

Module 5 European Studies through Digital Political Science

Lecture Plan No. 6

Topic 6: The Challenges and Risks of Implementing E-Democracy in the EU

Part 1: Key Challenges in the Implementation of E-Democracy

1. **Digital Divide and Unequal Access to Technology**
 - Differences in **internet access and digital literacy** across EU member states.
 - The risk of **excluding elderly, rural, and low-income populations** from digital participation.
 - Efforts to improve **e-inclusion and accessibility** in public digital services.
2. **Cybersecurity Threats and Risks in E-Democracy**
 - The vulnerability of **e-voting systems and digital platforms** to cyberattacks.
 - Risks of **data breaches, hacking, and election interference**.
 - EU regulations addressing cybersecurity, such as the **NIS2 Directive and Cybersecurity Act**.
3. **Online Misinformation and Manipulation Risks**
 - The spread of **fake news, deepfakes, and AI-generated disinformation** in political discourse.
 - The role of **social media in amplifying misinformation** and polarizing debates.
 - The EU's regulatory response: **Digital Services Act (DSA) and Code of Practice on Disinformation**.
4. **Concerns About Digital Identity and Privacy**
 - The challenge of **ensuring secure digital identification** for online voting and public participation.
 - Privacy risks associated with **tracking and profiling of political opinions**.
 - The balance between **data protection (GDPR) and effective digital governance**.

Part 2: Addressing Risks and Building Trust in E-Democracy

1. **Strengthening Digital Infrastructure for Secure E-Democracy**
 - The role of **blockchain and cryptographic solutions** in securing digital elections.
 - Improving **cloud security and digital verification systems** for citizen authentication.
 - The potential of **AI-driven fraud detection** in online voting.
2. **Regulatory and Ethical Considerations for E-Democracy**
 - The importance of **transparent governance in digital policymaking**.
 - Ethical concerns about **AI-powered political decision-making**.
 - EU policies ensuring **fairness and accountability in digital public participation**.
3. **Mitigating the Spread of Disinformation in Digital Political Spaces**
 - Strengthening **fact-checking initiatives and independent media verification**.
 - Social media platforms' responsibility in **moderating harmful political content**.
 - Encouraging **digital literacy programs** to help citizens identify misinformation.
4. **The Future of E-Democracy in the EU**
 - Strategies to enhance **cross-border digital governance and cooperation**.



- The role of **AI and Big Data** in improving citizen engagement while maintaining ethical **standards**.
- Ensuring that **e-democracy** remains inclusive, transparent, and resistant to manipulation.

