18th éme European Guide and Scout Conference
Conférence Européenne du Guidisme et du Scoutisme

DOCUMENT

5

18th European Guide and Scout Conference Report

18th European Guide and Scout Conference Report

Table of Contents

Introduction to the European Guide and Scout Conference 2
Background and Purpose 2
Conference format, theme and approach 2
Members participation overview 3
Reflections and outcomes of the Conference 3
Report on the previous Joint Action Plan 3
Upcoming Joint Action Plan (2025–2028) 4
Meet the Candidates Session 5
Networking and Exchange Opportunities 5
Future Events - The Host of Roverway 2028 (Switzerland) 5
Input Session on the Joint Action Plan 5
Presentation of the new Joint Committee 6
Closing Session 6
Annexes 6
Annex 1: Delegations of Member Organisations and National Scout Organizations present ... 6
Annex 2: Joint Conference Documents 8

Languages

The official languages of the Joint Conference are English and French. The European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document, the English text shall prevail.

Introduction to the European Guide and Scout Conference

This document provides a record of the proceedings of the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference and serves as the official Conference Report. All Conference documents are available on the Conference website: https://europeanconference.weconnect.eu.com/

The 18th European Guide and Scout Conference was hosted by Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs and held at the Winberger Hotel in Vienna, Austria. The Conference met in plenary on 21 and 23 July 2025 for a total of two half-day sessions.

Background and Purpose

The 18th European Guide and Scout Conference convened as the joint meeting of the Member Organisations and National Scout Organizations of the European Regions of WAGGGS and WOSM. Its purpose was to:

- Review progress and achievements of the Triennium 2022–2025.
- Discuss and decide on the Joint Action Plan for 2025–2028.
- Strengthen cooperation between WAGGGS Europe and WOSM European Region in line with the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Provide a space for dialogue, networking, and exchange among Member Organisations (MOs) and National Scout Organizations (NSOs).

The Conference also aimed to celebrate the unity and diversity of Scouting and Guiding in Europe, reaffirming their shared commitment to peace, sustainability, inclusion, and youth empowerment.

The 18th European Guide and Scout Conference reimagined the structure of the joint sessions between WOSM and WAGGGS to reflect their purpose better. As this Conference does not hold formal decision-making power, procedures such as voting and resolutions were removed. Instead, the focus was placed on meaningful dialogue, shared learning, and collaboration among members.

This new approach provided a dedicated space for members to contribute directly to the Joint Action Plan, shaping the priorities and initiatives for the next Triennium. Facilitated breakout sessions collected ideas and input, which the newly elected committees are consolidating and finalising after the Conference. The Memorandum of Understanding between WAGGGS and WOSM continued as a bilateral agreement, without requiring approval during the Conference.

By emphasising discussion, connection, and co-creation over formalities, the redesigned joint sessions were engaging, relevant, and productive, ensuring that the joint work reflected the shared vision of our members.

Conference format, theme and approach

The theme of the Conference was: "Meet in the Middle". This theme reflected both the geographical reality of Vienna as a meeting point in Europe and the spirit of dialogue, compromise, and cooperation at the heart of the Conference.

The approach of the Conference was based on:

- Dialogue: Creating safe and open spaces for members to discuss challenges and opportunities together.
- Collaboration: Encouraging joint action between WAGGGS and WOSM members to co-create future projects.
- Inclusion: Ensuring diverse representation of age, gender, culture, and perspective in all conference processes.
- Innovation: Combining various session formats from plenary to breakouts and informal dialogue, enabling broader access and meaningful engagement.

- The programme included plenary sessions, thematic workshops and facilitated cultural experiences.

Members participation overview

The Conference brought together 566 participants, including delegates, observers, youth representatives, and guests from across the two Regions.

- 43 WOSM National Scout Organizations (NSOs) were present.
- 33 WAGGGS Member Organisations (MOs) participated.
- In total, delegations represented 44 countries across the European Regions.

Youth participation was robust, with an estimated 52% of delegates under the age of 30. Gender balance was maintained across delegations, with near parity in voting representatives.

The Conference also welcomed guests from outside the European Region, including representatives from the African, Arab, Asia-Pacific, and Interamerican/Western Hemisphere regions, as well as partner organisations and institutional stakeholders at the European level.

Reflections and outcomes of the Conference

The 18th Guide and Scout Conference was formally opened on 21 July 2025 with an address from the Chairpersons of the WOSM and WAGGGS European Committees. The Conference then received a report on the Joint Action Plan and the work of the joint teams, followed by a question–and–answer session. The session concluded with an introduction to the proposed Joint Action Plan for 2025-2028 and guidelines for meeting with the candidates later in the day.

Report on the previous Joint Action Plan

During the session on Joint Work at the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference, the Joint Committee 2022–2025 presented an overview of achievements and initiatives carried out during the Triennium.

The Committee highlighted that, following the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Action Plan 2022–2025 at the 17th European Guide and Scout Conference in Rotterdam, these guiding documents were successfully implemented by volunteers, committees, staff, and joint event teams.

Key joint events delivered:

- The Scout and Guide Academy 2022 (Lithuania; 200 participants from 38 countries)
- Training on Youth Advocacy for Pluralistic Democracies 2023 (funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe; 25 participants)
- The Scout and Guide Academy 2023 (Germany; 190 participants from 38 countries)
- Roverway 2024 (Norway; 5,500 participants from 38 countries)
- The Scout and Guide Academy 2024 (Poland; 159 participants from 35 countries)
- International Commissioners Forum 2024 (Malta; 161 participants from 44 countries)
- The ongoing 18th European Guide and Scout Conference 2025 (Austria)

Joint Initiatives:

- Roverway concept review: The session reported that the review conducted in 2024 resulted in updated Roverway guidelines launched in January 2025.

- Azimuth online platform: The joint team managing the platform increased users by 168%, delivered workshops, webinars, and online trainings, and provided ongoing technical support and reporting.

- External Representatives: Collaboration took place across European-level events, including the European Youth Forum, the EU Youth Dialogue, and the European Scout and Guide Call for Action for the 2024 European elections.

- Team collaboration: Regional teams shared expertise on mental health, sustainability, and crisis management, supporting workshops and sessions for joint events.

- Joint Communications: A coordinated framework for communications was implemented to assist planning teams, staff, and volunteers.

- Good governance & Joint Work teams: Portfolio holders attended each other's regional volunteer meetings to strengthen alignment. Committees coordinated simultaneous meetings to enable strategic planning, team-building, and engagement with local and national leadership.

The session highlighted the achievements of the 2022–2025 Triennium, including successful joint events, stronger collaboration between WAGGGS and WOSM, and improved efficiency and governance of joint initiatives. The Committee acknowledged with gratitude the efforts of volunteers, staff, and partners.

Upcoming Joint Action Plan (2025–2028)

During the session on the Joint Action Plan 2025–2028 at the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference, the Joint Committee presented the priorities, planned events, initiatives, and resource estimations for the next Triennium.

Key priorities and objectives:

- Learning and exchange opportunities: A minimum of two regional joint events will be organised annually, either in person or online, to foster collaboration between WAGGGS and World Scouting members.

- Youth Empowerment and leadership: All joint events will integrate youth empowerment and leadership programmes. Existing event planning toolkits will be reviewed to ensure a "Youth Empowerment and Leadership" lens is applied.

- Policy alignment: Joint events from 2026 to 2028 will adhere to World Scouting and WAGGGS policies on mental health and wellbeing, Safe from Harm/safeguarding, and sustainability. Guidelines will be developed for event planning, execution, and evaluation.

- IC Forum review: A review of the IC Forum concept will be conducted by the end of 2026.

Planned Joint Events:

- The Scout and Guide Academy 2025: Greece, coordinated by WAGGGS.

- The Scout and Guide Academy 2026: Host to be defined through an open call, coordinated by World Scouting.

- The Scout and Guide Academy 2027: Host to be defined through an open call, coordinated by WAGGGS.

- Roverway 2028: Switzerland, 2028

- IC Forum 2027/2028: Host and coordination details to be confirmed.

Planned Joint Initiatives:

- Collaboration between regional teams working on similar topics to ensure alignment and cohesive approaches, including External Relations/Representatives.

- Support for self-organised joint networks, including the Overture Diversity Network and the Centres Managers Conference, to strengthen the implementation of diversity, inclusion, and centres management initiatives across Europe.

- The session noted that the Joint Action Plan 2025–2028 outlines priorities in learning, youth empowerment, policy alignment, and collaboration. It was further noted that events and initiatives are planned to strengthen the WAGGGS–World Scouting partnership and ensure activities for the next Triennium.

Meet the Candidates Session

As part of the joint programme, a dedicated session was held to allow delegates from both WOSM and WAGGGS to meet the candidates standing for election to the European Committees of the two organisations. The purpose of this session was to provide an open and transparent space where candidates could present their motivations, priorities, and perspectives. At the same time, delegates had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in dialogue.

The session's format facilitated informal exchanges**,** allowing participants to engage directly with candidates in smaller groups and develop a clearer understanding of their approaches and priorities. The session was well received by delegates, who reported through the survey that they appreciated the opportunity to hear from all candidates in a structured but accessible setting. It provided valuable insights to support informed decision-making during the election process and fostered an atmosphere of openness and accountability.

Networking and Exchange Opportunities

Beyond the formal programme, the Conference offered multiple opportunities for informal exchange and networking. Delegates were encouraged to share experiences, strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties, and identify potential areas for collaboration.

Networking opportunities included:

- Regional marketplace sessions, where members presented projects, good practices, and innovative approaches.
- Informal evening gatherings and thematic discussions, creating space for participants to connect across countries and regions.
- Cross-regional dialogue opportunities, fostering cooperation between WAGGGS and WOSM representatives on common challenges such as youth participation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Based on the Evaluation results, these moments of exchange were widely valued by participants as a chance to deepen relationships, learn from each other's experiences, and build stronger foundations for future collaboration.

Future Events - The Host of Roverway 2028 (Switzerland)

During the Conference, it was announced that Switzerland will host Roverway 2028. The Joint Committee highlighted that the Swiss team is preparing to welcome Scouts and Guides from across Europe for this major event, continuing the tradition of large-scale, collaborative experiences that foster youth empowerment, leadership, and cross-cultural learning.

For more information, please visit: https://pfadi.swiss/en/activities-in-scouting/international-scouting-events/roverway_2028/

Input Session on the Joint Action Plan

A dedicated session was convened to present the consolidated outcomes from the discussions on the Joint Action Plan 2025–2028. The presentation highlighted the key priorities identified by delegates, including learning, youth empowerment, policy alignment, and strengthened collaboration between the two regions.

Delegates were invited to share comments and questions following the presentation. The exchange facilitated clarification of the proposed priorities, consideration of different perspectives, and confirmation of the areas where members perceive the most significant added value in joint regional work.

This session helped ensure that the Joint Action Plan reflects the shared vision of members and provides a strong foundation for joint work in the regions in the coming Triennium.

Presentation of the new Joint Committee

The Conference also included the formal introduction of the newly elected members of the Joint Committee. The session provided an opportunity for delegates to meet the Committee in its new composition and to hear directly from its members about their commitment to advancing the Joint Action Plan and strengthening collaboration between WOSM and WAGGGS in the regions.

- Allan Simpson, United Kingdom (WOSM)
- Diana Slabu, Romania (WOSM)
- Caroline Brown (WAGGGS)
- Joschka Hench, Germany (WOSM)
- José Pamplona, Portugal (WOSM)
- Ronja Kok (WAGGGS)
- Marta Concepción Mederos, Spain (WOSM)
- Maëlle Chapuis Mirol (WAGGGS)
- Olivia Solman (WAGGGS)
- Kety Tyson (WAGGGS)
- Koraline van Dijk (WAGGGS)
- Vojtech Fiser Olbrecht, Czechia (WOSM)

The presentation underlined the Joint Committee's role in facilitating cooperation, supporting joint initiatives, and ensuring that the priorities agreed upon by the Conference are translated into action. Delegates welcomed the new Committee and expressed appreciation to the outgoing members for their contributions over the past Triennium.

Closing Session

On 23 July 2025, the Conference Chairpersons and the outgoing regional chairs declared the 18th European Guide and Scout Conference officially closed.

Warm thanks were extended to volunteers, staff, interpreters, and technical teams. Special recognition was given to the Austrian host team for their hospitality and organisation.
The newly elected Chairpersons of the European Scout Committee and the WAGGGS Europe Committee, Caroline Brown (WAGGGS, UK) and Diana Slabu (WOSM, Romania), addressed the Conference, expressing their commitment to deepening cooperation and building on the achievements of previous triennia.

Annexes

Annex 1: Delegations of Member Organisations and National Scout Organizations present

Country	WAGGGS MOs	WOSM NSOs
Albania	Girl Scouts of Albania	Scouts of Albania
Armenia	National Union of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of Armenia	
Austria	Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs	
Azerbaijan	Azerbaycan Skautlar Assosiasiyasi	
Belgium	Guidisme et Scoutisme en Belgique	
Bulgaria		Organisation of Bulgarian Scouts
Croatia	Savez izvidaca Hrvatske	
Cyprus	Girl Guides Association of Cyprus	Σώμα Προσκόπων Κύπρου

Czechia	Junák – český skaut	
Denmark	Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark	Fællesrådet for Danmarks Drengespejdere
Estonia		Eesti Skautide Ühing
Finland	Suomen Partiolaiset - Finlands Scouter	
France	Scoutisme Français	
Georgia	Sakartvelos Gogona Skautebis Asociacia	Sakartvelos Skauturi Modzraobis Organizatsia
Germany	Ring deutscher Pfadfinder*innenverbände	
Greece	Soma Hellinikou Odigismou	Σώμα Ελληνων Προσκόπων
Hungary		Magyar Cserkészszövetség
Iceland	Bandalag íslenskra Skáta	
Ireland	Council of Irish Guiding Associations	Scouting Ireland
Israel	Hitachdut Hatsofim Ve Hatsofot Be Israel	
Italy	Federazione Italiana dello Scautismo	
Latvia		Latvijas Skautu un Gaidu centrala organizacija
Liechtenstein	Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Liechtensteins	
Lithuania		Lietuvos Skautija
Luxembourg	Scouting in Luxembourg	
Malta	Malta Girl Guides	The Scout Association of Malta
Monaco	Association des Guides et Scouts de Monaco	
Montenegro		Savez Izvidjaca Crne Gore
Netherlands	Scouting Nederland	
North Macedonia		Сојуз на извидници на Македонија
Norway	Speiderne i Norge	
Poland	Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego	
Portugal	Associação Guias de Portugal	Federação Escutista de Portugal
Moldova		Asociatia Nationala A Scoutilor Din Moldova
Romania		Cercetasii României
Serbia		Savez Izvidjača Srbije
Slovakia	Slovensky skauting	
Slovenia		Zveza tabornikov Slovenije
Spain	Comité de Enlace del Guidismo en España (CEGE)	Federación de Escultismo en España
Sweden	Scouterna	
Switzerland	Mouvement Scout de Suisse	
Turkey	Türkiye İzcilik Federasyonu	
Ukraine	Association of Ukrainian Guides	National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine
United Kingdom	Girlguiding UK	The Scout Association

Annex 2: Joint Conference Documents

All Joint Conference Circulars and Documents are available on the Conference website in English and French.

WAGGGS Conference Report

25th European Scout Conference Report