



## Where Does European Democracy Support Funding Go?

Learn more about our [European Democracy Support Funding](#) dataset and how you can explore it through our interactive datatool. The dataset captures core democracy support from different European Institutions, European Union member states and Switzerland, Norway and the United Kingdom, which we refer to as European donors.

### What can you expect from the data tool?

The data tool allows the exploration of democracy support funding from European donors, showcasing the first iteration of a dataset focusing solely on democracy support funding. With this tool you can explore the results of the European Democracy Hub's first exercise in recategorising democracy related Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursements data from the sector code "*Government and Civil Society, general*", into 12 distinct categories of democracy support. The following nine categories were used to draw out the data on core democracy support, using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Creditor Reporting System: democratic participation and civil society, legislative support, human rights, elections, anti-corruption organisations and institutions, women's organisations and institutions, legal and judicial development, media and free flow of information, legislatures and political parties. These were checked for consistency and recategorised into the twelve categories of core democracy support.

This data can then be easily explored in two different ways.

First, you can look into **spending flows**, where you can review the different disbursements going from donors to recipient regions or countries, and the categories this aid falls into.



Here you can open each donor card and see how this support has evolved through time, the financial flows to each category and its corresponding recipients. At the end of each page, you can also find how this support is delivered. Do not forget to use the timeline filter to explore different years in more detail.

Second, you can look at the **geographic distribution** by accessing the map. There you can see a quick overview of the countries a donor focuses on in terms of their democracy support activities. You can also get a quick overview of how donors have supported different regional programmes. Make sure you use the timeframe filter to look into different years.

### **What is core democracy support?**

Core democracy support refers to those categories of aid that contribute to strengthening democracy overall e.g. helping strengthen democratic institutions, checks and balances and enabling citizens to participate in decision-making. The following 12 categories fit within this conceptualisation of core democracy support:

1. Civil and political rights
2. Civil society support
3. Civic and political education
4. Electoral assistance
5. Election observation & follow-up
6. Justice and the rule of law
7. Media support
8. Parliamentary strengthening
9. Political participation
10. Political party support
11. Political inclusion

## 12. Transparency & anticorruption

Many other types of aid can indirectly support democracy but we have chosen to focus on the core elements of democracy support. In future, we may look into obtaining data for other funding that indirectly supports democracy.

### **Limitations**

Reclassifying activities and creating new categories is an imperfect exercise that is limited both by the shortcomings of publicly available data and the complexity of defining democracy support. Despite these imitations this new dataset is informative in terms of better understanding spending in support of democracy worldwide.


Adding more granularity to the data by creating a larger set of categories for core democracy support means splitting some of the original categories into multiple new categories, and creating new categories that draw from multiple OECD categories. Some of the categories are focused on supporting specific actors and as such, they can be more easily disentangled - civil society support, parliamentary support, political party strengthening, media and free flow of information. Other categories are easy to determine based on the nature of the support, with this being rooted in established methodologies and frameworks - electoral assistance, and electoral support. Other categories are more difficult to distinguish due to their complexity and the nature of activities that are being reported in the original dataset - political inclusion, political participation, civil and political rights. Some categories suffer from fewer changes compared to their original OECD purpose code classification, such as media support and transparency & anti-corruption, where the recategorisation exercise implies a check for any programmes that are more focused on technical elements of governance rather than democracy. The exercise results in a set of


data where the sole focus is democracy support oriented activities that can be then explored through an online tool.


### What are the next steps?

The present dataset and its online data tool are a prototype that allows users to identify how much is actually being spent on democracy support. A new iteration of the dataset will soon be available. In the next development, users can expect minor adjustments to the categorisation of the data as we adapt our methodology to the updated dataset. If you have any questions about the data tool or the methodology, please reach out to Evelyn Mantoiu at [evelynmantoiu@epd.eu](mailto:evelynmantoiu@epd.eu)

## Democracy support funding dataset

 **2014 to 2020**

 **28 European donors**  
The dataset captures EU Institutions, 24 member states as well as Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

 **141 countries**  
**21 regional recipients**

Civic and Political Education	Transparency and Anti-corruption
Civil society support	Parliamentary strengthening
Political inclusion	Political party support
Political participation	Civil and political rights
Electoral assistance	Media support
Election observation & follow-up	Justice and the Rule of Law

The 12 categories of core democracy support

