

INVITATION

WEBINAR: BEYOND THE BALLOT BOX: POLAND'S 2025 ELECTION AND THE UNRAVELING OF ELECTORAL SAFEGUARDS

The European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) and the Political Accountability Foundation (PAF) are pleased to invite you to a webinar on the takeaways from the recent presidential elections in Poland.

The 2025 presidential election in Poland may mark a turning point, setting new trends in how campaigns are conducted in modern democracies. A key feature was the weakening of institutions meant to safeguard electoral integrity and the blurring of roles among key actors in the process.

Campaigning moved largely to digital platforms, where candidate-influencers gained both reach and revenue through interviews with fellow candidates—some also active as influencers. This mix of political messaging and entertainment disrupted traditional campaigning norms.

Gaps in campaign finance transparency were compounded by the National Election Commission's inaction amid growing procedural confusion and waves of disinformation. In response, groups posing as civil society actors used unauthorized tools to influence the process under the guise of civic engagement.

These developments prompt key questions:

- ▶ Could the shift to unregulated digital campaigning lead to a lasting crisis of democratic institutions in Poland?
- ▶ Is the erosion of clearly defined roles among electoral actors becoming a permanent trend?
- ▶ Might these patterns extend to other countries in the region?

Details:

- ▶ **Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025
- ▶ **Time:** 3:00 PM (CET)
- ▶ **Language:** English
- ▶ **Registration:** Please register for the event via the following link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zknIELM4QSuzX947fl-y7w

Speakers:

- ▶ **Sonia Horonziak**, Director of the Democracy and Civil Society Programme/Senior Policy Analyst, Institute of Public Affairs
- ▶ **Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska**, Human rights lawyer, Expert on freedom of expression for the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Zofia Lutkiewicz**, President, Political Accountability Foundation (PAF)
- ▶ **Adam Busuleanu**, Head of Network and Training, European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) ([moderator](#))

The European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) is a network of 17 independent European citizen election observation organizations. EPDE aims to support citizen election observation and to contribute to democratic election processes throughout Europe. EPDE is a signatory of the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations and the Code of Conduct for Nonpartisan Election Observation. EPDE also is a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM). EPDE is financially supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union.

