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EU4 YOUTH DAYS

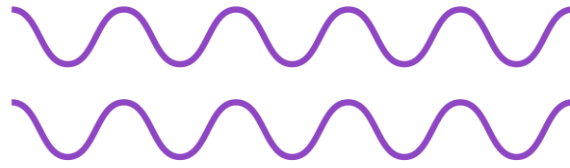
2025



#EU4Youth

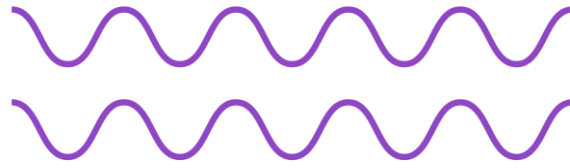
Youth Policy Labs in EaP Countries

Knowledge Sharing Workshop
Civic Participation



Welcome and Introductions





Introduction to the Concept and Practice of Youth Policy Labs - *Claudio Dondi* Senior Expert – EU4Youth Coordination and Policy Support



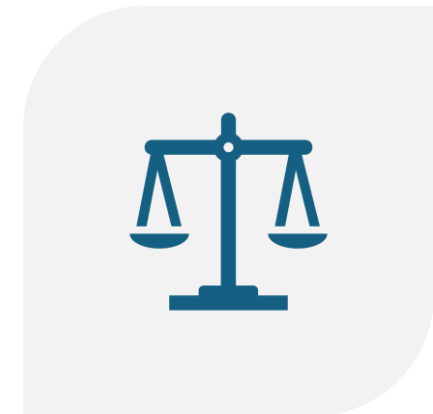
Policy Lab: the Concept



**PART OF PARTICIPATORY AND
DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY**



**BRINGING CITIZENS WITHIN
POLICY MAKING PROCESS**



**COMPLEMENTING
REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRACY WITH BOTTOM-
UP DIALOGIC PROCESS**

Policy Labs are different from....

- A policy roundtable among politicians and experts... **Why?**
- An online consultation to vote or comment on an existing policy proposal... **Why?**
- Institutionalised bilateral dialogue between a specific group of citizens and one Policy-Making Body... **Why?**



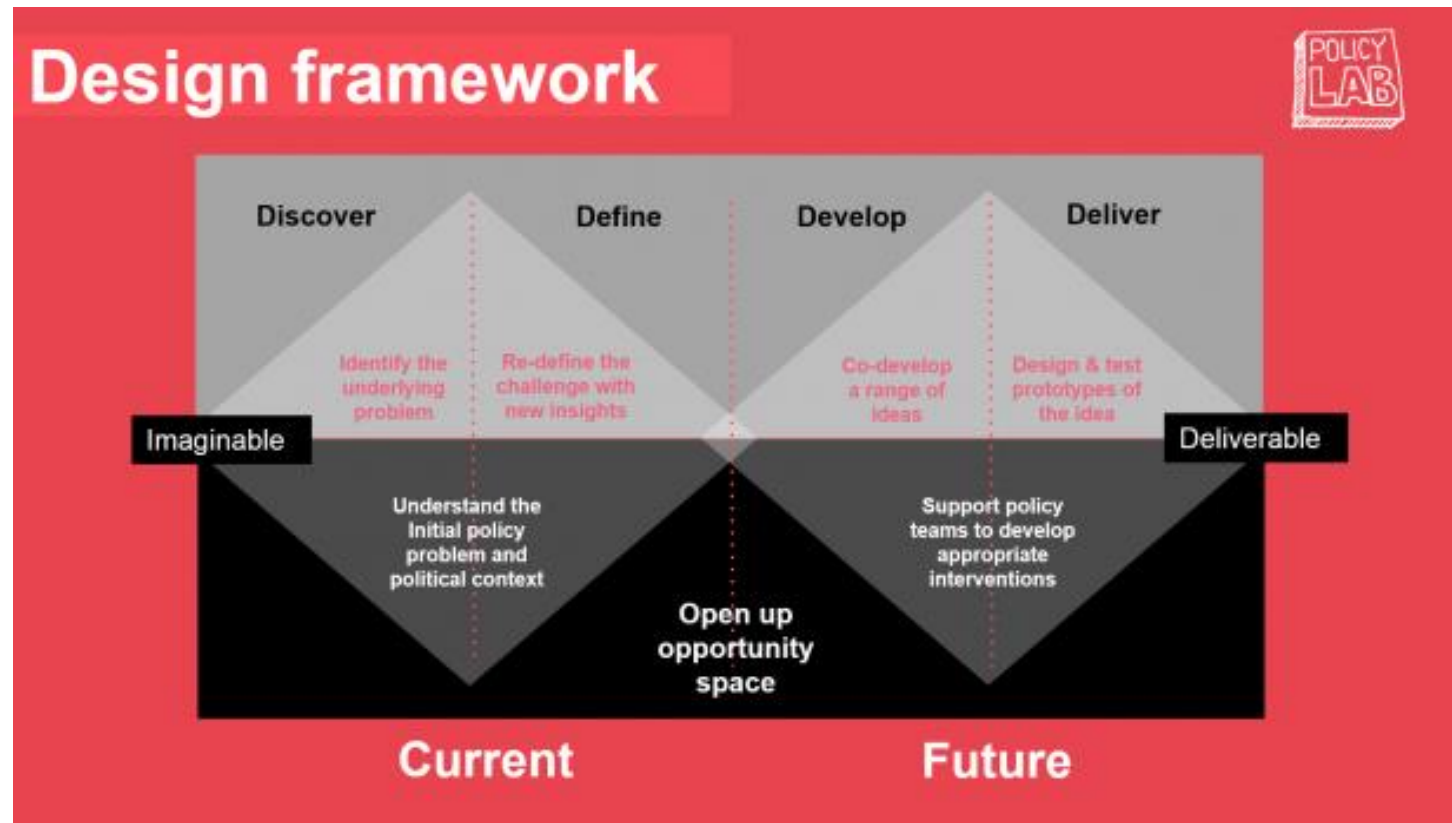
What is Specific in YOUTH Policy Labs?

- Youths are the **main target group** to be involved in policy-making.
- The choice of **Policy Challenge** to be explored must be one of interest for Youths (not necessarily Youth Policy as formally defined).
- The **learning** objective of a Youth Policy Lab is not secondary; new leaders may emerge from the dialogic and networking process.
- Policy Labs offer Youths an «Out of the Box» opportunity to **compare their views with different stakeholder groups**, not only their «institutional interlocutors».

3 Basic Principles of Policy Labs as Co-Creation of Innovative Policy Processes and Outcomes

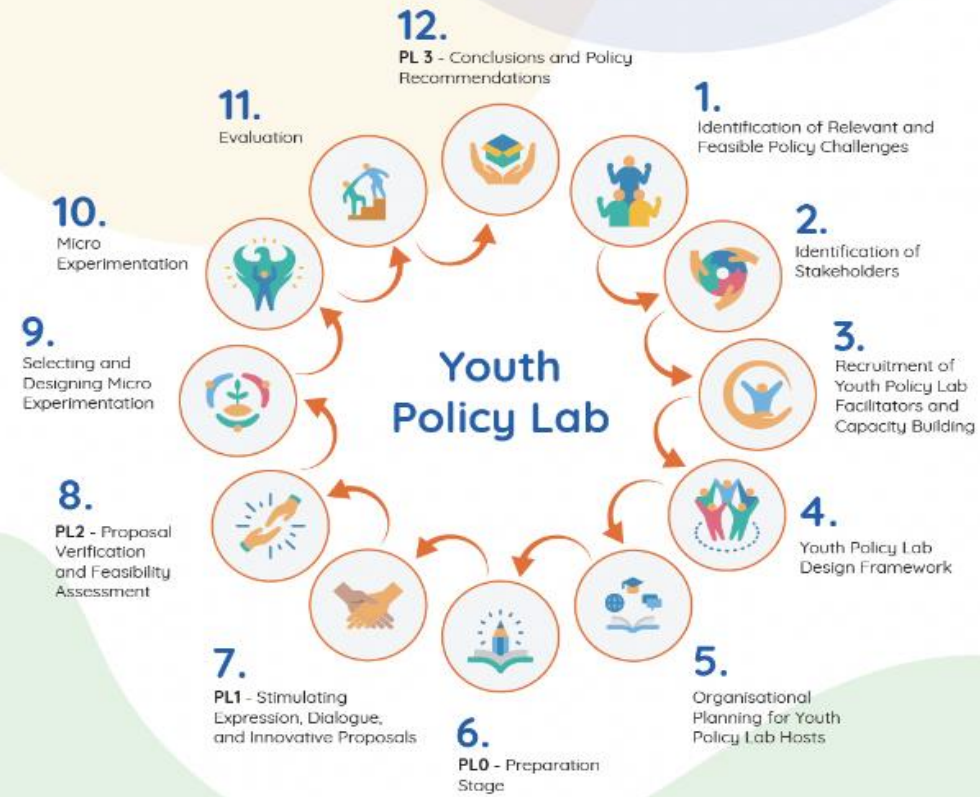
- **User-orientation** (the views, concerns, hopes, and proposals from the final beneficiaries of a policy have to be heard first).
- **Design Thinking:** think solutions first, co-create innovative approaches, not just incremental improvements.
- **System Approach** to the role of the Public Administration (different departments, different institutional levels), civil society, and private sectors to overcome «thought silos» and propose innovative policy developments.

Designing the Cycle of Workshops and Sessions



Playing with the Double Diamond.....

12-STAGE YOUTH POLICY LAB CYCLE





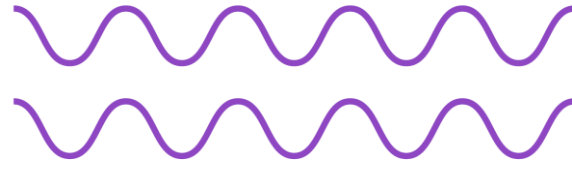
Lessons Learnt from EU4Youth 2020-2023 and Applied in the 2024-2025 Phase

- More engagement is needed from Policy Makers and local stakeholders.
- A cycle of 9 months may be too long to guarantee continuity and motivation.
- Micro-experiments are important to check proposals, but they may become problematic if policymakers are not directly committed.
- Regional or local policy makers may be more interested in hosting and supporting Policy Labs than National Policy Makers; national impact may be built bottom-up from successful local experiences.



Regional Policy Labs HUB - What is it?

- A concept from the previous phase, co-developed with PL Facilitators.
- Gathering the YPL Hosts and Facilitators monthly (online) to allow exchange of experiences and monitoring of the YPL progress.
- Developing, consolidating, and sharing methodological resources and examples of micro-experiments and recommendations.
- Linking to other Policy Labs projects in the EU and the respective facilitators.
- Linking to the relevant EU centres of expertise (JRC-EU Policy Lab, JRC-Competence Centre for Participative and Deliberative Democracy, INTERREG Policy Learning Platform).



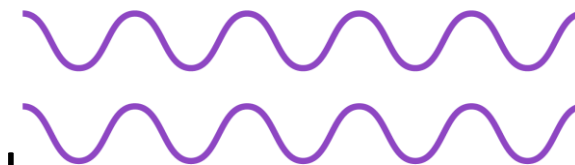
The EU4Youth Experience and Current Developments in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova & Ukraine





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Parallel Sessions



1. Motivation to Organise and Run a Youth Policy Lab: the Youth Organisations' and the Policy Makers' Perspectives
2. Sustainability and Impact of Youth Policy Labs: Lessons Learnt





Thank you!



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