

Rural Youth Empowerment: Unlocking Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps 2.0



Rural Youth Empowerment seminar in Bucharest 25-29 November, 2025. brought energy, ideas, and new directions for youngsters in rural areas. Nearly 40 participants from 11 countries came to Bucharest between November 25 and 29 with the same common goal: better projects for young people in rural communities. The training was dedicated to Local Action Groups (LAGs), who were invited to explore the opportunities offered by Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps and to strengthen their role in supporting young people in their communities.



Over the course of three training days, the LAGs participated in applied discussions, analyzed the needs of youngsters in rural areas, and began to outline concrete projects. Our colleagues from the Agency played an essential role:

- they presented the types of funding available under the Erasmus+ and ESC programs;
- they provided examples of good practices relevant to rural areas;
- they provided personalized feedback on the projects outlined by the participants to help them become clearer, more realistic, and more impactful.



What kind of initiatives were outlined?

- ✓ Combating fake news in rural communities through activities tailored to young people;
- ✓ Exploring local heritage and cultural animation, with youngsters as creators and facilitators;
- ✓ Study visits to understand how young people can be supported through LAGs and E+ and ESC programs;
- ✓ International exchanges, in which young people collaborate on environmental protection and the development of green skills.



This event in Bucharest demonstrated how much LAGs can contribute to the revitalization of rural communities when they have access to the right tools. And this is just the beginning: the ideas developed here can be transformed into European projects with real impact.

The participants put in great energy, curiosity, and involvement in the event and the organizers thanked them for that.



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