



The International Office of the VVD

The International Office of the VVD (Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie or People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) is one of the six fields of operation fundamental to the running of our party. The International Secretary, who also is a member of the VVD National Executive Committee, heads the International Office. Currently Mark Dijk holds the position of international secretary. Our international programme officers, Willem van Haersma Buma and Lucie Wigboldus run the daily office.

The International Office focuses on five policy areas:

- World-wide bilateral contacts with like-minded parties and organisations;
- International networks (the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party and Liberal International);
- Public support activities on international cooperation and VVD International;
- The Central and Eastern Europe Programme (CEEP);
- The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD).

The party itself finances the first two policies, while the NIMD and CEE Programmes are dependent on funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Central and Eastern European Programme

The CEEP concentrates on supporting activities that strengthen liberal-minded political parties and groupings in Central and Eastern Europe. This is facilitated by the Political Parties Programme of the Matra Programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Matra Programme aims at supporting the transition to a multiform, constitutional society in countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

At the beginning of each calendar year the VVD formulates its priorities for the CEEP programme. This policy is based on the requests for co-operation we receive from our partners in Central and Eastern Europe, the (party-) political developments in these countries and the VVD international policy. Generally speaking the VVD aims at enhancing the capacity of liberal-minded parties to be a long-term actor in their respective countries. In that way it supports the general process of democratisation the CEEP-countries. The VVD works on a demand-driven basis. The partners in the CEEP-countries submit project proposals to the International Secretariat of the VVD, which will decide if the proposal tones with the basic requirements and if it fits into



the general policy of the VVD. These requirements are outlined in the guidelines for project proposals, which you will find in these pages.

Activities supported by VVD

The parties and/or political groups we are supporting should emphasise liberal principles and ideas. Preferably they are, or intend to be, a member of the Liberal International, and/or the European Liberal Democrats ELDR. In principal we are not supporting parties/groups that are affiliated to other international political organisations.

There are a few other basic conditions: the political party or grouping should aim at strengthening the rule of law, guaranteeing the individual rights of man and promote the peaceful relations with neighbouring countries.

The activities the VVD supports are conducted in different manners. Often the political parties are organising training's on different party-related subjects, for which the VVD provides an experienced trainer. Other activities are for instance organising regional seminars, providing keynote-speakers, organising visitor's programmes in the Netherlands and in co-organisation with other parties and/or democratisation organisations facilitating regional and national discussion fora, which enhance the internal capacity of the political parties/groups.

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) was established on 18 April 2000 for political parties by political parties. The institute supports young democracies in transition by strengthening the political party system, the backbone of democracy.

Since 1980, 33 military regimes have been replaced by civilian governments. Consolidation of this democratic process is necessary to avoid many of these countries reverting back to authoritarianism or conflict.

The Dutch political parties VVD, CDA, PvdA, D66, Green Party, RPF, SGP and GPV jointly participate in IMD. Programmes are executed in 11 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Participation by VVD is an expression of its commitment to democracy worldwide, empowering the individual to shape his or her destiny. As a broad-based people's party, the VVD supports the ideal of multiparty democracy: where citizens are truly represented by those they elect and the power of government is limited by a framework that secures individual, social and political freedoms.

Central to IMD's working method is the principle of ownership: Political parties themselves develop and execute the proposals aimed at



strengthening their party. IMD weighs and evaluates these plans, but does not formulate them. All programmes are implemented, monitored and evaluated in a transparent way, using a process management system.

For further information, see IMD's website at www.nimd.org

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