2025-02 – Promoting youth members to leadership roles

Background

Youth Empowerment has long been a fundamental pillar of Scouting in Europe. The European Scout Region has consistently strived to lead the way in ensuring meaningful youth participation, with the highest number of young volunteers and a strong commitment to youth representation in decision-making bodies.

Building on this legacy and the European Scout Conference Resolution 2022-02, the European Scout Region developed and adopted a Youth Empowerment Framework (November 2024) to strengthen the voice and impact of young people in decision-making. This framework provides a structured approach to fostering youth leadership at all levels, ensuring that young people are not only included in governance structures but are actively shaping the Region's future.

The Youth Empowerment Framework, provided as a background document to this resolution, is built on three key pillars:

- Ensuring young people lead decision-making at all levels, supported by intergenerational cooperation.
- Developing capacity-building initiatives to equip young people with the necessary skills to take on leadership roles.
- Fostering an enabling environment where youth leadership is systematically integrated into governance structures.

Through consultations with over 298 young people across 26 countries at European Agora (2023, 2024) and Roverway 2024, key barriers were identified, including lack of leadership opportunities, difficulty in networking, and access to mentoring. The framework responds by setting clear targets.

Simultaneously, the World Youth Involvement Policy is set for review, creating an opportunity for alignment and mutual reinforcement between regional and global efforts. In this context, the European Scout Committee proposes this resolution to reaffirm the Region’s commitment to Youth Empowerment and to call on Member Organizations (MOs) to take concrete actions to implement the Youth Empowerment Framework.

Content Proposal

The 25th European Scout Conference,

- *recalling* World Scout Conference Resolutions 2021-05 on the Youth Engagement Strategy and 2021-07 Youth Advisor System and Youth Involvement in Decision-Making,
- *recalling* the European Scout Conference Resolution 2022-02 calling the European Scout Committee to present a regional framework for the implementation of WOSM’s Youth Engagement Strategy,
- *acknowledging* the Youth Empowerment Framework for the European Scout Region approved by the European Scout Committee this Triennium,
- *recognising* the ongoing process initiated by the World Scout Committee to revise the WOSM Youth Involvement Policy,
- *acknowledging* the different paths and traditions the European Scout Region has taken on youth empowerment in the past,
- *recognising* the fact that, at the end of the Triennium, still 49% of the volunteers in the Operational Framework of the European Scout Region are under the age of 30,

- *highlighting* the work that has been done to motivate young people to run for the European Scout Committee,
- *Considering* that meaningfully representing young people in their boards and other leadership functions is a responsibility of the Member Organizations and WOSM.

Asks the European Scout Committee and the Member Organizations of the European Scout Region,

- **to encourage the use of a data-driven approach** to identify the best course of action,
- **to continue their efforts to encourage** and empower young people to take on leadership roles within their Member Organizations (especially the National Board) and WOSM (especially the European Scout Committee),
- **to call on Member Organizations and the European Scout Region to take meaningful steps** to implement the Youth Empowerment Framework,
- **to actively contribute to the revision of the World Youth Involvement Policy** and call on Member Organizations to adapt their own policies accordingly,
- **to deliver the necessary support to MOs** through the WOSM Services.

Proposed by: European Scout Committee

Background Information Document

Prepared by the World Scout Bureau Europe Support Centre

Draft Resolution title:	Promoting youth members to leadership roles
Proposed by:	European Scout Committee

Policy Implications

This Draft Resolution has an impact on and strives to inspire the European Region's and NSO's ways of working when it comes to implementing the Youth Empowerment Framework.

Historical Background

The following historical resolutions, decisions or proposals are relevant when considering this Draft Resolution:

- World Scout Conference Resolutions
  - 2021-R05 - Youth Engagement Strategy
  - 2021-R07 - Youth Advisor System and Youth Involvement in Decision-Making
  - 2017-R07 - Inclusive Decision-Making - Developing the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Youth Forum
  - 2014-R09 - World Scout Youth Involvement Policy
- European Scout Conference Resolutions
  - 2022-R02 - Youth Empowerment
  - 2001-R11 - Involving young people in decision-making in the European Scout Region
  - 2001-R12 - Participation of young people in decision-making

Resource Implications

The successful implementation of this resolution requires dedicated human and financial resources to ensure the effective rollout of the Youth Empowerment Framework at both the regional and national levels. Investment in WOSM Services and event-based support will be crucial for delivering training, networking opportunities, and leadership development. The European Scout Region will seek to optimise existing resources and explore funding opportunities for regional events and initiatives as they arise.

Human	**Financial**
Volunteers: ▪ WOSM Consultants and Volunteers will support the implementation of the Framework's targets at the regional and national levels. ▪ Membership in each event Planning Team to oversee related commitments and targets.	Estimated 100'000 USD for the implementation of all the proposed actions. These costs are estimated based on operational costs of the World Scout Bureau and include: ▪ Delivery of WOSM Services. ▪ Support to events planning teams. ▪ Attendance and planning of Regional Events and initiatives. Additionally, any funding opportunity for regional events and initiatives will be considered as they come.
Staff: ▪ One World Scout Bureau staff member is on 25% FTE to ensure coordination in implementing the Youth Empowerment Framework.	
External Resources: N/A	

