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ESPON Seminar

Small and medium-sized cities in
Europe

15-16 November 2023 in Cuenca, Spain

Rural Youth Parliaments for the
active engagement of youth

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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

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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