

Europe votes 2019: How to unmask and fight online manipulation

11 February 2019 | 9:30 - 17:15

Résidence Palace, Rue de la Loi 175, Brussels

Programme

In light of the upcoming European Parliament elections, and numerous other national elections scheduled for 2019, the EDPS is facilitating a conversation between data protection authorities, electoral regulators, audio-visual regulators, media & platforms in the fight against online manipulation of personal data in elections

9:30 – 9:45 **Digital information ecosystem, data protection and democracy - opening remarks from Giovanni Buttarelli**

9:45 - 10:15 **"How to fake your own news" - Demonstration by Ruurd Oosterwoud, DROG**

DROG is a platform with innovative tools to build resistance to online manipulation; "Bad News" - a game which raises awareness of how fake news is generated and spread

10:15 - 11:30 **Reflections of 2018 elections**

Looking back on the elections that took place last year, experts will look at how these elections were run, the challenges that occurred, and the lessons we can learn

1. **Liz Carolan**, *Co-Founder, Transparent Referendum Initiative*
2. **Fabro Steibel**, *Director, ITS-Rio*
3. **Iveta Kazoka**, *Director of Centre of Public Policy, PROVIDUS*
4. **Judith Duportail**, *Freelance Journalist*

11:45 - 12:45 **Digital vulnerabilities 2019**

Fair & free elections are the cornerstone of democracy but their integrity is being challenged in the highly concentrated and often unaccountable digital ecosystem. This panel will highlight the vulnerabilities in our democratic process from various perspectives.

1. **Claudio Agosti**, *Director & Project Lead, Facebook Tracking Exposed*
2. **David Stillwell**, *Lecturer in Big Data Analytics, University of Cambridge*
3. **Johnny Ryan**, *Chief Policy & Industry Relations Officer, BRAVE*
4. **(tbc) Vidya Narayanan**, *Director, Computational Propaganda Project, University of Oxford*

12:45 - 13:00 Keynote by Elizabeth Denham, Information Commissioner's Office, UK

14:00 - 15:30 Roles & Responsibilities

A multisectoral dialogue with regulators, as well as representatives from the media, journalism and the platform industry, revolving around the roles they play and responsibilities they all hold in fighting online manipulation of data

- 1. Mar España Martí**, *Commissioner, Agencia Española de Protección de Datos*
- 2. Jean Gonié**, *Director of Public Policy Europe, Snap Inc.*
- 3. Marco Pancini**, *YouTube*
- 4. Michalis Lambrianides**, *Cyprus Radio Television Authority*
- 5. Janja Horvat Drobňak**, *State Electoral Commission of Croatia*

15:45 - 17:00 Opportunities for cooperation

Whilst strengthening the protection of data is one part of the puzzle, combatting online manipulation and preserving the integrity of democracy must be a concerted effort from all players. Establishing new networks of cooperation will be key in this endeavour

- 1. Natalija Bitiukova**, *Board Member, Civil Liberties Union for Europe & Human Rights Monitoring Institute*
- 2. Marie-Hélène Boulanger**, *DG Justice, European Commission*
- 3. Maurice Turner**, *Center for Democracy and Technology*
- 4. Maria Luisa Stasi**, *Article 19*

17:00 Closing Remarks