**Minutes - Virtual NSK Meeting September 2020**

The meeting was held on Zoom on 12 September 2020, from 10:00 to 17:00 CEST.

*Present:*

*Iceland: Þórey Lovísa, Sunna* [*Líf Þórarinsdóttir*](https://www.facebook.com/SunnaLifThorarinsdottir)

*Faroe Island: Elsa Nielsen, Katrina Nattestad*

*Denmark: Natascha Skjaldgaard, Tenna Arpe*

*Norway: Eirik Ulltang Birkeland, Ane Nørstebø Laache*

*Sweden: Joel Bergstrand, Marie-Louise Lövgren*

*Finland: Reetta Grönlund, Tiitu Timonen-Nissi*

*Chief commissioners: Håvard Djupvik (NO-NSF), Birdy Heneide (NO-NSF), Hilla Ruohola (Fin), Lasse Roiha (Fin), Mathias Faaborg (DK-DDS), Marta Magnúsdóttir (Island),*

*Secretariat: Håvard Laache Otto, Bjarne Lohmann Madsen, Knut Slettebak*

*Guests:*

*WAGGGS World: Heidi Jokinen*

*WOSM World: Pia Melin Mortensen*

*WOSM Europe: Martin Persson*

*European Scout Foundation/FOSE: Jørgen Rasmussen*

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| Agenda | Topic |
| 1) | **Virtual welcome and presentation round.**  The Norwegian IC’s chaired the meeting.  Rules of procedure for the meeting were presented. |
| 2) | **Country updates**  Each country gave a short update on the impact of Covid-19 on scouting on local, regional and national level. Commonly, all Nordic associations have developed different new activities for “Scouting at home” and virtual meeting places / campfires. Scouting activities have resumed on the local level in all Nordic countries, and to some extent on the regional and national level  **Denmark:**  *Covid-19:*   * Some of the organisations have suffered a loss in membership * Camps were held during the summer. * Organisations are losing money due to lower number of visitors at their properties. * There is funding from the government for groups and regions, but not for the national level. DDS will suffer a significant economic loss   *Other business:*   * “Spejderne” is focused on creating a national camp in 2022 near Copenhagen. 2 other major events at almost the same time.   **Finland:**  *Covid-19:*   * Suspended all face to face meetings on national level * Trying to get back to as normal as possible with physical meetings and online opportunities. * Hope to organise camps next summer * No dip in membership so far, expect lower number of new members this autumn. * No effect on the economy yet. Sales of advent calendars is important and can have a great impact if people don’t want to buy them.   *Other business:*   * GA in mid november, planning physical but ready to move online.   + New strategy and constitution.   + Elections of new chiefs and national board. * Leadership event next year, expects a few thousand participants * National jamboree 2023 * International cooperation and partnership projects continue also during the pandemic.   **Faroe Islands:**  *Covid-19:*   * Scouting at home; developed new activity badges. * Online cooperation. * Outdoor activities started from May   *Other business:*   * KFUK:   + Guides participates in Danish courses.   + Strategic work: Developing vision and mission   **Iceland:**  *Covid-19:*   * Stopped meetings, started a social media project. * Have moved national jamboree to 2021. * Meetings have started as usual, youth groups don’t need to follow the 1-meter rule.   *Other business:*   * GA has been postponed to the end of october. Working on policies and a 5 year strategy plan. * Got a grant from the government.   **Norway:**  *Covid-19:*   * Trying to operate as normal as possible. Keeping activities going, getting back on track. * NSF canceled national jamboree 2021, will try to find an alternative to wait until 2025. National jamboree 2022 (YMCA/YWCA). * OBPS meeting cancelled. * Funding from the Department of Culture to scout activities.   *Other business:*   * Work on the national level, NSF: Strategy development. Diversity and inclusion, new network. Growth, system for supporting groups. Safe from harm. Focus on the patrol, even more important in corona times. * General assembly in mid november (NSF) and in April (KM). Elections, constitution, strategy. * Preparations for smaller camps next summer (NSF) * Rover/ranger age group – Nordic cooperation? Suggestion for the conference. * Roverway 2024. We are planning on applying to host the event.   **Sweden:**   * Covid-19: From the start advice was given to troops to limit meetings to 50 people and to stay away from travel. * Most events were cancelled during spring and summer. * Online leadership weekend with 600 participants (volunteers and leaders). Small drop in camps, but most members have had the opportunity to go to camp. Largest challenges: Funding.   *Other business:*   * In the process of finalising the process of hiring a new secretary general. * General assembly late november. Digital because of the size of it (up to 1000 participants) * Focus on the national level:   Growth. Working on fundraising, this will be a focus at the GA. Improving/correcting the image of scouting. Strategy: many things in common with the other countries - theme for NSConf.?   * Hoping to have national jamboree 2021. Everybody is welcome.   WAGGGS question: It doesn’t sound like you are that impacted by covid-19. Several MOs in other regions are close to bankruptcy. You are planning for next summer “like nothing has happened”. How are you doing financially? Do you get new members or are there losses?  DK: Reluctant to dramatise. One NSO has lost members, another has grown. The majority of groups are gaining. Activities have not suffered significantly. Camps were held during summer. DDS will suffer a significant economic loss. There is no funding for national level.  FI: Haven’t seen a dip in membership so far, but expect a lower number of new members this autumn. No effect on the economy yet, but expect that in the future due to lower membership. Sales of advent calendars is important and can have a great impact if people don’t want this. Looking at different ways of doing this. Do not know yet what the impact will be before the end of the year.  SE: This has been a learning experience. Things that have been talked about in the org for a while. The pandemic has pushed us to explore this and many trainings have been adapted to elearingin. When it comes to membership they are supporting the groups. Tough year but not an existential threat to scouting in sweden. Biggest impact is funding, and mainly on the local level. National level: less sponsorship. Local level: No flea markets and other money generating activities. Funding is dependent on the number of meetings and has been impacted, but many local groups have found new ways of getting funding.  NO: Nationally we have a 10% loss, but most of them have paid membership before corona. Our population has rediscovered outdoor activities. We hope this will lead to more members. Economically: Quite equipped for this situation. Have cancelled national jamboree which have had expenses and now no income. Quite good possibilities of economical support from the government. Locally groups have the opportunity to apply. Funding is based on membership and activity. Working together with other organisations on lobbying towards the government.  IS: Local groups have done quite well. No corona during summer. Children not under corona rules so activities could continue. Activities during summer are used for funding and recruitment. Think activities will go on as normal. National jamboree postponed: more or less everybody kept their registration to next sommer. Scout center lost all business during spring and partly summer. This is the big problem now.  FO: Mostly the same as the others. A bit difficult to say how the membership numbers look. Few or no problems financially. The local and national level are very close. There are probably a few groups that have lost money. Receives money from the Ministry of Culture. Looks good this far. |
| 3) | **Update from the Secretariat**  The secretariat gave a short update and the meeting discussed possible impacts of the pandemic for the planned Nordic events 2020–2021. The secretariat will follow up host to the upcoming events.   * Feedback from DK: Decide at least one month before the event.. * Feedback from FI: Cancellation policy is important. * Feedback from NO: Who is taking the economical risk? Split between host and NSO/MO?   Remember to send names, photos and email to the secretariat to update the mailing list and website. |
| 4) | **Nordic Guide and Scout conference 2021**  The secretariat gave a brief update on preparations for the conference and on how covid-19 will be handled.  Feedback form the countries on content and methods of the conference were given on Padlet (web page). The planning team will take the feedback into account, and invite to online meetings where themes and workshops for the conference will be planned in more detail.  The secretariat will make a timeline about when we decide on a physical or virtual conference. NSK will be notified as soon as this is decided. |
| 5) | **WAGGGS and WOSM update briefings**  WAGGGS:   * New CE, Anna Segall, has been approved. * The board has met once since Heidi took over. Next meeting in two weeks: Agreeing on what to do with the world conference. The planning committee will present several options spanning from a full scale conference in Uganda, via just a “governance conference” in a major hub, to a fully virtual conference. * This summer: reached out to all MOs about what they are doing, major challenges, what about the future. Remarkable proportions are doing very poorly and their finances are in a poor situation with substantial membership losses. Discussed whether WAGGGS membership fee policy will reduce membership fees compared to now. * WAGGGS itself has been fairly okay after a restructuring earlier. Many got temporarily laid off during the shut down. In the long run the world centres might be an issue. They usually can maintain themselves, but they are mostly locked down now, and it will be discussed what to do with them later this year. * Have asked MOs what they need from WAGGGS in this situation. People are asking for global connections and more sharing. * NO: Have WAGGGS discussed their conference cycle? No, not yet. Understand that the regional conferences and next world conference are coming quickly after next year.   WOSM Europe:   * Sustainable events checklist: Useful tool to increase sustainability. Have had a think tank on how to work with sustainability in the region. * Alle working groups are ongoing and will present results along the way. * Survey: how is “scouting from home” working? 4000 responses. * Joint work: Recruited two working groups, strategic review group and refugees and human rights. Just started working. Joint event: Academy is going online, looking for facilitators and participants. * WOSM and Allianssi has nominated Silja Markkula as president for European Youth Forum * Growth project in South East Europe * January: Midterm report * Open call for volunteers is out now with a deadline for applications on october 10th.   WOSM World:   * Pandemic: How could we in the best way support the NSOs? “100 days projects”. Academy – 64 online sessions, 95 speakers, 4000 participants. Scouting @ home. humanitarian actions. Communications and resource mobilisation. Learnings will be applied in the coming plans. * Plan for 2020–21: Growing together. Building on work from the triennial plan that should have been 20–23. 5 priority clusters. 1. Supporting membership retention in a changing reality   2. Support NSOs in their new financial reality  3. Strengthen Scouting’s role and impact as a key actor in local communities  4. Connecting the Movement  5. Long-term focuses and core business continuation   * Working on operational framework. * WSC meeting in two weeks. Discussions about the conference. Will also vote on a code of conduct for elections in WOSM (events and committee members). * NSO data portal: A platform to gather all information about the NSOs * World scout conference: Will be discussed in the next WSC Meeting. It is likely that the conference will be next summer. Nothing clear about the form of the conference. Biennium/triennium: nothing decided yet. * European conference and moot will happen at the same time. Don’t think this will have a substantial negative impact. Planning of the european conference is about to start up. European Jamboree: For now the planning is ongoing for the event next summer. * Feedback from NSK about timing of conference and moot: It is very unfortunate that these events collide. Some of the same people may be participants and resource persons. It also collides with several national jamborees.   European Scout Foundation:   * Jørgen gave a short update on the current situation in ESF. 40,000 euros have been invested in projects in eastern Europe. |
| 6) | **Separate discussions on WAGGGS and WOSM issues**  WAGGGS:   * DK invites participants from countries without a contingent to ESJ to participate in their contingent. * Refunding from ESJ: Risks of not getting the money back depending on whether the event is cancelled or not. * SE: Extraordinary general meeting in november: Any particular topics? Usually governance issues, “paper work”, in these meetings. There has been a call for agenda items. * NO: Is there a plan on when to make a decision on the conference? Heidi: Possible decision within a month or two. Need to elect a new world board. * Heidi: Should the list of candidates be just moved to the conference, or should there be a new open call? Several MOs: Process should be opened again. This is also important with regards to the biennium/triennium-process. The situation in people’s lives may have changed. * Heidi: Should papers for the conference this year just be transferred, like strategy or compass 32 proposals? * Heidi: Long term plan with the world centres will be discussed in the november meeting: What should be the wagggs strategy regarding these, considering travel restrictions leading to few visitors, cost of the centres etc.? FI: WAGGGS just had a restructuring, focusing on the core mission of the association. World centres are important symbolically, but not a part of the core mission. There are probably differences between the world centres and their financial resources. DK: Can the centres be used for other groups, like schools, to attract visitors? * Heidi: Suggestion that committees can be chaired by non-committee members. How is this done in the countries? FI: Board members don’t chair committees. We have seperate chairs and support the idea to change this in the world board. DK: Agree with Finland. IS: The board members have the option to chair committees. SE: Board members dont chair committees. NO: Same. * FI: Do you have any idea about the timing of the conference? Heidi: No, but I think July will be quite late. But July will be an option if a physical meeting can be held in Uganda. * DK: If the world conference will not be in Uganda next year, will it be the next time? Heidi: good question, we don’t know yet. * WOSM separate meeting   1. WOSM Services in the Nordics  Pia: Not too much used in the Nordics. There are a quite a few trained consultants that are ready to deliver services. Who has used the WOSM Services?   * Generally, most of the use has been related to constitutional changes, DK: one of their NSOs has received GSAT services and are happy about that. Their experience is positive.   Eirik: The IC’s are the primary contacts and we must think of how our organisations can use the WOSM services.  2. World Scout Conference  b) resolutions  Resolutions meeting when something more is known and WSC has gained some more speed and Pia and Martin knows more.  c) elections  Pia is motivated for reelection. Few rumors of other candidates for WSC.  Nordic YA? Sweden suggests candidates from Norway, Finland or Iceland.  3. European Jamboree  Denmark is open for the inclusion of Guides and Scouts from other Nordic countries in their contingent. Deadline for new participants is 31/9-20. 65 participants now..  New participants at the EJ must pay a higher participant fee than existing participants.  Iceland refunded 100 % of participant fee except first deposit, Norway 80%. Sweden refunded everything and has a loss of SEK 800.000.  Finland is sending a contingent. 40 out of 250 have cancelled their participation and will get a refund of ⅔ of the participation fee. They are having trouble recruitung troop leaders.  Open question: Should we consider sending pan-nordic contingents to international events? (No conclusion)  4. WOSM at the Nordic Conference  A wish to look against the european and world conferences. |