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Political Resilience Through Voting Cohesion in the Information Age

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The article examines the challenge of ensuring the political resilience of democratic systems in the information age. The author analyzes the transformation of electoral processes driven by pervasive digitalization, framing electronic voting (e-voting) not merely as a technical instrument but as a strategic mechanism for fostering political cohesion and inclusivity. It is emphasized that the virtualization of the political sphere necessitates a clear understanding of new interaction algorithms among all stakeholders.

The study elucidates the dualistic nature of e-voting, contrasting its potential to enhance civic engagement and the risks of social polarization and vulnerability to digital threats, particularly disinformation. Specific attention is devoted to safeguarding democratic integrity against the erosion of social cohesion amidst global turbulence.

The relevance of the research is further amplified by the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine which creates an urgent need to modernize electoral legislation and establish inclusive conditions for political participation across all population strata. Applying a case study method (referring to the experiences of Estonia, France, Sweden, and Switzerland) and the elements of SWOT analysis, the author integrates European digital transformation practices with the challenges the Ukrainian state institutions are facing. The findings substantiate the necessity of a comprehensive approach to implementing e-voting in Ukraine, encompassing legislative reform, the development of secure technological infrastructure (leveraging the Diia ecosystem), and the implementation of strategies to advance digital literacy and public trust.

KEYWORDS
political resilience, electronic voting, digitalization, information age, elections, Ukraine, social cohesion, digital inclusion.

Introduction

Modern political resilience among other things depends on adapting voters' cohesion to a digital environment where social media, algorithms, and artificial intelligence are changing voters' behavior, often increasing polarization while creating new forms of participation. While digital tools facilitate engagement, they also create risks such as disinformation and cyberthreats that, if left unchecked, weaken democratic processes and social cohesion. Besides, the war realities in Ukraine demand urgent rethinking of the electoral legislation and, probably, even modernize it with the help of digital tools to make inclusive for all Ukrainians across the country and abroad, and at the same time to keep it controllable, fair and transparent. It all creates the need to examine carefully strong and weak sides of the electoral process in its modern, electronic, form.

Research Methods

Theoretically our research refers dominantly to 2003 Parycek, P. and W. Seeboeck research in German, followed, commented in English and extended by Prosser, A. and Krimmer, R. These authors link electronic voting with the effective digitalization of the democratic political field (e-democracy), which, in their opinion, is divided into three subprocesses, **(i)** information acquisition, **(ii)** formation of an opinion and **(iii)** the decision itself. Consequently, Electronic Democracy encompasses two primary objectives: E-Participation, which involves decision preparation (processes **i** and **ii**), and E-Voting, which constitutes the decision-making stage (process **iii**). Furthermore, Parycek and Seeboeck emphasize that e-voting should be viewed not merely as a technical fixation of will (formal aspect) but as a multifaceted process of reaching politically and legally significant decisions (substantive aspect). We speculate that such an approach is the most relevant and corresponds to international experience in exercising electoral rights through digital tools, since it takes into account not only the technological, but also the political and legal essence of the process of electronic expression of will (*Prosser, Krimmer, 2004*).

It's worth to note the given research features a context-specific approach, enhancing specific analysis of digital transformations within Ukraine's political landscape made by the author and reflected in previous publications (*Kostyuk, 2016; Kostiuk, Karasevych, 2024*).

Analytical tools used for understanding of the advantages, disadvantages, accessibility and affordability of e-voting include comparative analysis of good foreign practices, synthesis of the array of hypothetical and real dimensions of the process, the SWOT-analysis approach to contrast strong and weak aspects and case study as the most comprehensive methodological approach of specific studies.

Results and Discussion

The term "electronic voting or e-voting" first entered into use in the 1960s when the punched cards as a tool for machine voting results processing appeared in electoral practice. The early thorough scientific works devoted to the analysis of the electronic form of electoral will expression

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were published in 1981, nevertheless, the first serious experimental initiatives to introduce electronic voting were implemented about a decade later, in the 1990s. Numerous research suppose e-voting fully corresponds to international experience in exercising electoral rights with the help of digital tools, since it takes into account not only the technological but also the political and legal core of the process of electronic expression of the voters' will, and the most recent studies postulate that electronic voting takes on a particular importance during crisis circumstances, such as natural disasters, pandemics, or military conflicts, serving as an effective tool for ensuring democratic processes and the continued preservation of civil rights and (*Filipchuk, 2023*).

Electronic voting, e-voting, as any digital technology, is rapidly penetrating all spheres of life and undergoing transformations on both, development and perception levels. The last causes the growing public interest partly by the desire to increase the efficiency and accessibility of electoral procedures and partly by a certain skepticism as, along with potential advantages, electronic voting also carries a number of risks that may affect the legitimacy of the results and public trust in the electoral process. In this context, it is especially important to assess both the strength, positive opportunities, and threats associated with the digitalization of elections.

Electronic voting contributes to the automatization of the electoral process, makes it simpler and more efficient, and also stimulates higher electoral activity. Thanks to digital technologies, a number of workers calculating manually voting results can be reduced, as well as the chance for errors, and the time for announcing official results can be shortened. On the other hand, the electronic voting systems bring certain threats, in particular, the risk of manipulation of results, the possibility of violating the principle of a secret ballot, as well as the danger of technical failures that can undermine citizens' trust in both the election procedure and its outcome (*Maurer, 2020*).

There are no doubts that electronic voting is also associated with numerous risks in the field of cyber security. In particular, there is a risk of hacker attacks that can lead to the distortion of results or the voters' private information leaking. A significant threat is posed by the foreign states or organized groups attempts to interfere to influence the voting results in order to impose their own political or strategic interests (*Pankratova, 2023: 153*).

The experience of the European countries demonstrates a threat for the voters to have their identity disclosed through their electronic activity what contradicts the core democratic principles. At the same time, there is a growing need to protect personal data from unauthorized access, leaks, or misuse, as their violation leads to a decrease of public trust, and it demands constant attention from the national governments (*Legislative elections…, 2022; Maurer, 2020; Online voting participation, 2018; Swiss Federal Chancellery, 2020*).

Another one disadvantage is that the digitalization and access in different regions of the country is heterogeneous which affects access to electronic voting. The lack of stable Internet connection and the modern equipment in rural areas complicates equal participation in elections. Added to this is the old-school technologies affecting the efficiency of practical implementation of electronic voting (*Voynova, 2020: 46*). Such digital inequality among voters creates social discrimination cases, where part of the population will not be able to use electronic voting and the last will affect the electoral participatory balance. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure a level playing field for all citizens by providing alternative ways of voting, probably simultaneous, in particular, the traditional voting way at polling stations.

As well, many countries still do not have a full-fledged regulatory framework that would cover all aspects of electronic voting: from vote verification mechanisms to procedures for responding to controversial situations. Legal uncertainty and can be challenging for election results calculation and summarizing systems, as well as the lack of unified technical standards regulating and enhancing the security, functionality and transparency of such systems so, the election results validation and recognition will also be doubtful, that's why e-voting is not still implemented widely across the globe.

For the elderly people, electronic voting can be a serious barrier. Limited access to digital technologies, poor computer literacy or its complete absence often deprive senior citizens of the opportunity to independently participate in elections. This threatens the principle of inclusiveness of the electoral process.

Citizens stay suspicious towards electronic elections due to the fear of the results falsification and external interference. Insufficient awareness of what e-voting cycle includes and how e-voting systems work only increases skepticism. The lack of large-scale promotional campaigns contributes to the spread of biased opinions and a decrease in the overall level of trust in electronic expression of will (*Voynova, 2020: 45; Chaeikar et al., 2013: 16*).

To boost the common optimism, it's worth to enumerate pros of electronic voting and among the main ones there is the increase in efficiency, convenience and accessibility of the electoral process, which ensures increased voters' attendance and accuracy of results. In addition, electronic voting reduces administrative costs and minimizes the human factor influence increasing trust in electoral procedures and their results.

Important advantage is that the electronic voting significantly speeds up the electoral process and handling of the results calculation due to automated systems when voting data is processed instantly allowing to quickly obtain voting results without long manual manipulations what reduces the burden on election commissions and minimizes delays in announcing results. Automation of the electoral process allows to cut significantly the number of errors associated with the human factor. In traditional elections, counting errors, incorrect filling in of protocols, or technical inaccuracies can distort the results. Technically advanced electronic voting systems records votes accurately through authentication of completed ballot by voter, minimizing the mistakes and labor force engaged (*Chaeikar et al., 2013: 23*).

As well, the e-voting enables participation in elections for those citizens who, for various reasons, cannot visit the polling station — in particular, for persons with limited abilities, the elderly people, students or workers, citizens living abroad. It certainly contributes to a better electoral participation and ensures real universal suffrage.

In the long term, electronic voting leads to cutting the expenses as it doesn't preview printing ballots, paying polling station staff, renting premises and other logistical costs. Although the implementation of the e-voting system requires initial investment, its regular use is economically beneficial (*Sadekova, Tokareva, 2011: 33*).

The voting process becomes easier and more comfortable: citizens can vote from any convenient place during a certain period of time, without wasting time on travel or

waiting in line. This contributes to the growth of electoral activity, especially among young people and the working population.

Electronic voting systems ensure the preservation of an electronic trail which allows, if necessary, to conduct a quick audit of votes. Transparent recording of user actions in encrypted form allows to verify the authenticity of the results without violating the secrecy of the vote (*Pankratova, 2023: 154*).

Electronic voting is an important step in the development of democratic processes, but it faces a number of problems, including issues of security, public trust and technological infrastructure. Insufficient protection of systems from cyberattacks, possible data manipulation and falsification and the lack of an adequate regulatory framework are the main challenges. In addition, the lack of promotional campaigns and training for voters and members of election commissions can lead to a lack of understanding of the mechanisms of electronic voting which questions its effectiveness.

Electronic voting has significant potential to improve the efficiency of electoral systems and significantly influence the results of elections due to its speed and convenience. It allows to reduce the time spent on organizing and conducting elections, ensuring greater accessibility for citizens. In particular, it makes voting possible from any place around the globe enabling the people who cannot be present at polling stations in person to take part in elections. According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Support, OSCE, European Commission reports, about 10% of voters in European countries do not participate in voting due to physical or territorial barriers. The introduction of electronic voting can significantly reduce this percentage (*European Commission, 2020; Legislative elections…, 2022; OSCE/ODIHR, 2013; 2018*). At the same time, higher attendance can change the political landscape, as the votes of previously inactive population groups gain weight, which can affect the final election results.

Thus, provided that it is properly organized, audited and transparent technology, electronic voting can increase the accuracy and efficiency of electoral process and political legitimacy. This cancels the human factor, minimizes the possibility of fraud and contributes to a faster announcement of results. In this case, electronic voting can become a powerful tool for strengthening democratic processes, influencing elections technologically and socially.

Looking through the weak sides of e-voting we find the issues of cybersecurity the gravest. Hacker attacks and interferences are always done to falsify results or influence the votes counting. Such incidents reduce public confidence in the electoral system and can lead to the political instability, especially if there are doubts about the transparency and fairness of the process.

Another factor is technical imperfection causing failures, losses and incorrectness. Even a few small errors in the electronic voting system can significantly affect the results and competitiveness of candidates during an election campaign. I such a case the legitimacy of the winner and the integrity of the electoral campaign are really doubtful.

The introduction of electronic voting also poses a number of challenges for society and the state. One of the biggest is to ensure proper security and confidentiality of voter data. The threats of cyberattacks, vote manipulation or leakage of personal information poses threats to the integrity of the electoral process. Therefore, it is important to develop reliable protection and encryption systems, as well as conduct regular audits of electoral platforms to prevent fraud.

Defined weak and strong sides, opportunities and challenges of electronic voting are common for all countries practicing e-voting. The research is based on the in-depth case studies of Estonian, French, Swedish and Swiss electoral systems and voting digitalization (*Legislative elections…, 2022; Maurer, 2020; Online voting participation, 2018; Swiss Federal Chancellery, 2020*). The set of countries comprises stable democracies, a monarchy, a post-totalitarian country and a confederation including. These countries' practices have also been analyzed to make a list of conclusions and recommendations on e-voting implementation, in Ukraine including.

The successful implementation of electronic voting requires not only technically advanced means and infrastructure, but also a comprehensive approach to organization of the electoral process in a digital environment. For instance, the experience of Estonia, as it is specifyed in The White Paper on eID in Estonia (*2018*), it is compulsory to design a digital identification system (called eIdentity in Estonia), ensuring a high level of cybersecurity, and Internet accessibility in all regions of the country. It also demonstrates the necessity to have a state cloud space or certified server solutions to guarantee the secure storing and processing of votes. As the researchers note at the basis of 10-year long experience examination, without a secure digital infrastructure e-voting may be subject to fraud or loss of voters' trust (*Madise, Martens, 2006*).

Swiss and French experience proves that the legislative support for e-voting should be based on a broad consensus between key political forces to avoid accusations in attempts to influence the election results through interference into the electronic system. In the countries with a high level of political polarization, the introduction of e-voting without proper coordination can only exacerbate conflicts and reduce the legitimacy of elections (*OSCE/ODIHR, 2018: 35*).

One of the most important aspects is to preserve public trust. In our previous research we speculated the need to be ethically correct not only trendy in borrowing progressive experience and good practices (*Kostyuk, 2016; Kostiuk, Karasevych, 2024*). The sociological surveys show that the majority of voters agree to use the latest technologies only if the procedures are fully transparent and their vote can be verified (*Norris, 2014*). This means that the state should invest in both, technologies and information campaign, training users and ensuring the openness of processes. Particular attention should be paid to elderly people, citizens with disabilities, residents of remote regions as these groups need to be guaranteed the accessibility and comprehensibility of electronic voting due to the fact that their vulnerability makes them be more demanding and skeptic.

Not only public institutions, but media and social influencers play a significant role in shaping a positive attitude towards e-voting. Successful implementation is impossible without an active communication campaign aimed at explaining to voters the benefits, security guarantees and control mechanisms. Independent think tanks, human rights organizations and international observers should participate in monitoring the implementation process and in the test phases of voting to speak for such a practice. For example, in Switzerland, the media continuously plays an important role in providing true and actual information on e-voting and ensuring an open public dialogue (*Dialogue RTS, 2026; Rigendinger, 2026*).

It is recommended to introduce e-voting gradually, through pilot phases in individual elections (for example, at the local level), with a mandatory external audit of the results. This allows the identification of technical and organizational shortcomings before a full-scale launch. For example, Norway stopped using e-voting after test projects in 2011–2013 due to identified privacy risks (*Gusarevych, 2022*).

Another important factor is the legal framework which should clearly regulate the voting procedure, the rights of voters, the responsibilities of election administration bodies, and the deadlines and mechanisms for appeal (*Venice Commission, 2004*). The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe has repeatedly emphasized the importance of transparent and legally verified regulations on remote electronic voting (*Venice Commission, 2020*).

The successful implementation of e-voting is also facilitated by effective interdepartmental coordination. Involving ministries of digital transformation, cybersecurity, education, and justice in the process enables the comprehensive project management. For example, in Estonia, the launch of e-voting was part of an overall digital state strategy coordinated at the government level and supported by a number of specialized agencies. In the countries where digitalization operates in a fragmented manner the risk of duplication of functions, technical errors, or legal conflicts is quite high.

In addition, it is worth considering the psychological barriers to the perception of digital technologies that can negatively affect electoral activity. Part of the population may fear that electronic voting will lead to a loss of control over personal data or will become a means of manipulation. To overcome such fears, it is necessary to conduct promotional work involving independent experts, human rights activists, and educational institutions (*Korniienko, Denysiuk, 2011: 325*).

The growth of digital literacy of voters is directly related to the level of support for the latest electoral tools. It is also important to pay attention to the electronic voting inclusiveness. Platforms used for voting must comply with the principles of accessibility: support fonts for people with bad eyesight, have voice prompts for people with hearing impairments, and work on different devices regardless of technical characteristics. The lack of universal design leads to discrimination against certain groups of the population and contradicts European norms for the protection of human rights. The European Commission emphasizes the importance of digital inclusion as an element of electoral fairness and voting cohesion (*European Commission, 2022*).

Accountability and external auditing of e-voting are equally important. To ensure trust to the e-voting system, it is necessary to implement independent technical audits before and after the elections, publish open reports, and allow specialists to check the source code of the software. For example, in Switzerland, the authorities published the code of their e-voting for public analysis, thereby demonstrating openness and readiness for improvement. This approach increases the level of voter trust and reduces the risks of accusations of fraud.

In the context of the digitalization of society, electronic voting is considered a promising tool for modernizing the electoral process and to successfully implement it in Ukraine, it is necessary to take into account a number of legislative, technological, organizational and social aspects. Each of them plays an important role in the formation of a safe, transparent and effective system of electronic expression of will.

The legislative and regulatory approach is a fundamental stage in the process of implementing electronic voting in Ukraine, since it is a legal regulation forming the framework and principles of any electoral technology functioning. To ensure the legitimacy and legal force of electronic expression of will, it is first of all necessary to consolidate it at the level of basic regulatory acts of the state, in particular the Constitution of Ukraine and laws regulating the electoral process.

The implementation of electronic voting demands to amend the Constitution of Ukraine and the relevant electoral legislation. The valid juridical norms applied for a paper voting during the physical voter's presence at the polling station do not cover modern digital mechanisms. Therefore, it is necessary to legally provide the possibility of online voting, determine its forms, restrictions and conditions of use, including the categories of voters who can use this option.

An important step is the legal definition of the electronic vote itself and its procedure. It is necessary to clearly formulate how the voter's identity will be verified, how the vote will be recorded, and how to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of data. The law should establish responsibility for manipulation of electronic ballots, as well as guarantee that the voter expresses his will without any pressure.

Also, state authorities, primarily the Central Election Commission, should be technically and normatively ready to administer the new election format by introducing the audit procedures, verification of the results authenticity and the mechanisms for appealing decisions and violations during electronic voting.

According to the Interpretative Declaration of the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission, any changes to electoral legislation, especially those affecting the voting procedure, should be adopted in advance - before the start of the electoral campaign. It is compulsory to ensure the stability of the electoral process and prevent violations. The use of new technologies should be gradual, faithful to the principles of transparency, accessibility and public trust (*Sadekova, Tokareva, 2011: 32*).

The technological and infrastructure approach is a key element in the process of implementing electronic voting in Ukraine, since it is the technical basis that determines the functionality, security and stability of the entire system. The successful implementation of digital voting requires the modernization of the state IT infrastructure, capable of withstanding heavy loads, ensuring cyber protection and maintaining the continuous operation of electoral services. It is required to provide the national digital platform for electronic voting that meets international security standards and should include two-factor voter authentication (in Ukraine it could be done through an electronic ID or the "Diya" application with confirmation by QES (qualified electronic signature) to avoid fraud and ensure the personal and voluntary expression of the citizen's will.

In addition, it is crucial to ensure comprehensive cyber protection of the voting system by using the modern data encryption methods, constant backup of information, as well as the implementation of an independent technical audit. Such an audit should be carried out both during system testing and after the end of voting to exclude the possibility of external interference or internal manipulation.

The functioning of the electronic electoral system should be based on a reliable telecommunications infrastructure which means there must be access to the system throughout the country, including remote settlements and territories affected by military operations. It is also necessary to ensure the adaptation of the platform to various devices – computers, smartphones, tablets.

In this context we should mention that modern means of electronic personal identification have already been introduced in Ukraine, these technologies could be adapted to confirm the identity of a voter while participating in electronic voting, ensuring its personalization and protection against fraud. In particular, citizens have the opportunity to use ID cards, biometric passports, Mobile ID and Bank ID. Furthermore, Ukrainians have the opportunity to obtain an electronic signature (QES), which is mandatory for electronic document sharing and interaction with state services. In the context of electronic voting, QES can perform the function of confirming the voter's expression of will, increasing the level of trust in the election results and allowing to verify that the vote was cast by authorized persons.

As well, there are services that bring the electoral process closer to digital transformation. In particular, citizens have the opportunity to check them up in the voter lists on the website of the State Voter Register. This is the first stage of integrating digital mechanisms into the electoral process, which in the future may be expanded and supplemented by electronic voting (*Filipchuk, 2023: 299*).

In addition, the implementation of the “Diya” application has opened new horizons for the digital services for citizens. It provides the technical basis for the implementation of the “country in a smartphone” concept. In the future, “Diya” may become a platform for secure electronic voting, subject to the finalization of legislation and cybersecurity (*Tokar-Ostapenko, 2021*).

The technological aspects and infrastructure are important to create a technical base and to guarantee the transparency of the electoral process, its resilience to cyber threats, and trust from citizens. Security, convenience, and accessibility are the three main conditions that the state must adhere to while developing and launching electronic voting in Ukraine.

The institutional and organizational approach to the introduction of electronic voting in Ukraine is focused on designing an effective management system and building the state bodies institutional capacity. It primarily previews modernization of existing structures, improving procedures and the skills of the personnel. Without effective management support, any technological system will remain only a potential tool (*Tokar-Ostapenko, 2021*).

The key body to manage electronic voting implementation in Ukraine is the Central Election Commission (CEC) which must be technically equipped to administer the stages of digital voting — from voter registration to counting and publication of the results. It demands new procedures, like staff training, and new specialized units within the CEC structure (*Prosser, Krimmer, 2004*). At the same time, it is compulsory to involve IT and cyber security specialists, lawyers, and representatives of civil society to develop competitive electronic voting standards and mechanisms. Only such an inter-sectoral approach will allow taking into account the interests of different groups, increasing the transparency of the process and strengthening public trust in this new form of voting (*Filipchuk, 2023: 298*). In addition to state bodies, the independent observers and monitoring organizations should also participate in controlling the electronic voting process and provide external control to minimize the risks of violation, contribute to the formation of integrity standards and to the elaboration of a mechanism for prompt response to technical or legal failures during voting. In general, the institutional and organizational approach forms the basis for responsible and controlled management of the electronic voting due to a clear distribution of responsibility between governmental bodies, involved specialists, monitoring entities and the society for the legitimacy, transparency and efficiency of this process in Ukraine.

The socio-communicative dimension of the electronic voting implementation in Ukraine is one of the most important as it is based on the trust of citizens which is crucial to any start-up. A positive perception of a digital form of voting requires vast media coverage, transparency of processes and active participation of society in innovations discussion to ensure social support for reforms, invite all stakeholders to the dialogue and make online voting understandable and acceptable to the general public. The first step should be a large-scale media campaign supported by television, social networks, government websites and offline events and aimed at explaining the advantages, mechanisms and security guarantees of electronic voting to inform how the system works, how it protects the votes and why it is reliable. Special attention should be paid to the fakes and myths debanking as they form a false perception of still unclear for the major process as e-elections (*Tokar-Ostapenko, 2021*). The second step is to increase the digital literacy of population, especially the elderly, rural and low-mobility groups as these categories normally face the most difficulties while using technologies. The state should provide educational programs, online instructions, and trainings. The next task for public administration bodies is to create effective feedback channels for users to report difficulties, problems, or suggestions. This will allow the system to be adapted to the real needs of society, to increase its quality and flexibility. Added by transparent communication, public reporting, and active public participation, such multilevel approach can become a reliable basis for the reasonable legal implementation of electronic voting in Ukraine (*Filipchuk, 2023: 300*).

Within the range of approaches to elaboration of a sound state policy of electronic voting implementation in Ukraine it is vital to try pilot projects and test the system to check key elements, from electronic identification to data protection and votes counting, before its wide use. This stage makes it possible to identify technical, organizational, and social risks, and to assess the voters and state bodies readiness to interact in a digital format. We argue the remark that the digital participation already exists in Ukraine in form of online surveys, public consultations and electronic petitions at the national and local levels, as these mechanisms don’t demand such a high security and anonymity level, or strict legally binding requirements. Therefore, in the context of subsequent and gradual implementation of e-voting, the pilot projects should become a mandatory stage of the institutional, organizational and socio-communicative approaches. Their implementation will contribute to public trust growth and quality control ensuring, otherwise, the introduction of technologies into the electoral process will remain more theoretically attractive and effective with no practical confirmation.

Conclusion

The e-voting related studies have disclosed that its implementation in the electoral processes in Europe became

a response to the modern information society benefits and challenges in the context of fast spreading digital transformation of political sphere and the need to ensure greater accessibility of and involvement of citizens into the electoral process. Among the key prerequisites of successful e-voting there are a high level of digital infrastructure development, firm trust in electronic services, the participatory needs abroad, as well as the desire to reduce the costs of electoral campaigns. An important factor is the desire to increase voters' attendance, the target audience includes young people as they actively use digital technologies.

The features of the European approach to the implementation of electronic voting are gradualism, pilot projects, constant testing and tight co-working with the cybersecurity experts. Countries such as Estonia, Switzerland and Norway demonstrate different models of implementation - from online voting to electronic terminals at polling stations. In most cases, the emphasis is on ensuring transparency, protecting voters' data, and the ability to verify voting results. Thus, Europe's experience demonstrates the importance of combining technical innovation with democratic standards.

The implementation of electronic voting in Ukraine requires a comprehensive approach, including the development of a legal framework, the creation of a secure technical infrastructure, pilot projects to test the system, and active media support to provide transparency, security, and public trust for effective and legitimate use of digital technologies in the electoral process.

E-voting is not a universal solution of the problems the electoral campaigns always suppose, but its competent implementation can be a key step towards modernization of the electoral processes and strengthening democracy in the digital age. In Ukraine it is vitally important in the context of war, voting of internally displaced persons, military personnel, and citizens abroad. The implementation of this form of participation requires first of all a reliable digital platform, the adoption of special electoral legislation, an independent and unbiased examination of the security system, and transparent monitoring mechanisms. It seems to be possible in technical terms, but still dubious due to the lack of political will, good informational coverage and mistrust of the majority of people in the country. To change the situation, a broad public discussion and progress in cybersecurity development seem helpful.

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Політична стійкість через консолідацію електорату в умовах інформаційного суспільства

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У статті досліджено проблему забезпечення політичної стійкості демократичних систем в умовах інформаційної доби. Авторка аналізує трансформацію електоральних процесів під впливом тотальної цифровізації, розглядаючи електронне голосування (e-voting) не лише як технічний інструмент, а як стратегічний механізм зміцнення політичної згуртованості та інклюзивності. Встановлено, що віртуалізація політичної сфери вимагає від учасників процесу чіткого розуміння нових алгоритмів взаємодії. У роботі детально висвітлено дуалістичну природу e-voting: його здатність підвищувати залученість громадян і водночас ризики провокування соціальної поляризації та вразливості до цифрових загроз, зокрема дезінформації. Особливу увагу приділено питанню захисту демократичної цілісності від ерозії суспільної єдності в умовах глобальної турбулентності. Актуальність дослідження посилюється контекстом триваючої війни в Україні, що зумовлює нагальну потребу в модернізації виборчого законодавства та створенні інклюзивних умов для політичної участі всіх категорій населення. Використовуючи метод кейс-стаді (на прикладі Естонії, Франції, Швеції та Швейцарії) та елементи SWOT-аналізу, авторка поєднує європейський досвід цифрової трансформації із практичними викликами, що стоять перед українськими державними інститутами. За результатами дослідження обґрунтовано необхідність комплексного підходу до впровадження електронного голосування в Україні, який включає законодавчу реформу, розвиток захищеної технологічної інфраструктури (на базі екосистеми «Дія») та реалізацію стратегій підвищення цифрової грамотності й суспільної довіри.

Ключові слова: політична стійкість, електронне голосування, цифровізація, інформаційна епоха, вибори, Україна, суспільна згуртованість, цифрова інклюзія

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