

# Democratic Cultures

An informed public is actively engaged in fostering democratic culture and values.

For democracies to thrive, people must freely choose to engage in and defend democratic forms of government. This choice is enabled by a shared understanding of democratic principles and rights and the opportunity to participate in diverse and informed discourse. These conditions shape the vibrant democratic cultures needed to resist authoritarian tactics, promote strong links between people, their communities, and their governments, and create opportunities for all to prosper. IFES supports local efforts to reclaim democratic space and enable political pluralism.

✓ Catalyzing informed and active engagement through formal and nonformal civic education.

✓ Supporting local partners to be a voice for their communities in national, regional, and international forums.

✓ Fostering community-driven efforts to instill trust in democratic norms, processes, and institutions, including by expanding spaces for peaceful dialogue, deliberation, and compromise.

✓ Facilitating sustained changes in behavior and a stronger relationship between people and their representatives on issues of local and national importance.

✓ Increasing access to reliable, timely, and authoritative information to spur positive civic engagement, including through robust and responsible media.

## EXAMPLES

### People Against Violence

**Everywhere (PAVE):** Aimed at preventing political violence around elections, this hands-on IFES training program is designed to help participants better understand the root causes of violence, how violence hinders participation in democratic processes, and what individuals and organizations can do to promote social cohesion. In Bangladesh, for example, more than 4,000 PAVE alumni have gone on to train others, spreading anti-violence principles to another 60,000 people across the country.



People Against  
Violence Everywhere

### Strengthening Engagement through Education for

**Democracy:** IFES's civic education training programs teach leadership skills, media literacy and critical thinking skills to high school and university aged students and summer campers. IFES has worked with over 165 universities and colleges, and over 450 education specialists in Georgia, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Serbia, and Sri Lanka. To date, over 37,000 students have participated.



Strengthening  
Engagement through  
Education for  
Democracy (SEED)

### Empowering people to engage in national, regional, and international forums:

Since 2015, the IFES-supported 'General Election Network for Disability Access' (AGENDA) has advocated for the rights of persons with disabilities with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. These efforts contributed to the development of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a breakthrough document that guides policy and institutionalizes rights-based approaches to disability across ASEAN countries.



AGENDA

OVER THE  
LAST FIVE  
YEARS: ]



**37,000+**  
SEED students



partnered with **170**  
educational institutions