

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

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- 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.
 - Main activities: Workshops, field trips, and sports events involving youth.
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March 2025

- **LEADER Educational Event (Greece)**
 - A two-day congress organized by the Greek Managing Authority.
 - Focus: Women and youth inclusion in new calls' selection and eligibility criteria.
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April 2025

- **National Survey on Rural Youth (Spain)**
 - 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.
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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.
 - 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!”
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Ongoing Opportunities

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

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