



Labour

The Labour Party's
Westminster Foundation for Democracy Programme

ANNUAL REVIEW

2016-2017



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Introduction



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THE LABOUR PARTY SUPPORTS POLITICAL PARTIES AND NETWORKS IN NEW AND EMERGING DEMOCRACIES THROUGH ITS WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME.

We work together to ensure the values of fairness, equality of opportunity, justice, international solidarity and human rights are shared across the world

As one of the oldest and most established social democratic parties in the world, Labour has long sought to share experiences and build alliances with like-minded parties. We do this by delivering a rolling programme of activities that develop the political positions and the institutional capacity of like-minded parties and regional networks. Throughout, we focus on working with women and young people; two groups that are often overlooked and marginalised in the political process and yet who are essential to the future of any democracy. We work predominantly in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe,

the Middle East and North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

How we're funded

Labour receives funds from the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy** (WFD) - a public body sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with additional funding from the Department for International Development.

WFD builds the capacity of parliaments and political parties; delivering parliamentary work itself whilst providing resources to the Westminster based parties to work directly with their counterparts.

The funding from WFD enables Labour to run projects with political parties and regional networks designed around their specific needs and in line with our international strategy.

THE LABOUR PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS IN 2016- 17 FOCUSED ON THREE KEY AREAS

- 1) Strengthening sister and like-minded parties' organisation, campaign methods and policy development so that they could offer their citizens a choice and an opportunity to engage with the democratic process
- 2) Supporting and developing the skills set of social democratic women to play an active role in party politics and public life
- 3) Supporting and developing the capacity and skills of social democratic youth to participate in political processes and democratic practices at local, national and international levels

In all regions, we worked with both established and nascent parties, always tailoring our support according to the local party's needs and the political context in which they operate.

We also arranged visits to the UK for sister party representatives and overseas visits to share best practice and to complement the support provided through the bilateral and regional programmes.

This document gives a summary of the projects we completed in the financial year 2016-17 and focuses primarily on what changes came about as a result of this support.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.labourwfd.org.uk/>

Section 1: Yearly Overview

Political Update

There were a number of elections in 2016 which were challenging for our sister parties across the different regions. These challenges involved factors such as hostile political environments, electoral irregularities, a lack of activist base and little media support. Our activities were designed with the relevant political context at the centre of considerations, and tailored to meet particular needs or develop certain capacities.

Our sister parties in Africa share a number of challenges including the lack of access to state media, blurring of lines between state and party, and the unfair distribution of resources. This is particularly paramount for women who often have access to fewer resources than their male counterparts. However, the Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA) aims to overcome these challenges by developing their organisational structures and strengthening the network of social democratic women from across the continent.



Figure 3: Florence Shagwa, WAFA executive member

Political instability and insecurity has continued to affect our work in the Middle East, particularly in regards to our work with regional networks. However, we continue to support our partners in the region with bi-lateral programmes to strengthen their capacity ahead of forthcoming elections.

Social democratic parties in the Western Balkans range in size and influence, with some in government and some struggling to hold on to any parliamentary representation. For the first time in 18 years, the SDP Montenegro ran entirely independently from the governing Democratic Party of Socialists in the 2016 Assembly elections. The party significantly strengthened its capacity ahead of the elections, and gained a total of four assembly seats.

After the elections in 2016, the SDP Montenegro joined the ruling coalition with the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro (DPS) and several national minority parties after having won two seats in the parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) experienced electoral success earlier this year when the party gained 49

seats, enabling them to form a government with coalition partners.

Despite strong mobilisation efforts from social democratic parties in Serbia, our sister parties experienced electoral disappointment when President Nikolic consolidated his power in the 2016 Presidential elections.

Outcomes

The overall goal of the Labour Party's Westminster Foundation for Democracy Programme is to provide choice to citizens in developing democracies through well-functioning and accountable social democratic parties. This is a long-term goal that can take many years, if not decades, to achieve. The scope in which we operate is limited and a number of other factors determine whether a political party or network is able to flourish. Nevertheless, we must celebrate where we have contributed to making a difference.

In 2016-17, we are proud to celebrate the following outcomes:

The **Women's Academy for Africa (Wafa)** successfully delivered 16 national workshops which trained over 500 women across Southern, Western, Eastern and Central Africa. Following the national workshops, the Deputy Secretary General of Wafa from the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) had a leaders article published in 'Femme d'Afrique' the Pan African monthly for gender promotion. The article covered the challenges of democracy in Botswana, the situation of women and of opposition parties, including the BCP. On the contribution of

Wafa and co-operation with the Labour Party the author stated they "have really given me the invaluable opportunity for growth, both politically and intellectually through the exposures and the networks you have created for us".

The **Tha'era network** is continuing to provide an essential platform through which to organise an international mobilisation campaign after the fatal shooting of one of its members, Shaimaa el-Sabbagh in January 2015. In October 2016, one of the founding members of Tha'era, was a speaker at the African Union Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa, where she made a plea for the African Union to support Shaimaa's case. Tha'era also issued an open letter to the Egyptian Judiciary on 18 February 2017 in relation to this case.



Figure 4: Wafa National Workshop in Cameroon (May 2016)

In the **Western Balkans**, the Social Democratic 9 (SD9) Congress was organised which resulted in new statutes and procedures for the first SD9 elections. During the Congress, an

event was organised on education to raise awareness of the importance of quality public education. It united the group around a common policy platform, going on the streets to collect signatures for a petition as part of the campaign 'For Public Education'. The campaign was reported on in local media.



Figure 5: SD9 members collect signatures for a petition as part of the campaign on public education (July 2016)

Following a seminar we supported in Belgrade in November 2015 on protecting and strengthening lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights, the Labour Party and the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity organised a workshop on establishing LGBTI networks in South East Europe, and pushing LGBTI issues higher on the political agenda of progressive parties in South Eastern Europe. The meeting gave participants the opportunity for best practice with political representatives from the Labour Party, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Party of European Socialist's (PES) Rose Network, and to discuss methods for setting up LGBTI networks

in their respective countries. At the end of the meeting, the group expressed their commitment to continuing cooperation and dialogue between social democratic parties and LGBTI activists in the region.



Figure 6: Participants at the LGBTI Networks meeting (November 2016)

At the Labour Party's Annual Conference Best Practise Programme a platform was provided for participants from Africa to discuss key political developments on the continent. The session was chaired by Emily Thornberry, Shadow Foreign Secretary. During a panel discussion, the Chair of WAFA was given the opportunity to advocate for women's political participation across Africa, a platform, which would not previously have been possible, if the network had not been supported from its inception to train and provide women with key skills to take on these opportunities. Similarly, a participant from Serbia was invited on a panel on progressive campaigning. These visits provided an opportunity to show case the relevant issues but also demonstrated how bi-lateral support

can lead to the development of individuals through platforms and forums which put them in the spot light.



Figure 7: Panellists from the ANC (South Africa), BCP (Botswana) and FRELIMO (Mozambique) discuss political developments in Africa with Emily Thornberry MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary.

The Labour Party hosted a women’s political participation day ahead of International Women’s Day. This event, which took place in the House of Commons, brought together women from our sister parties in Africa, the Middle East and Western Balkans. It gave the participants the opportunity to meet with Labour Party MP’s, including Jess Phillips MP (Chair of the Women’s Parliamentary Labour Party), Emily Thornberry MP (Shadow Foreign Secretary), Rosie Winterton MP (former Labour Party Chief Whip and International Envoy), Rushanara Ali MP (Labour Party Governor on the Westminster Foundation for Democracy), and Iain McNicol (General Secretary of the Labour Party) to discuss the role of the Women’s Parliamentary Labour Party, and political issues such as the impact of

Brexit and women’s voices in conflict situations. The event fostered relations across regions and provided opportunities for best practise and networking.

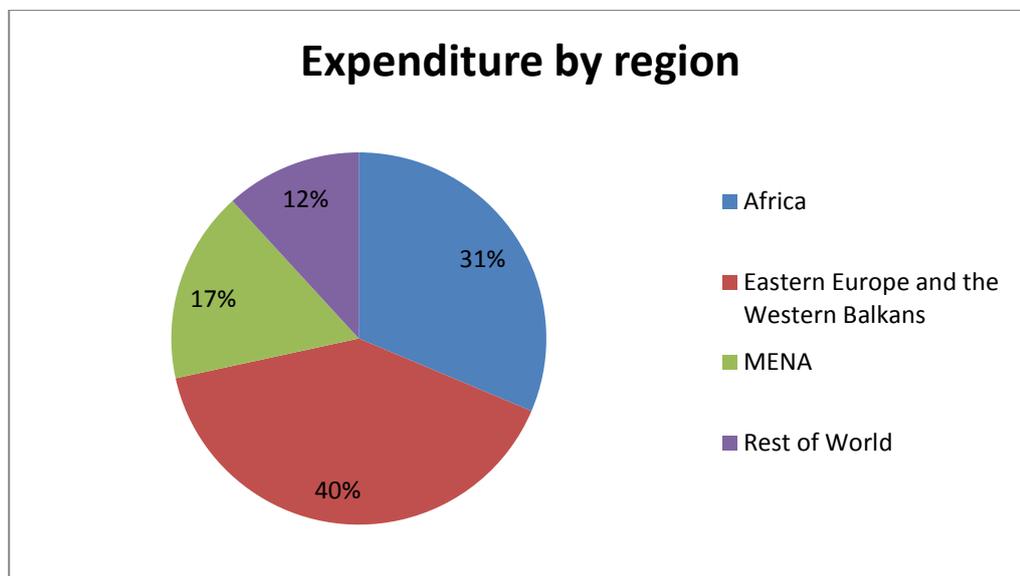
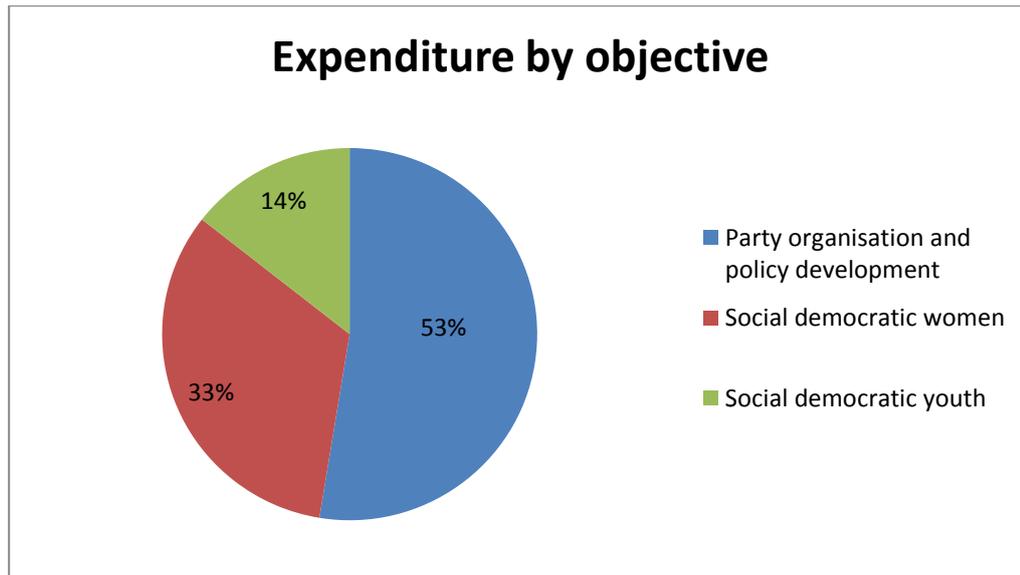


Figure 8: Representatives from our sister parties in Africa, the Middle East and Western Balkans meet with Jess Phillips MP (Chair of the Women’s PLP) and Iain McNicol (General Secretary of the Labour Party)

Resources

OUR PROJECTS ARE FUNDED THROUGH AN ANNUAL GRANT FROM THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

The charts below show the breakdown of expenditure in 2016-17 according to three key areas and then by region.



Section 2: In depth analysis

Objective 1 - Party organisation and policy development

The Labour Party's international projects strategy recognises the importance of building strong social democratic parties. Our support to these parties contributes to developing pluralist party political systems which offer a choice to the electorate.

Our bilateral work with sister parties in 2016-17 has focused on a number of areas of party strengthening, including around policy development, organisation, campaigning and communications and media strategies.

Africa

We have continued to support a bilateral programme with our sister party in Botswana providing best practice.

Eastern Europe

In Ukraine, the SD Platform strengthened its capacity by providing young activists with the necessary skills and knowledge to present its agenda to a wider audience. Our partners have noted that the SD Platform's activity has significantly increased as a result of this training, and the results are visible and tangible in various regions across Ukraine.



Figure 9: Training for SD Platform youth activities in Ukraine (March 2017)

Middle East and North Africa

In the Middle East and North Africa region, we developed bi-lateral programmes to support and develop our sister parties in the form of extensive training in campaign methods, communication skills and branch management. We have also supported

parties from across the MENA region through regional events and UK based best practise visits.

Western Balkans

As a result of our bi-lateral programmes in the Western Balkans, a number of our partners have placed policy making at the centre of their political work, in addition to introducing new processes for electing their party leadership based on the 'one member one vote' system.

In Montenegro, our support enabled the SDP to complete its programme of campaign training in regions across the country. As a result of the project, municipal leaders involved in the training, along with women and youth representatives, have begun to transmit the lessons learnt at the grassroots level ahead of the forthcoming local and general elections in Montenegro.



Figure 10: Participants attend the SDP's campaign training

Objective 2 - Social democratic women

Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA)

The Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA) successfully delivered sixteen national workshops across Central, Southern and West Africa. This phase of the WAFA programme has trained and supported over five hundred women from WAFA member parties so that they have the motivation and ability to seek elected office in their parties, and in local, regional or national assemblies and parliaments. A follow up meeting was held in Mozambique in July 2017 for executive members to review the implementation of the national workshops, and to discuss and develop plans for the next phase of activities.



Figure 11: WAFA executive members meet in Mozambique (July 2016)

Arab Women's Network

Tha'era members met in Beirut, Lebanon to share best practice and learn lessons around increasing women's political participation in the MENA region. A review meeting was later held in London during which

Tha'era executive members met with Labour Party WFD Governor, Rushanara Ali MP, to discuss the various challenges faced, and look at ways in which the Labour Party can further support their work. The review meeting also led to the development of an action plan formulated around further training activities, communication and potential expansion of the network.



Figure 12: Tha'era executive members meet with Rushanara Ali MP in the House of Commons (July 2016)

Social Democratic Women in Politics

The social democratic women in politics programme has provided training to over eighty women in Morocco and the Western Balkans. The Morocco visit in July 2016 comprised of a series of meetings with representatives from our sister party, in addition to practical training sessions. The regional roundtable in Ljubljana brought together over thirty women from the Western Balkans, including politicians, leaders of women's forum and activists, to consider the situation of women in social democratic parties in the region; look at achievements made and the challenges ahead; and discuss how they might use their combined experience and solidarity to advance women's

voices in their parties and across the region



Figure 13: Participants at the regional roundtable meeting in Ljubljana (October 2016)

Objective 3 - Social democratic youth

Future Leaders

A four day training activity in Amman was organised by the Labour Party and the Foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS) to improve campaign, communication and networking skills of eighteen youth wing leaders from political parties from across the MENA region. This was followed by a four day train-the-trainers' activity to train a further twenty six participants with the necessary skills to become trainers and sustain and multiply the learnt skills in their respective parties.



Figure 14: Interview practice at the Future Leaders training (October 2016)

Summer Academy

The seventh annual political summer academy for young social democrats from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus took place in 2016. The academy offered skills training on a range of subjects including social democratic policies, campaign strategy and communication methods. Participants had the chance to carry through concrete campaign plans on a range of issues including education,

health care and gender equality. A workshop was held on how to conduct a good training session, and this was especially useful for those who were going on to train members of their youth wing.



Figure 15: Workshop at the Summer Academy in Ukraine (August 2016)

SD9

The network of young social democrats in the Western Balkans, known as SD9, organised a Congress which resulted in new statutes and procedures for the first SD9 elections. During the Congress, an event was organised on education to raise awareness of the importance of quality public education. It united the group around a common policy platform, going on the streets to collect signatures for a petition as part of the campaign 'For Public Education'. The campaign was reported on in local TV.



Figure 16: Participants discuss new statutes and procedures for the SD9 elections

Annex 1: Full list of regional projects supported in 2016-17

Region	Network	Project Title
Africa	WAFA	National Workshops
Africa	Youth Academy for Africa	Youth Academy for Africa
Eastern Europe	Various	Summer Academy
Europe	SD9 Network	Strengthening the Social Democratic Left
Europe	Various	LGBTI Rights in the Western Balkans
Europe	Various	Strengthening progressive representation and policy-making in the Western Balkans
MENA	Tha'era	Empowering Arab Women
MENA	Future Leaders Network	Strengthening the Social Democratic Left
Worldwide	Various	Women's Political Day
Worldwide	Various	Annual Conference Best Practice Programme
Worldwide	Various	Representation and Assessment Visits
Worldwide	Various	Elections Best Practice Study Visits
Worldwide	Various	Social Democratic Women in Politics

Annex 2: List of acronyms

ANC	African National Congress (South Africa)
DPS	Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
OMOV	One member one vote
PES	Party of European Socialists
SDP	Social Democratic Party
SDSM	Social Democratic Union of Macedonia
SD9	Social Democratic 9 (regional network)
WAFA	Women's Academy for Africa

Annex 3: List of figures

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