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Rural Youth Europe

ANNUAL REPORT



Rural
youth
europe

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Foreword

Dear members of Rural Youth Europe,

On behalf of the board of Rural Youth Europe I submit the Annual Report for the year 2020 for your attention.

The year 2020 was a challenging and uncertain one as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our key activities and plans for the year were massively impacted by lockdown and restrictions and differed massively from the plans we had for the year. This report details our activities during 2020 period, most of which were virtual.

Our theme for 2020 was to explore the future of rural competencies. Through our work plan, we aimed to empower rural youth to recognise, celebrate and champion the life skills, experiences and development opportunities that rural living brings and to apply their unique skillset to progress personally and professionally while also paving the way for a positive future for rural communities.

Before the pandemic took hold we held our first planned event of the year; a study session in partnership with the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) in early March in Strasbourg, France entitled “Shrinking Youth Civil Spaces”.

The aim of the event was to empower rural young people and youth organisations to engage in expanding the space for civil society through youth work and youth led actions.

Unfortunately our Grand Prep Meeting could not go ahead physically. We remained hopeful that events could happen as planned later in the year and so we met online to prepare and plan for the year ahead.

As the pandemic unfolded it became clear that our training course due to be held in Budapest would not take place physically. Determined to provide opportunities for rural youth to recognise the benefits of non-formal education and to exchange best practice sharing, we

moved our event online and held two webinars entitled, “Ready, Scroll, Learn” and “Rural Game Changers”.

Our European Rally, hosted by ZSPM, was postponed from August 2020 to August 2021. Despite the physically Rally not going ahead as planned, ZSPM seized the opportunity to host an online cook-at-home session and share traditional Slovenian food with rural youth across Europe as well as an introductory webinar for Rally 2021 entitled “Rural up! The online European Rally Webinar,” reached an amazing 12,000 people through various online platforms.

Our Autumn Seminar, to be hosted by Macra Na Feirme in Ireland, was also unfortunately unable to proceed physically and was also postponed to 2021.

Together we organised a webinar “Commencing our dialogue on an LGBT+ Europe” which sought to break down the boundaries and begin to build bridges amongst rural youth across Europe on this important topic.

After holding off in the hope that we could meet physically, we held our first ever online General Assembly in November 2020.

At this event we welcomed Georgian organisation Local Action Group of Upper Svaneti to the Rural Youth Europe network. On behalf of all within the Rural Youth Europe network we thank outgoing Chairman Sebastian Lassnig, Regional Representatives Nicolai Olsen, Daniela Allram and Special Interests Board Member Anja Mager for their commitment and dedication, especially during the very difficult and uncertain last few months of their terms.

It was an honour to be elected as Chairman at our first virtual General Assembly alongside our new Vice Chair, Niall Evans, Regional Representatives Elen Williams, Iristiina Heinonen and Martin

Seimen, and Special Interests Board Member Siobhan Gallagher.

Our administration assistant Trang went on to pastures new. We welcomed Dan and Áris to our all new podcast team who worked tirelessly throughout the year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, to develop a new and innovative way to raise the rural voice, tackle stigmas and build our rural youth network through 8 episodes of our podcast "Rural Voices".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the members, for your active participation throughout the year.

Your continued support and contribution ensures the success of our events and your support for the development of opportunities for your grass-roots members helps shape the future leaders of rural youth across Europe.

We believe that rural youth does, and will always, play an active role in our society in many different ways.

The year has been an uncertain one with lots of changes, challenges and difficult decisions, however it has also opened many doors.

We are very grateful for online platforms which have allowed us to remain connected and to continue to bring rural youth across Europe together to learn, share and feel part of a wider community despite the challenges faced.

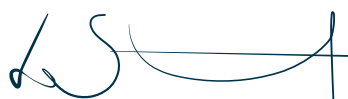
The pandemic has taught us that rural young people are resilient and can adapt to unexpected and uncertain circumstances.

Although the year didn't pan out as we hoped, the pandemic provided the perfect opportunity to recognise, be proud of and celebrate the skills and experiences that come from rural living.

We look forward to exploring rural competences further in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support.
Exciting times lie ahead!

Best wishes,



Linzi Stewart
Chairperson of Rural Youth Europe

Members

Rural Youth Europe has 23 member organisations in 20 nations, reaching approximately 500,000 young people all around Europe.

Contact with our Member Organisations is maintained through statutory meetings and events.

The RYEurope website, social media channels, regular e-news, e-mail, phone and Teams/Zoom are used to maintain communication between

meetings.

If there is an opportunity or specific need, Member Organisations are visited by Board Members or the Secretary General.

Membership numbers provided below are as per returns for 2020 fees.

Group I UK & IRELAND



National Federation Of Young Farmers' Clubs (Nfyfc)

13773 members

YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth CV8 2Lg, UK (England)
www.nfyfc.org.uk



Macra na Feirme

8993 members

Irish Farmcentre Bluebell, 12 Dublin (Ireland)
www.macra.ie



Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU)

1810 members

475 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BD, UK (Northern Ireland)
www.yfcu.org



Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs (SAYFC)

2541 members

Ingliston Young Farmers' Centre, EH28 8NE, Edinburgh, UK (Scotland)
www.sayfc.org



Wales YFC / CFFl Cymru

YFC Centre, Llanelwedd Builth Wells, LD2 3NJ, Powys, UK (Wales)
www.yfc.wales

Group II

CENTRAL EUROPE

	<p>Landjugend Österreich (ÖLJ)</p> <p>90382 members</p> <p>Schauflergasse 6, 1014, Vienna, Austria www.landjugend.at</p>
	<p>Bund der Deutschen Landjugend e.V. (BDL)</p> <p>100000 members</p> <p>Claire-Waldoff-Str. 7, 10117, Berlin, Germany www.landjugend.de</p>
	<p>Agricultural and Rural Youth Association (AGRYA)</p> <p>670 members</p> <p>Váci út 134/c, VI/28, 1138, Budapest, Hungary www.agrya.hu</p>
	<p>Plattelandsjongeren NL</p> <p>11000 members</p> <p>Bemuurde weerd oz 12, 3514 AN Utrecht, Netherlands www.plattelandsjongeren.nl/pjnl/</p>
	<p>Südtiroler Bauernjugend (SBJ)</p> <p>10391 members</p> <p>K.M. Gamper Strasse 5, 39100 Bozen, Italy www.sbb.it</p>
	<p>Slovenian Rural Youth (ZSPM)</p> <p>3000 members</p> <p>Celovska 43, 1000, Ljubljana, Slovenia www.zspm.si</p>
	<p>Schweizerische Landjugendvereinigung (SLJV)</p> <p>29819 members</p> <p>c/o AGRIDEA, Eschikon 28, 8315 Lindau, Switzerland www.landjugend.ch</p>

Group III

NORTHERN EUROPE



Danmarks Landboungdom and Danish 4H

5352 members

Agro Food Park 15, Skejby, 8200, Aarhus N, Denmark
www.landboungdom.dk
www.4h.dk



Suomen 4H-liitto

45777 members

Karjalankatu 2A, 00520 Helsinki, Finland
www.4h.fi



Finlands Svenska 4H

3700 members

Elisabetsgatan 21 B 12, FIN-00170, Helsinki, Finland
www.fs4h.fi



4H Norge

40554 members

Postboks 113, N-2026 Skjetten, Norway
www.4h.no



Norges Bygdeungdomslag

5003 members

Schweigaardsgate 34B, oppgang 2, 3. etasje, Grønland, Oslo, Norway
www.nbu.no



Sveriges 4H

9242 members

Box 2012, 64102 Katrineholm, Sweden
www.4h.se

Group IV

EASTERN EUROPE



Eesti 4H

872 members

Allika 2a, 80036, Pärnu, Estonia

www.eesti4h.ee



Local Action Group (LAG) of Upper Svaneti

130 members

Upper Svaneti, Mestia

www.facebook.com/LAGMestia/



Umbrella

100 members

Leri Lagurashvili 4, fl 46, Tbilisi, Georgia, 0172

www.facebook.com/Umbrellageo



Latvijas Mazpulki - Latvian 4H

1719 members

Ezermalas 28, LV-1014, Riga, Latvia

www.mazpulki.lv



Latvian Young Farmer's Club (JZK)

185 members

Krišjāņa Barona iela 40, Jelgava, Latvia, LV-3001

www.jzk.lv

Board

The Board of Rural Youth Europe implements the decisions and policies agreed by the General Assembly, monitors the financial situation, is responsible for employment related matters and supervising staff, and prepares and evaluates the international activities of the organisation.

The board also makes decisions on a strategic level and at the same time monitors and develops the organisation's strategic direction.

The Rural Youth Europe board remains very active even though the meetings have moved online. New board members have not met each other face to face but board is still working together towards a common goal.

The role of a board member is also a process of personal development and competence building.

The board saw big change at the annual General Assembly in November 2020 with the mandates of five board representatives finishing.

Chairman Sebastian Lassnig stepped down from the role with Linzi Stewart from Northern Ireland taking the role.

The position of Vice-Chair was filled by Niall Evans who was previously board member of Group 1 (UK and Ireland).

A new representative for Group 1 was selected at the General Assembly and board welcomed Elen Williams from Wales, who took over Niall's mandate for one year.

Daniela Allram from Austria stepped down from the role representative for Group 2 (Central Europe) with Martin Siemen from Germany taking on the role.

In Group 3 (Northern Europe) Iiristiina Heinonen from Finland joined the board as Nicolai Olsen from Denmark stepped down.

The two year mandate also ended for Special Interest Board Member Anja Mager, with Siobhan Gallagher from Ireland taking on the role.



Chair

Linzi Stewart
Northern Ireland



Vice-Chair

Niall Evans
Wales



BM, Group 1 (UK & Ireland)

Elen Williams
Wales



BM, Group 2 (Central Europe)

Martin Siemen
Germany



BM, Group 3 (Northern Europe)

Iiristiina Heinonen
Finland



BM, Group 4 (Eastern Europe)

Birgit Kuslap
Estonia



Special Interest Board Member

Siobhán Gallagher
Ireland

Secretariat

The organisations secretariat provides support and guidance to the Board of Rural Youth Europe.

During 2020 the office was based in Helsinki, Finland occupying offices rented from Suomen 4H-liitto. A second office was secured later in the year, providing space for newly approved projects starting in 2021.

The Board appoints staff to provide a secretariat for the organisation and during 2020 the following roles were employed by Rural Youth Europe.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Responsible for the successful delivery of all work undertaken by Rural Youth Europe, along with financial management and ensuring the accurate monitoring and reporting to all levels. Directly reporting to the Board, this was a full-time post in 2020, with the work undertaken by **Eelin Hoffström-Cagiran**.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

As the name suggest, this part time role was responsible for all aspects of development within the organisation, along with the successful delivery of the work funded through the workplan.

During this period **Jenni Heinonen** undertook the role of Development Manager

ADMINISTRATOR

A part time role, assisting the Board and the Secretary General with tasks as necessary. Work included book keeping, along with travel and accommodation arrangements on behalf of the organisation.

Trang Van Phi occupied this role until August 2021.

FREELANCE CONTRACTORS

In addition to contracted staff, the organisation also work as necessary with a number of free-

lance contractors. In 2020 freelance roles were appointed as follows;

Pia Winsten continued to support the organisation on an advisory basis, in the role of Education and Fundraising Manager.

During 2020 **Āris Brencis** and **Daniel Grist** were hired to work on the new Rural Voices project, developing regular podcasts for the organisation.

Madara Kļaviņa provided graphic design expertise as necessary, following on from her work in 2019.

Finally, **Frederik Kaae Kirk** was hired to support the organisation in the "Ready, Scroll, Learn!" webinar.



Eelin Hoffström-Cagiran



Jenni Heinonen



Trang Van Phi



Pia Winsten



Āris Brencis



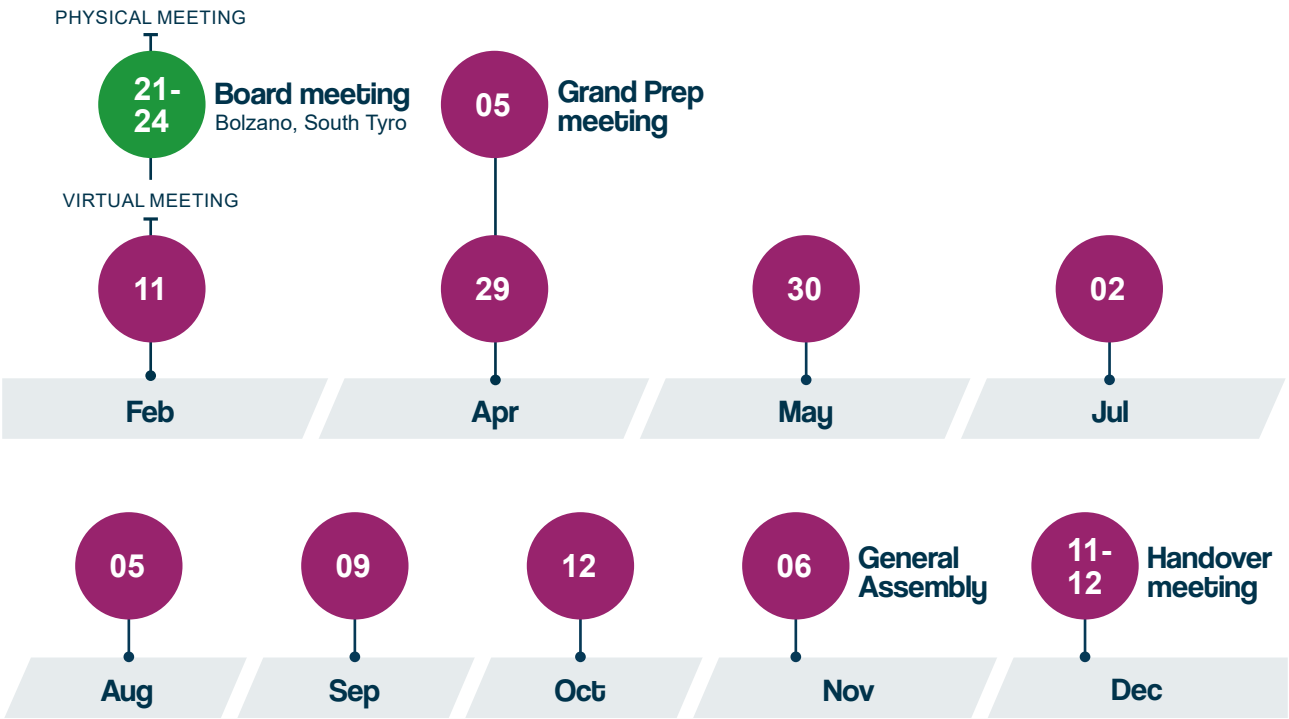
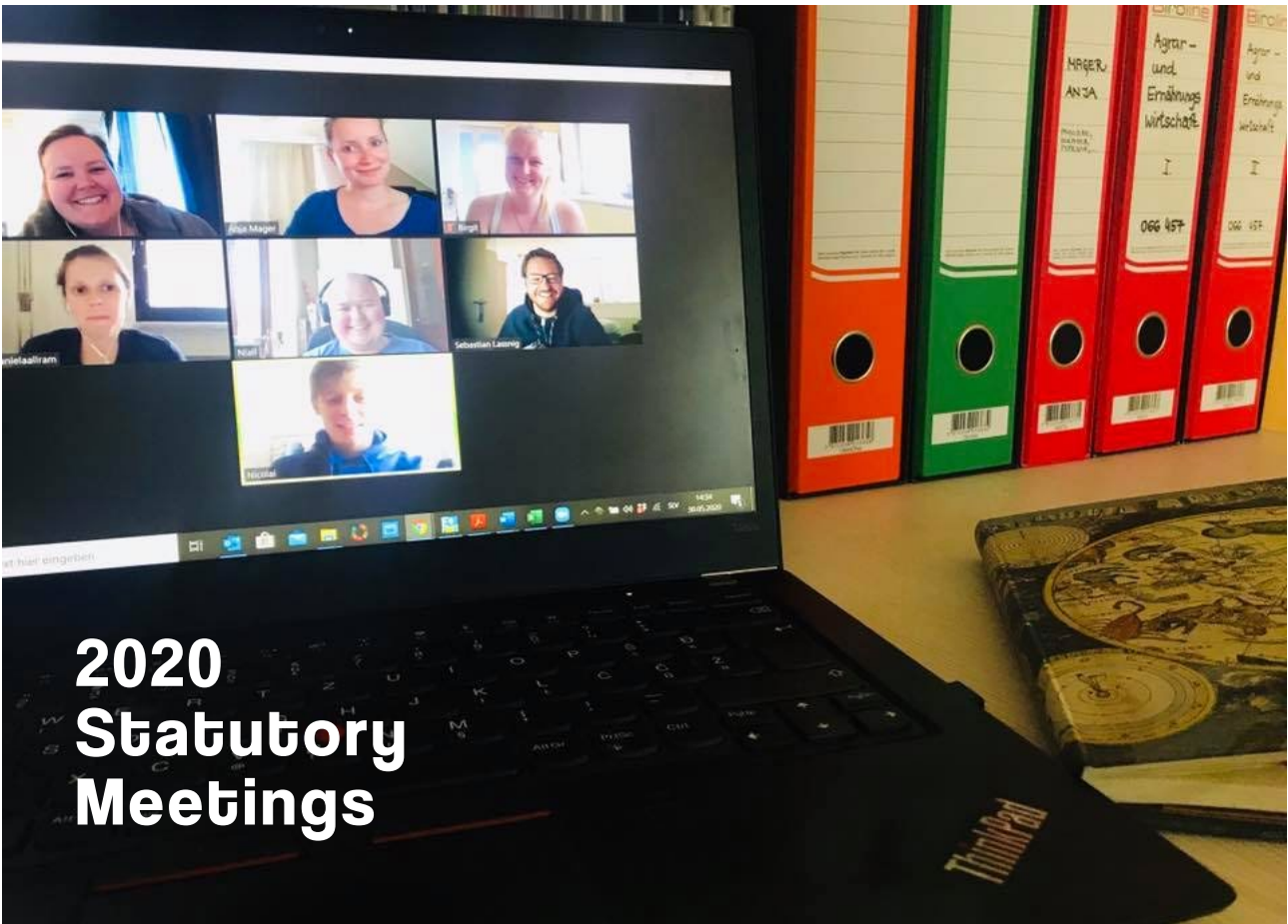
Daniel Grist



Madara Kļaviņa



Frederik Kaae Kirk



Other Meetings

Circumstances for meeting member organisations were more challenging in 2020 than ever before.

Rural Youth Europe aims to meet at least 30% of member organisations each year, but lack of physical meetings made that difficult in 2020. Still, virtual meetings were arranged.

Board members virtually visited member organisations' General Assemblies and special events, such as anniversaries.

The Board also organised meetings online, where all members of Rural Youth Europe could meet during special times and have fun together. These meetings are an important opportunity to exchange information and good practices. These meetings develop the partnerships and are the chance to share the outcomes of our activities.

Finances

Rural Youth Europe is a non-profit organisation that does not aim to generate profit or surplus.

The board met in Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy from 21 st – 24 th February and the gravity of the Covid -19 situation became apparent at that time.

Given the quickly evolving situation activities planned for 2020 were not possible, with only one event taking place in a physical capacity; '*Shrinking Youth Civil Spaces*', a Study Session organised in collaboration with the European Confederation of Youth Clubs held in March 2020.

We worked with our funders and prep. teams for the Rally and Autumn Seminar with extensions granted allowing us to postpone physical events by 12 months and existing funding streams were kept intact.

Our income in 2020 was generated from membership fees, participation fees for the Study Session, as well as funding from the Council of Europe and the European Union. Costs for 2020 included employment of the full-time Secretary

General, part-time Development Manager and Graphic Designer.

We also incurred costs in 2020 relating to 2019 activities and this has ultimately led to a loss for the organisation in our end of year accounts.

A full review of our finances is currently underway with the ultimate aim of strengthening the financial sustainability of Rural Youth Europe for many years ahead.

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Non-current assets		
Tangible assets		
Machinery and equipment	4 195,28	3 827,36
Tangible assets in total	4 195,28	3 827,36
Non-current assets in total	4 195,28	3 827,36
Current assets		
Receivables		
Short term		
Trade debtors	9 733,81	13 277,95
Other receivables	0,00	25 277,23
Prepayments and accrued income	390,96	2 864,86
Short-term debtors in total	10 124,77	41 420,04
Total receivables	10 124,77	41 420,04
Cash in hand and at banks	131 668,61	144 559,75
Current assets in total	141 793,38	185 979,79
ASSETS IN TOTAL	145 988,66	189 807,15
LIABILITIES	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Capital and reserves		
Shares or other comparable assets	24 214,75	24 214,75
Retained earnings gain or (loss)	104 587,51	113 213,11
Profit (loss) for the financial year	-22 004,59	-8 625,60
Capital and reserves in total	106 797,67	128 802,26
Creditors		
Creditors, Short term		
Advances received	0,00	13 358,63
Trade creditors	549,63	33 901,74

Other creditors	27 457,96	2 663,92
Accruals and deferred income	11 183,40	11 080,60
Creditors, Short term in total	39 190,99	61 004,89
Creditors in total	39 190,99	61 004,89
LIABILITIES IN TOTAL	145 988,66	189 807,15

Income Statement

	01. – 12.2020	01. – 12.2019
Actual operation	-118 845,09	-166 829,35
Income from actual operation	16 522,33	23 249,02
Expenses of actual operation	-135 367,42	-190 078,37
Personnel expenses	-75 246,55	-95 892,67
Depreciations	-1 398,43	-1 275,79
Other expenses	-58 730,33	-92 909,95
Balancing difference	7,89	0,04
Profit / accrued expense	-118 845,09	-166 829,35
Fund raising	37 000,00	37 117,80
Income from fundraising	37 000,00	37 117,80
Profit / accrued expense	-81 845,09	-129 711,55
Investment and financing activity	-391,14	-8,25
Expenses of investment and financing activity	-391,14	-8,25
Profit / accrued expense	-82 236,23	-129 719,80
General subsidies	60 231,64	121 094,20
Profit (loss) for the financial year	-22 004,59	-8 625,60
Fiscal period surplus (deficit)	-22 004,59	-8 625,60

Activities

STUDY SESSION:

SHRINKING YOUTH CIVIL SPACES

1-7 March 2020 | Strasbourg, France | 43 participants

First and only physical event to be held in 2020

The event was held in Strasbourg, France and looked at empowering young people and youth organisations to engage in expanding the space for civil society through youth work and youth led actions.

The objectives of the event were to allow those taking part:

- A. to understand what is shrinking space for civil society and how it affects youth organisations and young people.
- B. to share experiences and good practice in response to shrinking space for youth organisations and young people.
- C. to disseminate the knowledge within your organisation, and to connect it to the topic.
- D. to connect to like-minded young people that are currently engaging in countering effects of shrinking civil space.
- E. to share your personal story about how you have experienced phenomena of shrinking space for civil society on an online platform.

It was good to see such a strong turnout of participants at the event even when there were some early pandemic uncertainties.



GRAND PREP MEETING

5 April 2020 | Online

With such high hopes heading into 2020, it was extremely unfortunate that the grand prep could not be held in person.

However, we made the most of it and came together online to discuss the layout of the activities in 2020.

Little did we know that the pandemic would still be circulating for the rest of the year.

It was great to see a strong turnout of members from prep teams both past, present and future.

The enthusiasm was very much present even with an online presence and showed just how resilient we as young people can be when faced with adversity.



WEBINARS

READY, SCROLL, LEARN!

9 June 2020 | Online

The first in a series of two webinars from us at Rural Youth Europe.

"Ready, scroll, learn!" was put together with the aim of building an understanding of what non-formal education (NFE) is and how to use it within our organisations.

The event was hosted by Frederik Kaae Kirk in conjunction with the RYEurope office.

RURAL UP! THE ONLINE EUROPEAN RALLY

6 August 2020 | Online

As we were not able to hold the European rally physically, we had to adapt to an online platform.

The webinar was hosted by rally hosts ZSPM with help from the RYEurope board and staff.

The aim of the webinar was to look at rural competencies to gain a better labour market in rural areas.

It was a pleasure to listen to the three keynote speakers, Tori Ward, Pia Winsten and Andreja

RURAL GAME CHANGERS

11 June 2020 | Online

The second and final webinar "Rural game changers" was hosted by the RYEurope board and featured representatives from across our member organisations with the aim of sharing best practices developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The webinar was well attended and was very useful and informative for all involved.

Beci, who joined us to speak about their lives and businesses in rural areas.

It was fantastic to see the turnout and listen to how rural lives have adapted to survive.

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE QUIZ

21 August 2020 | Online

In August, a few members came together for a quiz that incorporated rounds such as sport, geography, history and most importantly knowledge of Rural Youth Europe.

It was great to see members from across the organisation taking part in a social setting.

If anyone has any other suggestions for fun activities that we can put on to bring together members from the 4 corners of Europe we would be grateful to hear about them.

COOKING WITH BLAZ

10 September 2020 | Online

A second part to the online European rally.

As we missed out on what is seen as a highlight for most, the international buffet, it was decided to put on a webinar for members to learn how to cook a traditional Slovenian sweet dish.

We would like to thank Blaz and ZSPM for organising the event and hope that everyone who attended enjoyed cooking the tasty treats.

WEBINAR

BUILDING BRIDGES – CREATING A LGBT+ POSITIVE EUROPE

2 November 2020 | Online

The Autumn Seminar, the final event of the year, hosted by Macra na Feirme and the RYEurope board.

We would like to thank our panellists, Maria Walsh MEP, Aoife Martin and Dr. Darko Skrobo for joining the webinar and taking part in the discussions.

The webinar was focussed on the topic of LGBT+ and how we can continue working towards an inclusive Europe.

The aim of the webinar was to break down barriers and discuss attitudes and biases towards others.

It was amazing to see members from across the organisation getting involved in the discussions as well being joined by faces new to Rural Youth Europe events.

Rural Youth Europe Awards 2020

The aim of the Rural Youth Awards is to recognise our Member Organisations and their activities, at the same time as sharing good ideas and motivation to all organisations.

In difficult times when our Member Organisations might not have many projects to enter into our project competition, we decided to change the Rural Youth Europe project of the Year competition into Rural Youth Europe Awards with new categories.

Last year was the first time we developed Senior and Junior Categories and we decided to keep them if we had enough participants. Unfortunately this year we received only two junior category nominations, one for project competition (which was also eligible for the senior project) and two for inspirational club of the year.

We felt that new categories were well received but unfortunately, they did not make the reach we anticipated, with just seven entries in total.

A new voting system was introduced, which although took longer to decide on the results, was felt to be fairer, rather than just having a lot of likes on Facebook. It also provided more information about the project, along with the outcome.

All entries received were of a high standard, with the judge's finding it difficult to pick a top three.

With very close votes for all the projects our judges - Jule Scaller and Kätlin Merisalu voted for their favourites, and together with the public votes the winners were chosen.

The **winner of Project of the year 2020** was **Georgian Member Organisation Umbrella with the project 'Start'**. They collected most of the judges and also public votes with a well organised project.

As we heard a lot of inspiring projects in 2020 about our members we decided to remain with two separate age groups for Inspirational person / club for the **Junior category**.

We received only one entry from **Cruwys Morchard Young Farmers Club from England** who were also announced winners. For the **Senior category** we received several very inspirational club and individual entries. After very close voting once again, **Rural Youth Lower Austria** won.

Although our third category Rural Youth Europe Enterprise 2020 received only one nomination, it was very well presented and organised, deserving to receive first place. **Rural Youth Enterprise 2020 is Landjugend Mostviertel from Austria with 'Mission Most'**.

Although the year 2020 was really challenging for most of our Member Organisations, they were a really big inspiration for us all with the different projects and activities they ran online, or by finding a way to do it face to face.

The Board of Rural Youth Europe thanks all the participants for doing such great work for their Communities and members.



External Relations

2020 was a year like no other. It had its up's, and it had its downs but we here at Rural Youth Europe continued to represent the views of you the members at every opportunity. Even when we have not been able to meet in person, the invites to attend events kept coming as we all adapted to the virtual workplace.

In January, Anja Mager, our special interests board member looking after our policy work attended a meeting with the Croatian Presidency in Brussels in view of the first youth working party. At this meeting she presented opportunities for youth in rural and remote areas along with our joint manifesto developed alongside CEJA Young Farmers and MIJARC Europe.

February saw Vice Chair Linzi Stewart along with Anja Mager represent RYEurope at the international congress of rural youth in Kazan, Russia. As part of the congress they had the opportunity to highlight the work of our organisation across Europe and also network with organisations across the globe. The congress looked at a number of issues that affected rural youth across the globe and it was interesting to see both the difference and also the similarities between the organisations who represented rural youth across the globe.

March saw Our Chairman Sebastian Lassnig represent RYEurope in a panel discussion at the EU youth conference in Zagreb, Croatia. The panels aim was to discuss the importance of rural youth for sustainable rural communities and to quote Sebastian, "Rural youth organisations in the countryside have a stronger support to empower rural populations and ensure a brighter future in the countryside".

To be invited to sit on these highly acclaimed panels and discuss issues that are close to our hearts is always a privilege and we are always appreciative of the platforms to allow us to

represent our members at these top levels.

Unfortunately, as of the middle of March COVID-19 hit and physical events halted. However, this wasn't a time to stop and halter. We were still busy in the background being present at every available opportunity.

May saw the first of many virtual events in 2020, where we were present at a meeting lead by Plan International, kicking off an international project looking at "Youth voices for the Youth Employment".

The projects objectives were:

- To provide a common understanding of youth engagement in youth employment policies, programmes and strategies.
- To develop a roadmap for funders with outlined recommendations for embedding youth voices in policy and programme development.

Sebastian joined a panel at the European Youth Event to discuss Rural reactions to COVID-19 at the end of May. The discussion focussed on how the pandemic impacted rural communities, how it affected farmers and the rural population and how rural youth have coped with the unfortunate situation. These discussions are important to highlight how resilient rural youth are to adverse effects at all levels and how no matter what as a rural community we can pull through any situation.

Through the early part of the year, Niall Evans, Group 1 regional representative was involved in the initial discussions around setting up a UN Youth committee looking at eradicating worldwide hunger.

As an organisation we continue to work with other regional and worldwide organisations with common goals in order to develop greater networks and create stronger communities.

Since the GA held on 6 **November** 2020 we have participated in a number of online activities.

EU Youth Dialogue – a working group of European Youth Forum (YFJ) where INGYO's from across Europe come together with a view of discussing the 11 youth goals and putting together online activities.

The current membership of this working group includes members from EEYC, ESN, AEGEE, YEU, FEMYSO, TEJO, WAGGS, IFLRY, SCOUTS, YOUTH FOR EXCHANGE & UNDERSTANDING, EFIL & OBESSU.

A roundtable discussion took place on 18 **December** with the topic of conversation on "How can young people be effectively engaged in shaping European Policy Making".

European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an international non-profit association made up of over 100 member organisations that serves as a platform and advocacy group of the national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations in Europe. Their General Assembly took place remotely on 21st – 22nd November where Linzi Stewart & Siobhán Gallagher attended representing RYEurope. RYEurope had nominated Anja Fortuna for the position of Vice-President and she was successfully elected following a voting process. Pia Winsten, an advisor for RYEurope was also elected to the Financial Control Committee.

Media and Communication

Rural Youth Europe aims to share information about our activities and the work of our member and partner organisations, in addition to sharing relevant information and links to our stakeholders, through our social media channels, E-news and blogs on our website. Especially in times of the pandemic communication became highly important and is one of our highest priorities.

Our main social media channel continues to be Facebook. But Instagram has become more and more important and relevant to our members. We also try to regularly update our Twitter page. To have all information and updates evenly spread, we are aiming to share the postings on all platforms at the same time.

The use of the platforms special functionality like Instagram's stories and Facebook's livestreams was also increased.

We made the decision towards the end of the

year to move our e-news to quarterly due to increased activity on our social media channels and our website.

In March we started a podcast named "Rural Voices" to accompany our events and give some insights from them also for rural young people who were not able to attend.



After the first episode was recorded at the Study Session in Strasbourg, the next episodes were recorded remotely and covered not only the planned event topics but also current topics that were important to our members.

In total we published 6 episodes on Spotify, Apple Podcast and our Website in 2020.

The podcast supports sharing the outcomes of our work plan and reaching a wider public.

Being published on open platforms also makes it available for stakeholders, shareholders, funders and participants. Therefore, it is replacing the end of the year publication.

Towards the end of 2020 we started a Facebook group “Friends of Rural Youth Europe” to give all former or future attendees of our events the possibility to connect.

This possibility was received very well and resulted in irregular online meetings of the group members as well as interaction within the Facebook group.

Rural Youth Europe is supported by the
European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.



Erasmus+



Rural Youth Europe Annual Report 2020

Karjalankatu 2A, 00520,
Helsinki, Finland

Phone: +358 45 2345629

E-mail: office@ruralityoutheurope.com

www.ruralityoutheurope.com