

The project «European voters together for electoral integrity» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"
Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Preparatory activities (if applicable): the activities involved 9 participants.

Location / Dates: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, a kick-off meeting with all project partners was conducted online on 24/03/2021.

Short description: The **Kick-off Meeting** was dedicated to discussing the first step of the project, including the comparative research. Participants also outlined the role of each project partner, finalized the memorandum of understanding, management, and financial matters.

Events:

11 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1: Comparative online research and focus groups “Elections Integrity - Research on findings”, including inception meeting, first survey, focus groups, final survey, and final report of results.

Participation: The event involved 486 citizens, including 60 participants from Germany, 64 participants from Hungary, 61 participants from Lithuania, 95 participants from Poland, 95 participants from Slovakia, 63 participants from Sweden, and 48 participants from Romania,

Location / Dates: The event took place in **7 countries (Poland, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania)**, from 23/05/2021 to 16/09/2021.

Short description: The multi-country research identified the most important issues threatening electoral integrity in each of the participating countries and Europe as a whole and explored possible solutions.

Event 2: Producing and presenting a comparative study on political finance regulations across the EU, as a part of an international awareness & advocacy campaign

Participation: The event involved 10 experts/campaigners/participants in bilateral meetings

and discussions) from Germany, Belarus, USA, Romania, Poland, Belgium, Slovakia and ca. 6,000 citizens, including stakeholders from the EU, the EU neighborhood, and the USA.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place internationally from 21/06/2022 to 31/08/2023.

Short description: As a part of this activity, a comparative study "[Puzzling rules – equal game?](#)" was produced, in order to compare political finance regulations across the EU and identify common challenges and possible ways to mitigate them. The insights and recommendations from the study were adapted and utilized by the project partners in their own national campaigns that tackled the issue of political finance on a national level in Slovakia, Poland, Germany and Romania. The publication was shared among key stakeholders through a mailing list of ca. 6,000 recipients internationally and presented during events and conferences in addition to the discussions described in the Event 3, including a [high-level discussion in the European Parliament](#) highlighting the issue of Accountability in upcoming European Parliamentary elections.

Event 3: Public Round Table Discussions on political finance regulations across the EU, as a part of an international awareness & advocacy campaign

Participation: The round tables involved 77 participants, including 12 participants from Germany, 28 participants from Poland, 3 participants from Romania, 13 participants from Belgium, 5 participants from Ukraine, 2 participants from Belarus, 14 participants from USA.

Location / Dates: The first event took place in **Warsaw, Poland**, during the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference on 27/09/2022 and the second one was held online on 27/10/2022 .

Short description: Two round table discussions, "[Money and politics – how do we regulate online political finance?](#)" and "[Money and Politics – How Poland fares against Europe?](#)" presented comparative research findings on how political finance is regulated across the EU to election experts and voters, and helped arrive at the concrete policy recommendations.

Event 4: Producing and presenting a comparative study on citizen election observation across the EU, as a part of an international awareness & advocacy campaign

Participation: The event involved 9 experts/campaigners/participants in bilateral meetings and discussions from Germany, Poland, Belgium, Hungary, Sweden, and ca. 6,000 citizens, including participants from the EU, the EU neighborhood, and the USA.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place internationally from 20/06/2022 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: As a part of this activity, a comparative study "[Active Citizens for a Vibrant Democracy](#)" was produced. Comparing citizen election observation regulations across the EU, the study also developed recommendations to: 1) enhance the regulation of independent citizen election observation and 2) advocate for the introduction of OSCE recommendations and implementation of standards regarding citizen election observation into EU and EU Member States law. Advocacy recommendations from this publication were subsequently applied in the national campaigns of **Sweden** and **Hungary**. The research was also presented during an [international conference](#) conducted by project partner Unhack Democracy in addition to the above-stated project activities to raise the issue of citizen observation in the EU. The study was also disseminated via a mailing list to ca. 6,000 stakeholders internationally.

Event 5: Public Round Table Discussions on youth engagement in citizen election observation in the EU

Participation: The events (1 webinar and 1 workshop) involved 72 participants from 29 countries: 1 from Armenia, 2 from Austria, 11 from Belgium, 1 from Bulgaria, 1 from Canada, 1 from Czech Rep, 1 from France, 1 from Georgia, 11 from Germany, 1 from Croatia, 5 from Hungary, 5 from Italy, 1 from Kenya, 1 from Lithuania, 1 from Luxembourg, 1 from Malawi, 1 from Malta, 1 from Netherlands, 10 from Poland, 2 from Portugal, 2 from Romania, 1 from Sierra Leone, 1 from Slovakia, 2 from Spain, 1 from Sweden, 1 from Switzerland, 2 from Ukraine, 3 from USA.

Location / Dates: The first event took place online on 29/06/2023 and the second event took place online on 19/07/2023.

Short description: A webinar "[Youth in election observation for a vibrant democracy](#)" and an online workshop "[Frameworks for Engaging Youth in Election Observation](#)" highlighted key findings from the comparative research on citizen election observation while providing key policy recommendations on how youth engagement in politics could be improved and how youth groups and activists could become engaged in election monitoring activities.

Event 6: National campaign in Romania on increasing visibility and transparency in political party and election campaign finance

Participation: The event involved over 15,000 citizens in a signature collection campaign and 250,000 citizens in an information campaign, 41 participants in Romania took part in an online event presenting the campaign results and an activists' guidebook.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Romania** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: Expert Forum in Romania (EFOR) focused on increasing visibility and transparency in political party and election campaign finance. They conducted a visual campaign using infographics to explain the topic, organized online and offline events promoting the info-material, including [an online event](#) presenting their campaign with 41 participants, and distributed campaign materials widely, reaching around 250,000 people through social media. EFOR engaged local activists and produced an activists' guide on monitoring public resources. The organization also collected over 15,000 signatures for transparency in political funding and reduced subsidies for political parties. EFOR's effort resulted in proposing amendments to the political party and campaign finance laws, expected to reach parliamentary debate.

Event 7: National campaign in Poland on challenges related to campaign finance laws and election accessibility.

Participation: The event involved 28,000 citizens, including 140 participants in Poland who took part in online and offline workshops for experts and civil society activists.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Poland** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: The Political Accountability Foundation (PAF) in Poland created educational materials and events to address challenges related to campaign finance laws and election accessibility. 140 participants in total took part in: 2 in-person workshops for PAF experts and core team (25 participants), 2 online workshops for experts and activists (45 participants), 1 online expert seminar (50 participants), preparatory work for the second international **Public Round Table Discussion (Event 3)** and work on the education materials (20). Reaching over 28,000 voters through social media alone, these materials and events helped citizens better understand complex aspects of the electoral process and encouraged their participation in civic life, including election administration and electoral monitoring. The Foundation also established an informal platform for exchange between civil society, academics, and election administration that is likely to contribute to future policy debates.

Event 8: “Count for Democracy!” campaign in Hungary, focused on the April 2022 parliamentary elections.

Participation: The event involved 20,000 citizens, including 650 participants in total from Hungary, of which 600 participants took part in a survey for poll workers following the elections and a further 50 took part in 2 high-level advocacy briefings (25 participants), as well as a press conference and 2 online live discussions in Hungarian media (25 participants).

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Hungary** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: Unhack Democracy (UD) in Hungary initiated the 'Count for Democracy!' campaign, recruiting and training 20,000 new polling station commission members, notably in rural areas. This achievement was presented during a press conference (ca. 25 participants). They also played a key role in securing a full OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission for the 2022 Hungarian parliamentary elections through high-level advocacy briefings, media discussions, and research (25 participants). Post-election, UD conducted a survey of 600 poll workers identifying election irregularities and made recommendations at both domestic and international levels.

Event 9: National campaign in Slovakia, focusing on campaign finance and combating illegal content on the internet and disinformation.

Participation: The event involved 200 participants from Slovakia who took part in 2 online events, research, and in the preparation and publication of visual info-materials and several thousand citizens in Slovakia were reached via an online campaign.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Slovakia** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: MEMO 98 in Slovakia organized two online events (180 participants in total), researched and wrote policy papers (10 participants), and published visual materials (10 participants) in order to raise citizens' awareness about increasing transparency of campaign finance and combating illegal online content and disinformation during elections.

Event 10: National campaign in Sweden on establishing a domestic election observation organization and pushing for ballot reform.

Participation: The event involved up to 15,000 citizens and 92 participants who took part in the VOS election observation mission to the Swedish parliamentary elections and preparatory trainings for this, of which 40 were Swedish nationals and the rest were persons residing in Sweden, but who do not possess Swedish nationality (e.g. from Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus).

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Sweden** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: In Sweden, due to the efforts of the Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC), between 10,000 and 15,000 people were reached with the message that citizens must engage in election observation in order to increase the transparency of the Swedish elections and strengthen democracy. As a result of the campaign, a domestic election observation network, VOS, was established. VOS organized an election observation mission with 92 participants, involving not only Swedish citizens eligible to vote, but also persons with different migration backgrounds residing in Sweden.

Event 11: National campaign in Germany on transparency of the Bundestag

Participation: The event involved ca. 150 citizens, including 15 participants from Germany involved as members of the coalition/as experts/campaigners/participants in bilateral meetings.

Location / Dates: The campaign took place in **Germany** from 16/09/2021 to 01/08/2023.

Short description: In Germany, the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE)

formed a coalition with other transparency NGOs to jointly advocate for reforms concerning transparency rules of the German Bundestag. In the course of the campaign, a joint [press statement](#) was issued, shared among national stakeholders and journalists, and further discussed in bilateral meetings with key decision-makers and relevant authorities (15 participants).