



WYDE
Inter Pares



INTER PARES
Parliaments in Partnership
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments



Inter Pares Newsletter

Summer 2026

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NEW PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

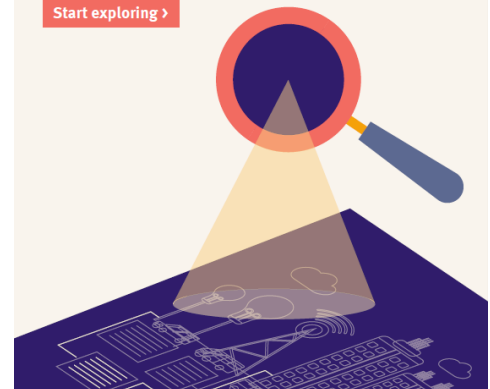
HANDBOOK ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Parliaments have a central role to play in ensuring that large-scale infrastructure projects deliver sustainable, inclusive and accountable development outcomes. This [Handbook for Parliamentary Oversight of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects](#) is an interactive resource providing parliamentarians and their staff with a practical framework for overseeing large-scale infrastructure projects. The publication was officially launched during the INTER PARES Steering Committee Meeting at the European Parliament, featuring keynote remarks by Michael Gahler MEP and Chiara Adamo, Deputy Director for Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace (DG INTPA G), European Commission. The [handbook](#) examines the mandates, functions and working methods through which legislatures can scrutinize major public investments across the project lifecycle. Combining analytical guidance with clear checklists, strategic questions, sample templates and internationally informed good practices, it strengthens the capacity of legislatures to ensure transparency, efficiency, and alignment with national



Handbook for Parliamentary Oversight of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects

Start exploring >

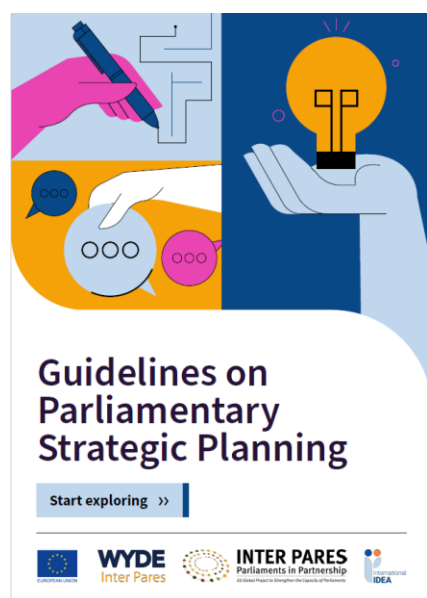


development priorities. By reinforcing accountability in major public investments, the Handbook contributes to better development outcomes, sound management of public resources, and increased trust in democratic institutions.

Additional resources:

- [Annexes Handbook on Parliamentary Oversight of Large Infrastructure Projects](#)

GUIDELINES ON PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGIC PLANNING



[The Guidelines on Parliamentary Strategic Planning](#) is a practical, peer-informed resource developed through the Inter Pares Programme in partnership with the National Assembly of Zambia. They respond to the growing recognition that strategic planning is essential for parliaments to strengthen effectiveness, accountability, service delivery, and responsiveness to evolving public expectations. Drawing on global practices, and in particular, on the rich peer-to-peer exchanges from the 2025 High-level Workshop in Lusaka, which brought together three EU Member State parliaments, the Parliament of Canada, and seven regional parliaments the guidelines translate comparative experience into actionable advice.

The [Guidelines](#) are structured to accompany the full strategic planning cycle, with chapters covering: (1) Baseline Analysis/ Review of Previous Strategic Plan; (2) Establishing the Vision, Mission and Values; (3) Formulation of Strategy; (4) Implementation Planning; (5) Costing, Funding and Engaging Stakeholders; (6) Governance Frameworks; (7) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL); (8) Adaptation and Continuous Improvement; and (10) Communicating Strategic Objective Results.

Across these chapters, readers will find practical tools, guiding questions, country examples, and lessons learned, making the guidelines relevant both for parliaments beginning their strategic planning journey and for those seeking to refine more mature processes.

RECENT PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

PARLIAMENTARIANS GATHER IN BOTSWANA TO STRENGTHEN BUDGET OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



From 10–12 June, parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, government representatives, and experts from across Africa and Europe gathered in Gaborone for a workshop on Parliament's Budgetary Engagement and Oversight of Public Enterprises, hosted by the National Assembly of Botswana in partnership with WYDE Inter Pares | Parliaments in Partnership.

Bringing together participants from Botswana, Denmark, Ireland, Malawi, Slovakia, South Africa, and Zambia, the workshop supported the National Assembly's efforts to strengthen its oversight role following the 2024 elections. Discussions focused on parliamentary engagement throughout the budget cycle, oversight of state-owned enterprises, the role of audit institutions, access to information, and accountability mechanisms.

Opening the event, Dr Gabriel G. G. Malebang, Clerk of the National Assembly of Botswana, highlighted Parliament's commitment to revitalizing and strengthening its oversight function. In his keynote address, Rt. Hon. Dithapelo Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly,

emphasized Parliament's responsibility to safeguard the public interest through effective financial scrutiny and accountability.

The workshop combined peer exchange, expert presentations, and practical exercises, drawing on experiences from across Southern Africa and the European Union. It builds on more than two years of collaboration between the National Assembly and Inter Pares and will contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen parliamentary oversight, accountability, and democratic governance in Botswana. Learn more [here](#).

Read our new blog: [Strengthening parliament's power of the purse: Botswana hosts international workshop on budget oversight and public enterprises](#)

PEER-TO-PEER WORKSHOP ON MEANINGFUL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



From 2–4 June, parliamentary practitioners, researchers, and experts from Indonesia, France, the Netherlands, Romania, and Slovakia gathered in Jakarta, for a peer-to-peer workshop on

Meaningful Public Participation in the Legislative Process, organised through the Inter Pares partnership with the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI).

The workshop supported the DPR RI Expert Body (Badan Keahlian DPR RI) as it develops Guidelines on Meaningful Public Participation in the drafting of Academic Papers and Bills. Through peer exchange, participants explored practical approaches to strengthening citizen engagement throughout the legislative process and ensuring public input contributes meaningfully to legislative outcomes.

Opening the workshop, Hon. Ravindra Airlangga, Member of the DPR RI and Vice Chairperson of BKSAP, highlighted the importance of strengthening connections between parliaments and citizens to address declining public trust in democratic institutions. Participants agreed that meaningful participation requires engagement that is inclusive, transparent, accessible, and capable of influencing decision-making.

Over three days, discussions examined stakeholder engagement, consultation processes, managing public input, digital participation tools, and mechanisms for communicating how public contributions inform legislative decisions. Particular attention was given to the importance of closing the feedback loop so citizens can understand how their views were considered.

The workshop concluded with the development of practical recommendations and indicators to support the DPR RI's forthcoming Guidelines on Meaningful Public Participation. By sharing comparative experiences and lessons learned, participants contributed valuable insights to strengthen citizen engagement and public trust in the legislative process.

Learn more [HERE](#).

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH THROUGH PEER EXCHANGE BETWEEN UKRAINE AND ROMANIA

From 27–29 May, Inter Pares supported an official visit of the Research Service of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Senate of Romania, bringing together parliamentary researchers, legislative experts, and parliamentary officials to exchange experiences on legislative drafting, parliamentary research, economic and financial analysis, foresight, and European affairs.



Participants engaged with counterparts from the Romanian Senate's Legislative Department, European Affairs Service, and parliamentary committees, exploring how parliamentary administrations provide independent, evidence-based analysis to support legislative scrutiny, informed decision-making, and effective oversight.

The exchange strengthened professional networks and identified opportunities for continued cooperation. As Ukraine advances its European integration agenda, such peer-to-peer collaboration plays an important role in building institutional capacity, sharing expertise, and supporting effective and resilient parliamentary institutions. Learn more [here](#).

SUPPORTING BUDGET OVERSIGHT IN NEPAL'S NEW PARLIAMENT



In May, Inter Pares partnered with the Federal Parliament of Nepal to convene two workshops in Kathmandu focused on strengthening parliamentary budget oversight and institutional capacity following the country's March 2026 elections.

On 15 May, parliamentary staff participated in a workshop on the role and functioning of Parliamentary Budget Offices (PBOs), exploring how independent analytical capacity

can support more effective parliamentary scrutiny of public spending. Through exchanges with peers from the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas and the Cyprus House of Representatives, participants examined approaches to strengthening the mandate, autonomy, and effectiveness of PBOs.

Building on these discussions, newly elected Members of Parliament participated in a two-day workshop from 16–17 May, on Parliament's Budgetary Powers: from Pre-Budget Consultations to Budget Scrutiny and Oversight. The workshop brought together parliamentary peers from Ireland, France, and Cyprus, alongside government officials and experts, to share experiences and good practices related to budget scrutiny, public consultations, parliamentary budget offices, and collaboration with Supreme Audit Institutions.

A key theme throughout both workshops was the importance of transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based budget processes that strengthen parliamentary oversight and ensure public resources are aligned with national priorities and citizens' needs.

Together, the workshops reflect Inter Pares' ongoing commitment to supporting partner parliaments in strengthening democratic accountability, institutional capacity, and effective oversight of public finances.

Read our new blog: [Learning Across Borders: How Parliamentary Partnerships Strengthen Democracy](#)

YOUTH PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY



From 29–30 April, the Youth Parliamentary Academy (YPA), co-hosted by Inter Pares and the National Assembly of Benin, brought together 85 youth leaders from 77 communes to strengthen youth engagement in parliamentary decision-making.

Held in Grand Popo, the Academy provided a platform for direct dialogue between young citizens and parliament. Through a hands-on, "learning by doing" approach, participants worked in groups to identify key challenges facing young people and transform them into structured, evidence-based policy proposals.

Supported by facilitators and experts from the French and Belgian parliaments, participants developed and refined 90-second parliamentary pitches before presenting them directly to members of parliamentary standing committees and parliamentary administration. The

proposals combined citizen perspectives with practical recommendations grounded in parliamentary processes.

The Academy concluded with a strengthened channel for dialogue between young citizens and the National Assembly of Benin, reinforcing opportunities for continued engagement, collaboration, and youth participation in democratic governance. Learn more [here](#).

Additional Resources:

- [Youth Parliamentary Academy Toolkit](#)
- [Youth Parliamentary Academy Final Report](#) (EN)
- [Académie Parlementaire de la Jeunesse](#) (FR)

STUDY VISIT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA TO THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT



From 29–30 April, Inter Pares supported a collaborative work stay between the Austrian Parliament and the National Assembly of Zambia focused on strengthening digital parliamentary practices and citizen engagement.

Through peer exchange, parliamentary staff explored approaches to website and content management, accessibility, navigation, and digital information services – key tools for improving transparency and public access to parliamentary work. Participants gained practical insights into how the Austrian Parliament manages its digital communications while sharing experiences and lessons from their own institutions.

The exchange strengthened both technical capacity and institutional collaboration, providing participants with ideas and approaches that can be adapted within the Zambian context. As one participant reflected, the experience was an opportunity to return home "reenergised and revamped."

The activity reflects Inter Pares' ongoing commitment to supporting peer-to-peer learning and innovation to help parliaments become more open,

accessible, and responsive to citizens. Learn more [here](#).

4th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



The 4th Steering Committee Meeting of WYDE Inter Pares | Parliaments in Partnership, part of the European Union's Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE), was held from 23–24 April, at the European Parliament in Brussels. Co-chaired by the European Commission and International IDEA, the meeting brought together representatives from EU Member State parliaments, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Participants reviewed progress achieved during Phase II, highlighting results from partnerships in countries including Botswana, Zambia, Benin, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Ukraine. The meeting also marked the launch of two key knowledge products: the Handbook on Parliamentary Oversight of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects and the Guidelines on Parliamentary Strategic Planning.

Discussions explored parliamentary support in complex political environments, youth engagement, gender equality, and parliamentary resilience, while looking ahead to the priorities and partner countries for Phase III (2026–2029).

The meeting reaffirmed the value of peer-to-peer parliamentary cooperation in strengthening transparency, inclusiveness, and democratic resilience, while setting the direction for the next phase of the Inter Pares programme. Learn more [here](#).

E-LEARNING

UPDATED PARLIAMENTS IN PRACTICE COURSE



The “Parliaments in Practice: an Introduction” course is designed for legislators who are new to parliament, and for parliamentary staff, practitioners, donors, civil society organizations and others who want to learn about how parliament works. Available in: English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, and Russian.

[WATCH the promo video on it now!](#) Learn more and sign up for the course [here](#).

AGORA/INTER PARES E-LEARNING FACTSHEET

AGORA’s free e-learning platform offers 20 online courses designed to strengthen parliamentary institutions and governance around the world. Tailored for Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, and governance practitioners, the courses cover topics such as law-making, parliamentary oversight, budgeting, representation, human rights, youth participation, gender equality, climate change, and open parliaments. Many courses are available in multiple languages, including English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, and Russian.

The platform also features specialized courses developed through partnerships such as Inter Pares and Pro-PALOP-TL-SAI, providing practical learning opportunities on public financial management, budget oversight, extractive industries, ICT in parliaments, and sustainable development. Participants can access all courses free of charge and earn certificates for selected modules.

 Portal for Parliamentary Development	 AGORA A knowledge ecosystem for the parliamentary community
About AGORA Founded in 2008, AGORA is the world's only global platform dedicated to parliaments - bringing together legislatures and practitioners to share knowledge, spark innovation, and strengthen democratic institutions. AGORA e-learning Portal AGORA offers a free e-learning platform with 20 courses to strengthen parliaments and governance worldwide. Courses are tailored for Members of Parliament, staff, and practitioners, and select courses are available in multiple languages (EN, FR, ES, AR, RU, PT). Explore the courses: learn.agora.net/en	
 INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership (International Parliamentary Excellence) Highlights Include Core Modules The Inter Pares e-learning package comprises six core courses, as well as a set of specialised courses, including gender and environmental protection and climate change. • Open Parliaments This course provides an understanding of transparency, accountability, and participation in parliaments, offers evidence-based insights, and presents actionable strategies for promoting openness in parliamentary work. Available in English. • Effective Human Rights Engagement for Parliaments This course equips parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with the knowledge and skills to effectively engage with human rights issues and promote active human rights protection within their parliaments. Available in English. • Youth Participation Pathways for Parliaments This course helps learners understand youth participation, explore existing models, and envision how it can be integrated across key parliamentary functions. Available in English. • Representation This course helps learners understand societal change affecting representation, the role of modern parliaments, the core processes of representation, and equips them to evaluate their practices and reflect on their own parliamentary practices. Available in English, Arabic, Portuguese, and Russian. • Parliamentary Oversight This course provides a comprehensive understanding of parliamentary oversight, including its theory, tools, practices, political implications, and illustrative case studies from Europe and beyond. Available in English. • Comparative Law-making This course examines contemporary law-making in democracies, covering its relationship with other parliamentary functions, historical and modern precedents, and comparative practice across different jurisdictions. Available in English. • Legislative Drafting This course explores the legislative drafting process, how policy concepts evolve into laws and the regulatory outcomes they aim to achieve. Available in English. • The Role of Parliament in the Budgeting Process This course provides an overview of the budget process, the role of parliaments at each stage, current budgeting trends, and illustrative case studies of parliamentary practices. Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic. • The Role of Parliamentary Committees This course explores the role of parliamentary committees, international practices and procedures, and equips learners to critically assess committee systems within their own country context. Available in English. • Climate Change and Environmental Protection This course examines why and how parliaments engage on climate change, covering legal frameworks, parliamentary actions, climate budgeting and finance, and illustrated with case studies from Europe and beyond. Available in English. • The Role of Parliament in Achieving Gender Equality This course enables learners to understand gender-sensitive parliamentary norms, identify key decision-makers, assess best practices from other contexts, and design and advocate for gender-sensitive changes in their own parliaments. Available in English. • Parliamentary Legislation This course, structured in seven modules, examines the origin and evolution of legislative drafting, types of legislative norms, the role of drafting in parliamentary law-making, and the principles and rules governing law content, structure, legal language, and integration into the legal system. Available in English only. • Parliaments in Practice: An Introduction This course is designed for legislators who are new to parliament, and for parliamentary staff, practitioners, donors, civil society organizations and others who want to learn about how parliament works. Available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, and Russian.	

Founded in 2008, AGORA is the world's only global knowledge platform dedicated exclusively to parliaments, connecting parliamentary communities to share expertise, foster innovation, and strengthen democratic institutions.

Learn more in our [NEW Factsheet](#).

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