

The 2024 EP elections: between reality and hope

NECE
LABS

20 – 21 May 2024, Sofia

Day 1, 20 May 2024

Venue: Launchee

(TZUM, 2 Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd., Sofia, 1000, Bulgaria)

Morning

Arrival of participants

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Registration and welcome nibbles

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Panel discussion: "Between reality and hope: Interpreting data and taking action"

- Introduction by THE CIVICS and background of the discussion
- Exploration of current polling data, of trends and scenarios, and strategies for effective civic engagement despite uncertainties. Presentation of the [Foresight Report EP Elections 2024: How Democracy Can Win and Europe Lose](#)
- **Panelists/Presenters:** Vessela Tcherneva, ECFR, Wojciech Przybylski, Visegrad Insight, Garvan Walshe, Unhack Democracy
- **Moderator:** Petar Karaboev, Economedia
- Audience Q&A and Discussion

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Political debate: "Visions for Europe"

- Representatives from various political parties discuss their visions for Europe and respond to audience questions
- **Co-moderated by** Maria Simeonova, ECFR and Ivan Lutskanov, Zemlevezh

7:00 – 9:30 pm

NECE Lab dinner reception: hosted by THE CIVICS

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Day 2, 21 May 2024

Venue: SOHO

(4 Iskar Street, Sofia 1000)

09:00 – 09:30 am

Welcome and coffee

- Reflect on the goals of the Lab and set expectations for the day
- **Hosts:** Kameliya Tomova & Louisa Slavkova

09:30 – 11:00 am

Learning from failure: Analysing unsuccessful civic campaigns

- **Host:** Garvan Walshe, Unhack Democracy (UK)
- **Panelists:** Kasia (Katarzyna) Wezyk, Journalist, Newsweek (Poland), and Dorka Takacsy, Research Fellow, Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (Hungary)

11:00 – 11:30 am

Coffee break

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Strategies for successful civic mobilisation

- Case studies and practical insights into successful engagement campaigns
- **Host:** Filip Pazderski, Institute of Public Affairs (Poland)
- **Panelists:** Věnek Bonuš, Strategic advisor, OSF Foundation Prague/ Reconstruction of State (Czech Republic), Elena Michel, Member of the directing board, Operation Libero (Switzerland)

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch break

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Election engagement toolbox: exploring strategies to encourage participation

- Examining a range of engagement tools and strategies
- **Host:** Mila Moshelova, Sofia University (Bulgaria)
- **Panelists:** Elif Güney Menderes, Programme Manager, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Türkiye), Marcus Ehasoo, Head of advocacy, Good Citizen (Estonia), Ana Alexieva, Programs Director, Fine Acts

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(Bulgaria), **Pauline Gault**, Informal Learning Project Manager, House of European History (Belgium)

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Reflection and closing remarks

- Share insights, action plans, and next steps
- **Moderators:** Kameliya Tomova & Louisa Slavkova