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Dear Reader,

Like many ENoP members, we began our participation in this network with modest aspirations – maybe to meet new people, perhaps to evolve professionally. The overall impression, after one and a half years of the project, is that we are all delighted to see foundations that initially had only a domestic outlook broaden their perspectives to consider becoming actors in external and European cooperation.

ENoP has contributed to this by providing means and knowledge to its member organisations, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, through training courses, circulation of information and workshops.

Through the exchange with other organizations, ENoP members reach out for overarching topics on the EU political agenda, beyond their national concerns. The three articles of this edition focus on one of those global topics, democracy support.

We have not yet reached the end of our journey, but the road has been encouraging for those who have travelled it.

The Editorial Team



**Report: Rebuilding a Ship at Sea?
(Re-)Orientations for Democracy Building**

*Franziska Telschow, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, FES
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During an Experts' Roundtable in the premises of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation in Brussels, experts from the European Institutions, NGOs, political foundations and research institutes came together to discuss the future role of democracy and identify new approaches for reviving its promotion. The event was organised in cooperation with the German Development Institute (DIE) and the Institute for Democracy and electoral

Assistance (IDEA).

During the course of the Roundtable, a DIE Briefing Paper entitled "The three Cs of Democracy Promotion Policy: Context, Consistency and Credibility" was presented. The paper states that the advancement of democracy has been stagnating in recent years, and that despite intensive efforts to promote it in the 1990s, the majority of OECD countries would remain under authoritarian rule. China and Russia, as the most prominent examples, showed that autocratic regimes would constantly gain in power and influence. Against the background

of this diagnosis and the unfavourable reputation of democracy promotion resulting from the legacy of the Bush administration, the aim of the Briefing Paper is to initiate a fundamental reconsideration of strategies and policies in the field of democracy promotion.

The Briefing Paper highlights the challenges for international democracy promotion in the 21st century. The four main aspects mentioned are: "(I) available knowledge on the process of and (pre)conditions for democratisation; (II) political decisions in democracy-promoting (continued on page 2)

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countries; (III) conceptualisation and implementation of democracy promotion; (IV) assessment of its effectiveness." Moreover, the study differentiates between four political contexts that result in different challenges for democracy promoters: countries in transition, young democracies, stable authoritarian regimes and fragile and failing states. Finally, the Briefing Paper suggests ten recommendations for planning and implementation of democracy promotion, containing as key elements context, knowledge, consistency of strategies and credibility.

Furthermore, during the Roundtable IDEA presented the first ever peer review of the European Union's external policies and practices on support for democracy and democracy building around the world. The study likewise declares a need for new approaches to democracy building due to continuing global political and financial power shifts. The report, which is based on a series of multi-regional consultations

with partners and EU counterparts in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab world, South and Southeast Asia, emphasizes that the

EU would be perceived as a credible partner in the challenge of democracy promotion. One of the upcoming tasks for Europe would be to reflect on its own history of democratization and create awareness of the importance of an ongoing process of democracy building

not only in developing countries but also in EU member states.

During the conference, participants discussed a wide range of aspects



that should be considered when designing new approaches to democracy promotion. It was emphasized that there would be a need for the EU to strengthen the model of democracy by translating it back to substance. The EU was a unique and desirable model for countries all over the world and should therefore be confident in its own working methods and avoid copying the approaches adopted by the United States. One factor hampering successful democracy promotion outside of Europe was the lack of a democratic political culture and the need for greater trust among political leaders. For regimes that go through a transformation process this would mean that despite the political will to strengthen democracy, this lack of trust in national and international partners would limit the development of democratic structures. To overcome such an environment of mistrust, the Briefing Paper suggests among other things a careful selection of appropriate partners for cooperation and establishing relevant support measures.

Concerning the role of the EP, it was pointed out that it will fundamentally strengthen its involvement in the area of democracy promotion. Since 2008 the EP has been

supporting new and emerging democracies through the Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD), which operates within the Directorate-General for External Policies of the EP. The OPPD support programme would be aimed at New and Emerging Democracy (NED) parliaments and focus on support for institutional capacity-building in countries outside Europe.

The European Commission welcomed the Briefing Paper in the framework of the Roundtable. The ten recommendations corresponded to the Joint Paper on Democracy Building in EU External Relations drafted by the Commission and Council General Secretariat. It was stressed that to promote democracy in totalitarian regimes it would be essential to initiate dialogue from the European side. Moreover, there is an awareness at the Commission that a consistent strategy for democracy promotion must be achieved.

The Experts' Roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss familiar as well as newly emerging challenges for democracy promotion. Researchers came together with EU experts to assess the status quo and future tasks for building democracy. During the Roundtable there was clear agreement that a fundamental EU policy strategy on democracy promotion is lacking. To revive democracy promotion, more creative approaches as well as better strategies and instruments would be essential. The meeting of experts contributed to launching a process of reconstruction and re-orientation in this field. Furthermore, it raised awareness of the need to develop a coherent, consistent, transparent and trustworthy way to promote democracy in the future.

On the right: Arjen Berkvens, Director of the Alfred Mozer Stichting (NL) and ENoP Network Coordinator.

Below: Ingrid Wetterqvist, IDEA (SE) and Marc Saxer, FES Berlin (DE).



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Promoting free, fair and non-violent elections in Uganda

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Uganda towards manipulated election 2011

With only 10 months left until Uganda's highly anticipated general election, there are signs that President Yoweri Museveni and his National Resistance Movement (NRM) are already undertaking numerous measures to rig the elections in his favour. Some of the more serious steps taken by the NRM are re-election of the corrupt and biased Election Commission (EC), rejection of election reforms, arbitrary voter registration and mobile polling stations. More worrying still is the increased violent repression directed at opposition supporters. Last year the NRM trained 2000 youth militia, whose assignment is to 'keep an eye' on the opposition. The reappointment of the EC provoked dissatisfaction among women in the opposition 'Inter-Party Cooperation' alliance, who attempted to deliver a petition demanding the resignation of the Commissioners. The women were met with brutal police force and later detained.

These instances are all political provocations that are increasing the risk of violent clashes between government and opposition before and after the 2011 elections. With the recent experience of post-election Kenya and Zimbabwe, Sweden, along with other EU countries, has a

responsibility and obligation to facilitate dialogue between the parties and put pressure on the regime in Uganda to create a more level playing-field – one conducive to free, fair and non-violent elections for 2011.

Joint Presidential Candidate

Despite this, the opposition is getting stronger by the day – in particular thanks to the Inter-Party Cooperation (IPC). The IPC is a political alliance between the four opposition parties - Jeema, FDC, UPC and CP - and is the result of an alliance-building project that the Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC) has been running since 2007 together with three other Swedish political organisations. The four parties are committed through the signing of the First Protocol to work towards a democratic government, a market economy, human rights and media freedom in Uganda. Furthermore, they recognize that it is only a functional multi-party democracy that can ensure a conflict-free, peaceful Uganda. Besides the factual alliance-building aspect of the project, it also contains elements of training for women and young politicians in order to develop the skills necessary to participate in political life.

During a week-long delegation trip to Uganda in December 2009, the KIC was witness to the signing of the Cooperation's Second Protocol. Apart from

obliging the four parties to cooperate for six more years, it also stipulates that the alliance will run in the general 2011 election with a joint presidential candidate – a unique development in East African politics. Interest in the Cooperation seems to be growing too, as three more parties are currently negotiating membership.

Promoting Dialogue

To this end, continued support and counselling for the alliance is crucial. Facilitating inter-party dialogue at national and district level is expected to be equally as important as a means for conflict and violence prevention. KIC therefore aims to finance district round-table discussions and seminars for women and young people in Uganda for a three year-period. Nevertheless, stronger forces are needed from both at home and abroad to ensure free, fair and non-violent elections so as to avoid a similar situation as that witnessed in Kenya in 2007. KIC is thus appealing to the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the European Parliament's Committee on Development and other stakeholders to make use of their influence to clearly state that people engaging in election fraud will be held to account. Moreover, the presence of democratic and electoral institutions such as IDEA and the South Africa-based EISA is needed before, during and after the elections.

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Georgia, a focus on local elections

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SILBA is member of ELF and is supporting democracy and freedom in Eastern European, in particular in Belarus and the Caucasus. The main goal of SILBA is to assist democratic political parties, youth organisations and NGO's in the new EU East European Member Countries and new Neighbouring Countries, with a strong focus on projects with and targeting youth.

On the right:
Mads Duedahl, city council member in Aalborg representing Venstre - Danish Liberal Party - at a polling station in central Tbilisi.

On the 30th of May Georgia held its first elections since the August War of 2008.

The elections were seen as a test of President Mikheil Saakashvili's popularity and, more importantly, as a test of Georgia's young democracy. For the first time ever the largest cities held direct mayoral elections. As by far the most important city in Georgia with more than a quarter of the country's population, Tbilisi was therefore chosen by Danish NGO SILBA as the focus of its election monitoring mission. Despite its small size, the mission was a very multinational one with participants from Denmark, Belarus, Poland, Armenia and Georgia. Election monitoring focused on the election day only, since full monitoring throughout

the entire campaign would have required much greater organizational capacities and resources.



International election observers from SILBA reported a number of minor irregularities, one of the most common being polling stations not having enough ballots which leads to arguments, loud discussions and general confusion. Furthermore, it was observed that some polling stations failed to provide translators for

ethnic Azeris, a problem as many of them can't read or understand Georgian. Finally, the counting process could be improved through better training and by clarifying the procedures used. The local elections showed that Georgia is moving in the right direction but that in order to become a consolidated democracy it will require electoral participation from all political parties. SILBA's report received huge interest from the Georgian media, especially from TV stations who were eager to interview the international observers. SILBA was also invited to the Georgian Parliament to present its conclusions and recommendations to members of a parliamentarian working group on electoral procedures.



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