



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate C – Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy
Unit C.4 – Democracy, Union Citizenship and Free Movement

MINUTES

Third visit of a joint expert team under the mechanism on election resilience

12-13 January 2023, Stockholm

Under the mechanism on the election resilience, the Swedish Election Authority organized an expert exchange visit for the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania. Focus for the meeting was election security and protection of electoral infrastructure, cybersecurity and IT-systems, national election cooperation network as well as postal voting from abroad. Further experiences from the project "Strengthening election protection" and election security, were highlighted and could conclude outcomes, focus areas and experiences from the 2022 Swedish elections.

The Swedish Election Authority highlighted roles and responsibilities between national, regional and local electoral authorities and other entities involved in carrying out the elections and national referendums. In particular, the structure and function of the Swedish National Election Cooperation network raised high interest as a model of good practice for the Romanian representatives. The election network serves as a platform to alert on threats, to discuss the most adequate solutions to the identified challenges and to encourage dialogue and common approaches to different issues.

In addition, a representative from the Swedish Psychological Defense Agency (established in 2022), provided information on processes which aims to identify, analyze, prevent and counter foreign malign information influence activities and other disinformation directed against Sweden or Swedish interests.

The agenda further advanced a comprehensive overview and discussion on the new informatics system with regard to its infrastructure and cybersecurity features. Experts also highlighted national electoral information system, matters related to voter information, especially from the perspective of enhancing transparency and ensuring data protection. Discussion around voter communication and information strategies, from the Swedish elections 2022 concluded the exchange.

As for the election security and disinformation area, both authorities could conclude that even if certain efforts are quite different, many challenges remain the same. The expert exchange provided a great learning opportunity and a favorable platform for comparison between challenges, efforts and outcomes.



Election Authority