

From the GroundUp: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda

Project realization period – 01/01/2024 – 30/09/2025

Project is coordinated by Sdruzeni [SPLAV](#) and 14 other partners.

The project's goal is to empower and involve citizens from rural and peripheral areas of Europe, with a focus on young people. We want all of these people's voices to be heard in local and EU-related democratic processes.

From the GroundUp: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda is a collaborative initiative supported by the European Union's CERV Programme. This project is a Network of Towns, bringing together Local Action Groups, municipalities, and non-profit civil society organizations from 14 EU Member States.

The project activities are planned for 21 months, from January 2024 to September 2025. The goal is to actively engage and also to empower our local citizens from rural and peripheral areas in Europe, especially young people, in the EU-related and local democratic processes – i.e. GroundUp. Through our activities we aim to cultivate informed and active citizenship among our communities.

To achieve our project's goal, we've planned a series of 8 events. These will include conferences, webinars and study visits. Online events will facilitate broad discussions, while in-person events offer hands-on learning and networking opportunities.

We consider the upcoming European Elections 2024 as a momentum not only for European politics, but also as a process that will heavily impact the lives of citizens from rural and peripheral areas that we represent. Also new phenomena that are challenging the integrity of elections such as hate speech, disinformation, fake news, cybersecurity threats or conservative shifts are affecting the life quality of rural residents. Citizens from rural and peripheral areas are generally considered to be less informed and therefore underrepresented in the EU democratic processes.

By participating in the CERV Programme, we aim to develop and implement targeted measures to address the unique needs of peripheral and rural communities. Through GroundUp activities, we seek to foster exchanges, promote peaceful relations, and cultivate mutual understanding among European citizens.

Join us on our mission to empower rural youth and strengthen democracy from the GroundUp!

Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EACEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Other EU logo versions (colours, languages etc) may be found [here](#).

Partners

LAG Sdruzeni SPLAV (CZ)
LAG Pirkan Helmi (FI)
Municipality of Irschen (AT)
Gain & Sustain (support to the Municipality of Irschen – AT)
LAG "Dolina Rzeki Grabi" (PL)
Municipality of Torres Novas (PT)
LAG Prealpi e Dolomiti (IT)
Maghweb (mandate by Palazzo Adriano municipality – IT)
No Frontiers 21 Century Association (BG)
LAG Halland (SE)
Connection:Berlin (DE)
Mancomunitat de la Ribera Baixa (ES)
LAG of Attica Islands (GR)
Rural Youth Parliament in Slovakia (SK)
Meath Community Rural and social development partnership ltd. (IE)
Internationale Arbeidsvereniging (NL)

Events

Webinar

From the Ground Up: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda. Current political narratives that impact rural, peripheral areas in Europe (SPLAV – CZ)

Conference

From Community-Led Local Development, LEADER and local participatory budgeting to ECI; Citizens' Dialogue: Elections to the EP 2024 - why do we need fair and equal elections? The role of youth in EU democracy (LAG "Dolina Rzeki Grabi" – PL)

Conference

EU citizenship and the rights of EU mobile citizens. Oxford Debate: The meaning of identity and belonging in political processes. Hate speech as a political tool (LAG Haaland – SE)

Conference

New phenomena that are challenging the integrity of elections: disinformation, fake news, misleading content. Citizens' Dialogue: Youth voices - preparing for the study visit in Brussels (LAG of Attica Islands – GR)

Webinar

*Free travel, living, working: The Maastricht Treaty.
GroundUp Youth Parliament on the rights of EU citizens - for project partners and their youth (Connection:Berlin DE)*

Study visit

Results of the Conference on the Future of Europe (citizens' recommendations) in the context of the EU citizenship rights - more power to citizens. Transfer of consultations from the youth to EU policy makers (LAG Pirkan Helmi – FI)

European conference

*Conservative shifts in politics - how do they impact the life quality of rural residents?
Oxford Debate: Who do we vote for? Gender dimension of politics and local development
(LAG Sdruzeni Splav – CZ)*

Webinar

Transnational cooperation of youth and public local authorities. New technologies and e-democracy (Municipality of Irschen – AT)