PROJECT NUMBER: 101093613 ─ RYTA ─ ERASMUS-YOUTH-2022-CB

RYTA:

Rural Youth Training Activities

DELIVERABLE 3.4 - Minutes of the rural youth e-councils

E.M. Associazione ARCES

Document Control Sheet

Deliverable title:	Minutes of the rural youth e-councils
Work Package	WP3: Policy advocacy educational modules and online platform
WP Lead Partner	ARCES
TASK	3.5 Organizing rural youth e-councils via platform
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Country	Italy
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Introduction

This document, part of WP3 (Policy Advocacy Educational Modules and Online Platform), sets out the basis for effectively engaging rural youth from the project participating countries (Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan) in democratic processes in line with the stated goal of RYTA project.

As mentioned in the approved application form[1], WP3 will enable young people from rural areas to increase their level of participation in the democratic processes and provide all necessary skills to make youth organizations in rural areas to be much more active and to establish new youth organizations in rural areas.

WP3 will aim to provide a space for empowered and more inclusive democratic and rural civic youth engagement in multi-levelled decision-making for the future we want to have, by providing the mechanism to engage rural young people in a more structured intersectional cooperation for collective visioning and joint plans and actions towards an inclusive society.

To achieve the abovementioned goals, the following tools and products will be developed as part of WP3:

- *Learning materials* to be used during the training for young people living in rural areas, thus ensuring Capacity Building and Skills Development of youth in rural areas
- *An online networking platform* to establish a network to be run by rural young people from across Europe named "rural youth e-councils
- The *"Rural youth e-councils"* (task 3.5) aiming at supporting young people's active participation and access to decision-making processes by giving them importance to their demands, suggestions and ideas.

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[1] EU Grants: Application form (ERASMUS BB and LS Type II): V1.0 – 25.02.2021, p.37.

Within this framework, Task 3.5 "Organizing Rural Youth e-Councils via Platform," led by ARCES (COO) in collaboration with all beneficiaries, stands out as one of the most crucial components of WP3.

The objective of this task is to develop a **framework of collaboration** that strengthens the connection between rural youth and youth organizations. This will enable them to share their challenges and collaboratively identify clear solutions to present to policymakers.

The task is greatly supported by the creation of the RYTA online platform, which enables young people living in rural areas across Europe to come together and exchange knowledge, experiences, opinions, and ideas on how to address emerging issues such as depopulation, water scarcity, logistical challenges, scarcity of public services, and obstacles to civic participation in democratic life.

This platform helps them enrol in training courses offered by the project and download open-source learning materials. These materials are accompanied by additional resources in the platform's section called "repository". It finally helps them address their everyday challenges and needs through civic development and active participation in the decision-making process.

Scope of the Deliverable

This report has been drafted in the framework of the project — *Rural Youth Training Activities - RYTA*, which is a two-year project funded by the European Union 's ERASMUS+ programme.

The Report is based on the terms and conditions established in the Grant Agreement (GA) and its Annexes, as well as in the Consortium Agreement (CA) specifications and requirements.

The project addresses the topic: **Capacity building in the field of youth**. RYTA is coordinated by the **Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IED)** in **Greece** and is conducted by a consortium of **five partners** belonging to Mediterranean Countries (Italy, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine), including TVETs, Associations, Research institutes, Companies and Trade union organisations.

The overall goal of the RYTA (Rural Youth Training Activities) project is to empower young people in rural areas to actively participate in democratic life and society. This will be achieved by addressing the challenges and needs of rural youth through research, providing resources for policy advocacy and networking, and offering capacity-building opportunities. The project aims to increase inclusiveness, solidarity, and transnational cooperation among rural youth, promote awareness of environmental policies and sustainability, and enhance their understanding of the EU. Additionally, RYTA focuses on connecting rural youth through digital platforms and promoting distance learning and the digitalization of educational processes.

Finally, the project promotes the **EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027)**[2] and its 11 goals[3], specifically referring in goals 2,4,6,9 and 10 (with a primary focus in the **goal 6 "Moving Rural Youth Forward**[4]**"** and precisely **"Ensuring youth active participation and facilitating equal access in decentralised decision-making process of rural areas"**).

The **goal of this deliverable** is to present the methodology and the results that were achieved by the partners of RYTA project during the two rounds of e-council meetings (task 3.5) held respectively on May 2nd, 2024, and June 20th 2024.

To this end, the meeting minutes detailed in the following paragraphs will serve as the foundation for developing a robust framework. This framework will then be used to implement Task 3.6, Organising e-Meetings with Policymakers."

Moreover, this framework provides input for other activities foreseen in the later stages of the project, i.e., dissemination and exploitation activities to increase project visibility across the Mediterranean region.

Structure
The deliverable is structured into **four chapters:**

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[2] https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/european-youth-goals_en
[3] https://youth-goals.eu/youthgoals
[4] https://youth-goals.eu/yg6

1. ***Chapter 1***: This chapter presents the methodology used by the consortium to implement Task 3.5 and contribute to the creation of this report.

2. ***Chapter 2:*** This chapter includes the Minutes from the first e-council meeting, which took place on May 2, 2024.

3. ***Chapter 3:*** This chapter contains the minutes from the second e-council meeting, which took place on June 20, 2024.

4. ***Chapter 4:*** This chapter includes some recommendations provided by participants of the aforementioned meetings. These recommendations should be communicated to policymakers involved in the upcoming e-meetings (Task 3.6).

The conclusion of the report summarises our findings, outlines their significance, and provides recommendations for future activities.

Chapter 1: The methodology

1.1 Introduction

To implement Task 3.5, "Organising Rural Youth e-Councils via Platform[5]," the partners have decided, in accordance with the project application form, to establish a "project mechanism" that guides young people living in rural areas across Europe to become more active in youth organizations and to collaborate with a sense of collective awareness.

The mechanism involves "e-meetings" organised by ARCES in cooperation with all project partners, known as "Rural Youth e-Councils." Each e-Council will feature three young people from rural areas and one representative from a youth organization based in rural areas, coming from at least three different partner countries.

According to the project application form, two rounds of e-Councils will be held during the project period (one in Month 17and one in Month18. Each e-Council should involve at least 12 participants, totalling 24 participants across both events.

Expected results

As a result of the e-council meetings, it is expected that new connections will be established between young people living in rural areas across Europe and rural youth organizations. This will foster the creation of new projects, collaborations, and ideas. Additionally, these e-meetings will help break down barriers and challenge prejudices. Participants will be asked to provide answers to concrete questions, and the new ideas / solutions proposed for the future. All outcomes will be reported and published through the Minutes of the rural youth e-councils.

As outlined in the approved application form[6], the task includes presenting preliminary ideas, challenges, and suggestions from participants of the two e-council meetings.

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[5] https://platform.rytaspace.eu/
[6] Application form p. 40

These insights will be shared during subsequent e-meetings with policymakers from the participating countries (Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan).

The primary aim of this activity is to facilitate communication between young people and decision-makers across different Mediterranean countries, thus strengthening their connection.

To achieve this goal, we will organize at least six e-meetings with policymakers—one for each participating country—during M19. Each e-meeting will involve three participants: one young person from a rural area, one representative from a youth organization or cooperative in a rural area, and one policymaker at the local, regional, or national level from the respective country, resulting in a total of 18 participants (3 per e-meeting).

Tools adopted by ARCES

To implement Task 3.5, ARCES has elaborated the guidelines that were distributed to all partners before the start of each event. The aim was to share a common vision on how to implement the task effectively.

Below are included in these Deliverable the guidelines delivered by ARCES in March 2023:

1.2 The Guidelines

The Guidelines aim to provide Project partners (PPs) with information regarding the implementation of Task 3.5 "*Organizing rural youth e-councils via platform*".

In particular we present the Task 3.5 - as this was described in the Project application form – the methodology, approach and tools proposed by ARCES to the consortium to carry out this task in the next coming months. Furthermore, some recommendations will be given to the Partners to ensure a sound implementation of their activities at partner level.

TASK 3.5. *Organizing rural youth e-councils via platform*

Creating an online space, via platform features such as forum, news, where young people living in rural areas across Europe can come together and exchange knowledge, experiences, opinions and ideas on how to address their everyday challenges and needs by civic development and active participation in the decision-making process.

The partners involved are: ARCES (COO), IED (BEN), TDM 2000 (BEN), PDA Lebanon (BEN), NARC Jordan (BEN), BUSINESSMED (BEN).

1.3 How to implement the Task 3.5:

Here below are presented the steps that are needed to implement the task.

1. The 1st step of the project implementation was **the creation of Google MEET accounts** for each partner. ARCES, being the WP3 Coordinator, **created 5 Google MEET accounts** for the 6 Partners, namely ARCES (COO), IED (BEN), TDM 2000 (BEN), PDA Lebanon (BEN), NARC Jordan (BEN), BUSINESSMED Tunisia (BEN). To this end, partners will be requested to appoint **a key referent for the e-council's meetings** and online RYTA Platform. Contact details of a such referent should be provided to ARCES within the month of March 2024.

2. The 2nd step was to present the Task 3.5 to all involved Partners through **a Project coordination meeting** organised by IED Clarifications on the task will be given by ARCES during the meeting.

3. **Mapping youth organisations**: Each partner was kindly requested to map potential representatives of youth organisation located in rural areas (at least 1 person) who will be involved in the e-council 's meetings.

4. **Identifying young people:** Each partner was kindly requested to identify 3 young people living in rural areas who will be involved in the e-council 's meetings.

5. **Definition of the Calendar:** The partners investigate potential dates to arrange e-council's meetings and send to ARCES and all PPs their proposal (Calendar);

6. **Organisation of e-council's meetings**: 3 young people living in rural area and 1 representative of youth organisations should attended the e-council 's meetings.

7. **At least 3 different partners** (e.g. PDA Lebanon, ARCES Italy, IED Greece) BUSINESSMED Tunisia, will participates in the 1st e-council 's meeting to be held online.

8. **At least 3 different partners** (e.g. NARC Jordan, TDM 2000 Org Italy, ARCES Italy, BUSINESSMED Tunisia) will participates in the 2nd e-council 's meeting to be held online.

9. **ARCES in cooperation with all PPs will elaborate the two Minutes of the Meetings of rural youth e-Councils**

WHERE

The meetings will be held online through Google MEET Platform.

WHEN

Definition of the Calendar: The partners investigate potential dates to arrange e-council's meetings and send to ARCES and all PPs their proposal (Calendar). Please, choose one or two dates according to the calendar mentioned here below: April 2024 and May 2024). Please send your proposal to ARCES as soon as possible.

HOW MANY MEETINGS

2 rounds of e-councils will be organised (May and June 2024)

REQUIREMENTS

To ensure a smooth implementation of each e-council meeting, the local partner responsible for the organisation of the meeting should guarantee the participation of people (young people living in rural areas and youth organisation representatives) with good knowledge of English language. This is compulsory as the language of the e-councils' meetings English language and the minutes will be written in English.

Key contacts for ARCES Project team

1. Alessandro Pernice
2. Manuela Calafiore
3. Gabriele Galioto

Chapter 2: Minutes from the first e-council meeting, May 2, 2024.

2.1 Introduction

This paragraph provides the minutes of the **first webinar of the e-council meetings** between the partners of the RYTA project (co-funded by ERASMUS + programme), which took place on May 2, 2024, at 9:00 AM (Italian local time).

The aim of the webinar was to connect rural youth from all partner countries (Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia) in a public debate on how to enhance active citizenship.
Each partner invited a youth association and three young people to speak about their experiences in rural areas.
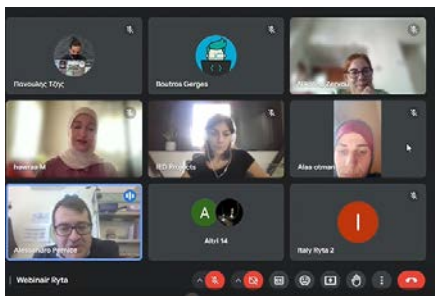
The participants included Ms. Anastasia Tsagkari (IED, Greece), Mr. Alessandro Pernice (Arces, Italy), Ms. Hawraa Mahfouz (PDA, Lebanon), and several representatives of youth associations such as Ms. Daniela Storti (Giovani Pastori, Italy), Ms. Margherita Mirto (Villa Mirto, Italy), a Mr. Panoulis Kalaintzis (Greece) and Ms. Samar Khatib (NCLD, Lebanon).

2.2 Agenda of the Webinar

1st e-Council Meeting (Task 3.5)

Details of the Webinar

Date	02/05/2024
Time	9:00– 12:30 CET TIME
Location	ONLINE
Google Meet	meet.google.com/wae-ceim-eit
Facilitator	ARCES
Partners / Participants	IED (Greece)
	ARCES (Italy)
	TDM 2000 (Italy)
	PDA (Lebanon)
	NARC (Jordan)
	BUSINESSMED (Tunisia)

Duration	Topic	Presenter
9:00-9:30	Registration of Participants	
9:30	Introduction of the webinar by **Mr. Alessandro Pernice** (RYTA Project Manager)	ARCES
9:50	Intervention of **Ms Daniela Storti** Italian youth organization. Prospects and obstacles for young people in rural Italy.	Scuola dei Giovani Pastori (Italy)
10:10	Intervention of **Ms Margherita Mirto** Italian youth organization. Prospects and obstacles for young people in rural Italy.	Agriturismo Villa Mirto (Italy)
10:30	Intervention of **Ms. Samar Khatib** Lebanese youth organization. Prospects and obstacles for young people in rural Lebanon.	NCLD (Lebanon)
10:50	Intervention of **Ms Anastasia Tsagkari** Presentation of RYTA Project Solutions	IED (Greece)
10:50-11.00	**Virtual coffee break**	
11:00	Questions for Rural youth (each expert from Italy, Greece and Lebanon will address the question to the attendees)	Youth participants
12:30	Debates by using MIRO https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVKNhp0ug=/	ALL PPs
13:00	**Recommendations:** These recommendations will be used to sensitise the broader community of each participating countries (Italy, Greece and Lebanon) to the needs of youth living in rural	ALL PPs

	areas. Participants will write their recommendations in the platform https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVKNhp0ug=/	
13:00-13:15	**End of the webinar**	

2.3 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Beside the Lead partner IED (Greece), three partners of e councils meeting, namely ARCES (Italy), PDA (Lebanon) attended the Webinar, with a total number of **17 Participants** listed in the table below.

N°	Name & Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Alessandro Pernice	ARCES	Italy
2	Anastasia Tsagkari	IED	Greece
3	Hawraa Mahfouz	PDA	Lebanon
4	Daniela Storti	Scuola dei Giovani Pastori Youth Organisation representative	Italy
5	Margherita Mirto	Agriturismo Villa Mirto Youth Organisation representative	Italy
6	Antonino Carnevale	Young people	Italy
7	Gabriele Galioto	Young people	Italy
8	Manuela Calafiore	Young people	Italy
9	Simone Scichilone	Young people	Italy
10	Rocco Cataldo	Young people	Italy
11	Boutres Gerges	Young people	Greece
12	Panoulis Kalaintzis	Youth Organisation representative	Greece
13	Nicolina Zervou	Young people	Greece
14	Alaa Otman	Young people	Lebanon
15	Aali Hellani	Young people	Lebanon

| 16	Dimitris Tzalamouras	Young people	Greece
17	Samar al Khatib	NCLD, Lebanon Youth Organisation representative	Lebanon

Table 1: List of Participants

2.4 Analytical data

Below, we present the analytical data of our participants by country. The pie chart shows the distribution of **rural youths from various participating countries**, including **Greece**, **Lebanon, and Italy**. There are **three partners**, such as **IED, ARCES and PDA Lebanon**. Out of the total 13 individuals represented in the chart, 10 are young people living in rural areas, and 3 organisations are categorized as "partners."

Young people in rural areas.

■ Young people in rural areas   ■ partner

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Participating Countries
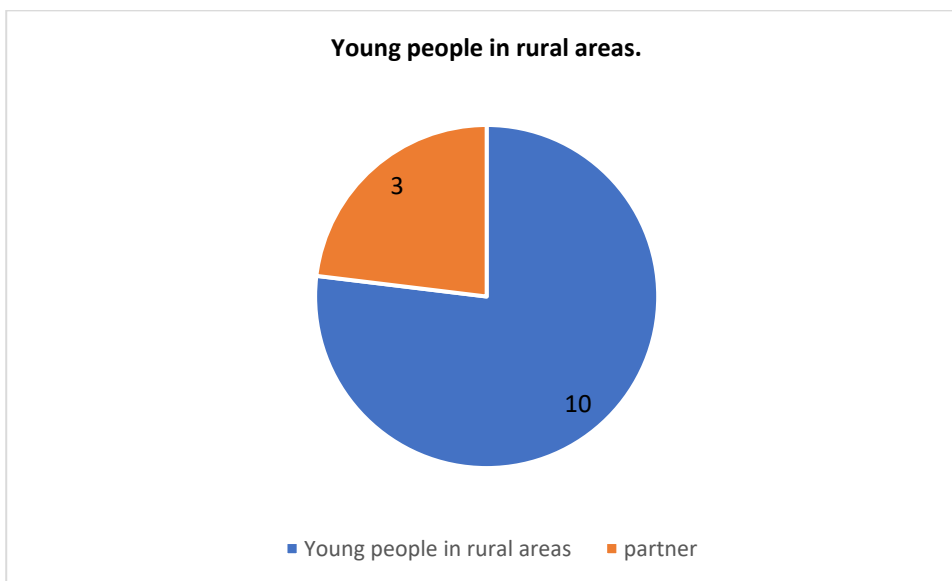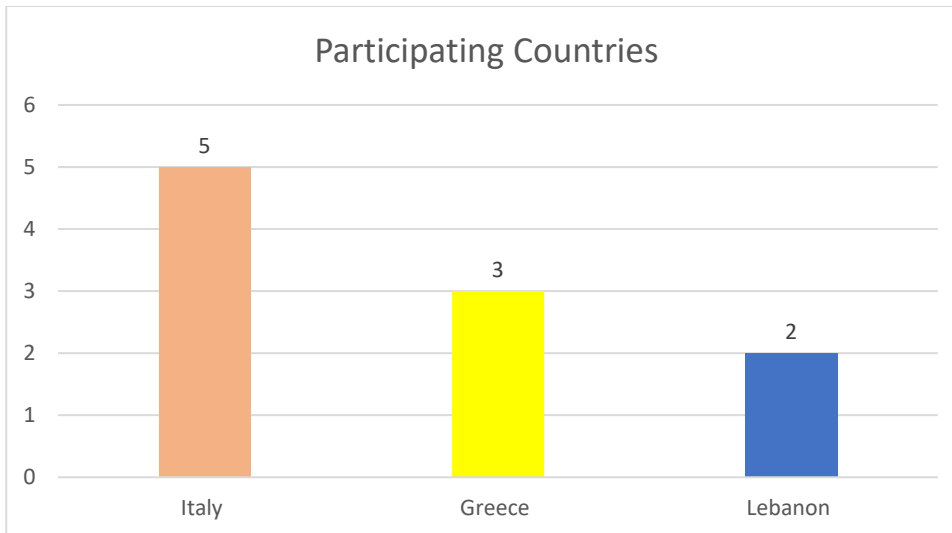
In this histogram, we can see **the participation of different countries**. Most of the rural young people who actively participated in the webinar are from Italy. This bar chart, titled "Participating Countries," compares the number of participants from three different countries. Here are the details:

- Italy: is represented by the orange bar, it has 5 participants.
- Greece: is represented by the yellow bar. It has 3 participants.
- Lebanon: is represented by the blue bar. It has 2 participants.

The vertical axis indicates the number of participants, ranging from 0 to 6. The chart visually shows that Italy has the highest number of participants, followed by Greece and then Lebanon.

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Youth Organisation per Country
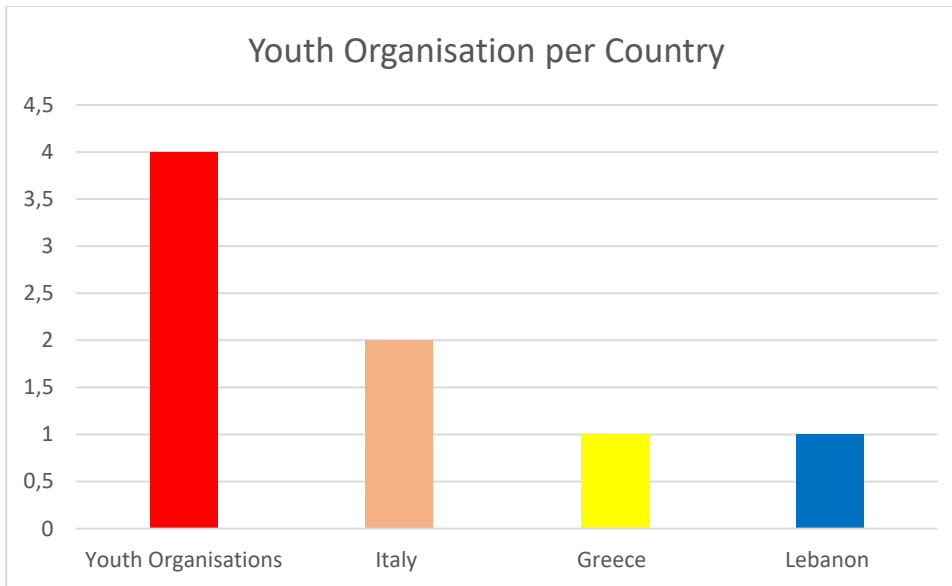
Here below we present this last histogram shows the presence of rural youth organisations in the different territories of the partners participating in the webinar. This image is a bar chart titled "Youth Organisation per Country." It shows the number of youth organizations in different countries. Here are the details:

Youth Organisations: Represented by the red bar. The youth organisations involved are 4

1. **Italy**: Represented by the orange bar. It has 2 rural youth organisations
2. **Greece**: Represented by the yellow bar. It has 1 rural youth organisation
3. **Lebanon**: Represented by the blue bar. It has 1 rural youth organisation.

The vertical axis indicates the number of youth organizations, ranging from 0 to 4.5. The chart visually shows that the category labelled "Youth Organisations" has the highest count of 4, followed by Italy with 2, and both Greece and Lebanon with 1 each.
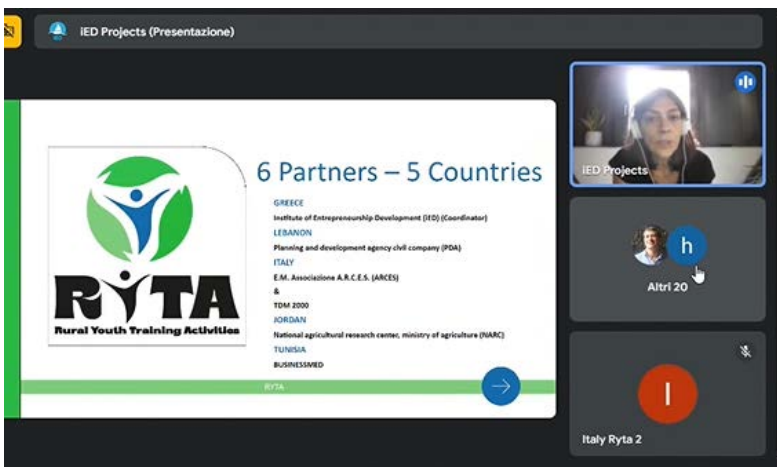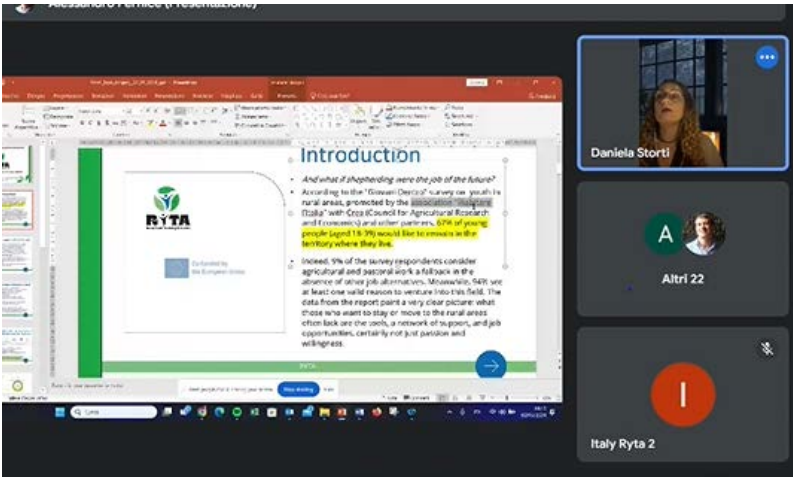
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2.5 PICTURES

This section provides some pictures of the participating partners and experts who have attended the meeting.
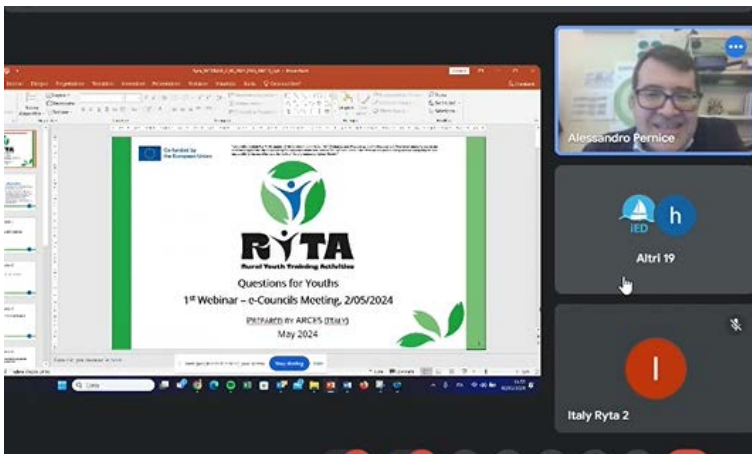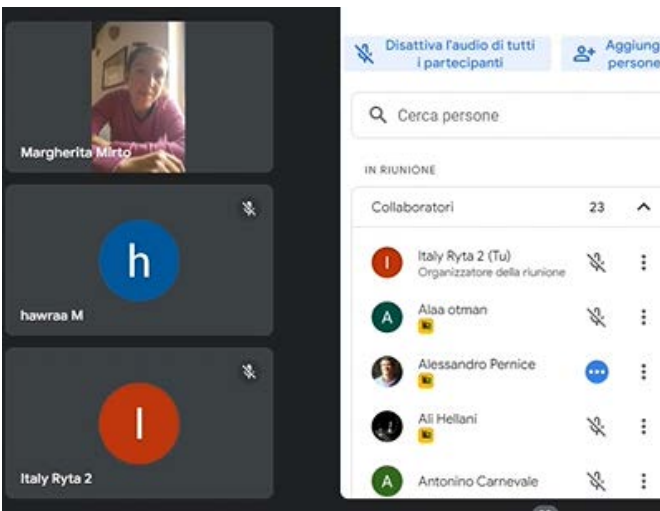

Picture 1
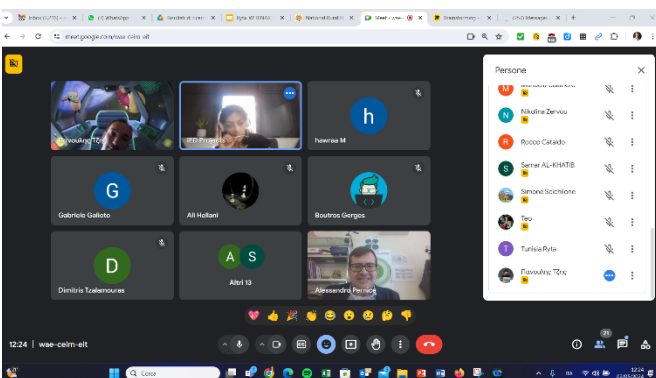**Mr. Alessandro Pernice (project manager on behalf of ARCES)**

Picture 2
Ms. Anastasia Tsagkari (Project coordinator, on behalf of IED)

Picture 3
Ms Daniela Storti (Scuola dei Pastori, Italy)

Picture 4
Ms. Margherita Mirto (Agriturismo Villa Mirto, Italy)

Picture 6:
Mr. Panoulis Kalaintzis and Ms. Anastasia: introducing the problems faced in rural areas of Greece

Picture 7: Ms. Nikolina Zervou: Introducing problem faced by Greece

2.6 PURPOSE OF THE WEBINAR

The goal of the Webinar was twofold:

1. Firstly, to enhance awareness and promote active citizenship among rural youth.

2. Secondly, to foster knowledge-sharing among rural youth by discussing their challenges, strengths, and needs, as well as sharing solutions to improve their circumstances.

2.7 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mr. Alessandro Pernice, on behalf of the ARCES project management team, provided an insightful overview of the webinar. Central to his address was the goal of empowering young people in rural areas, emphasising their active participation in decision-making processes and community activities. He highlighted the role of **the RYTA online project platform** - https://platform.rytaspace.eu/ - as a pivotal tool in achieving this objective.

Highlighting the RYTA project's impact in Sicily, Mr. Pernice showcased how it fosters social connectivity among rural youth across regions like Greece and Lebanon. Through virtual meetings, training sessions, and cultural exchanges, the project enriches their experiences and broadens their perspectives.

Addressing the unique challenges faced by youth in Sicily's rural communities, such as limited transportation, water scarcity, and population decline in areas like **Monreale, Santa Cristina Gela, and Bellacero**, he stressed the importance of innovative solutions.

Furthermore, Mr. Pernice outlined the agenda, featuring esteemed guests like **Ms. Daniela Storti** from the School of Young Shepherds and **Ms. Margherita Mirto**, a dynamic young entrepreneur who recently launched a rural company in Sicily. Their contributions underscored the webinar's commitment to empowering rural youth through education, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

Ms. Anastasia Tsagkari introduced herself as the RYTA Project Coordinator representing IED (Greece). She outlined the project's objectives, emphasizing the

transformative role of the RYTA platform in empowering rural youth and highlighting anticipated outcomes.

Ms. Hawraa Mafhouz, from PDA Lebanon, introduced Ms. Alaa Oman, a prominent advocate for young women in rural Lebanon. Ms. Oman eloquently addressed the significant challenges faced by unemployed young women in Lebanon, including poverty, social exclusion, and high unemployment rates.

Ms. Daniela Storti, representing the Rural National Network, presented compelling insights from a survey on youth involvement in agriculture. She highlighted that **69% of Sicily's rural population comprises young people.** Ms. Storti underscored the pivotal role of the School of Young Shepherds, supported by the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), in providing essential training and conducting vital research across Sicily, Calabria, and Lombardia.

Ms. Margherita Mirto shared her visionary perspective on rural empowerment through her organisation, "Villa Mirto." She emphasised the crucial blend of technical and soft skills necessary for rural activities. Ms. Mirto also discussed the challenges faced at the regional level in Sicily, particularly when there is a need to navigate the legislation and obtain certifications for organic agricultural production.

Ms. NIkolina Zervou highlighted pressing issues concerning the engagement of rural youth with policymakers in Greece. Across various municipalities and rural villages in the Greek Regions, there exists a notable absence of rural youth involvement in political decision-making processes. There is a prevailing sense of political apathy among young people, marked by disinterest in elections, political events, public meetings, and voting.

Panoulis Kalaintzis contributed to the discussion by addressing the challenges faced by rural youth in Greece. As an active member of an environmental association, he emphasised the critical role of education and training in shaping the future of rural youth. He proposed practical solutions to combat political apathy, such as establishing "Round Tables" where rural youth and politicians can engage in constructive dialogues to address local issues and find collaborative solutions.

Mr. Boutros Gerges highlighted another significant challenge for young people in rural areas: communication barriers.

Mr. Antonino Carnevale presented the problems related to active citizenship and climate change in Bellacera (a small rural village of Sicily where he lives), emphasising what citizenship and sustainability mean to him. He highlighted the challenges faced by rural areas like Bellacera in Sicily, stressing the need for greater promotion of the region, improved public infrastructure, and reduced social isolation for rural youth.

Mr. Gabriele Galioto addressed the issue of abandoned areas in Santa Cristina Gela, a small Italian municipality near Piana degli Albanesi Lake with just 994 inhabitants. He highlighted the plight of fields seized by the Mafia, now used as illegal landfills. Moreover, he pointed out the social distance experienced by rural youth due to the older demographic profile, emphasising the need for revitalisation efforts.

Mr. Dimitris Tzalamouras, a young Greek participant, shared his perspective on citizenship, underlining local community participation and driving positive change. He also spoke about the challenges faced by his rural area, including abandonment issues and the importance of sustainability.

Mr. Boutros Gerges highlighted the importance of societal and policy resilience toward rural areas, particularly focusing on empowering young people.
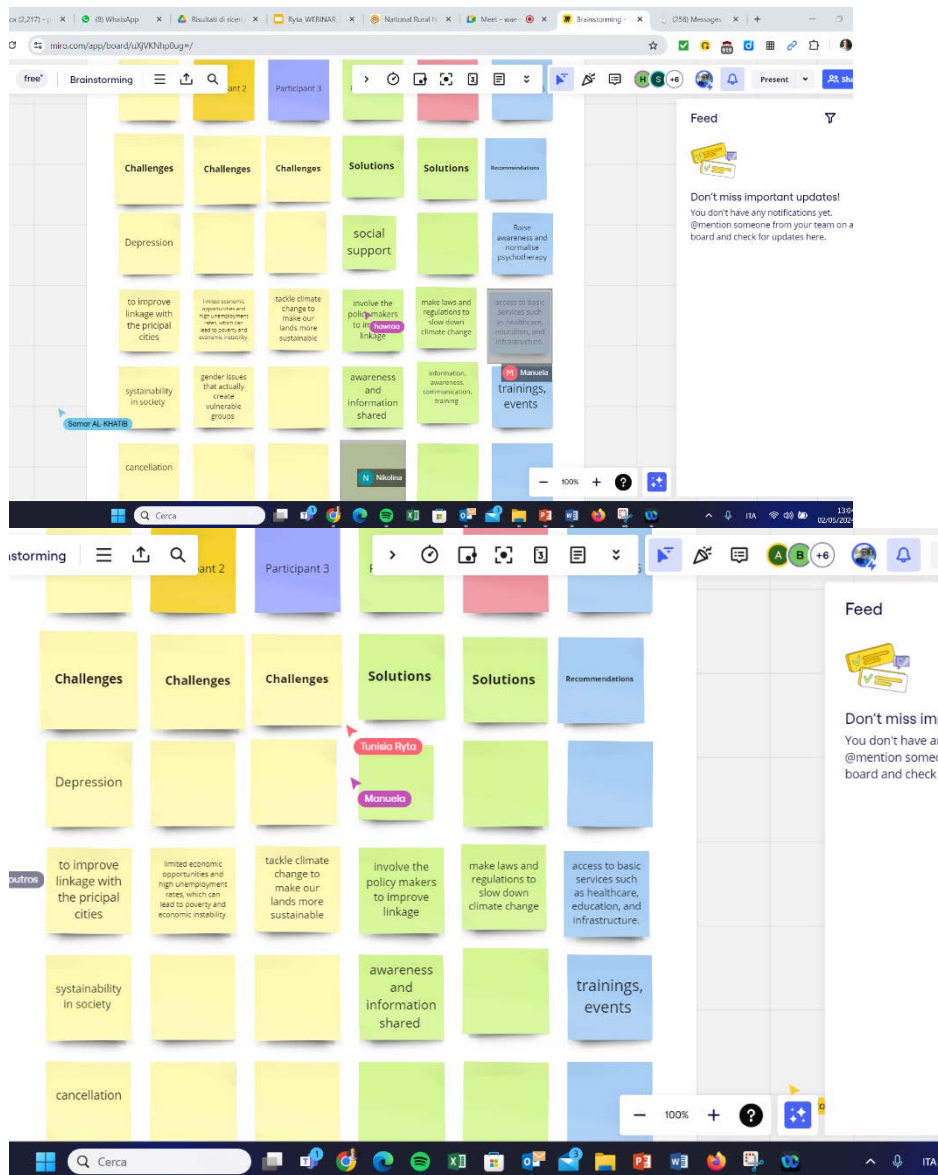
Panoulis Kalaintzis highlighted the gender gap challenge in Greece, underscoring the disparities that need addressing in rural contexts.
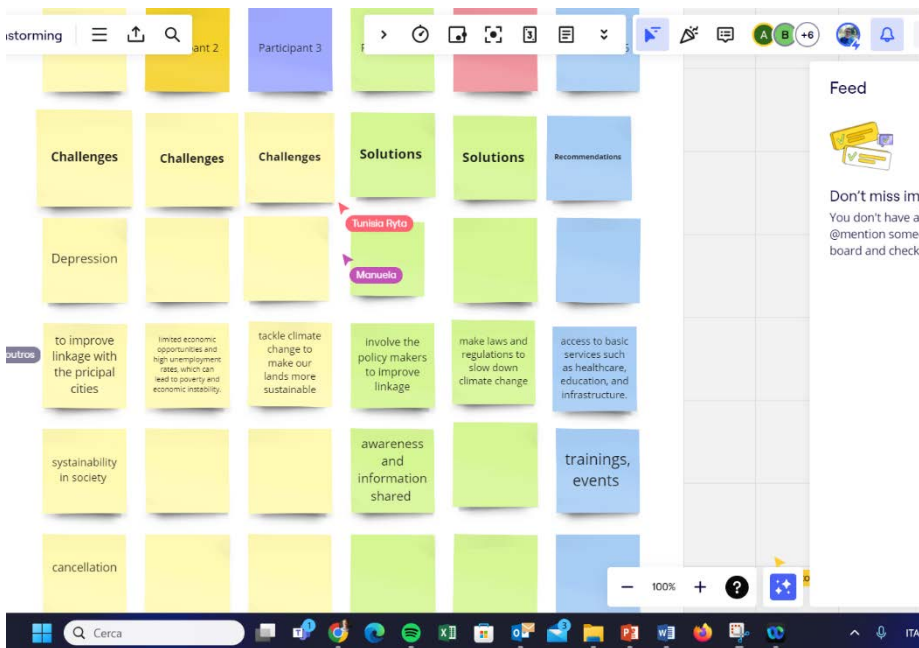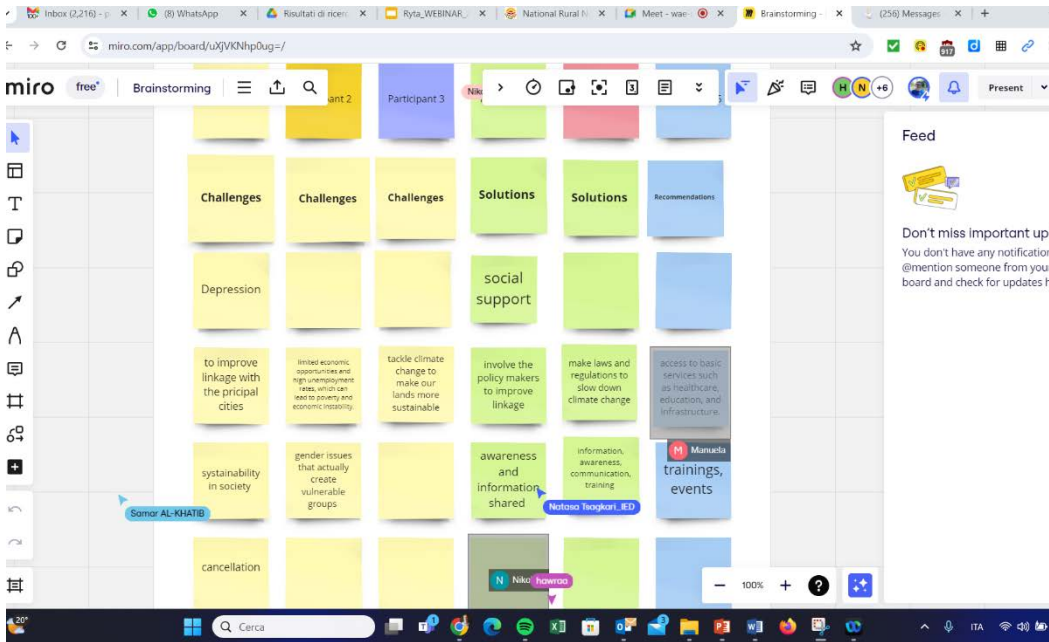
At the conclusion of the debate, Mr. Pernice encouraged participants to utilise the MIRO platform to share their challenges, propose solutions, and offer recommendations to be adopted by the policymakers.

2.8 MIRO SESSION

At the conclusion of the webinar, the partners utilised the MIRO platform to collaboratively outline potential challenges, propose solutions, and offer suggestions, fostering a digital and social inclusive approach to problem-solving.

2.9 RESOURCES

All screenshots are available on Google Drive at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HRkQmp8iMHetdTcgdGCnqvtaIdoQSuv9

Chapter 3: Minutes from the second e-council meeting, June 20, 2024.

3.1 Introduction

This report provides the minutes of the **second webinar of the e-councils meeting** between the partners of the RYTA project, which took place virtually on June 20, 2024, at 9:00 AM (Italian local time).

The aim is to share insights and relevant issues that emerged during this webinar, particularly the challenges faced by rural youth in Italy, Greece, Jordan, and Tunisia. Each partner invited a youth association and young individuals to share their experiences and provide recommendations for policymakers.

The participating partners were:

- Ms. Nikolina Zervou (IED, Greece)
- Mr. Alessandro Pernice (ARCES, Italy)
- Alaa Wabeh (NARC, Jordan)
- Ameni Abdelli (Businessmed, Tunisia)

Representatives from youth associations included:

- Ms. Giulia Carrabino (LAND, Italy)
- Ms. Anastasjia Ciesa (Greece)
- Mr. Riccardo Murgia (Arrexini Asula, Italy)
- Ms. Hend Mgaieth (Tunisia)

The rural youth representatives were:

- Ms. Terry Ann Piras (Italy)
- Ms. Paola Mastinu (Italy)
- Ms. Ryma Daboussi (Tunisia)
- Mr. Hedi Chouria (Tunisia)
- Mr. Zaid Arabyiat (Jordan)

They discussed their visions for a sustainable rural area development. A Miro session was held at the end of the webinar to gather ideas from participants. Recommendations were made to improve life and the decision-making process in rural areas.

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3.2 Agenda of the Webinar

2nd e-Council Meeting (Task 3.5)

Details of the Webinar

Date	20/06/2024
Time	9:00–13:30 CET TIME
Location	ONLINE
Google Meet	https://meet.google.com/mgb-yrmy-dtp?authuser=0
Facilitator	ARCES
Partners	IeD (Greece) ARCES (Italy) TDM 2000 (Italy) BUSINESSMED (Tunisia) PDA (Lebanon) NARC (Jordan)
Expert: 1 representative of youth organisation located in rural areas	Ms. Giulia Carrabino (Italy)
Expert:	Ms. Nikolina Zervou (Greece)

1 representative of youth organisation located in rural areas	
Expert: **1 representative of youth organisation located in rural areas**	**Ms. Hend Mgaieth (Tunisia)**
Expert: **1 representative of youth organisation located in rural areas**	**Mr Riccardo Murgia and Ms. Anastasia Ciesa (Italy)**
Youth Participants (Italy)	**Ms. Terry Ann Piras** **Ms. Paola Mastinu**
Youth Participants (Tunisia)	**Ms. Ryma Daboussi** **Mr. Hedi Chouria**
Youth Participants (Jordan)	**Mr. Zaid Arabyiat**

Agenda

Duration	Topic	Presenter
9:00-9:30	Registration of Participants	
9:30-9:50	Introduction of the webinar by **Mr. Alessandro Pernice (Project Manager)**	ARCES (Italy)

|		
9:50-10:10	Intervention of **Ms Anastasia Tsagkari (Project Coordinator)**	IED (Greece)
10:10-10:30	Intervention of **Ms. Giulia Carrabino**	Land (Italy)
10:30-10:50	Intervention of **Ms. Hend Mgaieth**	Businessmed (Tunisia)
10:50-11:10	Intervention of **Mr. Antonio Martis**	TDM 2000 (Italy)
11:10-11-20	Intervention of **Mr. Riccardo Murgia** and **Ms. Anastasija Ciesa**	Arrexini Asula (Italy)
11:20-11:40	Intervention of Ms. **Ala' Wahbeh**	NARC Jordan
11:40-11:50	**Virtual coffee break**	
11:50 -12:50	Questions for Rural youth (each expert from **Italy, Greece, Tunisia and Jordan** (will address the question to the attendees)	Youth participants
12:50-13:10	Debates troughs Miro: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVK7OrvVg=/	All Participants
13:10-13:15	**Recommendations:** These recommendations will be used to sensitise the broader community of each participating countries (Italy, Greece, Tunisia and Jordan) to the needs of youth living in rural areas	ALL PPs
13:15	**End of the webinar**	

3.3 FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Beside the Lead partner IED (Greece), three partners of e councils meeting, namely ARCES (Italy), NARC (Jordan) attended the Webinar, with a total number of **16 Participants** listed in the table below.

| N°	Name & Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Alessandro Pernice	ARCES	Italy
2	Nikolina Zervou	IED	Greece
3	Alaa Wabeh	NARC	Jordan
4	Ameni Abdelli	Businessmed	Tunisia
5	Giulia Carrabino	LAND Youth Organisation	Italy
6	Antonio Martis	TDM 2000	Italy
7	Anastasjia Ciesa	Arrexini Asula Youth Organisation	Italy
8	Riccardo Murgia	Arrexini Asula Youth Organisation	Italy
9	Hend Mgaieth	Youth Organisation	Tunisia
10	Manuela Calafiore	Youth representative	Italy
11	Gabriele Galioto	Youth representative	Italy
12	Paola Mastinu	Youth representative	Italy
13	Terry Piras	Youth representative	Italy
14	Hedi Chouria	Youth representative	Tunisia
16	Ryma Daboussi	Youth Representative	Tunisia
17	Zaid Arabiat	Youth representative	Jordan

Table 1: Full list of Participants

3.4 Analytical data

Below, we present the analytical data regarding our participants from each country. The pie chart illustrates the distribution of twelve rural youths from Italy, Tunisia, and Jordan. Additionally, it includes seven representatives of young people from rural areas. The chart also indicates the number of partners who contributed to this event.

Young people in rural areas and Partners

Participants Countries
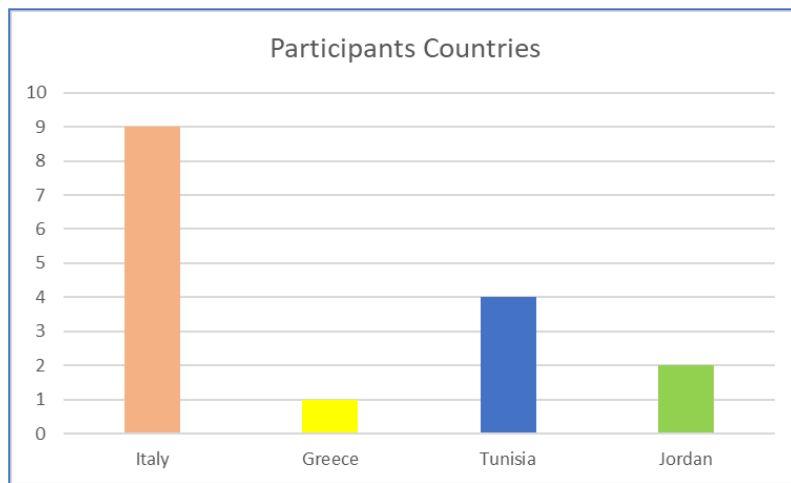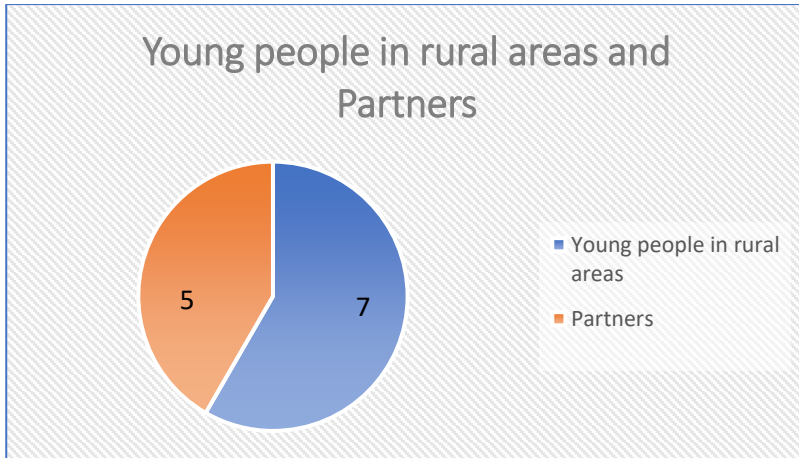
This bar chart effectively illustrates the distribution of participants across four countries: Italy with the highest number at 9, Greece with 1 participant, Tunisia with 4 participants, and Jordan with 2 participants. The visualization clearly portrays these numbers.

Co-funded by the European Union

Youth Organisation per Country
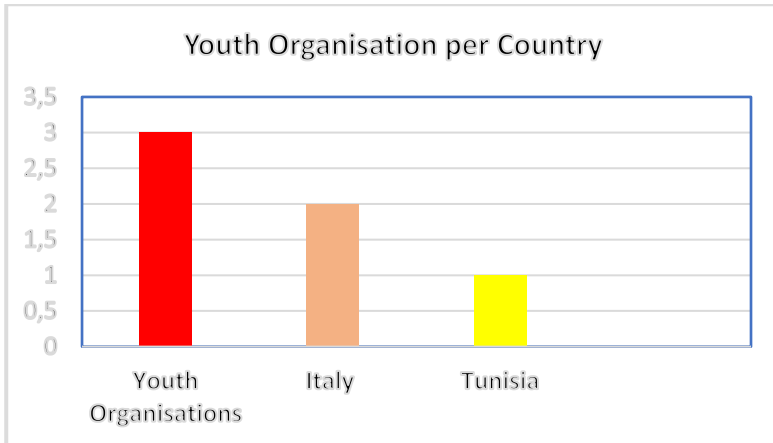
In the last chart of this picture, there is a bar chart indicating the youth organizations that participated in the webinar. These organizations include two from Italy (one from Sardinia and one from Sicily) and one from Tunisia.
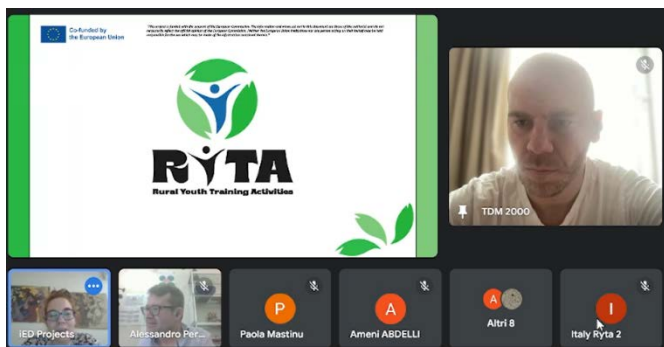
3.5 PICTURES

This section provides some pictures of the participating partners and experts who have attended the meeting.
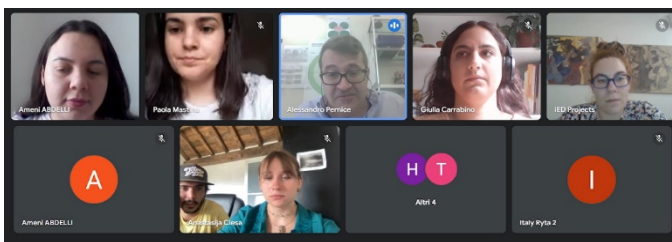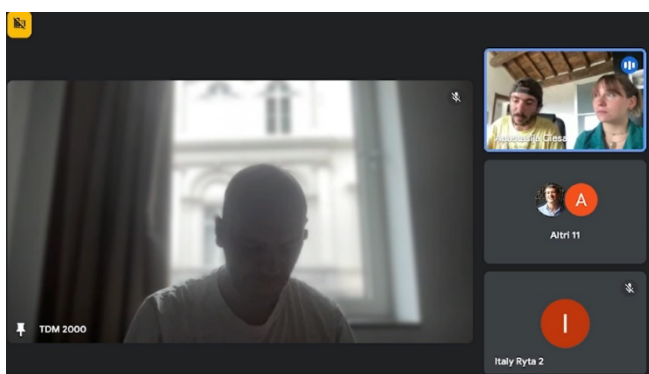

Picture 1
Mr. Alessandro Pernice (ARCES) introduces the webinar
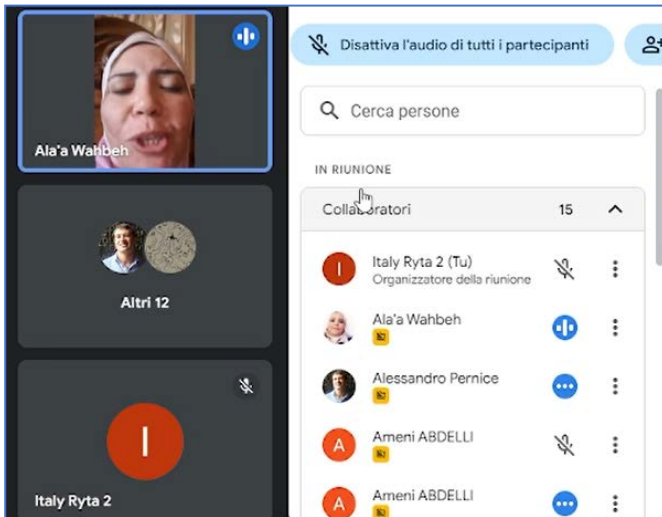
Picture 2

Mr. Antonio Martis (TDM 2000) intervenes during the debate
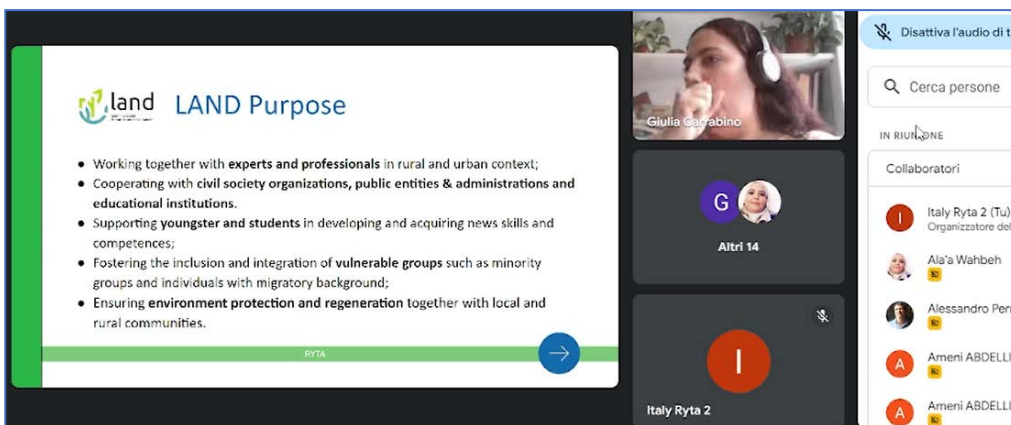

Picture 3

Ms. Anastasjia Ciesa and Mr Riccardo Murgia (from Sardinia) explained the main problems faced by the young people living in rural areas of Sardinia Region

Picture 4

Ms. Alaa Wabeh (NARC, Jordan) talked about the youth empowerment and the lack of support from Government

Picture 5

Ms. Giulia Carrabino presented some initiatives carried out by Land Sicily (Youth Organisation) to support youth participation and empower young people to contribute to the innovation of youth policies.

3.6 PURPOSE OF THE WEBINAR

The goal of the webinar was twofold:
- First, to enhance awareness and encourage active participation among rural youth.
- Second, to facilitate the sharing of experiences among rural youth, discussing their challenges, strengths, and needs, as well as exploring potential solutions to enhance their circumstances.

3.7 MINUTES OF THE WEBINAR

At the beginning of the webinar, Mr. Alessandro Pernice, representing the ARCES project management team, outlined the agenda. He highlighted its primary objective of his Organisation in that project: to enhance the involvement of young people in rural areas in decision-making and social activities using resources like the RYTA online project platform.

Mr. Pernice introduced the participating partners and allowed them to introduce themselves, emphasising the meeting's goal of increasing youth participation in rural areas. He emphasised the importance of the Miro session, an essential tool for fostering dialogue and sharing vision among partners and young people located across different countries

Ms. Nikolina Zervou from IED introduced herself to the participants and presented the RYTA project. She outlined its aims, including raising awareness of sustainability, developing rural skills, and creating opportunities for rural youth.

Mr. Antonio Martis from TDM 2000 introduced Arrexini Asula, an organization based in Sardinia that began its work ten years ago. Originally focused on facilitating transportation services within Sardinia, it later shifted its focus to supporting young people in rural areas and promoting mobility within rural Sardinia. He explained that addressing mobility challenges in rural territories like Some areas of Sardinia Region is crucial for enhancing overall economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for residents and young people.

Ms. Ameni Abdelli highlighted the challenges faced by rural youth in Tunisia, particularly in terms of their economic and social circumstances. These young people often find themselves marginalised, lacking representation and protection from local authorities.

Mr. Riccardo Murgia and **Ms. Anastasjia Cesia** from Sardinia Region shared some insights from their youth association, shedding light on issues within their community. They reside in a village of 8,000 people where residents struggle with a sense of belonging—feeling disconnected from both Italian and European identities.
Mobility outside the village is limited, voting is challenging, community cohesion is lacking, and there's a general lack of understanding about the European Union. Addressing these challenges through improved communication tools presents a viable solution.

Ms. Alaa Wabeh from NARC Jordan highlighted the challenges faced by young people in rural areas, where underdevelopment often pushes them to migrate elsewhere for better opportunities.

Ms. Paola Mastinu shared her personal experiences from a countryside in Sardinia, where residents lack access to modern facilities and technologies commonly found in urban areas. Moreover, rural youth feel excluded from political decision-making processes. One promising solution is to engage rural youth in online meetings with political authorities to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns addressed.

Ms. Terry Piras discussed the gender gap prevalent in rural areas of Sardinia, affecting education and creating disparities in employment opportunities. Furthermore, rural youth often feel neglected by politicians, leaving them to navigate challenges on their own.

In summary, empowering rural youth through enhanced access to technology, inclusion in political dialogue, and addressing gender disparities are crucial steps towards creating more equitable and supportive communities.

Ms. Hedi Chouria addressed the pressing issues in Tunisian rural areas, emphasising the critical challenge of unemployment exacerbated by political favouritism towards certain social classes. She also highlighted the lack of political engagement among rural youth, who often feel excluded from the voting processes.

Ms. Giulia Carrabino introduced her organization, and its impactful projects aimed at enhancing the lives of rural youth through social integration. These initiatives promote sustainability, social empowerment, and urban revitalisation in rural areas. She also underscored the transportation challenges faced by these communities.

Ms. Hend Mgaieth discussed the multifaceted challenges confronting rural areas, advocating for their revitalisation and stressing the importance of community involvement in these efforts. She highlighted the need to integrate rural youth through online platforms as a means of fostering their participation and empowerment.
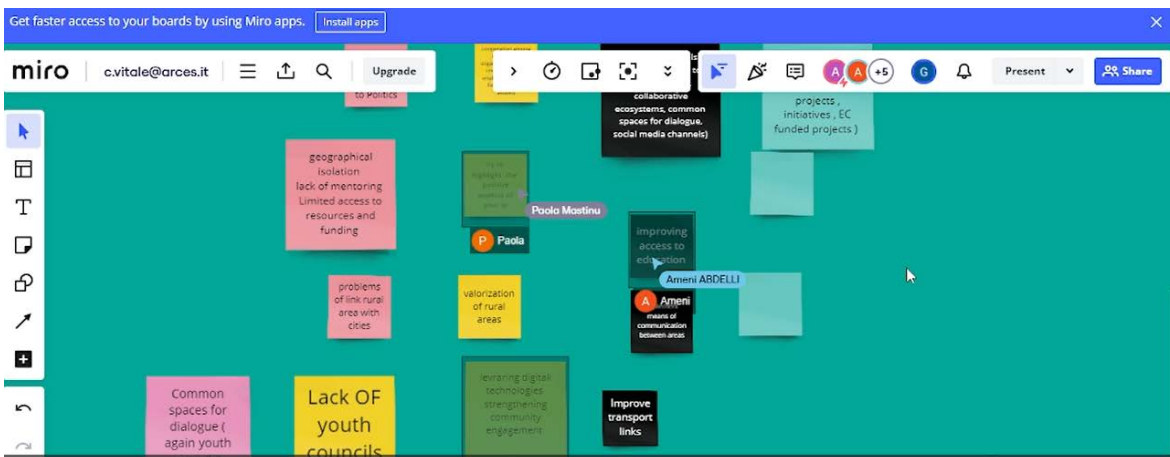
During the Miro session, all participants engaged in discussing various challenges and proposed solutions, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts to address issues of social inclusion and youth empowerment in rural contexts.

In summary, by tackling unemployment, promoting social integration, revitalising infrastructure, and enhancing political engagement, these initiatives aim to empower rural youth and foster inclusive development across communities.

3.8 MIRO SESSION

At the conclusion of the webinar, the partners utilised the MIRO platform to collaboratively outline potential challenges, propose solutions, and offer suggestions, fostering a digital and social inclusive approach to problem-solving.
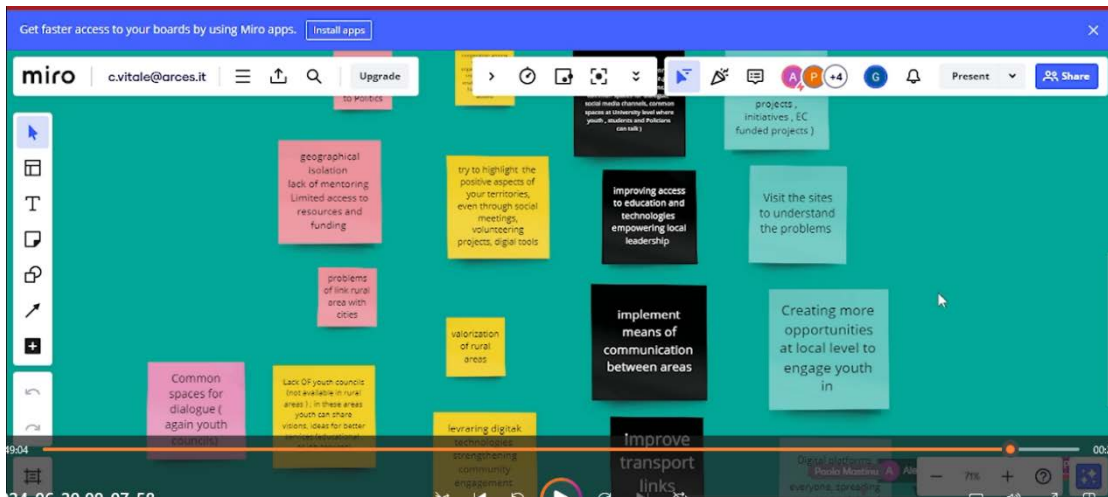
3.9 RESOURCES

All screenshots are available on Google Drive at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HRkQmp8iMHetdTcgdGCnqvtaIdoQSuv9

Conclusions

*The **conclusion** of the report summarizes our findings, describe their importance, and make recommendations for further activities in the selected field based on the benchmarking outcomes.*

The central idea from those who have attended the two e-council meetings, respectively the representatives of youth Organisations and youth living in rural areas, is the importance of youth engagement in rural development as a Strategy to combat poverty and stabilize systems.

To achieve this, several **solutions** and **recommendations** were proposed by the attendees of these **two rounds of e-council meetings**, based on the identification of relevant **challenges** that affect several territories of Italy, Greece, Lebanon and Tunisia. These are briefly mentioned here below and will be **the basis for the next discussion during the next e-council meetings with the Policy makers (Task 3.6).**

Challenges

Below are indicated some of the challenges that emerged during the debates.

In these areas, youth cannot share visions and ideas for better services (educational or job services). Moreover, there are some emerging issues:

i. Geographical isolation
ii. Lack of mentoring
iii. Lack of interest from youth to Politics
iv. Limited access to resources and funding
v. Connections linking rural areas with cities
vi. Lack of common spaces for dialogue (e.g., youth councils)
vii. Absence of youth councils in rural areas
viii. Climate changes affecting rural areas

Solutions

The following solutions to the problems emerged during the debate by the attendees:

- Creation of more tools to connect youth to politicians
- Collaborative ecosystems
- Common spaces for dialogue
- Social media channels
- Common spaces at university level where youth, students, and politicians can talk
- Improving access to education and technologies
- Empowering local leadership
- Implementing means of communication between areas
- Enacting new regulations and laws to mitigate climate change

Recommendations

The following recommendations for the Policy Makers were given during the debate by the attendees:

- Opening the debate on these issues through new projects, initiatives, and EC-funded projects.
- Visiting sites to understand the problems.
- Creating more opportunities at the local level to engage youth in politics.
- Developing digital platforms accessible to everyone, promoting awareness and digital skills (potentially for free).
- Sharing more success stories through projects, videos, news, posts, etc.