

December/January Newsletter

The Multinational Development Policy Dialogue

2021/2022: opening & closing activities

MDPD - KAS in Brussels

We are a bridge-builder between the EU and the Global South.

We implement and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable development, with a focus on the nexus of democracy and governance, peace and security, climate and energy.



Follow us!

Dear friends of the MDPD Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Brussels,

In the field of Democracy and Development we discussed the many facets of shrinking spaces through activities involving young politicians and their work in restricted political environments, female leaders from national parliaments and courts of justice across the globe. As a result, we will be publishing two in-depth studies. A first study will take a closer look at the EU's engagement in fostering independent media freedom in Cambodia, India, Nigeria, and Senegal. The study aims to discuss with European Decision Makers the necessity of countering current misinformation campaigns in partner countries through a broader range of EU global and strategic regional media policies promoting independent and investigative reporting. A second study looks at how political party, electoral and parliamentary law in Mongolia, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela is currently designed to limit political pluralism in the respective countries. It also included recommendations for the EU on how to approach its external rule of law/democracy support in sensitive areas.

In the domain of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy our work concentrated on recent developments affecting the future of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). These include heightened tensions in Central and Southwest Asia. We invite you to read our event report on a round table titled "China's Security and Defence Cooperation in Southeast Asia and possible German and European responses", [available here](#). In 2021 the European Commission presented its new investment strategy, Global Gateway, which aims to offer partner countries high-standard investment opportunities and is widely seen as Europe's answer to the China-led Belt and Road Initiative. In line with these recent developments we have initiated three new research projects that aim to shed light on China security cooperation in (1) Central Asia and in (2) Latin America, following our 2020 & 2021 studies on China's military engagement in South East Asia and Africa. Lastly, following EU's engagement in Africa, we will in 2022 focus on the (3) Sahel region and examine how the EU and its member states could help in stabilizing the region plagued by rising extremism and unstable governments.

In our Climate and Energy portfolio, KAS MDPD has co-organized a physical event on Strengthening resilience in Central Asia through climate change adaptation measures in transboundary river basins. A special interview with the Slovenian Ambassador as well as with the EEAS representative can be found in our [PodKAS channel](#). On November 29, the MDPD together with its partners DIE and FIIA organized an online session on Global green transformation: Experts coming from the EU, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, India, US, discussed with EU officials their respective plans and expectations vis-à-vis the EU. Since December 2021, the KAS MDPD supports the Global Climate Club Initiative, facilitating and coordinating Experts from across the globe helping with an inclusive and differentiated design of a Climate Club. As a follow up of the Appropriateness of Carbon Pricing in the Global South Dialogue Series October 2021 in close collaboration with our partners Climate Legal and ICAP, a group of experts is elaborating recommendations for the EU on diversified approaches to Carbon pricing.

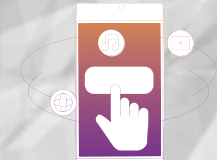
We invite you to [follow our activities](#), [read our papers](#) and [listen to our podcasts](#). Stay tuned!

Denis Schrey, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue / MDPD Team



Discover our latest publications!

Selected activities and products MDPD KAS in Brussels



YOUNG VOICES - PERCEPTIONS ON THE EU'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Selected publications of other KAS Offices worldwide

Security & Stability

Sorina Teleanu, Senior Researcher, DiploFoundation. Research support: Katarina Anđelković, Andrijana Gavrilović, Arvin Kamberi, Jovan Kurbalija.

STANDARDISATION REPORT - THE GEOPOLITICS OF DIGITAL STANDARDS - CHINA'S ROLE IN STANDARD-SETTING ORGANISATIONS

Standards for digital technologies are all around us, enabling devices to interact with each other, allowing us to connect to mobile networks, and facilitating the exchange of information. By providing rules or guidelines for the development and functioning of technologies, products, and services, standards foster interoperability and enable safety and quality of service. This report provides an overview of the digital standardisation ecosystem and explores China's role within this ecosystem. Despite concerns and complaints about various aspects of this involvement, many agree that China is not breaking any written rules of the standardisation ecosystem, and that the country is, in many ways, doing what others have been doing in the past.

[Read](#)

Climate Change & Environment

Leonie Schiedek, Project coordinator & Richard Forsén, Project coordinator and Research Associate - KAS Nordic Countries Regional Programme.

TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY TOWARD A LOW-CARBON FUTURE - A SPECIFIC VIEW ON GREEN HYDROGEN

In November 2021, the KAS Nordic Countries project hosted a series of roundtables in Sweden on transforming the industry towards a low-carbon future, focusing on the role of green hydrogen. The objective of the discussion was to explore the challenges and innovation potential for sustainable development at the economic level and beyond. It emerged that there is still much to be done at the European but also national and regional level, in order to make the transition to a fossil-free industry a reality. In addition, the role of academia and research institutions was deemed critical in educating the future workforce in necessary skills, while at the same time stimulating social acceptance of hydrogen projects via better education and sharing of knowledge.

[Read](#)

Rule of Law & Governance

Various authors - Carolin Löprich, PM Democracy and Sustainable Development - MDPD KAS in Brussels (ref. chapter 7).

CAMBODIA'S ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP 2022 - PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

As the Kingdom of Cambodia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022, KAS Cambodia and the Asian Vision Institute (AVI) came together to examine future priorities and challenges. In this 14-chapter publication, some of the region's most renowned experts and researchers reflect on the state of ASEAN and analyze the opportunities and difficulties that the Cambodian presidency may face. In particular, we highlight the section titled "ASEAN-EU: Strategic Partners Finding Their Strategy," In this chapter, the author analyzes future cooperation that should include coordinated confidence and capacity building measures, preventive diplomacy to enhance multilevel cooperation, promotion of a multilateral rules-based order.

[Read](#)

Media & Comms - Digitalisation

Katharina Naumann, Desk Officer, International Media Programmes; Dr. Pencho Kuzev, Policy Advisor, KAS Berlin; Christian Echle, Head of KAS Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia.

IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, TRUST IS AN IMPORTANT CURRENCY

Digital innovation is about technology, data, governments and companies, but it is also about people - specifically their trust in digital technologies, government, companies, and how they perceive their competence in dealing with the digital age. Data protection, which is often cited as a barrier to European innovation, is not the deciding factor. One clear conclusion emerges from this study: Germany and Europe must catch up in the field of digitization and, in particular, digital administration. Trust in the state and a digitally competent administration are an important precondition for the entire national innovation ecosystem. Alongside state regulations that promote innovations on the one hand and protect citizens and consumers on the other, the latter must also be integrated into the process.

[Read](#)