



**RESOLUTION INTEGRATED
APPROACH BETWEEN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND
YOUTH POLICY**

**Adopted by the Executive Committee,
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The European Youth Forum has been actively involved in, -and acknowledges results of the work in the framework of the Council of Europe towards an integrated approach between rural development policy and youth policy.

The work started during the study session "Too young for the rural areas?" and the Round Table together with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in the EYC Budapest in October 1997. Continuation of the work was the Symposium of the Council of Europe "Youth Participation in Rural Development" , held in the EYC Strasbourg in March 1998.

In the line of the results of the Symposium, the European Youth Forum recognises that rural areas in Europe are as diverse as its social, economic, political and geographical realities. At the same time, rural youth cannot be considered as a homogeneous group. Disadvantaged youth is defined by a lack of access to employment, education, mobility, information and leisure time facilities and this is often the situation faced by young people living in rural areas. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid that any measure taken by all actors is adapted to the special life situation of the people concerned.

Therefore the European Youth Forum recommends to a variety of youth organisations:

- To take on their responsibility in the shaping of rural society and community life and therefore become more active in the development of an integrated approach between rural and youth policy;**
- To inform a wider public about the problems affecting young people living in rural areas;**
- To develop and offer training programmes for young people in rural areas providing them with the knowledge, competence and skills to actively participate in the shaping of rural life;**
- To encourage local and regional projects run by young people themselves;**
- To make efforts to create new branches of their associations, including the most remote areas of the countryside in order to create access to their activities.**