i-Voting a European solution for citizens living abroad?
Online Roundtable on ZOOM - **EXPERT LEVEL**

ABOUT THE EVENT

Millions of Eastern Europeans live and work abroad. Because of geographical reasons and few polling stations in the country of residence, their right to influence the democratic development of their home country through voting is denied. The project examines if internet voting could be a solution. We will debate the i-Voting system and its functionality to the public and stakeholders from East and Central Europe, using the key findings from research in Moldova and Romania.

EVENT SCHEDULE
28 May 2020
10:00 – 12:30 EEST (UTC+3) Bucharest | Tallinn | Chisinau | Sofia

10:00-10:10   Opening and Presentation

Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director at European Liberal Forum
Raimar Wagner, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Romania and Republic of Moldova

10:10-10:25   **General principles of Internet Voting:** current state of affairs regarding internet voting; voting systems in the world, various models including failed ones; comparisons across countries and electoral systems.

Victor Guzun, Expert on e-transformation and public administration reform at LID Moldova, Visiting Lecturer at Tallinn University of Technology, Former Ambassador of Republic of Moldova to Estonia.

10:25-10.55   **Estonian electoral model and IFES perspective on i-Voting**
Keynote speakers:
Arne Koitmäe, Head of Electoral Office, Estonia.
Liisa Past, Election Technology Expert, Nominated by IFES.

10:55-11:40   **Country reports or situation as it is in** Armenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Spain, etc.

11:40-12:30   **Roundtable discussions** and Q&A Session.

Working language will be English.

RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

Hundreds of thousands of citizens could have exercised their democratic right to vote abroad if in their home countries modern solutions were implemented by responsible governments. All countries face similar problems when speaking about elections and electoral rights of their citizens. They have large communities living abroad with a limited possibility to exercise their electoral rights. The number of polling stations opened abroad by Election Committees is critically insufficient. The costs are very high due to large distances to reach the polling stations, the queues are very long and consequently, citizens cannot exercise their basic right to elect their representatives. Recent elections for the EU Parliament in Romania and parliamentary elections in Moldova fully proved this. A rapid, working and elegant solution to this problem is the adoption of i-Voting system, similar to Estonian model. This mechanism is making the voting exercise much easier, transparent, accountable and widespread.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Arne Koitmäe has over 15 years of experience as a legal adviser to Estonian election management bodies. He has also been involved with the Internet voting program since its first introduction in Estonian municipal elections of 2005. He is currently the Head of the State Electoral Office, the main administrative body of Estonian elections. The Electoral Office is also responsible for conducting Internet voting. He graduated in law from the University of Tartu.

Liisa Past (MA) has widely published on election technology and her work focuses on protecting the digital core of democratic infrastructure. In that capacity, she has worked with a number of organizations, including the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). She is responsible for comprehensive approach to cyber security as the Chief National Cyber Risk Officer for the Estonian Government Office. Liisa is the former Chief Research Officer at the Cyber Security Branch of the Estonian Information System Authority, where she designed, led and carried out analysis related to cyber security, including risk, threat and impact assessments. Liisa spent 2018-2019 as a Next Generation Leader at the McCain Institute for International Leadership at the Arizona State University focusing on cyber security of the infrastructure underlying democracies. She has been a driving force behind the Estonian comprehensive risk assessment of elections and the Compendium on Cyber Security of Election Technology, published under the auspices of the Cooperation Group of the EU Network and Information Security Directive.

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