

Youth World Café conclusions

Table	Title	Topic	Description/Method (activity, case study, experience story? etc) /Questions	REPORT: Main findings/conclusions
1	Do EU-funds reach who they supposed to? Why it's even more critical in rural areas?	Economic vulnerability, amplified effects of crisis in rural areas, use and effectiveness of EU funding	<p>A young family is thinking about moving to a village then they read this news story: The house of a family with four children was bought on auction by the village mayor, after they asked him for help. They now have 30 days to move out.</p> <p>Gas prices and the price of firewood are soaring, the city provides subsidies to its poorer citizens and shelters for the least fortunate. In a nearby village poorer people burn trash and wet wood that they cut from the area surrounding the village, devastating the nearby environment and causing serious air pollution.</p> <p>EU funding is many times the only way for rural communities to become more resilient in times of crisis, does it reach them?</p>	<p>During the three rounds of our discussions, we have heard from multiple participants that they see a problem with the flow of funds to the people they were intended to reach. One of the main problems, especially when it comes to LEADER, is that the bureaucracy that comes with programs and the documentation required is not proportionate to the projects that Action Groups are a part of. This means that their energies and resources are not used in spatial planning and strategy building.</p> <p>The other problem is that funds find the same group of people, so institutions become a cash machine and increasingly undemocratic if they don't have an inbuilt mechanism to renew themselves.</p> <p>What we think of this issue can be summarized in the statement below:</p> <p>Money from the European Union is like a stream in a valley providing water for the gardens of the villagers living there. We see more and more that bad actors are building dams upstream to limit or block the flow of this life giving water in an increasingly hot climate.</p> <p>We need to make sure our institutions and funds are not upholding these damaging power structures.</p> <p>Rural youth see this problem and call on decision makers to implement measures that ensure the democratisation of access to EU funding.</p>

2	Fostering youth entrepreneurship in rural areas	entrepreneurship challenges, opportunities, the importance for rural development and young people, how it shapes rural areas	Identifying challenges and opportunities in regards to rural entrepreneurship, through brainstorming and post its on a big piece of paper. Sharing ideas, experiences and organising them in a visual way. I wrote my thesis on rural entrepreneurship so I can share some insights from the study.	Rural youth needs a supporting ecosystem to live and start business in the countryside because rural business equals a certain lifestyle. Recreational activities to build local social network, entrepreneurship support programs and education on the topic aimed specifically at youth and affordable housing are of key importance.
3	Housing: How would a youth-friendly rural area look?	Housing issue, newcomers...	How would a youth friendly rural area look? Let's Build!	Young people want to live in rural areas, but the housing market is making it difficult. When the older generations purchase holiday homes in rural areas, the cost goes up and it becomes harder to find housing. We need to find a way to help the younger generation get into the housing market. Some suggestions were to have higher tax on holiday homes or making it easier to borrow money. The houses in the rural areas are usually built with the middle aged in mind and our rural areas need to be constructed to fit different types of living situations.
4	Civic engagement: Taking local youth dialogue to the next level!	youth associations/youth leaders/youth participation/civic engagement	<p><i>Taking local youth dialogue to the next level!</i> We will explain the importance of listening the needs of rural youth; of creating structures that include all kinds of voices; and of making this effort have real impact/action. Then we will briefly share a local story of dialogue and consensus led by a local youth association that has gone unanswered by institutions.</p> <p>Later we will make a discussion all together about "<i>what we would need to change for local youth dialogue to have a real impact</i>".</p>	Young people involvement is problematic in dialogue, and it is mainly lined with the difficulties to see the real impact of youth opinion and needs- mostly institutions don't take that seriously, in the best case a paper is written but then it is stocked somewhere in a corner. There is a lack of real feedback. And we feel angry, disappointed, helpless, disconnected. How to remediate to that: youth engagement should start already in schools with informal politics, institutions need to get more accessible by proposing informal politics. The way this Erasmus+ project was done is a good example of giving the possibility to act from the beginning to the end of the project, promoting a real dialogue and a possibility to disseminate the results.

5	Health and well-being	Mental health	<p>Present the facts about how many people suffer from depression and anxiety. Talk briefly about yoga, then there are two different variations of yoga exercises to try. The participants can try yoga, drink black tea and have the opportunity to share their own tips about mental healing, what they usually do and want to advise others about. (What do you think is the problem and the solution?)</p>	<p>Many young people suffer from mental illness and the main reasons we have discovered are: Social pressure caused by the influence of social media and competitiveness of the society. The lack of hope, security, and prospective leads to difficulty with adapting to the constantly changing world. (Climate change) Health reasons like bad diet, lack of sports, and lack of contact with nature The solutions we have come up with are engaging young people in different projects inside and outside of schools, providing activities, and giving the young people a safe space. An improvement in physical exercise and nutrition is important.</p>
6	Social gaps, youth engagement: NEET youth	Neet youth		<p>Social gaps caused by economics are big and without help from the government, they can't be solved or reduced. Coronavirus pandemics and other crisis enlarged the problem and this process must be stopped.</p>
7	Sustainable farming and smart agriculture	precision farming - environment, sustainability, renewable energy	<p>We will present the Spanish national problems related with agriculture, livestock, generational renewal and demography in the rural areas (4 min). After that we are going to do a discussion table to know if the problems in other countries are the same or not (7 min). After identifying the common worries, we are going to proceed to do another discussion table to find the possible solutions of the concerns that were exposed few minutes before. Each possible solution will be written in a post-it and fixed in a A3 paper. This A3 paper will be divided in the topics that were discussed before (8 min).</p>	<p>First of all, we asked the participants to write down their opinions about problems in the agriculture, and after that we started to talk about it. As an agricultural engineer, I was really excited. We can say that there are the same problems in the countries. Farmers get enough money from the EU, and from the government too, but they can't use it well and cleverly. The other big problem is with the prices. They get really expensive energy, so if they want to survive this energy crisis, they should sell their products at higher and higher prices. In agriculture there isn't any communication between rural and urban. And nowadays also a big problem is that the older farmers don't want to change. They don't want to hear about new technologies etc. But we think that young farmers, with careers and the right tools, can change their minds, and agriculture will have a really good future.</p>

8	Community development: youth as agents of change?	young people - agents of change	Discussion about - What does it mean to be an agent of change? Also we will speak about youth activism potential to transform communities. We will make discussion together about - What youth can do as active agents of change in the community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people want to be trusted. Generations should work together and cooperate naturally. - It is important to make mistakes, because that is how we learn, sometimes (especially for young people) fear discourages to achieve great things... and we are taught that we can't fail, which is completely false. - We also had discussion about all the bad things in politics, and we came to a conclusion that if we knew how to fix these things, than we would have already fixed them. - And the golden quote that we believe people should live by is - "you miss 100% of the shots you don't take"
9	Young people in public administrations: Would you like to be a mayor?	Would you like to be a mayor?	We will present the Spanish national problems related with agriculture, livestock, generational renewal and demography in the rural areas (4 min). After that we are going to do a discussion table to know if the problems in other countries are the same or not (7 min). After identifying the common worries, we are going to proceed to do another discussion table to find the possible solutions of the concerns that were exposed few minutes before. Each possible solution will be written in a post-it and fixed in a A3 paper. This A3 paper will be divided in the topics that were discussed before (8 min).	Youth is interested in having an active role in policy-making processes. Nevertheless, sometimes they do not feel their voice is heard and they feel they need to face several obstacles to find their place in public administrations. It is important to offer accompaniment to those youngsters who would like to be a part of policy institutions at a local level as well as in national and European level. Young people can offer different ways of management and new proposals for the future and sharing them with the people who are currently in those spaces can be ideal for developing comprehensive and long-term solutions. Young people will be the leaders of the future and they need to have an active role. If not, they will have to deal with the consequences of decisions that they have not taken. It is not enough to listen to young people; they need to be inside the decision-making spaces with scope for action.

10	Access to land and generational renewal in agriculture	Access to the private properties, value of the agriculture and livestock products, education in new working techniques of agriculture and livestock, cooperative movement and new ways of business.	<p><i>We will present the Spanish national problems related with: agriculture, livestock, generational renewal and demography in the rural areas (4 min).</i></p> <p><i>After that we are going to do a discussion table to know if the problems in other countries are the same or not (7 min).</i></p> <p><i>After identifying the common worries, we are going to proceed to do another discussion table to find the possible solutions of the concerns that were exposed few minutes before. Each possible solution will be written in a post-it and fixed in a A3 paper. This A3 paper will be divided in the topics that were discussed before (8 min).</i></p>	<p>We need to act on the law system from each country to get easier ways to access the land for the young people who want to develop agriculture and livestock activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, a lot of farms have been disappearing in the last years because the agricultural system doesn't permit a balanced income during the whole year, so the young people don't want to get on it. We ask for a dignified income to have a bright future for us.</p>
----	--	---	---	---

11	Remote Working: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities	(1) Remote Working - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (2) impact due to covid restrictions - New era (3) Software and useful tools that assist remote work (4) Work fields that may support remote working	S.W.O.T. Analysis Table through brainstorming, exchanging ideas and experiences (Post it on a big whiteboard).	<p>The problem: Young people seek for a better and healthier living environment. This environment exists in rural areas, but due to work restrictions in previous years people moved to urban cities.</p> <p>The opportunity: Taking into consideration two aspects of the new era, an crucial opportunity/a new trend has been arised for the rural areas. This is nothing more than the returning of a big part of the population in rural areas, regardless of the working field. On the other hand, Covid showed us that through remote working, people can live in a rural area and work in a different one - which can operate in the city, the capital or even in another country.</p> <p>The solution: If remote work is established as a working model and proven to be efficient, there will be simultaneous and automatic development in rural areas. There are different opinions on the effectiveness of remote working. We wrote down the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats through a SWOT Analysis and proposed various digital tools/applications that will help those who work remotely to be more efficient, and by and by extension, rural areas to develop and become more sustainable.</p> <p>As a conclusion we can say that, remote working has several strengths and opportunities, but we have to keep in mind the threats that might be caused.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) S.W.O.T. Analysis Table - Remote working 2) Usefull digital tools/applications for effective remote working
----	--	---	--	--

12	Development of rural youth through education	Empower the next generation youth who are living in rural areas to be able to develop their own opportunities and quality of life. Achieve this by education programs in collaboration with different countries, sharing their knowledge and supporting the youth leaders to use innovative solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Short introduction – Mini presentation. (Show the way we want to focus our topic) -Asking - round -Solutions (proposed by participants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inside (without moving out of your town) -Outside (learning from international programs) 	<p>First we gave a little overview how the topics are affected each other and why education is the key. Then we asked the participants what they think - what kind of problems exist around their life in the rural areas. After that we asked them to think about what kind of solutions can they imagine. Summarized the information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging those in positions of power and experiences to visit rural areas and give information to the communities and youth participants to show what kind of things exist. 2. Create an intergenerational mentorship programme in rural communities, where the mentor shows best practices, support and then developing and deepening rural youth skills. 3. Create more Erasmus programmes for those between 15-17, including both paid work and volunteering, supporting youth in their development whilst simultaneously supporting their rural communities. <p>Empower the next generation youth who are living in rural areas to be able to develop their own opportunities and quality of life. Achieve this by education programs in collaboration with different countries, sharing their knowledge and supporting the youth leaders to use innovative solutions.</p>
13	Cybersecurity and cyberbullying	Cyberbullying	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the topic: a) Video b) Results and findings from previous surveys 2. Working section a) Describe the issues - b) Describe success factors/examples of good practice/suggested solutions to problems c) Relate problems and solutions + articulate solutions in an addressable, specific way d) Reformulate into a call to action 	<p>There should be EU level regulation adopted to the National levels to solve the problems of cyberbullying on internet. Education of cybersecurity to children but also to parents so that they can prevent it from happening.</p>

14	Green Growth vs Degrowth: Rethinking Rural Development	Discussing and comparing growth narratives / Imagining rural futures	<p>1. How is economic growth related to the climate crisis? (Doughnut economics) 2. What do growth narratives imply for rural areas / How does urban growth affect rural areas? 3. Introduction to the terms Green Growth and Degrowth 4. What futures do we imagine for rural areas?</p>	<p>In all three rounds of the Green Growth vs Degrowth discussion, participants were involved in debates overgrowth, yet the frameworks of the two approaches were not entirely clear. Especially the concept of degrowth was commonly misconceived, as far as its implications on changes in life quality in the global north, are concerned, but also the global south. Among the people who were supportive of a degrowth perspective, most agreed on the need for a different "marketing" approach, in order to make it more appealing, as the term itself appears to be relatively appalling. Most importantly, the concept of degrowth was conceived as a rigid framework expected to be imposed to the communities of the global north with a top down approach, limiting civil liberties, which is far from what current degrowth research suggests and supports.</p>
15	Let's draw Rural future together!	a common drawing. All participants are invited to draw a detail in common vision. We can also invite to put some key words.		

16	Climate change: what should be the contribution of rural areas?	The current situation and the numbers, renewable energies development and their impacts in rural areas, how to deal with climate refugees, impacts of climate change on farming activities	1) introducing the current world situation in climate change by the numbers; 2) asking the participants about the current situation in their areas; 3) Flipchart on the table with cards (farming, climate refugees, renewable energies) and invite participants to add details to the cards prepared and disposed on the table, what type of actions they call for and link with their rural areas; 4) Discuss Article 13 of the Manifesto and update. Participants will be given an individual sheet with the Article 13 and empty space in order for them to write individually an update suggestion (optional).	<p>We started the discussion by asking the participants: which impacts of climate change have you noticed in your rural area? The answers related to different fields: housing problems because of floods (eg. islands, sea border), farming activity affected by droughts, etc. but the main issue that was raised was food security. The global warming triggering droughts has huge impacts on our food chains. Moreover, some rural areas are taken away they resources by the cities (eg: water in Belgium), at an extent to which urban areas cannot see the impacts of climate change and of their consumption on the environment, while rural people do.</p> <p>The main conclusions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >need for political action/measures (the clock is ticking!!) >stop financing fossil fuels >self gvmt / local democracy to empower local communities in handling their resources (problem of ownership of the resources already mentioned in Manifesto) >suggestion: wooden energy = old vision -> erase it from Manifesto >education on these issues towards people (of all ages, urban and rural), private companies and most of all politicians!
----	---	--	---	--