

Balkan Study Trip

Crossing Borders – Supporting Rural Youth Work in the
Balkans

20th -27th June 2010

Rachel Jones

How I got this opportunity...

1

- Read the information about discovery at my club meeting

2

- Had a chat with the county Discovery Rep

3

- Filled out the application form

4

- Went to Stratford for a simple relaxed interview

5

- Got offered the place

What it cost me...

- Flights - £248
- Travel Insurance - £20
- Participation Fee - £21

What I raised...

- Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture Bursary £200
- Grant Funding from Europe up to 50% of travel costs

Total cost to me -£35

Few Facts about Serbia



- Capital – Belgrade
- Population 7.3 million
- Serbia became an independent country in 2006 after they split with Montenegro after the Yugoslavian war
 - Further internal conflicts continued most notably the Kosovo War
- 20% of all the worlds Raspberries are produced in Serbia
- The average farm size is 5 Ha (12.35 ac)



KMF-Srbija (Serbia YFC)



- The UN have set up 6 areas with a number of clubs in each.
- This has also been rolled out in Montenegro and Kosovo.
- Serbian YFC have about 20 clubs in total and approximately 480 members

Prijepolje

We were hosted by the YFC clubs of the Prijepolje region



Their club hall



We visited local farms



Evening entertainment



And they all had their own distillery



Kosovo YFC

- Declared itself independent from Serbia in 2008, however Serbia don't recognise this.
- We travelled to Dragas in Southern Kosovo. It is one of the most under developed regions in Kosovo however they still have YFC!



Summery

- Was able to travel to part of Europe I would unlikely visit and saw parts of it a normal tourist wouldn't see
- Learned about YFC and rural youth organisations throughout Europe
- I gained some lifelong friends
- Made me really appreciate the YFC organisation. Serbia and Kosovo have both adopted our ideas and systems.