

Rural

Rural
Youth
Europe
.com

01 / 2014

Voices

The Rural Youth Europe Magazine

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at the
Spring
Seminar

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explores
forestry
in Norway
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helping hands
winning the
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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 the 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 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@ruralyouth europe.com or check our website www.ruralyouth europe.com

Rural Voices

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Time for renewal!

You now hold the very first edition of the renewed magazine of Rural Youth Europe in your hand. As you see the name is no longer "INFO" but "Rural Voices", the layout has changed and the structure is different. Giving our magazine a fresh look is only one part of the changes going on right now, also our webpage has a fresh, modern and completely new look, too.



We wanted to change the structure of the magazine to make it come more alive and not look too official and boring - because we obviously want you to want to read it! The main idea now is that there are a couple of deeper articles (as we still don't want to lose the informative side of what is going on in Europe) and then several shorter bitesize pieces of news.

In this edition you can get familiar with an exchange between 4H Norway and the Gambia, and a presentation about the Youth Project of the Year competition. There are also a lot of short updates and notices - how the Rally preparations going, what the designer of this wonderful magazine has to say and what is going on in our member organisations around Europe?

It is with pleasure for me to now encourage you to go exploring! And please meet me again on the last page; I have a little request for you there!

Enjoy!

Emma Silén

Board member group 3

RYEurope's new webpage

When I first heard about the opportunity to work for Rural Youth Europe on developing it's new webpage, I was really excited. Coming from a rural background myself I know the importance of being connected through all possible channels - Internet being one of the main ones. The main requirement for the new webpage was to be user-friendly, youthful and fresh, and yet informative and practical. I hope you agree we have achieved just that. Nevertheless, developing a website is always an ongoing process, because we are always on the lookout to improve pages to be even more efficient in mediating the work of the organisation to it's members. I recommend you visit the page now and then, as new and interesting things will keep appearing!



Our website is also mobile friendly - visit it now by scanning your mobile phone over this QR code!

Lee Rajando
Webpage designer



Rural action all around

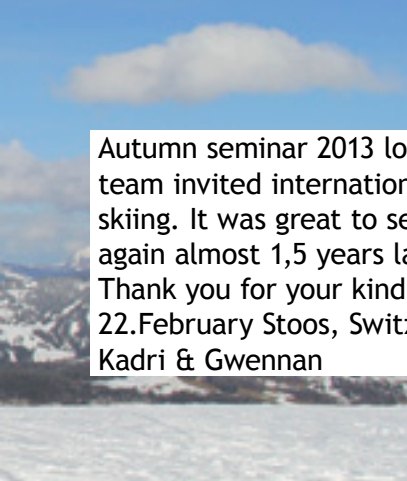
Erasmus+

First Erasmus+ experience

European Commission launched the new programme Erasmus+ in the beginning of 2014. The programme gives similar funding opportunities to that which Youth in Action did in 2007-2013 and much more as it contains several educational sub programmes. LandboUngdom and Danish 4H will host the autumn seminar “Food for the future” in November 2014 and they applied for Erasmus+ funding at the first application deadline in March 2014. The documentation and reporting will in the long run be easier with Erasmus+ compared to Youth in Action. The first time required some extra paperwork, but now that at least one organisation per country has completed this, only a scanned partner document will be needed for future applications. Find out what funding opportunities Erasmus+ has available for your organisation at: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus>

Vice-Chair
Lukas Helfenstein
represented Rural
Youth Europe at
European Youth
Forums Council of
Members 24-27
April 2014 in
Brussels.





Autumn seminar 2013 local prep team invited international prep team skiing. It was great to see everybody again almost 1,5 years later. Thank you for your kind invitation! 22. February Stoos, Switzerland. Kadri & Gwennan

Nordic 4H gathering!

The Nordic 4H organisation leaders meet every half a year to boost the cooperation. This time, 8-9 April 2014, the Norwegian and Swedish 4H leaders flew to Helsinki to meet the both Finnish 4H organisations. They shared a lot of good practice and discussed European and global events. Most of the Nordic 4H members are younger than 18 and on the wish list is a rural youth event for 15-17 year old Europeans. Some ideas on how to do this were brought up, so follow the RYEurope webpage for news on how this develops!

nd Europe

International Year of Family Farming



United Nations has announced 2014 to be the International Year of Family Farming. The campaign aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas. Family Farming issues are relevant for Rural Youth Europe, its members and young people, so we will go deeper into this theme in the autumn and winter edition of Rural Voices magazine, as well as at the European Rally and Autumn Seminar.

Find out more about the campaign at: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/en/>

CEJA meeting in Helsinki

The European Council of Young Farmers' (CEJA) held their Spring Parliament in Helsinki 12-14 February 2014, which was hosted by Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto (MTK).

These days were filled with best rural practice presentations, declaration writing, farm excursions, networking and of course a lot of fun! Thank you MTK and CEJA for inviting some RYEurope representatives!



4H the Gambia was founded in 1987 inspired by 4H Norway. Volunteers from Norway worked at an agricultural school in the Gambia, and from this starting point, exchanges have been a regular activity for the two sister organisations.

Recently two Gambians and two Norwegians worked four months in the Gambia and four months in Norway. Our aim is to make youth aware of the importance of sustainable forestry and we expect to learn much more by working and living together.

4H explores forestry in Norway and the Gambia

6

In September 2013, Fatou S Bah and Musa Chaw arrived in Norway. They had never been abroad, and they were quite nervous. Musa, 26, gives some examples of the differences he found:

“One day we drove over a mountain in Nord-Trøndelag. The Gambia is a quite flat country, with only small hills, so this was my first time at a real mountain. What surprised me was that I saw water flooding down from the mountain, which I have never seen before.

I thought water could be found in river and lakes only, but I see now that water can be stored on top of mountains and flood down to supply rivers.



The second thing to surprise me is that trees and other animals live in these mountains and that the roads goes under the mountain, in tunnels.”

Fatou, 23, usually works as an office assistant for 4H the Gambia and here is one of her experiences from the exchange:

“One day we went to Kvatningen tree plant centre in Namsos, where we met with Trond Sagmo. He told us about the centre, which was privately built in the 1940s. The first greenhouse was built in 1972 and now they have over five greenhouses. Every year they plant four and a half million tree and they grow one

year in greenhouse and one year outside. Then the tree plants can be transplanted and companies buy them. Trond Sagmo told us that the idea of planting trees started in Norway 1920-1930, and now there are 14 tree plant centres all over Norway. Trees grow slowly in the Norwegian climate and sometimes when the trees are transplanted in the forest they are affected by insect, moose and mice. It takes 60-80 years for trees to grow big enough to be used for timber.”

at 5 o'clock in the morning and we live next to the mosque. Another big difference to Norway is that people are very social. One does not need to be close friends to get together to chat, drink tea, listening to music or play checkers. This is by far the thing I like most about The Gambia.”



After Fatou and Musa returned home, two Norwegian 4H representatives continued the exchange project in the Gambia. One of them was the 22 year old student Robert Lampinen Eriksrud, from Oppland in Norway. Here he tells about the experience starting in January 2014: “Finally we are in the Gambia, all four of us. We have rented a small house, in Farafenni Town, situated in North Bank Region. Here we have water in pipes (!) and electricity 8-12 and 18-02. Now everything is turned up-side-down. Musa and Fatou are no longer the foreigners. It is not Fatou or Musa that has to adapt to a new culture, new food and new social rules, now it is Solveig and me. We have both attended 4H short study trip to The Gambia before, so the beginning has been simplified, but still there are many surprises for us. For example the mosque that calls for prayers, five times a day, loudly with speakers. First calling is

PHOTOS:

- The exchange group in a classroom in the Gambia. Solveig Karlsen Bjørlo, Fatou S Bah, Robert L. Eriksrud and Musa Chaw. Photographer: Marie O. Stenstadvold
- Musa Chaw demonstrates a cooking stove that uses less fuel than regular cooking fires. Photo: Marie O. Stenstadvold
- Musa Chaw talks about forestry at a 4H club meeting. Photo: Solveig K. Bjørlo
- Fatou planter trær: Fatou plants seedlings in Norway. Photographer Solveig K. Bjørlo
- Fjelltur: Water runs down the mountain! Photo: Solveig K. Bjørlo
- Musa ser snø: Musa touches snow for the first time. Photo: Solveig K. Bjørlo

Resources:

The group has their own blog:
<http://4hnorga.wordpress.com/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Gambia
www.4h.no

The winner of the Rural Youth Project 2013 is: Rural youth association of SALLA, from Styria - Austria with their project: "We are one big family"



Austria wins the youth project of 2013 competition

8

The members of the rural youth club Salla helped a family in their village who have been hit hard by multiple and severe strokes of fate, where their grandfather and father died and left their wives alone with three young children. For 5 days the members of the club took over their entire family business, a restaurant and fish farm, to enable them a week's break from their usual environment.

The project was well promoted in advance and so many people from the region came to the restaurant during this time. Besides this the members of the club also managed to do some important maintenance work on the farm.

The project gained a big media reputation and newspapers in all regions of Austria wrote about this project, as it shows that lost virtues such as helpfulness, camaraderie and cohesion still exist and are actively practiced by all generations.





WHAT IS THIS?

Youth project of the year competition is targeted at Rural Youth Europe members with the aim of finding innovative and creative projects organised by young people in rural areas. The prize is a Youth Trophy and participation for 2 winning team members to the European Rally.

Ratings were given to each project according to the following criteria:

- Innovation and creativity
- Benefit to the organisation and its members
- Benefit to the local community
- Involvement of young people as volunteers



Slovenian Rural youth association with their project: “President’s rural experience”

To make the general public familiar with the work on a farm, Slovenian Rural Youth association invited the Slovenian president and the minister of agriculture to work on a farm for one day. The programme of the day was planned in cooperation with the president’s office and included milking, shovelling manure, baking, chopping wood and cutting grass. There was also a set time for the media. The project aimed to make the farm work more appreciated and to promote local food and traditions.



RUNNER-UPS



Rural youth NeustadtI, Austria with their project: “Young vegetables - off to the vegetable patch for a good cause”

The Rural youth NeustadtI wanted to start a garden project but as they did not know much about gardening, they gathered valuable tips and advice from parents and grandparents and also from garden literature. Many were impressed by the plans but also sceptical about their endurance. The municipal administration provided a centrally located piece of land which needed to be turned into a field. A garden fence, a plastic tunnel and a garden shed were built. The group received plants and garden tools for free from garden companies in the area. With a lot of enthusiasm they started with laying potatoes and sowing and planting vegetables and flowers. For the hot summer months they appointed two people for each week to be responsible for garden care. Despite bad weather conditions they made their vegetables and flowers grow richly, and by June they were selling their produce.



OTHER EXCELLENT PROJECTS



Landjugend Waldviertel,
Austria: Helping an
orphanage in Romania

Porin 4H-yhdistys, Finland:
“Gather2Gether winter edition”



4H Jyväskylä,
Finland: “Shake it”



Macra na Feirme, Ireland:
“European Young Farmers
Conference”



Latvian 4H: “Four
values for your life”



Konneveden 4H-yhdistys,
Finland: “Be Aware!”



Rural club vrsnik-
ledine, Slovenia:
“Tanja žakelj’s ascent”

Gwenno Griffith, Wales:
“12 Peaks Challenge”



Lylehill Young Farmers’
Club, Northern Ireland:
“Community Christmas
Carol Concert”





The Rural Youth Europe Board

✓ Liked Message * ▾

The Rural Youth Europe Board has a maximum of seven members. The member organisations of Rural Youth Europe are divided into four geographical regions and each of the regions has a representative in the Board. The countries in the regions take turns in nominating a Board member. The current representatives for the regions are:

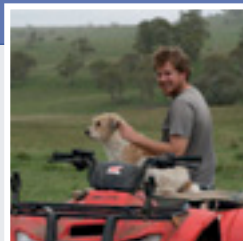
- Russell Carrington, England, for group 1. UK and Ireland,
- Rok Roblek, Slovenia, for group 2. Central Europe,
- Emma Silén, Finland, for group 3. Nordic Countries, and
- Linda Medne, Latvia, for group 4. Eastern Europe.

Besides the regional representatives, the Board currently has Kadri Toomingas as Chairperson and Lukas Helfenstein as Vice-Chairperson. The term of service in the Board is 2 years. The Board meets 3-4 times per year, has at least as many Skype meetings, and handle running tasks regularly over email. Throughout the year, the Board implements decisions taken at the Rural Youth Europe annual General Assembly.

TWO BOARD MEMBERS RECENTLY CAUGHT UP ON FACEBOOK...



Lukas Helfenstein :: Russell Carrington



LH: Hey Russ, how are you?

RC: Hi Lukas, I'm good how are you?

LH: Great. How are you finding it on the RYEurope board after nearly one year?

RC: It's really fantastic. We have some great board members from across Europe and they are brilliant to work with. It is an amazing team.

LH: Good to hear that you enjoy. At what events will you represent the board this year?

RC: I will be at the Rally in Wales in the summer and then the Autumn Seminar in Denmark - both of which I'm really looking forward to. Which events will you be at?

LH: Recently I was at the Spring Seminar in Budapest, Hungary and of course I'll also be at the Rally in Wales. It is essential that board members are present at these events to support the host organisations.

RC: Yes, I agree. Will you be representing RYEurope at any other events with our partner organisations during the year?

LH: In April I was in Brussels for COMEM (Council of members) of YFJ (European Youth Forum), which is the platform of almost 100 youth organisations in Europe. It gives access to information, supporting activities, networking and advocacy for common interests. It is important to be involved on European level and to cooperate with other organisations for the benefit of our own members. How do you find our board meetings so far?

RC: They are very productive and it is useful to meet up face to face between our Skype calls and the events. Physical meetings also give us the chance to meet up with member organisations.

LH: Yes it is a great opportunity to get to know them better and learn more about their current projects. During our last meeting in Belfast we even had a chance to meet a previous RYEurope Chairman, Robin Swann, who now is a member of parliament in Northern Ireland! I found it very interesting to talk with him about the past of RYEurope and compare it to now.

RC: Yes, it was fascinating. The fact we also had the chance to have a chat over coffee with MEP Jim Nicholson was a precious experience. I am very happy to be a part of this RYEurope family. When will I see you next?

LH: I think next time will be at the Rally.

RC: Excellent, see you then!



Finlands svenska 4H

Our member Emilia Granqvist is the member of the year in Finlands svenska 4H. Every year a young and active member is selected to be the Member of the Year of Finlands svenska 4H. Emilia participated in the European Rally 2013 and the Spring Seminar 2014.

News from our members



Schweizerische Landjugendvereinigung

The rural youth in Switzerland passed an interesting day around milk: organic milk, robotic milking system and buffalo milk. The buffalo farms are special and rare in Switzerland.



Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs

Scottish Association of Young Farmers'

The Scottish Association of Young Farmers has launched a new Health and Safety initiative, which highlights how to prevent and manage the hazards surrounding those in rural areas. It uses real life case studies and photographs so members can relate to the scenarios



Latvijas Jauno Zemnieku klubs

Latvian Young farmers clubs organised an exchange trip in Latvia and visited 8 farmers. In the picture you can see a few members at a sheep farm, happily enjoying life at the second day of the trip at 8 o'clock in the morning.

More news from our members

CFFI Cymru

Wales YFC hosts the biggest YFC party during the week of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, where 15,000 young people will descend upon the Young Peoples Village.



4H Norge

The first weekend in April 450 4Hers from Rogaland, Norway, participated in Storkurs. Among the 27 courses they could choose workshops about sheep, traditional food, volleyball, football, handball, chainsaw, dance classes, card making, felting, trouser painting, flower decoration, cake decorating and theatre sports!



Landjugend Österreich

We are one big family - With this slogan the rural youth club Salla in Austria helped a family over one year and won the Rural Youth Project competition. Also in 2014 they will do more than 200 projects all over Austria! For more Details:

www.tatortjugend.at





4H Danmark

“4H Ungelandsmoede”: The first annual meeting in 4Hs new Youth Council. It is a congress for 4H members between 14-25 years old.



LandboUngdom

“pri-Lundbaek”: The winners of the Danish Championship Ploughing Contest for Schools. LandboUngdom was the arranger of the contest.



Young Farmers’ Clubs of Ulster

Young Farmers’ Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) members presented a cheque to Sandra Gordon and Maeve Colgan from Cancer Focus NI at the YFCU AGM & Conference. YFCU raised an amazing £15,000 for the charity through their fundraising ‘Don’t Shave in November’ moustache campaign and sponsored walk at the Rural Women in Business seminar at Stormont in October.



National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

The National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs in England and Wales are launching a new campaign called Rural+ which will focus on tackling rural isolation and mental health issues for young people in rural areas.



The prep-team behind the action

Once upon a time in

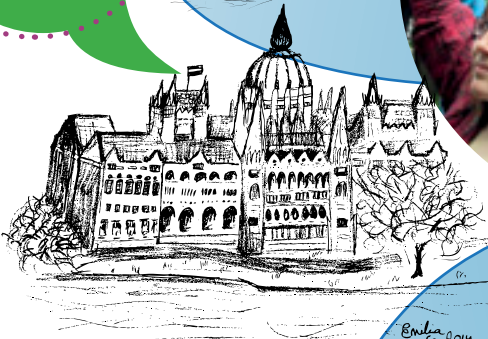
Building a team



“Some went skinny dipping, shame it was only 3 guys...”



“Let’s go to Hooters!”
- Mari



16

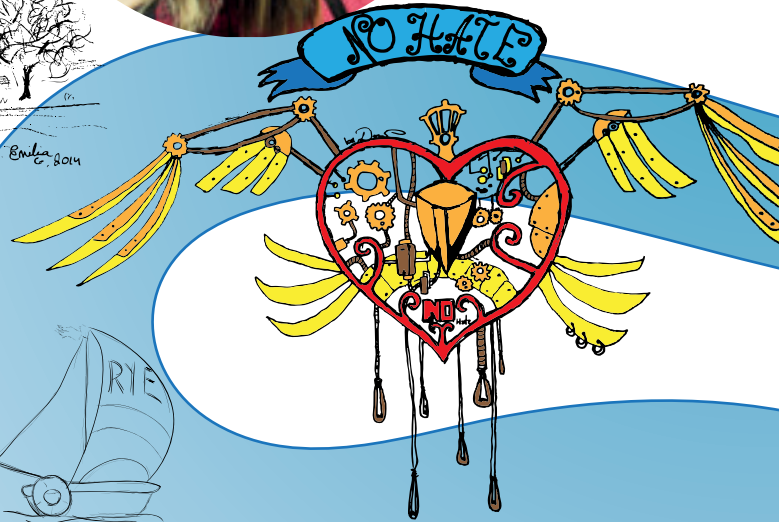
“In the jungle, the mighty jungle,
the lion’s sleep tonight”

the song of the week



... the Finnish and the Irish heated the sauna at 3 am...

...there were seminar delegates on the river...



007 ... forget about James Bond, it’s all about Power, Jim Power, the man with all the lines, all the girls and all the kisses... from the guys...



Rebuilding the European Story

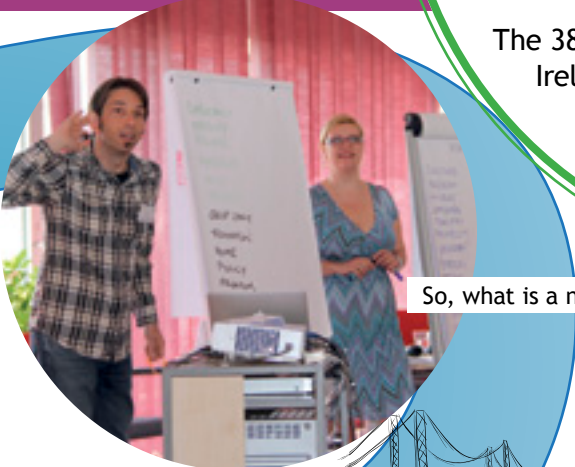
The study session was organised together with European Confederation of Youth Clubs 4-11 May 2014 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

The aim of the study session was to explore, share, and develop competences of storytelling as a tool for intercultural communication reassessing European identity among young people in the changing world.

Storytelling was the main method and it was used in many different ways.

The 38 participants and team members came from Ireland in the west to Azerbaijan in the east and 13 other countries in between!

Buda...



So, what is a nation?



“There is a difference between Costa Rica and Kosteä Riiikka!” -Aris

Read more about the Spring Seminar

NEXT
PAGE



“I could never imagine storytelling to be so educational!”



SO, HOW WAS
THE SPRING
SEMINAR?

FUUUUNNN!!!

- Amazing! Really, really good. I would totally recommend it.
- Wow, that sounds great! What did you do?
- Well... it was a week-long study seminar exploring things like identity, nationality, history, politics, myth, legend, conflict, youth problems, extremism, shared values, story-telling ... It was a lot of fun.
- Fun?
- It's hard to explain but it really was brilliant fun.
- 'Identity ... history, politics... values.' Fun?
- I should start again. During the daytime, we were learning about all these various things and then, at night, there were loads of different activities.
- Ok cool. Like what?
- Like ... TOTAL NINJA DISTRUCTION! It's a brilliant game.



- Ninja?
- Ya. It was ...
- But everyone there was an adult, weren't they?
- Yes, but ...
- So it was a bunch of adults, playing 'Ninja'?
- Yes but it was a load of ...
- Fun? Ya, you said that.
- But there were other games too!

- Like?
- Like 'The Kissing Game'!
- The WHAT?
- That was my initial reaction too but it was actually a lot of ...
- Let me guess - fun? Was it like Spin-the-Bottle?
- Oh no, no, no. It was nothing like that. Everyone had to pull a name out of a hat and that person was your kissing-target. You had to kiss them without anyone seeing or anyone catching you before you could move onto your next target. Whoever had the most 'kills' without getting caught, won.
- That sounds ... kind of ... illegal.*
- On no, it wasn't anything sinister at all. It was just a way of getting to know all these new people
- By kissing them?
- When you say it like that, it sounds weird. Let me give you another example.
- Ok.
- During the day, we gave presentations, did role-plays, made news, told stories, created myths, looked at the world around us, discussed opinions ...
- Sounds kind of like school...

WHAAATT???

UNBELIEVABLY
CENSORED

- But it didn't feel like it at all. It was easy-going and natural and enjoyable. Very positive! People even gave each other random massages!
- What? Massages? You're joking.
- No, apparently that's what they do up north. So everyone was doing it by the end of the week.
- Massaging each other?
- Not in THAT WAY!
- Riiiiiiight.
- It was an incredible week but it's very difficult to explain.
- I'm getting that.

Rally preparations

On the weekend of the 25th - 27th April the international and Welsh prep team for the rally met at the rally venue, Margam Discovery Centre. Aims for the meeting were: to get to know each other, look around the venue, go through the programme and plan workshops. Over the weekend we had great discussions and group work when planning the rally workshops. The programme is looking really exciting and we are organising for all the participants to get involved during rally week in August.

See you in Wales, Port Talbot, Margam Discovery Centre!
Rally Prep Team



What's next?

The Rural Youth Europe General Assembly 2014 will take place on 14th of August in Cardiff, Wales!

Nordic 4H Camp 2015

The Finnish 4H hosts the traditional Nordic 4H camp on 23rd -30th July 2015. All RYEurope member organisations are eligible to send campers to Finland. Fabulous place offers great setting for meeting other young people from all over the world. The theme is 4H MOVING THE WORLD. Planning the camp is in the hands of our international team and group of 30 young people, with great experience already on organising events.



Designer at your service

I am honoured to take the position to design the new look of the RYEurope magazine! Design is not my profession, but my passion, and so I take the challenge with great excitement while looking forward to receiving your feedback! It has been a fun journey to create the new look, with fresh and modern ideas; I am looking forward to working on the next editions!
Júlia Hentz

So, what do you think? Now you have read the magazine - maybe it's time to get familiar with the new homepage as well? Check it out at ruralyoutheurope.com

We are more than happy to hear what you think, is there something we should consider to make either the magazine or the webpage easier to read? Your comments are more than welcome to office@ruralyoutheurope.com
Emma

9-16 August 2014, Port Talbot, 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.

Calendar

27 October - 2 November 2014, Seoul, South Korea

Youth : Harnessing the Power to Change the World

This global summit is for networking, competence building and strengthening 4-H and other rural organisations. Rural Youth Europe's members have the chance to send up to four delegates per organisation. Follow the Rural Youth Europe webpage for more information.



1-8 November 2014, Ribe, Denmark



The theme of this activity is sustainable food production and it aims to improve the awareness of development in food production. The objectives are that the young rural participants challenge their way of thinking of traditional food production by sharing innovation and good practice of sustainable food production. They understand the global food situation and the necessary development of food production, interact with the hosting and sending communities to raise awareness about the consumer's responsibility of the food production chain, and state rural food producer's role in the national and European community and democratic field.

