



Rural Youth Parliaments for the active engagement of youth

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My experience

We had several **events** with **young people** during this year in which I carried out **simulations of the rural parliament** of young people.

Among these we mention:

20.05.2023- Bucharest, Romania

28.06.2023- Sângeorz-Băi, Bistrița-Năsăud county

25.07.2023 - Slănic Moldova- Bacău County

09.08.2023 -Potoceni, Buzău County

26.08.2023 - Căpușu Mare, Cluj County

09.09.2023- Băbeni, Vâlcea County



01.

**Incorporating
Icebreaker
Activities**

02.

**Personal
Development
Activities**

03.

**Involvement of
Mayors and
Local
Councilors**

04.

**Guest Speakers
with Expertise**

05.

**Open Dialogues
and Feedback
Sessions**

06.

**Successful
Outcomes**

07.

**Debates and
Discussions on
Relevant Topics**

08.

**Proposal and
Project
Development**

Key aspects

From this experience, I have gained **valuable insights**. It has become evident that when young people initially appear **shy** during a first date, with the right approach, they can **quickly open up** and **actively engage**. What I've learned is that they possess a **wealth of ideas** and a **strong desire** to participate; all they require is an appropriate **framework** and some **stimulation**.

Once provided with these elements, **trust** in their abilities begins to flourish rapidly, and their **innate creativity shines through**.

During this experience, we were fortunate to receive a plethora of **exceptional ideas** from these young individuals. We intend to harness these ideas to aid in the **development of rural areas in Romania**.

It's clear that they **represent the future**, and their enthusiasm for contributing to a **better world** for themselves and their communities **is inspiring**.

Challenges

Limited Access:

Information
Resources
Opportunities

Education and Awareness:

Limited Civic
Education
Awareness Gap

Lack of Representation:

Traditional Structures
Invisibility



Opportunities

Digital Connectivity:

Internet Access
Digital Literacy

Community-Based Initiatives:

Local Organizations
Grassroots
Movements

Mentorship and Capacity Building:

Mentorship Programs
Skill Development

Romania can empower its rural youth!



3 policy recommendations

01. Youth-Focused Funding and Resources:

Allocate dedicated funding and resources to support the establishment and **sustainability** of Rural Youth Parliaments. This can include **grants** for organizing youth-led initiatives, **training programs**, and **infrastructure development** for meeting spaces.

Develop clear **guidelines** for accessing these resources, ensuring that they are **easily accessible** to rural youth groups and organizations. Consider establishing a competitive **grant application** process that encourages **innovative and impactful projects**.

02. Digital Inclusion and Connectivity:

Invest in **rural digital infrastructure** to ensure that youth in **remote areas** have access to the **internet and digital tools**. **Reliable connectivity** is crucial for remote participation in Rural Youth Parliaments, as it enables online discussions, virtual meetings, and access to information.

Provide subsidies or incentives for the purchase of **digital devices** and **internet services** for low-income rural youth, bridging the digital divide. Additionally, offer **digital literacy training programs** to empower youth with essential digital skills.

03. Youth Capacity Building and Mentorship:

Develop comprehensive **capacity-building programs** for rural youth interested in participating in Rural Youth Parliaments. These programs should focus on **leadership skills, public speaking, policy analysis, and advocacy techniques**.

Establish **mentorship programs** that pair **experienced community leaders** or **policymakers** with youth participants. Mentors can provide **guidance, share knowledge, and help** youth navigate the complexities of policymaking.





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