

## MOVING BEYOND ELECTORAL DEMOCRACIES

### Enhancing the capacities of political actors before, during and after the electoral process

High Level Panel during the European Development days EDD, 16 December 2011, 14:15 – 16:00,  
Warsaw, Copernicus Science Centre, Auditorium B

There is widespread consensus both in academia and amongst practitioners that democracies perform substantially better at developing their societies than do autocracies and that lasting success in developing societies requires sustainable approaches in development assistance, democracy and the provision of human rights. In the past, democratisation efforts by international donors have placed much emphasis on good governance delivered by executives of partner countries and the elections themselves. Civil society and particularly human rights activists have been at the centre of attention of support measures for democratisation processes whilst support to political actors has been rather limited. However, in order to actively promote democracy it is not only necessary to support electoral processes and to engage with political institutions and actors such as parliaments and elected representatives. It is equally crucial to support political parties. Only capacitated parties will develop party structures rooted in society and will overcome personalised politics. When working with parliamentarians and party representatives, it is also not sufficient to provide a technical approach of capacity-building regarding their roles. For a consolidation of democracy, it is essential to establish a set of core values, to address their responsibilities and thus the factor of the prevailing political culture.

Political foundations in Europe are engaged in comprehensive efforts to support democracy worldwide since decades. Although political actors are their core target group, they also work closely with academia, civil society and governmental institutions, thus facilitating the necessary but often absent dialogue for democratic progress and development.

Beneficiaries and partners of Europe's political foundations as well as practitioners engaged in democracy support will share their experiences underlining that a coherent and sustainable approach in democracy support has to be reflected in the long-term commitment encompassing capacity building for the target groups, support to create a conducive environment, and the facilitation of dialogue with other stakeholders.

#### The Panel:

- **Gilbert Kiakwama**, Vice-President of the CDC (Convention des Démocrates Chrétiens), Member of the Assemblée Nationale, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Manana Kochladze**, Laureate of the Goldman Environmental Prize, founder and chairwoman of Green Alternative, Georgia
- **Alexei Krivolap**, European Humanities University Vilnius, Lithuania
- **Prof. Mohammed Ouzzine**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco
- **Jean-Louis Ville**, Head of Unit for Governance, Democracy, Gender & Human Rights, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation, European Commission
- **Malgorzata Wasilewska**, Head of Unit Democracy and Election Observation, European External Action Service

**Moderation: Jelmen Haaze**, Journalist

