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Press Release

International NGOs People in Need (PIN) and European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) Launch Joint Project *WYDE Freedoms – Prepare, Protect, Promote* to Empower Young Civil Society Leaders Worldwide

Brussels, Prague 19 November 2024 — *People in Need (PIN)* and *European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)* are proud to announce the launch of their joint initiative, **WYDE Freedoms – Prepare, Protect, Promote**, aimed at supporting young civil society actors across the globe in upholding and promoting the rights of freedom of assembly and association.

Amidst a global landscape where democratic principles are increasingly under threat, WYDE Freedoms seeks to equip young civil society actors with the skills, protection, and knowledge they need to safeguard and advance the fundamental rights of freedom of assembly and association. The project, part of the broader **WYDE Initiative** (Women and Youth Democratic Engagement), is funded by the European Commission under the **Global Europe Instrument** and aligns with the EU's **Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme**. Through WYDE, the European Union continues to support the active participation of youth and women in democratic processes, helping them shape the future of their societies.

The WYDE initiative champions inclusive democracy, with a strong focus on advocacy and research as crucial components of the project. By strengthening the voices of young leaders, especially women, WYDE Freedoms aims to foster a more open and democratic global society where human rights are respected and upheld. The project's main objective is to prepare young leaders through targeted capacity development, address their protection needs, and facilitate sharing of knowledge to promote freedom of assembly and association.

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The project will run for 2 years and 6 months.

For further information, please contact:

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About People in Need (PIN):

People in Need is a Czech-based international organization dedicated to protect democratic activists and civil society groups, provide aid to people in crisis and educate and empower marginalized groups. <https://www.peopleinneed.net/>

About European Partnership for Democracy (EPD):

EPD is a network working to strengthen democracy, human rights, and political pluralism across Europe and beyond, with a focus on supporting democratic reforms and promoting inclusive governance. <https://epd.eu/>

About WYDE Initiative:

The **Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE)** Initiative is a European Commission-funded program that supports youth and women in shaping democratic processes, promoting human rights, and empowering them to engage actively in political life.

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