



**European
Partnership for
Democracy**

EPD Webinar Week

Thursday 16 January 2025

10:00-11:30 CET

Global Gateway and EU democracy support: Opportunities and challenges to shape the EU's international partnership agenda in support of democracy

What is Global Gateway?

- Launched in 2021 with the EU's multi-year budget (MFF 2021-2027)
- a European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.
- Through GG, Team Europe aim to mobilise up to €300 billion of investments for sustainable and high-quality projects between 2021-2027
 - an alternative to China's belt and road initiative(?)

“The Global Gateway stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. It helps to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains.”

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



Digital
Networks and
Infrastructures



Climate
Resilience and
Clean Energy



Green Smart and
Safe Transport



Health
Systems and
Supply Chains



High Quality
Education
and Research

KEY GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENTS



Democratic
values and
high standards



Good governance
and transparency



Equal
partnerships



Green and clean
infrastructures



Security
focused



Catalysing
private sector
investment



Global Gateway Governance

Global Gateway Board

Members: EC President, HR/VP, INTPA and NEAR commissioners + EC College of Commissioners (as justified by the agenda of the meeting), EU Member States representatives

Observers: EP members, Dev Finance Institutions

EP keeps calling for transparency and adequate consultation of the EP with PS & CSOs

Allow exchanges between EU policymakers and EU private sector organisations.

Council: RELEX working group subgroup overseeing GG implementation

Global Gateway Business Advisory Group

The BAG is composed of :

- 59 members
- 10 observers

Civil Society and Local Authorities Advisory Platform

The CSO-La includes 42 networks and CSP platforms, 4 special partners and 11 association of LA

What about the role of private sector?

The European private sector is included in:

- **the governance of Global Gateway:** as part of the Business Advisory Group.
- **the financing:** as an investor in projects to complement EU and FI funds.
- **the implementation of Global Gateway projects:** as a service provider mainly for infrastructure projects.

How GG is funded?

GG intends to mobilize **public & private** resources

Four (4) main sources of funding:

1. **EU budget (NDICI-GE instrument)**
2. EU Member States
3. Financial institutions/banks (**EIB & EBRD**)
4. Private sector

Grant financing of up to **€ 18 billion** under the EU external assistance programs (notably **NDICI-GE**)

Potential of **€ 135 billion** from the NDICI-GE through EFSD+:

- € 40 billion in guarantee capacity
- € 95 billion of foreseen investments through blending

€ 145 billion of planned investments by EU MS, their financial and development finance institutions

Projected amount of € 300 billion by 2027

Why do we keep talking about Global Gateway ?

Leaked IntPa brief - April 2024

- Investments and EU interests almost exclusively.

Von der Leyen Political Guidelines for 2025-2029 Commission

- 'Global Gateway will go from **start-up to scale-up**' 'an integral pillar of a new **economic foreign policy**'
- Barely any mention of democracy and human rights

International Partnerships mission letter and hearing (Sikela)

- Global Gateway the main vision for international partnerships
- A banker

Funding

Revision of current budget and looking forward to the **next MFF**

**What does that mean for
the democracy support
community?**

Challenges

- Poor transparency (lack of clarity)
- Strategic interest over values
- Funding (negotiations around the next MFF)
- Limited participation
- Scarce oversight
- Divestment of development funds to other policy areas

Opportunities

- “Walking the talk”: democratic values are (supposed to be) at the core of the strategy
- Shaping Global Gateway
- Building the narrative that for Global Gateway to work, it needs democracy
- Focusing on the “how” instead of the “what”

Our advocacy asks

1. Direct funding towards pro-democratic & pro-rule of law countries
2. 3-5 % of global gateway investments dedicated to democracy support (independent oversight mechanism, rule of law, etc.)
3. Improved measuring of impact of GG on democracy worldwide
4. Greater transparency around global gateway projects
5. Involvement of democratic actors in defining and overseeing GG projects

How

- Building the narrative (through research, op-eds, events)
- Building alliances with other stakeholders such as the EIB and private sector
- Advocacy towards EU institutions
- Advocacy towards member states & Team Europe
- Active participation in the CSO-LA advisory platform on GG
- Joint actions with civil society

Resources

- Global Gateway's Moment of Truth *(commentary)*
- Global Gateway and China's Belt and Road Initiative — Fighting the Last War? *(commentary)*
- Who profits from the Global Gateway? The EU's new strategy for development cooperation *(report by Oxfam & Eurodad)*