

# THE ACADEMY

The Academy is a unique event for Guiding and Scouting in the Europe region that brings together key volunteers from the two organisations WAGGGS and WOSM.

The annual event is an opportunity for participants from each organisation to connect and share ideas that they can take back to support their national organisations.

**PARTICIPANTS CAN ALSO USE THE EVENT TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PATHS.**



# THE HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY

▶ The Academy concept dates back to the Plato's school of philosophy in the 4th century B.C. and it was based on the idea of an institution for higher learning, research, or honorary membership.

To fill this brief, The Academy is a unique Guide and Scout event where participants can benefit from high quality training and networking opportunities around the core priorities of the European Regions of WAGGGS and WOSM. The first Academy between WAGGGS and WOSM took place in Paris in 2011. Before then both organisations had been running their own separate personal learning events for adult volunteers.

**IN MARCH 2008**, WAGGGS's ran its first aptly named 'Pick and Mix' events. Participants were able to choose from a variety of seminars relevant to Guiding in the region depending on their own personal interest and that of their MO. Then in October 2008 WOSM ran its first version of The Academy in Mollina, Spain. As an international learning event, it had a very similar concept and targets, so the decision was taken a few years later to join them together.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



At WAGGGS, we believe that by working in partnership with others, such as WOSM, we can be a stronger voice for young people, enabling them to build a fairer, more equal world for everyone. We place the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their vision of a fairer world at the heart of all we do. All of our Global Programmes helps us work towards at least one goal. **Our partnership with WOSM focuses on**

**Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goal**

## WAGGGS AND WOSM IN EUROPE

▶ Across Europe, the Member Organisations (MOs) and National Scouting Organisations (NSOs) have always been well connected. 32 of the 60 MOs in the region are co-educational and joint members of both global governing bodies – WAGGGS and WOSM.

In recent years the two organisations have begun to share more advocacy, networking and training events to help young people across the region make the most of what Guiding and Scouting stands for - fun, friendship and giving young people the skills, attitudes and opportunities that can change themselves, their community and our world.

**Recognising that together they can have a stronger voice for young people in the region the decision was taken to join the two events together. The unique and complementary perspective that participants from each organisation can bring not only opens up more opportunities to young people in the region, but also helps them to find innovative solutions to issues and challenges that girls and boys face across Europe.**

“Great place for networking and exchange experiences and points of view with scouts and guides from all over Europe. The sessions are also important to show you different approaches and tools to tackle all kinds of problems you are leading within your Organisation.”

Participant, The Academy 2018

## WHO ORGANISES THE ACADEMY?



To ensure it is a truly joint event, WAGGGS and WOSM take it in turns to run the event in alternate years. Each event lasts for four days with between 100-250 participants. Approximately 28 sessions are offered throughout each event, each of them repeated at least twice.

### THE ORGANISING TEAM CONSISTS OF:

2 committee members (WOSM and WAGGGS) to ensure that the event programme reflects the strategy for the wider region.

2 staff members for the lead organisation.

2-3 content managers as part of the support team, they select the sessions and support facilitators.

There is often a balance between WAGGGS and WOSM volunteers.

The event is open to anyone holding a role at national level in a WAGGGS or WOSM Association, ranging from members of working groups up to Chief Commissioners.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ACADEMY

### THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE ACADEMY IS TO:

- Tell the story of Guiding and Scouting in an influential and effective way
- Understand and be prepared to respond to the needs of young women and men in their societies
- Apply learning, innovation and research on WAGGGS and WOSM strategic priorities
- Design and deliver relevant educational programme
- Effectively engage and achieve recognition for volunteering

### THE ACADEMY IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS TO BE;

- Trained in various topics of relevance for both WAGGGS and WOSM Europe Region and to find tailored, innovative solutions to the diverse needs Scouting and Guiding organisations are facing in Europe;
- A space for networking and sharing ideas (informal learning and future cooperation);
- The sense of being one Movement for young people in Europe.



Participants are encouraged to use the event as a personal development opportunity, where they can hone their leadership skills whilst tackling issues related to the core areas of Scouting and Guiding. They can then take this leadership experience back to their national organisation so they too can benefit from the connections and knowledge their participant member gained.

## IN 2018

sessions at **THE ACADEMY** tackled issues such as diversity and inclusion, what makes a quality youth experience, peace education for Scouts and Guides, empowering teenagers to be change makers, and how to find funding opportunities and strategies.



## “ASK THE CHILDREN, OPEN YOUR EYES AND EARS AND MAKE IT REAL!”

The session exploring how to create a quality youth experience encouraged participants to think through some key questions they needed to consider when putting together a youth led session: How do we make sure our programmes are relevant to young people? How do we celebrate diversity in the experience we offer? How can your youth programme empower young people and make sure they take the lead in choosing and planning activities.



The non-formal education approach offers a diverse learning experience for young people, the sessions can involve a role playing game, a case study, working in small groups, using reflection tools or being asked challenging questions they then have to discuss and debate.

## FROM THE WAGGGS PERSPECTIVE

From a WAGGGS perspective the event provides an opportunity to:

- Disseminate project results, tools and innovative material.
- Interact and gather feedback from MOs in a more informal setting.
- Opportunity to network and build relationships with MOs.
- Promote relevant projects and opportunities coming up.



*The Academy is an excellent opportunity to meet other people and learn about similar issues to help me in my role, and also to share my experiences with others.*



Participant, The Academy 2018

## THE ACADEMY 2019

The Academy 2019 takes place from 2-7th November in Slovenia.

Guide and Scout members from both organisations will bring their unique perspectives and vision to share with other from all over Europe on key topics including; external relations in Europe; communication; non-formal education; and training and Strategy for Growth.

The event will be designed to give all participants the creative space they need to explore the four main topics in depth, with the opportunity to focus on those most relevant to the needs of their organisation. A team of experts will deliver each session.

The specific objectives are to:

- Build a common educational framework to help improve the delivery and quality of youth activities offered in national organisations.
- Promote the importance of non-formal and informal learning programmes through the dissemination of good practice.
- Bring an international perspective to youth activities in the region and develop the skills and capabilities of youth workers to deliver these activities.

The expected outcomes are:

- Young people have acquired new skills and knowledge to help improve their employability.
- Participants feel more able to be vocal about issues that affect them at a local, national, European and global level;
- Guide & Scout associations in Europe can deliver high quality non-formal education and training to their young members
- Guide & Scout associations in Europe will have reinforced their collaboration and shared best practices to support growth in the region.



*I recommend the Academy because of the diversity of sessions, you can make your own tailored programme, to fit your role or needs. And it is a great place to network and learn from others.*



Participant, The Academy 2018

WAGGGS is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world with 10 million members across 150 countries. For more information please visit [www.wagggs.org](http://www.wagggs.org) or call 00 44 207 794 1181.