

The voice of Young Rural Europeans - Draft input for ERP 2025 (Document martyr)



For feedback loops at the following levels:

- *FS strategic meeting 8-9 January*
- *Participants of the Rural next webinar and wider network (January 10-15)*
- *Revised version for discussion at webinar (Jan 20 ff)*
- *Presentation at ERP midterm meeting (Jan 30)*

The supporters of this document call upon the (organisers of the) European Rural Parliament to take the necessary steps in order to engage in an intergenerational process that creates a space for rural youth and facilitates cooperation in rural communities.

We call upon the rural networks gathering in the European Rural Parliament to create (a network of) **Rural Experience Hubs**, which provide an open space for young rurals and tools for addressing intergenerational gaps in rural areas.

By organising tutorials and mentorships, by creating public space for elaborating joint solutions in rural communities and for (a moderated) exchange of (diverging) opinions, by promoting openness for learning from experience made, but also for new approaches, the Rural Experience hubs could elaborate on a variety of topics which are essential for ageing rural communities throughout Europe:

- Stimulate community building, inter alia through local development initiatives, social enterprises, ecovillages, cooperatives,
- Exchange best practices in an open learning environment, e.g. on farm succession or access to land for young farmers and community farming initiatives
- Foster the sense of place and strengthen attachment to the specific local conditions
- Exchange of experiences and best practices in sustainable land management (climate resilience, agroecology, permaculture,)
- Establish a joint platform to provide and maintain public services in rural areas (education, transport, medical care, basic infrastructure) through advocacy and mutual support

By focussing on the intergenerational aspects of these topics and learning from each other in a constructive dialogue, local communities can enable themselves for a common future development.