

NEWSLETTER

30 JUNE 2026

THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMOCRATIC LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY



Public decisions are made within local institutions, councils, and other spaces where communities shape their future. Understanding how these systems work helps young people participate more effectively in democratic life. Participation is not only about expressing opinions, but also about contributing ideas, needs, and proposals to decision-making processes.

This is particularly important in rural areas, where young people's perspectives are often underrepresented. Their active involvement helps make democracy more inclusive, representative, and responsive to local needs, while strengthening the relationship between communities and public institutions.



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TRANSFORMING RURAL COMMUNITIES: FROM IDEAS TO ACTION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEN PARTICIPATION IS NOT ENOUGH

Participation goes beyond expressing opinions. It means turning community needs into practical proposals, understanding how local decisions are made, and engaging with public institutions. For young people in rural areas, this is an opportunity to address real challenges and help develop solutions that improve everyday life.

FROM NEEDS TO CHANGE

Meaningful change begins with listening, identifying shared needs, and defining common goals. Clear and realistic proposals enable young people to strengthen democratic participation and contribute to better decisions for the future of their communities.

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WORKSHOP ON THE EU POLICY

The Workshop on EU Policy, organised as part of the RURAL 2.0 project, brings together young people from across Europe to explore active citizenship, democratic participation, and dialogue with European institutions.

Taking place in Romania from 28 to 31 July 2026, the workshop provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, strengthen knowledge of EU policymaking, and develop skills that support meaningful participation in rural communities.

RURAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

As part of the RURAL 2.0 project, the Rural Leadership Academy offers a digital training programme designed to strengthen young people's leadership, civic engagement, and understanding of European governance.

The programme includes 12 video modules, each around 20 minutes long, available in English with multilingual subtitles, and organised into three learning tracks that combine expert knowledge with practical examples and interactive learning.

For the Training content programme [click here](#) and visit the website

COMING SOON