

**BOOST**



# 5 TO-DO'S TO RURAL YOUTH

For over a year, the EYCA Youth Panel has been exploring the needs, challenges and opportunities of young people in rural areas. The Rural Youth Project included an analytical study of rural challenges and opportunities, local actions across Europe and a Rural Youth Camp in Spain.

The objective: **learn from rural youth and listen to their ideas**

## ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN SHAPING LOCAL POLICY

To better address the needs of local young people, authorities should get them involved in shaping the solutions. Whether it is participating in the policy process or implementing projects & programmes, getting young people involved helps to build trust, community resilience and human connections.

In practice: **Include young people in information sessions and local projects – be transparent about the process. Create structured platforms for youth participation, such as youth council**

## BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER - YOUNG & OLD

Support community-growth initiatives that energise local neighbourhoods and encourage intergenerational mixing. Bringing young and old(er) generations together will enhance mutual learning and help curb loneliness. These initiatives should validate individual narratives, promote inclusivity, and empower marginalised voices.

In practice: **Run storytelling workshops, skills-building projects and community initiatives for all generations. i.e. Tech teaching by young people, career advice from older people, etc.**

## MORE PUBLIC SPACES

Many local communities already have ideas on how to empower individuals, enhance teamwork, and address social issues. What they need is the public infrastructure to meet together and run initiatives. These can range from community social hubs and sports facilities, to parks and squares. The means to allow such initiatives should be available to the commons.

In practice: **Make spaces available for collective initiatives and facilitate teamwork in building them.**

## IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

Getting around is essential for any young person, but it isn't easy in rural areas. Good public transport systems (that are accessible to everyone) enhance independence, support local economies and promote social inclusion. They also help towards youth retention in rural areas.

In practice: **Offer more discounts for public transport and encourage local authorities to improve mobility infrastructure.**

## INCREASE RURAL CULTURAL ACCESS & CREATIVE ARTS PROMOTION

By increasing the cultural options accessible to young people, local communities reduce rural isolation, improve extra-curricular education and support rural development & tourism. Creative arts and cultural participation are essential to building a community's identity. Such initiatives should celebrate young people from rural areas, and help reduce urban migration.

In practice: **Give visibility to rural cultural centres, with youth discounts and support for new arts initiatives. Build creative campaigns that celebrate the aspects that make rural areas so distinctive.**

[Click here to discover the Rural Youth Project](#)