



Young LEADER Forum
11-13 June 2024
World Cafe Session Outcomes

Topic 1

Youth leadership in civic activity and democratic engagement through LEADER

Encourage and support smart ideas with smart procedures and simplified rules.

Broaden and deepen the involvement of young people in decision making, including in the development and implementation of LEADER strategies.

Give young people meaningful opportunities to develop themselves and influence others through employment opportunities, internships, exchange programmes and training with decision makers and Local Action Groups (LAGs).

Make ideas a reality through the development of youth networking and youth led projects, including youth led initiatives through LEADER.

When reaching out to young people be inclusive, be supportive, be patient and provide a safe, welcoming, empathetic and listening environment.



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Topic 2

Youth involvement in LEADER decision making

Only motivated young people can really reach out to not (yet) motivated young people.

Avoid "youth washing", aim for genuine involvement of young people in LEADER.

Youth empowerment and involvement can start "small" - e.g. by involving youth in social media support for the LAG - and develop towards involving youth in project and strategy design, implementation, and evaluation for improvement.

Appreciate and use the wide range of approaches and good practices in Member States, including legislative tools and quotas to guarantee youth involvement, youth parliaments, youth advisory boards in municipalities, youth members in LAG Boards, youth funds, LAG youth workers who meet youth in the street, and others.

Explain LEADER to young people in a simple way - it is often perceived as too complex and bureaucratic.



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Topic 3

Connecting & promoting people and place

Need of a rural storytelling that put young people's voices first. Explain why to stay and develop personal and professional life in rural areas.

Working more in collaboration with others: connect organizations and communities, municipalities, schools, youth centres, sport clubs and others. Need for places where young people can connect and share, build community and socialise. Need for youth to be involved since early stage even through these local organisations.

Increase awareness about Local Action Groups (LAGs), LEADER and Youth LAGs, bring people closer to them (e.g. through internships, mentor programs, workshops). Toolkit could be useful to inform young people how to get involved.

Share more information about the territory and enhance rural cultural identity. By learning and discovering own area more young people will have more willingness to bring a positive change into their community. Unlock the potential of territory, also through projects that promote natural and cultural heritage to the youth.

Diversify projects and use of different funds than Leader. Youth funds are important for getting young people involved in local development.



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Topic 4

Involvement in LEADER projects

Topic 4.1

Innovative youth entrepreneurship

Foster early involvement of youth through school activities and providing guidance to youth on how to start new initiatives works well, e.g. through more stream-lined educational programmes on young entrepreneurship in primary and high schools.

Make access to funds easier, promote EU funding, give grants to young entrepreneurs, develop smaller mini funds, make it an easy process.

Topic 4.2

Shaping the green transition in rural areas

Raise awareness about green transition - there is not enough understanding of what it exactly means. Better education, communication, promotion, and informational campaigns may help.

Bring groups together to discuss the transition, for example through volunteering projects, networking, workshops, involving everyone. Create clear visions and sustainability action plans.



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Topic 4

Involvement in LEADER projects

Topic 4.3

Improving social inclusion in rural areas

Listen to youth and take action accordingly. Promote socialisation (through community hubs, youth coaches) and fun activities (e.g. rural youth camp, festivals) that can naturally attract youth

Give young people a tool to transform an idea into a project (Erasmus+, small micro grant scheme, 'YLLD' - young local led development programme managed by LAG etc.)

Topic 4.4

Promoting the digital transition in rural areas

Involve youth in innovative use of digital technologies (e.g. in developing apps, LAG communication and promotion on social media, rural digital labs for digital content creation, projects focused on smart agriculture, tourism etc.)

Engage young people in supporting digitally excluded members of rural community - e.g mentoring of older generations