

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Rith: National fun-run

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 31-03-2016

1	Name	Rith
2	Language	Irish
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Leisure / community development
4	Email and phone number for contact	Marcas Mac Ruairí eolas@rith.ie 00353 86 171 9755
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Webpage: https://www.rith.ie/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CairdeRith Twitter: https://twitter.com/rith_gaeilge YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJyJKhM4Zt42ZQ5Jfn7asRw/feed

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Rith: National fun-run
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>Rith is a national festival as one of the main events of Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish language week). The bi-annual run is a relay that follows a different route each time. A special hand-carved baton has been designed that carries a hidden message of hope to the people of Ireland about the Irish language. At the end of the run the Irish language is read out, followed by a party.</p> <p>Anyone can run on any part of the course. It is not needed to pre-register but there is the possibility to be involved by buying a kilometre on www.rith.ie and becoming the leader together with your group for that part of the run, and carry the baton. Therefore, Rith celebrates the Irish language and culture in a way that is visual, fun, community based and can be celebrated throughout the island of Ireland.</p> <p>Rith 2016 took place between 4 and 14 March 2016 and had 700km course laid out for a massive relay-race run, running from morning to night, from Cill Droichead (Celbridge) in Kildare, around the country to finish at the GPO on O Connell Street, Dublin.</p>
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	Rith is inspired by the Korrika and by the Ar Redadog in Brittany. A similar event has since started in Wales, Ras yr Laith
4	Objectives	Raise awareness of the Irish language

5	Main and close working areas	Throughout the island of Ireland with a support event in Canada
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	Irish language community based groups, both local and national, cooperate in the organisation of Rith. The groups work in the disparate fields of education, community development and advocacy
7	Implementation period	The month of March each second year since 2010.

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	The first Rith was held in 2010. It estimated that 10,000 people participated in that event. Participants numbers have since risen sharply in each of the three Rith since then. 50,000 people took part in Rith 2016. In 2014 and 2016 a support event was held in Canada
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	Rith was started in 2010 in the midst of an economic crisis. As such, it has not yet attracted major sponsorship other than that of the vehicles – by Toyota in 2016. In each of 2010, 2012 and 2014, a manager was employed for a seven month period to oversee the event. In 2016 this work was carried out by others working with Glór na nGael and Conradh na Gaeilge
10	Results	The event has grown from 10,000 to 50,000 participants
11	Documentation, reference material	Latest news: https://www.rith.ie/en/category/news-en/ Latest photos: https://www.rith.ie/en/latest-photos/
12	Presentation video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s2AI-5_9RY
13	Other relevant information	The History of Rith: https://www.rith.ie/en/rith-2010-2/