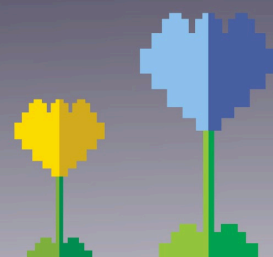


## BECOMING ACTIVE CITIZENS THROUGH MINECRAFT- ENHANCED VIRTUAL TOURISM



### COLLECTING FEEDBACK THROUGH FOCUS GROUPS

#### 1 OVERALL AIM

Focus groups were conducted online > accessibility and convenience. Lasted 2 hours, consisted of people from direct and indirect target groups. Primary goal > gather diverse perspectives and ideas on topics related to MineTOUR. Analysis of responses will further guide the development of strategies and initiatives based on participants' direct experiences and suggestions, aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of MineTOUR's outcomes and contributions to each local community.

#### 2 SPECIFIC GOALS

##### Focus Groups

- Validated needs identified among people 18-24 in rural areas.
- Gathered knowledge/perspectives from youth workers providing training/support to rural young people.
- Promoted authentic responses via semi-structured interviews.
- Assessed how individuals perceive/engage with local tourism.
- Identified key attractions and points of interest.
- Identified key aspects of sustainable rural development.
- Explored challenges hindering sustainable rural development.
- Identified essential digital skills necessary for success.
- Understood challenges in acquiring and improving digital skills.
- Defined sustainable tourism and its significance.
- Identified sustainable tourism practices and their benefits.

#### 3 LOCAL TOURISM

**Insights:** Local tourism is vital. Local attractions should be showcased to attract visitors. Environment and local communities benefit from responsible tourism practices.

**Barriers:** funding, resistance to change, access, limited awareness

**Suggestions:** events, souvenirs, digital tools, involvement of and collaboration among stakeholders

#### SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Incentives:** role of sustainable tourism in promoting rural development, state and private support. Stakeholder engagement. Infrastructure development.

**Challenges:** local authority involvement, funding, resistance to change.

**Suggestions:** use of technology, circular economy practices, sustainable transport, local economic exploitation, community engagement.

#### DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESOURCES

**Importance:** Raising digital literacy for rural individuals. Improvement of infrastructure, access to tools, offering of training programs.

**Challenges:** internet infrastructure, funding.

#### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PRACTICES

**Importance:** environmental impact is minimized, local economies are supported, cultural heritage is preserved.

**Challenges:** resistance to change, pollution,

**Suggestions:** informed action, awareness, educating tourists about sustainable behaviors and practices.

#### 4 OVERALL

Pivotal role of digital technology in promoting and implementing sustainable tourism practices. Young people enthusiastic about engaging with tourism. Need to balance technological advancements with preserving traditional elements. Innovation should be embraced while upholding principles of sustainability to ensure long-term viability of tourism destinations and well-being of local communities.

