THE DANISH YOUTH COUNCIL

TOOL

FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS

WHY

The force field analysis is a method for listing, discussing, and evaluating the various forces for and against a proposed change. It can help you

- Determine if a proposed change can get **needed support**
- **Identify obstacles** to successful solutions
- Suggest actions to **reduce the strength of the obstacles – restraining forces**
- Suggest actions to **strengthen the supporting forces**.

WHEN

Do a Force Field analysis when you **plan** your advocacy work. Be aware of changes to the power dynamics that affect the issue **during your advocacy** and consider if you need to rethink your advocacy strategy.

HOW

Start out with a well-defined **objective for change**

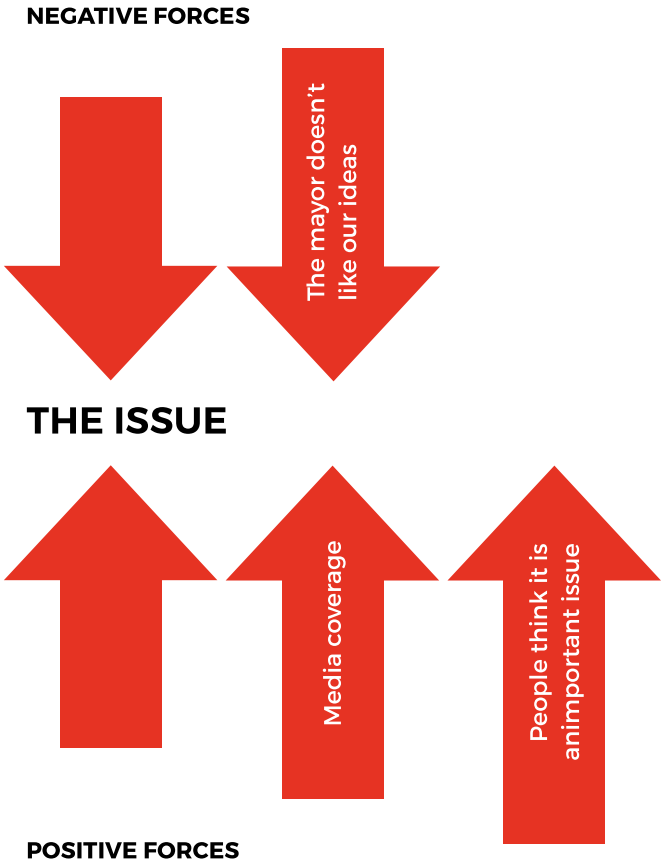
Draw a **Force Field diagram**, see the illustration. Write the goal or change to be implemented at the center a large sheet of paper. Draw a line through the middle of the paper, and label the left column "Supporting forces" and the right column "Restraining forces".

Brainstorm a list of **supporting** and **restraining forces** in relation to your change objective and write them in diagram. You can consider the following types of forces:

- Human and financial resources
- Social and cultural norms
- Vested interests
- Political climate, power relations and policies
- Institutional / organizational culture and power relations
- Support or opposition from key stakeholders
- Key events.

Once the **supporting** and **restraining forces** are identified, ask the following questions:

- Are the forces valid? How do we know?
- How significant are each of them?
- What are their strengths?
- Which ones can be altered? Which cannot?
- Which forces can be altered quickly? Which ones only slowly?
- Which forces, if altered, would produce rapid change? Which would produce slow changes in the situation?
- What skills and/or information is needed and available to alter the forces? Can we get them?



This tool paper is inspired by material developed by INTRAC