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Press Release

Napoca Porolissum LAG Association celebrates successful completion of Erasmus+ Rural Youth Parliament project

Napoca Porolissum LAG Association is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Erasmus+ Rural Youth Parliament project, through which we had the opportunity to implement and develop innovative initiatives to engage young people in rural areas. Through this project, we set out to achieve several essential objectives, and the results achieved are remarkable.

The main results of the project include:

1. Guide on best practices for transnational cooperation in involving rural youth.
2. Methodology for organizing rural youth parliaments as tools for active involvement of young people in disadvantaged communities.
3. Implementation of 2 rural youth parliaments in 2 countries.
4. At least 20 youth workers better trained to work with young people in rural areas.
5. At least 20 young people from rural areas with improved attitudes towards democracy.
6. A project website: <https://ruralityouthparliament.napocaporolissum.ro/>
7. Social media channels for the project: <https://www.facebook.com/ruralityouthparliamentproject>
8. A network of work and collaboration between the 4 partner organizations from Romania, Finland, Lithuania, France.

By implementing the project, the partners took into account **two main results:**

- 1. Guide on best practices for transnational cooperation in involving rural youth and Methodology for organizing rural youth parliaments as tools for active involvement of young people in disadvantaged communities:**

This guide is an excellent tool for youth workers as it collects information, methods, examples of activities and local best practices for youth engagement. The guide is easily accessible and can be found on the project website and is free to download. This methodology aims to be interactive and not just theoretical. Its main goal is to provide the best methods of organizing a rural youth parliament, encompassing logistical aspects, selection of participants, motivation of participants to want to be part of the Rural Youth Parliament.

- 2. Simulation of the Rural Youth Parliament:**



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Through practical, attractive and interactive activities, the project promoted the development of positive skills and attitudes towards democratic values and active citizenship. The simulation of a rural youth parliament has been used as a powerful educational tool, giving young people the opportunity to develop essential skills such as public debate, opinion-raising, public speaking, negotiation and critical thinking.

Through these objectives, the partners aimed to develop an active community of young people involved, able to propose and implement local projects, to support democratic values and to become active citizens. The project contributed to the creation and strengthening of transnational partnerships, ensuring permanent access to ideas, opinions, tools and digital innovations to support the missions and objectives of organizations at local, regional and international level.

The locations where we organized **the simulation of the rural youth parliament** using the first two results of the project Innovative methodology for organizing rural youth parliaments and the Guide on best practices for involving rural youth in **Romania** are:

20.05.2023 - **Bucharest, Romania**

28.06.2023 - **Sângeorz-Băi**, Bistrița-Năsăud

25.07.2023 – **Slănic-Moldova**, Bacău

09.08.2023 - **Potoceni**, Buzău

26.08.2023 - **Căpușu Mare**, Cluj

09.09.2023 - **Băbeni**, Vâlcea County

16.09.2023 - **Tulucești**, Galați

17.11.2023 - **Bilbor**, Harghita

25.11.2023- **Bucharest**, second edition

25.11.2023- **Vorniceni**, Straseni district, **Republic of Moldova**

This experience revealed that young people in rural areas are full of ideas and the desire to contribute to their communities. With the right support, their confidence grows and their creativity shines through.

In addition to organizing simulations of the rural youth parliament in various regions, the project also included activities designed to support the personal development of participants, as well as to encourage increased self-confidence and public speaking skills.

Claudiu Iancu, our youth worker, was instrumental in creating a **Rural Youth Parliament within our territory**. By training other people involved in working with young people, Claudiu contributed to the development of a favorable environment for them to open up and develop. The importance of forming



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an educated generation, aware of their rights and able to stand up for themselves becomes evident in the current social and political context.

We found it essential to invest in young people and give them the tools to become **active and responsible citizens**. Through our project, we have created a network of trained young people, able to organize and collaborate for the development of the country.

In addition to the simulations of the parliament, we also organized meetings with young people, including two participations in the **Romanian Parliament**. **The first meeting** gathered young representatives from all regions of the country, contributing to the formation of the Rural Youth Parliament. **The second meeting** involved a group of young people from Belis, giving them training to become active leaders in their local community.

Our goal is to develop an active community of young people involved, able to propose projects at local level and support their implementation to contribute to the sustainable development of Romania. We are proud of what we have achieved so far and we are determined to continue to support and encourage young people in rural areas.

Napoca Porolissum LAG Association is committed to using these exceptional ideas that young people have to contribute to the **development of rural areas** in Romania. **Young people are the future**, and their enthusiasm for a better world is an **inspiration** to us all.

Once EU funding has ended, we are committed to maintaining and expanding the impact of this project by:

1. Continuity of cooperation between the 4 partner organisations and their activities with young people.
2. Maintain results on the project website, YouTube channel and social media accounts for continuous impact.
3. Transforming Youth Parliaments into annual simulations organized by partner and other interested organizations.
4. Using the methods and practices acquired in the project in new initiatives for environmental protection and climate change in rural areas.
5. Managing the website and organizing Youth Parliaments with limited resources, covered by our own sources, as well as writing and implementing new projects from European funds to help us carry on this work.

For further information, please contact us at contact@napocaporolissum.ro.