

14.9.2023, 9h30 – 17h30, Käfigturm in Bern

International Day of Democracy Conference 2023: How to Support Democracy against Autocracy

Detailed Program

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| 9:30 | Opening and Welcome |
| 9:40 – 10:30 | <i>Keynote speeches</i>
Democracy vs Autocracy – The Global Battle for Democratic Rights and Freedom <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Roberto Cardiel Heycher, former Executive Director of the National Electoral Institute INE, Mexico- Tana Foarfa, Director at europuls, Romania- Iryna Venediktova, Ambassador of Ukraine to Switzerland- Andrea Yang, Deputy Secretary General, Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | <i>Panel discussion with academic experts</i>
Democratic Resilience in Different Threatened Environments. How can these threats against Democracy be countered? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clara Egger, Assistant Professor of Global Governance at Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam- Simona Grano, Associate Professor and Director of the Taiwan Studies Project, University of Zurich- Magdalena Maria Solska, SNSF-PRIMA Assistant Professor, University of Fribourg (Political Opposition in Post-Communist Democracies and Authoritarianisms) <p>Moderated by Bruno Kaufmann, Board Member of the Swiss Democracy Foundation.</p> |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch break and visit of the exhibition at the Democracy Tower (optional) |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | <i>Lightning Talks with practitioners</i>
How Democracy Can Be Supported on a Local Level through Grassroot Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Joe Mathews, Editor in Chief at Democracy.Local and California Columnist at Zocalo Public Square, USA- Yaroslav Minkin, Cultural activist and human rights defender who works in Eastern Partnership and Central Asia countries promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue- Itzel Riba, Civic Education and Electoral Training at the National Electoral Institute INE, Mexico |

- **Anda-Ilona Serban**, Executive Director of CeRe: Resource Center for Public Participation, Romania

Moderated by **Stefanie Schüpbach**, Deputy Director of the Polit-Forum Bern.

14:45 – 15:30 *Workshops with practitioners and panelists*
Collecting Learnings on How Democracy can be Supported against Autocracy

16:00 – 17:00 *Concluding Panel*
Cooperating Across Borders to Make Democracies Stronger

- **Rita Biconne**, Senior Officer and Head of Implementation Unit, European Association for Local Democracy ALDA, Italy/Belgium
- **Corinna Borer**, Project manager of projects in the Department International Projects in Education, Zurich University of Teacher Education, Switzerland
- **David W. F. Huang**, Representative of Taiwan to Switzerland
- **Caroline Vernailen**, Global Manager PR & Community Building, Democracy International, Germany

Moderated by **Stefanie Bosshard**, Director of the Swiss Democracy Foundation.

17:15 Closing and Apéro

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