GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN

PROGRAMME / MADRID / 25–27 NOVEMBER 2026

16th Training Course for Short-Term Election Observers

Diplomatic School · Paseo de Juan XXIII, 5 · Madrid

Wednesday 25 November

Introduction to election observation missions

08:30 **Participant registration**

09:00 **Opening of the course**
Lucía García Rico
Director-General for the United Nations, International Organisations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
Ester Borràs Andreu
Ambassador-Director of the Diplomatic School.

09:15 **Elections and democracies in the 21st century**
Current challenges include populism, cybercracy, illiberalism and public disaffection with politics.
José Antonio de Gabriel
Electoral consultant and Deputy Chief Observer on EU election observation missions.

10:45 **Coffee break**

11:15 **Introduction to election observation missions (EOMs)**
Concept, scope, formats and objectives.
Andreu Solà
Head of training at Election Observation and Democracy Support (EODS) and electoral expert.

12:15 **International standards and good practice for democratic elections**
International and regional instruments used by EOMs to assess political participation, election administration, campaigning and campaign finance, media, social media and the participation of vulnerable groups.
Jordi Barrat
Electoral expert and former EODS training coordinator.

13:30 **Who does what in an election observation mission?**
Marie Hélène Henderlin
Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission.

14:00 **The role of the European Parliament in election observation**

14:15 **Lunch**

15:15 **Exercise I · International standards and good practice for democratic elections**
Case studies in groups with Jordi Barrat, Andreu Solà, Gonzalo Jorro and Víctor Pascual Planchuelo. Gonzalo Jorro *(electoral expertr and election observer)* and Víctor Pascual Planchuelo *(electoral expertr and election observer).*

16:30 **Coffee break**

16:45 **Exercise I discussion**
Jordi Barrat, Andreu Solà, Gonzalo Jorro and Víctor Pascual Planchuelo.

18:15 **Review of the day**

18:30 **End of day one**

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Thursday 26 November

Roles, tasks and responsibilities of short-term observers

09:00 **Short-term observers (STOs). What to observe and how**
Andreu Solà
EODS.

10:30 **Coffee break**

11:00 **STO roles and tasks in preparing for election day**
Andreu Solà

12:15 **Security and operations in election observation missions**
Manuel Amarilla
EOM security expert.
Marie Hélène Henderlin
FPI, European Commission.

13:30 **Lunch**

14:45 **Code of conduct**
Isabel Menchón López
Election observation focal point, Human Rights Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

16:15 **Ethical guidelines for the EU election observers' code of conduct**
Marie Hélène Henderlin
FPI, European Commission.

16:30 **Exercise II · Working with observation forms in groups**
Jordi Barrat, Isabel Menchón López, Andreu Solà, Gonzalo Jorro, Carlos Vegas (*electoral expert and election observer*) and Marie Hélène Henderlin.

17:15 **Coffee break**

17:45 **Exercise II discussion**

18:30 **Exercise III · Code of conduct case studies in groups**
Jordi Barrat, Andreu Solà, Isabel Menchón López, Gonzalo Jorro, Carlos Vegas and Marie Hélène Henderlin.

19:30 **End of day two**

Friday 27 November

Media and electoral technology

09:00 **Disinformation and elections**
Rafael Rubio
Co-director of the Observatorio Complutense de la Desinformación.

10:15 **Elections and the media, including social media**
Verónica Sánchez Camarero
Elections and media expert.

11:45 **Coffee break**

12:15 **Election observers and the media**
Pedro Alzaga
Electoral expert and journalist.

13:15 **Election observation and the growing use of electoral technologies**
Jordi Barrat.

14:15 **Lunch**

15:15 **Simulation exercise**
Isabel Menchón López, Andreu Solà, Jordi Barrat, Gonzalo Jorro, Carlos Vegas and Sonia Franco Alonso (*election observer*).

17:45 **Coffee break**

18:00 **Information and Q&A for new Spanish election observers**
Isabel Menchón López.

18:30 **Closing ceremony and presentation of certificates**
Eduardo Merino de Mena
Director of the Human Rights Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
Ester Borràs Andreu
Ambassador-Director of the Diplomatic School.

19:00 **End of the course**