

Working Title:
Handbook of Youth Engagement

A tool for increased youth participation in the Democratic Renewal

Objective:

Highlighting inspiring and successful examples of initiatives and projects that have enabled young people to meaningfully participate and make a positive impact in democracy support, post-conflict reconciliation, fighting corruption, protecting human rights, countering polarization, increasing participation in democratic processes, and protecting the environment. The handbook will work as a record of efficient initiatives that are worth being replicated or scaled up.

The Summit for Democracy's Youth Political and Civic engagement Cohort will leverage the experience of youth organizations and leaders, or organisations working with a youth participation agenda around the globe to identify key policy, institutional and other enabling factors that allow meaningful youth engagement in society.

Based on concrete case studies ranging from good governance, fighting corruption, protecting human rights, through economic growth, health, countering polarization in public life, increasing participation in democratic processes, protecting the environment, peace and reconciliation efforts, and ethnic integration, up to driving democratic change and/or providing humanitarian relief, the Youth Participation Cohort will produce a handbook enshrining the knowledge and good practices of young people from various initiatives and organizations that were successful in achieving positive change in the society or community.

The case studies will identify key enabling factors that allowed and/or contributed to each successful youth participation initiative collected. These factors should include but not be limited to governmental policies, existence of institutional support, civil society/advocacy enabling environment, funding mechanisms and other factors that could be replicated in other countries.

EDYN, the European Commission, Nepal, Ghana, AfricTivistes and the European Partnership for Democracy and member organizations of the Cohort will use their international networks and leverage to advocate not only to governments and national institutions, policymakers, public opinion leaders, media, but also to community leaders, schools and other local stakeholders to adopt the enabling factors identified in the case studies and thus enable more youth leadership and participation in driving societal changes.

Background:

This initiative is taking place in the light of the Summit for Democracy's Youth Political and Civic Engagement Cohort, also called the Youth Participation Cohort. The co-leadership of the Youth Political and Civic Engagement Cohort by the European Commission, Ghana, Nepal, EPD, AfricTivistes, and EDYN also underscores the importance of promoting Youth ownership of the Democratic values' legacy. EDYN volunteered to spearhead the Youth Engagement Handbook project along with all interested members of the cohort.

EDYN is a coalition of young pro-democracy leaders, civic activists, politicians, and journalists, ages 18 to 32, from 23 countries who are committed to advancing democratic dialogue and sustaining democratic values through their political and civic activities while growing their professional skills and experience.

Although they differ in their political views, EDYN members are committed to working together to defend freedom, support fundamental human rights, and safeguard democratic progress.

Project output:

Youth Engagement Handbook enshrining the knowledge and good practice of young people from various initiatives and organizations around the globe who were successful in promoting democracy, achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

The Handbook will identify:

- enabling factors that allowed and/or contributed to the successful youth participation initiative, and/or;
- lessons-learnt, relevant to keep in record to improve future initiatives.

These enabling factors and lessons learnt should include but not be limited to governmental policies, existence of institutional support, civil society/advocacy enabling environment funding mechanisms and other factors that can be replicated in other countries.

Recognizing the diversity of cultural, political, socio-economic and other contexts that affect the feasibility of implementation, the enabling factors enshrined in the Handbook shall not be perceived as one-size-fits-all solution, but rather as a list of good practices offered for consideration and further localization.

Desired project outcome and impact:

Better policy, institutional and other support framework for inclusive youth participation and engagement in driving societal changes as a result of enabling factors that were identified in the Handbook and implemented by individual countries.

Success measurement:

- Long term indicator: Number of **enabling factors implemented** in individual countries
- Short term proxy indicator: Number of **memoranda signed** with relevant stakeholders across individual countries (TBC)

Target group / audience:

Primary:

- **Governments, institutions, policymakers, public opinion leaders, media** and other stakeholders influencing the environment and framework for youth engagement in individual countries
- **Democracy Support organisations** with a youth participation agenda
- **Young changemakers**, playing an active role in advocacy leading to more supportive and inclusive environment for youth engagement

Secondary:

- **Contributing parties, youth movements and organizations with youth programming** sharing best practices and knowledge.

Areas may include (topics):

Case studies of impactful youth engagement may include but are not be limited to:

- Advancing youth engagement in public life and participation in the democratic process
- Advancing respect for human rights, diversity and inclusion
- Advancing rule of law and transparency

- Conflict prevention / post-conflict reconciliation and bridging political, generational, religious, cultural and ethnic spectra
- Countering polarization and finding the common ground
- In/formal education and in/formal civic engagement
- Developing neighbor and international relations
- Countering hoaxes and foreign malign influence, advancing access to information
- Developing entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem
- Fighting brain-drain
- Driving rural and regional development
- Advancing environmental protection
- Providing humanitarian relief

Timeline and Activities:

November – December 2022: Project outline and methodology, outreach to contributing organizations from the Cohort, Contributing partners drafting their case studies

January 2022: Communication between the editorial team and the contributing partners, finalization of the case studies

February 2023: Graphic design, forewords and finalization of the Handbook

Team:

- Outreach and Project Management: **Juela Hamati (EDYN)**
- Methodology and Drafting: **team reinforcement needed or task to be outsourced**
- Graphic Design and layout: **outsourced by EDYN (tbc)**