

MAKE talks

Policy Recommendations for Makerspaces

Shaping the Future of Makerspaces in
Africa and Europe

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Outline

- 1. Overview of Makerspace**
- 2. How Makerspaces are Fulfilling SDGs**
- 3. Why the need for Policies that support Makerspace?**
- 4. Policy Recommendations**
- 5. Anticipated Impact from the Policy**
- 6. Who Can Support?**

Overview of Makerspace

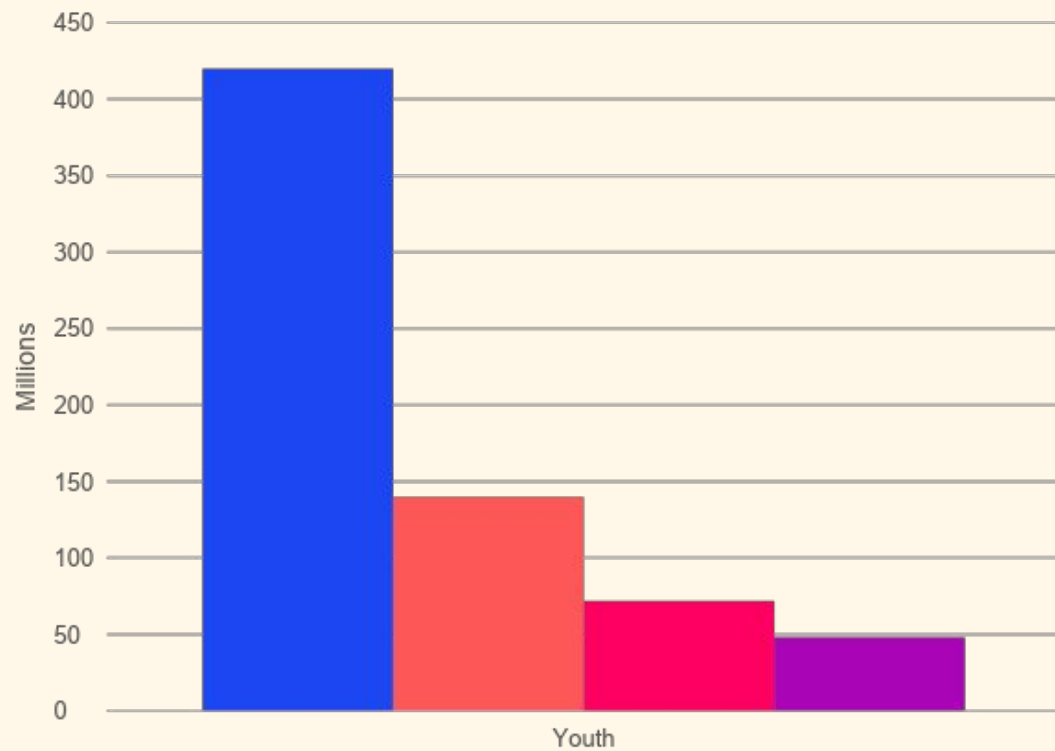
- ❖ A makerspace is a place for making things.
- ❖ Combination of Traditional techniques and digital fabrication technologies
- ❖ Public, Private, University-based, Membership-based
- ❖ Also known as FabLabs, TechShops or hackerspaces.
- ❖ For learning, prototyping, creating and collaboration



What current issues require the attention of Makerspaces?



Population and Unemployment in Africa



source: Africa Development Bank



source: ILOSTAT

Challenges In the African Economy

Lack of:

Quality Education

Decent work

**Diversity/Equality in
Employment**

**Infrastructure
Development**

Entrepreneurial Skills

Sustainable communities

**Research and
Innovation**

In Europe

Even though unemployment rate in Europe is relatively low, there is the issues of;

- ❖ Aged population

- ❖ post pandemic recovery

- ❖ Environmental challenges

- ❖ Implications

- ❖ A shrink in the working age of the continent thereby impacting the continent's economic growth

- ❖ Individuals, governments, business and civil society, impacting, among others:

 - Health

 - Social care systems,

 - Labour markets

 - Public finances

source: Eurostat

MAKE In Europe

- ❖ Foster a community of responsible consumption
- ❖ Develop a resilient community
- ❖ Promote a culture of innovation and creativity among all demographics

Source: American Magazin Industrial



Why Makerspaces: How Makerspaces are Fulfilling SDGs



4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	BiT Makerspace; Fablab Barcelona; Fab Lab Amsterdam; CC4D; Gearbox; DTI; Fablab Winam
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	The innovation Village; Kumasi Hive; CC4D; Fab Lab Amsterdam; Fablab Winam; BiT Makerspace; Fablab Barcelona; Gearbox; DTI
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	The innovation Village; Kumasi Hive; CC4D; TMDC; Gearbox; DTI
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	Fab Lab Amsterdam; Fab Lab Berlin; TMDC; Gearbox; DTI
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	The innovation Village; Kumasi Hive; CC4D; Fab Lab Amsterdam; Fablab Winam; BiT Makerspace; Fablab Barcelona; WeMake
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	The innovation Village; CC4D; Gearbox; DTI
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	Fab Lab Amsterdam; Fab Lab Berlin; WeMake
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	CC4D; Fablab Winam; Gearbox; DTI

Why the need for Policies that support Makerspace?

Barriers Facing Makerspaces



- ❖ Paying rent and high cost of digital tools and equipment



- ❖ Lack of Collaboration



- ❖ Lack political recognition and visibility, hindering their potential for growth and impact



- ❖ Funding Challenges



- ❖ Limited Resources

A case of [TechShop](#) in the United States

Policy Recommendations



Recommendation #1:

Makerspace Collaboration

Governments should facilitate new opportunities for collaboration between makerspaces and various stakeholders such as local and national governments, industry players, NGOs and community spaces.

Recommendation #2

Funding and Sustainability

Governments should establish an initiative on yearly funds for makerspace research and innovation projects

Recommendation #3

Endorsement of maker Programs

Governments should actively endorse makers programs or courses to further bolster the sustainability of makerspaces.

Recommendation #4

Integrating Makerspaces in Education

Governments should integrate makerspaces into school curricula, particularly focusing on STEAM education.

Recommendation #5

Recognition of Makerspaces as Critical Infrastructure and Local Manufacturers

Governments should extend official recognition to makerspaces, acknowledging their pivotal role in education, human resource development, and local industrialisation

Anticipated Impact from the Policy:

01

Funding Support

Interim, will enhance their resources and capacity to engage in community

long term, we anticipate makerspaces in stimulating economic growth and social development

02

Subsidies and Tax exemptions

immediate effect, reduce operational costs for makerspaces, thereby incentivizing their establishment and expansion of makerspaces

In the long run, with fewer financial barriers in place, makerspaces are poised to thrive, creating a dynamic ecosystem on.

Anticipated Impact from the Policy:



03

Incorporate in educational institutions

In the short run: Expose students to the practical applications of subjects falling under the STEAM umbrella

In the long run, generation of problem-solvers and innovators.

04

Official recognition from policy makers/ governments

The credibility and standing of makerspaces

The long-term impact from sustained institutional backing is likely to lead to innovation and partnership



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Who Can Support

Policy organisations

International organisations

National/Local government
officials

Media

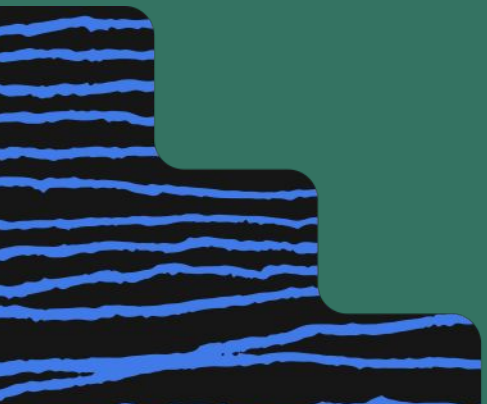
The public

Maker communities/Stakeholder

MAKE

Implement

Urging Policy Makers to Own this Policy for
Community Resilient and Sustainable
Growth



Thank You!



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