



## Election Assessment Mission to the 2024 European Parliament Elections

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### Background

[Election-Watch.EU](#) is an independent, non-partisan European network of international election observers and election experts across the 27 EU Member States (MS).

Election-Watch.EU conducted the [Election Assessment Mission \(EAM\) to the European Elections 2019](#) and presented its findings and recommendations to the [Constitutional Committee of the EP \(AFCO\)](#) and the [European Coordination Network of European \(ECNE\)](#). Election-Watch.EU is an endorsing member of the [Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation](#) and a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors, and adheres to the respective Codes of Conduct

The organisation is a member of the [European Partnership for Democracy \(EPD\)](#) and jointly implements the Supporting Engagement in European Elections and Democratic Societies ([SEEDS](#)) project to bridge the gap between European citizens and decision makers. SEEDS provides voter education and developed the [Policy Paper "Enhancing the integrity of the 2024 European Parliament elections"](#), which is available in eleven European languages.

The observer network also published a [policy paper](#) on the impact of artificial intelligence on elections, conducted a [comparative study](#) regarding persons with disabilities' access to elections as well as an [impact assessment of Covid-19](#) on elections in Europe, and advocates for [enhancing youth participation](#) in electoral processes.

### Overall Objective

Raise awareness and conduct an independent assessment of the European elections across the 27 EU MS. The EAM aims to strengthen the integrity of electoral processes within the EU, focusing on five key dimensions: equality, transparency, accountability, inclusion, and resilience.

### Output

Based on international standards and regional commitments, the EAM provides:

- 1) a comparative analysis of EU MS elections, to identify good practices and gaps,
- 2) a set of recommendations for Election Management Bodies and EU institutions,
- 3) a report compiling findings and providing guiding options for improvements.

### Impact

- 1) Enhanced cohesion of the European electoral framework,
- 2) Contributing to the integrity of electoral processes in light of mal-intended interference,
- 3) Strengthening civic space and engagement to reinforce European democracy, and
- 4) Increased awareness and participation in the European elections.



## Rationale of election observation

Putting the expertise of international election observers of the Election-Watch.EU network at the service of the European Union to highlight good practices and contribute to the harmonisation of electoral processes among EU Member States (MS) complementary to other organisations supporting democracy. Building on the 2019 Election-Watch.EU EAM to highlight the diversity of election regulations and practices. Supporting Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in EU MS in learning from each other to implement European rules and benefit from greater cohesion. Election observation contributes to reinforcing civil and political human rights. The inclusion of citizens in the electoral process instils ownership, trust, and transparency, while involving the electorate in democratic decision-making, as reiterated by the [European Commission](#).

## Areas of focus

The assessment builds on international election observation methodology (see e.g. [EU](#), [OSCE/ODIHR](#)) to analyse select aspects of the electoral cycle including:

### 1) *Preparedness*

- Election preparedness and conduct of election administrations;
- Measures for cyber security and resilience against mal-intended interference and disinformation;
- Quality of voter registration and coordination among EU election administrations to include mobile European citizens and detect and avoid multiple entries;

### 2) *Changes, electoral legal reforms and implementation*

- European electoral reforms and implementation of European legislation at EU MS level including the Digital Services Act (DSA) to regulate political campaigns online; and new regulations on transparency and accountability of political party and campaign finance (TTPA), among others;
- Electoral legal framework and processes at EU MS level with comparative analysis;
- Complaints and appeals procedures at EU and EU MS level;

### 3) *Inclusion*

- Measures to strengthen youth and women participation and representation;
- Electoral participation of persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of exclusion;
- Civic space and provisions for international and citizen election observation in EU MS.

## Conduct of an Election Assessment Mission (EAM)

The EAM comprises a Core Team of Experts based in Brussels to coordinate the EAM and liaise with EU institutions as well as with European political parties (EUPPs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). The EAM builds on the strong network of international election observers in the 27 EU MS to meet with EMBs and other oversight bodies, CSOs, and political parties and candidates. The EAM compiles and analyses comparative data; publishes an EAM report with recommendations; and discusses the findings with key institutions at European and MS level.

**Composition:** A Core Team of Experts at HQ in Brussels and 27 MS Chapters with Focal Points

**Timing:** Six weeks including four weeks for in-person meetings in Brussels (12 May – 12 June 2024)