



## GENERAL REPORT

*Of the results of the agreement between Suomen kylät ry and Latvian Rural Forum on implementing the project “2. Youth network in ERP”, part of the larger ROAD (Rural Opinions and Development) project*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Youth Parliament (ERYP)**

70 participants from 16 countries all around the Europe gathered in Candás, Asturias (Spain) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ERYP. Many different opinions, perspectives and experiences were put together to build the European Rural Youth Declaration. The event served as a platform for youth to engage, connect, to be empowered and heard in European level. Beforehand, the youth participants had identified 5 rural development challenges they see the most important, they were discussed and explained in the Declaration.

### **European Rural Youth Declaration**

The second European Rural Youth Parliament has issued a Declaration that states 10 calls for action regarding the most urgent challenges faced by young Europeans. The document represents issues and specific steps that must be taken by decision-makers and fellow youth to make rural a better place for living. It is a result of various networking and opinions-gathering activities carried out during the past 2 years and the event as the culmination bringing together more than 70 young professionals from 16 countries. The declaration is translated and posted in 7 languages – English, Latvian, Spanish, Armenian, Greek, Slovakian, Czech.

### **European Rural Youth Survey**

In collaboration with VIPA SK a survey was organised within the movement of European Rural Parliament Youth. The results were used to develop the Youth Declaration at the European Rural Youth Parliament at the beginning of November 2019. It was performed in 16 countries (11 countries from European Union) and 58 participants were engaged.

### **Activation of partners to join ERASMUS+ programme**

- In collaboration with 8 ERP partner organisations (MIJARC Europe, VIPA SK (Slovakia), Croatian Rural Development Network, Rural Development Network of The Republic of Macedonia, CERD (Bosnia and Hercegovina) Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo, LAGs in Vysocina Region (Czech Republic), Asturian Network of Rural Development (Spain)), the project “Youth create tomorrow’s rural reality from village to wider Europe” has been submitted and received a funding for organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Youth Parliament in Spain and meeting with the EU stakeholders in Brussels.
- In collaboration with 8 ERP partner organisations (Estonian Leader Union, Keskipiste-Leader ry (Finland), CERD (Bosnia and Hercegovina), Network for Rural Development of Montenegro (NRDM), VIPA SK (Slovakia), Junior Chamber International Prizren (Kosovo), , LAGs in Vysocina Region (Czech Republic), PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe AISBL)), the project proposal “The Best is Yet to Come. Rural Youth for Connected, Equal and Sustainable Europe.” is being developed in order to organise the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Rural Youth Parliament and various networking activities for rural youth in Europe.

### **ERP Youth network digital communication**

- A list of 180 email addresses (ERYP applicants, ERP organisations, participants of the Youth webinars) for sharing rural youth related information has been made. Members were



informed about the youth webinars, ERYP, Rural Youth declaration, networking opportunities and other.

- Youth related information was regularly forwarded to people in charge of ERP monthly newsletter. Therefore, a special youth section in it was established.
- A self-sustaining Facebook group “ERP Youth” is established for interested youth as an open platform where to gather useful information - events, projects, opportunities, researches, data, achievements, calls for collaborations, etc.
- Several posts were made on the ERP Facebook page and “Friends of ERP” Facebook group regarding the ERYP, youth webinars, youth surveys and other.
- A common platform of all the ERP Youth movement related information was opened on the ERP webpage, section “Youth”. [www.europeanruralparliament.com/youth](http://www.europeanruralparliament.com/youth).
- Instagram competition for youth.

### ERP Youth movement webinars

During the year 2019, Latvian Rural Forum organised 8 webinars where different topics regarding the rural youth were discussed.

- 2019.03.26., Simone Matouch (Forum Synergies, Austria) and Anu Suotula (Keskipisteyry, Finland) about Forum Synergies scholarship programme and Europarc youth manifest.
- 2019.04.30., Brigita Medne (Association “Pierīgas partnerība”, Latvia) about methods of youth involvement and the youth work manual LOCAL ACTION YOUTH, 5 participants.
- 2019.05.28., Henrik Løvschall (Ildrætshøjskolen Aarhus, Denmark) about nonformal, alternative, after-high school education in Denmark.
- 2019.06.25., Michal Beneš (Active youngster from Czech Republic) par convenient traveling opportunities and hitch-hiking.
- 2019.07.30., Leotrim Germizaj (Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo) about EU opportunities for networking and inequality decreasing activities.
- 2019.08.27., Atreyu Anahata (Sunseed, Spain) about sustainable lifestyle, environmental activism, remote community in Southern Spain.
- 2019.09.24., Sara Neagu (MIJARC Europe, Rumnia) about digital tools for youth participation in decision-making process.
- 2019.10.29., ERYP and other interested one’s discussion on rural development challenges in Europe, work on European Rural Youth Declaration.

### Forum Synergies scholarship programme and exhibition

Forums Synergies in cooperation with Latvian Rural Forum offered a Scholarship Programme - an exchange programme for young people. We addressed both young people involved in rural development activities, who want to discover or improve their knowledge and their know-how in a particular field of sustainable rural development, and organizations or entrepreneurs from rural areas, who would like to host young people to transmit them a particular knowledge and to share their experience. At the 4th ERP event, there was an exhibition organised with photos and stories of programmes’ participants’ experiences.

### Additional events

- **Latvian Rural Communities Parliament.** In the event with 200 participants from various local communities of Latvia, the movement of the European Rural Parliament as well as the youth movement was introduced. The result was forwarded for implementation in the European Rural Declaration.
- **Youth event “Village looking for young people to engage”.** The aim of the event was discussing with young people how they can be engaged in contributing to the quality of life



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- of their village. The event took place in Kleve, Germany and involved 90 citizens, including 22 participants from Kleve and 68 participants from several villages in the Netherlands
- **4<sup>th</sup> European Rural Parliament.** Participation of 18 youth representatives in workshops and plenaries of ERP was ensured. Rural Youth Declaration, as a result of the ERP pre-event, the ERYD, was presented and distributed to all participants. Youth was mentored and supported to be equal part of the main gathering.
  - **Slovakian Rural Youth Parliament.** The Civic Association of the Slovak rural youth parliament was established within the project of rural youth in the region: The purpose of the project “Rural youth in the region” is regional involvement of young people up to 30 years. The ambition of the project is also to support the building of awareness-raising NGOs, as well as for participation in public policies, to raise public awareness of citizens' participation in the preparation of public policies and strategies at local and regional level.

*All the relevant publicity materials are posted under the section “Youth” on the ERP webpage [www.europeanruralparliament.com](http://www.europeanruralparliament.com) Requested reports on main events and dissemination of the results regarding the ROAD project under the Europe For Citizens programme are submitted together with the general report.*