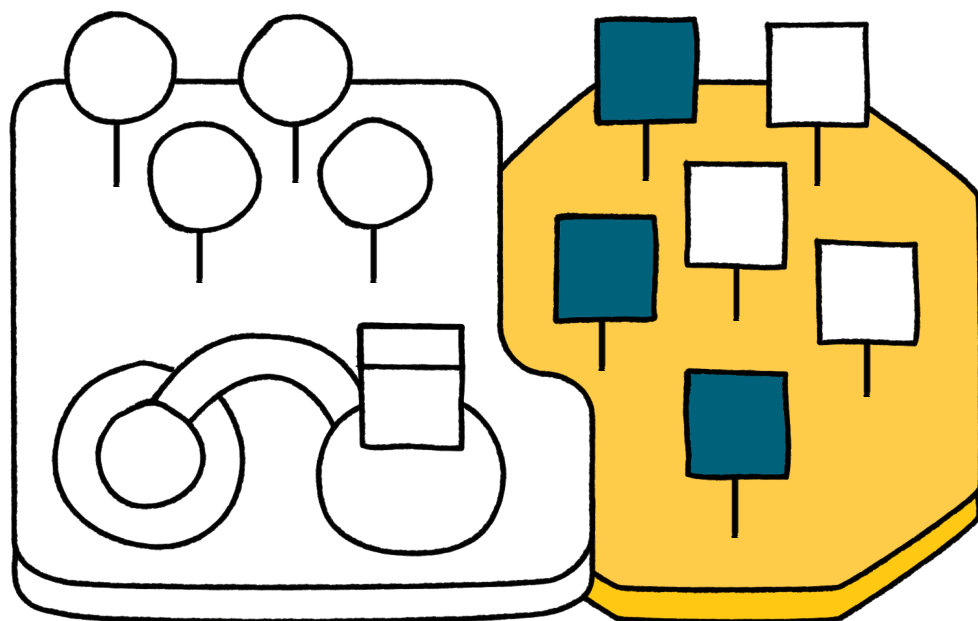


04

## Canton of Basel-Stadt

### Preparing children for politics with the political tool box



#### Time frame

Not specified

#### Stakeholders

Political legislative  
Political executive



#### Institutional framework



#### Structure-related quality criteria

Strategic orientation  
Collaboration  
Participation and identification

#### The starting point

Political education and/or reinforcing democratic structures is a broad-based issue in Basel-Stadt. A review showed that there are already some provisions, e.g. in schools, nurseries or public children and youth work provisions, that directly or indirectly contribute to the political education of children and young people. However, there were not yet any provisions that enabled them to talk to politicians at an equal level or that focused on conveying and teaching skills and the experience of self-efficacy – both recognised factors in learning democracy and also for engaging with civil society. There was also no platform that provided an overview of political education in the canton and that maintained and reinforced the networking with and between the providers. The political toolbox was launched by Basel politicians and the Kinderbüro Basel association and then developed together with children and young people in order to close this gap. The children and young people learn about their participation options, the political infrastructure and politicians in various modules with expert guidance and age-appropriate methods. They learn that their engagement in society is of great importance and that they also have a right to it in accordance with the UN Children's Rights Convention.

#### Aims

The most important aim is the creation and preservation of participation options for children and young people, as well as options for equal dialogue with decision makers. This prepares them for social and political engagement from early childhood to maturity and beyond.

The coordination office for the political toolbox collates the provisions and information for specialists in education, supervision, politics and administration on the [www.polit-baukasten.ch](http://www.polit-baukasten.ch) website and maintains and reinforces the network.

#### Target group

Children, young people, young adults, specialists in politics and administration in the Basel-Stadt canton.

#### Costs

Information on request.

## Project progression

A relaxed discussion between children, politicians and the Kinderbüro Basel association in 2014 gave rise to the MiGs (Mitenand im Gspröch sy) [Talking Together] working group, which launched the political toolbox with considerable (and also voluntary) engagement and which continues to support it to this day. In the initial years, the Kinderbüro Basel association made available human resources and enabled both the establishment of the coordination office and the management of two new provisions, which were developed by the MiGs working group under the guiding principles of the MiGs "Talking Together" group. The political toolbox is now supported by all parties.

### Milestones:

2015: Founding of the MiGs working group, appointment of the co-project management made up of the Kinderbüro Basel and politicians

2015 – 2018: Development of in-house provisions: town hall tours for children, town hall book and Polit-Kids/Teens, expansion of the MiGs working group and networking

2018: A budget proposal by the Cantonal parliament lays the groundwork for the funding of the political toolbox through the Basel-Stadt education department. The Kinderbüro Basel association is commissioned to manage the coordination office for the political toolbox and to provide the project management for town hall tours and Polit-Kids/Teens.

2019: Establishment of the [www.polit-baukasten.ch](http://www.polit-baukasten.ch) website, organisation of a networking platform. Local and national networking.

2020–23: Cantonal mandate from the Basel-Stadt canton for the Kinderbüro Basel association to carry on the tasks described above. These are co-financed by the Kinderbüro Basel association with significant contributions from voluntary staff members.

## Success factors

- Current issue, wide political support.
- "Talking Together" is the guiding principle: The MiGs working group maintains a fact-based speaking style beyond the party programmes.
- Participation from the Youth Parliament and all youth parties, the Canton Parliament service and the Basel-Stadt canton children and youth officer.
- High levels of motivation and willingness for voluntary engagement.
- Support from the Kinderbüro Basel association in the pilot phase.
- Process-based procedures.

## Challenges

At the end of 2019, the existing provisions of the political toolbox are not yet reaching all age and needs groups in Basel, Riehen and Bettingen, some elements also have very limited capacities. Further, combination options need improving and transitions between provisions need careful designing.

## Conclusion

Children and young people are motivated by "democracy up close and participate" to be active themselves. They learn about their options for how and where they can get involved as adults in the future. Positive experiences reinforce their experience of self-efficacy and also their identification with their home city, among other things.

Specialists and decision-makers gain valuable information for their work.

Networking – virtual and in real life – promotes discussions between providers, shows up gaps in provisions and provides impetus for the further development of the political toolbox tool. Each provision contributes to the implementation and reinforcement of the UN Children's Rights.

## Contact details

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## Information

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