

## **ERP Mid-Term Event**

**Wednesday - October 27, 2021**

### **Group 3. Youth - role in local development and policy decisions**

Leader: Tomáš Harant - European Rural Youth Parliament, LAG Naděje

Speaker: Siobhan Gallagher - Rural Youth Europe

Reporter: Leotrim Gërmizaj - Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo, PREPARE, ERP

Participants: 9 participants (Annu, Igor, Ardit, Karolina, Carolina, Simone, Leotrim, Siobhan, and Tomáš)

---

One of the important Breakout Groups of the Mid-Term event were related to the topic of the **Youth - role in local development and policy decisions**.

The session started with a introduction by the Leader of the Breakout Group - Tomáš Harant from Czech Republic, by informing the participants about the program of the group and about the technical issues related to overall work of the group.

The main speaker of the breakoutgroup Siobhan Gallagher, initially highlighted some of her experiences in aspect of youth and rural activism including some of the characteristics of her organization and diversity of resources they have.

Questions addressed to the participants:

- What are the issues facing your members in Rural Areas?
- What are the solutions for these problems?
- 
- Why people are not involved in local development?
- Where the youth fall down in the terms of local development?
- Powerful peoples are the people that live in rural areas !?
- Bringing people back to rural areas – improving the living conditions (public services)!

***ERP Mid-term Event***

Leotrim, Kosovo: emphasized the issue of migration as a big concern..

Carolina, Spain: Lack of youth involvement in LAG's, Lack of employment, lack of household

Ardit, Albania: Quality of services (schools, hospitality) in rural areas and socio-economic status

The quality of services in rural areas is worst than in urban areas – this is one of the reasons for the migration

Annu, Finland: Decision makers are not taking seriously the young people.

Igor, Croatia: Youth are not interested to be actively involved in decision making in some cases.

There is significant need to work on motivation of youth to participate in community activities.

Simone, Austria : “ We don't want to talk, we want to act ”.

#### Proposed Solutions / Recommendations:

- Establishing and improving the non-formal education programs – recognizing the youth work, contribution of youth;
- LAG's could be important stakeholders to realize and implement activities where youth can actively be involved (Erasmus etc.);
- An example of Youth LEADER fund (Finland) & Youth Strategy could be applied also in other countries;
- ‘Keeping’ youth in rural areas (reflecting the messages / appealing)
- Networking & Collaboration in rural areas as a two tools through which the voice and ideas of youth could be heard (*case of LAG's*)
- Internship programs are very useful possibilities for youth;
- Further support and empowering of ERYIP as a important platform to address challenges, problems, needs of youth form rural areas from all Europe;
- Local Action Groups could be a strong point to share the voice of youth in various territories;
- National Youth Councils / Organizations could be very good contact points and actors to further advance the networking and collaboration between youth (youth stakeholders);