



## Delivering on Democracy

HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEMESTER | JANUARY - JUNE 2011



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EIDHR - European Instrument  
for Democracy and Human Rights



# Foreword

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, despite its financial limits representing just 0.78 % of EC Official Development Assistance, has led to strategic results and symbolic effects, and has had important influence in consolidating democracy and opening the door to change, bringing a breath of fresh air to pro-democracy activists and defenders.



I can only commend the formidable altruistic work and outstanding commitment of our partners, that makes reality happen in the field, often to the detriment of their personal well-being and, sadly, often to risk of their lives. Our engagement is guided by the following principles:

First, the Treaty of Lisbon is clear: «the Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity ».

Secondly, there is no development without democracy and no sustainable democracy without development. The European Consensus on Development reaffirms that the promotion of democracy and all the intertwined components of human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace, good governance, gender equality, and the rule of law are common values in the European vision of development.

Third, the Arab Spring has recalled to all cynical minds that defending democracy is not just about beliefs and values; it is also about our interests. Democracy is about long term stability, and respect of the rule of law is an incentive for business and investment. We will, of course, continue, to support democracy in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central and Eastern Asia and Latin America.

This report gives examples of cases, projects and results in our support of democracy. Some are small, some of them big. They all confirm that the EU contribution is of use and needs to further help support democracy.

We will continue to build on these lessons towards further results and try to do more, better and faster.

*Andris Piebalgs  
European Commissioner for Development*



DAR ES SALAAM  
TANZANIA

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# Introduction

This report highlights the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) operations promoting and supporting democracy. It underlines key projects and amounts but should not be seen as exhaustive<sup>1</sup>.

Democracy and human rights are inextricably linked. The fundamental freedoms of expression and association are preconditions for political pluralism and the democratic process, whereas democratic control and separation of powers are essential to sustain an independent judiciary and the rule of law, which are in turn required for effective protection of human rights<sup>2</sup>. Only in a democracy can individuals fully realise their human rights; only when human rights are respected may democracy flourish<sup>3</sup>.

Indeed, the violent deprivation of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi's or Mr Marou Amadou's basic human rights and freedoms because of their democratic activities as opposition leaders, in Myanmar and Niger respectively, makes the divergence between democracy and human rights rather artificial and academic.

Nevertheless, for the sake of transparency and duty of scrutiny, this report presents EIDHR's activities supporting and promoting democracy. Please note that "democracy" is defined by several UN resolutions as well as the Council Conclusions of November 2009<sup>4</sup>. The scope of operations supporting democracy is defined by the EIDHR regulation itself (see box on page 5).

This report highlights the added value of EIDHR activities as part of the EU support to democracy (*Part 1*). It sets out various examples of ongoing projects in the main categories of activities supporting democracy worldwide (*Part 2*). It reports on current actions undertaken in the pilot countries of the EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support (*Part 3*). It shows examples of the wide range of dedicated actors involved in the implementation of EC related activities (*Part 4*).

The EU's support of democracy led to results such as, among others, legislative changes (e.g. *election laws in Moldova*), the strengthening of parliaments (e.g. *in Yemen*), reinforced political parties (e.g. *in Tajikistan*), increased participation of under-represented groups in political life (e.g. *women in Azerbaijan and Ghana, youth in Kyrgyzstan and indigenous communities in Bolivia*), safeguarding freedom of expression and a free press (e.g. *in Ivory Coast*), enhancing the trust of citizens in electoral processes (e.g. *in Bangladesh*) and in better information, monitoring, and transparency of political activity (e.g. *in the Philippines*).

<sup>1</sup>  
Complete and detailed information is available on the various compendia of activities 2007-2010, online at [www.eidhr.eu](http://www.eidhr.eu). The new updated version of the comprehensive compendium will be published in June 2011.

<sup>2</sup>  
Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide – OJEU L 386/1.

<sup>3</sup>  
EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support in EU External Relations, adopted as an annex of the Council conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations, 17 November 2009.

<sup>4</sup>  
Council Conclusions on Democracy support in the EU's external Relations, 17 November 2009.

## Range of democracy-promoting activities

*Regulation establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide*

### Article 2 Scope

1. Having regards to Articles 1 and 3, Community assistance shall relate to the following fields:
  - (a) **promotion and enhancement of participatory and representative democracy**, including parliamentary democracy, and the processes of democratisation, mainly through civil society organisations, *inter alia* in:
    - i) promoting freedom of association and assembly, unhindered movement of persons, freedom of opinion and expression, including artistic and cultural expression, independent media, unimpeded access to information, and measures to combat administrative obstacles to the exercise of these freedoms, including the fight against censorship;
    - ii) strengthening the rule of law, promoting the independence of the judiciary, encouraging and evaluating legal and institutional reforms, and promoting access to justice;
    - iii) promoting and strengthening the International Criminal Court, ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the processes of transitional justice and truth and reconciliation mechanisms;
    - iv) supporting reforms to achieve effective and transparent democratic accountability and oversight, including that of the security and justice sectors, and encouraging measures against corruption;
    - v) promoting political pluralism and democratic political representation, and encouraging political participation by citizens, in particular marginalised groups, in democratic reform processes at local, regional and national level;
    - vi) promoting the equal participation of men and women in social, economic and political life, and supporting equality of opportunity, and the participation and political representation of women;
    - vii) supporting measures to facilitate the peaceful conciliation of group interests, including support for confidence-building measures relating to human rights and democratisation.



# 1

## EIDHR's added value in supporting Democracy

The EU has an extensive array of instruments at its disposal. It supports democratisation through an appropriate mix of instruments tailored to the specific situation of each country.

While geographical programmes support reforms and democratic institution-building, the EIDHR offers a **comprehensive package** of local action to encourage political pluralism, empower disenfranchised groups, defend victims and promote dialogue, fostering mediation, transparency, accountability and consultation.

The EIDHR **works in synergy with the instruments at its disposal**. In **Haiti**, for example, geographical instruments focused on the reconstruction of democratic institutions. Non State Actors Initiatives helped rebuild civil society. The Instrument for Stability supported election assistance and dialogue between political stakeholders. The EIDHR brought added value by providing election experts who encouraged a peaceful outcome to the elections, with the participation of 3130 local observers to strengthen confidence and provide ownership of the process.

The EIDHR **is reactive**. Immediate assistance was provided to the reform committee in **Tunisia** to design the roadmap transition and help civil society contribute to the process. While the Instrument for Stability will assist key NGOs by topping up on existing EIDHR support, other instruments will intervene to help justice, youth and rural areas. The EIDHR will also train political parties, support free press and media in specific blogs and websites, act as watchdog over the democratic transition, and support civic education on democracy. Later it will deploy thousands of local observers and an EU Election Observation Mission.

The EIDHR acts **without host country consent**. In **Belarus**, for example, while the instrument supports the democratic education at graduate level of future young leaders at institutions abroad, it tries to mitigate unfair criminalisation at home of democratic activists imprisoned for being in opposition. Defenders of the victims, such as lawyers, must in turn be defended through our Human Rights Defender system, as they can also be imprisoned for taking up the cases of pro-democracy activists.

The EIDHR **works in difficult conditions**. In a coordinated project in **North Korea**, sharing operational facilities with the **US National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**, the EIDHR ensures the broadcasting and free distribution of information about some 200.000 political prisoners in internment camps (source Amnesty International). After NED's withdrawal for administrative reasons, the project is now supported solely by the EU.

The EIDHR **complements** other pro-democracy activities. An EU project implemented by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy strengthened the **Lebanon** Parliament's Finance, Public Accounts and Justice Committees. This essential strengthening of Parliamentary oversight functions was supported with the help of geographical instruments; it therefore did not need further EIDHR involvement in parallel key legislative changes to election law.

### Key figures

Since 2000, the EC has implemented more than EUR 5.4 billion worth of activities in the all-encompassing field of governance, identified as an area of EC added value<sup>5</sup>. Indeed, the EC is the leading world donor in this area. Evaluations estimate<sup>6</sup> that approximately 57% of this amount has been used for operations related to democracy, human right and rule of law<sup>7</sup>.

Contributions from the EIDHR represented 17% of this amount<sup>8</sup> aimed at mainly smaller projects and often micro projects targeting individual results on a human scale. The EIDHR delivers many direct or indirect pro-democracy activities and 60% of its operations are focused on democracy and rule of law. All of its five strategic objectives<sup>9</sup> play a role in advancing the democratic space in societies outside the EU. Between 2007 and 2010, approximately EUR 307 million funded more than 700 projects.

These projects covered various categories of actions: democracy building (EUR 36 million), election related projects (EUR 2.9 million), freedom of expression and association (EUR 39.3 million), education to pro-democracy and civil society building (EUR 37.9 million), operations in difficult situations and countries where human rights and democracy cannot be distinguished (EUR 62.9 million) and EU Election Observation Missions (EUR 128 million).

Today, there are 215 ongoing projects supporting democracy worldwide. More than 90 dedicated projects for an amount of EUR 40 million are currently alleviating deteriorating democratic conditions in different parts of the world, notably regarding freedom of expression and association.

The EIDHR is the smallest EU foreign instrument<sup>10</sup>. Support to democracy via the EIDHR represents just 0.78% of the entire EC Official Development Assistance (ODA) and only 1/800<sup>th</sup> of the entire EU budget. Tenders and calls for proposals are therefore only able to fund a third of the total potentially valid projects proposed.

For 2012, EU Delegations have announced their intention to launch democracy projects in more than 64 countries. The new EIDHR strategy for 2011-2013 allocates EUR 165.4 million for country-based support schemes, EUR 18.9 million for transnational and regional activities; EUR 69.3 million for HRD/risk, and EUR 105.6 million for EU EOMs.

5 European Consensus for Development – OJEC C46/1 of the 24.02.2006.

6 Thematic evaluation of the EC support to human rights and respect of fundamental freedoms (including solidarity with victims of repression) – February 2011 – Europeaid/122888/C/SERMulti.

7 This includes large scale operations such as the EUR 200 million to support the Afghan Police.

8 The EIDHR has deployed more than 1300 projects in 130 countries for EUR 510 million between 2007-2010.

9 **OBJECTIVE 1:** Enhancing respect for HR and fundamental freedoms in countries where they are **most at risk**.  
**OBJECTIVE 2:** Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting HR and **democratic reform**, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and consolidating political participation and representation.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Supporting actions on HR and **democracy issues** in areas covered by EU Guidelines.

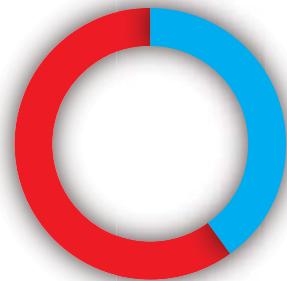
**OBJECTIVE 4:** Supporting and strengthening international and regional frameworks for the protection and promotion of HR, justice, the rule of law and **the promotion of democracy**.

**OBJECTIVE 5:** Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of **democratic electoral processes**, in particular through election observation.

10 The entire EIDHR represents roughly 1.3% of the entire EC ODA.

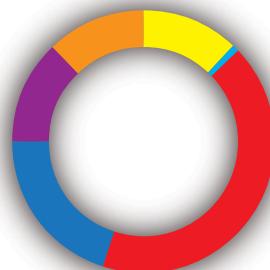
**EIDHR:**  
**1300 PROJECTS IN 130 COUNTRIES**  
**FOR EUR 510 MILLION**

- ▶ Democracy and Rule of Law  
EUR 307.922.647: 60%
- ▶ Other EIDHR projects  
EUR 202.077.353: 40%



**SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY**

- ▶ Democracy building: 12 %
- ▶ Election related projects: 1 %
- ▶ EU EOMs: 42 %
- ▶ Difficult countries/situations: 20 %
- ▶ Freedom of expression & association: 13 %
- ▶ Democracy/HR Education and civil society building: 12 %





## Operating in comprehensive deliveries worldwide

In accordance with its founding regulation, EIDHR support to democracy covers a wide area of action. It entails:

- Structural support and reform for government, parliament, justice and media.
- Encouragement of inclusive participation in political and decision-making processes by a broad array of groups, by supporting consultations, wide representativeness and democratic activists.
- Building confidence between citizens, elected representatives and administration by encouraging accountability, transparency and consultation.
- Promoting democracy and protecting pro-democracy activists in politically highly restrictive environments, particularly by supporting freedom of opinion, conscience, belief, expression, association, peaceful assembly, and free movement – all necessary conditions for the discharge of democracy.

### Examples of structural and institutional activities

An EU project, implemented by the **Golos Association** advocates direct and transparent elections and further progress in **constitutional and legislative reforms**. Through public discussion, open debate, the use of hotlines and citizen information about electoral standards in 40 regions in **the Russian Federation**, the project advocates increasing the transparency of the electoral process and adopting concrete legal changes. It promotes a unified electoral code.

The EU project implemented by the **Information Educational Centre** helps the reinforcement of local **government and administrations**, and assisted in the democratisation process and decentralisation of governance in **Armenia**. The project used and supported local staff, local self governance clubs and bodies, and mass media assistance tools. It has helped build democratic institutions and contributed to the reduction of democratic violations and other illegal practices encountered at a local level.

The EIDHR supports a project by the **Coalition for Integrity and Accountability “AMAN”** that strengthens the efficiency and independence of judicial authorities in the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**. The project targets the Supreme Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecutor’s office. It consolidates the integrity of the judiciary and reinforces the role of justice in fostering integrity at all levels. It restores public confidence in an impartial justice system free of discrimination or favoritism. It also strengthens the ability of judges and public prosecutors to combat corruption.

An EU project implemented by the **Yemen Polling Center** supports a Parliament “watch and help” to strengthen the accountability of the House of Representatives in **Yemen**. The project monitors the performance of public reporting by Parliamentarians. It supports opinion polls on public perception and aids public access to information. Similar projects to strengthen **Parliamentary** transparency or capacities are currently ongoing in DRC, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Montenegro, Morocco and Vietnam.

An EU project implemented by the **Network of Associative and Community Media** promotes the **independence of media** and **freedom of the press**. The project targets local radio stations in the Low Congo province of the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. It strengthens the production capacities of media and trains journalists in the democratic process leading up to local, parliamentary and presidential elections in 2011.

The EIDHR also supports new media. An EU project implemented by the **Foundation Abderrahim** strengthened the use of the internet as a means of communicating democratic values in **Morocco**. The project strengthened citizen information and participation in local public debate. It helped advocate democratic reform as well as offering, via the internet, information and new avenues of expression about the proper conduct of civil society.

#### **Examples of support to open and pluralist participation**

An EU project implemented by the **Leadership School for Young Women** promotes the role of young women in **Azerbaijan** in public and civic life at the local, regional and national level. Of a variety of professional backgrounds, 125 young **women** from rural areas were trained and 12 of them were elected during the 2010 municipal elections. The project also created a network of young public female leaders. The Leadership School will develop into a permanent autonomous educational institution with branches in different regions of Azerbaijan.

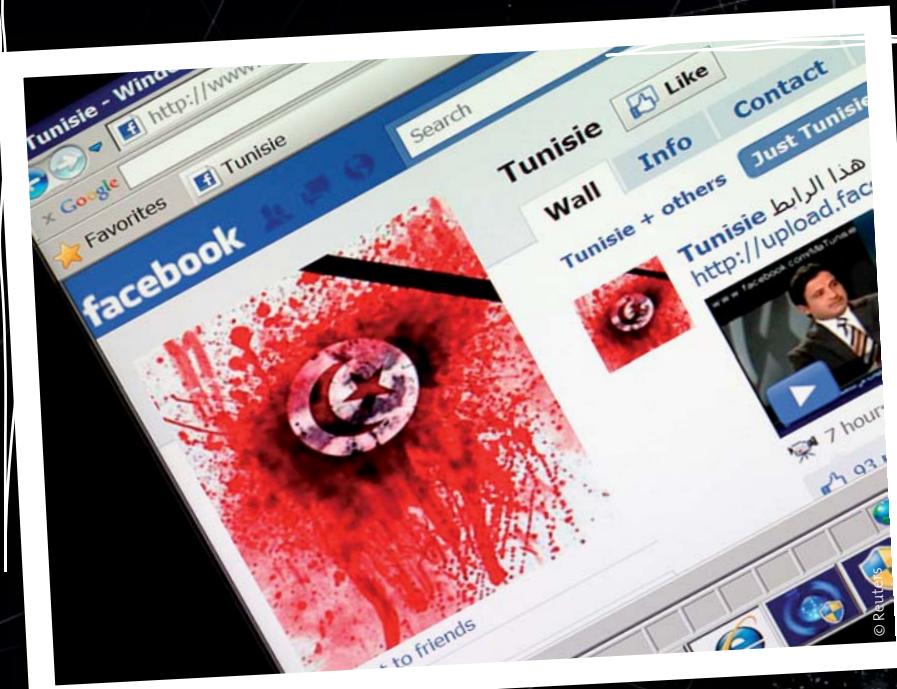
The EIDHR supported a project implemented by the **Foundation Our Nicaragua** to enhance civic education. It offered adolescents and young people at high social risk an opportunity to participate in democratic life as an alternative to violence in **Nicaragua**. The project helped create a peaceful climate of conciliation during the electoral process of 2010. It helped limit political violence and manipulation of **adolescents and young people**. It also ensured that their rights are respected and that more of them are given civic responsibility.

An EU project supports the new programme of the **School of Indigenous Communities' Governments** to strengthen the effective exercise of the political rights of the indigenous peoples of **Bolivia**. The project helped strengthen the capacity of **indigenous people's** delegates to become effective representatives and restore their own community governments in their territories as a basis for the construction of the Indigenous Autonomies in the new plurinational state of Bolivia.



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BALAKHAN VILLAGE  
AZERBAIJAN



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An EU project implemented by **Rushd de Khatlon** is supporting and strengthening political parties in **Tadzhikistan**. After the 2006 partial boycott and the 2010 elections declared by OSCE as having “failed to meet key OSCE commitments”, the project tried to modify the country’s one party dominant system. The project is considered a best practice on which to build EIDHR’s support for **political parties** as discussed in 2010, during the support initiative on democracy of the EC Structured Dialogue that gathers EU Institutions, Member States, CSOs at large and Local Authorities.

### **Examples of support to confidence building**

An EU supported campaign to establish an independent **truth commission** on abuses committed during wartime is gaining favour in **former Yugoslavia**. The Presidents of Serbia and Croatia, and Members of the Montenegrin and Slovenian Parliaments have recently endorsed the commission as a truth telling body and an important step towards mediation and **conciliation**.

Calling on the experience of truth commissions in South Africa, Sierra Leone, East Timor and Peru, a number of public consultations are being held throughout the region in addition to a petition for one million signatures to support the project. A draft statute will be presented in June 2011.

An EU project supported the **International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy** (ISFED) to set up domestic observation of the legislative and presidential election of 2008 in **Georgia**. The deployment of 3500 local observers led to nationally owned recommendations highlighting several dysfunctions. They helped by improving the voters list and bringing confidence to a sensitive series of constitutional changes introduced two months before the elections. ISFED also delivers the democracy awareness workshops “I vote for the first time” all over the country.

At the invitation of the government, the EIDHR deployed an **EU Election Observation Mission** to observe the 2010 presidential elections in **the Ivory Coast**, the outcome of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement (2007) and the end of 11 years of crisis. The mission assessed all aspects of the electoral process. After comprehensive analysis of the random observation of 4,7% of polling stations, the mission confirmed the election of Mr Alassane Ouattara as well as attesting to deliberate attempts by Mr Laurent Gbagbo’s camp to breach international standards and Ivorian laws to influence the final results.



| ABIDJAN  
| IVORY COAST

## Actions in restrictive environments

The most difficult countries and/or situations are precisely where basic rights and freedoms are most at risk. Violations of democratic and human rights generally occur together, and the difference between the two is inapposite. In the most difficult places, moments of democratic tension such as elections, coups, conflicts and/or uprisings, will inevitably lead to increased human rights violations.

In order to protect the physical safety of activists and others whose lives may be seriously endangered, **the details of such projects cannot be made public**. The European Commission reports on these projects to authorised persons in the Council, the Parliament and the EEAS<sup>11</sup> on a “need to know” basis and may only commend the courage of such dedication and regret the unfortunate and yet sadly regular loss of life.

<sup>11</sup>  
European External  
Action Service.

<sup>12</sup>  
Front Line, Protection  
International FIDH, RSF,  
Avocats Sans Frontières,  
Clean Clothes Campaign,  
Diakonisches Werk der  
Evangelischen Kirche  
in Deutschland,  
Euro-Mediterranean  
Foundation of support to  
HRDs, South Caucasus Human  
Rights Centre Union (HRIDC),  
Central Asian Institute for War  
and Peace Reporting (IWPR).

<sup>13</sup>  
4 global, 7 regional (Africa,  
Central Asia, Latin America,  
Asia, Eastern Europe, South-  
Mediterranean, South  
Caucasus) and 8 country  
projects covering Algeria,  
Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan,  
Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil,  
Burkina Faso, Burundi,  
Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad,  
China, Colombia, Congo,  
Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea,  
Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala,  
Guinea, Indonesia, Iran,  
Israel, Ivory Coast, Kenya,  
Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Nepal,  
Niger, Palestinian Occupied  
Territories, Peru, Philippines,  
RCA, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra  
Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka,  
Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand,  
Togo, Turkey, Uganda,  
Zimbabwe.

These **difficult cases** represent 20 % of EIDHR activities. Since 2007, the EIDHR supported more than 100 such projects to a total of EUR 60 million. In particular, supported by its network of Human Rights Defenders<sup>12</sup>, the EIDHR backed 19 HRD projects to the tune of EUR 13.5 million in more than 45 countries<sup>13</sup>.

The EIDHR acts as a **breath of fresh air** with most projects focused on helping the survival of weakened or shattered civil society and media, opening the door to dialogue and change. It helps maintain the minimum democratic education of a younger generation and vulnerable groups, often based abroad, helping the advocacy of civil society and diasporas abroad. Sometimes it just simply tries to protect and exfiltrate victims of anti-democratic repression.

Since January 2011, the new and flexible **Small Grant Facility** (up to EUR 10.000 million per case) designed to take care of emergencies has covered 92 individual cases of victims of anti-democratic repression. It paid for activities such as physical protection, legal fees, rehabilitation, and out-of-country relocation or support to families of victims. Funds available are limited, however, and will soon be depleted.

The “Jasmine revolution” means the EIDHR may now reveal its involvement in projects in **Tunisia** in 2010, where prior to transition, it supported the League of Human Rights (LTDH), the Association of Democrat Women (AFTD), Trade Unions (UGTT), Judges’ and Lawyers’ Associations and Reporters without Borders (RSF) for activities not authorised in the country. Lack of publicity for its involvement at the time could have been interpreted as abandonment or as a lack of responsiveness; EIDHR was in fact very active and ultimately successful.



TIWANAKU  
BOLIVIA

# 3

## Implementing the EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support

The Council Conclusions on Democracy Support established a list of pilot countries for more specific follow-up<sup>14</sup>. In these countries, the EIDHR implements more than 50 pro-democracy projects ranging from the encouragement of under-represented groups in political participation and implementation of democratic reforms in general, or sector reforms in particular, to promoting increased transparency and accountability during elections and encouraging more informed public policy debates and freedom of expression.

### **Example of action in Bolivia**

An EU project is supporting the School of indigenous communities' governments to strengthen the effective exercise of the political rights of indigenous peoples. The project contributes to rebuilding ways of community and territorial governments, as a basis for the construction of the Indigenous Autonomies in the new plurinational state of Bolivia. The project helped to build the capacities of indigenous delegates/authorities to become effective representatives of community governments.

### **Example of action in Central African Republic**

An EU project implemented by Mercy Corps Scotland in the Central African Republic, supports the inclusive, effective and responsible engagement of the population, civil society and local authorities in local governance and democracy protection. It reinforced HRD capacities to defend and plead for the protection of political rights, raising the awareness of the population and local authorities of democracy, good governance and human rights, and supporting the introduction of a space for community dialogue on questions of general interest.

### **Example of action in Ghana**

Ghanaian civil society received strong EIDHR support in election year 2010. While only 8% of candidates were female, eight projects boosted the participation of women in politics. Women who planned on running for a seat in the National Parliament were trained by the "Institute for Economic Affairs" on fundraising and political communication. The NGO "Concern Universal" was able to train 2300 women from the Upper West region of Ghana aspiring to take public office in local government and participate in political parties.

### **Example of action in Indonesia**

The EIDHR supports the Indonesian Parliamentary Center's training of young MPs, of which 30% are women, on civic education and constituency outreach to improve their public representation and outreach capacities. The MPs belong to the seven biggest political parties in the country. The project improved the capacity of political parties to encourage the performance of capable junior members in the political system. It also allowed MPs to advance agrarian reforms, pushing for the democratic participation of rural poor and marginalised groups in Aceh and Papua.

<sup>14</sup>

Benin, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Philippines, Solomon Islands.



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| LEBANON



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| CHISINAU  
| MOLDOVA

### **Example of action in Kyrgyzstan**

An EU project implemented by the Eurasia Foundation empowered Kyrgyz civil society to overcome regional and information divides and participate in inclusive and informed public policy debates. It particularly engaged youth in the southern regions in constructive activities to help their communities while promoting interaction between youth from different backgrounds. It trained them in awareness of rights, leadership and civic participation. The project strengthened the interaction of national minorities with State bodies as well as their political representation and participation at local and national levels in democratic reforms.

### **Example of action in Lebanon**

Following the elections of 2005 and 2009, when Election Observation Missions were deployed, an EU project supported the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE) to advocate electoral reform for a sustainable democracy. The project put pressure on decision makers and political parties to introduce electoral law reform in line with international standards. EIDHR's support achieved progress towards further reforms in both legislative and municipal law. It followed on previous recommendations by EOMs and helped better integrate the electoral cycle. It also helped reduce Lebanon's regular post-electoral disruptions.

### **Example of action in Moldova**

Having witnessed post-election riots in 2009 and a change of government, Moldova's democratic processes were strongly supported by EIDHR both before and after these events. In particular, the project implemented by the Civil Society Leadership Network facilitated the training and communication of emerging leaders of civil society, who are to play an important role towards European standards of their countries. It allowed for the establishment of a political culture among political/electoral activists.

### **Example of action in the Philippines**

Following the 2009 inter-clan massacres of Mindanao Island, and the subsequent state of emergency, an EU project helped prevent repetition in the run up to the 2010 general elections. The project "Healing Democracy", implemented by the "Unleashing Interfaith Initiatives towards the Promotion of the Democratic Process", established 30 "responsible voters' circles". They aim to increase awareness among the local electorate of responsible voting and develop a collective sentiment against fraud and violence. They also established a center to monitor, document and publicize poll-related fraud.

### **Example of action in the Solomon Islands**

An EU project implemented by Live and Learn enhances the political participation of citizens and promotes inclusive democratic representation in the Solomon Islands. The project has created grassroots political participation of young people and strengthened civil society organisations in rural and vulnerable areas of the four provinces – Western Province, Makira Province, Renbel Province and Isabel Province – through educational activities and networking of youth groups.

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ÖzgürLük  
PLATFORMU  
2010

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ma



ANKARA  
TURKEY

# 4

## Working with a wide range of dedicated actors

To support home-grown democracy efforts, EIDHR works with a wide range of partners, from grass-roots organisations to international parliamentary associations, from advocacy and watch-dog organisations to political foundations, trade unions and the media.

The following list is limited. It does not show the exhaustive list of excellent partners that has to be published by law which can be consulted on line ([www.eidhr.eu](http://www.eidhr.eu)). It should not be inferred that the organisations mentioned below are any better or worse than those that are not; the choice is random and purely intended as an example. As previously explained, some partners are deliberately, for reasons of security, not given public mention.

This list is almost exclusively Northern centric. This is deliberate, in order to feed in the current debate on the various European organisations involved in democracy support and to give tribute to the incremental work they deliver. Southern organisations play a major role in the implementation of the majority of EIDHR projects. Working with local partners is in fact a quasi condition of most proposals.

### NGOs

The large majority of EIDHR projects are implemented by Civil Society Organisations and in particular NGOs. Numerous EIDHR projects aim directly at strengthening NGOs, their works, their networks and their working environments.

As an example, an EU project supports **Front Line** in its **defence of NGOs** and Human Right Defenders in particular in the Middle East and the Gulf region. It provides rapid and practical support to at-risk democracy defenders. Mr Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, Front Line Protection Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, former President of the **Bahrain** Center for Human Rights, and award winner of the 2005 Arab Program for Human Rights Defenders as the activist of the region, is still under arbitrary detention following pro-democracy protests during the Bahraini uprising. Fears for his life have been expressed following allegations of torture.

Another EU project implemented by **Trocaire** supports the **capacity building of NGOs** in marginalised and urban areas of four provinces in **Zimbabwe**. The project helps raise the level of participation of local organisations, and establish a democratic society through fostering healing and reconciliation, working for a return to the rule of law and the achievement of a people-driven constitution in an informed, peaceful and inclusive way. The project reaches out to communities, documents the democracy situation in the country and raises awareness among policy-makers in Zimbabwe and internationally.

An EU project implemented by the Phnom Penh **Royal University of Law** supports improvements to **the legal environment for NGOs**. The project will establish a comprehensive data base of legal and regulation texts, related information networks, and disseminate thematic reports for the strengthening of democracy in **Cambodia**. Unfortunately, the toughening-up of legal conditions and the operating environment for NGOs in an increasing number of countries in all continents makes similar projects even more necessary.



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| NEW DELHI  
| INDIA

### Political foundations

Since 2000, more than 40 EU projects, EUR 20 million-worth, were implemented by the political foundations regrouped in the **European Network of Political Foundations (ENOP)**. These projects supported democracy networks, promoted good governance, civil rights, local government accountability and fought corruption. Today, 14 projects are on-going, covering a wide variety of activities from freedom of association, women, torture, media, youth and inter-religious dialogue, to indigenous peoples.

As an example, the **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung** is implementing the EU project "Return to democracy" in **Moldavia**. The project promotes freedom of expression and helped the consolidation of a free and pluralistic media. It strengthened journalism capacities, improved governmental cooperation and advocated free media. It developed platforms of journalists, legal experts, and monitoring institutions. The project also prepared school teachers as "multipliers" of critical media consumption.

### Independent foundations

An EU project supports the **Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders** that promotes a human rights culture and the consolidation of a nascent democratic civil society **in the Mena region**. The project provides strategic financial assistance and support to local, national and regional NGOs, institutes and individuals, including dissidents, who promote, support, protect and monitor the observance of democracy in the region. Due to the recent events in the region, the foundation is currently a major day to day partner.

EIDHR supports the **European Partnership for Democracy** and the **Civic Network OPORA** to enhance civic engagement with reforms in **Ukraine**. The project will develop capacities to monitor the fulfilment of government commitments and obligations in the areas of democracy, engage with Ukrainian citizens and promote a more constructive dialogue on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda. The project will develop the capacity of local stakeholders and keep democratic reform on the political agenda.

An EU project implemented by the **Club de Madrid** is aimed at strengthening dialogue on freedom of association in six Middle East and North African countries: **Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia** and **Tunisia**. This project, while maintaining a regional perspective, worked with over 500 national stakeholders to implement 27 activities that produced nationally-owned recommendations to promote freedom of association as a proxy to democracy in each of these countries.

### Trade Unions

In a project implemented by their Italian counterparts **CGIL**, the EIDHR has been supporting the major Trade Union (UGTT) in **Tunisia**. The project advocated and developed concrete action to defend and promote freedom of association and various civil and labour rights. Trade Unions played a key role in the uprising, by temporarily ensuring public functions of the failed state (such as community security against looting). UGTT is now a key political player and deeply involved with the reforms.

An EU project implemented by the **National Union of Workers Trade Union** enhances the political participation of citizens, democratic representation, and demands for accountability in **the Solomon Islands**. The project “Your rights. Your Responsibilities” has allowed the development of awareness of democratic rights and responsibilities of workers, their families and their communities. It has enabled and stimulated informed participation in democratic processes.

### International organisations

Several UN bodies implement EU democracy related projects, in particular in the area of electoral assistance. The **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** implemented the 2009 EU EOM in **Afghanistan** in extremely difficult conditions. The mission denounced the massive frauds which occurred in contravention of international standards, and proposed rapid reforms to enhance transparency and minimise the scope for fraud in future polls. This included the establishment of a more independent election commission, a proper voter register and the vetting of candidates responsible for Human Right abuses.

An EU project implemented by the **International Organisation of Migration (IOM)** monitored and improved voter registration in view of the referendum for the independence of **South Sudan**. The project helped a peaceful and recognised outcome of the referendum, paving the way for a more peaceful implementation of the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It also helped link the recommendations of the two EU EOMs in Sudan for the general elections of 2010 and the referendum in 2011.

The EIDHR is supporting the **Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR)** of the OSCE to implement a project to strengthen a culture of democratisation and human rights in **Belarus**, **Ukraine** and **Moldova**. The project addressed Human Rights education and awareness, development of civil society, an increased participation of women in democratic governance, and capacity building for improved democratic behaviour.



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The EIDHR supports the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Initiative implemented by the **Council of Europe**. The project seeks to ensure adequate constitutional and legislative reforms in **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan**, **Turkmenistan**, and **Uzbekistan**. The project works to help these countries develop democratic legislation and practices in the rule of law field in order to meet their international commitments and the standards of the Council of Europe.

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (**International IDEA**) implements the **EU Network of Europeans for Electoral and Democracy Support (NEEDS)**. It uses solid training to increase the capacity of both the European Union and civil society to conduct credible and effective election observation. More than 1500 EU observers have directly or indirectly gained from the NEEDS programme, including pre-deployment training, and 200 domestic observers' organisations benefited from the training of trainers.

### **Member States**

The network of Member States development agencies (EUNIDA), led by the German **Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ)** implemented the EU EOM observing the March 2011 presidential elections in **Niger**. After the coup against the coup and observance by the transition authorities of their roadmap since April 2010, the mission helped a transparent return to democracy and the subsequent restoration of full cooperation between Niger and the EU (Article 96 of Cotonou). It also linked with EUR 20 million of EC Election Technical Assistance deployed in the country to help the transition.

### **Universities**

The EU promotes a culture of democracy and human rights and invests in education of youth and future decision makers in all segments of society. To do so the EIDHR supports a comprehensive network of universities and research centres and dedicated diplomas such as the European Masters Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation of Venice, which gathers 41 European Universities<sup>15</sup>, the Masters of Sarajevo<sup>16</sup>, the Masters of Pretoria<sup>17</sup>, the Masters of Sydney<sup>18</sup>, Masters of Buenos Aires<sup>19</sup>, and the Masters of Yerevan<sup>20</sup>.

Since 2007, more than 1000 postgraduate students were awarded diplomas from these universities. EIDHR also supports the University of Vilnius that hosts Belarus students. To complete its world coverage the European Commission is now looking at the possibility of adding a further Masters in Northern Africa.

### **Private sector**

Numerous private companies are also implementing various parts of EIDHR projects, particularly related to the provision of experts. The comprehensive list of direct beneficiaries is in the compendium

<sup>15</sup>  
[www.eiuc.org](http://www.eiuc.org)

<sup>16</sup>  
Partners: University of Sarajevo, University of Bologna, University of Belgrade, University of Podgorica, University of Pristina, New Bulgarian University, Center for the Study of Global Governance, LSE and Political Science, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict of the University of the Ruhr, University of Skopje, Institute for Sociological and Political Research, University of Peloponnese, University of Graz,

<sup>17</sup>  
Partners: University of Pretoria, Université Catholique d'Afrique Centrale (Cameroon), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique), University of Ghana, Makerere University (Uganda), University of the Western Cape (South Africa), American University in Cairo, Addis Ababa University, University of Mauritius.

<sup>18</sup>  
Partners: University of Sidney, Mahidol University (Thailand), Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal), Centre for the Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo (Sri Lanka).

<sup>19</sup>  
Partners: Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento (Argentina), Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata (Argentina), Universidad Nacional de Quilmes (Argentina), Universidad Nacional de Villa María (Argentina), Universidad Mayor San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca (Bolivia), Universidad Mayor de San Andrés de La Paz (Bolivia), Corporación Universidad Bolivariana (Bolivia), Universidad de La República (Uruguay), Voces contra el Silencio VI.AC (Mexico).

<sup>20</sup>  
Partners: University of Yerevan, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Universitatea de Studii Politice si Economice Europene, Belarusian State University.



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