

*February 2025*

Newsletter #3

Entering our 4th Semester!

The Rural Youth Future project has entered its **4th semester**, reaffirming our commitment to **enhancing youth employment policies** for **sustainable rural development**.

Throughout this semester, partners have been actively analysing and updating the **good practices database**. Key activities include an insightful **study visit in Slovenia**, organised by **Smart House**, and two **online P2P exchanges** to facilitate **interregional knowledge sharing**. Additionally, **collaborative tools** for internal communication have been updated, and work is progressing on a **common roadmap** and **policy brief** to enhance **policy instruments**.

To ensure smooth progress, various **regional and interregional meetings**, including **Local Stakeholder Group (LSG) meetings** and **Steering Group (SG) meetings**, have taken place to **review and refine project activities**.

7th Interregional Workshop and Steering Group Meeting in Slovenia

September 9th to 11th 2024



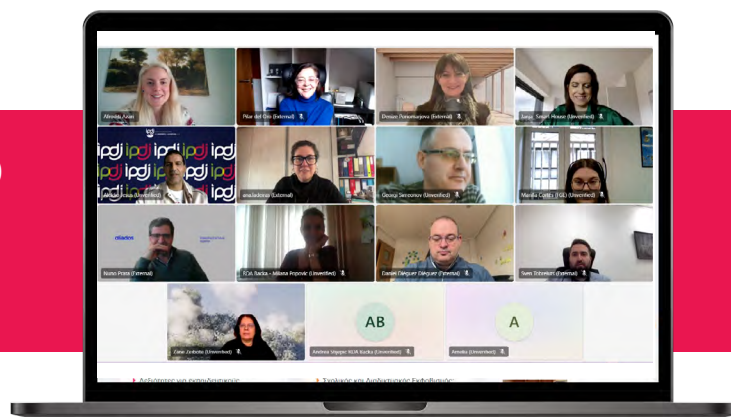
From **September 9th to 11th 2024**, project partners gathered in the beautiful Pomurje region of Slovenia for the **7th Interregional Workshop and Steering Group Meeting**, hosted by **Smart House**. This study visit provided a platform to explore innovative youth initiatives and gain insights into Slovenia's policies on agriculture and sustainability.

Key highlight was the introduction of a new partner, **the Regional Development Agency of Backa from Serbia**, joining the project as a Discovery Partner.

The visit featured strategic discussions on youth policies, entrepreneurship programmes like the **PONI of Pomurje project**, and immersive experiences showcasing Slovenia's cultural and agricultural advancements.

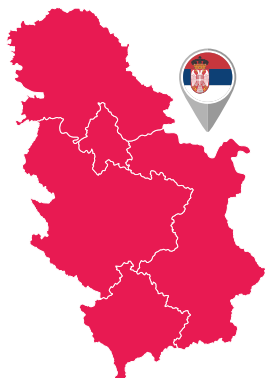
8th Interregional Workshop and Meeting – Online Event

February 18th, 2025



On **February 18th, 2025**, the 8th Interregional Workshop and Steering Group Meeting was held online. The session covered key aspects of the project, including partners' roadmaps to improve policy instruments, the submission of good practices, and updates on Local Stakeholder Groups (LSG). Communication activities from the 4th semester were reviewed, with planning for the 5th semester underway. Additionally, project management discussions focused on progress updates, reporting procedures, and preparations for the midterm review in March.

This virtual gathering reinforced our commitment to enhancing youth policies across rural regions and maintaining collaboration among partners.



Welcoming Our New Discovery Partner: Serbia Joins Rural Youth Future!



We are excited to announce the addition of **the Regional Development Agency of Backa, Serbia**, as our newest Discovery Partner. Serbia's inclusion strengthens our mission of supporting rural youth across Europe, particularly in countries preparing for EU membership.

By joining the Rural Youth Future project, Serbia contributes valuable insights and experiences to our collective efforts in:

- ✓ **Expanding** youth employment opportunities in rural areas.
- ✓ **Counteracting** depopulation by attracting and retaining young talent.
- ✓ **Empowering** rural youth through improved job opportunities and conditions.
- ✓ **Promoting** sustainable development via digital skills and modern work models.

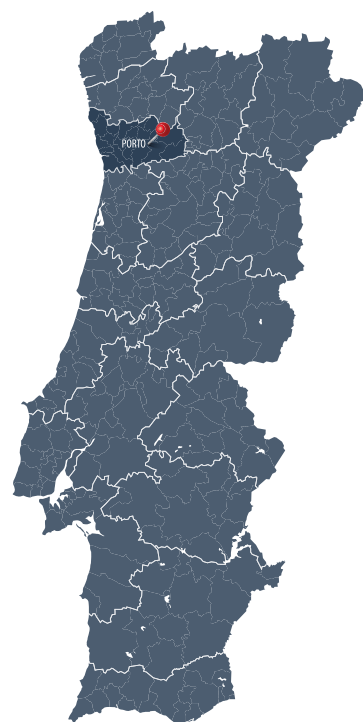
Since July, Serbia has been an active participant, further enriching our project's scope and impact.

Looking Ahead: Next Interregional Workshop in Porto!

Mark your calendars!

Our next **Interregional Workshop and Steering Group Meeting** will take place in **Porto, Portugal**, on **April 23rd and 24th, 2025**, hosted by **IPDJ (Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth)**.

This event will continue our journey in shaping better policies for rural youth and fostering sustainable rural development across Europe.



Stay tuned

for more updates and insights! Visit our website:



www.interregeurope.eu/ruralyouthfuture



Thank you for your continued support in building a brighter future for rural youth!

The Rural Youth Future Team

from Spain, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Latvia, Portugal, Estonia, Belgium and Serbia.



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