

# Girls Rock Camp Alliance Europe

CONFERENCE REPORT 2013

# **GIRLS** **ROCK CAMP** **ALLIANCE**

girls rock camps all over the world

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30<sup>th</sup> of July – 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2013

Östra Grevie konferens & logi

Vellinge (Sweden)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

FACTSHEET	3
INTRODUCTION GIRLS ROCK CAMP ALLIANCE	4
Regional Conferences and Events	4
GIRLS ROCK CAMP ALLIANCE EUROPE	5
Conference history	5
Conference schedule	5
Staff and Workshop Facilitator Bios	9
Assessment of the conference by participants	10
Press	11
Prospect	11

# FACTSHEET

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> of July – 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, 8.30-21.30 (overnight)

**Place:** Östra Grevie Konferens & Logi, Vellinge (Sweden)

**Accommodation:** Östra Grevie Konferens & Logi  
Gamla landsvägen 39  
253 99 Vellinge (Sweden)

**Participant-fee:** 120 EUR / 600 SEK

**Participating Camps:** AKKS (Norway)  
Girls\* Rock! (Ireland)  
Girls Rock Camp Krakow (Poland)  
Les Femmes Rock! (France)  
Paris Girls Rock! (France)  
pink noise Girls Rock Camp (Austria)  
Popkollo (Sweden)  
Rock Camp München (Germany)  
Ruby Tuesday (Germany)  
Stelpur rokka! (Iceland)  
Tyttöjen Rock-leiri (Finland)



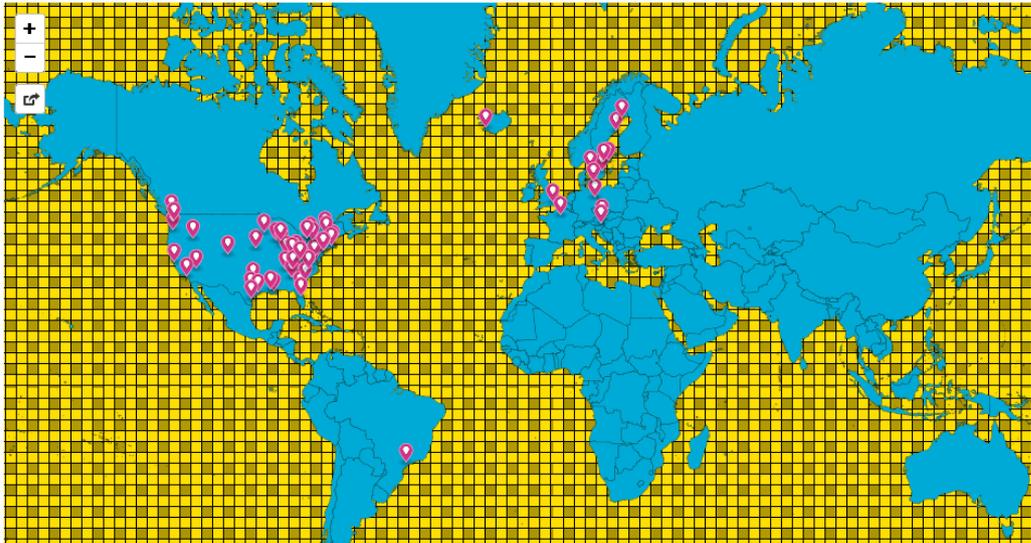
In total 34 people from nine European countries such as Sweden (7), Norway (2), Finland (3), Austria (5), Poland (2), Germany (3), Ireland (3), Iceland (8) and France (1) participated at the conference.

**Organizers:** Popkollo (Sweden)  
Responsible for the content: Ella Blixt  
Responsible for the logistics: Maria Johansson  
Responsible for the program: Áslaug Einarsdóttir (Stelpur rokka!)  
Ella Blixt (Popkollo)  
Maebh Murphy (Ruby Tuesday)  
Malin Helldorff (Popkollo)  
Ulli Mayer (pink noise Girls Rock Camp)  
Conference report by: Julia Boschmann (pink noise Girls Rock Camp)  
Ulli Mayer (pink noise Girls Rock Camp)  
Christine Rossegger (pink noise Girls Rock Camp)

**Website:** [www.girlsrockcampalliance.org](http://www.girlsrockcampalliance.org)

# INTRODUCTION GIRLS ROCK CAMP ALLIANCE

Girls Rock Camps (GRCs) help girls build self-esteem and find their voices through unique programming that combines music education and performance; empowerment and social justice workshops; positive role models, and collaboration and leadership skill building. The Girls Rock Camp Alliance (GRCA) supports camps around the world in this mission.



The GRCA is an international coalition of organizations whose shared mission is to empower girls and women using the tools of music education to foster self-esteem and confidence. To this end, the GRCA promotes, strengthens, and expands services provided by its affiliated camps. GRCA provides resources and networking opportunities for its member camps, and promotes the establishment of like-minded institutions worldwide.

Being a member of the GRCA means being part of a worldwide social justice movement that provides resources and networking opportunities for its member camps and promotes the establishment of like minded institutions. Currently, the GRCA consists of forty three member camps in the US, Canada, Europe and South America. This number continues to grow annually.

## Regional Conferences and Events:

As an international organization with member camps all over the world, GRCA is also conscious of the importance of regional networking and therefore strives to foster communication and connection between camps that are geographically close to one another. We encourage and support those regional relationships and possibilities to network and share experiences on a local level. While the GRCA conference provides the opportunity for people to come together from various parts of the world and often gather regionally for the first time, regional conferences and similar events should enhance those relationships.

# GIRLS ROCK CAMP ALLIANCE EUROPE

## Conference history:

In Europe the development of Girls Rock Camps began in Sweden with Popkollo in 2003, followed by the UK (2007), Germany (Berlin, Munich) (2009), Austria (2011), Czech Republic (2011), Iceland and France (2012). Initiatives to start up Girls Rock Camps in Europe have begun to grow rapidly: Denmark, Norway, Finland and Poland are all on their way to start up new camps. Communication and collaboration between these new initiatives and existing camps have been sporadic but fairly close, and for a long time coming the idea of a closer European network has been a hot topic and conversation piece at the GRCA Conferences.

In June 2012 organizers from Sweden, Germany, Austria, Norway, Iceland and France got together in Stockholm and found the European Committee, a sub-committee of the department of Membership of the GRCA. The aim was to create a platform for collaboration, meetings and exchange for camp organizers in Europe, as a complement to the Annual Girls Rock Camp Alliance Conference, with the emphasis on supporting the growth of new camps in and around Europe. A handful of skype-meetings, online working parties and financial encouragement by public fundings later, the GRCA Europe Conference was born!



## Conference schedule:

At the conference, two different tracks were offered - one for leaders and one for organizers. Some activities, though, were held in the large group. The conference started with common activities, which focused on getting to know each other and to figure out the expectations and goals for the conference. At day three, four and five the participants chose one track during the day and gathered again in the evening for further discussions, skill sharing activities and other evening activities. The last day included a common evaluation and good-bye.

The leaders track focused on the role as leader at a Girls Rock Camp. The participants attended Popkollo's leadership program, which is an interactive training that addresses different kinds of methods with the purpose to create a safe space for the campers.

Themes like structural discrimination and privileges were addressed and connected to discussions about racism, sexism and other kinds of structural oppression where focus was on sharing experiences and discussing how to be an ally to people with different privileges. Besides, some music workshops as e.g. guitar, looping, singing or songwriting workshops were held.

The organizers track was based on the role as organizer and everything that comes with that kind of work. The participants got an insight on the history and previous work of the Girls Rock Camp European Committee and continued with discussions about the camps; the conditions, challenges, further cooperation and how to strengthen the European network.

This track also included portions of Popkollo's leadership program and discussions about how we create democratic, including and anti discriminatory organizational structures. There was also time for discussions about Girls Rock Camp's media outreach strategies.

All participants had time for reflection, free time and the possibility to just hang out for example in the music room. There was also time in the schedule to discuss the purpose of our network as well as group building activities and chances for networking.

On the next page you can see the complete GRCA Europe conference program:

Conference program:

Time	30 <sup>th</sup> of July (Tuesday)	31 <sup>st</sup> of July (Wednesday)	1 <sup>st</sup> of August (Thursday)	2 <sup>nd</sup> of August (Friday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> of August (Saturday)	4 <sup>th</sup> of August (Sunday)			
8.30–9.30 9.30-12.00	DAY OF ARRIVAL	Breakfast Introduction / welcome activities / group contract	Breakfast Presentation of camps / Panel: democratic organizing	Popkollos leadership building Method: Training	Breakfast 9.30 Finances and Sponsoring (70 min.) Method: Workshop	Popkollos leadership building Method: Training	Breakfast GRCA Europe part II: from ideas to reality & working party	9.30 Panel: How to create a safe space / privileges	Breakfast Evaluation part II / Visioning exercise Method: workshop, individual thinking, group exercise
					10.40 break		10.40 break		
					10.50 GRC media & outreach strategies (70 min.) Method: Discussion			10.50 Skills sharing! Method: Workshops	
12.00-14.00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch
14.00-15.30		13.00 Team building				13.30 Skills sharing! Method: Workshops			
		14.00 Meeting /w tracks	Get organized: challenges, tips & best practices Method: guided group discussion	Popkollos leadership building Method: Training	How to include young organizers from different cultural and social-economic backgrounds and with less opportunities Method: Discussion	How to encourage critical thinking about class / racism / cis-sexism / ableism Method: Input, Workshop			DEPARTURE
15.30-16.00 16.00-17.30		14.45 Input Facilitator Guidelines / Songwriting Workshop Coffee break Theme: GRCA & GRCA European committee / expectations & goals for conference Method: Workshop	Coffee break Popkollos leadership building Method: training	Popkollos leadership building Method: Training	Partnership outreach Method: Sharing experience	Critical approach towards stereotyped imagery of femininity, body & norms in media Method: Workshop	Coffee break GRCA Europe part III: Committee working group	Skills sharing workshop continues...	
17.30-18.30 18.30-21.30	Dinner Welcome activity	Dinner Theme: History of women in Rock Method: Workshop	Dinner 19.00 Reflection groups 20.30 Movie & Discussion: Oh yeah, she performs! (documentary)	Dinner 19.00 Reflection groups 19.30 Caucus: Programming; Inclusion, Trans & Gender Policies; Fundraising Method: Facilitated Group Discussion 20.30 GRCA Europe part1: Introduction	Dinner 19.00 Reflection groups 19.30 Music activity, sharing & networking, Evaluation: part I				

common activity  
 organizers track  
 leaders track

### 30<sup>th</sup> of July - day of arrival:

After check-in the participants had the possibility for a first gathering at dinner.

### 31<sup>st</sup> of July:



The introduction part in the morning included some welcome games and group activities to get to know each other and ensure a safe place for everybody.

After lunch the facilitators got a short introduction for their further tasks at the conference, at the same time the others had a songwriting workshop. The created songs were presented with some instruments in front of all the conference participants.

The second big part of the day's program was a workshop for all participants that included among other things expectations and goals of the conference and how they can be reached. Firstly an overview of the GRCA history and the

GRCA committee was given and explained. Secondly all participants worked out their ideas for the conference and developing the GRCA network.

In the evening a workshop with focus on the history of women in rock was held, which included female bands and musicians that influenced the music history enormously.

### 1<sup>st</sup> of August:

The Popkollo leadership building started within the leaders track. First of all expectations and wishes were written down by the participants in order to be aware of the needs of the participants. The introduction part of this track included the history of Popkollo Sweden as well as the development of GRCs from the beginning to nowadays. Later, some "get-to-know-each-other games" were presented and the participants got the chance of learning by doing, as they were part of the games.

Participants attending the organizers track that day focused on questions and challenges of democratic organizing within the own community. Whereas in the morning there was a panel with organizers from different girls rock camps sharing their experiences and approaches of doing a camp, team work and growing as an organization, in the afternoon there was the opportunity of working in practice. "Get organized: challenges, tips & best practices" was a guided group discussion that addressed following questions, which were then discussed together: How did you find (and retain) the people in your organizational team? If your team is very small, how do you deal with organizing the camp and delegating tasks amongst yourselves? What is your decision-making process? Do your funding sources affect or constrain your ability to make decisions independently? Was there ever a turning point when your group changed or was strengthened or improved in some way? Do you have any special future plans for your Rock Camp, especially in terms of making the results of Rock Camp longer-lasting/supporting the campers in between the camps (for example, creating something like the Girls Rock Institute in Portland)? How are you going about realizing these goals?



After dinner the participants got together in groups and commonly reflected topics of the day as well as exchanged their experiences so far. The documentary “Oh yeah she performs” was part of the evening activity, which was shown in the common room with a discussion round afterwards.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> August:



The leaders track continued with the Popkollo leadership training. Some more games were introduced to the conference participants; moreover norm-critical thinking was the topic of that day. Further the participants had the chance to see how Popkollo usually organizes the camp schedule. In the afternoon, two more workshops on critical thinking and norm-critique strategies in the media were offered. The first workshop started with a discussion on different privileges and de-privileges people experience. The participants had the chance to think about their own privileges and de-privileges as well as critical (re)thinking of their opinions. In the

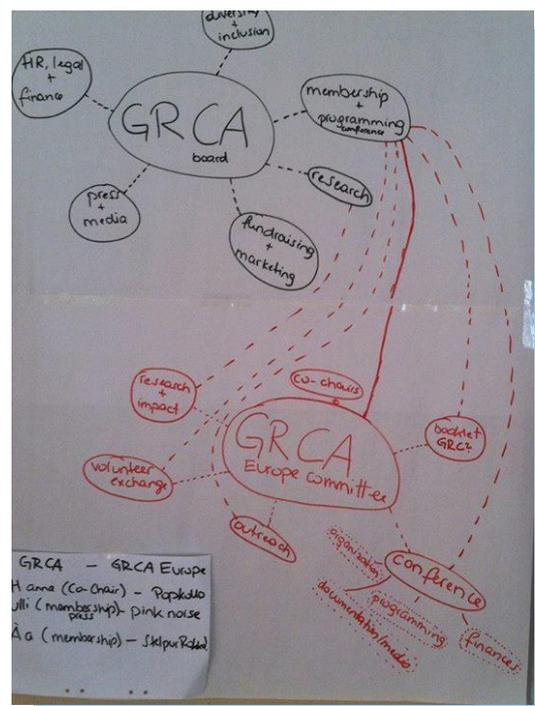
following workshop on gender norms and media, the participants got to watch a music video and thinking of how it could be used for the camps and how it would be possible to implement such things in camps to empower the camp participants for critical thinking regarding the media and role models which are created by these mainstream channels.

The organizers track started with a workshop on fundraising for the Girls Rock Camps. It included funding sources like private/corporate sponsorship, crowd funding and more. Also this group focused on rating the potential funding sources (probability and sustainability of different funding possibilities). Another topic was the moral implication of accepting funding and problems which could come up in regard to funding in general. Another topic that day was promoting the camp via different media channels and strategies of partnership outreach. “How to include young organizers from different cultural and social- economic backgrounds and with less opportunities” was a facilitated discussion where everybody got to share their camps diversity programs and initiatives on how to get and provide a more inclusive environment; having a diverse team and programming committee in order to be able to include girls and young women with different cultural and social-economic backgrounds was thereby a mutually agreed common-ground.

The caucuses offered in the evening were on programming, inclusion, trans- and gender policies as well as fundraising. All participants got the chance to choose between these main topics and discussed them within small groups.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> of August:

Splitting up in two groups – one group had a discussion on the GRCA Europe Committee, which was about practical implementation of the ideas which were generated during the last days. The other workshop was about creating a safe place for participants and about being aware of privileges.



Within the skills sharing, which took place afterwards, the participants could choose between different workshops such as ukulele, singing, looping, how to teach about music history, song writing, making fanzines, sharing games and a voice workshop. Also the participants had the possibility of being part of the European committee working party on the future of the European Girls Rock Camp network.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> of August:

After a common visioning exercise, everybody left for departure - either after breakfast or lunch.

#### Staff and Workshop Facilitator Bios:

**Anna Edström** is involved in Popkollo Malmö since many years back. Anna is a musician and has had many different positions in Malmö through the years.

**Annika Lindberg** got involved in Popkollo 2012. She has been leader at summer camps in Stockholm and active in national and regional planning groups. During the spring Annika has been an educator for leaders within Popkollo and will during this conference teach at the leader track. She plays guitar and sings in a queer riot girl band named Flocken and when not playing music she practices the sport roller derby, hangs out with her dog or works at a treatment facility for young girls. This fall she will continue her gender studies.

**Àslaug Einarsdóttir** is the founder and director of Stelpur Rokka! which was founded in 2012. She's an anthropologist and a documentary filmmaker and is also trained as a classical pianist. During the camp she's excited to become a better keyboard teacher.

**Ella Blixt** has been involved in Popkollo since the beginning in 2003 in Popkollo Hultsfred. Ella works with marketing and communication at the office of Popkollo and is a part of the program group of this conference.

**Greta Faxberg** started as a participant at Popkollo in Hultsfred and has, since then, had a lot of different roles, both in the planning stage and during camps.

**Hanna Rothelius** has been involved in Popkollo for 10 years. Hanna is Popkollo's nationally head of sponsorships and internationally co-chair/secretary of Girls Rock Camp Alliance. She is also band coach and chef at the camps of Popkollo in Hultsfred. Hanna plays bass, drums, guitar and is also a political science student.

**Maebh Murphy** was instrument coach at her first Ruby Tuesday camp in 2011 and is today organizing and involved in both Ruby Tuesday and Girls\* Rock! in Ireland. Since 2012 she's bandcoaching a band on weekly basis and is now organizing a queer feminist music event which will take place in September. Maebh has a two piece band ("You're only massive"), she's musician at live tours of Hanin Elias and works with Ableton Live. She is at the minute working on a new EP.

**Malin Helldorff** had her first experience of Popkollo back in 2007. She's working at the national office of Popkollo and has earlier been organizer, leader and chef at camps. Malin is involved in the programming group of this conference.

**Maria Cincotta** did last year bring Rock Camp to München. She recruited the team and organized the camp, from finding the space to finding the campers and organized the curriculum. Before that she has also been involved in camps in Portland, Willie Mae Rock Camp in New York City and Ruby Tuesday and started an after-school program for girls at local school in NYC. She plays mostly guitar and a little bit of drums, ukulele, saxophone and keyboard. She works as a teacher in English and guitar and is currently in a band which tours around Europe.

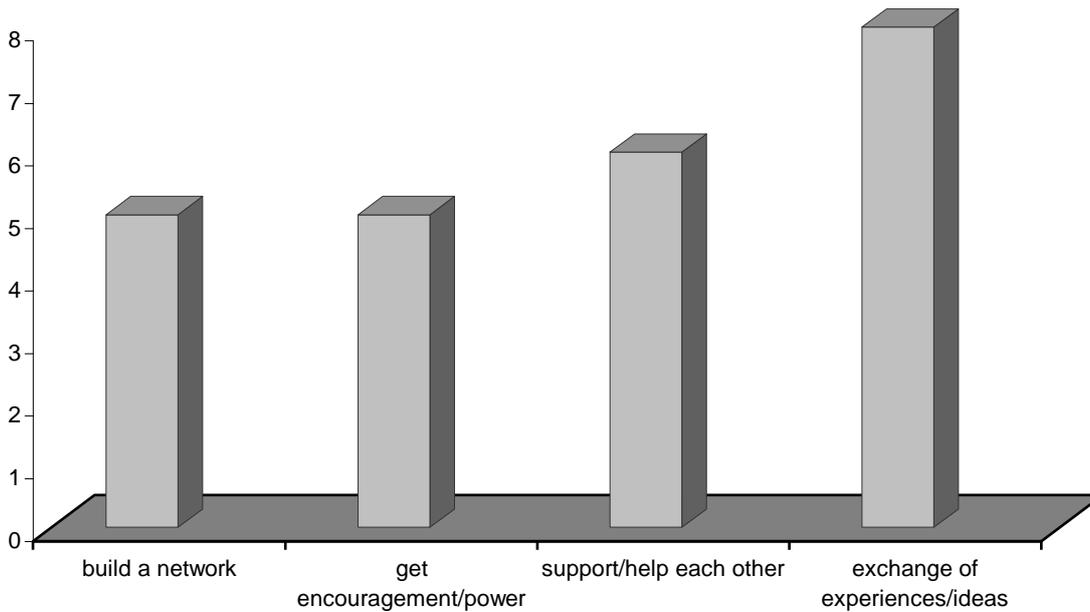
**Maria Johansson** has been involved in Popkollo since this spring when doing her traineeship within her study program. She's cultural scientist, working at camp in Stockholm this summer and coordinates this conference. Maria is instructor of feministic self defense and likes to play soccer.

**Vera Kropf** has been involved in Pink Noise GRC since 2011 where she is band coach and holding workshops. She plays guitar, a little bass, keyboard and drums and she's also a singer.

**Ulrike Mayer** was involved in her first Pink Noise camp in August 2011. She is founder and chairwoman of the organization and also co-chair of membership department within Girls Rock Camp Alliance. She has among other things been involved in organizing the first Lady fest festival in Vienna 2004 and is a former editor for the feminist pop culture magazine Fiber.

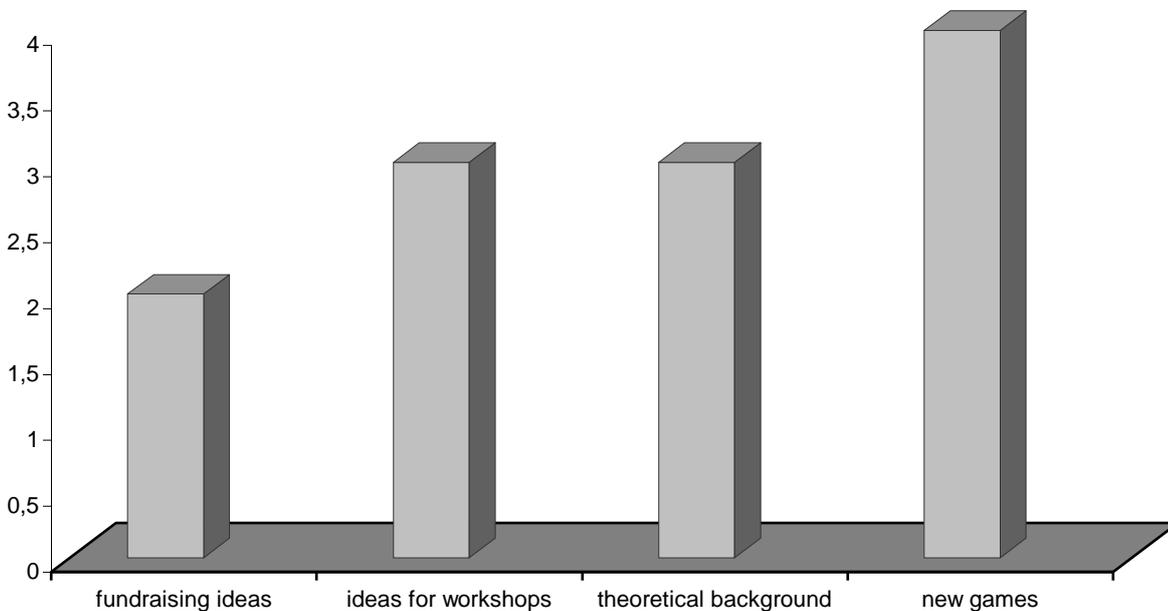
Assessment of the conference by participants:

Main reason to attend the conference:



Fourteen participants gave their feedback in a survey after the conference. Approximately 57 Percent were very satisfied and approximately 14% satisfied with the conference. Four people rated the workshops with 'six', which means very satisfied, and six said they were satisfied ('one' means very dissatisfied). The conference met the expectations of thirteen participants. The same number of people would attend the GRCA conference again and approximately 86 Percent would recommend the conference to others.

New experiences participants took with them for their camps:



Three adjectives to describe the conference:



**Press:**

- Sydsvenskan Web-TV visits the Girls Rock Camp Alliance Europe Conference, Sydsvenskan Web-TV, 01.08.2013, [www.sydsvenskan.se/webb-tv/webb-tv-noje/tv-popkollo-i-ostra-grevie/](http://www.sydsvenskan.se/webb-tv/webb-tv-noje/tv-popkollo-i-ostra-grevie/)
- Announcement in Girls Rock Camp Alliance Newsletter #5 & 6, 29.5. and 24.9.2013

**Prospect:**

The European Committee of the GRCA Europe will continue its work with its goal to host a yearly conference and offer a European platform for networking and resource sharing. We work towards getting more people and initiatives involved in organizing Girls Rock Camps in Europe. Further online meetings and a participative, organizational body to continue working on the expansion of new Girls Rock Camps are planned. The new co-chairs of the European Committee will be elected by November 2013 and start their work in December.