# Youth in LEADER Form

# Themes for 2025 Online Meetings

Here is a streamlined version of the suggested topics::

## 1. Youth and Leadership in Rural Areas

- How young people can lead and contribute to rural development.
- Engaging youth organizations and promoting youth-led projects.
- Encouraging young leaders in decision-making roles (e.g., mayors, LAGs).

## 2. Funding and Collaboration

- Finding and accessing funding for rural projects.
- Tips for working with partners across different countries.
- Simple ways to manage project budgets for youth initiatives.

## 3. Engaging Communities

- Building stronger connections with rural communities.
- Communicating effectively with local leaders (e.g., councillors, mayors).
- Encouraging volunteer work and local involvement.

#### 4. Innovation and Digital Tools

- How digital tools can make managing rural projects easier.
- Using technology to solve rural challenges and boost efficiency.
- Sharing creative ideas to improve rural areas.

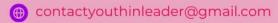
#### 5. Culture and Well-being

- Supporting mental health in rural communities.
- Organizing fun and inclusive events, like traditional sports.
- Celebrating rural culture and strengthening community spirit.

## 6. Learning from Others

- Sharing examples of successful projects and good practices.
- Updates on what's happening in the Youth Community.
- Ideas for organizing a Europe-wide event for rural youth.

#### 7. Environment and Sustainability







- Protecting water quality and natural resources.
- Making rural areas sustainable for future generations.
- Promoting animal welfare and environmental care
- Women empowerment and rural engagement.

# **Suggestions and Comments for 2025 Network Activities**

Here is a summarized overview of the responses:

## 1. Strengthening Community and Engagement

- Build a more active ambassador community.
- Create more networking opportunities, tailored to specific roles within LEADER groups (e.g., managers, assistants, committee members).
- Organizing exchanges with other LEADER communities, allowing young people to experience different cultures and form new friendships.
- Encourage collaboration among members.

## 2. Online Activities and Accessibility

- Increase online workshops or webinars on relevant LEADER topics.
- Ensure online activities are scheduled at accessible times for participants.
- Offer more opportunities to hear perspectives from fellow LEADER members.
- Creating opportunities for young people to connect with mentors, professionals, and entrepreneurs who can share their experiences and expertise.

#### 3. Sharing Good Practices

- Focus on disseminating information about successful LAG practices.
- Showcase specific initiatives led by young people within the network.

#### 4. Themes for Events

- Explore topics like agri-environmental measures to preserve rural landscapes, sustainable tourism, and cultural heritage linked to agriculture.
- Highlight art, music, and folklore to celebrate heritage in engaging and dynamic ways.

## 5. In-Person Activities

• Include plans for in-person meetings or events to foster better connections and facilitate discussions.

## 6. Long-Term Planning

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• Provide an outline for annual activities and a three-year plan for the network to ensure clarity and direction.

## **Event Schedule for 2025**

Below is a summary of the events planned for 2025 that could be valuable for the Youth in LEADER network:

## January – February 2025

- Erasmus Project Application
  - Partners from Norway, Turkey, and LAG Bura area (Croatia) are applying for a project focusing on young people facing social exclusion.
  - o Main activities: Workshops, field trips, and sports events involving youth.

#### March 2025

- LEADER Educational Event (Greece)
  - A two-day congress organized by the Greek Managing Authority.
  - o Focus: Women and youth inclusion in new calls' selection and eligibility criteria.

#### **April 2025**

- National Survey on Rural Youth (Spain)
  - o Organized by REDR, focusing on youth participation in rural decision-making.
  - Activities:
    - Nationwide survey (April-May).
    - Two contrast sessions with rural youth.
    - Final report with recommendations for decision-makers.
  - Possible collaboration with the Youth in LEADER network to extend the project impact to Europe.

#### **Summer 2025**

- Exotic Plant Cultivation Workshop (Croatia)
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- Organized by LAG Bura area.
- Focus: Sustainable farming methods and exotic crop cultivation as a climate change mitigation strategy.
- o Includes youth volunteers and collaboration with Exotic King d.o.o.

# • Rural Fest (Spain)

- A gathering of businesses, associations, and youth-led workshops and performances in rural areas.
- Goals:
  - Promote rural life as an attractive and fulfilling personal and professional choice.
  - Spread the message: "Activate your Rural Mood!"

## **Ongoing Opportunities**

- REDR Rural Youth Project Collaboration
  - Potential European collaboration on survey and contrast sessions.
  - o Amplify impact and collect meaningful data for advocacy.



