



DOCUMENT

10

European Scout Conference
2028: Bids for hosting

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Languages

The official languages of the World Organization are English and French. The World Scout Bureau will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. When possible, it endeavours to make them available also in Arabic, Russian and Spanish - the three additional working languages of WOSM.

In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document of the World Organization, the English text shall prevail.

Guidisme et Scoutisme en Belgique (GSB)

Introduction

Our proposal is built around three core principles:

1. The spirit of a Scout and Guide event: We aim to combine the professionalism and comfort of a modern venue with the authenticity and atmosphere of a real scout and guide gathering. While the event will take place in a well-equipped, accessible university setting, we are committed to bringing a distinctly scouting character to every aspect of the experience. This includes access to outdoor spaces for informal moments and reflection, a vibrant scout bar as a social hub, and the option to camp for those who wish to embrace the outdoor spirit fully. Of course, this will all be done with the highest standards of respect for our climate and environment, in true Scouting fashion. To make it even more unique, we will add a Belgian Scouting twist, from the food (a classic "Frietkot" on-site or serving typical scouting dishes) to the style of activities and the welcoming atmosphere our local scout and guide groups are known for. We want participants to feel part of a European event and part of the living, breathing Scout Movement in Belgium.
2. Financial accessibility and inclusivity: In the same way that Brussels is a diverse city that welcomes all, we understand the need to tear down barriers to participation. From our choice of a cost-efficient and accessible university venue to budget-friendly sleeping options (including camping) and respect for everyone's differences, we are committed to keeping this event accessible to all delegations.
3. A collective and coherent European approach: This candidacy is the result of an exceptional collaboration between five national associations. Together, we strive to ensure this collaboration transcends Belgian borders. We aim to create a shared response to the diverse realities across Europe, with space for everyone's needs, from structured sessions to informal dialogue and co-creation.

Proposed dates

Flexible between 1 July and 15 August 2028.

Proposed venue

University Campus - [Vrije Universiteit Brussel Main Campus Etterbeek](#).

Deadline to confirm potential hosting of the WAGGGS Regional Conference

1 July 2027

Cost efficiency considerations

We chose a university campus as the venue to ensure cost-efficiency, as it offers the necessary infrastructure at a lower cost compared to traditional conference centres. The dates result from this choice since the university will be closed in this period. We have chosen to run the catering by our volunteers to lower the food price and make as many sustainable choices as possible by partnering with local farmers and food suppliers. We are also preparing the option of a camping experience to lower further the price of accommodation and the fun Scouting spirit.

Access and visas

Schengen area – visa-free for 60 countries worldwide

Visa support from authorities secured ✓

Sustainability considerations

Guiding and Scouting Belgium holds sustainability as one of its key pillars. We have access to internal sustainability teams, which are well-established and have years-long experience developing knowledge on sustainable Scouting (including events). This expertise has been and will be used to ensure an event is as sustainable as possible by allowing us to measure our impact and act on it.

- The venue has been selected based on a location that is very easily accessible locally by public transport and bicycle and by international rail and bus connections. Many European delegations should be able to reach the venue without air travel. We will be actively encouraging delegations to use more sustainable modes of transportation and will be available for information wherever necessary. Furthermore, using a university campus allows for maximum usage of infrastructure that would otherwise be unused during the summer, reducing building "down-time" and increasing resource efficiency. The VUB itself has also invested heavily in ensuring a low carbon footprint of its infrastructure, further adding to the sustainability of our event.
- Scouting volunteers will cater. Our strong experience in this area enables us to partner with local farmers and food suppliers for ingredients and, by having control over the food creation and disposal process, minimise food waste.
- Guiding and Scouting Belgium also aims to reduce unnecessary resource usage as much as possible. We have access to large amounts of our equipment for event-building (e.g., tents and wood beams), reducing the need to buy new and allowing us to reuse. This will also be reflected in small things, such as trying to minimise the amount of unnecessary merchandise.

Risk Awareness and Mitigation

Within Belgium, associations regularly host multi-day events of 1000+ participants. For Les Scouts: Scoutopia and for Scouts and Gidsen Vlaanderen, there is a yearly leader gathering of more than 6,000 participants. These events' rules, guidelines and policies can easily be updated and adapted to suit conference needs. There are concerns regarding the high potential for further inflation of prices due to the instability in financial markets and the current geopolitical and economic climate.

Climate change is leading to more volatile weather in Belgium, with the potential of heatwaves or intense precipitation increasing yearly. In the case of a heatwave (defined in Belgium as temperatures above 25°C for five consecutive days, with peaks of 30°C on 3 days within those five days), the campus is in a park, with trees and natural areas, ensuring a lower-than-city-average temperature on hot days. Furthermore, air conditioning will be available indoors. The university campus is located in a zone with no risk of flooding, even in case of heavy rainfall, so no risk is foreseen. For those using the camping option, an alternative accommodation must be foreseen should precipitation be too heavy (of which the risk is relatively low).

Finally, several risks related to urban environments (pickpockets, tourist scams, and similar minor crimes) are present in Brussels, but not more so than in other medium—or large-sized European cities. Furthermore, the university is in an area of the city where reported crime statistics are lower than average.

Safeguarding considerations

The Belgian associations have extensive event-organising experience, and each event has extensive safeguarding procedures (listening ears, safe spaces, etc.). All activities hosted by Belgian Scout Associations must meet these requirements, which will be adapted for conference purposes.

Impact on the NSO

Hosting the 2028 Conference in Belgium will positively impact scouting in our country in different ways. Belgium is proud to be home to approximately 180,000 Scouts and Guides, spread across five associations and three different linguistic regions. Youth work was even recently officially recognised as Flemish Cultural Heritage. Sometimes, this incredible richness and diversity means that our scouts and guides are so involved inside Belgium that they do not take the opportunity to experience international scouting.

By hosting the European regional conference in Belgium, we can allow more of them to experience what international scouting and guiding offers. Preparing and supporting the event and participating and facilitating parts of the programme will create contacts and experiences that will improve the quality of our scouting and guiding practices in our local groups. However, even for those who will not actively participate or contribute, this will help create more awareness of the international dimension of scouting. Another benefit would be a better understanding of who we are as scouts and guides and what we do in our broader society.

Our playful image makes us a very accessible movement to children and young people. However, the depth of what we do and our impact on our society and the world are not always equally visible. Hosting a governance

event such as a regional conference will help make that dimension visible as well—both to parents and stakeholders and to local and national policymakers.

And finally, we hope to learn from this opportunity as a federation, specifically in the organisation of international events. We are used to running our events, but there is a big opportunity for growth within the organisation/hosting of international events. National Scout Organizations play a vital role in strong regional events. This experience will allow us to grow and support associations with the same ambitions but less experience, volunteers, and support structures.

Space Requirements

Plenary Room (300p) ✓

Breakout rooms (15x20p) ✓

Meeting rooms (4-5) ✓

Exhibition Area ✓

There are several larger hallways as well as gathering rooms that would be suitable for exhibition purposes. If weather permits, this could also be hosted in the outside areas.

Reception Area ✓

There are several larger hallways as well as gathering rooms that would be suitable for exhibition purposes. If weather permits, this could also be hosted in the outside areas.

Accommodation options

Accommodation in the same venue as the Conference ✓ (for camping)

✗ (for hotel accommodation)

The Adagio hotel offers studios for 2 or 4 people with toilets and showers/baths included. Six of these are accessible to people with disabilities. The VUB has sports infrastructure with showers and bathing opportunities for those who would choose to use the tent option.

Travel

Internal travel

- Brussels has a well-developed public transport system, making connections between the venue and the rest of the city very easy.
- For those who prefer using their own feet, Brussels has a well-developed cycling infrastructure and several public bicycle rental programme options.

Train station(s)

- A train station is located 300m from the venue and directly connects to Brussels Midi station. This is the arrival point of most international trains and sleeper trains, with direct connections to cities such as Paris, London, Amsterdam, Prague, Berlin, Vienna, Munich and Venice. Brussels is only a day's ride away for most of Western and Central Europe!

International Bus stations

- Brussels Midi station is also the arrival point of international bus lines offering cheap connections to many European cities.

Main airport(s)

- Brussels Airport is 15 km from the venue and reachable by a direct train or bus, taking approx. 30 minutes.
- Brussels South Charleroi Airport is 50 km from the venue and is well connected to the center of Brussels by both bus and rail.

Finances and participation fee

Overall Budget

- € 118'000 (excl. accommodation)

Proposed fee (average)

- € 500 (excl. accommodation)

Federazione Italiana Dello Scautismo (FIS)

Introduction

This proposal stems from a deep commitment to the future of Scouting in Europe and a sincere desire to offer the Region a meaningful setting for decision-making, learning, and connection. We believe the time is right to share the strength and uniqueness of Italian Scouting — built on over a century of experience, inter-association cooperation, and a distinctive educational vision.

We imagine a Conference that reflects the values at the core of our daily practice: essentiality, spiritual depth, community involvement, intergenerational dialogue, and sustainability. Our aim is not simply to host a well-organised event but to craft an experience that fully embodies the Scout Method and offers a space to be together in an open, simple, and significant way.

Florence — the proposed venue — is a city of culture, participation, and civic engagement. Its size and infrastructure make it ideal for a sustainable and accessible gathering, while its institutional ecosystem already offers opportunities for concrete collaboration. The local administration and various non-formal education actors have expressed great interest in being involved, and we see the conference as an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen dialogue with other educational agencies, reinforcing Scouting's role in the broader educational landscape.

We are also firmly committed to building and nurturing collaboration with WAGGGS, whatever the format of their 2028 Conference. Whether a joint event is foreseen or not, we will proactively work to ensure meaningful WAGGGS involvement in the conference's journey and programme in the spirit of mutual respect and shared mission.

This conference will place young people at the centre from logistics to content, from volunteer engagement to programme design. It will be a collective effort of our Movement and a chance to empower a new generation of leaders and facilitators while strengthening the Federation's ability to host future international initiatives.

Proposed dates

June or September 2028

Proposed venue

Convention Centre - [Fortezza da Basso, Florence](#).

Deadline to confirm potential hosting of the WAGGGS Regional Conference

31 May 2027

Cost efficiency considerations

Cost efficiency has been a key consideration throughout the planning process. The selected venue, Fortezza da Basso, offers excellent value for money thanks to its extensive in-house services and central location, which minimises the need for additional transfers and logistical costs.

Regarding the timing, the proposed period (June or September) was chosen for its favourable balance between climate sustainability and affordability. During these months, temperatures are more comfortable than in midsummer, ensuring better working conditions for participants and volunteers. At the same time, tourist flows are less intense than peak season, positively impacting accommodation availability and prices. That said, we remain flexible in adjusting the dates within this range to accommodate broader logistical and financial considerations.

Access and visas

Schengen area – visa-free for 60 countries worldwide

Visa support from authorities secured ✓

Sustainability considerations

Sustainability is one of the cornerstones of our approach to Scouting and will guide every stage of the 2028 European Scout Conference hosted in Italy. Our actions will align with both the Guidelines for Hosting the Conference and the WOSM Guidelines for Sustainable Events:

Environmental sustainability - We aim to minimise the ecological footprint of the event by:

- Selecting a venue that prioritises energy efficiency and public transport accessibility.
- Promoting low-impact mobility (train travel, shuttle buses, walking routes).
- Reducing single-use materials and encouraging the use of reusable items.
- Designing food services that favour local, seasonal, and predominantly plant-based options.
- Implementing waste sorting and reduction practices in collaboration with local providers.

Social sustainability - Our project places people and communities at the centre:

- The Conference will be co-created with young volunteers, empowering them through meaningful roles.
- We will work to foster inclusion and accessibility, both physical and economic.
- We will actively engage with local institutions and agencies active in non-formal education, building synergies that outlast the event itself.
- We are committed to creating a space that reflects our core values: dialogue, intergenerational collaboration, spiritual dimension, and a sense of belonging.

Economic sustainability: Cost-efficiency has been a key factor in selecting the location and period.

- We aim to keep fees affordable and provide differentiated participation costs depending on the country of origin.
- We will explore funding partnerships with public and private stakeholders to support the event and promote legacy actions.
- Sustainability is not an add-on for us; it is deeply connected to how we live. We propose Scouting, which is essential, grounded, responsible, and future-oriented.

Risk Awareness and Mitigation

Our organisations apply structured risk assessment and mitigation procedures for all significant events, including safety protocols, emergency planning, insurance coverage, and coordination with local authorities. Risk Management is part of our standard planning process and is constantly updated based on feedback and evolving best practices.

We have identified several potential risks that will be carefully monitored and mitigated throughout the planning and implementation of the conference:

- Weather-related risks: Although the Conference is primarily indoor, contingency plans include the availability of covered or indoor alternatives for any outdoor components, ensuring complete continuity in case of bad weather.
- Uncertainty regarding the co-organisation with WAGGGS: At this stage, whether the event will be co-organised with WAGGGS has not yet been confirmed. This may have logistical and planning implications and represents a risk regarding coordination and clarity of scope.
- Seasonal factors: The selected period (late spring or early autumn) aims to avoid peak summer heat and excessive tourist flows. However, higher-than-average temperatures and increased visitor presence remain factors to consider and mitigate through climate-appropriate logistics and close cooperation with local authorities.

- Minimum participation threshold: A minimum number of participants is required to cover the event's operational costs fully. We are preparing financial backup options in case of lower-than-expected registration numbers to avoid a budget shortfall.
- National safety regulations: Italy has strict and evolving safety and security protocols for public events. Compliance with these regulations will be a priority, and we will work closely with local institutions and emergency services to ensure all measures are in place and constantly updated.

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Score	Mitigation Strategy
Strategic & Reputational	Limited engagement with WAGGGS or external stakeholders	2	3	6	Proactive outreach, inclusive planning, and joint activities regardless of co-hosting.
Operational & Logistical	Venue or transport disruptions due to external factors	3	3	9	Backup venues, detailed transport contingency plan, contracts with reliable providers.
Health, Safety & Safeguarding	Inadequate emergency response or safeguarding incidents	2	5	10	Emergency plan in place, dedicated safeguarding policy, trained staff.
Legal & Contractual	Delays or conflicts in contract execution with vendors or partners	2	3	6	Early legal review, clear contracts, designated legal liaison.
Financial	Budget shortfall due to low participation or rising costs	3	4	12	Conservative budgeting, sponsorship plan, minimum registration thresholds.
Environmental & Sustainability	Failure to meet sustainability commitments	2	3	6	Monitoring plan, local sustainable providers, reusable infrastructure.
Participation & Inclusion	Underrepresentation of certain regions or demographics	3	3	9	Outreach strategy, financial support mechanisms, language accessibility measures.

Safeguarding considerations

Safeguarding is deeply important to the Italian Scout Federation (FIS) and its member associations. In recent years, we have taken necessary steps to make our commitment increasingly concrete and effective by implementing clearer structures, targeted procedures, and more accessible training for leaders and volunteers — particularly in events involving minors and young adults. A key milestone has been the recent approval by the FIS Federal Council of the document "Mi stai a cuore", which sets out shared safeguarding guidelines for both associations. This document defines common principles and operational practices for creating a safe and respectful environment, with particular attention to preventing and managing potential concerns.

Impact on the NSO

Hosting the European Scout Conference in Italy will have a significant and lasting impact on Scouting in our country, acting as both a catalyst and a platform for growth across multiple dimensions, Strengthening internal collaboration. The preparation and delivery of the Conference will reinforce cooperation within the Federazione

Italiana dello Scautismo, fostering a shared vision and enhancing coordination between its member associations through a common, high-stakes project.

This joint effort will create a stronger and more unified Scout movement nationally. Developing members' skills and leadership. Creating a Host Committee and Service Team will provide meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for volunteers, especially young adults. From overseeing logistics and communications to managing technical equipment and supporting international delegates, members will gain valuable experience in project planning, event coordination, intercultural communication, and problem-solving — skills that will remain relevant long after the event and that will strengthen the future leadership of the Movement.

Fostering youth empowerment in a critical context

Placing young people at the centre of the Conference — from concept to implementation — responds directly to one of Italy's most urgent social challenges today. Faced with economic uncertainty, high youth unemployment, and a pervasive sense of powerlessness, many young Italians risk losing trust in their ability to shape their future. This project will be an inspiring example of meaningful youth participation, promoting agency, creativity, and civic responsibility. The Conference will thus be an organisational milestone and a societal statement — encouraging young people to be leaders, not followers.

Raising international visibility

Hosting the Conference will increase the international projection of the Federation, its associations, and individual members, strengthening their presence and credibility within the European Scout Region and the global Movement. It will also provide an opportunity to tell the story of Italian Scouting to a broader audience, showcasing our capacity for innovation, hospitality, and international engagement.

Enhancing logistical and organisational capacity

Organising an event of this scale will consolidate the Federation's ability to manage complex logistics, deepen technical know-how, and set a precedent for future international initiatives. This legacy will benefit national structures and local groups, providing a model and infrastructure for other significant events.

Promoting dialogue on identity and diversity

Welcoming hundreds of delegates from across Europe — each with their own culture, tradition, spirituality, and worldview — offers a powerful platform for reflection on diversity, identity, and shared values. In a country where public discourse on immigration and coexistence is often polarised, this will be a chance for Italian Scouting to publicly affirm its commitment to inclusion, internationalism, and the universality of the Scout Promise and Law.

Consolidating ties with the local community

The Conference will offer concrete opportunities to engage local institutions, services, and stakeholders, contributing to stronger and more enduring relationships between Scouting and the host territory. It will also allow local communities to experience the positive social value of the Scout Movement, encouraging future collaborations.

Space Requirements

Plenary Room (300p)	✓
Breakout rooms (15x20p)	✓
Meeting rooms (4-5)	✓
Exhibition Area	✓

The venue offers flexible indoor spaces that can be arranged to host exhibition areas for partners, Member Organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

Reception Area



The venue includes suitable spaces for hosting receptions and informal gatherings, both indoors and outdoors, depending on the season and programme needs.

Accommodation options

Accommodation in the same venue as the Conference



The Social Hub Lavagnini (3-minute walk)

A modern 20,000 m² facility featuring 390 rooms, including single, double, and triple options. All rooms have private bathrooms (toilet and shower) and are designed to be functional and comfortable. Standard and superior room types are available.

The Social Hub Belfiore (8-minute walk or 7 minutes by tram)

A large hotel structure with 547 rooms and over 1,000 beds across nine floors. Each room includes a private en-suite bathroom with toilet and shower. This facility is well-suited to accommodate large groups attending international events.

Travel

Travel to Florence

From Airports

For airport transfers, the most common and efficient way to reach Firenze SMN involves a direct bus shuttle or a short transfer to a central train station, followed by a train.

- **From Florence Airport (FLR)**
 - **Direct tram line**
 - 15 min.
- **From Pisa Airport (PSA)**
 - **Direct Bus Shuttle**
 - 1 hour (may vary with traffic).
 - **Train (via Pisa Centrale)**
 - 1 hour 10 minutes - 1 hour 40 minutes total.
- **From Bologna Airport (BLQ)**
 - **Monorail and high speed train** - 55 minutes - 1 hour 15 minutes total.
- **From Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO)**
 - **Train and high speed train** - 2 hours 20 minutes - 3 hours total.
- **From Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP)**
 - **Train and high speed train** - 2 hours 57 minutes - 3 hours 30 minutes total.

From major rail crossings (border stations)

The journey will typically involve a transfer to a major Italian hub like Milan, Bologna, or Venice for international train connections to Florence. These border stations are usually served by the national railway company of the neighbouring country, which then connects to the Italian network.

- **From the French border (e.g., via Ventimiglia, Turin)**
 - From Paris to Florence, expect around 8-12 hours with 1-2 changes. From Nice, approximately 6-8 hours with 1-2 changes.
- **From the Swiss border (e.g., via Chiasso, Domodossola)**
 - From Zurich to Florence, expect around 5 hours 30 minutes - 7 hours
- **From the Austrian border (e.g., via Brenner, Tarvisio)**
 - From Vienna to Florence, expect around 9-11 hours.
- **From the Slovenian border (e.g., via Trieste)**
 - From Ljubljana to Florence, expect around 7 hours 30 minutes - 10 hours.

Internal travel:

- **From Santa Maria Novella Train Station:**
 - On foot: ~5 min
 - Tram T1 or T2: ~3 min
 - By Bus Multiple lines (6, 14, 17, 22, etc.): ~5-10 min

Finances and participation fee

Overall Budget

- € 550'000 (incl. accommodation) for 300 pax

Proposed fee (average)

- € 850 (incl. accommodation)

The Scout Association of Macedonia (SIM)

The year 2028 marks a significant milestone for our Association, our 75th anniversary. Celebrating this occasion by hosting the European Scout Conference would be a meaningful way to honour our legacy, reaffirm our commitment to the values of Scouting, and open a new chapter of regional collaboration and inspiration for young people. This candidacy comes at a pivotal moment for the European Scout Region, following the adoption of new regional boundaries. As a National Scout Organization from the Southeast European subregion, we see this as an opportunity to ensure stronger inclusion, equitable representation, and connection across our diverse Region.

The proposed venue for the Conference, Metropol Lake Resort in Ohrid, offers ideal facilities for hosting an international event of this size and significance. The resort provides full accessibility, a conference capacity exceeding 400 participants, and various accommodation options, including single, twin, and triple rooms with private bathrooms. The venue is experienced in managing high-level international gatherings, and its location on the shores of Lake Ohrid, a UNESCO World Heritage site - provides a breathtaking and inspiring setting that reflects the spirit of unity and peace at the core of our Movement. Transport will be arranged from Ohrid and Skopje airports, ensuring smooth and affordable access for all delegations.

Hosting the Conference in our country would have a powerful and lasting impact on Scouting in North Macedonia and the wider Balkan Region. It would raise the Scout Movement's visibility and recognition among institutions and the general public, strengthen national and local partnerships, and inspire young people to take an active role in building a better world. It would also contribute to long-term membership growth and enhance cooperation between NSOs from neighbouring countries, building momentum for regional projects and partnerships.

We also place high importance on sustainability. The 2028 Conference will include a dedicated environmental program aligned with our national reforestation initiative "Borenka." As part of this programme, a tree will be planted in the name of each participant, creating a living dedication to environmental protection that symbolises the unity and shared responsibility of scouts toward nature. These activities will be conducted in partnership with our public forestry institutions and local youth groups, ensuring long-term impact and engagement.

Proposed dates

22-28 October 2028

Proposed venue

Hotel Complex - [Metropol Lake Resort, Ohrid](#)

Deadline to confirm potential hosting of the WAGGGS Regional Conference

31 December 2026

Cost efficiency considerations

In selecting both the venue and proposed dates for the Conference, SIM strongly emphasised ensuring cost-efficiency and accessibility for all participants. The Metropol Lake Resort in Ohrid was chosen for its proven capacity to host significant international events at competitive rates, offering full-board accommodation, modern conference facilities, and a variety of room types to suit different budgets—all within a single, lakeside location. The proposed dates - **22-28 October** - were strategically selected to fall outside the peak tourist season, outside the peak scout activities season, and significantly lowering accommodation and service expenses while aligning with the autumn school holiday period in many European countries. This timing ensures greater availability for youth and volunteer participants, allowing for broad and inclusive attendance without academic conflicts.

Access and visas

Visa-free for 135 countries worldwide

Visa support from authorities secured ✖

While we do not yet have formal written confirmation from the government regarding visa facilitation, SIM has a longstanding and constructive relationship with national institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have a proven track record of successfully coordinating visa support for previous international events, with no significant obstacles reported by participants. The country maintains a flexible and cooperative approach to issuing visas for events of this nature, mainly when supported by an official invitation and event accreditation. That said, the current governmental practice does not allow issuing formal "letters of guarantee" for events scheduled beyond their current political mandate. SIM is fully prepared to coordinate the visa process through issuing official invitation letters, early notification to relevant embassies and consulates, and direct liaison with the Ministry and border services where needed.

Sustainability considerations

Environmental sustainability will be a core element of the European Scout Conference 2028. Through our actions, SIM aims to challenge the common misconception that Balkan or non-EU countries lack the commitment to sustainability by showing that we not only care but lead by example.

A central initiative will be the expansion of our national reforestation program, Borenka. In partnership with local institutions, we will plant a tree for each participant. This symbolic and practical action will create a long-term environmental legacy connected to the Conference.

Together with Metropol Lake Resort, we will implement eco-conscious practices such as waste reduction, eliminating single-use plastics, and offering locally sourced and vegetarian-friendly meals. We will reduce printed materials by prioritising digital tools and encourage group travel and shared transfers to minimise transport emissions.

With these efforts, SIM will demonstrate that sustainability is not about geography, national regulations, or EU status but values, actions, and responsibility.

Risk Awareness and Mitigation

The Scout Association of Macedonia (SIM) has established risk management practices that are regularly applied in planning and delivering major events. The most recent example is the 13th National Scout Jamboree (Smotra 2023), which hosted over 800 participants nationwide and abroad. For the Jamboree, SIM developed a comprehensive Risk Management Plan covering participant safety, health and emergency protocols, financial risk, safeguarding (Safe from Harm), environmental factors, and logistical challenges. The plan included assigned responsibilities, emergency response procedures, medical support on-site, and coordination with local authorities and rescue services. This experience has strengthened SIM's internal capacity and established a practical model for assessing and mitigating risks, which will be adapted and scaled for the European Scout Conference 2028.

Given the long lead time until 2028, several potential risks have been identified.

One is the lack of formal visa guarantees at this stage, as the North Macedonian government typically does not issue such documents more than a year in advance or beyond the current mandate. However, SIM has strong institutional relationships and will mitigate this through early coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies, as well as by issuing official invitation letters and offering direct support to participants.

Another consideration is transportation logistics, especially for participants arriving through regional airports. While Ohrid and Skopje are well-connected, SIM will arrange organised transfers and provide travel guidance to ensure smooth access.

Finally, with the event scheduled three years ahead, there is a risk of significant budget changes due to inflation or evolving service costs. SIM will address this by negotiating early agreements with key service providers and developing flexible budget plans to adapt if needed.

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Score	Mitigation Measures
Strategic and Reputational	Potential reputational damage if the event does not meet expectations	1	4	4	Strong planning framework, experienced team, past success with similar-scale events.
Operational and Logistical	Transport complexity, especially for international participants	2	3	6	Organised transfers, detailed travel guidance, early coordination with travel providers.
Health, Safety, and Safeguarding	Medical or safeguarding incidents during the event	1	5	5	On-site medical staff, "Listening Ear" programme, trained safeguarding officers, partnership with local emergency services.
Legal and Contractual	Delayed visa arrangements due to government timelines	2	2	4	Early embassy outreach, formal invitation letters, strong institutional relationships with Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Financial	Inflation or unexpected cost increases	2	3	6	Early service contracts, buffer in budget, regular cost review, diverse funding sources.
Environmental and Sustainability	Limited implementation of green measures due to resource constraints	1	3	3	Tree-planting legacy (BORENKA), digital materials, waste sorting stations, eco-meal planning with venue.
Participation and Inclusion	Difficulty securing wide participation, especially from lower-income NSOs	2	3	6	Solidarity Fund for at least 15 participants, inclusive programming, partnerships to ensure accessibility, accessible venue.

Safeguarding considerations

SIM has intense and structured safeguarding practices that are aligned with the WOSM Safe from Harm framework and the PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) standards, particularly through collaboration with UNICEF North Macedonia. In addition to these frameworks, SIM has developed its "Listening Ear" programme (Slushko), a dedicated mechanism for emotional support, reporting, and well-being during events. Safeguarding is embedded in SIM's internal policies and event procedures, including mandatory training for staff and volunteers, clear codes of conduct, reporting channels, and participant awareness sessions. SIM promotes a proactive culture of safety, inclusion, and child protection, ensuring every event is safe, respectful, and supportive for young people and adults alike.

Impact on the NSO

Hosting the Conference in North Macedonia in 2028 will be a transformative milestone for the Scout Association of Macedonia (SIM), the wider Balkan sub-region, and the European Scout Region, especially in light of its redefined boundaries since 2023. As one of Southeast Europe's first major WOSM events under the new regional structure, it will represent a strong commitment to equity, inclusion, and balanced representation within the Movement.

This event will empower Scouting across the Balkans, bringing visibility to a dynamic but often underrepresented Region and fostering deeper cooperation among NSOs.

For SIM, the timing is significant. 2028 the organisation will celebrate its 75th anniversary, marking nearly eight decades of dedicated service to youth development and community engagement. Hosting the Conference in the same year will amplify the celebration of SIM's legacy and achievements while looking boldly to the future. It will showcase the organisation's growth, alignment with global Scouting values, and readiness to take on leadership.

The Conference will significantly strengthen SIM's role and credibility nationally and internationally. It will build long-term capacity through hands-on experience in organising a complex international event, developing skills in project management, logistics, communication, and intercultural coordination among its volunteers and staff.

The event will also serve as a platform for youth leadership, offering young people from across the country and Region a chance to contribute meaningfully to global scouting processes. At the national level, the event will boost the visibility of scouting, attract new members, and reinforce support from public institutions and the private sector. It will create stronger partnerships with local authorities, such as the City of Ohrid, as well as ministries, youth platforms, and civil society organisations. These relationships will extend beyond the event itself and contribute to the long-term sustainability of scouting in our country. In line with scouting's commitment to environmental responsibility,

SIM will also launch a dedicated Sustainability Program as part of the Conference legacy. This includes special BORENKA reforestation activities, through which trees will be planted in honour of every Conference participant. These trees will not only symbolise our shared responsibility for the planet. Still, they will also serve as a living legacy of the event, rooted in the soil of North Macedonia and growing into the future. Moreover, the Conference will leave upgraded and improved organisational policies and trained volunteers, which will benefit future national and regional events. It will inspire pride and engagement within SIM and catalyse growth.

Space Requirements

Plenary Room (300p)	✓
Breakout rooms (15x20p)	✓
Meeting rooms (4-5)	✓
Exhibition Area	✓

The facilities include spacious lobbies and adjacent areas that can be arranged as an Exhibition Area. These spaces are suitable for booths, displays, partner stands, and interactive installations, and they are located close to the conference hall for maximum visibility and accessibility.

Reception Area	✓
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The venue includes indoor and outdoor reception areas, including a large lobby, restaurant terraces, and green open spaces by the lake. These areas are ideal for welcome receptions, informal networking, or cultural evenings, providing a scenic and flexible setting for hosting participants.

Accommodation options

Accommodation in the same venue as the Conference



In total, the resort offers 370 hotel rooms, all with private bathrooms, ensuring adequate facilities for large groups. The variety in room types and configurations provides flexibility to accommodate different group sizes and preferences. Rooms available at the venue: single rooms, double (twin or double bedrooms), triple room (3 beds, twin + single or 3 single beds), suits with 2-3 rooms etc.

Travel

Nearest Airports to Metropol Lake Resort:

- Ohrid Airport (OHD): 20 minutes to the venue - Seasonal flights from European cities.
- Skopje Airport (SKP) – 2.5–3 hours to Ohrid: regular international flights.

International bus stations - Skopje and Ohrid

- Arranged shuttle from hosts on arrivals and departures day from the Skopje and Ohrid airports and bus stations.

Other nearby international airports include Tirana (Albania), Pristina (Kosovo), Thessaloniki (Greece), and Sofia (Bulgaria)—all within a 2.5 to 6.5-hour drive to Ohrid.

Finances and participation fee

Overall Budget

- € 225'000 (excl. accommodation) for 300 pax

Proposed fee (average)

- € 850 (excl. accommodation) – Early Bird
- € 950 (excl. accommodation) – Regular fee

Federación De Escultismo En España (FEE)

Introduction

The Federation of Scouting in Spain would be highly significant if it could host a European Conference. Despite being one of the founding members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, we have never hosted a major regional or world-level event.

Our Federation has faced many challenges over the years, including a prohibition that lasted more than 40 years. We believe it is time to show the Scout Movement what we are capable of.

We have recently embarked on an exciting path of collaboration and mutual understanding within our Federation, which is allowing us to set long-term goals and ambitions. Among these is our desire to host events of this scale and importance. We are well accustomed to organising similar events, as we're legally required to hold two national assemblies per year, each of which gathering up to 300 participants. Our national Boards, volunteers, and headquarters have extensive experience in managing registrations, preparing travel arrangements, booking venues, and coordinating all aspects of event organisation. It is worth noting that our assemblies are complex events, involving all forms of transportation and, in some cases, full live streaming of the plenary sessions.

Our national organisations are firmly committed to democratic, effective, and transparent governance. We firmly believe that sharing ideas, debating them openly, and reaching agreements are fundamental principles that should guide the Scout Movement.

On the other hand, the Federation of Scouting in Spain has been evolving over the last few years over a shared vision of its constituent National Scout Associations, with joint strategies, stronger collaboration, projects, and initiatives: new working methods and new ways to approach the different common challenges ahead. As an outcome of this process, we now have a new structure designed in our National Scout Organization, aiming at reaching out to more young people. In this context, FEE sees hosting this World event as a new opportunity to strengthen the National Scout Organization.

Lastly, this event represents an opportunity for growth: being in the spotlight of the non-formal education entities and the media would contribute to building confidence among the public institutions, potential new partners for scouting, Spanish families and youth, which is the breeding ground for a sustainable and quality growth of scouting in Spain.

Proposed dates

June – July – August 2028, flexible.

Proposed venue

Monastery guesthouse - [San Martín Pinario Monastery, Santiago de Compostela](#)

Deadline to confirm potential hosting of the WAGGGS Regional Conference

31 May 2027

Cost efficiency considerations

From the first moment, we thought of looking for a city other than Madrid or Barcelona, which are usually more expensive.

We have chosen this city because it offers an excellent balance between quality and cost, despite being a top tourist destination in Spain.

Access and visas

Schengen area - visa-free for 60 countries worldwide

Visa support from authorities secured ✖

We have not yet been able to make a formal inquiry, but Spain is one of the countries where obtaining a visa is generally easier compared to many others worldwide. The FEE will facilitate the due paperwork by preparing a personalised invitation letter and directly contacting the Spanish Consulate services of those countries sending participants to this event. We are already in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are confident we will get visas for different countries. However, we have not yet received confirmation. They usually facilitate the visas for congresses and other events, so this shouldn't be a problem.

Sustainability considerations

We will follow the WOSM guidelines for Sustainable events:

- We can reduce the carbon footprint by having a venue that is very close to the city centre and reducing the trips as much as possible.
- Also, organising and offering shuttle buses to move the people and reducing individual transports.
- We could use some electric buses to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Also, Santiago is a small city so that people can walk to different places.
- We will also try to be as digital as possible, reducing the consumption of paper, resources or unnecessary travels to meet / do the previous planning of the event.
- We will also reduce promotional material and gifts, looking for more sustainable alternatives, such as small gifts that have a social impact or are made from recycled materials.

Risk Awareness and Mitigation

We have internal procedures and documents for Risk Management and Safe from Harm, and wide experience of this in our events. For example, in ASDE there is a Risk Management National Team (Kotick) who supervises and ensures that all the risks are covered in the different national, regional and local activities.

Since the event will occur in an urban setting and within a building, all safety and evacuation requirements will be carefully observed, particularly those related to fire emergencies, which are the primary risk in such environments. This is not an area with potential natural disasters or security threats. On the other hand, we will try to ensure that professionals cover the data and the medical and security situations, creating collaborations with local authorities, hospitals, and so on.

Here is a more detailed look at the risks we consider most relevant, as well as the measures of mitigation we have already considered.

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Score	Mitigation Measures
Strategic and Reputational	Low international participation due to negative perceptions or lack of interest	2	4	8	Early promotion, use of European Scout networks, partnerships with key NSOs.
Operational and Logistical	Delays in transport logistics and accreditations	3	3	9	Detailed logistics plan, local support team, pre-event testing and simulations.
Health, Safety, and Safeguarding	Medical emergency or accident at the event venue	2	5	10	24h medical service, insurance coverage, well-defined emergency protocols
Legal and Contractual	Breach of contract with suppliers or venues	2	4	8	Clear contracts, legal review, advance planning.
Financial	Lack of funding or loss of sponsors	3	4	12	Diversification of sponsors, budget reserves, institutional funding.

Environmental and Sustainability	Negative environmental impact (waste, transport, etc.)	3	3	9	Sustainability plan, recycling, use of public or shared transport.
Participation and Inclusion	Economic, language or accessibility barriers for diverse participants	3	4	12	Scholarships or financial support, multilingual materials, special needs accommodations.
Participation and Inclusion	Cultural misunderstandings or insensitivity leading to exclusion or conflict	3	4	12	Cultural awareness training for staff, inclusive programme design, intercultural dialogue spaces.

Safeguarding considerations

We had developed child safeguarding protocols since 2014 when we participated in the European Region's "Safe from Harm" project. Since then, these rules and protocols have been consistently applied at all national events involving minors. Additionally, "Violet Points" have recently been established to provide support in cases where a woman may have experienced any form of abuse or harassment, whether during governance-related events or field activities.

Impact on the NSO

The Federation of Scouting in Spain would be highly significant if it could host a European Conference. Despite being one of the founding members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, we have never before hosted a major regional or world-level event.

Our Federation has faced many challenges over the years, including a prohibition that lasted more than 40 years. Now, it is time to show the Scout Movement what we can do. We have recently embarked on an exciting path of collaboration and mutual understanding within our Federation, which is allowing us to set long-term goals and ambitions. Among these is our desire to host events of this scale and importance.

Our national organisations are firmly committed to democratic, effective, and transparent governance. We firmly believe that sharing ideas, debating them openly, and reaching agreements are fundamental principles that should guide the Scout Movement. On the other hand, the Federation of Scouting in Spain has been evolving over the last years over a shared vision of its constituent National Scout Associations, with joint strategies, stronger collaboration, projects and initiatives: new working methods and new ways to approach the different common challenges ahead. As an outcome of this process, we now have a new structure designed in our NSO aiming at reaching out to more young people. In this context, FEE sees hosting this World event as a new opportunity to strengthen the National Scout Organization.

We have hosted some smaller international scout events in Spain in the past, both as National Scout Associations and as National Scout Organization (I World Scout Interreligious Forum in 2003, The Scout Academy of the European Scout Region in 2008, World Scout Foundation BP Fellows event in 2012, All Groups Meeting of the European Scout Region in 2018, various ICCS events and meetings, etc.); so the European Guide and Scout Conference means also an important -but still feasible- challenge for us, hosting such a European Scout event which would allow us to learn and grow our capacities to host larger events in our country in the future potentially.

Lastly, this event represents an opportunity for growth: being in the spotlight of the non-formal education entities and the media would contribute to building confidence among the public institutions, potential new partners for Scouting, Spanish families, and youth, which is the breeding ground for a sustainable and quality growth of scouting in Spain.

Space Requirements

Plenary Room (300p) ✓

Breakout rooms (15x20p) ✓

Meeting rooms (4-5) ✓

Exhibition Area ✓

The convent cloister could be used for this purpose.

Reception Area ✓

Yes, a space for this purpose could be arranged in the main hall.

Accommodation options

Accommodation in the same venue as the Conference ✗

The Hospedería offers 126 rooms, all equipped with a full bathroom, as well as 57 simpler rooms. The total accommodation capacity is 300 people. Additional accommodation is available in Santiago if needed.

Travel

By Plane

Santiago de Compostela Airport (SCQ), also known as Lavacolla Airport, is located about 12 km from the city centre and is the main air gateway to the region. It offers regular domestic flights from major Spanish cities like Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Valencia, and Sevilla. There are also international connections to key European cities such as London, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, Milan, and Lisbon.

Once at the airport, you can reach the city centre by:

- **Bus:** The airport bus (run by Empresa Freire) runs every 30 minutes and takes about 20–30 minutes to reach the city centre.
- **Taxi:** A taxi ride takes around 15–20 minutes and costs approximately €21.

By Train

Santiago de Compostela's train station (Estación de Tren) is centrally located and well connected to other major Spanish cities.

- **From Madrid:** Direct trains operated by Renfe take approximately 3.5 to 5.5 hours, depending on the service.
- **From A Coruña or Vigo:** Regional trains connect these nearby Galician cities to Santiago in about 1–2 hours.
- **From Barcelona:** There is a long-distance daily service that takes around 12–13 hours.

By Bus

The Santiago de Compostela bus station (Estación de Autobuses) offers numerous regional and national connections, making it a convenient choice for budget travellers.

- **From Madrid:** Direct buses with ALSA take about 8 hours.
- **From Porto and Lisbon:** International buses run by FlixBus or ALSA offer connections to Santiago, with journey times ranging from 6 to 9 hours.
- **From within Galicia:** Frequent services connect cities like Lugo, Ourense, A Coruña, and Vigo.

Most bus lines arrive near the city centre or provide easy access via local transit.

There will be shuttle buses provided by the Government of Galicia from the airport (Santiago-Rosalía de Castro Airport) to the Monastery, as Santiago is a central point and a reference for other types of meetings, and the city is used to receive multiple visitors.

Finances and participation fee

Overall Budget

- € 153'000 (incl. accommodation) for 300 pax

Proposed fee (average)

€ 800 (incl. accommodation)