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Switzerland's New Guidelines on Democracy

**GUIDELINES
ON DEMOCRACY**
2025–2028

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Overview

1 | **Switzerland's New Guidelines on Democracy**

2 | **Trust in Institutions OECD Survey**

3 | **Judicial Dialogues**



Why New Guidelines?



Constitutional Mandate

Art. 54: «The Swiss Confederation [...] contributes [...] to the **promotion of democracy**». [unofficial translation]



Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2024-2027

Goal 24: «**Democracy**: Switzerland will sharpen its profile in its foreign policy on democracy. It will implement programmes to strengthen democratic institutions and processes in partner countries and it will promote democracy in policy dialogue and multilaterally.»

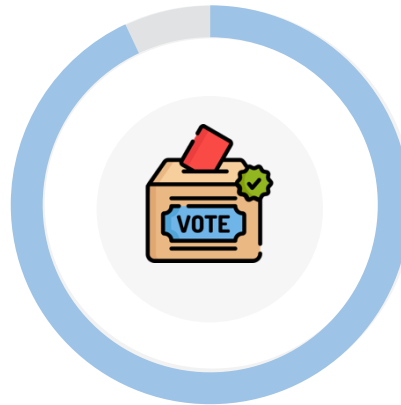


Why New Guidelines?



90 %

say that mandate in Art. 54 to **promote respect for human rights** “important”/“very important”



93 %

say that mandate in Art. 54 to **promote democracy abroad** is “important” / “very important”

Democracy is a central component of **Switzerland's political identity**. Around 80% of the population say in surveys that Switzerland's democratic tradition predestines its foreign policy to promote democracy worldwide.



Why Democracy Promotion?

- 1. A strategic interest of Swiss Foreign Policy**
- 2. Global State of Democracy**
- 3. Credibility and Expertise**



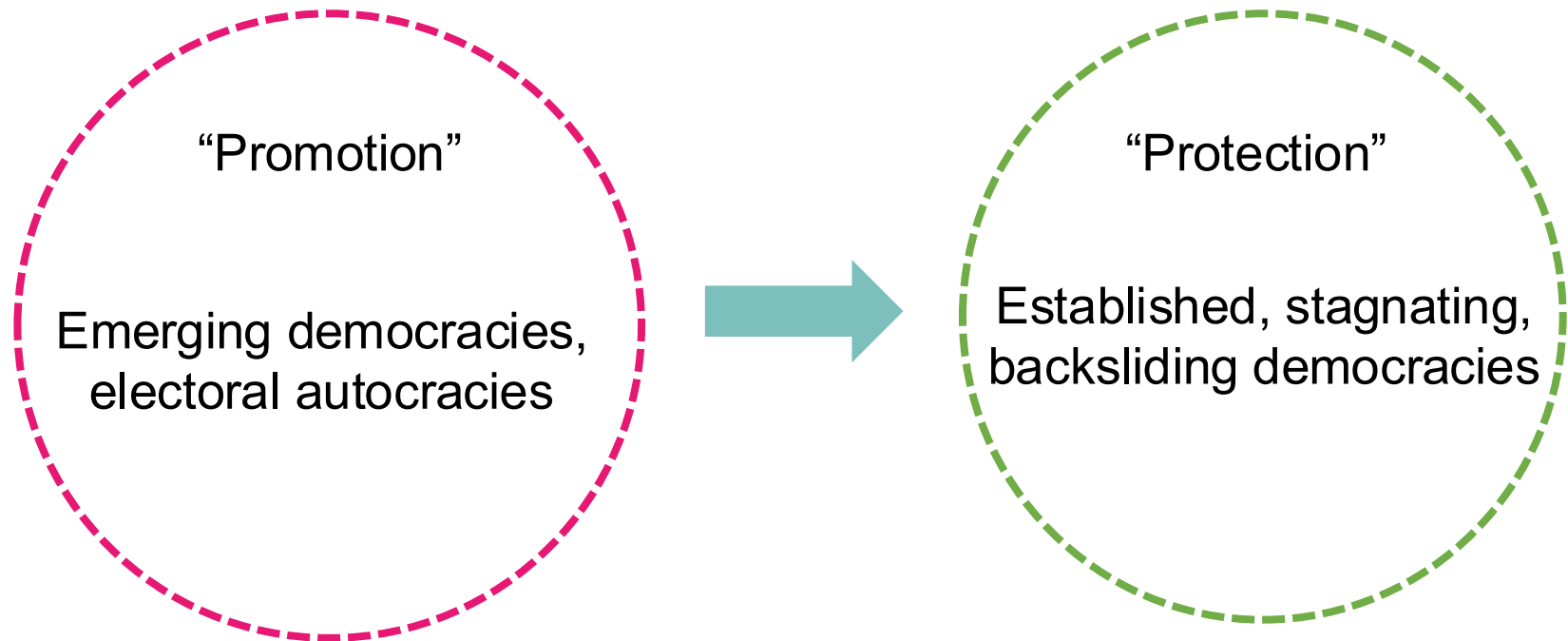
Overarching Goal

The overarching goal of Switzerland's democracy promotion is to **strengthen and protect democratic values, processes and institutions** where they already exist (to some degree) but are at risk.

Switzerland can also work in partnership to support positive democratic developments.



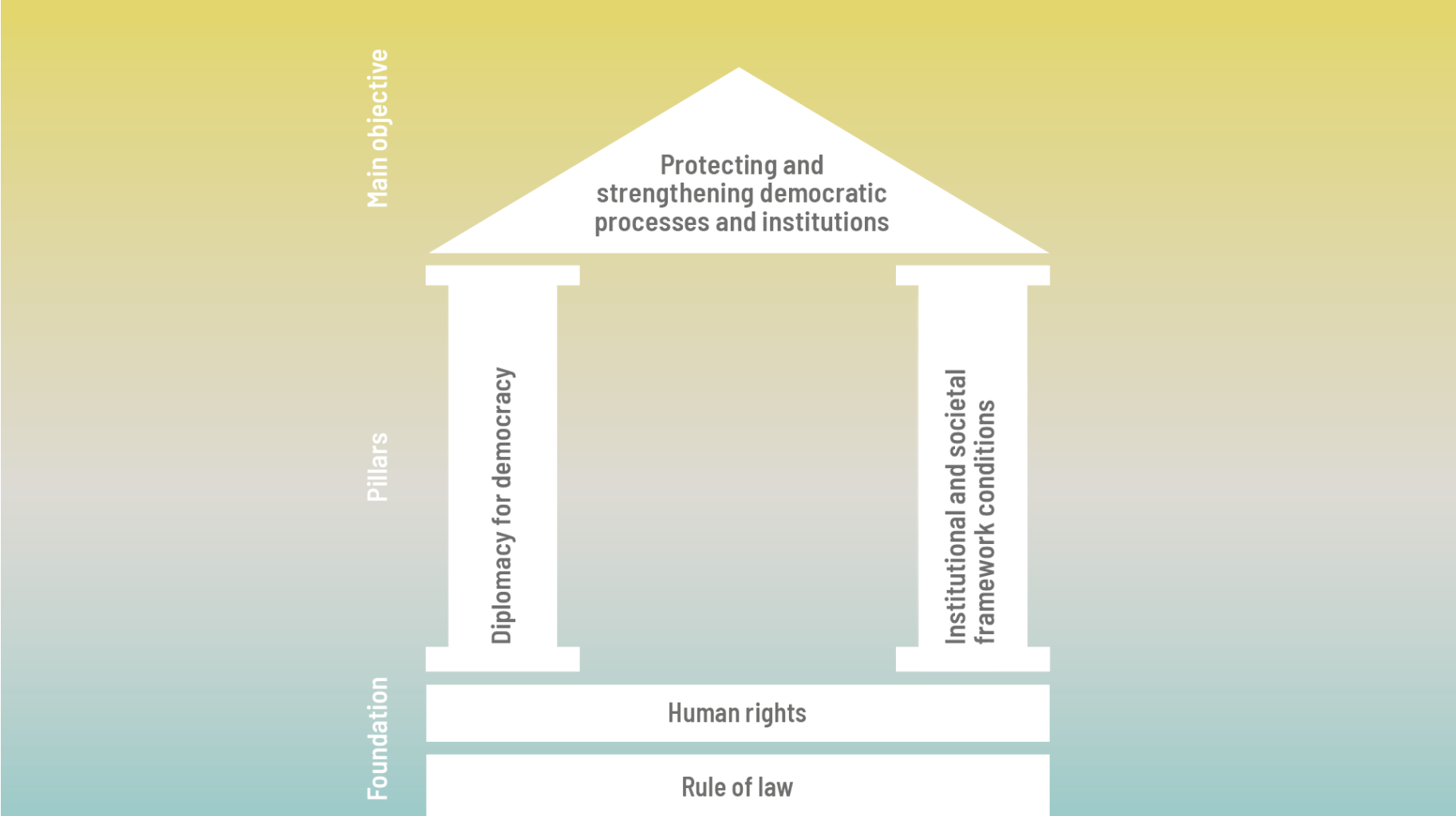
Shifting the Paradigm





Swiss Activities

- Democracy Diplomacy
 - Strengthening of Institutional and Social Framework Conditions
 - Governance
- } Democracy Promotion



Main objective

Protecting and strengthening democratic processes and institutions

Pillars

Diplomacy for democracy

Institutional and societal framework conditions

Foundation

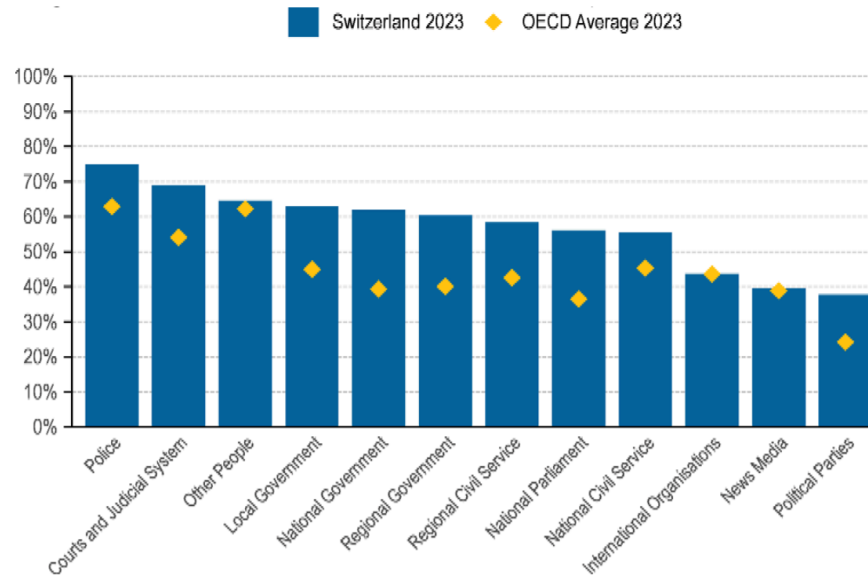
Human rights

Rule of law



OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions 2024 Results Switzerland

Figure 2. Share of population with high or moderately high trust in different public institutions, other people and media, 2023



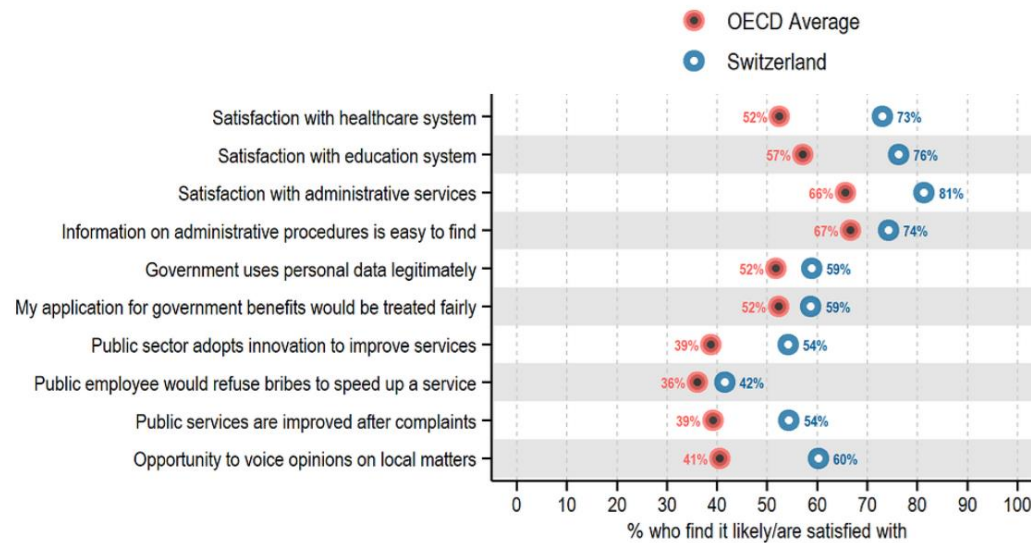
Note: High or moderately high' corresponds to the aggregation of response options 6-10 to the question "On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all and 10 is completely, how much do you trust the national/federal government?"; neutral to option 5 and "low or no" to response options 0-4. In Switzerland, the national government and civil service refer to the federal government and civil service; and the regional to the cantonal government.

OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions 2024 Results Switzerland

🔗 **Figure 4. Perceptions of day-to-day interactions between the population and public institutions**



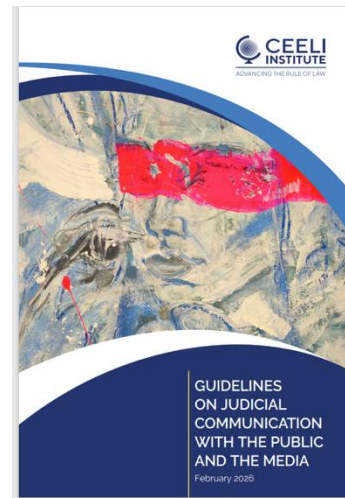
Share of population who are satisfied with public services or find a positive action in the respective situation likely, OECD and Switzerland, 2023



Note: The figure presents the unweighted OECD averages and values for Switzerland of the share of respondents who choose a response of 6-10 on the 0-10 scale for the above questions. Satisfaction with public services is restricted to recent service users.

Democracy Cooperation

Judicial Dialogue in Central and Eastern Europe



Diplomacy for democracy

Better judicial communication in Central and Eastern Europe:

- Round Tables on judicial communication and crisis communication, improving public trust and transparency in judicial institutions.
- Multistakeholder dialogue between judges and media professionals
- **Objectives:**
 - Support the development of national judicial communication strategies
 - Support the regional network of 400 judicial experts in 21 countries in CEE

Thank you

Contact details

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