

Mandate for a fast-working expert group to look at the significance of artificial intelligence (AI) for secure and democratic elections

Background

Generative AI can produce text, audio, images and video that increasingly resemble authentic content. It is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between what has been created by humans and what has been created by AI. AI tools are also becoming increasingly widespread, and many people use them as a source of information instead of traditional search engines. Such developments could have a major impact on how voters get information about elections and about the various political parties and candidates, and may potentially influence the political debate and agenda.

In 2024, elections will be held in several of the most populous countries in the world, as well as to the European Parliament. The elections held in 2024 will provide new information about the significance of AI for democratic and secure elections, including how AI can be used in influence operations and its significance for information dissemination. This experience will enable us to prepare for upcoming elections in Norway, helping to ensure Norway is equipped to deal with the new challenges that AI brings to this area.

The expert group is tasked with

- describing how AI is changing the challenges facing democracy, and its potential significance for elections
- determining the various ways AI tools can have an undesirable influence
- identifying the vulnerabilities that arise from increased prevalence of AI and artificially generated content
- gathering experience on how other countries work to counter election influence
- proposing measures that can be implemented before the 2025 general election to meet the challenges that AI poses to Norwegian democracy and to ensure confidence in Norwegian elections.

The expert group will contribute to

- a better overview of existing knowledge about the use of AI in the context of elections
- increasing expertise on how AI can be used to influence elections
- an informed debate about the use of AI in Norway, based on the situation in Norway.

Nature of the work

The expert group will submit a written summary of experience gained from the elections held in 2024. The expert group is otherwise at liberty to determine how to present its work, for example in the form of short publications and a seminar etc.

The proposed measures should increase resilience to disinformation created by AI, and should be implemented before the 2025 general election. The measures will be presented to the interdepartmental working group tasked with strengthening resilience to undesirable influence in elections, which has been appointed by the Government with a mandate until the 2025 general election.

The expert group will aim to present the results of its work by **31 December 2024**.