

Workshop Report on: RURAL YOUTH

I. Methodology and work of the group in the session

This session of the workshop was aimed to bring out possible initiatives, ideas, activities, that might be undertaken in the future with the focus on Rural and Youth in Europe with in FS work. Also it had aim to raise some kind of motivation and maybe enable kind of commitments for the future, among the participants.

Working group was divided in three groups according to previously structured areas and fields of their interest noted on the flip chart in previous session on presentation and identification of topics of interest:

1. Staying rural has a "BAD IMAGE"
2. How to get the young back after they finished higher education (1 vote)
3. How to motivate people to work on the topic? (8 votes)
4. How to make them feel that they are part of community (5 votes)
5. Bring together with different stakeholders (4 votes – merged with number 3)
6. How to prepare rural areas for young coming back (6 votes)
7. Access to land, access to capital (8 votes)
8. New links and ways to consumers (0 votes- merged to number 12)
9. Create a place where to interact (1 vote)
10. How to keep local traditional food (1 vote)
11. Finding new income combinations with farming (e.g. renewable energies) (4 votes)
12. Create community funds to attract young families, housing (merged to number 6)
13. Provide education in rural places (4 votes)
14. Education and rural areas (6 votes)

The topics that were selected with most votes in the voting were:

1. How to motivate people to work on youth topic together/ with different stakeholders
2. Access to land and capital for youth
3. Preparation of areas for youth coming back to live in them
4. Education in rural areas
5. Youth as part of community

As a result of the voting system the four working groups were formed:

1. Networking (Ref to topic1: How to motivate people to work on youth topic together/ with different stakeholders)
2. Access to land and capital (Ref. to topic 2)
3. Rural Community and youth(Ref. to topic 3: Preparation of areas for youth coming back to live in them; Topic 5: Youth as part of community)

4. How to link education and rural areas(Ref. to topic 5)

Each working group had a task to answer three questions:

- What they would like or can do?
- How they can do it?
- Which resources they might contribute with or what is necessary to get the things going as support that might be received from FS?

All the groups have produced the expected outcomes depending on the group's dynamics. Due to the time limit (extended time limit of the first presenter) the possibility for presentation in working group plenary and coming with concrete group conclusion was not possible. Therefore the possibility for presentation and discussion with the other groups was open on the general plenary session. That was better option which was used to acknowledge the whole plenary what were the outcomes, ideas and initiatives from the WG Youth.

II. Outcomes as reported on plenary from the working groups

WG1: Networking

(The group was constituted of the Macedonian NEA representatives, RDN Macedonia Representative as rapporteur, and the host speaker from Beaufortain.)

This group has indicated the need to open the issue of involvement of youth as part of already existing cooperatives. Their proposal is to try to engage the educated rural youth into the ongoing cooperatives' functions as managers, engineers, etc. The offered resources they want or can put in are the funds of the rural development programmes (applicable for/in Macedonia only). The group would need support in networking and linking to exchange experiences in cooperatives functioning in Europe and the issue of youth involvement in them.

Here is the group presentation:

Focus on: Agricultural cooperatives

Actions: -To include youth managers and agricultural engineers in the cooperatives
-Creating networks of the cooperatives in the Europe to share experiences and improve markets

Resources: Rural development programs funds in Macedonia

Possibilities for provision of education and training to rural youth

FS to support with links on cooperatives topic on European level, facilitate programs and working groups on cooperatives linkages.

WG2: Access to Land and Capital

(Participants: Jorgen, Gordana, Daniel, etc)

This group has concrete proposals on future work related to the issue of access to land and capital in order to improve the existing networks, deliver knowledge and advocacy . The participants offer their knowledge and networks. They need support in guidance, some money and more networking.

Group presentation:

1. How?

PLATFORM FOR INSPIRATION, INFORMATION, INTERACTION

- Documenting and sharing the successful stories
- Advocacy for newcomers
- Education about the importance for local organic and health food to all community members by
- Motivation

2. With whom?

- Governmental organisations
- Private sector
- NGOs
- Schools
- Successful farmers
- NGOs local and wider

3. Resources:

What we need?

- Broadening network
- Seed money
- Sharing experiences
- Guidance

What we offer?

- Existing network across Europe
- Network of young sustainable farmers
- Supporting organizations
- Group of motivated young people

WG3: Rural Community and youth

(Participants and presenters: the girl from Hella sverigeskal leva, AnneliKondukant Estonia; Anita LRF Latvia, Milosh Slovakia, Marga Poland/ Germany)

This group has ideas on enable positive change of youth in the rural communities through exchanges of experiences and positive case studies. The focus is enabling youth leadership and youth entrepreneurship supported by the rural communities. The aim is to interlink youth with positive cases from different realities in Europe. This is their action plan structure:

YOUTH – POSITIVE POWER

(for communities and villages below 2500 people)

Focus: **Youth leaders.** (Youth understood as aged 23 and older)

INSPIRE: Share and exchange events of good examples or solutions or experiences in different countries related to the youth and youth leaders.

GIVE: Tools and practical suggestions about the position of youth in the communities

EXCHANGES: Looking at each region with helicopter perspective and the one that come should be involved in the development of the regions. Sharing and making real casestudies.

GOAL: Youth to be able to live, work and contribute to communities!!! Raise the number and community structures with young people and increase the companies owned by young people (not just agriculture)

RESOURCES:

- The group indicated possibility to provide their local experiences and possibilities to exchange the ideas with the others in the group and the whole gathering.
- The action will need support in structuring, networking and giving European dimensions to this idea.

WG4: How to link education and rural areas

This group has comes with some conclusions and proposals on possible changes and adaptation of the education in rural areas. The group has provided basis for the tangible issues that need attention or actions in rural areas. Later during the discussions Kondukant representative came out with ideas on how to contribute to the improvement of the non- formal education.

Key points of group action plan/needs assessment presentation:

- The rural education should be different and adapted to the rural realities and needs apart from the vocational education nowadays.
- It has to be close to the jobs in rural areas.
- Decentralized schools and educations for rural areas, people and their needs.
- “really understand what you are doing” Choice must be open, level of education equality should be different form the education in general – the new curriculums should be developed for rural education that is crucial for the rural needs: to learn and understand (biology and linked sciences, biochemistry, food, farming practices etc.)