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## Team Europe Democracy Initiative (TED) Newsletter



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

**Dear Team Europe Democracy Network Members and Partners,**



Mark-Lewis  
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The 2025 World Justice Forum in Warsaw, co-hosted by the World Justice Project and the Polish Ministry of Justice, took place from 23-26 June. It was great to see and connect with many of you there – and a big thank you to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support.

The theme of the Forum was timely: “Standing Up for the Rule of Law.” We know all too well that the world is at a critical point, facing a rule of law recession marked by rising authoritarianism and the deliberate erosion of institutions designed to ensure that those who govern are bound by law.

The Forum offered a unique platform to break down silos, share knowledge, and reinforce one another in our shared goal of strengthening the accountability ecosystem and safeguarding civic space.

The Forum concluded with the launch of the 2025 Warsaw Principles for the Rule of Law – a renewed pact for collective action. These Principles, intended to complement existing instruments in light of today’s realities, offer a shared roadmap of actionable commitments. We hope they will serve both as a foundation for future cooperation and as a catalyst for tangible progress. We invite you all to refer to them, adopt them, and apply them

Wishing you an informative and thought-provoking read,

**Mark Lewis**  
**Chief of Public Sector Partnerships**  
**World Justice Project**



## **TED GRANT UPDATES**

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- » Beyond "Winner Takes All": Exploring Inclusive Pathways for Democratic Reform in Moldova
- » TED Rule of Law Workstream Joins Global Dialogue in Warsaw
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- » A New Phase of Civic Movements: Implications for International Democracy Support
- » Putting Media Support at the Centre of Democracy: GFMD Position Papers
- » Towards Caring Cities
- » ECDPM: How can Europe address shrinking civic space?

## **TED Grant Updates**

**CiAAF** (Think Tank Civic Academy for Africa's Future) has launched its project "*Participation citoyenne locale, terrorisme et crises frontalières au Nord Bénin*" (Local Citizen Participation, Terrorism, and Border Crises in Northern Benin). The 12-month project aims to involve border populations in northern Benin in local public affairs. CiAAF has already organised a workshop to define relevant topics for improving public participation. The workshop brought together researchers from both the north and south of the country, as well as local stakeholders from the departments of Atacora, Donga, Borgou, and Alibori – including local elected officials, leaders of the defence and security forces, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, and civil society representatives.

**Institute Gorée** has launched its project "*La recherche au service de la démocratie et la cohésion sociale (RESDECS) / Research for Democracy and Social Cohesion*", which aims to strengthen the capacities of young researchers in early warning systems concerning the political situation in Senegal, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. The data collected will feed into political analysis and inform dialogue with national and regional authorities, as well as non-governmental actors, to promote more inclusive democracy. Gorée has now contracted three young researchers who will develop indicators for the early warning system and draft political analyses of the situations in these three countries.



## Rule of Law Clinics on Land Rights: People-Centred Justice for Fair and Sustainable Investments



Securing land rights is essential to justice and sustainable development. In its latest series of Rule of Law Clinics, the TED Working Group explored how data, evidence, and civic participation can strengthen land governance.

With inputs from HiiL, IDLO, and grassroots actors, the sessions highlighted the value of people-centred approaches to address land-related legal needs and ensure equitable investment. Reports and recordings from both clinics are now available, with a practical guide to follow.



## Beyond “Winner Takes All”: Exploring Inclusive Pathways for Democratic Reform in Moldova



On 20 May, the TED Rule of Law Working Group and KPSRL held a webinar to explore inclusive approaches to democratic reform in Moldova.

Building on findings from a joint policy memo, the discussion focused on how EU and Member State actors can support shared political visions in polarised contexts.

Speakers representing civil society, research, and local governance examined practical entry points, trade-offs, and the role of external support in fostering democratic resilience.



## TED Rule of Law Workstream Joins Global Dialogue in Warsaw



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At the World Justice Forum 2025 in Warsaw (24-26 June), co-hosted by the World Justice Project (TED member) and the Polish EU Council Presidency, colleagues of TED’s Rule of Law and Access to Justice workstream engaged in rich exchanges on the rule of law recession, people-centered justice, and accountability frameworks. Discussions focused on anti-corruption strategies, data and evidence for justice, and the role of actors like civil society, media, human rights

institutions, and legal professionals in strengthening local justice ecosystems and ensuring checks and balances. The forum offered valuable opportunities to connect, share experiences and build partnerships across EU cooperation.

Germany, in its role as co-chair of TED's Working Group on Rule of Law and Accountability, contributed to the forum by moderating a panel discussion on the use of rule of law data for social and economic development. The session brought together TED members World Justice Project (Ana María Montoya), Transparency International (Andrea Rocca), as well as OECD (Jesper Johnsen) and the World Bank (Manuel Ramos-Maqueada), and was moderated by Martin Hoppe from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



## Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption in the Global Gateway: Guidance Published

Mainstreaming anti-corruption is essential to the Global Gateway's ambition for high standards and long-term impact. DG INTPA has published a comprehensive guidance package, to support EU actors in integrating anti-corruption into external investments, now available on the e-Academy portal. Complementing this effort, the TED Working Group on Anti-Corruption and Accountability has facilitated knowledge exchange through a series of targeted online events covering Global Gateway priority areas. Explore practical insights and upcoming opportunities.

[Read more »](#)



## Anti-Corruption and Transparency in Global Gateway Areas of Partnership

To support the Global Gateway anti-corruption agenda, the TED Network is hosting a series of webinars exploring how civil society, governments, and development actors address corruption risks across key sectors. A dedicated page now offers access to reports, tools, and case studies on climate finance, health systems, and public procurement, curated by TED's Accountability and Anti-Corruption Working Group. Stay informed as new resources are added.

[Read more »](#)



## EADI at 50 – Navigating Development in Crisis, Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future



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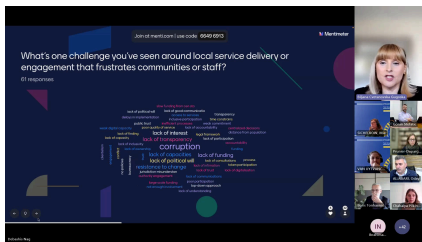
‘Development in crisis, knowledge in transition’. Marking its 50th anniversary, the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) brought together global voices to confront uncomfortable truths and chart new directions for a more just, pluralistic and resilient future.

With deep reflections on democratic backsliding, shifting global power dynamics and the future of knowledge production, the event served as both a critical stocktaking and a call for renewal across the development community.

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## Local Democracy Rising LAB Series: Empowering Communities and Embedding Good Governance



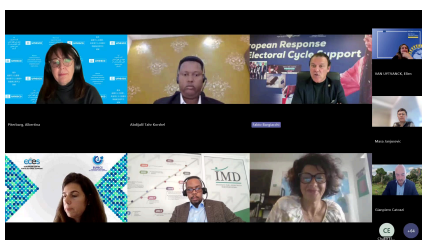
Across conflict zones, sieges and digital battlegrounds, local communities are rewriting the rules of governance, turning crisis into innovation. From neighbourhood committees to blockchain budgeting, democracy’s future is being built in town halls, online forums and exile networks. But can this grassroots surge withstand shrinking civic spaces, restrictions and fractured aid?

Innovative LABs by Working Group on Civic and Political Participation opened space for free exchange, bold ideas and local stories among the TED Network members, offering food for thought on a core truth: democracy thrives when it is owned, shaped and defended by those who live it every day.

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## Democracy Between the Ballots Webinar: Sustaining Engagement and Integrity Beyond Election Day



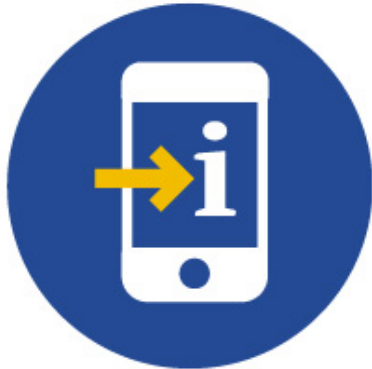
Elections may make the headlines, but democratic resilience is built, or broken, in the moments between them. TED’s Working Group on Civic and Political Participation, together with the EU, Member States and in-country colleagues, came together to explore how civic engagement, institutional trust and information integrity can be sustained once the votes are counted.

With voices from Mozambique, Guinea and beyond, the discussion highlighted a shift from episodic support to continuous, grounded democratic engagement.

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## Global Partners Digital: New Thematic Lead



The Working Group on Media and Digital is pleased to welcome a new Thematic Lead: Global Partners Digital (GPD). A long-standing and active member of the group, GPD has contributed significantly to the webinar series on information integrity.

In their new role, GPD will bring deep expertise in digital governance and information integrity and will help foster stronger collaboration with other digital democracy platforms.



## Kick-Off for Toolkit on Effective Media Support



During the World Press Freedom Day in Brussels, TED Working Group on Media and Digital launched the consultation process for the Toolkit on implementing the OECD Development Co-operation Principles for Relevant and Effective Support to Media and the Information Environment.

Over 20 participants from the TED Network and partner organisations took part in focus group discussions, led by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), sharing insights, experiences, and case studies on how to apply the principles in practice.

[Read more »](#)



## Trends in Media Support: EU Commission and Global Donor Perspectives

The TED Working Group on Media and Digital initiated the study “European Commission & Donor Trends in Media Support - Matching Donor Practice to Good Practice & International Principles”





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Team Europe Democracy  
(TED) Initiative

United for Democracy

Internal TED Working Document

European Commission & Donor Trends in Media Support.  
Matching Donor Practice to International Best Practice &  
Principles

Desk study, supported by original data 'snapshot' of  
European Commission media support initiatives 2023-2024

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which highlights selected trends of global and EU funding to media support.

This study is based on several substantive reports on international donor patterns for independent media and on internal European Commission programme-support records for 2023-2024 representing a portion of the Commission's media spending. The identified trends will be summarised in an upcoming factsheet.



## Partner Country Updates

### People-Centered Justice Reforms for Rule of Law Programming in Kyrgyzstan



In March, TED supported the EU Delegation in Kyrgyzstan in preparing its future Rule of Law programme through two products: a political economy analysis and a review of past Rule of Law interventions by the EU and other donors.

Kyrgyzstan is the first country selected by the TED Network's workstream on Rule of Law and Access to Justice, to serve as a pilot for advancing people-centred justice programming and fostering more coherent, context-responsive Rule of Law strategies.

TED Network representatives, active in the region, contributed valuable input as interview partners during the assessment process.



### Advancing Transitional Justice in Ethiopia

The second country selected by the TED Network's Workstream on Rule of Law and Access to Justice is Ethiopia. The engagement began in March, with the objective of conducting a joint analysis of the transitional justice process by the EU Delegation and Member States. For this mission, TED collaborated with the EU's Foreign Policy Instrument, which runs a dedicated facility on transitional justice. The facility's team lead conducted the in-country mission in May, building on earlier work and existing engagements in Ethiopia. Similar to TED's mission in Kyrgyzstan, TED Network

representatives, active in Ethiopia, contributed to the mission by identifying key interlocutors and shaping the assignment in a Team Europe spirit.



## Technical Support to the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe

Following a pause due to the escalation of the political situation in the country, the EU Delegation in Zimbabwe and the EU Member States active in the Governance track of the Arrears Clearing and Debt Resolution Process requested TED's support for a scoping exercise on transparency and accountability, including recommendations for potential future engagement in this area.



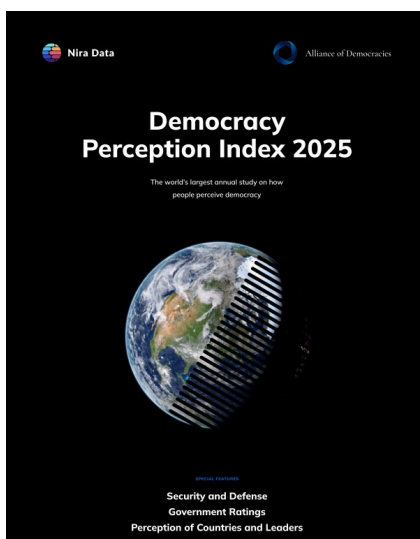
## Events

- 30 June-3 July: Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
- 7-8 July: Global Media Forum
- 16-17 September: Team Europe Democracy Network Annual Meeting 2025
- 18-19 September: International Democracy Day Brussels



## Publications

### Democracy Perception Index 2025



In an era of rising political polarization, geopolitical instability, and declining trust in democratic institutions, the Democracy Perception Index 2025 offers the largest global study on how citizens perceive democracy in practice.

This international survey provides data-driven insights into how people from over 100 countries evaluate the quality of democratic governance in their own societies. Read the report for more information

[Further Information and Download »](#)





## Democracy Report 2025: 25 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?



The outlook on the world at the end of 2024 is worse than in the last 25 years.

The trend of the “third wave of autocratization” is deepening and spreading. That includes weakening of democracy in some established liberal democracies, breakdown of democracy in countries that were democratic for most of the 21st century, as well as deepening of autocracy in already autocratic states.

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## A New Phase of Civic Movements: Implications for International Democracy Support



In the last decade, civil society across the world has experienced significant change, as new civic movements and individual activists have played an increasingly important role in driving democratic processes. Especially since the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent closing of civic space in 2020, such informal civic activism has intensified across Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and has taken on new issues and tactics. Tightly connected to this trend is the dramatic rise in protest activity that has dominated many media headlines globally.

This increase in innovative, youth, and non-violent activism is a manifestation of assertive citizenship, and it is notable that this trend has unfolded even as most policy and analytical attention has been on democratic backsliding.

[Further Information and Download »](#)



## Putting Media Support at the Centre of Democracy: GFMD Position Papers



As the EU prepares the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the European Democracy Shield, the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) urges a fundamental rethink of how journalism is supported.

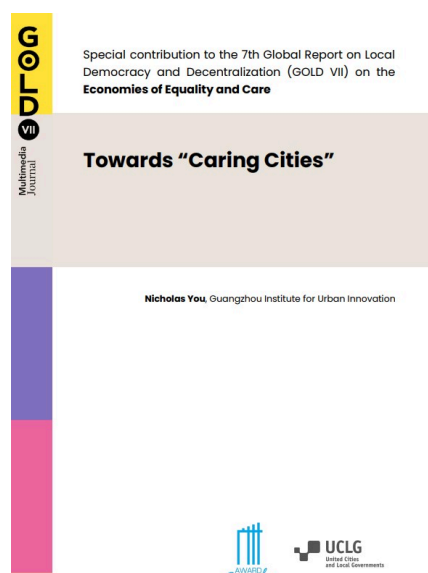
In two position papers, GFMD highlights the urgent need to treat independent media as critical democratic infrastructure – calling for stronger investment in the media sector, fairer digital markets, and the full enforcement of transparency and safety standards.

From tackling ad tech distortions to expanding core funding for journalism, the message is clear: democracy cannot thrive without media that is free, pluralistic, and resilient.

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## Towards Caring Cities



This report outlines examples of urban good governance from 16 case studies, including Botang (Indonesia), Gwangju (Korea), and Salvador (Brazil). It highlights initiatives aimed at promoting the well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment – covering areas such as medical care, lifelong learning, public spaces, and violence prevention.

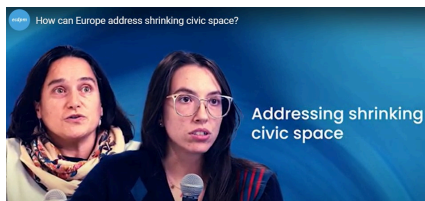
The featured “caring cities” have built partnerships, including with foundations and the private sector, to support their efforts. In Palmira (Colombia), collaboration has focused on reducing violence, while in Tharaka Nithi (Kenya), a holistic approach to participatory governance has improved access to public spaces, decent work for mothers, childcare services, and training. Such holistic approaches should be

embedded into integrated public policy and championed by strong leadership with a long-term vision for future generations.

[Further information and download »](#)



## ECDPM: How can Europe address shrinking civic space?



When civic space shrinks, democracy sounds the alarm. It's more than a warning - it's a call to rethink how support is designed, delivered, made inclusive and adapted to shifting realities.

Recognising the urgency, TED invited ECDPM to take a closer look: what's really behind the pressure on civic actors, their space and how can the EU and Member States respond more effectively?

[Further information and video »](#)



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