

Behavioural Guidelines for Rural Youth Europe Events

Rural
youth
europe

Applicability:

These guidelines are equally applicable to Rural Youth Europe organisers and hosting or partner organisations alike.

All changes and new revisions of this document are subject to the acceptance and approval of the General Assembly of Rural Youth Europe.

With the acceptance of these guidelines, all previous documents and regulations covering any behavioural guidelines shall become superseded.

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BACKGROUND

Rural Youth Europe events and activities are intended to be fun, safe and inclusive places for learning, cultural exchange and socialising.

Due to cultural differences there can often be different expectations relating to behaviour at events, particularly in relation to alcohol. This has in the past negatively impacted Rural Youth Europe events and hence this document serves as guidance for the avoidance of any issues in the future.

1.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF RURAL YOUTH EUROPE

- 1.1 The Rural Youth Europe Board are responsible for ensuring these Behavioural Guidelines are implemented in conjunction with host or partner organisations, those organisations sending participants, and adopted by the participants themselves. This includes the execution of disciplinary action.
- 1.2 The board will do this by communicating these guidelines and their importance internally at board and staff handover meetings, at preparation meetings for events, directly to organisations sending participants and to participants themselves.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANISATIONS SENDING PARTICIPANTS

- 2.1 The organisations sending participants are responsible for selecting suitable participants for events and for making the participants aware of these guidelines and ensure they are committed to them.
- 2.2 The organisations sending participants shall ensure that the individuals are motivated to attend the events and are aware of their responsibilities whilst representing themselves, their organisation and country.
- 2.3 Rural Youth Europe events are educational, social and cultural events and must be promoted and advertised as such when seeking suitable participants.
- 2.4 The theme of the event must be taken into consideration when selecting participants to ensure they will find it relevant. Ideally, selected participants should also be made aware that Rural Youth Europe events include non-formal learning methods and should appreciate that these methods can be very successful when working with a culturally diverse group.

- 2.5 Encourage selected participants to organise a preparation meeting before the event to ensure that they are properly prepared and also have to discuss these behavioural guidelines.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOSTING ORGANISATION

3.1 SETTING THE RIGHT EXPECTATIONS

- 3.1.1 Rural Youth Europe events are educational, social and cultural events and must be promoted and advertised as such.
- 3.1.2 The host is ultimately responsible for ensuring the right learning environment is created for participants to get the most out of the event in a safe and inclusive way.
- 3.1.3 The host, in conjunction with the board and office of Rural Youth Europe, is to ensure that behavioural guidelines and any local laws and regulations are appropriately communicated to participants before and during the event.

3.2 BAR

- 3.2.1 Bar staff shall be well informed about the Behavioural Guidelines and shall follow them.
- 3.2.2 It is strongly recommended to have very low prices for non-alcoholic drinks. Free water must be provided in common areas and the bar area during the day and evening programme, and also after the bar is closed. It is also recommended that bar snacks are provided to purchase whilst the bar is open.
- 3.2.3 The opening hours of the bar are to be agreed in conjunction with the Rural Youth Europe board and should be well communicated amongst the participants.
- 3.2.4 Regardless of agreed opening hours, alcohol may only be served from the bar after an evening meal, not at any other time of day. The only possible exception being during the closing ceremony at the rally.
- 3.2.5 A common area will be provided for participants to congregate when the bar is closed to avoid activities prohibited in 3.2.6, 3.2.7 and 3.2.8.

- 3.2.6 Consumption of alcohol may only take place in the bar area and/or other designated areas. Any participant(s) found to be not following this may face disciplinary action (as outlined in section 5).
- 3.2.7 Consumption of alcohol in private rooms is prohibited. Any participant(s) found to be not following this may face disciplinary action (as outlined in section 5).
- 3.2.8 It is strongly recommended that one or more evenings during the event are to be alcohol free, where no alcohol is served at the bar, and alternative activities are organised instead.
- 3.2.9 The host organisation is responsible for following local laws and regulations.

3.3 INTERNATIONAL BUFFET

- 3.3.1 Prior to the International Buffet a full meal shall be served to and consumed by all participants.
- 3.3.2 The international buffet is designed to serve different dishes and ingredients representing each country's culture and flavours.
- 3.3.3 A refrigerator shall be provided for refrigerating any foods that require being kept chilled so that they are then safe to eat at the buffet.
- 3.3.4 Water shall be available during the International Buffet.

3.4 RESPONSIBLE RELATIONS

- 3.4.1 No participant should be pressured into a situation that is not according to their beliefs, values or habits.
- 3.4.2 During the opening session of each event an open discussion should be held with participants to agree that they should treat others with respect – regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, their relationship status, different abilities, ethnic background, or cultural or religious beliefs.
- 3.4.3 Participants and organisers are asked to respect other participants' privacy. This includes taking photographs or videos and using social media during and following events. This topic is to be discussed openly with all participants during the opening session of each event. Furthermore all participants will be asked whether or not they

allow for their image to be published in any kind of media material (photos, videos, etc.) by Rural Youth Europe or the host organisation, in accordance with GDPR.

- 3.4.4 As part of the opening sessions, participants should be made aware of the relevant laws in the hosting country, and if necessary the host should provide a summary of the relevant laws to display in common areas.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

4.1 PARTICIPATION

- 4.1.1 The organisers of events want to make sure that all participants get the most of out the events so participants must attend and actively participate in all sessions. Failure to attend sessions or repeatedly arrive late for sessions will result in disciplinary action (as outlined in section 5) unless there is a genuine reason for absence.
- 4.1.2 Rural Youth Europe events are designed to bring young people from different countries and backgrounds together and not exclude any participant so gathering a group of people in a private room is not encouraged.

4.2 ALCOHOL

- 4.2.1 Consumption of alcohol may only take place in the bar area and/or other designated areas, not in private rooms. Any participant(s) found to be not following this may face disciplinary action.

4.3 RESPECT FOR OTHERS

- 4.3.1 Participants are expected to treat others with respect – regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, their relationship status, different abilities, ethnic background, or cultural or religious beliefs. This topic is to be discussed openly with all participants during the opening session of each event.
- 4.3.2 During free time participants should not feel pressured by other participants into spending that time in a particular way. Free time is for using as they wish.
- 4.3.3 Participants are asked to respect other participants' privacy. This includes taking photographs or videos and posting on social media during and following events.

- 4.3.4 If participants publish inappropriate content from a Rural Youth Europe event or other related activity on social media or any other platform disciplinary action will be taken.
- 4.3.5 Participants shall be aware of their behaviour and how it's perceived by others and the local community. What may seem appropriate or funny to some participants from some countries, may appear inappropriate or threatening to others.
- 4.3.6 Harassment of any sort will not be tolerated, and anyone found to have caused harassment, including sexual or racial harassment, will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.3.7 Participants are responsible for their own personal safety. However, each participant is expected to look out for their team members and fellow participants. If you suspect that someone is in need of assistance, please assist if possible and always notify a member of the prep team or Rural Youth Europe Board.
- 4.3.8 Participants (and all attendees at events) must abide by the national laws of the hosting country, which can be different to those in countries where participants have come from.

4.4 SETTING AN EXAMPLE

- 4.4.1 Participants are reminded that whilst at Rural Youth Europe events they are representing their organisation, their country and themselves, and should therefore ensure that they act appropriately both at events and online.

4.5 SHARING THE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

- 4.5.1 During and after the event, participants are encouraged to share the positive experience they have had in a balanced and appropriate manner, taking into consideration the full programme of activity (especially learning outcomes), the need to respect others and showcase themselves, their organisation, their country and Rural Youth Europe in a positive light.

5.0 DISPLINARY ACTION

- 5.1.1 The preparation team, Rural Youth Europe board members, or any organisers in conjunction with the Rural Youth Europe board, have the right to:
- Issue a personal informal warning.
 - Issue a personal formal warning.
 - Issue a warning and inform the sending organisation of the participant's actions.

- Cancel the travel reimbursement.
- Immediately expel attendees from the event including a ban from future Rural Youth Europe events.
- Contact law enforcement authorities to assist with or arrest any attendee

5.1.2 In normal circumstances these measures will be implemented in the order they are laid out above. However, any of these measures may be implemented, at the discretion of Rural Youth Europe board, at any time, depending on the severity of the offence.

5.1.3 In the event that an attendee is found to be using banned substances, the law enforcement authorities will be contacted and any of the above measures will be taken.