**Online conference on the use of new technologies in electoral processes, organized by the Permanent Electoral Authority (EPA) in partnership with the**

**Venice Commission of the Council of Europe**

**21 July 2020: 10:00 - 12:15 CET**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, new challenges have emerged in the electoral field and they should be discussed by professionals in order for the best decisions to be taken. Some countries affected by COVID-19 have decided to postpone the elections, others have introduced special measures for the conduct of the electoral processes. Each of these decisions involves risks, but also short-term and long-term opportunities.

The current international framework determined by the pandemic has raised unprecedented challenges for electoral management bodies, electoral decision-makers and civil society. In this context, the conduct of electoral processes during the pandemic became a provocation for the organizers, and the exchange of good practices and expertise in the field was seen as being stringent.

Therefore, at the proposal of the Permanent Electoral Authority, it was decided together with the representatives of the Venice Commission to organize an online conference on the topic of *the use of new technologies in electoral processes* on the 21 July 2020, between 10:00 and 12:15 (CET).

The aim of the online conference is to identify key challenges regarding the organization of electoral processes during the pandemic and to discuss the feasibility of using new technologies in such processes.

The online event will bring together experts and election officials from prestigious electoral management bodies and international organizations with responsibilities in the electoral field, such as: the Venice Commission, the Association of European Electoral Officials (ACEEEO), the World Association of Electoral Bodies (A-WEB), the Estonian National Electoral Committee and other guests from electoral management bodies, PEA partners, independent experts, representatives of political parties and of the civil society.

The event will be organized on the Microsoft Teams platform.

Working language: English.