

## Social media in upcoming elections in Europe: How to monitor them?

### Roundtable Discussion

*Bratislava, 19 - 20 September 2019*

*Austria Trend Hotel, Vysoká 2A, Staré Mesto, 811 06 Bratislava, Slovakia*

**Objective:** As part of a project funded by Civitates, Democracy Reporting International and MEMO98 are refining methods to monitor social media in elections (see methodology of Supporting Democracy project). We are consolidating them into an online toolkit and support citizen groups that apply them in upcoming elections in EU member states in Austria, Portugal, Croatia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The meeting will gather such groups from various EU member states to discuss and further develop the methodology. On the second day we will take a deeper look at DRI's proposed risk assessment template. As outlined in the methodology, ideally a risk assessment should inform the design of a social media methodology.

### **19 September**

#### **09:00 – 09:30 Welcome Remarks**

Rasto Kuzel, Executive Director, MEMO 98

Rafael Goldzweig, Research Coordinator – Democracy Reporting International (DRI)

#### **09:30 - 10:30 A methodology to monitor social media – experiences and lessons learned**

Giovana Maiola, International Media Expert

Josh Smith, Demos

Viktoras Dauksas, Debunk.eu

Mikheil Benidze, ISFED

**Moderation:** Rasto Kuzel

Q & A

#### **10:30 - 11:15 The toolkit to monitor social media – An Overview**

Rafael Goldzweig, Research Coordinator – Democracy Reporting International (DRI)

- Presentation of the Social Media Monitoring methodology, toolkit and application.

Q & A

#### **11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12:15 Testing the methodology/toolkit: the Austrian case (parliamentary elections on 29 September)**

Armin Rabitsch & Rania Wazir, Election-Watch.EU & VDSG

Q & A

**12:15 – 13:00 Testing the methodology/toolkit: the Portuguese case (parliamentary elections on 6 October)**

José Moreno & Inês Narciso, MediaLab ISCTE-IUL

Q & A

**13:00 – 14:30 Lunch****14:30 – 15:15 Testing the methodology/toolkit: the Polish case (parliamentary elections on 13 October)**

Robert Lech, Fundacja Odpowiedzialna Polityka

Q & A

**15:15 – 16:15 Feedback on the toolkit and wrap up**

Rasto Kuzel (MEMO 98) and Rafael Goldzweig (DRI)

**16:15 – 16:30 Coffee Break****16:30 – 17:15 Wrap up – end of day one**

Rasto Kuzel (MEMO 98) and Rafael Goldzweig (DRI)

**19:00 – 21:00 Dinner (TBC)****20 September****09:30 – 10:00 Social Media & Elections: Risk Assessment**

Michael Meyer-Resende, Executive Director - Democracy Reporting International (DRI)

**10:00 – 11:00 Discussing risk assessments of elections later this year**

Croatia, Aleksandra Kuratko, Jelena Tesija, GONG,

Romania, Rufin Zamfir, Global Focus

**Facilitation and Moderation:** Michael Meyer - Resende

In this session we want to discuss DRI's risk assessment template, apply it on two cases and find out where it could be refined.

**11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12:15 Slovakia – discussing the risk assessments for the next year's parliamentary elections**

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:00 Conclusions:**

- How to develop this work further
- Key take-aways for the toolkit
- Enhancing the toolkit in other areas