

Toolkit

EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH WORKERS FOR GLOBAL ISSUES



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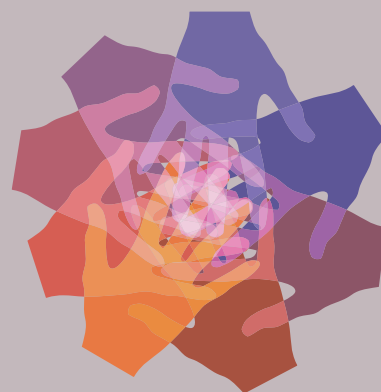
Toolkit Overview: Empowering Rural Youth Workers for Global Issues

Empowering Rural Youth Workers for Global Issues toolkit is created based on a results of Erasmus+ project “OUR FUTURE STARTS TODAY” implemented in 2022, co-funded by Erasmus+ programme of European union.

A project – Professional Development Activity was coordinated by Culture Society “Alternative Reality” (Latvia) with significant partnership of NGO Creatorium (Norway), Youth Dynamics (Cyprus) and Youth Non-Formal Cultural Educational Center "DiGrease's Buffoon Theatre" (Poland) to support youth workers in addressing key global issues that impact the lives and futures of young people, especially those from marginalized communities and rural areas.

Grounded in the priorities and principles of the Erasmus+ program, this toolkit provides a range of non-formal education methods such as discussions, workshops, presentations, role-play games, and interactive activities.

The toolkit encourages experiential learning, group work, and peer-to-peer exchanges, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and active participation among young people. By engaging youth in meaningful and interactive learning experiences, the toolkit aims to deepen their understanding of global issues, promote empathy, and inspire them to take action.



The toolkit is structured into four sections:

Understanding Global Issues: This section provides a foundation by defining global issues and exploring their interconnectedness. It offers examples of major global issues affecting young people and highlights their significance in shaping the world.

Youth Goals and Global Issues: This section emphasizes the relevance of the EU Youth Goals in addressing global issues. It maps different global issues to relevant Youth Goals, showcasing how youth workers can leverage these goals to tackle specific challenges.

Non-Formal Education Methods for Exploring Global Issues: This section offers practical guidance on using non-formal education methods to facilitate learning about global issues. It provides instructions, sample activities, and tips for conducting discussions, workshops, presentations, role-play games, and interactive activities.

Case Studies: Erasmus+ Projects Addressing Global Issues: This section showcases real-life examples of Erasmus+ projects that have successfully addressed global issues. Each case study highlights the project's objectives, activities, and outcomes, linking them to at least two relevant Youth Goals. These examples serve as inspiration and practical models for youth workers.

Through the Empowering Rural Youth Workers for Global Issues toolkit, youth workers can equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and awareness needed to navigate and address global challenges. By engaging youth in critical conversations, interactive activities, and experiential learning, this toolkit empowers them to become active global citizens who are equipped to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Importance of addressing global issues impacting young people

Addressing global issues impacting young people, especially those in rural areas, is crucial for several reasons:

Empowering Rural Youth: Global issues can disproportionately affect rural youth, who often face additional challenges such as limited access to resources, education, and opportunities. By addressing these issues, we can empower rural youth and provide them with the tools and support they need to overcome barriers and thrive.

Ensuring Inclusive Development: Rural areas play a significant role in sustainable development. By addressing global issues impacting rural youth, we can promote inclusive development that leaves no one behind. It is essential to bridge the urban-rural divide and ensure that rural youth have equal access to opportunities, services, and resources.

Sustainable Rural Communities: Global issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation directly impact rural communities. By addressing these issues, we can foster sustainable rural communities that are resilient, environmentally conscious, and socially inclusive. Engaging rural youth in these efforts is vital as they are key stakeholders and future leaders of their communities.

Promoting Rural-Urban Synergies: Global issues often require collaboration and synergies between rural and urban areas. By addressing these issues impacting rural youth, we can foster partnerships and connections between different regions, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation for sustainable development.

Enhancing Youth Participation: Engaging rural youth in addressing global issues promotes their active participation in decision-making processes. By involving them in finding solutions to global challenges, we can amplify their voices, perspectives, and contributions, ensuring that their needs and aspirations are taken into account.

Building Resilience: Rural youth often face unique challenges such as limited employment opportunities, migration, and isolation. By addressing global issues impacting rural areas, we can help build resilience among rural youth, equipping them with skills, knowledge, and support systems to overcome challenges and adapt to changing circumstances.

Tackling Interconnected Challenges: Global issues are often interconnected and complex. By addressing these challenges collectively, we can better understand the underlying causes and develop comprehensive strategies. This approach allows us to address multiple issues simultaneously and create more sustainable and holistic solutions that benefit rural youth and their communities.

In conclusion, addressing global issues impacting rural youth is of utmost importance for their empowerment, inclusive development, sustainable communities, rural-urban synergies, youth participation, resilience-building, and tackling interconnected challenges. By prioritizing the needs and aspirations of rural youth, we can create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.



Non-formal education methods

In the Empowering Rural Youth Workers for Global Issues toolkit, we embrace the power of non-formal education methods to engage and empower young people in addressing global issues. Aligned with the priorities and principles of the Erasmus+ program, these methods promote experiential learning, active participation, and peer-to-peer exchanges. They provide young people with opportunities to develop critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative skills while exploring and understanding complex global challenges.

Non-formal education methods offer an alternative approach to traditional classroom-based learning. They create dynamic and inclusive learning environments where young people can actively participate and contribute. Through discussions, workshops, presentations, role-play games, and interactive activities, we foster a learner-centered approach that values the diverse experiences and perspectives of participants.

These methods promote holistic learning, going beyond the acquisition of knowledge. They encourage young people to reflect on their own values, beliefs, and actions while engaging with global issues. By creating interactive and participatory spaces, we inspire young people to think critically, question assumptions, and explore potential solutions to pressing global challenges.

One of the core principles of non-formal education is the recognition of young people as active agents in their own learning. It empowers them to take ownership of their educational journey, allowing for personalized and meaningful experiences. Non-formal education methods also emphasize the importance of peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and collective problem-solving, fostering social connections and building a sense of community among participants.

Furthermore, non-formal education methods facilitate experiential learning, enabling young people to gain practical skills and knowledge through hands-on activities and real-life simulations. This approach enhances their understanding of global issues by connecting theoretical concepts with practical applications, bridging the gap between knowledge and action.

By utilizing non-formal education methods, we create inclusive and engaging learning environments that cater to diverse learning styles, backgrounds, and abilities. These methods promote active participation and dialogue, enabling young people to express their opinions, challenge assumptions, and learn from each other. They also foster a sense of empowerment and agency, encouraging young people to become active global citizens who can make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Throughout this toolkit, we provide guidance, examples, and resources for implementing these non-formal education methods effectively. By incorporating these methods into our work, we can inspire and equip young people to tackle global issues, contribute to positive change, and shape a more inclusive and sustainable future.



SECTION 1: UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL ISSUES

1.1 Defining Global Issues:

Global issues are complex challenges that transcend national boundaries and have far-reaching impacts on societies, economies, and the environment. They require collective action and cooperation at both local and global levels to effectively address their causes and consequences. These issues arise from interconnected social, economic, political, and environmental factors, and their resolution often requires collaboration among various stakeholders.

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms and dimensions, ensuring everyone has access to basic resources, services, and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.



Zero Hunger: Ensure access to nutritious food, promote sustainable agriculture, and end hunger and malnutrition worldwide.



Good Health and Well-being: Promote physical and mental health, ensure universal healthcare access, and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.



Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, promoting lifelong learning opportunities and fostering knowledge and skills for sustainable development.



Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, eliminating discrimination, violence, and harmful practices.



Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all, promoting water conservation and proper wastewater treatment.



Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and clean energy, promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.



Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.



Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation for sustainable development.



Reduced Inequality: Reduce inequality within and among countries, ensuring equal opportunities, social protection, and rights for all.



Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, promoting affordable housing, sustainable transportation, and urban planning.



Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable lifestyles.



Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, implementing mitigation and adaptation measures, and promoting sustainable practices.



Life Below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources, promoting marine conservation, reducing pollution, and protecting ecosystems.



Life on land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



Peace, justice and strong institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Partnerships for the goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Global issues hold significant importance as they shape the lives and futures of young people and communities worldwide. They have profound implications for sustainable development, equality, human rights, and the overall well-being of individuals and societies. Understanding global issues is crucial for young people to actively engage with the world, develop critical thinking skills, and contribute to positive change.

1.2 Examples of Major Global Issues Affecting Young People:



Climate Change: The rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation caused by climate change pose a significant threat to young people's future. It impacts their access to resources, food security, health, and overall well-being.



Poverty and Inequality: The persistence of poverty and growing income inequality create barriers for young people, limiting their opportunities, access to education, healthcare, and decent work. Addressing these issues is crucial for fostering inclusive and equitable societies.



Education Disparities: Disparities in access to quality education, particularly in marginalized communities and rural areas, hinder young people's personal development, employment prospects, and social mobility. Ensuring equal educational opportunities is vital for empowering youth and promoting sustainable development.



Gender Inequality: Gender-based discrimination and violence affect young people, particularly young women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Achieving gender equality is essential for empowering all young people, promoting their rights, and dismantling harmful stereotypes and biases.



Youth Unemployment: High youth unemployment rates and precarious working conditions limit young people's economic opportunities, financial independence, and overall well-being. Creating inclusive economies and promoting decent work for young people are critical for sustainable development and social progress.

Understanding and addressing these global issues is essential for youth workers to effectively support young people in navigating these challenges and fostering their active engagement in creating positive change. By equipping young people with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a sense of agency, we empower them to contribute to solutions and advocate for a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive world.

Section 1.3: Interconnectedness of Global Issues

Global issues are not isolated challenges; they are interconnected and interdependent, often influencing and exacerbating one another. Recognizing and understanding the interconnected nature of these issues is crucial for developing holistic and effective approaches to address them. By exploring how different issues intersect and impact each other, we can uncover deeper root causes and work towards comprehensive solutions.

Climate Change and Poverty: Climate change intensifies poverty by affecting agricultural productivity, water availability, and livelihoods. Vulnerable communities, particularly in developing countries, bear the brunt of both poverty and climate change impacts.

Gender Equality and Education: Gender inequality hinders access to education for girls and young women, limiting their opportunities for personal and economic development. This, in turn, perpetuates cycles of poverty and reinforces societal disparities.

Health and Sustainable Development: Health issues, such as pandemics or inadequate healthcare systems, can disrupt social and economic stability, hindering progress towards sustainable development goals. Similarly, sustainable development practices promote better health outcomes by addressing environmental and social determinants of health.

Conflict and Forced Migration: Political conflicts and instability contribute to forced displacement and migration, uprooting communities and straining resources in host countries. These movements exacerbate social and economic inequalities, impacting development efforts in both origin and destination regions.

Environmental Degradation and Food Security: Environmental degradation, including deforestation and land degradation, negatively affects agricultural productivity and disrupts ecosystems. This leads to decreased food production, food insecurity, and a higher risk of malnutrition and hunger.

Understanding these intersections allows us to develop more comprehensive and integrated approaches to tackling global issues. It emphasizes the importance of adopting a multi-dimensional perspective, engaging in cross-sectoral collaboration, and considering the broader implications and interdependencies of our actions.

By addressing the interconnectedness of global issues, we can identify leverage points for positive change and design interventions that have synergistic impacts across multiple areas. This approach enables us to build more resilient and sustainable solutions that address the root causes and contribute to holistic progress towards a better future for all.



SECTION 2: YOUTH GOALS AND GLOBAL ISSUES

The Youth Goals are the outcome of the Youth Dialogue process with over 50.000 young people.

They represent views of young people from all over Europe and are part of the EU Youth Strategy.



Goal #1 Connecting EU with Youth

Foster the sense of youth belonging to the European project and build a bridge between the EU and young people to regain trust and increase participation.

An increasing number of young people lack trust in the EU, encounter difficulties in understanding its principles, values, and functioning. Democratic deficits in EU processes have also been identified as one of the reasons for rising euroscepticism among young people.

Goals:

- Guarantee meaningful youth involvement and dialogue in all stages of EU decision making by improving existing participatory mechanisms and creating new ones.
- Ensure equal access to quality impartial and youth-friendly information about how the EU works, how to engage in it and what opportunities it offers.
- Introduce and increase education about Europe and the EU in formal and non-formal settings.
- Guarantee fair representation of all member states in political and administrative EU bodies, in line with the principle of equal citizenship.
- Increase the budget and the impact of the EU youth programmes.
- Build young people's trust in the EU project by addressing the democratic deficit, lack of transparency and visibility.
- Institutionalise the assessment of youth-friendliness, impact and effect of EU policies.





Goal #2 Equality of All Genders

Ensure equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of life of a young person.

Gender-based discrimination still affects many young people, especially young women. Equal opportunities and access to rights need to be ensured for young people of all genders including non-binary and LGBTQI+ young people.

Goals:

- Tackle discrimination and ensure equal rights for all genders in cultural, political and socio-economical life.
- Achieve universal awareness of gender-based inequality and discrimination, particularly in the media.
- End gender-based violence by addressing and tackling it effectively in all its forms.
- Eliminate stereotypical gender roles and embrace diverse gender identities in education systems, family life, the workplace, and other areas of life.
- End gender-based structural discrimination in the labour market and ensure equal rights, access and opportunities.
- Ensure equal pay for equal work and the equal sharing of the responsibilities of care work.
- Ensure equal access to formal and non-formal education, and that the design of education systems follows gender-sensitive approaches.



Goal #3 Inclusive Societies

Enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society.

One third of young people in Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Many do not have access to their social rights. Many continue to face multiple discrimination, experience prejudice and hate crimes. New migratory phenomena brought several social and inclusion challenges. Therefore, it is crucial to work towards the fulfillment of the rights of all young people in Europe, including the most marginalised and excluded.

Goals:

- Provide legal protection and enforce international legal instruments to fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech, recognising that young people are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination.
- Strengthen outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.
- Ensure that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.
- Strengthen the capacities of educators to work with marginalised young people.
- Provide more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, and combat discrimination and segregation.
- Strengthen social support by implementing the right to a living wage, fair work condition, universal access to quality health care, and ensure specific measures for marginalised young people.



Goal #4 Information & Constructive

Ensure young people have better access to reliable information, support their ability to evaluate information critically and engage in participatory and constructive dialogue.

Young people experience difficulties to verify the accuracy and reliability of information. They need to be more adequately equipped to navigate the media landscape and to participate in constructive dialogue.

Goals:

- Empower young people to be critical and responsible users and producers of information.
- Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and report repeatedly misleading news and verify the accuracy of news sources used.
- Ensure young people have the ability to recognise and report hate speech and discrimination online and offline.
- Ensure young people can engage in respectful, tolerant and non-violent dialogue, online and offline.
- Ensure easy access to understandable youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards.
- Ensure parents and carers, and all those involved with educating and training young people are equipped with media and digital literacy skills and that they are reliable information sources for young people.



Goal #5 Mental Health & Wellbeing

Achieve better mental wellbeing and end stigmatisation of mental health issues, thus promoting social inclusion of all young people.

A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe are expressing their concern at the prevalence of mental health issues such as high stress, anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses amongst their peers. Young people cite the immense societal pressures they face today, and express a need for better youth mental health provision.

Goals:

- Encourage the development of self-awareness and less competitive mindsets by fostering appreciation for individual skills and strengths.
- Safeguard the rights to work and to study of people with mental health issues both during and after illness to ensure their ability to pursue their own ambitions.
- Develop an inclusive intersectional approach to mental health provision for all, especially marginalised groups.
- Provide all professionals working with young people as well as family and friends with quality mental health first aid training.
- Provide inclusive, respectful and well-funded treatment by incorporating high quality mental health provision across all medical institutions.
- Focus on prevention measures that ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills required for better mental wellbeing.
- Fight stigma about mental health issues by developing awareness programmes.



Goal #6 Moving Rural Youth Forward

Create conditions which enable young people to fulfill their potential in rural areas.

A significant and increasing number of young people across Europe. Despite the EU wide commitment to rural development and given the fact that by 2015 almost one third of the EU population were living in rural areas, prevailing differences exist between living in urban and in rural areas. Therefore, it is important to ensure equality for young people in urban and rural settings.

Goals:

- Ensure appropriate infrastructure in rural areas in order to provide equitable delivery of public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people.
- Ensure that sustainable, high quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas.
- Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities.
- Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes.
- Ensure equal access to high quality education for young people in rural areas.
- Establish a positive image of rural areas.
- Ensure the protection of rural traditions.



Goal #7 Quality Employment for All

Guarantee an accessible labour market with opportunities that lead to quality jobs for all young people.

Young people are suffering from high youth unemployment, precarious and exploitative working conditions as well as discrimination in the labour market and the workplace. The lack of information and suitable skills for future employment are preventing young people to be fully integrated in the labour market. Thus measures need to be taken in order to ensure quality employment for all.

Goals:

- Create quality jobs which guarantee fair working conditions, working rights and the right of living wage for all young people.
- Safeguard social protection and healthcare for all young workers.
- Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market.
- Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education.
- Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels.
- Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work.



Goal #8 Quality Learning

Integrate and improve different forms of learning, equipping young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life in the 21st century.

Education remains a key for active citizenship, inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to enlarge our vision about education for the 21st century, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centered learning and non-formal education to achieve a truly equal and universal access to quality learning.

Goals:

- Guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and life-long learning.
- Ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated.
- Promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills.
- Create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centered methods in every step of the education process.
- Guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education including sexual and reproductive health.
- Incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning.
- Ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.



Goal #9 Space and Participation for All

Strengthen young people's democratic participation and autonomy as well as provide dedicated youth spaces in all areas of society.

Young people are underrepresented in decision-making processes which affect them although their engagement is crucial to democracy. They need access to physical spaces in their communities to support their personal, cultural and political development.

Goals:

- Ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.
- Ensure equal access to everyday decision making for all young people from different backgrounds.
- Increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.
- Provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation.
- Ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation.
- Ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education.
- Provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation.



Goal #10 Sustainable Green Europe

Achieve a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated and able to make a difference in their everyday lives.

Nowadays we consume in a way that our environment can't handle. Society needs to act against climate change and the growing environmental threats. But our society cannot solve a problem that it is not willing to acknowledge. That is why everyone including young people has to start taking responsibility for their actions, and impact on the life of future generations. Becoming sustainable is not a choice, it is an obligation.

Goals:

- Ensure everyone including young people knows the effect of their actions on the environment.
- Empower the entire society especially young people to act as agents of change for environmental and sustainable development.
- Take into account the environmental impact of every policy and life decision while ensuring that young people are included in sustainable development policy-making on all levels.
- Increase international cooperation to eliminate environmentally harmful production and consumption.
- Support and strengthen opportunities for young people to volunteer in the environmental sector.
- Ensure everyone especially young people has access to eco-friendly infrastructure for living a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Expand research and innovation into eco-friendly solutions and technologies.



Goal #11 Youth Organisations & European Programmes

Ensure equal access for all young people to youth organisations and European youth programmes, building a society based on European values and identity.

Youth organisations and European youth programmes involve millions of young people to support their active citizenship and to develop their life skills. However, youth organisations and European youth programmes remain underfunded and lack recognition and accessibility.

Goals:

- Ensure visibility and provide quality information on youth organisations and European youth programmes for all young people.
- Ensure sufficient resources from EU programmes for youth organisations to develop projects and access structural support to carry out their missions and to support their work.
- Ensure youth organisations and European youth programmes are better bridged with the educational systems and acknowledging them as actors fostering life skills and active citizenship.
- Increase the accessibility of European youth programmes, ensure a youth friendly administration process and provide support and quality information for all participants and applicants.
- Reach out to and support marginalised young people to be active in youth organisations, youth groups and EU youth programmes.
- Increase resources, and widen the variety of grants and diversity of initiatives available for youth organisations and youth groups.
- Ensure participation of young people in governance processes of European youth programmes.

2.1 Linking Youth Goals and Global Issues:

The EU Youth Goals are closely connected to global issues that affect young people worldwide. By addressing these global issues, we can actively contribute to achieving the Youth Goals and creating positive change in the lives of young individuals.

Let's explore how addressing global issues aligns with the Youth Goals through practical examples of Erasmus+ projects in European countries:

Connecting EU with Youth:

"Youth Empowerment in EU Decision-making" project in France focuses on improving youth involvement in EU decision-making processes by organizing youth forums and advocacy campaigns. By enhancing dialogue between young people and policymakers, the project addresses the global issue of democratic deficits and aligns with the Youth Goal of connecting the EU with youth.

Equality of All Genders:

"Breaking Gender Stereotypes" project in Sweden raises awareness of gender-based inequality and discrimination through workshops and awareness campaigns. By challenging stereotypes, promoting gender equality, and addressing gender-based violence, the project contributes to the global issue of gender equality and supports the Youth Goal of equality of all genders.

Inclusive Societies:

"Inclusive Youth Spaces" project in Spain establishes physical and virtual youth spaces in rural and urban areas, offering opportunities for marginalized young people to engage, learn, and participate. By fostering dialogue, combating discrimination, and providing support, the project addresses the global issue of inclusive societies and aligns with the Youth Goal of inclusive societies.

Information & Constructive Dialogue:

"Media Literacy for Critical Thinking" project in Germany empowers young people to critically evaluate information and engage in respectful online and offline dialogue. Through media literacy workshops and awareness campaigns, the project addresses the global issue of information and constructive dialogue, aligning with the Youth Goal of information and constructive dialogue.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

"Promoting Mental Health in Schools" project in Finland focuses on promoting mental health awareness and well-being among young people through educational programs and workshops. By providing mental health support, preventive measures, and awareness-raising activities, the project addresses the global issue of mental health & wellbeing and supports the Youth Goal of mental health & wellbeing.

These examples demonstrate how addressing global issues aligns with the Youth Goals in various European countries. Through Erasmus+ projects, we can actively work towards achieving these goals, fostering a more inclusive, equal, and sustainable future for young people across Europe.



Section 2: Youth Goals and Global Issues

2.2 Mapping Global Issues to Youth Goals:

To effectively address global issues impacting young people, it is crucial to understand how these issues intersect with the relevant Youth Goals. By mapping global issues to specific Youth Goals, we can identify targeted approaches and actions to tackle these challenges. Here is a matrix or table mapping different global issues to their corresponding Youth Goals:

Global Issue | Youth Goal(s)



Poverty | Connecting EU with Youth, Inclusive Societies, Quality Employment for All



Gender Equality | Equality of All Genders



Climate Change | Sustainable Green Europe



Mental Health | Mental Health & Wellbeing, Inclusive Societies



Access to Education | Quality Learning, Moving Rural Youth Forward

Now, let's explore how specific global issues can be addressed through the corresponding Youth Goals, with a focus on **rural areas**:

Poverty:Connecting EU with Youth: Improve youth involvement and dialogue in EU decision-making processes to address the root causes of poverty and advocate for policies that uplift marginalized rural communities.

Inclusive Societies: Ensure equal access to economic opportunities, infrastructure, and services in rural areas, creating sustainable jobs and improving living conditions.

Quality Employment for All: Create quality jobs in rural areas, offering fair working conditions and living wages, thereby reducing poverty and promoting economic growth.

Gender Equality:Equality of All Genders: Tackle gender-based discrimination in rural areas, promote equal rights, and challenge gender stereotypes, allowing for equal opportunities and empowerment of rural women and girls.

Moving Rural Youth Forward: Ensure equal access to quality education in rural areas, addressing the gender gap in education and promoting gender-sensitive approaches to education.

Climate Change:Sustainable Green Europe: Empower rural youth to actively participate in environmental initiatives, promote sustainable practices in rural communities, and encourage cooperation for a greener and more sustainable future.

Mental Health: Mental Health & Wellbeing: Enhance mental health support services in rural areas, provide mental health education, and foster inclusive and supportive environments for rural youth, addressing the unique mental health challenges they may face.

Access to Education:Quality Learning: Improve access to quality education in rural areas, promote non-formal education, and implement learner-centered methods that meet the specific needs and aspirations of rural youth.

By mapping global issues to relevant Youth Goals and tailoring interventions to rural contexts, we can effectively address these challenges, promote inclusive development, and empower rural youth to contribute to sustainable and equitable societies.

**SECTION 3: NON-FORMAL
EDUCATION METHODS FOR
EXPLORING GLOBAL ISSUES**



3.1 Discussions:

Discussions are a valuable non-formal education method for exploring global issues and fostering critical thinking among young people. Follow these guidelines to facilitate engaging and inclusive discussions on global issues:

Create a Safe and Inclusive Space:

- Set a respectful and open-minded atmosphere for the discussion.
- Establish clear guidelines for respectful communication and active listening.
- Ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate and share their perspectives.

Choose Relevant Global Issues:

- Select global issues that are meaningful and relatable to the participants' lives.
- Consider incorporating local or regional dimensions to enhance relevance.

Provide Background Information:

- Briefly introduce the chosen global issue, highlighting its significance and impact.
- Share factual information, statistics, or real-life examples to provide context.

Sample Discussion Questions and Prompts:

- What are the main causes and effects of the global issue we're discussing?
- How does this issue specifically impact young people, especially those in rural or marginalized areas?
- What are some possible solutions or actions that can address this global issue?
- How can youth contribute to addressing this issue within their local communities?
- What roles can governments, organizations, and individuals play in effectively tackling this issue?

Encourage Critical Thinking and Reflection:

- Stimulate participants to analyze different perspectives on the global issue.
- Prompt critical thinking by exploring underlying factors and systemic aspects related to the issue.

Facilitate Active Participation:

- Ensure equal participation by encouraging quieter participants to share their thoughts.
- Use open-ended questions to promote discussion and gather diverse opinions.
- Encourage participants to build upon each other's ideas and engage in respectful debate.

Summarize and Reflect:

- Summarize the key points and insights generated during the discussion.
- Encourage participants to reflect on their learning and identify personal actions to contribute to addressing the global issue.

Remember, discussions should create a supportive environment for exchanging ideas, nurturing empathy, and cultivating critical thinking skills. By engaging in meaningful discussions, young people can deepen their understanding of global issues and be empowered to make positive changes in their communities.





3.2 Workshops:

Workshops are interactive and engaging non-formal education methods that can empower youth in rural areas to address global issues and contribute to their local communities. Follow these guidelines to design and conduct workshops tailored for rural areas:

Understand the Rural Context:

- Familiarize yourself with the specific challenges and opportunities in rural communities.
- Consider the unique needs, resources, and aspirations of youth in rural areas.

Identify Relevant Global Issues:

- Choose global issues that directly impact the local community and resonate with rural youth.
- Focus on issues that require practical solutions and can promote community development.

Create Practical and Hands-On Activities:

- Design activities that offer practical help and tangible outcomes for the local community.
- Engage participants in tasks that directly address the identified global issues.

Foster Collaboration and Teamwork:

- Encourage teamwork and cooperation among participants to maximize their impact.
- Emphasize the importance of collective action and community engagement.

Connect Global Issues to Local Solutions:

- Help participants understand how global issues manifest in their rural context.
- Guide them to identify local solutions and innovative approaches to address these issues.

Promote Local Resource Utilization:

- Encourage participants to leverage local resources and traditional knowledge in their solutions.
- Highlight the value of sustainable practices and the preservation of local traditions.

Facilitate Knowledge Exchange:

- Create opportunities for participants to share their experiences and learn from one another.
- Encourage dialogue and the exchange of ideas between rural communities.

Examples of Workshop Activities Addressing Specific Global Issues:

Sustainable Farming Workshop:

Activity: Establishing a community garden using sustainable agricultural practices.

Objective: Promote food security, sustainable farming, and local self-sufficiency.

Social Entrepreneurship Workshop:

Activity: Developing a business plan for a social enterprise addressing a local community need.

Objective: Encourage youth entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth in rural areas.

Digital Skills and Online Safety Workshop:

Activity: Interactive session on digital literacy, online safety, and responsible internet use.

Objective: Empower rural youth with digital skills and promote safe online behavior.

Cultural Heritage Preservation Workshop:

Activity: Organizing a cultural festival to celebrate and preserve local traditions.

Objective: Foster pride in cultural heritage, community cohesion, and tourism development.

Environmental Conservation Workshop:

Activity: Implementing a community clean-up and waste management initiative.

Objective: Raise awareness about environmental issues, promote sustainable practices, and enhance the natural beauty of the rural area.

By designing workshops that provide practical help to the local community, rural youth can actively engage in addressing global issues while simultaneously contributing to the development and well-being of their own communities.





3.3 Presentations:

Presentations are effective tools for raising awareness and sharing information about global issues with rural youth. Follow these tips to create engaging presentations tailored for rural communities:

Understand the Rural Audience:

- Consider the unique characteristics, experiences, and interests of rural youth.
- Adapt your content and language to ensure relevance and resonance.

Simplify Complex Concepts:

- Break down complex global issues into easily understandable concepts.
- Use relatable examples and real-life stories to illustrate the impact of these issues on rural communities.

Use Visuals and Multimedia:

- Incorporate engaging visuals, such as images, infographics, and videos.
- Use multimedia elements to present information in a dynamic and interactive way.

Tell Compelling Stories:

- Share personal narratives and stories that highlight the human dimension of global issues.
- Connect these stories to the experiences and aspirations of rural youth.

Encourage Interaction:

- Include interactive elements, such as quizzes, polls, or discussion prompts.
- Facilitate opportunities for participants to share their thoughts and ask questions.

Showcase Local Success Stories:

- Highlight local initiatives and success stories that address global issues in rural areas.
- Celebrate the contributions of rural youth and inspire others to take action.

Inspire Action and Practical Steps:

- Provide actionable steps that rural youth can take to address global issues in their communities.
- Emphasize the importance of collective action and community engagement.

Remember, rural youth may have limited access to technology and internet connectivity. Be mindful of these constraints and ensure that your presentations can be adapted to different settings, including those with limited technological resources.

Incorporating Multimedia and Interactive Elements:

Use Videos:

- Include short videos that showcase local projects, interviews, or success stories.
- Integrate videos that demonstrate practical solutions and inspire action.

Interactive Quizzes or Polls:

- Incorporate interactive quizzes or polls to gauge understanding and stimulate participation.
- Use online platforms or offline alternatives such as show of hands or written responses.

Group Activities:

- Break the presentation into smaller segments and assign group activities.
- Engage participants in discussions, brainstorming sessions, or problem-solving exercises related to the global issues presented.

Visual Representations:

- Include charts, diagrams, or infographics to visually represent data or complex concepts.
- Use visuals that resonate with rural youth and are relatable to their everyday lives.

Hands-On Demonstrations:

- Incorporate practical demonstrations or simulations that allow participants to experience the impact of global issues firsthand.
- For example, conducting a mini-experiment or role-play activity to illustrate environmental degradation or social inequality.

By creating engaging presentations that incorporate multimedia and interactive elements, you can effectively capture the attention and interest of rural youth, fostering their understanding and motivation to address global issues in their communities.





3.4 Role-Play Games:

Role-play games provide an interactive and engaging way for youth to delve into global issues. Follow these instructions to organize role-play games related to global issues, while considering the principles of the Erasmus+ programme:

Instructions for Organizing Role-Play Games:

Choose Relevant Global Issues:

- Select global issues that are important and relatable to the participants, such as sustainability, social equality, or community development.
- Ensure the issues reflect the context of their communities and align with the goals of the Erasmus+ programme.

Create Sample Scenarios:

- Develop three sample scenarios that mimic real-life situations connected to the chosen global issues.
- Introduce elements of humour to keep the games light-hearted and engaging.

Sample Scenarios and Role Descriptions:

Scenario: "The Sustainable Village Fair"

Role 1: Blogger (Character Name: Ava) - A popular blogger known for promoting sustainable living and inspiring positive change in the community.

Role 2: Farmer (Character Name: Max) - A local farmer who practices sustainable farming methods and advocates for organic produce.

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Role 3: Teacher (Character Name: Emma) - A passionate educator who organizes workshops on recycling and environmental awareness.

Role 4: Officer (Character Name: Alex) - A government official responsible for implementing eco-friendly policies in the village.

Role 5: Youngster with Disability (Character Name: Sam) - A determined youth with a disability who actively participates in environmental initiatives.

Scenario: "The Cultural Exchange Project"

Role 1: Conservative Old Local Citizen (Character Name: Mr. Jenkins) - A traditionalist who cherishes local customs and traditions.

Role 2: Father of 9-Year-Old Daughter (Character Name: Mark) - A caring father concerned about the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations.

Role 3: Refugee (Character Name: Aisha) - A refugee who brings a different cultural perspective and adds diversity to the community.

Role 4: Young Unemployed Girl (Character Name: Lisa) - A determined young girl seeking opportunities for personal growth and employment.

Role 5: Journalist (Character Name: Maya) - A curious journalist interested in promoting cultural understanding and breaking stereotypes.

Scenario: "The Green Revolution Campaign"

Role 1: Eco-Activist (Character Name: Leo) - A passionate environmental activist advocating for sustainable living and ecological balance.

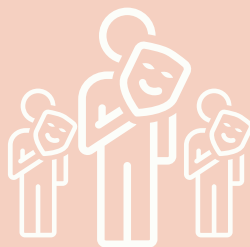
Role 2: Rich Businessman (Character Name: Mr. Johnson) - A successful businessman interested in investing in green initiatives for a better future.

Role 3: Youngster from National Minority (Character Name: Anna)
- A representative of a national minority group actively involved in environmental conservation.

Role 4: Famous Actor (Character Name: James) - A celebrity committed to using their influence to raise awareness about environmental issues.

Role 5: Youngster with a Disability (Character Name: Sarah)
- A determined young person with a disability who promotes accessible and inclusive environmental practices.

These sample scenarios and role descriptions can be mixed and matched to create engaging role-play games. By incorporating elements of humour and focusing on global issues, the games encourage youth to actively participate, collaborate, and find innovative solutions. This approach aligns with the principles of the Erasmus+ programme, promoting active youth engagement and fostering a sense of community.





3.5 Interactive Activities:

Interactive activities provide hands-on learning experiences that foster critical thinking and promote group work and peer-to-peer exchanges. Consider the following ideas for interactive activities based on the principles and priorities of the Erasmus+ programme, including "green" practices, sustainable development, digital transformation, inclusion, and active participation in democratic life:

Sustainable Development Simulation:

- Divide participants into small groups and assign them different sustainable development goals.
- Ask each group to brainstorm and design practical projects or initiatives that address their assigned goal.
- Encourage participants to consider "green" practices and sustainable approaches in their solutions.
- Provide resources and guidance for participants to develop their projects and present them to the larger group.

Digital Transformation Workshop:

- Organize a workshop focused on digital skills and its role in promoting sustainable development.
- Facilitate discussions on the positive impact of digital technologies on environmental conservation, social inclusion, and active citizenship.
- Engage participants in activities that enhance their digital literacy and encourage them to explore digital tools for social and environmental initiatives.
- Encourage group work and collaboration, allowing participants to exchange ideas and experiences.

Inclusion and Democratic Participation Game:

- Develop a game that highlights the importance of inclusion and active participation in democratic life.
- Create a series of scenarios that require participants to make decisions collectively, considering the perspectives and needs of diverse individuals.
- Encourage dialogue, critical thinking, and problem-solving as participants navigate through the game.
- Debrief the activity by discussing the significance of inclusion, active citizenship, and democratic values in addressing global issues.

Green Practices Challenge:

- Assign participants into pairs or small groups and challenge them to identify "green" practices they can implement in their daily lives or communities.
- Provide them with a list of categories such as energy conservation, waste reduction, sustainable transportation, or eco-friendly consumption.
- Facilitate discussions where participants can share their ideas, exchange tips, and develop action plans for implementing these practices.
- Encourage participants to document their progress and share their experiences with the larger group.

Sustainable Development Debate:

- Organize a debate where participants can engage in critical discussions on various sustainable development topics.
- Assign teams with contrasting viewpoints and encourage them to research and prepare arguments supporting their positions.
- Facilitate a structured debate, ensuring respectful and inclusive exchanges of ideas.
- Encourage participants to challenge assumptions, consider alternative perspectives, and develop well-rounded arguments.



4.1 Example Erasmus+ Project 1: "Rural Youth Empowerment: Building Sustainable Communities" (Spain)

Overview: The "Rural Youth Empowerment: Building Sustainable Communities" project, implemented in Spain through the Erasmus+ programme, aimed to empower rural youth and promote sustainable development in rural areas. The project sought to address the challenges faced by young people in rural communities, such as limited infrastructure, lack of opportunities, and migration trends.

Objectives and Activities:

Enhancing Rural Infrastructure: The project focused on improving infrastructure and services in rural areas. Activities included renovating community centers, developing sustainable energy solutions, and promoting eco-friendly practices, such as waste management and water conservation.

Promoting Youth Participation: The project aimed to enable rural youth to actively participate in decision-making processes. Activities included organizing youth forums, workshops on civic engagement, and training sessions on leadership and advocacy. The project also facilitated partnerships between youth organizations and local authorities to ensure that young people's voices are heard in community development.

Empowering Rural Entrepreneurship: The project supported the creation of sustainable businesses and job opportunities in rural areas. Activities included entrepreneurship training, mentorship programs, and the establishment of local cooperatives. The project aimed to diversify the local economy, reduce unemployment, and encourage young people to stay and contribute to their communities.

Link to Youth Goals:

Moving Rural Youth Forward: The "Rural Youth Empowerment: Building Sustainable Communities" project directly aligned with this Youth Goal by ensuring infrastructure and services in rural areas, creating sustainable jobs, enabling rural youth participation in decision-making, and promoting equal access to quality education in rural areas.

Sustainable Green Europe: The project contributed to this Youth Goal by promoting environmental awareness and responsibility in rural communities. Activities such as implementing eco-friendly practices and developing sustainable energy solutions aligned with the goal of integrating environmental impact into policies and decision-making for a sustainable future.

Through its objectives and activities, the "Rural Youth Empowerment: Building Sustainable Communities" project in Spain effectively addressed the relevant Youth Goals of Moving Rural Youth Forward and Sustainable Green Europe. By empowering rural youth, improving infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering sustainable practices, the project aimed to create thriving and sustainable communities in rural areas.

4.2. Example Erasmus+ Project 3: "Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Communities" (Spain)

Description: The "Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Communities" project, implemented in Spain through the Erasmus+ programme, aimed to empower young people in creating sustainable communities. The project focused on equipping youth with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices.

Focus and Target Audience: The project primarily targeted young people aged 16 to 25 who were passionate about environmental sustainability and eager to make a positive impact in their communities.

The activities of the project engaged participants in various workshops, training sessions, and community projects related to sustainable development.

Contribution to Youth Goals:

Sustainable Green Europe: The "Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Communities" project significantly contributed to this Youth Goal by promoting environmental awareness and responsibility among young people. Through workshops on sustainable practices, waste reduction, and renewable energy, participants were equipped with the knowledge and tools to act as agents of change in their communities. By fostering youth-led initiatives for environmental conservation, the project promoted a greener and more sustainable Europe.

Inclusive Societies: The project also aligned with the Youth Goal of Inclusive Societies by providing equal opportunities for participation and engaging marginalized young people. The project ensured inclusivity by reaching out to young people from diverse backgrounds, including those from marginalized communities and rural areas. By fostering dialogue, social cohesion, and combating discrimination through sustainable practices, the project aimed to create more inclusive and cohesive societies.

Through its focus on empowering young people for sustainable development and engaging them in community projects, the "Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Communities" project effectively contributed to the relevant Youth Goals of Sustainable Green Europe and Inclusive Societies. By equipping youth with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges and promoting inclusivity, the project aimed to foster a sense of responsibility and active citizenship among young people, ultimately creating sustainable and inclusive communities.

CONCLUSION

- ✓ The toolkit emphasizes the interconnectedness of global issues and highlights the relevance of the Youth Goals in addressing these challenges. It offers practical examples and case studies, including Erasmus+ projects from various European countries, demonstrating how youth initiatives can contribute to the achievement of the Youth Goals.
- ✓ By using the toolkit, youth workers can facilitate discussions, design workshops, create engaging presentations, organize role-play games, and conduct interactive activities that promote experiential learning, group work, and peer-to-peer exchanges. These activities help youth develop a deeper understanding of global issues, encourage their active involvement in finding solutions, and promote sustainable practices, digital transformation, inclusion, and active participation in democratic life.
- ✓ We encourage youth workers to make use of this toolkit to empower young people, especially those in rural areas, and help them address global issues in their communities. By promoting youth engagement and community development, we can work towards creating a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future.
- ✓ Additional resources and references are provided for further exploration, allowing youth workers to delve deeper into the topics discussed in the toolkit and access additional tools, research, and initiatives related to global issues and youth empowerment.

Remember, you, as a youth worker, have the power to inspire and mobilize young people to become agents of positive change. Utilize this toolkit, embrace the Erasmus+ programme priorities and principles, and together let's make a difference in addressing global issues and promoting the Youth Goals.

