



## DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AMPLIFIED

**DIGITAL ACTION LAB**  
The Digital Action Lab (DAL) is up and running! This exciting initiative enables diverse civil society groups to experiment with digital tools and strengthen their advocacy work.

**REGIONAL CO-DESIGN MEETINGS**  
The Middle East and North Africa and Central Asia & Eastern Europe regional co-design meetings, delivered with partners Paperlab & Innovation for Change MENA Hub, saw participation from over 22 countries.

**INTRODUCING DDI'S LOGO**  
The Digital Democracy Initiative (DDI) has a new logo that will make it easier to identify the joint efforts of everyone involved in this initiative. Look out for it in our future communications.

### WELCOME TO DIGITAL DEMOCRACY AMPLIFIED!

We're thrilled to introduce the first issue of Digital Democracy Amplified, CIVICUS' new quarterly newsletter sharing our journey as part of the Digital Democracy Initiative. This newsletter will be landing in your inbox with DDI's news about activities, partnerships and opportunities for engagement that we are leading with civil society across geographies. As part of DDI, CIVICUS is leveraging its global alliance to ensure that civil society actors in the Global South, particularly in countries where civic space is obstructed or repressed, are better prepared to use digital technology for civic engagement and expand inclusive democracy. We are working hand-in-hand with Global Focus to implement DDI's project 'Enabling and amplifying action for civic space and inclusive democracy.' [Click here](#) to learn more about this project.





### DAL'S FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING WAS A SUCCESS!

The [Digital Action Lab](#) is at the heart of CIVICUS' efforts under DDI. The DAL is an innovation space that brings together civil society from around the world and, for nine months, empowers them with mentorship to build digital and core skills, financial resources and opportunities to experiment with digital tools and approaches, hone their advocacy skills and collaborate with international peers to amplify the voices of civil society reinforcing democracy and civic freedoms.

In March, the first group of DAL participants celebrated their first in-person meeting, where they got to know each other, presented their ideas for utilising technology to advance democracy in their communities. These ideas were further enriched by the knowledge and insights gained through training sessions and co-design workshops.

These nine organisations – from Colombia, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Venezuela and Zambia – were selected for their exceptional commitment to digital innovation for social improvement from a pool of around 1,500 applications. In the next quarterly newsletter, we'll be introducing these inspiring organisations and their project ideas. Stay tuned!

### CO-DESIGNING SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY

Another great development is that this year we kicked off a series of regional exploratory and co-design processes in seven regions around the world. These will help identify regional needs and opportunities to use digital technology for inclusive democracy and co-design new potential mechanisms to channel funding and non-financial resources (including mentorship, training and networking opportunities) for civil society. Our co-design sessions across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Central Asia & Eastern Europe regions successfully convened stakeholders from over 22 countries, led by our partners [Innovation for Change MENA Hub](#) and [Paperlab](#). Building on this momentum, we're thrilled to announce upcoming co-design meetings in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Pacific regions which are planned for April, May and June of this year.

The testing and implementation of the co-designed regional support mechanisms for MENA and South Asia will launch later in 2024.

### ENABLING AND AMPLIFYING CHANGE: A LOOK AHEAD

The activities you've read about are just a glimpse of the incredible work being done by civil society organisations around the world, supported by the Digital Democracy Initiative. Stay tuned for future newsletters with more about exciting initiatives, success stories and upcoming events. In the meantime, visit our [website](#) to delve deeper into our work and explore ways to get involved.

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