

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Ras yr iaith

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 17-05-2016

1	Name:	Ras yr iaith Chair Siôn Jobbins, Aberystwyth
2	Language:	Welsh
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Leisure, language campaign, sport
4	Email and phone number for contact	Wales: post@rasyriaith.cymru or sion.jobbins@gmail.com (Siôn Jobbins) Basque Country: begotxuo@gmail.com (Begotxu Olaizola)
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: http://rasyriaith.cymru Twitter: @rasyriaith Facebook: /rasyriaith

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	<p>Organise Ras yr iaith ('race of the language', Welsh 'korrika'). Will be held for 2nd time 6-8 July 2016. Run through centre of 25 towns and villages from north to south Wales. Working in cooperation with local 'Mentrau iaith' (language initiative groups which are funded by local councils and party Welsh Government). Ras will also work closely with other Welsh organisations and sports bodies. Sponsorship for 1km is £50 which we expect to get from Welsh organisations, local businesses, schools, community councils, clubs, chapels and individuals.</p> <p>Logistically it is almost impossible to hold the Ras along the same principle as in Korrika and Breton 'Redadeg' - that is, running the whole route. The baton is transferred from one town to the other by Ras vehicle. Issues to do with safety, traffic management, 'too many' similar events, nature of roads in Wales (narrow, not straight, high hedges) makes the organisers and authorities very afraid of running between locations.</p> <p>The Ras gave out £4,000 in grants to Welsh language initiatives in 2014 (including Welsh pop music festivals; Welsh books for community-run shop; yoga class in Welsh; historical show for school children).</p> <p>We hope 2016 Ras will have £10,000 to give out in grants.</p>
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2	Brief description of the practices	<p>As above. Challenges to the Ras include: local authorities and police are generally supportive but high level of paper work caused by procedure and fear of injury and accident, make the Ras a much smaller event than in other countries.</p> <p>Anglicisation of Welsh society is both a catalyst for many organisations to support but has also weakened the general infrastructure of the language in terms of confidence of the Welsh-speaking community and activists. We hope and believe the Ras will help bring people together and strengthen the networks.</p> <p>The idea of the Ras is new to most people and so, an element of education is needed to explain to people what it is. But, within the areas, there is wide support among the Welsh-language community - schools, businesses, Welsh societies.</p> <p>The challenge which the Ras faces, which may be different to other countries, is that Wales has two big events which full-fill the function of the Korrika/Redadeg/Rith - they are the youth Urdd Eisteddfod (5 day event held in May in different part of Wales every year) and the National Eisteddfod (7 day event in August also held in different part of Wales every year). These are two very big events which rely on money from Government, local authorities, commercial sponsorship and c£300k raised by the local area which hosts the event. To some extent the Ras is in competition both for money, time, personal and priority with these two events. However, I believe the Ras full-fills other functions and reaches other parts of Welsh society which the eisteddfodau do not.</p>
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To celebrate the Welsh language • Give visual support to the language • To give opportunity to people who are not 'eisteddfod people' to show their support for the language • To bring in people who are more sport orientated to support the language
4	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise enough money to give £10,000 in grants • Strengthen local Welsh infrastructure • Strengthen remit and role of Mentrau Iaith • Make support for the language and obvious and visual statement which local councils cannot ignore
5	Main and close working areas	<p>Welsh societies; Welsh businesses; local sports clubs (rugby, football, running clubs); Welsh language learners</p>

6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	Welsh clubs and societies; Aberystwyth University; schools; families
7	Implementation period	Since 2014. This year Ras will be held 6-8 July. Taken 12 months to organise

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local councillors in 25 towns (at least) will know of event; local mayors invited to participate; local Welsh Assembly members and MPs also invited Sponsorship from local businesses; worked with Welsh Government Language Unit - but no practical support Event will be covered by BBC Radio Cymru and S4C (Welsh TV) Advertising placed in monthly Welsh language 'papurau bro' so as to support them and also spread the information; expect articles in local English language press; hope to get #rasyriaith 'trending' in Wales on Twitter
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	Investment form Ras is minimal - whole spend will be about £12k. However, grants given, although small, can have significant effect on events and profile for Welsh in the field
10	Results	Hope to give out £10k in grants. Hope to see Ras expand in 2018
11	Documentation, reference material	Material on Web + some articles in local press
12	Presentation video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-aL7inBPJs https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1iXGZzIAVKRHiS8hOxIhgz