



Rural Youth Parliaments for the active engagement of youth

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Rural Youth participation in policymaking
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My experience

We had several **events** with **young people** during this year in which I carried out **simulations of the rural parliament** of young people.

01.



Incorporating Icebreaker Activities

02.



Personal Development Activities

03.



Involvement of Mayors and Local Councilors

04.



Guest Speakers with Expertise

05.



Open Dialogues and Feedback Sessions

06.



Successful Outcomes

07.



Debates and Discussions on Relevant Topics

08.



Proposal and Project Development



Key aspects

From this experience, I have gained **valuable insights**. It has become evident that when young people initially appear **shy** during a first date, with the right approach, they can **quickly open up** and **actively engage**. What I've learned is that they possess a **wealth of ideas** and a **strong desire** to participate; all they require is an appropriate **framework** and some **stimulation**.

Once provided with these elements, **trust** in their abilities begins to flourish rapidly, and their **innate creativity shines through**.

During this experience, we were fortunate to receive a plethora of **exceptional ideas** from these young individuals. We intend to harness these ideas to aid in the **development of rural areas in Romania**.

It's clear that they **represent the future**, and their enthusiasm for contributing to a **better world** for themselves and their communities **is inspiring**.

Challenges

Limited Access:

Information
Resources
Opportunities

Education and Awareness:

Limited Civic
Education
Awareness Gap

Lack of Representation:

Traditional Structures
Invisibility



Opportunities

Digital Connectivity:

Internet Access
Digital Literacy

Community-Based Initiatives:

Local Organizations
Grassroots
Movements

Mentorship and Capacity Building:

Mentorship Programs
Skill Development

Romania can empower its rural youth!



3 policy recommendations

01. Youth-Focused Funding and Resources:

Allocate dedicated funding and resources to support the establishment and **sustainability** of Rural Youth Parliaments. This can include **grants** for organizing youth-led initiatives, **training programs**, and **infrastructure development** for meeting spaces.

Develop clear **guidelines** for accessing these resources, ensuring that they are **easily accessible** to rural youth groups and organizations. Consider establishing a competitive **grant application** process that encourages **innovative and impactful projects**.

02. Digital Inclusion and Connectivity:

Invest in **rural digital infrastructure** to ensure that youth in **remote areas** have access to the **internet and digital tools**. **Reliable connectivity** is crucial for remote participation in Rural Youth Parliaments, as it enables online discussions, virtual meetings, and access to information.

Provide subsidies or incentives for the purchase of **digital devices** and **internet services** for low-income rural youth, bridging the digital divide. Additionally, offer **digital literacy training programs** to empower youth with essential digital skills.

03. Youth Capacity Building and Mentorship:

Develop comprehensive **capacity-building programs** for rural youth interested in participating in Rural Youth Parliaments. These programs should focus on **leadership skills, public speaking, policy analysis, and advocacy techniques**.

Establish **mentorship programs** that pair **experienced community leaders or policymakers** with youth participants. Mentors can provide **guidance, share knowledge, and help** youth navigate the complexities of policymaking.





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