Global Campus of Human Rights

Online Course for International Electoral Observers

9 – 13 October 2026

Faculty



Charlemagne Gomez
Election Observation and Democratic Governance Expert

Charlemagne Gómez is an international election observation, democratic governance and evaluation expert with over 20 years of experience in electoral assistance, human rights, gender equality and institutional strengthening, particularly in post-conflict and fragile contexts. She has participated in more than 25 election observation missions as an observer and core team member for the EU, OSCE/ODIHR, the Carter Center and other organisations. She has also provided technical assistance to electoral commissions in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and South Sudan, served as Gender and Legal Adviser to the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, and delivered training on election observation and women's political participation.
Since 2013, she has worked as an independent international consultant, conducting more than 40 evaluations for the United Nations, OSCE and other organisations. Her work includes a major evaluation of OSCE/ODIHR's election-related activities across 57 participating States (2013–2023), alongside evaluations of electoral assistance programmes in Bolivia, Honduras and the Solomon Islands. Her broader expertise spans democratic governance, peacebuilding, human rights, gender equality and organisational learning.
In 2026, she received two UNDP Evaluation Excellence Awards, for Outstanding Evaluation (Nepal) and Best Gender-Responsive Evaluation (Bosnia and Herzegovina), following the Global Campus of Human Rights Alumni Award in 2024. She holds a degree in European Law and two Master's degrees: Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and Evaluation of Public Policies and Programmes, specialising in gender-responsive evaluation.



Ronan McDermott
International Consultant on Elections and Technology

Ronan McDermott has worked with elections management bodies in developing and post-conflict countries on four continents for over a quarter of a century. He has participated in regional and global electoral support initiatives and has contributed to many publications and competence development efforts. He has developed and delivered voter registration, election results and poll-worker management systems. He has helped elections management bodies and their international partners to specify, develop, procure, deploy, secure and support a variety of technologies, including biometrics, in support of electoral processes, particularly voter registration and results management systems. He was lead author of a joint EU/UNDP publication on results management systems. He co-authored "Pakistan's Internet Voting Experiment", which was Best Paper – Practitioner Track at the 2019 eVoteID conference, Bregenz, Austria. In 2022, he was a member of a team conducting research for the European Union on the cost of elections procurement. He was lead author on an IFES guide on cybersecurity and election results managements systems. In 2026, he has clients in Africa, Eastern Europe and MENA. Until February 2022, he lived in Kyiv, Ukraine. In mid-2026, he moved to Beirut, Lebanon where his wife is posted as a diplomat with the Swiss embassy.



Armin Rabitsch
Election Observation Expert

Armin Rabitsch is an international election expert with over two decades of experience in election observation, electoral assistance, democratic governance and human rights. He is the Chairperson and Co-founder of Election-Watch.EU, an independent, non-partisan civil society organisation promoting electoral integrity, democratic participation and evidence-based electoral reforms across Europe. He has led comprehensive election assessment missions covering all 27 EU Member States during the 2019 and 2024 European Parliament elections.
Having worked on elections in more than 40 countries worldwide, Armin has held senior positions with the EU, OSCE/ODIHR, UNDP and IFES, including as IFES Country Director, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser and Deputy Chief Observer of EU Election Observation Missions. His expertise spans international electoral standards, election observation methodologies, political and campaign finance, media freedom, digital campaigning and emerging challenges to electoral integrity. He has contributed to numerous election assessments and publications, including co-authoring a UNESCO handbook on elections in the digital age and a practitioners' paper on the EU Artificial Intelligence Act and its impact on electoral processes.
Armin holds a PhD in International Relations and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law. He has taught at the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, the University of Innsbruck's Master's Programme in Peace Studies, and universities in Baghdad and Erbil, Iraq.



Adeline Marquis
Election Observation, Media and Social Media Analysis Expert

Adeline began her career in media in France and Russia before moving into elections. She has worked in election observation since 2011, on more than 30 observation and assessment missions for OSCE/ODIHR, the European Union, The Carter Center, IRI and NDI, as a short- and long-term observer, election analyst, media and social media analyst, and press officer. Since 2019 she has contributed to the drafting of social media monitoring methodology and has trained observers, electoral management bodies, civil society organisations and media professionals in information integrity and crisis communication. She has also spoken on panels and run sessions on social media monitoring, data collection, deepfakes and women in politics with ARTICLE 19, Tactical Tech and Democracy Reporting International.



Demetrio Lazagna
Election Observation Expert

Demetrio Lazagna has extensive experience in international relations particularly focused on Technical Assistance and Electoral Observation worldwide. After his Civil Service as Legal Assistant in an Immigration Center and following his Master Degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Genova, he has coordinated development programmes in Bosnia Herzegovina and emergency relief projects in Albania. He has provided strategic advice and direct technical assistance to National Stakeholders in transitional and sensitive political environments on behalf of EU, OSCE and IFES. Since 2000 he has designed, planned and executed elections observation missions worldwide and contributed to elections operations in the Balkans, West Africa, Middle East and North Arica, Central and South America, Southern Asia, providing managerial support, political analyses and punctual recommendations on reforming to national stakeholders. He was Head of the OSCE Antifraud Unit during the 2004 General Assembly election. He worked for the foundation (IFES) in South Sudan as referendum adviser

(2011) and in Tunis as elections operations adviser to the Libyan EMB (2014-2016). Most recently, on behalf of EU, he was providing direct Technical Assistence to Electoral Management Bodies, National Civil Registries, Constitutional Assemblies and Civil Society organizations in Tunisia, Libya, Cambodia and Honduras contributing to fostering stakeholders dialogue and promoting institutional reforms based on sustainability and rights. Since 2012 he is the scientific coordinator of the in-presence training course for International Electoral Observers at the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice.

Sending authorities



Reginald Soenen
Head of Sector - Team coordination
European Commission – FPI.3
Public Diplomacy, Global Alliances and Election Observation

Reginald Soenen is currently coordinating the Election Observation sector in the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. The sector manages missions under EU election observation, notably, EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs), Election Expert Missions (EEM), Election Follow-up Missions (EFMs), Exploratory Missions (ExMs) and Election Follow-up Missions (EFMs). His career path within the European Commission highlights a strong ability to handle international relations and operational management. He started with negotiating research projects, where expertise in international scientific cooperation was established. Subsequent responsibilities included financial oversight and budget management across high-income regions such as North America and Asia-Pacific within the European Commission's DG External Relations. When he joined the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, his responsibilities covered program and project management, translating EU political agendas into concrete measures with partner countries. His career continued in managing operations in the Sahel region under the Common Foreign and Security Policy Operations.



Pau Hontangas Rosell
Programme Manager – Election Observation Team
European Commission – FPI.3
Public Diplomacy, Global Alliances and Election Observation

Pau Hontangas Rosell is a Programme Manager at the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), currently working within the team responsible for EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs). Since joining FPI in 2023, he has held positions involving project management within the European Peace Facility (EPF), crisis response and rapid response planning, with geographical responsibilities covering Latin America and the Caribbean, the Horn of Africa, Iraq and Yemen, as well as thematic work on mediation and strategic foresight. He holds academic degrees in International Relations, International Peace and Security, and Political Analysis.



Ranko Vukčević
Election Adviser at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Ranko holds degrees in sociology and communication. He is an Election Adviser at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and an experienced political governance consultant with over 20 years of work in elections across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central and South Asia, the USA, and beyond. He has regularly contributed to international election observation efforts, serving in various capacities including Deputy Head of Mission, Operations Expert, and Observer Co-ordinator for both ODIHR and EU missions. His last

assignments before joining ODIHR included ODIHR missions in Mongolia (2024), Montenegro and Slovakia (2023), and EU missions in Sri Lanka (2024) and Lebanon (2022). As an Election Adviser, he was responsible for the deployment of an Election Observation Mission to North Macedonia (2025), Election Assessment Missions to Czechia (2024) and Slovenia (2025), and an Election Observation Mission to Bulgaria (2026). Ranko also plays a key role in developing election observation methodologies and conducting training for observers with organizations such as ODIHR, CNC Finland, EPDE, FBA, NORDEM, and ZIF.



Brett Lacy
The Carter Center

Brett Lacy has worked on election observation and democratic governance initiatives since 1999, supporting programs in more than a dozen countries. Before returning to The Carter Center in 2010, she managed civil society, political party, conflict mitigation, media development, women's political participation, and legislative strengthening programs for the National Democratic Institute in West Africa. She has also worked with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), International IDEA, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), contributing to the development of international standards and guidance on the participation of refugees and internally displaced persons in post-conflict elections. Lacy previously served at The Carter Center from 2000 to 2003, where she supported democracy and election-related programming in Timor-Leste, Nicaragua, Guyana, and Zambia, as well as the Center's Democratic Election Standards Program as an assistant program coordinator. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Duke University and a master's degree in international administration from the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies



Lydia Malmedie
European External Action Service

Dr. Lydia Malmedie (she/her) has been working at the European External Action Service since February 2025. She is seconded by the Berlin administration as National Expert to the unit responsible for democracy support and election observation. Her work involves democracy policy as well as leading and coordinating Election Observation Missions.



Kseniya Dashutsina
Senior Election Advisor at ODIHR

Kseniya Dashutsina serves as a Senior Election Advisor at ODIHR, where she specializes in various thematic areas, including electoral dispute resolution, campaign finance, and gender issues. Kseniya has commenced her work with ODIHR as Election Advisor and a desk officer responsible for a portfolio of countries, including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Russian Federation, Romania, Serbia, Sweden and Uzbekistan. Prior to her role at ODIHR Headquarters, Kseniya contributed to multiple election observation missions for ODIHR, the Carter Center, and the National Democratic Institute, working as a Legal Analyst in numerous countries across the OSCE region and Africa.

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Alejandro Espinosa
Program Associate – The Carter Center

Alejandro Espinosa joined The Carter Center in 2023 as part of the Human Rights Program. Originally from Bogota, Colombia, but raised in Atlanta, Espinosa earned a Bachelor of Arts in international relations and another in Romance languages (French and Portuguese) from the University of Georgia. He earned a Master of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University. Espinosa has contributed work to the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the U.N. Information Center, the National Democratic Institute, The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and Freedom House and has worked to support efforts for human rights, anti-corruption, and international law along the way. He has observed elections in Brazil (2022) and Honduras (2025) with the OAS and was a credentialed observer in Guyana (2025) Colombia (2026), Peru (2026), and Brazil (2026) with The Carter Center.