



Stronger together: partnerships for supporting democracy

15-17 September 2021

At a time of crisis, it is more important than ever to protect and promote democracy. The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on our lives with far-reaching economic consequences. Governments throughout the world have enacted legislation to protect their citizens, and in many countries, this has further restricted democratic activities and silenced critical voices. A geopolitical battle is now being waged over vaccines and pandemic support.

The EU's renewed commitment to multilateralism, together with the US administration's proposal for a Summit for Democracies, hint at a renewed global momentum to safeguard global security, democracy and stability. As President Biden stated during his appearance at the European Council in March, the US is determined to 're-energise our cooperation. And deepen this historic bond'.

The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), European Endowment for Democracy (EED), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP), and Carnegie Europe are proud to organise the XIII edition of International Democracy Day as a week of events from 15-17 September. The theme of 2021 is 'Partnerships for supporting democracy'.

With a focus on the renewed global democracy agenda, the 2021 Democracy Week will feature an exciting line-up of international speakers from across the democracy spectrum who will speak of their experiences of democracy partnerships, from inter-state cooperation, transnational and trans-sectoral partnerships to local initiatives. These timely debates will help set the priorities for the renewed global democracy agenda.

Programme

Title	<i>Stronger together: partnerships for supporting democracy</i>
Date	15 September, 16:00-17:30 CEST
Description and goals	<p>Across the world renewed efforts are under way to strengthen multilateral cooperation with “like-minded partners” in order to support democracy against a decade of documented authoritarian resurgence. President Biden’s proposal for a global Summit for Democracy intends to further the goals of global democratic renewal in its different aspects. At the EU level, the Council Conclusions on Democracy and the Joint Communication on rules-based multilateralism are advocating for a new generation of partnerships with third countries, multilateral and regional organisations, and other stakeholders that share the EU’s democratic values.</p> <p>To foster such a dialogue among like-minded partners and to mark IDD 2021, this coffee-table talk will bring together democratic leaders from the Global North and South. Speakers will exchange on opportunities for multilateral partnerships to restore and rejuvenate democracy, both abroad and domestically. The conversation will also serve as a space to define forward-looking and inclusive commitments for the future of democracy, and to highlight ongoing multilateral and strategic cooperation between transatlantic and global actors.</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote speech: Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, European External Action Service • Uzra Zeya, new U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights • Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia <p>Moderator: Maria Koomen, Lead of Open Governance Network for Europe</p>

Title	<i>Human Rights Based Approach - a toolbox for placing rights-holders at the centre of international partnerships</i>
Date	16 September - 10:30-12:00 CEST
Description and goals	<p>The European Commission has updated the EU Toolbox on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). It provides practical tools, guidance and examples, for placing the individuals and their human rights at the centre of international partnerships. The Toolbox aims at strengthening democracy through participation, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability.</p> <p>In this session, Ms Chiara Adamo, Acting Director INTPA Human development, Migration, Governance and Peace will present the main features of the newly adopted HRBA toolbox, followed by a discussion that focuses on the key relevance of the HRBA for development cooperation and the promotion of democracy and good governance.</p>
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction by Chiara Adamo, Acting Director INTPA Human development, Migration, Governance and Peace • Christine Lundberg, quality manager HRBA • Marie Dominique Parent, Deputy Representative, OHCHR Europe • Pepijn Gerrits, Director at the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, co-organiser of the Democracy week

Title	<i>Best Practices for International Democratisation Initiatives: Lessons from Georgia and the Eastern Partnership Programme</i>
Date	16 September - 12.00-13.30 CEST
Description and goals	<p>In this session, ENoP member organisations – from three different political families – will present their partnerships for democracy in the Eastern Partnership country of Georgia. Together with their Georgian partner organisations they will reflect on their activities and draw lessons for international democratisation efforts. How do the different European and Georgian foundations operate in Georgia? How do they evaluate their programmes? And how does the political context affect democratisation initiatives?</p>

Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levan Tsutskiridze, Executive Director, Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy • Lilia Chikhladze, Programme Coordinator for Democratisation Programme, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Tbilisi Office • Christian Luijckx, International Officer, Haya van Someren Foundation • Astrid Frey, Programme Manager, Eduardo Frei Foundation <p>Moderator: Hoba Gull, International Officer, International Democratic Initiative Foundation and Chair of ENoP Working Group Democracy</p>
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Title	<i>Global Partnerships for supporting democracy online</i>
Date	16 September, 15:00 - 16:30 CEST
Description and goals	<p>The EU and US leaders announced the establishment of an <i>EU-US Trade and Technology Alliance</i> in June 2021. This Alliance will be supported by a Trade and Technology Council, and will cooperate on the development and deployment of new technologies based on shared democratic values, including respect for human rights, and that encourages compatible standards and regulation. An important policy area that this agenda will face in years to come, is the development of joint artificial intelligence standards. Moreover, the Alliance will be designed to work with other like-minded countries which will feel the impact of converged regulations for the digital world in the EU and US. What voice will they have in the Alliance, including countries from the Global South? The new Alliance can build on earlier partnership initiatives to defend democracy and improve trust, security and stability in cyberspace. An important one is the Paris Call, launched by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2018, a voluntary agreement bringing together authorities, industries and civil society around principles for a secure cyberspace.</p> <p>This debate brings together key trans-Atlantic and multi-stakeholder speakers on democracy and technology from the fields of politics and the tech industry, as well as from the Global South. It will discuss pertinent questions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can big tech work with actors such as governments, political parties, civil society and international organizations to defend democracy online? • Will the transatlantic Alliance focus primarily on converging regulation and setting standards, or also on soft law, such as the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation? • How can challenges around artificial intelligence, including its

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on democracy be addressed through partnerships? and How to ensure the inclusion and voice of the Global South in setting common standards?
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Van Sparrentak, Member of the European Parliament (The Netherlands) and Member of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA) • Moira Whelan, Director for Democracy and Technology, National Democracy Institute. • Jan Neutze, Senior Director, Defending Democracy programme, Microsoft • Prof. Fabro Steibel, Executive Director, Instituto de Tecnologia & Sociedade Rio de Janeiro <p>Presenter and Moderator: Peter Wolf, Senior Expert on digital technologies, International IDEA</p>

Title	<i>Supporting democracy in Europe and the European Neighbourhood: the role of independent media and civil society</i>
Date	17 September, 12:00 – 13:30 CEST
Description and goals	<p>The European Democracy Action Plan sets out plans to safeguard democracy by empowering citizens and building more resilient democracies across the EU. It is recognised that EU countries face ongoing challenges to democracy, with rising extremism, election interference, the spread of manipulative information and hate speech and threats against journalists. In emerging democracies such as those in the European Neighbourhood, these are all very real issues.</p> <p>As governments throughout the European neighbourhood have continued to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency and react to deepening economic crises, civil society and independent media are playing a crucial role in building and defending democracy. This session will welcome a range of speakers from the MENA region and the Western Balkans, including civil activists and independent journalists, to discuss their instrumental role in protecting and strengthening democracy.</p>

Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome words by Maria Arena, Chair of DROI subcommittee• Danilo Krivokapić, Share Foundation, Serbia (digital security and privacy)• Yaşar Adnan Adanali, Center for Spatial Justice• Moderator: Ece Temelkuran, writer and journalist
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