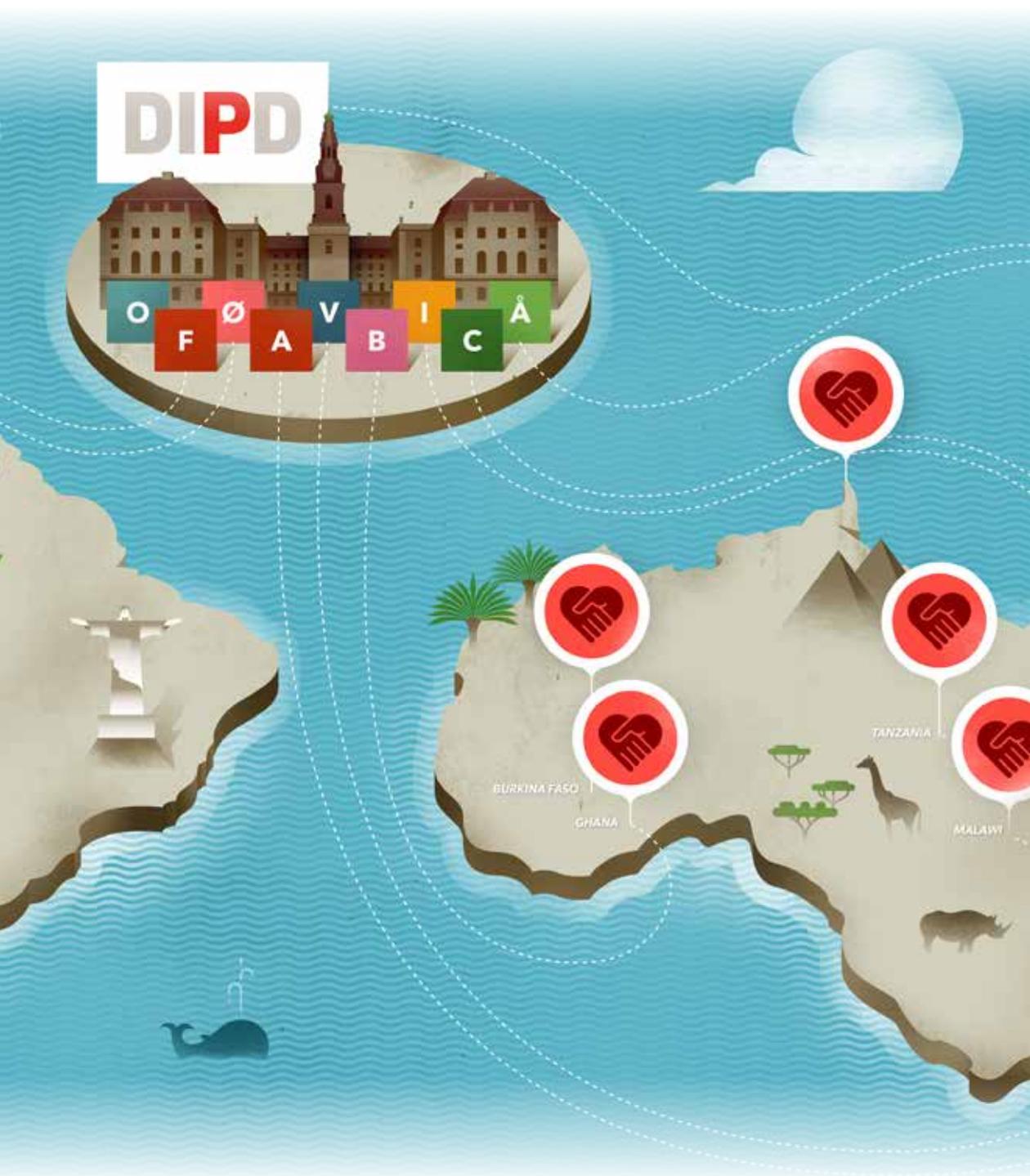


STRATEGY 2018-2020

PARTIES & DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD



DIPD

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY
DANSK INSTITUT FOR PARTIER OG DEMOKRATI



The map of the countries, where DIDP and the Danish parties are engaged in, is in constant change. By the end of 2017, activities or planning were taking place in these countries.

FOREWORD

The Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) was established by the Danish Parliament in 2010. It came about as the result of a desire among the Danish political parties that Danish development cooperation should help further the development of democratic, well-functioning and cooperative political parties. Today, we have a far better understanding of what we are good at and what works in practice.

The bill adopted by the Danish Parliament in 2010 established a clear framework for the nature and scope of DIPD's work. This strategy, "Parties & Democracy in the World", outlines the board's prioritization of initiatives and resources in the period 2018 - 2020.

The Danish Parliament has opted for an approach where we establish **democracy projects** through the Danish political parties, multiparty **democracy projects** through the institute, and a combination thereof. We will continue with this approach, and in the coming years we will work to strengthen the interplay between these different types of projects, which will ensure that the parties of the Danish Parliament are involved in all types of projects to an even greater degree. The direct involvement of the political parties must be brought into play to the greatest extent possible and in every possible way.

We have developed themes and approaches that build on **Danish political experiences** and areas in which we have **particular expertise**, for instance when it

comes to the importance of volunteerism in politics, the participation of women in politics, engaging the youth in political parties, the parties' local anchoring, and dialogue platforms. The aim is not to export a Danish model of democracy, but rather to present ideas and experiences stemming from our own democratic development that may serve as inspiration for other countries.

Democracy faces difficult circumstances in many parts of the world. The Danish model possesses many strengths and has led to outstanding results. We want to share the dialogue, cooperation, and the Danish form of democracy with the world with a view to inspiring democratic development in other countries. However, we most often work in countries, which are not stable democracies, and challenges and setbacks are accordingly to be expected. There is **no simple magic formula** that makes political parties or systems democratic.

That said, through long-term partnerships characterized by **mutual trust and transparency**, we believe that the resources at the institute's disposal can support and contribute towards democratic development in selected countries. We will also ensure that knowledge is exchanged between countries and that Denmark, too, benefits from these experiences. This strategy is based on the experiences that the political parties and institute have accumulated over the past few years. Together with Denmark's development cooperation and humanitarian policies and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, DIPD's work **constitutes an important component of Danish foreign aid**, whether it be in relation to the work between Danish political parties and foreign political parties or the work to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties in selected countries.

Chairman
Henrik Bach Mortensen

Director
Rasmus Helveg Petersen



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Not all partnerships are successful. In Zimbabwe, for example, it has not been possible to facilitate a constructive dialogue between the three parties in the parliament despite several years of efforts. Similarly, in Tanzania a polarization of politics has been growing to the extent that it is even harder today for the parties to engage in dialogue than it was a decade ago. Danish political parties have also pulled out of collaborations in Egypt, Honduras and Ghana.

VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

The law establishing the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy provides the institute with a mandate to contribute to the strengthening of democratic culture, political parties and multi-party systems in selected developing countries. This mandate has been expressed in the form of a vision, a mission, and key principles.

” VISION OF THE INSTITUTE

To contribute to the development of well-functioning, democratic political parties, multi-party systems, and other institutions as central stakeholders in a democratic culture in selected developing countries.

” MISSION OF THE INSTITUTE

To establish partnerships with political parties, multi-party platforms, and other institutions through the active involvement of Danish political parties, Danish stakeholders, and international partners.

PRINCIPLES OF THE INSTITUTE

That democratization builds upon and is strengthened by the respect for human rights, particularly civil and political rights, and rights like freedom of assembly, freedom to organize, freedom of expression, and the protection of minorities;

- That the institute takes its point of departure in **democratic principles** rather than one particular political system consisting of particular institutions and processes;
- That the institute considers **political parties as key actors** in a parliamentary democracy, where parties are tasked with a number of key democratic responsibilities and interacting with e.g. the media and civil society;
- That all the activities and partnerships are firmly **grounded in a political analysis** of the environment and conditions, determining the context of our work. This analysis also focuses on areas where Danish experiences can contribute in a qualified manner, in cooperation with and complementary to other Danish and international efforts to strengthening democracy;
- The partnership should be seen as a **meeting of political cultures** with international partners, where common democratic challenges can be discussed on a basis of equality, including the need to strengthen volunteerism and popular participation in the work of political parties both in Denmark and abroad;
- That DIPD's commitment is formed on the basis of a partnership, characterised by long-term collaboration, principles of trust and credibility and with targets and results formulated through thorough analysis and dialogue.

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In Malawi, the five political parties (with representatives in parliament) chose to collaborate with the Danish Liberal Party and the Danish Socialist People's Party on finding a way for the country's large generation of young people to actively and constructively participate in the parties' political work. Senior politicians from the two Danish parties have met with Malawian party leaders, completing exercises together and preparing concrete plans aimed at involving young people and ensuring that they have influence and responsibilities in the political parties. The youth divisions of the two Danish parties have exchanged experiences directly with young Malawians during a visit to Denmark and two visits to Malawi. Several very different youth initiatives are now underway in all five parties.



STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

What is needed to promote democratic development and well-functioning democratic political parties, multi-party systems, and institutions? Each partnership is unique, and a strategy for change must be based on a thorough analysis as well as common objectives and a consensus on which methods to use in order to transform objectives into results.

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DIPD's strategy for change takes as its point of departure that party systems must be strengthened, particularly the functions of political parties in relation to citizens and governance. Dialogue and cooperation between political parties, as well as the parties' communication with other actors, are crucial prerequisites for change. Both areas require a thorough analysis of the system in which the political parties operate, e.g. electoral systems and the roles of other actors, as well as an analysis of the parties in relation to their capacity, resources, and commitment. Naturally, such an analysis must be a continuous process. There are two objectives and corresponding efforts that are crucial to democratic development.

1. Political parties' capacity to operate in a democratic manner, making them both representative and accountable

Political parties are key actors in democratic societies. They serve as channels for the choices of the electorate and thus the ability for citizens to influence their national parliament and government. They ensure that the electorate can take a stance on different party platforms and keep politicians accountable. A strengthening of these **key democratic functions** in political parties results in a stronger democracy and helps ensure that more qualified candidates run for office. This may be facilitated through the participation of citizens in political work at the local level; more democratic processes for decision-making within the parties; increased inclusion of women and youth, and improvements on good governance through stronger mechanisms for accountability and transparency. The two crucial democratic functions of **representation and accountability** are particularly important.

2. Political dialogue and cooperation between parties in a multi-party system

In young democracies and countries characterized by deep internal divisions, **cooperation and dialogue** between the political parties contribute to a more balanced and less conflict-ridden political environment. It also paves the way for reaching common solutions to difficult challenges. Cooperation and dialogue also result in a better understanding of political opponents and thus opportunities to reach settlements and joint reform measures aimed at improving the overall framework for the party system. Strengthening the internal democratic culture within the parties through the **exchange of experiences and good practices** is also important. These types of initiatives can also contribute towards democratic **legislation for and regulation of** the party system.



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The Conservative People's Party's partnership with the party CHADEMA in Tanzania has been aimed at women and young people. During the 2015 parliamentary election, they succeeded in mobilizing more women and young people than in 2010. 19% of the candidates in the constituencies were women, and the proportion of elected women rose from 4% to 18%. Because a proportion of seats are already reserved for women, there are now more women than men in CHADEMA's parliamentary group. The proportion of young people also increased, with 10% of the parliamentary group now being individuals under the age of 30.

ACTION AREAS FOR 2018-2020

Relying on a combination of experience, expertise, needs, and resources, we will prioritize five action areas over the next three years. DIPD will offer its expertise and experience through the Danish political parties, the DIPD secretariat, and a broad international network. This knowledge will be used in the projects to strengthen the parties' democratic functions as well as cross-party dialogue and cooperation.

1. DIPD will strengthen representation in the organization of political parties

→ We will work to strengthen our partners' ability to represent and involve members and politically interested citizens at the local level. **Women and youth representation** has been chosen as a focus area because we in Denmark have a lot of useful inspiration, experience, and expertise to offer in this regard and because we believe that women, young people, and dialogue are extremely important ingredients to foster democracy. In addition, we will strengthen **local representation** in the parties' organizational structure in order to ensure broad influence. We will work with partners on concrete initiatives that enable them to ensure that women, youth and representatives from remoter areas are actively involved in the party's organization.

2. DIPD will strengthen the development of the parties' internal decision-making processes, their policy development and communication with the public and electorate

→ We will work together with partners on establishing **internal procedures and policy development**, which implies that all important decisions should be adopted in a democratic, transparent manner, and enhance our partners' capacity to **communicate with the public and electorate**, who help keep the parties accountable.

3. DIPD will help strengthen political dialogue and cooperation between parties in a multi-party system

→ We will work together with partners to **create and use platforms** to promote interparty dialogue and communication between the parties and other political and non-political actors. We will also assist our partners in working together on developing reform initiatives relating to the conduct of parties and party members, particularly in connection to elections.

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4. DIPD will strengthen communication and knowledge sharing

- DIPD will actively **communicate** with politically interested groups and individuals in the Danish public. A communication strategy is being prepared in which DIPD will identify target groups and make sure to actively interact with these and provide them with relevant information.
- The **knowledge** that DIPD accumulates via its many contacts in connection with its promotion of democracy in selected countries must be collected and processed. Therefore, DIPD must seek out partnerships with universities and other knowledge institutions so that DIPD's unique knowledge and practical experiences are also used to contribute to regular research on democracy promotion.
- DIPD will systematically collect knowledge from projects and consolidate this into **methods**, which can be used across projects.

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”*In partnership with IDEG, a Ghana-based institute, the Danish Social-Liberal Party works with a series of small parties in Ghana. The aim is to ensure that there continues to be alternatives to the two major, dominant parties, whom the power otherwise switches between in the West African country.*”

5. DIPD will strengthen the organization of the Danish political parties' administrative resources, which will include developing a simple and uniform objective-to-result system

- DIPD will ease the **administrative work** in connection with party-to-party partnerships by directly lending support to the parties. This includes continuing work with the development of a **single and simple objective-to-result system**, which can be used to show whether the expected objectives and results are reached. Among other things, this will require increased capacity for the development of a monitoring and evaluation system that supports the parties' work and ensures uniformity across DIPD's projects in relation to planning, reporting and evaluation. Additional resources are a prerequisite to ensure that this effort is completed at a satisfactory level.

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”*In the partnership between the Liberal Alliance and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, African Students for Liberty and the Eastern Africa Policy Center, efforts are made to achieve a proper policy dialogue between civil society and political candidates at local level in Kenya*”

” In the Social Democratic Party’s partnership with SocDem Asia, participatory processes from the development of the party’s new manifesto have formed the basis for sharing experiences. The Social Democratic Party’s new manifesto, also called “Denmark’s biggest political dialogue”, has been the source of inspiration for similar processes relating to policy development in Myanmar, the Philippines, and Nepal, where the focus has been on inclusive development of social democratic policies at a national level.



SELECTION OF PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES

In this strategy period, there will be a particular focus on creating synergies between party-to-party and multi-party partnerships. DIPD cannot be active everywhere at once and must therefore decide which developing and transition countries we will focus on as well as the partners with whom we work. We rely on several criteria in relation to our choice of partners and countries.

- Long-term collaborations with existing partners will take priority along with countries where the parties have the desire and resources to commit to further democratic development. These are projects and places where results have been achieved and contacts have been established, and it is therefore only natural to continue and further develop these collaborations. Significant results have been achieved in many countries including Malawi, Swaziland, Bhutan, Nepal, and Myanmar.
- DIPD will prioritize countries and partners where it is possible to leverage Denmark’s own experiences to establish interaction and synergies between party-to-party partnerships and multi-party partnerships.
- The Danish political parties’ collaborations are also selected on the basis of the countries in which they can identify political parties that are suitable to work with.
- A number of Danish ambassadors to very different countries have requested that DIPD gets involved in their specific country. These embassies have observed a need for support for democratization. DIPD’s engagement in Nepal came about as a result of such a request. The engagement of a Danish embassy is therefore also a factor that is considered when selecting partner countries. Additional resources will be required in order for DIPD to respond to these types of requests.
- The relationship between ambitions, resources, and results is considered very carefully when deciding on the number of countries and partners.

” Since 2011, the Socialist People’s Party’s partnership with the socialist party MAS in Bolivia has influenced how conflicts are handled within the party and with other political actors. The Socialist People’s Party has shared experiences on how democratic organs and a trained conflict management team can improve the political climate. A team consisting of 26 conflict mediators has been trained to mediate and manage conflicts within the party and to deliver training in local communities so that more people are equipped with the tools to manage future conflicts. More than 700 party members in leadership positions and over 50 members of parliament have participated in this training, acquiring concrete tools to approach conflicts in a constructive manner.



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The multi-party programmes are proving fruitful in for example Nepal, where parties, that used to be in armed conflict, now interact as members of a dialogue platform established by DIPD. The same type of dialogue platform was recently established in Myanmar, where the young democracy is fighting to gain foothold, following decades of military rule.

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In Nepal, The Alternative is collaborating with a newly established party in a knowledge-sharing project focused on communication and dissemination. Democratic pillars such as transparency, inclusion, and co-creation are prerequisites to a vibrant democracy and at the very heart of The Alternative's political work. That is why The Alternative is supporting the Nepalese party with disseminating these values in versatile ways based on the former's own experiences with establishing a new party and communicating with the public.

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Even though the space and environment for political parties in Swaziland remains extremely restrictive, the Red-Green Alliance continued their ongoing partnership with the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO). To be openly affiliated with PUDEMO has had dire consequences for many political activists throughout the party's existence, and sustaining strong leadership at local level is thus highly challenging. In 2016, the partnership conducted a number of leadership schools locally.



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DEMOCRACY IS DIALOGUE

Democracy is dialogue. Denmark's experience as a cooperating democracy, where political parties from both sides of the aisle come together to make comprehensive agreements that outlive governments and elections, is quite unique. It is a practice that requires dialogue and trust between parties that are generally on opposing sides. Dialogue is the key.

DIPD's work revolves around strengthening political dialogue abroad. This applies to the dialogue that takes place both within and between political parties. DIPD's work is also about ensuring that everyone can participate in this dialogue, including women, young people, and those who live in more remote areas of the country.

Political dialogue is under pressure in many places around the world. Democracy is under threat by established or emerging authoritarian regimes and by political populists or religious extremists, whose aim is to topple established institutions and do away with democracy and freedom. It has become harder to be a proponent of multi-party democracy. DIPD and its international work is even more crucial today than when the institute was first established.

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