



RIPE Réseaux IP
Européens

DOCUMENTING THE RIPE COMMUNITY CONSENSUS PROCESS

NOT ALL ROUGH CONSENSUS IS EQUAL

Sander Steffann, Gert Döring, Benno Overeinder, Jan Žorž et al. | RIPE 89 | 2024-10-28



Problem statement

- We have a rough idea how we build consensus in RIPE, heavily leaning on the IETF process
- But there are differences in scope, focus, implementation
- So, let's actually write down how we do this in RIPE so that everyone is on the same page...
- But first of all - Niall O'Reilly had this silent presentation at RIPE66...

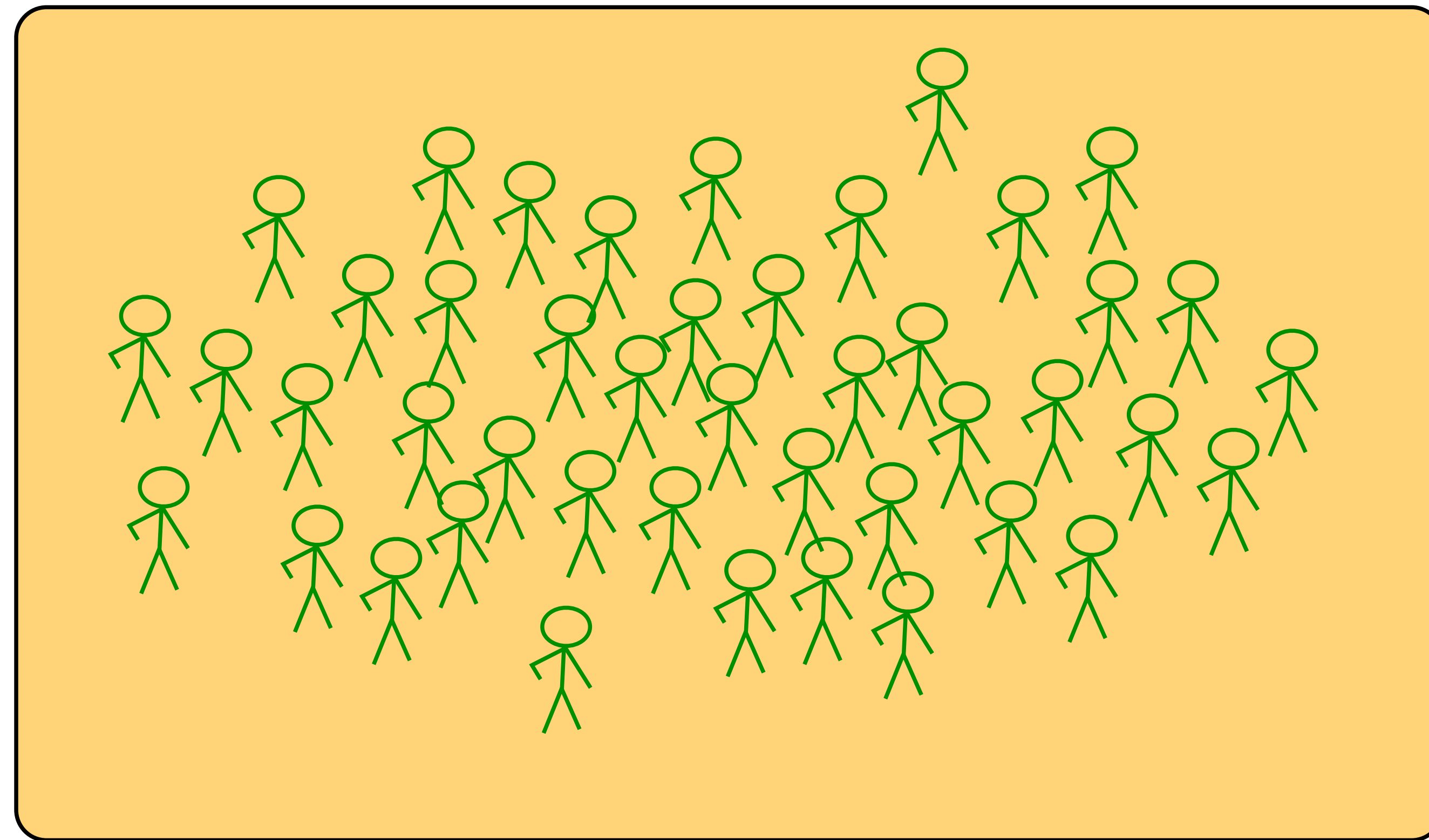


Thoughts on “Community and Decision-making”

Niall O'Reilly, UCD (IE)

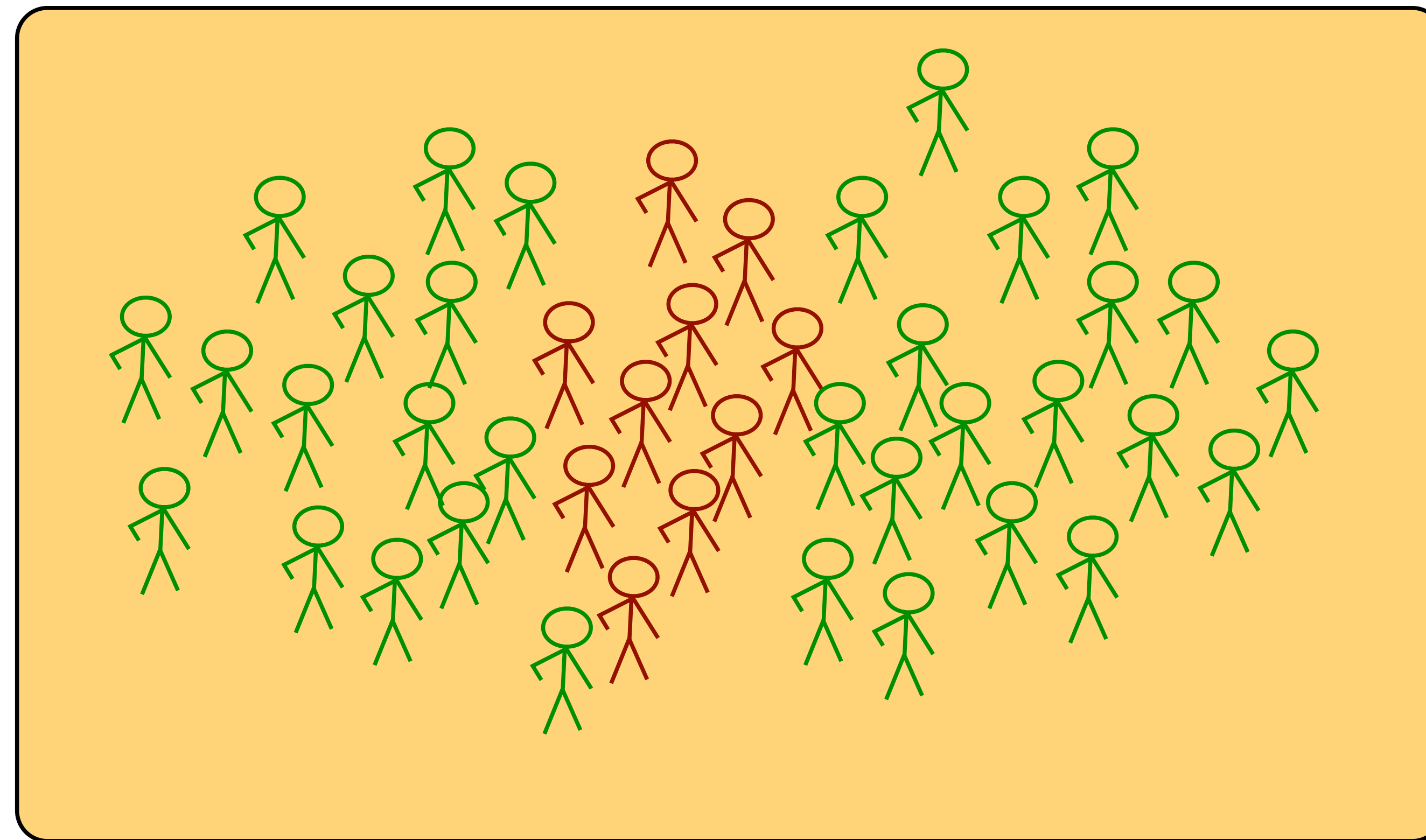


Community: people with common interest





Activity in community

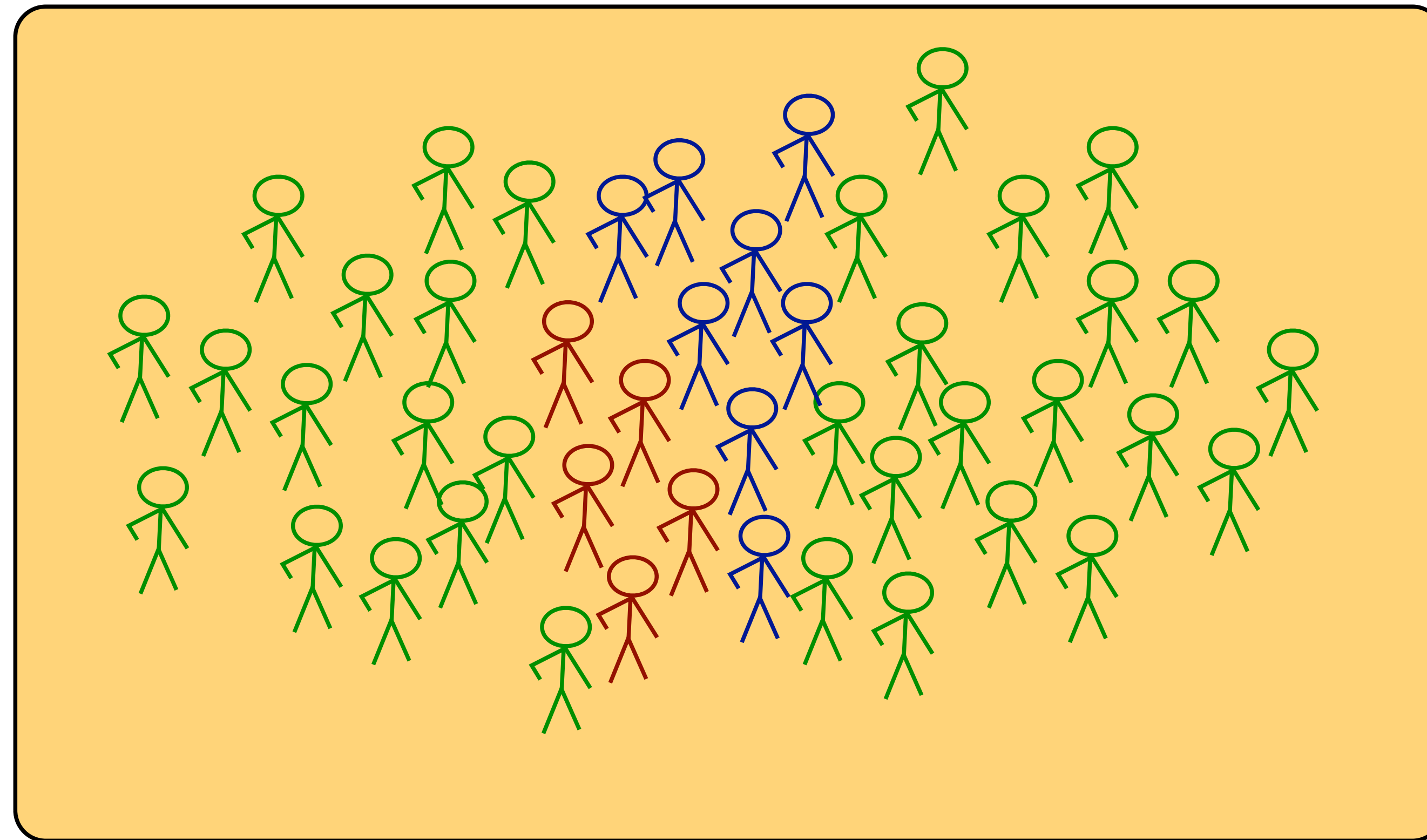


● Participants

● Onlookers



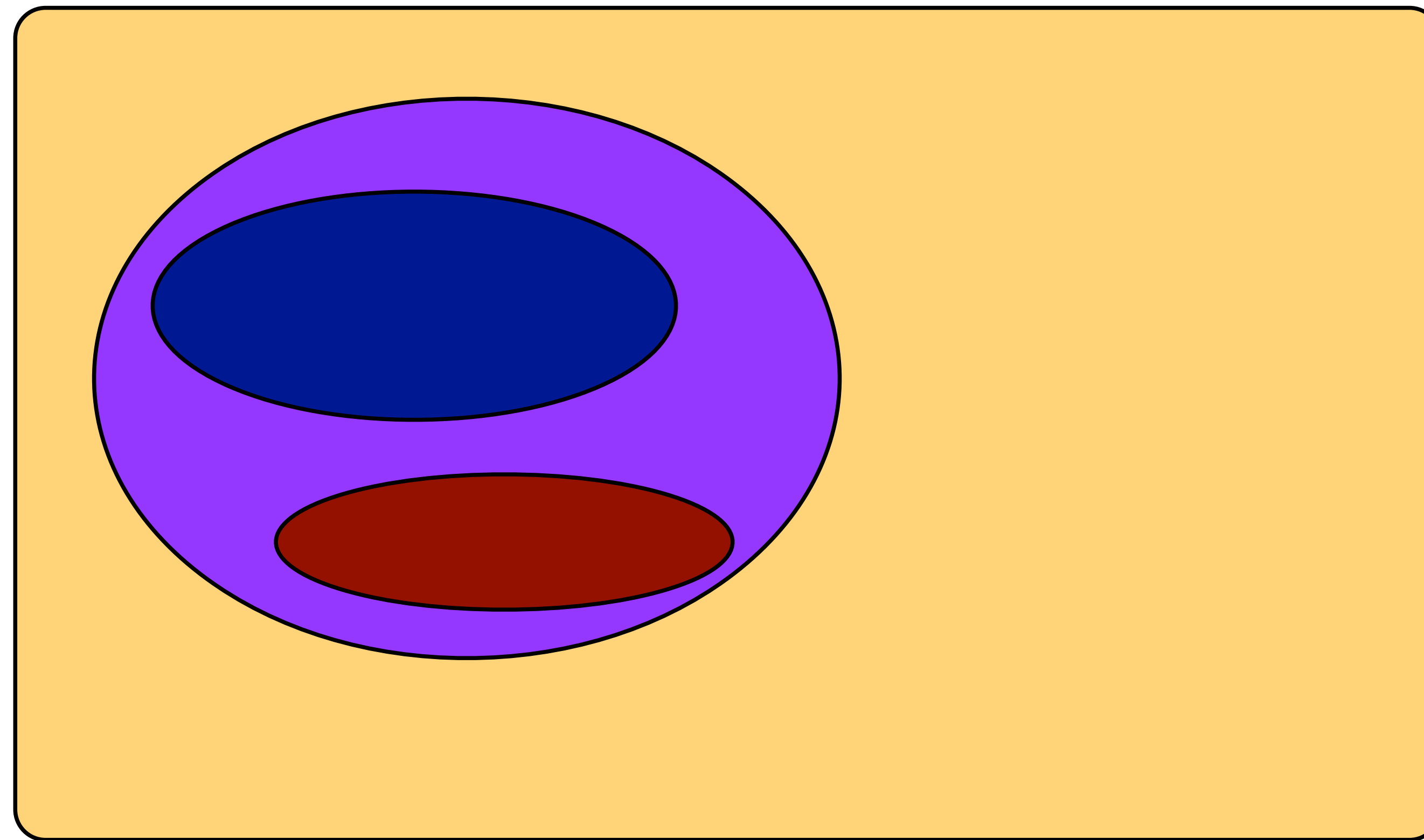
Decision-making in community



● For ● Against ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community



● Participants

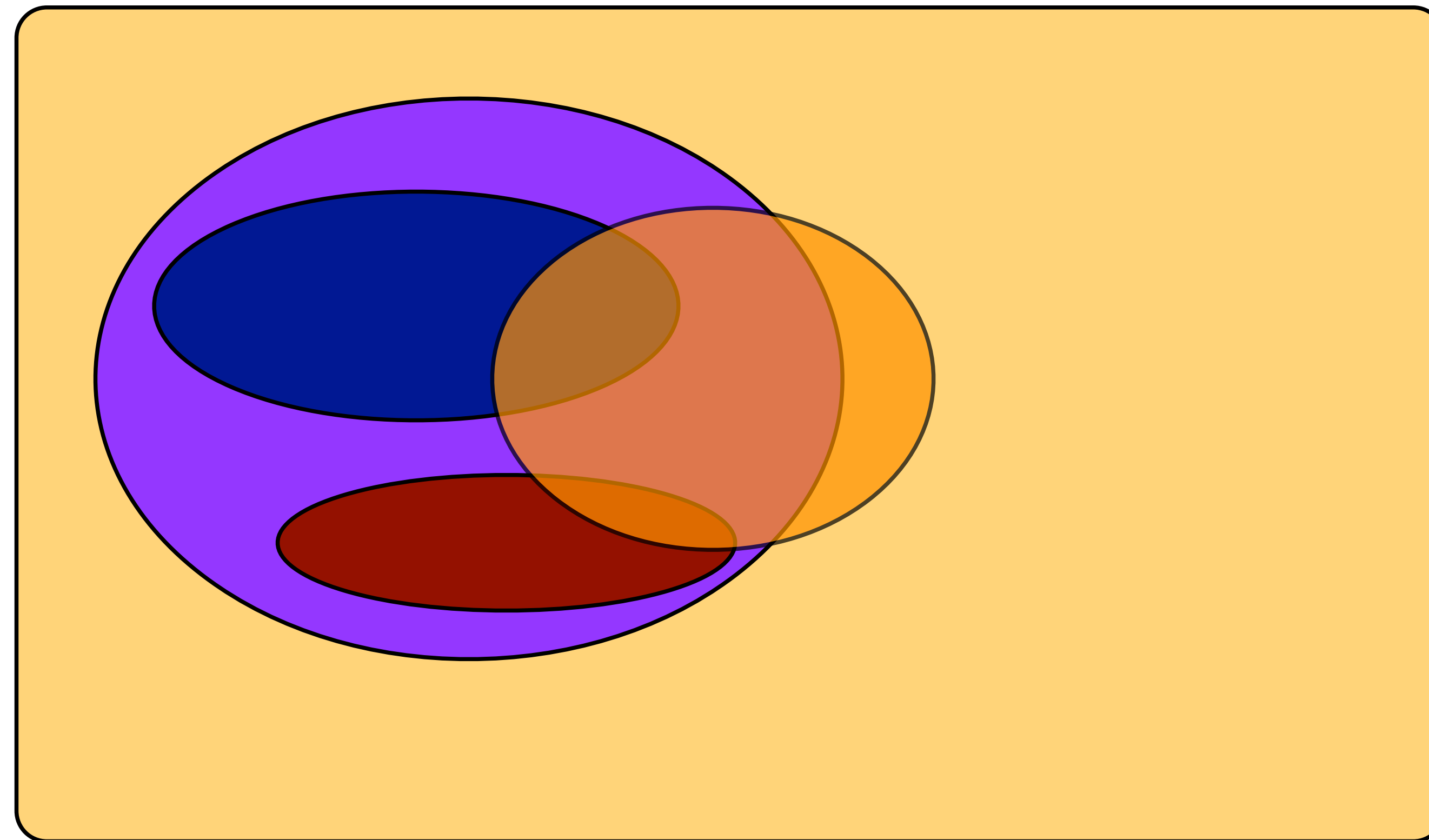
● For

● Against

● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

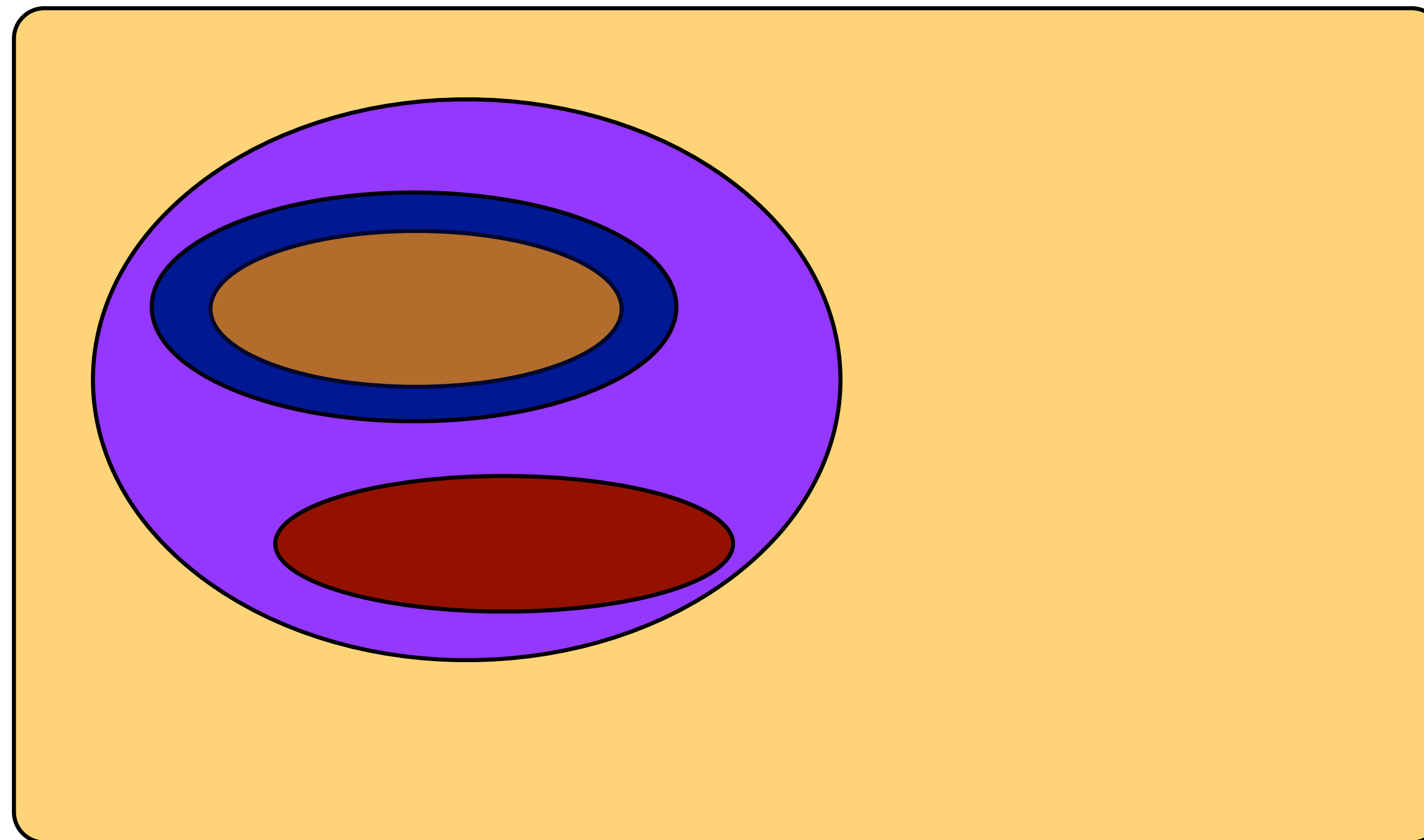


● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

No problem

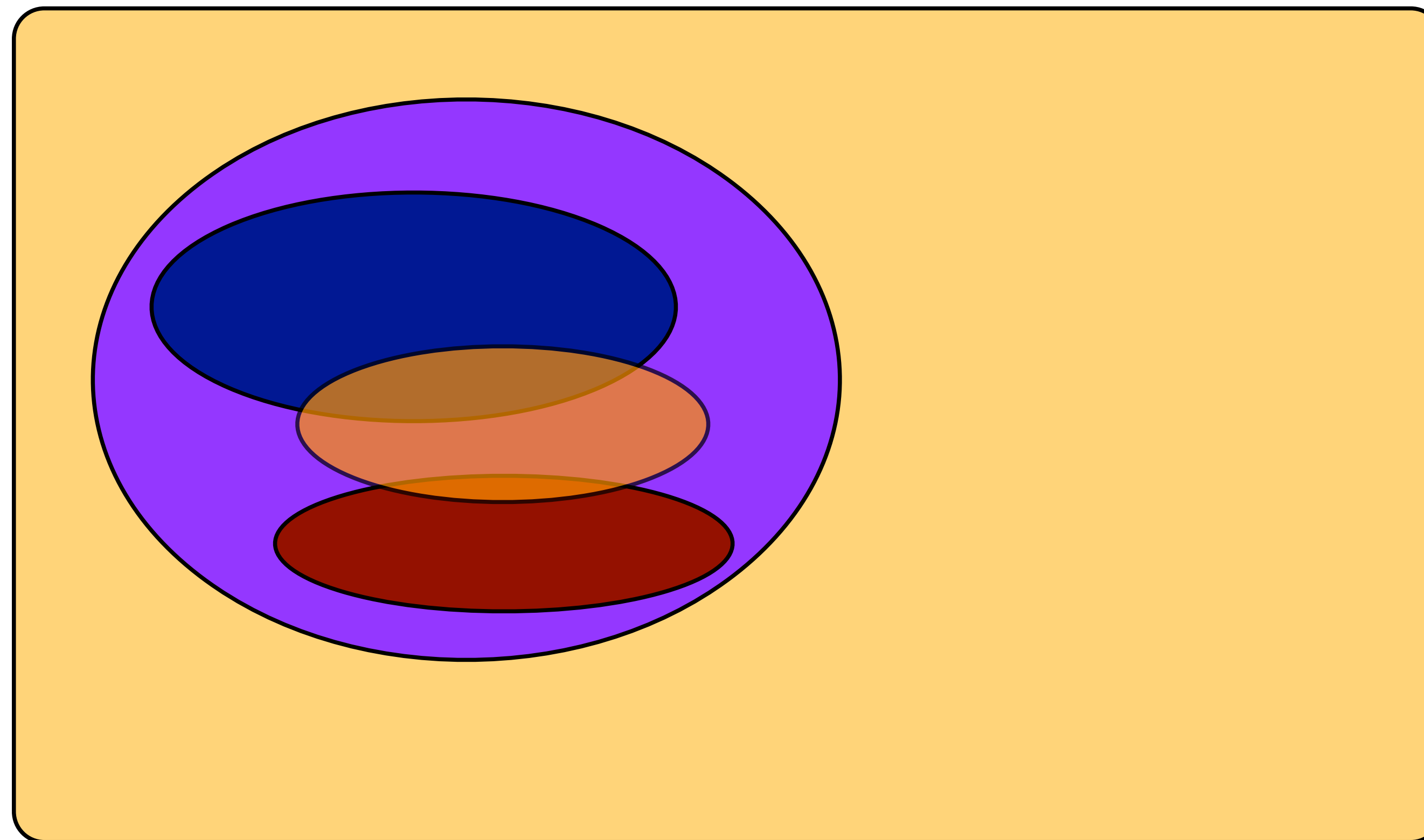


● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

No problem

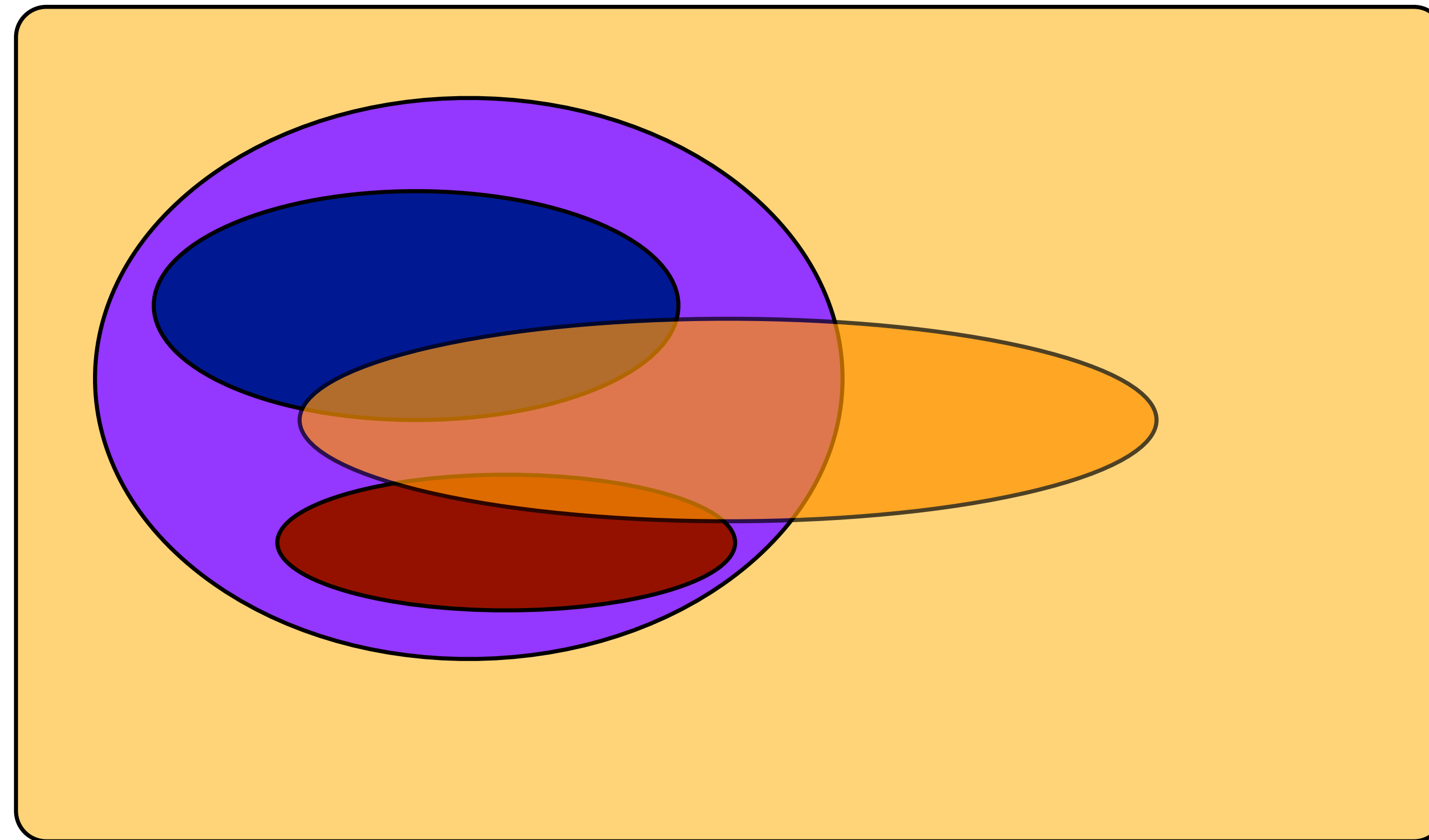


● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

No problem

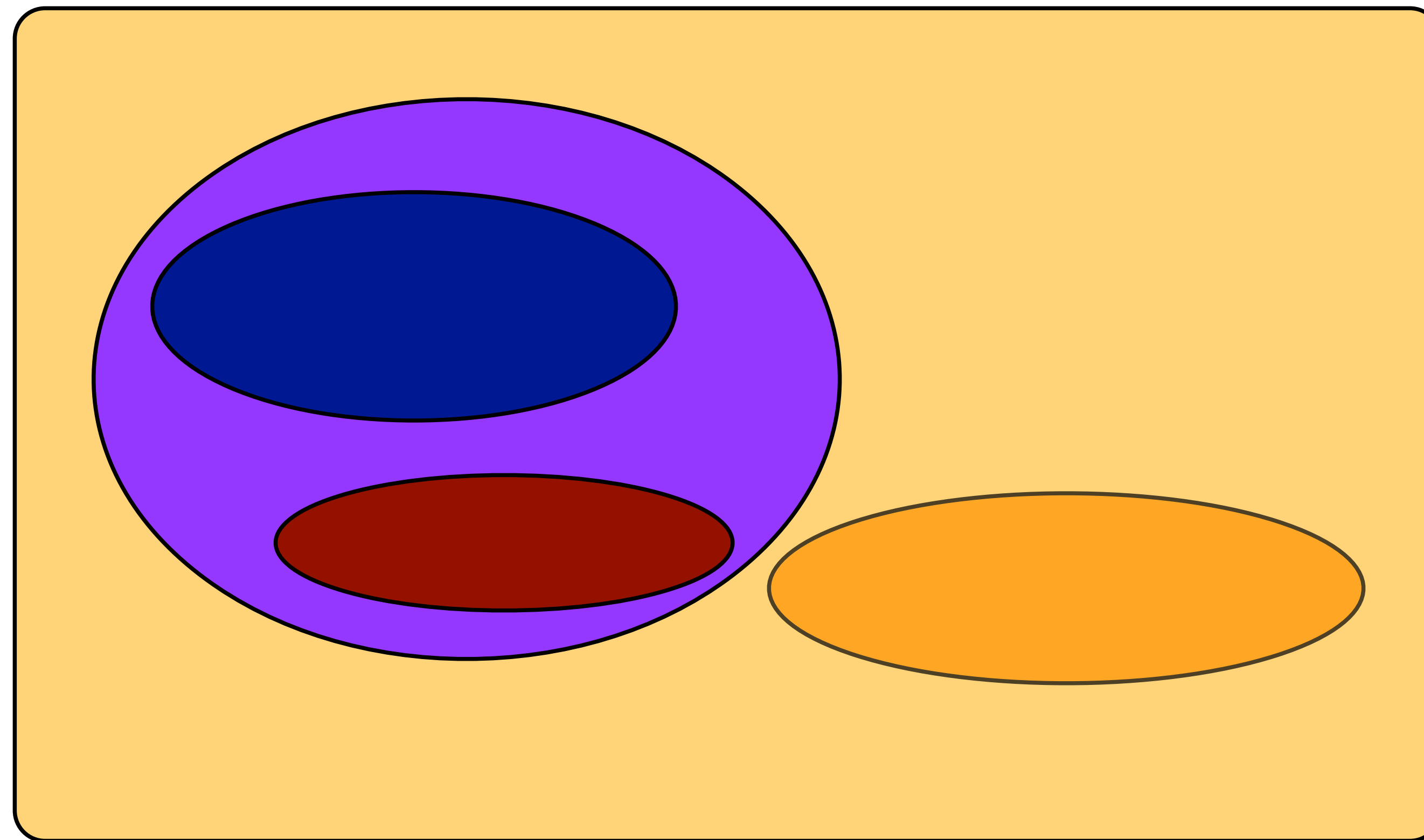


● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

Risky!

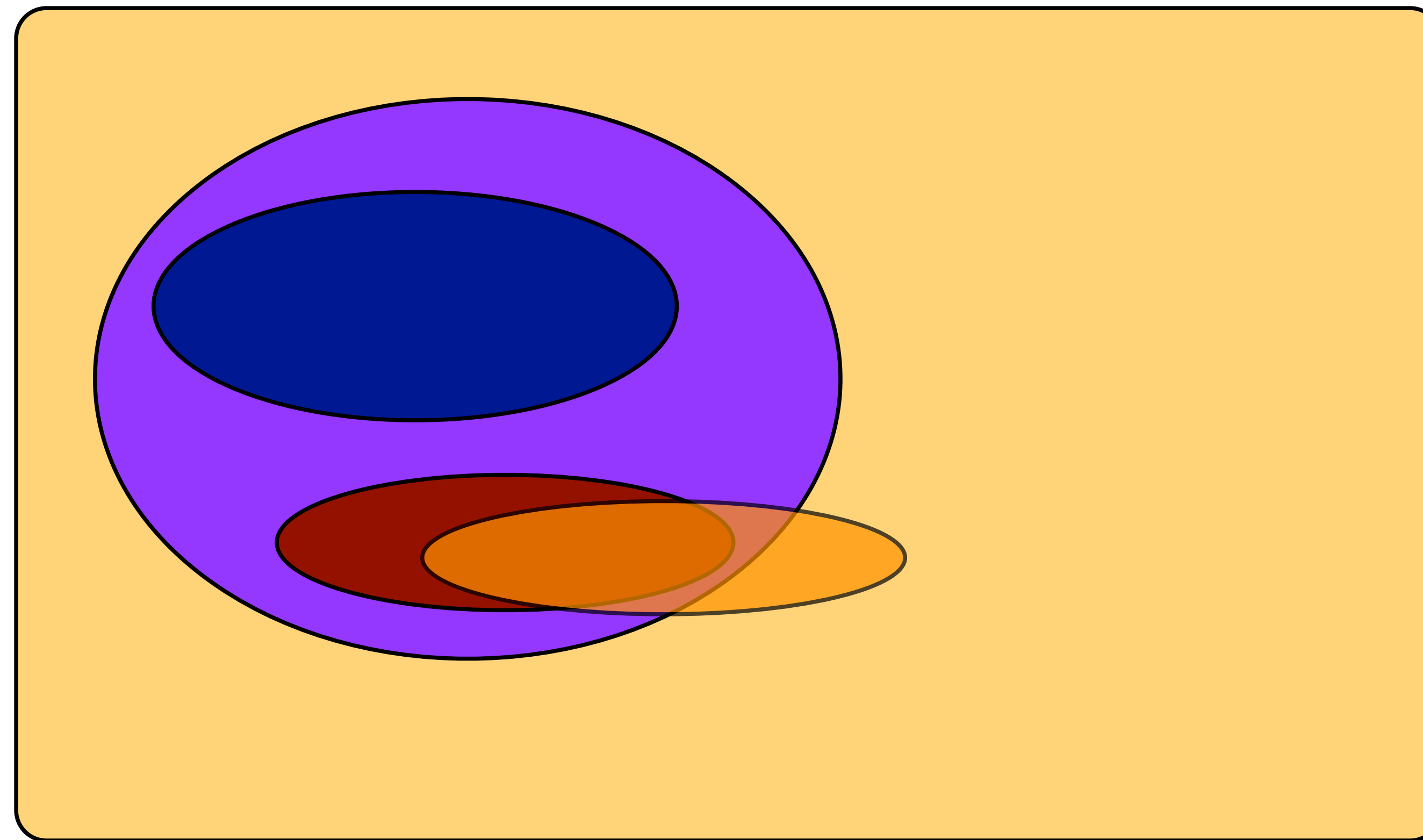


● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



Decision-making in community

Trouble!



● Participants ● For ● Against ● Affected group ● Silent majority



over to you ...



Goals of the document

- Describe how we build consensus in the RIPE community
- Manage expectations, build common understanding
- Thereby encouraging more participation



Target audience(s)

- Three groups:
 - WG chairs
 - Policy proposers
 - Community participants
- Consensus building is the same process, but viewed from different perspectives
- We should also keep "non-traditional" stakeholders in mind (LEAs, governments)



Is RIPE consensus documented? Anywhere?

- If there is, then our work is done and we can go and do something else, but please send us a link...
- If not - should we document it?
 - Policy/document/process proposers then know what the consensus building process actually is...
 - Same for WG chairs
 - ...and same for the RIPE community, participating in discussions



Existing documents

- Niall's silent presentation "Thoughts on Community Decision Making"
 - <https://ripe66.ripe.net/archives/video/994/> (video + slides)
- The RIPE WG Chairs Training - Module 6 "Building Consensus"
 - <https://academy.ripe.net/ripe-wg-chairs> (SSO login required)
- On Consensus and Humming in the IETF (RFC 7282)
 - <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7282>



Existing documents

- IETF WG Chairs Training - Module on Building Consensus
 - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC86T-6ZTP5jkLJomiSm4Qjn-TsPw782z>
- The Art of Reaching Consensus (Reinhardt Scholl, ITUWTSa, 2022)
 - https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/tutorials/202203/Documents/Reinhard%20Scholl_v2_The%20art%20of%20reaching%20consensus.pdf
- Brokering Standards by Consensus (ITU, 2021)
 - <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/standardization.aspx>



Document format

- Format it as guidelines, not make it too prescriptive or mechanical?
- Describe every little detail and create a blueprint?
- The document (published as RIPE BCOP document) can be changed and fine-tuned later, it's not set in stone



Who, when, what, how?

- If the answer is yes - then we need to form a small group of interested people to write a draft
- Do we have any volunteers in the audience that would like to participate?
- We need active contributors to this project, not just followers of what's going on



Questions, feedback & **volunteers**

