

NDRI Network of Democracy Research Institutes

– an Initiative of the International Forum of Democratic Studies

The Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI) is an association of organizations that conduct analysis and research on democracy, democratization, and related topics in comparative government and international affairs. It is also one of several key networks associated with the World Movement for Democracy (www.wmd.org). Independent institutions, university-based study centers, and research programs affiliated with democracy-advocacy groups, human-rights campaigns, and other nongovernmental organizations comprise the Network.

PURPOSE: The Network is overseen by the National Endowment for Democracy's International Forum for Democratic Studies, which is a premier center for analysis and discussion of the theory and practice of democratic development worldwide. The Network fosters interaction among institutions, democracy scholars, and activists to promote greater awareness of the diversity and vitality of democratic studies, and makes available information about the work of its member institutes, including conferences, workshops, publications, and other activities.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for membership, an institution must conduct academic or public policy research on democracy or democratization. Research institutes that focus broadly on a variety of policy issues but maintain a significant research program on democratic development, governance, and political reform are encouraged to join the Network. Institutions that focus specifically on issues not directly related to developing and promoting democratic practices and institutions (national security, for example) are generally not eligible for membership in the Network.

Research institutes affiliated with political parties or activist organizations may be eligible for membership if their research program is at least partly concerned with analyzing and improving democracy as a system, rather than strengthening one particular party or interest. University-based research centers with a group of scholars addressing themes relevant to democracy are also eligible for membership.

While the membership of the Network is limited to institutions, the Network welcomes the participation of individual scholars whose research focuses on democracy, democratization, or the challenges associated with democratic governance. The Network encourages the exchange of ideas and research as well as the formation of working partnerships among individual researchers and member institutions. The Network sends its electronic newsletter to Network members, as well as to individual scholars and others interested in the work of the NDRI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For further information regarding the Network of Democracy Research Institutes, as well as to access institutional profiles on current members, please visit the Network's website at www.ndri.ned.org or send an email to ndri@ned.org.

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Primary Goals of the Network:

- Analyze the status and problems of democracy within countries and comparatively
- Identify examples of innovation achieved by think tanks and policy institutes
- Determine what factors contribute to the emergence and consolidation of democracy
- Promote policy dialogue among citizens, and between citizens and government
- Foster and strengthen democratic values, principles, and ideas
- Disseminate major works of thought and scholarship about democracy
- Enhance think tank capacity to influence major public policy development
- Identify and stimulate debate about institutional reforms to achieve these goals

Activities of the Network:

- Sharing of ideas and information
- Joint initiatives (conferences, panels, analytical projects) relating to the promotion of democracy and democratic development
- Quarterly electronic newsletter, *Democracy Research News*
- Semi-monthly emailing, *Worth Reading*, that recommends important articles, websites, and reports

Principal Current Research Topic:

- *Translating Research into Policy*: This project seeks to improve understanding of how democracy policy institutes can more effectively influence the policy discussion and to identify ways in which think tanks are innovating to achieve greater impact. This initiative resulted in the publication entitled, [*Democracy Think Tanks in Action: Translating Research into Policy in Young and Emerging Democracies*](#).