

Involving youth in rural development group 4

Contributions made by Macedonia,
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Involving youth is important for
sustainability of rural areas

WHAT CAN WE DO

- 1. ON VILLAGE LEVEL?**
- 2. ON NATIONAL LEVEL?**
- 3. ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL?**

Main challenge

- DREAM TO LEAVE - Migration of large numbers of rural youth to the cities (due to lack of unempolymment, infrastructure, educational and training opportunities etc)

What is needed?

- Developing good infrastructure and positive image of rural life
- Strengthening the voice of young people -they have to get possibility to speak and their ideas must be considered
- Offering activities and support that young people can stay connected with their home villlage for a longer term

- Change the way of thinking (early start on family level etc)
- Empowering youth through self-esteem raising and business skills teaching
- Importance of teamwork on local level (different generations etc)
- Opportunity to enhance social networking

National level

- Umbrella organisation for rural development and for youth can apply for project money and have activities on local level but youth by themselves should implement it
- Lobby work on every level
- Encourage youth to establish NGO-s and guide them
- Special foundation for youth activities from state

International level

- More cooperation between south and north, west and east
- Youth exchange programmes - wider view of different cultures (you find yourself while seeing others)
- At the PREPARE gatherings always have the thematic working group on rural youth - to have youngsters in each countries delegation (age 18-25)

Main conclusions

- Rural areas need to become more attractive for young people
- Youth groups should be involved in the design and implementation of rural development policies on all levels
- Governments, donors, private sector – they should support rural youth
- Cooperation, cooperation, cooperation