



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Summer Elect Camp 2016

How new technologies are shaping the way we run elections

Romania, 1-4 August 2016

BACKGROUND

A real phenomenon experienced not only in Romania but also in the partner countries of this programme, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Egypt, is the diversity of opinion regarding the new technologies used in elections. One of the essential challenges of any electoral management body is how to raise public trust in using new technologies in electoral processes. The key to manage this process is essential to any electoral authority to organize free and fair elections. This programme intends to promote, encourage and support the active participation in the elections field of the young people coming from different areas (EMBs, NGOs, students), with a focus on the elections - technology nexus.

The activity is implemented by the Romanian Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania (PEA) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia, and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Romania's Development Cooperation Programme (RoAid). The PEA is the Romanian official electoral management body (EMB) responsible with the management and implementation of the entire electoral cycle in Romania, and also the main provider of electoral assistance in Romania, supporting its ODA partner countries to conduct free and fair elections.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this summer school is to enhance the capacity of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Egypt and Romania to make use of new technologies in the electoral process, as well as to inform, mobilize, and engage young voters, leading to a more meaningful participation of youth in political life. The activity is designed as an experience sharing exercise, where practitioners and interested stakeholders (youth in particular) can meet in an interactive and informal learning environment to discuss about the benefits and challenges of introducing and using various forms of technology in elections.



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50
YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

THE SUMMER CAMP

Summer Elect Camp 2016 will bring together approximately 15 junior EMB representatives, members of civil society organizations and students (enrolled or recently graduated, with a particular focus on political science, international relations and computer science) from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Egypt and Romania (3 from each country) in an interactive learning environment, where they will share experiences and debate on the use of new technologies in elections. The participants will have the opportunity to interact with experienced PEA practitioners, Romanian civil society representatives and experts from international organizations, who will facilitate the summer school sessions, will deliver lectures and lead group activities.

The main topics to be addressed by the summer school are:

- Exploration of various electoral systems (foundation for later sessions);
- Exploration of various technology tools and devices used in the field of elections;
- The specific usability of technology in elections from multiple perspectives (voters, EMBs, electoral observers, watchdogs, activists, etc.);
- Examples of best practices from the participating countries and others on the use of technology in elections;
- The role that technology can play in voter mobilization, voter information, and civic education, particularly for young people.

The 4-day course will be interactive, with a minimal theoretical component. The bulk of the course time will be dedicated to practical group activities. The training will also create the opportunity for participants to share case studies from their own countries. A set of recommended readings will be provided by the organizers, to ensure a common understanding of basic concepts regarding electoral processes. All courses and group activities will be conducted in English only.

PARTICIPANTS AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

The summer school is addressed to youth (under 30 years old) representing electoral management bodies (maximum 3 year experience), civil society organizations, and university students or recent graduates (preferably with academic backgrounds in political science, international relations and computer science) from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Egypt. Interested Romanian applicants must be students, aged 30 or below, with the academic background described above (3 participants will be selected).



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Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications online, motivating their interest in electoral affairs and technology and explaining briefly how they expect this summer camp will contribute to their professional development, using the form accessible here: <http://goo.gl/forms/ILFxTclrWxfROyzH2>

Eligible candidates should have basic knowledge of electoral systems and electoral management and clear interest in technology and its applicability in elections.

LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

All international and local transportation, accommodation and meals for 15 participants from Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Egypt and Romania will be managed and fully financed by the organizers.

A maximum number of 5 additional participants will be accepted provided that they support their own travel and accommodation expenses.

The training will take place in a location outside of Bucharest (within 100 km from Bucharest, to be determined shortly).