



International Centre for Democratic Transition



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION (ICDT)

is a non-profit organization based in Budapest that collects the experiences of past democratic transitions and shares them with those who are determined to follow that path. Instead of promoting democracy in general, the ICDT sets more concrete and pragmatic goals, concentrating on democratic transition as a process. The Centre strives to show how dozens of young democracies have made and are making the transition, so that those who set off on this difficult journey from dictatorship to democracy in the future may learn from the successes as well as the failures. So far, over 30 personalities from the areas of international politics, economics, the arts and the sciences joined the ICDT's International Board of Directors and over 40 democracies delegated members to the ICDT's Governmental Advisory Board.

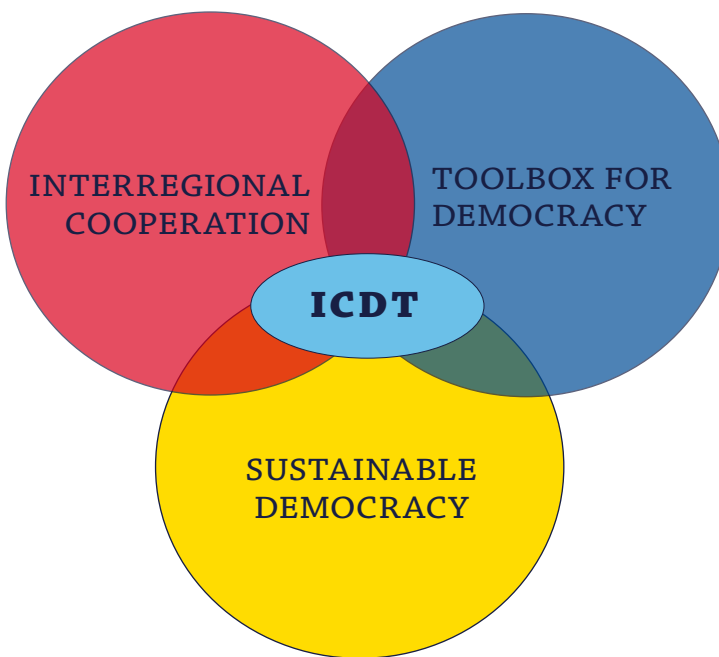
Promoting Democratic Transition Worldwide

PROGRAM AREAS

The ICDT mainly implements projects on the ground in cooperation with local partners. Additionally the Centre conducts research programs to lay the conceptual base for future initiatives. The following overlapping program areas give an overview of the ICDT's thematic focus:

Promoting interregional cooperation between governments and civil societies of neighboring countries to enable democratic transition and to ensure regional stability.

Providing technical assistance and learning opportunities to new and fragile democracies, concentrating on particular and practical elements of democracy such as elections and freedom of speech.



Strengthening the involvement of often unprotected social groups – such as minorities and women – in both the process of transition and the functioning of democracy.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The project highlights include some selected projects of the ICDT from all three program areas.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF BELARUSIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

This project educated and trained Belarusian women in project management, communication, and advocacy. The ICDT established a network between Belarusian women NGOs enabling them to work together and promote women's rights.



SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS OF MALI, MOROCCO, AND MONGOLIA



Together with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDEF), the ICDT promoted effective legal institutions and mechanisms to protect the rights of marginalized groups in Mali,

Morocco, and Mongolia. By increasing the understanding of governmental officials, journalists, and NGO representatives, the ICDT considerably improved the democratic dialogue in the three target countries. In cooperation with experts from Central and Eastern Europe, participants formulated policy recommendations and implementation strategies for their respective countries.

VISEGRÁD TO VIŠEGRAD

The "Višeград to Višeград" project conveyed the political, institutional and sectoral experiences of the Visegrad Four (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) to generate similar regional cooperation among the countries of the Western Balkans. Target countries were the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia.



INCREASING LEBANESE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

By sharing the experiences accumulated in Central and Southeast Europe in the field of women's rights, the ICDT strengthened the public participation and social rights of women in Lebanon. The Centre trained a selected group of female politicians, lawyers, journalists, and NGO activists from different regions and religious communities in leadership, negotiating, coalition building, campaign planning and execution, lobbying, and presenting their cause to the media. In the end the group formed an own NGO and organized a nation-wide Solidarity Day to highlight the disadvantageous social and health conditions of (female) farmers.



MINORITIES IN TRANSITION

By collecting data and experiences, the ICDT analyzed the roles of different minorities within the process of democratic transition on a cross-regional basis in South, Central, and Eastern Europe and raised awareness of the challenges these minorities face. The outcome of the project is the expert report "Minorities in South, Eastern, and Central Europe", published as first part of the ICDT's Paper Series Publications.



BELARUS TASK FORCE

The "Belarus Task Force" project gathered intellectuals, political leaders, experts and researchers both from Belarus and outside to analyze the situation and suggest a strategy for the international community towards Belarus. The Task Force members include, among others, Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of Poland; Professor Mihajlov, Rector of the European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania; Pavol Demes, Director of the German Marshall Fund's Bratislava office; and Markus Meckel, last Foreign Minister of the GDR.



DONORS

The ICDT would like to thank all governments, organizations, foundations, partners and individuals who provided support to the organization. Please find an updated list of donors on our homepage: <http://www.icdt.hu>

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