

ERP-Gathering Kielce

Number of the workshop: 17

Name of the workshop: **Community climate actions**

Our responses to challenges:

We began with what participants appreciated about their place or community
Blue spaces, nature, people, scale of living, mobility, walkability, cleanliness, social capital,
neighbourliness, sense of community

Identified challenges facing our territories and local places

- Climate breakdown & ecological emergency
- Rural depopulation
- Conflict
- Pandemic
- Loneliness and mental health issues
- Virtual reality - problematic because social activity drops through use of social media
- More fragmentation of our communities
- Supply chain breakdown
- Access to housing - housing stock is unaffordable but also not very fit for weather conditions of a changing climate
- Energy crises transformation necessity - facing an energy crisis - unprepared to cope
- Cost of living crisis - living beyond our means crisis
- Our Lakes and waterways - we are losing water - less and less water in the lakes with climate change
- Water is going to be a great challenge we are all going to face. Also pollution and contamination of lakes
- Poor air quality and transport exclusion - lack of rural transport systems
- Extreme weather = Local floods - heatwaves, wildfire difficult to be active as local and engage people - make them come together
- Lack of systemic solution - response is just mitigation - lack of long term policy / Systemic response / long term thinking / very short political cycles / lack of thinking for further generation
- Lack of cohesion in communities- lack of engagement - lack of technical capacity
- Disconnected from nature - we are nature but society and economy are designed in opposition - ecological awareness needed, Nature / biodiversity loss, opportunities for regeneration

Ideas for responses

- New local/ community led food movements
- Community Supported Agriculture, Agroecology, Food Hubs, User owned onLine Platforms for distribution of food and local produce, food coops, solidarity buyers groups, slow food
- Scotland youth led climate organisation working on coaching only youth involved a 1500 people involved and growing

- Community owned land - renewable energy - housing and / shifting the power to the community instead of private
- German- brandenburg initiative aims to bring people together to talk to each other and politicians / understand differences/ inclusive dialogue
- Poland - Rural outing - - local people coming together: narratives that empower the community and create social capital
- ie. Taking away phones from people - enhancing meaningful communication - intergenerational communication / Digital detox nature connection / meaningful intergenerational connection
- Initiatives for the community that increase standards of living/amelioration of public space and caring for it / engaging procedures / local community -
- sense of place and community create social capital
- LAG- on getting youth involved: climate council of the youth as an advisory body for parliament
- Need to develop a feeling of ownership on what is happening and how its changing
- Giving young people involvement and autonomy / a seat in the table
- Enhancing green areas and biodiversity
- Youth clubs for young people to entertain and keep there /engage young people

Our three proposals for governments & EU

1. **Support policies** - to communicate about the issues (advocacy and promotion) contract extractive / growth based economy - enable a wellbeing economy
2. **Encourage investment and tax incentives** to pilot and test community infrastructure and invest in community-led renewable / sustainability/ circular economy, housing initiatives
3. **Need policy coherence that supports a systemic response to the challenges faced and the opportunities for rural areas.** Policies that protect and regenerate ecosystems, forests, waterways strengthen and support local communities and networks of stakeholders from different sectors

Good ideas, practices, processes

Shift: from an individualistic and reductionist worldview to one where we see connections / relationships and not just things - well-being of community is essential to individual well-being.

Building resilience to cope with shocks /

Small villages are about resolving local problems in a smart way

Food as a convivial act - eat together - its community builder

Digitalisation a priority in the EU - need to protect data and maintain ownership

> food hub open food network

-market of food producers

Local food economy - open source and now in over 20 countries

Mall homes and should be well insulated and air tight - they require a lot less energy etc - we need to make them more energy efficient before talking about energy generation

Thinking beyond individual housing within the neighbourhood

Community-led housing - bye-bye nuclear families - resilient communities need neighbourhoods with different notions of property

Cohousing/mortgage - grip of death /

Rich tradition of cooperatives - energy housing - community owned

Design towns and villages for humans not cars / walkable and cycleable not driveable

Public transport - Electric cars / question ownership / car clubs > GO CAR in Ireland

Informal car arrangements -

Community owned cooperatives and local financial initiatives

Resolving conflict - more capacity in mediation and conflict resolution.

Land ownership! cooperatives trying to buy land - impossible to get loan from banks

Ethical banks - climate cradle