

The Team Europe Democracy (TED) Network



TED Training

Amid global democratic backsliding and significant budget reductions from traditional donors, European democracy support is at a crossroads that will require practitioners to adapt their approaches to enable them to navigate an increasingly complex context. Against this backdrop, the Team Europe Democracy (TED) Training modules aim to equip practitioners across the European ecosystem with first-hand insights and practical tools to integrate into their daily work.

Through **peer-to-peer learning** and **practical lessons** from partner country experiences, the TED Training Programme seeks to broker a shared vision of European democracy support by breaking down institutional silos. In doing so, it will foster strategic coherence and operational coordination among EU Member States, institutions, civil society organisations, and multilateral partners. Drawing on the experience of TED members and the outputs of the TED working groups (Rule of Law and Accountability, Civic and Political Participation, and Media and Digital), the training modules will provide the cross-cutting thematic integration necessary to formulate and implement interventions.

The needs assessment

Within this framework, TED launched a needs assessment to identify training gaps, map existing resources, and design a cohesive learning strategy and training plan that builds on its members' existing capacities.

The needs assessment combined three core elements: an **online survey** circulated among TED Network members' focal points, a structured **catalogue** of available training offers, and **interviews with key informants**. The survey identified high-priority training needs, including **democratic resilience, civic space, and digital democracy**. Other topics such as gender in media and intersectionality received lower scores and will therefore be mainstreamed across the broader programme content.

The training inventory serves as a referral mechanism for highly specialized topics. It shows that existing resources are predominantly in English language, with a strong focus on global or African contexts and are largely addressed to CSOs. For more information: [Team Europe Democracy Training Inventory | Capacity4dev](#)

Based on the evidence gathered through various means, the added value of a training package developed under the Team Europe Democracy (TED) initiative can be summarised into four key features:

1. **It addresses the current geopolitical context and the growing challenges therein, effectively bridging theory and practice.**
2. **It breaks down institutional silos by adopting a holistic and integrated approach.**

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3. It integrates collective knowledge products and TED members' practical expertise.
4. It enhances coordination and coherence within the broader TED initiative theory and practice

TED training modules

The training modules are organised into four thematic modules, each exploring the following topics:

- ➔ **Building Democratic Resilience**
- ➔ **Mainstreaming Democratic Governance**
- ➔ **Innovations in Democracy Support**
- ➔ **Supporting Democracy through the Global Gateway**

Each module consists of:

- **A 30-minutes micro-session:** Self-paced introduction with expert insights.
- **A 1-hour case Study Session:** Practitioners who led the initiatives in focus present examples.
- **A 90-minute practical workshop:** Hands-on exercises applying concepts to current challenges.

The modules are intended for practitioners from Member States, European institutions, international organisations and other TED members.

Module 1: Building Democratic Resilience

This opening module addresses the critical challenge of supporting democracy in an era of global backsliding and shrinking civic space. Participants will explore evidence-based frameworks for understanding democratic vulnerabilities through established indexes, while examining the different dimensions of democracy and strategies for their support. The module develops practical skills for assessing democratic health and navigating the

phenomenon of "democracy-washing", whereby authoritarian states maintain democratic facades for strategic purposes. Central to the learning experience lies a practitioner-oriented approach based on the three TED pillars: **Rule of Law and Accountability, Civic Engagement and Participation, and Information Integrity through the lens of human rights.**

For each pillar, participants will:

- examine specific indexes,
- explore dimensions of enabling environments,
- understand the roles of various actors, and
- identify strategic entry points for programming in authoritarian contexts.

The module will conclude by examining opportunities for democratic renewal, identifying moments of democratic opening, and exploring forms of support that can amplify positive trends through locally driven processes.

Module 2: Mainstreaming Democratic Governance

This module explores how to integrate democratic principles across all development programming rather than treating democracy support as a standalone sector. Participants will examine how to embed democratic governance considerations into health, education, infrastructure, economic development, and other sectoral interventions, recognizing that sustainable development relies on accountable, participatory, and transparent governance systems. Participants will:

- Learn methodologies for conducting governance assessments
- Use tools to analyse power dynamics and institutional capacity
- Identify entry points for strengthening accountability, participation, and transparency within existing portfolios



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Finally, the module will address the challenges of measuring and evaluating democratic governance outcomes within sectoral programs, providing frameworks for developing indicators that capture both democratic improvements and development results.

Module 3: Innovations in Democracy Support

This forward-looking module will provide an overview of the innovative approaches and emerging tools that are transforming how democracy support is conceptualized, designed, and implemented. Participants will examine **innovative funding modalities** for media, justice and civic actors, including rapid response mechanisms and democratic innovation funds that support experimentation. The module highlights 21st-century democratic innovations and demonstrates how programming is evolving by adopting approaches such as **systems thinking, adaptive management, and collaborative governance models**. Participants will be introduced to innovative methods for **measurement** and learning, including feedback mechanisms, outcome harvesting, and creative financing solutions to drive democratic change processes.

Module 4: Supporting Democracy through the Global Gateway

This final module will explore how infrastructure projects and other investments leveraged by the Global Gateway strategy can promote democracy support and strengthen democratic governance beyond economic returns. Participants will analyse existing instruments used by the different actors involved in Global Gateway, such as Development Finance Institutions and the private sector,

thereby acquiring a better understanding of how transportation, digital connectivity, climate and energy infrastructures can create opportunities for citizen participation, greater transparency and government accountability. The module provides practical guidance for integrating democratic governance considerations into the design of Global Gateway projects, including political economy assessments, public policy analyses, and stakeholder consultation and engagement strategies.

Key topics include

- Using infrastructure projects to strengthen the **rule of law** through transparent procurement.
- Ensuring that connectivity investments enhance, rather than restrict, **civic space**.
- Leveraging digital infrastructure to promote access to information and **internet freedom** and to strengthen democracy in line with the Human Rights Council 2021 Resolution on Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet.

By the end of the module, participants will have a better understanding of how the geopolitical dimensions of the Global Gateway can inform strategies to advance democratic values.

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