Rural Youth as Leaders of Change

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My story

Youth activator Anu Suotula

Before I started working in the LAG Keskipiste-Leader 2017, I had worked in a wide variety of jobs. I have worked as a swimming teacher, baby swimming advisor, youthwork advisor, managing director, but also I have worked in a local supermarket as a saleswoman. Just for example.

In January 2017, I started working in the LAG as a part-time employee. In september 2017, I got a full time job in a Youth project and in January 2022 I got a permanent job.

Many youth activities and also other things that we have done in our LAG **are something what other LAGs haven't done**. It means that we had to be **creative and open-minded**. We had to think about our role in youth work field very carefully and start to live like that.

Rural aspirations for 2040

Young activator's perspective

We can't change things if we won't give real opportunity for young people to participate in development work.

It means that we have to listen to young peoples' needs and ideas. After that we have to make sure that they have real opportunity to implement their ideas.

They don't need adults to do these things for them, they need opportunity to implement these things themselves.

1. Atitude change

2. Better co-operation between different youth organisations

3. LAGs give real opportunity for young people to develop their home area

Youth engagement in the Rural Pact
Young activator's perspective

If we want to activate young people in rural development, we need resources to do that. This project world is quite dificult to understand and young people need somebody to explain that bureaucracy.

1. Resources to project employees to work with young people

2. Young people into strategy work

3. Resource for national coordination for rural development from a youth perspective

Thank you