



# IFES Voice

Global expertise.  
Local solutions.  
Sustainable democracy.



## IFES Democracy Fellowships: Integral to Research and Organizational Learning



In increasingly complex and dynamic political environments, academic research provides democracy practitioners with valuable perspectives on the effectiveness of their interventions and approaches. IFES' Hybl and Manatt fellowships bring graduate students to IFES to research emerging issues in democracy and governance and provide such useful viewpoints.

### Election Management

#### *IFES and CEC of Ukraine host International Conference*

From February 16-17, 2015, IFES and the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine hosted an international conference of election management bodies (EMBs) in Kyiv. Entitled "Election Administration: Regional Challenges and Lessons Learned," the conference brought together EMBs from Ukraine, Latvia, Romania, Moldova, Lithuania, and Georgia in order to share best practices and experiences in electoral reform.

### Election Integrity and Transparency

#### *Training Election Petition Tribunals Judges*

Ahead of Nigeria's re-scheduled 2015 general elections, IFES and the Nigerian Court of Appeals organized a two-day training for 250 Election Petition Tribunal (EPTs) judges. These EPTs serve a critical function in Nigeria's electoral dispute

### Notes on Democracy



Call for nominations: IFES' Charles T. Manatt Democracy Award recognizes the exceptional work of individuals who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy. IFES presents the Democracy Award annually to three individuals: a Republican, a Democrat and a member of the international community. Nominations for the international recipient will open to the general public March 2, 2015.

### Photo Gallery



*Citizens in Charge: Strengthening Participation in Latin America*

An informed citizenry is crucial for a vibrant and resilient democracy. IFES engages in a variety of civic education activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including informing voters of their rights and responsibilities and empowering

resolution system, and should allow aggrieved candidates to resolve their disputes through the legal system rather than resorting to the streets.

them to have a voice in the way they are governed. These photos underscore the role citizens can play in democracy.

## **Citizen Participation**

### ***The Third Regional Dialogue on Access to Elections in Jakarta***

From January 28-29, 2015, the third Regional Dialogue on Access to Elections brought together more than 200 representatives from disabled people's organizations, election management bodies, governments, media, and international organizations to spark an exchange of ideas and best practices on strengthening equal access to political and electoral rights for persons with disabilities.

## **Inclusion and Empowerment**

### ***IFES' Women's Leadership Training in the Maldives***

This February, IFES Maldives conducted a women's leadership training for female representatives of the country's four main political parties; gender focal points at various government offices; and female managers from government bodies as well as the private sector. The training provided participants a rare opportunity for women to come together across political party lines; learn about domestic violence laws in the Maldives; and build a strong women's network.

## **Alumni Update**



A former IFES Chief of Party in several countries, Mariela López-Vargas has more than 25 years of experience in international development. In this Q&A, López-Vargas discusses field work, the key variables to instilling public trust and credibility in the electoral process, and the greatest challenges facing democracy and governance projects.

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