

BACKGROUND

Focus on RURAL YOUTH ISSUES

We will give youth a voice. By working on the principle of a constructive dialogue we commonly want to build a bridge between our needs and demands, ideas and visions and the challenges we have to face in the future.

- Forum Synergies is offers and promotes a series of **activities** addressing rural youth issues.
- We motivate you to take part in events addressing the youth, their visions and their role in sustainable

development and to build up a link to Forum Synergies.

- We offer young people the possibility to get insight into the day to day life of what we call "success stories" of sustainable rural development by taking part in our activities, gatherings or capacity building events.
- We offer scholarships in order to "get your feed on the ground" in a foreign place where sustainability is alive.

Youth in the focus

- Youth initiative has been part of the discussions during Forum Synergies' **European Rural Sustainability Gathering in Germany in 2009**. It was at the time ground for exchange and creation of networks for implementation of Youth exchange projects that were realized among members.
- Young people have been involved in FS activities during the time, as a driving force and initiators of activities. The focus on Rural Youth issues was part of the working group at Forum **Synergies' European Rural Sustainability Gathering in Beaufortain France in 2014**. The working group has listed a series of issues important for rural youth in Europe.

They included access to land, education in rural areas, youth as driving force in rural communities, available support for young people to return to live and work in rural areas. (See our [report](#) available at Forum Synergies' website p. 18ff)

- Since 2014 we offer the **Forum Synergies' scholarship programme**.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/> where you can download the Action Sheet on scholarships or directly contact: info@forum-synergies.eu.

ACTIVITIES

Scholarships

Forum Synergies' scholarship programme. This trainee exchange programme is addressing young people interested in discovering a rural project, a rural organisation or another specific activity related to sustainable local & rural development. This programme offers young people the possibility to spend some relevant time in a place of their choice - according to the hosts available - in order to discover and learn from the experiences and practices of people & organisations dedicated to sustainable local & rural development.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.forum-synergies.eu/> where you can download the Action Sheet on scholarships or directly contact:

Your contact person for the scholarship programme at Forum Synergies is: Simone MATOUCH at info@forum-synergies.eu.

Rural Youth & Young Farmers Workshop

Setting the scene. As the starting point of a series of workshops Forum Synergies organised together with

the Future Farmers Movement (<http://future-farmers.net/>) a workshop in Dronten, NL.

Forty one young people from 23 European Countries (including EU member states and neighbouring countries) participated in the event which was held in the Warmonderhof School Farm, situated in Dronten, Holland.

During the three days (from 22 to 25 October 2015), participants took the chance to go out and experience realities of youth in rural Holland, exchange with the local young entrepreneurs, local young farmers and community farms on the issues of organic production, cooperation ,education and networking.

Topics for the future. Inspired by the visits the participants developed five working groups working on:

- **European future farmers movement, integrating** all young farmers initiatives around Europe;
- **European seeds initiative and future Forum Synergies SEED gathering** in Portugal focused on seeds policies and their development, practices for preservation of seeds, policies of the seed traders and farmers and sharing of local initiatives and practices with seeds.
- **Improving approach to rural development in Europe** – with specifics to Eastern European countries and its neighbours, by identifying the problems

of youth in rural areas to return including education and business start -up problems to development of hubs and decentralised local support to young people who like to live and work in rural areas;

- **Networking actions on Land concession**, including promotion and exchange of various practices, legal frameworks and taxation issues related to land concession around Europe;
- New ways, methodologies and concepts **for establishment of individual and community farms** which will serve communities. The working group have developed some details on working methods, residences within the farms, decision making structures, market outreach etc.

Contact & information:

Forum Synergies:

Simone MATOUCH, Liljana TANEVSKA: info@forum-synergies.eu, www.forum-synergies.eu

Future Farmers Movement:

Joris van der KAMP: joris@future-farmers.net; <http://future-farmers.net/>

CONTACT & INFORMATION

For general information on the Forum Synergies' Youth Activities please contact:

Simone MATOUCH at info@forum-synergies.eu.