Rural Voices 2030. Engaging young rural European citizens in a gender responsive approach to soil protection

What is it about?

"Rural Voices 2030" empowers young people in rural areas to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 15 (land protection). With a focus on participatory approaches, community-based partnerships, and gender-sensitive perspectives, the project harnesses the power of Global Citizenship Education to make rural areas more inclusive, sustainable, and aware of global development challenges.

By creating rural development education networks, "Rural Voices 2030" encourages a sense of community ownership and global citizenship, fostering connections between rural communities and global action across Europe.

Project goals and planned activities:

Rural Voices 2030 aims to develop the most adequate educational approach to engage young people in rural areas and educational multipliers with the topics of soil protection and gender equality, involving them actively in the process of creating this approach. It will be developed through:

- interviews with rural target groups
- collecting case studies about land degradation and its linkages to gender inequality
- collecting best practices in education
- developing social media and video content addressing rural audiences
- dialog events in rural areas with participation of experts and youth from the global south, connected to festivals in rural areas
- developing training material and providing trainings for rural youth, as well as networking sessions, training of trainers and conduction online open courses for educational multiplier
- launching calls for proposal for subgrantees and conducting trainings for them
- organizing network conferences
- conducting media work: infographics, fact sheets and press releases

organizing advocacy activities, for example extend the message to policy makers on national and EU levels through policy papers

What changes does this project inspire?

"Rural Voices 2030" illuminates the connection between soil protection and gender equality. The project brings Global Citizenship Education (GCE) to rural Europe through non-formal education and innovative approaches. By actively involving rural youth and other stakeholders in community settings (e.g., farms, gardens, and sports clubs), the project creates an inclusive, locally-led learning environment that is adaptable to unique rural contexts.

Soil protection and gender equality are closely interconnected. Erosion, sealing, pollution

from chemicals, and the loss of fertility affect soils worldwide. This endangers food production and the environment. Women are less often involved in decisions regarding soil protection, own less land, and are less able to invest in more sustainable agriculture.

The project empowers rural communities by addressing the identified gap in GCE offers, and existing capacities and networks in rural areas. It aims to enhance social cohesion, and contributes to sustainable development. In doing so, “Rural Voices 2030” reinvigorates rural areas, inspiring young people to engage with global challenges and fostering a sense of collective responsibility for the future of our planet.

Lead Partner

Hungarian Baptist Aid - Hungary

Project partners and countries

Sudwind – Austria; Open Education Centre Foundation – Bulgaria; FINEP -Germany; SYND - Ghana; ESYN - Hellenic National Youth Council – Greece; Društvo Šolski ekovrtovi – Slovenia;
Municipality of Foligno – Italy; Punto Sud Foundation – Italy; FAMSI – Spain.
Slow Food Youth Network – Netherlands; Buy Responsibly Foundation – Poland; IMVF-Portugal;

Total budget

€ 5 887 000

Sub-granting

This project funds small organisations and/or local authorities. To find out more about funding opportunities, please get in touch with the lead partner or the partner organisation based in your country of interest.