

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Harghita County Council
PIC number:	944391225
Project name and acronym:	<i>Connecting Rural Europe: Networking and development in small towns</i> Rural EU

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP2
Event name:	- National focus groups for rural youth (Romania)
Type:	FOCUS GROUP
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Miercurea Ciuc
Date(s):	29.4.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://hargitamegye.ro/ruraleu-hu/
Participants	
Female:	13
Male:	12

Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Romania]:	25		
From country 2 [xx]:			
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The aim of the final session of the focus group was to allow participants to share their experiences and opinions on social, economic, and cultural issues affecting rural youth. The starting point was the survey which has explored the general perception of rural youth in Romania. Throughout the session, interactive methods were used to explore key topics such as political participation, future prospects, community life, environmental concerns, and access to education and culture.

The program began with an **opinion scale game**, which helped set the mood and introduced the main themes. It quickly became evident that most participants feel rural youth have fewer opportunities than their urban peers, yet they value community cohesion and the preservation of local traditions.

During the **role-playing activity**, participants worked in small groups to discuss hypothetical scenarios. These exercises encouraged practical thinking and empathy. A particularly engaging discussion emerged around how to better involve young people in local decision-making, and the barriers posed by limited digital access in rural areas.

The large group discussion focused on three main topics:

- 1. Employment and Future Prospects**

Participants shared that many young people move to cities after their studies in search of better opportunities. They highlighted the lack of attractive jobs for youth and the limited initiatives supporting entrepreneurship in rural areas.

- 2. Environment and Climate Change**

Most participants showed high awareness of environmental issues, though they felt that fewer resources and opportunities exist in rural areas for adopting sustainable lifestyles. The lack of public transportation was mentioned as both an environmental and social problem.

- 3. Education and Cultural Opportunities**

According to participants, there is a shortage of local cultural programs, and educational opportunities are often limited, especially in smaller villages. Suggestions included organizing more youth events, creating community spaces, and offering mobile learning opportunities.

The session concluded with a **story-building activity**, where participants collectively created a narrative based on their rural experiences and challenges. This exercise reinforced a sense of community and demonstrated the group's diversity in thought and shared values.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE

1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
	02.05.2025	Updated according to the PO request.