



European  
Commission

# THE EU: NURTURING, PROTECTING, AND STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

## HOW DOES THE EU NURTURE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY THROUGH ITS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS?

THE EU USES ITS PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT TO BUILD ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE WORLD TO:



**MOBILISE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS  
TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION  
ABOUT THE EU**



**FIGHT CYBER THREATS AND EXTERNAL  
INTERFERENCE TO PROTECT  
EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY**



**CONNECT CIVIL SOCIETY  
TO NURTURE UNDERSTANDING  
OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY AND  
ADVANCE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS ABROAD**

## MOBILISING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE EU



The EU strengthens democracies worldwide and protects European democracy from verifiably false or misleading information that can cause public harm, while providing journalists with accurate information on the EU.

- ▶ **Be a credible partner in the fight against disinformation and hate speech in the context of election campaigns** by connecting journalism students in 2018 in **Indonesia**
- ▶ Support independent media in **Russia** by training 36 young Russian journalists in independent journalism and EU journalistic standards between 2017 and 2019
- ▶ Connect 16 EU-trained junior journalists and key influencers in **Mexico** to work together on how to **deliver reliable and consistent information** on the EU and its values
- ▶ **Debunk misperceptions** of the EU by educating 30 journalists from **New Zealand** during the World Journalism Educators' Congress in July 2016
- ▶ **Fight disinformation and misperceptions about the EU** in the long-term by equipping **US** teachers with first-hand information about the EU during a Study Tour in different Member States, allowing them to use accurate information about the EU and its values with their students

Journalism students in Indonesia that participated in training sessions on combatting disinformation and hate speech in election campaigns

**520**

EU funding to fight disinformation through the Public Outreach Partnerships Programme

**€2m**

## FIGHTING EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE AND CYBER THREATS TO PROTECT EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY



The EU is protecting EU democracy from external interference by shaping global cyber norms at the United Nations.

- ▶ Build alliances on rules-based cyberspace governance and state behaviour, as was done at the first meeting of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Cyber Norms in December 2019
- ▶ Create global consensus on applying international law in cyberspace to address cyber-related challenges

## CONNECTING CIVIL SOCIETY TO NURTURE UNDERSTANDING OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY AND ADVANCE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD



The EU nurtures European democracy by ensuring that European and foreign civil society and academia have their say in bilateral relations.

By building bridges between Europe and Latin America and Asia through workshops and cultural collaboration, the EU leads by example and strengthens European civil society for an inclusive Future of Europe

- ▶ Create greater understanding of the EU and its democratic values by bringing together **journalists, youth, artists, and policy makers from Europe and Asia** to exchange best practices through the [Asia-Europe Foundation](#) (ASEF) and during the Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM)
- ▶ Empower young people that normally have few opportunities to engage in policy making through collaboration platforms and digital labs such as the EU-Canada Youth Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue that improve understanding of EU democratic values
- ▶ Organise debates, study tours, and seminars to promote shared values such as green energy and consumer rights, through the [EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogues](#) and the [Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue](#)
- ▶ Connect **think tanks and academia** through the EU and China Think Tank exchanges to promote the implementation of evidence-based policies that improve mutual understanding between China and the EU, with the aim of advancing the EU's priorities
- ▶ Position the EU as a reliable interlocutor on human rights and democracy by **stimulating public debate on the abolition of the death penalty and the criminal justice** system in Japan including creating the first-ever website, [CrimelInfo](#), dedicated to providing Members of Parliament, the media, the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations, and stakeholders with objective and fact-based information on the death penalty in Japan

*“As a Minister of Justice (2011-2012), I tried to promote public debate on the death penalty. However, debate is only possible when citizens have access to accurate information. In June 2019, I co-founded the ‘Citizens’ Committee to Abolish Capital Punishment (CCACP)’ to contribute to the abolitionist debate. CCACP’s website relies on information provided by CrimelInfo. CrimelInfo has quickly established itself as the first website to provide accurate information on the Japanese death penalty.”*

Hideo Hiraoka, the 88<sup>th</sup> Minister of Justice & Co-founder of CCACP