

**ENRD Seminar on  
Stakeholder Involvement**

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# **Involving youth in rural development**

*Josefin Heed, Swedish Rural  
Network/Swedish Village Action Movement*

# The practice in 3 lines!

- Ask the question: do you want to participate? YES!
- Give real responsibilities, chances and support
- Be the target group

## Main purpose - *Why?*

- Diversity in involvement = better quality of results
- Involvement as a reason to stay or come back
- Myth that young people don't want to participate or live in rural areas
- Difference young/old?
- Younger → More time and choices, less experience and network
- Older → Less time and choices, more experience and network

# Stakeholders concerned - *Who & how?*

- Target group:  
Young people who wants to live in a rural area
  - Leading:  
Youth organisations representing different interests
  - Supporting:  
Combine these with (older) organisations with experience and network
- Intergenerational meetings = passing on network and experience, supporting young people to develop their own leadership

# Lessons

- Difficulties finding youth? Work harder to find them!
- Power dimension - Make an effort to speak to those different from you = inclusion
- Listen to and respect everyone as peers
- Avoid alibi – one young person does not represent all
- It is easier than we put it – complicated models not necessary

# Achievements/Results

- Thematic work group for youth in Swedish NRN – New members that did not know of the RDP or NRN before participating and contributing
- Learning about rural policies → Teaching about different youths conditions and interests
- Creating competence within our area of interest
- Impact on choices; work, studies, living
- Diversity of participants → better quality → more relevant for a larger group of people → disseminates easier → better rural development and more value for money