



Growth Laboratories - Information sheet

This funding opportunity is part of the ***Momentum - Membership and Resilience Accelerator in the European Scout Region project***, funded by the World Scout Foundation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the Messengers of Peace initiative.

This open call for funding aims to support youth-led initiatives to address membership development and growth initiatives at the grassroots level. Through targeted financial support, selected applicants can create a meaningful impact by:

- Designing and leading a project/an initiative that contributes to membership development and growth at the local, regional or national level
- Designing and leading a project or initiative that contributes to eliminating barriers to membership development and supports more young people in joining and remaining in Scouting, such as addressing volunteer retention challenges.

The project aims to generate long-term impact and sustainable membership growth within National Scout Organizations across Europe. The intervention logic begins with this open call and the selection of the most promising projects. Following the selection process, project leads will participate in an in-person project meeting from 13-15 November 2026, where they will receive training and capacity-building opportunities focused on membership development and growth strategies.

After the meeting, participants will be supported throughout the implementation of their projects within their local communities and organizations. This support will help translate ideas into practical initiatives that address barriers to membership growth and strengthen Scouting's reach and relevance.

By June 2027, project teams will be expected to present their achievements, lessons learned, and key outcomes at the Growth Event. The most successful approaches and innovations will be showcased as best practices, providing inspiration and evidence for scaling up effective membership development interventions across National Scout Organizations throughout Europe.



What qualifies as a project/initiative at local/regional level

Membership Development initiatives at local/regional level touch upon the capacity of local scout groups/regional structures to extend their activities to new local communities around them - rural groups or underrepresented groups; they can be initiatives to integrate groups in the weekly local activities, to promote Scouting in new locations, to develop activities for neighbouring communities; they can be aimed at organising events and community days focused on expanding Scouting or proposing a new method of retention or recruitment for adult volunteers, with tangible, measurable results. Scalability of projects and transferability of learnings for national-level growth are highly recommended.

Examples of projects/initiatives at local/regional level include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting Scouting through dedicated activities for new, neighbouring non-Scout communities, led by young people.
- Actions related to integration of underrepresented groups in existing units.
- Training at the local/regional level connected to adult volunteer retention/recruitment.
- Recruitment campaigns targeting youth members.
- Actions connected to easier access to Scouting for young people.
- Activities related to the opening of new units within existing local scout groups.



What qualifies as a project/initiative at national level

Membership Development initiatives at national level touch upon the capacity of NSAs/NSOs to test a new approach to expanding Scouting at national level; the actions can be connected with testing one of the [7 Ingredients for growth](#) through an innovative project, breaking barriers to diversity & inclusion, as described in the [Diversity & Inclusion Report 2024](#) or piloting new tools impacting Membership Development across the organisation. The scalability of projects and the sustainability of the proposed initiatives are highly recommended.

Examples of projects/initiatives at national level include, but are not limited to:

- Training for national-level commissioners/ambassadors responsible for Growth (including follow-up training actions).
- National caravans for adult retention/recruitment.
- Awareness campaigns that bring Scouting to new communities.
- Community-dedicated events and interventions, supporting Scouting for non-Scouts.
- Volunteer recruitment campaigns for underrepresented groups.
- National-level meetings developing a growth strategy.
- Activities connected to opening of new units.
- Research on inclusion of diverse groups in Scouting (and associated follow-up actions).
- Membership management system pilot (including change management actions).

General requirements

For your proposals to be considered, they need to:

- Be connected to the topic of Membership Development;
- Be led by a designated project manager/leader interested in promoting Growth in your NSO/NSA;
- Show direct engagement of young people in the project/initiative planning team (18-30 years old);
- Have a duration of 6 to 8 months (latest start date is 15 November 2026);
- Have a budget of up to 7,000 USD;
- Be scalable projects/initiative (they need to have the space to develop into larger initiatives in your NSO/NSA)
- Have a project manager/leader available to participate in a series of events:
 - In-person project meeting: 13-15 November 2026
 - Monthly online peer learning sessions

Projects will be reviewed and selected based on the following [selection criteria](#):

- How relevant is the project for the needs and challenges of your community or organisation;
- The impact the project has on the growth and development of Scouting in your community;
- The quality of the project objectives and connected activities;
- The identification of specific target groups benefiting from the project activities;
- The quality of the project plan and proposed budget allocation.



Timeline

Deadline to submit your application: 30 September 2026.

Results of the selection process will be shared by 9 October 2026.

Growth Laboratories must take place between **November 2026 and June 2027**.

They can last 6 to 8 months, depending on your project idea.

In October 2026, selected candidates will:

- Sign a written agreement and
- Attend an **in-person project meeting (13-15 November 2026)** where we will provide successful applicants with membership development training opportunities, with more information on managing their projects and reporting on their results and expenses. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

How can I apply?

To apply for funding for a Growth Laboratory, you need to:

1. Complete the [Growth Laboratories Application Form](#). The application must be **in English**.
2. Download a copy and complete the [Project Plan and Budget Excel](#). You will be able to upload the completed Excel file to the application form.
3. A valid **International Commissioner endorsement**. You will be able to upload the endorsement letter to the application form.

Budget, reimbursement, and eligible costs

Budget

You can apply for a minimum of 1,000 USD and a maximum of 7,000 USD.

Successful applicants will be required to provide the bank details of their National Scout Organisation or National Scout Association to which the funding will be transferred. No funding will be transferred to private accounts. Grants will only be approved for NSOs/NSAs that are in good standing with WOSM and compliant with the Annual Reporting Cycle.

A maximum of 2 projects per NSO/NSA can be funded.

Disbursements

The total approved budget will be sent to the National Scout Organization or National Scout Association in 2 instalments:



- 70% of the total budget will be paid upon signing the Written Agreement.
- 30% of the total budget will be paid after the submission of the Final Report.

100% of the budget must be spent during the project period.

Unspent amounts may be charged back by WOSM or deducted from the second instalment.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
The funding can cover The logistical organisation of your project/initiative, including: • Participants' travel within the country. • Participants' accommodations and meals. • Stationery and visibility materials. • Renting equipment. • Pay experts. • Venue. • Purchase of software equipment or licences (directly connected to project activities/impact of the project, based on specific approval)	The funding cannot cover: • Travels of participants from another country (other than the one where the project will take place). • The purchase of equipment, computers, printers, speakers, or any electronic devices. If such equipment is needed, it is advised to rent it and submit that invoice for reimbursement.

