



## Invitation

**Accountability in the European Elections**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SEEEDS Webinar Tuesday, 28 March 2023**  
**16:00 – 17:15 hours (CET)**

**on Zoom: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gm81awt2QomAtHwtQ0xqUQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gm81awt2QomAtHwtQ0xqUQ)**

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We kindly invite you to the third webinar of our project “Supporting Engagement in European Elections and Democratic Societies” (SEEEDS).

**Elections to the European Parliament (EP) are regulated by the national legislations of all 27 Member States as well as EU-level regulations. When looking at the issue of political party finance and campaign spending, there is a variety of regulatory approaches across the EU.**

**During this webinar, we will disentangle the regulatory jungle between the EU and national levels and look at how discrepancies in political finance oversight can affect equality of opportunity and transparency in the European elections. A specific focus will be placed on enforcement mechanisms that have been developed at both levels. The firewall between EU and national level legislation concerning how European political parties can be funded and can participate in the elections will be discussed. We will also examine the role the EU-level could play in promoting best practices among Member States concerning accountability in the political finance sphere.**

*This discussion builds upon the findings and recommendations made in the study published by SEEEDS’s project partner the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) **[“PUZZLING RULES – EQUAL GAME? - Comparing political finance regulations across the EU”](#)**.*

Special emphasis is placed on:

- What are the main regulations in place at the EU-level regarding the financing of 2024 European elections?
- What are the main discrepancies between EU-level and national regulations on political finance in the EP elections? How does this look like on the ground in EU Member States?
- Which strategies are envisaged to enforce the EU political finance regulations during the 2024 European elections?
- How can the so-called “financial firewall” be overcome concerning differing EU and national regulation on the funding and activities of European political parties and foundations?
- Is there a legal distinction made between campaigning in a Member State in a "national" EP election campaign, and holding a "European campaign" through activities in a Member State? What are the implications of this for participants of the elections?
- What is the state of play regarding envisaged reforms to enhance accountability of electoral contestants across the EU Member States and at the EU-level?



## Agenda

### Welcome and introduction to SEEEDS

Ms. Kira Mössinger, Program Manager of the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE)

### Panel discussion moderated by

Mr. Alexander Shlyk, International Election Expert, former Head of the Election Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Co-author of the EPDE study)

### Panellists

- Ms. Lina Petronienė, Head of the Division of Political Parties and Political Campaigns Funding Control of the Central Electoral Commission of Lithuania
- Ms. Barbara Jouan Stonestreet, Senior Legal Expert with the French National Commission on Campaign Accounts and Political Party Financing (CNCCFP) (Co-author of the EPDE study)
- Mr. Quentin Reed, Political Finance Expert engaged in research on national provisions affecting European political parties and European political foundations
- Ms. Shari Hinds, Policy Officer on EU Political Integrity at Transparency International EU

### About the SEEEDS Webinar Series January – April 2023

The Election-Watch.EU Election Assessment Mission (EAM) Final Report referenced in the European Commission Report on the 2019 EP elections demonstrates that despite improved participation, the areas of equality, inclusion, transparency and accountability can be enhanced in future EP elections. These key themes will be discussed during this series.

### Upcoming Seminars:

**4) Risks and Opportunities in the European Elections** Tuesday, 25 April 2023, 16.00-17.30 hrs

### Key objectives:

- **Boost awareness** and engagement regarding their right to vote and register among citizens, especially among women, mobile EU citizens, persons with disabilities, and youth.
- Map and assess **equality, inclusion, transparency, and accountability** challenges in the European elections.
- Map **risks and opportunities** for participatory citizen engagement in the 2024 European elections.
- Enhance active citizens' capacity to **engage in advocacy** with relevant stakeholders. Identify actionable methodologies for **citizen engagement** within different electoral frameworks across Europe.





## About SEEEDS

The objective of SEEEDS is to strengthen the integrity of the upcoming European Parliament (EP) elections in 2024 through more active participation of civil society.

Voter mobilisation is closely linked to the feeling of community belonging; to this regard, transnational partnerships, and networks of active citizens across the EU have the potential to foster EU citizenship-based values. When strengthened, such networks can act at the national level to produce a collective advocacy agenda for inclusive and engaging elections based on Human Rights and the Rule of Law. Notably, citizen networks are able to consider challenges of inclusion and equality relevant for the full exercise of electoral rights of women and underrepresented groups, as well as transparency and accountability opportunities for fair elections.

SEEEDS is composed of four European civil society organisations, [European Partnership for Democracy \(EPD\)](#), [Election-Watch.EU \(EW\)](#), [Democracy Reporting International \(DRI\)](#), and [European Platform for Democratic Elections \(EPDE\)](#).

