

14.9.2023, 9h00 – 17h30, Käfigturm in Bern

**International Day of Democracy Conference 2023:
How To Support Democracy against Autocracy**

On September 14, 2023, the Swiss Democracy Foundation and the Polit-Forum Bern together with partners host an open and free one-day conference.

The world seems to be at crossroads: autocratization is threatening democracies all-over the world. Sovereign countries are attacked by autocratic regimes and within democracies political powers are attacking the independence of electoral and judicial authorities as well as the freedom of press and expression and are limiting civic space.

Together with keynote speakers, practitioners and academic experts from Taiwan, Ukraine, Mexico, Romania and Switzerland we aim to identify lessons learned and ways forward: How can civil societies efficiently and successfully support and strengthen democracy in the face of autocratizing forces across the globe? What are the key elements of strong and resilient democracies in times of different kind of autocratic threats?

Join us for a day of open conversations and dialogues, important insights and encouraging experiences and strategies ahead.

The event is free of charge and open to everyone interested. Due to the limited number of places, [registration](#) is required.

The conference will also be livestreamed (no registration required).

Any travel and accommodation arrangements must be organized by the participants themselves.

The programme can be found on the next page.

Programme (subject to changes)

09:30	Opening and Welcome
09:40 – 10:30	Democracy vs Autocracy – The Global Battle for Democratic Rights and Freedom: Examples from Taiwan, Ukraine, Mexico and Romania. Keynote speeches.
11:00 - 12:30	Democratic Resilience in Different Threatened Environments. How can these threats against democracy be countered? Panel discussion with academic experts.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break and visit of the exhibition at the Democracy Tower (optional)
13:30 – 14:15	How Democracy Can Be Supported on a Local Level Lightning talks from practitioners/activists.
14:15 – 15:30	Collecting Learnings on How Democracy Can Be Supported against Autocracy 3-4 workshops with academic experts and lightning talkers.
16:00 – 17:30	Cooperating Across Borders to Make Democracies Stronger Concluding panel.
17:30	Closing