

European Partnership Initiative

OVERVIEW

European Partnership Initiative Program Summary

Through the European Partnership Initiative, the International Republican Institute (IRI) has built a network of contacts both in the institutions of the European Union (EU) and in the individual capitals of the member states of the EU. This network has supported IRI's work around the world and has brought different perspectives and experiences to the Institute programs.

Partnerships in Europe

Since the launch of the program, IRI has worked with the leadership of the European People's Party and cultivated practical working relationships with almost every one of its 72 member parties – the largest of the EU party families. In large part because of the active engagement of members of IRI's Board of Directors, the Institute has also successfully developed and built a closer working relationship with the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists and its member parties, most notably the British Conservatives.

The results of these important relationships have continued to multiply. Since IRI began this effort, more than 350 Europeans, including Austrians, Bosnians, Britons, Czechs, Dutch, Estonians, French, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Latvians, Norwegians, Poles, Portuguese, Serbs, Slovaks, Spaniards, Swedes, and others have contributed to IRI's programs and on election observation missions throughout the world.

Transatlantic Debate on Policy Issues

Together with the EPP's Center for European Studies, IRI looks at important policy issues and U.S. and EU challenges in foreign aid with its partner parties and foundations. Partnerships developed with party-affiliated foundations and institutes across Europe have also led to direct financial support for IRI programming, for example from the German Konrad Adenauer *Stiftung*, the Greek Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy, the Spanish Foundation for Analysis and Social Studies Foundation and the Dutch Eduardo Frei Foundation. Partnerships such as these have also served as a vehicle for collaboration on EU democracy-related activities through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the new European Endowment for Democracy.