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**Issue No. 8 | March 2026**

## Team Europe Democracy Initiative (TED) Newsletter



### **Updates on the Team Europe Democracy Initiative:**

Provided by TED Secretariat

#### **Dear Colleagues and Partners,**

Dear Colleagues, dear Partners,

Please find this latest edition of the TED Newsletter. In this issue, we share recent developments from across the network, reflecting both operational engagement and ongoing policy discussions.

TED has continued to support coordination efforts in partner countries, including in Burundi, where a joint mapping is underway to strengthen European support to civil society. Work on transitional justice has also progressed, with a new report taking stock of how the EU policy framework has been applied in several partner countries.

TED also continues developing practical tools and exchanges. Recent activities include the OECD session on transparent procurement and fair remedy mechanisms in Global Gateway investments, as well as the upcoming training module on mainstreaming democratic governance.

This edition brings a rich set of contributions from the network, featuring analysis on democracy support in a changing geopolitical context, initiatives to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and efforts to counter disinformation in the Eastern Partnership region, among others. Upcoming global moments, such as World Press Freedom Day and RightsCon in Lusaka, further underline the growing importance of linking media, digital, and democracy agendas.

We hope this issue offers useful insights for your work.



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## TED Grants and Training Updates

### TED Trainings – Applying Democratic Governance: Insights and Case Studies

The self-paced module on Mainstreaming Democratic Governance presents key concepts in an interactive and accessible format, featuring contributions from Sida, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ECDPM. It offers practical entry points for integrating democratic governance across TED's three pillars, alongside relevant analytical and monitoring tools.

The online case study session will take place on **21 April at 14:00 GMT**. It will build on the theoretical foundations of the self-paced module by testing them against concrete projects and examples from TED members. Through sector-specific cases, including education and infrastructure, the session will illustrate how democratic principles can be translated into practice.



### TED Grant Supports Regional Dialogue on Inclusive Governance in West Africa and the Sahel

The TED grant awarded to the Gorée Institute is now coming to an end. The project supported work on early warning mechanisms and democratic dialogue in West Africa. It was designed to analyse emerging risks related to governance, security and social cohesion, and to help local actors respond more effectively to these challenges.

Following national workshops held in late 2025 in Guinea, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire to discuss the findings collected in each country, the Gorée Institute organised a regional workshop on February 16-17 entitled "**Rethinking Democracy in Contexts of Instability: Strategies for Endogenous**

**and Inclusive Governance in West Africa and the Sahel”**. The event brought together several Team Europe representatives, including colleagues from the Netherlands, Germany and the European Union, as well as researchers from the three countries covered by the early warning work. Participants also included representatives from Benin, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, and civil society organisations such as WANEP, Wathi, IGD, CONGAD and women’s jurists’ associations.

Beyond presenting the data collected, the workshop aimed to identify concrete regional strategies for more inclusive and accountable governance. It was organised in collaboration with the Power of Dialogue programme supported by the Netherlands. At the close of the event, participants adopted a joint declaration (FR). Further publications are expected on the Gorée Institute’s website.



## TED Network

### A New Voice Joining TED: OCCRP on Journalism, Justice, and Democratic Resilience



Miranda Patrucic  
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*“Follow the money to find the truth.”* It sounds deceptively simple, until the trail leads through shell companies, corrupt political systems, and financial loopholes exploited by organised crime networks operating with impunity across borders. This is OCCRP’s daily terrain.

Based in Amsterdam and active across 75 independent media outlets worldwide, OCCRP publishes over 100 investigations a year – work that has contributed to 140 high-level resignations, 803 indictments, and the recovery of \$12 billion in public funds. At a moment when autocracies outnumber democracies for the first time in over two decades and press freedom continues its global slide, their work sits squarely at the heart of what TED is fighting for: accountability, fighting corruption, and stronger media freedom. We sat down with their Editor-in-Chief to find out more about their work and joining the TED Network.

[Read more »](#)



### Supporting Implementation of the 2015 EU Transitional Justice Policy Framework

A new TED-supported report takes stock of how the EU and its Member States have applied the 2015 EU Transitional Justice Policy Framework across selected partner countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on case studies from Burundi, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, The Gambia and Liberia, it identifies practical lessons on victim-centred engagement, long-term support, coordination and the need to move beyond an overly narrow focus on criminal justice. The report also offers recommendations for strengthening future EU and Member State action on transitional justice in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.



#TEAMEUROPE

Team Europe Democracy  
(TED) Initiative

United for Democracy

Supporting Implementation  
of the 2015 EU Transitional  
Justice Policy Framework

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## Building Global Gateway Projects with Transparent Procurement and Fair Remedy Mechanisms



How can integrity and justice tools help ensure that Global Gateway investments deliver tangible benefits for citizens and local businesses?

This OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum session, organised by the TED Secretariat, explores the role of transparent procurement, fair remedy mechanisms and

people-centred dispute resolution in translating high-level investment into more accountable and inclusive outcomes.

The recording is now available for colleagues interested in the practical links between integrity, competitiveness and trust in partner country contexts.

[Read more »](#)



## Democracy Support in an Age of Geopolitical Pressure: Reflections from the Launch of the European Democracy Support Annual Review 2025



At a recent Brussels event, democracy practitioners, policymakers and researchers reflected on the growing pressures facing democracy support worldwide. The discussions highlighted a more difficult international environment marked by shrinking civic space, increasing authoritarian influence, funding uncertainty and rising expectations toward Europe's role.

© European Partnership for Democracy

For the TED Secretariat, the exchange underscored the need to connect democracy support more closely with wider debates on security, resilience and international partnerships. Contributions on Georgia, protest movements and democratic solidarity pointed to the importance of faster, more adaptive and politically grounded support in a rapidly changing context.

[Read more »](#)



## Team Europe United Against Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Building Inclusive and Democratic Digital Spaces



Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence (TFGBV) is a growing threat to democracy, equality, and participation in the digital age. It undermines women's leadership, discourages civic engagement, and silences diverse voices, particularly those of women journalists, human rights defenders, and women in public life.

Against this backdrop, the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub and the TED Initiative jointly convened a public webinar on December 16, bringing together EU institutions, EU Member States, international organisations and feminist civil

society.

[Read full report »](#)



## New EU Project on Combating Disinformation Launched in Brussels

On February 25, the project "Resilient & Connected: Joint Initiatives Against Disinformation" was officially launched at DG ENEST in Brussels. The initiative is led by a consortium of three partners: People in Need (TED Network member), the Prague Civil Society Centre, and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee. It aims to support civil society organisations in Eastern Partnership countries in countering disinformation.

During the event, concrete examples underscored the importance of engaging local partners and investing in media literacy education.

[Read more »](#)



## Lusaka: The 2026 Hub for Debates on Online Freedom

This year, Lusaka is the focal point for global discussions on human rights in the digital sphere. In May, the capital of Zambia will host two major events back-to-back: World Press Freedom Day and RightsCon.

Under the theme “Shaping a Future at Peace,” World Press Freedom Day will bring together press freedom advocates and digital rights communities at a time when the boundaries between journalism, technology, civic space, and human rights are increasingly blurred. RightsCon is the most important event on human rights in the digital sphere and will feature over 450 sessions organised by civil society organisations, technologists and business leaders. The joint hosting of these events in Zambia is strategically significant, fostering convergence between press freedom and digital rights communities – a priority also reflected in EU digital governance and democracy policies.

If you travel to Lusaka and would like to connect with Working Group 3, please write an email to [secretariat@teamdemocracy.eu](mailto:secretariat@teamdemocracy.eu).



## Partner Country Engagement Updates

### Strengthening European Coordination to Support Civil Society in Burundi

TED is supporting the EU, Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland in Burundi to strengthen coordination on democratic governance support by conducting a comprehensive mapping of European support to civil society and assisting in the establishment of a coordination group. This aims to enhance coherence and improve impact.

Launched in February 2026, the assignment involves an international and national expert engaging stakeholders within and outside the country, with the final mapping and recommendations expected by May 2026.



## Events

- 14-15 April (10:00-12:00 CET) EUDEM – Strengthening democratic resilience across Europe | Capacity4dev
- 20-24 April (09:00-17:00 CET-6) ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-Up
- 20 April (11:00-14:00 CET) Growing Pains: Youth Engagement and Civil Society Resilience in a Changing World
- 21 April (14:00-15:30 CET) TED Trainings Module 2 – Mainstreaming Democratic Governance Webinar

- 22 April (14:00-15:30 CET) Supporting Implementation of the EU Transitional Justice Policy Framework
- 4 May (10:00-18:00 CET) World Press Freedom Day 2026 Global Conference
- 5-8 May (09:00-18:00 CET) RightsCon
- 5 May (11:00-12:30 CET) Youth and Women as Political Drivers
- 6 May (10:00-17:00 CET) Justice Matters 2026
- 12 May (09:00-18:00 CET) Copenhagen Democracy Summit

Full list of events: [Events | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#)



## Publications

### March 2026: Recent Publications on Democracy Support, Justice, Media and Global Governance

This issue features the following curated selection of recent publications from TED members and partners:

- China's Development Playbook: A Test for European Democracy Support by European Democracy Hub and Demo Finland
- We Need to Talk about Dialogue by Deutsche Welle Academy
- European Democracy Support Annual Review 2025 by European Partnership for Democracy
- Support to Media and the Information Environment in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape by Marie-Alexandra Kurth, Klara Panther, Vivien Schönberger in the Defense Horizon Journal
- Equality in Law for Women and Girls: Eliminating Discriminatory Laws and Strengthening Legal Frameworks by International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- 21 Lessons from an Expert Discussion on AI, Governance, and People-Centered Justice by The Justice Action Coalition
- Commercial Alternative Dispute Resolution by IDLO
- A People-Centered Justice Approach to Implementing AI Governance by Center on International Cooperation of NYU
- Reimagining Democracy in the Global South by International IDEA

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**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(GIZ) GmbH**

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 228 44 60-0



F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

**Registered at**

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384  
Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB 12394

VAT no. DE 113891176  
Tax no. 040 250 56973

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Anna Sophie Herken

**In charge of this newsletter**

Marie-Alexandra Kurth, [secretariat@teamdemocracy.eu](mailto:secretariat@teamdemocracy.eu)

**Editor(s)**

Frederik Caselitz, [frederik.caselitz@giz.de](mailto:frederik.caselitz@giz.de)  
Madina Davletkildееva, [madina.davletkildееva@giz.de](mailto:madina.davletkildееva@giz.de)

**With contributions from**

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