



Issue No. 1 | June 2024

## Team Europe Democracy Initiative (TED) Newsletter

# #TEAMEUROPE



**Updates on the Team Europe Democracy Initiative:**  
Provided by TED Secretariat

**Dear Colleagues and Partners,**

Welcome to the first edition of the Team Europe Democracy (TED) newsletter.

I am delighted to introduce this new platform through which we will share updates and insights from best practices of our partners' efforts to promote and protect democracy and human rights around the world.

In this first issue, we aim to highlight the collaborative spirit and progress of our work together. With the support and participation of 14 EU Member States, our mission goes beyond advocacy and involves concrete action and lasting partnerships aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and empowering citizens.

I am excited to embark on this journey together as we continue broadening our reach and deepening our impact through the Team Europe Democracy (TED) initiative.

Looking forward seeing some of you this week at our Second TED Annual Meeting.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Alexandra Kurth**

**Team Leader TED Secretariat**

## TED NETWORK

- » Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption"
- » What Indices Can Tell Us About the Status of Global Democracy and Rule of Law
- » Collaborating to Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Public Procurement
- » Working Group 2 "Political and Civic Participation"
- » Enhancing Inclusive Participation: Challenges and Strategies Discussed
- » Working Group 3 "Media and Digital"
- » Launch of Working Group 3 "Media and Digital"

## PARTNER COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

- » TED's Partner Country Engagement
- » Country Mission: Colombia
- » Country Mission: Tanzania

## EVENTS

- » TED Network Annual Meeting
- » International Anti-Corruption Conference 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

- » Democracy Winning and Losing at the Ballot
- » Women's Mobilization for Democracy in an Era of Democratic Backsliding
- » Supporting Civil Society in Acute Crises
- » How the EU Promotes Democracy, Human Rights and Gender Equality through Global Europe and Beyond

## TED Network Updates

### Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption"



The Team Europe Democracy (TED) Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption" was launched in June 2023 to facilitate the exchange of information and engage its members in a strategic dialogue in order to enhance cross-regional cooperation and to support joint initiatives on these issues in partner countries. The working group has around 45 members, including EU policymakers, research institutes, think tanks, and non-state actors. [Continue reading...](#)

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*"Joining the TED Network and co-chairing the working group focused on anti-corruption and accountability has helped Sida connect with several new organisations and individuals working in this area - and we have been able to use these connections to strengthen different global projects and development efforts."*

**Jamie Smith, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Co-Chair, Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption"**

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### What Indices Can Tell Us About the Status of Global Democracy and Rule of Law

A virtual meeting of the TED Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption" provided for an in-depth look at the Rule of Law Index and the State of Democracy Indices.

Evidence-based programming is one of the key topics of the TED network's Working Group "Rule of Law and Anticorruption". The group met virtually in January with the World Justice Project (WJP) and International-IDEA (I-IDEA) who presented the methodology, rationale and findings related to their "Rule of Law Index" (WJP) and State of Democracy Indices (I-IDEA). The participants learned more

about the recent trends and dynamics on democracy and rule of law and reflected on the application of the indices in Rule of Law policy and programming. [Continue reading...](#)

## Collaborating to Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Public Procurement

On the 27th of February 2024, the TED Working Group 1 "Accountability and Rule of Law" centred its discussion on ensuring the ethical and responsible management of funds.

Co-chaired by representatives from France and Sweden, the online meeting continued discussions from the December 2023 UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on promoting transparency and integrity in public procurement. The meeting highlighted the need for collaboration between state institutions and civil society organisations to develop, promote, and implement necessary reforms in procurement. [Continue reading...](#)

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*"The positive contacts we've made through the TED Network have been invaluable for our ministry. It's remarkable to be part of such a supportive and resourceful community, where we can call upon contacts to cooperate with our partners."*

**Jean Traband, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Co-chair, Working Group 1 "Rule of Law and Anticorruption"**

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## Working Group 2 "Political and Civic Participation"



The TED Working Group 2 "Political and Civic Participation" focuses on vulnerable groups, addressing shrinking civic space in partner countries, local democratic governance, and the relationships between citizens and institutions. The Working Group has outlined a work plan for its members for the period 2023-2024. This plan encompasses four thematic priorities: (1) supporting inclusive participation of vulnerable groups, (2) addressing shrinking civic space in partner countries, (3) enhancing local democratic governance, and (4) examining the relationships between citizens and institutions (political parties and parliaments) between

elections. [Continue reading...](#)

## Enhancing Inclusive Participation

Challenges and Strategies Discussed

During the meeting on the 5th of March 2024, TED Working Group 2 discussed key findings on methodologies, tools and approaches to support meaningful and inclusive participation in partner countries. Strengthening inclusive participation is an important antidote in the fight against authoritarian trends and the decline of democracies that have been observed over the last 20 years in many countries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its principle of "leave no one behind" confirm that relevance. Key approaches highlighted in the draft report on "Tools, Methodologies, and Approaches to Support Meaningful and Inclusive Participation of Groups Vulnerable to Marginalisation (Women, Youth, Marginalised Communities and Persons with Disabilities)", include the Human Rights-Based Approach, the Theory of Change, and grant-making mechanisms. [Continue reading...](#)

## Working Group 3 "Media and Digital"



The TED Working Group 3 "Media and Digital" aims to contribute to the promotion of democratic values in a world with increasing disinformation and repression of speech. Through partnership, innovation, and collective action, it strives to safeguard media independence, uphold human rights in the digital space, and foster informed and engaged citizenry, driving positive democratic change. [Continue reading...](#)

## Launch of Working Group 3 "Media and Digital"

Fostering healthier information ecosystems and strengthening information integrity.

In recent years, a series of reports and studies have consistently highlighted a worrying trend: a global decline in democracy, with freedom of expression being severely compromised. Amidst a growing wave of autocratisation, governments around the world are increasingly resorting to media repression, internet shutdowns, and cybersurveillance to stifle democratic dialogue and restrict the free flow of information. To address these issues within the TED Initiative, the TED Network's Working Group 3 on Media and Digital has been established and officially launched on the 15th of May 2024, emphasising the importance of collective action to bolster democracy globally. [Continue reading...](#)

## Partner Country Engagement Updates

### TED's Partner Country Engagement



The TED Initiative actively supports EU Delegations in selected partner countries, enhancing the European commitment to fostering democratic practices. This engagement is carried out through the TED Secretariat, which collaborates closely with Member States to provide bespoke technical support in the areas of democracy and human rights. By focusing on tailored interventions, TED ensures that the support provided is not only relevant but also strategically aligned with the context and upcoming and/or existing European programmes and actions on the ground.

To date, the TED Secretariat has provided technical support to EU Delegations in six partner countries: Mongolia, Uganda, DR Congo, Colombia, Jordan and, Tanzania. In this edition, we will report on two out of the six partner countries. [Continue reading...](#)

### Country Mission: Colombia

Democracy Support Mission

TED supported the EU Delegation and Member States reviewing the progress on implementing the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission 2022. This process helped identify potential areas of collaboration among the EU and Member States to support ongoing reforms in civic and political participation, including those involving women and youth, as well as strengthening of the electoral systems. [Continue reading...](#)

### Country Mission: Tanzania

In January 2024, TED undertook a technical study on the criminal justice system in Tanzania. The study focused on the challenges within the system and evaluated the effectiveness of the ongoing reform efforts spearheaded by the Othman Chande Commission". Additionally, it examined potential ways to augment the support extended by the EU and Member States to the reform process.

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## Events

### TED Network Annual Meeting

Meeting, 13th-14th of June 2024, Brussels, Belgium

We are delighted to announce the Second TED Network Annual Meeting on the 13th-14th of June 2024, in Brussels. This year marks a milestone for democracy as it is a "super election year" with major elections worldwide. Coordinated support for democracy - at global, regional, national, and local levels - is more important than ever, particularly in light of the unsettling trend towards autocratisation. It's in this context that it is crucial for democracy support actors to coordinate their efforts and learn from one another. The TED Network's Second Annual Meeting will facilitate a practitioners' space to share lessons learned, strengthen evidence-based policy dialogue and formulation, and foster joint collaborations with the aim of increasing the impact of democracy support interventions. [Continue reading...](#)

### International Anti-Corruption Conference 2024

Workshop, June 18th-21st, 2024, Vilnius, Lithuania

The world's largest independent global forum, the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC), is set to take place for the 21st time on the 18th-21st of June 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania, under the theme "Confronting Global Threats: Standing Up for Integrity".

In an era marked by interconnected global threats undermining global security, the need to combat these challenges is more pressing than ever. Those who are championing integrity, environmental protection, human rights, and social justice are engaged in a fierce battle. From climate change to diminishing trust in public governance, the rise of populist and kleptocratic regimes, these issues fuel an alarming increase in human rights violations, environmental destruction, illicit trade and trafficking, and the ever-stronger grip of organised crime. [Continue reading...](#)

## Publications

### Democracy Winning and Losing at the Ballot

Democracy Report 2024 by Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute

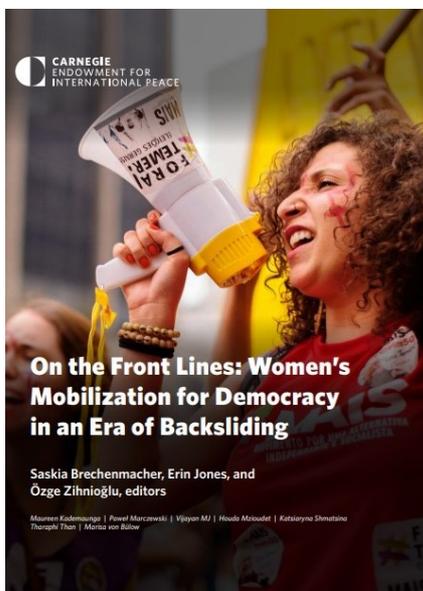
The year 2024 is an election super year, with over 60 countries and nearly half of the global population heading to the polls. This Democracy Report, issued by the V-Dem Institute, highlights the significance of this year by offering an intricate overview of the current state of democracy worldwide. Its foremost observation is that the democratic standards experienced by the average individual in 2023 have regressed to levels reminiscent of those seen in 1985. The report suggests that there are currently 91 democracies and 88 autocracies in the world. These are classified across a spectrum ranging from closed autocracies to electoral

Continue reading...



## Women's Mobilization for Democracy in an Era of Democratic Backsliding

Publication by The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace



The world is currently undergoing a democratic recession, where democracy on a global scale is not only diminishing but has regressed to levels similar to those seen more than three decades ago. Despite this trend, there has been a widespread resistance against authoritarian practices, with people mobilising against democratic erosion, repression and efforts to weaken democratic institutions. Within this context, women have emerged as key players in these pro-democracy movements as the different case studies in the report highlight. The report looks into the manifestations of women's civic and political involvement. Through case studies looking into the mobilisation against Trump in the United States, Bolsonaro in Brazil, or the movements against restrictive regimes in Poland and Hungary, Belarus, Myanmar, India, Tunisia, Turkey and Zimbabwe, this report

paints a comprehensive landscape of women's involvement for democracy in different contexts.

Continue reading...

## Supporting Civil Society in Acute Crises

Study by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)

When global crises erupt, a consensus often forms in the West around the need to bolster civil society. This is a well-founded approach, as nurturing more inclusive governance plays a pivotal role in peacebuilding, with civil society crucial in ensuring governmental accountability. Despite this consensus, the effectiveness of aid to civil society in times of crisis has frequently fallen short of expectations. Often, donors have lacked a nuanced understanding of the local civil society landscape and have underestimated the influence of various civil society groups in navigating crises and the path to peace. While external assistance has been vital for numerous civil societies, a general absence of strategic planning by donors has often impeded its potential



to promote better governance, stability, or peace. Continue reading...

## More than Targets: How the EU Promotes Democracy, Human Rights and Gender Equality through Global Europe and Beyond

Discussion Paper No. 337 by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ecdpm)



The European Union is committed to promoting gender equality, human rights, and democracy through its Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe. While there has been success in integrating these principles into policy dialogue and development plans, there is a need for confirmation and operationalisation of these assessments. The midterm review (MTR) of the NDICI-Global Europe presents an opportunity to evaluate progress and reallocate resources as needed. Mainstreaming gender equality and human rights into policies is crucial, but challenges remain in consistent implementation and measurement of impact. Additionally, targeted funding and interventions are necessary alongside mainstreaming. Continue reading...

### Links

#### Learn more:

- » [Team Europe Democracy on Capacity4dev](#)
- » [Team Europe Democracy Factsheets](#)

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