



# Collaborative Politics: A curriculum and more

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The LiFT *Politics* project is creating more clarity about what collaborative politics really means. Intellectual Output (IO) 5 sets out to structure these learnings in a curriculum, thereby making the learnings available to as broad an audience as possible.

In IO5 we are creating this curriculum and will test and further develop it in an ongoing way. In view of this goal we will organize a **collaborative politics learning lab** and host a **collaborative politics gathering** in summer 2022.

We want to draw to us individuals who are engaged in building new politics. During the lab and the gathering, these people can meet, cross-pollinate, learn from each other and validate or further develop the curriculum.

We aim for an overall spirit (both in the lab and the gathering) that is **playful**, allows for **vulnerability** and reflects our **interbeing**. We want to create a space where people **listen to understand** and take in different perspectives. This way we can **co-create something new**.

We strongly believe that in our times no one person or group can hold the full picture. Therefore we believe it is central to include as many people as possible in a meaningful way. We commit to this in the process of drafting the curriculum itself, and we commit to it when it comes to designing the learning lab and gathering.

For us as hosts as well as for participants this means that we are all learners *and* teachers.

We feel responsible for

- designing the frame that holds this space
- presenting relevant findings from the LiFT *Politics* project
- invite people who are committed to further the goal of building new politics (participants, facilitators, speakers, teachers,...)

This paper defines the strategic goals we want to reach by creating the curriculum and hosting the collaborative politics learning lab and gathering. It further defines indicators of success that will allow us to evaluate whether we have reached these goals at the end of the LiFT *Politics* project.



# Strategic Goals of the Curriculum

## 1. The curriculum creates clarity

### **The Goal:**

Action and research around new politics so far are not structured in a comprehensive or clear way. Our goal is to share the insights we are gaining during the LiFT project (relevant findings from all IOs that are relevant for this curriculum) and to structure them in a clear and accessible way. Like a map, we aim for the curriculum to provide its users with orientation and allow them to navigate the field easier and in a more effective way. Thus, users can build on our learnings and experience.

### **Our Approach:**

We distill the most important headlines that anyone positioning themselves in the field of collaborative politics should be literate in. We furthermore provide tools and resources that give the users a headstart when it comes to practicing collaborative politics in real life.

### **Indicators for Evaluation:**

We will ask participants of the collaborative politics learning lab and gathering if they have more clarity on what collaborative politics includes in order to evaluate whether we've reached this goal (see below).

## 2. The curriculum is dynamic

### **The Goal:**

In a field as vibrant and alive as politics, a static curriculum will be an artefact of history before long. We therefore aim to create a curriculum that is adaptive and dynamic. Ideally, the curriculum itself will reflect the vitality of the new politics.

### **Our Approach:**

We articulate our findings and have them challenged, thereby gathering feedback and new perspectives, which we can integrate into the curriculum. The LiFT partners are an essential sounding board. Also, we gather the feedback and suggestions of participants to the collaborative politics learning lab and gathering to iterate the curriculum's content to create a final version of this IO.

The curriculum is then available online and open source so that others can build on it. Furthermore, we explore possibilities of creating a published curriculum, that stays adaptive by integrating ongoing findings from digital deliberation tools.

### **Indicators for Evaluation:**

At least 10 people a year are involved in editing and/or updating the curriculum for 3 years.



### 3. The curriculum is put to use

**The Goal:**

Our goal is to create a curriculum that practitioners can easily build on in their work.

**Our Approach:**

We integrate feedback from stakeholders early in the process to make sure we cover what is needed.

**Indicators for Evaluation:**

At least one institution (party, media platform, political organization etc.) is building on the curriculum after 2022.

At least one media outlet uses the curriculum as a reference point on where politics is going.

### 4. The curriculum becomes a reference point for media and politics

**The Goal:**

The goal is that the curriculum is used as a reference point for media and politics on where new politics is going.

**Our Approach:**

Build a curriculum that is so relevant and up to date that it becomes a reference point and a guide.

**Indicators for Evaluation:**

At least one media outlet uses the curriculum as a reference point on where politics is going.

## Strategic Goals of Collaborative Politics Learning Lab

We want to celebrate and test the Curriculum by hosting a learning lab in Sweden in Summer 2022. We aim at gathering between 12 and 30 participants for 4 days. The target group are people who have a real stake in co-creating politics. We aim at hosting a group as diverse as possible, representing the broad range of different stakeholder groups. The



space is intended to allow participants to go deep with the content we and they are bringing.<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Participants gain clarity on the field of collaborative politics.

**The Goal:** Participants can build on the LiFT *Politics* project's learnings about what the central headlines and questions are.

**Our Approach:** We use the curriculum we created as a structure for organizing and facilitating the learning lab.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I understand the questions we need to ask in order to form the new politics.
- I have a map of what new politics look like.

## 2. Participants become more connected.

**The Goal:** Participants can strengthen their connections within the field.

**Our Approach:** Creating and allowing space for deep networking during the learning lab.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I met inspiring people.
- I met people I will stay in touch with.

## 3. Participants receive support for their political projects.

**The Goal:** Participants bring and share the challenges they are facing in their respective political endeavours. They receive support for their projects.

**Our Approach:** We integrate methods like peer coaching and sparring and allow for spaces where participants can exchange feedback and tips.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I had space to share challenges/successes I face in my political work.
- I found resources that I need for my project.
- I found the network I need for my project.
- I found new perspectives/entry points/insights for my project.

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<sup>1</sup> In May 2020 we facilitated a workshop with five experts from different fields. Together, we created a stakeholder map to cluster groups that are of importance in this context. See appendix 1.



## 4. Participants gain new insights

**The Goal:** Participants of the learning lab leave the space with new insights and inspiration. We want them to take away more than they brought, leave richer.

**Our Approach:** We share promising findings of the other IOs of the LiFT *Politics* project and offer approaches and learnings we have discovered over the years. We also make sure, that there is space for participants to learn from each other.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I have explored/gotten knowledge about at least one new approach/tool that will help me in my current work.

## Strategic Goals of Collaborative Politics Gathering

Whereas the learning lab offers the space to dive deep within a confidential and familiar setting, the gathering aims to go wide and include at least 100 participants. We envision it to be hosted either in different hubs (Stockholm, Berlin, ...) combining online-sessions for all participants and offline sessions – or as an entirely virtual gathering.

### 1. Participants become more connected

**The Goal:** Participants can strengthen their connections within the field.

**Our Approach:** Creating and allowing space for networking during the gathering.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I met inspiring people.
- I met people I will stay in touch with.

### 2. Participants gain clarity on the field of collaborative politics

**The Goal:** Participants can build on the LiFT *Politics* project's learnings about what the central headlines and questions are.

**Our Approach:** We use the curriculum we created as a structure for organizing and facilitating the learning lab.



**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I've experienced at least one model of what inclusive politics can look like
- I understand which questions we are currently asking in order to form the new politics.
- I have a map of what new politics look like.

### 3. Participants gain new insights

**The Goal:** Participants of the learning lab leave the space with new insights and inspiration. We want them to take away more than they brought, leave richer.

**Our Approach:** We share promising findings of the other IOs of the LiFT *Politics* project and offer approaches and learnings we have discovered over the years. We also make sure, that there is space for participants to learn from each other.

**Statements for the evaluation-questionnaire:**

- I have explored/gotten knowledge about at least one new approach/tool that will help me.

## Timeline

- Q4 2020: Pilot an online deliberation tool for creating the headlines of the curriculum  
→ we aim at including at least 50 people into this conversation  
→ we will test the tool pol.is  
→ we will involve participants of the TPM to discuss and evaluate results
- Q3 2021: Create draft curriculum.
- Q1 2022: Create a “pre-final” version of curriculum
- Q2 2022: Host collaborative politics learning lab and gathering  
→ we will present the curriculum  
→ we will iterate it upon the feedback  
→ we will publish and spread the curriculum





## Appendix 2 Outline

1. Purpose/goals
  - a. Collaborative learning lab
    - i. Be able to go deep
      1. Connect the innovators - Goals:
        - a. Met inspiring people
        - b. I met people I will stay in touch with
      2. Support in their individual projects (peer coaching, sparring, feedback, tips...)
        - a. Found resources I need for my project
        - b. Found network I need for my project
        - c. Found new perspectives/entry points/insights for my project
      3. Bring clarity what is there already / what are the important headlines and questions?
        - a. I understand the questions we need to ask in order to form the new politics.
        - b. I have a map of what new politics look like.
      4. Explore what is a promising approach /learnings
        - a. I have explored/gotten knowledge about at least one new approach/tool that will help me.
    - ii. Possibility to go wide
      1. Connect the innovators
        - a. Met inspiring people
        - b. I met people I will stay in touch with
      2. Bring clarity what is there already / what are the important headlines and questions?
        - a. I've experienced a model of what inclusive politics can look like.
        - b. I understand the questions we need to ask in order to form the new politics.
        - c. I have a map of what new politics look like.
      3. Explore what is a promising approach
        - a. I have explored/gotten knowledge about at least one new approach/tool that will help me.
  - b. Gathering
    - i. Possibility to go wide
      1. Connect the innovators
        - a. Met inspiring people
        - b. I met people I will stay in touch with
      2. Bring clarity what is there already / what are the important headlines and questions?
        - a. I've experienced a model of what inclusive politics can look like.
        - b. I understand the questions we need to ask in order to form the new politics.
        - c. I have a map of what new politics look like.
      3. Explore what is a promising approach
        - a. I have explored/gotten knowledge about at least one new approach/tool that will help me.
  - c. Curriculum
    - i. Dynamic/co-created
    - ii. Reflects the most important topics/questions for a new political paradigm
    - iii. Available/open source
    - iv. Reference point for media and politics on where new politics is going.
    - v. Used by at least one party, institution or media outlet.





2. Overall Spirit/underlying assumptions and/or values // learning & teaching
  - a. Playful
  - b. Vulnerable
  - c. Interbeing
  - d. Co-creating something new (not fight something or someone)
  - e. Listen to understand - We don't assume we are right but that we will find the answers together.
3. Scope and general conditions (location, number of participants, funding)
  - a. official partnerships? (i.e. with Oslo University)
  - b. Learning lab
    - i. **Group size** 20 (12-24/30) participants
    - ii. in Sweden
    - iii. Participant fee "at cost"-price
  - c. Gathering
    - i. At least 100 people
    - ii. either in several hubs (i.e.: Stockholm, Berlin, xxx) or entirely virtual
    - iii. Participant fee "at cost"-price
    - iv. speakers should be participants, too. (no hierarchy/expert-status as a division)
4. Milestones
5. Draft Design