



**Rural Youth Europe,
in co-operation with
Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs,**

Welcomes you to the European Rally 2014



**“Tomorrows World - Creating a sustainable future for
you, your organisation and your rural community”**

9-16th August 2014
Margam Park, Port Talbot, Wales

Introduction

An invitation is extended for members of Rural Youth Europe to participate in the 2014 European Rally hosted by Wales YFC. The European Rally aims to bring together over 100 people from 20 Countries to engage in shared learning. Participation on the Rally will develop the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary for young people to positively influence their rural communities.

Wales YFC is delighted to host the 2014 Rally and has decided on the theme of **Tomorrow's World - creating a sustainable future for you, your organisation and your rural community.**

With the increasing challenges of climate change, a growing world population and demand for natural resources, the focus on environmental sustainability has never been greater. The 2014 Rally, however, will explore social and economic sustainability within three main focus areas.

- 1) Firstly, the workshops will help identify individual goals and aspirations of delegates on a personal level. This will help delegates set out their personal life plan for the future.
- 2) Secondly, the Rally will concentrate on the future sustainability of individual organisations and explore local case studies and examples of best practice. The future prosperity of rural organisations forms an essential part of Rural Youth Europe's work and it is hoped that delegates will learn from each other as well as from the study visits.
- 3) Thirdly, the Rally will explore how delegates can ensure a vibrant and thriving future for their rural communities. Aimed to complete the theme, this element of the Rally will draw a meaningful conclusion on the week's activities and arm the delegates with the knowledge and confidence to make a difference.

The aim of the youth exchange is raise awareness of other cultures through different groups having opportunities to showcase their culture using varying mediums such as food, entertainment, costume, dance and project work.

The objectives of the project are for young people to engage with young people from different cultures, and learn from their experiences as well as gain new transferable skills that will help their own personal development, support the organisations that they are involved with and well as supporting their own rural communities.

The progressive nature of the workshops provides enough depth for effective learning and variety to maintain interest. The working methods will include interactive workshops and a series of study visits to explore different aspects of the theme. Sessions are based on non-formal education and will provide opportunities for participants to develop their skills and knowledge as well as to share their experiences.

The organising committee is already busy preparing the activities and is eager to make the 2014 Rally one of the best yet. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us and a very warm welcome awaits you in Wales.

Programme

The final programme will be finalised together with the host and international prep team, at the Prep team meeting 25-27th April. The preliminary programme outline is planned as follows:

(Get Delme to check over this)

Saturday 9th August 2014

Arrival of participants to Margam Park, Port Talbot from midday onwards

Registration, Treasure Hunt of the venue, map of Europe

Introductions and Ice breaking exercises

Sunday 10th August 2014

Sunday will focus on teams getting to know each other and other delegates. The morning session will concentrate on team building exercises and workshops.

Following lunch, the Opening Ceremony will take place.

Before supper Discovery Time will take place. This will take place most day(s) and will give Delegates the opportunity to try out a variety of activities and also showcase any of their own skills using "Open space technology"

In the evening there will be pirate themed entertainment, and we will also be visiting the local beach participating in team building activities on the way

Monday 11th August 2014

Monday will focus on the "You" aspect of the theme, with workshops focusing on what you want to achieve from the week.

Following workshops we will host our International Evening, with the International Buffet, and International entertainment from the Countries in the evening.

Tuesday 12th August 2014

Tuesday will focus on the "Your Organisation" aspect of the theme.

Delegates will get the chance to visit community organisations within the locality of Margam Park.

In the evening Delegates will be completing a community based project/challenge.

Wednesday 13th August 2014

Wednesday will look at the "Your community" aspect of the theme.

Delegates will again get the chance to visit local communities and the organisations that operate within them.

Following the workshops in the day, host families will be asked to join Delegates at Margam Park for a hog roast and evening of activities, before departing with assigned host families.

Thursday 14th August 2014

Delegates will spend the day with their host families.

Board members and representatives will attend the GA meeting and workshops, which will take place at the Senedd, Cardiff.

In the evening we will have a Welsh evening for Delegates.

Friday 15th August 2014

Friday delegates will continue exploring the theme of “Your rural community” with further workshops.

Delegates will get chance to explore the capital city of Wales, before the Final Evaluation takes place.

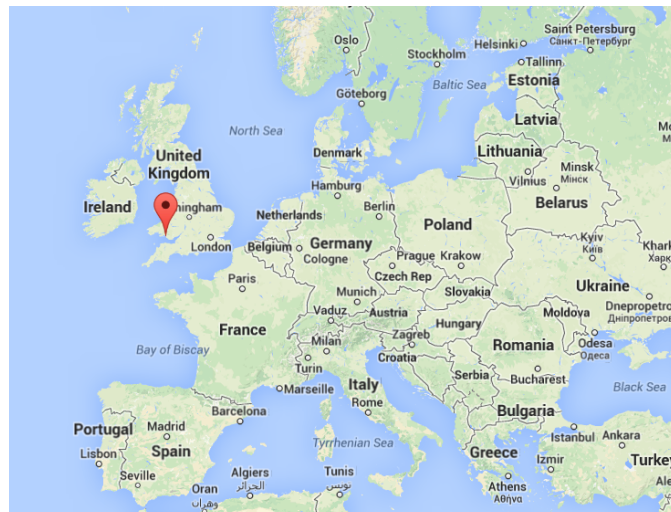
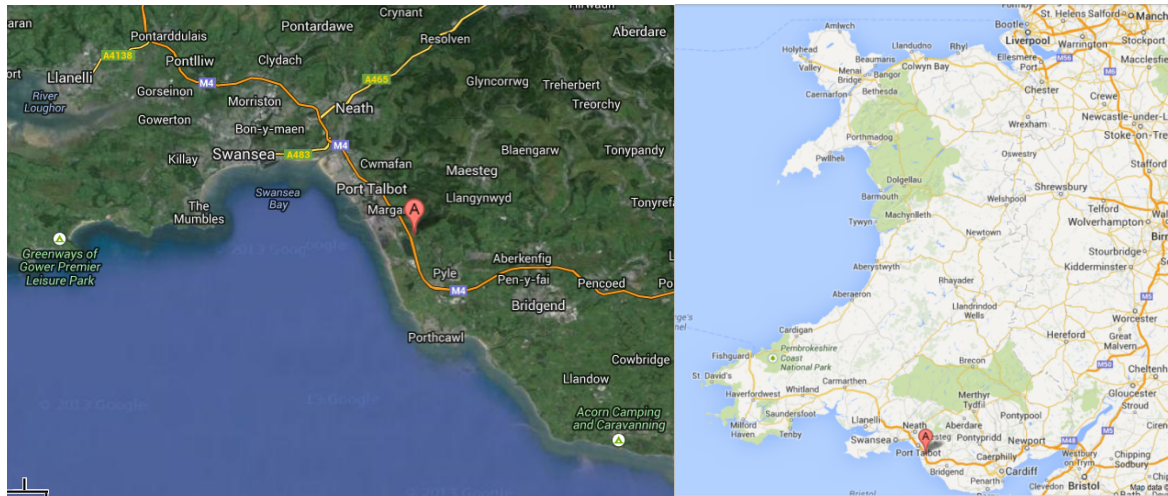
The Final supper and Closing Ceremony will also take place on Friday.

Saturday 16th August 2014

Delegates will depart

Venue

The venue of the European Rally 2014 will be the Discovery Centre, Margam Park, Port Talbot. Margam Park is situated in South Wales and has fantastic rail links.



The Discovery Centre is situated in Margam Park, Port Talbot. The Discovery Centre is set in 850 acres of park land, where 600 deer roam freely.



The centre itself was designed by the Welsh School of Architects, and is a state of the art low carbon foot print building. The park land boasts an Iron Age Hill fort, 12 Century Cistercian Abbey remains, Margam Abbey Church, a Celtic Stones Museum and a beautiful 18th Century Orangery.



The accommodation at Margam



The Orangery



Margam Castle

Contact Details of Rally prep team

Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

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Rural Youth Europe

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Welsh Rally Prep Team

Aled Jones (Chairman)

Kate Miles (Vice-Chairman)

Delme Harries (Rally Director)

Aled Johnson

Gwennan Davies

Joy Cornock

Sara Downes

Lucy Jones

Jolene Powell

Lynwen Thomas

Mark Powell

Dylan Bowen

Rhian Howell Jones

International Prep Team

Kadri Toomingas, Estonia

Catherine McCollom, Ireland

Maria Stiglhuber, Austria

Stephanie Wieländer, Austria

Rally Teams

Every member organisation of Rural Youth Europe can send a team of five persons in total, a team leader and four participants (if nothing else is agreed upon). Wherever possible, organisations should have a gender balance within the team.

Team Leaders

The team leader is responsible for all communication and feedback between their national team and the Rally prep team before, during and after the Rally.

Tasks of the team leader:

- Forward email communication from Rural Youth Europe and Wales YFC to the team members, before and following the Rally.
- Lead a daily reflection group for their national team during the Rally
- Participate in the daily team leader meetings

- Ensure the team completes daily reports about the Rally programme
- Take care of your team members and ensure they follow the Behaviour Guidelines and Rally rules

Participants

Profile of participants:

- Be between 18 and 25 years old. This is a Youth In Action funding requirement, however as an exception up to 20% of the participants. Group leaders can be 26-30 years old. Participants must have turned 18 before the start of the Rally (Saturday 9th August 2014)
- Be able to communicate in English.
- Be active within your own youth organisation
- Have an interest in the theme “Tomorrows World- Creating a sustainable future for you, your organisation and your rural community”

Registration

Please use the enclosed registration form and return it by **2nd of June** to Rural Youth Europe: office@ruralyoutheuropa.com

Participation Fee

The participation fee for the Rally will be €320 for Western Participants and €150 for Eastern participants. The participation fee has to be paid into the follow Rural Youth Europe bank account by **2nd of June**:

Receiver's name: Rural Youth Europe
 IBAN: FI21 1555 3000 1089 94
 SWIFT: NDEAFIHH
 Bank name: Nordea
 Bank Address: Aleksis Kiven katu 3-5, Helsinki, Finland
 Please ensure you include any bank transfer fees

Travel information

Each organisation is responsible for booking tickets for their National Rally team. Please send travel invoices and schedules to Pia at Rural Youth Europe, at office@ruralyoutheuropa.com, latest by **2nd of July**.

For countries located close to Wales, it is recommended to travel via car, ferry or bus, unless it is cheaper to fly. Participants from all other countries are encouraged to fly into London airports. Direct rail transfers to Port Talbot Parkway are then available.

Arrival: We ask that all participants arrive at Port Talbot Parkway railway station before 6pm on Saturday 9th August 2014. Please note that the Rally venue will not be available for accommodation outside of the Rally week. If you would like to extend your stay before or after Rally week, please contact the Welsh prep team who can help with accommodation.

Departure: Transport will be provided to Port Talbot Parkway railway station on the departure day, Saturday 16th August 2014, with 12pm being the last shuttle run. Please keep in mind your transfer times to London airports when booking flights.

Travel reimbursement

Travel costs will be reimbursed to at least 50% for team leaders and participants. Additional funding can be paid in case the project budget so allow. Travel reimbursement is paid on the following conditions:

- Cheapest option of travel is used (second class train, economy class flights...).
- All original tickets, receipts and boarding passes are given/sent to the Rally host.
- The participants are following the Behaviour Guidelines and general Rally rules.

Behaviour guidelines

Please read and understand the attached Behaviour Guidelines made by Rural Youth Europe member organisations in 2012.

Other General rules for the Rally are:

- Participants must attend the entire Rally programme and be on time for workshops
- Smoking is forbidden in any building or area unless otherwise stated.

Participants who do not follow the Behaviour Guidelines will not receive their Travel reimbursement.

Country Preparations

As part of our welcome workshop we kindly ask each team to gather information (photos, brochures, reports, news clippings etc.) for a "Map of Europe" exercise showing where all the Rally teams have travelled from. This will be carried out as teams upon arriving at the Rally on Saturday 9th August 2014. Further information on this exercise will follow.

What to bring?

- Comfortable clothing according to the weather, also warm and waterproof clothing
- Shoes suitable for workshops, formal events and sports/hiking
- Traditional costume or formal clothing for the opening ceremony and closing dinner
- Personal hygiene items
- Medicine and any other personal items
- Small gift for your host family
- Materials for "Map of Europe" exercise
- Food and non-alcoholic drinks for the International Buffet for Monday the 11th, no cooking facilities are available
- 1 laptop per team

There is no cash point at the venue. We recommend that teams bring some cash for spending purposes (pounds sterling £) The Rally venue will have a small shop with snacks.

Weather

The weather in Wales can be very changeable. We recommend you bring an umbrella, waterproof coat, and warm clothes and sunscreen. You can check the local weather closer to the time using this website: <http://www.metcheck.com/UK>

Insurance

Participants are advised to have travel insurance that covers health, and preferably luggage also. All participants are urged to also bring a European Health Card (E111) as travel insurance may not cover costs that should have been covered by an E111. The European Health Card can be ordered for free from your National Health web page/ office.

General Assembly

The General Assembly will take place on Thursday 14th August 2014 in Cardiff. Team leaders and participants can act as delegates at the General Assembly, however organisations are also welcome to send another delegates. A separate invitation to the General Assembly will be sent on the 14th of May to the member organisations of Rural Youth Europe.

If you have any further questions please contact Rural Youth Europe office on office@ruralyouth europe.com

Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs and Rural Youth Europe warmly invite you to attend the European Rally 2014!