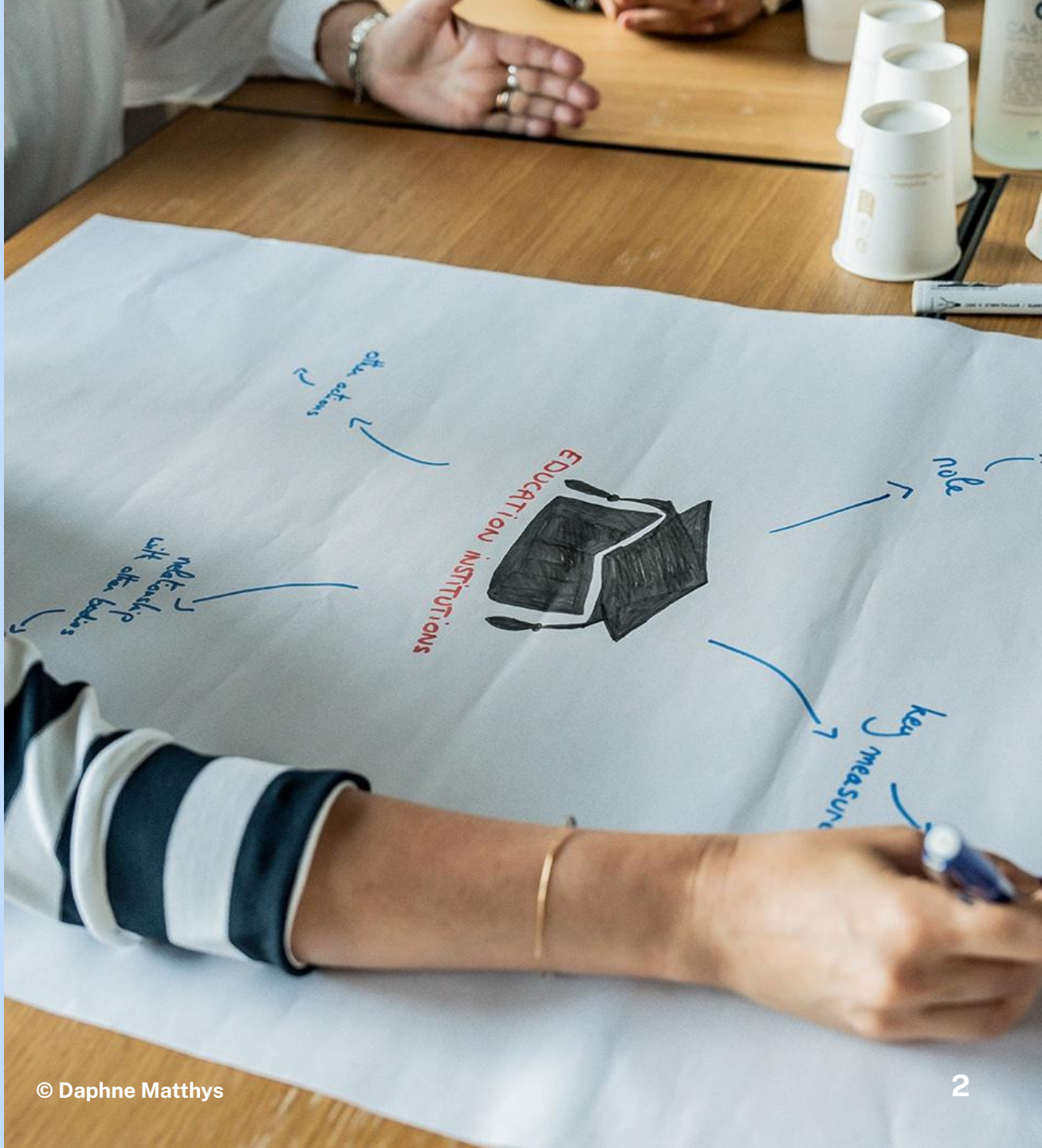
Multi-Annual Strategy 2023 - 2026

European Partnership for Democracy

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Introduction



European Partnership for Democracy

The European Partnership for Democracy is a network bringing together specialist organisations with a global remit to support democracy.

We work inside and outside Europe because we recognise that democracy is a universal aspiration and that the contemporary challenges and opportunities for democracy are universal in scope.

But we also recognise that democracy is not a perfect system and requires continuous vigilance and adaptation in order to deliver for people.

Democracy at a crossroads

Democracy faces multiple challenges and is currently threatened by anti-democratic forces around the world through clampdowns on alternative voices and a centralisation of power by autocrats. At the same time, citizens continue to demand open, accountable and representative government.

Many democratic systems will bend, while others will break. We will protect democratic governance from breakdown and support democracies to adapt to contemporary challenges.

Autocracies face many of the exact same challenges. Some will bend, others will break. When they do, we will be there to support democratic forces to build more representative, accountable and inclusive politics and political institutions.



Our Community



EPD is unique

We bring together organisations with a solid track-record, vast external reach, strong relationships with key domestic actors and specialisations of working on:

- **different fields of democracy support**: media support, civic tech, political parties, local authorities, elections, the rule of law, women's participation, parliamentary support, multi-stakeholder dialogue, political and civil rights, civil society capacity building, ICT and civic and political education;
- **different levels of society**: political leadership, elected representatives, state officials, civil society and grassroots community representatives;
- **different contexts**: open democratic societies, electoral democracies, competitive autocracies and dictatorships.

We are active in over 100 countries around the world.

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Together we use our **on-the-ground expertise** to strengthen our programmes – individually and as EPD – to advocate for more effective policies and to engage in collective learning.

We have implemented over **2000 projects** in the field of democracy support in the last **5 years for a total of over EUR 400 million** in funding. This collective country and programmatic knowledge is brought together through the coordination of projects under the umbrella of EPD.

Our Community



alda – European Association for Local Democracy
ARTICLE 19
CaraDem – An Irish-led democracy initiative
Católica – Instituto de Estudos Políticos – Lisboa
CFI – Media Development
Club de Madrid
CRTA
Demo Finland – Political Parties of Finland for Democracy
Democracy Reporting International
DIPD – Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy
EDGE
elbarlament – cultures of democracy
ELECTION-WATCH.EU
Europäischer Austausch – European Exchange
Free Press Unlimited
Kofi Annan Foundation
MEMO98
Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy
People in Need
The Oslo Center
WFD

Our Vision and Mission



Vision

A world of democracies that reflect the interests and needs of people

Mission

To support democracy around the world by coordinating and leveraging the collective knowledge and capacities of European democracy support organisations



Our four goals


Goal 1
Research


Goal 2
Policy


Goal 3
Programmes


Goal 4
Organisation

Goal 1 Research

To improve the evidence base for support for democracy in different contexts

We produce regular research papers that look at different themes and trends in democratic governance and democracy politics. In this research we bring together academic, policy and practitioner perspectives to ensure high relevance and useability.

This research feeds our policy and programmes with evidence and contributes to a culture of continuous learning.



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Goal 2
Policy

To contribute to effective policies in support of democracy worldwide

Our policy work focuses on European governments and the European Union (EU) but increasingly also includes engagement with other multilateral organisations.

Through this work on public policies, both domestic and international, we will support pro-democracy policies, democratic delivery and impact the lives of citizens.



Goal 3 Programmes

To deliver successful programmes in support of democracy in Europe and around the world

We implement projects all around the world – from support to anti-corruption, to youth inclusion, to fighting disinformation.

Our individual programmes range from EUR 15 thousand to EUR 15 million. Our portfolio is diverse thanks to the wide array of expertise within the EPD Community and allows us to make the most of different opportunities to make a difference.



Goal 4
Organisation

To manage resources effectively as we continue to maintain and expand a dynamic network

EPD has grown significantly in recent years and we want to ensure we maintain high standards in terms of working culture, our output and our partnerships as we manage this expansion in the coming years.

We will invest in our staff, monitoring capacities, external communications and resource management systems at the same time as deepening the engagement within our community.



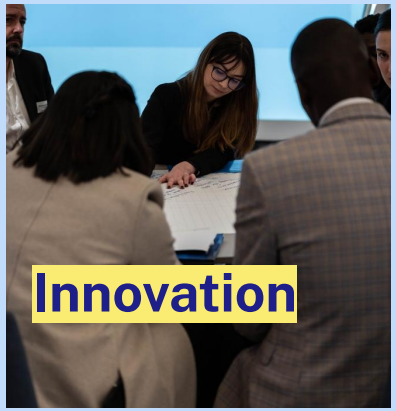
Our six “In’s”




Information space


Institutions


Inclusion


Innovation


International policy


Infrastructure



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Our 6 “In’s”

Information space

Changes to communication technology have upended the way we communicate with profound consequences for democracies and autocracies alike.

The information space will remain vital for democracy support in the coming years and we will build on our existing track record to contribute to efforts to tackle disinformation, support independent media and push for democratic principles in the digital sphere.



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Our 6 “In’s”

Institutions

Strong and accountable institutions are essential for democratic governance. But, given autocratisation around the world, many democracy supporters have shifted their focus away from institutions that have become the enemy of democracy rather than the foundation.

The EPD Community has a wealth of experience supporting democratic institutions that we will continue in this decade. We will build on this to create joint programmes and advocacy that leverage the expertise of EPD in a way that supports institutions to foster pro-democratic change.



Our 6 “In’s”

Inclusion

Programmes with a focus on inclusion have proliferated in recent years – this has been one of the biggest areas of growth in the democracy sector in the last decade.

This is a direct response to the failure of democratic politics to better include women, youth and minority groups in formal decision-making processes. We want to contribute to helping supply meet the demands that will only continue to grow in the coming years.



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Our 6 “In’s”

Innovation

As our world changes, democratic politics must change with it, in order to better respond to the challenges of the 21st Century.

There is a great wealth of experience in adapting and updating democracy across the world particularly through leveraging digital technology, formalizing citizen assemblies and expanding consultative governance. We will contribute to efforts to innovate representative democracy rather than seeking to replace it.



Our 6 “In’s”

International Policy

International cooperation on policies is essential for grappling with the challenges facing governments around the world, from environmental catastrophes to public health.

Yet, a variety of events in recent years have increased the tension between nation states, with a notable division between autocracies and democracies. Within the EU, the autocratisation of certain member states has also undermined the EU’s ability to find agreement on key policies.

We will continue to advocate for strong pro-democracy policies at European level and cooperate with partners to support democratic policies around the world.



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Our 6 “In’s”

Infrastructure

The democracy support community has been deeply affected by the changed political and funding landscape in recent years. Our ecosystem has endured major shocks that have impacted different communities, regions and sectors.

We will leverage our collective strength and work with partners across academia, activism, civil services, journalism, the legal profession, the private sector and politics to help retain a strong and more resilient infrastructure for supporting democracy in the future.

The organisation has a governance structure based on a General Assembly of members, a Board of Directors and a Secretariat in charge of day-to-day management.



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General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all the members of the organisation and is the highest decision-making body of the organisation. The General Assembly delegates the management of the organisation to a Board.

Board

The board elects within itself a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer. The Board in turn delegates the daily management of the organisation to the Executive Director of the organisation who is assisted by the EPD Secretariat.

EPD Secretariat

The EPD Secretariat is based in Brussels and is the engine and coordinating hub of EPD. The Secretariat operates with a horizontal structure divided into five teams - Policy, Programmes, Research, Finance & Administration, and Communications & Events.

Working Groups

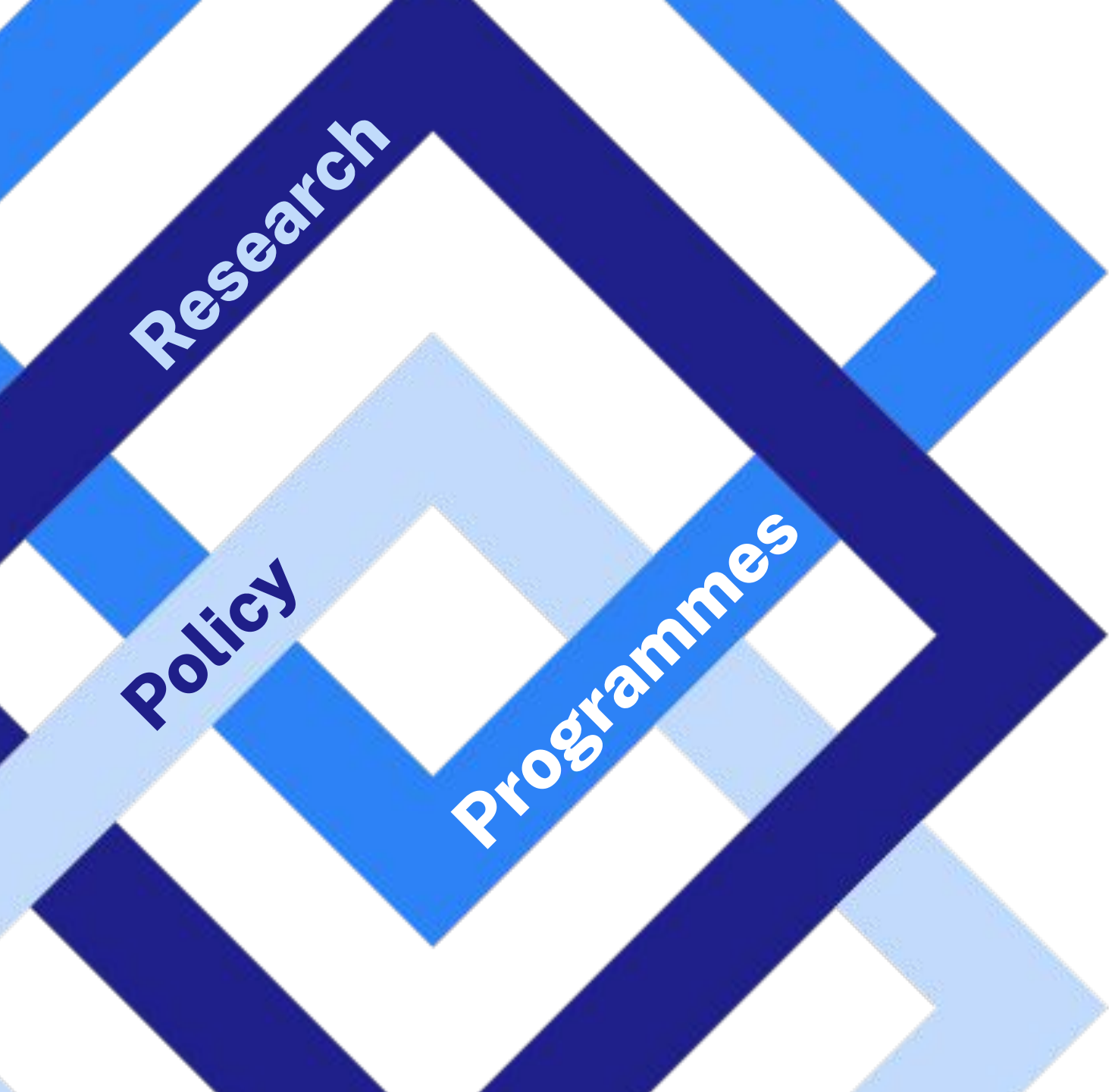
EPD working groups bring staff from the EPD Community together to learn from each other and share information. The working groups also host joint training sessions for members, either from staff within the Community or external professionals. Coordination also involves ad-hoc working groups that are set up on particular themes or countries.

Membership

EPD is open to new organisations who want to join the partnership and who fulfil certain criteria – the organisation has benefitted greatly from new members joining in recent years. To be eligible for membership an organisation must a) have a mission related to democracy support b) be European, and c) be non-profit. An application for membership is assessed on this eligibility and the added value of those eligible organisations.

Partnership

EPD values the strong partnerships it has developed with organisations in the countries in which the EPD Community is active and we will continue to work closely with these organisations. EPD may seek new partnerships with both European and non-European organisations for strategic reasons and we will continuously assess our existing partnerships.



Thinking
Advocating
Acting

European
Partnership for
Democracy