



FAQ FOR NSOs Phasing out of the Eurasia structures

QUESTIONS ON THE TRANSITION

1. When does the transition of the Region take place?

1. The effective change in Regional boundaries will take place on 30 September 2023.
2. The transition period scheduled to happen between March and September 2023 allows for adequate communication to NSOs and stakeholders involved, as well as consider any concerns that might arise.
3. The timelines are aligned with the WSB fiscal year (1 October-30 September).

2. Which Eurasia NSOs will go to which Region?

1. Effective of 30 September 2023, the geographical area of the European Scout Region will expand from its current area to an area including the sovereign states of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.
2. Effective of 30 September 2023, the geographical area of the Asia-Pacific Scout Region will expand from its current area to an area including the sovereign states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
3. The WSC decides only on the geographical boundaries of Scout Regions. NSOs located within those boundaries can join that Scout Region if they so desire. They are not obligated to and if they choose not to, they remain a full member of WOSM with all rights and benefits.

3. How were Eurasia NSOs involved in the transition?

The Contact Group established by the WSC in May 2022 discussed through a series of individual Zoom calls with each Eurasia NSO their preferences on multiple outcome scenarios for the Eurasia Region. Eurasia NSO leadership moreover had an informal opportunity to be briefed and exchange on the recommendations of the Contact Group at the Eurasia NSO gathering on 14-15 March in Moldova. At this event, questions and concerns raised by the NSOs were answered by the Contact Group. Subsequently on 19 March 2023, after the WSC took its decision, the NSOs were the first to be informed through a call by the WSC Chairperson, Secretary General, and Eurasia Regional Chair.

4. How were the Europe and Asia-Pacific Region involved in the transition?

Representatives from both Regional Committees were part of the Contact Group as it considered the transition. The Contact Group also had dedicated engagements with the respective Regional Committees and collaborated with them on exploring answers and solutions on several aspects related to the transition. The World Scout Bureau internally, between the concerned Support Centres, collaborated on its Operational Proposal regarding the phasing out of the Eurasia Region.

5. How was the Eurasia Scout Committee involved in the transition?

- a) The Eurasia Scout Committee initiated the process in April 2022 following the letters from NSOs expressing their wish to leave the Eurasia Region. The Region asked the WSC to deliberate and decide on the viability of the Region (or not).
- b) The Eurasia Chairperson is a member of the Contact Group and regular engagements were had between the Contact Group and the Regional Committee throughout its work.
- c) Early in the process all Members and Youth Advisors of the Eurasia Committee came together to express their full views to the Contact Group and the outputs were reported to the WSC in September 2022. The suggestions from the Eurasia Committee were an integral part of the proposals made to the WSC regarding the future of Eurasia Region.
- d) The WSC has considered the Eurasia Committee an important stakeholder and has regularly provided updates and shared advance copies of key documents and reports prior to decisions being tabled at the WSC to ensure all sensitivities were captured and considerations were made for the needs of NSOs in the Region.

- e) Despite the uncertainties surrounding the Region's future, the Eurasia Scout Committee regularly expressed its support to the process throughout and underlined the importance for the WSC to make decisions in the best interest of the NSOs and requested the WSC to conclude its processes at the earliest and come to a decision at its March 2023 meeting.

6. What type of support is put in place by the Europe and Asia-Pacific Regions to support the transition and welcoming of the Eurasian NSOs?

Both Regions have developed tailored plans for this purpose, taking the support needs of these NSOs into account. This includes, among others:

- a) Induction and orientation of national leadership into Regional structures and processes.
- b) Dedicated meetings with NSO leadership and Regional leadership, to further strengthen understanding of context and needs.
- c) Tailored, dedicated support, based on needs assessment, including direct communication points with Regional Office and/or Regional Committee
- d) Planning of field visits.
- e) Reinforce and/or create new peer-to-peer partnerships between existing NSOs in the Region and the new incoming NSOs from Eurasia.
- f) Support for participating in Regional events and activities and integration in existing Regional networks.
- g) Supporting NSOs to be able to take part fully in the respective Regional Conferences in 2025.

QUESTIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1. Do Eurasia NSOs have to go through a membership application / admission process in their new Region?

No. All Eurasia NSOs are evidently already WOSM Member Organizations. Eligibility for membership of a Region for NSOs so desiring, is solely based on the geographical boundaries decided by the World Scout Committee (Article XX.1).

2. What happens if some Eurasia NSOs don't want to join their newly allocated Region, now or in the future?

- a) If such a situation happens, the NSO will need to inform WOSM of its concerns. The transition period will ensure WOSM is formally aware of this prior to 30 September 2023.
- b) In such case the Contact Group will reach out to the concerned NSO to understand its position and concerns, liaise with the concerned Regional Scout Committee, and subsequently make a recommendation for consideration by the WSC at its September 2023 meeting.

3. Is it within the power of the World Scout Committee to take this decision?

- a) Yes. The WSC is cognisant that the Eurasia Regional Constitution does not include any provisions with regard to dissolution. It further notes the unique genesis of the Eurasia Scout Region, as the only Region that was effectively created by a decision of the World Scout Committee in 1997.
- b) The WSC further based its authority on the insights of its Constitutions Committee, in particular to ensure the consultation of the Eurasia NSOs and the Eurasia Scout Committee in the process.
- c) This is without question an unprecedented decision in WOSM's history, triggered by unprecedented challenges and complexities. The WSC is taking this decision to ensure the best possible support structures for NSOs.

4. Will the next Eurasia Scout Conference still take place?

No. As of 30 September 2023 no Member Organizations will be part of the Eurasia Region, and as of 1 October 2023 the Region itself will be phased out including the process to

dissolve its legal entities. As such the Regional Conference becomes without substance.

5. What happens to the Eurasia Scout Committee?

The Eurasia Scout Committee remains the governance body of the Eurasia Scout Region until its phasing out on 1 October 2023. This means the Committee remains in charge for regional governance oversight in that period, and it will be engaged in supporting the transition processes through its participation in the Eurasia Contact Group. In its decision, the WSC expressly thanked the Eurasia Scout Committee and in particular its Chairperson Yelena Luyanina for their leadership, commitment, and contributions throughout this complex process.

6. Does the phasing out of the Eurasia Region form a precedent for other Regions? Can the WSC do the same to other Regions?

- a) The Eurasia Region is the only Region expressly created by a decision of the WSC, and the establishment of all other Regions is recorded by the World Scout Conference, most importantly other Regions have specific dissolution processes embedded in their Regional Constitution.
- b) As such a similar procedure is not envisioned for the other Regions, even if there would ever be such a need.

7. What does “phasing out” mean versus “dissolution”?

In line with guidance provided by the WSC’s Constitutions Committee, the wording “phasing out” is used to refer to the institutional process related to the WOSM decisions on the Eurasia structures and bodies. The wording “dissolution” is only used in the context of closing down legal entities associated with the process.

QUESTIONS ON THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE
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1. How will the Europe and Asia-Pacific Regions deal with the Russian language that was an official language of the Eurasia Region?

Both Regions have indicated they have no plans to change the official working languages of their Region (English and French for Europe, English for Asia-Pacific). Both Regions noted they already currently have Russian speakers within their NSOs, and envision to provide support to Russian language speakers much in the same way as they currently handle the broad diversity of languages spoken in their Region. This could be done through informal peer-to-peer support of participants to events, selecting a WOSM Consultant with appropriate language skills, leveraging online translation and interpretation tools, etc.

2. What happens to Russian as a WOSM language?

With the phasing out of the Eurasia Scout Region, Russian will cease to be one of the 3 so-called “working languages” of WOSM (which are derived from the official languages of its Regions, which apart from Russian also includes Spanish and Arabic). As such WOSM will no longer provide interpretation or translation to the Russian language at events such as the World Scout Conference. Existing content in the Russian language (such as website pages, eLearnings and resources) will be maintained until such time they become outdated and archived in line with WOSM’s knowledge management processes.

QUESTIONS ON THE PROCESS

1. Why was this process initiated?

1. The process was initiated in April 2022 at the request of the Eurasia Regional Scout Committee, following receipt of several letters from Eurasia NSOs outlining continued challenges in the construct of the Eurasia Region, further complicated by escalating geopolitical events between countries in the Region.
2. The primary objective of the process is to ensure that WOSM support structures are able to nurture and strengthen the Scout Movement in each country, while ensuring that all NSOs continue to receive dedicated services and support from WOSM.

2. Why did the WSC not look for an alternative to phasing out the Region?

The mandate of the Eurasia Contact Group, as set by the WSC in May 2022, included an

assessment of three scenarios as part of its evaluation of the viability of the construct of the Eurasia Scout Region.

1. to maintain the current Regional construct but make changes to its operational structures to resolve the concerns highlighted by its NSOs.
2. to maintain the current Regional construct but to consider changes in its governance, and/or including the transition of some but not all NSOs to other Scout Regions.
3. to phase out the current Regional construct and transition all of its NSOs to other Scout Regions.

Each of these scenarios were reviewed and discussed in depth by the Contact Group with a wide group of stakeholders, including NSO leadership, young people, adult volunteers from these NSOs that have been active at the Regional level and last but not the least, the Eurasia Scout Committee. The file was further discussed by the WSC's Constitutions and Finance Committees, and the outcomes of the work were reviewed by the World Scout Committee through two dedicated briefings and sessions at two of its recent Meetings (September 2022, Cairo - and March 2023, Kandersteg), leading eventually to an informed decision to opt for the phasing out scenario.

4. How did WOSM communicate on this process?

1. Updates were provided through the WSC Highlights shared after each WSC Meeting, as well as specifically through [Circular 22/2022](#).
2. Within the Eurasia Region, regular Circulars and updates were shared by the Regional Scout Committee and the Eurasia Support Centre with the NSOs of the Region.
3. The Contact Group consulted with the Regional Scout Committees of Europe and Asia-Pacific on this process, invited representatives of them to join the group, and collaborated with them to answer questions and concerns related to the transition of NSOs and the phasing out of the Eurasia Scout Region.

5. Who created the Eurasia Contact Group? What's its mandate? Who is in it?

1. The Eurasia Contact Group was created by the World Scout Committee in April 2022, following a request from the Eurasia Scout Committee to address the matter of the future viability of the Region. Its mandate has been to deliver on specific tasks decided by the WSC at each of its two subsequent meetings.
2. The Group is led by Dr Wayne Davis (Member, WSC) and its members are Sarah Rita Kattan (Vice-Chair, WSC), Yelena Luzyanina (Chairperson, Eurasia RSC), Alhassan Soltan (YA to the WSC), Diana Slabu (Vice-Chair, Europe RSC) and Hiroshi Shimada (Member, Asia-Pacific RSC) with staff support provided by the WSB Global Support Centre and the three concerned Regions.

QUESTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

1. What happens to the Krasnokamenka Scout Centre in Crimea, Ukraine?

The Krasnokamenka Scout Centre, a training facility of the Eurasia Scout Region has been in disuse since the 2014 annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation. While the Krasnokamenka Scout Centre is a historical asset for WOSM and the Region, it unfortunately represents from a compliance perspective (financial, ethical, and legal) a critical risk to WOSM and the WSC has, following a decision of the Eurasia Committee, authorised (August 2021) to alienate (sell) it at the earliest possible opportunity. Since then a dedicated subcommittee of the Eurasia Scout Committee, in close coordination with the WSC's Finance Committee has been working on this process. The handling of this file is complicated due to the geopolitical and legal context in Crimea.

2. What happens to the staff of the WSB Eurasia Support Centre?

The WSB, as a socially responsible employer, remains committed to fulfil its obligations towards its staff currently contracted within the Eurasia Support Centre, and will support them in their career plans as well as explore possible future collaborations.

OTHER QUESTIONS

1. **What is in the “WSB Operational Proposal”?**

The “WSB Operational Proposal” was developed at the request of the WSC to outline all the operational measures required to deal with the potential phasing out of the Eurasia Scout Region, including risk mitigation in each aspect. It covers the following aspects:

1. Finances & Budget,
2. Legal & Compliance (Legal entities, Contractual obligations, Employees),
3. Operations & support (Operational Framework in Eurasia, Events & Education, Russian language, Communication channels & platforms, Knowledge management, Physical storage & office materials),
4. NSO support (Fact sheets of existing and potential NSOs, Regional and NSO grants, Ongoing WOSM Services, Open NSO Constitutional files)

2. **Are there legal entities linked to the Eurasia Scout Region? What happens to those?**

1. Yes, there are two legal entities linked to the Eurasia Scout Region. These are the “Representation of the World Scout Bureau Association in Ukraine”, which provides legal identity to the operations of the WSB in Ukraine, and the charitable organization “Eurasia Regional Scout Foundation”, which as its main asset owns the Krasnokamenka Scout Centre.
2. The WSC has authorised dissolution procedures to be initiated for each of them as of 1 October 2023, noting that the Eurasia Regional Scout Foundation can only be fully dissolved once the Krasnokamenka Scout Centre is successfully alienated.
3. Any means remaining after all legal settlements are to be transferred to WOSM.

3. **What happens to ExcelScout, the signature Eurasia Regional event?**

ExcelScout is due to take place in 2023 after a multi-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the request of the Eurasia Scout Committee, both the Europe and Asia-Pacific Regions have committed to explore how they can contribute to this edition as well as the event’s legacy in the future.

4. **What happens to the files and documentation of the Eurasia Scout Region?**

All the achievements and history of the Eurasia Scout Region and its organs are captured in line with WOSM’s best practices on knowledge management and will be, after 1 October 2023, transferred into the WOSM archives.

Produced by the Eurasia Contact Group, with the support of the World Scout Bureau