

Leadership for Transition (LiFT) 3.0 – Politics

Consortium:

Coordinating partner:

Institute for integral Studies (IFIS), Germany (coordinator), www.integral-studies.org

Project leader: Dr. Elke Fein, elke.fein@ifis-freiburg.de

Full partners:

1. Dialogues Facilitation Gothenburg (DFG), Sweden, www.dialogues.se
2. Institut für Zukunftskompetenzen (IFZ), Austria, www.zukunftskompetenzen.at
3. SelfLeaders (SL), Sweden, www.selfleaders.com
4. European Citizens Initiative (ECI), Germany, www.citizens-initiative.eu/#home
5. University of Oslo (UoO), Norway, [Department of Sociology and Human Geography](#)
6. Entz-von-Zerssen, Caspari & Partners (EZCP), Germany, <https://ezc.partners/>

Associated partners:

1. The Swiss party Integrale Politik (IP), <http://www.integrale-politik.ch>
2. the Danish party “The Alternative” (A/DK), <https://alternativet.dk/en>,
3. the Swedish party “Initiativet” (IN), <https://initiativet.se/>
4. the UK platform/movement The Alternative (A/UK), <https://www.thealternative.org.uk/>
5. the International Democracy Festivals Association “Democracy Festivals” (DF),
<http://democracyfestivals.org>,
6. the Swedish Norden Association, <http://norden.se/in-english/>
7. the Welsh leadership development company Cognitive Edge and its Cynefin Center,
<https://cognitive-edge.com/>
8. The Hague Center for Global Governance, Innovation & Emergence,
<http://www.thehaguecenter.org/>
9. The Co-Creation Loft, Berlin, Germany, <http://cocreationloft.com/>
10. Pioneers of Change, Austria, <https://pioneersofchange.org/>
11. The Danish socialentrepreneur company We Do Democracy, <https://www.wedodemocracy.dk/>

Website & contact: www.leadership-for-transition.eu, info@leadership-for-transition.eu

Notification of funding: 5. July 2019

Duration: 3 years (September 2019 – August 2022)

Activities:

- Hosting 6 public Workshops, 3 of them Multiplier Events (for details see below)
- Hosting a Summer School and final conference on the future of Europe in 2022
- Producing 3 books, a Study Paper, a *Collaborative Methods* wiki and a *Collaborative Politics* training course

Project Summary:

Our vision: *Reinventing Politics*

Europe is facing a legitimacy crisis due to increasing critique, nationalist tendencies and tensions between diverging values and conceptions of cooperation in the EU. Many citizens also experience a gap between political decision-making and their everyday life. To bridge this gap, decision-making in the EU must happen closer to the citizens. LiFT 3.0 – Politics works towards a **paradigm shift in politics**, enhancing **more collaborative mindsets and practices in politics** as a precondition for re-inspiring political cultures and institutions, and thus, for building new momentum for the European project.

In order to do this, LiFT 3.0 – Politics pilots and spreads an innovative cross-cutting **capacity building program** offering next generation training and education for facilitating dialog processes with diverse stakeholders across political camps in transnational and intercultural settings. It thus develops high quality basic and transversal leadership skills and key collaborative competences of policy-makers and office holders, change agents, citizens and multipliers alike.

The project rationale holds that in times of multidimensional crisis, where fundamental values are simultaneously at stake, political leadership needs to transcend narrow particularistic views and be grounded in notions of **global responsibility and interconnectedness**. Based on innovative trends in leadership thinking, LiFT applies academic and practical knowledge in pressing real world contexts, focusing on social inclusion, peace, justice and sustainability.

LiFT 3.0 – Politics combines **two approaches to political innovation**, FIRST the experience of specialized service providers and professional facilitators, supporting municipalities and political decision-makers to conduct and root citizen involvement in their communities. SECOND, the experience of a broad range of pioneers of integral/collaborative policy-making and governance, combined with creative visions from an interested public.

LiFT 3.0 – Politics builds and expands upon two extremely successful previous LiFT partnerships (1.0 and 2.0), operating since 2013, as well as on numerous activities carried out by the participating organizations independently. LiFT 2.0 (2015-2018) has collected, prototyped and experientially tested unique knowledge and experience in collaborative leadership, using a powerful, holistic citizen engagement method called the “Collaboratory”. LiFT 3.0 – Politics goes beyond this by shifting its focus directly to the sector of political decision-making, feeding the collaborative paradigm in where it is most needed, in service of **co-creating better futures for Europe and the planet**.

The project has **three main objectives**: FIRST, hosting international stakeholder workshops and learning events that support the development of expertise for co-creating joint visions across cultures, generations, fields of activity and political camps, thereby helping individuals, groups and institutions to make progress on shared challenges. SECOND, it condenses, documents and disseminates its insights and experiences for others to use. THIRD, it develops and implements a unique political leadership training that enables multipliers to use and further spread collaborative decision-making methods across contexts. LiFT thereby creates viable learning communities and a cohort of political leaders who can better address big adaptive challenges on local, regional, European and global levels.

All activities of LiFT 3.0 – Politics combine public stakeholder involvement events with genuine training in **collaborative political leadership and decision-making**, using problem-centered transformative learning. The consortium will conduct six public workshops, a final conference, a one week summer school and Collaborative Politics training at the end of the project, reaching a total of around 1.200 participants. Its comprehensive, cross-cutting approach builds bridges between a wide range of target audiences that would not usually meet or sometimes even talk to each other, from pioneers of innovative politics to ordinary citizens to politicians, public servants and office holders in the existing political system.

To ensure academic quality and rigor, **six tangible intellectual and pedagogical outputs** enable change agents and multipliers to make use of LiFT's insights, methodological knowledge and experience in their own fields. Its training and educational materials will help civic and political leaders to engage more effectively in dialogue, to include key stakeholders perspectives into decision-making, and thus to empower their communities to make progress on important challenges, being more inclusive without avoiding difficult issues.

The project thus brings long-lasting positive effects on the participating individuals, organizations and institutions, their networks and local communities, as well as on the larger society and policy systems they are embedded in.

Envisioned public *LiFT Politics* workshops (2019-2022):

WORKSHOP 1 (Freiburg, D) combines an intensive strategy meeting of the LiFT partners with a working meeting with our associated partner Integral Politics, as well as a number of dialog facilitators and projects engaged in the area of citizen involvement and re-inspiring democracy in Freiburg.

WORKSHOP 2 (Gothenburg, SE) is a working meeting with experts in large group facilitation and citizen involvement working for the Swedish Association for Municipalities and Regions (SALAR), as well as with representatives from cities pioneering with using the respective methods (politicians, civil servants). A particular focus will be on including socially and politically marginalized groups.

WORKSHOP 3 (Oslo/NO) focuses on “education for transformation”. It links local agendas and global challenges by developing collaborative capacities for young civic and climate activist to help them impact political decision-making.

WORKSHOP 4 (Arnoldstein, A) will be part of the yearly “Days of the Future” conference hosted by IFZ. LiFT will run a “Politics of the Future” track there, specifically inviting visionary pioneers from Austria and the German-speaking countries who are already engaging in innovative collaborative policy- and decision-making. Together with them, participants will co-design a collaborative process on rural depopulation for a municipality in the region.

WORKSHOP 5 (Malmö/SE), in turn, invites political innovators and pioneers from the Nordic countries to share their experience and learn from LiFT. This will again be combined with a public collaborative process in cooperation with local stakeholders, this time on challenges around integrating migrants and refugees in the Danish-Swedish border area.

WORKSHOP 6 (Berlin/D) serves for beta-testing LiFT’s Collaborative Politics Training with a selected group of participants and stakeholders. Its focus is on the need for collaborative capacity in different areas of policy-making on local, national and EU-macro-regional levels.

WORKSHOP 7 (Stockholm/SE) includes our final conference/ME and Summer School, a large market place gathering for collaborative politics pioneers from all over Europe, a public workshop on the future of Europe, and LiFT’s collaborative politics training.

Proposed Intellectual Outputs

1. **Book: Foundations, principles and resources of integral/collaborative politics**

Integral/collaborative Politics as understood and practiced by LiFT is based on an emerging innovative paradigm and practice of leadership, decision-making and organizing cooperation in large groups. The ebook will spell out the core elements of this qualitatively new approach to policy-making. It is conceived as an inspiration, food for thought and tool of self-reflection for interested audiences aspiring to explore novel, more inclusive ways of doing politics.

2. **Book: Portraits of Pioneers**

This ebook will provide insights into the thinking and practices of groups and organizations that are already breaking new ground in politics in Europe. It will also look at the very few political parties that are hearing the demand for new relationships with members and citizens, to allow a more engaged and energised politics.

3. **Wiki: Methods for collaborative decision-making in politics**

LiFT's Methods Wiki is a linked database, jointly created by project members to serve as an online resource for facilitators of collaborative processes in political contexts. It will be created around the central question of *how we can equip local democracies to deal with tension arising in society whilst retaining legitimacy?* Its is to provide facilitators of public dialogue with hands-on tools and the necessary theoretical background knowledge.

4. **Book: The Collaboratory for Governments. Co-creative approaches for political processes**

Multi-stakeholder co-creation processes have been a hot topic in business, recognizing that complex, so-called "wicked problems", can no longer be solved by only one player. Working with concerned stakeholders to address and solve such issues has become a main challenge for any organizations. Governments are dealing with similarly complex issues involving often conflicting or contradictory positions of different political players. The Collaboratory as studied intensively by LiFT 2.0 offers one approach to host and facilitate such co-creation processes.

5. **Study Paper: Sensemaking for Governments – Best practices for using the SenseMaker® tool**

The SenseMaker® tool as developed by Cognitive Edge is a dynamic virtual platform for collecting, processing and evaluating large amounts of micro-narratives from any target group around a pre-selected focus and, on this basis, to inform decision-making in qualitatively new ways. The Paper will document LiFT's uses of the tool and explore, evaluate and make visible the most important benefits that decision-makers in the political realm can gain from it.

6. **Course Curriculum: Collaborative politics training**

The course will be the result of ongoing reflection and exchange between the partners involved in LiFT 3.0 - Politics and their emerging body of knowledge and experience related to the prerequisites and skills necessary to transform the "operating systems" of how politics is done. The curriculum condenses the insights from all other outputs into a training course in collaborative policy and decision-making that is of value for a broad range of interested users.