



Invitation

Risks and Opportunities in the European Elections

4th SEEEDS Webinar Tuesday, 25 April 2023

16:00 – 17:30 hours (CET)

on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AF0IRtHjT1-d-rzYqhgzxg

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

This webinar provides an overview of the risks and opportunities of the European Parliament elections in 2024. Particular attention will be given to the implications of the rule of law crisis, matters of media freedom as well as disinformation and cyber-attacks. But these elections also offer the opportunity to make the EU more democratic for example through increased awareness and participation.

Special emphasis is placed on:

- How does the rule of law crisis affect the elections?
- What are the challenges in campaigning in Member States with a captured media landscape?
- Which legitimacy have election results ratified by national courts which are under allegation of being politically staffed?
- What is the prospect and tools of mal-intended interference (both foreign and from within MS) in elections?
- What chances for reform are these elections offering?

Beyond these topics, the webinar content will be determined by the results of a survey of the target audience and its perception of risks and opportunities in the upcoming European elections. Furthermore, the webinar session will be structured with the help of a collaborative online tool to which the live-audience can contribute to, to guide the panellists in the discussion.



Weeks ahead of the webinar: Survey

Online surveys via newsletter and social media, determining the key risks and opportunities identified by the respondents to be addressed during the webinar.

Agenda

- 16.00 **Welcome and introduction to SEEEDS**
Mr Michael Meyer-Resende, Executive Director, DRI
- 16.05 **Introduction of the panel by the moderator, presentation of the results from the survey.**
Ms Amanda Coakley, Senior Staff Reporter, Coda Story
- 16.10 **Input statements and commenting on audience contributions via online tool**
Ms Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland and Former Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,
Ms Camino Mortera-Martinez, Head of the Brussels Office, Centre for European Reform, and
Professor Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law, HEC Paris.
- 17.00 **Q&A Session**
- 17.25 **Closing remarks**



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.

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 \(EPDE\)](#).