

Integrity Leaders Training of Trainers

Event summary

16-19 October 2022

The workshop and the study visit were an opportunity for participants in the ENoP-NDI-IEC integrity program, coming from different political families, to discuss and exchange best practices in integrity reforms.

Throughout this year, 40 partner political parties from Southeastern Europe took part in a year-long “Integrity Leaders” mentorship program. ENOP and NDI convened representatives from political parties across the region from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia for the final session.

Participants had a series of in-person and online skills-building sessions to increase their capacity to carry out party integrity internal reforms and assess the level of vulnerability of the party to unethical practices and corruption risks and explore ways to manage them effectively. The “Integrity Leaders” are divided into four groups based on ideological affiliation (conservative, liberal, green, and social democratic parties) to ensure open information sharing and conversations rooted in a common set of values and policy priorities.

This assistance over the year included mentorship from regional experts and exposure to best practices and case studies from other European political parties on identified areas, such as those to political finance transparency, candidate selection criteria, and the participation of marginalized groups in party decision-making. Participants were also equipped with the knowledge to train representatives in their party on integrity mechanisms and on how to communicate the importance of integrity in a democracy to the wider electorate.

Following the development of mechanisms to promote integrity in their parties’ structures, including codes of ethics, measures to increase the participation of women and youth, party finance procedures, and improved candidate selection processes; IEC, ENOP and NDI organized a study visit to Stockholm, Sweden where program participants met their sister political parties and affiliated party foundations and took part in a roundtable titled “Why Democracy Matters” organized with European Network of Political Foundations and International IDEA.

The event started with a panel discussion on why democracy matters and the role of integrity in ensuring that political power is exercised in the interest of the common good instead of the elite few. The panel consisted of Birgitta Ohlson, NDI Political Parties Director, Alberto Fernandez, International IDEA and Denis Schrey, ENoP Network Coordinator who also welcomed the participants on behalf of ENoP.

The second part of the event was a workshop that was based on best practice exchange among participants and feedback on their integrity training plans. The session was moderated by Goran Neralic, a member of the Steering Committee of ENoP.

Representatives of the Swedish Olof Palme International Center, Green Forum, Centre Party International Foundation, and Christian Democratic International Center eagerly met with program participants and provided expert advice on topics related to developing the capacity to meet the needs of citizens and disseminate the knowledge acquired through party structures.

Meetings with representatives and elected officials of five Swedish political parties were an opportunity to increase the party's capacity for robust internal and external reforms by learning from distinguished politicians and parties which have a long history of democratic norms and practices.

The study visit was a unique opportunity to forge new partnerships and relationships and celebrate the hard work they have undertaken during this year.

Integrity Leaders wrote numerous blogs on political integrity demonstrating increased knowledge on the subject matter and took an integral part in producing the first-ever [Political Integrity Tool Kit](#), a compilation of training materials and training outlines for the use of political party training centers and political foundations.