

# DEMOCRACY REPORTING INTERNATIONAL



**2018  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT DRI

DRI believes that people are citizens, not subjects. We support and engage people who are working to build, preserve and defend democratic and accountable institutions. We believe that institutions play a critical role. People make change, but institutions preserve it.

In a polarised world, DRI helps local actors to protect and expand the democratic space we all share, independent of our political opinions, religious beliefs or personal preferences.

## DRI headquarters

Our Berlin team works with our country offices to implement projects and undertake policy-oriented research. Global projects and smaller country projects are also implemented directly from headquarters. Furthermore, we work thematically on democratic discourse, including social media & democracy, as well as rule of law in Europe.

## Democracy Support

From Brussels, DRI and its partners, SOFRECO and the National Democratic Institute, support the European Union's global engagement with civil society.

## DRI Ukraine

In Ukraine, we monitor political reforms, work with citizen groups and engage students across the country in a debate series on reforms.

## DRI Georgia

We work on raising awareness on negative effects of extreme political polarisation to contribute to a more pluralistic society.

## DRI Lebanon

The Lebanon team brings together citizen groups, municipal officials and parliamentarians to promote decentralisation.

## DRI Pakistan

From our Islamabad office, DRI supports electoral reforms and compliance with international human rights obligations.

## DRI Myanmar

Our Yangon team supports citizen groups that advocate for democracy and advises decision makers on constitutional and electoral framework reforms.

## DRI Sri Lanka

We support citizen groups that advocate for democratic reforms and stronger human rights protections.

## DR Congo

In DR Congo, DRI and EISA support citizen observer groups to make them effective agents for electoral transparency and integrity.

## DRI Libya

In Libya, DRI works with local civil society to inform and engage Libyans in a debate on the political transition.

## DRI Tunisia

The DRI Tunis office works with citizens and decision-makers on the implementation of the 2014 constitution.

## DRI GSP+

DRI and its partners support civil society to monitor and advocate for better implementation of human and labour rights' conventions in the context of the EU's trade scheme GSP+.

Countries: Armenia, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Sri Lanka

# WHERE WE WORK



# HIGHLIGHTS

## 2018



### THEMATIC AREAS



### ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

More than





# TUNISIA

Tunisia held its first ever free municipal elections in May, marking the beginning of a major governance reform in the country – the decentralisation process. Over 7,000 elected members of 350 municipal councils are now mandated to involve citizens in decision-making.

The report by a committee on equality triggered a national debate on women’s rights and current inheritance regulations, which favour men. Laws aiming to fight corruption and increase transparency were passed, but the process of establishing all independent constitutional bodies and the constitutional court remains delayed.

There was much political wrangling ahead of the election year 2019. Prime minister Chahed managed to strengthen his role vis-à-vis political actors, including president Essebsi. While the security situation remained generally stable, the political power struggle was not conducive to improve the economy and address the demands of most Tunisians, who want a better life and are disappointed by the lack of progress.



## Supporting decentralisation, elections and reforms of the justice sector

DRI continued its longstanding support towards decentralisation. We provided technical assistance to the parliamentary commission that drafted the law, which was adopted in April, paving the way for the municipal elections held in May.

Acknowledging the importance of local elections, DRI played a major role in supporting different stakeholders involved in the process, including groups of citizen observers, journalists, political parties and lawyers. The newly recruited administrative judges benefitted from a series of trainings that strengthened their capacities in handling electoral disputes resolution cases.

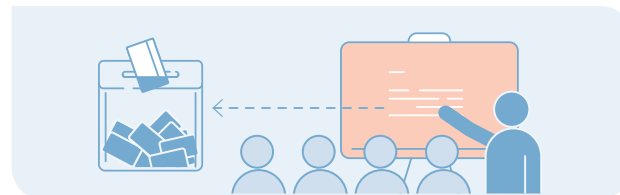
DRI also worked closely with institutions that are important to strengthen checks and balances in a country which was long-ruled by an autocrat. Such institutions include the Administrative Tribunal (AT), the Audit Court and the National Authority on Access to Information (INAI) to support institutional and legal reforms related to these institutions and their mandates. With these contributions and work with the National Bar Association on constitutional justice, DRI contributed to strengthening the rule of law in Tunisia.

## KEY ACTIVITIES



### Decentralisation process:

In addition to providing extensive support to the drafting of the decentralisation law, DRI also contributed to the strengthening of local democracy and partnered with the Tunis Municipal Council, the biggest council in Tunisia. During the training on decentralisation and participatory democracy, the Tunis and Hammamet Municipal Councils signed a Charter on cooperation with civil society and citizens.



### Electoral assistance:

DRI provided trainings to representatives of the two most important citizen observer groups on electoral disputes and developed the election reporting capacities of journalists from all twenty-four Tunisian governorates. We also organised training sessions on electoral campaign financing for representatives of seven political parties.



### Justice sector reforms:

Support to the Administrative Tribunal: DRI supported the drafting of the new administrative code and the law on the status of the administrative judge through working sessions with drafting commissions. DRI also accompanied the Tribunal in preparing communication strategies and strengthened the individual communication capacities of presidents of its regional chambers and staff.

Support to the INAI: An outreach awareness campaign was organised in partnership with INAI. In addition, visibility tools were developed to boost the Authority's public communication. A study visit to Germany allowed council members to understand practices in a more established setting.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Report

**Constitutional Monitor: No. VI (Oct. 2017 – Mar. 2018) and No. VII (Apr. – Sept. 2018)**

The report is published bi-annually to monitor the transformation of Tunisian laws in line with the obligations of the Constitution. The topics include: human rights, separation and balance of powers, independence of the judiciary, rule of law, accountability & transparency, independent constitutional bodies and decentralisation.

### Guide

**Let's Talk about the Constitutional Court | March 2018**

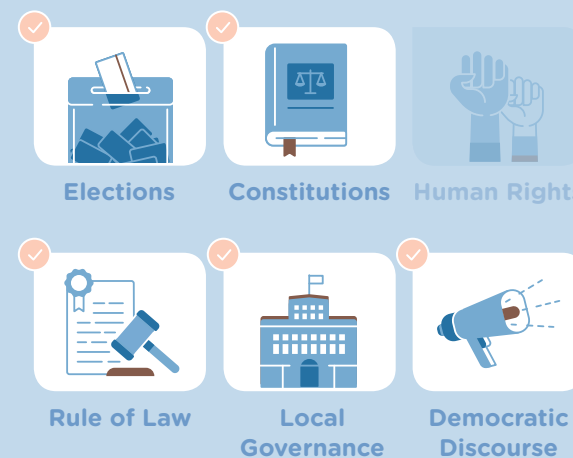
The publication represents simplified information on the Tunisian Constitutional Court and its role in protecting rule of law and freedoms and rights of citizens. Videos on the Constitutional Court produced in the previous year were screened during several town hall meetings.

### Analysis

**The Tunisian Political System in the Framework of the 2014 Constitution | November 2018**

The constitution-makers discussed the system of government intensively and finally agreed on a complex semi-presidential system. The report takes stock of how this set-up performed in reality.

## THEMATIC AREAS



## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS





# LEBANON

Following Lebanon's first parliamentary election in nine years, the struggle to form a government continued for more than nine months as a result of deep political divisions and the country's sectarian power-sharing. Political instability heightened fears over the economic development.

The May 2018 general election was held under the country's new electoral law: party-backed candidates won almost all the seats and despite a nominally proportional system, the results were not particularly proportional.

In the absence of a national government until January 2019 and against the backdrop of the ongoing waste management crisis, local authorities need more support and guidance to meet public service demands, particularly in regions with many Syrian refugees crises.

## Advancing Decentralisation on the Political Agenda

Since 2016, together with a coalition of local NGOs, DRI has been raising awareness and advocating for evidence-based policies that foster good local governance in key sectors of service delivery. In 2018, we completed two large surveys in central government administrations and 20% of Lebanon's municipalities to assess the gaps and linkages between central and local authorities institutions in service provision. We also continued providing legal expertise to the Parliamentary Administration and Justice Committee, currently discussing the Administrative Decentralisation Bill.

This year, to further the exchange of know-how on best practices in local governance, DRI continues to coordinate a municipal partnership programme between Lebanese and German municipalities. We also began supporting greater resilience of local governance in Lebanon's Northern Akkar region, which is home to the country's most vulnerable populations and hosts a very high population of Syrian refugees.





## KEY ACTIVITIES

### Creating Awareness and Platforms for Interaction between Local, Regional and National Actors

In 2018, DRI held town hall meetings and awareness-raising sessions in five regions providing a platform for citizens to learn more about decentralisation and engage in dialogue about the specific impact it can have on the delivery of public services. We built on concrete experiences of municipalities and municipal unions to discuss a wide range of challenges locally, from public safety, to citizen participation and waste management.

The DRI-led NGO consortium finished the year with its second Annual Decentralisation Conference, which brought together over 150 participants, including parliamentarians, municipal officials, leading practitioners, civil society and media actors. The event focused on the relevance of administrative decentralisation as a key development instrument for better public service delivery.



### Assessing Lebanon's New Waste Management Law

In October 2018, the Lebanese Parliament passed an Integrated Solid Waste Management Law, which was criticised for legalising waste incineration without providing a systematic framework for waste management, especially a clarification of roles and responsibilities in this field. Together with the civil society Waste Management Coalition (WMC), DRI hosted municipal representatives and activists for a workshop to discuss these concerns.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Documentary

#### Hearing from the Lawmakers: A Documentary on Decentralisation | December 2018

DRI produced a documentary which features testimonials of parliamentarians, public figures and experts presenting the need to push for decentralisation reform in Lebanon. The film emphasises the link between decentralisation and public service delivery, outlining decentralised solutions to the ongoing waste crisis and how decentralisation could be an entry point for government integrity, citizen participation and equitable development.

### Briefing Paper

#### Local Governance in Lebanon: The Way Forward | January 2018

Following DRI's survey of two-thirds of the country's municipal unions, the briefing paper provides a roadmap for decentralisation reform and public service delivery in three key policy areas – solid waste management, security & municipal police, and accountability & participation. It examines how local authorities can fill the gaps and address the challenges that have resulted from a lack of regulation and control at the national level. Written in December 2017, the paper was widely circulated in 2018.

### Report

#### Assessment of the Lebanese Electoral Framework | April 2018

In May 2018, Lebanon held its first general election in nine years. In the run-up to the election, DRI and LADE published an assessment of the new election law, concluding that the nominal proportional system would not result in proportional results, due to a number of technical shortcomings. The report highlights several complexities of the law such as the small size of electoral districts, confessional quotas, and the difficulty of calculating how preferential votes would translate into a distribution of seats.

## THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



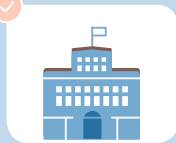
Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law



Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

7  
Events



9

Workshops  
and trainings



300  
Face to face  
meetings



2

Briefing papers  
and reports



# LIBYA

Despite some breakthroughs in the economic sector, such as the successful unification of the eastern and western central bank and improved availability of cash to ordinary Libyans, 2018 did not advance Libya's political transformation. The UN-backed government seemed to become stronger with a rise in public confidence in the first half of the year, but divisions within the government led to delays in holding elections and the constitutional referendum, hindered advances in economic and security reform, and further weakened public trust. The house of representatives (HOR) passed a law on the long-awaited constitutional referendum, but it was challenged in the supreme court. Little support from the executive has been extended to the high national election commission (HNEC) to prepare for the referendum, causing further delay in the protracted transition. Heavy fighting among armed groups in Tripoli reminded Libyans of the fragility of the UN-brokered ceasefire. In the absence of meaningful security arrangements, the future looks uncertain eight years after the revolution.

## DRI is back to Libya, supporting civic engagement in the political transition

In 2018, DRI re-opened its Libya office in Tunis with five staff members. DRI Libya raises awareness on elections and the constitution and engages Libyan citizens and activists in the political process.

During the first months, we re-built networks with other organisations and extended our connections with local partners from a network of Libyan human rights organisations called the 'Libyan Coalition for the Constitution' (LCC).



## KEY ACTIVITIES

In December, DRI hosted 31 Libyan activists to discuss the Libyan draft constitution and the next steps in Libya's transformation, to plan joint activities for 2019 and to train them – with the support of the Deutsche Welle Academy and MultiKulti Sustainable Solution – on how to use (social) media to inform and engage the public on important issues relating to the transition.

We prepared a methodology for monitoring social media in Libya. Reviewing Facebook accounts, and some activity on Twitter, we want to understand the main narratives and public debates around the political transition, including the constitution, elections, UN political roadmap and security. This will provide important insights on popular sentiment and inform our own programming. Results of the analysis are published in monthly social media reports from February 2019 onwards.



## THEMATIC AREAS



## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS





# PAKISTAN

Pakistan held general elections in July, marking the first ever completion of two consecutive terms of a democratically elected civilian government since independence. The celebrity cricketer Imran Khan and his PTI party were the victors. Elections were conducted under a reformed election law. The election commission had stronger incentives and benefited from improved election procedures. The European Union's election observation mission described election day as "orderly" with "fewer violent attacks", but highlighted institutional and procedural problems during the pre-election period. Social media played a role in the run up to the elections – many users harassed female candidates in particular. Pakistan continues to face serious human rights challenges, however the new government has pledged laws to protect minorities and eliminate torture and enforced disappearances.



## Citizen groups shaping policy

In 2018, DRI maintained its support of civil society, to make it more coordinated and effective in advocating policy makers on priority human rights reforms. In a context where many international NGOs have stopped working in Pakistan, support to Pakistani organisations is even more critical. DRI worked with partners in all four

provinces and strengthened Pakistan's National Human Rights Institutions at the federal and provincial levels to help a state institution to protect Pakistanis' rights. We also enhanced political stakeholders' capacities to promote democratic elections, publishing an Elections Guide, which was widely used by media, observers and Election Commission staff.



## KEY ACTIVITIES

### Dialogues with political parties and new parliamentarians on human rights reform priorities:

Following DRI's support to civil society organisations in developing a charter of citizens' demands prior to the July 2018 General Elections, DRI held one national and four provincial dialogues gathering 106 members of civil society and political party representatives to discuss human rights reform priorities for the new parliamentary term. We also briefed 42 new provincial parliamentarians and their assembly staff on human rights priorities for their parliamentary term. The briefings helped create a network of parliamentarians who will pursue human rights reforms.

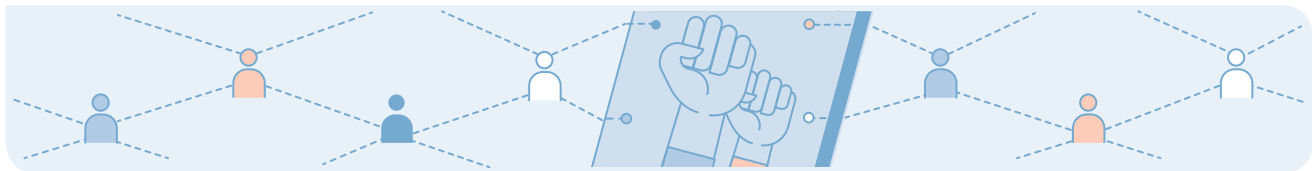
### Making National Human Rights Institutions and government structures more responsive and effective to promote and protect human rights:

DRI filled gaps in the human resource of the National Commission of Human Rights, providing them with ten human rights fellows. The fellows increased the capacity of the Commission to address the numerous individual complaints it receives. Furthermore, we facilitated the engagement of the Commission with civil society,

trade unions, labour organisations, and government officials through consultation sessions on the urgent issue of abolishing bonded labour in Pakistan. DRI also provided technical experts to the Sindh Human Rights Commission to develop a human rights curriculum for the training of parliamentarians and officials from the public sector and law departments. In Punjab, DRI helped the new government launch their provincial human rights policy and action plan and trained officials to monitor implementation of such plans.

### Strengthening the Integrity of the General Elections 2018:

Building on long-standing engagement on election reforms, we published a briefing paper on the next steps to implement electoral reforms in Pakistan and an analysis of the delimitation of electoral districts. In the run-up to the elections, we prepared a Guide with a step-by-step explanation of the electoral process. Journalists and civil society used the guide to strengthen their reporting. The Election Commission used it to train its staff. We also gave technical support to the monitoring of social media to identify campaigns of harassment and abuse against female candidates.



## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Briefing Paper

#### From Legislation to Action: Next Steps for Implementing Electoral Reforms in Pakistan | February 2018

A practical guide on converting the landmark election act 2017 into actual election processes and procedures.

### Webpage

#### Pakistan's Election Act 2017: What you need to know | February 2018

An overview of essential aspects of the law.

### Webpage

#### Pakistan's 2018 Delimitation of Electoral Districts: Analysis of preliminary results | March 2018

A technical paper providing an analysis of the Election Commission of Pakistan's methodology for Pakistan's election constituencies.

### Guidebook

#### Election Guide book for election observation | June 2018

The guidebook provides accessible information for the entire election cycle with respect to Pakistani laws along with international comparisons.

### Research Report by the Digital Rights Foundation, supported by DRI

#### Online Participation of Female Politicians in Pakistan's General Elections 2018 | July 2018

## THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law



Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

15

Events



5

Workshops and trainings



62

Face to face meetings



5

Briefing papers and reports





# MYANMAR

Halfway through its mandate, the NLD led-government faced numerous challenges, with the peace process in a deadlock and growing international pressure calling for repatriation and citizenship rights for the stateless Rohingya community. Voters extended less support to the NLD in by-elections, reflecting disappointment over unfulfilled electoral promises. The opposition and minority parties benefited.

Progress was made, however, to make local governments more accountable to their citizens: for the first time, the government of the city of Yangon will be elected by universal suffrage. In addition, the powerful general administration department was moved from the military-controlled home affairs ministry to the ministry of the office of the union government, paving the way for a civilian state administration.

## Strengthening local elections and building common understanding of constitutional issues in the peace process

Myanmar is still plagued by many conflicts involving the army and ethnic minorities. The country's peace process is not progressing well, so we support building a common understanding of what it takes to build peace on the foundation of inclusive democratic institutions.



## KEY ACTIVITIES

### Give citizens more voice in Shan State and the Yangon Region

In Shan State, DRI brought together members of the regional parliament, political parties and civil society groups to learn about international standards of local elections, and to exchange views and proposals on potential legal reforms to make local government bodies more accountable to the public.

In Yangon Region, DRI provided on-demand technical assistance to the regional legislature during the drafting of the new election law for the municipality of Yangon. In parallel, we also held a consultation allowing civil society groups to share their suggestions on the draft Yangon municipal law, which were then submitted to the parliament for further consideration. The new Yangon election law was adopted in June 2017 and introduced universal suffrage for the first time.

### Myanmar Democracy Fellowship II

DRI launched the second generation of the Myanmar Democracy Fellowship, an innovative training and networking programme focusing on the essential elements of democracy. Participants of this new group included representatives from key state institutions, in addition to civil society leaders. The fellowship provides democracy professionals with skills in legal and policy analysis based on international human

rights law and comparative expertise. The programme also builds bridges amongst fellows from different regions and ethnic groups and includes meetings with decision-makers as well as study visits to government institutions.

### Supporting nation building and promoting pluralism

As the peace negotiations are stuck between the ethnic minority groups' claims for the rights to self-determination and secession and the military's fear of disintegration, DRI supported a discussion on ways to improve representation of minorities in decision-making and the state administration. Through confidential dialogues and in-house events and briefings, DRI contributes to a wider understanding of pluralism as a key element of democracy and supports a discussion of ways to include historically underrepresented groups, building a "union that everybody wants to be part of".



## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Briefing Paper 90

#### The Missing Link: Strengthening Representation and Accountability in Myanmar's Local Government

| March 2018

Between 2012 and 2013, Myanmar saw important changes at the lowest level of its governance system with regional parliaments establishing new, semi-elected deliberative local institutions. The paper assesses the different regional legal frameworks regulating these newly established bodies and explores potential reform options based on international standards to make local government authorities more responsive and accountable to their citizens.

### Handbook on Democratic Constitutions in Myanmar

| April 2018

Democratic constitutions are an integral part of the transition to democracy – at their most basic level, constitutions set out the rules of the game for the political community that they regulate. In April, Democracy Reporting International and the Myanmar Knowledge Society published a Handbook on Democratic Constitutions and held a series of multi-stakeholder workshops on decentralisation, power-sharing, and municipal governance, which are key topics in the Handbook.

## THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



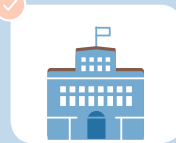
Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law

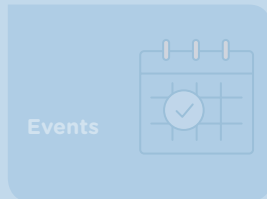


Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS



Events



19

Workshops and trainings



Face to face meetings



2

Briefing papers and reports



# SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka witnessed a year of turbulent political events, putting its democratic transition and social-political cohesion at risk. The local government elections in February 2018 resulted in losses for the governing parties. Outbreaks of sectarian violence against the Muslim population in Ampara and Kandy in the eastern and central provinces in March 2018 brought ethno-religious fault-lines in Sri Lankan society to the surface. Events came to a peak in October 2018 with the unconstitutional dismissal of the prime minister and the dissolution of parliament by President Sirisena, resulting in a constitutional crisis. Social media engagement around these significant political events in Sri Lanka has shaped public discourse. The spread of misinformation and hate speech has become an important phenomenon nurturing anti-democratic tendencies.

## Citizen groups monitoring human rights

In 2018, DRI continued focusing on supporting citizens groups and local activists to sustain dialogue around human rights reforms in Sri Lanka. DRI successfully enhanced the understanding of civil society regarding opportunities for human and labour rights promotion

through the EU's GSP+ trade mechanism. In particular, DRI's work helped to connect and coordinate district level actors across Sri Lanka's nine provinces for their joint engagement in human rights monitoring and reporting. Expanding the scope of its work to the virtual space at the nexus of technology and democracy, DRI has generated information and analysis on social media's role in shaping public discourse and action around major political events on the island nation in 2018.



## KEY ACTIVITIES

### GSP+ awareness raising

Following its work on the provincial level in 2016-17, DRI implemented twelve GSP+ outreach sessions at district level in 2018. In doing so, DRI was able to raise the awareness of 297 local level civil society actors to effectively use the scheme for advocating human rights standards and to monitor state compliance. Districts as remote as Kanthale, Polpithigama, Diyabeduma and Panama were included in the outreach and helped increase the involvement of grassroots actors in the promotion and protection of human and labour rights in Sri Lanka.

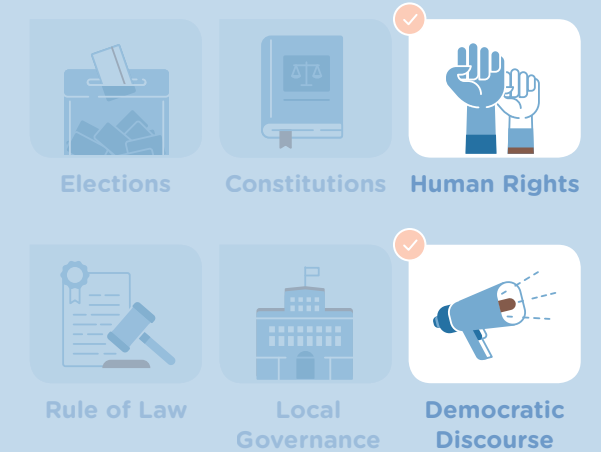
### Human rights monitoring network

Facilitating effective engagement of citizens in the review of Sri Lanka's human rights compliance, DRI supported a total of seventy Sinhala and Tamil speaking district level monitors with tools and the coordination platform to monitor human rights and enter into dialogue with the EU as part of its GSP+ monitoring process. This included the development of a monitoring and reporting plan in alignment with international standards.

### Social media analysis

DRI analysed the role of social media surrounding key political events of the local government elections, anti-Muslim violence, and the constitutional crisis, all of which drew national and international attention and put into question the democratic reform course Sri Lanka has embarked upon since 2015. DRI's analysis provides an important baseline to develop strategies to counter misinformation and hate speech in the Sri Lankan virtual space and facilitate the country's democratic transition.

## THEMATIC AREAS



## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS



# UKRAINE

2018 was eventful in Ukraine. The independence of Ukraine's church from the Russian orthodox church was much reported, as well as the ongoing military aggression in eastern Ukraine and the Russian strangulation of shipping to Ukrainian Harbours in the Azov sea. With presidential elections scheduled for march 2019, political competition intensified towards the end of 2018. In a worrying development, there was an increasing number of physical attacks on political activists and defenders of human rights. Law enforcement agencies often did not properly investigate and prosecute these crimes.

In terms of reforms, the adoption of the law on the anti-corruption court was important, which was followed by an open competition to fill positions in the court. The composition of the central election commission was renewed, a step that was long overdue, according to legal deadlines.

## Going beyond Kyiv: engaging civic activists and youth in the reform process

In 2018, in cooperation with Freedom House and Vostok-SOS, DRI addressed the attacks on human rights defenders and civic activists. We strengthened their capacities to respond to these and undue government restrictions through regional workshops and increasing their knowledge on how to react to physical, IT, communication and legal threats. Working in the North-East, DRI's team continued to support civic activists in establishing dialogue and cooperation with self-government bodies by providing civil society with skills in public communications, relations to government and leadership, as well as directly supporting local community initiatives.

In partnership with Ukrainian think-tank organisations, DRI presented a policy paper on freedom of peaceful assembly and continued to provide an up-to-date monitor of legal initiatives in Parliament to increase the transparency of the law-making process. In cooperation with Hromadske Radio we launched a new format of raising public awareness about Ukraine's ongoing transition, as well as global challenges to democracy by starting a series of democracy related podcasts.

DRI Ukraine continued to engage youth in policy discussions by launching a new all-Ukrainian debate tournament on participatory democracy in cooperation with local self-governing bodies.





## KEY ACTIVITIES

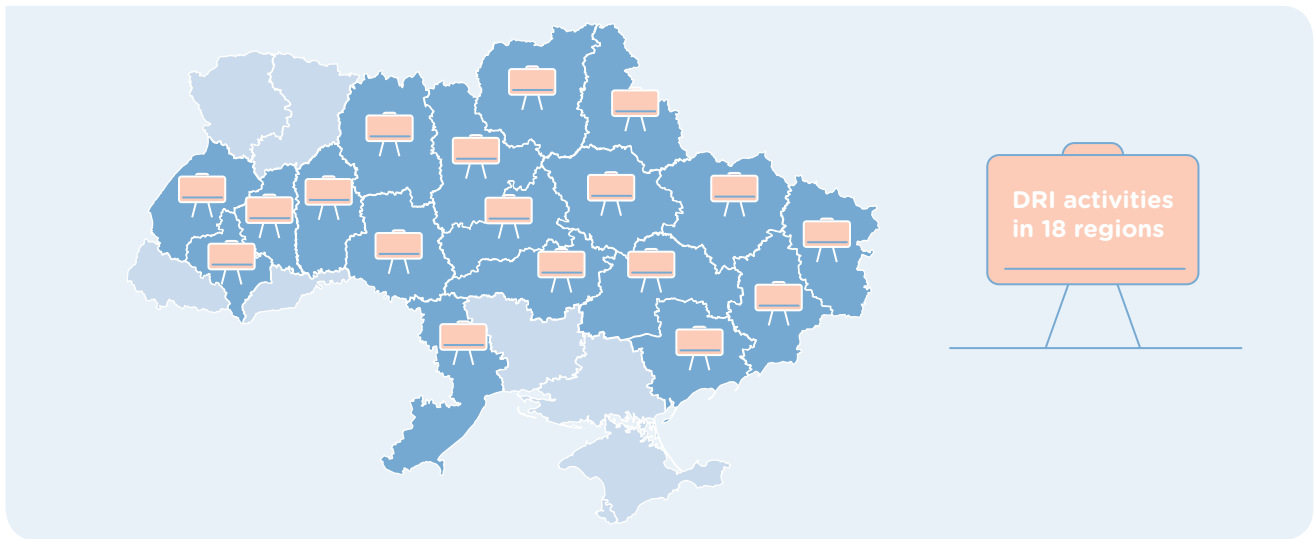
DRI worked in eighteen of Ukraine's twenty-four regions through its demand-driven activities, like the DRI Schools on Practical Democracy (eastern regions of Luhansk and Kharkiv), DRI Workshops on Shrinking Space for Civic Activism (West and Central Ukraine), and DRI Youth Talks and Debates.

In partnership with Ukrainian think tank organisations, media, and international and local organisations, such as Hromadske Radio, Yuridychna Gazeta and Studway, DRI developed numerous activities focused on raising awareness and building capacities of Ukrainian civil society, human rights defenders and youth.

Three DRI Schools on Practical Democracy in the East were conducted in the format of five- and six-day intensive interactive learning sessions for civic activists, with follow-up initiatives developed by participants to multiply the trainings' impact. As a result, five community-building and awareness-raising initiatives were launched afterwards by participants.

Workshops on shrinking space for civic activists resulted in the creation of the coalition of civil society organisations, with the aim to jointly address common threats.

DRI debate tournaments involved student teams and young academics from different regions to debate about participatory budget opportunities and tools.



## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Briefing Paper 95

#### **Respect for Human Rights and Call for Loyalty: Ways Forward for the Ukrainian Citizenship | November 2018**

The paper examines the issues of dual or multiple nationality in Ukraine. In the context of war, the subject of nationality is heated and there exist many draft laws trying to address the issue. Some suggest foreigners who defend national interests of Ukraine should gain the nationality, others suggest that people whose actions are deemed to harm national interests should be stripped of nationality. The paper analyses the various legal proposals and suggests ways forward considering the respective international obligations of Ukraine.

### Briefing Paper 92

#### **Reforming the Functions of Ukraine's Prosecution Office: New Constitutional Provisions and their Implementation | July 2018**

DRI experts analyse if the reform of general prosecution is in line with European standards and where there are risks that would allow prosecutors to expand their authorities.

### Briefing Paper 91

#### **Ukraine's New High Intellectual Property Court: Implications for the Justice System | May 2018**

The new high intellectual property court was established in the course of the recent judiciary reform. The analysis concludes that creation of this new court is a problematic policy choice that could set a precedent for judicial fragmentation.

## THEMATIC AREAS



## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS



# GEORGIA

In November 2018, Georgia held its last direct presidential elections, in line with the constitutional changes adopted in 2017. In the second round, the people voted for Salome Zurbashvili, who officially ran as an independent candidate but was backed by the Georgian Dream party. Elections were driven by “voting against” rather than “voting for” attitudes, the choice being between Mikheil Saakashvili (a former Georgian president) and Bidzina Ivashvili (a Georgian oligarch, former prime minister and chairperson of the Georgian Dream party). In this context, DRI partnered with the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) and the creative enterprise Forset to continue addressing the issue of extreme political polarisation.

## Overcoming extreme political polarisation

In the third year of the project DRI focused on the consequences of extreme polarisation. Starting in September 2018, the project will run until end of July 2019. We work with media, civil society and activists to create tools and media products which would contribute to pluralism and raise awareness on the issue of extreme political polarisation.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

DRI brought together fifty participants from across Georgia for a ‘Communicathon’ competition in Tbilisi to design communication campaigns and applications to denounce the extreme political polarisation that pervades the country. We awarded prizes to two proposals and support their implementation. They include an app that gives users a chance to discuss policy ideas, and an interactive video with game features to encourage debate at the local level.



## KEY PRODUCTS

### Video

#### Explainer on extreme political polarisation | May 2018

Extreme political polarisation has numerous negative effects on the quality of democracy in Georgia. Most importantly, it prevents a constructive debate that would bring the country forward. We created a short video explainer to raise awareness on the issue of extreme political polarisation in Georgia.

### Report

#### The high price of extreme political polarisation in Georgia | August 2018

Extreme political polarisation causes intense delegitimisation, which splits Georgian society into hostile camps. Additionally, democracy and human rights have at times been side-lined and politically instrumentalised. This report was produced in partnership with GYLA and results were collected through media monitoring, consultations workshops and meetings with civil society and media representatives.



## THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law

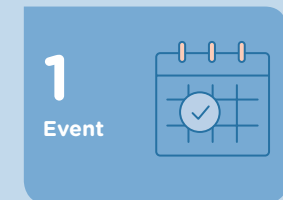


Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

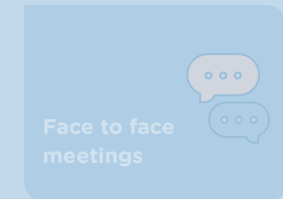
## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS



1 Event



Workshops and trainings



Face to face meetings



Briefing papers and reports

# MOLDOVA

Moldovan politics were marked with pre-electoral and electoral campaigns, prior to elections in February 2019. Change of the electoral legislation and the controversial fiscal amnesty contributed to increasing discontent among the population. More than 80% of Moldova's population do not believe that the peoples' will count in their country, according to the latest barometer of public opinion. Those outside the capital, in particular, feel disconnected from decision-making.

## Good governance and local democracy

Partnering with CPR Moldova (Centre for Policies and Reforms), DRI implemented a project on good governance and local democracy in Moldova.

The project engaged some 80 civil society members from Moldova's four regions (North, Centre, South and Gagauzia) throughout a year, building their capacities on transparency and access to information, advocacy and monitoring of local authorities' actions, and networking. Participants also received knowledge on using national platforms to demand accountability and transparency.

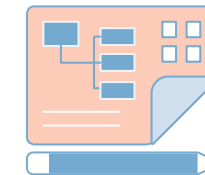


## KEY ACTIVITIES

- 4 winter schools for participants from four different regions focusing on democracy tools



- A workshop on project development



## THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



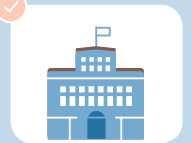
Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law

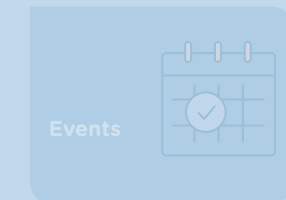


Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

## ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS



Events



5 Workshops and trainings



8 Face to face meetings



Briefing papers and reports



## MULTI-COUNTRY

DRI continued implementing the three-year EU-funded project Promoting Human and Labour Rights through GSP+, running from February 2017 through January 2020. The Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) allows eligible developing countries to export to the EU with zero customs duties in exchange for adhering to 27 international conventions regarding human and labour rights, good governance, and the environment.

In 2018, within the framework of the project, we conducted a range of activities in the nine beneficiary countries, including: building the capacity of civil society organisations and other social actors through trainings on how to monitor

and write alternative reports to UN Committees, developing economic case studies which analyse the impact of GSP+ on certain sectors, raising awareness about the scheme's benefits and requirements among stakeholders, and conducting some initial monitoring of human and labour rights conventions.

With the scheme's mixed economic impact across the nine beneficiary countries, the GSP+ as a tool to promote human and labour rights faces some challenges when being leveraged by civil society. Limited awareness of the scheme among many stakeholders, including civil society, government, and business communities, has also been a challenge in many of the countries.



## KEY ACTIVITIES

### Global

In an effort to understand overarching trends among the nine country-based projects, DRI held a global event in Brussels, in November 2018, which brought together over 60 prominent trade and human rights experts, representatives from GSP+ beneficiary countries, civil society, the business community, EU institutions, as well as academia for the conference “How to Promote Human Rights through EU Trade Policies? The Role of Civil Society, Businesses and Beneficiary Countries in the GSP+”. In light of the third GSP+ monitoring cycle following its latest reform, participants discussed how to amplify the effectiveness of the EU’s GSP+ trade instrument in boosting human and labour rights, in relation to the roles various stakeholders play within the scheme.

### Armenia

In Armenia through the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of Armenian regional CSOs in producing high-quality, evidence-based alternative reports to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Regional organisations and human rights activists received training on submitting alternative reports to UN treaty bodies and monitoring of selected topics began in the regions of Shirak, Armavir, Gegharkunik and Syunik.

### Bolivia

DRI’s partner organisation Centro de estudios para el desarrollo laboral y agrario (CEDLA), focuses on socio-economic rights and labour rights in Bolivia. In 2018, CEDLA conducted a case study to assess the rights’ situation of workers within the country’s brazil nut industry. Moreover, CEDLA delivers regular reports on Bolivia’s compliance with international human rights treaties and publications exploring the commercial underpinnings of GSP+ for Bolivian trade.

### Cabo Verde

In Cabo Verde, DRI partners with the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNHDC) with the aim to engage members of civil society in a public dialogue about the state of human rights in the country. In 2018, in partnership with the country’s NGO Platform, the CNHDC organised a training to build CSOs’ capacity for producing shadow reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).



## Kyrgyz Republic

In the Kyrgyz Republic, DRI partners with the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society. In 2018, the Coalition began working together with local partner organisations to set up a monitoring platform to report on the state of human rights in the country.

## Mongolia

Globe International Center (GIC) is DRI's project partner in Mongolia, investigating the application of Article 19 of the ICCPR (safety of journalists) in the country's judicial system. Last year numerous trainings took place, including capacity building on GSP+ related issues for members of civil society, a media session for journalists on how to best report on human rights issues, and lessons on the monitoring framework, scope, methodology and public outreach strategies for the monitoring team.

## Pakistan

In Pakistan, activities are implemented through DRI's Islamabad Country Office. This past year, DRI brought together members of the country's Treaty Implementation Cells (TICs) – which supervise the implementation of the 27 GSP+ Conventions – with civil society leaders advocating for human rights. Participants gained knowledge on methods, tools, and strategies for designing and implementing human rights advocacy and campaigning, specifically with regards to how they can collaborate with existing government structures.

## Paraguay

DRI's partner in Paraguay is the Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya (CADEP). In 2018, CADEP conducted a case study analysing the Paraguayan tobacco industry and investigating how it is affected by the GSP+ program. As Paraguay is graduating from the scheme however, CADEP began focusing its analysis on the transition process concerning its trade framework with the EU changing from GSP+ to Strategic Association Agreements (EPA).

## Philippines

In the Philippines, DRI partners with the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA). In 2018, they organised numerous trainings for members of civil society about GSP+ and the intersection between trade, human rights and development. Additionally, PAHRA organised an open space event about the current human rights situation in the Philippines and how the GSP+ mechanisms could be used to incentivise the Philippine government to comply with international human rights standards. A workshop on the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights was also conducted, as part of the campaign to promote the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGP) on Business and Human Rights.

## Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, activities are implemented through DRI's Colombo Country Office, where the project continues to address the need for more information on the GSP+ scheme among grass-roots actors. In 2018, the DRI Colombo Office conducted twelve awareness-raising sessions on "The Link between GSP+, Human Rights and Labour Rights" for members of civil society. The sessions provided essential clarification on the workings of the GSP+ and its links to the implementation of international human rights standards in the country.



### THEMATIC AREAS



Elections



Constitutions



Human Rights



Rule of Law



Local Governance



Democratic Discourse

### ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

12

Events



25

Workshops and trainings



37

Face to face meetings



8

Briefing papers and reports



# AFRICA

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### Supporting domestic observers

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we continued our partnership with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) to accompany a network of 11 citizen election observation groups under the umbrella of Synergie des missions d'observation citoyenne des élections (SYMOCEL). After having benefited from EISADRI capacity-building since 2015, SYMOCEL was able to launch a country-wide observation of the 30 December 2018 elections with over 18,000 accredited observers. Alongside observers from the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CENCO) they were the only large observer mission to shine a light on these disputed polls.

### Assessing voting technology

DRI also partnered with Westminster Foundation for Democracy and EISA to audit the newly-introduced and much-debated Electronic Voting Machines and advise domestic observers from CENCO on how to observe their use.

## NIGERIA

DRI has participated in a project implemented with Stakeholder Democracy Nigeria and Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) to strengthen domestic election observers in the Niger Delta around



the February 2019 presidential elections. We trained observers on incident reporting with a strong focus on electoral violence, and prepared social media monitors for their tasks. The observer mission has been key to flagging violence and fraud in the highly-volatile Delta States, for follow-up by the Nigerian authorities.



# GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

## Supporting Democracy (SD) A Citizen Organisations Programme

An EU-funded facility, SD allows our consortium to test new democracy and governance approaches. With our consortium partners Sofreco and National Democratic Institute we launched new initiatives to put civic tech initiatives higher on the agenda of the EU's global democracy support. Civic Tech 4 Democracy awarded prizes for the best initiatives that used the potential of technology to strengthen participation of citizens and published a handbook on good initiatives around the globe. DRI pushes its agenda of monitoring social media more rigorously in elections in the framework of SD: We have supported citizen groups in Thailand and Pakistan to do so. We are also leading a Working Group with partners from around the world to develop a credible methodology for monitoring political discourse on social media. Under SD we also trained domestic observers from Timor Leste and the Maldives on how to apply the "Guide for Citizen Observers on Electoral Reform". Lastly, we carried out a study on the repression of citizen groups ('shrinking space') in Southern and East Africa, culminating in a final conference in Johannesburg in March. The event yielded innovative commitments taken jointly by the EU and citizen groups to counter such repression.





## CSO Roadmaps

DRI continues to partner with the consortium led by EPRD Poland and comprising CIDEAL, Coalition Factory and ECNL to provide strategic support and guidance to EU Delegations staff in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring the first generation of “EU country roadmaps for engagement with civil society organizations”.

## Lot 3 – Human Rights, Democracy and Peace

DRI started its engagement under an EU Framework Contract (Lot 3 – Human Rights, Democracy and Peace) in mid-2018 under the lead of ARS Progetti. We already managed the final evaluation of a long-term election support programme in Nepal and we will deploy a long-term mission to support the EU Delegation in Myanmar to develop a strategy of strengthening citizen groups.

# DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

In some member states of the European Union, democratic institutions are attacked or undermined. DRI provides analyses and commentary on these developments and offers recommendations on how to change it. In 2018, DRI’s Executive Director participated in a working group of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung that presented proposals to strengthen the EU framework for rule of law protections in Brussels and many member states of the EU.

As part of a working group of Carnegie Europe he also published an influential paper, arguing that the Polish and Hungarian governments do not represent some form of illiberal democracy or that they take majoritarian elections to an extreme, but that their reforms are best understood as an authoritarian take-over of the state, where one party tries to establish long-term control of all institutions – the opposite of democratic competition.



# DRI IN THE MEDIA AND RESEARCH



## Is Europe's Problem Illiberal Majoritarianism or Creeping Authoritarianism

Article by Michael Meyer-Resende  
June 2018



## Rohingya Crisis – Facebook's role in fuelling hate speech in Myanmar

Interview with Raymond Serrato  
April 2018



## Europe is at risk of slipping back to 19th-century power games

Article by Michael Meyer-Resende  
June 2018

## Revealed: Facebook hate speech exploded in Myanmar during Rohingya crisis

Article about social media analysis of Raymond Serrato | April 2018

Apart from media reporting on DRI publications and events, we also published opinion articles in various media in order to promote the cause of democracy. DRI staff contributed to Think Tank and academic publications.



## Wir sollten überparteilicher werden

Article by Michael Meyer-Resende and Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf  
August 2018



## Nicht illiberal, sondern undemokratisch

Opinion by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf, Michael Meyer-Resende  
October 2018

## Riskantes Schulterzucken – Demokratie-Abbau in Osteuropa

Opinion by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf  
November 2018



## Trump und die AFD – Alles eins? Vergesst Populismus! Wie wir der Demokratie mit falschen Begriffen schaden

Article by Michael Meyer-Resende | February 2018



## Lost in Migration. Wo bleibt die Debatte zur Zukunft der Europäischen Union?

Article by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf  
July 2018



## From law to action: election reforms in Pakistan

Article by Vladimir Pran and Hassan Nasir Mirbahar  
March 2018



## Is Facebook a destabilising force?

Interview with Raymond Serrato  
August 2018



## AI can't fix Facebook. Media giant needs human solutions to better detect hate speech in places such as Myanmar

Article by Raymond Serrato and Michael Meyer-Resende  
August 2018



Briefing Paper (funded by the European Union)

## A New Frontier. Social Media/ Networks Disinformation and Public International Law in the context of Election Observation

By Michael Meyer-Resende  
October 2018

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

How often have we heard in recent years that something went wrong on social media during elections but nobody was sure what it was? Time and again we now see strange websites appear or lies being widely promoted in social media during elections. DRI thinks the time has come for a more systematic monitoring of social media during elections to increase the transparency of campaigns and to call out abuse. With partners from around the world we started working on a methodology for such monitoring, bringing together two decades of experience in election observation with this new field of research.

In 2018 we supported NGOs in other countries to start following what is happening on their social, for example we supported the Pakistani Digital Rights Foundation to study the social media discourse that was used in relation to women candidates in the 2018 elections. We also carried out our own studies, for example on hate speech campaign against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar and violent speech during sectarian violence in Sri Lanka.

We explored the human rights framework related to social media discourse and published a study that highlighted freedom of expression, right to privacy and the right to political participation as the most relevant rights that provide a strong basis for debates on regulating social media.



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE | MAY 2019

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Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf  
Richard Chambers  
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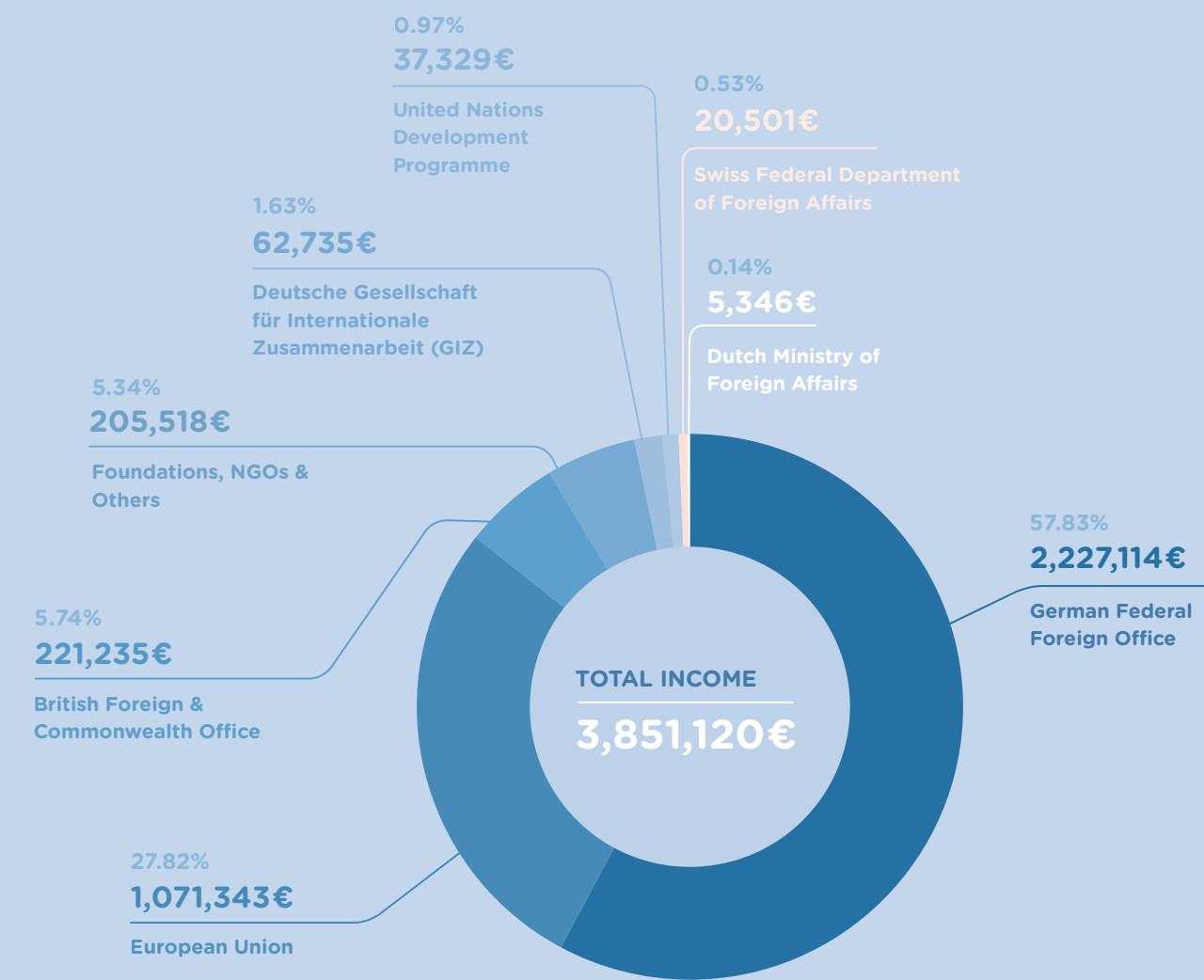
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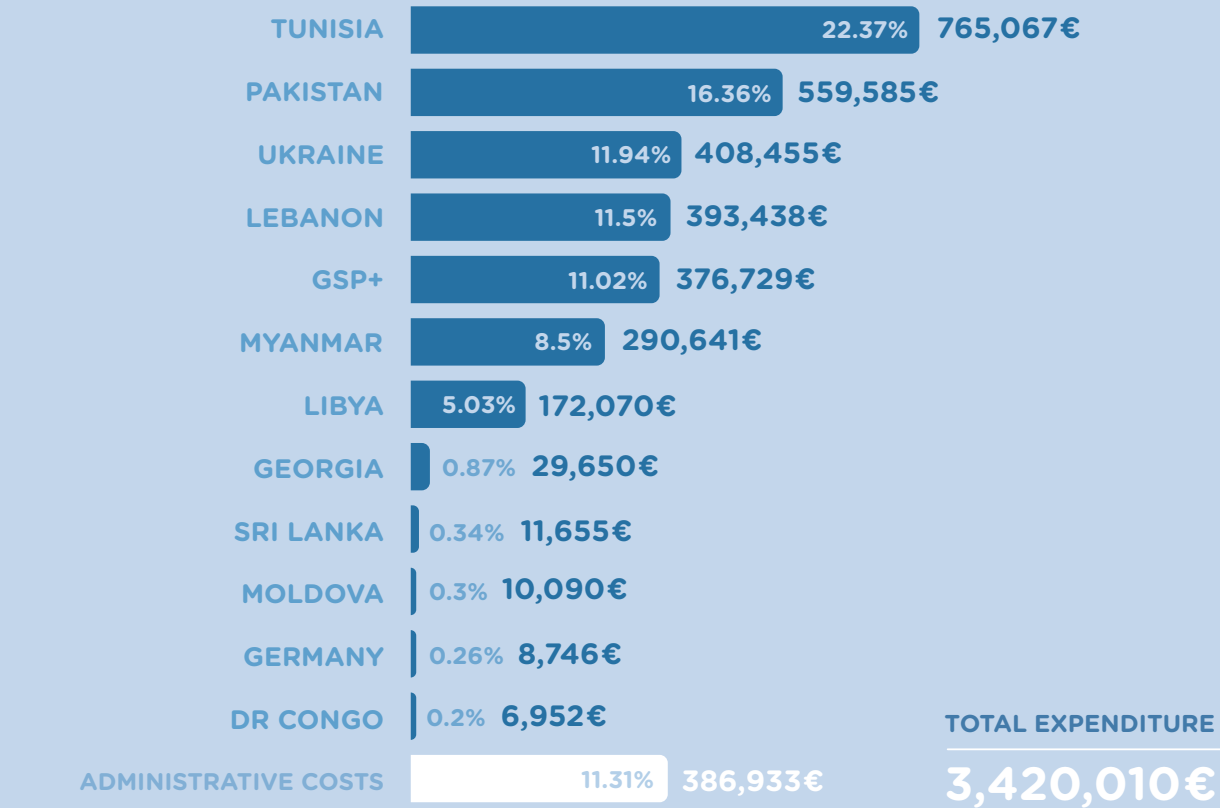
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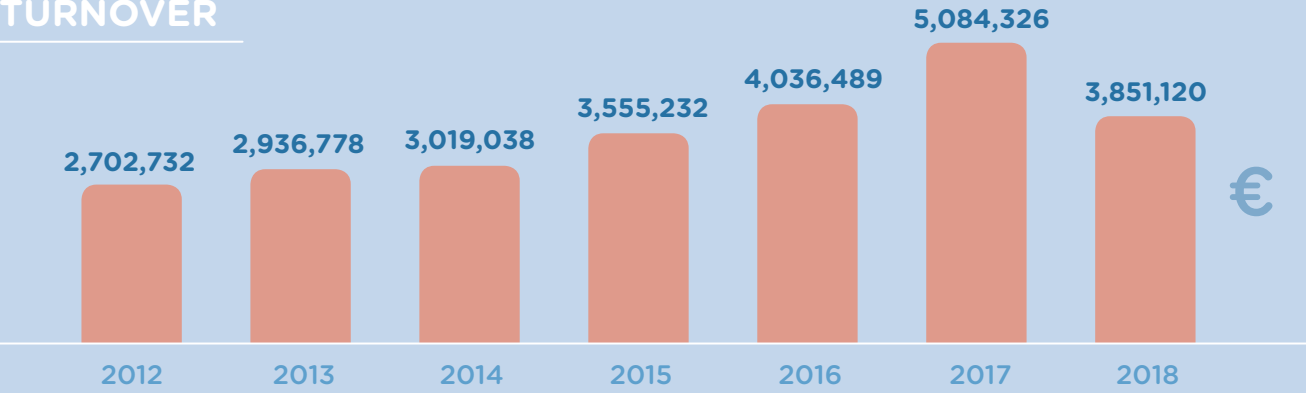
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DRI expresses its sincere gratitude to  
colleagues who left DRI recently

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Tunisia



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Moldova



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El Qatron Center for Human Rights  
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Felnertqy Maan Organisation  
Ghat Organisation for Human Rights and Human Development  
Huquqiun Bila Hudud  
Inmaa Organisation for Youth and Women  
Josour Organisation for Culture and Media  
“Just like you” - Organisation for the Rights of Disabled People  
Leaders Organisation for Community Development  
The Mercy Organisation  
Menber Al-Haq Organisation  
Multi-Kulti for Sustainable Solutions  
National Libyan Organisation for PWDs  
Organisation for Advocacy for Rights of Libyan Children with a Foreign Parent  
Tawsol Forum for Zwara Citizens Residing in Tripoli  
Tira Organisation for Amazigh Language and Culture  
Tobruk Local Radio  
University of Sebha Student’s Union  
“Women are Coming” Movement  
“Why Me” Women’s Rights Organisation

### Myanmar

Danish Institutes for Parties and Democracy  
Electoral Reforms Coordinating Body  
Hornbill Organisation  
IDEA  
Loka Ahlinn  
Myanmar Knowledge Society  
New Myanmar Foundation  
Peace and Justice Myanmar  
National Democratic Institute  
Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organisation Liaison Office  
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Humanos e a Cidadania (CNDHC)  
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Mongolia - Globe International Center (GIC)  
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