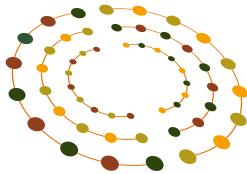




European Union



Implemented by
International IDEA



INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership

EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments

INTER PARES II

Parliaments are core institutions of democratic governance. They represent social diversity, the legitimisation of the rule of law and the accountability of the executive to the people. Democracies are more durable where parliaments are most effective.

For the European Union, support for democratic development is a key foreign policy objective and a high priority in its international and development cooperation policy. An important thrust of these efforts is to strengthen the capacity of parliaments.

INTER PARES II

- aims to foster representative and inclusive democracy worldwide and in partner countries, through peer-to-peer engagement and the *Team Europe* approach, facilitating exchanges and mutual learning between EU Member States parliaments (EUMSPs) and partner parliaments around the world.

This Action builds upon the achievements and lessons learned from the first phase of INTER PARES, which ran from January 2019 to December 2022 with a budget of EUR 5 million. INTER PARES II is part of the Women and Youth in Democracy initiative (WYDE).

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Funded by the European Union, under the Thematic Programme for Human Rights and Democracy of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe)

Managed by the European Commission in coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Parliament

Implemented by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), leveraging the expertise of EU Member State parliaments

Budget: EUR 5 million

Implementation period: 3 years, 2023-2025

KEY OBJECTIVES

(1) strengthening global parliamentary development and inter-parliamentary cooperation

(2) enhancing parliaments' capacities to address a series of critical global challenges, with a strong focus on youth and women political participation

(3) supporting the effective, accountable and transparent functioning of parliaments in a number of selected partner countries.

AREAS OF WORK

INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership Phase II will focus on the following components:



PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The project methodology is based on twelve principles:

Peer-to-peer engagement, between Members of Parliament and parliamentary secretariat staff of EU Member State and partner parliaments.

Demand-driven: The Action responds to the development priorities of partner parliaments.

Supportive of democratic processes: The Action will work with parliaments from countries that are engaged in processes to review their democratic institutions and where the EU is engaged in such processes, so the knowledge and peer-to-peer assistance contribute to impact and create a multiplier effect.

Flexibility and agility: Political circumstances may change rapidly, providing time-sensitive opportunities to positively impact a democratic transition. INTER PARES will be ready to respond to such emergent situations.

Results-oriented: The Action fully applies the aid-effectiveness principle of “managing for results” as well as the PM² project management methodology through a robust Monitoring & Evaluation mechanism.

Gender-sensitive: The Action will mainstream gender equality and women’s empowerment to leverage the Action’s influence on the institutionalisation of gender equality commitments

Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA): All activities are carried out applying HRBA’s five principles: (1) Applying all human rights (legality, universality, indivisibility), (2) Participation and access to decision-making process, (3) Non-discrimination and equal access (4) Accountability and access to the rule of law, and (5) Transparency and access to information.

Multi-party: The Action will conduct peer-to-peer exchanges and organise networking opportunities giving equal opportunity to participate to Members of Parliament from both the opposition and ruling party

Tailored modalities of implementation: The Action will adapt the modalities of peer-to-peer exchanges to specified criteria and contextual appropriateness. The following types of activities will be considered:

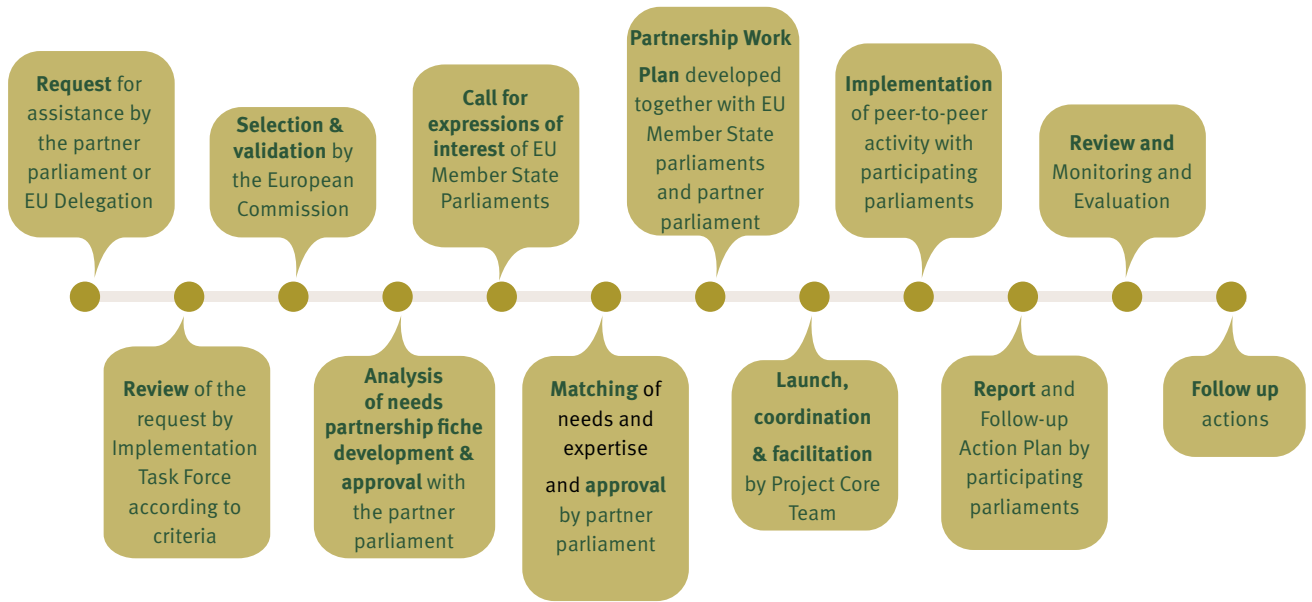
- **Training workshops**
- **Exchange visits**
- **Shadowing and Remote assistance**
- **International mentoring**
- **Induction and orientation**
- **Seminars and conferences**
- **Dialogue facilitation**
- **E-learning and briefings**

Inclusive and accessible: INTER PARES seeks to ensure its programming is accessible and inclusive, encouraging partner parliaments to enhance institutional inclusion and accessibility.

Continuous learning: The Action applies a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning approach to project design and implementation in order to allow for continuous learning and the application of lessons learned in real time.

Creative innovation: INTER PARES I was launched as a pilot project in 2019 with a clear vocation to innovate, turning a pilot project into a global flagship. Under Phase II, INTER PARES will continue to explore new areas of work, approaches and implementation modalities, such as engaging with both supra-national as well as sub-national parliaments.

ROADMAP FOR PEER-TO-PEER PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES



GOVERNANCE



CRITERIA FOR THE PRIORITISATION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES

Countries in (sudden) democratic transition or undergoing political reform processes: where an intervention is relevant and urgent.

Countries where the EU Delegation plans to or will consider implementing an EU-funded country-specific parliamentary strengthening project building upon an INTER PARES intervention.

Countries where follow up is required on **EU and OSCE Electoral Observation Missions**, aiming at supporting the implementation of recommendations.

“Graduated” countries: any of the Lower Middle-Income and Upper Middle-Income Countries, where the EU has reduced its bilateral development assistance.

Exclusion criteria: INTER PARES will only engage in countries where the EU is already financing a country-specific parliamentary strengthening project if INTER PARES support would clearly be complementary to the existing project.