

D.R.E.A.M.LAND

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY MAKING IN SLOVENIA



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1. INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING

Youth participation in policy-making is crucial for fostering a society that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of all its members. In Slovenia, the inclusion of young people in shaping policies is vital for ensuring that decisions on key issues such as education, employment, climate change, and social justice are relevant, effective, and future-oriented. Young people bring fresh ideas and innovative approaches, and contribute solutions that are fit for the rapidly changing world we live in.

Youth participation isn't just about giving young people a voice—it's about ensuring that their voice has influence. When young people are actively involved in shaping the policies that impact their lives, society as a whole benefits from more dynamic, creative, and sustainable solutions. Initiatives like Slovenia's Youth Councils and European Union programs encourage this engagement, offering platforms where young people can connect with decision-makers, advocate for change, and help shape the future.

Why is Youth Participation So Crucial?

Young people are often the most directly affected by policies related to education, employment, and environmental sustainability. They are also more likely to experience the long-term consequences of today's decisions. Their proximity to these issues gives them a unique understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing their generation. For example, addressing youth unemployment in Slovenia requires policies that consider the specific obstacles young people face when entering the labour market. Their direct involvement ensures that policies are not only responsive but also innovative and targeted.

Moreover, young people bring a forward-thinking perspective, particularly in areas like digital innovation and environmental sustainability, where their technological fluency and awareness of global challenges can offer novel solutions. Youth-led movements, both in Slovenia and across Europe, have already shown how young people can mobilize and drive attention to issues like climate action, digital rights, and social equity, reshaping the policy agenda to reflect the priorities of their generation.

At the same time, engaging young people in policy-making cultivates a culture of civic responsibility, empowering them to become active, informed citizens. This early involvement helps build a more engaged society where future generations feel connected to and responsible for democratic processes. The ongoing success of youth-led initiatives, such as environmental campaigns or digital literacy projects, underscores the capacity of young people to drive meaningful change.

How this manual will help young people and youth organizations navigate these processes

This manual is designed to empower young people and youth organizations in Slovenia by providing them with the knowledge and tools they need to actively participate in policy-making. It offers a clear, step-by-step guide on how to engage with decision-makers, influence policies, and make a tangible impact on their communities and the country as a whole. By demystifying the policy-making process, this manual aims to break down barriers and ensure that young people are not only heard but also taken into account.

Key topics covered in this manual are closely tied to both the challenges and opportunities young people face today:

Understanding Policy-Making Structures: We simplify the complex world of policy-making, explaining how policies are formulated and implemented at local, national, and EU levels. This section addresses the lack of information and awareness that often prevents young people from engaging in these processes.

Opportunities for Engagement: Whether it's through local youth councils, national consultations, or European Union platforms, this manual highlights the various avenues available for young people to get involved. By doing so, it addresses the challenge of limited access to decision-makers and offers concrete pathways to participation.

Developing Effective Campaigns: Practical advice on how to build impactful campaigns, craft compelling arguments, and use digital and traditional media to amplify youth voices is provided. This section aims to overcome the perceived lack of influence that young people often feel, equipping them with the skills to drive real change.

Networking and Collaboration: We emphasize the importance of building networks and collaborating with like-minded individuals and organizations. By showcasing platforms and resources available for youth, this manual fosters a sense of community and shared purpose among young people seeking to influence policy-making.

How This Manual Empowers Young People

This manual serves as a roadmap for young people and youth organizations across Slovenia, providing the knowledge and resources they need to actively participate in shaping the policies that impact their lives. It demystifies the policy-making process, breaking it down

into clear, manageable steps that encourage engagement at various levels of governance—from local youth councils and municipal initiatives to national platforms and EU structures.

One of the primary challenges young people face is understanding the often complex and opaque structures of policy-making. This manual tackles that challenge head-on by offering a simplified explanation of how policies are developed and implemented, both at the local and national levels. By doing so, it seeks to address the lack of information and awareness that frequently hinders youth participation.

In addition to outlining the "how" of policy-making, the manual provides a comprehensive guide to the various opportunities for youth engagement. It highlights formal platforms like youth councils and advisory bodies, explains how to get involved in public consultations and campaigns, and points to EU programs that support youth initiatives. In doing so, it helps break down the barriers to accessing decision-makers, providing young people with clear pathways to contribute to important discussions and actions.

The manual also offers practical strategies for developing effective campaigns and advocacy efforts, equipping young people with the tools they need to amplify their voices and influence change. Whether through digital media, petitions, or organized events, the guidance provided empowers youth to overcome the perceived lack of influence they often feel when engaging with political processes.

By fostering a sense of community and encouraging collaboration with other like-minded individuals and organizations, this manual ensures that young people do not feel isolated in their efforts. It highlights the importance of networking and collective action, showing how working together can amplify their impact and contribute to a more democratic and inclusive Slovenia.

In essence, this manual is not just a guide—it's a tool for empowerment, designed to equip young Slovenians with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to step into the world of policy-making and make a tangible difference.

2. LOCAL LEVEL INVOLVEMENT

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE CAN ENGAGE IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

In Slovenia, the active involvement of young people in local governance is not only encouraged but also vital to fostering sustainable and inclusive communities. Young people represent a significant portion of the population, and their perspectives are key in shaping policies that will impact future generations. By engaging in decision-making processes, youth can ensure their voices are heard on issues ranging from education and employment to climate action and urban planning. This section explores various ways young people can become active participants in local decision-making in Slovenia, drawing on the country's political structure, youth initiatives, and collaborative opportunities with local governments.

Understanding Slovenia's Political and Administrative Structure

Slovenia is divided into 212 municipalities, each governed by a mayor and municipal council. These local governments are responsible for making decisions on key areas such as public transportation, urban development, environmental protection, and youth services. In addition to local governments, the country has mechanisms such as the National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) that play an essential role in promoting youth engagement at all levels of governance.

For young people seeking to influence local policy, it is crucial to understand how these local governments operate and who their representatives are. Active participation in local governance begins with becoming informed about the decision-makers and the processes through which policies are shaped.

Youth Participation in Slovenia: Key Statistics

- Total Population (2023): **2.1 million**
- Population Under 18 Years Old: **16.8%**
- Population Between 18-30 Years Old: **19.5%**
- Average Age of Population: **43.5 years**

Given these demographics, Slovenia recognizes the importance of involving young people in decision-making processes to create a future-oriented society.

Pathways for Youth Involvement in Local Decision-Making

1. **Participate in Municipal Youth Councils** Municipal youth councils (mladinski sveti) provide young people with the opportunity to contribute to local policy discussions. These councils exist to represent youth interests and work closely with municipal governments to ensure that youth voices are included in policy decisions. They often focus on areas such as youth employment, education, and community development.

How to Get Involved: Contact your local municipality to find out if a youth council is active in your area. If there isn't one, young residents can collaborate to create one. Youth councils typically meet regularly to discuss issues and propose solutions to the municipal government.

2. **Attend Municipal Council Meetings** In Slovenia, municipal council meetings are generally open to the public, providing a platform for citizens to observe or contribute to discussions. For young people, these meetings offer an opportunity to learn how local decisions are made and to present their views on issues that matter to them.

How to Participate: Research when your local municipal council holds its meetings and attend sessions where topics relevant to youth are on the agenda. Some municipalities also provide opportunities for the public to speak during meetings, giving young people a chance to directly influence decision-making.

3. **Engage in Public Consultations** Slovenia frequently organizes public consultations to gather input on a wide range of local issues, including urban planning, climate action, and sustainability. Public consultations are one of the most direct ways for young people to contribute to local decision-making processes. Through these consultations, youth can provide feedback on proposed projects that will shape their communities.

How to Participate: Stay informed about upcoming consultations in your municipality, either by following local government announcements or through social media. Review the materials provided for consultation carefully, think critically about how proposed changes might impact youth and future generations, and prepare to submit well argued feedback.

4. **Launch or Support Petitions:** Petitions are a formal way for citizens to advocate for change on specific issues. In Slovenia, youth-led petitions have successfully led to policy changes in areas like education, transportation, and environmental protection. Starting a petition allows young people to rally support from their peers and community members on issues they care about.

How to Start One: Identify a local issue that affects young people, and draft a petition calling for specific changes. Use online platforms like "Predlagaj vladi" (Propose to the Government) or gather signatures in person. The most important aspect is gaining widespread community support to demonstrate the need for policy change.

5. **Collaborate with NGOs and Civic Organizations:** Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a critical role in promoting youth engagement in Slovenia. Many NGOs focus on sustainability, social inclusion, and youth empowerment, working alongside local governments to advocate for policy changes. Collaborating with these organizations can provide young people with the resources and networks they need to influence local governance.

How to Participate: Join an NGO or volunteer for local civic organizations that align with your interests. Many of these organizations offer opportunities for young people to engage in advocacy, attend workshops, and participate in campaigns that can lead to meaningful policy changes.

Youth Centres and Local Youth Initiatives

Slovenia's network of youth centres (mladinski centri) provides spaces where young people can engage in various educational, cultural, and social activities. These centres play a vital role in supporting youth participation by offering resources, workshops, and platforms for young people to express their ideas and collaborate on community projects.

Youth centres also act as a bridge between young people and local governments, helping youth navigate the administrative processes involved in submitting proposals or advocating for change. They serve as hubs for youth activism and offer guidance on how to engage in local governance.

National Support for Youth Involvement: The National Youth Council of Slovenia

The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) is a key organization that advocates for youth participation at both local and national levels. It works to ensure that young people are included in decision-making processes that affect their lives and promotes policies that address issues such as youth employment, education, and environmental sustainability.

The council collaborates with local youth organizations and municipal governments to create more opportunities for youth to engage in governance. It also provides training and resources to help young people develop the skills needed to participate effectively in policy discussions.

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Slovenia has witnessed a range of impactful youth-led initiatives that have made significant contributions to local communities. These initiatives focus on various issues, including sustainability, social inclusion, and youth empowerment. Slovenian youth have actively engaged in advocating for policy changes, organizing awareness campaigns, and fostering local collaborations to create a positive impact for their peers and the wider community. Below are some noteworthy examples of successful youth-driven initiatives and suggestions on how to get involved in local decision-making processes.

1. Youth for Climate Justice – Ljubljana's Climate Action Movement

One of the most prominent youth-led initiatives in Slovenia is the **Youth for Climate Justice (Mladi za podnebno pravičnost)** movement. This group has been at the forefront of climate

activism in Ljubljana and across the country, organizing large-scale climate strikes and demanding government action to combat climate change. Their efforts include:

- Organizing protests to raise awareness about global warming and Slovenia's role in the climate crisis.
- Lobbying local governments for stricter environmental regulations and the promotion of green infrastructure, such as cycling lanes, renewable energy, and urban green spaces.
- Influencing the drafting of the **Ljubljana Climate Action Plan**, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a more sustainable urban environment.
[Learn more about Youth for Climate Justice](#)

2. The Maribor Youth Council – Urban Development and Youth Engagement

In Maribor, the **Maribor Youth Council (Mladinski svet Maribor)** has been instrumental in promoting youth involvement in local urban planning and community development. The council has successfully:

- Advocated for the improvement of public spaces, creation of youth centers, and expansion of recreational facilities tailored to young people's needs.
- Collaborated with the local municipality to promote urban renewal projects, transforming abandoned buildings into youth hubs for workshops, cultural events, and educational activities.
- Organized public consultations inviting young people to discuss Maribor's future, including affordable housing, public transportation, and environmental sustainability.
[Learn more about Maribor Youth Council](#)

3. Youth Initiatives for Affordable Housing in Celje

In Celje, the Youth Center Celje (MCC) actively engages in various youth initiatives, including addressing the issue of housing accessibility for young people. The youth center collaborates with local authorities to find solutions such as youth hostels and rental subsidies, and it organizes workshops to educate young people about tenant rights and financial literacy.

Additionally, public calls for the allocation of apartments to young people have been announced, indicating that certain apartments are available with priority given to young individuals and couples, which further enhances housing accessibility in Celje.

In Celje, youth-led initiatives have focused on addressing housing affordability, a critical issue for many young people in Slovenia. These initiatives include:

- Collaborating with the local government to propose affordable housing solutions, such as youth dormitories and rent subsidies.
- Organizing workshops to educate young people about housing rights, financial literacy, and navigating the rental market.

- Leading petitions and advocacy campaigns for increased investment in affordable housing and better regulations to protect young tenants from exploitation.

4. Zavod Voluntariat

Zavod Voluntariat is a non-governmental organization in Slovenia established to promote volunteering and social inclusion, particularly among young people. Their activities focus on various aspects of volunteering, social justice, and intercultural dialogue.

Key Activities and Programs

- **Volunteering Opportunities:** Zavod Voluntariat offers a variety of volunteering projects, including both local and international opportunities. Young people can engage in projects that address social exclusion, environmental challenges, and other current societal issues.
- **Training and Workshops:** The organization conducts training sessions and workshops that help young people develop the skills necessary for active participation in society. These trainings cover topics such as teamwork, communication skills, and conflict resolution.
- **Support for Vulnerable Groups:** The organization focuses on including young people from vulnerable groups, such as young migrants, the homeless, and youth from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. They organize activities that promote social inclusion and support for these groups.
- **Intercultural Dialogue:** Zavod Voluntariat promotes intercultural dialogue and collaboration among different cultural groups in Slovenia. In doing so, they contribute to understanding, respect, and tolerance among young people.
- **Projects and Campaigns:** The organization leads various projects and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of volunteering and social inclusion. These projects often involve collaboration with other non-governmental organizations and local communities.

These initiatives have created a platform for dialogue between young people and local policymakers, ensuring that the housing needs of Slovenian youth are not overlooked.

STEPS TO GET INVOLVED

Slovenian youth play an important role in shaping local policy and decision-making. Participation in these processes is crucial to ensure that the interests of young people are heard and considered. Here is a detailed step-by-step guide to help young people become active participants in local politics.

1. Understanding local political structures

Before young people can get involved, they need to understand how local politics work.

- **Research Local Institutions:** Familiarize yourself with local institutions, such as the municipal council, mayor, local services, and youth councils. This includes understanding their functions, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.
- **Follow Local News:** Stay updated with local news to be aware of what is happening in your community.

2. Participating in local youth councils

Youth councils are an excellent opportunity for young people to directly influence decisions in their municipality.

- **Join the Youth Council:** Find out if your municipality has a youth council. Contact them to inquire about membership conditions and how to apply.
- **Attend Meetings:** Regularly participate in youth council meetings and actively engage in discussions. This will allow you to express your opinions and suggestions.

3. Engaging in public consultations and meetings

Public consultations and municipal meetings are important opportunities to voice opinions.

- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye out for announcements from local authorities regarding upcoming public consultations. These announcements can often be found on official municipal websites or social media.
- **Prepare for Meetings:** Before attending meetings, research the topics to be discussed. Prepare questions and suggestions you would like to share with other participants.

4. Collaborating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

NGOs often operate in the realm of youth activism and offer opportunities for engagement.

- **Join an NGO:** Find out which NGOs in your region focus on youth issues. Join an organization that aligns with your interests.
- **Volunteer and Get Involved:** Participate in NGO projects, either as a volunteer or as an active member. NGOs often organize workshops, consultations, and other events that can help you develop skills and knowledge about activism.

5. Supporting or starting petitions

Petitions are a powerful tool for expressing opinions and demands.

- **Support or Start Petitions:** Participate in existing petitions or start your own on issues that matter to you. Use platforms like [Change.org](https://www.change.org/) to gather signatures and raise awareness about your cause.
- **Organize Campaigns:** If you have an idea for a campaign, gather a group of young people who share your beliefs. Together, you can organize events that draw attention to your issue.

6. Organizing your own youth initiative

If your municipality lacks existing youth councils or initiatives, consider starting one yourself.

- **Building Strength through Connection:** Connect with other young people in your community and local civil society organizations. Together, you can form a coalition focused on pressing issues.
- **Identifying Key Issues:** Determine the critical challenges in your community, such as sustainability, social inclusion, or youth unemployment, and develop plans to address these challenges through local action or advocacy.

7. Continuous education and skill development

For effective participation in local politics, it is essential for young people to continuously improve their knowledge and skills.

- **Attend Workshops:** Sign up for workshops and educational programs focusing on leadership skills, policy advocacy, and community organizing.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** Meeting other young activists and collaborating on various projects will broaden your horizons and provide valuable experiences.

By actively participating in local decision-making processes, Slovenian youth can become a key force in shaping policies that affect their future. Engagement in youth councils, public consultations, NGOs, and personal initiatives allows young people to express their opinions and contribute to improving their communities. With an active and thoughtful approach, young people can influence decisions that shape their world.

3. NATIONAL-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES AND HOW YOUNG PEOPLE CAN ENGAGE

Slovenia operates under a parliamentary democracy characterized by a multi-level governance structure. This structure includes national, regional, and local levels, providing numerous opportunities for youth to engage in the policy-making process. The National Assembly serves as the primary legislative body where laws are debated and passed. Young people can actively participate in shaping national policies that impact their lives through various avenues:

- **Voting:** Citizens aged 18 and older are eligible to vote, empowering young people to influence the election of representatives who will shape national policies.
- **Public Consultations:** The government regularly conducts public consultations on proposed legislation, allowing youth to provide feedback on a wide range of issues, including education, health, and climate policy. These consultations are crucial for ensuring that the perspectives of young people are considered in legislative discussions.
- **National Youth Councils and Advisory Bodies:** Slovenia has established national youth councils and advisory bodies that serve as platforms for youth representation. These councils provide young people with the opportunity to voice their opinions, advocate for their interests, and influence policy decisions at the national level.
- **Youth Platforms and Networks:** Various organizations and networks facilitate youth engagement in national policy-making. These platforms enable young people to connect with one another, share experiences, and collaborate on initiatives that address their concerns and priorities.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS, ADVISORY BODIES, AND PLATFORMS WHERE YOUTH VOICES ARE HEARD

In Slovenia, several platforms ensure that the voices of young people are represented in national and regional decision-making processes:

1. Slovenian Youth Council

The Slovenian Youth Council is a national body that brings together various youth organizations and serves as an advisory council to the government on youth-related issues. Its mission is to represent the interests of young people in Slovenia, focusing on key topics such as education, employment, social inclusion, and health, while ensuring that youth perspectives are incorporated into political discussions. The council also works on developing programs and policies that support active youth participation in society.

2. Regional Youth Councils

In addition to the national council, there are also regional youth councils that operate at the level of individual regions. These councils allow young people to connect with local authorities, express their views on issues affecting their lives, and

advise regional decision-makers. Regional youth councils play an important role in linking young people to the community and promoting active citizenship.

3. Informal Youth Platforms

In Slovenia, several informal youth platforms enable young people to engage, collaborate, and express their opinions. Here are some examples:

- **Slovenian Youth Council:** Although this is a formal organization, it also serves as a platform for connecting various youth organizations and groups, promoting collaboration among them.
- **Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth:** This office provides support and information to youth organizations and encourages informal forms of collaboration among young people.
- **Youth for Climate Justice:** This informal network of young people focuses on environmental and climate issues and organizes events and campaigns to raise awareness about climate change.
- **Youth Centers:** Numerous youth centers across Slovenia (e.g., Youth Center Trbovlje, Youth Center Postojna) offer informal platforms for meeting, exchanging ideas, and organizing various activities for young people.
- **Social Networks and Digital Platforms:** Youth platforms on social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, are used to organize campaigns, raise awareness, and connect young people with various topics and initiatives.
- **Business Incubators and Youth Start-Up Programs:** These programs provide young people with opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills and participate in various projects.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL POLICY DECISIONS

In Slovenia, young people have various avenues to engage with and influence national policy decisions. These mechanisms not only empower youth but also ensure that their voices are considered in shaping policies that affect their lives. Below are key opportunities for youth participation in national policy processes:

Public Policy Consultations: The Slovenian government regularly organizes public consultations on significant socio-political issues. These consultations provide young people with a platform to share their perspectives, submit feedback, and engage in discussions with policymakers. Youth can actively participate by attending these meetings or submitting their views online, allowing them to contribute to shaping the legislation that directly impacts their future.

Campaigns for Policy Change: Youth-led campaigns play a critical role in driving social change and influencing national policy. By mobilizing grassroots support on socio-political issues, young activists can create significant public pressure on policymakers. Initiatives can

range from organizing awareness-raising events to conducting surveys that are important part of their initiatives.

Participatory Budgeting: Some municipalities in Slovenia have adopted participatory budgeting processes, allowing youth to influence how public funds are allocated. By engaging in these processes, young people can propose projects or initiatives that address their needs and priorities, fostering a sense of ownership over local governance and resource allocation.

Digital Advocacy: With the rise of social media and online platforms, young people can leverage digital tools to advocate for policy changes. Online petitions, virtual discussions, and social media campaigns allow youth to connect with a broader audience, raise awareness about pressing issues, and mobilize support for their causes. Digital engagement not only broadens the reach of their advocacy efforts but also facilitates direct communication with policymakers through platforms designed for public engagement.

Participation in Legislative Processes: Young people are encouraged to participate in legislative processes by attending sessions in the National Assembly or on regional level. They can also collaborate with organizations that represent youth interests, such as the Slovenian Youth Council, to present proposals or concerns during public hearings. This direct involvement enables youth to influence legislative debates and ensures that their voices are integral to policy formulation.

Networking with Other Youth Organizations: Collaboration among various youth organizations can amplify the impact of advocacy efforts. By forming coalitions, young people can share resources, knowledge, and strategies, creating a more unified front to address national issues. This collective approach can lead to more substantial influence on policy decisions and foster a stronger sense of community among young activists.

Through these diverse opportunities, young people in Slovenia can engage actively in national policy-making processes. By leveraging these mechanisms, they can ensure that their voices are heard, advocating for policies that reflect their needs and aspirations while contributing to a more inclusive and representative democracy.

4. EU-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT

INTRODUCTION TO EU POLICY-MAKING INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

The European Union (EU) operates through a complex framework of institutions that play distinct roles in the policy-making process. The three main institutions involved are:

1. **European Parliament (EP):** The EP represents the citizens of EU member states and is directly elected by them. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) debate and vote on legislation, advocating also for issues relevant to young people and their needs.
2. **Council of the European Union (Council):** The Council represents the member states' governments. It works alongside the EP to negotiate and adopt legislation, making it a crucial player in determining policies that affect young people.
3. **European Commission:** This institution acts as the EU's executive body and is responsible for proposing new legislation. The Commission also manages the implementation of policies and ensures that EU laws are respected by member states.

Legislation typically follows the **ordinary legislative procedure**, where both the EP and the Council must agree on a proposal for it to become law. The Commission initiates the process by conducting **impact assessments**, evaluating the potential effects of proposed policies. These assessments incorporate feedback from various stakeholders, including youth organizations, ensuring that young people's voices are considered in shaping EU policies.

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTICIPATE AT THE EU LEVEL

The EU has established various mechanisms to ensure that young people and youth organizations can engage in the decision-making processes:

1. **European Youth Forum (YFJ):** The largest platform for youth representation at the EU level, YFJ serves as an umbrella organization for national youth councils and international youth organizations. It plays a critical role in facilitating structured dialogue between youth and policymakers, ensuring that young people's perspectives are integrated into EU policies.
2. **Structured Dialogue:** This initiative allows young people to contribute to discussions on youth-related issues through national consultations and events. By participating in structured dialogue, youth can voice their opinions on matters such as education, employment, and climate action, which are then presented to EU institutions for consideration.
3. **EU Consultations:** The European Commission frequently opens public consultations on various policy areas, inviting feedback from young people and youth organizations. These consultations enable youth to share their insights and experiences on issues affecting them, contributing to more informed policy-making.

4. **European Youth Capital:** Established in 2009, this initiative allows cities across Europe to apply for the title of European Youth Capital. Winning cities showcase innovative youth-focused projects and initiatives, creating platforms for young people's participation in local governance and decision-making.
5. **Youth4Regions:** This competition encourages young journalists to cover EU regional policy and fosters understanding of how the EU works at a regional level. Participants can receive training and mentorship, enabling them to become more engaged in EU affairs.
6. **European Solidarity Corps (ESC):** Launched to promote solidarity and community engagement, the ESC allows young people aged 18 to 30 to participate in volunteering or job opportunities that benefit local communities. This initiative supports projects addressing social issues, environmental challenges, and community development.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE EU

The EU offers several funding programs designed to promote youth participation, education, and social inclusion:

1. **Erasmus+ Program:** This flagship initiative supports education, training, youth, and sports across Europe. Erasmus+ provides opportunities for young people to study, volunteer, and gain work experience abroad, fostering international cooperation and intercultural understanding. Youth organizations can also apply for funding to develop projects that promote social inclusion and civic engagement.
 - For instance, a youth organization might receive funding to organize an exchange program where young people collaborate on environmental sustainability projects, sharing best practices and learning from each other.
2. **European Solidarity Corps (ESC):** This program funds youth-led projects focused on solidarity, social inclusion, and community engagement. It provides opportunities for young people to volunteer or work on projects that benefit local communities, including those addressing environmental sustainability, migration, and social cohesion.
3. **Horizon Europe:** The EU's research and innovation program offers funding for youth-led projects focused on scientific research, sustainability, and innovation. Youth organizations can collaborate with universities or research institutions to apply for funding in areas such as climate action, green technologies, and digital transformation.
4. **Creative Europe:** This program funds cultural and creative projects, offering opportunities for young artists, filmmakers, and musicians to collaborate on European initiatives. Youth organizations can apply for grants to organize cultural events that promote diversity and creativity among young people.

5. **Rights and Values Programme:** The program is designed to protect and promote the rights and values enshrined in the EU Treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, particularly by supporting civil society organizations operating at the local, regional, national, and international levels.
6. **Europe for Citizens:** Europe for Citizens supports initiatives aimed at strengthening historical memory of events in modern European history and increasing civic participation at the EU level.

Through these channels, the EU empowers young people and youth organizations to actively participate in policy-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their interests are represented at the European level.



5. TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

Advocacy is essential for amplifying the voices of youth and influencing those in power, whether it is in the realms of climate action or any other pressing issue. This section offers information on how to create effective campaigns, petitions, and advocacy strategies, alongside valuable online tools, platforms, and networks to support youth engagement.

HOW TO CREATE CAMPAIGNS, PETITIONS, AND ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

Youth engagement in advocacy and policy-making is crucial for fostering an inclusive and responsive democratic system. Developing effective campaigns, petitions, and advocacy strategies can empower young people to drive change within their communities and at national levels. Here are some steps and resources to help young people create impactful advocacy initiatives.

Understanding the Advocacy Landscape

Before launching any campaign, it's essential for youth to understand the issues they wish to address. This includes:

- **Researching the Topic:** Gather information on the specific policy or issue. This could include statistics, case studies, and existing policies related to the topic. Understanding the landscape helps in formulating arguments and identifying gaps in current policies.
- **Identifying Stakeholders:** Recognize who has the power to make decisions regarding the issue. This may include government officials, local councils, NGOs, and community leaders. Building relationships with these stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of the advocacy efforts.
- **Setting Clear Objectives:** Define the goals of the campaign. Are you aiming to influence legislation, raise awareness, or mobilize the community? Clear objectives guide the campaign strategy and help in measuring success.

Creating Effective Campaigns

1. **Develop a Compelling Message:** The core message should resonate with the target audience and effectively communicate the campaign's goals. Craft a narrative that is engaging, relatable, and easy to understand.
2. **Utilize Various Channels:** Employ multiple platforms to reach a broader audience. This can include social media, traditional media, community events, and outreach through schools and universities. Tailoring the message for different platforms ensures maximum engagement.
3. **Leverage Partnerships:** Collaborate with other organizations, youth groups, or community leaders who share similar goals. Partnerships can provide additional resources, enhance credibility, and increase the campaign's reach.

4. **Engage the Community:** Mobilize community members through events, workshops, and discussions. Create opportunities for them to share their experiences and contribute to the campaign.
5. **Use Data and Evidence:** Support your advocacy with data, research, and testimonials. Presenting facts and figures can strengthen the argument and make it more convincing to policymakers and the public.
6. **Monitor and Adapt:** Track the progress of the campaign through feedback and engagement metrics. Be prepared to adjust strategies based on what is working and what isn't. Flexibility can enhance the effectiveness of the campaign.

A petition

A petition is the right of an individual or a group of citizens to submit written requests on issues of broader political or public interest. A petition can be submitted in the form of a proposal, request, initiative, complaint, objection, or other types of submissions.

A petition or request can be submitted regarding matters of general interest or specific cases related to:

- human rights,
- judiciary,
- administrative, civil, or criminal law or procedure,
- employment relations, wages, and compensation,
- healthcare and insurance,
- employment and unemployment,
- social welfare and insurance,
- disability insurance,
- spatial planning,
- environmental protection, etc.

If you wish to submit a petition or request, there is no need to fill out a specific form or follow a standard format. However, the petition must include the following mandatory components:

- your full name and complete address (street, house number, postal code, and city, or email address),
- the subject of the petition or request (demand, proposal, request, complaint, objection),
- all relevant facts related to the matter,
- your demand or proposal,
- your signature.

The petition or request must be written clearly and legibly. It may also include attachments or copies of relevant evidence.

If the petition or request is submitted by multiple signatories, it must include, in addition to the other required components, the full name and complete address of at least the first signatory.

The petition is handled by the [Commission for Petitions, Human Rights, and Equal Opportunities](#) (hereinafter referred to as the Commission).

The Commission reviews the petition and, if necessary, requests additional clarifications from the relevant authorities or seeks information on the decisions made by the authority in the given matter, providing a response to the petitioner. The Commission may also forward the petition to the relevant public authorities for their opinion or for appropriate resolution.

If the petition is unclear or does not contain all the aforementioned mandatory components, the Commission's professional service will ask the petitioner to appropriately supplement the petition. In this case, the resolution of the petition will be extended. If the petition is not adequately supplemented, the Commission's professional service will consider it irrelevant and will conclude its handling.

How to launch petitions

1. **Choose a Clear Focus:** Identify a specific issue or demand that the petition will address. The focus should be narrow enough to be actionable but broad enough to attract widespread support.
2. **Draft a Strong Petition Statement:** The statement should clearly outline the issue, the desired outcome, and the rationale behind the demand. Use straightforward language and ensure that it resonates with the intended audience.
3. **Set a Target Goal:** Determine the number of signatures needed to demonstrate significant support. A clear target can motivate people to participate and share the petition within their networks.
4. **Select a Platform:** Utilize online platforms such as Change.org, Avaaz, or local platforms that cater specifically to the Slovenian audience. These platforms often provide tools for sharing the petition and tracking signatures.
5. **Promote the Petition:** Use social media, email newsletters, and community events to spread the word about the petition. Encourage supporters to share it within their circles to increase visibility.
6. **Present the Petition:** Once the target is reached, arrange a meeting with the relevant authorities to present the petition. Make sure to gather media coverage to highlight the support and put pressure on decision-makers.

Advocacy strategies

To sustain long-term engagement and influence, youth advocacy groups should consider the following strategies:

- **Create Educational Resources:** Develop materials such as fact sheets, info graphics, and videos to educate the community about the issues at hand. Providing accessible information can empower others to get involved.
- **Advocacy Training Workshops:** Host workshops that equip young people with skills in public speaking, negotiation, and effective communication. Empowering youth with these skills enhances their ability to advocate for change.
- **Participate in Policy Dialogues:** Engage in discussions and forums where policies are debated. This can include town hall meetings, public forums, and discussions organized by NGOs. Presence in these spaces ensures that youth perspectives are included in decision-making processes.
- **Utilize Digital Tools:** Online platforms can facilitate advocacy efforts by providing resources, connecting activists, and organizing virtual events. Tools like Slack or WhatsApp groups can enhance collaboration among team members.

ONLINE TOOLS, PLATFORMS, AND NETWORKS TO SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Social Media Platforms: Websites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok can amplify youth voices and reach larger audiences. Creating dedicated pages for campaigns can facilitate discussion and community building.

Advocacy Websites: Platforms such as Change.org and Avaaz allow users to create and promote petitions, gather signatures, and connect with supporters. These sites can also offer guidance on campaign strategies.

Collaboration Tools: Online tools like Google Docs, Trello, and Slack allow youth groups to collaborate efficiently. They can manage tasks, share documents, and communicate in real time, facilitating teamwork and project management.

Local Networks: Connecting with local youth organizations, NGOs, and community groups can provide additional resources and support for advocacy efforts. Organizations such as the **Slovenian Youth Council** offer networking opportunities and can provide guidance on navigating policy engagement.

Educational Resources: Websites offering free resources on advocacy strategies, public policy, and youth engagement can be beneficial. Organizations like **YouthActionNet** and **UN Youth** provide toolkits and case studies that can inspire and guide youth-led initiatives.

Training Programs: Various NGOs and educational institutions offer training programs focused on advocacy and policy engagement. Participating in these programs can enhance skills and provide young activists with the tools they need to drive effective campaigns.

Through these tools and resources, youth can harness their collective energy and creativity to influence policy decisions and create meaningful change in their communities. By actively

engaging in advocacy, young people not only assert their rights but also contribute to a more inclusive and democratic society.



6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER LEARNING

TRAINING PROGRAMS, WORKSHOPS, AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH INTERESTED IN POLICY-MAKING

Engaging in policy-making is a vital process for youth who aspire to make a difference in their communities and beyond. Understanding the nuances of policy development, advocacy, and governance requires ongoing education and practical experience. There are numerous training programs, workshops, and educational resources available that cater specifically to young people interested in these fields.

1. National and Local Training Initiatives

Various national and local organizations offer training programs aimed at empowering youth with the skills necessary for effective policy engagement. These initiatives typically cover a range of topics, including public speaking, negotiation, lobbying techniques, and grassroots organizing. Here are some noteworthy programs:

- **Youth Advocacy Training:** Local NGOs and youth organizations often conduct advocacy training sessions that equip young people with the tools needed to effectively communicate their concerns to policymakers. These workshops focus on developing persuasive arguments, understanding the legislative process, and strategy development for successful campaigns.
- **Leadership Development Programs:** Institutions such as universities and community centers frequently organize leadership programs designed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. These programs often include experiential learning opportunities, where participants can engage directly with local government and community leaders.
- **Policy Workshops:** Specialized workshops that focus on specific policy areas—such as environmental policy, education reform, or social justice—provide in-depth knowledge and analysis. Participants learn to identify issues, propose solutions, and engage with relevant stakeholders.
- **Internships and Fellowships:** Many organizations offer internships or fellowship programs that provide hands-on experience in policy-making and advocacy. These opportunities enable young people to work alongside experienced professionals; gain insights into the policy process, and build valuable networks.

2. Online Learning Platforms

In the digital age, numerous online platforms offer accessible and flexible learning opportunities for youth interested in policy-making. These platforms can be particularly beneficial for those who may not have the time or resources to attend in-person workshops. Some recommended platforms include:

- **Coursera and edX:** These platforms offer courses from leading universities worldwide on topics ranging from public policy to political science. Young people can enrol in

courses that align with their interests, enabling them to learn at their own pace and earn certificates.

- **FutureLearn:** This platform focuses on social impact and policy-related courses, often developed in partnership with universities and organizations. Courses cover various subjects, including sustainable development, health policy, and youth participation in governance.
- **Khan Academy:** While primarily known for its educational resources for school subjects, Khan Academy also offers materials on economics and civics, which are fundamental to understanding policy-making processes.
- **YouTube Channels and Podcasts:** Numerous educational YouTube channels and podcasts focus on policy issues, advocacy strategies, and the experiences of young activists. These resources can be a source of inspiration and knowledge for those looking to deepen their understanding of policy-making.

KEY WEBSITES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND NETWORKS FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT

Engaging with established organizations and networks can significantly enhance a young person's ability to influence policy. Below are some key websites and organizations that offer resources, opportunities, and platforms for further engagement.

1. National and International Organizations

- **Slovenian Youth Council (Mladinski svet Slovenije):** This national organization represents the interests of Slovenian youth and provides resources, training, and networking opportunities. They often organize events, workshops, and consultations that allow young people to engage with policymakers.
- **European Youth Forum:** This platform unites various youth organizations across Europe, advocating for youth rights and participation in policy-making. Their resources include toolkits for advocacy, information on funding opportunities, and guidelines for effective engagement.
- **Youth for Climate Justice:** This organization connects young climate activists across Slovenia and provides resources for campaigns, workshops, and training sessions related to climate action and advocacy.

2. Educational Institutions

- **Universities and Colleges:** Many higher education institutions offer programs in political science, public policy, and social sciences. These programs often include opportunities for internships, research projects, and engagement with local governments.
- **Community Centres:** Local community centres often provide workshops, seminars, and educational events tailored to young people. These programs can be invaluable for those interested in civic engagement and local governance.

3. Online Networks and Platforms

- **Change.org:** This platform allows individuals to create petitions and advocate for change on various issues. Engaging with this platform can help young people learn about successful advocacy strategies and mobilizing support for their causes.
- **Facebook Groups and WhatsApp Communities:** Numerous online communities exist where young people share resources, discuss policy issues, and organize events. Engaging in these communities can provide support, inspiration, and collaboration opportunities.
- **LinkedIn:** This professional networking site can be valuable for connecting with policy experts, organizations, and fellow advocates. Young people can join groups related to their interests, participate in discussions, and seek mentorship opportunities.

By utilizing these training programs, online resources, and established networks, young people can actively participate in policy-making processes and advocate for their interests and concerns. The variety of opportunities available ensures that youth in Slovenia are well-equipped to influence decisions that will shape their future.

7. CASE STUDIES & SUCCESS STORIES

EXAMPLES OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

1. The National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS)

Background: The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije, MSS) serves as the umbrella organization representing youth interests at the national level. Established in 1996, it aims to enhance youth participation in political and social processes.

Key Actions:

- **Policy Advocacy:** The MSS actively engages in lobbying efforts for youth-related policies, contributing to national legislation concerning education, employment, and health.
- **Participation in Public Consultations:** The council frequently participates in public consultations organized by the government, providing youth perspectives on various issues and policies.
- **Capacity Building:** MSS offers training programs for youth representatives to enhance their skills in advocacy, public speaking, and organizational management.

Impact: The MSS has become a recognized voice for youth in Slovenia, influencing national policies and ensuring that the concerns of young people are addressed in legislative discussions.

2. Youth Involvement in Local Government

Background: Several municipalities in Slovenia, including Ljubljana, Maribor, and Kranj, have recognized the importance of including youth voices in local governance. Acknowledging that young people often face unique challenges and perspectives, local governments have initiated various programs aimed at enhancing youth participation in decision-making processes.

Key Actions:

- **Youth Councils:** Many local governments, such as the City of Ljubljana, have established **Youth Councils** (Mladinski svet) that serve as advisory bodies to the municipal administration. These councils consist of young representatives aged 15 to 29 who provide insights on issues affecting their peers. For instance, the Ljubljana Youth Council has been actively involved in discussions surrounding public transport policies and urban development projects, ensuring that the youth perspective is included in the city's strategic planning.
- **Participatory Budgeting:** In Maribor, the municipality has implemented a **participatory budgeting** process that allows youth to propose and vote on community projects. In 2023, youth proposed several initiatives, including the development of new skate parks and the organization of cultural events. This process

not only empowers young people to take charge of local development but also enhances transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

- **Youth Forums:** Regular **youth forums** and workshops organized by local governments provide platforms for young people to express their opinions on pressing issues. These forums focus on topics ranging from public safety and environmental concerns to education and job opportunities. Feedback from these events has led to concrete actions, such as the establishment of youth-specific programs in local libraries and sports facilities.

Impact: These initiatives have fostered a greater sense of ownership among young people regarding local governance. Surveys conducted by the Slovenian Youth Council indicate that 72% of participants in youth councils feel more connected to their community. Additionally, local authorities have reported improved responsiveness to youth needs, resulting in policies that reflect the priorities of their younger constituents.

3. The Youth for Climate Justice Movement

Background: The **Youth for Climate Action** movement has emerged as a significant force in advocating for climate justice in Slovenia, particularly in response to global climate strikes inspired by movements like Fridays for Future. Since its inception in 2019, this grassroots initiative mobilizes young activists across the country to demand urgent government action on climate change.

Key Actions:

- **Climate Strikes:** In 2019, lots of Slovenian youth participated in climate strikes across major cities, including Ljubljana and Maribor, under the slogan "Fridays for Future." These strikes not only raised awareness about the urgency of climate change but also called for the implementation of Slovenia's commitments under the Paris Agreement. The most notable strike in September 2019 saw over 5,000 young people rallying in Ljubljana, highlighting the youth's demand for sustainable policies.
- **Collaborative Campaigns:** The movement has collaborated with various NGOs, such as the **Green Action** organization, to push for more ambitious environmental policies at both national and local levels. Their collaborative campaigns have focused on issues like reducing plastic waste and promoting renewable energy sources.
- **Policy Proposals:** Youth activists have been proactive in submitting policy proposals to local councils, advocating for sustainable urban planning and green energy initiatives. For example, in 2020, they proposed a plan for improving public transport systems in Ljubljana, emphasizing the need for electric buses and improved cycling infrastructure, which was eventually included in the city's transportation development plan.

Impact: The movement has raised awareness about climate issues and influenced local and national policies aimed at addressing environmental challenges. A notable outcome was the incorporation of youth suggestions into Slovenia's **Climate Strategy 2030**, demonstrating the power of youth activism in shaping policy.

4. Mental Health Advocacy by Young People

Background: Recognizing the growing mental health crisis among youth, particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, several initiatives have emerged to advocate for better mental health services and policies in Slovenia. According to a 2022 survey by the National Institute of Public Health, approximately 40% of young people reported experiencing mental health issues during the pandemic.

Key Actions:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Youth organizations, such as **Mladi Zmaji**, have launched campaigns aimed at raising awareness about mental health issues. Their "Let's Talk About It" campaign focuses on breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and promoting accessible services. They have organized workshops and public talks in schools to educate peers about mental health resources.
- **Engagement with Healthcare Providers:** Youth representatives from various organizations have actively engaged with healthcare providers and policymakers. They have collaborated with the **Slovenian Ministry of Health** to advocate for policies that prioritize mental health services in educational institutions. Their efforts led to the introduction of mental health education in the school curriculum, which aims to equip young people with knowledge and coping strategies.
- **Peer Support Programs:** Initiatives like the **Peer Support Network**, developed by the **Institute for Youth Participation**, train young people as peer supporters. These trained individuals provide emotional support and guidance to their peers, creating a safe space for discussions about mental health. Feedback from participants indicates that peer support significantly improves emotional well-being and reduces feelings of isolation.

Impact: These advocacy efforts have resulted in improved mental health resources and policies. The **Slovenian Ministry of Health** has reported a 25% increase in funding for youth mental health services since 2021, highlighting the effectiveness of youth-led advocacy in addressing critical health issues.

5. Digital Platforms for Youth Engagement

Background: With the rise of technology, digital platforms have become essential tools for youth engagement in decision-making processes. Various Slovenian organizations, including the **Youth Network of Slovenia**, are leveraging these platforms to enhance participation and engagement among youth.

Key Actions:

- **Online Campaigns:** Youth-led organizations utilize social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook to run campaigns that raise awareness on critical issues. For instance, the **#YouthVoicesMatter** campaign launched in early 2023 mobilized thousands of young people to advocate for educational reforms, using digital storytelling to highlight personal experiences.

- **Virtual Consultations:** The use of online platforms, such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, enables youth to participate in consultations and discussions with policymakers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Slovenian Youth Council** organized virtual town hall meetings, allowing young people to engage directly with local government representatives.
- **Crowd sourcing Ideas:** Digital platforms have facilitated crowd sourcing of ideas through initiatives like **Youth Ideas Forum**, where young people can propose initiatives and vote on them. This forum has generated a wide range of proposals, many of which have been adopted by local governments.

Impact: Digital engagement has broadened participation opportunities for young people, making it easier for them to influence policy discussions and collaborate with others. A 2023 study by the **Institute for Youth Research** found that 68% of respondents felt more empowered to engage in civic activities due to the availability of online platforms, indicating a significant shift in how youth connect with decision-making processes.

LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

1. The Importance of Representation

Structured organizations, such as the National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS), play a crucial role in providing a unified voice for youth. By bringing together various youth groups and organizations, the MSS ensures that the diverse perspectives of young people are included in policymaking. This representation fosters trust between young people and policymakers. When youth see their concerns addressed, they are more likely to engage actively in civic life. Furthermore, structured organizations help young people develop essential skills like public speaking and advocacy, empowering them to engage effectively in decision-making processes.

Case Example: The MSS has successfully lobbied for policies that support youth employment and education reforms. Their advocacy contributed to the **Youth Employment Act**, which includes provisions for internships and apprenticeships aimed at facilitating young people's transition into the labour market.

Best Practice: Establishing structured youth councils and advisory bodies in municipalities enhance representation. Regular training and capacity-building workshops empower young representatives to articulate their needs and concerns effectively during consultations with policymakers.

2. Engaging Local Governments

Engaging local governments is vital for creating policies that reflect the needs of younger populations. Initiatives like youth councils and participatory budgeting foster local engagement, allowing young people to voice their opinions on issues such as urban development and education. These councils facilitate discussions with local officials, ensuring that youth perspectives are incorporated into local policies.

Participatory budgeting empowers youth by allowing them to propose and vote on projects affecting their communities. This involvement not only helps local authorities understand the priorities of younger constituents but also instills a sense of ownership among youth regarding community development.

Case Example: In **Maribor**, the participatory budgeting process resulted in new recreational facilities and cultural events, directly influenced by youth proposals. This involvement has led to higher satisfaction rates among the younger population regarding local services.

Best Practice: Establishing regular youth forums enables young people to discuss community issues with local officials, enhancing transparency and responsiveness. Incorporating feedback mechanisms ensures that youth opinions are acted upon, fostering a collaborative relationship between youth and local authorities.

3. Collective Action Amplifies Voices

Grassroots movements, such as the **Youth for Climate Justice**, exemplify the power of collective action in amplifying youth voices. When young people unite to advocate for a common cause, they mobilize significant public support and influence decision-makers effectively. Collective action raises awareness about critical issues and demonstrates to policymakers that youth are organized and serious about driving change.

These movements often employ creative strategies to engage the public. For instance, organizing climate strikes, social media campaigns, and community events can generate widespread support and foster solidarity among youth and allies. Working together enables young people to share resources, knowledge, and strategies, making their advocacy efforts more impactful.

Case Example: The climate strikes organized by Slovenian youth in 2019 attracted thousands of participants and prompted local governments to review their environmental policies. As a result, the City of Ljubljana committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050, partially in response to youth activism.

Best Practice: Encouraging collaboration among youth organizations amplifies their impact. Creating coalitions or networks allows groups to share resources and enhance their effectiveness in advocacy efforts.

4. Addressing Mental Health Holistically

Advocacy efforts focused on mental health underscore the necessity of addressing young people's well-being comprehensively. With mental health issues prevalent among youth, effective advocacy must encompass access to services, education, and social support. Engaging with healthcare providers and policymakers is crucial for promoting policies that prioritize mental health resources for young people.

Promoting peer support programs is an effective strategy for addressing mental health holistically. Training young people to offer support not only provides immediate assistance but also reduces stigma around mental health issues. Encouraging open discussions about

mental health within schools and communities fosters an environment where young people feel comfortable seeking help.

Case Example: The **Mladi Zmaji** organization initiated the "Let's Talk About It" campaign, which raised awareness about mental health and challenged stigma. They collaborated with local healthcare providers to develop school-based mental health programs tailored to the needs of students.

Best Practice: Integrating mental health education into school curricula and training educators can foster a supportive atmosphere. Schools can serve as pivotal spaces for early intervention, equipping students with the knowledge to seek help when needed.

5. Leveraging Technology for Engagement

Digital platforms have revolutionized how youth engage in policy discussions and advocacy. Technology offers innovative ways to enhance participation and outreach. Social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok enable young people to share their stories and mobilize support for pressing issues.

Utilizing online consultations and digital forums facilitates youth engagement, especially when in-person meetings are impractical. These platforms allow young people to share their opinions directly with policymakers, increasing the likelihood that their voices will be considered in decision-making processes.

Moreover, technology helps bridge the gap between urban and rural youth. Online engagement tools provide opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to connect and collaborate, fostering a more inclusive approach to participation.

Case Example: The Slovenian Youth Council utilized social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook to run campaigns and host virtual town hall meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach allowed them to maintain engagement with youth and gather feedback on pressing issues, such as educational disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Best Practice: Establishing online platforms for consultation and idea-sharing can facilitate youth participation in policy discussions. Utilizing digital tools for outreach helps organizations reach diverse youth populations, including those who may be less active in traditional settings.

6. Building Partnerships with Stakeholders

Forming partnerships with various stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs, and the private sector, enhances the effectiveness of youth initiatives. Collaborative efforts leverage resources and expertise, amplifying the impact of advocacy campaigns.

Case Example: The **Youth for Climate Justice** movement successfully partnered with environmental NGOs and local businesses to promote sustainable practices. These partnerships led to initiatives such as local clean-up events and sustainability workshops, increasing community involvement.

Best Practice: Actively seeking partnerships across different sectors can provide additional funding opportunities and resources for youth initiatives. Establishing a network of supporters creates a stronger foundation for advocacy efforts.

7. Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation

Regularly evaluating youth initiatives and gathering feedback from participants is crucial for understanding their effectiveness and areas for improvement. Adaptation based on feedback can enhance future efforts.

Case Example: Following the implementation of participatory budgeting in **Kranj**, the municipality conducted surveys to assess youth satisfaction with the funded projects. Feedback indicated a need for more transparency in the decision-making process, leading to clearer communication channels between youth and local government.

Best Practice: Incorporating evaluation processes into youth-led initiatives fosters a culture of continuous improvement. Providing platforms for youth to express their thoughts on programs ensures that their needs are consistently met.

These lessons learned from successful youth involvement initiatives illustrate the impactful ways young people can engage in decision-making processes. From national organizations advocating for youth rights to local councils facilitating participation, these experiences showcase the potential of youth involvement in shaping policies that affect their lives. By prioritizing structured representation, engaging local governments, fostering collective action, addressing mental health holistically, and leveraging technology, stakeholders can create a more inclusive and participatory political landscape for future generations.

8. CONCLUSION

SUMMARY OF KEY TAKEAWAYS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

In exploring the crucial role of youth participation in policymaking and civic engagement, this brochure highlights the transformative potential of young voices in shaping a better future. Young people in Slovenia have the power to influence decisions at various levels, from local municipalities to national policies. By harnessing their collective energy and enthusiasm, youth can advocate for issues that matter to them and drive significant change within their communities.

One of the most important takeaways is the necessity of structured representation. Organizations such as the National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS) serve as vital platforms for young people to unify their voices and ensure that their perspectives are included in policy discussions. Such structures not only provide legitimacy to youth engagement but also empower young advocates with skills that are essential for effective participation, such as negotiation, public speaking, and strategic thinking.

Moreover, engaging local governments through initiatives like youth councils and participatory budgeting processes has proven effective in fostering inclusivity. When young people are given a seat at the table, the resulting policies are often more reflective of their needs and aspirations.

The power of collective action cannot be understated. Grassroots movements, such as those advocating for climate justice, exemplify how united efforts can mobilize public support and influence decision-makers. These movements highlight the urgency of pressing issues, from environmental sustainability to mental health awareness, demonstrating that young people can effect real change when they come together for a common cause.

Addressing critical issues, such as mental health, through holistic advocacy is also essential. Young people face unprecedented challenges in this area, and it is vital for policies to reflect a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, community support, and access to mental health services. By training peers to support one another and by engaging with healthcare providers, youth can contribute to a more supportive and understanding environment for their mental health needs.

As we move further into a digital age, leveraging technology for engagement offers innovative opportunities for youth participation. Online platforms can broaden the reach of youth advocacy, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those in rural areas, to voice their opinions and collaborate with others. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the potential of virtual consultations and digital activism, making it easier for young people to remain engaged even when in-person interactions are limited.

Encouraging young individuals to take initiative and actively participate in civic life is paramount. This brochure serves as a call to action for youth in Slovenia to engage with their local councils, participate in youth organizations, and utilize digital tools to advocate for their rights. Every young person has the potential to influence their community, and through

structured engagement and collective action, they can contribute to policies that will affect their lives for generations to come.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE

To support youth in their efforts to engage meaningfully in policy-making and advocacy, the following organizations and resources are available to provide guidance, information, and opportunities for involvement:

- **National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS):** The MSS serves as the central body representing youth interests at the national level. Their website offers information on ongoing projects, advocacy initiatives, and ways for youth to get involved. [More info](#)
- **Youth Plus Union** is focused on empowering young people, including students and precarious workers, in Slovenia. It advocates for their rights to decent work and fair wages, while also organizing educational activities to enhance their skills. [More info](#)
- **Local Youth Centres:** Across Slovenia, local youth centres provide a space for young people to gather, engage, and participate in community initiatives. Search for your local youth centre to discover opportunities for involvement and support in your area. [More info](#)
- **Predlagam vladi** is an initiative encouraging young people in Slovenia to actively participate in political decision-making. It empowers them to engage in public consultations and gain skills for effectively advocating for their rights. [More info](#)

D.R.E.A.M.LAND
VKLJUČEVANJE MLADIH V ODLOČEVALNE PROCESSE V
SLOVENIJI



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PREGLED POMENA UDELEŽBE MLADIH PRI OBLIKOVANJU POLITIK

Udeležba mladih pri oblikovanju politik je ključna za ustvarjanje družbe, ki odraža potrebe in ambicije vseh njenih članov. Vključevanje mladih v oblikovanje politik je ključno za zagotavljanje učinkovitih in v prihodnost usmerjenih odločitev, povezanih s ključnimi vprašanji kot so izobraževanje, zaposlovanje, podnebne spremembe in socialna pravičnost. Mladi prinašajo sveže ideje in inovativne pristope ter prispevajo rešitve, ki ustrezajo hitro spreminjajočemu se svetu, v katerem živimo.

Pri udeležbi mladih ne gre le za dajanje glasu mladim—temveč gre za zagotavljanje, da ima njihov glas dejansko vpliv. Ko so mladi aktivno vključeni v oblikovanje politik, ki vplivajo na njihova življenja, družba kot celota pridobi na dinamiki, ustvarjalnosti in trajnosti rešitev. Pobude, kot so Mladinski sveti v Sloveniji in programi Evropske unije, spodbujajo to angažiranost ter ponujajo platforme, kjer se mladi lahko povežejo z odločevalci, zagovarjajo spremembe in oblikujejo prihodnost.

Zakaj je udeležba mladih tako pomembna?

Mladi so pogosto tisti, na katere politike, povezane z izobraževanjem, zaposlovanjem in trajnostnim razvojem okolja, najbolj neposredno vplivajo. Prav tako je verjetneje, da bodo doživeli dolgoročne posledice današnjih odločitev. Njihova bližina tem vprašanjem jim daje edinstveno razumevanje izzivov in priložnosti, s katerimi se sooča njihova generacija. Na primer, reševanje vprašanja mladinske brezposelnosti v Sloveniji, zahteva politike, ki upoštevajo posebne ovire, s katerimi se mladi srečujejo pri vstopu na trg dela. Njihova neposredna udeležba zagotavlja, da so politike ne le odzivne, ampak tudi inovativne in usmerjene.

Poleg tega mladi prinašajo napreden pogled, zlasti na področjih, kot so digitalne inovacije in trajnostni razvoj okolja, kjer lahko njihova tehnološka pismenost in zavedanje o globalnih izzivih ponudita nove rešitve. Mladinske pobude, tako v Sloveniji kot v Evropi, so že pokazale, kako lahko mladi mobilizirajo in usmerijo pozornost na vprašanja, kot so podnebne spremembe, digitalne pravice in socialna enakost, ter preoblikujejo politiko, da odraža prioritete njihove generacije.

Hkrati vključevanje mladih v oblikovanje politik spodbuja kulturo državljske odgovornosti in mlade spodbuja k temu, da postanejo aktivni, informirani državljani. Ta zgodnja udeležba pripomore k oblikovanju bolj angažirane družbe, kjer se bodo prihodnje generacije počutile povezane z demokratičnimi procesi in odgovorne za njih. Neprestani uspehi mladinskih pobud, kot so okoljske kampanje ali projekti digitalne pismenosti, poudarjajo zmožnost mladih, da sprožijo pomembne spremembe.

Kako bo ta priročnik pomagal mladim in mladinskim organizacijam pri navigaciji teh procesov

Ta priročnik je zasnovan tako, da opolnomoči mlade in mladinske organizacije v Sloveniji ter jim zagotovi znanje in orodja, potrebna za aktivno sodelovanje pri oblikovanju politik. Ponuja



jasen prikaz tega, kako se angažirati z odločevalci, vplivati na politike in doseči otipljiv vpliv na svojo skupnost in državo kot celoto. Z razjasnitvijo procesa oblikovanja politik si ta priročnik prizadeva odstraniti ovire in zagotoviti, da mladi niso le slišani, temveč tudi upoštevani.

Ključne teme, obravnavane v tem priročniku, so tesno povezane tako z izzivi kot tudi s priložnostmi, s katerimi se mladi danes srečujejo:

Razumevanje struktur oblikovanja politik: Poenostavili bomo zapleten svet oblikovanja politik ter razložili, kako se politike oblikujejo in izvajajo na lokalni, nacionalni in EU ravni. Ta del obravnava pomanjkanje informacij in ozaveščenosti, ki pogosto preperečuje mladim, da bi se vključili v te procese.

Priložnosti za vključevanje: Ne glede na to, ali gre za lokalne mladinske svete, nacionalne posvete ali platforme Evropske unije, ta priročnik poudarja različne poti, ki so mladim na voljo za angažiranje. S tem naslavlja izzive omejenega dostopa do odločevalcev ter ponuja konkretne poti za sodelovanje.

Razvijanje učinkovitih kampanj: Navedeni so praktični nasveti o tem, kako graditi učinkovite kampanje, oblikovati prepričljive argumente in uporabiti digitalne ter tradicionalne medije za krepitev mladinskih glasov. Ta del se osredotoča na pomanjkanje vpliva, ki ga mladi pogosto čutijo, in jih opremiti z veščinami za ustvarjanje resničnih sprememb.

Mreženje in sodelovanje: Poudarjen je pomen gradnje mrež in sodelovanja s podobno mislečimi posamezniki ter organizacijami. Z izpostavljanjem platform in virov, ki so na voljo mladim, ta priročnik spodbuja občutek skupnosti in skupnega cilja med mladimi, ki si prizadevajo vplivati na oblikovanje politik.

Kako ta priročnik opolnomoči mlade

Ta priročnik služi kot zemljevid za mlade in mladinske organizacije po vsej Sloveniji, saj jim nudi znanje in vire, ki jih potrebujejo za aktivno sodelovanje pri oblikovanju politik, ki vplivajo na njihova življenja. Razjasni proces oblikovanja politik, ga razdeli na jasne, obvladljive korake, ki spodbujajo angažiranost na različnih ravneh upravljanja—od lokalnih mladinskih svetov in občinskih pobud do nacionalnih platform in struktur EU.

Eden od glavnih izzivov, s katerimi se mladi srečujejo, je razumevanje pogosto zapletenih in nejasnih struktur oblikovanja politik. Ta priročnik se tega izziva loti neposredno z nudenjem poenostavljene razlage, kako se politike razvijajo in izvajajo tako na lokalni kot na nacionalni ravni. S tem si prizadeva odpraviti pomanjkanje informacij in ozaveščenosti, ki pogosto ovira mlade za sodelovanje.

Poleg tega "kako" oblikovati politike, priročnik nudi primere raznih priložnosti za vključevanje mladih. Poudarja formalne platforme, kot so mladinski sveti in svetovalna telesa, razloži, kako se vključiti v javne posvete in kampanje ter opozori na programe EU, ki podpirajo mladinske pobude. S tem pomaga premagati ovire za dostop do odločevalcev in mladim nudi jasne poti za sodelovanje v pomembnih razpravah in dejanjih.

Priročnik ponuja tudi praktične strategije za razvoj učinkovitih kampanj in prizadevanj za zagovarjanje, saj mladim nudi orodja, ki jih potrebujejo za krepitev svojih glasov in vplivanje



na spremembe. Ne glede na to, ali gre za digitalne medije, peticije ali organizirane dogodke, navodila, ki jih nudimo, opolnomočijo mlade, da premagajo občutek nemoči in pomanjkanja vpliva pri sodelovanju v političnih procesih.

S spodbujanjem občutka skupnosti in spodbujanjem sodelovanja z drugimi podobno mislečimi posamezniki in organizacijami, ta priročnik zagotavlja, da se mladi ne počutijo izolirane v svojih prizadevanjih. Poudarja pomen mreženja in kolektivnega delovanja ter prikazuje, kako lahko skupno delo okrepi njihov vpliv in prispeva k bolj demokratični in vključujoči Sloveniji.

Ta priročnik ni le vodič—je orodje za opolnomočenje, ki mlade opremi z veščinami, znanjem in samozavestjo, da stopijo v svet oblikovanja politik in dosežejo otipljive spremembe.



KAKO SE MLADI LAHKO VKLJUČIJO V LOKALNE PROCESSE ODLOČANJA

V Sloveniji se aktivno sodelovanje mladih v lokalnem upravljanju spodbuja, saj je ključno za ustvarjanje trajnostnih in vključujočih skupnosti. Mladi predstavljajo pomemben delež prebivalstva, njihovi pogledi pa so ključni pri oblikovanju politik, ki bodo vplivale na prihodnje generacije. S sodelovanjem v procesih odločanja lahko mladina zagotovi, da so njihovi glasovi glede vprašanj, ki segajo od izobraževanja in zaposlovanja do podnebnih akcij in urbanega načrtovanja, slišani. V tem delu raziskujemo različne načine, kako lahko mladi postanejo aktivni udeleženci v lokalnem odločanju v Sloveniji, pri čemer se opiramo na politično strukturo države, mladinske iniciative in priložnosti za sodelovanje z lokalnimi oblastmi.

Razumevanje politične in upravne strukture Slovenije

Slovenija je razdeljena na 212 občin, ki jih opravljata župan z občinskim svetom. Te lokalne oblasti so odgovorne za sprejemanje odločitev na ključnih področjih, kot so javni prevoz, urbani razvoj, varstvo okolja in mladinske storitve. Poleg lokalnih oblasti v državi delujejo tudi mehanizmi, kot je Nacionalni mladinski svet Slovenije, ki igrajo ključno vlogo pri spodbujanju vključevanja mladih na vseh ravneh upravljanja.

Za mlade, ki želijo vplivati na lokalno politiko, je pomembno razumeti, kako te lokalne oblasti delujejo in kdo so njihovi predstavniki. Aktivno sodelovanje v lokalnem upravljanju se začne z obveščeno o odločevalcih in procesih, skozi katere se oblikujejo politike.

Ključne statistike o mladinski participaciji v Sloveniji

- Skupno število prebivalstva (2023): **2,1 milijona**
- Prebivalstvo, mlajše od 18 let: **16.8%**
- Prebivalstvo med 18 in 30 leti: **19.5%**
- Povprečna starost prebivalstva: **43.5 leta**

Glede na te demografske podatke Slovenija prepoznava pomembnost vključevanja mladih v procese odločanja za ustvarjanje družbe, osredotočene na prihodnost.

Pot do vključitve mladih v lokalne procese odločanja

1. **Sodelovanje v občinskih mladinskih svetih:** Občinski mladinski sveti omogočajo mladim, da prispevajo k razpravam o lokalni politiki. Ti sveti delujejo z namenom zastopanja interesov mladih in tesno sodelujejo z občinskimi oblastmi, da zagotovijo vključitev mladinskih glasov v odločitve o politikah. Osredotočajo se na področja, kot so zaposlovanje mladih, izobraževanje in razvoj skupnosti.

Kako se vključiti: Kontaktirajte svojo lokalno občino, da ugotovite, ali je mladinski svet aktiven v vaši regiji. Če ga ni, lahko mladi prebivalci sodelujejo pri njegovem ustanavljanju. Mladinski sveti se običajno redno sestajajo, da razpravljajo o težavah in predlagajo rešitve občinski vladi.



2. **Udeležba na sejah občinskega sveta:** V Sloveniji so seje občinskega sveta načeloma odprte za javnost, kar zagotavlja platformo za občane, da spremljajo ali prispevajo k razpravam. Za mlade te seje ponujajo priložnost, da se naučijo, kako se sprejemajo lokalne odločitve, in da predstavijo svoje poglede na vprašanja, ki so zanje pomembna.

Kako sodelovati: Raziskujte, kdaj vaša lokalna občina organizira seje, in se udeležite tistih, kjer so na dnevnem redu teme, relevantne za mlade. Nekatere občine prav tako omogočajo priložnosti za javno govorjenje med sejami, kar daje mladim možnost, da neposredno vplivajo na odločanje.

3. **Vključevanje v javne razprave:** Slovenija pogosto organizira javne razprave za zbiranje mnenj o širokem spektru lokalnih vprašanj, vključno z urbanim načrtovanjem, podnebnimi akcijami in trajnostjo. Javni posveti so eden najbolj direktnih načinov, kako lahko mladi prispevajo k lokalnim procesom odločanja. Skozi te razprave lahko mladina poda povratne informacije o predlaganih projektih, ki bodo oblikovali njihova okolja.

Kako sodelovati: Bodite obveščeni o prihajajočih posvetih v vaši občini, bodisi z spremljanjem obvestil lokalne vlade bodisi preko družbenih medijev. Natančno preglejte gradivo, ki je na voljo za razpravo, kritično razmislite, kako bi predlagane spremembe lahko vplivale na mlade in prihodnje generacije, ter se pripravite na oddajo dobro argumentiranih povratnih informacij.

4. **Začetek ali podpora peticijam:** Peticije so uraden način za državljane, da zagovarjajo spremembe na specifičnih vprašanjih. V Sloveniji so peticije, ki jih vodijo mladi, uspešno privedle do sprememb politik na področjih, kot so izobraževanje, transport in varstvo okolja. Začetek peticije omogoča mladim, da zberejo podporo svojih vrstnikov in članov skupnosti glede vprašanj, ki so jim pomembna.

Kako začeti: Identificirajte lokalno vprašanje, ki vpliva na mlade in napišite peticijo za specifične spremembe. Uporabite spletne platforme, kot je "Predlagaj vladi", ali zbirajte podpise osebno. Najpomembnejši vidik je pridobiti široko podporo skupnosti, da dokažete potrebo po spremembi politike.

5. **Sodelovanje z nevladnimi organizacijami (NGO) in civilnimi organizacijami:** Nevladne organizacije igrajo ključno vlogo pri spodbujanju vključevanja mladih v Sloveniji. Mnoge nevladne organizacije se osredotočajo na trajnost, socialno vključevanje in opolnomočenje mladih, sodelujejo z lokalnimi oblastmi pri zagovarjanju sprememb politik. Sodelovanje s temi organizacijami lahko mladim prinese vire in mreže, ki jih potrebujejo za vplivanje na lokalno upravljanje.

Kako sodelovati: Pridružite se nevladni organizaciji ali prostovoljno delajte v lokalnih civilnih organizacijah, ki se ujemajo z vašimi interesi. Mnoge od teh organizacij ponujajo priložnosti za mlade, da se vključijo v zagovarjanje, se udeležijo delavnic in sodelujejo v kampanjah, ki lahko privedejo do pomembnih sprememb politik.

Mladinski centri in lokalne mladinske iniciative



Mreža mladinskih centrov v Sloveniji ponuja prostore, kjer se mladi lahko vključijo v različne izobraževalne, kulturne in socialne dejavnosti. Ti centri igrajo ključno vlogo pri podpori mladinske participacije, saj nudijo vire, delavnice in platforme za izražanje idej ter sodelovanje pri projektih skupnosti.

Mladinski centri delujejo tudi kot povezovalna točka med mladimi in lokalnimi oblastmi, kar pomaga mladim pri usklajevanju upravnih postopkov, povezanih s predložitvijo predlogov ali zagovarjanjem sprememb. Delujejo kot središča mladinskega aktivizma in nudijo usmeritve, kako sodelovati v lokalnem upravljanju.

Nacionalna podpora za vključevanje mladih: Nacionalni mladinski svet Slovenije

Nacionalni mladinski svet Slovenije (Mladinski svet Slovenije) je ključna organizacija, ki se zavzema za mladinsko participacijo na lokalni in nacionalni ravni. Dela na tem, da zagotovi vključitev mladih v procese odločanja, ki vplivajo na njihova življenja, ter spodbuja politike, ki obravnavajo vprašanja, kot so zaposlovanje mladih, izobraževanje in trajnostno varstvo okolja.

Svet sodeluje z lokalnimi mladinskimi organizacijami in občinskimi oblastmi, da ustvari več priložnosti za mlade, da se vključijo v upravljanje. Prav tako nudi usposabljanje in vire, ki pomagajo mladim razviti veščine, potrebne za učinkovito sodelovanje v razpravah o politikah.

PRIMERI USPEŠNIH MLADINSKIH INICIATIV NA LOKALNI RAVNI

V Sloveniji smo priča številnim vplivnim mladinskim iniciativam, ki pomembno prispevajo k lokalnim skupnostim. Te iniciative se osredotočajo na različne tematike, vključno s trajnostnim razvojem, socialno vključenostjo in opolnomočenjem mladih. Mlada generacija v Sloveniji se aktivno angažira pri zagovarjanju sprememb politik, organiziranju ozaveščevalnih kampanj in spodbujanju lokalnih sodelovanj, da bi ustvarili pozitiven vpliv na svoje vrstnike in širšo skupnost. Spodaj so navedeni nekateri primeri uspešnih mladinskih pobud ter predlogi, kako se vključiti v lokalne odločevalske procese.

1. Mladi za podnebno pravičnost. Ena izmed najbolj prepoznavnih mladinskih iniciativ v Sloveniji je gibanje Mladi za podnebno pravičnost. Ta skupina je na čelu klimatskega aktivizma v Ljubljani in po vsej državi, organizira obsežne podnebne stavke ter zahteva ukrepe vlade za boj proti podnebnim spremembam. Njihova prizadevanja vključujejo:

- Organiziranje protestov za ozaveščanje o globalnem segrevanju ter vlogi Slovenije v podnebni krizi.
- Lobiranje pri lokalnih vladah za strožje okoljske predpise in spodbujanje zelene infrastrukture, kot so kolesarske steze, obnovljivi viri energije in urbani zeleni prostori.
- Vplivanje na oblikovanje Ljubljanskega akcijskega načrta za podnebje, katerega cilj je zmanjšanje emisij toplogrednih plinov in spodbujanje trajnostnega urbanega okolja.

[Več o Mladih za podnebno pravičnost](#)



2. Mladinski svet Maribor – Urbanistični razvoj in vključevanje mladih V Mariboru je Mladinski svet Maribor ključno prispeva k spodbujanju vključevanja mladih v lokalno urbanistično načrtovanje in razvoj skupnosti. Svet je uspešno:

- Zastopal interese mladih za izboljšanje javnih površin, ustanavljanje mladinskih centrov ter širitev rekreacijskih površin, prilagojenih potrebam mladih.
- Sodeloval z lokalno občino pri spodbujanju projektov urbanega obnavljanja, s preoblikovanjem zapuščenih stavb v mladinske centre za delavnice, kulturne dogodke in izobraževalne dejavnosti.
- Organiziral javne razprave, ki so vabile mlade, da razpravljajo o prihodnosti Maribora, vključno z dostopnostjo stanovanj, javnim prevozom in okoljsko trajnostjo. [Več o Mladinskem svetu Maribor](#)

3. Mladinske iniciative za dostopna stanovanja v Celju

V Celju deluje Mladinski center Celje (MCC), ki se aktivno ukvarja z različnimi mladinskimi iniciativami, vključno s reševanjem vprašanja dostopnosti stanovanj za mlade. Mladinski center sodeluje z lokalnimi oblastmi pri iskanju rešitev, kot so mladinski domovi in subvencije za najem, ter organizira delavnice za izobraževanje mladih o pravicah najemnikov in finančni pismenosti.

Prav tako so bili objavljeni javni razpisi za oddajo stanovanj mladim, kar pomeni, da so na voljo določena stanovanja s prednostjo za mlade posameznike in pare, kar dodatno krepi dostopnost stanovanj v Celju

V Celju se mladinske iniciative ukvarjajo s problemom dostopnosti stanovanj, kar je kritična težava za mnoge mlade v Sloveniji. Te iniciative vključujejo:

- Sodelovanje z lokalno vlado pri predlaganju rešitev za dostopna stanovanja, kot so mladinski domovi in subvencije za najem.
- Organizacijo delavnic za izobraževanje mladih o pravicah najemnikov, finančni pismenosti in orientaciji na trgu najemnin.
- Vodenje peticij in zagovorniških kampanj za povečanje naložb v dostopna stanovanja in boljše predpise za zaščito mladih najemnikov pred izkoriščanjem.

4. Zavod Voluntariat

Zavod Voluntariat je nevladna organizacija v Sloveniji, ustanovljena z namenom spodbujanja prostovoljstva in socialne vključenosti med mladimi. Njihove dejavnosti so osredotočene na različne vidike prostovoljstva, socialne pravičnosti in medkulturnega dialoga.

Ključne dejavnosti in programi

- **Prostovoljske Priložnosti:** Zavod Voluntariat ponuja različne prostovoljske projekte, ki vključujejo tako lokalne kot mednarodne priložnosti. Mladi se lahko vključijo v projekte, ki naslavljajo socialno izključenost, okoljske izzive in druge aktualne probleme v družbi.



- **Usposabljanja in Delavnice:** Organizacija izvaja usposabljanja in delavnice, ki mladim pomagajo razviti veščine, potrebne za aktivno sodelovanje v družbi. Ta usposabljanja vključujejo teme, kot so timsko delo, komunikacijske veščine in reševanje konfliktov.
- **Podpora Ranljivim Skupinam:** Zavod se osredotoča na vključevanje mladih iz ranljivih skupin, kot so mladinski migranti, brezdomci in mladi iz socialno ogroženih okolij. Organizacija organizira aktivnosti, ki spodbujajo socialno vključevanje in podporo teh skupin.
- **Medkulturni Dialog:** Zavod Voluntariat promovira medkulturni dialog in sodelovanje med različnimi kulturnimi skupinami v Sloveniji. S tem prispevajo k razumevanju, spoštovanju in strpnosti med mladimi.
- **Projekti in Kampanje:** Organizacija vodi različne projekte in kampanje za ozaveščanje o pomenu prostovoljstva in socialne vključenosti. Ti projekti pogosto vključujejo sodelovanje z drugimi nevladnimi organizacijami in lokalnimi skupnostmi.

Te iniciative so ustvarile platformo za dialog med mladimi in lokalnimi odločevalci, kar zagotavlja, da potrebe po stanovanjih mladih v Sloveniji niso prezrte.

KORAKI ZA VKLJUČITEV

Slovenska mladina ima pomembno vlogo pri oblikovanju lokalne politike in odločanja. Sodelovanje v teh procesih je ključno za zagotavljanje, da so interesi mladih slišani in upoštevani. Tu je podroben postopek, ki mladim pomaga, da postanejo aktivni udeleženci v lokalni politiki.

1. Razumevanje lokalnih političnih struktur

Preden se mladi lahko vključijo, morajo razumeti, kako deluje lokalna politika.

- **Raziskovanje lokalnih institucij:** Spoznajite svoje lokalne institucije, kot so občinski svet, župan, lokalne službe in mladinski sveti. To vključuje razumevanje njihovih funkcij, odgovornosti in postopkov odločanja.
- **Spremljanje lokalnih novic:** Sledite lokalnim novicam, da boste na tekočem s tem, kaj se dogaja v vaši skupnosti.

2. Sodelovanje v lokalnih mladinskih svetih

Mladinski sveti so izvrstna priložnost za mlade, da neposredno vplivajo na odločitve v svoji občini.

- **Prijavite se v mladinski svet:** Ugotovite, ali vaša občina ima mladinski svet. Vstopite v stik, da se pozanimате o pogojih za članstvo in kako se lahko prijavite.
- **Udeležba na srečanjih:** Redno se udeležujte srečanj mladinskega sveta in aktivno sodelujte v razpravah. To vam bo omogočilo, da izrazite svoja mnenja in predloge.

3. Sodelovanje v javnih posvetih in srečanjih



Javne razprave in občinska srečanja so pomembne priložnosti za izražanje mnenj.

- **Obvestila in obveščanje:** Bodite pozorni na obvestila občinskih oblasti o prihajajočih javnih posvetih. Ta obvestila lahko najdete na uradnih spletnih straneh občin ali na družbenih omrežjih.
- **Priprava na srečanja:** Pred udeležbo na srečanjih raziskujte teme, ki jih boste obravnavali. Pripravite si vprašanja in predloge, ki jih želite deliti z drugimi udeleženci.

4. Sodelovanje z nevladnimi organizacijami

Nevladne organizacije (NVO) pogosto delujejo na področju mladinskega aktivizma in ponujajo priložnosti za vključitev.

- **Pridružitve NVO:** Ugotovite, katere nevladne organizacije v vaši regiji delujejo na področju mladinskih vprašanj. Pridružite se organizaciji, ki se ukvarja s temami, ki so vam blizu.
- **Prostovoljstvo in angažma:** Sodelujte v projektih NVO, bodisi kot prostovoljec bodisi kot aktivni član. NVO pogosto organizirajo delavnice, posvete in druge dogodke, ki vam lahko pomagajo razviti veščine in znanje o aktivizmu.

5. Peticije in kampanje

Peticije so močno orodje za izražanje mnenj in zahtev.

- **Podpirajte ali začnite peticije:** Udeležite se obstoječih peticij ali začnite svojo na temah, ki so vam pomembne. Uporabite platforme, kot so [Change.org](https://www.change.org), da zberete podpise in dvignete zavest o vašem problemu.
- **Organiziranje kampanj:** Če imate idejo za kampanjo, zberite skupino mladih, ki si delijo vašo prepričanja. S skupnimi močmi organizirajte dogodke, ki bodo pritegnili pozornost k vaši temi.

6. Organizacija lastne mladinske iniciative

Če v vaši občini ni obstoječih mladinskih svetov ali iniciativ, razmislite o ustanovitvi svojega.

- **S povezovanjem do moči:** Povežite se z drugimi mladimi v vaši skupnosti in lokalnimi civilnodružbenimi organizacijami. Skupaj lahko oblikujete koalicijo, ki se osredotoča na aktualna vprašanja.
- **Identifikacija problemov:** Določite ključne izzive v vaši skupnosti, kot so trajnostni razvoj, socialna vključitev ali mladinska brezposelnost, in razvijajte načrte za reševanje teh izzivov.

7. Redno izobraževanje in razvoj veščin

Za uspešno delovanje v lokalni politiki je pomembno, da mladi nenehno izpopolnjujejo svoje znanje in veščine.



- **Udeležba na delavnicah:** Prijavite se na delavnice in izobraževalne programe, ki se osredotočajo na vodstvene veščine, zagovarjanje politik in organizacijo skupnosti.
- **Mreženje in sodelovanje:** Spoznavanje drugih mladih aktivistov in sodelovanje pri različnih projektih vam bo omogočilo širjenje obzorij in pridobivanje dragocenih izkušenj.

Z aktivnim sodelovanjem v lokalnih procesih odločanja lahko slovenska mladina postane ključna sila pri oblikovanju politik, ki vplivajo na njihovo prihodnost. Sodelovanje v mladinskih svetih, javnih posvetih, nevladnih organizacijah in lastnih iniciativah omogoča mladim, da izražajo svoje mnenje in prispevajo k izboljšanju svojih skupnosti. Z aktivnim in premišljenim pristopom lahko mladi vplivajo na odločitve, ki oblikujejo njihov svet.

3. VKLJUČEVANJE NA NACIONALNI RAVNI

PREGLED PROCESOV OBLIKOVANJA NACIONALNE POLITIKE IN KAKO SE LAHKO MLADI VKLJUČIJO

Slovenija deluje v okviru parlamentarnega demokratičnega sistema, ki je značilen po več nivojskem upravljanju. Ta struktura vključuje nacionalno, regionalno in lokalno raven ter nudi številne priložnosti za mlade, da se vključijo v proces oblikovanja politik. Državni zbor je glavno zakonodajno telo, kjer potekajo razprave o zakonih in njihovo sprejemanje. Mladi lahko aktivno sodelujejo pri oblikovanju nacionalnih politik, ki vplivajo na njihova življenja, na različne načine:

- **Volitve:** Državljeni, stari 18 let in več, imajo pravico do volitev, kar mladim omogoča, da vplivajo na izbiro predstavnikov, ki bodo oblikovali nacionalne politike.
- **Javni posveti:** Vlada redno izvaja javne posvete o predlagani zakonodaji, kar mladim omogoča, da podajo povratne informacije o širokem spektru vprašanj, vključno z izobraževanjem, zdravjem in podnebno politiko. Ti posveti so ključni za zagotavljanje, da so mnenja mladih upoštevana v zakonodajnih razpravah.
- **Nacionalni mladinski sveti in svetovalna telesa:** Slovenija je ustanovila nacionalne mladinske svete in svetovalna telesa, ki delujejo kot platforme za zastopanje mladih. Ti sveti nudijo mladim priložnost, da izrazijo svoja mnenja, zagovarjajo svoje interese in vplivajo na odločitve o politikah na nacionalni ravni.
- **Mladinske platforme in mreže:** Različne organizacije in mreže olajšajo vključevanje mladih v nacionalno oblikovanje politik. Te platforme omogočajo mladim, da se povežejo med seboj, delijo izkušnje in sodelujejo pri iniciativah, ki se ukvarjajo z njihovimi skrbmi in prioritetami.

NACIONALNI MLADINSKI SVETI, SVETOVALNA TELES A IN PLATFORME, KJER SE SLIŠI GLAS MLADIH

V Sloveniji več platform zagotavlja, da so glasovi mladih predstavljeni v nacionalnih in regionalnih procesih odločanja:

1. Mladinski svet Slovenije



Mladinski svet Slovenije je nacionalno telo, ki združuje različne mladinske organizacije in služi kot svetovalno telo vladi na področju vprašanj mladih. Njegova naloga je, da zastopa interese mladih v Sloveniji, se osredotoča na ključne teme, kot so izobraževanje, zaposlovanje, socialna vključenost in zdravje ter zagotavlja, da se mnenja mladih vključijo v politične razprave. Svet deluje tudi na razvoj programov in politik, ki podpirajo aktivno sodelovanje mladih v družbi.

2. Regionalni mladinski sveti

Poleg nacionalnega sveta obstajajo tudi regionalni mladinski sveti, ki delujejo na ravni posameznih regij. Ti sveti omogočajo mladim, da se povežejo z lokalnimi oblastmi, izrazijo svoje poglede na vprašanja, ki vplivajo na njihovo življenje, in svetujejo regionalnim odločevalcem. Regionalni mladinski sveti igrajo pomembno vlogo pri povezovanju mladih s skupnostjo in spodbujanju aktivnega državljanstva.

3. Neformalne mladinske platforme

V Sloveniji deluje več neformalnih mladinskih platform, ki omogočajo mladim, da se angažirajo, sodelujejo in izrazijo svoja mnenja. Tukaj je nekaj primerov:

- o Mladinski svet Slovenije: Čeprav je to formalna organizacija, deluje tudi kot platforma za povezovanje različnih mladinskih organizacij in skupin ter spodbuja sodelovanje med njimi.
- o Urad RS za mladino: Urad nudi podporo in informacije mladinskim organizacijam ter spodbuja neformalne oblike sodelovanja med mladimi.
- o Mladi za podnebno pravičnost: Ta neformalna mreža mladih se osredotoča na okoljske in podnebne vprašanja ter organizira dogodke in kampanje za ozaveščanje o podnebnih spremembah.
- o Mladinski centri: Številni mladinski centri po Sloveniji (npr. Mladinski center Trbovlje, Mladinski center Postojna) ponujajo neformalne platforme za srečevanje, izmenjavo idej in organizacijo različnih aktivnosti za mlade.
- o Socialna omrežja in digitalne platforme: Mlade platforme na družbenih omrežjih, kot so Facebook in Instagram, se uporabljajo za organizacijo kampanj, ozaveščanje in povezovanje mladih z različnimi temami in iniciativami.
- o Podjetniški inkubatorji in mladinski start-up programi: Ti programi nudijo mladim priložnosti za razvoj podjetniških veščin in sodelovanje v različnih projektih.

PRILOŽNOSTI ZA MLADÉ, DA VPLIVAJO NA ODLOČANJE O NACIONALNIH POLITIKAH

V Sloveniji imajo mladi različne možnosti za sodelovanje in vplivanje na nacionalne odločitve o politiki. Ti mehanizmi ne le da okrepijo mlade, ampak tudi zagotavljajo, da se njihovi glasovi upoštevajo pri oblikovanju politik, ki vplivajo na njihova življenja. Spodaj so ključne priložnosti za sodelovanje mladih v nacionalnih procesih oblikovanja politik:



Javni posveti o politikah: Slovenska vlada redno organizira javne posvete o pomembnih družbenopolitičnih vprašanjih. Ti posveti mladim zagotavljajo platformo za deljenje svojih mnenj, predlaganje povratnih informacij in sodelovanje v razpravah s politikami. Mladi lahko aktivno sodelujejo tako, da se udeležujejo teh srečanj ali oddajajo svoja mnenja prek spleta, kar jim omogoča prispevati k oblikovanju zakonodaje, ki neposredno vpliva na njihovo prihodnost.

Kampanje za spremembe politik: Kampanje, ki jih vodijo mladi, igrajo ključno vlogo pri spodbujanju družbenih sprememb in vplivanju na nacionalno politiko. Z mobilizacijo podpore na lokalni ravni za družbenopolitična vprašanja, lahko mladi aktivisti ustvarijo pomemben javni pritisk na odločevalce. Iniciative lahko segajo od organiziranja dogodkov za ozaveščanje do izvajanja raziskav, ki pomembno prispevajo k njihovim iniciativam.

Participativno proračunanje: Nekatere občine v Sloveniji so sprejele procese participativnega proračunanja, ki mladim omogočajo vplivanje na to, kako se razporejajo javna sredstva. S sodelovanjem v teh procesih lahko mladi predlagajo projekte ali iniciative, ki se ukvarjajo z njihovimi potrebami in prioriteta, kar spodbuja občutek lastništva nad lokalnim upravljanjem in razporejanjem virov.

Digitalno zagovorništvo: Z naraščanjem družbenih medijev in spletnih platform lahko mladi izkoristijo digitalna orodja za zagovarjanje sprememb politik. Spletne peticije, virtualne razprave in kampanje na družbenih medijih mladim omogočajo, da se povežejo s širšim občinstvom, dvignejo ozaveščenost o pomembnih vprašanjih in mobilizirajo podporo za svoje cilje. Digitalno angažiranje ne le da širi doseg njihovih prizadevanj za zagovorništvo, ampak tudi olajša neposredno komunikacijo z odločevalci prek platform, namenjenih javnemu sodelovanju.

Sodelovanje v zakonodajnih procesih: Mlade se spodbuja, da sodelujejo v zakonodajnih procesih tako, da se udeležujejo sej v Državnem zboru ali na regionalni ravni. Prav tako lahko sodelujejo z organizacijami, ki zastopajo interese mladih, kot je Mladinski svet Slovenije, da predstavijo predloge ali skrbi med javnimi zaslišanji. To neposredno sodelovanje omogoča mladim, da vplivajo na zakonodajne razprave in zagotavlja, da so njihovi glasovi pomemben del oblikovanja politik.

Mreženje z drugimi mladinskimi organizacijami: Sodelovanje med različnimi mladinskimi organizacijami lahko poveča učinek prizadevanj za zagovorništvo. S oblikovanjem zavezništev lahko mladi delijo vire, znanje in strategije ter ustvarijo bolj enoten front, da se ukvarjajo z nacionalnimi vprašanji. Ta kolektivni pristop lahko vodi do večjega vpliva na odločitve o politikah in spodbuja močnejši občutek skupnosti med mladimi aktivisti.

Z uporabo teh različnih priložnosti se mladi v Sloveniji lahko aktivno vključijo v procese oblikovanja nacionalnih politik. Z izkoriščanjem teh mehanizmov lahko zagotovijo, da so njihovi glasovi slišani, ter se zavzemajo za politike, ki odražajo njihove potrebe in želje, hkrati pa prispevajo k bolj vključujoči in reprezentativni demokraciji.



4. VKLJUČEVANJE NA RAVNI EU

UVOD V INSTITUCIJE IN PROCESE OBLIKOVANJA POLITIK EU

Evropska unija (EU) deluje prek zapletenega okvira institucij, ki imajo različne vloge v procesu oblikovanja politik. Tri glavne institucije, vključene v ta proces, so:

1. **Evropski parlament (EP):** EP zastopa prebivalce EU in je neposredno izvoljen s strani državljanov držav članic. Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta (MEP) razpravljajo in glasujejo o zakonodaji ter med drugim zagovarjajo tudi vprašanja, ki so pomembna za mlade in njihove potrebe.
2. **Svet Evropske unije:** Svet Evropske unije zastopa vlade držav članic. Skupaj z EP se pogaja in sprejema zakonodajo, kar ga postavlja v osrednjo vlogo pri oblikovanju politik, ki vplivajo na mlade.
3. **Evropska komisija:** Ta institucija deluje kot izvršno telo EU in je odgovorna za predlaganje nove zakonodaje. Komisija prav tako upravlja izvajanje politik in zagotavlja, da države članice spoštujejo zakonodajo EU. Zakonodaja običajno sledi običajnemu zakonodajnemu postopku, kjer se morata EP in Svet strinjati s predlogom, da ta postane zakon. Komisija začne postopek z izvajanjem ocen vplivov, v katerih ovrednoti možne učinke predlaganih politik. Te ocene vključujejo povratne informacije različnih deležnikov, vključno z mladinskimi organizacijami, kar zagotavlja, da so glasovi mladih upoštevani pri oblikovanju politik EU.

KAKO LAHKO MLADI IN MLADINSKE ORGANIZACIJE SODELUJEJO NA RAVNI EU

EU je vzpostavila različne mehanizme, ki zagotavljajo, da lahko mladi in mladinske organizacije sodelujejo v procesih odločanja:

1. **Evropski mladinski forum:** Gre za največjo platformo za zastopanje mladih na ravni EU. Evropski mladinski forum deluje kot krovna organizacija za nacionalne mladinske svete in mednarodne mladinske organizacije. Ima ključno vlogo pri omogočanju strukturiranega dialoga med mladimi in oblikovalci politik, s čimer zagotavlja vključitev mladinskih perspektiv v politike EU.
2. **Strukturiran dialog:** Ta pobuda mladim omogoča, da sodelujejo v razpravah o mladinskih vprašanjih prek nacionalnih posvetov in dogodkov. Z udeležbo v strukturiranem dialogu lahko mladi izrazijo svoje mnenje o vprašanjih, kot so izobraževanje, zaposlovanje in podnebni ukrepi, ki so nato predstavljeni institucijam EU v obravnavo.
3. **Posvetovanja EU:** Evropska komisija pogosto organizira javna posvetovanja na različnih področjih politike in vabi mlade ter mladinske organizacije k podajanju povratnih informacij. Ta posvetovanja mladim omogočajo, da delijo svoje vpogleds in izkušnje o vprašanjih, ki jih zadevajo, kar prispeva k boljšemu oblikovanju politik.
4. **Evropska mladinska prestolnica:** Pobuda, ustanovljena leta 2009, omogoča mestom po vsej Evropi, da se potegujejo za naziv Evropska mladinska prestolnica. Zmagovalna



mesta predstavljajo inovativne projekte in pobude, usmerjene k mladim, ter ustvarjajo platforme za sodelovanje mladih v lokalnem upravljanju in odločanju.

5. **Youth4Regions:** To tekmovanje spodbuja mlade novinarje k poročanju o regionalni politiki EU in omogoča razumevanje delovanja EU na regionalni ravni. Udeleženci lahko prejmejo usposabljanje in mentorstvo, kar jim omogoča večjo vključenost v zadeve EU.
6. **Evropska solidarnostna enota (ESC):** Ta pobuda spodbuja solidarnost in angažiranost v skupnosti. ESC mladim, starim od 18 do 30 let, omogoča, da sodelujejo v prostovoljnih dejavnostih ali pridobijo zaposlitvene priložnosti, ki koristijo lokalnim skupnostim. Pobuda podpira projekte, ki se ukvarjajo s socialnimi vprašanji, okoljskimi izzivi in razvojem skupnosti.

PRILOŽNOSTI ZA FINANCIRANJE IN PROGRAME ZA VKLJUČEVANJE MLADIH V EU

EU ponuja več programov financiranja, zasnovanih za spodbujanje sodelovanja mladih, izobraževanja in socialne vključenosti:

1. **Program Erasmus+:** Ta vodilna pobuda podpira izobraževanje, usposabljanje, mladinsko delo in šport po Evropi. Erasmus+ mladim omogoča študij, prostovoljno delo in pridobivanje delovnih izkušenj v tujini, s čimer spodbuja mednarodno sodelovanje in medkulturno razumevanje. Mladinske organizacije lahko zaprosijo za sredstva za razvoj projektov, ki spodbujajo socialno vključenost in državljansko angažiranost.
2. **Evropska solidarnostna enota (ESC):** Ta program financira projekte, ki jih vodijo mladi in se osredotočajo na solidarnost, socialno vključenost in angažiranost v skupnosti. Zagotavlja priložnosti za mlade, prostovoljstvo ali delo na projektih, ki koristijo lokalnim skupnostim.
3. **Obzorje Evropa:** Raziskovalni in inovacijski program EU nudi sredstva za projekte, ki jih vodijo mladi, s poudarkom na znanstvenih raziskavah, trajnosti in inovacijah.
4. **Ustvarjalna Evropa:** Ta program financira kulturne in ustvarjalne projekte ter ponuja priložnosti za mlade umetnike, filmske ustvarjalce in glasbenike za sodelovanje v evropskih pobudah.
5. **Program za pravice in vrednote:** Program je namenjen zaščiti in spodbujanju pravic in vrednot, kot so določene v Pogodbah EU in Listini EU o temeljnih pravicah, zlasti s podpiranjem organizacij civilne družbe, ki delujejo na lokalni, regionalni, nacionalni in mednarodni ravni.
6. **Evropa za državljane:** Evropa za državljane podpira pobude za krepitev zgodovinskega spomina na dogodke novejšje evropske zgodovine in za povečanje državljanske udeležbe na ravni EU.

S temi mehanizmi EU omogoča mladim in mladinskim organizacijam, da aktivno sodelujejo v procesih oblikovanja politik ter zagotavlja, da so njihovi glasovi slišani in njihovi interesi zastopani na evropski ravni.



5. ORODJA IN VIRI ZA ZAGOVORNIŠTVO

Zagovorništvo je bistveno za povečanje glasov mladih in vplivanje na tiste, ki imajo moč, bodisi na področju podnebnih ukrepov ali drugih perečih vprašanj. Ta del ponuja informacije o tem, kako ustvariti učinkovite kampanje, peticije in strategije zagovorništva ter predstavlja dragocena spletna orodja, platforme in mreže za podporo angažiranosti mladih.

KAKO USTVARITI KAMPANJE, PETICIJE IN STRATEGIJE ZAGOVORNIŠTVA

Vključevanje mladih v zagovorništvo in oblikovanje politik je ključno za razvoj vključujočega in odzivnega demokratičnega sistema. Razvoj učinkovitih kampanj, peticij in strategij zagovorništva lahko opolnomoči mlade, da sprožijo spremembe v svojih skupnostih in na nacionalni ravni. Tukaj so koraki in viri, ki mladim pomagajo pri ustvarjanju vplivnih zagovorniških pobud.

Razumevanje zagovorniškega prostora

Preden se lotimo kampanje, je pomembno, da mladi razumejo težave, ki jih želijo nasloviti. To vključuje:

- **Raziskava teme:** Zberite informacije o specifični politiki ali problemu. To lahko vključuje statistike, študije primerov in obstoječe politike, povezane s temo. Razumevanje ozadja pomaga pri oblikovanju argumentov in odkrivanju vrzeli v trenutnih politikah.
- **Prepoznavanje deležnikov:** Ugotovite, kdo ima moč odločanja glede zadeve. To so lahko vladni uradniki, lokalni sveti, nevladne organizacije in vodje skupnosti. Sodelovanje s temi deležniki lahko poveča učinkovitost zagovorniških prizadevanj.
- **Postavljanje jasnih ciljev:** Določite cilje kampanje. Ali želite vplivati na zakonodajo, povečati ozaveščenost ali mobilizirati skupnost? Jasni cilji usmerjajo strategijo kampanje in pomagajo pri merjenju uspešnosti.

Ustvarjanje učinkovitih kampanj

1. **Razvijte prepričljivo sporočilo:** Osrednje sporočilo mora odmevati pri ciljni publiko in učinkovito komunicirati cilje kampanje. Ustvarite zgodbo, ki je privlačna, razumljiva in enostavna za sledenje.
2. **Uporabite različne kanale:** Uporabite več platform za doseg širšega občinstva. To lahko vključuje družbena omrežja, tradicionalne medije, dogodke v skupnosti in povezovanje prek šol in univerz. Prilagoditev sporočila različnim platformam zagotavlja največjo angažiranost.
3. **Izkoristite partnerstva:** Sodelujte z drugimi organizacijami, mladinskimi skupinami ali voditelji skupnosti, ki imajo podobne cilje. Partnerstva lahko zagotovijo dodatne vire, povečajo verodostojnost in razširijo doseg kampanje.
4. **Vključite skupnost:** Mobilizirajte člane skupnosti prek dogodkov, delavnic in razprav. Ustvarite priložnosti, da delijo svoje izkušnje in prispevajo h kampanji.



5. **Uporabite podatke in dokaze:** Podprite svoje zagovorništvo s podatki, raziskavami in pričevanji. Predstavljanje dejstev in števil lahko okrepi argument in ga naredi bolj prepričljivega za odločevalce in javnost.

Spremljajte in prilagajajte: Spremljajte napredek kampanje s povratnimi informacijami in metričnimi kazalniki angažiranosti. Bodite pripravljeni prilagoditi strategije glede na to, kaj deluje in kaj ne. Fleksibilnost lahko poveča učinkovitost kampanje.

Peticija

Peticija je pravica posameznika ali skupine državljanov do pošiljanja pisnih vlog o vprašanih, ki imajo širši politični ali javni značaj. Peticija se lahko vloži v obliki predloga, prošnje, pobude, pritožbe, ugovora ali druge vloge.

Peticija oziroma vloga se lahko vloži v zvezi z zadevami splošnega pomena, ali glede posamičnih zadev, ki se nanašajo na:

- človekove pravice,
- pravosodje,
- upravno, civilno ali kazensko pravo ali postopek,
- delovna razmerja, plače in nadomestila,
- zdravstveno varstvo in zavarovanje,
- zaposlovanje in brezposelnost,
- socialno varstvo in zavarovanje,
- invalidsko zavarovanje,
- urejanje prostora,
- varstvo okolja ipd.

Če želite vložiti peticijo oziroma vlogo, vam ni treba izpolniti nobenega obrazca ali se ravnati po kakšnem standardnem formatu. Peticija pa **mora vsebovati vse obvezne sestavine:**

- vaše ime, priimek in točen naslov (ulica, hišna in poštna številka ter kraj oziroma naslov elektronske pošte),
- naslov zadeve, na katero se peticija oziroma vloga nanaša (zahteva, predlog, prošnja, pritožba, ugovor),
- vsa pomembna dejstva, ki se nanašajo na zadevo,
- vaš zahtevek oziroma predlog,
- vaš podpis.

Peticija oziroma vloga mora biti napisana jasno in čitljivo. Vsebuje lahko tudi priloge oziroma kopije ustreznih dokazil.

Če peticijo oziroma vlogo vloga več podpisnikov, mora poleg ostalih obveznih sestavin vsebovati ime, priimek in točen naslov vsaj prvega podpisnika.



Vlogo obravnava [Komisija za peticije, človekove pravice in enake možnosti](#) (v nadaljevanju: Komisija).

Komisija vlogo pregleda ter po potrebi pristojne organe zaprosi za dodatna pojasnila ali za seznanitev z odločitvami organa v navedeni zadevi in vlagatelju posreduje odgovor. Komisija lahko vlogo posreduje tudi pristojnim javnim organom v mnenje oziroma v pristojno reševanje.

V primeru, da je vloga nerazumljiva oziroma ne vsebuje vseh zgoraj navedenih obveznih sestavin, strokovna služba Komisije vlagatelja pozove, da vlogo ustrezno dopolni. V tem primeru se reševanje vloge podaljša. V primeru, da vloga ni ustrezno dopolnjena, jo strokovna služba Komisije šteje za brezpredmetno in z njeno obravnavo zaključí.

Kako začeti peticijo

1. **Izberite jasen cilj:** Opredelite specifičen problem ali zahtevo, na katero se bo peticija osredotočila. Cilj mora biti dovolj ozek, da je izvedljiv, a dovolj širok, da pritegne podporo širše javnosti.
2. **Napišite močno izjavo peticije:** Izjava mora jasno opredeliti problem, želeni rezultat in razloge za zahtevo. Uporabite preprosto in razumljivo jezik ter poskrbite, da bo sporočilo odmevalo pri ciljni publikli.
3. **Postavite cilj za število podpisov:** Določite, koliko podpisov potrebujete, da pokažete pomembno podporo. Jasno določen cilj lahko motivira ljudi, da sodelujejo in širijo peticijo v svojih omrežjih.
4. **Izberite platformo:** Uporabite spletne platforme, kot so Change.org, Avaaz, ali lokalne platforme, namenjene slovenski publikli. Te platforme pogosto ponujajo orodja za deljenje peticije in spremljanje podpore.
5. **Promovirajte peticijo:** S pomočjo družbenih omrežij, e-poštne novic in dogodkov v skupnosti razširite glas o peticiji. Spodbudite podpornike, naj jo delijo v svojih krogih, da povečate njeno prepoznavnost.
6. **Predstavite peticijo:** Ko dosežete zastavljeni cilj, organizirajte sestanek z ustreznimi oblastmi, da predstavite peticijo. Poskrbite tudi za medijsko pozornost, da izpostavite podporo in pritisnete na odločevalce.

Strategije zagovorništva

Da bi mladinske zagovorniške skupine dolgoročno ohranjale vključenost in vpliv, je priporočljivo upoštevati naslednje strategije:

- **Ustvarjanje izobraževalnih virov:** Razvijte gradiva, kot so informativni listi, info grafike in videoposnetki, ki izobražujejo skupnost o pomembnih temah. Na ta način lahko drugim omogočite, da se aktivno vključijo.
- **Delavnice za usposabljanje o zagovorništvu:** Organizirajte delavnice, kjer mladi pridobijo večšine javnega nastopanja, pogajanj in učinkovite komunikacije. S tem opolnomočite mlade za uspešnejše zagovarjanje sprememb.



- **Sodelovanje v političnih razpravah:** Udeležujte se razprav in forumov, kjer se obravnavajo politike, kot so javna srečanja, forumi in razprave, ki jih organizirajo nevladne organizacije. Prisotnost na teh dogodkih zagotavlja, da so mnenja mladih vključena v procese odločanja.
- **Uporaba digitalnih orodij:** Spletne platforme lahko podpirajo zagovorništvo z zagotavljanjem virov, povezovanjem aktivistov in organizacijo virtualnih dogodkov. Orodja, kot so Slack ali WhatsApp skupine, lahko izboljšajo sodelovanje med člani ekipe.

ORODJA, PLATFORME IN MREŽE ZA PODPORO MLADINSKEMU ANGAŽMA

Družbena omrežja: Spletne strani, kot so Facebook, Instagram, Twitter in TikTok, lahko okrepijo glas mladih in dosežejo širše občinstvo. Ustvarjanje specializiranih strani za kampanje lahko olajša razprave in krepí skupnost.

Spletne platforme za zagovorništvo: Spletne platforme, kot sta Change.org in Avaaz, uporabnikom omogočajo, da ustvarjajo in promovirajo peticije, zbirajo podpise ter se povezujejo s podporniki. Te strani ponujajo tudi smernice glede strategij kampanj.

Orodja za sodelovanje: Spletna orodja, kot so Google Docs, Trello in Slack, omogočajo mladinskim skupinam učinkovito sodelovanje. Omogočajo upravljanje nalog, izmenjavo dokumentov in komunikacijo v realnem času, kar olajša timsko delo in upravljanje projektov.

Lokalne mreže: Povezovanje z lokalnimi mladinskimi organizacijami, nevladnimi organizacijami in raznimi skupinami v skupnosti lahko zagotovi dodatne vire in podporo pri zagovorniških prizadevanjih. Organizacije, kot je Mladinski svet Slovenije, ponujajo priložnosti za mreženje in lahko nudijo smernice za angažiranje v politiki.

Izobraževalni viri: Spletne strani, ki ponujajo brezplačne vire o strategijah zagovorništva, javni politiki in vključevanju mladih, so lahko koristne. Organizacije, kot sta YouthActionNet in UN Youth, nudijo priročnike in študije primerov, ki lahko navdihujejo in usmerjajo mladinske iniciative.

Usposabljanja: Različne nevladne organizacije in izobraževalne ustanove ponujajo programe usposabljanja, osredotočene na zagovorništvo in vključevanje v politiko. Sodelovanje v teh programih lahko izboljša veščine in mladim aktivistom zagotovi orodja, potrebna za učinkovito izvajanje kampanj.

Z uporabo teh orodij in virov lahko mladi izkoristijo svojo kolektivno energijo in ustvarjalnost za vplivanje na odločitve o politiki ter ustvarjanje pomembnih sprememb v svojih skupnostih. Z aktivnim vključevanjem v zagovorništvo mladi ne le uveljavljajo svoje pravice, ampak tudi prispevajo k bolj vključujoči in demokratični družbi.

6. MOŽNOSTI ZA DODATNO UČENJE

USPOSABLJANJA, DELAVNICE IN IZOBRAŽEVALNI VIRI ZA MLADINO, KI JO ZANIMA POLITIČNO ODLOČANJE



Vključevanje v oblikovanje politik je ključen proces za mlade, ki si želijo narediti spremembo v svojih skupnostih in širše. Razumevanje razvoja politik, zagovorništva in upravljanja zahteva stalno izobraževanje in praktične izkušnje. Na voljo so številni programi usposabljanja, delavnice in izobraževalni viri, ki so posebej zasnovani za mlade, ki jih te teme zanimajo.

1. Nacionalne in lokalne iniciative za usposabljanja

Različne nacionalne in lokalne organizacije ponujajo programe usposabljanja, namenjene opolnomočenju mladih z veščinami, potrebnimi za učinkovito vključevanje v politiko. Ti programi običajno pokrivajo različna področja, vključno z javnim nastopanjem, pogajanjem, tehnikami lobiranja in organizacijo na ravni skupnosti. Tukaj je nekaj pomembnih programov:

- **Usposabljanje za zagovorništvo:** Lokalne nevladne organizacije in mladinske organizacije pogosto izvajajo usposabljanja o zagovorništvu, ki mladim nudijo orodja za učinkovito komunikacijo njihovih skrbi do odločevalcev. Te delavnice se osredotočajo na razvijanje prepričljivih argumentov, razumevanje zakonodajnega postopka in razvijanje strategij za uspešne kampanje.
- **Programi za razvoj voditeljskih sposobnosti:** Ustanove, kot so univerze in centri skupnosti, pogosto organizirajo programe za razvoj voditeljskih sposobnosti, ki spodbujajo kritično razmišljanje, reševanje problemov in sodelovalne spretnosti. Ti programi pogosto vključujejo izkušnje iz prve roke, kjer udeleženci lahko neposredno sodelujejo z lokalno vlado in voditelji skupnosti.
- **Delavnice o politiki:** Specializirane delavnice, ki se osredotočajo na določena področja politike—kot so okoljska politika, reforma izobraževanja ali socialna pravičnost—nudijo poglobljeno znanje in analizo. Udeleženci se naučijo identificirati probleme, predlagati rešitve in se vključiti v sodelovanje z ustreznimi deležniki.
- **Praksa in štipendije:** Mnoge organizacije ponujajo programe prakse ali štipendij, ki nudijo praktične izkušnje v oblikovanju politik in zagovorništvu. Te priložnosti omogočajo mladim, da delajo ob izkušenih strokovnjakih, pridobijo vpogled v proces oblikovanja politik in si zgradijo dragocene mreže.

2. Spletne platforme za učenje

V digitalni dobi številne spletne platforme ponujajo dostopne in fleksibilne možnosti učenja za mlade, ki jih zanima oblikovanje politik. Te platforme so lahko še posebej koristne za tiste, ki morda nimajo časa ali sredstev za udeležbo na delavnicah v živo. Nekatere priporočene platforme so:

- **Coursera in edX:** Te platforme ponujajo tečaje vodilnih univerz po svetu na teme, ki segajo od javne politike do politične znanosti. Mladi se lahko vpišejo v tečaje, ki ustrezajo njihovim interesom, kar jim omogoča učenje po lastni meri in pridobitev certifikatov.



- **FutureLearn:** Ta platforma se osredotoča na tečaje o socialnem vplivu in povezanih politikah, ki jih pogosto razvijajo v sodelovanju z univerzami in organizacijami. Tečaji pokrivajo različne teme, vključno z trajnostnim razvojem, zdravstveno politiko in sodelovanjem mladih v upravljanju.
- **Khan Academy:** Čeprav je predvsem znana po izobraževalnih virih za šolske predmete, Khan Academy ponuja tudi gradiva o ekonomiji in državljanstvu, kar je temeljnega pomena za razumevanje procesov oblikovanja politik.
- **YouTube kanali in podcasti:** Številni izobraževalni YouTube kanali in podcasti se osredotočajo na vprašanja politike, strategije zagovorništva in izkušnje mladih aktivistov. Ti viri lahko nudijo navdih in znanje za tiste, ki želijo poglobiti svoje razumevanje oblikovanja politik.

KLJUČNE SPLETNE STRANI, ORGANIZACIJE IN MREŽE ZA DODATNO VKLJUČEVANJE

Vključevanje v uveljavljene organizacije in mreže lahko znatno izboljša sposobnost mladih za vplivanje na politiko. Spodaj so navedene ključne spletne strani in organizacije, ki ponujajo vire, priložnosti in platforme za nadaljnje vključevanje.

1. Nacionalne in mednarodne organizacije

- **Mladinski svet Slovenije (MSS):** Ta nacionalna organizacija zastopa interese slovenskih mladih in nudi vire, usposabljanja ter možnosti mreženja. Pogosto organizirajo dogodke, delavnice in posvetovanja, ki mladim omogočajo, da se vključijo v dialog z odločevalci.
- **Evropski mladinski forum:** Ta platforma povezuje različne mladinske organizacije po Evropi in se zavzema za pravice mladih ter njihovo sodelovanje v oblikovanju politik. Njihovi viri vključujejo orodja za zagovorništvo, informacije o možnostih financiranja in smernice za učinkovito vključevanje.
- **Mladinski aktivisti za podnebno pravičnost:** Ta organizacija povezuje mlade podnebne aktiviste po Sloveniji ter nudi vire za kampanje, delavnice in izobraževalne seje, povezane s podnebnim delovanjem in zagovorništvom.

2. Izobraževalne institucije

- **Univerze in višje šole:** Mnoge visokošolske institucije ponujajo programe iz političnih znanosti, javne politike in socialnih ved. Ti programi pogosto vključujejo priložnosti za prakso, raziskovalne projekte in sodelovanje z lokalnimi oblastmi.
- **Centri skupnosti:** Lokalne skupnostne ustanove pogosto nudijo delavnice, seminarje in izobraževalne dogodke, prilagojene mladim. Ti programi so lahko neprecenljivi za tiste, ki jih zanima državljanska angažiranost in lokalno upravljanje.

3. Spletne mreže in platforme

- **Change.org:** Ta platforma omogoča posameznikom, da ustvarjajo peticije in se zavzemajo za spremembe na različnih področjih. Vključevanje v to platformo lahko



mladim pomaga razumeti uspešne strategije zagovorništva in mobilizirati podporo za njihove cilje.

- **Facebook skupine in WhatsApp skupnosti:** Številne spletne skupnosti obstajajo, kjer mladi delijo vire, razpravljajo o politikah in organizirajo dogodke. Vključevanje v te skupnosti lahko nudi podporo, navdih in priložnosti za sodelovanje.
- **LinkedIn:** Ta profesionalna mreža je lahko dragocena za povezovanje s strokovnjaki za politike, organizacijami in drugimi zagovorniki. Mladi se lahko pridružijo skupinam, povezanih z njihovimi interesi, sodelujejo v razpravah in iščejo priložnosti za mentorstvo.

Z uporabo teh usposabljanj, spletnih virov in uveljavljenih mrež lahko mladi aktivno sodelujejo v procesih oblikovanja politik ter se zavzemajo za svoje interese in skrbi. Raznolikost priložnosti zagotavlja, da so mladi v Sloveniji dobro pripravljeni, da vplivajo na odločitve, ki bodo oblikovale njihovo prihodnost.

7. PRIMERI IN USPEŠNE ZGODBE

PRIMERI VKLJUČENOSTI MLADIH V PROCES ODLOČANJA NA RAZLIČNIH RAVNEH

1. Nacionalni mladinski svet Slovenije (MSS)

Ozadje: Nacionalni mladinski svet Slovenije (Mladinski svet Slovenije, MSS) deluje kot krovna organizacija, ki zastopa interese mladih na nacionalni ravni. Ustanovljen je bil leta 1996 in si prizadeva povečati udeležbo mladih v političnih in socialnih procesih.

Ključne aktivnosti:

- **Zagovarjanje politik:** MSS aktivno sodeluje v lobiranju za politike, povezane z mladimi, in prispeva k nacionalni zakonodaji, ki se nanaša na izobraževanje, zaposlovanje in zdravstvo.
- **Udeležba na javnih posvetih:** MSS pogosto sodeluje v javnih posvetih, ki jih organizira vlada, ter nudi perspektive mladih o različnih vprašanjih in politikah.
- **Izobraževalni programi:** MSS ponuja izobraževalne programe za mladinske predstavnike, da izboljša njihove veščine v zagovorništvu, javnem nastopanju in upravljanju.

Učinek: MSS je postal prepoznaven glas mladih v Sloveniji, vplival na nacionalne politike in zagotovil, da so pomisleki mladih vključeni v zakonodajne razprave.

2. Vključenost mladih v lokalno upravo

Ozadje: Nekatere občine v Sloveniji, vključno z Ljubljano, Mariborom in Kranjem, so prepoznale pomen vključevanja mladih v lokalno upravljanje. Zavedajo se, da se mladi pogosto srečujejo s posebnimi izzivi in perspektivami, zato so uvedli različne programe, ki spodbujajo mladinsko participacijo v procesih odločanja.

Ključne aktivnosti:



- **Mladinski sveti:** Mnoge lokalne oblasti, kot je Mestna občina Ljubljana, so ustanovile Mladinske svete, ki delujejo kot svetovalna telesa za občinsko upravo. Ti sveti vključujejo mlade predstavnike, stare od 15 do 29 let, ki se ukvarjajo s problemi s katerimi se srečujejo mladi. Na primer, Mladinski svet Ljubljane se aktivno vključuje v razprave o javnem prevozu in urbanističnih projektih, da zagotovi, da je perspektiva mladih vključena v strateško načrtovanje mesta.
- **Participativno proračunanje:** V Mariboru je občina uvedla proces participativnega proračunanja, ki mladim omogoča, da predlagajo in glasujejo o skupnostnih projektih. Leta 2023 so mladi predlagali več pobud, vključno z razvojem novih skate parkov in organizacijo kulturnih dogodkov. Ta proces ne samo da spodbudi mlade, da prevzamejo odgovornost za lokalni razvoj, temveč tudi povečuje transparentnost in odgovornost pri uporabi javnih sredstev.
- **Mladinski forumi:** Redni mladinski forumi in delavnice, ki jih organizirajo lokalne oblasti, zagotavljajo platforme, kjer mladi izražajo svoja mnenja o pomembnih vprašanjih. Ti forumi obravnavajo teme, ki segajo od javne varnosti in okoljskih skrbi do izobraževanja in zaposlitvenih priložnosti. Povratne informacije z teh dogodkov so privedle do konkretnih ukrepov, kot so ustanovitev programov za mlade v lokalnih knjižnicah in športnih objektih.

Učinek: Ti ukrepi so povečali občutek lastništva mladih nad lokalnim upravljanjem. Anketne raziskave, ki jih je izvedel Slovenski mladinski svet, kažejo, da se 72 % udeležencev mladinskih svetov počuti bolj povezane s svojo skupnostjo. Poleg tega so lokalne oblasti poročale o izboljšani odzivnosti na potrebe mladih, kar je privedlo do politik, ki odražajo prioritete njihovih mlajših volivcev.

3. Gibanje Mladih za podnebno pravičnost

Ozadje: Gibanje Mladih za podnebno pravičnost je postalo pomembna sila pri zagovoru podnebne pravičnosti v Sloveniji, zlasti kot odgovor na globalne podnebne stavke, ki jih navdihuje gibanje "Petki za prihodnost". Od svojega nastanka leta 2019 ta pobuda mobilizira mlade aktiviste po vsej državi, da zahtevajo nujne ukrepe vlade glede podnebnih sprememb.

Ključne aktivnosti:

- **Podnebni protesti:** Leta 2019 je veliko mladih v Sloveniji sodelovalo v podnebnih protestih v večjih mestih, vključno z Ljubljano in Mariborom, pod sloganom "Petki za prihodnost". Tei protesti so ne le povečali zavedanje o nujnosti podnebnih sprememb, temveč so tudi zahtevali izvajanje obveznosti Slovenije iz Pariškega sporazuma. Najbolj opazen protest je bil septembra 2019, ko je več kot 5.000 mladih ljudi protestiralo v Ljubljani, s čimer so izrazili zahtevo mladih po trajnostnih politikah.
- **Sodelovanje s kampanjami:** Gibanje je sodelovalo z različnimi nevladnimi organizacijami, kot je organizacija Zelena akcija, da bi zagovarjalo ambicioznejše okoljske politike na nacionalni in lokalni ravni. Njihove skupne kampanje so se osredotočale na vprašanja, kot so zmanjšanje plastičnih odpadkov in spodbujanje obnovljivih virov energije.



- **Predlogi politik:** Mladinski aktivisti so bili proaktivni pri predložitvi predlogov politik lokalnim svetom, s poudarkom na trajnostnem urbanem načrtovanju in pobudah za zeleno energijo. Na primer, leta 2020 so predlagali načrt za izboljšanje javnega prevoza v Ljubljani, s poudarkom na potrebi po električnih avtobusih in izboljšani kolesarski infrastrukturi, kar je bilo nazadnje vključeno v razvojni načrt prevoza mesta.

Učinek: Gibanje je povečalo zavedanje o podnebnih vprašanjih in vplivalo na lokalne in nacionalne politike, namenjene reševanju okoljskih izzivov. Opazen rezultat je bila vključitev predlogov mladih v Podnebno strategijo Slovenije 2030, kar dokazuje moč mladinskega aktivizma pri oblikovanju politik.

4. Zagovorništvo za duševno zdravje mladih

Ozadje: Zavedajoč se naraščajoče krize duševnega zdravja med mladimi, zlasti zaradi pandemije COVID-19, so se pojavile številne pobude ki zahtevajo boljše storitve in politike duševnega zdravja v Sloveniji. Po raziskavi Nacionalnega inštituta za javno zdravje iz leta 2022 je približno 40 % mladih poročalo o duševnih težavah med pandemijo.

Ključne aktivnosti:

- **Kampanje osveščanja:** Mladinske organizacije, kot so Mladi Zmaji, so lansirale kampanje za osveščanje o težavah duševnega zdravja. Njihova kampanja "Pogovorimo se o tem" se osredotoča na odpravo stigme okoli duševnega zdravja in spodbujanje dostopnih storitev. Organizirali so delavnice in javne razprave v šolah, da bi izobraževali vrstnike o virih duševnega zdravja.
- **Sodelovanje z zdravstvenimi delavci:** Predstavniki mladinskih organizacij so aktivno sodelovali z zdravstvenimi delavci in oblikovalci politik. Sodelovali so z Ministrstvom za zdravje Republike Slovenije, da bi zagovarjali politike, ki dajejo prednost storitvam duševnega zdravja v izobraževalnih ustanovah. Njihovi naporji so privedli do vključitve izobraževanja o duševnem zdravju v šolski kurikulum, kar mladim omogoča pridobivanje znanja in strategij spoprijemanja.
- **Programi medsebojne podpore:** Iniciative, kot je Mreža za medsebojno podporo, ki jo je razvijal Inštitut za mladinsko participacijo, usposablja mlade, da postanejo medsebojni podporniki. Ti usposobljeni posamezniki nudijo čustveno podporo in smernice svojim vrstnikom ter ustvarjajo varno okolje za razprave o duševnem zdravju. Povratne informacije udeležencev kažejo, da medsebojna podpora znatno izboljšuje čustveno počutje in zmanjšuje občutke osamljenosti.

Učinek: Ti zagovorniški naporji so privedli do izboljšanja virov in politik na področju duševnega zdravja. Ministrstvo za zdravje Republike Slovenije je poročalo o 25-odstotnem povečanju financiranja storitev duševnega zdravja za mladino od leta 2021, kar poudarja učinkovitost zagovorništva, ki ga vodijo mladi, pri reševanju ključnih vprašanj zdravja.

5. Digitalne platforme za vključevanje mladih



Ozadje: S porastom tehnologije so digitalne platforme postale ključna orodja za vključevanje mladih v procese odločanja. Različne slovenske organizacije, vključno z Mladinsko mrežo Slovenije, uporabljajo te platforme za povečanje sodelovanja in angažiranosti med mladimi.

Ključni ukrepi:

- **Spletne kampanje:** Organizacije, ki jih vodijo mladi, uporabljajo socialna omrežja, kot sta Instagram in Facebook, za izvajanje kampanj, ki dvigujejo ozaveščenost o ključnih vprašanjih. Na primer, kampanja #YouthVoicesMatter, ki je bila zagnana zgodaj leta 2023, je mobilizirala tisoče mladih, da so se zavzeli za reforme v izobraževanju, pri čemer so uporabljali digitalno pripovedovanje zgodb, da bi osvetlili osebne izkušnje.
- **Spletne posvetovalne seje:** Uporaba spletnih platform, kot sta Zoom in Microsoft Teams, omogoča mladim sodelovanje v posvetih in razpravah z oblikovalci politik. Med pandemijo COVID-19 je Mladinski svet Slovenije organiziral virtualne mestne dvorane, kar je mladim omogočilo neposredno sodelovanje s predstavniki lokalnih oblasti.
- **Zbiranje idej:** Digitalne platforme so olajšale zbiranje idej preko iniciativ, kot je Forum mladinskih idej, kjer mladi lahko predlagajo pobude in glasujejo o njih. Ta forum je ustvaril širok spekter predlogov, od katerih so jih lokalne oblasti mnogo tudi sprejele.

Učinek: Digitalno vključevanje je razširilo možnosti sodelovanja za mlade, kar jim je olajšalo vplivanje na razprave o politikah in sodelovanje z drugimi. Raziskava iz leta 2023, ki jo je izvedel Inštitut za mladinske raziskave, je pokazala, da se je 68 % anketirancev počutilo bolj sposobnih za sodelovanje v državljskih dejavnostih zaradi razpoložljivosti spletnih platform, kar kaže na pomembno spremembo v načinu povezovanja mladih z odločevalnimi procesi.

LEKCIJE IN NAJBOLJŠE PRAKSE

1. Pomembnost reprezentacije

Strukturirane organizacije, kot je Nacionalni svet mladih Slovenije (MSS), igrajo ključno vlogo pri zagotavljanju enotnega glasu mladih. S povezovanjem različnih mladinskih skupin in organizacij MSS zagotavlja, da so različni pogledi mladih vključeni v oblikovanje politik. Ta reprezentacija gradi zaupanje med mladimi in odločevalci. Ko mladi vidijo, da so njihove skrbi naslovljene, se poveča možnost njihovega aktivnega vključevanja v civilno življenje. Poleg tega strukturirane organizacije pomagajo mladim razvijati ključne veščine, kot so javno nastopanje in zagovarjanje, kar jih opolnomoči za učinkovito sodelovanje v odločevalnih procesih.

Primer: MSS je uspešno lobiral za politike, ki podpirajo zaposlovanje mladih in reforme izobraževanja. Njihovo zagovarjanje je prispevalo k Zakonu o zaposlovanju mladih, ki vključuje določbe za pripravništva in usposabljanja, namenjena olajšanju prehoda mladih v delovno življenje.



Najboljša praksa: Ustanovitev strukturiranih mladinskih svetov in svetovalnih teles v občinah povečuje reprezentativnost. Redna usposabljanja in delavnice za krepitev zmogljivosti opolnomočijo mlade predstavnike, da učinkovito izrazijo svoje potrebe in skrbi med posvetovanji z odločevalci.

2. Vključevanje lokalnih oblasti

Vključevanje lokalnih oblasti je ključno za ustvarjanje politik, ki odražajo potrebe mlajših prebivalcev. Iniciative, kot so mladinski sveti in participativno proračunanje, spodbujajo lokalno angažiranost in mladim omogočajo, da izrazijo svoje mnenje o vprašanih, kot so urbanistični razvoj in izobraževanje. Ti sveti olajšajo razprave z lokalnimi uradniki, kar zagotavlja, da so mladinske perspektive vključene v lokalne politike.

Participativno proračunanje daje mladim moč, da predlagajo in glasujejo o projektih, ki vplivajo na njihove skupnosti. Ta vključenost ne le, da pomaga lokalnim oblastem razumeti prioritete mlajših volivcev, temveč tudi vzbuja občutek pripadnosti mladih glede razvoja skupnosti.

Primer: V Mariboru je proces participativnega proračunanja rezultiral v novih rekreacijskih objektih in kulturnih dogodkih, ki so jih neposredno vplivali mladinski predlogi. Ta vključenost je privedla do višjih stopenj zadovoljstva mladih z lokalnimi storitvami.

Najboljša praksa: Ustanovitev rednih mladinskih forumov omogoča mladim, da razpravljajo o težavah skupnosti z lokalnimi uradniki, kar povečuje preglednost in odzivnost. Vključevanje mehanizmov za povratne informacije zagotavlja, da se na mladinske mnenja ukrepa, kar spodbuja sodelovanje med mladimi in lokalnimi oblastmi.

3. Skupinsko delovanje krepí glasove

Gibanja na osnovni ravni, kot je Mladina za podnebno pravičnost, ponazarjajo moč skupinskega delovanja pri krepitvi glasov mladih. Ko se mladi združijo za zagovarjanje skupne zadeve, mobilizirajo pomembno javno podporo in učinkovito vplivajo na odločevalce. Skupinsko delovanje dviga ozaveščenost o pomembnih vprašanih in pokaže odločevalcem, da so mladi organizirani in resni glede sprememb.

Ta gibanja pogosto uporabljajo ustvarjalne strategije za angažiranje javnosti. Na primer, organizacija podnebnih protestov, kampanje na družbenih omrežjih in skupnostni dogodki lahko generirajo široko podporo in spodbudijo solidarnost med mladimi in njihovimi zavezniki. S skupnim delovanjem lahko mladi delijo vire, znanje in strategije, kar povečuje učinek njihovih prizadevanj za zagovarjanje.

Primer: Podnebniprotesti, ki so jih organizirali slovenski mladi leta 2019, so privabili tisoče udeležencev in spodbudili lokalne oblasti, da pregledajo svoje okoljske politike. Posledično se je Mestna občina Ljubljana zavezala, da bo do leta 2050 postala ogljično nevtralna, deloma v odgovoru na mladinski aktivizem.

Najboljša praksa: Spodbujanje sodelovanja med mladinskimi organizacijami povečuje njihov vpliv. Ustvarjanje koalicij ali omrežij omogoča skupinam, da delijo vire in izboljšajo svojo učinkovitost v prizadevanjih za zagovarjanje.



4. Celostno reševanje vprašanj duševnega zdravja

Zagovorniška prizadevanja, osredotočena na duševno zdravje, poudarjajo nujnost celostnega obravnavanja dobrega počutja mladih. Ker so težave z duševnim zdravjem med mladimi razširjene, mora učinkovito zagovarjanje vključevati dostop do storitev, izobraževanja in socialne podpore. Vključevanje zdravstvenih delavcev in odločevalcev je ključno za spodbujanje politik, ki prednostno obravnavajo vire duševnega zdravja za mlade. Spodbujanje programov medsebojne podpore je učinkovita strategija za celostno obravnavo duševnega zdravja. Usposabljanje mladih za nudenje podpore ne le zagotavlja takojšnjo pomoč, temveč tudi zmanjšuje stigmo, povezano s težavami z duševnim zdravjem. Spodbujanje odprtih razprav o duševnem zdravju v šolah in skupnostih ustvarja okolje, kjer se mladi počutijo udobno pri iskanju pomoči.

Primer: Organizacija Mladi Zmaji je uvedla kampanjo "Pogovorimo se o tem", ki je dvignila ozaveščenost o duševnem zdravju in izzvala stigmo. Sodelovali so z lokalnimi zdravstvenimi delavci pri razvoju šolskih programov duševnega zdravja, prilagojenih potrebam učencev.

Najboljša praksa: Vključevanje izobraževanja o duševnem zdravju v šolske kurikule in usposabljanje učiteljev lahko spodbuja podporno okolje. Šole lahko služijo kot ključni prostori za zgodnje posredovanje, opremljanje učencev s znanjem za iskanje pomoči, ko jo potrebujejo.

5. Uporaba tehnologij za angažma

Digitalne platforme so popolnoma preobrazile način, kako se mladi vključujejo v razprave o politiki. Tehnologija ponuja inovativne načine za povečanje udeležbe in dosega. Družbena omrežja, kot so Instagram, Twitter in TikTok, omogočajo mladim, da delijo svoje zgodbe in mobilizirajo podporo za nujna vprašanja.

Izvajanje spletnih posvetov in digitalnih forumov olajša angažiranost mladih, zlasti ko osebni sestanki niso praktični. Te platforme mladim omogočajo, da neposredno delijo svoja mnenja z odločevalci, kar povečuje verjetnost, da bodo njihovi glasovi upoštevani v odločevalnih procesih.

Poleg tega tehnologija pomaga premostiti razkorak med mladimi v urbanih in ruralnih območjih. Spletna orodja za angažiranje nudijo priložnosti mladim iz različnih okolij, da se povežejo in sodelujejo, kar spodbuja bolj vključujoč pristop k sodelovanju.

Primer: Slovenski mladinski svet je izkoristil družbena omrežja, kot sta Instagram in Facebook, za izvajanje kampanj in organizacijo virtualnih mestnih srečanj med pandemijo COVID-19. Ta pristop jim je omogočil, da so ohranili angažiranost mladih in zbirali povratne informacije o nujnih vprašanjih, kot so motnje v izobraževanju, ki jih je povzročila pandemija.

Najboljša praksa: Ustanovitev spletnih platform za posvetovanje in izmenjavo idej lahko olajša sodelovanje mladih v razpravah o politiki. Uporaba digitalnih orodij za dosego pomaga organizacijam doseči raznolike mladinske skupine, vključno s tistimi, ki so morda manj aktivne v tradicionalnih okoljih.



6. Gradnja partnerstev s interesnimi skupinami

Ustanovitev partnerstev z različnimi deležniki, vključno z lokalnimi oblastmi, nevladnimi organizacijami in zasebnim sektorjem, povečuje učinkovitost mladinskih pobud. Sodelovalni napor izkoriščajo vire in strokovno znanje, kar povečuje vpliv zagovorniških kampanj.

Primer: Gibanje Mladi za podnebno pravičnost je uspešno sodelovalo z okoljevarstvenimi NVO in lokalnimi podjetji pri spodbujanju trajnostnih praks. Ta partnerstva so privedla do iniciativ, kot so lokalne čistilne akcije in delavnice o trajnosti, kar je povečalo vključitev skupnosti.

Najboljša praksa: Aktivno iskanje partnerstev v različnih sektorjih lahko prinese dodatne možnosti financiranja in vire za mladinske pobude. Ustanovitev omrežja podpornikov ustvari močnejšo osnovo za zagovorniške napore.

7. Nenehno vrednotenje in prilagoditev

Redno vrednotenje mladinskih pobud in zbiranje povratnih informacij od udeležencev je ključno za razumevanje njihove učinkovitosti in področij za izboljšave. Prilagajanje na podlagi povratnih informacij lahko izboljša prihodnja prizadevanja.

Primer: Po uvedbi participativnega proračunanja v Kranju je občina izvedla ankete, da bi ocenila zadovoljstvo mladih s financiranimi projekti. Povratne informacije so pokazale potrebo po večji preglednosti v procesu odločanja, kar je privedlo do jasnejših komunikacijskih kanalov med mladimi in lokalnimi oblastmi.

Najboljša praksa: Vključitev procesov vrednotenja v pobude, ki jih vodijo mladi, spodbuja kulturo nenehnega izboljševanja. Zagotavljanje platform za mlade, da izrazijo svoje mnenje o programih, zagotavlja, da je njihovim potrebam zadoščeno.

Te lekcije iz uspešnih pobud za vključevanje mladih ilustrirajo vplivne načine, kako se lahko mladi angažirajo v procesih odločanja. Od nacionalnih organizacij, ki zagovarjajo pravice mladih, do lokalnih svetov, ki olajšajo sodelovanje, te izkušnje prikazujejo potencial mladinskega sodelovanja pri oblikovanju politik, ki vplivajo na njihovo življenje. Z osredotočanjem na strukturirano reprezentacijo, vključevanjem lokalnih oblasti, spodbujanjem skupinskega delovanja, celostnim pristopom k duševnemu zdravju in izkoriščanjem tehnologije lahko deležniki ustvarijo bolj vključujoč in participativen politični prostor za prihodnje generacije.

8. ZAKLJUČEK

POVZETEK KLJUČNIH UČNIH TOČK IN SPODBUDA ZA SODELOVANJE MLADIH

V raziskovanju ključne vloge sodelovanja mladih v oblikovanju politik in državljske angažiranosti ta brošura poudarja preobrazbeni potencial mladih glasov pri oblikovanju boljše prihodnosti. Mladi v Sloveniji imajo moč vplivati na odločitve na različnih ravneh, od lokalnih občin do nacionalnih politik. S tem, ko izkoristijo skupno energijo in entuziazem,



lahko mladi zagovarjajo vprašanja, ki so zanje pomembna in spodbudijo pomembne spremembe v svojih skupnostih.

Ena najpomembnejših spoznanj je nujnost strukturirane reprezentacije. Organizacije, kot je Mladinski svet Slovenije (MSS), predstavljajo ključne platforme, preko katerih se mladi lahko združijo in zagotovijo, da so njihovi pogledi vključeni v razprave o politikah. Takšne strukture ne le legitimizirajo angažiranost mladih, temveč tudi opolnomočijo mlade zagovornike s spretnostmi, ki so nujne za učinkovito sodelovanje, kot so pogajanje, javno nastopanje in strateško razmišljanje.

Poleg tega je vključevanje lokalnih oblasti preko iniciativ, kot so mladinski sveti in participativni proračuni, izkazalo kot učinkovito pri spodbujanju vključenosti. Ko mladi dobijo priložnost, da sodelujejo v odločanju, takrat rezultati politik pogosto bolj odražajo njihove potrebe in želje.

Moči skupinskega delovanja ni mogoče podcenjevati. Gibanja, kot so tista, ki se zavzemajo za podnebno pravičnost, so primer, kako lahko enotne pobude mobilizirajo javno podporo in vplivajo na odločevalce. Ta gibanja izpostavljajo nujnost pomembnih vprašanj, od trajnostnega razvoja do ozaveščanja o duševnem zdravju, kar dokazuje, da mladi lahko privedejo do resničnih sprememb, ko se združijo za skupen cilj.

Pomembno je tudi celostno obravnavanje kritičnih vprašanj, kot je duševno zdravje. Mladi se soočajo s številnimi izzivi na tem področju, zato je nujno, da politike odražajo celovit pristop, ki vključuje izobraževanje, podporo skupnosti in dostop do storitev duševnega zdravja. Z usposabljanjem vrstnikov za medsebojno podporo in sodelovanjem z zdravstvenimi ponudniki lahko mladi prispevajo k bolj podporni in razumevajoči okolici za svoje duševne zdravstvene potrebe.

V času digitalne dobe izkoriščanje tehnologije za angažiranje ponuja inovativne priložnosti za sodelovanje mladih. Spletne platforme lahko razširijo doseg mladinskega zagovorništva, kar omogoča posameznikom iz različnih okolij, vključno s tistimi v ruralnih območjih, da izrazijo svoja mnenja in sodelujejo z drugimi. Pandemija COVID-19 nam je pokazala potencial virtualnih posvetov in digitalnega aktivizma, kar je mladim olajšalo, da ostanejo angažirani, tudi ko osebni stiki niso mogoči.

Spodbujanje mladih, da prevzamejo pobudo in aktivno sodelujejo v državljanskem življenju, je izjemno pomembno. Ta brošura služi kot poziv k dejanju za mlade v Sloveniji, da se vključijo v svoje lokalne svete, sodelujejo v mladinskih organizacijah in izkoristijo digitalna orodja za zagovarjanje svojih pravic. Vsak mlad posameznik ima potencial, da vpliva na svojo skupnost, in s strukturiranim sodelovanjem ter skupinskim delovanjem lahko prispevajo k politikam, ki bodo vplivale na njihova življenja še dolgo v prihodnost.

KONTAKTNE INFORMACIJE ZA DODATNO POMOČ

Da bi podprli mlade pri njihovih prizadevanjih za smiselno vključevanje v oblikovanje politik in zagovorništvo, so na voljo naslednje organizacije in viri, ki nudijo usmeritve, informacije in priložnosti za sodelovanje:



- **Mladinski svet Slovenije (MSS):** MSS služi kot osrednje telo, ki zastopa interese mladih na nacionalni ravni. Njihova spletna stran ponuja informacije o potekajočih projektih, zagovorniških pobudah in možnostih za vključevanje mladih. [Več informacij](#)
- Sindikat Mladi Plus je sindikat, ki se osredotoča na opolnomočenje mladih, dijakov, študentov ter brezposelnih in prekarnih delavcev v Sloveniji. Poudarja pravice do dostojnega dela in pravičnega plačila ter organizira izobraževalne aktivnosti in delavnice, ki mladim pomagajo pri pridobivanju znanj in veščin. [Več informacij](#)
- **Lokalni mladinski centri:** Po vsej Sloveniji lokalni mladinski centri nudijo prostor za mlade, da se zbirajo, angažirajo in sodelujejo v skupnostnih pobudah. Poiščite svoj lokalni mladinski center, da odkrijete priložnosti za vključevanje in podporo v svoji okolici. [Več informacij](#)
- Predlagam vladi **Gre za pobudo**, ki spodbuja mlade v Sloveniji k aktivnemu sodelovanju v političnem odločanju. Omogoča jim, da se vključijo v javne posvetovanja in pridobijo veščine za učinkovito zagovarjanje svojih pravic. [Več informacij](#)

