



Issue No. 9 | June 2026

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,

This edition of the Team Europe Democracy Newsletter brings together several timely updates and opportunities for the network. It highlights recent announcements from the European Commission, including a new tender on electoral and political process support, policy guidance on fragility and an open consultation on the upcoming EU Anti-Corruption Strategy.

You will also find updates from TED's ongoing work, including the second training module, grantee work outcomes, and recent webinars. Further contributions cover developments in media freedom and information integrity, including the launch of the OECD Media Principles Toolkit, and new Working Group 3 repository. The issue also includes an update on TED's engagement in Morocco and a selection of recommended publications and upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the TED Network Annual Meeting and to continuing our exchanges there.

Wishing you an informative read,

The TED Secretariat



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- » European Commission Launches Joint Staff Working Document on an Integrated Approach to Fragility as Part of the Humanitarian Communication Package
- » European Commission Opens Public Consultation and Calls for Evidence for Upcoming EU Anti-Corruption Strategy

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Announcements and Opportunities

EU Tender Opened for Electoral and Political Process Support Partnership, Deadline: 29 June 2026

The European Commission has opened a call for Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) under its Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme (2025-2027), focusing on Support to Electoral and Political Processes (SEPP). The Call itself has a total budget of € 28 million, of which a maximum of five projects developed by high-capacity, specialised organisations with proven expertise and global reach will be chosen for implementation. The deadline for applications is 29 June 2026.

[Read more »](#)



European Commission Launches Joint Staff Working Document on an Integrated Approach to Fragility as Part of the Humanitarian Communication Package

The document highlights the growing scale of fragility and underlines how conflict, climate change, democratic backsliding, displacement and economic instability increasingly reinforce one another. The new EU approach promotes stronger coordination across humanitarian, development and peace action through the “humanitarian-development-peace nexus” with a focus on resilience, conflict prevention, local ownership and long-term sustainable development.

The document also emphasises conflict-sensitive and context-specific responses, strengthened

partnerships with local actors and civil society, and a reinforced Team Europe approach in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The publication provides important policy guidance for EU institutions, Member States and implementing partners working on governance, resilience, peacebuilding and humanitarian response.

[Read more »](#)



European Commission Opens Public Consultation and Calls for Evidence for Upcoming EU Anti-Corruption Strategy

A public consultation has been launched to shape the upcoming EU Anti-corruption Strategy, reinforcing democratic integrity and fair competition both within Member States and in the EU's actions abroad. This comprehensive framework aims to strengthen internal anti-corruption tools while complementing the EU's broader mission to fight corruption outside its borders. Stakeholders are invited to contribute their views and evidence by 6 July 2026.

[Read more »](#)



TED Grants and Training Updates

New Report: HiiL's TED-Backed Justice Project in Uganda Concludes

As part of the TED Call for Proposals 2025, The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) has spent the past year on the ground in Uganda, working to transform how justice is delivered to survivors of domestic violence.

We are thrilled to share its final report: "Bridging the Justice Gap: Actionable Solutions for Domestic Violence Survivors in Uganda". This is not just a research paper. It is a data-driven blueprint that outlines practical, community-based and survivor-centred solutions designed to protect thousands of women and families.

[Download the full report »](#)



TED Supports the RSF World Press Freedom Index

Since May 2026, TED has supported Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index, a key global tool for tracking the state of press freedom across 180 countries and territories.

Building on previous support under STED, this cooperation helps sustain evidence-based analysis on media freedom, an essential foundation for democratic accountability, access to reliable information and informed policy dialogue.

[Watch video »](#)



TED Training Module 2 on Mainstreaming Democratic Governance

How can democratic governance principles be translated into everyday project implementation? During a recent TED training session, practitioners from Enabel, VNG International and Fondation Hirondelle shared experiences from Benin, Ethiopia and Tunisia, highlighting how citizen participation, accountability mechanisms and trusted local media can strengthen service delivery and public trust in politically sensitive environments.

[Read more »](#)



TED Network

Supporting the Implementation of the EU Transitional Justice Policy Framework

How can the EU and its Member States better support transitional justice processes in partner countries? This question was at the centre of a TED webinar, which presented the findings of a new study on the implementation of the 2015 EU Transitional Justice Policy Framework.

Ten years after its adoption, the framework remains a key reference for promoting accountability, human rights, reconciliation and the rule of law in contexts affected by conflict, violence, and democratic backsliding. The webinar highlighted practical lessons from country-level experiences and discussed how European actors can strengthen their engagement for locally owned and victim-centred transitional justice processes.

Participants explored the importance of moving beyond a narrow focus on criminal justice to embrace more comprehensive approaches that include truth-seeking, reparations, memorialisation, reconciliation, and institutional reform. A key message was that transitional justice should not be viewed only as a human rights issue, but as an important tool for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, democratic governance, and sustainable development.

[Read more »](#)



Strengthening Economies through Commercial Justice: Lessons from the Justice Matters Conference



The recent *Justice Matters* conference explored how commercial justice systems can contribute to stronger economies, greater investor confidence, and more inclusive development outcomes.

Bringing together justice practitioners, development actors and private-sector representatives, the discussions highlighted the importance of accessible dispute resolution, legal certainty and fair enforcement mechanisms for small businesses and local communities alike. The article reflects on key lessons from the conference and their relevance to ongoing discussions on Global Gateway, rule of law and people-centred justice.

[Read more »](#)



Steering Clear of Corruption: Embedding Transparency in Global Gateway Transport & Infrastructure



On 27 May 2026, Working Group 1 convened practitioners, experts and implementing actors in a webinar to discuss the severe impacts of corruption on global infrastructure delivery.

Drawing on insights from the European Commission and leading global transparency initiatives, this article explores how the EU's Global Gateway strategy can embed integrity across the entire project lifecycle to support sustainable transport infrastructure investment in our partner countries worldwide.

[Read more »](#)



When Participation Becomes Power: Youth and Women Redrawing Influence



Youth and women are increasingly driving political change as active participants rather than symbolic participants, exercising influence through digital mobilisation, community organising and new forms of civic expression.

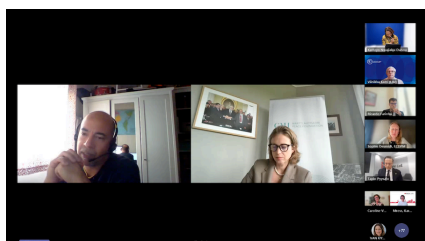
A recent TED webinar on "Youth and Women as Political

Drivers” held on 5 May 2026 and moderated by the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP), brought together the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, DG INTPA, the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), Demo Finland and International IDEA alongside youth activists from The Gambia and Senegal to explore the widening gap between inclusion and real political power, including within political parties and parliaments, and whether these institutions can keep pace with where political agency is already moving.

[Read more »](#)



Europe’s Security Turn: Reconnecting with Democracy and Peace



As Europe faces wars in its neighbourhood, hybrid threats and rising geopolitical instability, democracy, peace and security are increasingly converging into a single strategic debate. TED and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation held on 13 May 2026 a webinar on “The Intersection of Democracy, Peace and Security – A European Approach Responding to Global Transformation”.

It brought together the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, ODI-Global, Carnegie Europe, ECDPM, Hybrid CoE, Fondation Hironnelle and DG INTPA to assess how Europe’s “security turn” is reshaping approaches to governance, civic resilience and peacebuilding, and whether an increased focus on deterrence and preparedness risks sidelining democratic legitimacy, civic space and conflict prevention. Participants also stressed that democratic resilience, public trust and information integrity are now central security assets, raising the question of how Europe can operationalise this interdependence without allowing peace, inclusion and democratic accountability to drop off the political agenda.

[Read more »](#)



OECD Media Principles Toolkit presented at Global Media Forum

The OECD Development Co-operation Principles on Relevant and Effective Support to Media and the Information Environment (March 2024) provide a shared foundation for donor action. They set out what effective, responsible, and sustainable support to media and the information environment should look like.

To support the practical implementation of the OECD Principles, the TED Network has created a dedicated Toolkit, developed by the Global Fund for Media Development (GMFD), hosted within the OECD resource centre.

✦ **This toolkit will be presented by TED on 25 June 2026 at 09:00**, in the framework of the Global Media Forum in **Bonn, Germany**.

[Read more »](#)



TED Repository on Information Integrity

TED Working Group 3 has launched a curated Capacity4Dev repository of resources on information integrity, media and digital issues. Developed at the request of the Working Group members, the repository brings together guidance, research, tools, case studies and training materials to support programme design, implementation and collaboration across the network.

[Read more »](#)



Statement on the Cancellation of RightsCon

The cancellation of RightsCon in Zambia, shortly after RSF reported press freedom at a 25-year low, is a reminder of the growing pressure on freedom of expression, access to information and civic space. In this context, TED and Working Group 3 continue to provide space for exchange and coordination on media freedom, digital rights and information integrity.

[Read more »](#)



Briefing Note for World Press Freedom Day 2026

Independent media and access to reliable information are fundamental to democratic societies. Against a backdrop of growing violence, legal pressure, online harassment and disinformation targeting journalists worldwide, TED has prepared a briefing note highlighting the EU's commitment to press freedom and the protection of journalists.

[Further Information and Download »](#)



New TED Study on Private Capital Mobilisation in Support of Media

As media continues to face declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding worldwide, alternative revenue streams are increasingly becoming important. To explore solutions to this challenge, TED has published the brief "Private Capital Mobilisation in Support of Media: An Alternative to ODA?"

The brief explores innovative ways to finance independent media and highlights the urgent need for blended finance, DFI engagement, and pipeline-building to attract private capital, especially in fragile contexts where traditional funding falls short. With practical recommendations for EU institutions, TED Member States, and philanthropic actors, this brief provides a roadmap for sustainable investment in media ecosystems.

[Further Information and Download »](#)



Partner Country Engagement Updates

TED supports EU and Member States in Morocco to deepen knowledge of the commercial justice sector

Morocco plays a strategic role in securing value chains, facilitating access to African markets and advancing the green transition, in a context of major economic opportunities, including the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, and the 2030 World Cup. The country is pursuing an ambitious transformation agenda through to 2035, driven by Morocco's New Development Model, which aims to stimulate private investment, foster inclusive growth and job creation, especially for women and youth. Despite a strong regulatory framework, the business environment remains constrained by red tape, limited digitalisation, legal barriers, restricted access to finance, anti-competitive practices, a large informal sector, and low participation of women in the economy.

In the context of Morocco's strategic partnership with the EU and Member States, TED is supporting the EU Delegation and Spain in strengthening coordination within the commercial justice sector through an analysis of administrative justice, mediation and arbitration. The aim is to provide strategic guidance and identify entry points for further integrating principles of integrity and anti-corruption within the sector.

Launched in April 2026, the assignment involves engaging stakeholders within and outside the country, with the final analysis expected by November 2026.



Events

- **18 June (09:30-14:30 CET)** European Regional Consultation on the Copenhagen Principles

- **18 June (15:00-17:00 CET)** From Principles to Practice: Introducing an AI-Powered Human Rights Due Diligence Tool for Digital Development
- **23 June (14:00-18:00 CET)** Summit 'Fight for Us, Not for Them'
- **23-24 June (08:00-22:30 CET)** Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum
- **26-30 June (10:00-18:00 CET)** Hamburg Sustainability Conference
- **8-9 July (08:00-19:30 CET)** OECD Forum on Gender Equality Agenda
- **17 September (time TBD)** International Democracy Day Brussels 12th Edition

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



Publications

June 2026: Publication Recommendations on Democracy, Information Integrity, Rule of Law and Civic Participation

The selected publications cover pressing questions for democracy support practitioners, from the global decline in press freedom and the search for more sustainable media financing to practical tools for strengthening information integrity and countering disinformation.

The selection highlights new research on rule of law, anti-corruption and justice systems, including analysis from HiIL, U4 and Forum 2000 on the links between accountable institutions, human rights and long-term development. Further publications examine how civic actors, women's movements and youth-led initiatives are responding to shrinking civic space and political exclusion, with examples from West Africa, Latin America, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Nigeria. Contributions from Carnegie Europe and ECDPM explore how Europe's growing focus on security and deterrence is reshaping debates on democracy support, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Explore the full compilation for further insights, practical resources and recommended reading.

[Our Publication Recommendations for June 2026 »](#)



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