



Policy Recommendations for Makerspaces Gain Ground with Global Policymakers

“These policy recommendations have not only attracted the attention of local government representatives, makerspaces, founders and NGOs. They have also charted a clear way forward for makerspaces. Through ongoing workshops and dialogues, this living document serves as a tool to foster collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development within the local and global maker ecosystems.”

--- Joseph Agyina, Internet of Production ---

In 2023, the mAKE project engaged with 69 stakeholders (26 from Africa, 43 from Europe), including makers, founders, educators, managers, and community members from diverse makerspaces, to co-create a set of **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**.

Throughout 2024, the policy recommendations have been presented to both policymakers and makerspaces at various events. Feedback from these engagements highlights the growing interest in implementing and expanding the recommendations.

“We engaged for one year with makers and stakeholders within the African and European ecosystems to gain insights into the barriers and enablers influencing their work and to explore how governments at various levels can recognise and support makerspaces.”

--- Freda Yamorti Gbande, Fab City Foundation---



During the Ghana Hubs Network’s general meeting 2023, the policy recommendations were presented to a diverse group of stakeholders — including government representatives such as the Director of Communication from the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP), a GIZ representative, the Dean of Languages at Takoradi Technical University

(TTU), and others from the Ghana Association of Industry and the Ghana National Youth Employment Agency.

5 Policy Recommendations ...

- 01 Leverage the potential of makerspaces by collaborating on national projects that focus on capacity building for youth and entrepreneurs, while promoting locally made products.
- 02 Create funding initiatives to provide resources for makerspaces to implement research and innovation projects.
- 03 Endorse maker programs and courses, which are funded by the government and aimed at local communities.
- 04 Integrate makerspaces into school curricula, particularly focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education.
- 05 Recognize makerspaces as critical infrastructure for local manufacturing.

... and Community Voices

“Establishing government partnerships and collaborating on national projects could provide makerspaces with opportunities to contribute their expertise and resources toward addressing societal challenges, while also raising their profile and influence.”



“Implementing dedicated funding programmes would allow makerspaces to enhance their capabilities, invest in critical equipment, and drive forward innovation projects.”



“Recommendations #3 and #4 regarding endorsing maker programs/courses and integrating makerspace activities into formal education curricula could significantly boost awareness, access, and sustainability for these facilities.”



“From a global perspective it stimulates open source knowledge exchange and proliferation of technologies.”



The recommendations, including more detailed explanations and good practice examples from around the world can be accessed under: makeafricaeu.org

