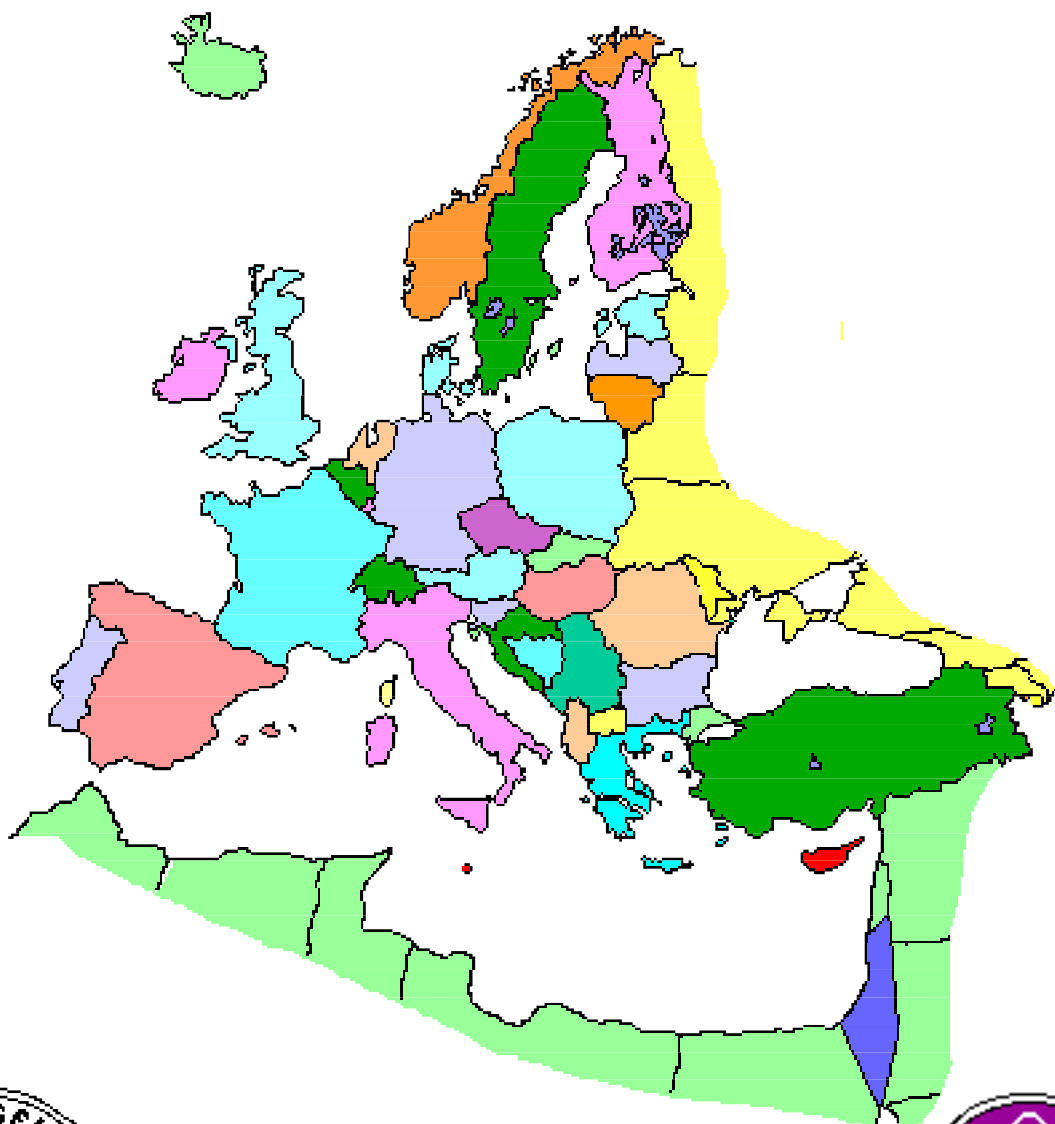


JUNE 2000 **SEA**  
**SCOUTING**  
**IN EUROPE**



## **SEA SCOUTING - AN INTRODUCTION**

When Scouting started in the United Kingdom in 1907, after Lord Baden-Powell published his book "Scouting for Boys", some Scout Groups included boating and water activities in their programmes. B.-P. realised that this was a very useful extra programme activity, and in 1910 Sea Scouts were officially recognised. B.-P.'s brother, Warrington Baden-Powell, wrote "Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys" in 1912, to help these boating groups. This is how Sea Scouting started and it gradually spread to many other Scout associations in Europe and throughout the world.

Sea Scouting is a branch of Scouting, not a separate organisation. It is based on the same fundamental Scouting principles and uses the Scout method. It is not a Sea Cadet organisation and is not training for Navy or Merchant Navy careers, although Sea Scout training can be very useful for young people who are so interested. Sea Scouting provides Scouting with and through water-borne activities. Sea Scouts are first and foremost Scouts, not sailors.

Sea Scouting should provide an integrated programme of Scouting, seamanship and water-based activities. Boating is an integral part of the programme, not just an optional extra. No Sea Scout troop can remain for long without owning or having the use of a suitable boat or boats. Sea Scout troops must also have the equipment for ordinary Scout activities, because the programme will also include camping, hiking, mountain walking and land expeditions, etc., as well as water activities. Sea Scouting can be more expensive because of the extra cost of boating equipment - boats, oars, sails, lifejackets, paint, varnish, etc. Equipment can be acquired slowly, but even in a new troop some simple boatwork should start as soon as possible. This may mean borrowing a boat occasionally or finding some friend or supporter who will take the Scouts for boating experience.

The aim should be that all Sea Scout troops -

1. Have a good basic Scoutcraft and water activities programme.
2. Have the opportunity to undertake simple expeditions afloat.
3. Own or have the use of appropriate craft.
4. Have leaders well trained in water activities and in general Scoutcraft.

Sea Scouting should increase the attractiveness of Scouting by offering wider programme choices and perhaps attracting some young people who might otherwise not be interested. Sailing and other water activities provide many opportunities for personal development and encouragement of leadership skills, and often help to keep older teenagers interested and involved.

## **GROWTH IN EUROPE**

Sea Scouting developed very unevenly in the European Scout associations and its success has varied somewhat over the years. Sea Scouts are very strong in some associations, but very weak or non-existent in others. Many Sea Scouts are active on inland lakes and rivers and the name "Sea Scouting" can sometimes be misleading. However, it is rich in symbolism and is especially popular among the young people themselves.

The structure and organisation of Sea Scouting takes many forms in different countries. In some associations, Sea Scouts have a separate structure and programme, whereas in others they are integrated in the general youth programme sections. In some associations, Sea Scouting starts at Cub Scout age (8-11 yrs), but in others does not start until 11 yrs. There are usually junior and senior units - for example Sea Scouts (11-16 yrs) and Venture Sea Scouts (15-19 yrs) - although the actual age ranges vary in different associations.

Many European associations organise regular national or international Sea Scout camps, at varying intervals. In recent years, Poland and Ireland had Sea Scout camps in 1996. In 1997 the Netherlands had the regular 4-yearly National WaterKamp "Nawaka" and DDS (Denmark) had SØ 97 at Thurø. In 1998 there were 3 such camps - in Britain the National Sea Scout Camp at Hawkthirst Adventure Centre in Northumberland, in Norway the National Sea Scout Camp near Kristiansand and in Finland the regular 5-yearly Sea Scout Camp "Satahanka". The Water Scouts of the Czech Republic held their regular 3 yearly camp "Navigamus" in 2000. The next "Nawaka" will be held in the Netherlands in 2001.

There is no specific Sea Scout programme at world or European level because of the many differences in local conditions, in attitudes to the sea and water activities, and in laws relating to boating in different countries. However, a strong desire for more international contact among Sea Scouts has grown in Europe. The European Scout Region organised the first Sea Scout Leaders' Seminar in 1985. This event was very successful and has been repeated every 3 years since then. These seminars have proved to be very useful by providing a forum for discussions and exchanges of ideas between Sea Scouts in different countries of Europe. From these seminars and other meetings and activities has grown an informal Sea Scout network.

## **EUROPEAN SEA SCOUT SEMINARS**

The 1st European Sea Scout Leaders' Seminar was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, in September 1985. This was a great success and it was decided to repeat the event every 3 years. By common consent and demand the series has continued since then. These seminars have benefited Sea Scouting throughout Europe by stimulating the exchange of ideas on training, programmes and standards, water safety and different approaches to common problems. They are mainly intended for leaders with national responsibilities for Sea Scouting or sea training.

Seminar 1 - 1985: Thessaloniki, Greece.  
42 participants from 22 associations in 13 countries.

Seminar 2 - 1988: Harderhaven, Netherlands.  
58 participants from 24 associations in 17 countries.

Seminar 3 - 1992: Väassarö, Sweden.  
33 participants from 20 associations in 14 countries.

EuroSea 4 - 1994: London, United Kingdom.  
51 participants from 23 associations in 16 countries.  
The organisers of the 4th seminar introduced the name "EuroSea".

EuroSea 5 - 1997: near Oslo, Norway.  
48 participants from 13 associations in 12 countries.

EuroSea 6 - 2000: Perkoz, near Olstyn, Poland.  
47 participants from 22 associations in 21 countries.

EuroSea 7 is being planned for 2003 in Portugal.

With the rebirth of Scouting in central and eastern Europe in recent years, a number of enquiries and requests for information about Sea Scouting have come from several new associations. Some newly established Sea Scout sections have already attended a EuroSea seminar.

### **AN INTERNATIONAL CRUISE WITH A DIFFERENCE**

In 1992, at the 3rd European Sea Scout Leaders' Seminar in Sweden, Gunnar Skundberg and Einar Øslebye from Norway proposed a Sea Scout "Armada" to sail to the World Scout Jamboree in Netherlands in 1995. This was an immense undertaking and nothing similar had ever been organised on a regional basis before. In spite of obvious difficulties, our Norwegian friends were encouraged to develop the idea further. A planning conference was held in Copenhagen in July 1993, attended by representatives from 9 countries and from the Jamboree committee.

On 23rd July 1995, 12 Scout sailing vessels from Norway, Denmark, Finland and Poland, with a total crew of about 120, met at the Kiel Canal in Germany, some of them having already sailed up to 14 days from their home ports. These formed the "Northern Flotilla". They passed through the Kiel Canal into the North Sea in company, sailed along the German and Dutch coasts and arrived at Den Helder on 27 July. There, they were joined by two yachts from Britain and two Dutch motor barges. They proceeded along the North Holland Canal, through Amsterdam, towards the Jamboree site.

Meanwhile, Sea Scouts from Italy with 6 small yachts, transported by container, and Sea Scouts from Belgium with another 6 open sailing craft, met local Dutch Sea Scouts at Utrecht, forming the "Southern Flotilla", about 140 strong. They travelled northwards along the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal, meeting the "Northern Flotilla" on 30th July for a day of water activities and a party, before moving to their Jamboree stations on 1st August. Four other yachts sailed across the North Sea from Britain, directly to Lelystad arriving on 4 August. Three of these were chartered by a contingent of 39 Sea Scouts from Ireland who had travelled overland across England.

After the Jamboree many of the Scout boats sailed to Amsterdam, staying in the centre of the city and visiting the participants in the Tall Ships Race and Sail Amsterdam. Then, with new crews, they faced the long journey home.

Although overshadowed by the Jamboree itself, this was a major international project. Including the return crews, nearly 400 Scouts and leaders were involved, from Finland,

Poland, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, United Kingdom and Ireland. The Norwegian organisers and the Danish, German and Dutch facilitators, who arranged receptions and activities on the way, did an excellent job.

## **EURONAUT**

Also at the 1992 seminar it was decided that there should be an occasional European Sea Scout newsletter. André Mihière from France (FEEUF) agreed to produce the first edition. This appeared in February 1993 and was concerned almost entirely with information about the proposed Sea Scout Armada to the World Scout Jamboree in the Netherlands, including details of the Kattegat Conference in Copenhagen in July 1993. The Norwegian Sea Scout Committee then undertook to produce the newsletter, Gunnar Skundberg and Einar Øslebye being successive editors. During 1996 and 1997 "Euronaut" was used mainly to deal with the organisation and reporting of the Sea Scout Armada and of EuroSea 5 in Norway. The Norwegian Sea Scout Committee reluctantly decided in 1998 that it could no longer be responsible for producing the newsletter and so it has been suspended, hopefully temporarily. It is hoped that somebody will soon volunteer to produce "Euronaut" - maybe as an electronic publication.

## **INTERNATIONAL SEA SCOUT NETWORK**

"Euronaut" was very useful in keeping people in touch with each other and was sent to all those whose names and addresses were available from the attendance lists of the various Sea Scout seminars and the Kattegat Conference. From this an informal Sea Scout network has developed. A more recent development has been the circulation of e-mail addresses and the creation of a web page linked to the European Scout Region's web site: <http://www.seascout.org/europe>. Here you can find reports on previous EuroSeas, links to Sea Scout groups in different countries, nautical games and other resources. You can also download extra copies of this report.

## **SEA SCOUTING OUTSIDE EUROPE**

The EuroSea seminars have led to a number of useful ideas which have helped co-operation between Sea Scouts in the various European associations. Whilst the seminars have been primarily European in composition and in programme, we have been very pleased to welcome representatives from countries in other regions too. Egypt was represented at Seminar 2, Ukraine at EuroSea 5, and Libya and U.S.A. at EuroSea 6.

Sea Scouting in southern Europe, especially in Greece, has many links with Sea Scouting in the Arab Region, and it is likely that this will continue and perhaps grow, particularly in the areas of combined camps and environmental projects, and in leader training.

It is also likely that the European Scout Region would be able to assist with the development of Sea Scouting in the countries of the new Eurasian Region.

## **ODYSSEUS GROUP**

An informal group was set up by the European Scout Region in 1996 to support the development of Sea Scouting in Europe as an integral part of the Scout programme.

The objectives set for the Odysseus Group are:

- to promote new programme ideas and activities in Sea Scouting which correspond to priorities in the European Scout Region (EuroSteps, Passport for Europe, Lands of Adventure).
- to support the organisation of youth events for Sea Scouts, particularly oriented towards environmental activities, intercultural awareness, community development and discovery.
- to encourage international co-operation among Sea Scouts and support the participation of Sea Scouts in environmental pilot projects promoted by the Region (e.g. Mediterranean, Danube, Baltic).
- to provide support to European Scout associations wishing to develop Sea Scout programmes and centres.

The Odysseus Group currently comprises: Eoghan Lavelle (Ireland), João Armando Gonçalves (Portugal), Maarten Velthoen (Netherlands), Costas Tsantilis (Greece, World Scout Committee) and Jacqueline Collier (World Scout Bureau). Previous members are: Eric Knockenhauer (Sweden) and Waldemar Mieczkowski (Poland). The Group meets about once per year.

When the Odysseus Group first met, it soon became obvious that an important baseline was missing - how many Sea Scouts are there in Europe and in which associations? It was decided that a survey of all the associations should be undertaken to discover the facts. This has been quite a difficult and long process.

## **SEA SCOUTING SURVEY**

As mentioned before, there is no uniform definition of Sea Scouting in the various associations. The structure, organisation, age ranges and administration of the section vary widely from one association to another. The methods of registration also vary widely - in some associations, Sea Scouts are not registered separately and the National Office therefore has no definite figures available. In other associations, all members of Sea Scout groups, even Beavers or Cub Scouts, are counted as Sea Scouts. These differences in age ranges and of registration make it difficult to obtain accurate statistics. However, over the past 3 years, a reasonably accurate overall picture has emerged.

The largest Sea Scout sections in Europe are in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Finland and Poland. The total number of Sea Scouts in the European Region is at least 50,000. The details of the survey follow. Please help us keep our records up-to-date by sending any corrections or additional information to the Odysseus Group, via Eoghan Lavelle ([efl@indigo.ie](mailto:efl@indigo.ie)). We thank you for your co-operation and input.

## SEA SCOUTING SURVEY 2000

### EUROPEAN SCOUT REGION, MEMBER COUNTRIES

**Albania** - It has a good Adriatic coast line, probably very good for Sea Scouting, but none exists at present. Albanian Scouting (Besa Skaut Albania) is interested in starting Sea Scouting and was represented at EuroSea 6.

**Austria** - One group in Vienna, about 30 strong. They have a web site. Attended the 1st and 2nd seminars in 1985 and 1988. A group at Hainburg, also on the Danube, attended in 1988. No further information since then.

**Belgium** - 4 Scout associations:

FOS has about 1,600 Sea Scouts in 12 groups.

VVKSM has about 1,500 Sea Scouts in 9 groups. Figures include Cub Scouts.

FSC - 3 groups (Brussels).

SGP - 3 groups (Liege, Jambes, Convin).

Belgium represented at all seminars. (Information June 2000).

**Bosnia-Herzegovina** - No Sea Scouts. It has a very small coastline, about 5 km.

**Bulgaria** - Sea Scouting is mainly centred in the city of Varna on the Black Sea. No figures available. (Information 1999).

**Croatia** - 7 Sea Scout groups, 3 in Split (Jadran, Brodosplit, Spinut), 2 in Rijeka (Kantrida & Primorje), 1 in Pula (Uljanik) and 1 in Umag (Smjeli). No information on membership numbers. The Sea Scout group "Uljanik" in Pula organised an International Ecology Camp "Scout Marine Watch" on a nearby island in August 1999. (Information 1999).

**Cyprus** - 9 Sea Scout groups. Scouts 180, Seniors 75 - total 255. Leaders 78. Cub Scouts not included. Represented at the first seminar in Thessaloniki. (Information 2000).

**Czech Republic** - 166 "Water Scout" groups with 3,300 Scouts. They run a special Water Scout Camp every 3 years called "Navigamus". (Information June 2000). Represented at EuroSea 6.

**Denmark** - 3 associations: DDS has about 3,500 Sea Scouts, including Cub Scouts. DDS also has a sail training yacht "Ran". (Information 1998).

KFUM-SiD has no special Sea Scouts, but uses Sea Scouting as an alternative programme. About 36 groups (units) with 360 Scouts could be regarded as Sea Scouts. (Information 2000). Denmark represented at all seminars.

**Finland** - About 9,000 Sea Scouts (includes Cub Scouts) in over 100 groups. A number of groups have large sailing craft. (Information June 2000). Represented at all seminars.

**France** - 5 Scout associations:

SdF has 830 Moussets (aged 12-14), 560 Marins (aged 15-17), 300 leaders. Total 1,690. (Information Nov 1999).

EEUF has 120 Cub Scouts (aged 8-12), 150 Scouts (aged 12-16), 50 Venture Scouts (aged 16-19). Figures include unit leaders. Total about 350 Sea Scouts (includes Cub Scouts) in 5 groups. (Information Mar 2000)

EEdF, EEIdF and SMdF have no Sea Scouts.

France represented at all seminars except Norway and Poland.

**Germany** - 3 associations:

VCP - 1 group in Hamburg? Represented at Seminar 2.

DPSG - 1 group in Koblenz.

BdP - No Sea Scouts.

**Greece** - 3,958 Sea Scouts and 620 leaders in 90 groups. Cub Scouts not included. (Information 1999). Represented at all seminars.

**Hungary** - No information.

**Iceland** - One small group existed some years ago. Represented at Seminars 1 & 4. No information since then.

**Ireland** - 2 associations:

SAI - 760 Scouts, 50 Venture Scouts, 120 leaders/instructors. Total 930 in 29 Groups. Cub Scouts not included. (Information 2000).

CSI - No Sea Scouts.

Represented at all seminars.

**Israel** - 5 associations:

Hebrew Boy and Girl Scout Association - 600 Sea Scouts in 4 large groups in Haifa port, Herzeliya marina, Tel-Aviv marina, and Jaffa harbor (there were groups in Hadera and in Tibiria in the past). This figure does not include Cub Scouts. (Information 1998 & June 2000).

Greek Orthodox Association may have 1 group.

Other associations have no Sea Scouts.

**Italy** - 2 associations:

AGESCI has 30 Sea Scout units, some sailing sea units and some sea units. About 500 Scouts (aged 11-16). There are no Senior Scouts. Represented at all seminars. (Information 2000).

CNGEI - No information.

**Latvia** - 5 groups, 90 Sea Scouts, including Cub Scouts and leaders. Baltic Sea/Gulf of Riga and inland rivers. (Information Oct 1998).

**Liechtenstein** - No Sea Scouts and no facilities.

**Lithuania** - 29 Groups. About 450 members - Cub Scouts 120, Scouts 275, Seniors and leaders 70. Mainly in Kaunas, Marijampole and Vilnius - on rivers and lakes. (Information June 2000). Represented at EuroSea 6.

**Luxembourg** - No Sea Scouts.

**Macedonia** - No Sea Scouts.

**Malta** - There were 4 Sea Scout groups in the past but none in recent years.

**Monaco** - No Sea Scouts.

**Netherlands** - About 12,000 Sea Scouts in over 200 groups. Does not include Cub Scouts. Represented at all seminars.

**Norway** - 26 Groups, 1,675 Sea Scouts, including Cub Scouts. The Norwegian Association also has a sail training yacht "Havbratt". A number of groups also have large sailing craft. (Information Dec 1998). Represented at all seminars.

**Poland** - 139 Sea Scout units (aged 10-15), 112 Venture Scout units (aged 16-20), 99 combined units (aged 10-20). (Information Feb 1999). Awaiting membership numbers. Represented at Seminars 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Main sea training centre, "Centrum Wychowania Morskiego", in Gdynia with a fleet of sea-going training yachts, the flag-ship being "Zawisza Czarny", 3-masted staysail schooner, 36m LWL, 42m LOA. They also have 4 ketches from 13m to 19m, 5 sloops 9m to 11m and 8 small sloops about 7m. The association also has inland (lake) centres with fleets of smaller vessels and dinghies.

**Portugal** - Two associations:

CNE - about 600 Sea Scouts in 15 groups. Cub Scouts included. (Information Mar 2000). Represented at all seminars.

AEP- No Sea Scouts?

**Romania** - Has 2 groups at present - Bucharest/Danube Delta and Tulcea. Total membership 107, including 7 leaders. Cub Scouts not included. (Information June 2000). Represented at Seminars 4 & 6.

**San Marino** - No Sea Scouts and no facilities.

**Slovakia** - 6 groups - Bratislava (13th and 15th), Piestany, Trstena (2nd), Zilina (1st and 6th). Total members about 80. "Aqua" Sea Scout Centre, Trstena. (Information 1998). Represented at EuroSea 6.

**Slovenia** - There were Sea Scouts about 30 years ago, but none at present. The Slovenian Association (ZTS) is interested in developing "nautical Scouting". (Information March 2000). Represented at EuroSea 6.

**Spain** - 3 associations:

ASDE had a number of Sea Scout units in the past, but at present has only one group ("AZIMUT") in Barcelona. (Information 2000). Represented at Seminars 4 and 6.

MSC - No Sea Scouts.

FCEG - No information.

**Sweden** - 5 associations:

SSF - 65 groups, 5,850 Sea Scouts (including Cub Scouts). (Information Oct 1998).

Represented at all seminars.

Salvation Army, YMCA, NSF and SMU - no definite information, but together may have about 20 groups, 1,200 Sea Scouts.

Total estimate for Sweden - 80 groups, 7,000 Scouts (including Cub Scouts).

**Switzerland** - 2 groups, in Geneva and Zurich. Total numbers about 70 Sea Scouts and leaders, 60 Cub Scouts. (Information Jan 2000). Represented at Seminar 3.

**Turkey** - Sea Scouting is active and very successful. Awaiting up-to-date information. Represented at Seminar 3.

**United Kingdom** - About 420 groups, 10,000 Sea Scouts. Figures do not include Cub Scouts or Venture Sea Scouts. (Information Oct 98). "Scouts Offshore" and the "Dockland Sailing Project" are sail training organisations, run by Scouts, which provide vessels for coastal and offshore sailing. Represented at all seminars except no. 6.

**Yugoslavia** - There are River Scouts active on rivers and lakes. The association has organised several EuroSteps focusing on the marine environment, particularly in Kanjiza and on Oblacina Lake. At Oblacina Lake there is a Sea Scout training ship "Jadran". The Yugoslav Scout web page states that Sea Scouts wear dark blue shirts, but gives no other information or numbers.

#### **DEPENDENT TERRITORIES, EUROPEAN REGION**

**Faroe Islands** and **Greenland** - federated to the Danish Scout Council. No information on Sea Scouting.

**Gibraltar** - 1 Sea Scout group (UK Scout Association).

## **NEIGHBOURING SCOUT REGIONS**

**EURASIAN SCOUT REGION** - In April 1997 the World Committee established the Eurasian Region, to serve the newly emerging Scout associations in the Commonwealth of Independent States, following the break-up of the Soviet Union. The Regional Office is in Yalta-Gurzuf in Ukraine.

The members of this Region at present are: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Tadjikistan. Potential members, whose associations are not yet recognised, are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

We know that Sea Scouting exists in Ukraine, and representatives attended Seminar 5 in Norway. No information about Belarus or Kaliningrad (Russian Federation).

**ARAB SCOUT REGION** - The member countries are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Sea Scouting in southern Europe has contact with Sea Scouting in the Arab Region. A representative from Egypt attended Seminar 2 in the Netherlands in 1988 and 2 representatives from Libya attended EuroSea 6 in Poland in 2000. Costas Tsantilis has visited a number of Arab countries and says that the standard of Sea Scouting is very good. No figures are yet available for individual countries.

## **DISSIDENT OR NON-RECOGNISED ASSOCIATIONS IN EUROPE**

There are many dissident or non-recognised Scout associations in Europe which are not members of World Scouting. Some are quite large but many are small, consisting of one group only. Some of these non-recognised associations have Sea Scout units. We include this information here to help you avoid making the mistake of linking up with non-recognised groups.

We have gathered the following information from the Internet:

- in France, Scouts d'Europe and Scouts Unitaires de France have one group each;
- in Germany, Pfadfinderbund Mosäik has 3 groups. Pfadfinderbund Nord has an historic sailing vessel, "Mytilis", for Scout use but apparently no Sea Scout units.

*This report was produced by the Odysseus Group on behalf of the European Scout Region. Please send corrections or additional information to Eoghan Lavelle ([efl@indigo.ie](mailto:efl@indigo.ie)).*