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The Team Europe Democracy (TED) Network

United for Democracy

About the TED Network

The TED Network (TEDN) is a key output of the Team Europe Democracy initiative. It is an interface mechanism between the EU institutions and EU Member States (MS) and like-minded European organisations and networks, seeking to engage with each other on democracy promotion, and to improve joint programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their strategies and interventions.

The TED Network consists of European Union (EU) institutions, EU Member States and further stakeholders. It responds to the need for enhanced communication and coordination among European actors, following up on EU and MS commitments to strengthen the impact of their interventions through evidence-based approaches.

Purpose and Expected Added Value of the TED Network

The TED Network aims at increasing the impact of European democracy support interventions at global and national level. The expected added value of the TED Network is to offer a space to key stakeholders and practitioners to share lessons

learned, strengthen evidence-based policy dialogue and programme formulation, and facilitate joint collaborations. This will be a collective effort led by EU and MS in cooperation with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks, research centres, universities etc., beyond the usual funder-implementer relationship.

The TED Network key objectives are:

- support and facilitate the use of research analyses on democratic governance at global and national level (Pillar 1 of TED),

- compile, generate and share evidence-based knowledge and lessons learned (Pillar 2),

- co-create responses to critical issues and improve the impact of democracy support interventions in partner countries (Pillar 3).

The TED Network and Secretariat represent Pillars 2 and 3 of the Team Europe Democracy Initiative. Pillar 1 is implemented primarily through the "Support Team Europe Democracy" (STED) action, led by International IDEA.

January 2024

Structure of the Network and Working Groups

The TED Network operations will be carried out through three working groups (WGs) on the thematic priorities outlined below and apply inclusive and participatory approaches in all activities to strengthen common vision, objectives and operational modalities. WG members will be encouraged to actively contribute to different processes, including mapping exercises, dialogues and sharing lessons learned, capacity building and training initiatives, joint programming, monitoring and evaluation. The work will be conducted through an iterative process that facilitates co-creation, ownership by stakeholders and sustainable impacts.

The three thematic priorities of the TED Network are: (1) accountability and rule of law (including anti-corruption, access to justice and transparency of government data); (2) political and civic participation (including women's political participation; youth political participation and youth civil society activism; political party systems and parliamentary support; electoral cycle; local democratic governance; and civic space); and (3) media and digitalisation (including protecting safety and security of journalists, enhancing professional skills, assisting media to transition to digital, and promoting and respecting human rights in cyberspace).

The TED Network has three working groups. The working groups are co-chaired by one or two EU Member States with the support of the TED Secretariat.
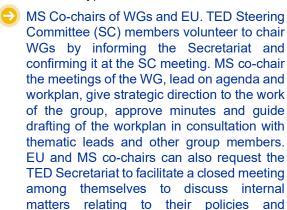
Membership

The TED Network's non-governmental members were selected based on a Call for Expression of Interest (CEI). The CEI goal was to identify and mobilise key stakeholders based in Europe and engaged at a global and/or regional level in the promotion of democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and/or media and digitalisation. The 14 EU MS who joined the TED so far, their implementing agencies and EU institutions are part of the TED Network.

Types of Membership

There are two types of TED Network members:

➔ MS Co-chairs of WGs and EU. TED Steering Committee (SC) members volunteer to chair WGs by informing the Secretariat and confirming it at the SC meeting. MS co-chair the meetings of the WG, lead on agenda and workplan, give strategic direction to the work of the group, approve minutes and guide drafting of the workplan in consultation with thematic leads and other group members. EU and MS co-chairs can also request the TED Secretariat to facilitate a closed meeting among themselves to discuss internal matters relating to their policies and programming.

➔ Thematic Leads. Some thematic leads already volunteered for this role through the CEI. New ones can volunteer at any stage. Their role is to actively engage with EU and MS co-chairs in preparation of meetings according to the workplan and provide expertise and input for the activities indicated in the workplan.

Members attend the Annual Event and Working Group meetings, jointly work on design and implementation of the working group's workplan, complete surveys, and share their projects, approaches and/or lessons learned with the Network. Members consist of organisations preliminary identified by the CEI, interested MS from the SC members, and co-chairs and thematic leads. However, membership is not rigid. This implies that organisations can join or change Working Group at the TED Network annual meeting and upon further requests to the Secretariat.