

World Organization of the Scout Movement

European Scout Region

Supporting Growth in Changing Times Membership Report 2011

Dear Friends

As you will be aware, 'Supporting Growth in Changing Times' is the overarching theme of the Regional Scout Plan that was adopted by National Scout Organisations during the 20th European Scout Conference in Brussels, Belgium, in July 2010.

However, the issue of growth has been a focus for the European Scout Committee over successive triennia. It's not new at all. Ever since there was a realisation that declining membership, in terms of absolute numbers and market share, was a signal that there was a compelling need for change, many NSOs have been working tirelessly to address decline by taking the necessary steps to fundamentally improve every aspect of their operations. Some of this has been done with the support of the European Scout Region.

There has been some success. As evidenced in this report, a number of NSOs are experiencing growth, both in terms of absolute numbers as well as market share. This is hugely encouraging and points to the fact that having a strategic focus over the medium-term can be rewarding. Those NSOs that are enjoying growth, and some who are in the process of implementing their strategies for growth are keen to ensure that they learn lessons from recent experiences. In many cases, several NSOs have undertaken good work to gather membership data, analyse it and forecast future trends, in order that they can take action in good time. Such strategic foresight is commendable.

With this in mind, the European Scout Committee embarked on the comprehensive gathering and analysis of membership data during the last triennium. It is worth noting that extracting membership data from NSOs can be quite challenging. Whilst some have the data readily available, others do not, citing lack of membership management systems or not wishing to provide figures that might contradict what has already been supplied via census, if indeed a census return has been supplied at all. If NSOs in Europe want us to continue 'Supporting Growth in Changing Times' we need continued assistance in openly providing us with top level membership data that is as accurate as it can be. In return, we can use this information to help identify trends that may be developing across the whole of Europe, and respond accordingly.

Our purpose in researching the membership situation in NSOs across Europe and in preparing this comprehensive report has been threefold:

- 1. We want to better understand the situation in each country, using all available data sources, in order to develop a European-wide perspective that will assist the European Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau European Regional Office, in providing targeted support and consultancy, to tackle decline where it occurs and secure growth where it has taken root.
- 2. We want to instil in NSOs that knowing who your members are is of vital importance in informing the development of Scouting, and influencing strategic activity at national level.
- 3. We want to encourage NSOs to reflect on the figures that they have provided or that we have sourced, with a view to correcting any anomalies so that future Membership Reports are even more accurate.

I would like to commend Dimitri Van Uytfange, Katrin Kelly and Radu Stinghe for their work in 'crunching' the numbers that are in this report, and also to all of those NSOs that have contributed so openly with their membership information.

This is the first time, in a long time, that we have produced such a report and therefore, there may well be some inaccuracies. In fact, we are expecting that to be the case. If you notice issues with the data relating to your NSO, please advise us.

Yours sincerely

Craig Turpie Chairman, European Scout Committee

Introduction

This is the first comprehensive Membership Report of the European Scout Region. The purpose of this report is to give NSOs/NSAs an insight into the membership data of the European Scout Region. The report is based on data the European Scout Region has received from individual NSOs, rather than purely WOSM census figures. Where an NSO has not responded to the request for detailed figures, census figures have been used.

What is growth?

Growth is in most cases incorrectly referred to as growth in the absolute membership figure. An increase in membership figure is indeed important because it's one indicator of a healthy and relevant association, not to mention the potential for increased membership fee income.

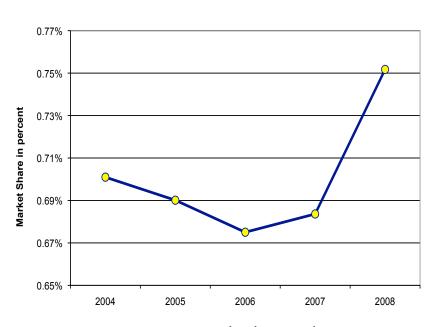
However, the most relevant growth indicator is market share. This is the membership figure relative to the available population at a particular age. The vast majority of European association have their youth members somewhere between 6 years and 25 years. Hence, the total market share figures give the percentage of the population of 6 to 25 years olds in countries that are members of WOSM.

Marketshare

Market share figures can be calculated at different levels and in this report we use the total market share as well as the market share per age section. In order to calculate these indicators data from Eurostat has been used. Eurostat provides detailed statistics on European Union and candidate countries.

The age ranges for the Eurostat population statistics used to calculate the market share per age section are the official WOSM age ranges. These might differ from the NSOs age ranges. Therefore the market share data might be different from the market share data calculated by the NSO. However, this approach is necessary to standardise the figures to give a European level overview.

Average marketshare in the European Scout Region

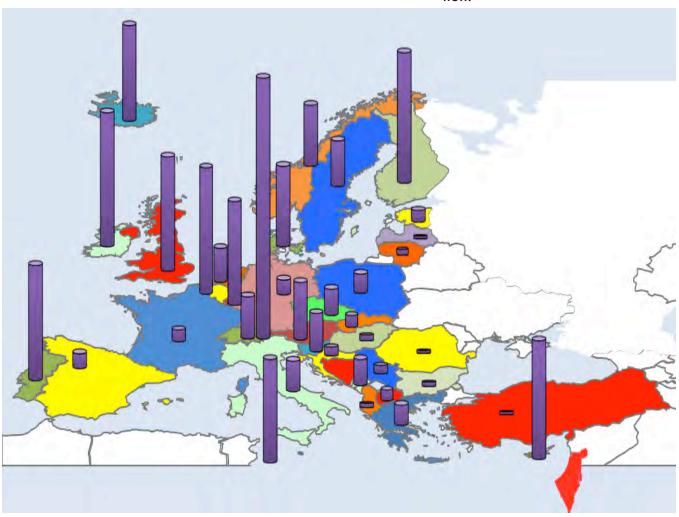


Average marketshare evolution

Note that the market share was calculated until 2008 because the 2009 population statistics and some membership data of Eurostat were not yet available when gathering the data for this report.

The figures show that the European region has been growing since 2006. After a decline in market share from 0,70% in 2004 to 0,68% in 2006, the number has risen to 0,75% in 2008. This means that 0,75% of the 6 to 25 years old are a member of the European Region WOSM. So over the total period 2004-2008 there was membership growth in the European Region. Currently it is too early to state that the European Region WOSM has buckled the declining trend. A 2 year rise in market share does not give enough evidence.

Large contributing NSOs for the rise since 2006 are the UK, Finland, Sweden and Turkey. The sharp rise in 2008 can partly be explained by the SP-FS (Finland) subscribing its female members to WOSM. This is a one-off operation.

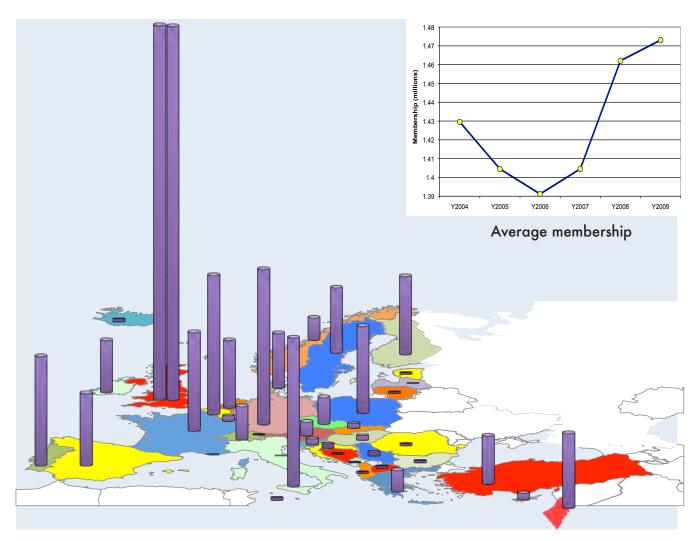


Total membership of the European Scout Region

Country	Membership 2010
Albania	1668
Austria	10277
Belgium	96780
Bosnia-Herzeg.	1235
Bulgaria	2109
Croatia	3787
Cyprus	5328
Czech Rep.	19196
Denmark	40229
Estonia	1328
Finland	55621
France	75547
Germany	115344
Greece	15269

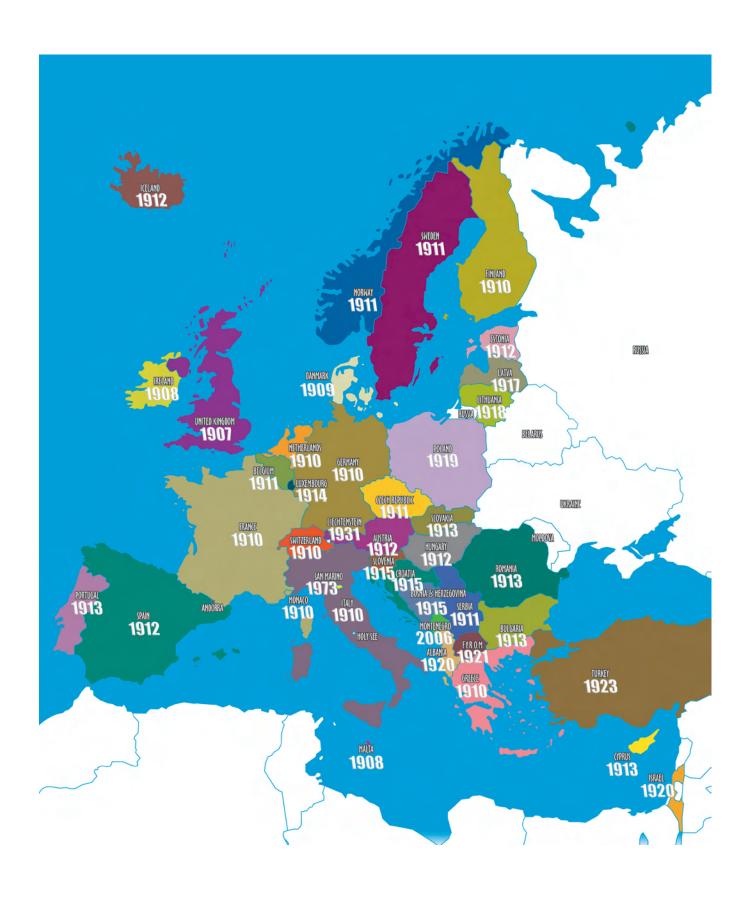
Country	Membership 2010
Hungary	8098
Iceland	4153
Ireland	41418
Israel	26086
Italy	101785
Latvia	468
Liechtenstein	752
Lithuania	2295
Luxembourg	5241
FYROM	1964
Malta	2705
Monaco	47
Montenegro	1015
Netherlands	48845

Country Norway	Membership 2010 17608 61394
	41204
Poland	01374
Portugal	75321
Romania	2272
San Marino	147
Serbia	3746
Slovakia	3149
Slovenia	5138
Spain	54361
Sweden	49182
Switzerland	23086
Turkey	33938
UK	508570



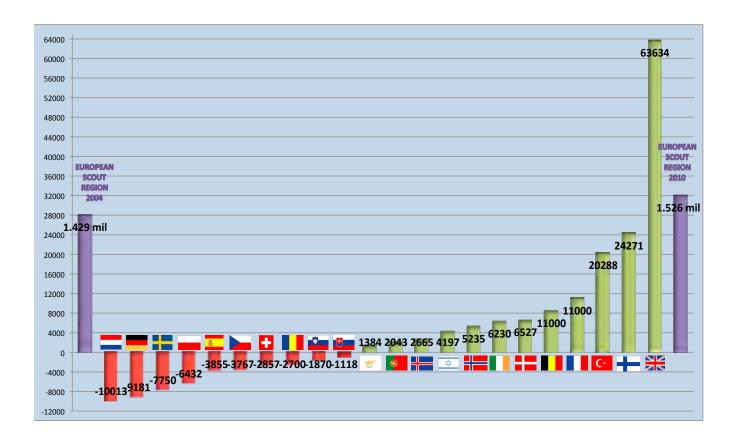
The total membership figure has followed the same pattern as the market share number. A decline from 1,43 million members in 2004 to 1,39 in 2006, then followed by a rise up to 1,47 million in 2009. The latest numbers show a further increase to 1.526 million members in 2010.

European Scout Region - Scouting-founding year map

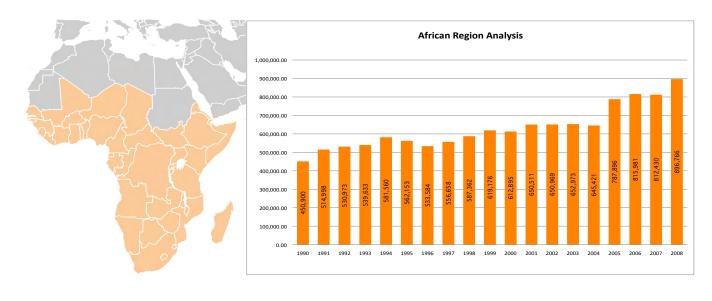


Contribution per country

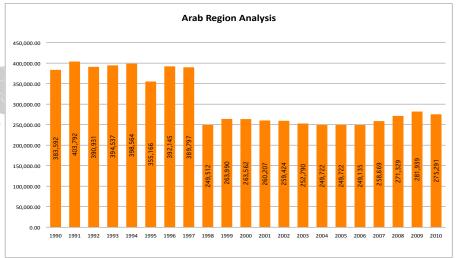
The graph below indicates the main contributors to growth or decline from 2004 until 2010. Of course these numbers are in strong relation with the size of the organisation as well. Large associations more easily turn up in the graph based on their sheer size. Countries increasing or declining with more than 1000 members show up individually in the graph. The 3 largest positive contributors are respectively the UK, Finland and Turkey.



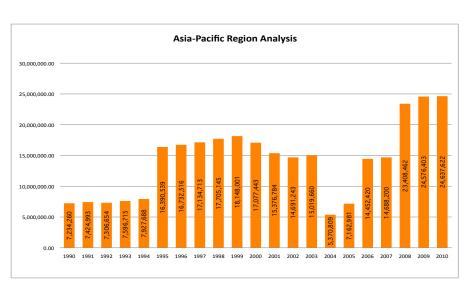
European membership development in the World context





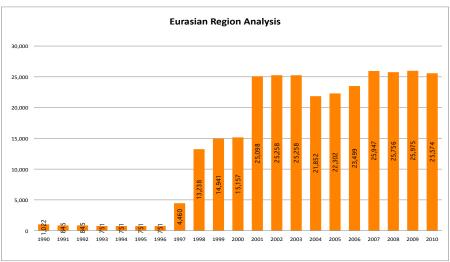




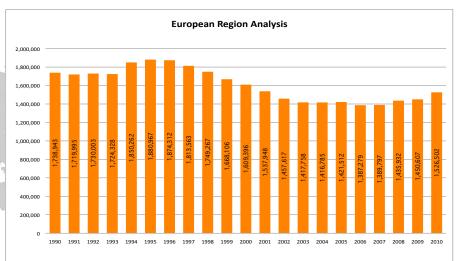


European membership development in the World context

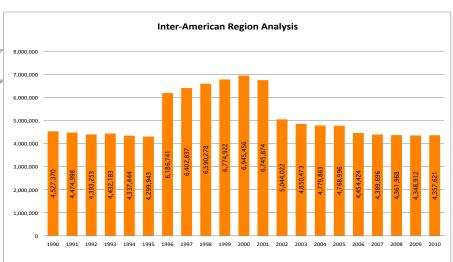




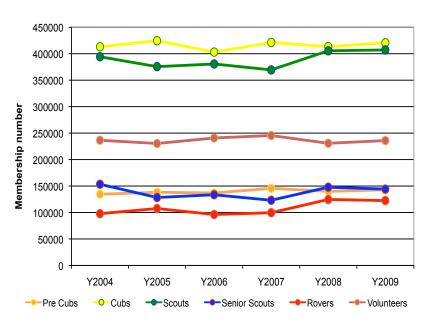








Membership by age sections

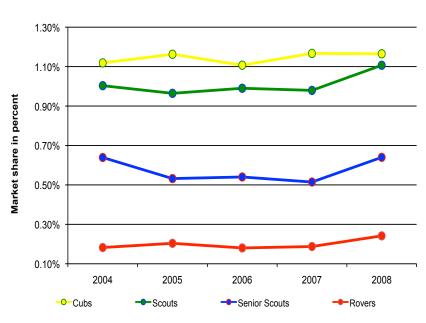


Membership per age section

The absolute figures give interesting insights. As market share already indicated Cubs and Scouts are the largest age sections. Due to a steep increase in 2008 Scouts shorten the gap with cubs with a difference less than 10.000 members to hover just above 400,000 members.

Further down the graph the Precubs, Senior Scouts and Rovers play more or less in the same ball park. Rovers and Senior scouts have closed the gap with Pre-cubs in 2008 just as Scouts did with Cubs.

In 2008 we had almost 231,000 volunteers. This is 5,500 down from 2004 where there were almost 236,500 volunteers.

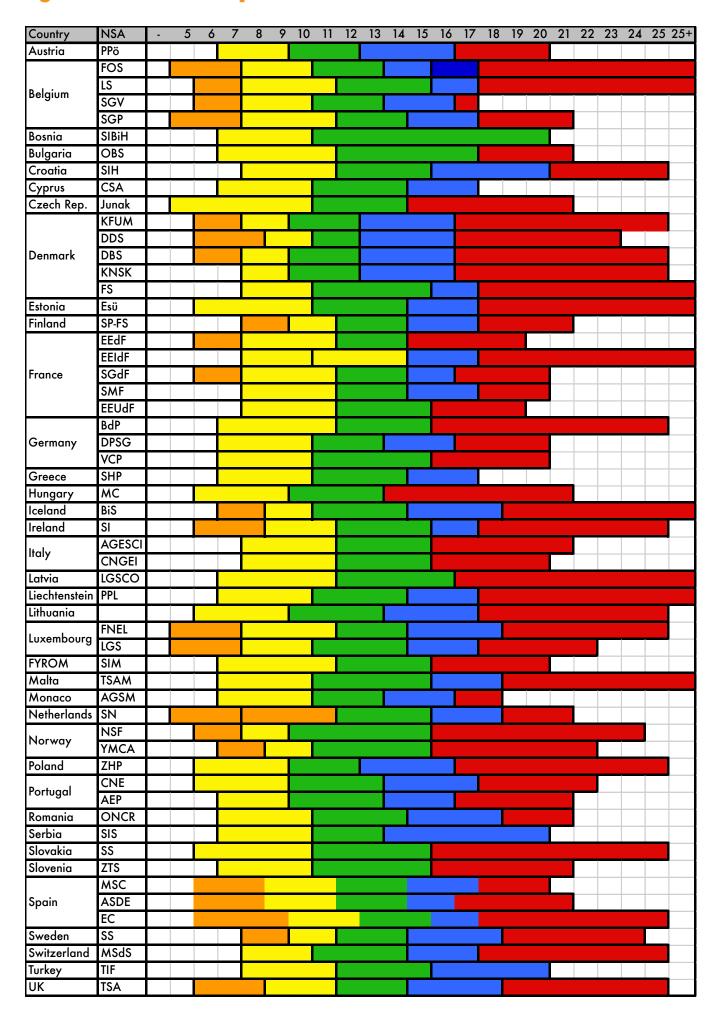


Marketshare per age section

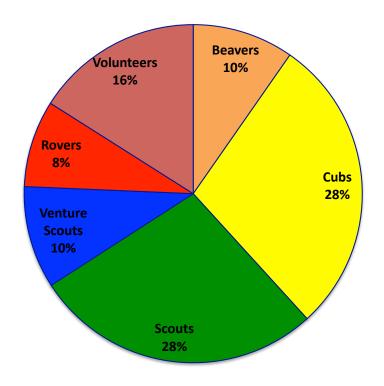
Looking more in detail at the numbers per age section we see that of all age sections the Cubs have the highest market share around 1,2% followed by the Scouts around 1% and rising. For both Cubs and Scouts the European Region WOSM can hence state that more than 1% of the target population is a member. This is not a bad figure. The third largest unit are the Senior Scouts followed at last by the Rovers. Pre-cubs are not taken up in this graph because only a minority of NSOs have the Pre-Cub age range. Likewise Volunteers do not figure in the graph beneath because the target population (+18 years) is so big that a market share figure is not relevant.

In 2008 Rover, Scouts as well as Senior Scouts increased the marketshare significantly whereas Cubs remain the same.

Age sections in Europe



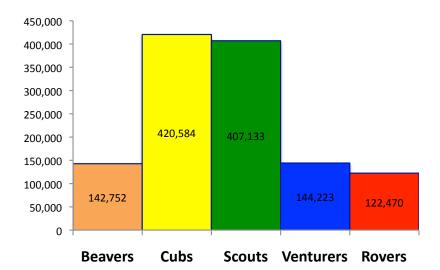
The membership of the Region by age sections



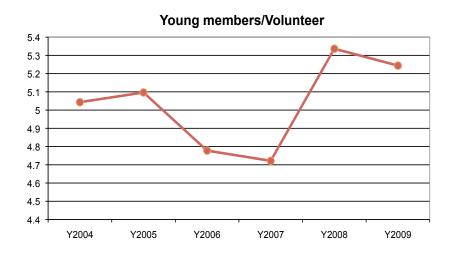
At the date of the latest official census (2009), the European Scout Region had the age structure presented in the graph on the left.

Overall, it is a relatively well distributed membership, with "only" 45% of members (of a total excluding volunteers) under the age of 11 and the rest of 55% over that age.

However, in order to increase the effectiveness of our work and achieve our Mission, we should aim to have more members in the older age sections. The growth in quality of our provision is also measurable in the overall balance of the age sections.



On average, there is one volunteer for each 5.2 young people in the Region. This follows a general "up" trend, linked probably with the decrese in the number of volunteers in the majority of European NSOs.



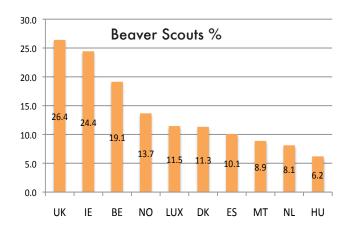
There are certainly huge variations according to the age sections, the countries having bigger young age sections also having an increased number of volunteers. However, as there is no census on the volunteers per age section it is difficult to have documented conclusions.

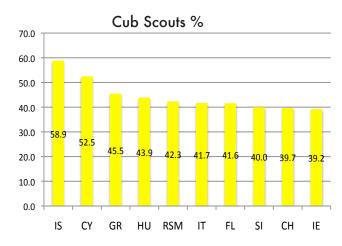
Age sections percentages in Europe

In the graphs on this page you can see the "Top 10" of the countries according to the percentage of each age section from their total membership (excl. volunteers).

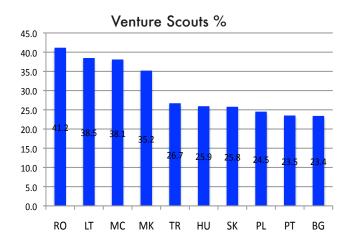
The two graphs at the bottom look at the Top 10 by adding all members under and over the age of 11.

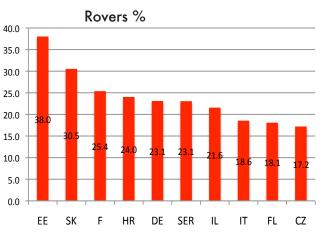
Probably not surprising to see that the newest (and small) associations in countries from Eastern Europe have the biggest percentage of adolescents and post-adolescents whereas the large, well-established, NSOs tend to attract a lot more Beavers and Cubs.

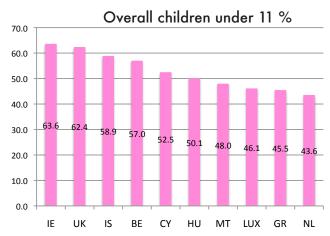


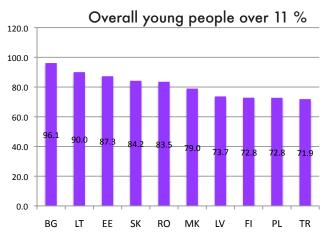




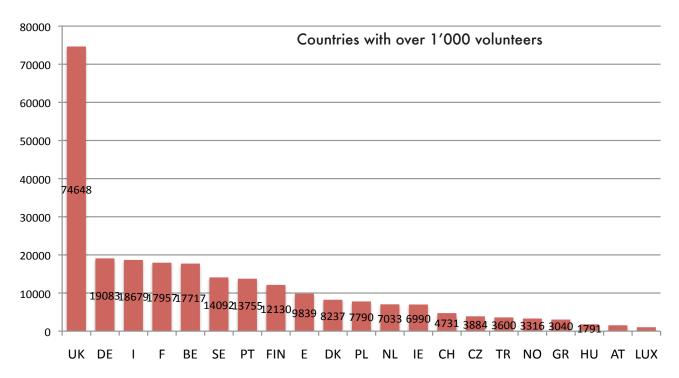


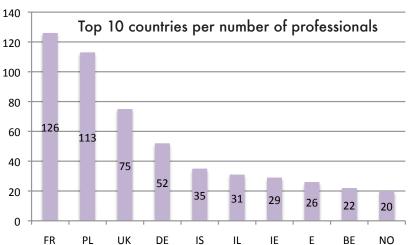






Volunteers and professionals in Scouting

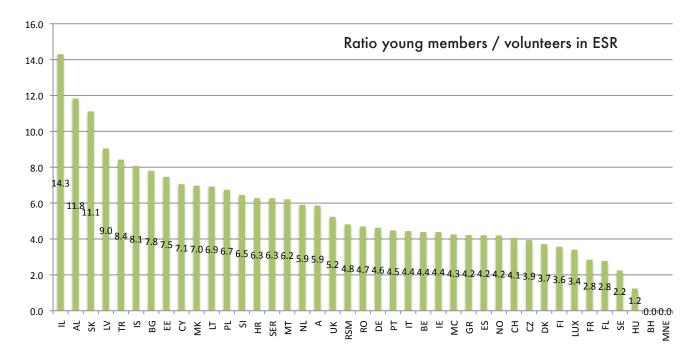




At the date of the latest census (2009) there were just over 250,000 volunteers in Scouting in Europe.

Over half of them are registered in just 4 countries (UK, Germany, Italy and France).

There are over 600 WOSM professionals registered in Europe, more than half being employed in France, Poland and UK.



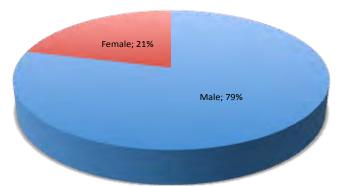
Gender distribution in the European Scout Region

The gender distribution data is very hard to interpret given the fact that many NSOs are both members of WOSM and WAGGGS and, therefore, do not declare their female membership in WOSM censuses.

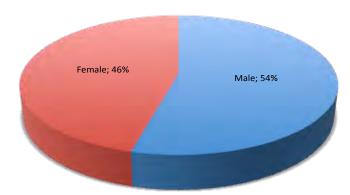
For this reason, and for comparison we will show in parallel the gender situation both for all NSOs in the Region as well as the statistics concerning WOSM-only NSOs. The nature of the data submitted in the census will make it impossible to separate the numbers of WOSM-only NSAs within the federations so we will take into account only the countries where the entire NSO is a WOSM-only member and those where the NSO is a super-SAGNO (declaring both the female and the male members to WOSM while being also a member of WAGGGS).

Also, as the association in UK represents such a huge percentage of the WOSM-only membership in the Region and, thus, it's gender balance will influence the overall statistic, it will be also presented separately.

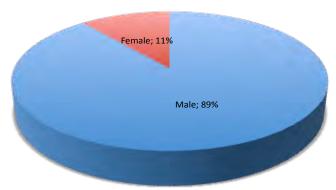
As for the adolescent membership, it is clear that the new and small associations from Eastern Europe have a much higher percentage of girls in their membership.



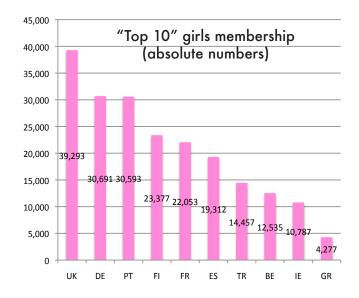
Gender structure ESR all NSOs included

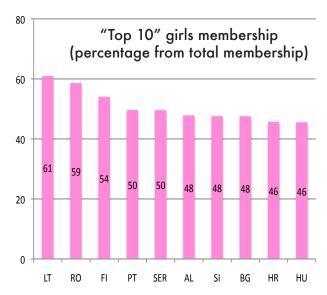


Gender structure ESR WOSM-only NSOs (excl. UK)

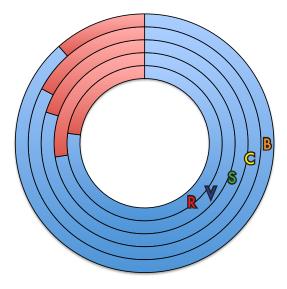


Gender structure UK

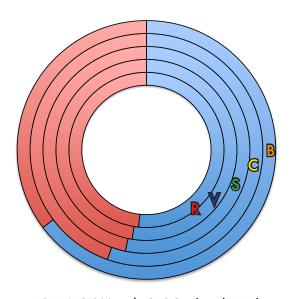




Gender structure by age sections



Gender structure per age section (ESR overall)



ESR WOSM-only NSOs (excl. UK)

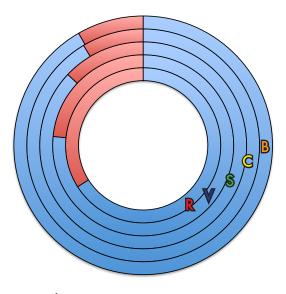
The gender structure per age section gives an intersting insight.

Overall (including the WOSM members of SAGNOs) it seems that there are more girls in Scouting in the older age sections.

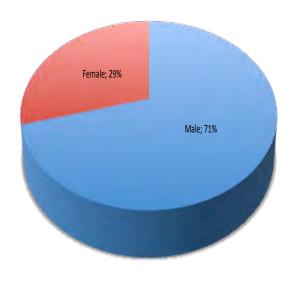
This is also visible in the UK where there is a clear progression in the percentage of girls with the advamncement in age.

In the WOSM only NSOs it seems that the proportion of girls is more stable across the age sections (with the exceptions of Beavers, where they tend to be overnumbered by boys everywhere).

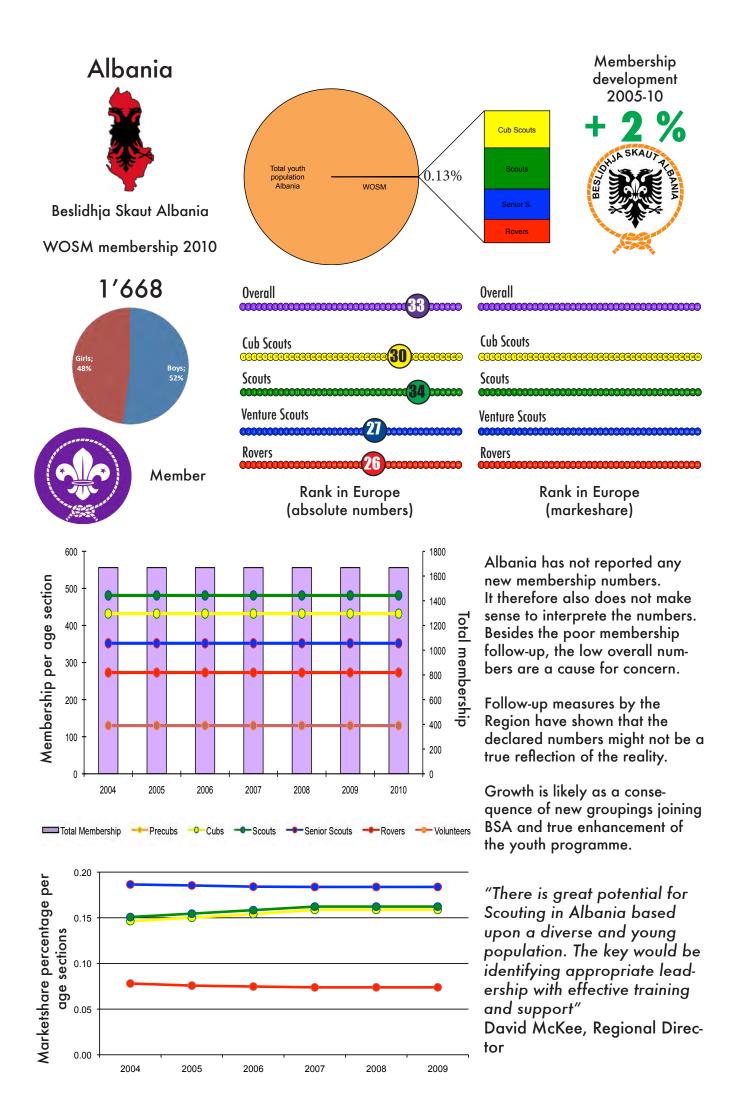
The gender distribution of the adult volunteers registered in WOSM in Europe shows a relatively balanced 30% - 70% (this bearing in mind that many female leaders are not reported in the WOSM census).

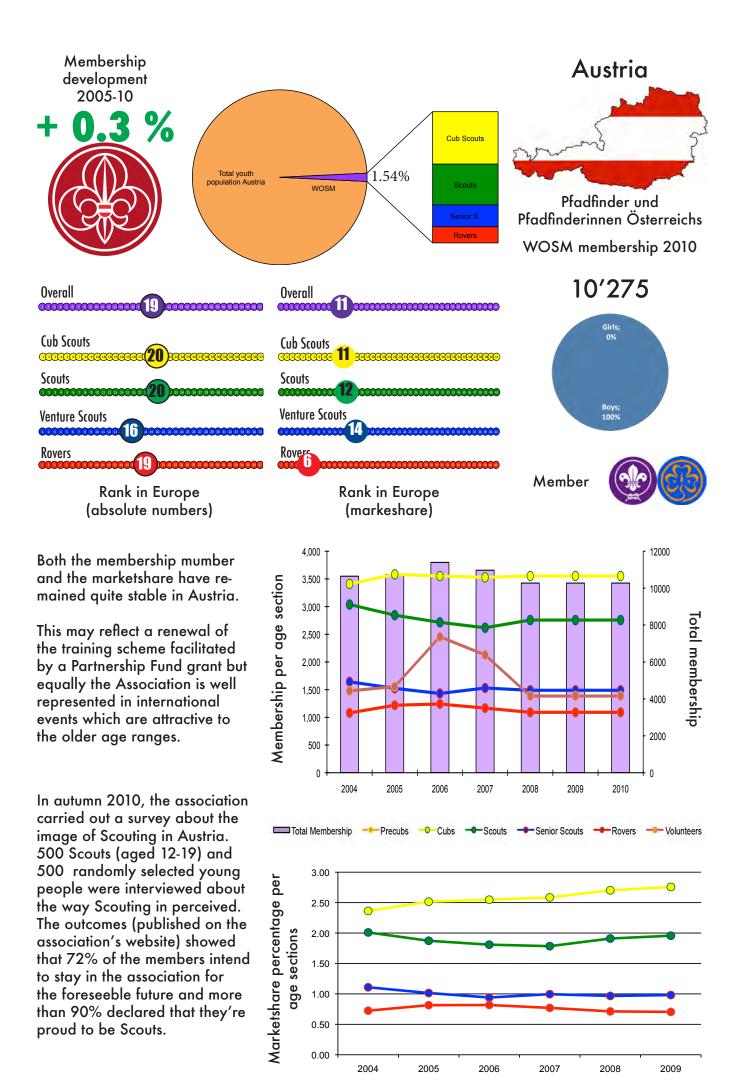


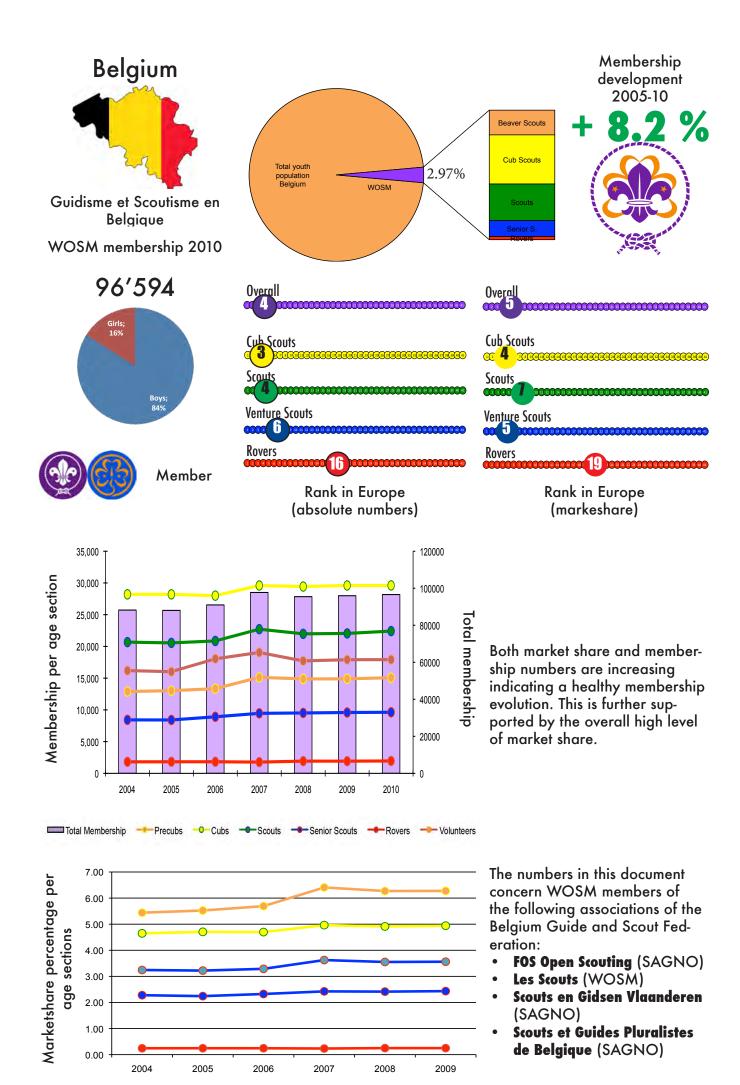
Gender structure per age section UK



Gender structure adult volunteers







Membership development 2005-10

- 37 %

Bosnia-Hertzegovina



Savjet izviđačkih organizaciia u Bosni i Hercegovini

WOSM membership 2009



Overall

Cub Scouts

Scouts

Venture Scouts

Rovers

1′233

Boys;
46%

Member

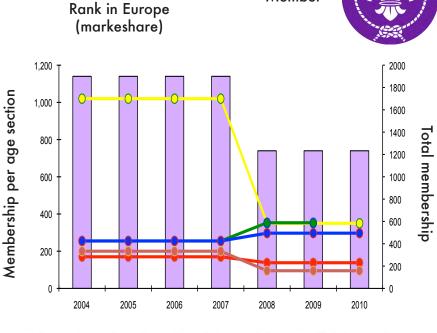


Rank in Europe (absolute numbers)

Over the whole period only in 2008 new membership numbers were reported. Therefore this resulted in a sharp decrease chiefly in the Cub Scout membership.

Unfortunately Eurostat could not provide population data so that market share numbers could not be calculated.

The situation is not helped by the fact that the constituent parts of the federation work separately.

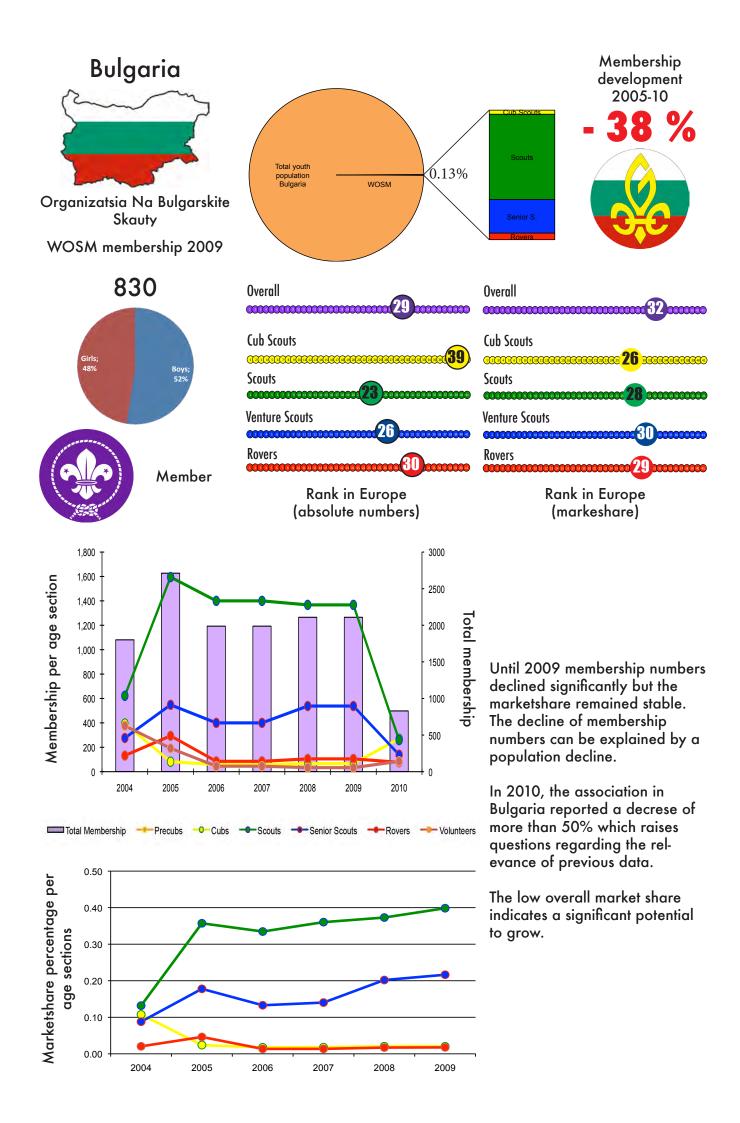


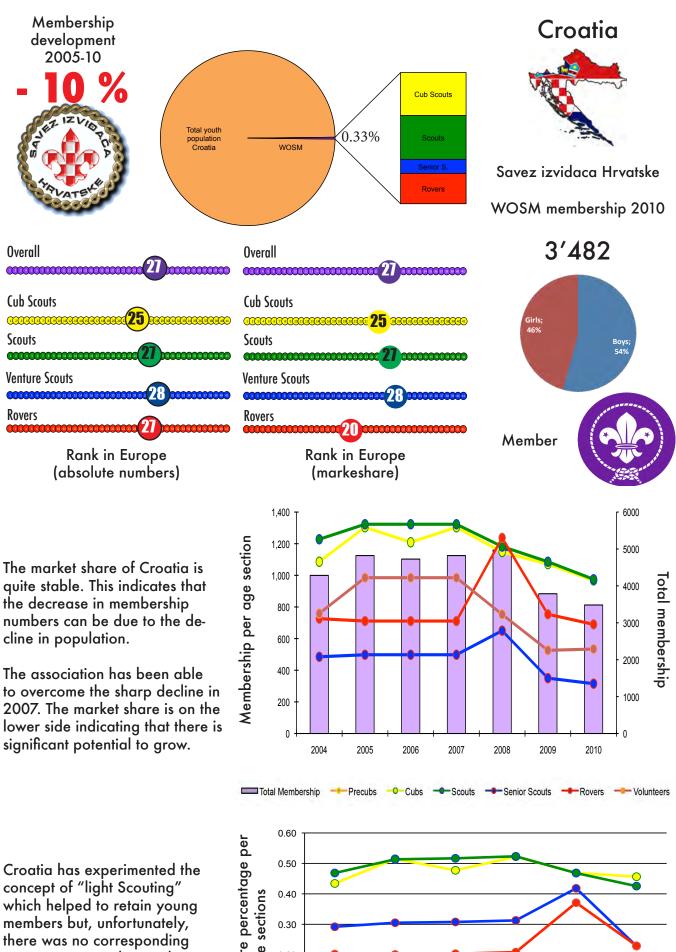
Total Membership → Precubs O Cubs → Scouts → Senior Scouts → Rovers → Volunteers

The numbers in this document concern WOSM members of the following associations of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Scout Federation:

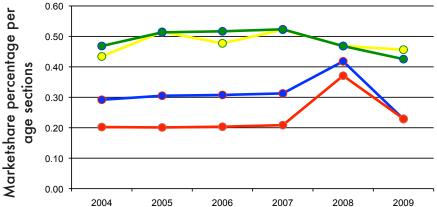
- Savez Izvidača Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine
- Savez Izvidača Republike Srpske

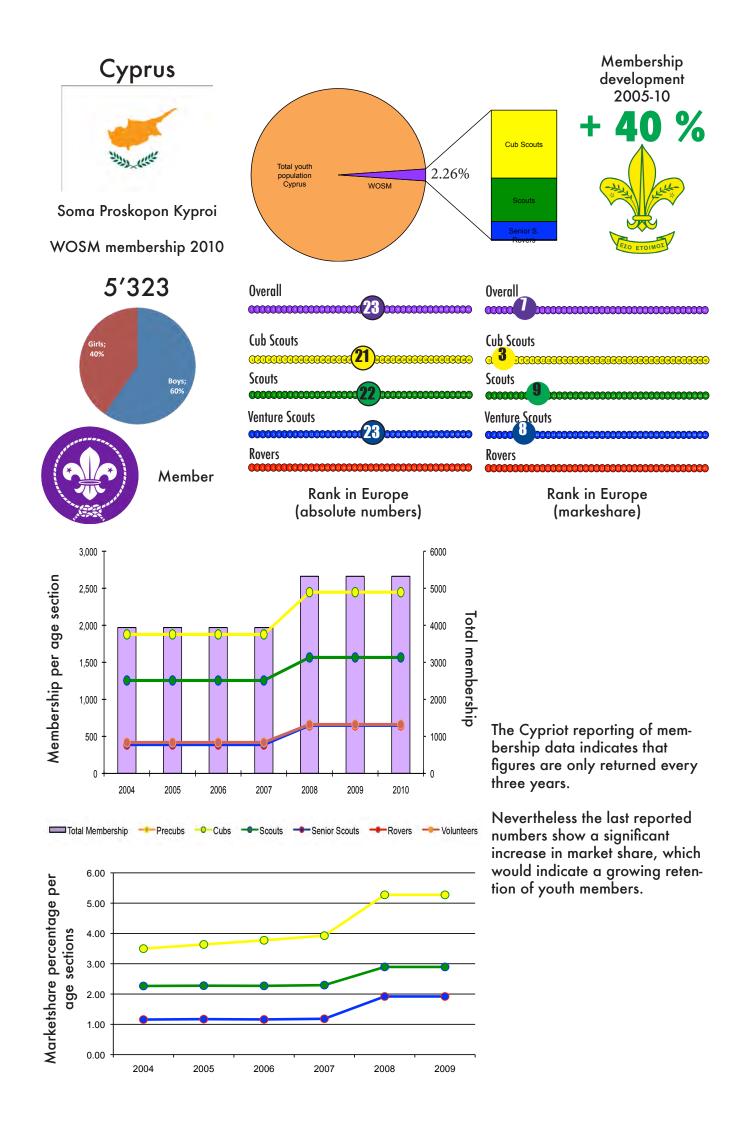
Marketshare percentage per age sections

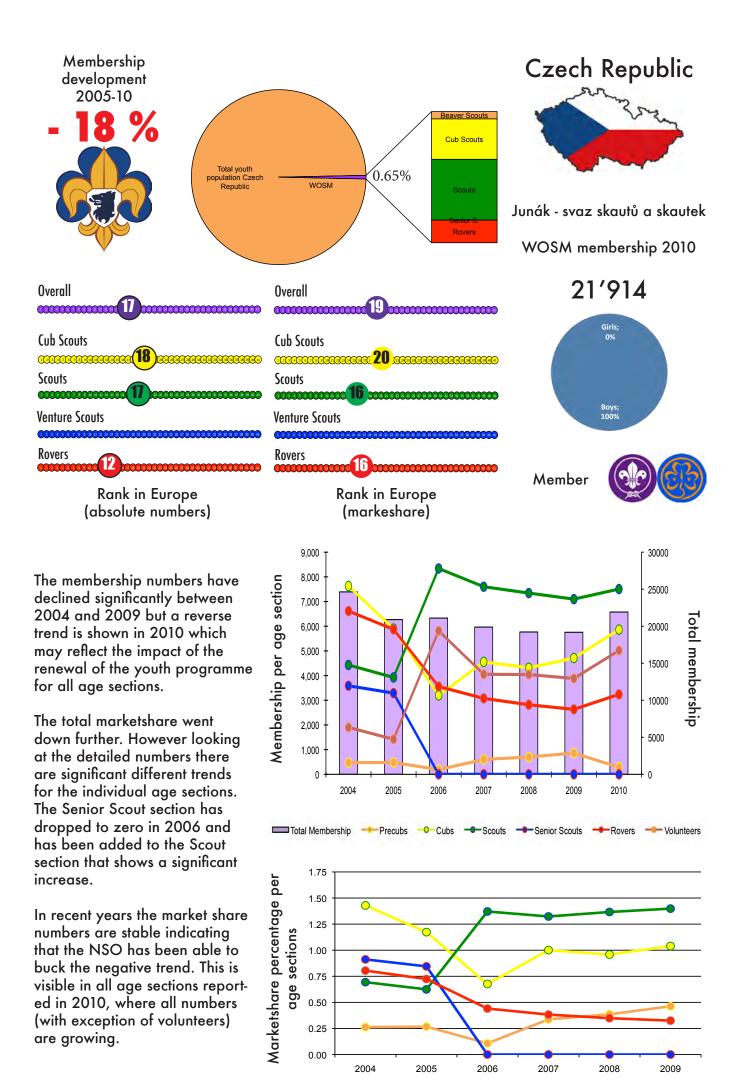


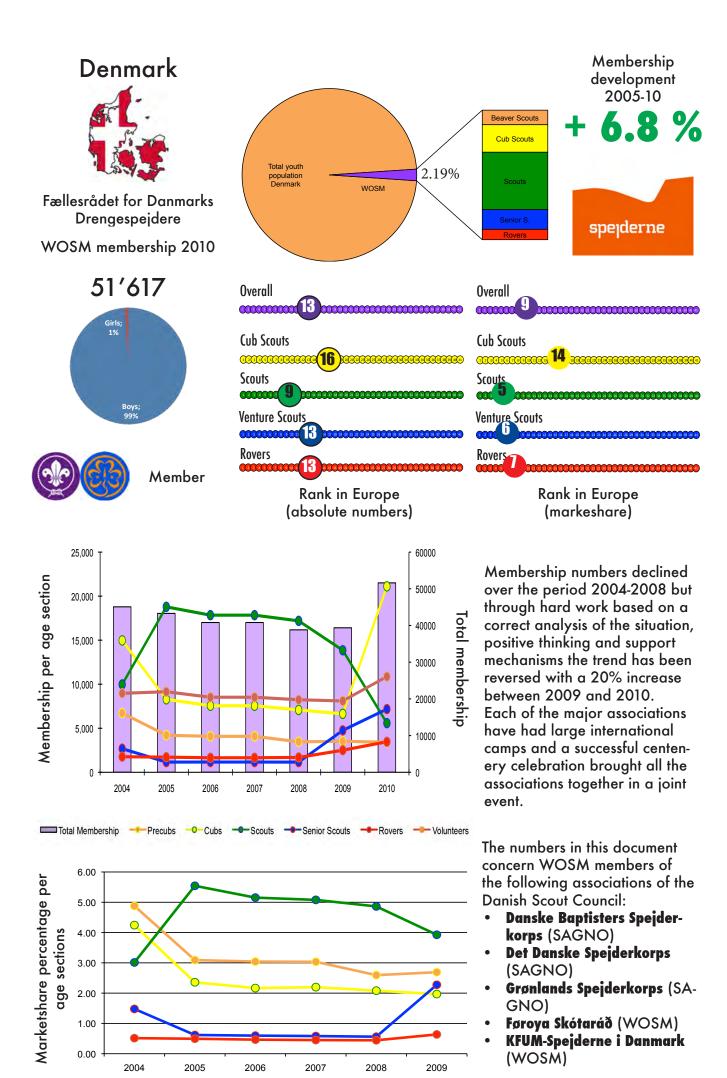


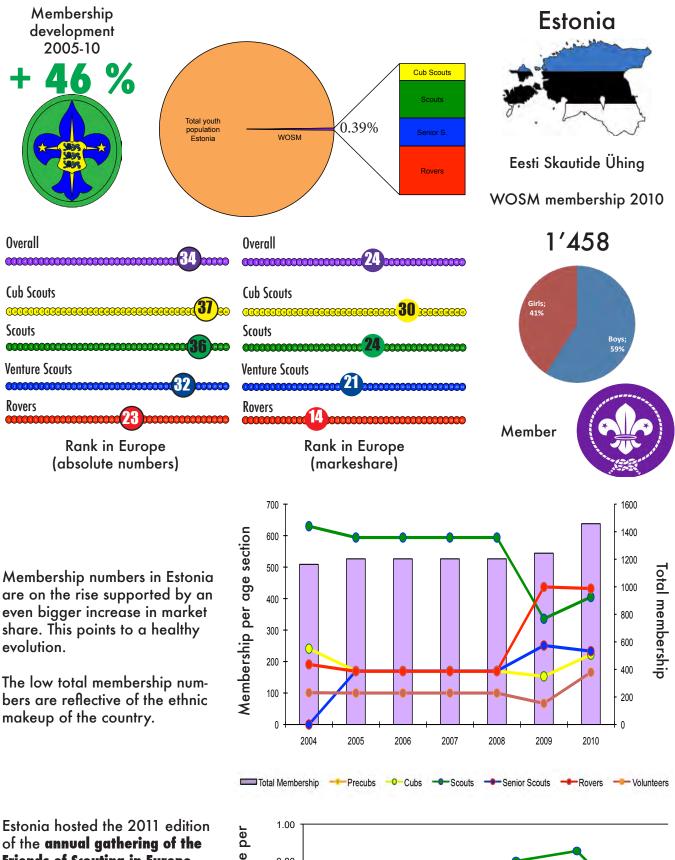
improvement on the youth programme, in general.



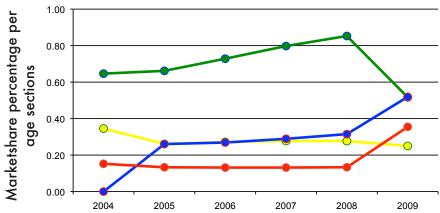


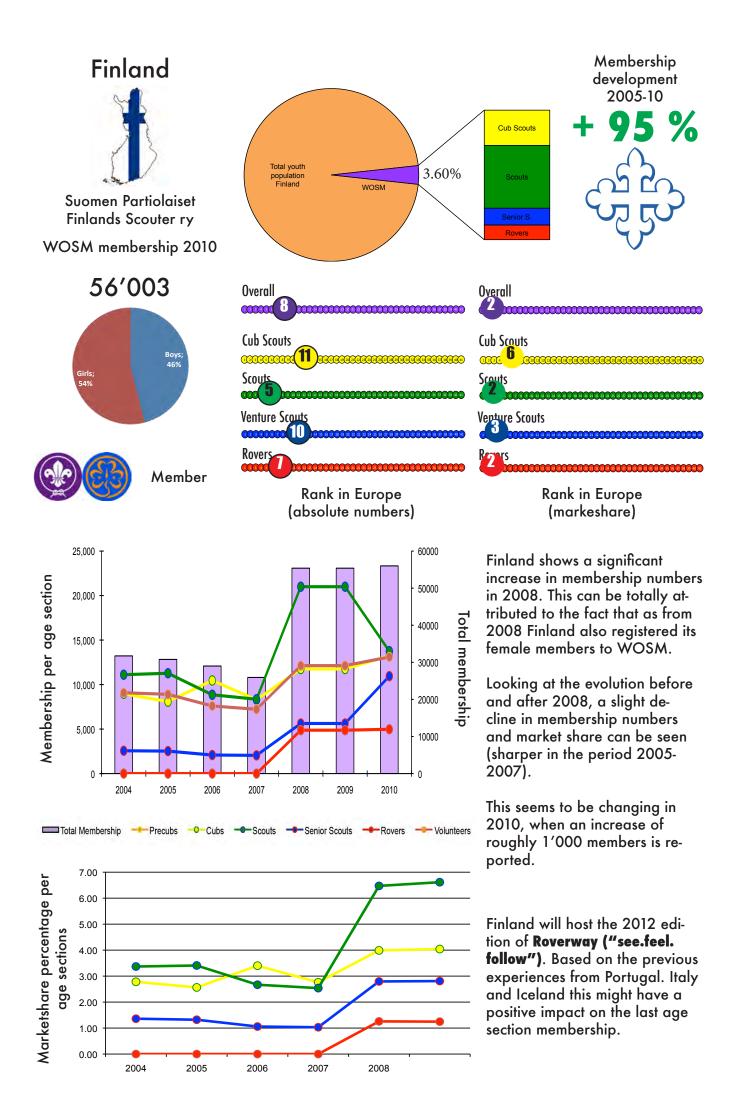


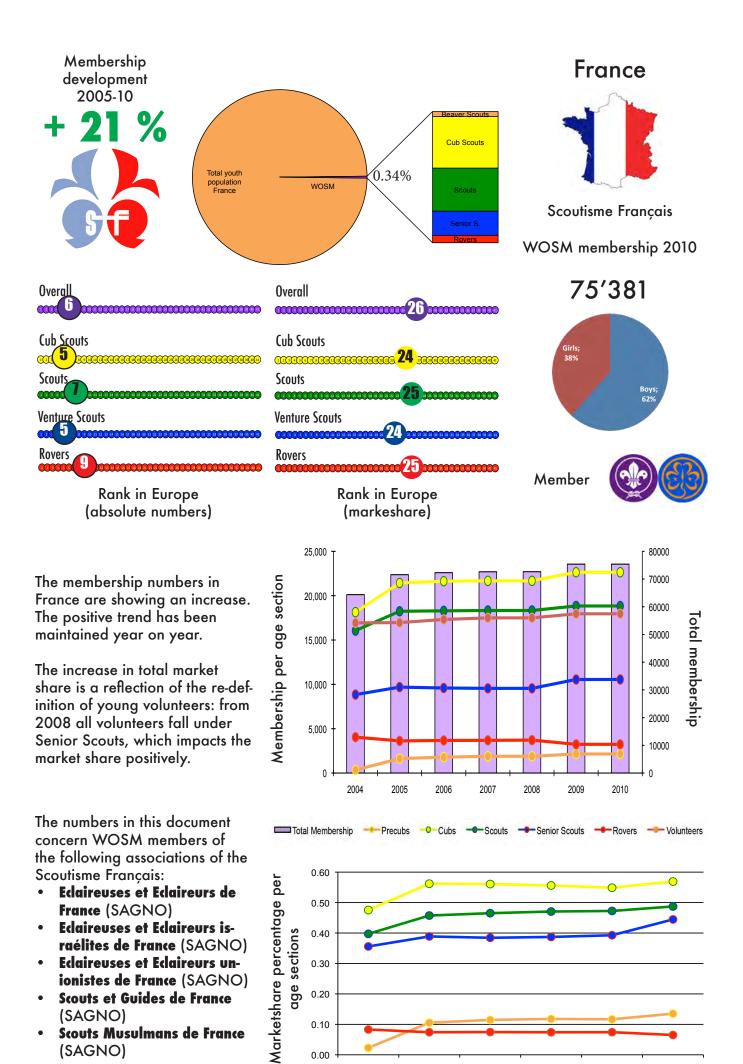


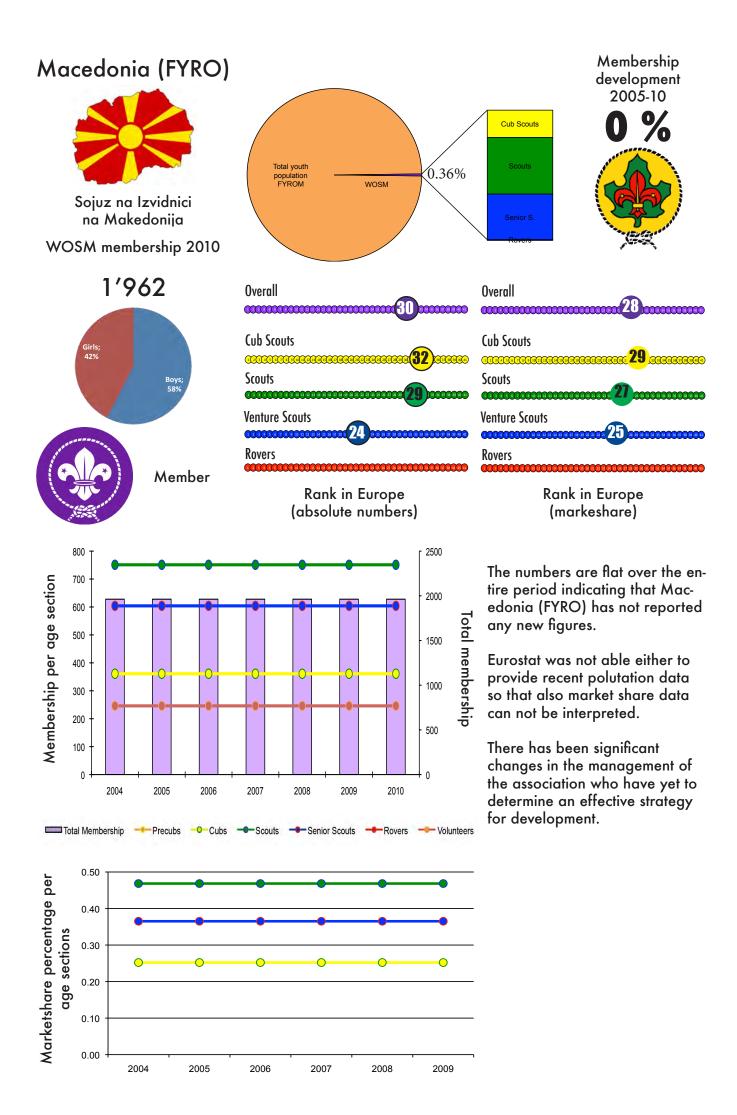


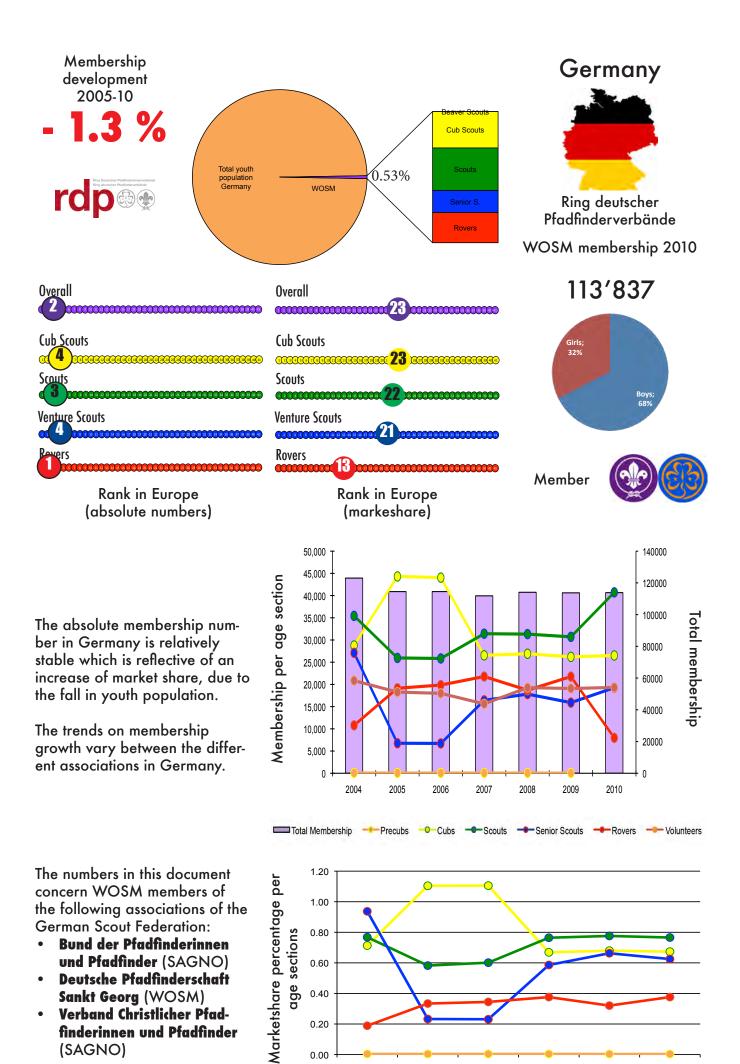
of the annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe. The 5 elected members of the Board of European Scout Foundation together with 35 of the most active supporters of Scouting in Europe met for a long weekend to discuss further ways to fundraise and support the work of European NSAs.





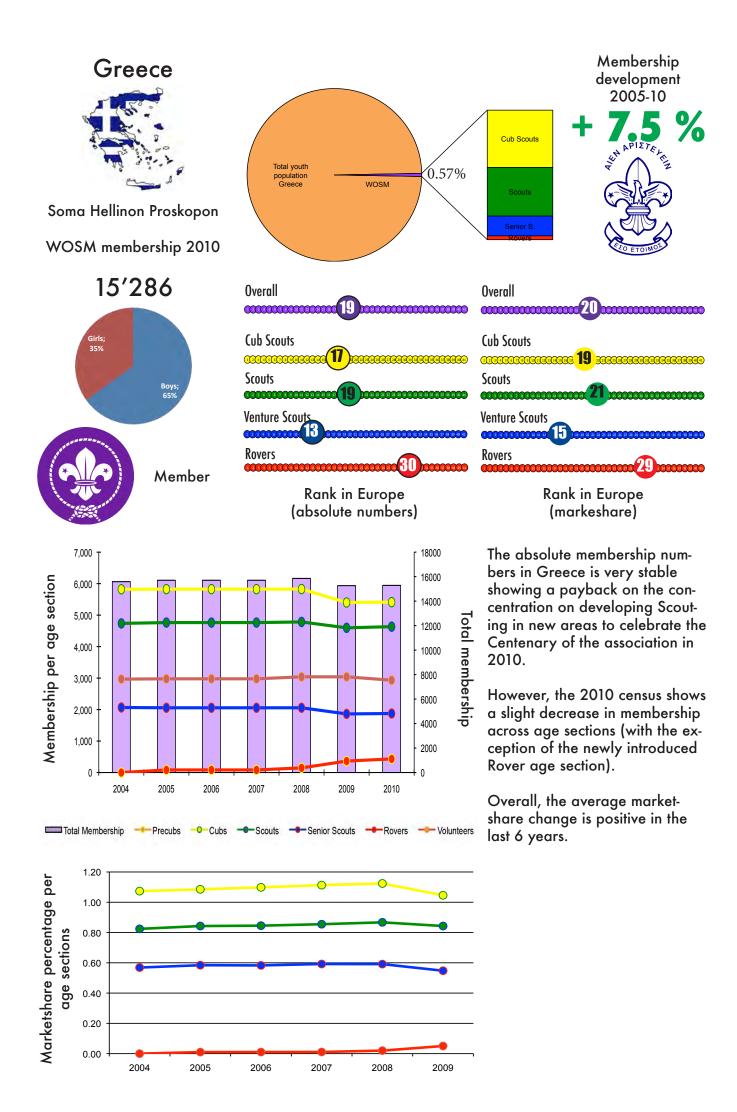


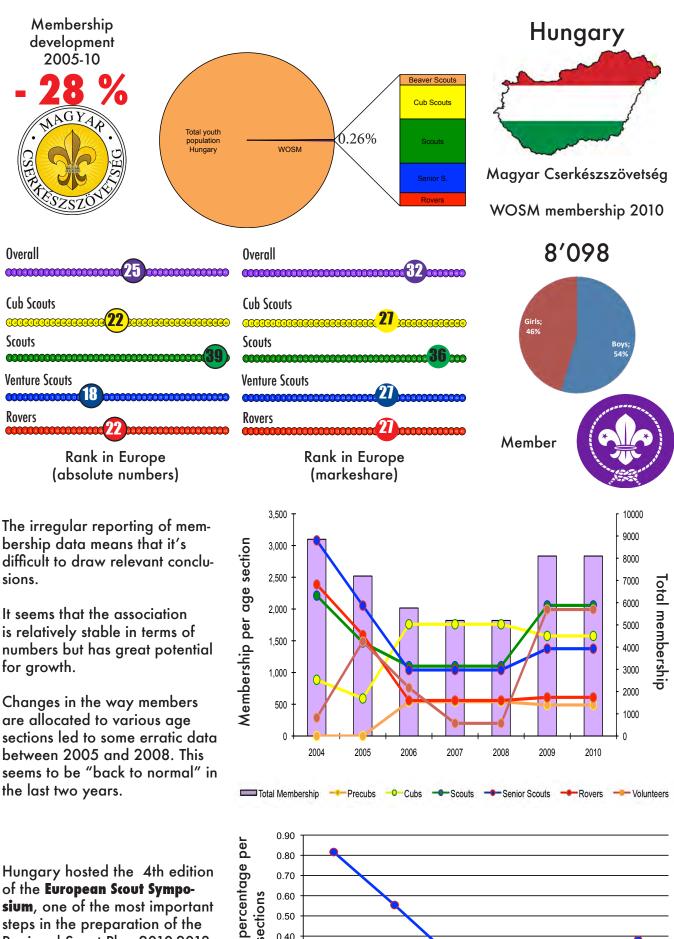




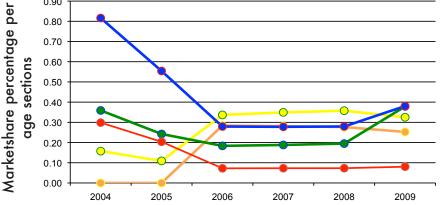
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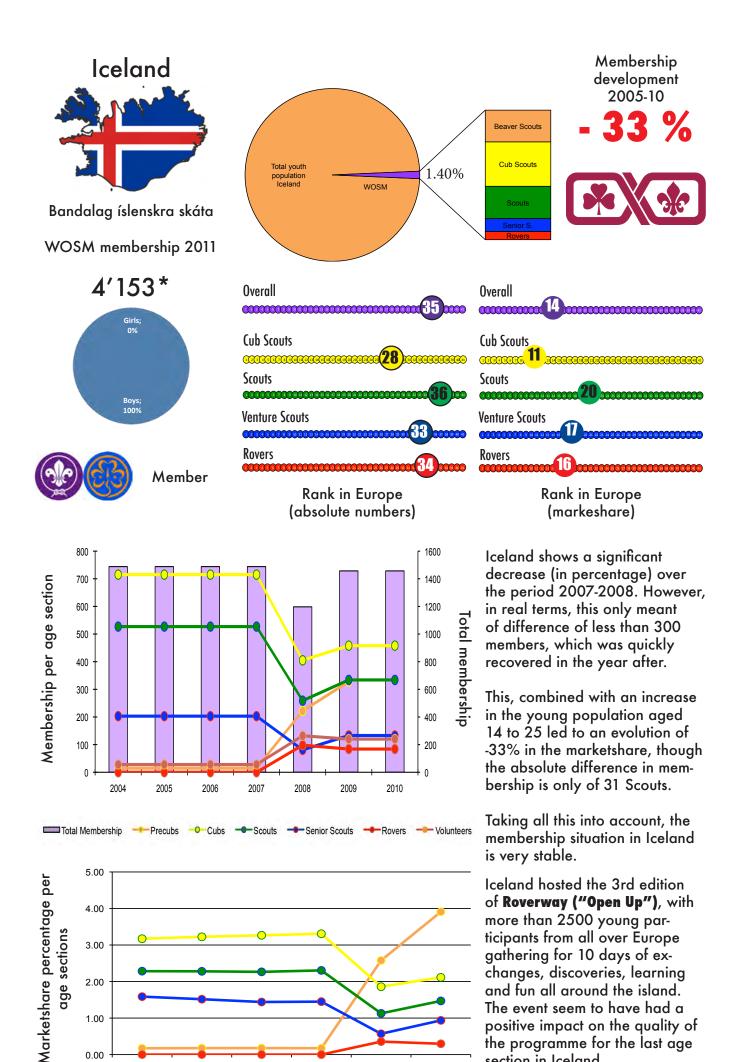
(SAGNO)





Regional Scout Plan 2010-2013, with over 100 participants representing 54 European associations.





^{*} Starting from 2011 Iceland registers both female and male members to WOSM - this is the most up to date figure for BIS. However, for the statistics, the official figure of 2010 (1,457) was used.

2008

2007

1.00

0.00

2004

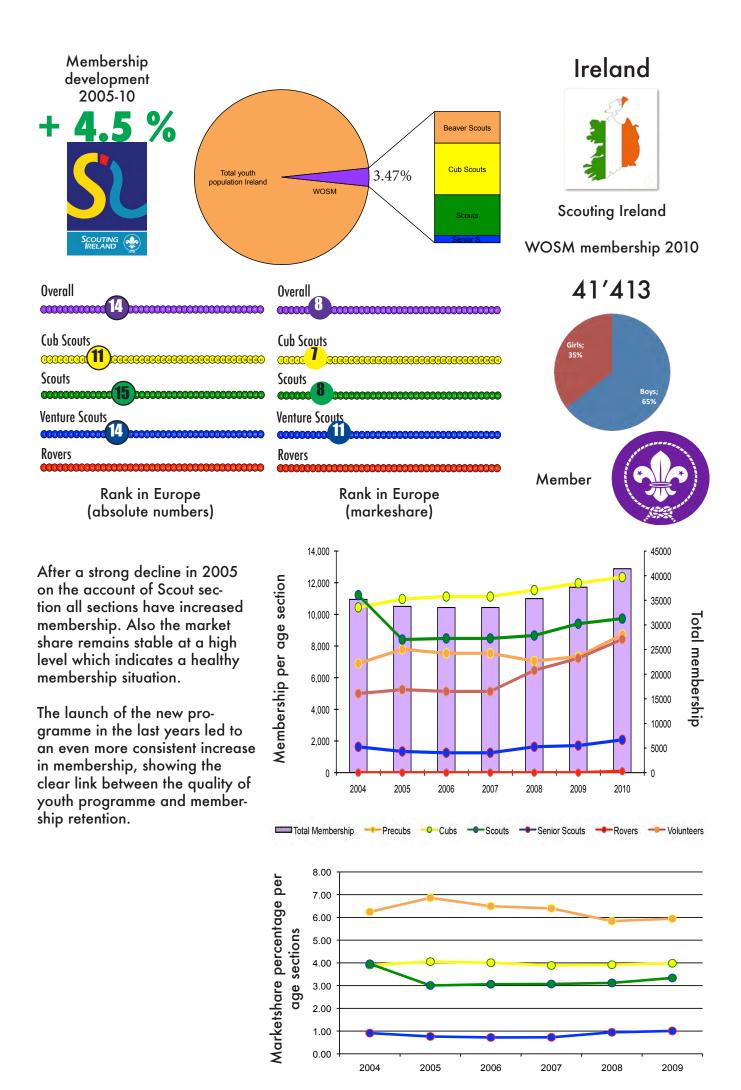
2005

2006

and fun all around the island. The event seem to have had a

section in Iceland.

positive impact on the quality of the programme for the last age

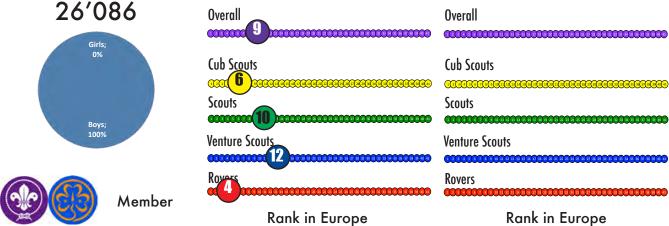


Hit'ahdut HaTzofim VeHaTzofot BeYisrael

WOSM membership 2010

Membership development 2005-10

0 %



(absolute numbers)

14000 27000 Membership per age section 26000 12000 25000 10000 Total 24000 8000 23000 6000 22000 4000 21000 2000 20000 19000 2004 2005 2006 2008 2009 2010 2007 Total Membership Precubs Cubs Scouts Senior Scouts Rovers

Rank in Europe (markeshare)

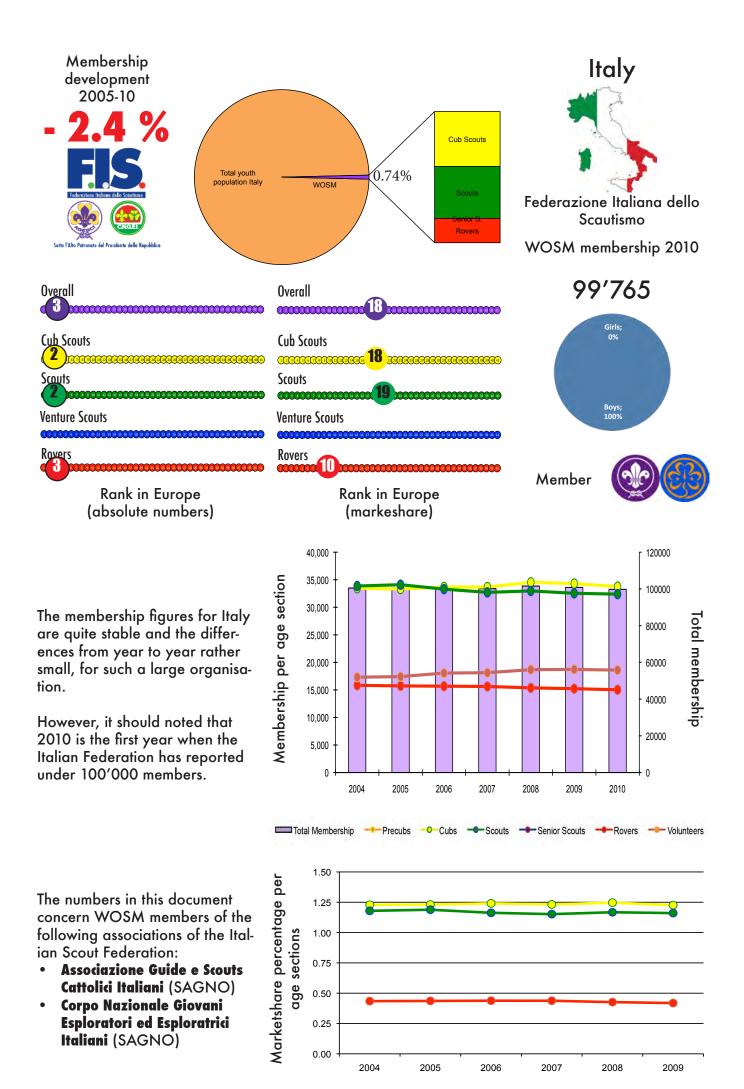
The numbers are flat over the period 2004-2009 indicating that Israel has not reported any figures. The census of 2010 shows a significant increase in numbers (except volunteers) reflecting the revision of the fee payment agreement in operation.

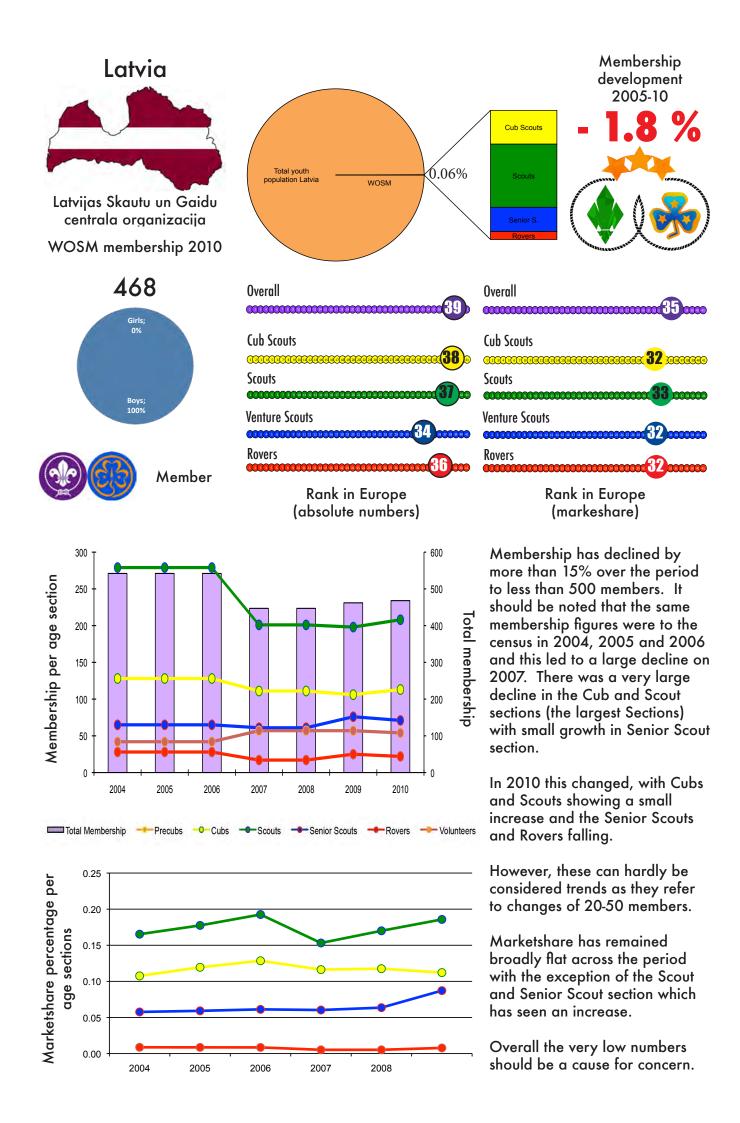
Eurostat was not able to provide recent polutation data so that also market share data can not be interpreted.

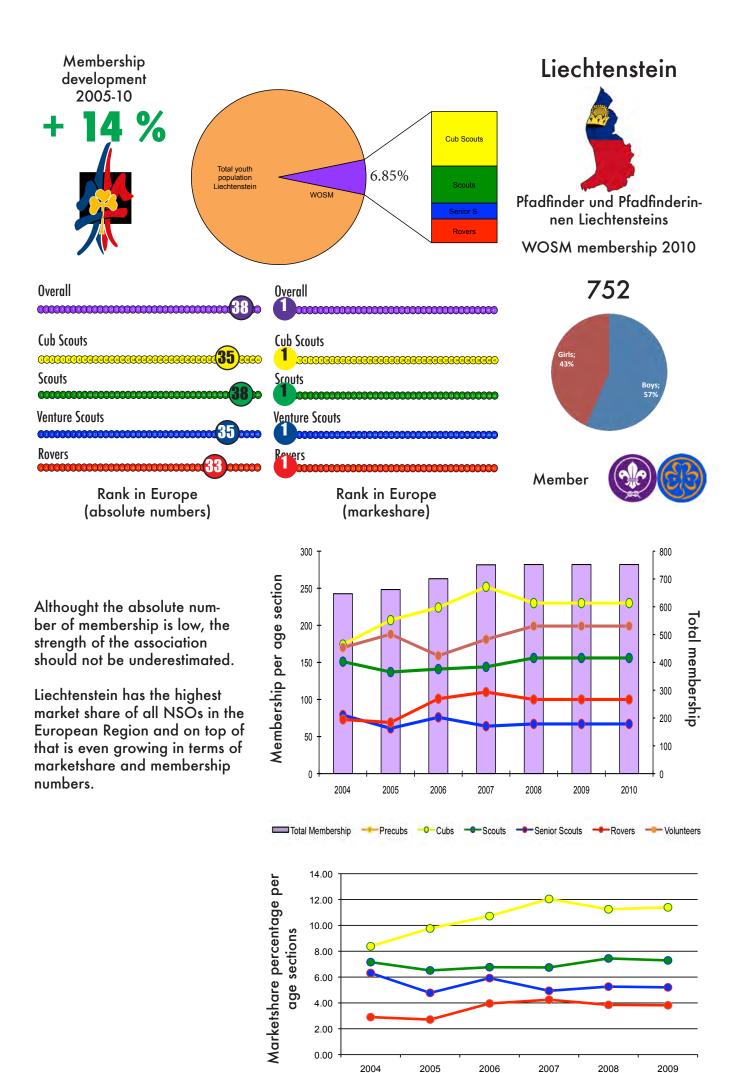
The numbers in this document concern WOSM members of the following associations of the Israel Boy and Girl Scout Federation:

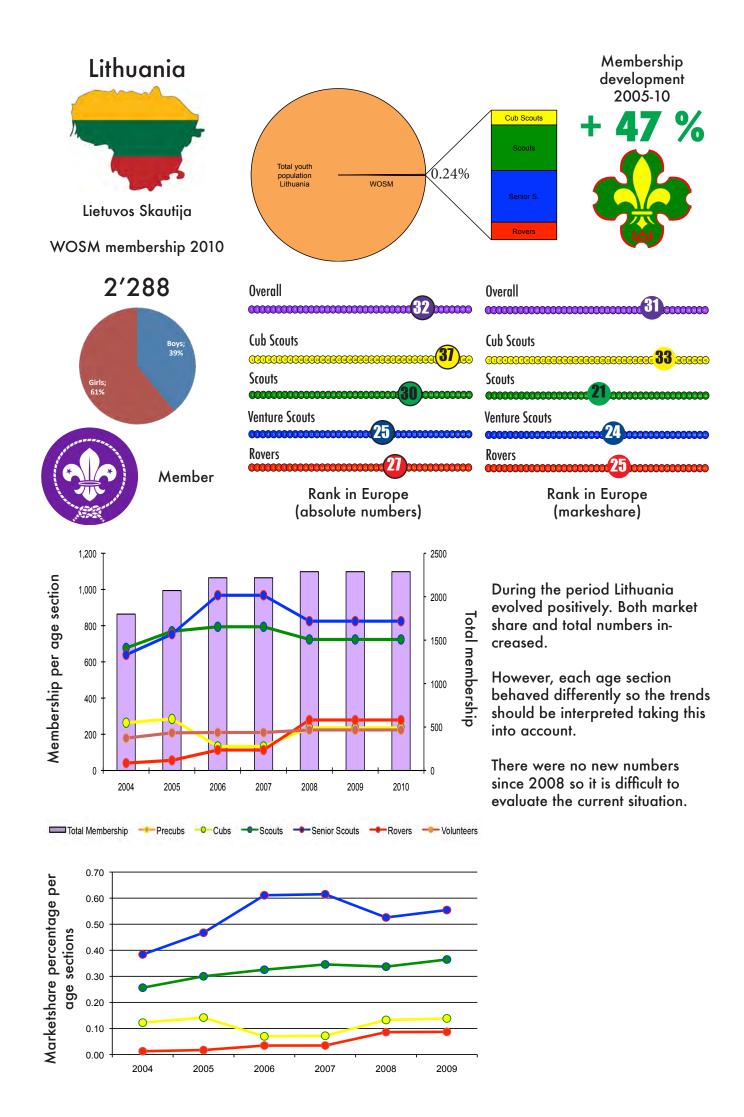
- Hebrew Scout Association (SAGNO)
- Pruze Scouts Association (SAGNO)
- Israel Catholic Scouts Association (SAGNO)
- Muslim Scouts Association (SAGNO)
- Orthodox Scout Associoation (SAGNO)

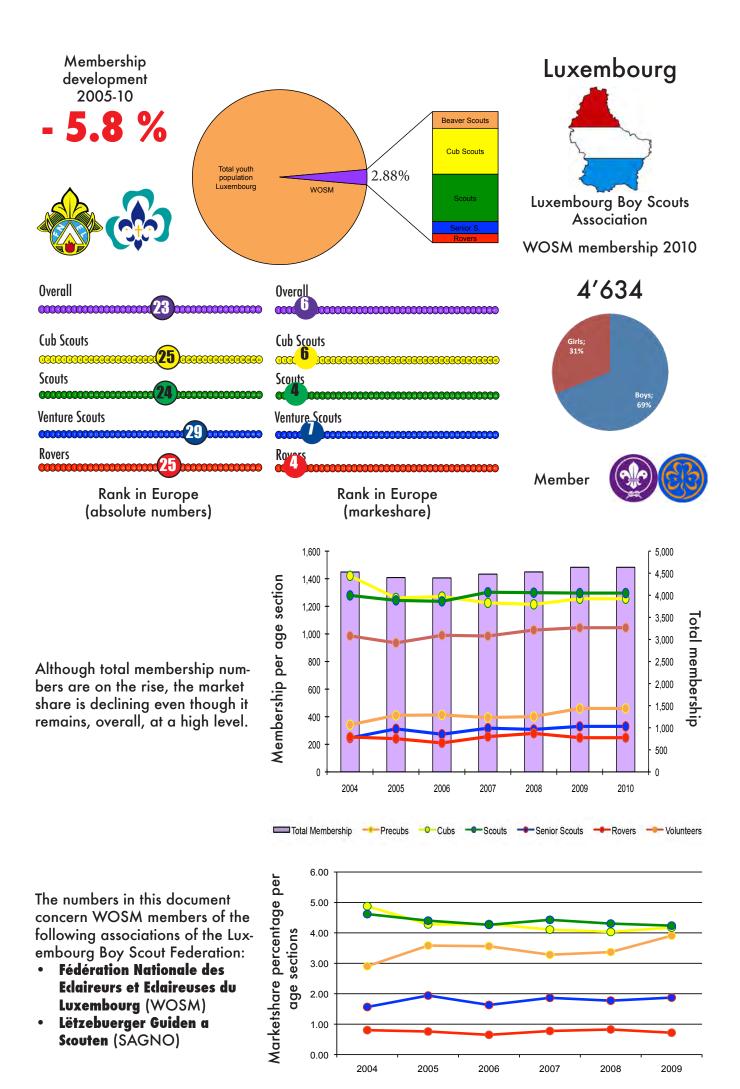
Marketshare percentage per age sections

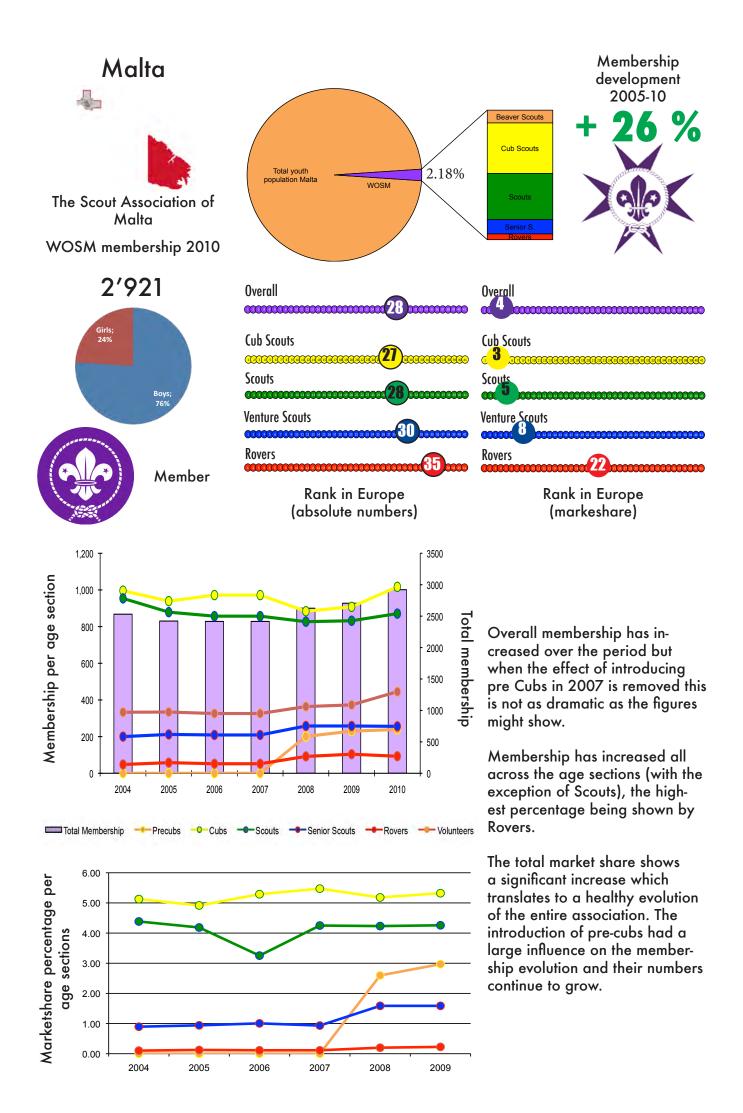












Membership development 2005-10







Association des Guides et Scouts de Monaco

WOSM membership 2010



Cub Scouts

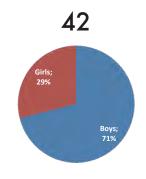
Couts

Couts

Control

Venture Scouts

Rovers



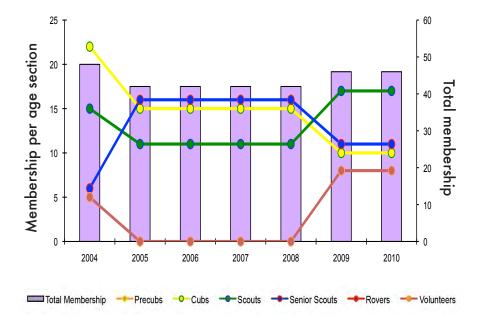
Member



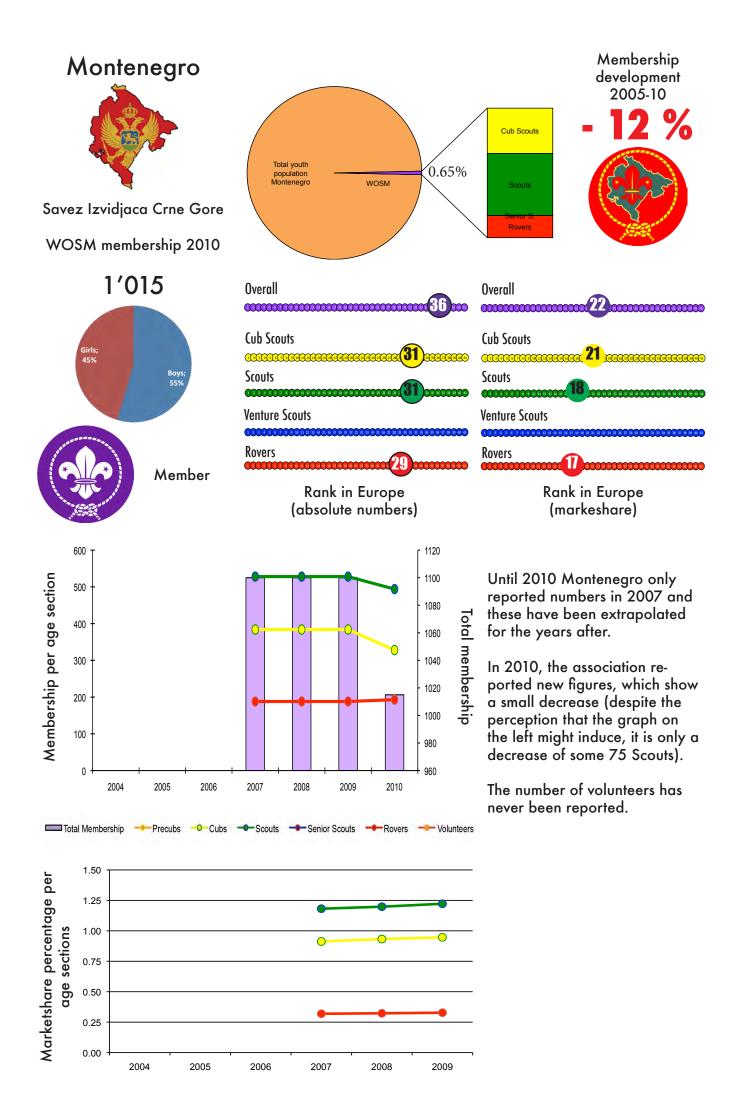
Rank in Europe (absolute numbers)

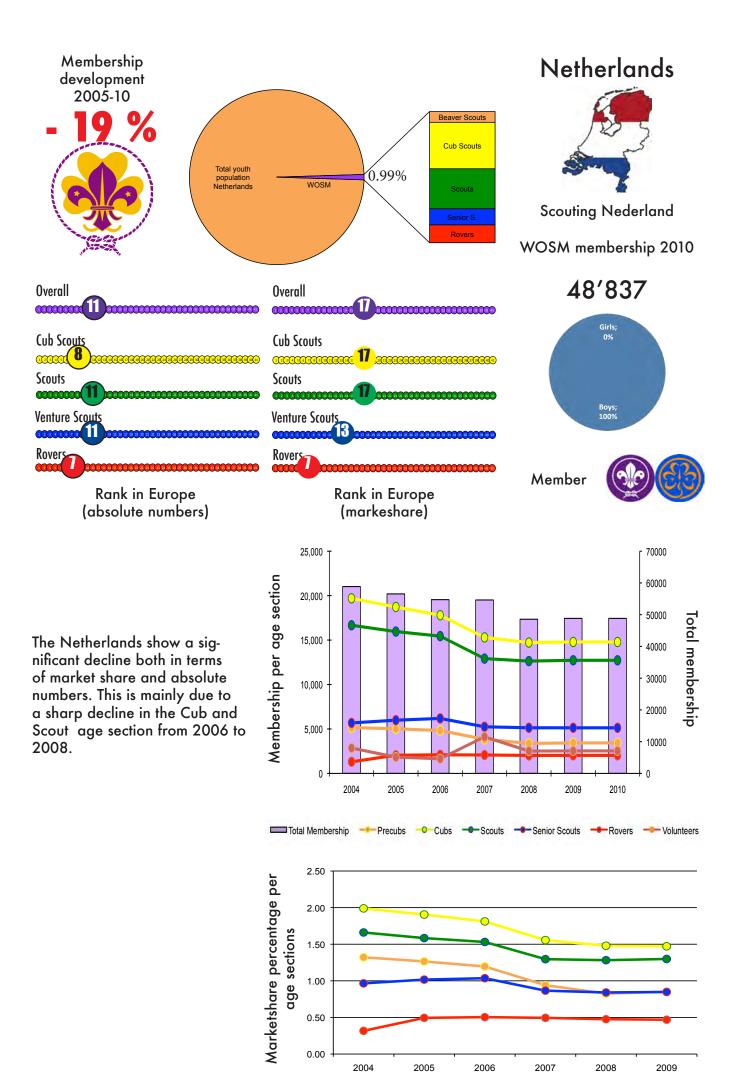
Rank in Europe (markeshare)

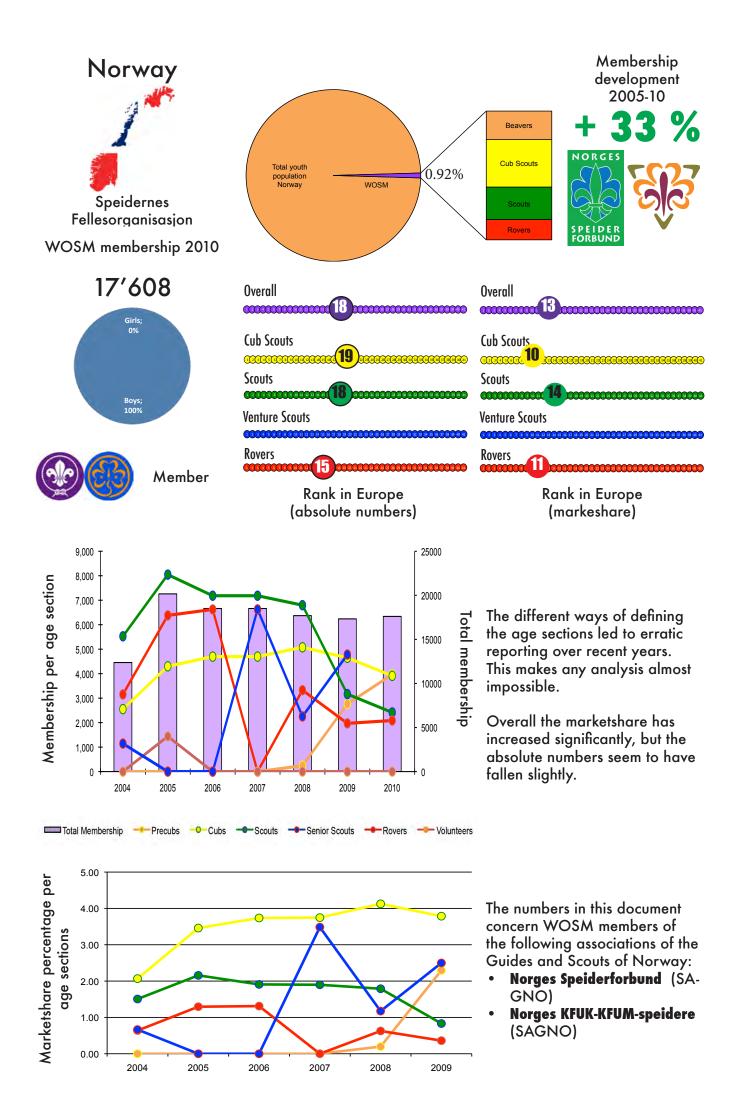
The size of the numbers are too small to discuss trends.

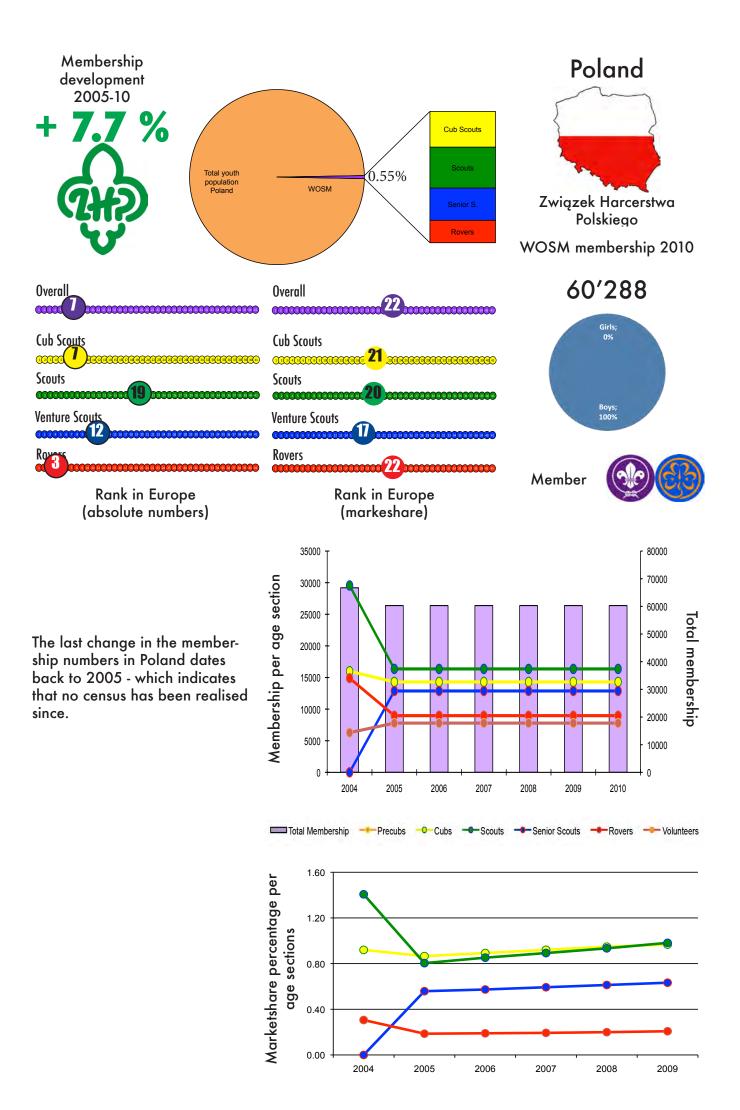


Marketshare percentage per age sections



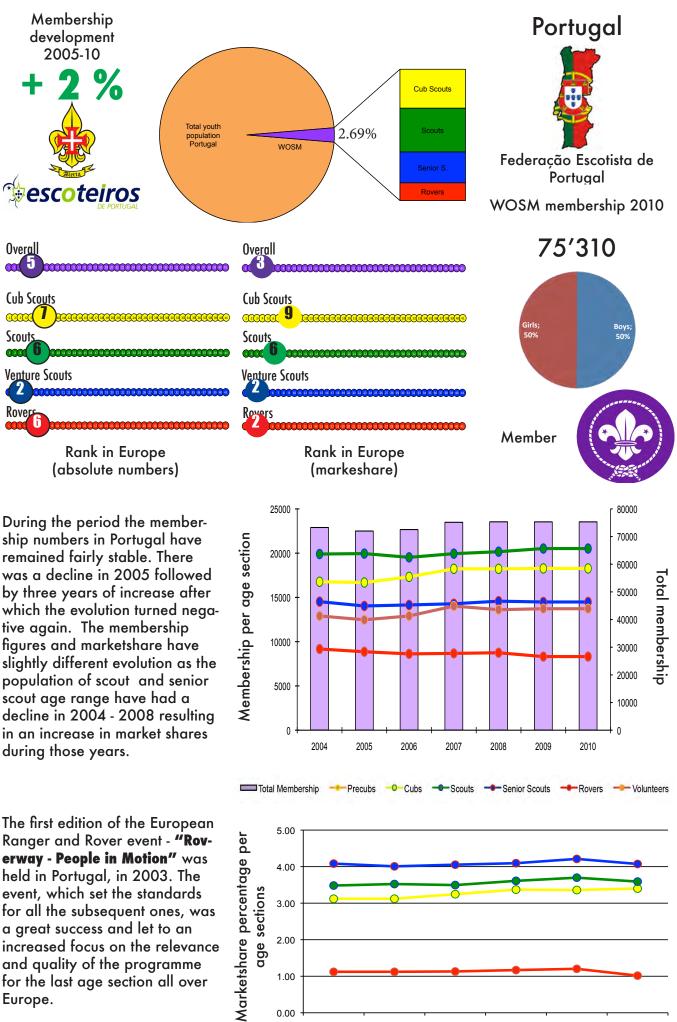












1.00

0.00

2004

2005

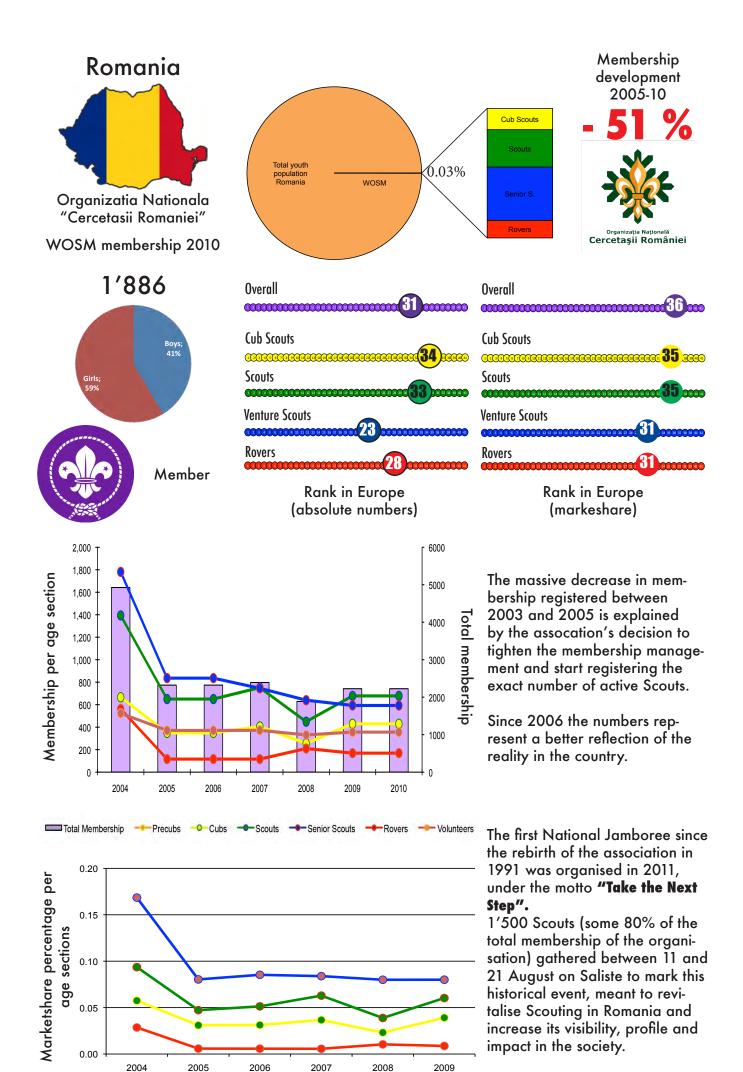
2006

2007

2008

2009

Ranger and Rover event - "Roverway - People in Motion" was held in Portugal, in 2003. The event, which set the standards for all the subsequent ones, was a great success and let to an increased focus on the relevance and quality of the programme for the last age section all over Europe.



Membership development 2005-10

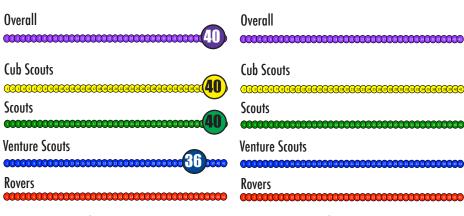


San Marino



Associazione Guide e Esploratori Cattolici Sammarinesi

WOSM membership 2009



147

Girls;
0%

Boys;
100%

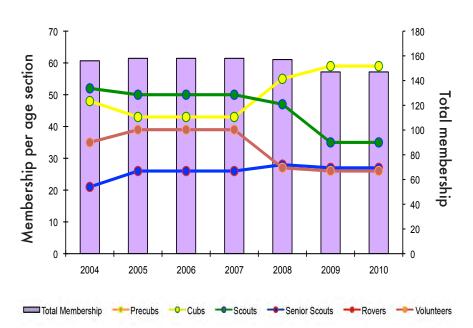
Member



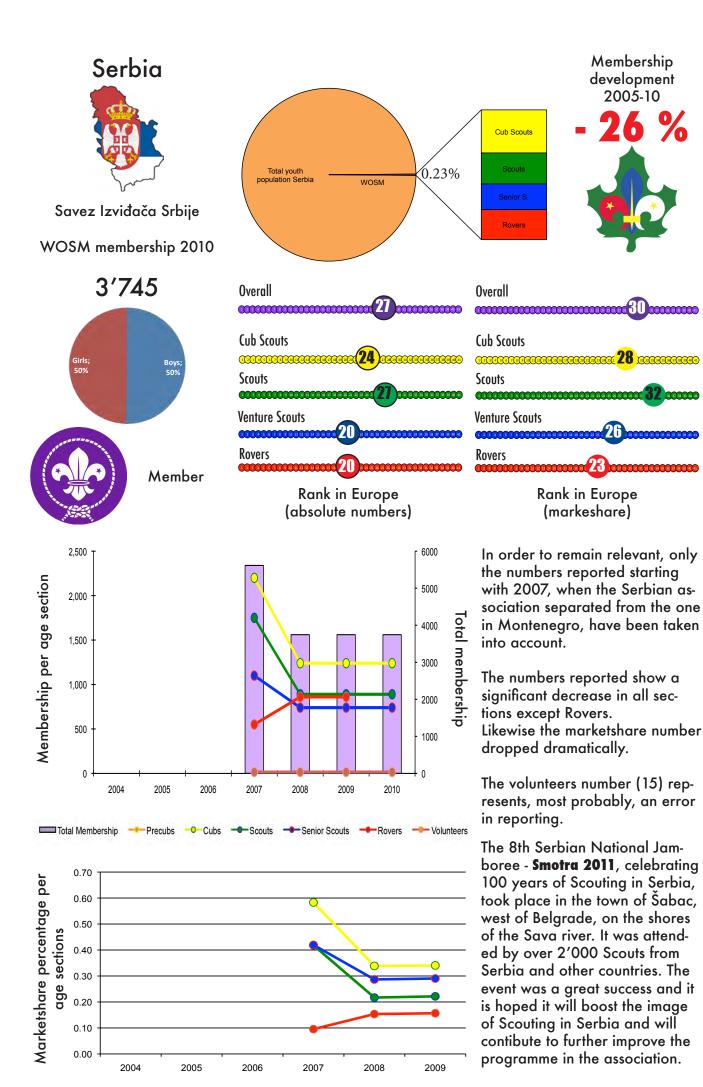
Rank in Europe (absolute numbers)

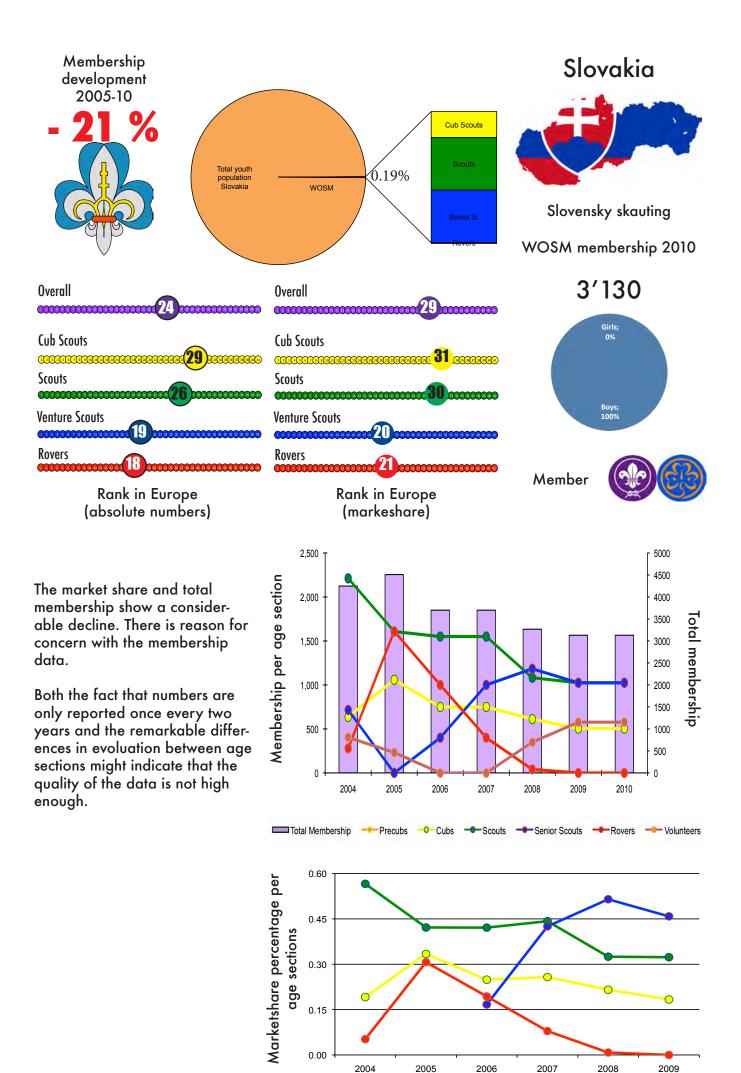
Rank in Europe (markeshare)

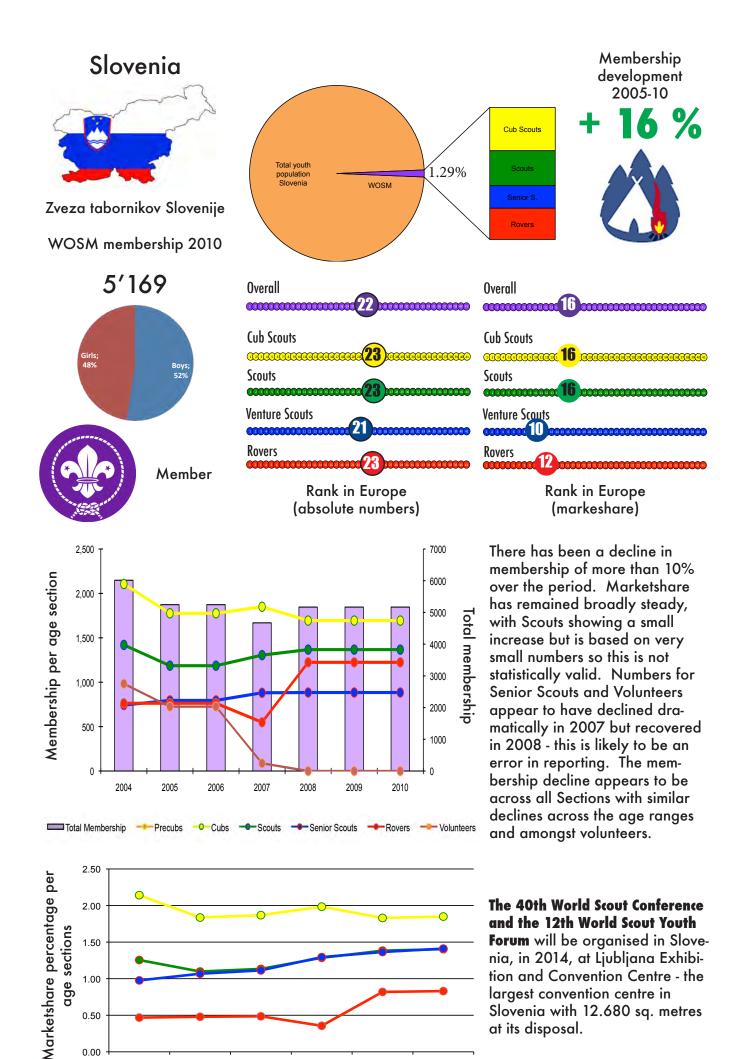
The size of the numbers are too small to discuss trends. New numbers have only been reported in 2008.

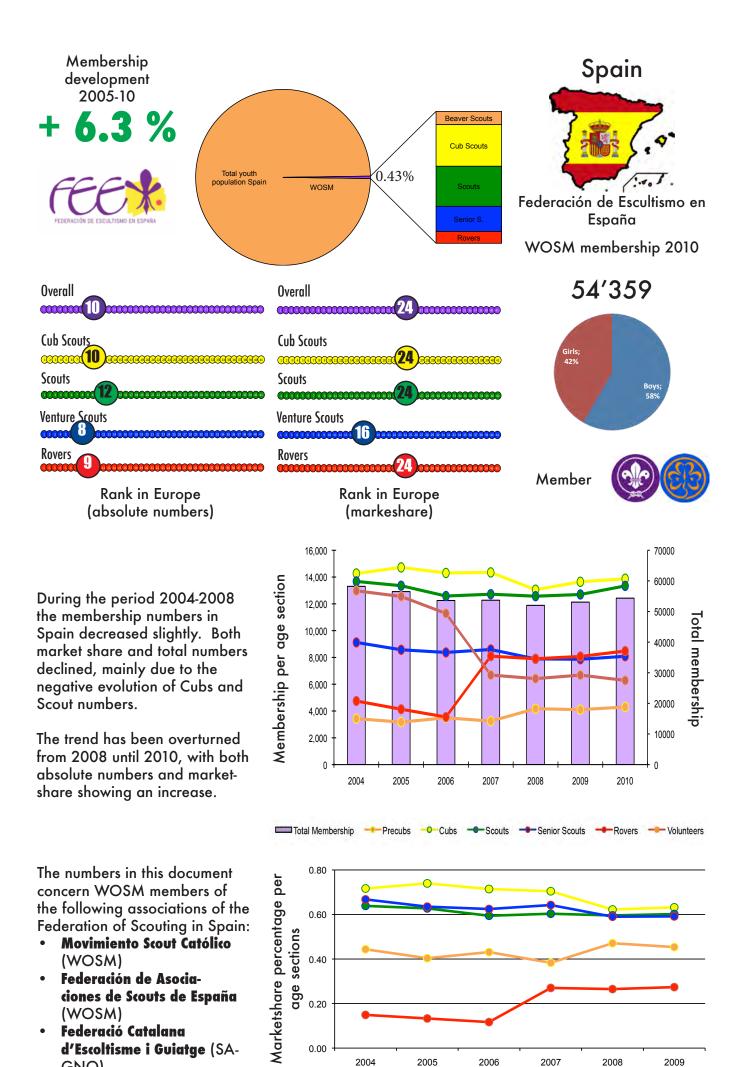


Marketshare percentage per age sections

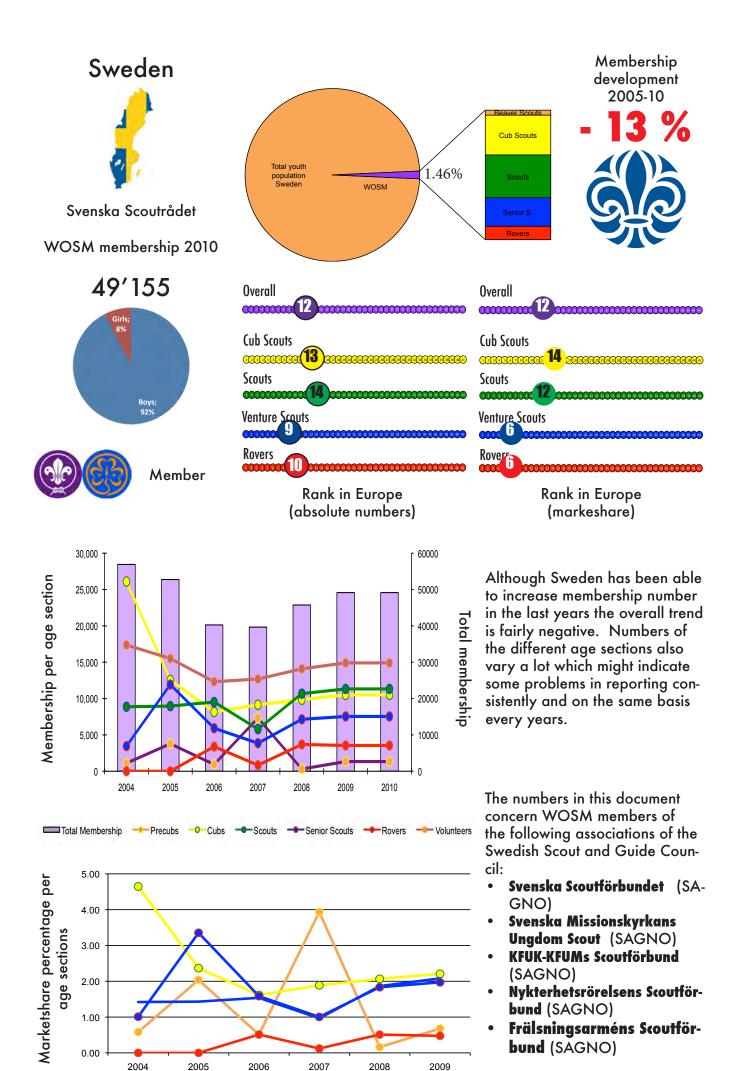


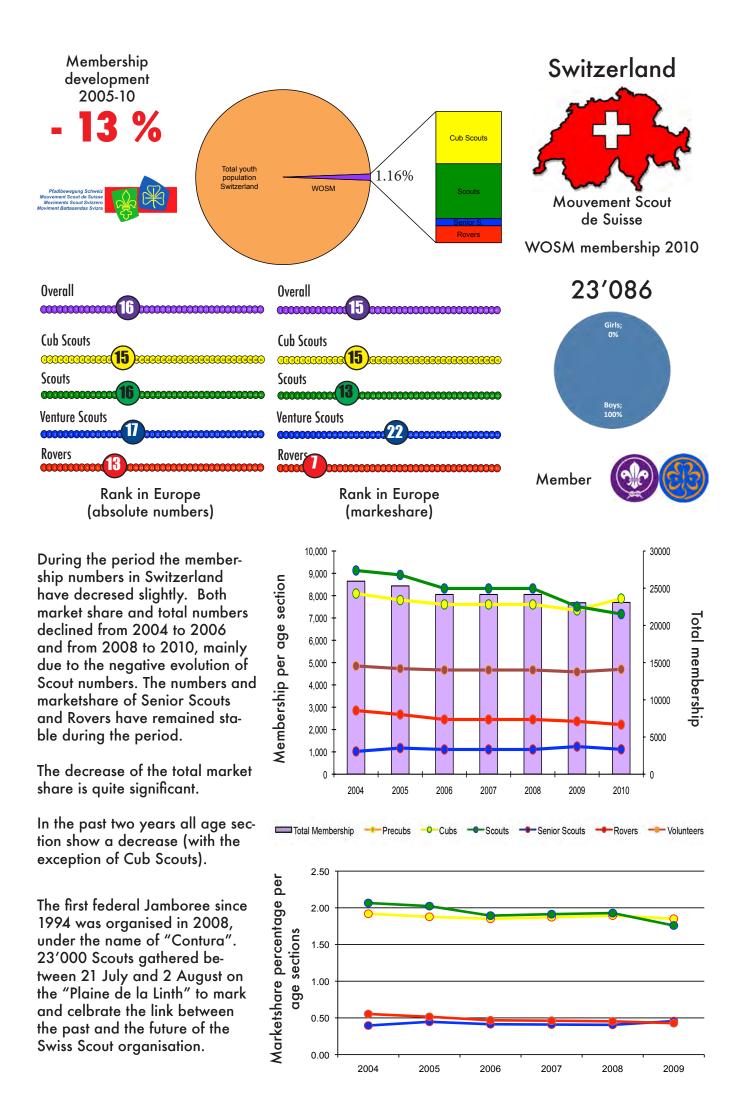


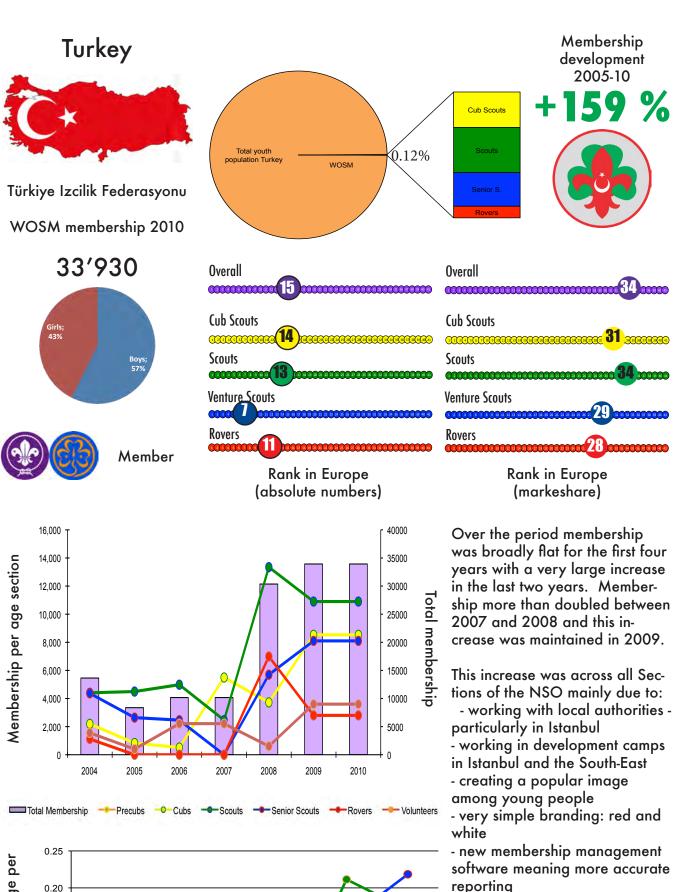


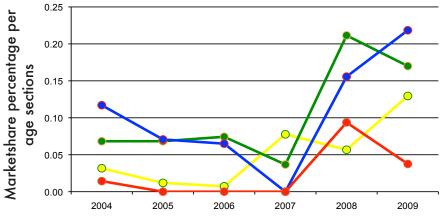


GNO)



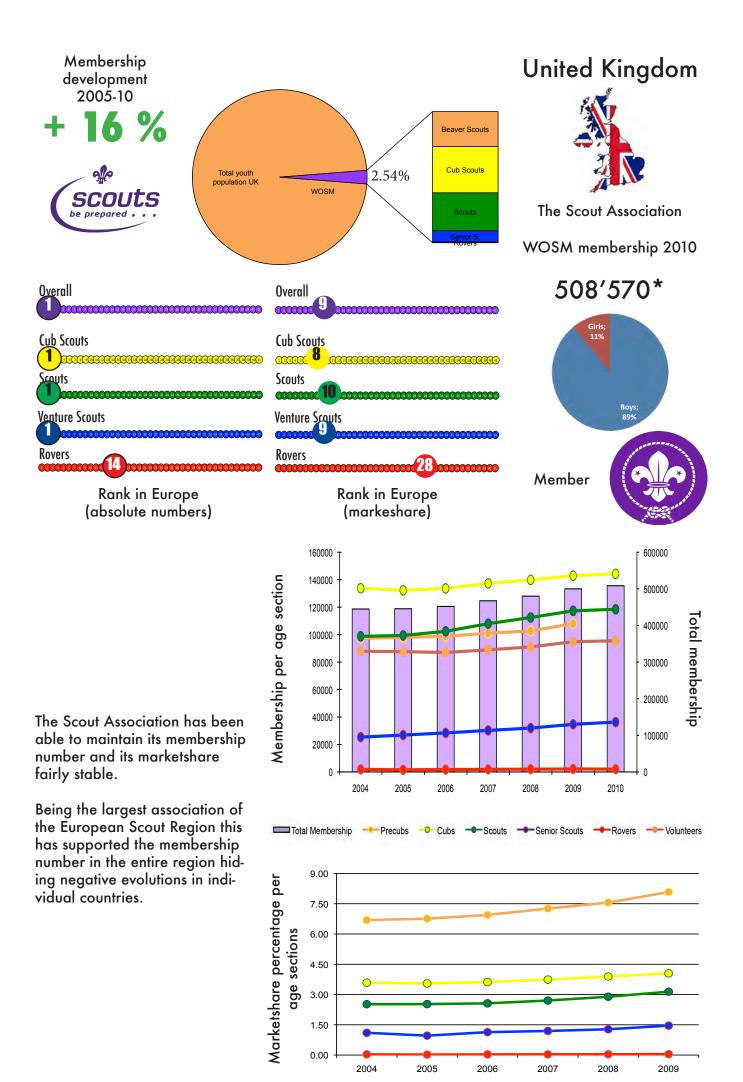






As expected given the increase in numbers marketshare saw an increase across all age ranges in 2008. This increase has continued in 2009 for Cubs and Senior Scouts, but has seen a decline for Scouts and Rovers.

- building on the volunteer ethos



^{*} This is the most up to date figure for The Scout Association. However, for the first page statistics, the official reported figure of 2010 (429,834) was used.





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