Webinar | Zoom | 28 June 2023 | 16-17.15 CEST
Youth in election observation for a vibrant democracy

The **European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE)** is pleased to invite you to a webinar on 28 June 2023 as part of the **European voters - together for electoral integrity** project. The overall aim of the project is to increase citizen participation in electoral processes in Europe and to empower European citizens to improve democratic electoral processes on a local, national, and European level. More specifically, the webinar will present findings from a new publication *Active Citizens for a Vibrant Democracy*, which argues the importance of enshrining a clear status for citizen election observation across the EU as a way to contribute to the integrity of democratic systems as well as encourage citizen engagement in electoral and political processes. We will focus in particular on the linkage of strengthened citizen monitoring as a means to increase youth participation in elections and political life. The webinar will offer an opportunity of discussion between relevant policy makers, actors, and youth representatives.

Please register using this link.

The 2020 EU Citizenship Report[1], which focuses on bringing citizens closer to the EU, identifies citizen election observation as "a good way to engage citizens with the electoral processes, and to improve public trust". Citizen election observation is one of the key instruments in building, supporting, and defending democracy, as well as educating citizens about electoral procedures.

The Council Resolution of 26 November 2018 on the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027[2], on the other hand, states the agreement of the Member

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[1] 2020 EU Citizenship Report, p. 15

[2] Council Resolution of 26 November 2018, p. 3.

States that "providing pathways of engagement for young people in [...] democratic life is vital for a functioning democracy and for society at large". Connecting the EU with youth is among the **European Youth Goals.**

This webinar will discuss youth engagement in democracy through the lens of citizen election observation. It will offer an input about the need of engaging young people in election observation and will facilitate a discussion on the role of relevant policymakers and stakeholders in further enhancing youth participation, particularly in the context of the European Elections 2024.

The webinar will be of interest to policy makers and donors active in the topics of youth participation and democracy, as well as civil society and youth organisations, youth representatives, youth and democracy researchers, and analysts.

Participation is free of charge and open to anyone interested in the topic. Registrations are open until the start of the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be available on the EPDE website.

Please register using this link.

Programme

16.00 Welcome words and input presentation

▸ **Kira Mössinger**, Program Manager, European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE)

16.10 Moderated discussion among the speakers

▸ **Victor Negrescu**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education

▸ **Andreas Martin Speiser**, Vice President, AGORA Election Observation

▸ **Sylwester Oracz**, Political Finance and Campaigns Expert, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Political Accountability Foundation (Poland)

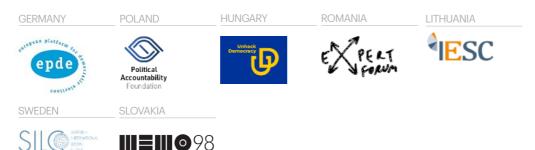▸ **YFJ** (European Youth Forum) representative (tbc)

Moderated by Alexander Shlyk, International election expert, former Head of the Election Department OSCE/ODIHR, Co-author of the EPDE study Active Citizens for a Vibrant Democracy

16.50 Q&A

17.15 The webinar ends

This webinar is part of the project "European voters - together for electoral integrity" and funded by the European Union as part of the Europe for Citizens (EfC) programme.

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