



15th International Electoral
Affairs Symposium And
Awards Ceremony
Dead Sea - Jordan

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About the Conference

The 15th International Electoral Symposium and International Awards Ceremony is hosted by the Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC) in partnership with the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) and with the support of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES).

The Symposium will bring together representatives from the electoral democracy community and election management bodies from around the world to share best practice initiatives, assess new technologies and tools and develop innovative strategies that they can then put into practice in their respective countries and regions.

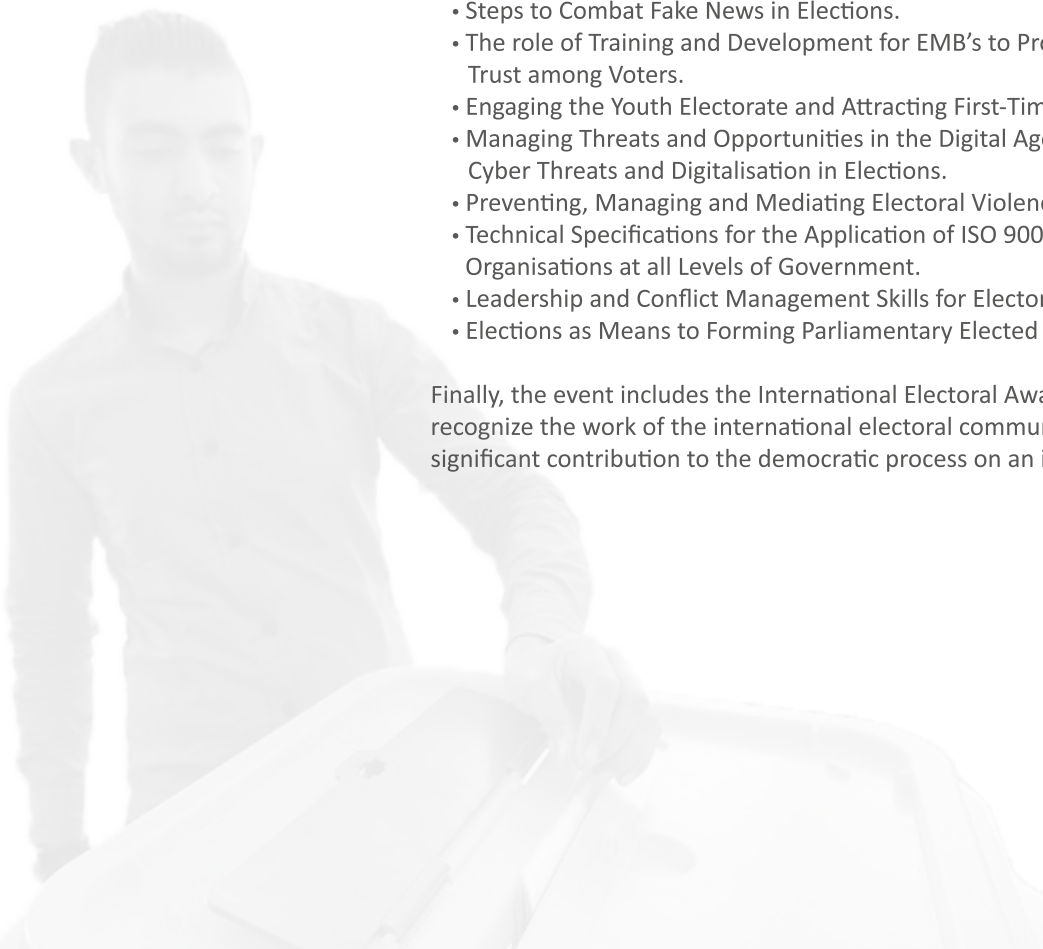
During the symposium, you will hear from high level public officials and leading international experts, offering a variety of perspectives in relation to effective election management.

A series of interactive presentations, workshops, round-table discussions and case studies will take place over the course of the three days and include contributions from senior electoral officials, academic experts and global solution providers, who have vast experience in planning and overseeing successful elections worldwide.

The following topics will be covered throughout the Symposium:

- Fostering Regional Cooperation and Regional Networks.
- Steps to Combat Fake News in Elections.
- The role of Training and Development for EMB's to Promote Democracy and Build Trust among Voters.
- Engaging the Youth Electorate and Attracting First-Time Voters.
- Managing Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Age: The Role of Social Media, Cyber Threats and Digitalisation in Elections.
- Preventing, Managing and Mediating Electoral Violence.
- Technical Specifications for the Application of ISO 9001:2008 for Electoral Organisations at all Levels of Government.
- Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders.
- Elections as Means to Forming Parliamentary Elected Governments.

Finally, the event includes the International Electoral Awards Ceremony, which will recognize the work of the international electoral community by honouring their significant contribution to the democratic process on an international level.





Dear Colleagues,

It is my greatest honor to welcome Jordan's esteemed guests from all over the world to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea, to participate in the 15th International Electoral Affairs Symposium.

The Independent Election Commission is profoundly proud of the Royal Patronage of his Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, which confirms his Majesty's vision for comprehensive reform and the future of democracy in Jordan.

The IEC, together with its esteemed partners, ICPS and ECES, has been working to create a symposium rich with opportunities and areas for potential partnership. During the symposium, we will discuss crucial electoral topics such as regional cooperation, training and development, engaging youth, social media, innovative electoral solutions, and electoral conflict management.

In the past 25 years more than 40 countries have moved to become democratic, holding regular elections at various levels. The future is democratic, and we meet here to strengthen this tendency and enable these processes. We are here to learn from each other how to best build our future. It is a future where history-makers, some of whom are here today, make their best efforts to promote democracy and equality.

I look forward to this symposium with great eagerness and I hope that each one of you will have the chance to share your unique experiences and best practices to ensure the utmost benefit from this great gathering representing a wide range of experiences.

Get ready to inspire and be inspired. Electoral innovation starts here.

Sincerely,

Dr. Khalid Kalaldeh
Chairman, IEC





About the Independent Election Commission

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) was established in May 2012 as part of the comprehensive political reforms initiated by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein. The IEC aims to maintain the highest levels of transparency, integrity, and impartiality in the management of electoral processes, thus ensuring the confidence of Jordanians and the international community at large.

Following its establishment, the IEC supervised the 2013 Municipal Elections and organized and administered the 2013 and 2016 Parliamentary as well as 6 by-elections. On 15 August 2017, the IEC ran Municipal Elections alongside the first Decentralization Elections seen in Jordan. The IEC has gained recognition in Jordan and internationally for its role in regaining voters' trust and administering fair and free elections.

In order to enhance mutual cooperation and exchange of expertise in the region and beyond, the IEC is in the process of establishing a Regional Training and Research Center. This center will host trainings, workshops, discussions, and researchers to facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge on all matters related to the electoral process.

The center will be focusing on but not limited to: youth political participation, training and capacity building, civic education, media, candidates training, and institutionalization of research and development. The IEC is currently building partnerships with elections stakeholders, reputable international organizations, and educational institutions to ensure that the center provides a comprehensive and global perspective.





Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, I would like to welcome you to the 2017 International Electoral Affairs Symposium in Dead Sea, Jordan.

It is indeed an honour that this year's Symposium is under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Independent Election Commission of Jordan and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) for their generous support in co-hosting this year's Symposium.

Over the years, ICPS has endeavoured to provide a platform for Electoral Management Bodies, donor agencies, technology and service providers, NGOs, interest groups and other stakeholders from across the world to come together to discuss the key challenges and opportunities in the field of electoral management and develop practical solutions to help countries deliver free and fair elections.

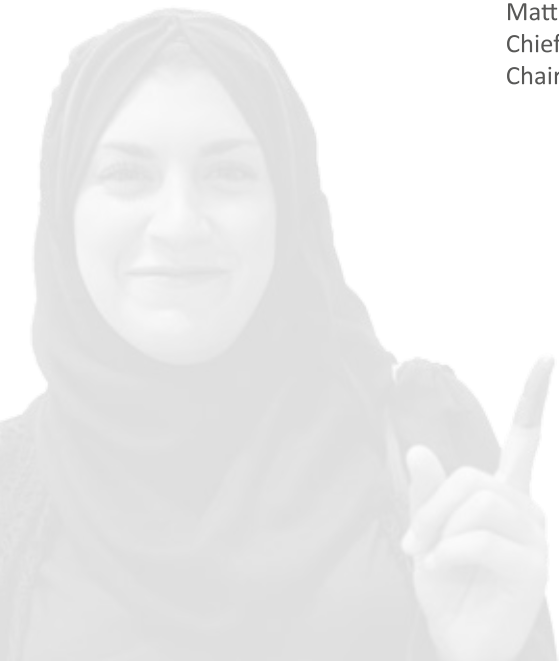
The electoral community faces numerous challenges which include improving social media participation of EMBs, management of 'fake' news, driving the youth electorate, conflict resolution, increasing voter participation and implementing new tools to promote democracy in the digital age.

During the Symposium we intend to address these key issues. I encourage all of you to actively engage in the discussions and sharing best practices with your peers so that we are better equipped to face the challenges of the future.

Finally, let me thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here with us.

I hope you have a productive, memorable and enjoyable few days with us in Jordan.

Sincerely,
Matt Gokhool
Chief Executive, ICPS
Chairman, ICEP





About the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies

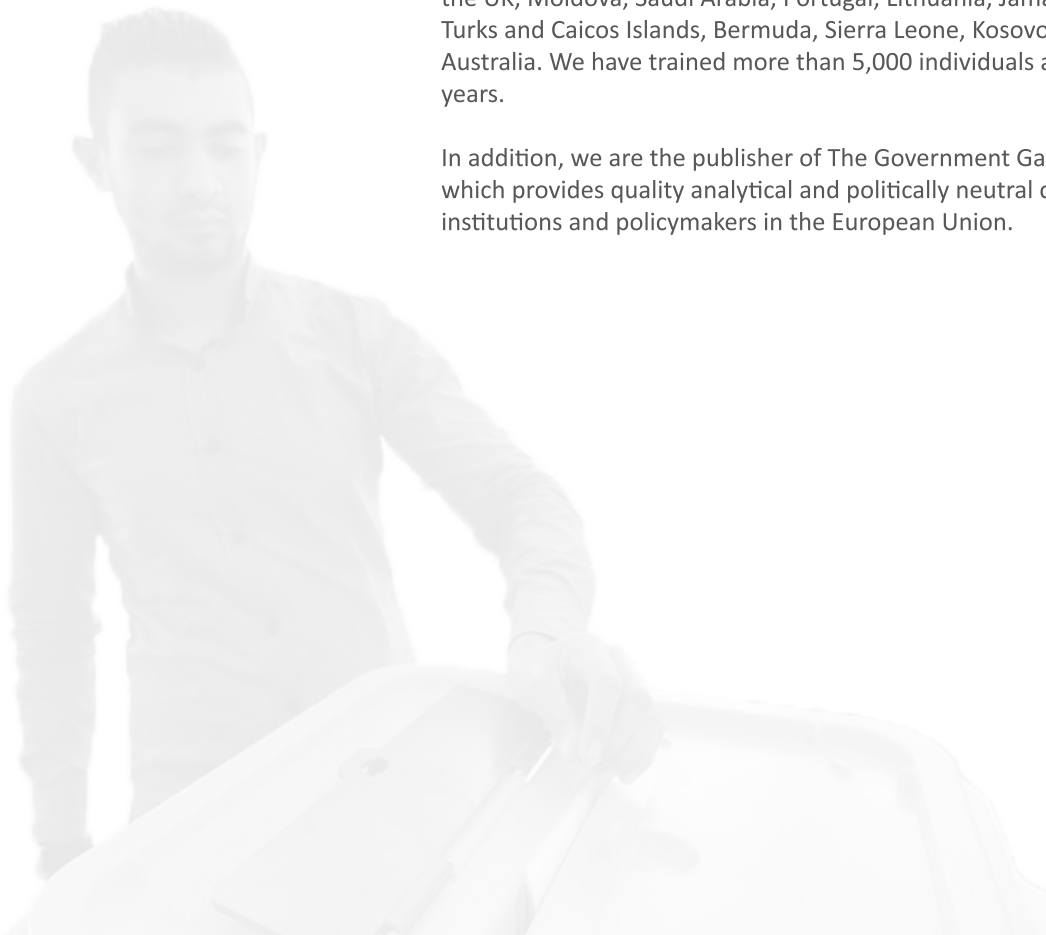
The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies exists to promote effective policymaking and good governance through enhanced interaction between Parliaments, governments and other stakeholders in society.

The Centre's primary focus is the empowerment of human capital through capacity building. To this end, the Centre organises a range of training programmes, conferences and policy discussions to address current public policy issues on the international stage, within Europe and in the UK. These provide a forum for policy discussion, debate, networking and consolidation of international best practice.

ICPS also provides a range of in-country consultancy services to public administrations and government agencies around the world that bring tangible and lasting change. Our consultancy services cover a range of areas including electoral affairs, regulation, governance, public sector reform, health and security.

We have worked with a variety of international organisations including the World Bank, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, the African Development Bank, the European Development Bank, the International Labour Organisation, the International Organisation for Migration, USAID, and many UN bodies including the UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF. We have also worked with a broad range of governments including the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Kenya, the UK, Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Lithuania, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia. We have trained more than 5,000 individuals and organisations in the last 4 years.

In addition, we are the publisher of The Government Gazette, a quarterly magazine which provides quality analytical and politically neutral coverage of the leading institutions and policymakers in the European Union.





Dear Colleagues,

In my capacity as President of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 15 th International Electoral Symposium and International Awards Ceremony, Dead Sea, Jordan, 2017.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the fruitful collaboration established by ECES, within the framework of the EU funded Programme “EU Support to Jordanian Democratic Institutions and Development, EU-JDID”, with the co-hosts of the event, the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) and the Independent Election Commission (IEC) of Jordan.

Thanks to this tripartite collaboration, and the royal patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, we are all here to discuss, exchange, share and build a strong network aimed at fostering democratic values.

During the last seven years, ECES accumulated lessons learned and extensive field experience from having supported electoral and democratic processes through over 70 different projects in more than 35 countries all over the world.

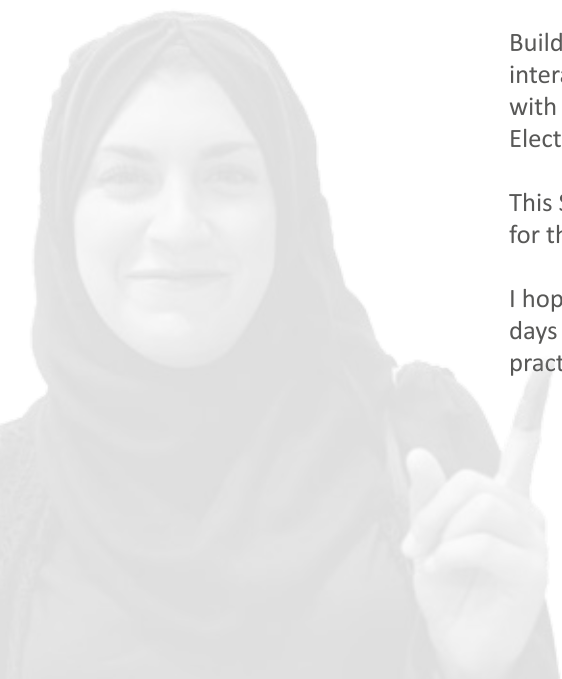
One of the most important lessons that I would like to share with you is about the importance of fostering exchange and discussions and encourage collaboration between practitioners, electoral administrations, public institutions, academics, donor agencies and service providers in order to support knowledge sharing and consolidate democratic culture in a holistic and sustainable way.

Elections are complex processes, whereby a number of stakeholders interact and contribute to the final outcome. It is therefore essential to highlight the interconnections and foster mutual comprehension through exchanges, in order to create synergies and build mutual trust.

Build bridges between electoral stakeholders on all levels in order to facilitate their interaction is a crucial part of the innovative delivery mechanism that ECES developed with the European Partnership for Democracy network called “European Response to Electoral Cycle Support, EURECS”.

This Symposium is meant to provide momentum for these exchanges to happen and for these bridges to be built.

I hope you will enjoy the event and we count on your contribution to make these four days a memorable occasion to consolidate our shared democratic values and practices.



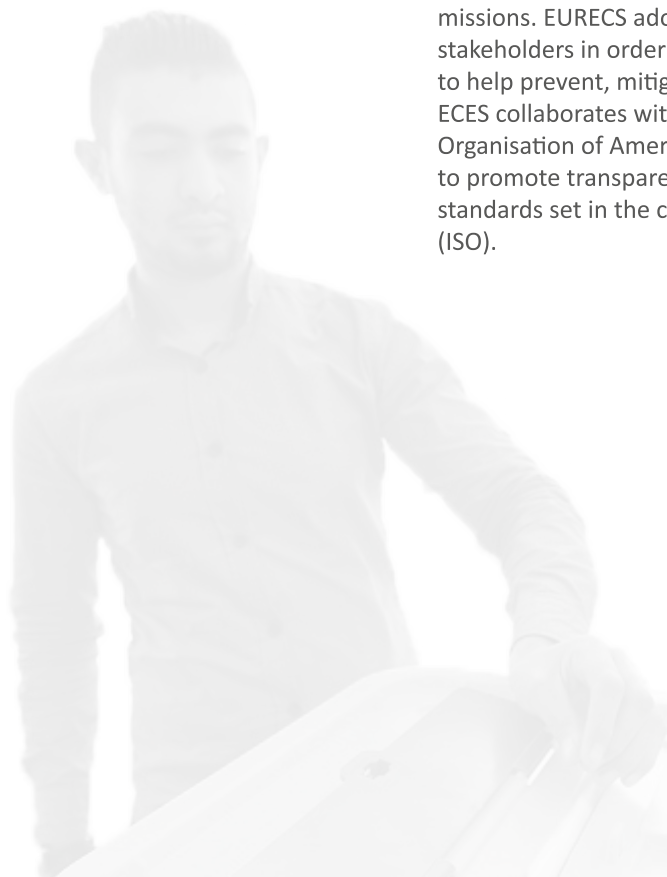
About the European Centre for Electoral Support

ECES is a not for profit private foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit. ECES promotes sustainable democratic development through the provision of advisory services, operational support and management of large projects in the electoral and democracy assistance field. ECES works with all electoral stakeholders, including electoral management bodies, civil society organizations involved in voter education and election observation, political parties, parliaments, media, security forces, religious groups and legal institutions confronted with electoral disputes resolution.

ECES is a member of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and is part of its Board of Directors. EPD is the most important network of European civil and political society organisations working on democracy assistance. It is composed by 14 members from 11 EU Member States. EPD is the first Community of Practice on democracy assistance operating at the EU level advocating for a stronger presence of democracy support on the EU agenda. In this context, ECES, in collaboration with EPD members, has crafted and copyrighted a strategy called "A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS"

This is an innovative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent with European values and EU policies and targets the implementations of the recommendations of EU election observation missions. EURECS adopts an inclusive approach towards a wide range of electoral stakeholders in order to ensure comprehensive and sustainable actions and it is built to help prevent, mitigate and manage electoral related conflicts.

ECES collaborates with the International Electoral Accreditation Body (IEAB) and Organisation of American States to support electoral management bodies worldwide to promote transparency and quality of their management systems via the electoral standards set in the context of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).





15th International Electoral Affairs Symposium & International Electoral Awards Ceremony

Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea, Jordan
4-5 December 2017

Sunday, 3rd December 2017

Arrivals & Registration throughout the day

Venue: Kempinski Hotel Ishtar

Kish Terrace

18:30

Welcome Reception

Venue: Kempinski Hotel Ishtar

Attire: Casual

Monday, 4th December 2017

From 08:45

Shuttle bus from the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar to the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre (KHBTC)

KHBTC

09:00 – 09:45

Registration and Welcome Coffee

Venue: KHBTC - Dead Sea 1&2

Attire: Business Formal

10:00 – 10:45

Mr. Matt Gokhool, Chief Executive, **International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS)** and Chairman, **International Centre for Electoral Psychology (ICEP)**

Ms. Monica Frassoni, President, **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)**

H.E. Amb. Andrea Fontana, EU Ambassador/Head Of Delegation, **European Union (EU)**

H.E. Dr. Jim Barnhart, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, **Embassy of the United States of America**

H.E. Dr. Khalid Al-Kalalkeh, Chairman, **Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**

10:45 – 11:00

Opening Keynote

11:00 – 11:30

Group Picture | Coffee and Networking Break



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- 11:30 – 12:30** **Panel Discussion 1: Fostering Regional Cooperation and Regional Networks**
Moderator: H.E. Zuhair Abu Fares, Commissioner, Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)
- **Mr. Wafula Chebukati, Chairman, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya**
 - **Mr. Hisham Kuhail, CEO, Election Commission of Palestine**
 - **Hon. Justice Abednego Tafa, Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Botswana**
 - **Prof. Bolade Eyinla, Chief Technical Advisor to Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC)**

- 12:30 – 13:00** **Presentation: Seven Steps to Combat Fake News in Elections**
Mr. Mohamed Mansour, Electoral Expert - MENA, Smartmatic

Obelisk Restaurant

- 13:00 – 14:30** **Lunch | Shuttle bus to the Kempinski Hotel**

Sacrament Ballroom

- 14:30 – 15:30** **Panel Discussion 2: The role of Training and Development for EMB's to Promote Democracy and Build Trust among Voters**
Moderator: H.E. Samar Haj Hasan, Commissioner, Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)
- **Mrs. Ivilina Aleksieva, Chairperson, Central Election Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria**
 - **Ms. Laura Matjošaitytė, Chairperson, Central Electoral Commission of the Republic Of Lithuania (CEC)**
 - **Mr. Paul DeGregorio, Senior Advisor, Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), USA**

- 15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee and Networking Break**

Sacrament Ballroom

- 16:00 – 17:00** **Panel Discussion 3: Engaging the Youth Electorate and Attracting First-Time Voters**
Moderator: Mr. Sharaf Abu Rumman, Director of Media and Communications, Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)
- **Prof. Michael Bruter, Professor of Political Science, London School of Economics, International Centre for Electoral Psychology (ICEP)**
 - **Dr. Sarah Harrison, Research Officer, London School of Economics, International Centre for Electoral Psychology (ICEP)**
 - **Mr. Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Los Angeles County, USA**
 - **Mr. David Orr, County Clerk, Cook County, USA**
 - **Mr. Maher Dudin, Former IEC Intern, Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**



17:00 – 17:15 Chair's closing remarks

Sacrament Ballroom

20:00 Evening programme and dinner
Cultural Dinner Hosted by the IEC
Venue: Kempinski Hotel Ishtar
Attire: Smart casual

Tuesday, 5th December 2017

Sacrament Ballroom

09:00 – 09:15 Chair's Recap of Day 1

Sacrament Ballroom

09:15 – 10:15 **Panel Discussion 1: Managing Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Age: The Role of Social Media, Cyber Threats and Digitalisation in Elections**

Moderator: Mr. Mahmoud Al-Zaben, Director of Information Technology,
Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)

- **Mr. Cesar Flores**, Director of Digital Affairs, ICPS
- **Mr. Allan Best**, Managing Director, **The DELIAN Project**
- **Prof. Mohammed Kuna**, Senior Advisor, **Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC)**
- **Mrs. Nadia Fakhra**, Democratic Space Manager, **DAI-CDIP, Pakistan**
- **Dr. Sarah Cameron**, Electoral Integrity Project Manager, **The University of Sydney, Australia**
- **Ms. Alison Cowzer**, Board Member, **Women for Election, Ireland**

Sacrament Ballroom

10:15 – 10:45 **Presentation: Implementation of Electoral Solutions**

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee and Networking Break

Sacrament Ballroom

11:15 – 12:15 **Panel Discussion 2: Preventing, Managing and Mediating Electoral Violence**

Moderator: Ms. Monica Frassoni, President, **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)**

- **Mrs. Valdete Daka**, President, **Central Election Commission of Kosovo**
- **Mr. Newton Ahmed Barry**, President, **Independent National Electoral Commission of Burkina Faso (CENI)**
- **Mr. Héctor Helí Rojas**, Magistrate, **National Electoral Council of Colombia (CNE)**
- **Mr. Mohammad Qatawneh**, Director of Legal Affairs, **Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**



Dilmun 1

11:15 - 11:45 Workshop 1 : Technical Specifications for the Application of ISO 9001:2008 for Electoral Organisations at all Levels of Government

- **H.E. Samar Haj Hasan**, Commissioner, **Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**
- **Mr. Fabio Bargiacchi**, Executive Director, **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)**
- **Ms. Maria Teresa Mellenkamp**, Deputy Director, **Electoral Department of the Organisation of American States (OAS)**

Dilmun 1

11:45 – 12:15 Workshop 2: Capacity Building Programmes for EMBs

- **H.E Dr. Awwad Al Karadsheh**, Secretary General, **Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**
- **Mr. Fabio Bargiacchi**, Executive Director, **European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)**, **Launching the ECES' Election Conflict Prevention Handbook on Southern Africa**
- **Ms. Guiomar Levi Setti**, Project Officer, Master on Electoral Policy and Administration, **Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna**

Dilmun 3

11:15 – 12:15 Workshop 3: Elections as Means to Forming Parliamentary Elected Governments

Moderator: Mr. Jehad Al Momani, Spokesperson, **Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC)**

- **Mr. Mohamed Daoudeeh**, CEO, **Addustor Newspaper, Jordan**
- **Mr. Khalid Ramadan**, Member of Parliament, **Jordan's House of Representatives**
- **Mr. Abdel El Moneim Odat**, Member of Parliament, **Jordan's House of Representatives**

Sacrament Ballroom

12:15 – 13:15 Commissioners Round Table

Sacrament Ballroom

13:15 – 13:30 Chair's Closing Remarks

Obelisk Restaurant

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Sacrament Ballroom

19:00 ICPS International Electoral Awards 2017 Ceremony and Official Dinner

Venue: Kempinski Hotel Ishtar

Attire: Black tie, National Costumes



Explore Jordan in 3D with your mobile (IEAS - IEC Mobile App)



Speakers' Biographies



Dr. Zuhair Abu Fares
Commissioner
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Dr. Abu Fares has been a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission of Jordan since April 2016 and the current president of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Organization for Election Management Bodies (Arab EMBs).

Dr. Abu Fares, a political activist and researcher and author of political, social and professional unions' affairs. He is a former president of the Jordan medical association, former Chairman of the Board of the professional associations in Jordan, and a former Deputy Secretary General of the Union of Arab Physicians.

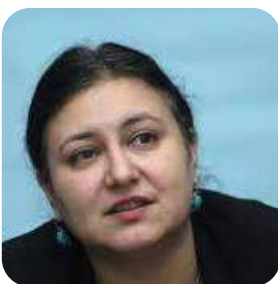
Dr. Abu Fares is currently the Vice-President of the Arab– Euro Mediterranean Forum for Medical Associations. He is a member of the Jordanian authors association as well as a member of Arab Authors Union having wrote four books on health, education, and the environment.



Sharaf Abu Rumman
Director of Media and Communication Directorate
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Sharaf Abu Rumman is the Director of Media and Communication Directorate at the Independent Election Commission of Jordan. Mr. Abu Rumman is specialized in media campaigns, electoral awareness campaigns, and coordination with electoral stakeholders.

Mr. Abu Rumman worked previously in visual media in Jordan, where he worked as producer for political talk shows.



Ivilina Verginova Aleksieva-Robinson
Chair
Central Election Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mrs. Aleksieva has been a Chair of the Central Election Commission (CEC) since March 2014. Before that she was Executive Director of the Institute of Modern Politics – a non-profit organization, which works in the field of monitoring the legislation according to the principles of transparency, publicity, accountability and civil participation in decision making. She was an advisor to the Minister of Emergency Situations; a lawyer; a member of the CEC (2005). Her professional experience includes advising NGOs working in the field of human rights protection and good governance.

Mrs. Aleksieva is an author of analyzes and proposals for new/ amendments of the electoral legislation. She participated in Civil Councils to the Parliament Committees for the preparation of the Election Code now in force; in round tables and discussions on electoral matters; in preparation of statements on conducting of the presidential elections 2011 for Constitutional Court cases and others.

Till November of the 2017 Mrs. Aleksieva was a President of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO).

Speakers' Biographies



Dr. Khalid Al Kalaldehy
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Dr. Kalaldehy takes a vision and makes it reality through sound strategy development. He intuitively sees the threads of opportunity that wind through an organization, brings them together into a coherent whole, helps others extend their thinking, and drives material business advantage. He leads mainly by example, always doing his best and encouraging others to do the same. While easygoing by nature, no one doubts his authority – he is direct and decisive when he needs to be.

A Jordan born and raised orthopedic surgeon by education and earlier profession who earned his medical degree in orthopedics from Romania, moved to Jordan where he practiced for many years and assumed managerial positions in hospital management and also was an active member in the syndicates' activities in Jordan. He started his political career in Jordan when he was requested to join "as a member of the opposition" the formation of the national dialogue committee on March 2011.

He was later appointed as a minister of political and parliamentary affairs on Aug 2013 and orchestrated and led the introduction of the new election law and the political parties' law in Jordan.

Dr. Kalaldehy is the current chairman of the board of commissioners of the Independent Election Commission in Amman Jordan, appointed by a Royal decree since April 2016 to continue the implementation of the transformation of the vision of democratic Jordan within the framework of the political reforms



Dr. Awwad Al Karadsheh
Secretary General
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Dr. Awwad was appointed the Secretary General of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) of Jordan on 7 November 2017.

Dr. Awwad holds a PhD in Political Science. He held several key positions within the Ministry of Interior from January 1995 until November 2017, where he reached the level of Administrative Governor.

Dr. Awwad also held key positions within the IEC as Elections Coordinator during the 2013 Parliamentary Elections and as Elections Operations Manager for the 2016 Parliamentary Elections and the 2017 Municipal and Decentralization Elections.



Jihad Al Momani
Spokesperson
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Mr. Al Momani is the Spokesperson of the Independent Election Commission of Jordan. He is also a journalist, writer, political analyst and TV and radio presenter. Mr. Al Momani holds a Master's degree in Journalism-TV, and Radio Arts from Tashkent University.

Mr. Al Momani is a member of the National Dialogue Committee of Jordan, Jordanian Writers Union, the Jordanian Journalists Association, the national committee for the slogan (Jordan First) and the Copenhagen Group for peace in Middle East.

He was member of the Upper House of Parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the period of 2003-2005. He was also a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from 2003-2005.

Speakers' Biographies



Mahmoud Al Zaben
Director of Information Systems
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Mr. Mahmoud Al Zaben is the Director of Information Systems at the Independent Election Commission of Jordan. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and holds a High Diploma in Computer Information Systems.

Mr. Al Zaben is specialized in using electronic election databases and systems and voter registers. He worked as Head of Electronic Information and Systems Department at the Ministry of Interior and has been working in the field of elections since 2000.



Fabio Bargiacchi
Executive Director
European Centre for Electoral Support

Fabio Bargiacchi is member of the Management Board and the Executive Director of ECES since August 2011. He brought ECES to its role as an important actor in the electoral support sector in Europe and at the global level.

Mr. Bargiacchi has worked in the election field since the beginning of the 1990s. He contributed to the electoral and democratisation processes in over 50 different countries and worked on the identification, formulation, and implementation or evaluation of more than 100 electoral assistance projects.

Mr. Bargiacchi also developed a deep knowledge in project cycle management, particularly in the Democratic Governance field as demonstrated by his experience working for the European Commission at the level of the Delegation of the EU in Maputo, Mozambique (2001 – 2003) and at the European Commission, EuropeAid in Brussels (2004 – 2006) as Election Specialist.

Mr. Bargiacchi was also at the forefront of the development and delivery of the Joint EC-UNDP-IDEA effective electoral assistance, face-to-face and distance e-learning training (September 2005 - February 2011).

Mr. Bargiacchi is a BRIDGE ACCREDITING training-facilitator and he is one of the main creators of the training curriculum "Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders, LEAD" developed together with the Centre for Creative Leadership. He authored, coordinated, co-authored and contributed to a series of election-related publications and policy papers

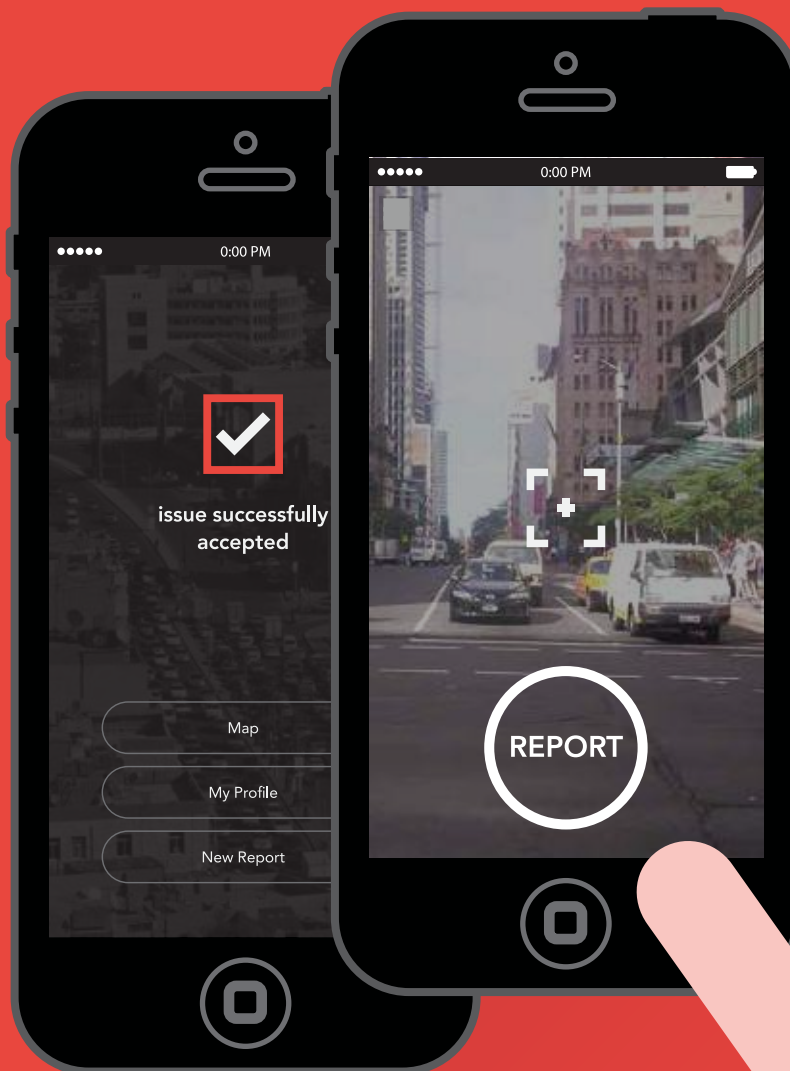


Newton Ahmad Barry
President
Independent National Electoral Commission of Burkina Faso

Newton Ahmad Barry was elected as a president of the Independent National Electoral commission (CENI) of Burkina Faso on July 25th, 2016 for a 5 years mandate renewable once.

Newton, a political columnist, and investigative journalist by profession served in the national TV where he created and presented the democratic debates, the elections and the civil responsibility.

**Report problems and issues
around you to candidates, officials
and make it visible to all**



Speakers' Biographies



Allan Best
Managing Director
The DELIAN Project

Allan Best is the Managing Director of the Canadian NGO the DELIAN Project. During his career with the Government of Canada, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and the Baltic Region. Through DELIAN, he has supported election projects in various British Overseas territories, Libya, Mongolia, Georgia, Haiti, South Africa, and several CARICOM Nations. He is a graduate of RMC in Canada with a Master in Defence Studies, as well as from Cranfield University in the United Kingdom with a Postgraduate certificate in Information Operations. At present his area of research is the use of election technology, influence activities, as well as cyber operations, and its implication in emerging and post-conflict democraci



Prof. Michael Bruter
Professor of Political Science
Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science

Professor Michael Bruter joined the LSE in 2001, where he directs the ECREP qf in electoral psychology, having previously been employed by the University of Houston (USA) and the University of Hull. He has provided consulting and advice to the European Commission, Council of Europe, and several governments and Election Management Bodies around the world, worked as expert witness in electoral psychology in cases tried at the Irish High Court and Supreme Court. In addition to his position at the LSE, Professor Bruter is Adjunct Professor at the Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship at McGill University in Canada and has held guest professor positions in some of the most prestigious universities worldwide, such as Columbia University, Sciences Po Bordeaux, the Australian National University and the University of Melbourne.

He has published seven books and numerous articles in leading journals in the fields of elections, political behaviour, political psychology, identities, public opinion, extreme right politics, and social science research methods and has directed over 30 externally funded projects focusing on electoral psychology, European identity, political participation, and young voters. His research has been discussed in debates in two Parliaments and articles in the world leading media such as the Wall Street Journal, Economist, Times, Guardian, Newsweek, Le Monde and The Independent.



Sarah Cameron
Electoral Integrity Project Manager
University of Sydney

Sarah Cameron is the Manager and Research Fellow of the Electoral Integrity Project, an academic project based at the University of Sydney and Harvard University. Before joining the Electoral Integrity Project in 2017 she contributed to a range of projects on elections including the Australian Election Study and the Comparative Cross-National Electoral Research project. Sarah completed her PhD in Political Science at the Australian National University, and holds Master's degrees from the Australian National University and Ashridge Business School. She previously held a Visiting Fellowship in the Department of Government at Harvard University.

Speakers' Biographies



Wanyonyi Wafula Chebukati
Chairman
Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya

Mr. Wanyonyi Wafula Chebukati holds a bachelor of laws [Hons] degree from the University of Nairobi and a post-graduate diploma from the Kenya School of Law. Mr. Chebukati also holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He has attended numerous professional training courses developing expertise in diverse areas of International commerce, trade and investment law; corporate law and governance; product liability; litigation and environmental law. Mr. Chebukati is a trained legislative drafter and policy formulator. Previously, he was a consultant when Kenya was developing its maritime laws.

Before assuming leadership at the helm of the IEBC as Chairperson on 20th January, 2017, Mr. Chebukati has established himself as a distinguished legal practitioner with 31 years active experience and good standing. He was a founder and managing partner at a leading corporate commercial law practice in Kenya, Cootow and Associates Advocates. Mr. Chebukati also served as Council member of the law society of Kenya, Kenya's Bar association. Upon appointment he sought to leverage on his expertise and experience in leadership, governance and management to public service and electoral management.

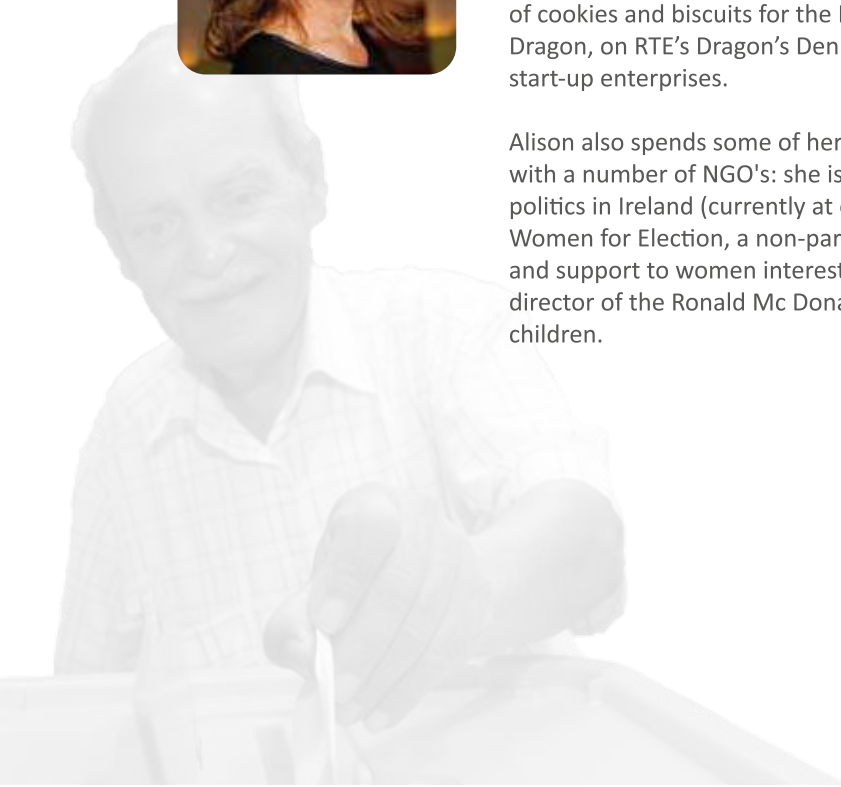
Mr. Chebukati sits in the executive boards of various international electoral associations including AWEB and AAEA. He is an avid golfer and has successfully served as Captain and Chairman of the Mombasa, Nyali, and the Royal Golf Clubs, Nairobi; he has also served as a committee member of the Kenya Golf union. Currently he is a member of the Kenya Golfing Society.



Alison Cowzer
Board Member
Women for Election

Alison Cowzer is an entrepreneur based in Dublin Ireland, and is co-founder of East Coast Bakehouse - a new large scale food manufacturing business producing a range of cookies and biscuits for the Irish, UK and European markets. As an investor and Dragon, on RTE's Dragon's Den series, she has made investments in a number of start-up enterprises.

Alison also spends some of her time on marketing, branding and strategy projects with a number of NGO's: she is passionate about increasing the number of women in politics in Ireland (currently at only 22% in Parliament), and is a board member of Women for Election, a non-partisan organisation that provides training, mentoring and support to women interested in getting involved in political life. She is also a director of the Ronald Mc Donald House Charity, supporting families of seriously ill children.



Speakers' Biographies



Valdete Daka
President
Central Election Commission of Kosovo

Valdete Daka, was born on 19.04.1961, in Mitrovica, Republic of Kosovo. She studied Legal Sciences at the University of Pristina and also completed Jurisprudence (BAR) exam. She is a Candidate for Master degree at the AAB University in Pristina.

Valdete Daka is a judge of career. From 1986 - 2010, she worked as a Judge at the Municipal Court and later at District Court. On 2010, she has been elected judge in the Supreme Court of Kosovo, later that year she was also elected Chair of Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kosovo.

She was also a member of the Kosovo Judicial Council, regular trainer at Kosovo Judicial Institute and member of IJPC.

She is proven record of success managing and implementing Kosovo's elections since 2010 as Chair of headquarters management team or at field implementation level. Demonstrated ability to deliver and add value through excellence in management, team building, project appreciation and implementation.

Ms. Daka is certified by the Council of Europe to train, judges and prosecutors related on the European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms. She is a member of professional bodies: International Association of Woman Judges IAWJ; Forum of Woman Judges and Prosecutors of Kosovo; A-WEB, member of audit committee etc. She is certified as a short term observer (STO), observed more than ten (10) elections in Different countries: United Kingdom, Finland, Slovenia, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Latvia etc.

Beside Albanian (mother tongue) she also speaks English, Serbian and Turkish.



Paul DeGregorio
Senior Advisor
Association of World Election Bodies

Mr. Paul DeGregorio served as commissioner of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) from 2003-2007. During his tenure he served as chairman of the EAC and oversaw federal election reform, such as the implementation of the Help America Vote Act and the establishment of the first federal certification of voting systems and best practices in elections clearinghouse. Prior to the EAC, Mr. DeGregorio was Executive Vice President of the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and he also was senior election adviser for IFES in many countries. He focused on new voting technologies and automation for out of country voters and voters with disabilities as Chief of Elections of Everyone Counts, Inc.

Mr. DeGregorio has over 30 years of election experience and was Director of Elections for St. Louis County, Missouri, USA. He has provided technical assistance and has observed elections in more than 35 countries, including serving as Head of Mission for several OSCE/ODHIR election assessment missions and participating in election observation projects for AWEB and other organizations. Mr. DeGregorio is Senior Advisor to the Association of World Election Bodies and a Senior Fellow for the Democracy Fund. He is frequent lecturer and has authored numerous publications on elections, including serving on the Scientific Board of the Electoral Expert Review and Kids Voting. He has received numerous awards, including the Freedom Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State, and was appointed a lifetime member of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) and the International Association of Government Officials (iGO). A graduate of the University of Missouri with a B.A. in Political Science, Mr. DeGregorio was honored by his alma mater with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Speakers' Biographies



Maher Dudin
Former IEC Intern
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Maher Dudin is a coordinator for the Rule of Law Program funded by USAID. He majored in political science. He is currently in masters degree program in field human rights and development at University Of Jordan.

Mr Dudin was a trainee in the Rule of Law Program for the Independent Election Commission between April 2017 and September 2017 to assist in the organization and administration of the Municipal and Decentralization Elections. During this period, Mr. Dudin helped organize trainings of over 4,000 youth volunteers to carry out the largest door to door campaign organized by an electoral management body in the world for voter education. He also assisted in coordinating 18,000 volunteers for election day.

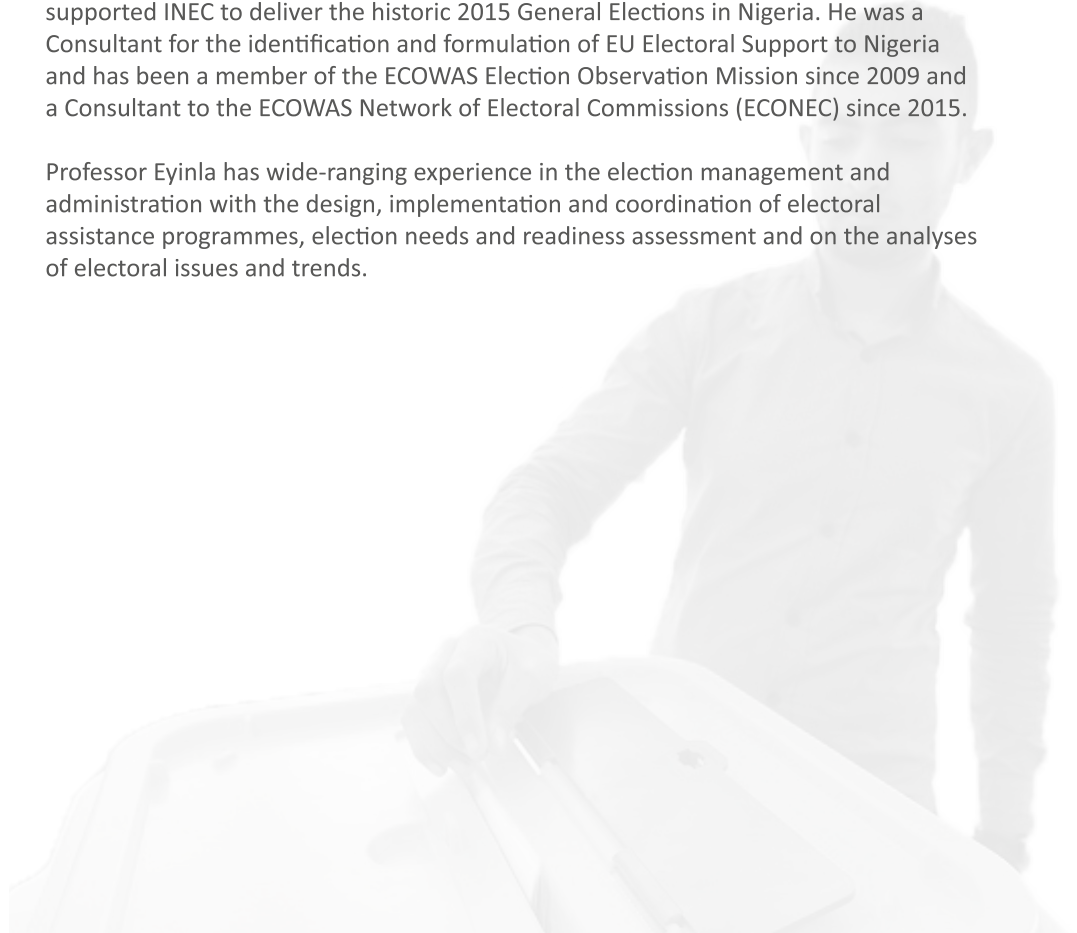
Mr. Dudin has worked in a numbers of youth and political institutions in Jordan, and he considers himself a social and youth activist. He is one of the founders of numbers of initiatives in Jordan that deals with social volunteer work and political work, chief among which is the parallel youth government initiative.



Prof. Bolade M. Eyinla
Chief Technical Advisor to the Chairman
Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria

Bolade M. Eyinla is currently the Chief Technical Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) Nigeria. He is also a Professor in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria and was the Elections Expert at the UNDP/DGD II Project, the Joint Donor Basket that supported INEC to deliver the historic 2015 General Elections in Nigeria. He was a Consultant for the identification and formulation of EU Electoral Support to Nigeria and has been a member of the ECOWAS Election Observation Mission since 2009 and a Consultant to the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) since 2015.

Professor Eyinla has wide-ranging experience in the election management and administration with the design, implementation and coordination of electoral assistance programmes, election needs and readiness assessment and on the analyses of electoral issues and trends.



Speakers' Biographies



Nadia Fakhar
Democratic Space Manager
DAI-CDIP- Pakistan

13-year professional, Nadia Fakhar has worked for public, private and development sectors including Government of Pakistan, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WfD), National Democratic Institute (NDI) as well as others international non- government organizations. Currently she is working as Democratic-Space Manager at Consolidating Democracy in Pakistan Programme managed by Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI). A sociologist by training and democracy governance expert by practice, Fakhar specializes in the fields of election technology, electoral & parliamentary reforms and inclusive electoral processes.

Fakhar as an elections expert provided technical support to the Election Commission of Pakistan upon the use of modern technologies in electoral management, delimitation process and voter registration.

One key achievement on her part is a \$62,000 worth "Electoral Delimitation Software" that she got developed for the Election Commission of Pakistan. The software now owned by the commission, in all likelihood, will be used to carry out fresh delimitation for the upcoming 2018 elections in Pakistan.

This GIS-based application shall support fair, credible, transparent and efficient electoral boundary delimitation process. The application is in principle designed so that it can be used by any stakeholder in any electoral scenario. Ms. Fakhar also played a key role in offering technical assistance to Election Commission of Pakistan in piloting "Electronic Voting Machines" and "Biometric Voter Identification System" projects.

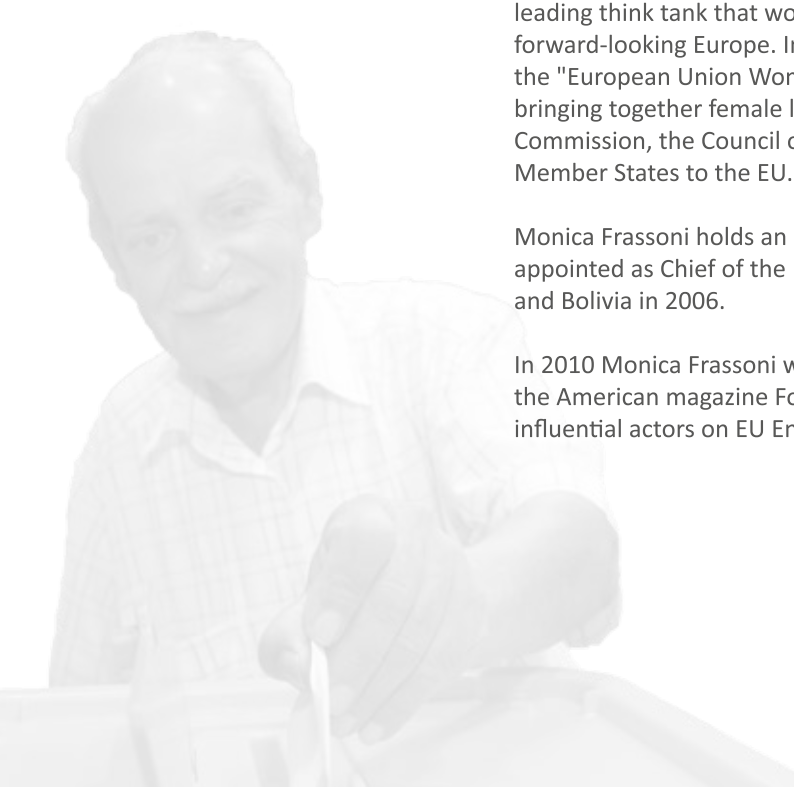


Monica Frassoni
President
European Centre for Electoral Support

Monica Frassoni is the President of the Management Board of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES). She is a former Member of the European Parliament, where she served for two terms until 2009. Currently the co-president of the European Green party, and the president of the European Alliance to Save Energy (EUASE). She is also a member of the board of trustees of "Friends of Europe" a leading think tank that works for the promotion of a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe. In addition to that Ms. Frassoni is also a board member of the "European Union Women Caucus" an inter-institutional platform for discussion, bringing together female leaders in the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the representations of the EU Member States to the EU.

Monica Frassoni holds an extensive experience in electoral observation as she was appointed as Chief of the European Union Election observation mission in Venezuela and Bolivia in 2006.

In 2010 Monica Frassoni was featured in the Top 100 Global Thinkers list published by the American magazine Foreign Policy. In 2016, she was listed as one of the 40 most influential actors on EU Energy Union Policy by Euractiv.



Speakers' Biographies



Cesar Flores
Director of Digital Affairs
International Centre of Parliamentary Studies

Cesar is an international election expert, who has been active in the elections world for over 15 years, having participated directly or indirectly in voting processes in more than 20 countries, interacting with Election Management Bodies, Political Parties, NGO's and other stakeholders. Cesar was recently appointed as Director of Digital Affairs to spearhead ICPS's digital agenda.

As former President for New Business at Smartmatic he was responsible for deploying election technologies and services in different large scale elections worldwide.

He also spent many years based in the Asia Pacific region, Europe and Latin-American, deploying election technologies in some of the more publicly acknowledge e-voting experiences.

Cesar's academical background is in the fields of Economics and Sociology, Before becoming active in Elections, Cesar was a successful Business Consultant, specializing in the areas of in international growth strategies and reorganization efforts, product sales cycle, change management, business development, sales growth, and marketing.

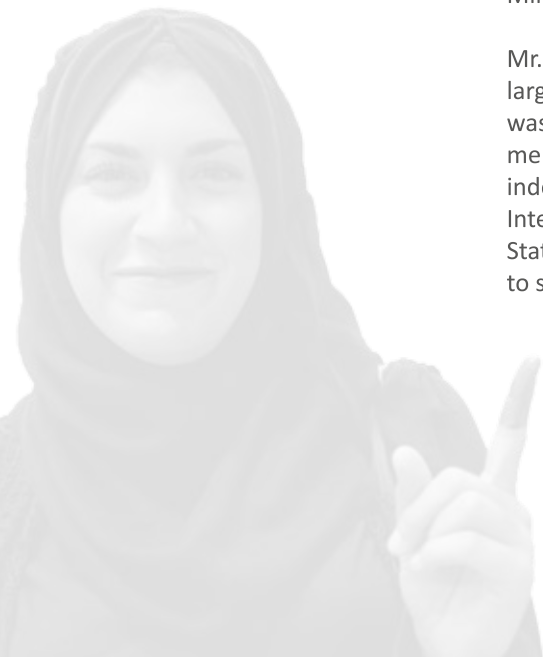
He is an experienced public speaker and media spokesperson with excellent communication skills and multicultural and multilingual background. Managed PR campaigns and conducted role of Spokesperson in high profile projects with extensive media coverage and has occasionally contributed with articles in some important publications in Latin America.



Matt Gokhool
Chief Executive, International Centre for Parliamentary Studies
Chairman, International Centre for Electoral Psychology

Matt Gokhool is presently the Chief Executive of the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies. He has extensive experience of both the Private Sector and the workings of the Government. He is a qualified Barrister and a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. He has previously held the position of Chief Executive of the Outer Territories of Mauritius, and the Chairman of the Prime Minister's Communication Cell.

Mr. Gokhool was a founder member of Parliamentary Communications, which is the largest parliamentary and political communication organization in Europe. In 2005, he was nominated Chief Executive of Huveaux Learning which was the result of the merger of Westminster Explained, Epic plc and Fenman, thus creating the largest independent trainer of the UK Civil Service. He is presently the Chairman of the International Centre for Electoral Psychology and has assisted numerous Heads of States and Heads of Governments in their endeavor to engage with the electorate and to sustain their democratic principles through the electoral process.



Speakers' Biographies



Samar Haj Hasan
Commissioner
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Mrs. Haj Hasan has a Bachelor degree in Business Management from the American University of Switzerland, she started her career in 1987 as a managing partner of a commercial enterprise specialized in silverware. In 1996-2000, she established the first private business services specialized in job recruitment. Between 2000-2002 Mrs. Haj Hasan worked at the Jordan River Foundation, an NGO presided by Her Majesty Queen Rania, as a Manager of the Child Safety Program to combat child abuse in Jordan. In 2003 she was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen as a deputy secretary general at the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) and then as a Board Member at (NCFA). As a strong advocate for women, youth and children issues and the wellbeing of the family in general, she was elected as a board member of several NGOs in Jordan and participated in several conferences and committees at a national and regional level.

Mrs. Haj Hasan was the founder and manager of Mahara "professional consultancies in development," in 2005, which was the first consultancy firm in Jordan that provides comprehensive services in the field of social and human development. In 2007 she ran for parliament elections in Jordan. As a board member at the Young Entrepreneurs Association, Mrs. Haj Hasan participates in several mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs, she also volunteers as a mentor for Injaz, a regional non-profit organization to empower the youth .In 2009, she was appointed as a member of the Social and Economic Council in Jordan and became a member of the International Women Forum chapter in Jordan.

In October 2011 she was appointed as a Member of the Senate in the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament.

In April 2014 she was appointed as a Commissioner in the Independent Election Commission, and her appointment was renewed in April 2016.



Dr. Sarah Harrison
Research Officer
London School of Economics and Political Science

Sarah Harrison is an Assistant Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research specialises in electoral psychology, political participation (in particular youth political behaviour), extremist and protest parties, and electoral ergonomics.

She has provided consultancy services and advice to the European Commission, Council of Europe, and several governments and Election Management Bodies around the world. Dr Harrison has published several books and articles in leading journals in the fields of elections, political behaviour, political psychology, public opinion, and extreme right politics.

Her research has been recognised by prestigious awards, special mentions and recommendations from the Economic and Social Research Council, the political psychology section of the American Political Science Association, the Michael Young Foundation and departmental prizes. Her collaborative research has also been recognised by several organisations such as the ERC and was merited by the Market Research Society for the 'best international research' award.

Speakers' Biographies



Hector Helí Rojas Jimenez
Magistrate
National Electoral Council of Colombia

Mr. Rojas Jimenez is a lawyer who studied at the Externado University of Colombia, with a master in analysis of economic political issues and contemporary international of the Instituto de Altos Estudios para el Desarrollo, Specialist in Comparative Constitutional Law and Legal Theory.

Professor of Constitutional and Criminal Law at the following Universities: Libre, Antonio Nariño, Sergio Arboleda, Cooperativa de Colombia y Militar Nueva Granada. Co-author of different publications, research paper and essay about the problem of Colombian Justice and issues of Criminal Procedure.

His vocation of service to the community led him to occupy a seat in the Colombian Congress since 1986, first as Representative to the House and then as Senator of the Republic during the period 1994 to 2010.

Elected as the best Senator of the Republic for 3 consecutive years. In the 2005, Mr Rojas Jimenez was chosen as the best Senator by the papers. In 2006 and 2007 by the members of the congress one more time. Exalted by the President of the honorable Senate (2006-2007) as the most judicious Senator in the legislative work. As a Colombian senator he was Chief Whip in the representation of the Colombian Liberal Party and Presidential candidate in the internal consultation. Then he was elected in the Andean Parliamentarian for the period 2010 - 2014 and President of this institution from 2012 to 2013. He is currently Magistrate of the National Electoral Council for the period 2014 - 2018



Prof. Mohammad J. Kuna
Senior Advisor
Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria

Mohammad J. Kuna is a Professor of politics and society at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto-Nigeria and Special Adviser to the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Nigeria, 2010-2015 and 2016-date. Kuna has been key in the planning, coordination, implementation and supervision of policies and projects in INEC during the 2010-2015 Electoral Cycle and in the current Electoral Cycle (2015-2019) in Nigeria. A Fulbright Scholar (1996-1997), Kuna was a Fellow of the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS, 1997-1998), Fellow of the institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University, Tokyo, the Frank Harry Guggenheim Foundation (1998-1999) and the Africa Institute of South Africa (2003). He has written on and researched on state formation processes, democracy, elections and identity politics. His latest publication is a jointly edited book with Professor Okey Ibeanu 'Nigeria's Federalism: the Continuing Quest for Stability and Nation-Building.



Hisham Kuhail
CEO
Election Commission of Palestine

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is appointed by the commissioners to oversee the administrative and executive bodies of the CEC.

Mr. Kuhail is an engineer who obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture from Alexandria University in Egypt and his Master of Arts degree in Housing Policies from the University of Newcastle in the UK.

Mr. Kuhail previously held the positions of Dean of Palestine Polytechnic University and Assistant Undersecretary for Higher Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education. He was appointed as the CEC's Chief Electoral Officer in August 2006

Speakers' Biographies



Guiomar Levi Setti
Project Officer, Master on Electoral Policy and Administration
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

Guiomar Levi Setti is Project Officer at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna since January 2017. She works on several projects on human rights training and research in Sub-Saharan Africa and she recently joined the Master in Electoral Policy and Administration (MEPA) as Programme Officer. She holds an LL.M. in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law from the Geneva Academy and a Master of Arts in Human Rights and Conflict Management from the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna. Previously she worked as Teaching Assistant at University of Milan and Bocconi University and she did an internship at UNICEF Geneva. Among her interests in electoral policy and administration, her academic work has mainly focused on child rights and right to health.



Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County

Dean Logan is the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for Los Angeles County, California the largest, most diverse and complex election jurisdiction in the United States serving more than 5.2 million registered voters. In addition to serving as the ex officio Supervisor of Elections, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk records real property documents; maintains vital records of births, deaths and marriages; issues marriage licenses; performs civil marriage ceremonies; and processes business filings for Los Angeles County; serving an estimated 3,500 customers daily.

Mr. Logan serves as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO). Additionally, he teaches Organizational Leadership, Public Sector Management and Intergovernmental Relations courses in the MPA program at California State University, Northridge. He holds a degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University and an Executive Master of Public Administration degree from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.



Laura Matjošaitytė
Chairperson
Central Electoral Commission of the Republic Of Lithuania

Ms. Laura Matjošaitytė has Master degree in social science (Law). In 2007 – 2017 Laura Matjošaitytė was a Lawyer, few years later - Attorney.

On June 2012 she was appointed as a member of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Lithuania by the proposal of the Lithuanian Lawyers Association. On the June 2016 she was elected as the Deputy – Chair of the Central Election Commission. On June 2017 Laura Matjošaitytė was appointed as a Chairwoman of the Central Electoral Commission of Lithuania by the Speaker of the Parliament. Laura Matjošaitytė works also as a Lecturer at Mykolas Romeris University and teaches Constitutional Law.

Laura Matjošaitytė has observed various type elections in United States of America, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia and other countries, participated in international conferences as participant, moderator and speaker. She has published articles on electoral management, election systems. She is the Executive Board Member of the Association of European Election Officials.

Speakers' Biographies



Maria Mellenkamp
Deputy Director
Electoral Department of the Organisation of American States (OAS)

Mrs. Mellenkamp has extensive experience in the field of international cooperation. She has been working at the Organization since 1993, first as an Officer of Economic and Social Affairs and then as Project Coordinator for Cooperation for Integral Development in South America.

From 2007 to 2015 she served as Chief of the Electoral Technical Cooperation Section of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the OAS, supervising cooperation projects in several countries in the region related to voter registration, electoral jurisprudence, electronic voting and quality management. Since becoming Chief of Section implemented 33 projects of cooperation and promoted the signing of more than 20 agreements, provided internal structure to the Section and developed two methodologies, one for auditing voters lists, and to certify the quality of electoral management bodies.

She has been deputy chief of electoral observation missions in Costa Rica, Panama, Peru and Ecuador and participated observing a large number of elections in the hemisphere including St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Uruguay.

Served as Convener of the Working Group ISO-TC176 WG3 for quality management. Among the most important achievements in her career was creating and coordinating since 2009 a group of electoral experts whose work culminated in 2014 with the approval of the first ever existent international standard in the electoral quality management field: ISO / TS 17582: 2014 / - Specific Requirements for the application of ISO 9001: 2008 for electoral bodies at all levels of government. She received the 2011 Recognition for Outstanding Performance for the Department for Electoral Cooperation and Observation. In 2012 she received the Terry Woods Award.

She was President of the Staff Association of the OAS in 2006, member of the Committee for reconsideration and Chair of the Nominating Committee.



David Orr
County Clerk/ Registrar
Cook County

As Cook County Clerk, David Orr serves as the chief election authority in one of the largest election jurisdictions in the country and has found innovative ways to reform how government works. He has consistently returned money to the county as well as initiated important legislation. In his career as Cook County Clerk, Orr has become known as the prime mover of reform election legislation – included in his successes are Early Voting, Mail Voting, 17-year-old voting, teen judges, Election Day Registration, and Automatic Voter Registration.

Early in his career as Clerk, Orr successfully took the governor of Illinois to court for his refusal to implement President Clinton's motor voter law. Orr's efforts led to the full implementation of the law in Illinois. Prior to being elected clerk in 1990, Orr was a college professor and served 3 terms in the Chicago city council. While Alderman, Orr served as Vice Mayor under Mayor Harold Washington. Following Harold Washington's death, he served as Mayor. His determined and calm leadership guided the city through a very tumultuous time.

Along with serving as Cook County Clerk, Orr also holds the position of Senior Fellow at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.

Speakers' Biographies



Mohammad Ahmad Qatawneh
Director of Legal Affairs
Independent Election Commission of Jordan

Mr. Mohammad Qatawneh holds a Masters Degree in Law, he is a licensed Lawyer in the regular courts and a member of the Legislation and Opinion Bureau / Prime Ministry. He wrote many legal research and specialized studies. Mr. Qatawneh participated in several conferences and workshops specialized in international, regional and local elections. He conducted several workshops on legal electoral procedures, electoral crimes and electoral appeals.

Mr. Qatawneh started working in the Independent Election Commission since its establishment in 2012 as the Director of Legal Affairs and Adviser to the Board of Commissioners.



Justice Abednego B. Tafa
Chairman
Independent Electoral Commission of Botswana

His Lordship Justice Abednego B. Tafa was born in Mapoka village in the North East District of Botswana. He graduated with an LLB Degree from the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in 1978. Upon completing his law degree he joined the Attorney General's Chambers in Botswana as State Counsel in 1978. In 1980 he joined the law firm J.M. Nganunu & Co as a partner. He remained in private legal practice with the same law firm for a period of twelve (12) years. In 1992 he was again recruited by the Government of Botswana and re-joined the Attorney General's Chambers as the Deputy Attorney General responsible for overseeing all the prosecutions in the country, the post he held for 8 years. In 2000 he was transferred in the same field to head the Civil Litigation Division for 3 years, overseeing the Civil Litigation, advising and representing Government in all civil litigation matters as well as overseeing and supervising Drafting and Lands Division of the Chambers.

He is a distinguished litigation lawyer who can shift from Civil to Criminal Litigation with ease. This is a rare talent and skill found in legal practitioners. He retired from active legal practice in 2003 to pursue other business interests and in 2005 he joined the Botswana bench, the post he holds up to date. His Lordship Justice

Tafa is a sitting Judge of the High Court of Botswana and the current Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission of Botswana since 2012. He is a family man, married to Mrs. Batatu Tafa and has four adult children and four grandchildren.





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