



EDFM (Equality, Diversity, Freedom & Mobility) –

Increasing youth opportunities for rural areas

We want the European Union to finance opportunities for young people to promote active participation in rural communities

Group Members:

Eszter, Domenico, Feri, Mandi (Hungary, Italy, Romania, the UK)

SUMMARY

Rural areas have a lack of opportunities causing many young people to leave in favour of larger cities. This is causing major consequences at both local and national levels - eroding local economies, rising youth unemployment rates and a 'brain drain' effect, where many skilled young individuals are forced to move to more developed areas. We believe the European Union has a responsibility to address these issues through two parts:

- Financing opportunities for youth in rural areas.
- Providing the opportunity for youth from urban areas to experience rural communities.

PROBLEMS

In Europe, there is a growing demographic of young people moving from rural areas into larger cities. Stale rural economies are causing major challenges, such as growing youth unemployment rates and a lack of job opportunities with direct effects in migration. Young people are forced to look for opportunities and employment elsewhere causing a 'brain drain' effect, which is causing a lack of skilled workers in rural areas.

Typically, rural jobs are seen as more physically demanding with less pay and less development and educational opportunities. Despite this belief, there is huge potential due to rapidly evolving agriculture and food systems for employing rural youth. This increasing demand for food is creating new job opportunities, not only in production, but also in distribution, processing as well as other related services.

GOALS

We want to improve the economy level in rural areas all over Europe - stressing the importance of sustainably, supporting rural businesses and encouraging youth to participate in rural economies.



For this, we must support young people from rural and urban areas equally. We want young people living in villages to have opportunities, such as developing business plans, therefore, enabling easier access to internships. Partner companies should be motivated financially to incentivise cooperate with young people from rural areas.

Secondly, we want to offer young people from urban areas the option to experience rural life. If they chose to stay in a village, the EU should fund the opportunity of starting a business, or the development of that youth in the rural area.

We also want to offer opportunities to rural youth to allow them to stay in their villages should they choose - enabling the choice to live in a rural area rather than being forced to move to a city due to the lack of rural job opportunities.

ACTIONS

Our proposal is two-fold. We would like to ask the European Union to provide funds for young people in cities to have the opportunity to experience rural life. We would also like for young

people in villages to have opportunities to go into cities to develop their skills. Increasingly young people are growing up without an awareness of what rural life is like. We believe that young people should have a chance to explore the opportunities available to participate in rural economies.

The main values behind this idea are to create an exchange network at a national and European level. We would like the European Union to provide training for companies in rural areas on how to host young people and ensure that they are safe and have a meaningful learning experience. The exchanges could be working at a business, a homestay or a farm-stay. The main aim is to show young people that there is a different way of life outside of cities and to participate in rural economies. We would like to ask the European Union to provide funding for the young people to travel to the rural areas and for the materials they might need whilst on the stay. We believe that rural areas and small villages can offer a pace of life that is different to the city. Exposing young people to a way of life that is different to what they are used to can be a way to boost young people's interest in participating in rural economies.

Thanks to this EU programme, young people from rural areas, after having set a business plan can move to cities for few months, up to a year, to have an internship in companies



YOUTH 4 EUROPE



Erasmus+

based in the EU. After acquiring new skills young people can go back to rural areas to start up their own activities, or they can continue working for the host companies from the cities.

In order to make this collaboration between companies and young people living in the rural areas possible, this programme will provide benefits for the companies such as tax incentives for those who collaborate with the youngsters living in rural areas.

This programme will also give a chance to young people from big cities to experience the rural life and local companies in the countryside.

The youngsters from the urban area, after setting a business plan, they can move to the countryside through an internship with a local business, improving their knowledge and skills. The internship will be financed by EU, whom will also support young people if they decide to remain in the rural areas. The EU will provide tax incentives for them and for the companies employing them.

The link between the companies and the young people, will be realised through an online platform for any type of job.

FINAL CLAIM

Rural communities play a fundamental part in the future development of the world. Give our youth the opportunities to develop regardless of their area.