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RYTA:

Rural Youth Training Activities

DELIVERABLE 3.5 - Minutes of the e-meetings with policy makers

E.M. Associazione ARCES

Document Control Sheet

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Main author	Alessandro Pernice
Contributors	Giuseppe Rallo, Giancarlo Amato, Caterina Vitale, Antonino Carnevale, Melinda Terranova



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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 form¹, WP3 will enable young people from rural areas to increase their level of participation in the democratic processes and provide all necessary skills in order to make youth organizations in rural areas to be much more active and to establish new youth organizations in rural areas.

In particular, 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.
- The **"E-meetings with Policy Makers"** (Task 3.6) aim to connect young individuals from various countries (Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Italy, Greece) with decision-makers, enhancing their relationships through an online platform that promotes continuity and visibility.

In this context, Task 3.6, "Organizing e-meetings with Policy Makers via platform," led by ARCES (COO) in collaboration with all beneficiaries, is a key element of WP3.

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



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This task's goal is to enable youth in rural areas to engage with policy makers through participatory workshops supported by the online platform. Strengthening this connection is vital for identifying effective solutions to enhance the quality of life for younger generations.

Ideas, challenges, and suggestions should arise not only from young people but also from representatives of youth organizations and cooperatives involved in the e-meetings with policy makers.

During these e-meetings, participants can share knowledge, experiences, and opinions on pressing issues like depopulation, water scarcity, limited public services, and barriers to civic engagement.

The Ryta online platform facilitates visibility and interaction among all participants and policy makers.



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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, Greece)** and is conducted by a consortium of **six partners** belonging to Mediterranean Countries (Italy, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia), including TVETs, Associations, Research institutes and Companies.

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 goals³, 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** (D.3.5) is to present the methodology and describe the main findings that emerged during the four rounds of e-meetings with policy makers (task 3.6), organised by the project partners and held respectively on 31th July 2024 (held

² https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/european-youth-goals_en

³ <https://youth-goals.eu/youthgoals>

⁴ <https://youth-goals.eu/yg6>



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at leD – Greece), 9th October 2024 (held at NARC - Jordan), 22th October 2024 (held at ARCES – Italy) and 28th October 2024 (held at BusinessMED - Tunisia).

The meeting minutes of each meeting are detailed in the following paragraphs. The deliverable is structured into **six chapters**:

- **Chapter 1:** This chapter presents the methodology used by the consortium to implement Task 3.6 and contribute to the creation of this report
- **Chapter 2:** This chapter includes the Minutes referring to the Greek e-meeting with policy makers, led by leD (Greece)
- **Chapter 3:** This chapter includes the Minutes referring to the Jordan e-meeting with policy makers, led by NARC (Jordan)
- **Chapter 4:** This chapter includes the Minutes referring to the Italian e-meeting with policy makers, led by ARCES (Italy)
- **Chapter 5:** This chapter includes the Minutes referring to the Tunisian e-meeting with policy makers, led by BusinessMED (Tunisia)
- **Chapter 6:** This chapter will include the Minutes referring to the Italian e-meeting with policy makers, led by TDM 2000 org (Italy).
- The **conclusion** of the report summarises our findings, outlines their significance, and provides recommendations for future activities.



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Chapter 1: The methodology

1.1 Introduction

To implement Task 3.6 “Organizing e-meetings with Policy Makers via platform”, the partners have adopted the following approach based on two main steps:

- 1st step: organisation of youth e-council meetings and delivery of the main findings to the consortium as a starting point for further discussion with the Policy makers during the next meetings
- 2nd step: organisation of e-meetings with Policy Makers where to discuss ideas, challenges, suggestions etc. that emerged during the previous youth e-council meetings.

A total of six e-meetings with policymakers were planned in the Application form⁵, one for each participating country, during months 17 to 18. Each meeting was intended to include one young person from a rural area, one representative from a youth organization, association, or cooperative in rural areas, and one policymaker at the local, regional, or national level from the respective country, totaling 18 participants (3 participants per meeting x 6 meetings).

Due to the recent **conflict** in Lebanon, one of the six e-meetings was cancelled. Moreover, TDM2000 has postponed the local e-meeting with policymakers to mid-November 2024, as they are difficult to reach due to their heavy schedules.

The remaining four meetings generated strong interest, attracting even more participants than those attendees initially expected.

The partners involved in this initiative are: ARCES (COO), IED (BEN), TDM 2000 (BEN), PDA Lebanon (BEN), NARC Jordan (BEN), and BusinessMED Tunisia (BEN).

⁵ Application form p. 40



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Expected results

As a result of the e-meetings with policy makers, it is expected that new connections will be established between young people living in rural areas across Europe and policy makers. These e-meetings will help break down barriers and are useful for trying to bridge the institutional gap that rural youth still experience. E-meetings with policy makers in fact have a dual purpose: for rural youth, they have an opportunity to voice their ideas and claim their rights, while at the same time helping policymakers understand what is truly needed to create a satisfied society.

Tools adopted by ARCES

To implement Task 3.6, 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 this deliverable the abovementioned guidelines distributed by ARCES within the consortium in March 2023:

1.2 The Guidelines

The guidelines aim to provide Project partners (PPs) with information regarding the implementation of Task 3.6 “Organizing e-meeting with Policy makers via platform”. In particular the guidelines present the Task 3.6 – 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 in order to ensure a sound implementation of their activities at partner level.

TASK 3.6 Organizing e-meeting with Policy makers via platform

This activity has the aim of enabling young people in different countries to reach decision makers in different countries (Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Italy and Greece) and strengthening the connection between them through the online platform. The idea is to ensure that young people living in rural areas cooperate with policy makers through the established online platform.

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



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1.3 How to implement the Task 3.6:

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

- The first step of project implementation involves gathering local needs and issues during the youth e-councils. Essential tools include the minutes from rural youth e-council meetings. All Project Partners will be asked to designate a key contact for the e-meeting with policymakers.
- The second step entails presenting Task 3.6 to all participating Partners during a project coordination meeting organised by ARCES, preferably in May 2024.
- The third step focuses on mapping youth organisations. Each partner will be required to identify at least one potential representative from youth organisations located in rural areas who will participate in the e-meetings with policymakers.
- The fourth step involves mapping policymakers. Each partner will be tasked with identifying potential policymakers in their respective countries (Greece, Tunisia, Italy, etc.).
- The fifth step is about identifying young individuals. Each partner will need to select one young person to participate in the e-meetings with policymakers.
- The sixth step is to establish a meeting calendar. Partners will explore potential dates for e-meetings with policymakers and submit their proposals (calendar) to ARCES and all Project Partners.
- The seventh step is to organise e-meetings at local level.
- The eighth step involves compiling the minutes of the meetings, which ARCES will prepare in collaboration with all Project Partners.

Where

The meeting will be held on line through GOOGLE MEET Platform and will be displayed through the social media channels.

When

Definition of the Calendar: The partners investigate potential dates to arrange e-meeting and send to ARCES and their proposal (Calendar).

Requirements

In order to ensure a smooth implementation of each e-meeting with Policy makers, the local partner responsible for the organisation of the meeting should be guarantee the participation of people (young people living in rural areas, youth organisation representatives and Policy makers) with good knowledge of English language. This is



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compulsory as the language of the e-meeting English language and the minutes will be written in English.



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Chapter 2: Minutes referring to the Greek e-meeting with policy makers, led by leD (Greece)

2.1 Minutes of the Meeting

This paragraph provides the minutes of the meeting realised by the Greek partner which took place on 31st June, 2024 at Joist Innovation Park in Larissa as part of the RYTA European Project.

The meeting, which included an interview with the Mayor of Larissa, Mr Athanasios Mamakos, showcased the city's commitment to empowering youth and fostering their active participation in civic life.

The session was coordinated by **Natassa Tsagkari**, the Project Manager of the RYTA initiative, alongside **Nikolina Zervou**, a youth worker, and **Dimitris Tzalamouras**, a youth representative. This diverse panel brought together perspectives from various stakeholders to explore the role of local government in addressing the needs of rural youth.

The discussion focused on the efforts of the Municipality of Larissa to strengthen youth engagement. The mayor highlighted several key initiatives, including the establishment of the Youth Municipal Council, which has been active since 2020. This council serves as a platform where young people can voice their concerns, propose policies, and collaborate with the local government on various initiatives. The mayor also emphasized Larissa's ambition to be named the National Youth Capital of 2025, a title that would further elevate the city's youth programs.

In terms of skills development, the mayor noted the city's focus on supporting young entrepreneurs and professionals through programs like the creation of a Business Incubator and a Digital Employment Platform. These initiatives are aimed at retaining local talent, offering young people the tools they need to thrive in today's competitive job market. Collaboration with various institutions, such as the University of Thessaly and the Chamber of Commerce, further strengthens these efforts, providing training



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and career opportunities for young people, including vulnerable groups such as unemployed youth and refugees.

During the meeting, the mayor also discussed how the RYTA project could contribute to these local initiatives. The project's emphasis on promoting democratic engagement and providing young people with innovative tools to communicate and collaborate aligns well with the Municipality's goals. The RYTA platform, with its focus on fostering cross-border dialogue and providing young people with e-participation tools, was seen as a valuable resource to enhance the civic engagement and professional development of Larissa's youth.

The Interview is available on RYTA YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug9TgynsGk4>

2.2 Agenda of the Meeting

- Active participation in society
- Dialogue and Communication
- Diversity and Distinction
- Online participation tools
- Participatory approach
- Social skills
- Viability
- Climate change and quality of life
- Vulnerable groups



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2.3 List of participants

The participants who attended the meeting were:

N°	Name&Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Anastasia Tsagkari	leD	Greece
2	Athanasios Mamakos	Mayor of Larissa	Greece
3	Nikolina Zervou	Youth worker	Greece
4	Dimitris Tzalamouras	Youth representative	Greece

Table 1: List of Participants

2.4 Pictures

This section provides some pictures of the meeting and the members who have attended it.



Picture 1

Ms. Anastasia Tsagkari (project manager of leD)



Picture 2

Mr. Athanasios Mamakos (Mayor of Larissa)



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Picture 3
Discussing about the main issue



Picture 4
Discussing about the main issue



Picture 5
The organization of the meeting



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The interview/meeting is also available on the RYTA YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug9TgynsGk4&t=152s>

2.5 Outcomes of the Meeting

This meeting served as an important milestone in bridging the efforts of the RYTA project with the Municipality of Larissa's ongoing youth initiatives, fostering a collaborative approach to youth empowerment both locally and across borders.



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Chapter 3: Minutes referring to the Jordanian e-meeting with policy makers, led by NARC (Jordan)

1.1 Minutes of the Meeting

This paragraph provides the minutes of the meeting realised by the Jordan partner which took place on 9th October, 2024 at National Center for Agricultural Research (NARC) in Ain Al-Basha, Jordan.

It starts with an overview of agricultural practices in Ain Al-Basha and their influence on the local economy. NARC has an important role in supporting sustainable agriculture and related job creation.

During the early stage of the meeting one presentation was made by the project Manager Ms. Ala' Wahbeh regarding the RYTA project.

Then the meeting included an exploration of RYTA's potential to support economic development in Ain Al-Basha by empowering youth. The key discussion points are:

NARC's Role as a Collaborative Hub:

Dr. Khaled Abu Hamour emphasized NARC's function as a center for innovative ideas, where government agencies can collaboratively address Ain Al-Basha's service challenges to enhance the quality of life in rural communities.

Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Role:

Eng. Danya Ghunaimat acknowledged NARC's leadership in hosting this policy meeting under the directive of Minister Maher Abu Al-Samen. The meeting focused on enhancing local services to achieve the Ministry's mission of safe road infrastructure and advanced government facilities.

RYTA Project's Support for Rural Youth:

The RYTA project's platform was highlighted as a key tool in developing rural youth skills, with a focus on agriculture and non-agricultural sectors, thereby contributing to the overall wealth and economic resilience of Ain Al-Basha.



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Appreciation for Infrastructure Development:

Dr. Asim Suleiman Al-Ghunaimat praised the Ministry's infrastructure work, particularly improvements in government buildings and roads, which have positively impacted service quality and accessibility.

Commitment to Rural Youth Employment Initiatives:

Agreements were made to explore targeted projects for job creation in agriculture and other sectors, leveraging the resources and training provided by the RYTA project.

Improving Service Quality and Emergency Response:

Coordinated actions will be taken to update emergency response plans and enhance services in rural areas, addressing infrastructure needs specific to Ain Al-Basha.

Enhancing Agricultural and Sustainability Practices:

NARC will continue its efforts in sustainable agriculture, working with stakeholders to increase economic growth opportunities for local communities.

Expansion of the RYTA Project Training Platform:

This task includes Plans to broaden the RYTA platform's scope to better equip rural youth with skills that match local job market demands, boosting employability and regional economic stability.

Action Items:

In the future, NARC will collaborate with local authorities on proposals to expand rural youth employment. Ministry of Public Works expressed his willingness to coordinate with local departments for emergency plan reviews. RYTA project team stated that they wish to develop targeted training modules tailored to rural youth in Ain Al-Basha.

3.2 Agenda of the Meeting

- Rural Youth Employment Opportunities
- Examination of current employment opportunities for youth in rural areas and key challenges.
- Discussion on how to address these barriers and enhance youth engagement in economic activities.
- Regional Challenges



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- Identification of primary challenges in Ain Al-Basha’s rural areas, particularly in infrastructure and service accessibility.
- Impact of agricultural activities on community welfare and regional employment.
- Emergency Preparedness Plans
- Review of emergency response plans and coordination among local agencies to better serve the community.
- Agricultural Activities and Regional Impact

3.3 List of participants

The participants who attended the meeting were:

N°	Name&Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Khaled Abu Hamour	Director General, National Center for Agricultural Research (NARC)	Jordan
2	Ibrahim Al-Rawahneh	District Governor of Ain Al-Basha	Jordan
3	Ahmed Al-Sarrahneh	Deputy of Ain Al-Basha	Jordan
4	Osama Al-Wreikat	Member of the Decentralization Council	Jordan
5	Danya Ghunaimat	Director, Public Works Office, Ain Al-Basha	Jordan
6	Asim Suleiman Al- Ghunaimat	Head of Ain Al-Basha Health Center	Jordan

Table 2: List of Participants

3.4 Pictures

This section provides some pictures of the meeting and the members who have attended it.



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Picture 1
The members of the meeting



Picture 2
Discussing the main issues of the meeting



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3.5 Outcomes of the Meeting

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhancing Ain Al-Basha’s rural services and economic potential through collaborative policymaking, sustainable agricultural initiatives, and skill-building efforts for rural youth via the RYTA Erasmus+ project.



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Chapter 4: Minutes referring to the Italian e-meeting with policy makers, led by ARCES (Italy).

4.1 Minutes of the Meeting

This paragraph provides the minutes of the meeting realized by the Italian partner which took place on 22nd October 2024 at ARCES in Palermo, Italy.

Dr. **Alessandro Pernice**, Project Manager at ARCES, moderated the workshop titled “Dialogue between Rural Youth and Policy Makers” throughout the event. This workshop was conducted in a hybrid format.

The event brought together young people and youth associations eager to share the challenges they face daily, along with policy makers representing their respective municipalities. Policy makers used their experience to engage with young people, who sought useful advice on how to bring positive change to their rural areas (including Bellacera, Monreale, Bagheria, Gangi, Licata, Vizzini, and others).

Despite coming from different rural areas, the participants demonstrated that they shared many common issues, making for an engaging and dynamic discussion. By sharing these problems, the group was able to find common solutions.

The workshop’s agenda began with Mr. **Alessandro Pernice** presenting the RYTA (Rural Youth Training Activities) project, followed by a demonstration of the RYTA platform by Mr. **Antonino Carnevale**, who explained its usefulness and features for interested young users.

Next task was a brief introduction of the participants, starting with Ms. **Giusy Chiello**, the Delegate Councillor for Communications for the Municipality of Bagheria, who highlighted her long-standing collaboration with Mayor Mr. **Filippo Tripoli**. Ms. **Ina Modica**, Head of the Press Office for the Municipality of Monreale, discussed the challenges her municipality faces in responding to young people’s desire for change in handling key issues such as population decline and reduced commerce.



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Then, representatives from the Madonie Youth Council, Ms. **Tiziana Albanese** and Mr. **Aldo Nasello**, spoke about the limited interaction between the youth council and policy makers.

Ms. **Giusy Chiello** highlighted the context of Bagheria, noting that since 2018, young people have been represented by a Youth Council. Initiatives focused on environmental awareness, such as waste management, are led by youth and remain a pressing challenge. In Bagheria, young people have the opportunity to meet and discuss public issues in a space that was formerly confiscated from the mafia. She proposed **establishing a network of youth councils across Sicily**, which garnered positive feedback for its potential to foster meaningful connections between towns and their young citizens.

Ms. **Ina Modica**, together with Asia Albano from Monreale's Youth Council, highlighted the urgent issue of depopulation impacting nearly all rural areas. In Monreale, young people frequently travel to Palermo for even minor daily activities, leading to a diminished connection to their local community. She stressed the need to inspire young people to engage with their rural surroundings, making these areas focal points for their future aspirations and opportunities for new business development.

Ms. Tiziana Albanese and **Mr. Aldo Nasello** highlighted the valuable role that youth councils play in serving their communities. This value is recognized by young people, as membership in the Madonie region's youth councils has grown substantially to approximately 1,500 members. They gave the example of a successful awareness campaign that prevented the closure of Petralia's hospital.

The central part of the meeting was dedicated to reflections and questions from the young participants in the workshop. This shared reflection was enhanced by using the MIRO platform, which created a virtual whiteboard where all highlighted challenges, potential solutions, and their benefits were recorded.

First, the policy makers were asked about **the role schools** play in fostering a sense of belonging to the rural community. It was concluded that, while teachers play a fundamental role, change must primarily come from parents and families, who should instill values of active citizenship, participatory approaches, and stakeholder engagement.



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Secondly, it was noted that in some rural areas of Sicily, such as Licata (in Agrigento province), the youth council struggles to play an active role in decision-making processes. Despite innovative ideas from young people, they often go unheard, as there is no representative within the youth council who takes responsibility for their proposals.

Another issue raised was the problem of **public transportation**. In certain areas, the lack of public transportation is felt acutely, particularly during highly active periods, such as during “Le Vie dei Tesori” (The Paths of Treasures), a Sicilian initiative aimed at exploring Sicily’s cultural heritage. This **lack of public transport** limits access to cultural assets (like rural villages) where the need for these services is especially pressing.

Another significant concern noted by the young participants was the quality of local administrations, often staffed by only a few employees. This **lack of staff** affects the proper functioning of administrative activities, which, in turn, impacts the welfare of the rural community.



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4.2 Agenda of the Meeting

- Registration of participants
- Presentation of RYTA project
- Official Greetings: Municipality of Bagheria
- Official Greetings: Municipality of Monreale
- The main issues of rural areas using MIRO platform
- The point of view of the Youth Council
- Discussion reporting: MIRO platform

4.3 List of participants

The participants who attended the meeting were:

N°	Name&Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Alessandro Pernice	ARCES	Italy
2	Silvia Lambone	ARCES	Italy
3	Davide Gaudesi	ARCES	Italy
4	Caterina Vitale	ARCES	Italy
5	Marta Cuccia	ARCES	Italy
6	Melinda Terranova	ARCES	Italy
7	Dario Guarrata	ARCES	Italy
8	Tiziana Albanese	Youth Council of the Municipality of Madonie	Italy
9	Agostino Di Cristina	ARCES	Italy
10	Antonino Carnevale	ARCES	Italy
11	Giuseppina Chiello	Municipality of Bagheria	Italy
12	Aldo Nasello	Youth Council of the Municipality of Madonie	Italy
13	Giuseppe Rallo	ARCES	Italy
14	Giancarlo Amato	ARCES	Italy
15	Ina Modica	Municipality of Monreale	Italy
16	Asia Albano	Youth Council of the Municipality of Monreale	Italy



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4.4 Pictures

This section provides some pictures of the meeting and the members who have attended it.



Picture 1

Mr. Alessandro Pernice (Project Manager of ARCES) introduces the workshop



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Picture 2

Mr. Antonino Carnevale presents the RYTA platform



Picture 3

Ms. Giusy Chiello and Ms. Ina Modica explained the main problems of the Municipality of Bagheria and Monreale



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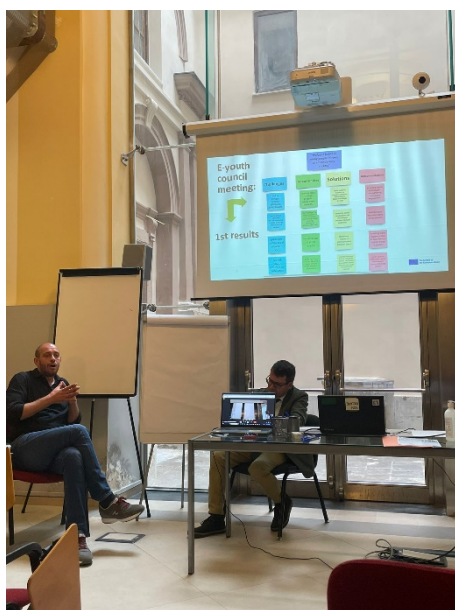
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Picture 4

Ms. Tiziana Albanese (Youth Council of Madonie) talked about the youth empowerment



Picture 5

Mr. Aldo Nasello presented some initiatives carried out by the Youth Council of Madonie using the MIRO platform



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Picture 6
Discussion between the participants

4.5 Outcomes of the Meeting

Representatives from the municipalities of Bagheria and Monreale, the Madonie Youth Council, and ARCES's RYTA project team agreed on the importance of creating a NETWORK among Sicilian youth councils. This network, facilitated by ARCES and involving the two municipalities (Bagheria and Monreale), would serve as a tool and virtual space for sharing ideas, projects, initiatives, events, and news related to unresolved rural issues that require policy makers' attention. This network will have a dedicated space on the RYTA platform, enhancing visibility for the initiative and allowing it to be replicated or expanded to other regions.

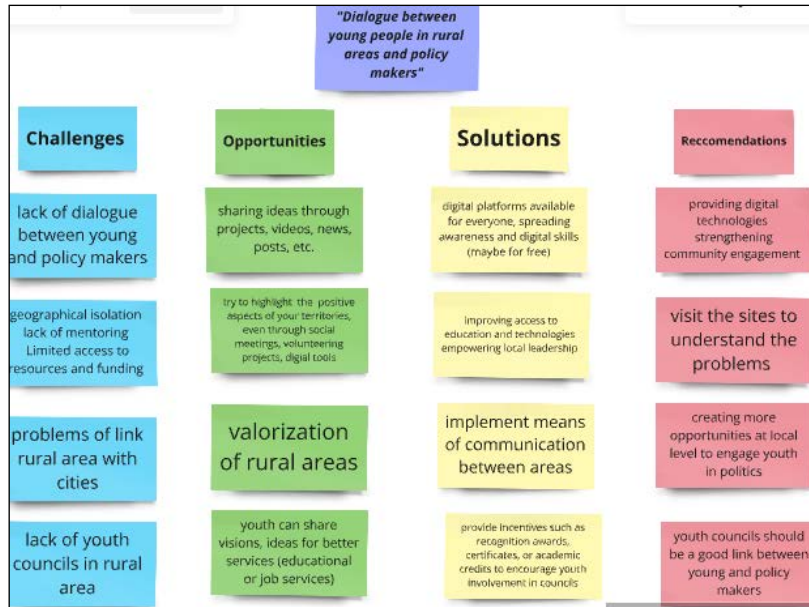
4.6 Miro Session

During the workshop 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.



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https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/WWZ2Y1M3T0VCN3I0VHQ4YmRhanpUeGRGS0IYMEdaUG5xZm5Xa3FRM1jVaWRjVGd1eWQyZTBQTEw1YnB6blpSVnwzNDU4NzY0NjAxMTAzMjUzNDU5fDI=?share_link_id=805546438852



Picture 7. The challenges and solutions



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Chapter 5: Minutes referring to the Tunisian e-meeting with policy makers, led by BusinessMed (Tunis)

5.1 Minutes of the Meeting

This paragraph provides the minutes of the meeting realized by the Tunisian partner which took place on 28th October, 2024 in Tunisia.

The meeting aimed to present the Ryta Project and explore how rural youth can actively participate in local decision-making through an online platform, using Mahdia Municipality as an example.

Municipality representatives shared their consultative approach, highlighting the importance of youth involvement in shaping project outcomes. They cited the green mobility project as an example, illustrating how young people can participate at each stage of project development.

Youth representatives raised questions regarding:

- The sustainability of their engagement beyond the project launch;
- Their influence on final decisions;
- Access to training to strengthen their civic participation.

Municipality representatives reaffirmed their commitment to integrating youth into decision-making processes and providing necessary resources to support their involvement.



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5.2 Agenda of the Meeting

1. Welcome and Introduction
 - Participant introductions and meeting goals
 - Overview of the Ryta Project
2. Ryta Project Overview
 - Presentation of the project and the online platform for rural youth
3. Municipality's Participatory Approach
 - Explanation of Mahdia's consultative approach
 - Green Mobility Project example
4. Youth Discussion and Questions
 - Youth questions on engagement, decision-making, and training
5. Next Steps and Closing
 - Municipality's responses and next steps
 - Summary and closing remarks

5.3 List of participants

The participants who attended the meeting were:

N°	Name&Surname	Company/Organisation	Country
1	Mahdi Khomsi	BUSINESSMED	Tunisia
2	Mohamed Boussouffara	Mahdia municipality representatives	Tunisia
3	Zied Debbabi	BUSINESSMED	Tunisia
4	Slim Kharbechi	BUSINESSMED	Tunisia
5	Seif Jaaouane	BUSINESSMED	Tunisia

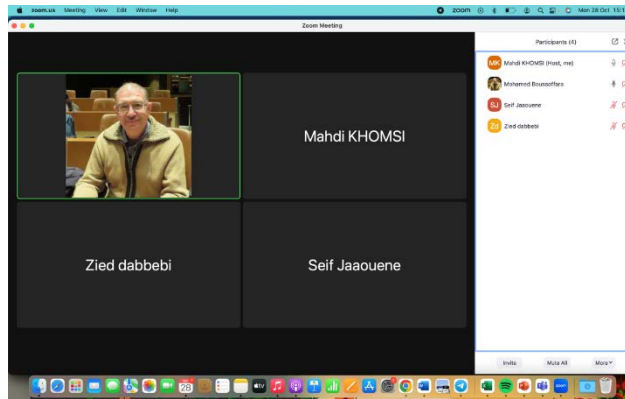
Table 4: List of Participants



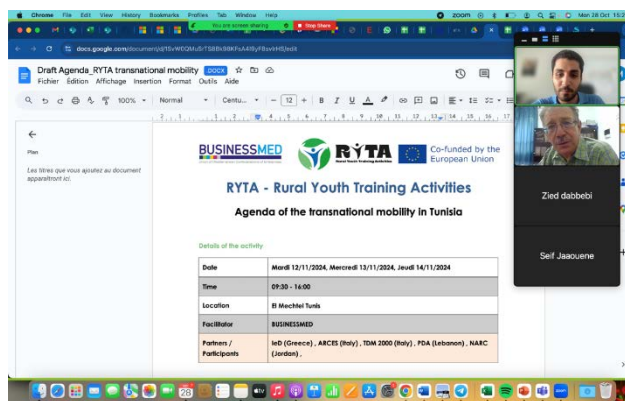
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5.4 Pictures

This section provides some pictures of the meeting and the members who have attended it.



Picture 1
The members of the meeting



Picture 2
Discussion between the participants



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5.5 Outcomes of the Meeting

Municipality representatives reaffirmed their commitment to integrating youth into decision-making processes and providing necessary resources to support their involvement.

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 goal that the meeting participants had set was fully achieved: to give young participants from rural areas the opportunity to express their ideas in front of stakeholders.

What can be gathered from these e-meetings is the commitment shown by the young participants to improve certain aspects of their rural areas.

Additionally, all the policymakers who took part in this discussion have also expressed their support for improving their policies to better address the needs of rural youth.

To achieve this, several solutions and recommendation had been proposed by the policy makers of the meeting held by the partners, based on the identification of relevant challenges that affect several territories of Italy, Greece, Jordan, Greece and Tunisia.

Challenges

Below are indicated some of the challenges that emerged during the debates which appear to be in common to all the Partner to RYTA project.



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

- Geographical isolation
- Lack of mentoring
- Lack of interest from youth to Politics
- Limited access to resources and funding
- Connections linking rural areas with cities
- Lack of common spaces for dialogue (e.g., youth councils)
- Absence of youth councils in rural areas
- 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;



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- Developing digital platforms accessible to everyone, promoting awareness and digital skills (potentially for free);
- Sharing more success stories through projects, videos, news, posts, etc.



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