



#TEAMEUROPE

# Team Europe Democracy Initiative

United for Democracy



The EU has long been a promoter of democracy, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law both across the world and within its own borders. The EU and its Member States (MS) are the biggest donors for democracy support.

Nowadays, democratic values are being strongly challenged. There is a global decline of liberal democracy. An increase in executive power, erosion of democratic norms, and a general constriction of fundamental freedoms can be witnessed in all regions of the world, even in consolidated democracies. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting crisis have put democratic governance under huge strain and have been used in some countries as a pretext for further repression, power centralisation and oversight mechanisms suppression. Globally, low levels of trust in democracy have fallen further as restrictions on civil liberties have fanned anti-government sentiment.

Reversing these negative trends will require joint efforts to inform stakeholders about the advantages of democracy and to unify messaging against violations of human rights and civil liberties.

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| Project name          | Team Europe Democracy Initiative   |
| Partner Countries     | Global   |
| Duration              | 2022–2027  |
| Implementing Partners | TED Secretariat led by:<br>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH,<br>Enabel -Belgian Development Agency |

In many partner countries, EU and MS are able to exchange information on democracy support through existing coordination structures. In some cases, they are planning joint interventions and Team Europe Initiatives on democracy. Synergies and joint positioning could be further strengthened, including through thematic exchange groups for the EU and MS at headquarter level. This is where the Team Europe Democracy Initiative (TED) comes in. It will increase cooperation between EU and MS and support them to adopt common implementing

guidelines, pool existing resources, and help identify strategic priority areas for the EU in relation with emerging global challenges. This will contribute to democracy promotion around the world.

## Objective

The Team Europe Democracy (TED) is a global thematic Team Europe Initiative (TEI) launched in December 2021 to promote democracy and human rights worldwide. 14 MS are involved in TED: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden. The Specific Objective is to create a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy that is effectively steered worldwide by the TED Secretariat. The TED Secretariat is represented by staff members of GIZ and Enabel.

The TED initiative has three main pillars:

- (I) **Research on democratic support best practices and policies**
- (II) **TED Network (global level)**
- (III) **Providing expertise at the country level.**

The provision of support to selected partner countries will be done through an experts database. The experts will support EU Delegations in operationalizing TEIs and/or developing joint democracy actions, with the aim of strengthening the coordination and complementarity of European interventions for democracy support.

Whereas the research and analysis component will be implemented by International IDEA (I-IDEA), establishing the TED Network, and providing expertise are responsibilities of the TED Secretariat.

The TED Network is one key output of TED. It will facilitate exchanging information and engaging in strategic dialogue, enhance cross-regional collaboration on democracy support and support joint initiatives on the thematic priorities. It will be modular and allow for working groups on specific

themes, or emerging needs. The priority themes are:

- **Accountability and Rule of Law**
- **Political and Civic Participation**
- **Media and Digital.**

The working groups will be led by one or two TED Network members with support of the TED Secretariat.

The Network will be composed of EU institutions, EU MS and their implementing agencies, individual civil society organisations (CSOs) or networks, think tanks, universities and research centres based in Europe and engaged in promoting democracy and human rights worldwide. Europe-based multilateral organisations engaged in democracy promotion can also join. A call for expression of interest (CEI) for TED Network membership was launched by the TED Secretariat in early 2023.

## Our Approach

The TED Secretariat functions as a Project Management Unit and works closely with the TED Coordinator of the DG INTPA and with the MPCA Governance Board, constituted of members of DG INTPA, BMZ, GIZ and Enabel. It supports the Steering Committee, consisted of 14 EU MS and their implementing agencies, DG INTPA as Committee Chair and other DGs. The TED Secretariat will set up the TED Network and create a Pool of Democracy Support Experts. It will be responsible for the overall knowledge management, for exchange with I-IDEA and dissemination of data and research produced by members of the TED Network and like-minded institutions as well as for facilitating an online platform. Both GIZ and Enabel will contribute to the visibility of the TED initiative, organize events in partner countries, develop conceptual approaches and facilitate meetings of the working groups.

Implemented by



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