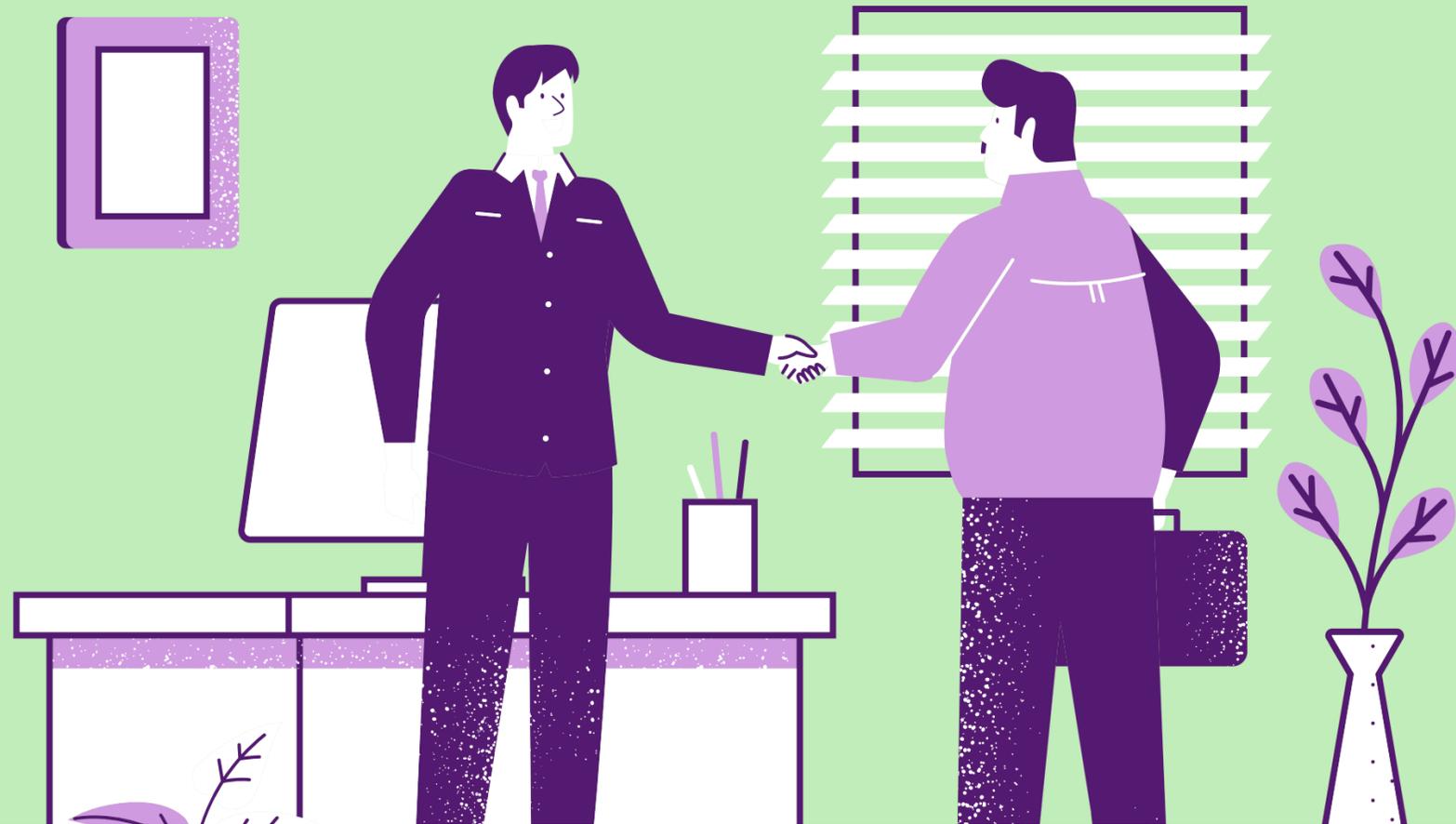


# Round Table on Strengthening Public Policy Making Skills



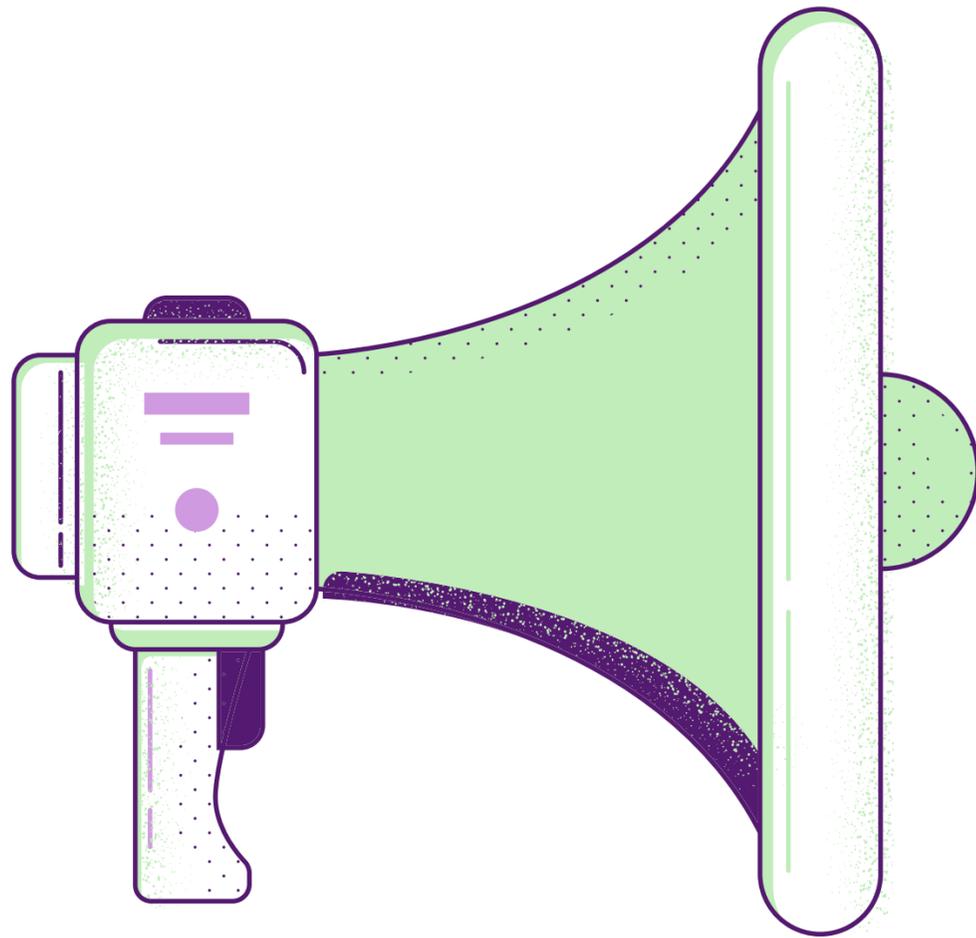
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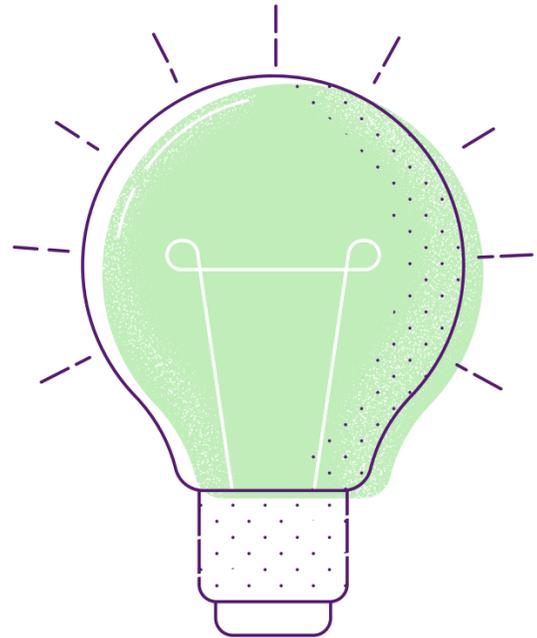


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## Main Objectives

- **To enhance understanding of public policy making**
- **To develop skills necessary for effective policy advocacy**
- **To foster collaboration among youth and policymakers**



# IMPORTANCE OF POLICY MAKING SKILLS

## **INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING:**

SHAPING POLICIES: EFFECTIVE POLICY-MAKING SKILLS ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES. THIS HELPS ENSURE THAT POLICIES ARE WELL-INFORMED AND ADDRESS RELEVANT ISSUES.

## **ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION:**

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY: STRONG POLICY-MAKING SKILLS ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR INTERESTS AND THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES MORE EFFECTIVELY. THIS ENSURES DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ARE CONSIDERED IN POLICY DECISIONS.

## **INFORMED DECISIONS:**

DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS: SKILLS SUCH AS RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ARE CRUCIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX ISSUES AND MAKING DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS. THIS LEADS TO MORE EFFECTIVE AND TARGETED POLICIES.

**COLLABORATION AND CONSENSUS:**

BUILDING CONSENSUS: POLICY-MAKING OFTEN INVOLVES NEGOTIATING AND COLLABORATING WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS. SKILLS IN NEGOTIATION AND COLLABORATION HELP BUILD CONSENSUS AND DRIVE FORWARD POLICIES THAT HAVE BROAD SUPPORT.

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT:**

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: MASTERY OF POLICY-MAKING SKILLS CAN ENHANCE CAREER PROSPECTS IN FIELDS SUCH AS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND ADVOCACY GROUPS, OPENING DOORS TO LEADERSHIP ROLES AND IMPACTFUL POSITIONS.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:**

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION: UNDERSTANDING POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THEIR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS, LEADING TO MORE ENGAGED AND INFORMED CITIZENS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETAL PROGRESS.

**PROBLEM SOLVING:**

ADDRESSING ISSUES: POLICY-MAKING SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES. EFFECTIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS LEAD TO INNOVATIVE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING ISSUES.

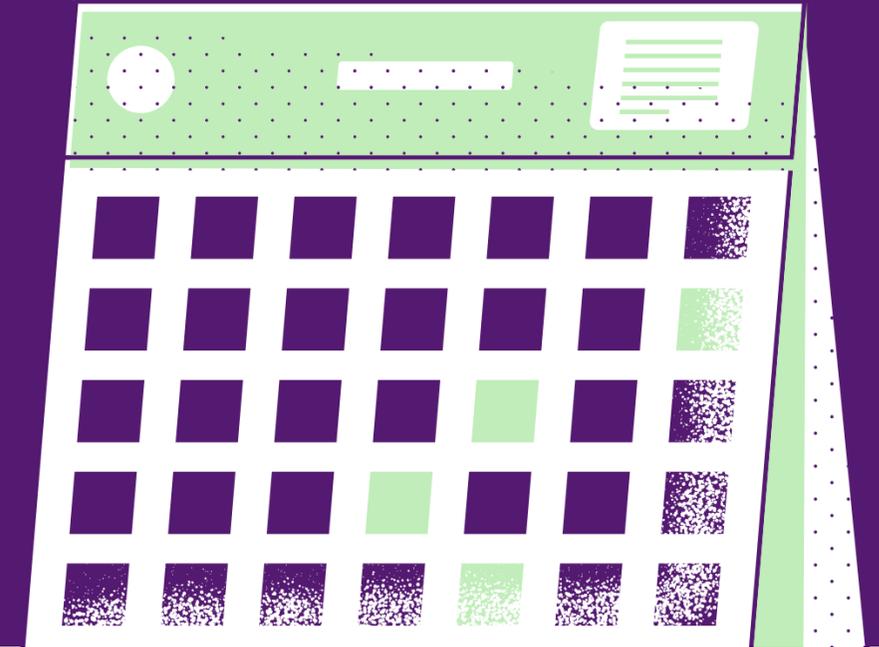
**STRATEGIC THINKING:**

LONG-TERM PLANNING: SKILLS IN POLICY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING HELP ANTICIPATE FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES, LEADING TO PROACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE POLICY SOLUTIONS.

# Current State of Youth Involvement in Policy Making in Slovenia



# CURRENT STATE OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY MAKING IN SLOVENIA



## **YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION:**

**LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS:** IN SLOVENIA, LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS ARE ESTABLISHED IN VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS AND INFLUENCE LOCAL POLICIES. THESE COUNCILS HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN YOUTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY ALLOWING YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.

**NATIONAL INITIATIVES:** ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE EFFORTS TO ENGAGE YOUTH THROUGH CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES AND ADVISORY ROLES. HOWEVER, YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER POLITICAL SPHERES REMAINS LIMITED, AND THERE IS ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT HOW TO ENHANCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING

## **EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS:**

**CIVIC EDUCATION:** SLOVENIAN SCHOOLS INCORPORATE CIVIC EDUCATION INTO THEIR CURRICULA TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC LIFE. THIS INCLUDES TEACHING ABOUT POLITICAL SYSTEMS, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AIMED AT INCREASING POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH.



## **CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS:**

**LIMITED INFLUENCE:** DESPITE EXISTING STRUCTURES FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT, MANY YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEIR IMPACT ON POLICY DECISIONS IS MINIMAL. FACTORS SUCH AS A LACK OF VISIBILITY, LIMITED ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS, AND A PERCEPTION THAT THEIR VOICES ARE NOT FULLY HEARD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FEELING.

**APATHY AND ENGAGEMENT:** POLITICAL APATHY AND A LACK OF ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES ARE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DISILLUSIONED WITH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH CAN HINDER THEIR MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS.

# SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY MAKING

## RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS:

DATA COLLECTION: GATHERING RELEVANT DATA FROM VARIOUS SOURCES TO UNDERSTAND ISSUES COMPREHENSIVELY.

EVALUATION: ANALYZING DATA TO IDENTIFY TRENDS, PROBLEMS, AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED POLICIES.

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING: USING DATA AND RESEARCH FINDINGS TO INFORM POLICY DECISIONS, ENSURING THAT POLICIES ARE GROUNDED IN SOLID EVIDENCE.

## ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION:

PUBLIC SPEAKING: ARTICULATING POLICY IDEAS CLEARLY AND PERSUASIVELY TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES, INCLUDING STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

NEGOTIATION: ENGAGING IN DISCUSSIONS AND BARGAINING TO BUILD CONSENSUS AND ADDRESS OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS.

STRATEGIC MESSAGING: CRAFTING EFFECTIVE MESSAGES AND CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE POLICIES AND RALLY SUPPORT.

## STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING:

LONG-TERM VISION: DEVELOPING POLICIES WITH CONSIDERATION FOR LONG-TERM IMPACTS AND FUTURE SCENARIOS.

PROBLEM SOLVING: IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING POTENTIAL CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS TO POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.

SCENARIO PLANNING: ANTICIPATING DIFFERENT OUTCOMES AND PREPARING STRATEGIES TO MANAGE POTENTIAL RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

# SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY MAKING

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:**

- **CONSULTATION:** INVOLVING RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY MEMBERS, EXPERTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.
- **COLLABORATION:** WORKING WITH VARIOUS GROUPS TO GATHER INPUT, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, AND FOSTER COOPERATION.
- **FEEDBACK INTEGRATION:** INCORPORATING STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK INTO POLICY DESIGN TO ENSURE POLICIES ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THOSE AFFECTED.

## **DECISION-MAKING:**

- **CRITICAL THINKING:** EVALUATING OPTIONS, WEIGHING PROS AND CONS, AND MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS BASED ON ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE.
- **JUDGMENT:** APPLYING SOUND JUDGMENT TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT BALANCE DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND POTENTIAL TRADE-OFFS.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS AND BEING TRANSPARENT ABOUT THE RATIONALE AND OUTCOMES.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION:**

- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** OVERSEEING THE EXECUTION OF POLICIES, ENSURING THAT THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND ON SCHEDULE.
- **MONITORING AND EVALUATION:** TRACKING THE PROGRESS OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSING ITS IMPACT TO DETERMINE IF IT MEETS ITS OBJECTIVES.
- **ADAPTATION:** MAKING NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON EVALUATION FINDINGS TO IMPROVE POLICY EFFECTIVENESS.



# Policy Support for Youth Participation

# POLICY SUPPORT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

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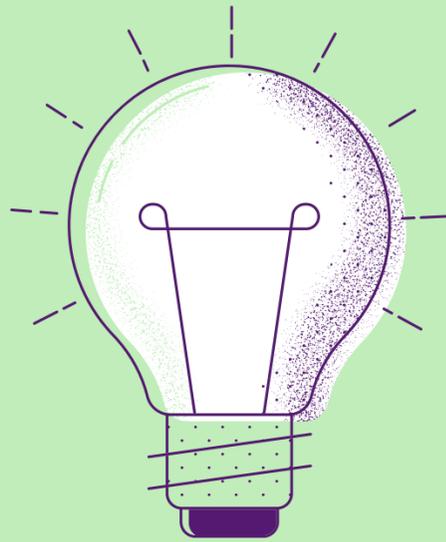
## **Comprehensive Youth Policies:**

- **Definition and Goals:** Comprehensive youth policies are strategic frameworks designed to address the needs and aspirations of young people. They aim to promote their well-being, ensure their rights, and enhance their active participation in society. These policies often focus on areas such as education, employment, health, and civic engagement.
- **Implementation:** Effective youth policies involve coordinated efforts across various sectors and levels of government. They include clear objectives, action plans, and measurable outcomes. Successful examples often feature collaboration with youth organizations, regular consultation with young people, and dedicated funding.
- **Impact:** Comprehensive youth policies can improve access to services, reduce youth unemployment, and increase opportunities for personal and professional development. They help create environments where young people are encouraged to engage in civic and political activities

# LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR PARTICIPATION



- **Legislative Basis:** Legal frameworks establish the formal structures and processes for youth participation in decision-making. They may include laws or regulations that guarantee youth representation in councils, advisory boards, or other decision-making bodies.
- **Rights and Protections:** These frameworks often outline specific rights and protections for young people, such as the right to participate in political processes, access to information, and protection from discrimination. They provide a legal basis for ensuring that youth voices are heard and considered in policy-making.
- **Examples:** Various countries have enacted legal measures to support youth participation. For instance, some have laws mandating youth councils at the local level or requirements for youth consultation in policy development. These legal frameworks help institutionalize youth involvement and make it a regular part of the policy-making process.



# DISCUSSION TOPICS

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Identifying key skills needed for effective policy making

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Sharing experiences and best practices from successful initiatives

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Developing action plans to enhance youth involvement in policy making

# RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR YOUTH POLICY PARTICIPATION

## **Available Resources:**

### **Government Programs:**

**Youth Development Initiatives:** Many governments offer programs aimed at enhancing youth skills and engagement. These can include leadership training, grants for youth-led projects, and internships with public institutions.

**Policy Support Schemes:** Some countries have specific government initiatives to involve young people in policy-making, such as youth councils or advisory committees that provide input on national and local policies.

**Funding Opportunities:** Governments often provide funding for youth organizations and projects that aim to address social issues or enhance youth participation in civic activities.



## **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:**

**CIVIC EDUCATION:** SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES MAY OFFER COURSES ON POLITICAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, WHICH EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES AND THEIR ROLE IN THEM.

**WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS:** VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONDUCT WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS FOCUSED ON POLICY-MAKING SKILLS, SUCH AS RESEARCH METHODS, ADVOCACY STRATEGIES, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.

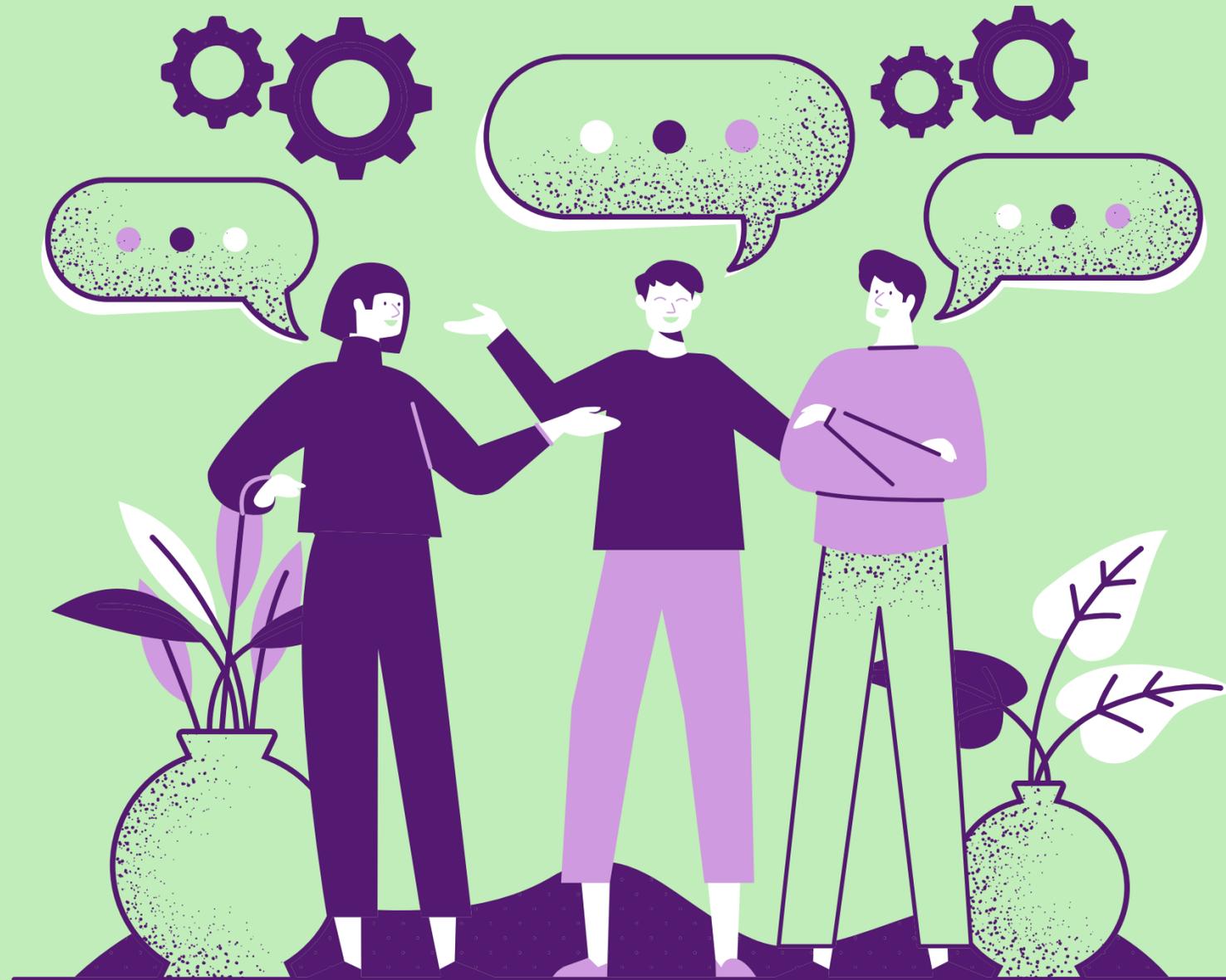
**ONLINE COURSES:** PLATFORMS LIKE COURSERA, EDX, AND KHAN ACADEMY OFFER COURSES ON TOPICS RELEVANT TO POLICY-MAKING, PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH INTERESTED IN POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

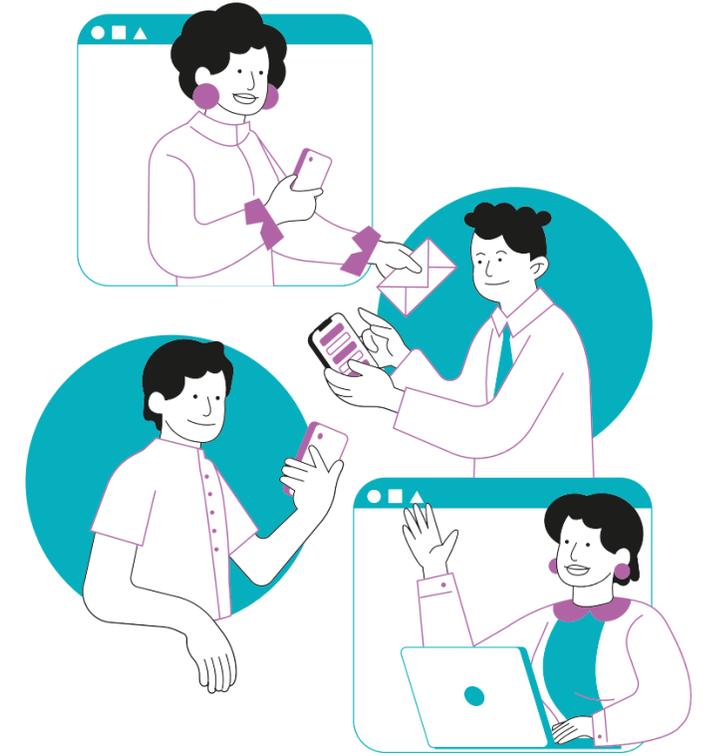
## NGO SUPPORT:

**YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS:** NGOS DEDICATED TO YOUTH ISSUES OFTEN OFFER SUPPORT THROUGH MENTORING PROGRAMS, ADVOCACY TRAINING, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGNS AND POLICY DISCUSSIONS.

**CONSULTATIVE NETWORKS:** MANY NGOS FACILITATE YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY ORGANIZING CONSULTATIONS AND PROVIDING PLATFORMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

**CAPACITY BUILDING:** NGOS MAY ALSO OFFER RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING POLICY SKILLS, SUCH AS TOOLKITS, GUIDES, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH POLICYMAKERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.





# THANK YOU!



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