



Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Youth Employment: The Voice of Rural Youth

The EU CAP Network Thematic Group (TG) on [Rural Youth Employment: the Voice of Rural Youth](#), facilitated by the CAP Implementation Contact Point, took a holistic approach in exploring the mechanisms to support employment of young rural people. This factsheet provides an overview of key outcomes of the TG.

Thematic Group - facts and figures

Objective of the TG: To explore approaches to developing sustainable and high-quality rural jobs accessible to young people and thereby inform relevant policies.



39 members



19 countries



Average age:
under 30 years



Duration of activity:
January - June 2023



Activities:
2 online meetings
2 online informal gatherings
1 Twitter chat

Overview of rural youth employment data & trends



AGEING RURAL POPULATION

Average annual population aged below 20 years in predominantly rural regions of the EU decreased between 2015 and 2020 in **0,7%**

(Source: Eurostat)



Share of farm managers aged below 35 dropped from **7.3%** to **6.5%** between 2005 and 2020

(Source: Eurostat - farmers and the agricultural labour force)



EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Youth unemployment (age group 15-24) is higher (**14.6%**) than overall rural unemployment (**5.9%**)



(Source: Rural Observatory - Thematic Analyses and Eurostat - 'Rural Europe'. Data relate to 2021)



Self-employment is higher in rural areas than in cities - and not always a choice



GENDER GAP

Women in rural areas - often more highly educated than men - have more difficulty to find work, enter or re-enter the workforce (higher rates of women unemployed, NEET, working part-time)

Gender-selective migration -

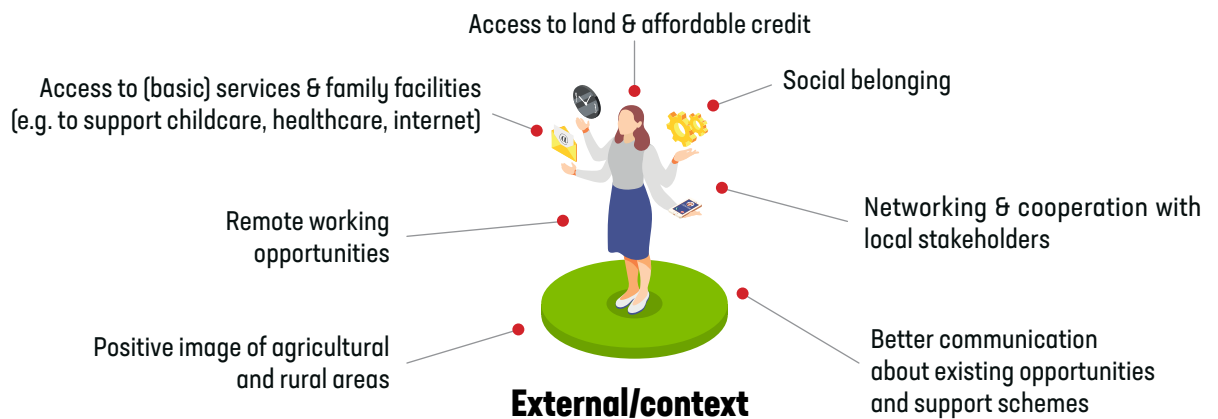
More young women leaving rural areas than young men



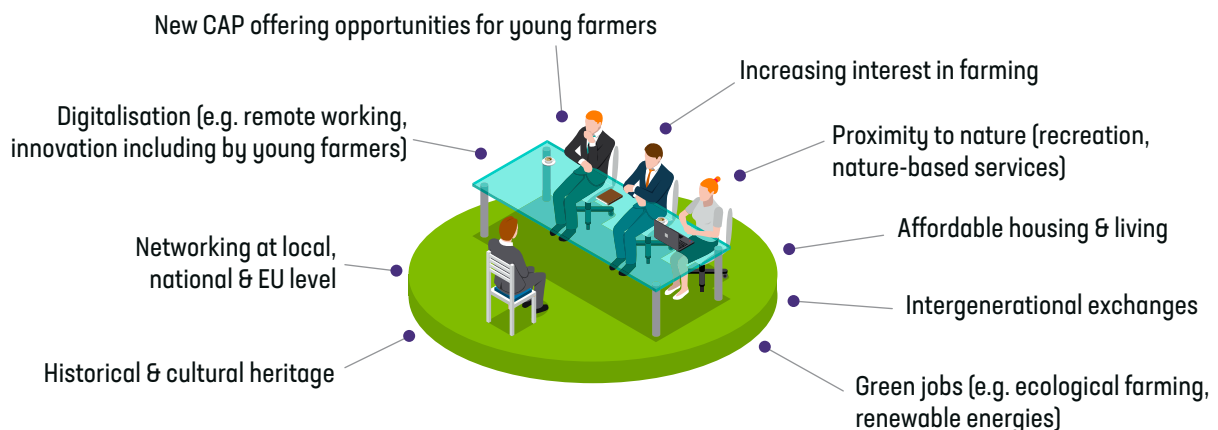
Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Youth Employment: The Voice of Rural Youth

How to support rural youth employment? Outcomes from the TG work

Ingredients for success/must-haves



Key opportunities for rural employment



Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Youth Employment: The Voice of Rural Youth

Examples of support programmes & tools for rural youth employment

Local level

[Youth Leader fund, Finland](#) - The fund provides financial support for young people's own project/business idea and enables local youth to develop their home area while gaining entrepreneurial skills. Young people are involved in the selection of projects to be funded.

[Odisseu, Spain](#)

National & regional level

[InSite, France](#)

[School for young shepherds, Italy](#)

["Stay in the countryside - it pays off", Poland](#)

[Innovation & Talent Programme 'PIT', Spain](#) - This regional support scheme implemented in the Extremadura region under the Public Service Employment (SEXPE) facilitates a 12-month apprenticeship contract for unemployed people under the age of 30. Beneficiaries enjoy good prospects to remain employed.

[Matchfunding Madrid KmRegión, Spain](#)

[Swedish Public Employment Service project: Ungdomsjobb 2022, Sweden](#)

EU & multinational level

[Youth Guarantee](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[Support from the Common Agricultural Policy, EU](#) - CAP funding opportunities include the complementary income support for young farmers, the installation of young farmers and rural business start-ups and various employment-related opportunities via LEADER, smart villages, basic services, and local infrastructure.

[Erasmus for young entrepreneurs- example from Italy](#)

[GoRemote](#), several EU countries

[Cwork4Youth](#), several EU countries



Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Youth Employment: The Voice of Rural Youth

Key policy messages



TAILOR MADE SUPPORT

- › Acknowledge that different age groups have different needs, and tailor the support accordingly (e.g. prioritise skills development for younger beneficiaries, provide business start-up support for older ones)
- › Proximity of the support i.e. a concrete contact person
- › Involvement of youth in the design of the programmes and tools
- › Simple application procedures and offer administrative support



IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

- › Light, user-friendly language, no acronyms
- › Testimonies from beneficiaries of different support programmes
- › Sharing good practices and success stories
- › Approaching the relevant target group
- › Using right channels (unemployment centres, social media, youth leaders, NGOs, voluntary associations etc.)



HOLISTIC SUPPORT

- › Provision of information about other sources of funding after the support is finished i.e. long-term fund planning
- › Programmes shall include also training on soft skills e.g. communication and marketing
- › Inter-generation support and individual mentoring
- › Networking opportunities
- › Evaluation of success should not be limited to actual number of participants
- › Facilitation of peer-learning (e.g. programme ambassadors)
- › Provision of the support in various areas: Skills & knowledge, Funding & resources, Networking & participation, Long-term mentoring & guidance

Key resources

[Policy Insights “Funding rural Europe’s future: Investing in the next generation”](#) - An overview of opportunities available from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and elsewhere to help younger generations find employment in rural areas by sourcing funding for their business ideas.

[Thematic Group on Rural Youth Employment: the Voice of Rural Youth](#) - Useful links to publications, policy documents and good practices to support youth employment in EU rural areas, as well as documents and reports from this Thematic Group (check also the links to the 1st and 2nd TG meeting).

[European Youth Portal](#) - an EU initiative that offers young people information on opportunities to learn, work and volunteer in Europe and beyond.

