

➤ FIND MORE ABOUT THE METHODOLOGY

The *Six Steps to Participation in Civic and Democratic Processes* initiative intends to propose a methodological approach to both promote active participation among young people and engage various stakeholders/ policymakers in constructive dialogue and action with young people.

Goals and objectives

When followed, this methodology is expected to result in the following:

- Young people and policymakers will build strong relations and connections both to each other and to the community they belong to.
- This methodology will enhance self-awareness and personal development.
- The methodology will support all target groups to establish and maintain relations with people, including those from diverse backgrounds.
- Young people and policymakers will understand the links between their local realities and the global context. They will become more aware of different sources of information and the way to access them. In that sense, they will be able to critically assess questions and rethink what they watch and read.
- All target groups will be able to think outside the box, to raise innovative ideas and look for creative and alternative solutions.
- All target groups will be able to employ their creativity into an active process.
- All target groups will build skills for active civic participation, make smart decisions, and implement them.
- All target groups will be able to cooperate and share tasks with others.
- All target groups will have belief and motivation to make a difference.

In general, this methodology:

- Promotes participation in civic and democratic processes that affect the lives of everyone,
- Empowers and builds capacity of young people for active civic and democratic participation

The *Six Steps to Participation in Civic and Democratic Processes* is an active learning process which aims to foster changes in our society, it is a problem-based learning process which encourages young people to ask questions, reflect on issues that affect their lives and explore the complexity of real world's situations.

The methodological steps

The process of participation in civic and democratic processes is structured into 6 steps as follows:

1. **Connect to your surroundings!** This step provides young people with an opportunity to make links between their own lives, the life of their local community and its relation to people and things in a wider world. In this step young people also explore their identities both in their local and international level, as well as personal values and attitudes towards their ability to make a difference.
2. **Choose an issue!** This step allows young people to brainstorm important issues affecting their lives, and possibly inhibit their active (digital) participation to civic and democratic processes. They will compare these issues in different contexts and question their importance both locally and internationally. In this step young people also prioritize and choose one issue to take action on to improve the situation.
3. **Explore more!** In this step young people have a chance to investigate in-depth the main features of the chosen issue. They draw a multi-perspective picture of the chosen issue, deeply explore its causes and effects, relate them to their own values and attitudes. They should engage in groups and explore together issues they have commonly identified.
4. **Look for solutions!** This step allows young people to think of possible solutions to make a difference on the chosen issue. They are engaged in group

decision-making process where they look for possible actions, discuss their feasibility, choose the best alternative and make an Intervention Plan to implement it. They invite the participation of (local, regional, national) policymakers and stakeholders in order to put pressure to find alternative, appropriate, feasible solutions, and they design together an intervention preferably at the local level.

5. **Act!** In this step young people, collaborating with policymakers and stakeholders, turn their plans into action.

6. **Reflect!** In this step both young people and policymakers reflect on the achievements of the digital participation in civic and democratic processes learning process, discuss outcomes, effects and sustainability of the action(s).

How to unfold this methodology

The NEUEYT project suggest a step-by-step process to roll-out the methodology as it is emphasized in the Six Steps initiative:

- Firstly, you have to engage stakeholders by inviting them to participate and become involved in the process. You can mention the main scope and objectives of the initiative and highlight the importance of actively engaging young people to the community's civic and democratic processes.
- Then, you should facilitate a preparatory session for the participants to present each other, discuss any questions and considerations they have concerning the initiative, and, most importantly, to confirm their active participation to the implementation of the Intervention Plans as it is a quite demanding task.
- Then you facilitate a series of workshops where you go deeper into the methodology and explain to the participants the importance of each step as well as how they can design their intervention plans. In our initiative, we first did a transnational workshop to introduce the methodology and then facilitated local workshops to design the intervention plans. If you wish to follow a structure for the local workshops, you can take inspiration from [our PowerPoint presentation](#) we used for the NEUEYT project.
- Then, you implement the intervention plans by engaging further participants and policymakers.

- Finally, you wrap up the methodology by reflecting either in groups or in one-on-one discussions.