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Team Europe Democracy Initiative (TED) Newsletter

#TEAMEUROPE

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

Dear Team Europe Democracy Network Members and Partners,

Chiara Adamo | © private

I would like to welcome you to the second edition of the Team Europe Democracy newsletter. Just three months ago, the network met in Brussels for its Second Annual Meeting, and I was delighted to see more than 150 participants exchanging ideas on ways forward towards a more democratic world. In this newsletter, you will also find a link to the extensive summary booklet of the event.

During our meeting, we delved into key challenges such as shrinking civic spaces, upholding the rule of law, combating corruption, and the critical role of independent media. This exchange among civil society, the EU and its Member States and INTPA is of critical importance to inform and improve the impact of our collective actions. Only through a common approach on the ground can we effectively support civil society in restrictive environments and promote human rights-based approaches in our global partnerships.

These in-person discussions set the foundation for TED's ongoing work, and we would like to share updates on how TED is implementing these insights in current activities. This newsletter will keep you informed about the progress of TED working groups, upcoming events, and opportunities to collaborate further.

Let us continue our mutual commitment to democracy and support those who strive to uphold it

every day.

Enjoy the read, and warm regards,

Chiara Adamo
Head of Unit "Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance"
INTPA G1

Opportunities

New Framework Agreement for Democratic Governance Expertise

Enabel, as part of the TED Secretariat, has launched a call for experts to support democratic governance projects worldwide. Learn more about the three Lots and how to apply before the September 20 deadline.

Call for Experts:

» TED-Enabel's Democratic Governance Framework Agreement Now Open for Submissions

TED Network

TED Network Annual Meeting 2024 – Summary Booklet

TED Network Annual Event in Brussels brought together more than 150 participants | © GIZ

In June 2024, TED Network hosted more than 150 participants in Brussels. The discussions are summarized in a comprehensive booklet.
Learn more about strategies on civic space, rule of law, supporting media and how EU institutions can collaborate with Civil Society Organisations.

Further Information and Download:

» TED Network Annual Meeting 2024 | Summary Booklet

Insights and Strategies from the Eastern Partnership Webinar: Strengthening Civil Society and Rule of Law

Explore the key insights from our recent webinar, which focused on the challenges and opportunities for strengthening civil society and the rule of law. The report summarises discussions on enhancing collaboration and features strategic recommendations from experts across various sectors, reflecting the evolving landscape of civic engagement in Eastern Partnership countries.

Further Information:

» Insights and Strategies from the Eastern Partnership Webinar:

Working Group 1: Work Plan Drafted for 2024 - 2025

Working Group 1 during TED Network Annual Meeting | © GIZ

At the TED Network Annual Meeting in June 2024, the Working Group 1 (WG1) organised a panel discussion on the Global Gateway between colleagues from DG INTPA and members at the event. Following that exchange, special breakout sessions were set up to draft the work plans and priorities for 2024/25 with a one-year timeframe. These documents are being consulted with the broader membership and the preparations for the first autumn events are underway.

Delivering People-Centred Justice: Webinar within TED Framework

2024 marks a crucial year for SDG 16, with the need for game-changing action to advance justice for all. A recent TED Network webinar, co-convened by IDLO, HiiL, and the World Justice Project, explored how customary, informal, and community justice services can drive rapid, cost-effective improvements in access to justice.

Further Information:

» Delivering on the promise of people-centred justice

Insights and Key Takeaways from the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2024, Vilnius

© Lithuanian Special Investigation Service

TED participated in the 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) 2024 in Vilnius, joining over 2,000 global leaders to discuss the essential connection between anti-corruption efforts and democratic resilience. Discover the key discussions, insights, and the Vilnius Declaration's urgent calls to action that emerged from this significant event.

Further Information:

» TED at the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2024

Working Group 2: Progress on Work Plan for 2024 - 2025 to Strengthen Democratic Support

Working Group 2 during TED Network Annual Meeting | © GIZ

Since June's TED Network meeting, Working Group 2 (WG2) has drafted its 2024-2025 work plan, focusing on operationalising recommendations on inclusive participation and civic space, with a forward-looking approach to local

democratic governance and citizen engagement in-between elections. The plan was presented for adoption at theWG2 meeting on 12 September 2024. It aims to build on past achievements, turn policy into action and align with strategic priorities while fostering collaboration. These documents were consulted with the wider membership and the preparation for the first autumn events is underway.

Working Group 3: Working Plan for 2024 - 2025 Elaborated

Working Group 3 during TED Network Annual Meeting | © GIZ

Similar to WG1 and WG2 also Working Group 3 (WG3) "Media and Digital" is advancing on its work plan for 2024-2025. Key activities will focus on supporting media and information integrity, aligned with OECD Development Cooperation Principles. Developed with input from the WG3 Coordination Team and members during the TED Network Annual Meeting, the plan includes strategically mapping EU-funded initiatives, conducting thematic reviews, and organising webinars on enhancing information integrity and human rights. The country selection process for specific activities will commence this year, with implementation planned for 2025.

Austria's Foreign Ministry Recognises the Importance of Information Integrity

Ursula Werther-Pietsch | © private

Ursula Werther-Pietsch, representing the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs renewed her Mandate as co-chair of Working Group 3. In a short interview she explains how the global framework of information integrity is changing and how we can react to it.

Further Reading:

» Interview: Austria's Foreign Ministry Recognises the Importance of Information Integrity

How Disinformation Threatens Democracy in Latin America: Key Insights from the BMZ Democracy Forum

Disinformation poses a growing threat to democratic stability worldwide, especially in Latin America. At the recent Democracy Forum hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), experts discussed the region's challenges and strategies to combat disinformation, including media literacy programmes and fact-checking initiatives.

Further Reading:

» How Disinformation Threatens Democracy in Latin America

Partner Country Updates

TED Coordinating EU Efforts for Jordan's 2024 Parliamentary Elections

TED will facilitate a workshop to support the harmonisation of EU and Member States' efforts, ensuring a coordinated approach to the evolving democratic landscape following the 2024 Parliamentary elections in Jordan.

Further Information:
» TED Coordinating EU Efforts for Jordan's 2024 Parliamentary Elections

Political Economy Analysis launched in Uganda

TED is supporting the European Union Delegation (EUD) to Uganda in an annual Political Economy Analysis focused on democratic governance, aiming to strengthen the resilience of European support for democracy in Uganda amidst an evolving political landscape. The initiative, which began in May 2024 involving two regional experts, led to the completion and presentation of a desk report in July. Following this, the team embarked on interviews, round tables, and further reporting. The first report is expected in October 2024. Updates to the report are scheduled for September-October 2025 and 2026. The Political Economy Analysis builds on the expertise and stakeholder analysis from TED's initial support in 2023, which involved the preparation of a €15 million Action Document for Advancing Governance and Accountability.

Since the start of the assignment, the team has collaborated with the EUD and Member States in Uganda to identify key issues to be covered. These include the state of the economy, corruption and accountability, separation of powers, succession and transition, shrinking civic space, evolving aid/partnership dynamics and gender equality and inclusion.

Events

The Global State of Democracy 2024 Global Launch Event
» Webinar | 17 Sep 2024

A Year of Elections - IDD 2024
» Conference | 19 Sep – 20 Sep 2024

Athens Democracy Forum
» Conference | 21 Oct – 22 Oct 2024

AI & Elections: Are Democracies Ready?
» Webinar | 14 Oct 2024

OECD Global Forum on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy
» Conference | 14 Oct 2024

World Forum for Democracy 2024
» Conference | 06 Nov – 08 Nov 2024

KPAC24: Building Trust, Pacifying Power, Connecting Realities
» Conference | 19 Nov – 21 Nov 2024

Brussels Democracy Dialogue 2024: How to Transition to Sustainable Democracies?
» Conference | 20 Nov 2024

Publications

Digital Threats to Elections: Learning from What Has Worked in Africa

Digital threats to elections are growing worldwide, posing serious risks to democratic processes and stability.
A recent study by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) highlights effective strategies used across Africa to counter these challenges and offers valuable insights for enhancing global responses to digital election threats.

Further Information and Download:
» Digital Threats to Elections: Learning From What Has Worked in Africa

The Routledge Handbook of Collective Intelligence for Democracy and Governance

The handbook offers a comprehensive overview of how collective intelligence can enhance democratic governance. With contributions from 70 experts and case studies from all continents, the handbook provides valuable insights for those interested in public policy, governance, and democratic innovation.

Further Information and Download:
» The Routledge Handbook of Collective Intelligence for Democracy and Governance
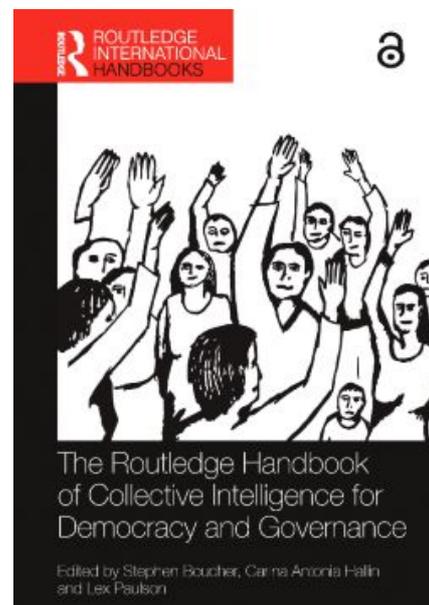
Grants

Grants Call for Proposal Launched - Strengthening African Inclusive Participation Research

TED, through Enabel, launched a call for proposals on 15 July 2024 to support research on inclusive participation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Niger, Ivory Coast, Mali, Guinea and Mauritania. Two grants of up to €125,000 each are offered, totalling €250,000, to generate insights that will support both African and European actors in informing policies, strengthening partnerships and

promoting peer exchanges in the field of democracy support.

Concept notes were due by 16 August 2024, with shortlisted candidates expected to submit full proposals in September 2024.

Links

Team Europe Democracy on Capacity4dev
» Capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/team

Team Europe Democracy Factsheets
» Capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/factsheets

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