

Growth Best Practice

National Organization of
Scouts of Ukraine



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National Organization of
Scouts of Ukraine

Bring scouting to school in Ukraine

Project name	Bring scouting to school in Ukraine
Country - NSO/NSA	Ukraine - National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine
Period of implementation of the project	Project started in October 2018
Key numbers	After one year: 13 schools implement scouting in 4 different regions Between 14 new scout groups with more than 350 new members

The project

In Ukraine, scouting has always been community based and works well in this situation. However, it exists some areas and regions where our organisation is less represented despite the fact that it would be useful for the population and the communities.

We have decided to develop a programme to have a school-based scouting in different places of the country. On a long term this can enable us to offer scouting to more youth coming from diverse geographical areas. We started to do this thanks to a favourable change of the legal situation which came from the adoption of a new law in Ukraine to support non-formal education.

This represented a great opportunity for us to develop our links with the government and more particularly the Ministry of education. With their support, we were able to have schools which were more trustful and willing to implement scouting.

Here is how we were able to develop this program and engage schools in this process:

In our NSO we have run an open call to recruit regional coordinators in different regions. Each coordinator is responsible for the development of scouting in the schools of its regions. Four coordinators have been selected by the national board and benefited of a training from our national office to be able to fulfil all their missions.

Once trained, they contacted and went to the schools of their district to introduce scouting to them. This was the opportunity for the regional coordinators to explain the benefits of scouting for the youth and to explain to the schools how scouting can be implemented by them. After discussing the advantages for the school, for the scout and for the organisation, if the school wanted to implement scouting a MoU was signed between the NSO and the local school. The regional coordinators were supported by the national office in this process and in the development of the MoU.

Once the school agreed to implement scouting programmes the first scout activities took place inside the school in extra-school hours. Both members of the school and youth from the area can join the school-base scouting which gives a great flexibility to recruit new members both inside and outside the school. The role of the regional coordinators at that point is to support each school in the recruitment of new leaders and youth to set up a new group and sustainable activity. The new adult leaders were trained to be able to educate and organise activities following the scout method. The coordinator also takes an active role to pass information about educational methods and how scouting works.



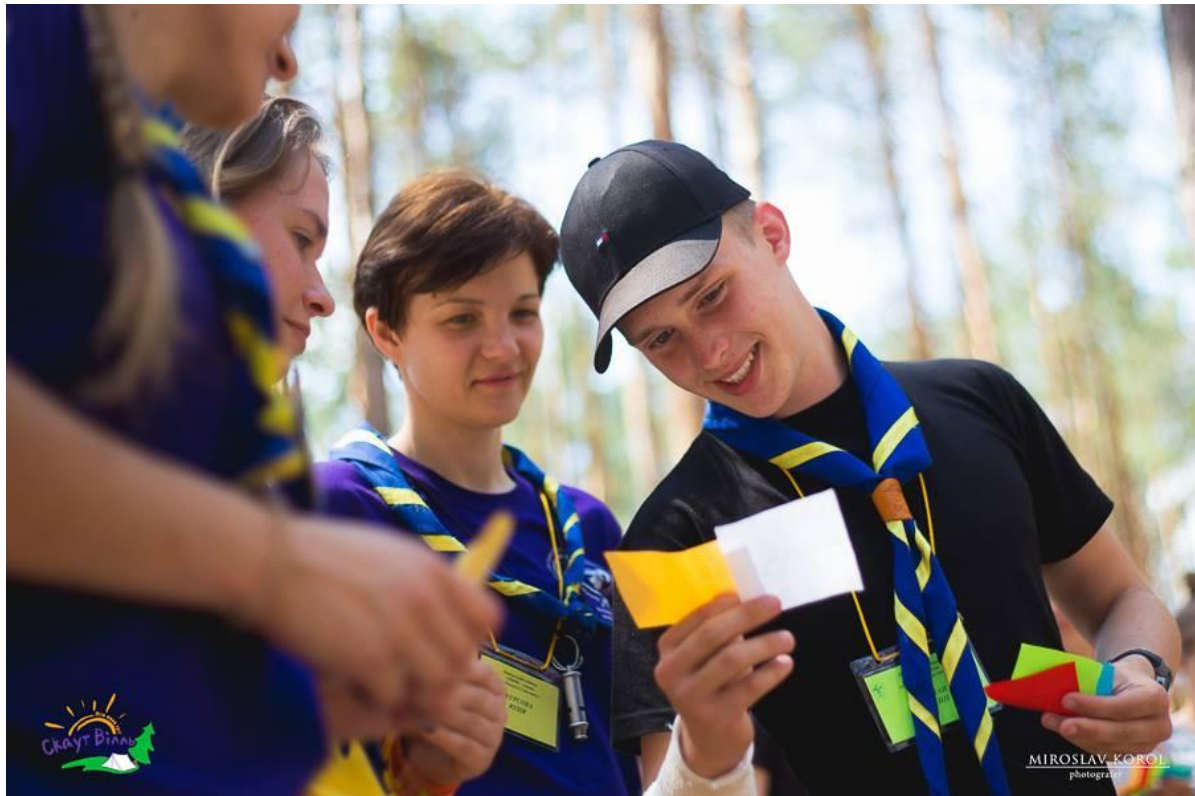
Impact of the project

We are in the first year of opening scouting to school, which means that we are still learning every day on these aspects, but we can already see the success and the impact of this project as from the 27 schools contacted 14 groups were created in 13 schools. This enable us to welcome more than 350 young people supported by 150 adults' leaders.

Over these various location, six schools had to find adults leaders and have been trained to be ready to welcome youth in their activities and schools are welcoming youth in 4 different regions of Ukraine.

The project really enabled us to develop scouting in a quick way by relying on a country-wide programme based on local partnerships. It allows us to create a win-win situation with school which impact the way our NOS operates and permit us to reach directly the local communities.

In addition, as these groups are new and benefit from the support of our national structure from the beginning, they are following the highest standard of good governance and group structure of our organisation which is an inspiration source for the other groups.



Resources needed

Human Resources

This project required us to set up a team at the national level to create links with the government and to set up a regional network ready to support the development of new scout groups. The new groups required a support almost similar to the one we provide for community-based scouting; however, the requests are more regular as the groups are in a creation and development phase. As a result, we have adapted our human resources to be able to answer these increased requests.

External support

We had for this project to get the support from both schools and government which is a good achievement on our side. We continue to develop the partnerships with both entities and for the schools we continue to adapt to the places and the realities of the local environment.

To build this partnership we also benefited from the support of WOSM at world level as the Secretary General, Ahmad Alhendawi, met the ministry of education which allowed to showcase the success of school-based scouting in other countries and strengthen our relations with the government.

Challenges faced

One of the biggest the challenge we faced was to convince the school to engage in the partnership and to find an agreement leading to the signature of an MoU. Most of the schools were interested in having scouting attached to the school but some of them wanted to have an all packed product that they would be able to use without answering our criteria's.

They were responsible for providing rooms, to find adults leader, to be able to take the training, to find youth for the activities. What we have done here was to take the time to communicate well with them on the benefits and commitment of each signatory of the agreement to avoid any misunderstanding and subsequent problems.

It was also the opportunity to show them what they could gain from initiating scouting in their community and to demonstrate them that they are not alone in this adventure as we provide both short and long-term support to launch the group and to sustain it.

From an internal perspective our organisation had to evolve and show flexibility to be able to answer the new realities and requests of school-base scouting. As an example, we are aware that we now need to offer new adults in scouting and youth programme resources to be more supportive to our groups and enable them to sustain their activities.



Lessons learned and advice to NSO

1. It is very important to **have enough trainer** to support the development of the new groups and the training of new adults. This allow to get people up to speed quickly and to welcome, support and guide the new volunteers in their missions as they are the key elements of the success of these new groups. This applies both for volunteers supporting in the district and in the schools.
2. **Have a good external presentation for school and partners.** The way you communicate with them have to make them want to work with you. On our side the presentation was sometime too small to share with schools. It is important to have a qualitative communication and presentation to engage the partners as well as existing resources to share with the school so that they can communicate in their communities.
3. The fact that we coordinated with the minister and that we showed them the impact that school-based scouting has in other countries was a key in the success of this project. Thus, we would advise to not hesitate to **ask help to WOSM or to other NSO to show the success and the impact scouting can have.**

Learn more about the project

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