

Rural

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Voices

The Rural Youth Europe Magazine

European
Rally
returned to
Wales

14

Family
farmers
around
Europe tell
their stories

6

Get to
know the
new Board
members

12



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@ruralyouthurope.com or check our website www.ruralyouthurope.com

Rural Voices

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CONTENT

3 Editors note

4-5 Going on in Europe

Meeting up with ECYC
Once an IFYE, always an IFYE
Greetings from Nordic colleagues!
Lately in England:

6-9 Family farming

10 Member greetings

11 Our General Assembly

Kadri's thank you text

12-13 New Board

14-17 European Rally returned to Wales

18-19 Updates

Rural Youth Project of the Year invitation
Next event coming up is the AUTUMN SEMINAR!
Shake it - Experience in Jyväskylä
Here are some pictures from Latvian Young Latvian Young Farmers' had an active summer!

20 Calendar

Time for new challenges

Change is something many people are afraid of and it's easier to focus on what you have rather than search for a new challenge. Still, the hardest part is to let go of the old.

There have been lots of changes in my life recently. One of those was the decision to finish my part-time job at the Rural Youth Europe office. I felt the time was right for me to move on and look for new challenges. The decision was made easy to me, though, since the Finnish 4H Federation asked me if I was interested to join the board of their European umbrella organisation, Rural Youth Europe. I accepted the nomination and was successfully elected as a Board member at the General Assembly held in August in Cardiff.

In this second edition of the newly launched Rural Voices, you can meet the rest of the board. We also agreed to continue the News from our members section where our member organisations share projects they are working with.

I encourage you all to look for new challenges, and more importantly tell us about them so we can share them in this magazine. Enjoy reading Rural Voices magazine.

Mikko Väitalo
Board member
Group 3



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



Youth
in Action



Meeting up with ECYC

Our partner organisation from this year's Spring Seminar, European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC), held their General Assembly in Helsinki 13-15 June 2014. Our Secretary General Pia Nurmio-Perälä met casually with ECYC's former President and colleague from the Spring Seminar, Elena Lotrean, ECYC's Secretary General Rares Craiut and their GA delegates. Congratulations and good luck to the newly selected ECYC Bureau with Tor Haave from Norway as current President!

Going on in Europe

Once an IFYE, always an IFYE

As I've been to the IFYE conferences in the previous years, so of course I couldn't miss it this year, when it was hosted by the German IFYEs. Every year the conference is a great chance to meet up with old and new IFYE friends from across Europe and to spend a busy but entertaining week full of fun, excursions and parties at the annual IFYE reunion. Just as the past conferences, also the German hosts organised a fabulous program. It started with the "Kindezeche", an important folk festival in the region and later during the week we could choose between varieties of different excursions to historical sites, relaxing tours to the beach or visits to interesting companies. Also the evenings and nights were busy with many unique parties, entertainment and games. And of course we also celebrated our own Oktoberfest.

All too soon, a busy week came to an end and everyone is looking forward to the next IFYE reunion for a new action packed week. And just as the IFYE slogan, "Once an IFYE, always an IFYE", says, I will definitely also go to the IFYE conference in Scotland next year.





Rural Youth Europe congratulates Finlands Svenska 4H on their 85th anniversary. Keep up the good work with the Finnish children and youth!



Greetings from Nordic colleagues!

Most of the Nordic 4H organisations, as well as many Nordic sport and cultural organisations, are members of the Nordic umbrella organisation Nordisk Samorganisation for Ungdomsarbejde (NSU). This year their largest event was the Nordic Youth Week for youngsters aged 13-19 in 28.7-2.8 in Arendal, Norway hosted by Frilynt. The event was combined with the host's national Splash camp, so in addition to the 50 Nordic participants there were also 250 Norwegian youngsters. Theatre, film, dance and music were the main parts of the programme. Right after that, 4-10.8, was NSU's Leader School hosted by Føroya Ungdómsráð on Faroe Island. This is a training on leadership for 30 18+ youngsters and included much outdoor activities in the beautiful landscape. The main language on NSU events is Scandinavian, which is a free mixture of Swedish, Danish and Norwegian.



Lately in England:

Chairman of the NFYFC, Claire Worden, celebrated her year in style in mid August at the Eden Project in Cornwall, England with a ball attracting young farmers from all over England and Wales.



Moorcourt Farm

Chris Price
from Moorcourt Farm
Herefordshire, England

<https://www.facebook.com/moorcourtfruitltd>

Family farming

1. You're a farmer family, but who in your family actually works in the farm?

2. How much land and how many animals do you have at the farm? What are you producing?

3. Why do you want to be a farmer?

4. What is the special about your farm?

5. What are the challenges of being a farmer?

1. • I am 29 and I am the third generation to live and work on this farm. Mum does the paperwork and administration duties. Dad and I do everything else and gradually I'm taking over more of the management decisions from him.

• We farm 200 hectares in total. Of that we have 8 hectares of cherries, 1 hectare of Blueberries, 50 hectares of cider apples, 100 hectares of cereal crops and the rest is grass for our cattle. We have between 200 and 250 cattle at any one time for beef. **2.**

3. • I find it very exciting. Every day is different, every day I'm learning something new and developing the business a bit more. I love working outside and working with nature. It's great to follow our crops and livestock through the seasons and get a reward at the end.

• We can grow a wide range of crops here on our medium-heavy loam soil. The seasons are also quite late so this helps us with our marketing, especially the cherries where we can sell them at the end of the season when other farmers have finished. **4.**

5. • The biggest challenge is definitely the weather, it can make a big difference to our yields. The other challenge is world commodity markets affecting our end prices. Both of these things are out of our control so we have to try and minimise their impact.

• We don't find that European legislation is a big deal. We have to comply with it anyway and it supports best practise. Our fruit is grown to supply local markets in the UK so at least some of our crops are resistant to international competition. **6.**

• I want to expand the business a bit more to reach a sustainable size and secure it for the future. I want to maintain the family farming ethos which we have here. **7.**

8. • There is no right or wrong way, but take advantage of what you have. For example your soil type or the climate you live in might be a useful strength for your business, or the fact you might be near to cities where you can market your produce and add value.

• I got married on this farm last summer during a really busy time. It was crazy but worth it! I think it has been a real privilege to grow up here and it has provided me with a great start for my career. **9.**



Köchl



Michael Köchl west from Villach in Carinthia under the mountain Dobratsch

Carinthia is the most southern federal state of Austria.

This year is United Nation's International Year of Family Farming. The slogan for the theme year is "feeding the world, caring for the earth." To celebrate the IYFF, Rural Voices magazine presents four family farms from the member countries of Rural Youth Europe. Let's take a look on the everyday life and future plans of family farms from the England, Austria, Finland and Latvia!

6. How does the European legislation and international competition affect your farm?

7. What is your vision to develop the farm in the future?

8. What is your advice for young farmers?

9. Is there any special moment or event from the farm that you'd like to share with our readers?

1. • The family consists of Josef (52), Gabriele (51), my sister Juliana (21) and me, Michael (24). Also the senior farmers Josef (86) and Albine (77) live on the farm. Our farm is led part-time. My father Josef works full time as a clerk and my mother Gabriele half-time. I study agricultural economics and work as the head for rural youth in Carinthia. My sister Juliana studies mathematics and Italian. Every family member helps and works at the farm. The men focus on hard manual work, for example in the woods and with the machines. The women are helping in the stable, in the garden and managing the household. In the summer most of the cattle are on the pastures and in the mountains, which lessens the work in the stable and makes it faster to handle. But on the other hand the work on the fields has to be done during this time.

• The farm has a traditional Austrian structure with around 30 cattle and 15 pigs. Around 10 cows are held on the farm and the production is focused on meat. The whole milk the cattle produces is used by the calves. The area of production is spitted between so that 15 hectares are agricultural and 20 hectares forestal areas. **2.**

3. • For me personally, it's a really good feeling to live and work in and with the nature. We have long traditions in agriculture and I want to focus and continue on it.

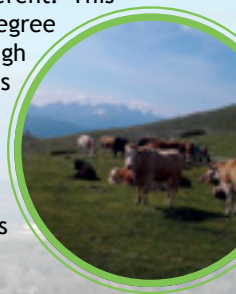
4. • Family farming has a huge value for us. Everybody is involved! Cattle and wood are our two main pillars.

5. • The common opinion nowadays about farmers is mostly not a positive one. Years ago the situation was different. This must change again. The degree of mechanisation is high nowadays and the work is not so hard anymore. Farms with animals have their daily work in the stable and that's why we are not so flexible considering holidays and such things.

• I think that EU and its' legislation has a huge impact on farming within the member states. The regulations and guidelines are implicating also a lot of bureaucracy, but it makes agriculture controllable, for example considering food security and hygiene. **6.**

7. • My vision is to have an agriculture, which is sustainable and economic as well. I have a positive view for the next years. We should always keep in mind that farmers are responsible for the food production and feed the population. And this is a great reason why farming should have a higher value in our society.

• Being innovative is my advice for young farmers. They should be self-confident and open minded. **8.**



Amy and Kasper Lindroos

Vestlax Mellangård
Vestlax, Kimitoön, Finland



Vestlax Mellangård

1. • Vestlax Mellangård is run by the husband and wife team - Kasper and Amy Lindroos. I took over the farm from my parents this January, which means that we are in our first full season of managing the farm. We work closely with my parents Rabbe (60) and Hannele Lindroos (56). Amy (27) works with the farm as well and preforms a variety of tasks. Kasper's brother Einar (23) who is a construction engineer is also currently working at Vestlax Mellangård in building projects.
2. • On the farm, we raise pigs for meat production, grow grains such as barley, rye and wheat, farm forest for the Finnish forest industry and rent out modern cottages for tourists. The farm has 150 hectares of field, 600 hectares of forest.
3. • I wanted to be a farmer so that I could continue the 300 year-old tradition in farming that has been running through my family here at Vestlax Mellangård. We both thought that working on the farm was a good lifestyle choice for us since we like working closely with nature and being able to see the effects of our work.
4. • What is special about our farm is that it has been running through the Lindroos family for at least 300 years.
5. • The challenges of being a farmer are similar to those of any small, family run business and mostly surround finances. Farming is dependent on large investments in machines, land and time and yields very little return.
6. • European legislation as well as international competition has a direct impact on the possibilities to run a farm in Finland. Finnish farms are very dependent on the levels of the subsidies paid by the EU and subsidies that the EU allows the Finnish government to pay to its' farmers.
7. • Our goal is to develop the farm in a direction of generating a higher return on the invested capital, while still paying attention to the fact that this farm has been in the family for more than 300 years.
8. • Use the opportunities that increased co-operation could create. Especially in Finland individual farms are too small to be operating by themselves. Share machines to make them work on bigger areas, come up with good practices on splitting the work with your neighbour and so on.

These interesting stories shows that families work closely together to make their farms productive and sustainable for the future. It's sometimes hard work and volatile to the vagaries of nature and the world economy, but not as difficult

Gundega Jēkabsons Geidas Tukuma county, Džūkstes parish in Latvia

The region is called Zemgale,
“Latvian granary”, because the
land there is very fertile.



Geidas

1. • The owners of the family are Oskars (42) and me, Gundega (41). We have two children Anda (23) and Roland (20). Oscar is responsible for technical matters and I take responsibility of documents. I also work with visiting tourists and handle official matters. The whole family takes care of the animals.
2. • We're an organic dairy farm, so we also produce all the necessary fodder for the animals. Currently we have 17 dairy cows and 18 rearing heifers. We have around 10 hectares of forest and 100 hectares of land of which 30 hectares is natural grasslands and 50 perennial grasses, pasture, hay and silage. We also have about 20 hectares of cereals, winter wheat, barley and oats.
 - Farming provides an excellent opportunity to work with children and lead a simple life. It gives us the chance to build our own environment and to be in nature, all together. 3.
4. • We are open to visitors who wish to explore organic dairy farming. We offer a tour called “Milky Way” to children in which we introduce the production process of milk. I'm also a 4H club leader in Džūkste and every summer we organise a small 4H summer camp in our farm where children get to participate in various environmental and sustainable management classes.
 - Cooperation with nature. Our whole life and business is exposed to the rhythms of nature, the laws of nature and its' vagaries. 5.
6. • In the greatest extent. Almost all agriculture regulatory legislation is harmonised with the EU regulations and directives. Also, we are dairy farmers, and just this year Latvia threatened with penalties if farmers exceed the milk quota. 6.
7. • Right now our farm is at crossroads and looking for a way to go further. A lot depends on our son and his choices, but he still has to finish his agriculture studies at the university. Perhaps we will diversify our farm production and develop another industry, sheeps, for example. 7.
8. • Don't be afraid to become farmers. In Latvia there's a stereotype that being a farmer is very hard work. But the Latvian agriculture has in the last 20 years gone through the way of modernization. Work in agriculture can be interesting and exciting!
9. • One special event was when the European Parliament member Albert Dess, who is considered as the most influential EP Agriculture Committee Members, visited our farm during his visit to Latvia in 2012. As for moments, it's hard to name one special moment, because cause we have lots of them. 9.

as people usually think. Being a farmer is a life style choice that bears fruit in the long run!

Read longer versions of the interviews from our website:
www.ruralyoutheurope.com

The Rural Youth Europe General Assembly 2014 was held on the 14th of August in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom. The day started with evaluation workshops on the Development Plan 2011-2013 and the actual General Assembly meeting took place in the afternoon.

A Nordic proposal of arranging a seminar for youth under 18 years old was warmly welcomed by the GA delegates. The Nordic organisations start the preparations immediately and the event will take place in 2015. The General Assembly also approve proposals for the Autumn Seminar 2016 to be hosted by Norwegian 4H and the Rally 2017 to be hosted by Latvian 4H.

Our General Assembly



The Development Plan evaluation was constructive and interactive. Good results were listed and the GA delegates came with ideas on how to improve the Rural Youth Project competition, how to strengthen and gain more memberships, and how to attract more participants to our events. The results of the workshops were presented at the General Assembly and the new Board will take them into consideration when implementing the current Development Plan.

The General Assembly agenda consisted of many regular paragraphs, such as presentation of the previous year's outcomes and financial results and next year's events and budget. The Board presented an updated version of the Guidelines of Hosting Events, in which some changes were made before it got approved. Another Board proposal was to start using the round Rural Youth Europe logo as the official one, instead of the one with three stars. The new logo has already been used in parallel with the old one since 2011 in PR material and recently also on the new webpage and magazine. Using only the new logo would be an advantage for marketing the organisation. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

A new Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected every second year. The two year term of the acting chairman Kadri Toomingas, Estonia, ended after the Rally and the General Assembly elected Lukas Helfenstein, Switzerland as new Chairman. He has been Vice-Chairman for the last two-year period. Linda Medne, Latvia, moved from Regional Board representative of group 4 to the Vice-Chairman post. This gave space for a new Board member of group 4, Zane Šteinberga. Rok Roblek, Slovenia, from group 2 and Emma Silén, Finland, from group 3, ended their 2-year period in the Board. The new Board member elected for group 2 was Sebastian Lassnig, Austria, and for group 3 Mikko Välitälo, Finland. Congratulations to the new Board and a warm thank you to the Board members stepping down for all the work they have done during the past years!

The General Assembly agreed to held the next General Assembly on the 30th of July 2015 in Austria. Rural Youth Europe is thankful to Wales Young's Farmer's Clubs and the European Rally team who were of big help in the General Assembly arrangements!



Hello my friends,

For me it has been eight wonderful years with Rural Youth Europe and five very busy and productive years as a board member.

During this time I have been actively participating and organising different events. I just counted that the rally in Wales this summer was my 15th Rural Youth Europe event. If I was to also add here all the meetings and other events I have been to on behalf of Rural Youth Europe, then the number is even more!

It has been a very interesting life during these eight years and I know that you are all wondering what I have gotten out of it...

Firstly, I could say that my family has grown a lot: it now includes hundreds of people, who I have met since my first Rural Youth Europe event in 2006. I think I am one of the luckiest people on earth because I have had the opportunity to work with so many great leaders all over Europe. I have learned so many new things from all the people I have met on my journey. I have had opportunity to visit many countries and organisations, it has been a very useful and inspiring journey.



I would like to thank all the board members who have been working with me during the past five years. I think your commitment and passion has been exceptional. I wish Lukas all the best for his next 2 years as the chairman, I know that he will be a great one.

And finally a big thank you for all the prep teams I have worked with through the years, and also all the participants.

I had the time of my life with you all.

See you somewhere, and you are Welcome to Estonia!

Yours,

Kadri Toomingas

*Chairman of Rural Youth Europe
(August 2012 - August 2014)*

Lukas Helfenstein

Chairperson
Switzerland



Linda Medne

Vice-Chairperson
Latvia

Russell Carrington

Regional Board Representative
of Group 1
England



New Board

Energetic,
open minded,
reliable.

I grew up and still live on my family's dairy farm. I enjoy spending time outside in the nature.

During my IFYE exchange in Northern Ireland I got infected with the Young Farmers and the rural youth spirit, which made me to join Swiss rural youth. Soon I became a very active member.

I started with the Rally 2010 in Sweden and haven't missed any since then. I've also been to two Spring Seminars and several meetings.

There are lots of great memories. Spending time with all the wonderful people from rural Europe, having legendary parties and awesome games is again and again great fun.

Gaining a fascinating awareness of the variety of rural life in across Europe and making friendships for life to celebrate many more reunions and reminisce all the wonderful events with Rural Youth Europe.

Dedicated,
open-minded,
impulsive.

I live in a village and work with young people from rural areas. I also have a small garden where I grow some vegetables and flowers, fruits and herbs.

I have been a member of the Latvian 4H since 2000. From 2009 to 2013 I was a National Board member, but now I'm a leader of a local 4H Club.

I have been in two events as a participant and in three as a prep-team member.

Can't tell the funniest, but I can say the best was when I had my birthday in the Slovenian Rally.

I aim to improve my negotiation skills and critical thinking. But nevertheless I'm open to all new experiences that will come in the next two years. I aim to improve my negotiation skills and critical thinking. But nevertheless I'm open to all new experiences that will come in the next two years.

Ambitious,
calm,
adventurous

I live on the family farm where I have lived all of my life. I now run a UK-wide farmers cooperative.

I have been a chairman of my local club, have held and continue with a number of positions in my area and am now chairman of the England & Wales Agriculture & Rural Issues steering group for the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

I have been a participant at two events (Spring Seminar Strasbourg and Rally Poland) and been on the prep team for two rallies and two Autumn Seminars, and soon a third Autumn seminar!

Though one to answer! I think it has to be jumping in the cold lake in Switzerland during the Autumn seminar 2012.

I hope to improve my leadership skills, meet new people and understand different cultures. But I also want to make sure I help our members across Europe have great experiences too!

Which three adjectives describes you the best?

How are you connected to rural lifestyle?

What is your background in your local and national organisation?

How many Rural Youth Europe events have you participated in?

What is the most fun moment you have experienced with Rural Youth Europe?

What experience do you hope to gain from being in the Board?



Sebastian Lassnig

Regional Board Representative of Group 2
Austria

Enthusiastic, spontaneous, ambitious.

I've been connected with the rural lifestyle since I was a kid due to the fact that I grew up in small rural town. Even if I moved to the city to study, there I'm still really connected with rural lifestyle and the nature.

I'm a member of my organization since 2006. From 2010 to 2011 my team and I started to organize international youth exchange projects, such as Erasmus+. This was the first time when I really came into touch with other European youth groups and RYEurope. During the last eight years I have gained a lot of experience in local, federal, national and international youth work.

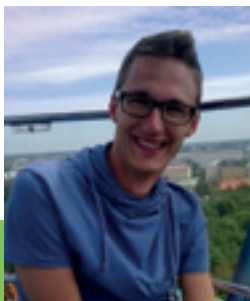
I participated in the Spring Seminar.

I had the funniest time playing a game called "Total Ninja Destruction" in the Spring Seminar. We played it everywhere, on public squares, in bars and so on and got a bit addicted to the game. Just imagine 40 people standing around in a huge circle behaving like ninjas... Trust me, it's funny!

I really hope that I can grow my horizon and personality within the next two years in the board. I'm looking forward to meet new people from all over Europe and make a lot of friends.

Mikko Välitalo

Regional Board Representative of Group 3
Finland



Active, responsible, calm.

I have always lived in a city, but through my organisation I meet many young people living in rural areas.

Since 2001 I have been an active member of the 4H. Nowadays, I'm involved in many projects in local, national and international level.

I have been in three events, Rallies in Estonia (2009) and Sweden (2010) and the Spring seminar (2011) in France.

I met my best friend in one of the Rallies.

Challenging myself, networking, new friends, experiences and skills I could use later.



Zane Šteinberga

Regional Board Representative of Group 4
Latvia

Responsible, capable team-player, positive.

My family has a summer countryside house 60 km from Riga. My biggest connection to rural lifestyle was being around all kinds of animals in my childhood. Now there's only orchard, garden and some natural grassland left.

Over the last two years I have taken part in organising several events like forums, seminars, conferences, camps, and other similar events. In May I became the leader of Latvian 4-H volunteers.

European Rally 2014 was my first meeting with RYEurope and I fell in love at the first sight. I loved all the atmosphere and people there.

As this year has been my first meeting with RYEurope, my fun moment is from European Rally 2014. *Discovision*, it was really funny!

Being in the Board is a big challenge for me! Over the last two years I have taken part in the Latvian 4-H, which is a national organization and now it's RYEurope, a regional organization.

European Rally was held in Wales in 1964, and 50 years later Rally returned to Wales. A new generation, another venue and a different programme - but the rural young people kept up the same high spirit!



European Rally

European Rally 2014 was held 9-16 August at Margam Discovery Centre, Port Talbot, Wales involving nearly a hundred young people. The inhabitants of Port Talbot have lately had difficult times as the town's mining and other industries shut down and the unemployment rate is rising. Many industrial towns around Europe are in the same situation. This was the background of this year's Rally title: "Tomorrows World - Creating a sustainable future for you, your organisation and your rural community". Even if there are many challenges along with the financial crisis, the sessions at the Rally aimed to inspire young people to create a brighter future. One day was about personal development, another about the organisations' capacity and a third about what young people can achieve in the community. The programme included short, energetic workshop on the theme, and many hands-on activities where the participants got introduced to local companies and creative organisations. A success was Discovery Time in the afternoon, where the participants could set up their own workshops to share skills of handicraft, dance, sports and much more.

The Welsh preparation team was rather large and impressively coordinated. Everyone had their clear role and Rally Chair Aled Jones looked over the whole process. The Irish team member gave valuable advice from last year's Rally and Austrian representatives were present to carry on Rally traditions to next year's Rally. Also the participants had a chance to send their wishes to Rally 2015 hosts and some are mentioned here.

The opening speech reminded us about that a Rally event took place in Wales also 50 years ago and that the first Rally was held in 1960. Many traditions has been formed along the Rally history, like ringing the Rally bell at the opening and closing ceremonies, a day of homestays in local families, farm excursions and fun evening programme. Still, every Rally is different. It is important that the Rally is based on the host's local reality and that the local and international preparation team members develop the content together.

THANK YOU team and participants for making the European Rally 2014 unforgettable and we already look forward to new Rally adventures 1-8 August 2015 in Austria!



The event is opened by ringing the Rally bell



returned to Wales

The Rally brought together old and new friends.


Greetings from the Polish Rally team

For one week in August 2014 we had an intensive but productive meeting. The Rally gave self-confidence and more competencies for the rural youth to improve their position. We have met interesting people and heard many interesting stories about IFYE. We have had amazing excursions and some cool competitions. We also had the chance to discuss and find solutions to the active participation of young people of rural areas.



The participants tried out local outdoor activities





“You organisers did a really good job so you can be proud!”

“Although we come from very different countries, there are many similarities!”

Participants’ comments about Rally

“We learned how to be a good leader and motivate yourself. We also learned how to aim your goals and reach them.”

“Fantastic week, well organised and top class prep team. Met lots of great people and learned a lot!”

“Wales is a beautiful country!”

“External speakers were amazing!”

“This event has been a good combination of learning by doing while having fun at the same time.”

Evaluation was made in different formations.



Finnish participants

Letters to Austria

Dear Austrian Rally 2015 prep team,

We think that the Rally will be great and our suggestions are the following: variety of different foods, spacious rooms, lots of trips and study visits, send the participants a very detailed time table of the week, events, keep sessions short, simple and interesting, free time for getting to know each other, ensure workshops are linked to delegate organisations.

We wish you the very best with your rally preparation and look forward to seeing you in 2015.



Estonian participants

Visitors at Margam Discovery Centre can get familiar with farm animals



Dear Austrian hosts,

Looking forward to your Rally next year! Important things for next year: the food, accommodation, local interaction and socialising. It would be nice to try traditional Austrian food. It's a great idea not to have to pack bed linen, more room in the suitcase! International nights would be a way to help socialising between people and keep in Discovision concept!

17



Youth
in Action



Next event coming up is the AUTUMN SEMINAR!

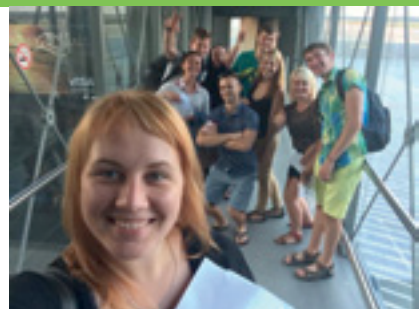
It will happen 1-8 November in Ribe, Denmark. The national and international prep-team meeting will be held in September. Read more about the preparations at www.ruralyoutheurope.com under "Future events" and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ruralyoutheurope.

Updates

Here are some pictures from Latvian Young

Farmers club summer time! We are very happy that the sun was shining bright upon us this year, which is not usual for this time of the year. We seized the opportunity to go outside and have some fun. But even during the hottest times we don't forget about the educational activities.

This summer we participated in a project in Lithuania. We also represented our organization in an international conference in Poland and even managed to participate in the Latvian Farmers Sports Games and got diplomas for that! Right now nine of our members are on their way to Austria where they will participate in an international project together with the 4H club. In the pictures you can see one moment from the seminar in Poland and one from the Sports Games. The latest picture is taken this morning at the airport. It shows our members before the flight to Austria!





Latvian Young Farmers' had an active summer!

This summer we let our participants catch sunbeams at events abroad - in Poland, Lithuania and Austria, as well as in Latvia. We hope you are enjoying the warmth and have the chance to work outside the walls of the office.

With best wishes,
Linda
Latvian 4H

Rural Youth Project of the Year 2014

Welcome to this year's Rural Youth Project of the Year competition! Last year was a tight competition between 12 fantastic projects and for this year we are again looking forward to receiving a big variety of exciting projects from all of our members.

What kinds of projects are you doing with your club this year? We are looking forward to receive your most creative and innovative projects that show the benefit of rural youth clubs to the local community.

The winner of 2013, Rural youth association of SALLA, from Styria - Austria, supported with their project "We are one big family" a family in their village who had been hit hard by multiple and severe strokes of fate. For five days the members of the club took over their entire family business, a restaurant and fish farm, to enable the family a week's break from their usual environment. With their project, SALLA gained a lot of media reputation and helped to promote the whole region.

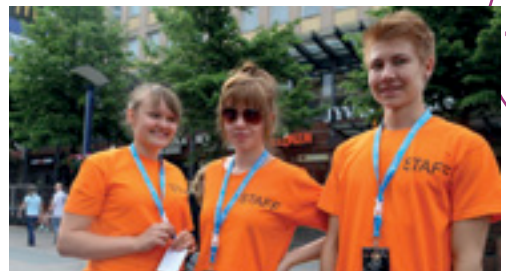
What will your project be? No matter if it is a short or a long project, if it involves hundreds of people or just a few. The judges are looking forward to receiving a big diversity of projects that prove how creative and many sided rural youth organisations across Europe are.

The prize is the youth trophy and the participation of two members to the European Rally in August 2015 in Austria - and of course fame throughout Europe! The call and application form can be found online from www.ruralyouthurope.com. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2015.



Shake it - Experience in Jyväskylä

Shake it - Experience was a youth event organized by 10 young people who participated in 4H event training. Event was held in central Finland 7th of June. Day was filled with activities: Experience race between youth teams, 4H Enterprise market and live concert.





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.

Calendar

Spring 2015

The Nordic 4H organisations are currently preparing a training about leadership competences for youth in the age 15-17. It will be held on spring 2015. Check our webpage for latest updates about this event.

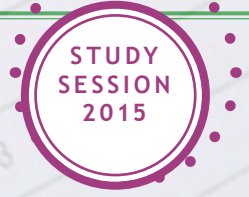


1-8 August 2015 in Upper Austria region, Austria

Work hand in hand - create your land
The Rally 2015 will be held at the Agrarian Educational Institution in Upper Austria. It will be about cooperation for rural development.

Summer/ autumn 2015 in Budapest, Hungary or Strasbourg, France

Unveiling Rural Realities, Unlocking Youth Potential
This study session is about rural identity and skills and how to make the most of it on the labour market and businesses.



7-14 November 2014, Parlekija region, Slovenia

Personal Branding
At this seminar you will learn how to promote yourself to get good employment possibilities or to market your own business.

EUROPEAN RALLY 2016 will be held in Northern Ireland

Partners' Events

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.