



Team Europe Democracy Network Call for Expression of Interest

1. Background: the opportunity of a Team Europe Democracy Network

The Team Europe Democracy (TED) is a global thematic Team Europe Initiative (TEI) launched in December 2021 to promote democracy and human rights worldwide. Fourteen Member States (MS) are involved in TED: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden. The Specific Objective of TED is to create a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy that is effectively steered worldwide by the TED Secretariat. The Secretariat is represented by staff members of GIZ and Enabel, which have signed a Multi-Party Contribution Agreement (MPCA) with the EU for this purpose.

The TED Network is the key output of the Team Europe Democracy Initiative. It can be defined as a collection of organisations and networks that share core values on democracy and seek to engage with each other on the latest evidence on democracy promotion. The Network will be formed of EU institutions, MS, and further stakeholders (more details in Membership section below).

The TED Network aims to provide space and opportunities to key European stakeholders to respond to current global challenges to democracy and human rights which require improved support strategies and modalities for inclusive and transparent governance and rule of law. It responds to the needs for enhanced communication and synergies among European actors following the **commitments of the EU and its MS to strengthen impact of their interventions through evidence-based approaches and coordination** at global, regional, national and local levels.

Therefore, the **objective of the TED Network** is to facilitate information exchange and best practices, improving collaboration on joint activities and strengthening partnerships. It offers an open space to key stakeholders and practitioners to share lessons learned and strengthen policy dialogue and formulation. Hence, EU and MS shall extend the dialogue with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including non-government organisations (NGOs), think tanks, research centres and universities beyond donors-beneficiaries relationships.

2. Key objectives and thematic priority of the TED Network

Some of the key objectives of the TED Network are to:

- Collect and showcase best practices on democratic support processes and programmes and inform stakeholders on the benefits of democracy
- Develop and disseminate guidelines, tools and methodologies that support and guide joint actions on democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and/or media and digitalisation
- Facilitate sharing relevant work to be displayed in different formats, and host and/or lead discussions/exchanges on specific topics
- Leverage the strengths of single organisations, allowing structural thematic dialogues with CSOs and similar stakeholder, and rallying members for strategic priorities on democracy
- Facilitate cross-regional exchange and sharing knowledge on current strategies, products and processes amongst the Network members (including headquarters/commissioning agencies).

The three thematic priorities of TED are: **(1) accountability and rule of law, (2) political and civic participation, and (3) media and digitalisation**. The TED Network will have three working groups



corresponding to the three thematic priorities. Each thematic working group will entail further sub-topics which may form a sub-group as needed. The following sub-topics are suggestive and not exhaustive.

- I. Accountability and Rule of Law:**
 - Anti-corruption
 - Rule of law
 - Access to justice
 - Transparency
- II. Political and Civic Participation:**
 - Women’s political participation
 - Youth political participation and youth civil society activism
 - Political party systems, parliamentary support
 - Electoral integrity
 - Local democratic governance
- III. Media and Digitalization:**
 - Protecting safety and security of journalists
 - Enhancing professional skills
 - Assisting media to transition to digital
 - Promoting and respecting human rights in cyberspace

The TED Secretariat will facilitate **setting up the working groups** according to the three themes. Therefore, all interested organisations and networks shall be involved in at least one of those thematic priorities. Working groups may be amended in the future according to the needs and objectives of the members. The Network will remain independent and embrace plurality.

The TED Network is not a facility for funding actions of its members.

3. Criteria for membership of the TED Network

The TED Network membership is on a voluntary basis. Key stakeholders based in Europe and engaged at a global and/or regional level in the promotion of democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and/or media and digitalisation are encouraged to join the Network.

TED Secretariat is facilitating operationalisation of the TED Network through managing the selection process of its members, by setting up working groups, and by providing support to the development of a consolidated workplan. Therefore, all interested and qualified members are encouraged to respond to the mentioned online survey no later than **23:45 (CET) on 31 March 2023**.

4. Objectives of the Call for Expression of Interest (CEI)

The purpose of this Call is to mobilise and identify key Europe-based organisations or networks engaged in promoting democracy and human rights at a regional and/or global level and invite them to join an open platform that leverages the strengths of single organisations, peer-learning and sharing of best practices and partnership building.

All organisations and networks based in Europe working globally in at least one of the focus areas of TED are welcome to join the TED Network.



5. How to respond to the TED Network CEI

All Europe-based organisations with global and/or regional engagement in democracy support that wish to be members of the TED Network may respond to the CEI by completing the [survey form](#).

The Call for Expression of Interest is also published on the [TED webpage on Capacity4Dev](#) on **16 February 2023**, and organisations will be able to register their interest by completing the mentioned online survey no later than **23:45 (CET) on 31 March 2023**.

A webinar will be organised in the coming weeks to allow potential members to clarify questions on the mission and operational aspects of the network.

In case you have any questions on the application process, please write to the TED Secretariat E-Mail: secretariat@teamdemocracy.eu