



Annual Report 2022



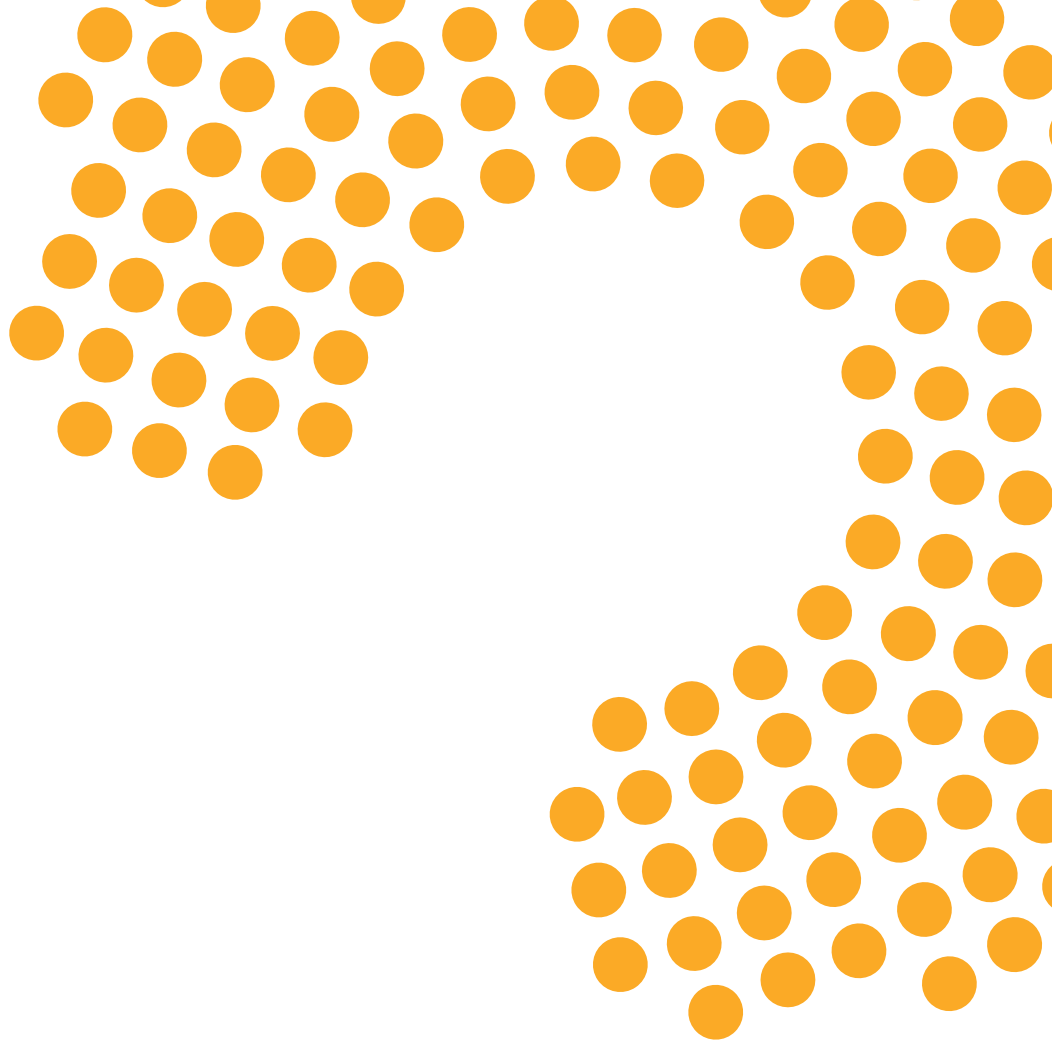
DEMO
FINLAND

Design and layout: Salla Vasenius

© **Political Parties of Finland for Democracy – Demo Finland 2023**

Cover image:

A delegation of Mozambican Members of the Parliament visited Finland in May 2022. Photo: Demo Finland



Contents

Democracy is a prerequisite for global security	4
Demo Finland's Theory of Change	5
Demo Finland's programmes	7
Programme results	10
Outcome 1: Political parties are more programmatic, inclusive and democratic	10
Outcome 2: Political parties perform strengthened inclusive multi-party dialogue	17
Outcome 3: Finnish parliamentary parties' commitment to democracy support translates into policies	20
Advocacy and communications	22
Human resources	25
Financial resources	26

Democracy is a prerequisite for global security

Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine in 2022 did untold damage to the rules-based international order and changed the way democracy is seen around the world. It has never been clearer that democracy is a prerequisite for global security, and that by supporting democracies, we build the foundations for a more stable and peaceful world. Democracy and security are inextricably linked.

The decline in the state of democracy around the world continued in 2022. According to data by the V-Dem Institute, which monitors the global state of democracy, only 13 per cent of the world's population was living in liberal democracies in 2022. Indeed, in 2022, only 14 countries were democratising, whereas 42 were turning more authoritarian. V-Dem also showed that, for the first time in more than two decades, there were more closed autocracies than liberal democracies, bringing the level of democracy for the average global citizen in 2022 back to 1986 levels.

Despite these unprecedented and challenging circumstances, Demo Finland has successfully continued its work to implement its vision where everyone has the opportunity to equally participate in democratic decision-making. It continues working towards this goal by focusing on strengthening the voices of underrepresented groups in politics, including women, young people and persons with disabilities, among others.

The challenging circumstances that democracy faced in 2022 were evident in many of Demo Finland's partner countries. After the military coup in Myanmar in 2021, the security situation in the country continued to deteriorate. In Tunisia, the President rewrote key laws, attempting to write political parties out of decision-making. At the same time, 2022 saw many good outcomes, from the successes of the joint project between Demo Finland and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in Kenya in strengthening the position of persons with disabilities in political parties, to strengthening the relations between the parliaments of Finland and Mozambique through bilateral high-level delegation visits.

It has been encouraging to see that Finland has continued strengthening its commitment to democracy worldwide. In September 2022, the foreign ministers of all the Nordic countries released a joint statement highlighting the importance of supporting and protecting democracy worldwide. In addition, the Government of Finland published its resolution on Finnish democracy policy in the 2020s in which it highlighted Finland's commitment to supporting democracy by strengthening political parties and parliaments worldwide on a multi-party basis.

This annual report shows the very real results that Demo Finland's work has achieved in 2022. Demo Finland remains unique in that it is owned by all the nine political parties represented in the Parliament of Finland. This is testament to the strong values of multi-party dialogue – and a solid commitment to strengthening democracy worldwide.

Gary Klaukka
Executive Director

Training session for a first-level class of the Tunisian School of Politics. Photo: CEMI



Demo Finland's Theory of Change

Since the founding of Demo Finland, its work has focused on providing support to political parties and rested on two pillars: multi-party dialogue and supporting the political participation of under-represented groups in politics, in particular women and young people.

Demo Finland Strategy 2021–2025 has been built on the proven strengths of the organisation, taking into consideration its unique mandate. Multi-party dialogue, inclusion of underrepresented groups in politics, and promotion of stronger democracy support policy are the core areas of work. Partnerships are based on long-term commitments, which contribute to the programmatic objectives set out in the Strategy.

Multi-party democracy requires vibrant, representative, and programmatic political parties that can carry out their multifaceted role at the core of the system. Political parties play an important role in the identification of the needs and interests of citizens and specifically in channelling those needs into decision-making, in reconciling conflicts of interest between groups of people, and in producing credible political programmes to guide the decision-making. In addition, they ensure the functioning of democracy in the longer term by engaging both citizens and political leaders.

When in power, parties bear responsibility for decision-making, and while out of executive power, they should hold decision-makers accountable. When parties are successful in these tasks, and act in an inclusive and collaborative spirit, they ensure the wellbeing of democracy. Correspondingly, failure will lead to social mistrust, inequality and corruption. Considering the key role political parties play in democratic systems, they are the primary stakeholder groups of Demo Finland's programmes.

The overall Theory of Change of Demo Finland

1 Political parties are more inclusive, programmatic and democratic



We assume that policy-based and inclusive parties contribute to a politics of accountability and more democratic societies.



We assume that inclusive parties reflect better the diversity of societies and contribute to the realization of civil and political rights.

2 Political parties perform strengthened multi-party dialogue



We assume that when political parties practise dialogue, they can enhance the weight, trustworthiness and transparency of political system and decrease polarization and conflicts.



We assume that when political parties reach agreements through dialogue, the decisions are more sustainable and less likely to be reversed with a change of power.

3 Finnish parliamentary parties' commitment to democracy support translates into strengthened policies



We assume that when political parties and government officials have increased knowledge and awareness of the modalities and opportunities for democracy support, it will lead to more effective policies in support of democracy.

Overall goal: Strengthened and inclusive multi-party democracy



Demo Finland's programmes

Ethiopia

Partners: Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations (NEWA), Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA)

Demo Finland has co-operated with NEWA since 2019 to strengthen women's capacity and their political participation on a multi-party basis. Prior to elections in 2021, the programme supported women's active participation in elections both as voters and as candidates at regional and national levels, after the elections the focus has been on enhancing female politicians' meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making processes. The objective of the programme is that women participate actively in political parties and political processes in the targeted regions. The programme has been implemented at national level in Addis Ababa and at regional levels in Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz and its activities include capacity building trainings for women politicians, awareness-raising on disability inclusion, and the publication of training materials.

Kenya

Partner: Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Since 2020, Demo Finland and WFD have supported the capacity building of Kenyan political parties in the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and strengthened the civil and political rights of PWDs. The project activities include trainings for representatives of Kenyan political parties on the involvement and importance of the participation of PWDs in democracy and on the challenges faced by PWDs in politics. Parties are also supported on mainstreaming disability inclusion in policy issues. In addition, the project supports civil society organisations to better engage and advocate to political parties and other duty bearers for the inclusion of PWDs in politics.

Mozambique

Partners: Instituto para Democracia Multipartidária (IMD), Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

With its partners, Demo Finland has supported the democratic governance of extractive industries and natural resources in Mozambique since 2017. The aim of the project is to enhance the oversight role of the Parliament and six Provincial Assemblies on the extractive industries and to increase their capacity to assess the implementation of the existing legislation on natural resource management. In the project, trainings have been organised for relevant parliamentary committees, and members of these committees have also visited communities affected by extractive industry and interacted with citizens to evaluate effects of the extractive industries. In addition, a platform for open and constructive dialogue has been set up where national level parliamentarians can share and interact with their provincial level colleagues.

Myanmar

Partner: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

Demo Finland and NIMD held democracy education programmes and supported multi-party co-operation and capacity building in Myanmar from 2014 to 2021. Following the military coup in February 2021, the activities were halted and new ways to support democratic actors in Myanmar were sought. In 2022, trainings were again launched online or outside the country, focusing on capacity building and supporting democratic dialogue processes at the subnational level. Participants for the trainings were recruited among the alumni network of the previous democracy education programmes. The interest in participating in the trainings had clearly increased.

Somalia

Partners: The Oslo Center, Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC)

Since 2022, Demo Finland is participating in a one-year project, implemented by a consortium led by The Oslo Center, that provides technical support to political party association and promotes political participation of women and targets all political actors. The project is implemented in 2022–2023 and its goal is to strengthen inclusive multi-party co-operation. During the project, elected and aspiring women councillors and female party members are trained and women's political organisation in parties and women's associations is supported. In addition, the project supports women's cross-party networking and women's co-operation with other key stakeholders.

Sri Lanka

Partner: One Text Initiative (OTI)

In co-operation with OTI, Demo Finland has supported women's political participation at the local level in Sri Lanka since 2019. The project started when Sri Lanka had introduced a new gender quota at the local level, which increased the number of women councillors considerably. Together with the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG), a public institute responsible for the training of all local-level politicians, OTI has trained women councillors on democratic skills and knowledge and their role in the councils. In addition, the project supports multi-party networking and dialogue between different political actors.

Tunisia

Partners: Centre des Etudes Méditerranéennes et Internationales (CEMI), Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

Demo Finland supports the Tunisian School of Politics (TSoP) that gathers together young people from political parties and civil society organisations and offers them knowledge as well as practical tools for working in politics and co-operate across party lines. TSoP alumni now number over 500 and their capacities and skills in multi-party co-operation are further strengthened through alumni trainings. The political situation in Tunisia is difficult as the country's president has taken the

country in an authoritarian direction. In 2021, CEMI established a new dialogue initiative that brings together active young people working in parties and CSOs so that their voices can be heard in this new politically challenging situation. TSoP also organises public debates and political discussions on topical issues.

Zambia

Partners: Zambia National Women’s Lobby (ZNWL), Disability Rights Watch (DRW)

Demo Finland and ZNWL have been working to strengthen women’s participation in local level politics since 2013. In the project, female politicians have been trained and their co-operation and networking across party lines has been supported. Multi-party platforms for women have been established at the local as well as national level and their work continues although the project ended in 2022.

Since 2020, Demo Finland, together with ZNWL and DRW, has strengthened the inclusive multi-party system and in particular the equal opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in politics. The project activities focus on building the capacities of political parties on disability inclusive measures and supporting political parties in developing strategies, guidelines and/or action plans which better reflect the inclusion of PWDs. Besides the training and advocacy activities, the creation of a ‘PWDs in politics network’ has been supported.

Finland

Demo Finland builds the capacity and commitment of Finnish political parties to democracy support and enhances multi-party dialogue. Demo Finland supports in particular the inclusivity of Finnish political parties by providing targeted capacity development activities. Democracy Academy for political youth and student organisations is organised annually to increase the understanding of young politicians on democracy and related issues and to create a safe space for dialogue. In 2022, Demo Finland started a new initiative to support Finnish political parties in increasing the participation of persons with disabilities.

Demo Finland’s work in 2022 in numbers:



Programme results

Outcome 1: Political parties are more programmatic, inclusive and democratic

To reflect the diversity of societies and to foster their representational role, parties must promote access to decision-making by underrepresented groups on various levels. Political parties must also ensure the political inclusion of women, young people, persons with disabilities and minorities. In a functioning multi-party democracy, and according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, every citizen has the right to participate in the decision-making, which makes inclusivity an objective. On the other hand, the quality of policymaking and decision-making is improved if more diverse voices and experiences are heard and involved. Demo Finland encourages parties to develop strategies for the inclusion of underrepresented groups and provides support for the competence and empowerment of politicians belonging to such groups.

Parties need to respond to the interests of their voters and draw up policies that support the realisation of accountability towards the citizens. Demo Finland strengthens parties in terms of strategic thinking, political programming, ensuring inclusivity and good command of the principles of democracy. Parties are provided training for programmatic strategy work. The internal democracy of political parties is reinforced and their dialogue with the civil society is supported.

In order to support the inclusivity of political parties, Demo Finland has strengthened the knowledge and skills of especially women, young people or persons with disabilities (PWDs) in political parties in almost all of its programmes in 2022.

In different countries, trainings have been organised on democratic skills and values. Altogether 2,435 women and youth politicians, politicians with disabilities and other political party members have received training that aims at enhancing inclusivity in politics.

Altogether 2,435 women and youth politicians, politicians with disabilities and other political party members have received training that aims at enhancing inclusivity in politics.

In addition to providing support for the competence of politicians belonging to underrepresented groups, Demo Finland has encouraged political parties to develop strategies for the inclusion of those groups. Trainings, workshops and advocacy meetings have been organised with political parties.

In Tunisia, aspiring young and women political and civic leaders deepened their knowledge on legal frameworks, political sciences, rule of law, human rights, local democracy, gender equality and public policies. They were also encouraged to participate in political parties and CSOs. During 2022, 16 training sessions were organised to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the skills of participants on several topics. Besides the representatives of political parties, the groups included representatives of 14 civil society organisations. After the trainings, from the total of 69 participants, 63 felt that they are able to participate in the decision-making in their parties.

In Zambia, training sessions on political participation for PWDs were organised in Lusaka and in Mansa. The emphasis was on how to use the skills acquired during previous trainings in advocacy, community mobilisation and defending and protecting political rights. After the training sessions,

How do we gather information on the outcomes of our work?

We ask for feedback after all the trainings. We ask the participants how they estimate their ability to use what they have learnt in the future and whether they have obtained knowledge on how to improve their own performance as politicians and strengthen co-operation with others.

In some programmes, it is also possible to use tests to measure the increase in the knowledge of the participants. However, school-style tests are not always applicable. One of the data collection methods that we use is group discussions where the participants reflect on what they have learnt. Later on, we aim to follow-up on the progress of the participants to follow, for example, their advances within their respective party systems and decision-making.

If the project includes supporting dialogue platforms of political parties, we monitor, among other things, what kinds of joint statements or other initiatives the parties eventually produce in the platforms.

participants were able to explain how they had used the skills and knowledge to participate in various issues concerning PWDs, such as in their respective Ward Development Committees (WDCs) and in discussions on their respective Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) amongst others. Participants also drafted individual action plans to be implemented at community level during 2022–2026 and committed to develop a collective draft advocacy plan.

In addition, a total of 20 participants joined the mentorship programme for PWDs which was conducted over a period of three months in both Lusaka and Mansa, with each mentor-mentee group meeting twice a month. The mentees' knowledge of the topics discussed during sessions increased, and the interactions provided a rich platform for mentees to engage beyond the scope of the mentorship programme. Mentees agreed to collaborate in the future on advocacy issues and in giving each other technical support.

Trainings and workshops for political parties on disability inclusive measures and disability inclusion plans helped political parties to identify existing gaps in disability inclusion within their respective structures and processes as well as measures to tackle them. Parties also agreed to collaborate on advancing disability inclusion in politics.

At the end of the year, five political parties were undergoing a review process of their party documents and made inclusivity adjustments based on earlier disability access audit recommendations, four parties were making strides towards formulating disability wings and seven parties begun mobilising PWDs in their local structures and assigned party members trained under the programme to lead this process. In addition, draft disability inclusion plans for ten political parties participating in the programme were developed.

In Kenya, 2022 was an election year, and Demo Finland and WFD’s programme continued to actively engage 13 political parties alongside three new informally engaged partner parties through a range of capacity building interventions. All 13 parties received clearance from electoral authorities to participate in the elections, which confirmed that their party documents were compliant with the legal provisions on inclusion of PWDs as provided by the Elections Act.

The political parties waived and subsidised nomination fees for candidates with disabilities, awarded their direct nomination to vie for the August 2022 elections and included PWDs in the Special Interest Groups (women, youth, PWDs) nomination lists. Altogether 35 PWDs were nominated as Members of County Assembly (MCAs) in 26 County Assemblies and three PWDs were nominated as MPs in the Parliament. Four PWDs were elected as MCAs and nine PWDs were elected as MPs which demonstrates that political parties have made efforts to create a conducive environment for PWDs to participate in politics.

In Ethiopia, post-election capacity building trainings on political leadership for women politicians in Addis Ababa, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz were held in September. The trainings focused on equipping female politicians with historical, theoretical and practical perspectives to the role of gender in politics and women leadership in the Ethiopian context. Pre- and post-training evaluations indicated notable knowledge gains and increased understanding of women’s political leadership. Further, the cross-party interactive workshops and experience sharing gatherings with youth politicians provided a platform for increased collaboration between opposition and ruling party politicians as well as young people and politicians.

Also, more than 430 girls and women with disabilities were reached in coffee discussion sessions with the objective of creating awareness in the community about disability and persons with disabilities and to introduce and acquaint persons with disabilities themselves with their rights and the importance of their participation in social, economic, and political spheres.



Participants of a training in Oromia, Ethiopia. Photo: NEWA



Training for women councillors in Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka. Photo: OTI

In Sri Lanka, trainings were conducted to strengthen the knowledge and skills of female local council members. These trainings increased the number of trained councillors from 302 (2022) to 361. The pre-training tests indicated that the average knowledge level on council procedures was at 57.63% at the start of the training but it increased to 87.35% towards the end of the training. When interviewed prior to and after the training, majority of the participants claimed that they have a better understanding of their role, how the system and procedures can be utilised to perform their role and to overcome obstacles.

Also, social media skills of female councillors were improved in trainings that led to an increase in their social media activity: At the beginning of the training process, only 26% of the participants used social media for political campaigning. After the training, 90% of the participants shared at least six posts of their political activities with the rest of the participants and received feedback and encouragements from each other.

The programme has made a significant structural change in the local governance system of Sri Lanka by advocating for the establishment of Women's Committees in local councils. By the end of the year, 56 Committees had been established due to interest and activity of women councillors themselves. These Committees have created an enabling environment for women councillors to work together.

In 2022, Sri Lanka suffered from an economic crisis, and following a request from the network's members, OTI organised online trainings on the economic and food crises in the country. The trainings encouraged women councillors to initiate for example nutrition programmes or other community initiatives at the local level through the Women's Committees.

In Myanmar, four Democracy School trainings were organised in 2022: two in a fully virtual setting and two face-to-face outside the country. Based on the post-training feedback from participants it is evident that the need for democracy trainings and related dialogue discussions has all but disappeared. Ethnic political actors from diverse parties expressed that after a long period of isolation and distrust, they began planning joint discussions about political solutions to current

issues in their home state. The willingness of political leaders of diverse ethnicities and political positions to jointly discuss the future of Myanmar around complex and sensitive topics like federalism showed that trust can still be nurtured and built upon for inclusive political processes at the subnational level in Myanmar.

In order to continue offering high-quality democracy education to political actors in the difficult political situation of Myanmar, an online application that can be accessed anywhere was developed. The MyDemocracy School App was launched in December 2022. It allows users to strengthen their democratic skills and knowledge by accessing a plethora of democracy education resources online and discussing the topics anonymously in the chat. The Democracy School alumni who attended the launch event expressed great excitement and exchanged greetings and thoughts about the application's potential as a comprehensive and accessible learning tool.



In Finland, the Democracy Academy 2022 for the youth and student organisations of political parties focused on the global state of democracy and international democracy support. 28 participants representing all nine parliamentary parties attended the training. In addition, nine youth politicians participated in a study visit to Strasbourg, France, to learn more of the Council of Europe's approach to democracy and human rights. The feedback from Democracy Academy shows that all the participants gained skills which they can utilise in their activities within their party, and all reported increased knowledge of the state of democracy.

In February, a study on the inclusion of PWDs in Finnish parliamentary parties was published. Demo Finland also founded together with all parliamentary parties a working group, which aims to advance the inclusion of PWDs within Finnish parties. The working group has provided a space for the parties to discuss strategies and practices of inclusion of PWDs, and the members of the working group have begun to monitor their parties' strategies and policies related to the inclusion of PWDs. Four party representatives from Demo Finland's multi-party working group and the vice-chair of the parliamentary co-operation group on disability issues travelled to Nairobi for a study visit to learn about the experiences of Kenyan political parties in promoting and mainstreaming disability inclusion.

Demo Finland supports political parties in becoming more inclusive and democratic also by enhancing dialogue between parties and civil society:

In Kenya, Demo Finland and WFD have supported disabled persons' organisations (DPOs) and CSOs working on inclusion to advocate for political participation and representation. This has enabled DPOs and CSOs to constructively engage political parties on issues affecting PWD participation. They have been able to engage and push for political party reforms that are reflective of policies supportive of PWD participation. For instance, the DPO umbrella networks signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 11 political parties, with the objective to formalise engagements with the parties to promote implementation of and adherence to legal provisions on inclusion and

participation of PWDs. The political parties committed to abide by the inclusive provisions in their individual constitutions as well as their respective nomination regulations.

In Tunisia, first-level classes of the School of Politics were organised for a mixed group of young political and civic actors. At the end of the training sessions, the representatives of CSOs and political parties from these mixed classes took the initiative to continue interacting regularly, face to face and online, so that they can collaborate and work together to look for solutions to the current crisis that the country is going through.

In Mozambique, Demo Finland and IMD continued to support meetings and consultations between MPs and communities affected by the extractive industry. MPs of the related Parliamentary Committees and Members of Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) visited a total of ten communities. In the programme's trainings, MPs and MPAs had gained important skills and tools that they applied during their oversight visits. They specifically looked at the issues related to a budget allocation of the extractive industry revenues, to corporate social responsibility and to channelling financial benefits from extractive industries to national businesses and local communities. In general, oversight visits were carried out with greater knowledge and ownership, and better-quality reports were produced where MPs and MPAs presented well-structured results as well as recommendations to stakeholders according to their area of intervention and responsibility.

Parliamentary exchange visits are also a part of the programme in Mozambique. A group of Mozambican MPs visited Finland in May, and the visit increased their understanding of democratic governance of natural resources. The relevance of strengthening the capacity of institutions working in the extractive industry sector, the need to get the confidence of citizens in the governance system and to ensure governmental stability were mentioned as lessons learnt. In addition, special attention was given to the citizens' legislative initiative as a good practice in the Finnish Parliament.

Why are new skills or increased self-confidence important outcomes?

Making one's voice heard in politics requires knowledge and understanding of how political decision-making works, how the parties co-operate, what inclusive democracy means and how the country's political and governance system works.

Politicians are often ordinary people who have decided to get involved and change their societies. Therefore, their own skills and knowledge are the most important asset they have. In this regard, the development of self-confidence, competence and ability to co-operate is essential.

In November, Demo Finland's Board members and other parliamentary group representatives visited Mozambique. The MPs of both countries saw the exchange visits as a unique opportunity for exchanging experiences and networking between the two Parliaments, and even for building foreign policy-linked bridges between the two countries. In addition, Mozambican MPs also visited Botswana and Tanzania with a specific focus to familiarise with the implementation of sovereign welfare funds in these countries which contributed directly into the process of creating a similar fund in Mozambique.



Experience sharing between Mozambican and Finnish MPs. Photo: Demo Finland

Outcome 2: Political parties perform strengthened inclusive multi-party dialogue

Constructive dialogue between political parties is essential to functioning multi-party democracy. Dialogue may lead to mutual respect and listening to the other party and create space for policies that take different views into account. Constructive and respectful political dialogue improves the citizens' confidence in representative democracy as a political system. Demo Finland strengthens the dialogue between parties to promote open political interaction. Demo Finland supports its partners in facilitating dialogue and creates and reinforces safe spaces for an ongoing dialogue between political parties.

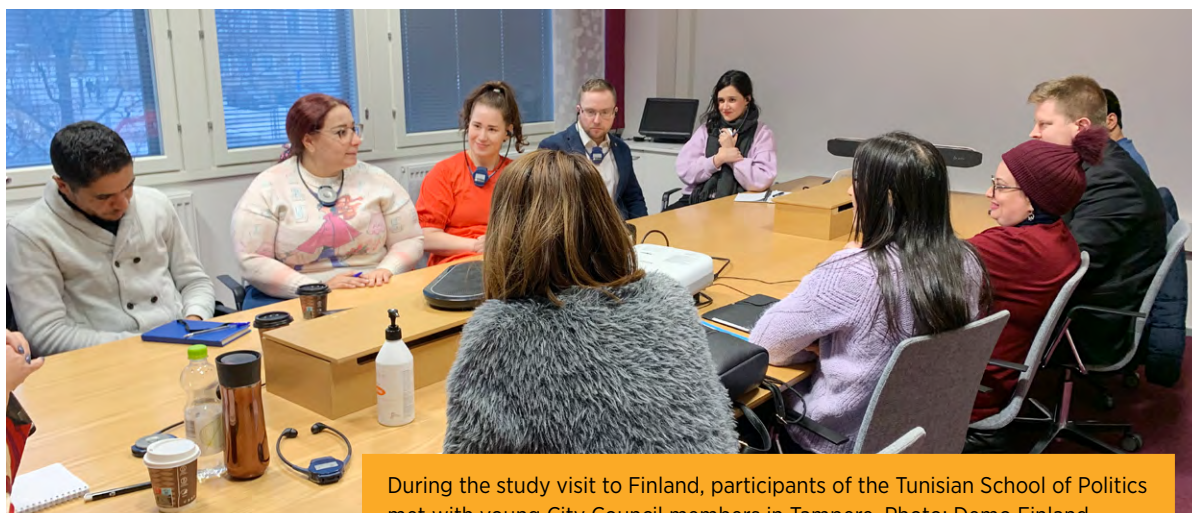
Multi-party dialogue is also a tool for building peace and engaging political parties as relevant actors in peace-building processes. This paves the way towards commitment of such actors, who in a post-conflict context and within post-peace building time will be responsible for transparent and accountable decision-making structures.

In 2022, Demo Finland continued to support multi-party platforms and networks in several countries as well as established new ones. Altogether 12 multi-party platforms and networks were active in five countries, and seven joint statements or agreements were made in these platforms with support from Demo Finland.

Altogether 12 multi-party platforms and networks were active in five countries, and seven joint statements or agreements were made in these platforms with support from Demo Finland.

In Tunisia, the political participation of young people has declined after the Arab Spring revolution and is generally very low at the moment. Therefore, the creation of a platform for youth participation has been one of the priorities of the programme. The Youth Council was created in 2021 to bring together young people who do not belong neither to political parties nor to CSOs, for a space to debate and exchange ideas. The number of participants grew from 20 to 31 in 2022.

In addition, Youth Collaborative Platform has been further developed from an online platform into a meeting place for young people outside of the capital area. These are prominent youth activists from political parties and civil society who want to be vocal in the new changed political situation.



During the study visit to Finland, participants of the Tunisian School of Politics met with young City Council members in Tampere. Photo: Demo Finland

The aim is to bring young people together in the new challenging political situation, to defend democracy and to bring their voice to public discussion. During 2022, three meetings were held in different regions, with the participation of 38 young people.

In Zambia, the National Women in Politics Platform (NWIPP) continued to position itself as a central advocate for women's political participation in 2022. The newly elected Chairperson of the NWIPP indicated that although the programme supported by Demo Finland was coming to an end, the Platform members will continue to enable the platform to continue implementing activities. In 2022, NWIPP released three joint press statements. These were related to the inclusivity of sustainable development, recommendations to the Ministry of Finance on gender sensitive budgeting and a statement on the International Day of Democracy highlighting the importance of media freedom to democracy, peace and sustainable development goals.

The Persons with Disabilities Political Dialogue network in Zambia clarified its role in policy, legislative and development processes. The network meetings (one in Mansa and three in Lusaka, with 63 female and 57 male participants) covered topics such as lobbying for the recruitment of PWDs by political parties, awareness raising on the political rights of PWDs, advocacy for inclusive electoral systems, stakeholder engagement on disability mainstreaming and engagement of political parties in the implementation of disability inclusion plans or strategies. There is a clear need for the network, evidenced by an overwhelming number of inquiries from PWDs wishing to join the network.

Why is it relevant to measure joint statements?

The political parties' joint statements and other initiatives are small signs that in countries where parties may not have had any contact with each other before it has been possible to create a spirit of co-operation and promote democracy and peace.

A concrete joint statement or legal initiative is preceded by persistent long-term work and is the result of numerous facilitated meetings, building best practices for co-operation and trust-building. However, when this work bears fruit, it is a sign to the whole society that decision-makers are able to negotiate issues instead of arguing.

In Myanmar, previous work to support multi-party dialogue had been suspended due to the military coup in 2021. However, there was a need to find a safe space to begin to reconnect the political actors to each other and share experiences. The first meeting for regional stakeholders took place at end of 2022 and 13 civic and political actors and stakeholders were reconnected. They expressed a unified urgent interest in engaging in dialogue to address key issues in their state together. In the highly polarized and unstable context of the country, this was a very significant step towards re-establishing dialogue.



Political youth and student organisations discussed the state of democracy in the Democracy Academy. Photo: Demo Finland

In Finland, the Democracy Academy organised for the youth and student organisations of the political parties provided a safe space for peer-learning and dialogue. The Democracy Academy had a strong emphasis on multi-party dialogue to enhance participants' dialogue skills and included a dialogue session on the possibility of democratic backsliding in Finland. 92% of the Democracy Academy participants reported that working together and dialogue with other political parties was fruitful. The dialogue component of the Democracy Academies was highly valued by the participants, as there are limited opportunities for such dialogue for all political parties.

Demo Finland encouraged the Academy participants to draft joint statements as an exercise of constructive dialogue and co-operation. After the Democracy Academy study visit to Strasbourg, the participants found a common issue and worked on a joint statement. The statement highlighted the need for support for the civil societies in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, and was signed by all parliamentary parties' youth and student wings.

After the Democracy Academy, an alumni network was established to offer a safe space for multi-party dialogue. The alumni network had two meetings during 2022: one discussing democracy, digital power and new forms of participation organised together with Sitra and one dialogue on youth participation together with the alumni of the Tunisian School of Politics during their study visit to Finland. At the end of 2022, the network had 34 participants from all parliamentary parties. They represent alumni from Democracy Academies of 2020–2022.

The Peace and Dialogue Group consisting of ten Finnish Members of Parliament continued to deepen their knowledge on peace mediation and multi-party dialogue. In 2022, as a new member was added to the group the number of represented parliamentary parties grew from seven to eight. The Peace and Dialogue group attended additional training session organised by Demo Finland and ETH Zürich. The training focused on inclusion in peace processes and the role of parliaments in maintaining peace. The key reflections on the training were a stronger understanding of the fundamental connection between democracy and peace and security.

The ability of Demo Finland and its partners to effectively play a role as impartial multi-party dialogue facilitators requires constant learning. In 2022, the whole staff of Demo Finland participated in a training on Timeout (Erätauko) dialogue method and learnt how to act as facilitators using this particular method.

Are all the outcomes measurable?

Joint statements and other initiatives by political parties as well as the increased knowledge of the training participants can be measured to some extent. However, measuring democracy support is not always simple. At best, democracy support produces qualitative results, which can be difficult to summarise in statistics or numerical changes. It is often a matter of changing the attitudes of politicians, for example, towards other political groups. When successful, these changes produce more democratically minded decision-makers.

Outcome 3: Finnish parliamentary parties' commitment to democracy support translates into policies

The strengthening of and support for democracy around the world requires strong advocacy and international co-operation. Finland and the European Union have committed to supporting democracy internationally, but a value-based commitment may not be sufficiently evident in the policies being applied. Demo Finland contributes to the democracy

support policies of Finland and the European Union by offering its expertise to governmental actors and decision-makers. Demo Finland brings additional value to international co-operation by participating in the activities of a wide variety of networks and highlighting the expertise of Finnish politicians. The additional value provided by Demo Finland is based particularly on the inclusivity of the political parties in Finland and being able to tap into the political parties' expertise on civil and political rights.

Demo Finland was consulted in 20 policy processes. Demo Finland's experts also gave 13 speeches or lectures in events organised by different stakeholders

Demo Finland aims to grow its reputation as a recognised expert on multi-party democracy over the strategy period 2021–2025. In practice, this means that the utilisation of Demo Finland's expertise on democracy expands further, and its messaging reaches the target audience more widely.

In 2022, Demo Finland continued strengthening its role as the leading expert in democracy support in Finland. Demo Finland monitored ongoing and upcoming policy processes which had relevance to democracy support, providing its expertise for political parties and government officials. In practice, this meant participating in hearings in the Ministries and in the Parliament, publishing statements and positions and contributing to those drafted jointly by networks or multi-stakeholder committees. Altogether, Demo Finland was consulted in 20 policy processes. Demo Finland's experts also gave 13 speeches or lectures in events organised by different stakeholders, of which two were requests from political parties.

One of the most relevant policy processes to which Demo Finland contributed was the Government Resolution on Finnish Democracy Policy in the 2020s. It states Finland's international democracy support as one of the six main topics in Finnish democracy policy, and Demo Finland is also mentioned. Another important process was the Futures Review of the Ministries 2022. In the review,

the challenges of democracy and the backsliding of the global state of democracy are clearly recognised among the trends impacting the future. Moreover, measures to strengthen democracy in Finland as well as internationally are included under several ministries in the review.

Demo Finland provided expertise on democracy support and the global state of democracy to political parties in Finland by inviting party representatives to public events related to democracy, by publishing reports and attending party congresses of its member parties. As the parties started their preparations for the 2023 parliamentary elections, Demo Finland gave support and guidance to the parties in including international democracy support in their respective electoral and policy programmes. Demo Finland met with different stakeholders and all parliamentary parties; for example, with party leaders, MPs and parties' foreign affairs experts during 2022.

In the latest policies and programmes of the political parties, out of nine parliamentary parties, eight were committed to the Report on Development Policy across Parliamentary Terms which includes democracy as a priority in development policy, five included democracy as a priority for development policy and five as an objective of foreign policy, and six in total mention supporting democracy either through development or foreign policy.



Finnish political party representatives learnt about disability inclusion from the experiences of Kenyan political parties. Photo: Demo Finland

Advocacy and communications

Demo Finland's advocacy work aims to promote democracy support in political party programmes and in national and international policies.

In addition to the contribution to the policy processes mentioned in the previous chapter, Demo Finland was invited to provide input to consultations and hearings of different parliamentary committees. The Administration and Security Division of the Finance Committee requested a statement regarding the state budget for the year 2022. Demo Finland also gave a written statement on the budget for the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In addition, Demo Finland continued to support the implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (UN Resolution 2250) through monitoring group coordinated by the MFA. Demo Finland also contributed to the drafting process of Finland's fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (UN Resolution 1325). Regarding national networks, Demo Finland provided its expertise to the Development Policy Committee and the National Commission on Sustainable Development.

Advocacy at the EU level was done in co-operation with the umbrella organisation of European democracy organisations, the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). Demo Finland was actively involved in advocacy work through EPD by offering input on the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020–2024 Mid-Term Review and the Rule of Law report 2022, as well as keeping an eye on the Team Europe Democracy initiative. European Democracy Hub, a joint project of EPD and Carnegie Europe, produced its Annual Review of Democracy Support. Demo Finland provided knowledge on Finnish democracy support and democracy policy for the Review.

2022 was the Year of Action of the Summit for Democracy, an international process initiated by the President of the United States Joe Biden. Demo Finland participated in the Summit for Democracy “Gender Equality as a Prerequisite for Democracy” cohort jointly led by Sweden, Romania, Georgetown University’s Institute for Women, Peace & Security (GIWPS) and International IDEA. The purpose of the cohort is to highlight the connection between gender equality and democracy and to develop policy recommendations to bolster women’s participation in and contribution to democracy. The work of the cohort continues in 2023. In addition to the cohort, Demo Finland was involved in producing recommendations for the second Summit in 2023 together with the Global Democracy Coalition, a group of over 90 democracy actors from around the world.

Demo Finland was involved in producing recommendations for the second Summit for Democracy in 2023 together with the Global Democracy Coalition.

Two papers on gender equality were produced within the international networks. Within Political Party Peer Network (PPPpeer), Demo Finland together with The Oslo Center, the National Democratic Institute and International IDEA produced a joint paper on violence against women in politics. It presents interventions for political parties on how to prevent and address any form of violence against women in politics to strengthen women’s participation and representation in politics and political decision-making. Together with International IDEA, Demo Finland produced a comprehensive study on the political context in Ethiopia with an emphasis on gender equality in politics.



In SuomiAreena, politicians discussed dialogue between political parties. Photo: Demo Finland

Demo Finland's communications aims to increase awareness about the importance of democracy for sustainable development and of inclusive political parties for a functioning multi-party democracy, and to strengthen Demo Finland's status as an expert organisation of democracy support. The target groups of Demo Finland's communications are mainly political parties and politicians in Finland, donors, as well as democracy experts and practitioners in Finland and abroad.

Demo Finland's main communication channels were its website, regular newsletter and social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. The data gathering tool on Demo Finland's website was changed in January 2022, and therefore the data may not be fully comparable to previous statistics. The statistics however indicate an 86% increase in the number of website visitors. The number of the Finnish language newsletter subscribers increased by 15%, and of the English language newsletter increased by 19%. Moreover, the average opening rate of the newsletters increased from 23.6% to 27%.

Demo Finland met with five party-affiliated media and provided them with topical information on democracy-related issues throughout the year. Two of the media interviewed the keynote speaker of Demo Finland's International Day of Democracy Seminar, Laura Thornton. Demo Finland also set up interviews for Thornton with the leading newspaper Helsingin Sanomat and Maailma.net, a news service focusing on sustainable development, thus raising public awareness of the link between democracy and security.

Several public events were organised live and online and reached at least 1060 participants:

The launch event of Demo Finland's study on the participation of persons with disabilities in political parties gathered members and staff of political parties to discuss the state of disability inclusion in the parties. The event included workshops where the participants exchanged experiences and discussed challenges and good practices on the participation of persons with disabilities in a very constructive and solution-oriented manner. This encouraged Demo Finland to establish a working group together with political parties to continue the work towards more inclusive politics.

At the World Village Festival in May, Demo Finland held a discussion on deliberative democracy in climate politics. The discussion explored ways to enhance citizen participation in climate politics, and the panellists included the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, a participant of Citizen's Jury on Climate Actions and a researcher.

At SuomiAreena event, Demo Finland organised a panel discussion on multi-party dialogue where politicians from all parliamentary parties discussed the importance of dialogue and co-operation and gave examples of constructive co-operation across party lines. The friendly atmosphere and commitment to dialogue was noticed by the audience and the discussion got good feedback from the audience and from the speakers themselves.

On the International Day of Democracy, Demo Finland organised a seminar on the linkage between democracy and security together with the International Department of the Finnish Parliament. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs gave the opening speech via video, and the keynote speaker was Laura Thornton, Director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy initiative of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Nine politicians from different parties participated in the panel discussions of the seminar that sparked lively discussion on the role of human rights and democracy in Finland's foreign and security policy.



International Day of Democracy Seminar in the Finnish Parliament. Photo: Demo Finland

Human resources

The staff of Demo Finland must have very specific knowledge and skills, including, but not limited to, diplomatic sensitivity, country-specific knowledge, and exemplary communication skills in the context of a challenging, global multi-party environment. Demo Finland invests in maintaining a motivating environment that supports the professional attitude of the staff through capacity building, encouraging mutual learning, providing opportunities to develop new skills and upholding a supportive and stimulating working environment.

During 2022, there were ten staff members working in the headquarters in Helsinki, Finland. In addition, there were two interns during the year to support regular staff members.

Demo Finland’s Board, elected for two years and with a rotating presidency of the political parties, consists of representatives from Demo Finland’s member parties. In 2022, the composition of the Board was as follows:

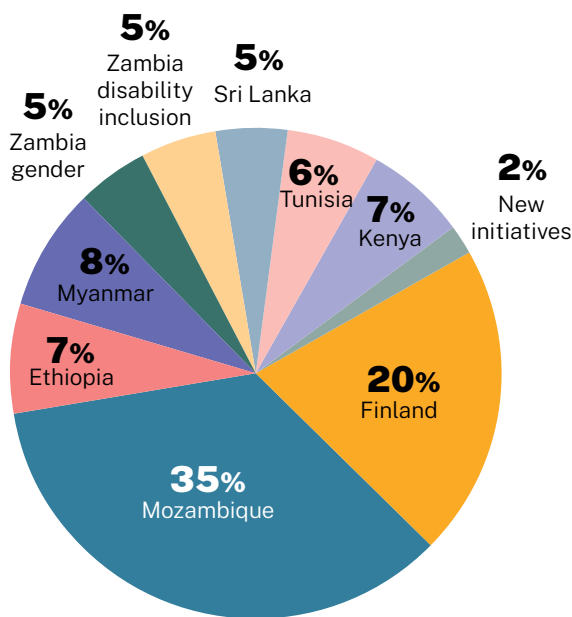
Centre Party	two seats (including Chair)
Movement Now	one seat (first Vice-chair)
National Coalition Party	two seats (including second Vice-chair)
Social Democratic Party	two seats
Finns Party	two seats
Greens	one seat
Left Alliance	one seat
Swedish People’s Party	one seat
Christian Democrats	one seat

Financial resources

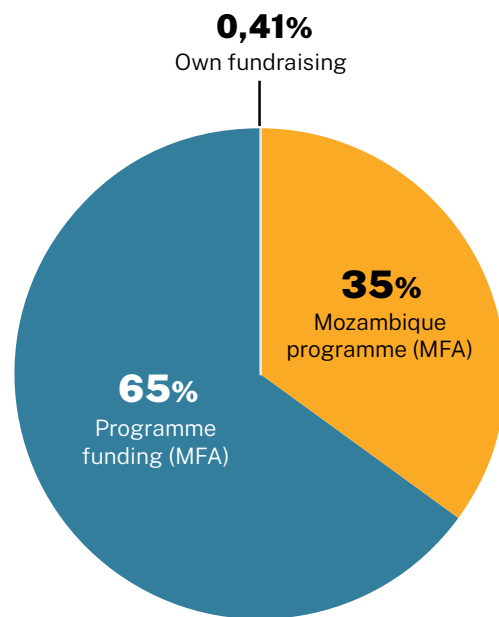
The total costs of the programme funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) during 2022 were around 1.71 million euros. Demo Finland also received funding from the Finnish MFA for Finland’s bilateral programme in Mozambique (of which around 49,000 euros were used in Finland, around 829,000 euros in Mozambique and around 32,000 euros in the Netherlands). Together with The Oslo Center, Demo Finland received 5,200 euros as funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA for the Somalia consortium programme to cover some staff costs implemented directly by Demo Finland. Demo Finland also collected around 10,000 euros as membership fees from its Finnish member parties.

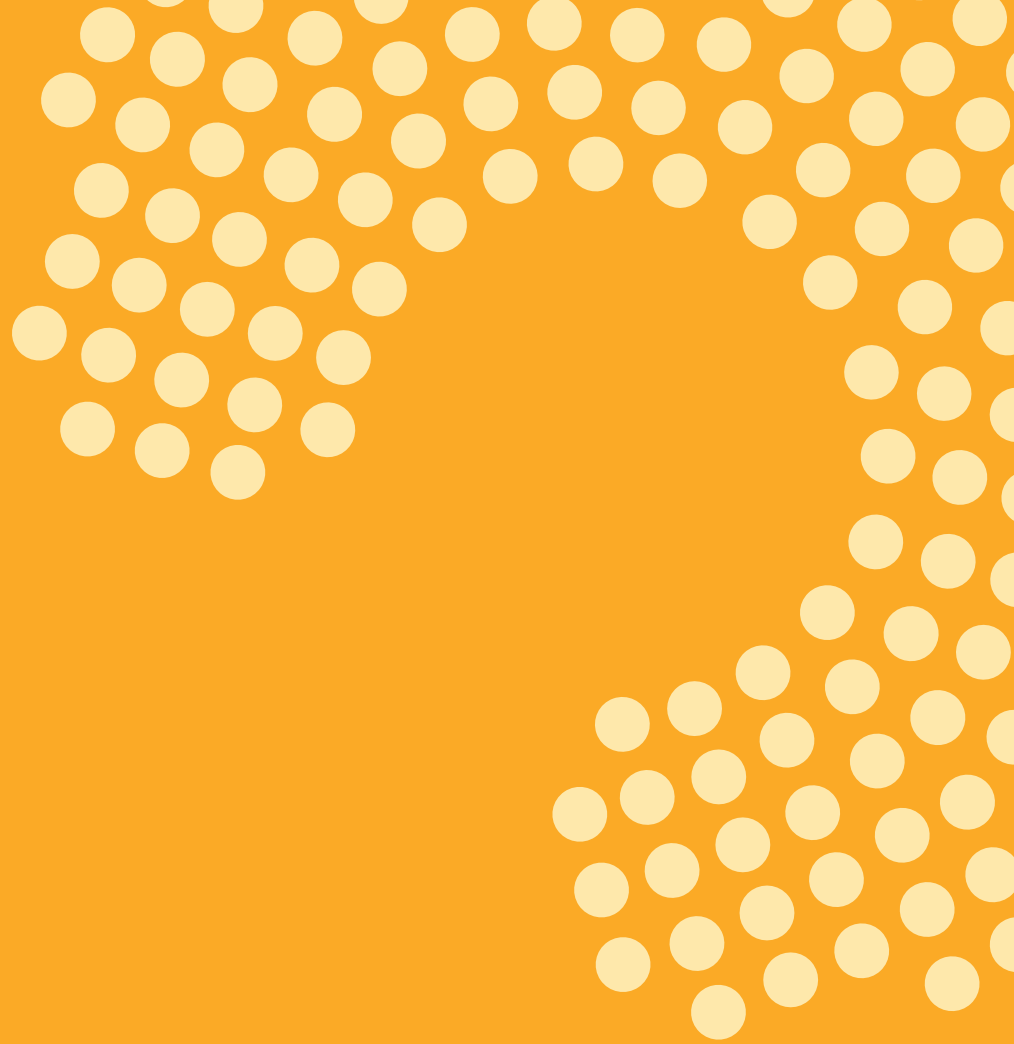
Demo Finland’s own capital increased by 10,830 euros during the year, reaching 58,863 euros.

Use of funds



Sources of funding





Political Parties of Finland for Democracy – Demo Finland is a co-operative organisation of all Finnish parliamentary parties. It enhances democracy by strengthening the political participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in particular and by supporting dialogue between political parties.

www.demofinland.org