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THE RURAL YOUTH EUROPE MAGAZINE





Rural Youth Europe

Rural Youth Europe (RYEurope) is a European non-governmental organisation for rural youth. Established in 1957, it is an umbrella for youth organisations working to promote and activate young people in countryside. It provides international training possibilities and works as an intermediary between national organisations and youth organisations and public institutions at the European level. Rural Youth Europe is a member-led organisation: democratically constituted, the organisation is led by young people for young people.

Rural Youth Europe aims to:

- Educate and train young people and create an awareness of rural and social issues.
- · Actively encourage rural populations and
- Support the development of new rural youth organisations.
- Network with other European NGOs.
- Lobby and highlight the problems and needs of rural youth to focus the attention of international and national bodies, as well as the general public.

Rural Youth Europe unites 21 member organisations across 18 European countries. The membership base is over 500,000 young people who either live in rural areas or have an interest in rural life.

If your organisation is interested to join Rural Youth Europe or you would like more information about our events, please contact office@ruralyoutheurope.com or check our website www.ruralyoutheurope.com















AUTUMN 2013 FDITION

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



info - rural youth europe

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"There is nothing permanent except change

Heraclitus

nother Rally week full of good people, good activities, good surprises and good (!) Irish weather has come to an end. The theme of this year was "be the change!" Read more about all the good stuff said, done, heard and learnt on pages 06-07. It is hard to leave such events, knowing that the wonderful bubble of laughter, new friends and things learnt soon will be popped. It is sad to come back home and realize that the magic is gone. Though I can remind you to (whatever event you have been to) dig out pictures and remember the good times you've had together with other young people from around Europe.

In any situation leaving means some kind of changes. During the General Assembly 2013 there were some changes in the Board; the representatives from group 1 Gwennan Davies and group 4 Adrian Szymczak left the board of Rural Youth Europe. The new talents elected into the board are Russell Carrington and Linda Strazdina. I want to take the opportunity to wish Gwennan and Adrian all the best and at the same time say a warm welcome to the new board members! Meet your new board on pages 08-09.

There are many interesting things going on in Rural Youth Europe right now, and I am sure there is something for everyone in this edition of the INFO magazine! And if you want to know even more than this edition of the INFO can provide you with I recommend you to check (and like!) our Facebook page ("Rural Youth Europe"), visit the webpage (www.ruralyoutheurope.com) or follow us on Twitter @RYEurope.

Go exploring, there are always new things to discover!

FMMA SII ÉN Board member



EVS Volunteer at RYEurope

'm Eva Roselló Laporta from Valencia, Spain. I have studied Environmental sciences at Valencia University. I have lived in Madeira and Azores islands, Portugal for a year where I worked for a NGO about birds and nature conservation on the islands. One of my favourite countries is Iceland, which I have visited many times and there I volunteered as team leader in NGO:s to protect the environment and the natural parks. I also lived in Chicago for some months to learn more English, and to live the life of a big city.

Since beginning of August I volunteer at the Rural Heroes project. It is coordinated by the local organisation Rural Life Finland in Kemiönsaari, Finland. I will be part of the rural community by helping in kindergartens, primary schools, youth clubs and an elderly home, as well as work with horses on how they can have positive influence on people's social behaviour.

I participated in the European Rally in Ireland and I will help at the Rural Youth Europe office too. I will also be part of some national youth projects in Finland by Finland Svenska Ungsdomsförbund rf, participating in some festivals and youth theatres in Pargas and Vaasa, in the Saga Phoenix project about racism and xenophobia issues, and many other International projects and seminars like LIFE3.

I will try to learn Swedish and Finish language. I hope that the change of surrounding from city to rural will be a great experience as well as a chance to meet Finland and part of European and international projects. BE THE CHANGE!

EVA ROSELLÓ LAPORTA EVS volunteer



"Coaching for inclusion: Closing the gap between urban and rural youth"

The Spring Seminar 2013 was held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, from 26 May to 2 June, as a joint study session between Rural Youth Europe and Youth Express Network. 40 participants from 20 countries came together to explore what social inclusion means and how we can use coaching to help young people in different areas.



The study session started on a rainy Saturday in Strasbourg, which some of us had not planned for, only packing sandals and shorts; assuming France was always warm and sunny. However, we got warm soon enough, kick starting the evening with icebreakers and getting to know each other.

The official program started on Sunday morning, where we had some more icebreakers and teambuilding exercises trying to unite us as one. In the afternoon, we had a Welcome Space with different workstations to learn about the aims of the week, about RYE, Y-E-N and the Council of Europe, as well as why we were all here. To top off a great day of getting familiar with one another we had the classic international evening with great snacks and beverages from all the countries.

After a long day (and evening) on Monday people was a bit tired and hungry when going down for breakfast on Tuesday, but when we came down everybody was given a paper passport; some red, some blue and some green. As the program was not supposed to start yet, everybody was a bit confused when it turned out not everybody would get into breakfast. Part of the prep team lined up as border control, only some of the passports had stamps and valid signatures.

Chaos arised and we did not know the criteria's for getting in or not. Soon we learned that the ones with the red passports were "privileged", whereas the rest of us had to go around finding people to help and learning the rules of the bureaucracy. After a while, some learned how to beat the system, getting the "privileged" people to share their food with us, and eventually the role-play ended, so everybody could get some food.

This unexpected session really got us to experience the feeling of social exclusion, just because we had a different colour on our passport. The rest of the morning, we had discussions about what social inclusion is, and what needs and challenges the youth from our organizations had regarding the topic.

We spent the afternoon learning about the work that the Council of Europe does regarding social inclusion, with workshops on for example the Youth Department, the social charter, and the ENTER-project. In the

evening, we had a game night, and some of us wanted to go dancing in the city centre.

Wednesday was another packed day, where we started exploring coaching, and what the word meant to us by taking a stand on different sta-

get jobs, who got together and wanted to start something. What started as a small kitchen in a tiny dark room, developed into a great organisation and restaurant. After a great dinner, some of us also took a trip to the city centre and danced the night away!

ping, tourist sites and many pubs. In the evening most of us gathered in a bar, where we occupied the entire dance floor, enjoying what would be one of our last night's together!

Saturday was a sad day being the last, where we had a session of Open



tements like "coaching is only for those who are failing" or "the coach and coachees are equal". This really got the debate going, and we got to see each other's perspectives, and our different definitions of the word!

In the afternoon we had visits to three local NGO's to see how they work with youth and social inclusion in Strasbourg, among them an organisation that works with young homeless people. For me the thought of young homeless people is a bit distant, and it was therefore interesting to see the work they do!

After the afternoon session, we all visited the youth centre where one of the local participants in the study session worked, where we got to talk to her kids and ask them on their perspective on coaching and youth work. They really opened up to us, and had great, reflected answers that showed how our theories and thoughts worked in practice!

To end a fantastic day we had dinner at a local restaurant, Mosaique. It started up in 1993 by women in precarious situations that struggled to After days of learning about social inclusion, visits and discussion Thursday and Friday was all about developing our skills, with lots of workshops on topics, for example listening skills, giving and receiving feedback, and learning about different coaching styles. These sessions made us able to go really in depth on our struggles in the organisations and was very productive.

Friday afternoon we had free time in Strasbourg, where we got to enjoy what the city had to offer, both shop-

Space, making action plans for ourselves and evaluating before we had to say goodbye!

This week has been truly unforgettable, with so many great people and reflections! So big thanks to the prep team, the participants and the Council of Europe!

GUNVOR GUTTORMSEN 4H Norge

SOFYA PIRADYAN, Y-E-N





Be the change - European Rally 2013 in Ireland

"BE THE CHANGE" this was the motto which brought us together. This was the reason that I, and approximately 100 other young people, from all over Europe, descended on Gurteen Agricultural College in Tipperary last week.

This is the reason, I sit here, back in my home in Wexford, Ireland, attempting to describe a week in my life, which was so good, I struggle to find the adjectives to do its description justice.

This year's European Rural Youth Rally, focused on the idea that each and every young person attending the rally, had the potential to 'be the change' in their community. An important message to instill in the young people of Europe these days, in my opinion. Week in, week out, we hear news headlines describing recession, job losses, and debt. With all the negativity in the news these days, it is easy to forget all the good people we meet and the positive news we hear in our communities every day. I believe that now more than ever, it is vital to remind people, especially young people, that they do have 'control over the local'. We may not have much influence over what happens in the corridors of power in Berlin or Strasbourg, but we can make difference in our community.

I, along with my Clonakilty Macra na Feirme clubmate Gerard O' Donovan, was given the opportunity to attend the rally, as winners of the 'European Rural Youth Project of the Year for 2012'. Gerard and I, were part of a group from Clonakilty Macra na Feirme who decided to 'be the change ' in the Clonakilty community, by organising and running the world's first 'Random Acts of Kindness Festival' in the summer of 2012. The motto of our festival was 'Cut the misery, Spread the positivity'.

The festival had the simple aim of bringing smiles to people's faces and giving something back to our community. It involved three days of small simple events which were 'free, fun and for all ages'. Events included street party, bubble blowing ceremony, picnics, sandcastle competitions and much more. The festival was great success gaining local and national acclaim. It came as a major honour for us, to get the opportunity to share our simple idea with our European colleagues at this year's rally, and we were delighted with the positive response with which it was received.

What a week! Where does one start to explain such a week? For a start, even the setting was unique, as Irish person to be in an agricultural college in Tipperary surrounded by people from all over Europe, was a surreal experience. To be swimming at 7.30am on a Monday morning with a man from Dortmund, an hour later discussing 'community' with people from England, Finland, and Latvia and then sitting down for dinner with a Slovenians, Swiss and Welsh people, it's not your typical trip to Tipperary by any means. But no matter who I spoke to over the week whether English was their first, second or fourth language it didn't matter, everyone at the rally was there to learn, to make friends and to most importantly to have fun.

To pick a highlight from the week is very hard. I suppose, personally, the aspect of the rally I enjoyed the most and gained the most from, was meeting new people and making new friends. The rally was also a great opportunity for me as a member of Macra na Feirme to learn about other organisations around Europe and I hope to take some of what I have learned and adapt to my own Macra na Feirme club at home. Learning about different fund raising events people had held, how they attract new members and how they make a difference in their community.



With respect to the various events held over the week, I thoroughly enjoyed the international buffet, international entertainment night and the Parade in Birr. These events, gave delegates the opportunity to share their culture and traditions, whether it be their traditional dress, their food and drink or their music and language. Learning about other nations and cultures is always fun in my opinion and of course hearing other nationality's thoughts on Ireland is even better, for example. I loved watching, their disbelief when seeing the narrow twisty rural Irish roads and further amazement when seeing the way Irish people drive on them.

All in all, it was a fantastic week. It was interesting, enjoyable, fun, and I could use many other positive adjectives to describe it, but I suppose what sums it up the best is, that it was a week which I was very sad to see end. And as for the fun and 'craic' we had. it was a case of, as we say in Ireland 'you just had to be there'.

NOEL CROWLEY Macra na Feirme

NEW SLOGAN

Rural Youth Europe wants to be visible around Europe and has therefore started creating different PR materials to spread the knowledge about who we are and what we do. One of the ideas was to create a notebook. When thinking about the layout the idea to create a slogan was born. During the Rally in Ireland 2013 the participants were asked to come up with different slogans. There were many good slogans and

it was not easy to choose the best of them, but after discussions the Board could decide on a winner. The slogan the Board decided on was "Rural Youth Europe - Breaking Boundaries Building Bridges". We say congratulations to Elin Egeland Roda (Norway), Karen Følgesvold (Norway) and Piret Kalamägi (Estonia)!

EMMA SILÉN Board member



The New Board

Rural Youth Europe General Assembly was held in Gurteen Ireland in August. One of the key decisions was a selection of the board. We asked the board members to answer some questions to introduce themselves.



Lukas Helfenstein Switzerland

Which group do you represent?

I've represented group II - central Europe for two years and since the GA in Poland 2012 I'm acting as Vice-Chairman of RYEurope.

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

Rally 2010 in Sweden. It was my first RYEurope event and all the great impressions about RYEurope events and all the participants were new.

Favourite quote?

You can sleep when you are dead, then you have the time! - There are too many great things going on at RYEurope events.

What do you dream about?

Do a round the world trip that takes several months or years and explore and experience all the different countries and culture around the globe.

What languages do you speak?

Swiss German, German and of course I'm not only writing in English, I also speak it.



Linda Strazdina

Which group do you represent? Group W - Eastern Europe

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

Best event was Rally in 2006 in Latvia. It was my first meeting with RYEurope and I fell in love from the first sight. I loved all the atmosphere and people there. Since then I have followed to activities of RYEurope and supported whenever I could.

Favourite quote?

The quote to which I truly believe is "You see things and you say 'Why?' But I dream things that never were and I say 'Why not?'"

George Bernard Shaw

What do you dream about?

I dream about being happy, doing things I love and making other happy by doing things I love.

What languages do you speak?

I speak Latvian, English and Russian



Rok Roblek Slovenia

Which group do you represent?

Group II - Central Europe

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

Every RYEurope event is very unique. People from all over Europe always bring energy that keeps venue alive. So it is definitely participants that made my best memory! They say that we never forget our first love ... and so it is. My best memory is my first Rally in Sweden, my first experience with RYEurope.

Favourite quote?

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."

What do you dream about?

I dream about many things ... In my dreams I go further than next morning can bring and that's exactly what makes me belive and gives me strength to acheive all goals in my life.

What languages do you speak?

I speak Slovenian, English, Serbian Croatian, German, a litle bit of Spanish. My plan for near future is to reintense my knowledge in German language and to learn Russian.



Kadri Toomingas Estonia

Which group do you represent? Chairman

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

My best memories are related with the people I have met during different events. I think the best memories and pictures I have are from the Autumn seminar 2006 in Cardiff, where the final evening was a big wedding party where we all had a role to play. I had a role of wedding singer. I think this has been the best costume party ever. What made it special was that everybody went into their role and had fun.

Favourite quote?

I have two.

"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

George Bernard Shaw

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Dr. Seuss

What do you dream about?

I dream about the summer that I can take a vacation and travel all around Europe to visit my friends who I have made trough different Rural Youth Europe events since 2006.

What languages do you speak?

Estonian, English, Russian and bit German and Finnish.



Russell Carrington England

Which group do you represent?

Group I - UK & Ireland. This includes National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Wales Young Farmers Clubs, Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs, Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster and Macra Na Feirme in Ireland.

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

This has to be jumping into the freezing cold lake in Switzerland during the 2012 Autumn Seminar! It was such a beautiful location and a great week with some fabulous people to share it with.

Favourite quote?

"You're a short time living and a long time dead, so keep your water weak and your cider strong!"

That is by Adge Cutler who started an English band called The Wurzels who sing funny songs about the countryside, but I like to think there is a lot of truth in what they say.

What do you dream about?

Hmmm, I have a wide variety of dreams when I sleep, probably because I eat too much cheese. My day-time dreams are the best though, and often whilst driving I will dream about big ideas. If the dreams go well then I put the ideas into practise in real life.

What languages do you speak?

Being from the UK makes you really lazy for learning other languages but I do speak a bit of French. I am a bit out of practise though and really need to go to France to get better, and maybe find some more cheese!?



Emma Silén Finland

Which group do you represent? Group III - Nordic countries

Your best memory from RYEurope? What made it special?

The Spring seminar 2011 in Strasbourg. It was my second international experience with Rural Youth Europe and it was just totally amazing. There was a certain magic atmosphere that I had never experienced before and have never again since. It was one of the first times I felt totally accepted and loved in a non-family context.

Favourite quote?

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present."

Kung Fu Panda, the movie

What do you dream about?

Absurd things in the night, in the daytime about many things. The funny thing is that I've noticed that when I dream about something I usually get it, sooner or later. At the moment I dream about balance in life and to feel at home in my new home.

What languages do you speak?

Swedish as mother tongue, Finnish, English, some German and a few word Danish.

General Assembly

The General Assembly of Rural Youth Europe 2013 was held August 9th in Gurteen, Co. Tipperary in Ireland.



The day before the GA all delegates had the opportunity to attend one of two workshops focussed on communication. The workshops were called "Communication and Advocating" and "Information Flow".

The Annual Report 2012 was presented by Gwennan Davies. During the year 2012 there were four events: Spring seminar "Bridging the age gap: Working Together to Develop Rural Communities" in Hungary, the European "Reach Potential! Developing Youth Leadership Communities" in Poland and the Autumn Seminar "Protect the Environment for Your Future" in Switzerland. In addition there was also an evaluation of Youth Employment Action YEA in March in

In September 2012 the Secretary General of RYEurope Amanda Hajnal moved on to new tasks. Pia Numio-Perälä was chosen to continue the work as Secretary General in November 2012.

The winning project in the Best Practice competition 2012 was Macra na Feirme with the project "Random acts of kindness festival". The festival was held in June 2011 by Clonakilty Macra.

The new development plan for 2014-2016 was presented. The development plan has five key areas RYEurope is going to focus on the next three years. Those are

• Membership (strengthening relationships between Member Organisations (MOs) and Board Members, look for new members

and support co-operation amongst the MOs of RYEurope)

- Partnership (promoting partnership on three levels: with the MOs. Partner Organisations and with other European Networks)
- · Activities (apart from three annual events also one additional event during the years 2014-2016. The events of RYEurope focus on e.g. youth participation, intercultural learning, rural development and social integration)
- Communication (RYEurope aims at having good communications with their MOs and their members, and European Partners. The INFO magazine will be developed and RYEurope will be more present on the internet.
- · Advocacy (To promote lobbying and communication around policy documents and other issues regarding youth organisations. RYEurope will support its members to become key advocators in their local communities as well as encourage the members to be present at all levels of democracy process of decision making)



There were some changes in the Board; the term of Board members Gwennan Davies (Group 1) and Adrian Szymczak (Group 4) came to an end, and Russell Carrington and Linda Strazdina continue in the positions as regional Board Members.

EMMA SILÉN Board member

Nordic 4H-camp in Norway



On the 27th of July to 3rd of August, 1100 youth members at the age of 14-30 years gathered in Stokke (Norway) for the Nordic 4H-camp. The camp is every two year, and has representatives from 4H in Norway, Finland. Sweden and Denmark.

During this week all the participants are tenting, and has limited access to the normal luxury of hot showers and soft beds. In return, they get to meet great new people, or as we in 4H like to say; "Friends you just haven't met yet".

The theme of the week was "Think, Love, Do. Move" as a reference to the H's in 4H - Head, Heart, Hands and Health. This theme was visible during the opening ceremony, as all the counties were divided into groups that illustrated the theme words with costumes.

The camp started with different teambuilding activities and a fantastic opening show on the camp stage in the evening. The next days were filled with 40 different activities and trips that the participants could choose from, for example climbing, frisbee golf, a course in chainsaw, dancing and different excursions in the county. The evening program included concerts with local bands, a chainsaw timber-sculpting show, a magician and dan-

At the last day of camp, there was a big volleyball tournament where all the counties and countries fighted with sweat and tears (and laughter) to get the fame and glory as volleyball champions. A famous Norwegian band called Plumbo ended the camp programme with a concert, and the night was then filled with dancing, hugging and singing by the campfire until sunrise.

A lot of sad faces and young couples holding hands could be seen, anxious to leave their new camp love behind. Still, there was hope and energy in the air, knowing there was only two years until next Nordic 4H camp!

GUNVOR GUTTORMSEN 4H Norge

Not all games, but plenty of fun!

The first week in August Satakunta 4H played host to groups of youths from Local Action Groups from Estonia, France, Northern Ireland and Finland. The seminar was held in Kullaa School of Forestry which is situated near the town of Pori in the west of Finland.

The theme for the week was 'Nature and Photography' and the School of Forestry at Kullaa was an ideal situation to deliver such a workshop, as it showed off nature at it's very finest and gave many of our youths the perfect opportunity to capture photographs of the beautiful scenery.

The workshop was attended by participants from each of the 4 countries and they ranged from 14 - 17 years old, many of which had never attended such a seminar before.

The week began when all the groups from each country arrived on Monday afternoon. We were all shown to our accommodation and got the opportunity to get acquain-





On Tuesday we welcomed members from Porin kameraseura (Pori Camera Club) to give us all some technical and practical tips on how to improve our photography skills no matter how basic our cameras. The presentations explained how a very simple change on the camera settings can change a poor picture into a brilliant picture. After we had been shown how to do all the tips we were then given the afternoon to try out what we learned and with the scenery at Kullaa there were plenty of opportunities for us to be 'snap happy'.

Later that evening we got to try out a genuine Finnish tradition, the sauna. It was a brilliant way to relax after being busy all day.

On Wednesday the group had a day trip to Koivuniemenherra domestic animal park where visitors were able to help with routine jobs round the farm, like feeding pigs, collecting eggs and milking cows. We were also given the opportunity for a tractor ride around the farm.

After having lunch at the farm we then travelled to Yyteri Beach where everyone could go swimming in the Baltic Sea and could play games such as football and volleyball. We then travelled to Pori and were given the chance to do some shopping and sightseeing around the town before having dinner at Hesburger, which is Finland's version of McDonalds.

On Thursday morning we made preparations for

the nature hike through the

forest which run from the School Kullaa, up to a campsite beside the lake. The participants were into divided groups of 4 but each group had to consist of at least nationalities. two Each group was given a trangia stove so that they could boil water for refreshments on the hike and each group also had to cook their dinner on the trangia stoves that night

when we arrived at the campsite and had erected the tents. After dinner there was the opportunity to use the sauna at the campsite and to go swimming in the lake. After the sauna and swimming, we barbequed sausages, toasted marshmallows on the campfire and cooked

crepes.

After breakfast on Friday morning there were group

activities at the lake. Canoeing, fishing and church boat rowing was the entertainment for the morning before returning to the school at Kullaa. which point we said goodbye to the French group. It was then time for the rest of us



week.

TREVOR WILSON

Young Farmers' Club of Ulster

without these workshops. The participants and leaders

are very thankful to the organisers and funders of the

workshop for what was a brilliant and unforgettable

Rural Youth Entrepreneurship project

The RYEurope project (Rural Youth Entrepreneurship) is part funded by the EU Interreg IVB Northern Periphery Programme, under the European Regional Development Fund and is delivered by a partnership across Northern Ireland, Finland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland. The lead partner for the project is the Rural Development Council for Northern Ireland (RDC).

RYEurope is about developing

a new approach or "model" to promote entrepreneurship to young people in rural areas, piloting it, and making it available for others to use. The project began in January 2012 and will run up until March 2014. It aims to reverse rising youth migration caused by high unemployment and lack of opportunity by encouraging rural young people to embrace entrepreneurship.

Through workshops, events and interactive online resources the project is designed to help 16-30 year olds in rural areas to consider what self employment is, and how it works, generate a business idea that will take advantage of new opportunities and develop a Business Action Plan that will provide the tools and the confidence to make their business idea a reality.

To date over 300 young people have participated in the project from Northern Ireland, the Kajaani region of Finland, the Qeggeta region of Greenland, and the Faroes when the online business action planner was launched at the most recent partnership meeting in August in Torshavn.

unch is on us and travel costs are covere

These young people have taken part in a range of project activities including "The Big Idea" workshop designed to stimulate their interest in entrepreneurship and generate potential business ideas unique to them and "Next Steps" using "The Drawing Board" technique to sketch out how their idea will make money.

As part of the project, participants have also been able to take advantage of the opportunity to travel to other partner countries and meet with both established and new young entrepreneurs from across the partnership and share their experiences.

Many more events will be taking place between now and the end of the project so keep up to date with us on our Facebook page or on the project website. We are also keen to hear from others who are also working to encourage youth entrepreneurship to improve the model in any way, and to share our learning with others.

If you have any queries, or if you would like to discuss any initiatives of your own more information is available about the project on www.ryeproject.eu or by emailing ryeproject@rdc.org.uk.

EAMON MCMULLAN Northern Ireland Rural Development Council



Best regards from COMEM in Brussels

Hi everyone!

Together with almost 150 other representatives, I attended on 19-20 April 2013 the COMEM (Council of Members) of the European Youth Forum to discuss a number of pressing issues. The two intensive days started with a plenary session at the European Parliament on "Youth and the 2015 Development Agenda" of the UN.

After this opening, several other discussions, panels and numerous voting sessions follow-

positions on the Council of Europe's Advisory Council (AC) on Youth. Their representatives will participate in AC meetings, which are setting the Council of Europe's focus on youth.

A further issue was a policy paper on employment that the assembly has discussed and adopted. With this new policy paper, the Youth Forum is proposing a set of actions, based on the principles of youth-rights and equality, to tackle youth unemployment.

Beside all the official businesses on the agenda, the COMEM was also a good opportunity to meet with partners of Rural Youth Europe, to exchange ideas and discuss about the cooperation and possibility of new joint projects.

Best regards

LUKAS HELFENSTEIN Vice Chair

Greetings from beautiful Monmouth

I am here at the European IFYE conference; wich is this year hosted by the Welsh. I will stay here for a week, but already with my first few days here in I have experienced excellent Welsh hospitality. We have had amazing excursions, nice parties and some

I have met many interesting people and heard many interesting stories about IFYE life. Luckily I have been IFYE myself and have hosted few, so I know all about the IFYE programme.

Monday evening we made history, as there were three Rural Youth Europe board members present: Linda Steele from Northern Ireland (chairman 2002-2004), Delme Harries from Wales (chairman 2006-2010) and me (the current one). I was so surprised how many IFYEs have also participated our European rally's.

So see you, and here's picture of me and the Welsh Dragon.

KADRI TOOMINGAS Chairman



AUTUMN SEMINAR 2013

"Inspiring Change": Transforming Communities through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

12 - 19 October 2013 • Malvern, Worcestershire, England

The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) will host the Autumn Seminar 2013 in England. The seminar will explore the theme of youth entrepreneurship in rural communities and aims to strengthen intercultural links through citizenship. The study will answer the following key questions: Why is entrepreneurship important in rural areas? How can social media be used in a positive light to support and grow businesses? What resources do we have at a local level that can facilitate innovation? How can Citizens use innovation and entrepreneurship to make their communities better places now and in the future?

STUDY VISIT TO BRUSSELS

"Grab your future!" - Study visit to improve your advocating skills

9 - 13 December 2013 • Brussels, Belgium

The theme of this study visit is European awareness for rural development. We work on it learning negotiation and lobbying competences, sharing our rural realities, interact with European institutions and creating a base for further cooperation between the partners. The aim of Grab Youth Future! is to raise interest and give selfconfidence and competences for rural youth to improve their position in democratic processes on national and international level.

SPRING SEMINAR 2014

"Our Changing Europe"

4 - 11 May 2014 • Budapest, Hungary

This study session will be organised together with European Confederation of Youth Clubs at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. The aim is raise awareness of current European challenges related to young people and empowers our organisations to tackle these challenges. Storytelling will be used as a method, as well as many other creative non-formal methods.

RALLY 2014

"Tomorrow's World"

9 - 16 August 2014 • Port Tabot, Wales

Theme: Creating a sustainable future for you, your organisation and your rural community. Days of the week will concentrate on each part of the theme individually. You: Discovering who you are as a person, and the skills and qualities you possess. Your organisation: Ensuring sustainability within your individual organisation.

Your rural community: Ensuring your organisations help support and develop your rural communities.

AUTUMN SEMINAR 2014

Denmark