
SCHOOL ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY



3rd–8th December 2024

Engage citizens in decision-making!



Wednesday, 4th December
2024 – 14:15–15:30



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CIVIL PARTICIPATION – PART 1

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CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CIVIL PARTICIPATION

A Framework for Strengthening Civil Society
Engagement

- Adopted by: Conference of INGOs, 1 October 2009
- Revised in: 2019

Origin:

Based on a recommendation from the Council of Europe's Forum for the Future of Democracy.

Objective:

Establish principles and guidelines for NGO participation in decision-making.

Timeline:

- Drafted by the Conference of INGOs.
- Official launch: 21 October 2009, Kyiv.
- Revised Code adopted: 2019.

Primary Objective:

Provide a comprehensive guide to enhance collaboration between public authorities, NGOs, and broader civil society.

Specific Objectives:

- Enable meaningful participation at all stages of decision-making.
- Promote openness, transparency, and inclusivity.
- Equip stakeholders with practical tools for collaboration.
- Foster shared responsibility for governance.



Ensuring citizens and NGOs can meaningfully influence public decisions.



Fostering a culture of participation that benefits governance and society.

1. PRINCIPLES FOR CIVIL PARTICIPATION.

2. LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION.

3. PHASES OF DECISION-MAKING.

4. IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS.



- **Definition:**
 - Transparent, accessible participation processes.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Host forums, share timely information.
- **NGOs:**
 - Gather and channel diverse views.
- **Example:**
 - Pre-consultation workshops by NGOs.



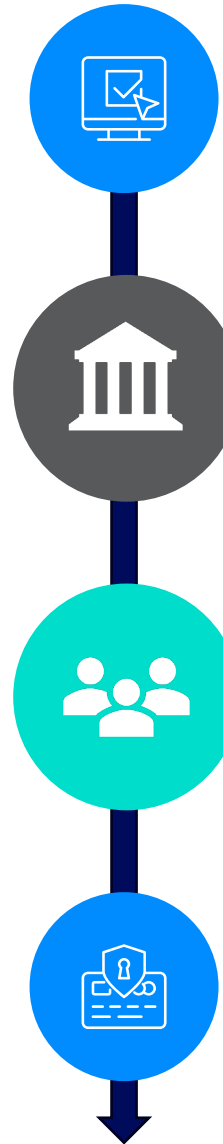
- **Definition:**
 - Collaboration based on respect and transparency.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Respond to feedback, avoid tokenism.
- **NGOs:**
 - Maintain integrity and clear communication.
- **Example:**
 - Advisory boards by authorities with demonstrated use of citizen input.



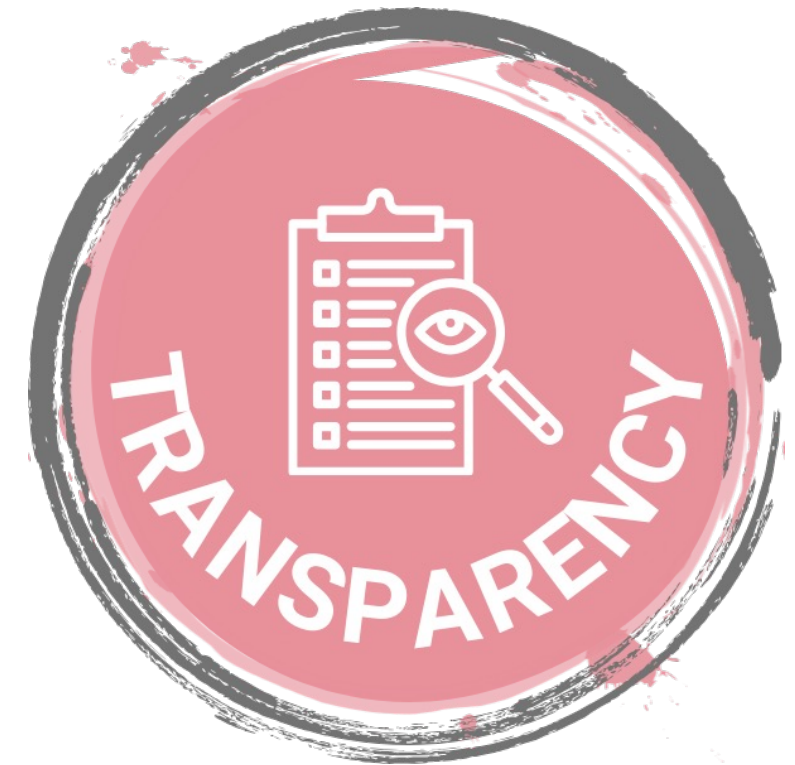
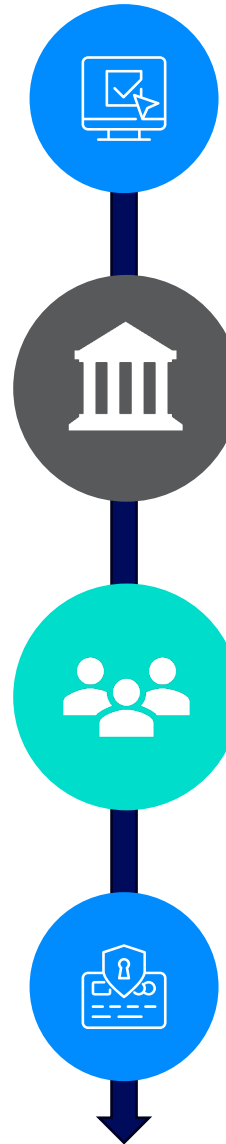
- **Definition:**
 - NGOs act freely in their advocacy and decisions.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Respect NGO autonomy.
- **NGOs:**
 - Safeguard independence through diverse funding.
- **Example:**
 - NGOs balancing collaboration with critique of government policies.



- **Definition:**
 - Right to engage at all levels of governance.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Remove participation barriers.
- **NGOs:**
 - Provide evidence-based input.
- **Example:**
 - Joint consultations on public transport reforms.



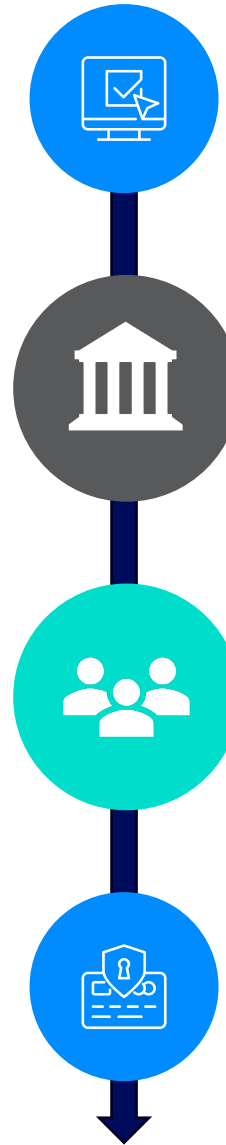
- **Definition:**
 - Open processes with accessible documentation.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Publish drafts, communicate outcomes.
- **NGOs:**
 - Disclose objectives and contributions.
- **Example:**
 - Online portals showing consultation results.



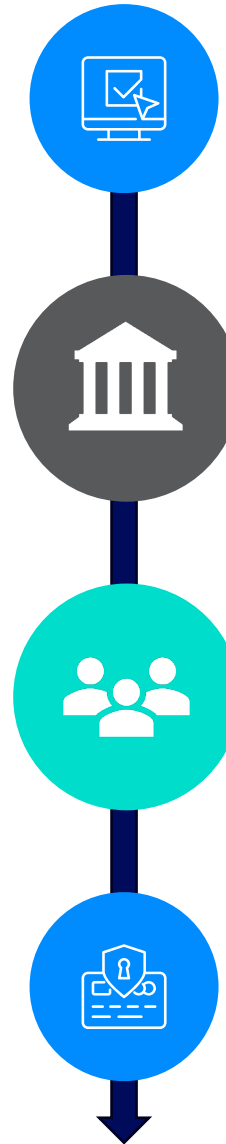
- **Definition:**
 - Inclusive language and platforms.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Ensure venues, materials, and formats cater to diverse groups.
- **NGOs:**
 - Advocate and implement inclusive practices.
- **Example:**
 - Live translations at public hearings.



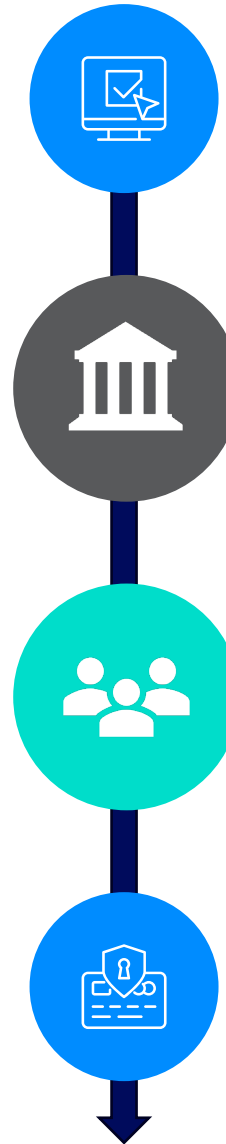
- **Definition:**
 - Engage all voices, especially marginalised groups.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Address participation barriers.
- **NGOs:**
 - Amplify underrepresented voices.
- **Example:**
 - Childcare during public consultations.



- **Definition:**
 - Proactively involve groups with particular needs.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Reach out to underrepresented groups.
- **NGOs:**
 - Empower marginalised communities.
- **Example:**
 - Leadership training for vulnerable groups.



- **Definition:**
 - Processes must produce results and adapt to input.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Report on progress, address grievances.
- **NGOs:**
 - Monitor and evaluate.
- **Example:**
 - Publishing progress reports on infrastructure projects.



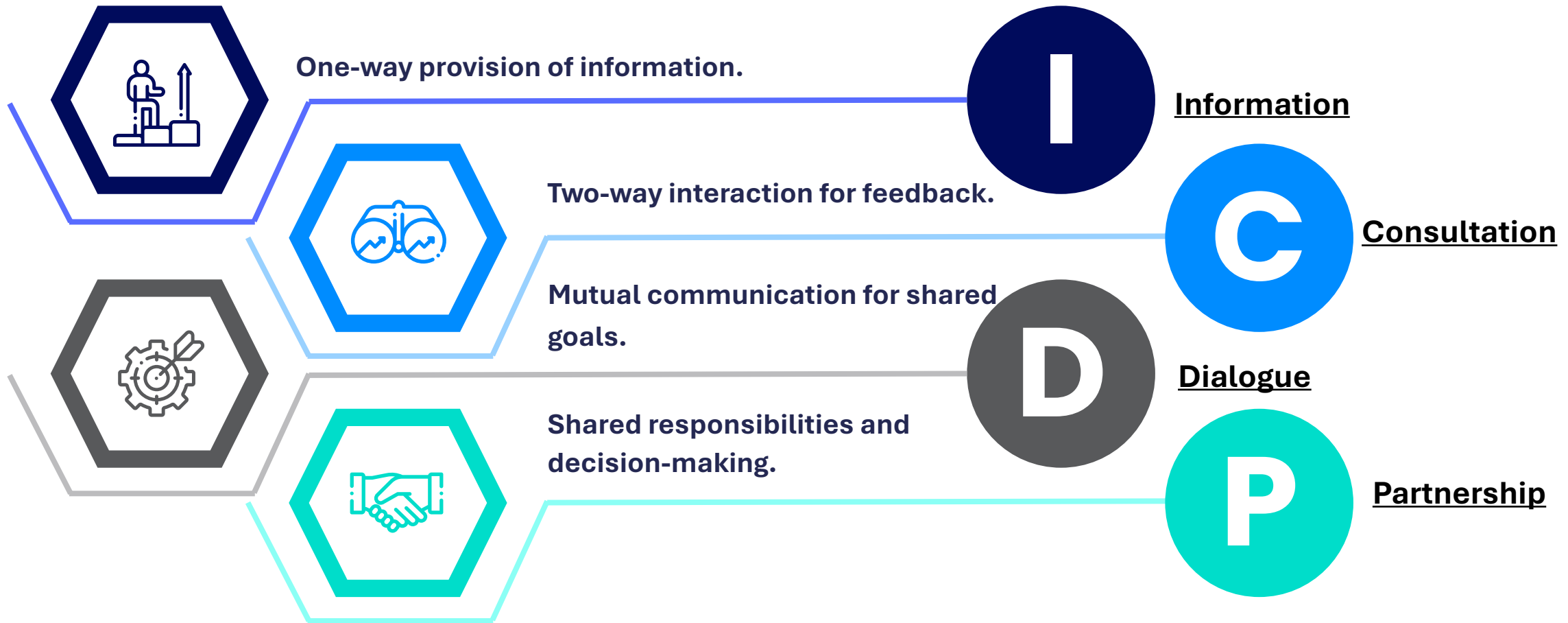
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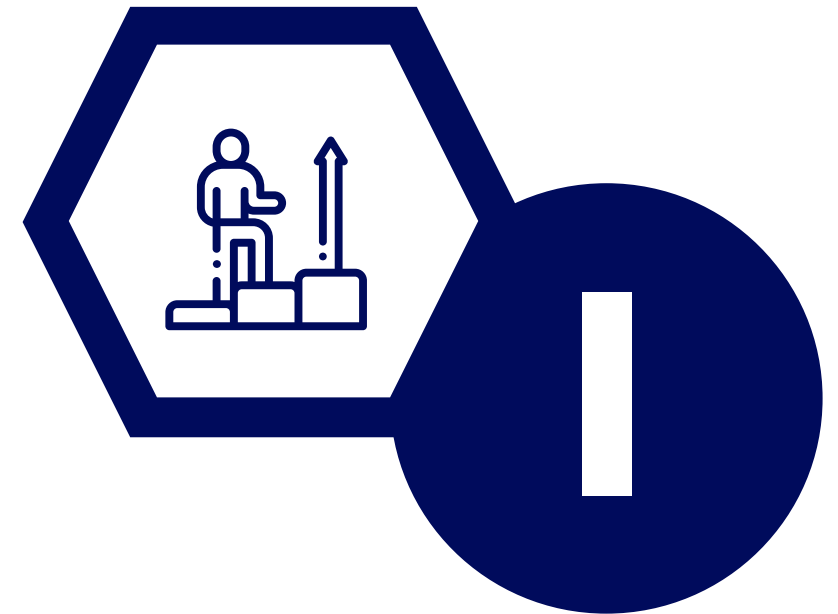
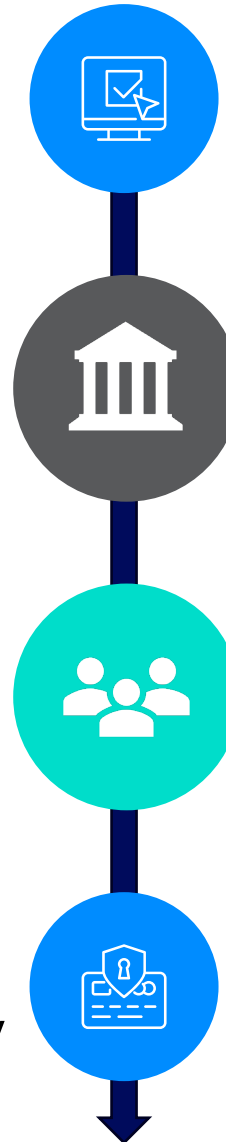
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CIVIL PARTICIPATION – PART 2

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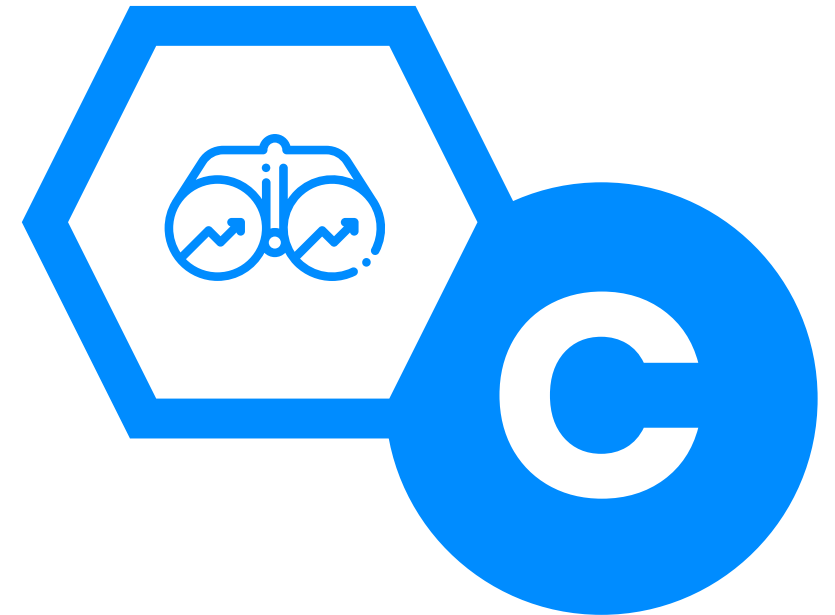
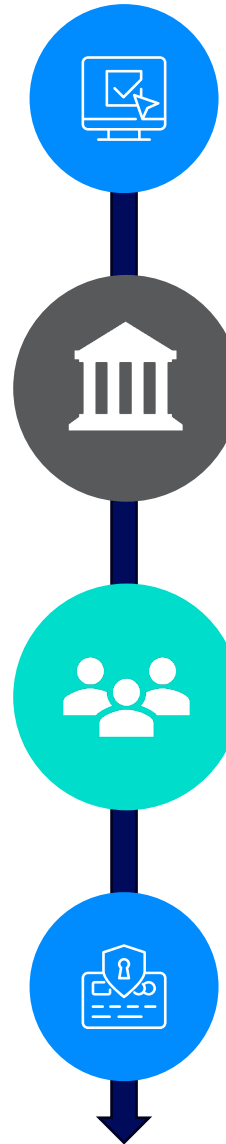
Ramona VELEA Deputy Director, ISIG - Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia, CoE Expert



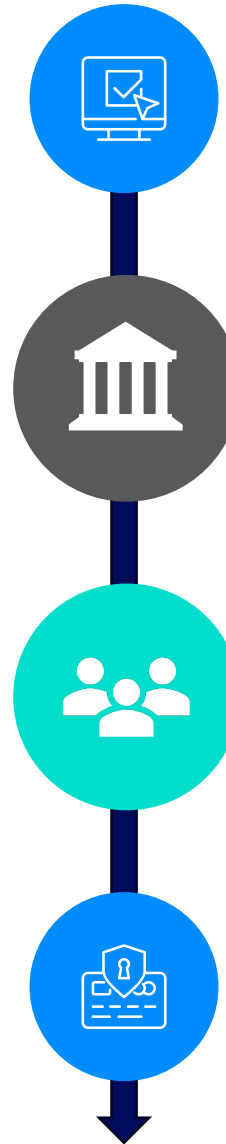
- **Definition:**
 - One-way provision of timely and accurate information.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Use diverse channels, adopt proactive transparency.
- **NGOs:**
 - Analyse and disseminate information.
- **Example:**
 - Government websites publishing policy updates.



- **Definition:**
 - Two-way process to gather input on policies.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Organise hearings, share feedback.
- **NGOs:**
 - Provide evidence-based recommendations.
- **Example:**
 - Focus groups on housing policies.



- **Definition:**
 - Mutual communication to address shared goals.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Convene roundtables, enable open exchanges.
- **NGOs:**
 - Offer practical solutions and diverse perspectives.
- **Example:**
 - Climate strategy dialogues.

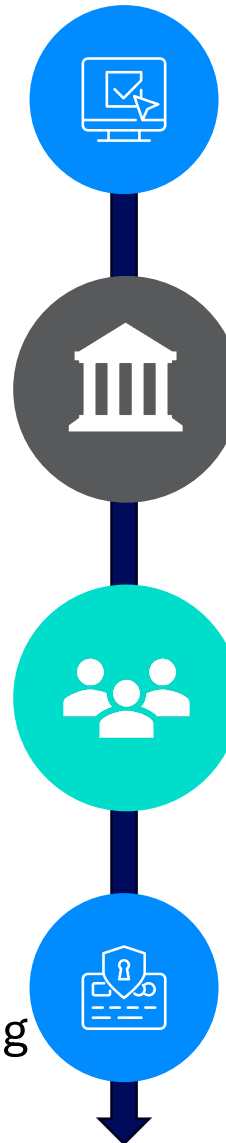


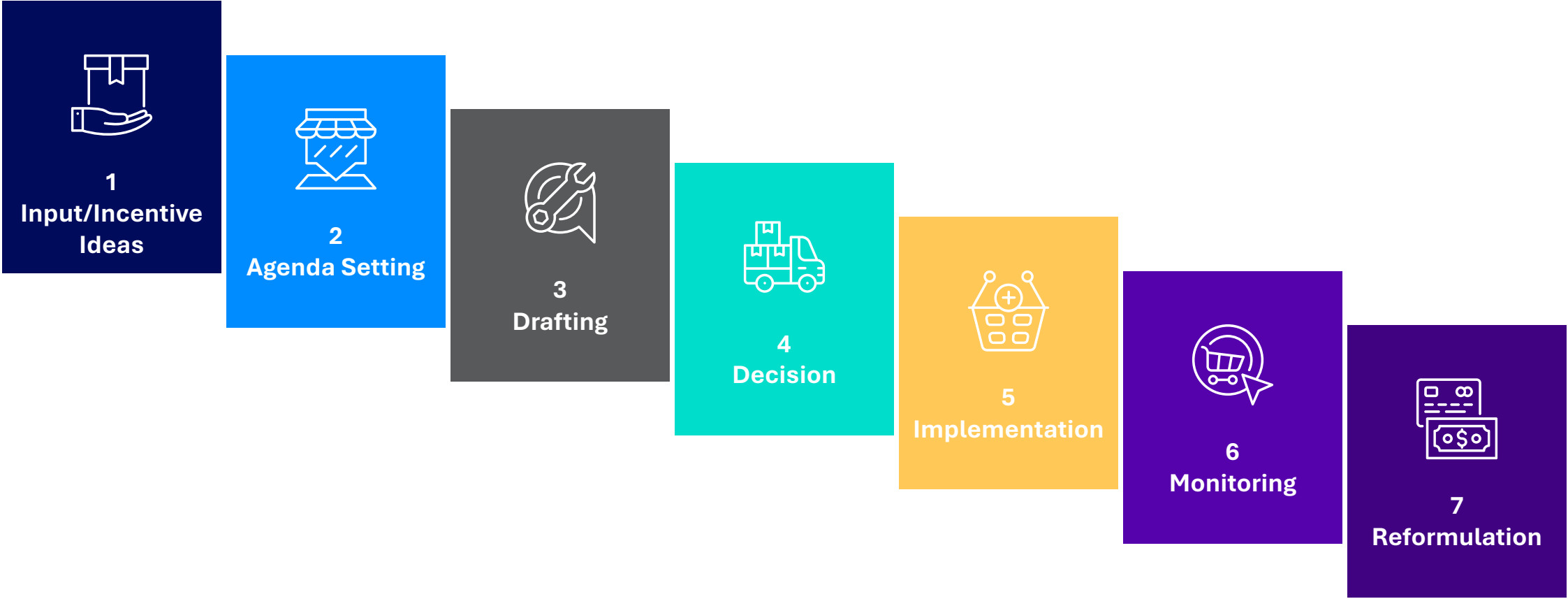
- **Definition:**
 - Shared decision-making authority and responsibilities.

- **Public Authorities:**
 - Empower NGOs as equal partners.

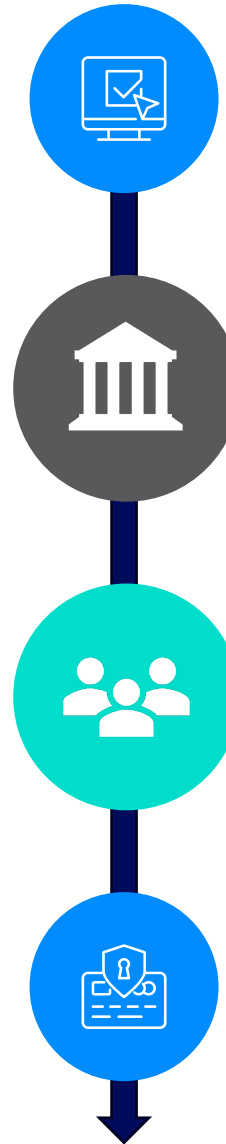
- **NGOs:**
 - Commit to accountability and shared outcomes.

- **Example:**
 - Co-designing and implementing housing projects.

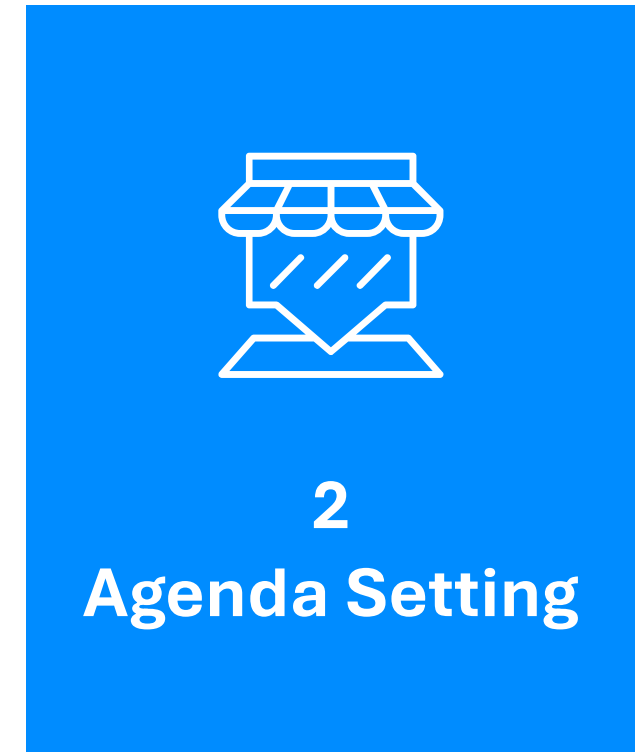
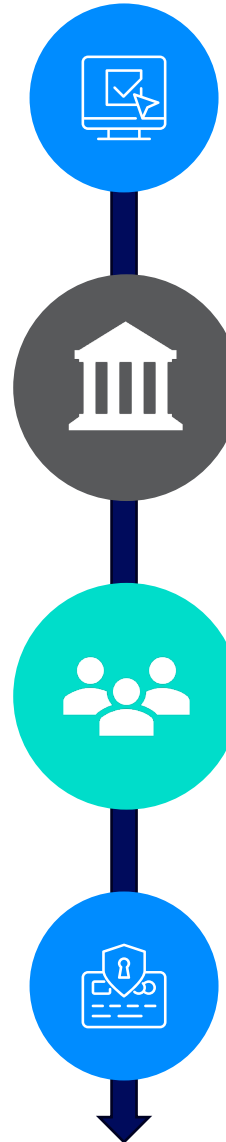




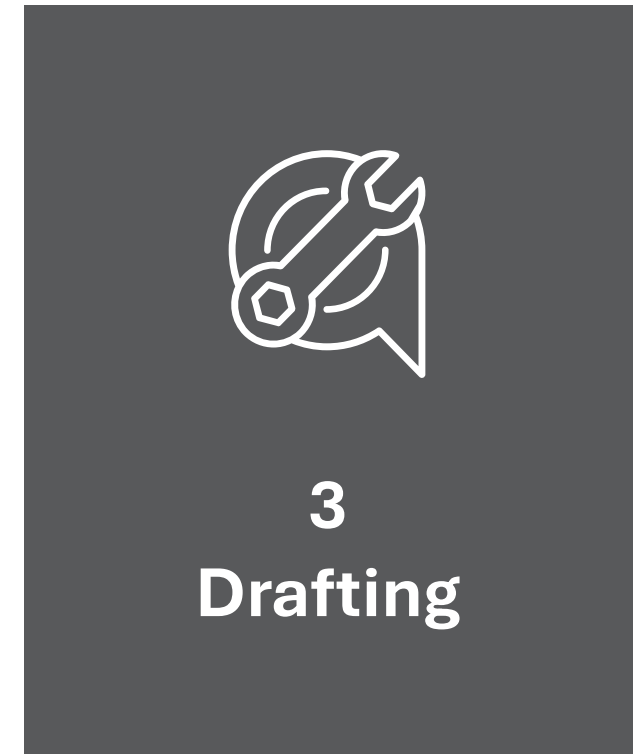
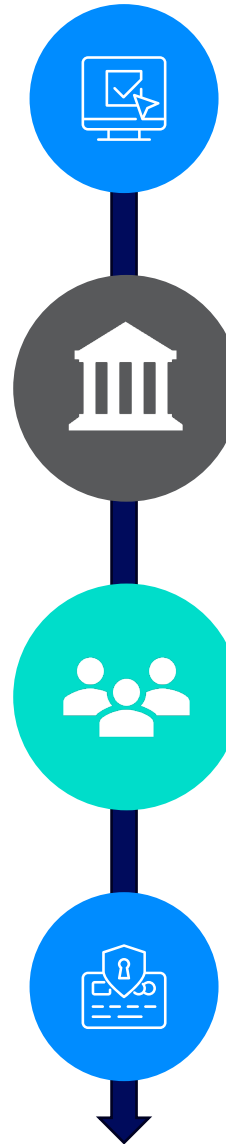
- **Definition:**
 - Generate ideas for policies.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Collect input via consultations.
- **NGOs:**
 - Propose solutions based on community needs.
- **Example:**
 - Online petitions for traffic safety.



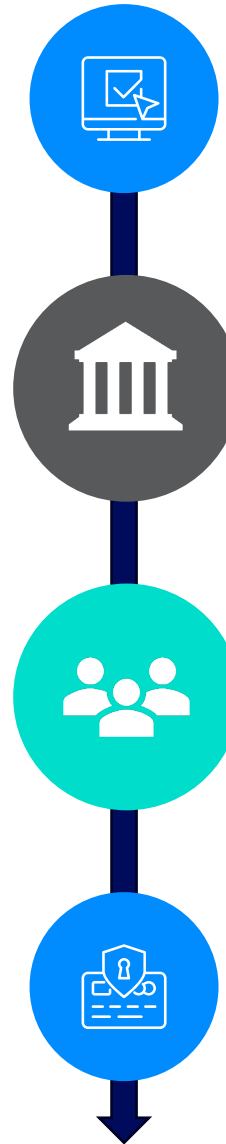
- **Definition:**
 - Shape priorities for policy development.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Host inclusive discussions.
- **NGOs:**
 - Use advocacy and campaigns to highlight issues.
- **Example:**
 - Youth climate marches influencing policy.



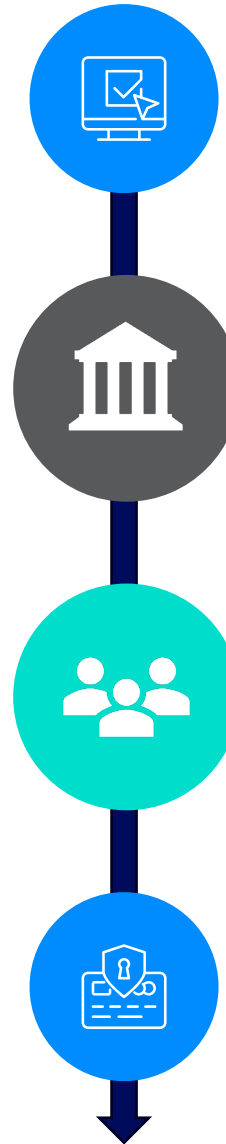
- **Definition:**
 - Develop policy proposals.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Invite feedback, hold workshops.
- **NGOs:**
 - Present evidence-based recommendations.
- **Example:**
 - NGOs shaping education policy drafts.



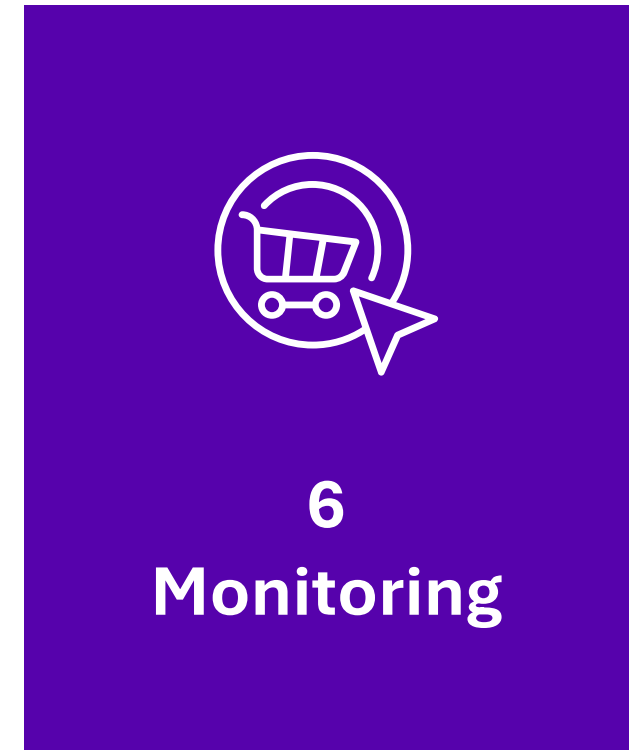
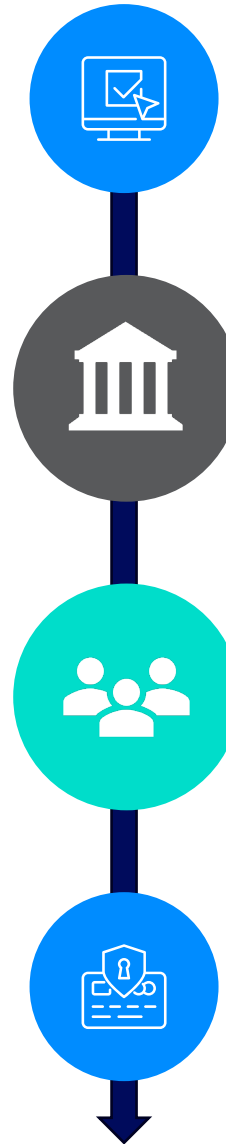
- **Definition:**
 - Formal adoption of policies.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Ensure transparency in decision-making.
- **NGOs:**
 - Advocate and influence decision-makers.
- **Example:**
 - Plenary sessions for policy votes.



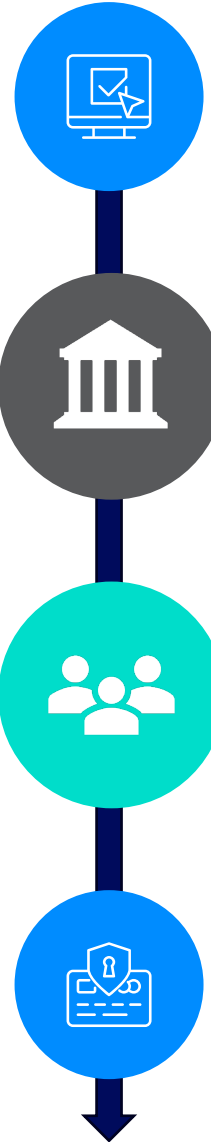
- **Definition:**
 - Execute policies with collaboration.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Partner with NGOs in delivery.
- **NGOs:**
 - Align actions with policy goals.
- **Example:**
 - Distributing vaccines in underserved areas.



- **Definition:**
 - Assess outcomes and identify gaps.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Share progress reports.
- **NGOs:**
 - Act as watchdogs and monitor impact.
- **Example:**
 - Surveys on public service satisfaction.



- **Definition:**
 - Revise policies based on evaluations.
- **Public Authorities:**
 - Use inclusive consultations for reform.
- **NGOs:**
 - Advocate for evidence-based changes.
- **Example:**
 - Updating outdated laws via stakeholder forums.





**1. E-Participation:
Digital platforms for transparency.**

Example: Online consultations.

**2. Capacity Building:
Train stakeholders on engagement.**

Example: Participatory budgeting workshops.

**3. Framework Agreements:
Define NGO-government collaboration.**

Example: MoUs for joint projects.

**4. Joint Structures:
Multi-stakeholder forums.**

Example: Task forces on education reforms.

The Code of Good Practice:

- Strengthens democratic governance.
- Bridges gaps between decision-makers and civil society.
- Promotes transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.

**Together,
we can create governance
that represents and empowers all citizens.**

Public authorities:

Adopt participatory practices!

NGOs:

Actively engage in collaboration!

