



## Technology for Democracy Cohort - Alliance of Democracies: Concept Note

Alliance of Democracies Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 2017 by former Danish Prime Minister and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to strengthen the world's democracies at a time of self-doubt and growing autocracy. The vision of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation is to become the world's leading "megaphone" for the cause of democracy. The Foundation is dedicated to the advancement of democracy and free markets across the globe.

The yearly Copenhagen Democracy Summit is one of the main activities. Since the first Copenhagen Democracy Summit was opened by Joe Biden in 2018, we have grown into a top tier forum uniting global leaders, media, business, and democracy activists from around the world. On June 9-10, 2022, we hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Copenhagen Democracy Summit. This year's keynote speakers included among others Barack Obama – the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Volodymyr Zelensky - President of Ukraine, Roberta Metsola - President of the European Parliament, Tsai Ing-wen - President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Ingrida Šimonytė - Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania. We also dedicated a special session at this year's summit to our Ukrainian Democracy and Tech entrepreneur fellows. See recap here: <https://youtu.be/KqmwAlyVkie>.

### Democracy Tech Entrepreneur Fellowship

Making technology work for democracy is the defining challenge of our time. Disinformation, deep fakes, surveillance, and illicit facial recognition are all dangers to democracy from the wrong uses of technology. Our fellowship was established against this backdrop, with the aim to support tech entrepreneurs with innovative solutions to democracies' problems. We recognize the need to build from the bottom up, while bringing out what the free world does best: innovation, entrepreneurship, and new ideas.

For the past two years, Alliance of Democracies Foundation, through its Democracy Tech Fellowship program, has equipped entrepreneurs with tech solutions to democracies' problems with the know-how of starting and scaling democratically driven ventures. Our fellows have been selected from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, which also face conventional and cyber threats to their democracies from Russia. We have provided the democracy tech fellows with masterclasses, mentorship and invited them to showcase their tech solutions at Copenhagen Democracy Summit.

### Objectives

The Democracy Tech Entrepreneur Fellowship has three overarching objectives:

- 1) To promote and uphold democratic values by nurturing a flourishing culture of democracy and technology entrepreneurship.
- 2) To increase cooperation amongst democracy and tech entrepreneurs in target countries, and their counterparts in the world's democracies.
- 3) To build a community of democracy and tech entrepreneurs to share and exchange innovative ideas on how to promote and uphold democratic values in the region.

**All the above align with the overarching objective of strand two: harnessing the potential of technology/data for the benefit of open, democratic societies.** We will dedicate all activities for the next cycle of our fellowship program to achieving this objective, while contributing to the overarching aim of the technology for democracy cohort, as part of the overall 'Year of Action' to support the Summit for Democracy process.

## Planned Activities

### 1: Virtual Launch Event to Launch Call for Applications - October 14, 2022.



To launch our call for applications and theme for the 2023 Democracy Tech Entrepreneur Fellowship, we organized an online launch event where we promoted tech solutions that have protected Ukraine's digital sovereignty during the war. But more can and should be done. Democracy tech solutions are still needed to help Ukraine win the digital war and rebuild back. What tech solutions are still crucial to this end and where should the freedom loving hackers refocus their energies. Our call for application is now open. The deadline to apply is November 20. You can read more

about and invite people in your network to apply to the fellowship here: <https://www.allianceofdemocracies.org/the-demtech-fellowship-program>

2: **Moldova DemTech Conference and Hackathon.** We're co-organizing the first ever Moldova DemTech Conference together with Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD) in Chisinau on **November 4-5, 2022.**



On the sidelines of the conference, we are organizing a **Democracy Tech Hackathon**, to innovate new solutions that will advance technology for freedom and democracy at home and abroad. You can read more about the Democracy Tech hackathon here: <https://www.allianceofdemocracies.org/hackathon-moldova/>

3: **Democracy Tech Hackathon at DataFest Tbilisi (November 17-19).** Before our deadline for the call for applications on November 20, we will organize our last regional outreach event in Tbilisi, Georgia together with ForSet. Information about DataFest Tbilisi and the planned hackthon will be updated here: <https://www.datafest.ge/>.

4: **The Democracy Tech Entrepreneur Fellowship** will kick start early January until May, and the fellows will be invited to Denmark to pitch their solutions to democracies' problems at the annual Copenhagen Democracy Summit (May 15 – 16, 2023). Follow-up alumni activities will be conducted thereafter. For more info on the fellowship and the above activities, contact our Project Associate, Richard Walakira ([rwa@allianceofdemocracies.org](mailto:rwa@allianceofdemocracies.org)).