MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FINLAND

Demokratiaohjelma 2025
Demokratiprogram 2025

VAALIT VAL

VAALIPOOLI
VALPOOLEN
ELECTION POOL

Vaalipooli – Valpoolen – Election Pool project

From 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021, the Ministry of Justice has been implementing the Election Pool project, which supports election preparedness and cooperation between authorities. The project is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme. The objective of the project is to strengthen cooperation among authorities and cooperation with social media in addressing election interference and improving election preparedness. The Election Pool project is linked with the National Democracy Programme 2025 and is based on the Ministry of Justice's training project to raise awareness of election interference 2018–2019.

Online platform to support the work of the electoral authorities

The Election Pool project has extensively mapped the authorities and actors related to the organisation of elections and election preparedness operating at different levels. A survey was sent to them to examine issues such as the resources for organising elections of various actors and possible needs for information they have faced in arranging and preparing for elections and for which additional support would be needed. The results of the survey have been utilised in planning the content of the Election Pool online platform, which was created to support the work of the election authorities. The platform can be accessed at the vaalit.fi website (in Finnish and Swedish).

Training

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of any functioning democracy. Well-functioning coordination between the authorities plays a key role in combating different types of election interference. The Election Pool project has supported the Cooperation group on election security preparedness, whose work includes monitoring the international discussions and developments related to election interference and election security. The Election Pool project has organised training to the members of the Cooperation group and political parties on election interference and election preparedness.
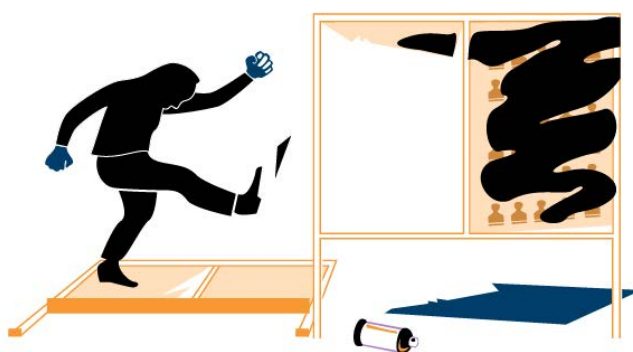
Cooperation with other EU Member States

Mutual learning and dialogue between the Member States support the use of different working methods and approaches to promote free and fair elections. Five online meetings aimed at the Cooperation group on election security preparedness have been organised with the Swedish, Lithuanian, Dutch, Irish and Croatian electoral networks and authorities as part of the Election Pool project. The purpose of the meetings was to learn about election preparedness and cooperation between the authorities in other Member States and to share the best election preparedness practices.

Discussions with social media platforms

The Election Pool project has also highlighted the importance of social media platforms in electoral preparedness work and in combating election interference. This work has been particularly coordinated within the framework of the Cooperation group on election security preparedness. The project organised a seminar with the EU Member States representing small language regimes and social media platforms. During the seminar, different Member States shared their experiences of tackling election interference, and social media companies presented their actions and practices concerning elections.

Key observations and lessons learned from the Election Pool project

- Discuss, coordinate, prepare: effective cooperation and smooth exchange of information between the authorities is the foundation for all preparedness.

- Look around: international cooperation plays a key role in identifying and preparing for different phenomena.

- Raise awareness and ensure commitment: free and fair elections lay at the heart of democracy and safeguarding them is a shared task for all of us.

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