

Where does the *European Endowment for Democracy (EED)*ⁱ stand today? – after 22 months of work.

- EED has supported democracy actors in **politically sensitive environments** and **during crisis and war**. We have responded to **unmet needs of local** organisations, who do not have the resources to manage usual European grants and reporting.
- The demand for EED is high: **22 months** after launching its on-line application, EED has received over **1,800 requests for support** (&growing by the day): ca. 54% from the Eastern Partnership countries, 38% from North Africa and the Middle East and 8% from around the globe (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Western Sahara & Russia).
- EED has assessed, selected and funded initiatives in **15 countries** of the EU Neighbourhood – **184** so far: 80 from North Africa and the Middle East, and 104 from the Eastern Partnership countries.

How is EED different from other non-profit organisations?

EED is a “unique” creation: a non-profit organisation under Belgian law, it is governed by the guidelines of all EU Member States, the European Commission, External Action Service (EEAS), individual members of the European Parliament (MEPs), as well as Civil Society experts. It was launched as a Polish “project” during its presidency of the EU, to “add value” to existing EU democracy support. Working tightly with all relevant partners, both during its initiative selection process and in strategic debates, EED has inspired greater donor coordination. It adds value and complements others’ democracy support, by:

- Adapting to local needs, in particular by ensuring full communications – including application forms – in Arabic, Russian, French and English.
- Supporting new actors and emerging political groups.
- Using flexible, simple and fast selection procedures.
- Sharing regular field feedback, EED contributes to the EU debate on democracy support priorities.

EED Success Stories

Supporting individuals, non-registered and for-profit organisations

In **Egypt**, during prime time TV, a national Egyptian station broadcast the EED-supported *Zee3 Enta* (“*Air it Yourself*”), a mobile studio show that gives Egyptian citizens the camera to express and share their political concerns and opinions. EED was only able to support the show’s producers, *People’s Marketing Campaign* (PMC), a for-profit organisation, as we support businesses who work on democracy in repressive environments, where NGOs can no longer operate. **See more:** democracyendowment.eu/we-support/express-yourself-through-video

“We feel betrayed by Europe. After pouring money following the Revolution, everyone has disappeared. EED comes with fresh air and hope. EED has provided political and moral support - to not only old established organisations but also to new actors.”
- Egyptian activist

Support to media in crisis and war

In **Ukraine**, EED helped **Donetsk Hromadske TV** start up and locally produce reports independent from state-controlled media, providing citizens of the Donbas region with an alternative source of news. Its editor-in-chief received the international “Freedom of the Media” award from the *Canadian Journalists for Freedom of Speech*.

In **Kharkiv**, Ukraine, the independent **TV ATN** studio was attacked by armed men in spring 2014. EED funding helped it purchase new broadcasting equipment and resume broadcasting at very short notice.

In Syria, EED supported the printing and distribution of free media. The **Association de soutien aux médias libres** and a Syrian grassroots activist group provide equipment and other support to a number of Syrian pro-democracy print media. They have thus been able to increase their printing and distribute the newspapers across the country.

„To protect our team and avoid any distribution delays, our offices are underground. As the military base is in the West of the city, we have our printers in the East of the building. As the bombs usually fall during the day, we work at night.“ - Fadi from the “Association des soutien aux médias libres”

Encouraging civic participation through creative communications

Over 3 million YouTube users have watched “*Mantsayadch*”, a music video and citizen campaign calling voters to register. NGO **Marocains Pluriels** and private *Hit Radio* worked together with famous Moroccan pop and rap singers to compose the song, produce the video and inspire interest in elections. As a result of the success of the initiative, Moroccan authorities extended the registration deadline and set up an on-line form at www.listeselectorales.ma, gathering 250,000 new voter registrations from young people.

“The support of EED for ‘Mantsayadch’ campaign was essential as no other institution had started their planning process for activities linked to 2015 election at that time.”

- Younes Boumeihdi from *Hit Radio*

Transition from NGO to political sphere

In **Ukraine**, an activist from the EED-funded *Reanimation Package of Reforms*, Hanna Hopko, has been elected a member of the **Verkhovna Rada**. She is among the new MPs who EED supported previously as civil society actors who are bringing the voice of *EuroMaidan* into the legislature and **pushing for reforms** called for during the **civil society movement**.

Seed funding

Launched in June 2014 with EED seed funding, *European Pravda* provides objective information on Ukraine-EU relations and the country’s state of democracy. Set up by two journalists who had previously worked for *Kommersant Ukraine* until its Moscow-based owners closed the newspaper, the team has grown to six journalists and reaches an audience of over 200,000 daily readers. Closely cooperating with Ukraine’s most popular news site *Ukrainska Pravda*, *European Pravda* articles are regularly republished.

“For many years Ukrainian society suffered from a lack of non-biased and professional information on the EU and on Ukraine-EU relations, as well as of lack of journalists covering the European issues. This is a challenge we are tackling.”

- Sergei Sergiyenko, Editor-in-chief

Emergency funding

Near Idleb Syria, days after jihadist militia seized six media workers and confiscated or destroyed **Kafranbel Media Centre**’s equipment, EED helped to keep it functioning and upgrade its security.

The Kafranbel Media Centre was established in the early days of the Syrian uprising and has been particularly vocal in denouncing violations committed both by regime and rebel forces. The banners and drawings produced in Kafranbel have become a powerful symbol of non-violent resistance.

Within days, EED saved **Azadliq**, one of the only independent Azerbaijan newspapers, from closure when its bank accounts were frozen following a controversial fine.

“The struggle for freedom of speech and democracy requires energetic and constant work. No matter how big these challenges are, one should never abandon the struggle for these values. The positive outcome will surely come, regardless of the obstacles.”

- Rahim Hajiyev, editor-in-chief of *Azadliq* newspaper

ⁱ Statistics from 30 June 2015.