

EPTA REPORT 2024 – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DEMOCRACY

1. Artificial intelligence in political campaigning and public debate

Half of the world are heading to the polls in 2024, including EPTA members such as the US, the UK, the European Parliament, Austria, France and South Korea. Meanwhile, determining what digital content is true or false, human or AI-generated, is becoming increasingly challenging. AI may now create realistic and personalised high-quality images, videos, audio clips, and messages, and has made it cheaper and easier to automate and disseminate deepfakes and disinformation.

- Has AI been used in political campaigning or public debate in your country/region? Has this caused any controversy?
- What initiatives and measures have your government or parliament proposed or implemented to address mis- and disinformation risks associated with AI?
- Has your institution assessed opportunities and challenges related to the dissemination and use of AI in these contexts? If so, what are key takeaways?

2. Artificial intelligence in the public sector

AI functionality is swiftly becoming integral to knowledge work and digital services. This can make public services more accessible and efficient, stimulate democratic participation, and support decision-making and policy development. However, the lack of transparency, privacy, and reliability in these systems may pose a risk to citizens' rights and the legitimacy and trustworthiness of the public sector agencies deploying them.

- What use cases of AI currently exist within your parliament? Are there any examples of public sector agencies developing, using or deploying *generative* AI technologies?
- What policies and guidelines exist in your country to stimulate the development and use of trustworthy AI, or to restrict or supervise parliament and public sector use of AI?
- Has your institution assessed opportunities or barriers to parliament or public sector agencies' use and deployment of AI? If so, what are recommendations for future policies?

3. Democratic control and governance of artificial intelligence

Access to AI will become crucial for industrial competitiveness, scientific excellence, and high-quality public services in the years ahead. However, a few companies currently own and control access to the market-leading models. Meanwhile, anticipating the capabilities and risks of future AI systems is becoming increasingly difficult. In summary, this calls for new initiatives to strategically and democratically monitor, govern and secure access to AI for democracies.

- Have national/regional AI policies been updated or new governance structures been established after the breakthrough of generative AI? The latter might include AI supervisory authorities, regulatory sandboxes, safety institutes, public investments into AI R&D, or the allocation of new responsibilities to public agencies or parliamentary committees.
- Describe plans or initiatives to develop or strengthen AI infrastructure in your country/region. This might for example include initiatives to secure or increase access to high quality data or supercomputers, or to build or secure access to large language models (LLMs).

- Has your institution assessed the need for building or expanding access to AI infrastructure such as LLMs, computing power or high-quality data in your country? What are the most important insights?