



DFD-YD/ETD (2025) 39

Budapest, 11 March 2025

RURAL ADVOCACY: BUILDING SKILLS AND EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS ACROSS RURAL EUROPE

Study session organised within the Youth for Democracy programme
in cooperation with Rural Youth Europe (RYE)

**European Youth Centre Budapest
room A**

16 – 22 March 2025

DRAFT PROGRAMME



Sunday, 16 March 2025

Arrival of participants

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Informal welcome evening

Monday, 17 March 2025

09:15 Social and content introduction

09:30 Opening with introduction to study session

10:30 Welcome words from Marcos ANDRADE, Deputy Director of European Youth Centre Budapest

11:00 Break

11:30 Introduction to Council of Europe Youth and Rural Youth Europe

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Getting to know each other and the venue

16:00 Break

16:30 Exploring and explaining the youth advocacy

17:30 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 International evening

Tuesday, 18 March 2025

09:15 Social and content introduction

09:30 Connection between policymaking and advocacy

11:00 Break

11:30 Intersectionality of rural youth as an element of advocacy

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Knowledge and tools for advocacy

16:00 Break

16:30 Practical skills for advocacy from theoretical perspectives

17:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Evening activity decided by participants

Wednesday, 19 March 2025

09:15 Social and content introduction

09:30 "Ways of communication on reaching out and interacting with decision makers" by Daniel Grist, communication manager of RYE, United Kingdom and "Role of public speaking in advocacy" by Laure Verstraete, board member of European Youth Forum, Belgium

11:00 Break

11:30 Advocacy priorities: Policy priorities and Council of Europe Recommendation on Rural Youth, by Matias Rubio, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe, Spain

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Free afternoon

19:00 Dinner out in the city

Thursday, 20 March 2025

09:15 Social and content introduction

09:30 Preparing interaction with policy makers

11:00 Break

11:30 Interaction with policy makers: input by Enikő Varga-Végyvári, Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary, member of European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), Council of Europe

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Reflection on the session with policy makers, collecting learnings: input by communication expert Daniel Grist

16:00 Break

16:30 Creating a podcast with the content of advocacy: input by communication expert Daniel Grist

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Evening activity decided by participants

Friday, 21 March 2025

09:15 Social and content introduction

09:30 Toolkit creation: collecting knowledge for a toolkit on advocacy (part 1)

11:00 Break
11:30 Toolkit creation: collecting knowledge for a toolkit on advocacy (part 2)
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Evaluation of the week and reflecting on new knowledge
16:00 Break
16:30 Closing of the study session with final remarks and certificate awards
19:00 Dinner
20:30 Evening activity organised by participants

Saturday 22 March 2025

Departure of participants

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION "RURAL ADVOCACY: BUILDING SKILLS AND EMPOWERING CHANGE-MAKERS ACROSS RURAL EUROPE"

AIM: The aim of the study session is to empower a new generation of rural youth change-makers and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively engage in advocacy efforts at local, national, and European levels, thus fostering meaningful participation and amplifying their impact on societal change.

OBJECTIVES:

- To bring together rural young people from across Europe and to provide a space for interaction.
- To raise awareness on the importance of advocacy, European democratic processes, the institutions as well as the topic of meaningful rural youth participation.
- To build capacities and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary so they can advocate for their needs, ideas and meaningfully participate in political processes and society as rural youth change-makers.
- To create a new generation of rural youth advocates and leaders, equipped with the needed competencies and tools to participate at the European level and become RYE's new generation of representatives.