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World Organization of the Scout Movement  
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Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout  
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Project supported by  
the European Youth  
Foundation  
celebrating its  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Invitation

### **1<sup>st</sup> Inter-Regional Agora** **"Youth Participation: Today, not tomorrow!"**

### **Kandersteg International Scout Centre, Switzerland** **April 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

**D**ear International and Rover Commissioners,

We are glad to invite representatives of your National Scout Association to the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-Regional Agora, which will take place in the gorgeous setting of the Bernese Alps, at Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC), in Switzerland, between April 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. You might have heard about the yearly European Agoras, youth events gathering two European Rover representatives from each NSA to talk about roving, project management, youth empowerment and involvement in decision-making, mentoring, etc. Today, this event becomes an amazing opportunity to strengthen inter-regional exchanges and launch new dynamics within the Agora itself thanks to a greater inter-cultural dimension. Building on the experience acquired during the past five years, Agora is moving forward and transforming itself to become Inter-Regional! **Welcome!** ☺

An Agora is an educational tool that uses the Scout Method to reach the educational objectives for the rover age section and that has a special emphasis on youth empowerment. What makes an Agora so special is that it is an event run "for Rovers, by Rovers". This way, the event can be expected to deal with issues of importance and relevance to young people in present day society. An Agora aims to be a meeting place in which dreams, feelings, concerns, experiences, ideas and paths cross together, are connected and shared; a crossroad that would be a source of inspiration and energy. It is a place where the fundamentals of Scouting are present in a way that is attractive to young people today. It is a place for debate and sharing as well as teaching and learning from one another. And most importantly, an Agora is about getting new motivation and direction to one's path as a rover. Each event is focusing on a major theme, on which the programme is built upon. This year's theme is "**Youth Participation**", one of the most important strategic objectives for Scouting in the past years.

**We invite maximum two rovers from your NSA** to live this empowering, inspiring, meaningful but also fun and exciting experience built "for Rovers by Rovers", with the support of the European Scout Region and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. We will encourage your Scouts, inspire them, and put them in a position to be actively involved. However, the Inter-Regional Agora is not only about education; it is also about letting young adults explore, share, and express themselves in an international environment.

Of course, the **participant's profile is very important** to ensure the relevance and quality of the event for the participants and their National Scout Associations. You will also find attached with this invitation the application form to return before **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. By February 17<sup>th</sup>, all participants (**up to 45**) will have received an **acceptance letter** giving them the last few details to be ready for the event (international and/or rover commissioners will be informed). Even though we doubt that there will be any problem on these matters: please note that the earlier you will send us your application form(s), the earlier we will be able to check if the representative(s) fit(s) the profile. Finally, you will find after the application form a document giving a quick overview and flavour of the European Agora 2011 (Alias-Rover). Thanks to this third document, we hope that you will grasp a sense of what an Agora can mean in concrete terms.

If you have any questions, comments or feedbacks related to the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-Regional Agora 2012: please, do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at [agora@scout.org](mailto:agora@scout.org). Here is also the [Agora's website](#).

**Yours in Scouting**, the planning team.

Ciara (Ireland), Emil (Denmark), Niels (The Netherlands) & Vincent (France).

Ciara and Emil participated to the European Agora 2011. Niels and Vincent participated to the European Agora 2010 and organized the European Agora 2011.



## Dates

April 17<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. Participants are requested to arrive on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, before 6:00 pm. Departures will be on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at noon.

## Venue

Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC), Switzerland. The Centre offers dormitories and shared facilities.

## Applications

The enclosed application form should be e-mailed to the planning team [agora@scout.org](mailto:agora@scout.org) by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Send it please through your national office or international commissioner to confirm the support from your National Scout Association. The applications directly sent from individuals will not be considered. [An online version of the application form is available here.](#)

## Objectives

By the end of the Agora, the participants will have:

- an increased capacity to actively participate in the life of society.
- experienced the diversity of participation between regions.
- received the necessary concepts and tools to disseminate the results in the sending organizations.
- gained more motivation to improve roving in their own country (crew, local, national levels...).
- acquired knowledge about international rover opportunities as well as about roving in other countries (best practices and practical experiences).
- developed a concrete and detailed plan for a future rover event.
- the capacity to explain what roving is to a non-rover person and what it means to them.
- the possibility to benefit from an international organized network of Agorians.

## Participant's profile

- Participants should be members of the last age section (aged 16-22) and be motivated.
- Agora being held in English, the participants will be expected to understand and communicate well in English.
- The main goal of an agora is to empower its participants. In order to appreciate the full potential of Agora, the representatives should be motivated and wish to organize rover events. The Inter-Regional Agora 2012 is not addressed only to rovers that have experience in participating in international fora; we would like to present this empowering opportunity to all motivated ones!
- Once accepted, the NSA should provide them with sufficient knowledge of the Rover Programme in their own country.
- Each NSA should consider the best ways in which the experience accumulated during the event could be used for the benefit of the programme for the Rover section in the country.

## Number of participants

This event is designed to accept up to 45 participants. The acceptance letters will be sent to the participants on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. By then, more information might be sent.

## Additional information

If you need any further information please contact the planning team members: [agora@scout.org](mailto:agora@scout.org)

## Annexes

- Application form,
- Overview from the European Agora 2011.

## Terminology

Aware that each National Scout Association has different names for the different age sections; for the purpose of this event we will define Rovers as being members of the last age section (aged 16-22). Be convinced that if your NSA is in the process of creating a Rover Programme, the Inter-Regional Agora remains an interesting opportunity for these Scouts who will soon be called Rovers!

## Methodology

The Scout Method is at the core of any Agora. Active methods will be used during the Agora. The event intends to showcase various aspects of non-formal education and its value for youth participation.

## Transportation costs & Participation fee

The transportation costs are covered by the participant and/or the Scout association. **The participation fee is €200.** The fee covers all accommodation and meals from the evening of Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> to the lunch on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fee does not cover travel costs. Bank connections and details for paying the event participation fee will be reported to all participants by the Agora acceptance letter.

**The financial support received from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe allows the organizers to sponsor a total of 35 places for Scouts from the European or the Eurasia Regions.** They would benefit from special conditions of participation: i.e. a participation fee of only €100 and a reimbursement of 70% on the total of their travel costs. In order to allow the widest possible variety in participation, there would be only one "sponsored" participant per country (not per NSA in the case of a federation or NSO with several NSAs) but, if the maximum number is not reached at the deadline, more participants from the same country might benefit from sponsorship. **Please, make sure you correctly fill the corresponding part on the application form.**

## Travel arrangements

- Accepted participants will receive an acceptance letter by February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. They should make their own travel arrangements and obtain a visa if necessary.
- The sponsored participants will have their tickets bought by the organizers. An invoice for the 30% of the travel costs and the fee due for the event will be sent to the respective NSA.
- If you require an official invitation to obtain a visa, please indicate this clearly on your application form. Be aware that it may take up to six weeks to obtain a visa, so please send your visa form with the application form in order to allow sufficient time for that process.
- You will be asked to send us your arrival and departure details to ensure the transportation from the Kandersteg train station. The airports in Geneva, Zurich, Basel and Milano are recommended for arrival. All of them have good train connections to Kandersteg.

## Insurance

We do not cover the participants during the event neither during the travel to or from the venue. Please, note that this is the exclusive responsibility of the NSA to check and be sure that the participants are covered by insurance (illness, accidents, repatriation etc...).

## Cancellation

If for any reason you find that you are not able to attend the Agora, please notify the planning team immediately. If you cancel your participation without notice after the 16/02/2012, we are obliged to charge you/your association for the full price of the event.