

Policy Paper on

Artificial Intelligence's (AI) Impact on

Freedom of Expression in Political

Campaign and Elections

Electoral Integrity Project
Virtual Conference
5-9 July 2021

“Watchdog” Functions

- Assess and research the impact of AI in social media on freedom of speech
- Independently verify claims made by platforms under transparency requirements
- Make research findings reproducible
- Create tools and code that allow other researchers to work social media data
- Investigate possible biases in existing algorithmic content filters
- Prevent the creation of “de-facto standards” of acceptable online speech that are developed by private entities with no oversight or transparency



Guidelines for API Access to Social Media

Key Requirements

- **Data access**
- Technical infrastructure
- Expertise
- Legal clarity
- Funding



Assessment

- Social media impacts citizens' **access, reception, and communication** of information
- Algorithmic content moderation with **damaging impact on fundamental freedoms** (OSCE RoFM)
- **Lack of transparency**, accountability and effective remedies
- Quick new developments versus **outdated legislation**
- Voluntary self regulation by social media networks & online platforms insufficient
- UN reaffirmed that the same rights people have offline must be protected online

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Recommendations

- **Businesses to respect human rights** as per UN guiding principles
- **Common standards** for accessible & transparent content moderation
- Need of independent **third party oversight**
- Protect the **freedom of expression**
- **Engage with EU** institutions to shape DSA, DMA, AI Act
- **Advocate a human rights based** approach to social media and AI



Thank You

Questions & Discussion

<https://www.wahlbeobachtung.org/en/policy-paper-on-ai-and-freedom-of-expression-in-elections/>



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