

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TERRITORIES

The government has referred to the Economic, Social and Environmental Council the matter of the Situation of young people in rural territories.

1.6M young people aged from 15 to 29 live in mainly rural areas which are home to 18% of the population. Very diverse in nature, the young rural inhabitants express a strong attachment to their area. After Year 10, (the French 3^e), they are more likely than their urban counterparts to turn to vocational training and on average, they do shorter courses in higher education. This is also due to what training is available locally and also to constraints on mobility, financial ones in particular, even though some of the young rural inhabitants do leave to study or work in urban centres.

Young rural inhabitants enter the labour market earlier. According to the CREDOC, 59% of young rural inhabitants have a job (against 49% of young urban inhabitants) and the worker and employee categories are overrepresented. The unemployment rate of young people between 18 and 24 years old living in low-density rural districts reaches 25.1%, against 27.1% in urban areas. However, in these low-density districts, 24.4% of young people aged 18-24 are neither in employment, nor in training, against 20.8% of young urban

inhabitants. There are big differences between men and women in rural areas in matters of training and employment: in rural revitalisation zones (ZRR), 61% of jobseekers under the age of 25 are women. The car is often the only means of daily transport in rural areas, with a more costly mobility than in towns.

The relative ease of access to accommodation contributes to the attractiveness of rural areas. However, there is not much small-sized housing and the pressure on property can be very high in coastal tourist areas or close to borders. Local services are often insufficient in rural areas, where the problem of access to preventive medicine and to care and treatment arises, in particular for rural inhabitants lacking financial means. Digital cover is progressing but areas without cover continue to exist. Rural territories are also less well provided for in terms of cultural services and facilities, even though associations do provide a partial remedy. So-called "youth" policies are often limited to provision for young children, whereas social and professional integration is often at stake for young people.

Young people living in rural areas have greater trust in local relations than those who live in towns, but feel less concerned by the fate of "people who live a long way away". Trust in representative bodies has decreased a lot among young people in rural areas. Multiple office-holding, the age of elected officials or a feeling of having been abandoned, together with the closure of local services, in particular public services, may also contribute. Nevertheless, volunteering is much more common among young people in rural areas than in towns.

Young rural inhabitants enter the labour market earlier

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Danielle Even

is President of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Département of the Côtes d'Armor, Vice President of the regional Chamber of Agriculture for Brittany and member of the ESEC for Economic Life and Social Dialogue and Representatives of Agricultural Activities and Farmers. She sits on the Section of Education, Culture and Communication where she represents the agriculture group.

Contact:

danielle.even@lecese.fr
+33 (0)6 73 01 47 88



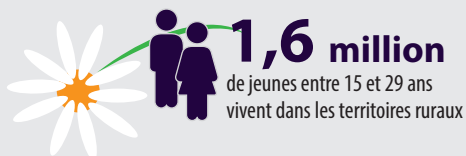
Bertrand Coly

is a specialised educator and former General Secretary of the Rural Christian Youth movement (MRJC) and co-founder of the French Youth Forum (FFJ). He sits on the Section for the Sustainable Management of Territories, on the Section for Agriculture, Fishing and Food and on the Delegation for Long-Range Planning and Evaluation of Public Policies where he represents the group of student organisations and youth movements.

Contact:

bertrand.coly@lecese.fr
+33 (0)6 03 98 85 17

LES CHIFFRES DES JEUNES RURAUX.ALES



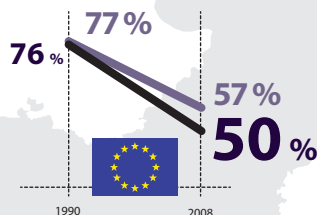
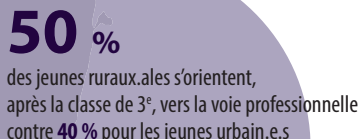
LA MOBILITÉ : DÉTERMINANTE POUR ACCÉDER À L'EMPLOI



LE RAPPORT AUX AUTRES

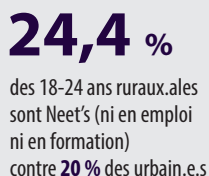


LA FORMATION : D'IMPORTANTES ÉCARTS AVEC LES JEUNES URBAIN.E.S



La confiance dans l'Union européenne
a baissé davantage chez les **jeunes ruraux.ales**
que chez les **jeunes urbain.e.s**

Dans les territoires très peu denses



THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS

TO ENCOURAGE THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TERRITORIES, THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOCUS ON THREE POINTS:

➤ A – MAKE A TERRITORIALISED YOUTH SKILL COMPULSORY

- Make a “youth” (16/29 years old) skill compulsory in the Intermunicipal Community, with a Territorial Youth Project formalised by a multiannual plan of action. Build its content together within the revitalised Development Council, *via* a partnership with those involved in organised civic society by involving young people;
- Provide for co-funding of the Territorial Youth Project (State, CAF, local government), coordinated by the Regional Council;
- Develop gender research in order to gain a better understanding of who young rural people are, found the Territorial Youth Project on a shared partnership territorial diagnosis involving young people;
- Train elected officials and technicians in charge of youth policies. In structures creating bridges between young people and elected officials, encourage participation of young people and their involvement *via* existing structures. Encourage the renewal of rural officers by positively inciting a limit on the number of mandates over time. Authorise people to register on the electoral roll up to one month before the electoral deadlines. Improve information on issuing a proxy form.

➤ B – SET UP RURAL PROJECT CAMPUSES

- Set up in each living area a rural project campus dedicated to the creation of civic activities and/or projects, linked to local people. Inform people on the support possible for youth projects, encourage complementarity, following a shared diagnosis, involve young people in running the projects;
- At the age of 29, extend the possibility of the Local Missions to continue supporting young people with a “global approach”; simplify Youth Guarantee access and management, without altering its characteristics; open up the Board of Directors of the Local Missions to young people and people involved with youth; when assessing Local Missions and awarding funds, take into account the support they provide to young people isolated geographically;
- Connect the rural project campus to actors and partners in the creation of activities; Consular Chambers, Regional Chambers of the Social Economy and Solidarity (CRESS), associations for economic development, economic services of local government;
- Support associations involved in rural development, by providing pointers for a specific State budget for social cohesion in rural areas *via* the FONJEP; create certification of associative structures directed by young people, facilitating access to funding;
- Set up an extra grant available to organisations operating in rural areas, based on the European Volunteer Service model (cover expenses). Encourage missions of the Civic Service co-built with young people and the host structures in rural territories;
- Develop European mobility for all young people and exchanges between rural and urban territories, support provisions establishing links between young people studying and their territory of origin, create the possibility of staying in rural areas for young people wishing to live there;
- Encourage the presence of university teaching staff on the Board of Directors of rural secondary schools and talks given by students in high schools to inform young people about higher education. *Via* the rural project campus enable long-term mobility in each young person's pathway, giving priority to the least well educated and least well qualified.

📌 C - SET UP A RURAL YOUTH PACT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, DEFINED BY TERRITORY V/A THE RURAL AFFAIRS CONTRACTS

- Encourage equality between women and men by training those in charge of young people and those working in school careers guidance in this domain; take gender into account in the programmes, schemes or projects on a budgetary level;
- Reinforce in rural territories the diversity of fields of study in secondary education. Encourage mixing educational paths, make possible guidance in vocational training and higher education *via* financial support based on the model of grants for access to accommodation and transport. Reinforce boarding and the actions of the SPRO to make pathways more fluid;
- Identify the housing needs of young people in rural areas (PLH), enter in the Département-level Plan for Housing Young People solutions that are suited to the territory, supported by those working in the sector, aids by Action Logement, social residences for young people and intermediary rental structures;
- Enter in certain structures in rural areas in charge of young people instruction of the highway code and for the driving test; develop mobility centres (car-sharing, vehicle sharing) and mobility platforms making preferably electric 4 and 2-wheeled vehicles available for loan or rent at reduced cost. Work towards covering the cost of public transport for young rural inhabitants;
- Encourage health check-ups in rural areas with the collection of statistical information to assess the factors that determine the health of young people.

YOUNG RURAL INHABITANTS GET INVOLVED

18%

of young rural inhabitants
are volunteers against **13%**
of young urban inhabitants



50%

of the Junior Associations are created
each year by young people in rural areas

