the world closer together in many ways. However, concerns were expressed that sometimes there is tendency for young people to be less open to new ideas as a result of this trend.

**The Congress felt that Scouting should respond by:**

- Continuing to have open discussions on spiritual development. In increasingly diverse societies, traditional models of spirituality and spiritual development in Scouting need revising.
- Providing spaces for volunteers to connect with other people and exchange experiences
- Actively engage in community development projects that help Scouts to develop personally, be active citizens and prepare for life
- Measuring and promoting Scouting's local and global social impact



These five key trends are not intended to be a 'manifesto' or a list of demands for the World Organization of the Scout Movement or NSOs. Rather, they point to the direction in which Congress participants saw World Scouting heading with their perspectives on the necessary responses needed and support required.

NSOs are invited to critically review the outcomes from the 2nd World Scout Education Congress, giving due consideration from their perspective and to take action accordingly to ensure that, together, we are 'Prepared - For a Changing World'.





**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**World Scout  
Education Congress**  
**KANDERSTEG**  
11-15 May 2017



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