



Group 3
Empowering local youth voices - advocating for rural perspectives at national and European institutions



Challenges

Depopulation	Lack of jobs, issue of housing access	Social life
Weak perception of young people as leaders in decision making	Limited access to information	Lack of representation in existing bodies/organisations
Digital: Access, literacy to interact	Lack of Capacities: Leadership, public speaking	Listening priorities from youngsters
Bring young voices at higher levels	Feeling alone, not heard, demotivation, not being aware of existing resources	Lack of funding to support youngsters' initiatives
Barriers of languages	Lack of information, lack of interest on european questions	Lack of private sector investment
Need of time to participate		

Practical solutions

Young figures like Ambassadors	Programmes for capacities (leadership) & Mentorship	governments to put trust in local organisations
Community led initiatives/small organisations/networks development	Transfer of knowledge and professionalisation for advocacy and lobby	Tools on how to be involved in local communities ("guide for activism")
Informal structures ("youth pacts")	Youth parliaments with financing support, smart villages	

Lessons and recommendations

Youth focus funding and guide for funding	Support to low income youth for digitalisation	Mentorship programmes
EU should connect with local level	Relevant the EU youth network	Dialogue Group at other levels
Support participatory processes	Being pragmatic, knowing own needs, non formal ways	Digitalisation to help in young participation
Develop opportunities to travel as part of motivation, needs of places to meet and fun	Consider different levels/types/profiles of engagement (ambassadors as recognition)	Keep the scope open of meeting spaces not only limited to young stakeholders
Create bridges towards european levels	Promote small youth led organisations (bottom-up approach)	Role of LAGs in supporting youth organisations