

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE



Information for Friends in Latvia

Year 2012

A very active calendar year comes to an end and I would like to THANK YOU all you for all that you have done – and continue to do – for the growth of scouting in Latvia and in central/eastern Europe. Your name, and leadership, as a Friend of Scouting (FOSE) is very important and your financial contribution is very much appreciated!

2011/12 has been a very successful year for our European Scout Foundation (ESF)! As you know, we are in the business of making money, so as to help ensure the growth of scouting in Europe, especially in countries where scouting was not allowed due to Communist doctrine and edict. This past year has been unique in that we – on behalf of European Scouting – have received 1 million Swiss Francs (more than 800,000 Euro) from Europe's former Regional Chairman and former European Scout Foundation Board member, Andreas Henrici. His generous gift is being invested in European Guiding and Scouting by supporting the training of young people in our part of Europe. A joint Guide and Scout Committee, comprised of five people, chaired by Johan Strid of Sweden and of which also Juris Ulmanis is a member, is investing the money in the most relevant way. Currently two active Latvian scout leaders (when I say scouting, I mean both girl guides and boy scouts) from Latvia are participating in an intensive 4 month project called Values Based Leadership Training. His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, is the patron of this training. We will continue to train our Latvian youth and they will bring back their acquired learning to other young people in Latvia.

Furthermore, a long time friend of our European Scout Foundation, Robert Hall of the UK, is supporting projects up to the value of CHF 40'000 (more than 33 000 Euro).

"Small Projects"

Our "Small Projects" program continues to develop. In this program, the ESF acts as a go-between" for local scout groups in Latvia, and other parts of central and eastern Europe, who submit project proposals up to 3,000 euro and the ESF brings these projects together with donors who are willing to "buy" these projects. We are eager to expand this program and work closely with the International Commissioners of central/eastern Europe to ensure the highest possible quality of projects. Small Projects from Latvia are eagerly awaited.

Super Friends

Super Friends are local 'activists', in a number of countries, who voluntarily and actively recruit FOSE. On Saturday 29 September, 2012, a day-long meeting of Super Friends at the Baden-Powell House, in London, discussed issues relating to FOSE recruitment and shared in best and worst practices in each country. Discussed topics included: how to increase the number of Friends in each country and committed plans for the future; communications with and within FOSE; corporate sponsorship; web site; progress on the projects supported in central and eastern Europe; quality and layout of our Friends' certificates.

FOSE in Latvia

The Friends of Scouting (FOSE) is the ESF's most successful program where individuals, such as your selves, support the growth of scouting in Latvia and in central and eastern Europe. Not only is your gift important (which it is), but your name on the Latvian FOSE member list is even more important. Your name signifies that you are a "doer", a leader – actively supporting the largest youth movement in the world, its values, its method, and virtues. As you undoubtedly agree, this is so needed in our current Latvian society, and of course, helping and supporting young people is the road to achieve this. We can proudly say that in Latvia we are currently 5 Life Friends, and 29 Friends. You are leading by example. Let us continue to do so by getting more people on the Latvian FOSE list, thereby helping to ensure the continued growth of scouting in Latvia, where scouting was forbidden for 50 years.

FOSE Gathering in Latvia

On Friday, August 31, there was a Latvian FOSE meet-up hosted by Marija and Juris Ulmanis, in Jurmala, by the seaside, whereby a number of new FOSE were welcomed and received their FOSE certificates and pins, personally given by the ESF Chairman, Mr. Jorgen Rasmussen. A pleasant evening ensued meeting old friends and making new friends, all in the name of growing scouting in Latvia.

During the past year, similar local FOSE meet-ups have taken place in Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Belgium, Finland, and the United Kingdom. The next Latvian meet-up will take place on Friday, August 30, 2013, so please mark your calendars!



Latvian FOSE meet-up.
August 2012, Latvia.



Dates to mark in your calendar:

August 30: Latvia, FOSE meet-up
October 10 – 15: Slovenia, The 15th annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe.