

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY:
Preparation Module**

1. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

The question of smart growth in small towns and rural communities.

Many rural communities and small towns are facing challenges: a declining rural population, loss of study and workplaces, budget means and at the same time rapid growth of metropolitan areas. What strategies can be used to protect and preserve the environment and at the same time create growth and development?

Dear delegates of the committee of environment, public health and food safety (ENVI),

the notion of smart growth is one said to be effective in economically and socially strengthening rural communities facing the repercussions of urbanisation, that is, a declining rural population, a loss of promising educational and employment opportunities, a loss of farms and agricultural lands, as well as overall budget means. This is an especially relevant issue in the EU nowadays, as the reality of rapid civilian, industrial and economic growth in metropolitan areas among other factors, can attest to that. In this fact file, we have included definitions to key terms associated with our issue, as well as the sources. Stating your source is very important for the writing of our resolution and always comes in handy during the General Assembly. In this fact file, we identify and summarize the issues in seven sectors of rural life: education, industry, transportation, agriculture, infrastructure, economy and tourism. Naturally, these aren't the only areas that the problems surrounding our committee issue are limited to, which is why it is important for you to do further research.

Please work your way through the information provided and the links in the prep module. As mentioned, further research beyond the provided links and definitions is very valuable and encouraged. Please think about problems and possible solutions, assess the current situation within the EU, the measures being taken and their effectiveness. It is vital for you to do your own research, reading-up and study this fact file in order to effectively contribute to our discussions, committee work and the General Assembly.

We very much look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas!

Best of luck,

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Your CP Team

If you have any queries or trouble understanding the contents of this fact file, we will gladly help you to the best of our abilities, therefore please do not hesitate to contact us at these addresses:

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To make sure that you have all understood the topic sufficiently we would like you to write a short (1-2 pages) summary of our topic, covering both problems and possible solutions. We expect you to present this in our first committee meeting.

Links:

Basics on smart growth in rural areas:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities>

<https://www.rural-design.org/resource/smart-growth-strategies-rural-communities>

http://reconnectingamerica.org/assets/Uploads/2010_smartgrowthrural.pdf

The Europe 2020 strategy:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/smart_growth/annex_comm2010_553.pdf

<http://www.efesme.org/europe-2020-a-strategy-for-smart-sustainable-and-inclusive-growth>

<https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/eu-s-smart-specialization-strategies-platform-smart-growth-in-europe-2020-22376> (smart specialization)