

# Defend Democracy

**basic information** (English, version January 2022)

[Defend Democracy](#) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation. We work transatlantically.

## *Mission*

To defend and strengthen democracy against foreign, domestic and technological threats.

## *Organisation*

Currently consists of Executive Director, Supervisory Board, volunteers; got some project funding. Immediate priority is finding core funding to set up a professional organisation with a core team. In the next years (2022 – 2024) we aim to grow to around 10 people (5 core, 5 flexible).

## *Problem*

Democracy is under pressure worldwide, even in countries where we thought things were all right, such as the US and the UK. For years, there has been [democratic backsliding](#): a qualitative decline in the [essential elements](#) of healthy democracies.

Unfortunately, governments and other stakeholders in established democracies are doing too little to reverse the erosion of democracy "at home", let alone to proactively prevent it.

## *Solution*

Because countries fail in their duty to prevent or reverse the erosion of democracy, Defend Democracy steps into the breach. Not as the umpteenth think-tank that publishes reports, but as a do-tank that gets to work. Of course not to take over the role of governments and their alliances, but to encourage them to defend democracy and, as a civil society actor, to help them do so.

## *Approach*

Defend Democracy works at the intersection of freedom, security and technology. In particular, we contribute to greater civil resilience as the basis for a proactive, whole-of-society defence of our democracies against [hybrid threats](#).

## *Output*

Advocacy; awareness, grassroots and community-building; active contribution to civil resilience

## *Outcome (long term)*

- \* International organisations (EU, NATO) and their member states take timely and decisive action to prevent the erosion of democracy and, where necessary, reverse it.
- \* More countries working on increasing civil resilience against hybrid threats to democracy through a ['whole-of-society'](#) approach
- \* Increased civil resilience against hybrid threats to democracy
- \* Defend Democracy as a leading civil society partner in tackling hybrid threats to democracy

## *Goal*

To prevent and reverse the erosion of democracy.

## *Scope*

Because prevention is [better](#) (more effective and cheaper) than cure, Defend Democracy initially focuses on the Transatlantic region: EU, Canada, UK and US.

## *Track record (highlights)*

Defend Democracy is well-known for its expertise in dealing with *disinformation and big tech* (e.g. successful watchdog [Kieskijker](#), training [Act On Disinfo](#), policy [input](#), participation in [panels](#) etc.), for its *digital advocacy*, and for its *convening power*: community-building for democracy defenders ([Democracy Drinks](#) across the world) and high-level [Transatlantic Democracy Dialogue](#).

## *Transparency*

EU Transparency Register: 656334937846-80