



KEY TAKEAWAYS ON

# EPD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

*Brussels, 9 June 2026*

**What strategies can our democracies deploy to build resilience as public trust continues to erode?**

**1. DEMOCRACY BELONGS IN THE EU BUDGET**



**2. RESILIENCE IS GLOBAL, NOT REGIONAL**





## SET UP

### WHAT IS THE EPD ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

The European Partnership for Democracy held its Annual Conference on 9 June 2026 in Brussels, under the theme "*Designing Democratic Resilience*." The event brought together democracy support organisations, EU policymakers, and international voices.



### THIS YEAR'S BACKDROP

Global civil society faces increasingly severe and existential threats. In many cases, the whole notion of an independent civic sphere is at stake.



### 3 THINGS TO KNOW

# 01

## DEMOCRACY BELONGS IN THE EU BUDGET

EPD called for democracy resilience and democratisation programmes to be firmly embedded in the EU's 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework. As defence spending rises, security cannot be sustainably built without corresponding investment in democratic governance.

# 02

## RESILIENCE IS GLOBAL, NOT REGIONAL

Keynote speaker Gladys Mkhawa cited Botswana's 2024 elections, the first transfer of power between parties since independence in 1966, as proof that democratic resilience is a global concern, not a regional one.

