

RYTA - RURAL YOUTH TRAINING ACTIVITIES

D3.1 REPORT ON EXISTING TRAINING CONTENTS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

PREPARED BY: E.M. ASSOCIAZIONE A.R.C.E.S.
(ARCES)

Author: Alessandro Pernice, Ryta project manager

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Introduction

This document, as part of **Work Package 3: Policy advocacy educational modules and online platform**, sets out the basis for **an effective implementation of innovative training and educational activities oriented to rural youth**.

It provides a single point of reference on the working plan and quality assurance guidelines for partners **to ensure high quality trainings**, that will be applied throughout the duration of the project and even beyond the project life cycle.

As mentioned in the approved application form¹, WP3 will enable young people from rural areas to increase their level of participation in the democratic processes and provide all necessary skills in order to make youth organizations in rural areas to be much more active and to establish new youth organizations in rural areas.

In particular, WP3 aims to provide a space for empowered and more inclusive democratic and rural civic youth engagement in multi-levelled decision-making for the future we want to have, by providing the mechanism to engage rural young people in a more structured intersectional cooperation for collective visioning and joint plans and actions towards an inclusive society.

To achieve the abovementioned goals, the following tools and products will be developed as part of WP3:

- **Learning materials** to be used during the training for young people living in rural areas, thus ensuring Capacity Building and Skills Development of youth in rural areas,
- **An online networking platform** to establish a network to be run by rural young people from across Europe named "rural youth e-councils,
- The so called **"Rural youth e-councils"** aiming at supporting young people's active participation and access to decision-making processes by giving them importance to their demands, suggestions, and ideas.

¹ EU Grants: Application form (ERASMUS BB and LS Type II): V1.0 – 25.02.2021, p.37.



Within these aspects, the **desk research on related educational activities (T3.1.)** - that will be carried out by ARCES (COO) in cooperation with all Beneficiaries - will be the first and the most important task of WP3.

The goal of this task is to develop an approach to strengthen the link between young people from rural areas and policy makers as well, so that we can find clear solutions to problems.

We want to base our WP3 activities on these three components:

- a) **Tools, instruments, policies, projects, initiatives and training courses** implemented in each country;
- b) **Knowledge** acquired through the analysis of training courses and learning materials (if available) covered by other projects or initiatives in the same field;
- c) **Experience** gained from the partners in this field.

Scope of the Deliverable

The report has been drafted in the framework of the project — ***Rural Youth Training Activities - RYTA***, which is a two-year project funded by the European Union's ERASMUS+ programme.

It is based on the terms and conditions established in the Grant Agreement (GA) and its Annexes, as well as in the Consortium Agreement (CA) specifications and requirements.

RYTA is coordinated by the **Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IED)** in **Greece** and is conducted by a consortium of **six partners** belonging to Mediterranean Countries (Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia), including TVETs, Associations, Research institutes, Companies and Trade union organisations.

RYTA's overall goal is strengthening the training capacities of partner organizations targeting young people of rural and remote areas, by providing



innovative and digital educational materials and training opportunities focusing on sustainability and environment, also through non-formal learning activities.

The project aims specifically to promote non-formal training activities in the partner countries not associated to the Erasmus + Programme (Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon) and promote the inclusion of youth population of rural areas in democratic life.

The partnership will develop trainings and mobility activities in third countries not associated to the Programme and thus foster cooperation across different areas of the Mediterranean region.

Finally, the project promotes the **EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027)**² and its 11 goals³, specifically referring in goals 2,4,6,9 and 10 (with a primary focus in the **goal 6 “Moving Rural Youth Forward”**⁴ and precisely “**Ensuring youth active participation and facilitating equal access in decentralised decision-making process of rural areas**”).

The Report is focused on WP3 “Policy advocacy educational modules and online platform” that is led by ARCES Association (Italy). This work package will enable young people from rural areas to increase their level of participation in democratic processes through collective upskilling activities and joint plans, aiming to promote active engagement of youth organizations in rural areas, through the provision of a digital empowerment space and the establishment of an innovative engagement mechanism.

ARCES (IT) coordinates the overall implementation of WP3’s designed activities with the parallel contribution of all partners.

The **goal of this Deliverable (D.3.1)** is to present existing initiatives on youth engagement in rural activities, such as Programmes, Policies, Projects, Training materials, including, relevant Youth Associations acting at National and European level, that can be the basis for **planning a tailored offer of learning**

² https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/european-youth-goals_en

³ <https://youth-goals.eu/youthgoals>

⁴ <https://youth-goals.eu/yg6>



materials to be used during the project training courses for young people living in rural areas.

Moreover, the Partners will provide **useful and concrete recommendations** to improve youth engagement in the rural development process.

Based on the desk research made within this deliverable, the Partners will be more competent **to develop innovative training activities** with a focus on environment, sustainability, and youth empowerment, by considering some proposed suggestions for the topics that need to be included in the project training courses.

This report is structured in **three chapters**.

- **Chapter 1** presents the “**methodology**” on how to conduct the research and contribute to elaborate this report;
- **Chapter 2** presents “**existing initiatives**” on youth engagement in rural activities; these initiatives, such as Programmes, Policies, Projects, Training materials or existing Youth Associations acting at National and European level, have been selected by the partners as part of their desk analysis;
- **Chapter 3** presents some “**recommendations**” on how to improve youth engagement.

The **conclusion** of the report summarizes our findings, describes their importance, and makes some recommendations for further activities in the selected field.



Chapter 1: The methodology on how to conduct the research.

1.1 The desk research process

The desk research is the first and the most important step of *Work package 3 "Policy Advocacy educational modules and online platform"*.

The **goal** of the desk research is to develop **a methodology to identify the right strategic initiatives that will inspire our training courses** to be implemented under *Work Package 4: "Trainings and Mobility Activities"*.

It is useful to investigate initiatives that highlight links between rural youth and policy makers, so that proposed solutions will tackle the challenge of active participation of young people in decisions and actions at all levels.

The desk research will be conducted by all Project Partners (PPs) and will be focused **on existing programmes, policies, projects at national and European level as well as youth NGOs acting at local and European level**.

Studies edited by the European Commission (EC), or by the United Nations Youth Associations (UNYAs), UNESCO, FAO, or other relevant organisations operating in this field will be consulted.

Some suggestions per partner and per category are indicated in the next paragraphs hereafter.

The selection of the data and sources of information to perform enrichment with was a crucial step to improve the quality of the overall research process.

In order to recognise which materials are best suited with the purposes of D3.1 and WP3 in general, it is recommended to **follow the following steps**:

- **Analyse the source**: a good knowledge of the source (e.g., European Union, UNEP, UFM, UNYAs, Funding & tender Portal⁵, ERASMUS+⁶, IFAD⁷,

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results;programCode=ERASMUS2027>

⁶ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/?page=1&sort=&domain=eplus2021&view=list&map=false&searchType=projects>



etc.) and data in terms of topic coverage (e.g., Rural youth inclusion, empowering rural youth, etc.), target group to be reached (e.g., NEETs, learners, vulnerable groups, rural youth), is necessary before selecting an enrichment data.

- **Find source data available on the Web.** It is recommended selecting datasets available on the Web and track the URL link. Several portals dealing with projects, trainings, policies, reports on youth activities, etc. are available to help partners to source enrichment targets.
- **Select the enrichment data from selected sources and then report to the Table.** It is recommended selecting datasets available on the Internet after having explored the “**State of the art**” about **existing training materials, projects and policies on youth engagement**, and then report to the table below corresponding for each project partner.

Special attention was also given to incorporating **the role and effectiveness of youth NGOs operating at National and European level.**

1.2 Youth engagement definitions

Several literatures exist that study youth engagement definitions. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes the importance of **youth engagement** in the global health space and encourages young people to get involved in various ways. One effective way to engage young people is to involve them right from the beginning in the events, meetings, activities, etc., organised by youth organizations⁸.

A number of youth engagement definitions in the literature emphasized its participatory and change-causing element.

Checkoway (2011) defined **youth engagement** as meaningful and sustainable youth involvement in making decisions affecting them.

⁷ <https://www.ifad.org/>

⁸ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-youth-engagement>



Forms of youth engagement that reflect its participatory element include volunteerism, participation in community projects visioning and execution, representation in boards and councils, and suggestion of policy options⁹.

In particular, the United Nation defined **Youth engagement** as: *“a process that empowers and enables youth to understand, realise and claim their rights. Participation is a fundamental human right. Meaningfully engaging with youth is a pre-requisite to ensure that young people and their structures can exercise and fulfil this right”¹⁰*.

In the report elaborated by UNESCO (2019)¹¹ it is also stated that *“Youth engagement helps youth develop their agency towards active citizenship and express their voices and ideas. It also encourages youth-to-youth organising and builds the capacities of the structures through which youth engage. Youth engagement contributes to identity-building of youth and to strengthening a number of **life skills** that are key in all aspects of their lives”*.

The UN emphasises the importance of involving young people in the development of national SDG. The abovementioned report indicates that *“The Agenda 2030 identifies youth as critical agents of change, with every Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) requiring youth action and participation to succeed. Youth engagement is vital in translating the Agenda into local, national and regional policies, while investing in the engagement of this large demographic group strengthens democracy”¹²*.

As we believe on these statements, we built our analysis on a **list of selected policies, projects and initiatives that are currently addressing societal needs and challenges, by leveraging on youth roles.** Most of the training courses are closely related to the SDGs, such as YouLeaders Capacity-building course¹³.

⁹ Youth Engagement: a case study of the Youth Circles Initiative in the UAE, Fatima Alowais, Dubai Public Policy Research Center, United Arab Emirates, 30 June 2017.

¹⁰ Meaningfully engaging with youth Guidance and training for UN staff, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the Interagency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), 2019, p.7. Available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2021/05/Meaningfully-engaging-youth-Guidance-training-UN-staff.pdf>

¹¹ Idem, p.7.

¹² Idem, p.7.

¹³ <https://youleaders.eu/#activities>



Chapter 2: Existing policies on youth engagement in rural activities

2.1 Existing policies on youth engagement in rural activities

This section describes existing policies on youth engagement in rural activities. These policies are investigated and mentioned in the table below by each of the project partner (PPs).

Partners explain why the selected Policy (Action Plan, Programme, etc.) is relevant for the purpose of this report and the project RYTA, by indicating **the website** where they can be found and **title of the policy or programme** being analysed.



IED - GREECE (PP1) – COORDINATOR

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the 2014-2020 programming period	https://greece.representation.ec.europa.eu/stratigiki-kai-proteraiotites/basikes-politikes-tis-ee-gia-tin-ellada/georgia-kai-agrotiki-anaptyxi-stin-ellada_el?etrans=en	The Rural Development Programme (RDP) for the 2014-2020 programming period is the main development tool for the implementation of a series of policy measures for the rural sector and rural areas of the country, aiming at the recovery of the Greek rural economy and the reorientation of the productive and development model.	One of the strategic objectives of the RDP is specified in strengthening the social cohesion of rural areas.
2	National Rural Network of the Greek Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	https://ead.gr/home-en/	Within the framework of the European Rural Development Policy, National Rural Networks have been established in the Member States, in order to pursue the best possible results for Rural Development	The main added value of this network is to provide solutions to the problems faced by rural areas through



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			Programmes, financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).	sharing knowledge and information and encouraging the dialogue between the stakeholders.
3	Youth '17-'27: A Strategic Framework for Youth Empowerment (document)	Youth '17-'27: A Strategic Framework for Youth Empowerment	"Youth '17-27: A Strategic Framework for Youth Empowerment" is a comprehensive document that outlines principles, objectives, participation procedures, tools, programs, and monitoring mechanisms aimed at empowering young people in Greece.	The last national objective of the "Youth 17-27" Strategic Framework includes addressing the demographic renewal of the countryside and rural areas.



ARCES - ITALY (PP2) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	PIANO STRATEGICO DELLA PAC (PSP) 2023-2027 / CAP STRATEGIC PLAN (PSP) 2023-2027	https://www.regione.sicilia.it/istituzioni/regione/strutture-regionali/assessorato-agricoltura-sviluppo-rurale-pesca-mediterranea/dipartimento-agricoltura/piano-strategico-pac-	CAP STRATEGIC PLAN (PSP) 2023-2027 - PROGRAMMING COMPLEMENT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT SICILY ¹⁴ . The strategy of the Sicilian Region for rural development is part of the national strategy for the CAP.	Article 69 of Reg. (EU) 2021/2115 ¹⁵ states that the types of intervention for rural development consist of payments or support in relation to: E. the settlement of young farmers and new farmers, and the start-up of rural businesses The strategic choices of the Sicilian Region have led to the identification of rural development interventions that make it possible to respond to the general objectives and specific objectives of Reg. (EU) 2021/2115. Below are the choices of the Sicilian Region: Specific goal 7: Attract and support young farmers and other new entrants and facilitate sustainable farm development in

¹⁴ Source: https://www2.regione.sicilia.it/deliberegiunta/file/giunta/allegati/N.149_30.03.2023.pdf

¹⁵ Source: Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013. More at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115>



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		2023-2027		rural areas — Promoting <u>entrepreneurship in rural areas by encouraging the entry and permanence of young people and new entrepreneurs</u> qualified to run agricultural, forestry and non-agricultural companies, guaranteeing adequate training, facilitating access to credit and land capital and promoting the multifunctionality of companies and the processes of business diversification, environmental sustainability, innovation and digitalization of the company. Specific goal 8: Promote employment, growth, gender equality, including women's participation in agriculture, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry — Creating and supporting employment and social inclusion in rural areas, strengthening the non-agricultural economic system through the creation of new businesses and promoting diversification, multifunctionality and social agriculture, with particular attention to the role of young people and women. Sicily's PCRD is putting particular emphasis on actions related to rural youth development and collaboration with stakeholders and policy makers.
2	PSR 2014-2022: The Rural	https://www.regione.sicilia.it/la-regione-	PSR 2014-2022: The Rural Development Program (PSR) Sicily 2014-2022	PSR 2014-2022: The Rural Development Program (PSR) Sicily 2014-2022 gives the opportunity to young farmers to set up with other young farmers wishing to create a common agricultural



	Development Program (PSR) Sicily 2014-2022	informa/psr-sicilia-20142022-sottomisura-61-scorrimonto-graduatoria	represents the financing and implementation instrument of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) of the Island, and it has a total financial envelope of €. 2,912,020,750.03 of public expenditure.	holding between them ¹⁶ . The PSR 2014-2022 is a tool to support the development of young farmers' businesses.
3	National youth strategy	https://national-policies.eacea.europa.eu/youth/wiki/chapters/italy/13-national-youth-strategy	Every year, the national Government sets up youth policies priorities, upon close consultation with the Regions, and other relevant local Authorities. The strategy is agreed upon in the framework of the “Unified Conference” (Conferenza Unificata) that meets every year. The Unified Conference includes the National Government, the Regions, the autonomous Provinces, the Nation	The Department for Youth Policies and the Universal Civic Service avails of a yearly Fund for Youth Policies aimed at promoting youth rights and implementing the annual strategy. The amount of the Fund is set annually with the budget law. The official act produced by the Unified Conference establishes the division of the fund among the national Government, Regions, and Local Authorities. Since 2006, the national Fund for Youth Policies has been financing measures oriented to promote the following: — non-formal and informal education; — youth-friendly information; — access of young people to the job market, including the development of start-ups and youth entrepreneurship, with particular attention to digital and ecological transformation;

¹⁶ Source: <https://www.regione.sicilia.it/la-regione-informa/psr-sicilia-20142022-sottomisura-61-scorrimonto-graduatoria>



			Association of the Italian Municipalities (Associazione Nazionale dei Comuni italiani - ANCI) and the Union of the Italian Provinces (Unione delle Province d'Italia -UPI).	— social inclusion, and specific measures to reach out to NEETs and marginalized and vulnerable groups; — participation and youth rights; — cultural and sport activities, development of talents; — preventing measures against addictions; — volunteering and access to international and European programmes and projects.
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Planning and Development Agency – LEBANON (PP3) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	UNICEF Adolescent and Youth programme	https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/adolescent-and-youth-programme	Adolescent and Youth programme	UNICEF's Adolescent and Youth programme aims to support adolescent and youth with second chance education, skilling, access to decent income generating and civic engagement opportunities
2	UNICEF National Youth	https://lebanon.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/National%20Youth%20Policy%20Action%20Plan-	National Youth Policy Action Plan	The Action Plan's interventions fall within the scope of the 20



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	Policy Action Plan	Full%20Report.pdf		recommendations that were selected from the National Youth Policy document approved by the Council of Ministers in 2012, based on the consensus reached between all concerned local and international governmental and non-governmental bodies. The recommendations are: Demographics and Migration, Employment and Economic Participation, Social Integration and Political Participation, Education and culture and Health and High-Risk Behaviours.
3	UNDP- Youth Leadership Programme Lebanon	https://ylplebanon.org/	Youth Leadership Programme Lebanon	YLP aims to empower change-makers and support the young women and men to design and implement innovative, impactful, and sustainable development solutions, whether in the form of social enterprises, non-profits, NGOs, initiatives, or campaigns.



TDM 2000 – Italy (PP4) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	"Sportello in Spalla"	https://www.associazionemalik.it/sportello-in-spalla/	"Sportello in Spalla"(Regional initiative)	"Sportello in Spalla" is an example of an existing policy regarding the involvement of young people in rural areas in the region of Sardinia. The initiative is promoted by Malik Association which was founded in 2004 with the aim of connecting the island of Sardinia with Africa. The 'Sportello in Spalla' project was developed in cooperation with Eurodesk Italy and Eurobridge and focuses mainly on young people living in small municipalities and rural areas and those who are neither studying nor working (NEET). It aims to disseminate and promote the initiatives that the European Union and the Council of Europe dedicated to young people, with the objective of fostering youth exchanges, education and training among European youth. It also allows the realisation of EU project management. Some of the small and isolated Sardinian municipalities involved in the policy are Austis, Desulo, Fonni, Gavoi, Lodine, Mamoiada, Ollolai, Olzai, Orgosolo, Ovodda, Teti, Tiana, and Tonara.
2	"Galattica - Rete Giovani Puglia"	https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/politiche-giovanili/-/galattica	"Galattica - Rete Giovani Puglia (Regional initiative)"	"Galattica - Rete Giovani Puglia" is an initiative of the Apulia Region concerning youth policies. The policy aims to support young people in the development of initiatives within public spaces in order to provide young people with opportunities and experiences in the social and professional spheres. By doing so, it is possible to foster youth civic participation and inclusion in local communities and to foster their autonomy. The initiative provides public spaces



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				for young people where they can implement their youth activities in cooperation with the manager of the public space. "Galattica" is a great opportunity to foster youth engagement in rural areas and allow small municipalities through funding to develop initiatives for young people.
3	"Piano Nazionale Borghi"	https://pnrr.cultura.gov.it/misura-2-rigenerazione-di-piccoli-siti-culturali-patrimonio-culturale-religioso-e-rurale/2-1-attrattivita-dei-borghi/	"Piano Nazionale Borghi"(National Policy)	"Piano Nazionale Borghi" is an Italian national policy to support initiatives and local projects for the economic and social development of disadvantaged areas for a cultural revival of small towns and the revitalisation of tourism. The allocated funding for the realization of these projects is 761.866.602,09. About half of it is dedicated to small villages with less is dedicated to small villages with less than 5000 inhabitants and it allows the implementation of projects which can boost youth engagement. Through this policy, the NGO TDM 2000 was able to implement projects in Genoni, a Sardinian municipality with about 800 inhabitants and characterized by depopulation. 2 projects of TDM 2000 in Genoni are "Sportello Futuro" and "Officina Europa". The first one aims at promoting and dissemination of information regarding training and volunteering opportunities abroad through programmes of the European Union and other international organisations. "Officina Europa" consists of labs for project management in relation to EU funding to equip young people and NGOs in Genoni with competencies. These skills will be useful in creating EU projects for impacting positively the small town of Genoni.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - NARC – Jordan (PP5) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Rural Development Initiatives	Not available	Rural development initiatives are operating at national and local level	Though not exclusively targeted at youth, the Jordanian government has launched rural development initiatives to improve infrastructure, education, and employment opportunities in rural communities, indirectly impacting rural youth .
2	Jordan National Youth Strategy:	https://moy.gov.jo/sites/default/files/jordan-national-youth-strategy-2019-2025_english_compressed_1.pdf	The Jordan National Youth Strategy is acting at National level	The Jordan National Youth Strategy outlines the government's vision and priorities for youth development. While not exclusively focused on rural youth, it includes measures to enhance youth participation, employment, and entrepreneurship, which can have implications for rural areas
3	Youth	Not available	National policy	Youth Employment Policy: The



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	Employment Policy			government of Jordan has been implementing policies to address youth unemployment and promote youth employment opportunities. These policies aim to provide young people, including those in rural areas, with skills training and job placement support.
4	Youth Inclusion project - Jordan	https://www.oecd.org/countries/jordan/jordan-youth.htm	National policy	The Jordanian government has been active in developing policies to promote youth employment. As the challenges are many and cut across several policy dimensions, measures should focus on both supply and demand, and be curative as well as preventative. Emphasis needs to be placed on education and training, job creation and entrepreneurship , inclusion of youth in the labour market and institutional reform



Tunisian Union of Agriculture and fisheries - UTAP - Tunisia (PP6) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	National, Regional Local Policies on Youth Engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Youth political participation in post-2011 Tunisia	https://s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/storage.arab-reform.net/ari/2022/05/23142325/2022-05-Arab-Reform-Initiative-Youth-political-participation-in-Tunisia-local-councils-EN-1.pdf	Participation of young Tunisians in formal political institutions. Mandatory quotas are quite effective in bringing young people into the spheres of representative politics.	Tunisia modified its electoral code in 2014 to include a youth quota, with a mandatory representation of youth on electoral lists for local elections. In April-May 2018, Tunisia held elections for local councils, representing the first mandatory iteration of these youth quotas in practice. The introduction of quotas in favour of young people for legislative and municipal elections is a milestone that marks a significant branching decision point within the civic participation among young people in Tunisia.



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2.2 Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities

This paragraph describes existing **projects** (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities. These projects were investigated and analysed by all partners.

The societal implications of any funded projects (at National and European level) might be considered to be relevant to analyse youth participation in decision-making process, good governance and democracy.

The partners explain why the selected Projects (Erasmus+, Interreg, ENI CBC MED 2014-2020, etc.) are relevant to the purpose of this report and the RYTA project, by indicating **the website** where they can be found and **title of the Project** being analysed.



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IED - GREECE (PP1) – COORDINATOR

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub project	https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/index_en	The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub project is part of the wider policy package of the European Green Deal. The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is an initiative of the European Commission, which aims to accelerate the development of sustainable energy community projects in European rural areas.	The project will disseminate best practices to assist local authorities, enterprises, farmers, and residents in creating their own rural energy communities and give crucial information for European institutions, national, regional, and local authorities. With the right technical and financial assistance, formed Rural Energy Communities and Citizen Energy Communities may enhance rural regions' energy security in a democratic way, while also bringing economic advantages and job possibilities to



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				individuals participating in this initiative.
2	Rural Youth Festival	https://www.youthactiveminds.com/projects/rural-youth-festival-2	Rural Youth Festival is a youth exchange project hosted by a Greek organization.	The main aim of the festival is to invite participants to a journey to develop their own open workshop, explore their creative potentials and use art, nature and sport as the main thematic pillars for their engagement.
3	Europe Goes Local	https://europegoeslocal.eu/home/	Europe Goes Local is a European cooperation project to develop and strengthen local youth work.	One of the project's key objectives is to build bridges between the local and European levels, including municipalities in rural areas, therefore its educational tools can be related to our project. What are your methods for increasing youth participation in rural areas? The Partners have been leading the process of creating a strategic document, the Concept of Youth Work in the Municipality, in rural municipalities that are interested for a period of seven years. That includes a series of meetings with young people,



				local politicians, municipal leadership and also the general public ¹⁷ .
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ARCES - ITALY (PP2) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Rural4School	http://www.rural4learning.eu/mod/page/view.php?id=1573	The project is promoted by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies as part of the 2014-2022 National Rural Network programme. The aim is to transfer experiences, knowledge and good practices in the field of rural development to students of agricultural institutes and universities in Italy. The project Rural4School opens up to the possibility of not only direct learning and training, but also e-learning and formative visits to rural farms.	This project can be a key factor in determining budget and understand what kind of learning processes can be taken. It is a project that brings young people closer to their rural community.
2	Il progetto Life per il Parco Agricolo	https://shorturl.at/nsDGK	The Life project for the “Palermo Agricultural Park” in the framework of the European Union life'94 Program and in	The project was aimed to recover the citrus grove of Croceverde Giardina/Ciaculli.

¹⁷ <https://europegoeslocal.eu/eql-action/zilina-youth-council/>



	di Palermo/ The Life project for the “Palermo Agricultural Park”		particular within the topic “Model of agricultural management in peri-urban area to ensure the integration between the city and countryside” (LIFE94/ITIAIS I/IT/00219/SIC)	The project was born with two specific objectives: to give an opportunity for social redemption to rural youth; to tackle the withdrawal of young people from rural areas.
3	Rurart Gallery – Un ritratto dell’agricoltura italiana che cambia/ Rurart Gallery - A portrait of the changing Italian agriculture	https://www.psr Sicilia.it/notizie/rurart-gallery-un-ritratto-dellagricoltura-italiana-che-cambia/	The <i>Rurart Gallery</i> project is funded by the PSR 2014-2022. The final event of Rurart Gallery was held from 3 to 5 May 2023 in Santo Stefano di Camastra (Messina).	The event was an opportunity to learn about the new CAP Strategic Plan ¹⁸ . Rurart Gallery wants to be a showcase of the changing Italian agriculture; which looks to the past to plan the future and which opens up to dialogue with other forms of cultural expression ¹⁹ . It is a public competition launched by the National Rural Network in synergy with the Mipaaf ²⁰ and the Italian Regions to involve Italian street artists in the enhancement of the rural areas and their potential. For the occasion, the winner of the contest Fedeliano Nacucchi created

¹⁸ Source: <https://www.psr Sicilia.it/notizie/rurart-gallery-un-ritratto-dellagricoltura-italiana-che-cambia/>

¹⁹ Source: https://www.psr Sicilia.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/programma-70x100_web-definitiva.pdf

²⁰ Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali.



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				the mural of him on a wall of the rural municipality of Santo Stefano di Camastra (Messina).
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Planning and Development Agency – LEBANON (PP3) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Youth RESOLVE project	https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/youth-resolve-youth-empowerment-participation-and-advocacy-social-stability_en	Youth RESOLVE is acting at the Euromed level and national level	The project aims at empowering youth and supporting their participation in local governance, decision-making processes and social stability. Young people across the country (Lebanon) are starting to informally organise themselves through think-tanks, NGOs and civil organizations to engage in political and social discussions.
2	SIRCLES Project	https://rmf.org.lb/project/sircles-supporting-circular-economy-opportunities-for-employment-and-social-inclusion/	ENI CBC MED Programme 2014-2020 is acting at the Euromed level and national level	The project aims at establishing employment opportunities and promoting social inclusion through engaging in a circular economy. The partners' countries aim to explore new



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				opportunities for NEETs youth and women through the circular economy model applied to the biowaste sector. The project will develop new capacities in business development, separation, collection, composting, and agriculture processes.
3	SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND project	https://www.sfcg.org/piloting-youth-platforms/	PILOTING YOUTH PLATFORMS	The project aims at empowering youth in Lebanon and Jordan to utilize and govern online and in-person youth platforms as a means of collaboratively tackling issues impacting youth. The platform could be used by youth to share their thoughts, grievances, meet and interact with one another, be active in their communities, collaborate on a wide range of social, civic, political, and economic issues, and connect with local authorities and community leaders.



TDM 2000 – Italy (PP4) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	"B.Line" Erasmus+ KA1 project	https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2018-3-IT03-KA105-014680	Programme Erasmus+KA1	"B.Line" was a youth exchange project under KA1 of the Erasmus+ programme "Learning mobility of individuals" coordinated by Legambiente Ligonchio. The project led to the implementation of a youth exchange which took place in Ligonchio between 23rd August to 1st September 2019. The project involved youngsters (18-25 years old) living in disadvantaged and rural areas from 5 different countries which are Italy, Belgium, Spain, Croatia and Latvia. Thanks to the project, young participants reflected on the need for young people to re-appropriate territorial spaces increasingly affected by depopulation and which are considered "marginal" because they are located in decentralized areas. With its activities, the project promoted youth engagement in rural areas through art. One of the activities saw participants realizing an artistic intervention on the wall of a municipal bivouac of Ligonchio which represents an important point of reference



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				of the community but it is left in complete abandonment.
2	YouLeaders Project (Youth Community Leaders in rural areas of South Western Europe)	https://youleaders.eu/# https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2022-1-IT03-KA220-YOU-000086796	Erasmus+ KA2 Project	"YouthLeaders" is a 2 years KA2 project "Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices" started in October 2019 under the Erasmus+ Programme. The main purpose of the project is to engage young people coming from rural areas in South-Western Europe and support them in becoming leaders within their communities and foster their development. In order to do so, the project implements training and involves several stakeholders to equip young people from rural areas with the necessary tools to develop innovative solutions and become changemakers while supporting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project involved 90 young people from Italy, Spain and Portugal.
3	Re-Connecting with Nature	http://www.associazionemariole.it/lasociazione-culturale-mariole-seleziona-6-partecipanti-per-il-progetto-re-connecting-with-nature/	Re-Connecting with Nature – Erasmus + KA1 project	"Re-Connecting with Nature" is a youth exchange which was implemented in the municipalities of Nuragus e Barumini, in Italy. These municipalities have around 1000 inhabitants and represent rural areas in the heart of the island of Sardinia. The project allowed many youngsters from different countries (Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic, Serbia, and Belgium) to actively participate in several activities and had the main objective of fostering healthy lifestyles in young people, promoting outdoor activities, raising their awareness of the protection and preservation of the environment and cultural heritage while bringing them closer to nature through experiential education.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - NARC – Jordan (PP5) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Youth Opportunities Project (YOP)	Not available	This initiative is acting at national level	This initiative is supported by the World Bank and aims to increase the economic prospects of young Jordanians. YOP provides training, employment opportunities, and support for entrepreneurship to youth in Jordan
2	Jenan	https://jenan.jordanforum.net/t1990-topic	This initiative is acting at national level	An initiative that aims to address youth unemployment in Jordan through various projects and programs. It offers vocational training and job placement services to young people.
3	Maktoob	https://maktoob.jordanforum.net/	Jordan-based website Maktoob	An initiative focused on creating positive social change through youth engagement. It organizes events, workshops, and



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				campaigns to address social issues and inspire young Jordanians to act.
4	Erasmus+ Programme	https://erasmus-plus.org.jo/News-and-Events/Press-Releases/2020	Erasmus+ program is acting at national and local level	While Jordan is not an EU member, it is part of the Erasmus+ program as a partner country. Erasmus+ is an EU-funded program that supports education, training, youth, and sport initiatives. Through this program, Jordanian youth can participate in exchange programs, study abroad opportunities, and youth-oriented projects in collaboration with European organizations.
5	EU-Jordan Youth Cooperation	https://www.eeas.europa.eu/jordan/european-union-and-jordan_en?s=201	The EU's partnership with Jordan is acting at Euromed, National and local level.	While there might not be a specific project exclusively focused on youth engagement, youth-related issues are often integrated into broader cooperation frameworks between the EU and Jordan. The EU's partnership with Jordan covers a number of fields, including political and economic relations, human rights, rule of law, climate change, security, as well as regional and international files, including co-chairing the Union for the Mediterranean.
6	ENI CBC MED 2014-2020	https://www.enicbcmcd.eu/projects/funded-projects?field_thematic	Several European Projects funded by the EU under the framework of ENI CBC MED 2014-2020 are acting at Euromed,	ENI CBC MED cross-border cooperation: Under Priority 3.1 of the ENI CBC MED program, there are various initiatives and



		_objective_target_id=73&field_priority_target_id=All&field_country_target_id=All	National and Local level	projects that aim to engage youth and address their needs in terms of employment, skills development, and entrepreneurship. These projects often seek to create opportunities for young people, foster innovation, and contribute to sustainable economic growth in the participating countries.
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Tunisian Union of Agriculture and fisheries - UTAP - Tunisia (PP6) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing projects (at national and European level) on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Supporting Circular Economy Opportunities for Employment and	https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/sircles	Sircles project (2021 – 2023) is acting at Euromed and local level	SIRCLES partners want to explore new employment opportunities for youth (in particular NEETs and women) by applying the circular economy model applied to the biowaste sector.



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	Social Inclusion Sircles project (2021 – 2023)			
2	Reinforcing Med Microfinance Network System for Start-ups RESTRTS project (2021 – 2023)	https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/restrts	RESTRTS project (2021 – 2023) is acting at Euromed and local level	The project will extend the microfinance system developed in previous projects to new geographical areas and sectors and will ensure that the main results of these projects are consolidated into new policies at regional level. The main contribution of ReSt@rts to policy-making will be to reach and involve multiple stakeholders, connecting the policy framework developed for crowdfunding with the one developed for the business empowering of fragile target groups, such as youth and women.
3	Repenser emploi et insertion sociale des jeunes méditerranéens à travers le développement durable RESMYLE project (2019 – 2023)	https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/resmyle	RESMYLE project (2019 – 2023) aims at tackling two main challenges: Firstly, the difficulties of professional integration of young people in	To respond to this double challenge, RESMYLE mobilizes 9 Mediterranean operators (cooperatives, associations, universities) in 5 countries (France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia) around 3 complementary areas of intervention: the inclusion of sustainable development topics in the support actions carried out by the organizations (associations, social centers working on



			the Mediterranean, in particular for NEETS, are increasing. Secondly, the challenges of environmental protection in the Mediterranean create many new needs in the Mediterranean territories that are largely unfulfilled at the present time, particularly in the lack of skills in some fields: waste sorting, eco-mobility, risk prevention, etc. The project is acting at Euromed and local level	integration of NEETS in the Mediterranean); the testing of a set of hands-on field trainings for young people focusing on sustainable development and based on mobility, intercultural exchanges and real environmental issues; the creation of a Mediterranean network of eco-incubators of youth-led activities based on a common method and shared tutoring/trainings.
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4	Co-producing social policies with SSE actors to fight poverty, inequality and social exclusion MedTOWN project (2019 – 2023)	https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/medtown	MedTOWN project (2019 – 2023) is acting at Euromed and local level	MedTOWN is an initiative focused on the combined potential of agents of the social and solidarity economy (SSE), citizens and local authorities to co-produce the social policies that can fight poverty, inequality, social exclusion, and environmental unsustainability,
5	advancing youth and women social inclusion in The Mediterranean CLUSTER project (2021 – 2023)	https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/cluster	CLUSTER project (2021 – 2023) is acting at Euromed and local level	CLUSTER will help advance regional and national employment strategies. The project will refine the catalogues of skills needs in four sectors: blue, green, circular economy and sustainable agriculture . It will also identify the successful experiences and efficient practices. Finally, it will train NEETs on-site and on-line together with traineeship scheme , coaching and tutoring to acquire skills and work experiences needed to enter the labour market.
6	EU4Youth Project	https://south.euneighbours.eu/fr/news/tunisie-appel-manifestation-dinteret-programme-eu4youth/	EU4Youth Project (2021 – 2024) is acting at Euromed and local level	The main goal of the project is to improve the economic, social and political inclusion of the most disadvantaged young Tunisians through a local development approach.



2.3 Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities

This paragraph describes existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities. These learning materials were investigated and analysed by all partners.

As for training materials, partners consider all kinds of contents that are a necessary part of any training program or activity that involves learning acquisition, such as written documents, manuals or handbooks, video presentations and online training courses.

The partners explain why the selected training course or training module is relevant to the purpose of this report and the RYTA project, by indicating **the website** where they can be found and **title of the training** being analysed.



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IED - GREECE (PP1) – COORDINATOR

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Hand in Hand for Youth Participation in Rural Areas	http://www.irtea.gr/?page_id=3657&lang=en	The project concerned the mobility of 49 young people from 4 participating European countries (Greece, Sweden, Romania, Latvia) and focused on training young people with fewer opportunities in order to develop skills that can apply to their local community and participate as independent and active members within society.	The program included activities based on non-formal education, activities that focused on youth entrepreneurship, youth opportunities and “missions” , in order for participants to exercise and develop skills like brainstorming, public speaking, presentation skills and working with people from different cultural and professional backgrounds.
2	Educational material of KPE Vamos in digital format	http://kpevamouen.blogspot.com/	The Environmental Education Center of Vamos makes available to teachers and students 75 sources of educational material in digital format to be used	Simple format programs, sources, topics, projects, initiatives, activities that are suitable for remote learning based on non-formal learning.



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			either in distance education or for environmental education programs and actions.	
3	Growing Social - Electronic Library	https://growingsocial.eu/el/material-eLibrary	This eLibrary was create in terms of INTERREG VA GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020 programme and was one of its digital deliverables aiming at promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and discrimination.	Publications and libraries can be great sources for non-formal learning with interesting materials that offer easy access to several topics and learners can gain rounded and general knowledge.

ARCES - ITALY (PP2) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Rural Development Program (PSR)	https://www.psrsicilia.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Programma_di_Sviluppo_Rurale_Sicilia-2014-2020-22_luglio-2014.pdf	The programme is a regional programme that fosters knowledge transfer. It includes activities that will be funded including	The program included activities based on education and training targeting youth that want to become changemakers in their rural community. A good way to attract attention to the rural territories is to offer information and training on



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			creating training courses for youth living in rural areas.	agricultural topics. Training materials can be made available to the consortium.
2	"Social Farming: Social agriculture for the Sicilian citrus production chain"	https://www.arces.it/http-win-arces-it-portale-addetail-aspcat-parent0cat-group13cat-idad-id2224-xpfatogzbiv/	Social Farming is a regional project funded by Coca Cola Foundation. ARCES and Distretto Agrumi di Sicilia of Catania are partners of it. Period of implementation: 2018-2023.	Four training courses have been carried out by ARCES through the "Social Farming" project, targeting youth living in rural areas: a) Multifunctionality of the agricultural enterprise (agritourism, rural tourism, diversification of activity); b) Preservation and transformation of citrus fruits and their derivatives; c) Citrus grove cultivation techniques; d) Cooperation in the citrus production chain. These courses attract young people looking at their future, including migrants living in rural areas. Training materials can be made available to the consortium.
3	ESA - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BODY/ Ente sviluppo Agricolo	https://www.entesviluppoagricolo.it/news/in-primo-piano/2021/04/14/corsi-gratuiti-di-formazione-professionale-690/	ESA organises free professional training courses targeting youth living in rural areas.	The training courses help entrepreneurs and young farmers, family helpers, seasonal and daily workers who have worked in the agricultural sector to set up businesses. It is a form of civic engagement, social participation and entrepreneurship that uses public funds. Training materials can be made available to the consortium.



Planning and Development Agency – LEBANON (PP3) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Berytech	https://berytech.org/programs/reaf/youth/	REAF Youth Training Program	It covers a range of topics, including agri-food processing, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, and green entrepreneurship. It also focuses on soft skills such as effective communication, public speaking, body language, story-telling, presentation and pitching. With a focus on women and people with disabilities, the youth training is aimed at equipping young individuals from diverse academic backgrounds with the tools they need to succeed in the labor market.
2	StEER-Leb	http://www.steer-leb.eu/training-manuals/	ERASMUS+ StEER-Leb project presents a wide range of topics related to youth empowerment.	The StEER-Leb project's objective is to boost student empowerment, engagement and representation infrastructure in Lebanese universities. Within the framework of this project, European and Lebanese universities will exchange their experiences and share good practices in order to enhance student empowerment, engagement and representation in Lebanese universities. In



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				this context, the StEER-Leb project is specifically conceived to comply with the national priorities for Lebanon as outlined by the European Commission and the democratization of higher education in general. Some of the training contents are listed below: • self-development skills for working with students • leadership and self-confidence • team building • conflict resolution • verbal martial arts • strategy and tactics for students • ways to engage students in activities • politics and youth engagement in lebanon • skills and volunteering • student management • communication
3	Adyan Foundation	https://adyanfoundation.org/library/training-manuals/	Adyan's training and awareness programs	Adyan Foundation provides training and awareness programs and sessions to individuals, groups, other NGOs and companies on various topics such as: Active and Inclusive Citizenship, Freedom of Religion and Belief, Diversity Management, Dialogue, Theology of the Other, religion and public life, stereotypes, sectarianism and religious social responsibility. Adyan's training and awareness programs and sessions



				are tailor-made and designed specifically for the need of each target group and can be given in Arabic, English and French. They can be provided based on sessions, half-day, full day or several days depending on the topic and need.
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TDM 2000 – Italy (PP4) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Inform and be informed	https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/tool/inform-and-be-informed-activity-memo-of-a-training-course-for-inclusion-of-rural-youth.1688/	Inform and be informed - Handbook and activity memo of a training course for inclusion of rural youth	“Inform and be informed” is a handbook which gathers together several approaches for the inclusion of rural youth in European Union youth projects. The handbook collects activities (icebreakers, team building, trust games) including a description of each of them together with their goals. This handbook can be used by trainers working to implement several activities which have a special focus on youth coming from rural areas. youth from rural areas. The activities were collected during the training course “Inform and Be Informed” which took place in Croatia from the 20th to the 29th of April 2015 and involved 20 participants from 5 different countries (Croatia, Macedonia, Malta, Portugal and Turkey).



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2	Guide on Experiential Education in Rural Area	https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/tool/booklet-youth-work-in-rural-areas.2997/	Methodology Guide on Experiential Education in Rural Area	The “Guide on Experiential Education in Rural Area” is a useful tool which supports explaining practical steps for organizing experiential education programs in the rural area. This tool provides guidance on how youth workers, activists and community leaders can effectively plan and implement training programs, information campaigns, or leisure activities for young people in rural areas. The tool emerged from the Erasmus+ KA2 “Terra Incognita project” and provides examples of workshops implemented in the project. These projects engaged youth from rural areas who participated and organized the workshops with small local small business owners. It also emphasizes the importance of utilizing the existing social, historical, and cultural resources within the community.
3	Village International - set up international rural youth projects	https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/tool/village-international-set-up-international-rural-youth-projects.852/ https://www.tdm20	The booklet “Village International - set up international rural youth projects”	“Village International - set up international rural youth projects” is an educational booklet which aims to support setting up international projects in rural and geographically disadvantaged areas. The booklet provides information on how to overcome several challenges such as finding partners, money and ideas. It also provides tips and equips with competencies such as project



		00international.org/digital-library/village-international/#description		management. It is a useful resource for youth workers and youth leaders for the realization of projects which can involve people from rural areas and make a rural area more international.
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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - NARC – Jordan (PP5) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	HELIOS Project training courses	https://www.enicbcmmed.eu/helios-trains-21-jordanian-women-using-circular-economy-food-processing	HELIOS training materials to tackle the social exclusion of rural youth	The aim of the training program under Helios project is to offer NEETs (including unemployed) opportunities for a stable income in fields that enhance their resilience to climate change, specifically focusing on the blue and circular economy. Four technical training courses have been established: Organic farming, Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Circular food processing . These courses provide vulnerable youth with essential technical



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				knowledge necessary to thrive in sustainable agricultural practices. Moreover, the training programs incorporate the development of soft skills, entrepreneurship skills, and employment skills. The project has yielded remarkable results, with many of the HELIOS trainees successfully creating their own jobs and initiating their work, particularly in the field of circular food processing. One inspiring example is a woman who participated in the HELIOS training program and utilized her newfound knowledge and skills to transform leftover vegetables into cosmetic products. By providing the necessary training, linkages, and guidance, HELIOS has enabled vulnerable groups to actively participate in the society and economy, while also fostering their resilience in the face of climate change challenges. Learning materials can be made available.
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Tunisian Union of Agriculture and fisheries - UTAP - Tunisia (PP6) – Partner

Unit	Title	Source	Existing training materials on youth engagement in rural activities	Relevance
1	Civic and citizenship education	N/A	Civic and citizenship education	There are a lot of trainings and courses whose goal is to enable young people to emphasize their abilities, understand and exercise their rights and duties, adopt democratic values and attitudes and acquire the skills to communicate, think critically and participate in decision-making.
2	Negotiation and mediation	N/A	Negotiation and mediation	There are a lot of trainings and workshops with goal of implementing a participatory approach in the development and implementation of public policies. This approach requires specific skills, such as negotiation or mediation.
3	Volunteering	N/A	Volunteering	Volunteering is a powerful tool for combating social exclusion, promoting personal development, cultivating civic sense and building societal resilience.
4	Sustainable development	N/A	Sustainable development	It is a mode of development of societies, which seeks to reconcile economic and social progress and the preservation of the environment.



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2.4 The role of youth Associations in the Community (acting at National and European level) and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.

This paragraph indicates the role of existing Youth Associations in the community, acting at Country and Euro-Mediterranean level, and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement. This short analysis was elaborated by all partners.

The partners describe the role of youth Associations in the Community, by indicating **the website** where they can be found and **name of the selected organisation** being analysed.



IED - GREECE (PP1) – COORDINATOR

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	Youthessaloniki - Thessaloniki Youth Club for UNESCO	https://unescoyouth.gr/	UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki is a non-profit local youth NGO that plays a leading role in youth activities, promoting youth participation, inclusion and education initiatives	Youth employment and social inclusion, active citizenship, non-formal education, volunteerism and the EU Youth Strategy are listed among the club's main priorities when implementing activities in local, national level & European level
2	Local Youth Councils - Municipal Youth Council of Larissa	https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/greece/53-youth-representation-bodies https://www.larissa-dimos.gr/el/o-dimos/dimotiko-symvoylio-neolaias1 https://www.cnigreece.gr/en/best-practices/municipal-youth-council-	Local Youth Councils identify, highlight, and monitor the needs and problems of youth at the local level. The aim of the Municipal Youth Council of Larissa is for young participants to get familiarized with decision-making processes at the local level, and to participate in	Since Larissa is a rural area, as many other areas in the country, it is effective and impactful that Local Youth Councils are constituted per region



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		larissa/	initiatives promoting social justice and solidarity.	
3	EKO Greece	https://ekogreece.com/	EKO, the Entrepreneurship and Social Economy Group, is a Non-profit Organisation working in the field of youth empowerment, cultural integration and sustainable development.	Fostering active participation and civic engagement of young people, and assisting them to become agents of change in their local communities is one of EKO's objective that can focus on rural areas.
4	I.R.T.E.A. - Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs	http://www.irtea.gr/?lang=en	The Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs is a Think Tank in Greece created by specialized young scientists aiming to bridge the gap between the academic knowledge and the society, politics and the business world.	I.R.T.E.A. promotes structured and open dialogue between the civil society and EU officials and fosters civic engagement, through innovative projects and activities.
5	Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU)	https://www.obessu.org/	OBESSU is the platform for cooperation between the national school student unions active in general secondary and secondary vocational education in Europe.	OBESSU is the voice of school students' organisations and a driving force for transforming education in Europe, which is fundamental for the civic engagement of rural youth



ARCES - ITALY (PP2) – Partner

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	Community of Danisinni	https://www.danisinni.it/missione/	The Danisinni Community is an association not for profit that envisions a future for what otherwise would be a small district abandoned by its own destiny, through the reconstruction of both territorial and social activity. Community of Danisinni is acting a Regional Level.	It works in active citizenship formation for the youth as well, with effort in restoring green in urban places through agriculture in the district.
2	Centro TAU	http://mediatau.it/centrotau/officina-di-cittadinanza/	This not for profit association works in the formation of various sectors for the people living in rural and poorer districts and to take them from the hands of the mafia, through active citizenship. Centro TAU is acting a Regional Level.	More and more young people are approaching the fight against the mafia by attending training courses thus becoming more committed to fight it. This is civic engagement.
3	Deafal	https://deafal.org/chi-siamo/	This not for profit association gives formation to youth with the objective to regenerate society	The main goal of this association is to regenerate soils to regenerate societies.



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			through regeneration of the soil, teaching new methodologies for agriculture. Deafal is acting a Local Level.	Social communities take root and evolve thanks to the recognition of people's dignity and the harmonious interaction between the rural and urban worlds. It is another example of Civic engagement.
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Planning and Development Agency – LEBANON (PP3) – Partner

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	USPEaK	https://uspeaklb.org/about-us/	USPEaK is acting a Country Level	USPEaK is a women led organization registered in the Ministry of Interior in 2015. The main goal of this organisation is to raise the level of social engagement and public achievement among youth and women through local initiatives. USPEaK's mission is to serve better education, raise level of awareness, promote citizenship, and build democracy



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				foundations and a peaceful country. It envisions a democratic community where citizens engage in public achievement and raise the cultural, economic and social level of the country.
2	MARCH Lebanon	https://www.marchlebanon.org/about-us/	MARCH is acting a Country Level.	MARCH is a Lebanese non-profit, non-governmental organization working to promote social cohesion and personal freedoms while advocating for equal rights through its work in peace-building and conflict resolution. MARCH Lebanon focuses on peacebuilding and social cohesion among youth through various projects, including arts, education, and advocacy programs.
3	Arcenciel	https://arcenciel.org/who-we-are/	Arcenciel is acting a Country Level.	Arcenciel is a Lebanese based non-profit organization established in 1985 during the Lebanese civil war. It was recognized as a public interest NGO in 1995 by Presidential Decree N7541. Arcenciel promotes the inclusion and empowerment of marginalized youth through various programs, including vocational training, education, and psychosocial support.



TDM 2000 – Italy (PP4) – Partner

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	TDM 2000	https://www.tdm2000.org/	TDM 2000 is acting a Country Level	TDM 2000 is a youth NGO which contributes to rural youth engagement. TDM 2000 is located in Cagliari, the capital of the island of Sardinia, Italy. The island is plenty of rural areas where youth are disadvantaged and isolated. TDM 2000 allows many young people living in rural areas of the island to participate in activities and in society through local and international projects. It supports young people in developing personal and professional skills through experiential learning and non-formal education. These youngsters can participate in youth exchanges in other countries and engage with other young people from different cultural backgrounds. Moreover, youth from Sardinia join many local activities. TDM 2000 organizes workshops, training, youth exchanges and informative events in rural areas allowing young people from small and isolated villages to be involved in these activities. Support young people in developing personal and professional skills through experiential learning and non-formal education.
2	Entropia	https://entropiaunica.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_3.html	Entropia is acting a Country Level	Entropia is an association located in the Italian region of Calabria and is an example of an NGO which fosters youth engagement and active citizenship through the implementation of several activities such as awareness campaigns and projects within the Erasmus+ Programme. These activities foster critical thinking, promote active citizenship, and enhance the education of young people through stimulating reflection and encouraging



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				lively debates. Entropia was born in 1997 and since 2004 manages the DAM, a space in the University of Calabria equipped with theatre, rooms and computers. These resources facilitate the organization of the NGO activities which organize weekly meetings (language exchanges to promote socialization, language and cultural exchanges). Entropia was able through the years to favour spontaneous aggregation and socialization among youngsters beyond linguistic, cultural and religious barriers. An example of youth exchange implemented by Entropia is "Rural Up!" a 2017 youth exchange to support youth employment and inspire them to open businesses in rural areas.
3	Maison du Monde	https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/organisation/maison-du-monde.17977/	Maison du Monde is acting a Country Level	Maison du Monde is an association located in a small Italian municipality of about 10.000 inhabitants called Sant'Agata De Goti, a rural area in the region of Campania. The main goal of the NGO is the enhancement and development of the territory in a sustainable way through the implementation of projects. Maison du Monde aims to promote the culture of the territory, valorize local productions, and promote active participation and employability. It is a key player in the territory for the active participation of several actors, among these young people. The main target of the NGO is all these people in disadvantaged situations, youngsters, families and migrants.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - NARC – Jordan (PP5) – Partner

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	The All Jordan Youth Committee	https://arab.org/directory/all-jordan-youth-committee/	The All Jordan Youth Committee is acting at Country level. It is a non-profit organisation.	Since its establishment, AJYC has endeavored to activate the wider segment of our society, the two-thirds segment of the society, the youth segment. It attracted young people from all governorates of the Kingdom, and opened its doors to all volunteers and beneficiaries. It has further strengthened the feeling of belonging and loyalty to the soil of this dear country and its dear



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				leadership. It has seen young people come out with initiatives and recommendations to serve their communities, bearing the concerns of their homeland on their shoulders, and consider themselves partners in development.
2	The King Hussein Foundation	https://www.kinghusseinfoundation.org/en/Home/History	The King Hussein Foundation is a non-profit foundation.	The King Hussein Foundation was founded in 1999 by Her Majesty Queen Noor to give enduring life to His Majesty King Hussein's humanitarian vision and legacy by fostering equitable access for Jordanian and regional citizens to socio-economic, educational, health, and cultural opportunities for women, youth, and the marginalized to enable them to contribute meaningfully to national and regional development.



				The programs have advanced development thinking in the region, through pioneering programs in poverty eradication, women's empowerment, refugee and trauma support, education, microfinance, family health, and cross-cultural exchange providing training and capacity-building expertise across Jordan and in the MENA and West Asian Regions.
3	Hikaya Center for Civil Society Development	https://hikayacenter.org/about-us/?lang=en	Hikaya Center for Civil Society Development is operating at the country level in all governorates.	Hikaya Center for Civil Society Development is a non-profit Jordanian organization established by a group of Jordanian entrepreneur and activist youth who are taking action in civil society, political empowerment, human rights, culture, arts, and education.



Tunisian Union of Agriculture and fisheries - UTAP - Tunisia (PP6) – Partner

Unit	Name	Source	Existing youth Associations acting at Country and European level	Please describe the role of youth Associations in the Community and their effectiveness in promoting youth civic engagement.
1	YOUNG LEADERS ASSOCIATION (AJL)	https://www.jeunesleaders.tn/	YOUNG LEADERS ASSOCIATION (AJL)	Strengthening the managerial, organizational and operational capacities of young Tunisians for active citizen participation in economic and social aspects.
2	Jamaity	https://jamaity.org/association/association-locale-des-jeunes-et-du-developpement/	Tunisian Association of Youth and Development	Supervision of young people, development of the region: economically, socially and culturally
3	Organisation Nationale Tunisienne des Jeunes-ONTJ	https://jamaity.org/association/organisation-nationale-tunisienne-des-jeunes/	Tunisian National Youth Organization-ONTJ	Conscious young people contribute to the service and development of their communities for better living conditions.



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Chapter 3: Recommendations on how to improve youth engagement in the rural development process

3.1 Concrete proposals on how to improve youth engagement in the rural development process

While it may be considered that a lot has been done in the field of youth engagement and rural youth outreach strategies for vulnerable and marginalised young people (both at the EU and National, Regional/Local level) through programmes, projects and initiatives carried out by public and private organisations, there are still many factors under discussion and many problems to be solved, such as rights disparities between urban and rural youth, geographical isolation and marginalization of the COVID-19 response and recovery in remote rural and peri-urban communities.

The engagement of young people in rural development should be one of the main goals of the current and future policies that create impact across the entire territories of the countries involved in this project, to overcome poverty, while the development strategies of these areas should be based on this goal.

The partners provide the reader with some **recommendations** based on their findings and experience, including the existing literature, on how to improve youth engagement in the rural development.

They respond to some of the questions and constructive criticism in this paragraph by highlighting, for instance, if some reforms are needed in the current policies and to which extent these measures are able to regulate and stabilize the whole system.



iED Greece

To improve youth engagement in rural development in **Greece**, the following recommendations can be considered:

- **Enhancing Access to Education and Training:** Provide quality education and training programs that equip rural youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in rural development initiatives.
- **Creating Mentorship and Networking Opportunities:** Establish mentorship programs where experienced individuals from rural development sectors can guide and support young people in their endeavours. Facilitate networking events, conferences, and workshops that bring together youth, experts, and stakeholders to exchange ideas and build partnerships.
- **Encouraging Youth-led Initiatives:** Foster an environment that encourages young people to initiate and lead development projects in rural areas. Provide grants, funding, and resources specifically targeted at youth-led initiatives, empowering them to make a tangible impact in their communities.
- **Enhancing Digital Infrastructure:** Improve internet connectivity and digital infrastructure in rural areas to bridge the digital divide. This will enable youth in remote regions to access online resources, participate in e-learning, and leverage digital tools for entrepreneurship, marketing, and knowledge sharing.
- **Engaging Local Authorities and Decision-Makers:** Involve local authorities and decision-makers in the design and implementation of policies and programs related to rural development. Ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

By implementing these recommendations, Greece can foster an environment that empowers rural youth to actively contribute to the development of their communities, leading to sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and increased well-being in rural areas.

Reforms in current policies are indeed necessary to address various challenges and improve the stability of the system in Greece. It is essential to ensure that the necessary resources, infrastructure, and mechanisms are in place to effectively implement the proposed reforms. Any reforms should be designed



with a long-term perspective, considering both short-term goals and sustainable outcomes. This includes addressing structural issues, promoting transparency, accountability, and creating a favorable environment for economic growth and social development. Also, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, which are absent from many aspects of reformation in Greece, is crucial to assess the impact and effectiveness of reforms. Therefore, they should be implemented through a coordinated approach, involving different sectors and levels of government.

TDM 2000 – Italy

There are several ways youth engagement in rural areas can be improved.

First of all, the presence of youth councils in the rural areas of each municipality is necessary so that young people have an official place where young people can express their ideas and needs and discuss them. These youngsters should also be able to gather in a regional forum to discuss and influence political processes at a regional level.

Another proposal would be to allocate more funds for rural areas; Sardinia and Sicily are for example two Italian regions where youngsters have fewer opportunities as they live on an island and also as there are many undeveloped and disadvantaged areas within these islands. These funds should be dedicated to the creation of public spaces designed to stimulate youth active participation (e.g., squares, small parks, cultural hubs, forums for public debates) and for the delivery of informative campaigns and educational training.

ARCES Association - Italy

In order to provide the reader with ways on how to improve youth engagement in rural areas located away from urban centers, we should first analyse the concept of **“Active citizenship”**.

There are several definitions of it, as the literature on this topic advance very quickly. Being ARCES an active member of EUCA²¹, here is mentioned the definition given by this very active European University College’s network.

²¹ EUCA is the European University College Association. Based in Brussels and formally born in 2008, it represents 53 thousand students and 194 halls of residence in five countries (Belgium, Italy, Poland, Spain and United Kingdom). Its main



Active citizenship means people getting involved in their communities and democracy at all levels from local to national and global. An active citizen promotes the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political process developing a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to work to make a difference in the society. An active citizen promotes the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political process developing a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to work to make a difference in the society²².

Having this definition in mind, we can understand that in order to be able to improve youth engagement in the rural development, especially in the Southern part of Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Campania, Sardinia, etc.), there should be first and foremost general youth engagement in **active citizenship actions**.

Untill today, we believe there is not a mediatic and informative process that include young residents in Sicily in these initiatives or even promote such a model of society as being the best possible, as most of the citizens do not know about any opportunities in their localities. This is due to a poor usage of informative technologies and mass media, that tend to appeal to consumism and algorithm to the corporations and multinationals rather than opportunities for social changes.

Thus, we believe that youth engagement is a consequence of **a good communication process of best practices and activities of active citizenship** that might guide and orient their interest and decisions properly.

After finding out, through a survery, the best communication channel that young Italians use the most, or consider as the most appropriate for information, local, regional or even national institutions should invest in the promotion of opportunities for male and female youth living in rural area, by using such a channel (e.g., web portals, forums, mobile applications, etc.), alongside a campaign of sensibilization in schools and universities, as most of these

scope is the professional, academic, cultural and human development of university students, that share without discrimination active formation and tutoring facilities. More at : <https://www.euca.eu/>

²² Source: <https://www.euca.eu/activecitizenship>



organisations have a limited knowledge of opportunities for them and their support for youth civic engagement is very limited. This approach is rather general and as such should be approached by the institutions, involving television journals and other forms of media as well.

After creating a form of youth engagement, we could then redirect that engagement onto the rural development as a form of vocational activity, by equipping the young people from Sicily with the skills to both create their own activity and to work in projects in team.

In addition to improving communication and raising awareness about youth engagement, it is also crucial to create concrete, accessible, and attractive opportunities for young people. This might involve establishing programs that offer hands-on experience, vocational training, or mentorship in the field of rural development. Incentives from the public and private sectors could also be considered to make these opportunities more attractive.

To understand the specific needs and interests of the youth, we should actively seek their inputs and feedbacks. This can be done through surveys, focus groups, or public consultations. By directly involving them in the decision-making process, we can ensure that the programs and opportunities we create genuinely meet their needs and expectations.

After creating an **infrastructure model for youth engagement**, which includes e-participation tools (e-platforms) to be harnessed for joint strategy development in rural communities, we could then redirect this commitment towards rural development as a form of professional activity.

Moreover, the so called “**Smart Villages**” are far from being created in our Region and Municipalities. There are communities living in rural areas of our Region (Partinico, Ficarazzi, Campobello di Mazara, Santa Margherita Belice, Buscemi, Paceco, ecc.) that do not use innovative solutions to improve their resilience or build on local strengths and opportunities. They cannot rely on a participatory approach by mobilising solutions offered by digital technologies, to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or



environmental conditions. In fact, such digital platforms do not exist in these areas.

In this context, the question often arising is whether digital technologies can be used not only as a tool for solving specific problems of rural communities, but also for supporting the cooperation of local actors (e.g., mayors and their team, village advisors, village associations, municipal boards or local stakeholder groups including youth) in joint strategy development.

We could create a different context by:

- a) equipping villages leaders and members of local communities with e-participation tools and opportunities they need to contribute effectively to rural development,
- b) defining a comprehensive strategy towards stakeholder participation, by spelling out in advance the responsibilities of any stakeholders who will have a role to play in putting a digital participation process into practice.

PDA – Lebanon

To improve youth engagement in the rural development process in Lebanon, it is crucial to establish **an e-platform** that fosters dialogue and collaboration among young individuals.

Additionally, offering training courses that equip them with the necessary skills to secure employment will empower them to actively contribute to development initiatives.

Moreover, creating safe and inclusive meeting spaces where youth can openly discuss life issues in a diverse society will facilitate meaningful engagement and enable them to shape their communities positively.

NARC – Jordan

Improving youth engagement in the rural development process in Jordan requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the unique challenges and



opportunities faced by young people in rural areas. Here are some concrete proposals to enhance youth engagement in rural development:

1. **Youth-Inclusive Policy Formation:** Ensure that youth are actively involved in the formation of rural development policies. Establish youth advisory councils or working groups that provide a platform for young people to voice their opinions, needs, and aspirations. This involvement will ensure that policies consider the perspectives of rural youth and align with their interests.
2. **Youth Skills Development and Training:** Implement targeted training programs and workshops in rural areas to enhance the entrepreneurial and employability skills of young people. Skills development in areas like agriculture, agribusiness, digital literacy, and sustainable technologies can empower rural youth to take on leadership roles in their communities and contribute to local development.
3. **Youth Access to Information and Resources:** Facilitate access to information on funding opportunities, development projects, and government initiatives. Establish information centers or online platforms that provide relevant resources to rural youth, enabling them to participate in various development programs.
4. **Youth-Led Rural Projects:** Encourage and support youth-led development projects in rural areas. Offer grants, mentorship, and technical assistance to young people with innovative ideas for community development, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation.
5. **Networking and Knowledge Exchange:** Create networking opportunities for rural youth to connect with peers, experts, and potential mentors. Facilitate knowledge exchange between rural communities and urban centers to promote learning and collaboration.
6. **Youth Participation in Cooperatives:** Promote the establishment of youth-led agricultural and rural cooperatives. These cooperatives can enable young people to collectively address challenges, share resources, and access markets more effectively.
7. **Mobile Technology and Digital Platforms:** Utilize mobile technology and digital platforms to engage rural youth in community development efforts. Mobile apps and online platforms can be used for information dissemination, training, and communication.
8. **Youth-Friendly Financial Services:** Advocate for youth-friendly financial services that cater to the specific needs of young people in rural areas.



Access to affordable credit and financial literacy training can support youth entrepreneurship and income-generating activities.

9. **Recognition and Awards:** Recognize and celebrate successful youth-led initiatives and innovations in rural development. Publicly acknowledge young change-makers to inspire and motivate others.
10. **Capacity Building for Local Authorities:** Provide capacity building and sensitization workshops for local authorities on the importance of youth engagement in rural development. Encourage local leaders to create an enabling environment for youth participation and support youth-led initiatives.
11. **Promote Gender Equality:** Ensure gender equality and inclusivity in all youth engagement efforts. Encourage the participation of young women in rural development processes and address gender-specific challenges they may face.
12. **Collaboration with NGOs and International Organizations:** Partner with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations working on rural development to leverage their expertise, resources, and networks in supporting youth initiatives.

Implementing these proposals requires collaborative efforts from the government, civil society including **Youth associations**, private sector, and development partners to create an enabling environment for youth engagement in rural development in Jordan. Continuous evaluation and adaptation of strategies will be essential to ensure the sustained impact of these initiatives.

Youth associations play a crucial role in promoting youth civic engagement in Jordan, both at the country level and in cooperation with European partners. These associations provide young people with platforms to participate in community development, social activism, and decision-making processes. Here are some ways youth associations can contribute to promoting youth civic engagement in Jordan:

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Youth associations often advocate for youth rights and represent the interests of young people in various social, economic, and political issues. They raise awareness about important topics affecting the youth community and promote discussions around them.



- **Empowerment and Capacity Building:** Youth associations offer workshops, training programs, and educational opportunities to empower young individuals, enhancing their leadership skills, public speaking abilities, and civic knowledge. This empowerment enables them to actively engage in their communities and take on active roles in addressing challenges.
- **Community Service and Volunteering:** Many youth associations in Jordan organize community service and volunteering initiatives, encouraging young people to give back to their communities. This involvement fosters a sense of responsibility and civic duty among the youth.
- **Youth-Led Projects and Initiatives:** Youth associations often initiate and implement projects that target community development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. This hands-on involvement in project planning and execution gives young people practical experience in civic engagement.
- **Policy Advocacy and Participation:** Some youth associations engage in policy advocacy and participate in decision-making processes related to youth-related issues at the local, regional, and national levels. They act as a voice for young people, ensuring their concerns and perspectives are considered in policy discussions.
- **International Cooperation and Exchange:** Youth associations in Jordan may collaborate with European youth organizations through programs like Erasmus+ and ENI CBC MED, fostering intercultural exchange and cross-border cooperation. This engagement broadens the horizons of young Jordanians and exposes them to diverse perspectives and experiences.
- **Youth Forums and Dialogues:** Youth associations organize forums and dialogues that bring young people together to discuss matters of concern, share ideas, and propose solutions for societal challenges. These platforms encourage open dialogue and democratic participation.
- **Effectiveness of Youth Associations in Promoting Youth Civic Engagement in Jordan:**

The effectiveness of youth associations in promoting youth civic engagement in Jordan can be measured by several factors:

1. Youth Participation: The level of youth engagement and participation in community activities, projects, and decision-making processes



indicates the effectiveness of youth associations in mobilizing young people.

2. **Impact on Policy Change:** Successful policy advocacy and tangible changes in youth-related policies and programs demonstrate the influence of youth associations in the decision-making process.
3. **Community Impact:** The impact of youth-led projects and initiatives on local communities is an essential indicator of the effectiveness of youth associations in addressing societal challenges.
4. **Skills Development:** The acquisition of leadership, teamwork, and communication skills by young individuals through their involvement in youth associations is a positive outcome of effective engagement.
5. **Inclusivity and Representation:** Effective youth associations strive to be inclusive, representing the diverse voices and perspectives of young people in the community.
6. **International Collaboration:** The ability of youth associations to collaborate with European partners and engage in cross-border initiatives demonstrates their effectiveness in fostering international cooperation and intercultural dialogue.

It's important to recognize that the effectiveness of youth associations may vary based on their organizational structure, funding support, and the level of collaboration with government and non-governmental stakeholders. Continuous evaluation, capacity building, and sustained efforts to address the evolving needs of young people are essential to ensuring the long-term impact of youth associations in promoting youth civic engagement in Jordan.

UTAP – Tunisia

All the following recommendations are based on benchmarks from UTAP staff members. In order to ensure more active engagement from Tunisian youth living in rural areas the following goals should be promoted:

- a. **Strengthening access** to appropriate education and training that equips young people with the skills to live and work productively in rural areas.
- b. **Providing career counselling** to young rural people at an early age to inform them about job prospects in their region, as well as the technical and personal skills needed for these jobs. Also, help them access training



and other services to boost their productivity, without having to interrupt their jobs.

- c. **Supporting youth entrepreneurship** through access to credit, land, and other business development services.
- d. **Strengthening investment in agricultural and non-agricultural activities**, as well as in social and economic activities in order to offer young people job prospects and attractive living conditions.
- e. **Developing integrated approaches to youth employment in rural areas**, which include measures to increase job opportunities and quality, and to improve living conditions.
- f. **Guaranteeing the equitable representation of young people in public institutions** so that public decisions consider their realities and perspectives, that political choices are based on a variety of experiences, skills, and points of view, and finally, that public policy outcomes meet their needs and concerns.

The Tunisian Government could consider implementing innovative measures to facilitate young people's access to conventional political structures that already exist and to remobilise them: firstly, the rules for registration on electoral lists sometimes represent a considerable obstacle to participation in elections, especially for new voters, who are more likely to change residence at a transitional moment in their lives.

To this end, we should strengthen the principle of “**open government**” as a lever for youth participation: indeed, open government tends to strengthen the effectiveness and accountability of modes of public governance. It promotes the transparency of public action and its openness to new forms of consultation and citizen participation. **Open government** initiatives and strategies therefore represent an important opportunity to strengthen the participation of citizens in public life, and more particularly of young people.

We should also strengthen the access to information and adopt public communication adapted to young people: access to information for all citizens and the establishment of appropriate public communication are essential



prerequisites for better participation in the cycle public policies and improving informed engagement in public life.

They are particularly important for young people: by having access to complete, objective, clear, reliable information, and communicated in a manner adapted to their needs and expectations, they find themselves in a position to play a more active role in life and public debate as well as in the preparation, adoption, and monitoring of public policies.

Moreover, public communication should be specifically adapted to young people: another fundamental element of the participation of young people is the use of communication adapted to their needs and characteristics both to provide them with relevant information, to interact effectively with them, and to contribute to their greatest involvement in public life. In this sense, communication that would consider the media consumption habits of young people would promote their participation in public life. Additionally, traditional approaches such as roundtables and advisory services would complement more innovative forms of engagement, especially in remote rural areas and marginalized urban areas where young people may not be regular Internet users.

Last but not least, we should develop and enhance existing ad hoc participation mechanisms: many mechanisms specially designed for youth participation, particularly at local level, exist today in Tunisia, such as, pilot local youth councils. The participation of young people in decisions and debates in public life needs to be organised sustainable and accessible to as many people as possible.

Finally, we should foster youth participation at the sub-national level: youth access to these local participation mechanisms gives them the opportunity to engage directly with policy makers, which remains rare at the highest levels of government.



Conclusions

*The **conclusion** of the report summarizes our findings, describe their importance, and make recommendations for further activities in the selected field based on the benchmarking outcomes.*

The central idea from all partners is the importance of **youth engagement in rural development** as a Strategy to combat poverty and stabilize systems.

To achieve this, several interconnected strategies are proposed by all Partners:

1. **Education and Training:** Enhance access to quality education and training programs that equip rural youth with necessary skills.
2. **Mentorship and Networking:** Foster mentorship programs and networking events to exchange ideas and build partnerships.
3. **Youth-led Initiatives:** Encourage youth-led initiatives through targeted resources, grants, and funding.
4. **Digital Infrastructure:** Improve digital infrastructure to bridge the gap in remote areas, facilitating access to online resources.
5. **E-participation tools:** Offer the possibility to participate in collective consultation processes independent of time and space constraints.
6. **Active Citizenship:** Promote a model of society where young people are involved in their communities and in democratic processes, aided by effective communication strategies.
7. **Policy-making Involvement:** Involve youth in decision-making processes, possibly through the establishment of youth councils.
8. **Increased Funding:** Increase funding for rural areas, particularly for the creation of public spaces that stimulate active participation and for delivering informative campaigns.
9. **Enabling Environment:** Create safe spaces for engagement, provide youth-friendly financial services, and offer capacity-building opportunities.
10. **Recognition:** Celebrate successful youth-led initiatives in rural development to motivate and inspire others.



11. **Collaboration:** Collaborate with NGOs, international organizations, and government sectors to support youth initiatives and ensure effective implementation of proposed reforms.

All these strategies, when combined, create a holistic and integrated approach towards improving youth engagement in rural development.

The following **topics** are proposed by the Partners as areas of potential investigation for the project training courses:

- a. Rural entrepreneurship
- b. Citizenship
- c. Governance and anti-corruption mechanisms
- d. Empowerment
- e. Social leadership
- f. Art of communication
- g. Management of teams and volunteers
- h. Mechanisms of access to information
- i. Social responsibility
- j. Advocacy
- k. Participatory approach
- l. E-participation tools and digital technologies.



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