

All about European Elections



1) When are European elections due in 2024?

The European elections take place once every five years and it's the means by which the citizens of the European Union elect the MEPs who will represent them in the European Parliament. These are the largest transnational elections in the world, and the next round will take place, at European level, between June 6 and 9, 2024.

This year, the European elections will be held in Romania on Sunday, June 9, at the same time as the local elections (for mayors, local councillors, county councillors and presidents of county councils). Local elections are, however, governed by different legislation.



**USE
YOUR VOTE.**

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
6-9 JUNE 2024**



2) What is the European Parliament? What are its roles?

The European Parliament is the body of the European Union that has legislative powers and budgetary and control responsibilities, being elected once every 5 years by EU citizens with the right to vote. It was established in 1952 as the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community. In 1962 it acquired the name European Parliament; the first direct elections for the European Parliament took place in 1979. The European Parliament has three headquarters: in Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium) and Luxembourg.

The European Parliament is made up of MEPs elected from each EU state in a number proportional to the country's population, but no country can have fewer than 6 or more than 96 MEPs.

It should be noted that the members of the European Parliament are grouped according to political affiliation, not nationality.



The European Parliament has three main roles:

a) a legislative role, which allows it to pass laws, together with the Council of the European Union, based on proposals submitted by the European Commission; moreover, it is the European Parliament that analyses the Commission's work programme and priorities and asks it for legislative proposals. The legislative role also entails making decisions regarding international agreements and the European Union's enlargement plans.

b) a supervisory role, by means of which it exercises democratic scrutiny of all EU institutions, approves the way EU budgets have been spent, examines citizens' petitions and sets up inquiries. Also based on this role, the European Parliament discusses monetary policies with the European Central Bank and participates in election observation missions. The supervisory role includes the election of the President of the Commission, the approval of the College made up of 27 commissioners (one from each EU member state), addressing questions to the Commission and the European Council and gives Parliament the right to resort to a motion of censure, forcing the Commission to resign;

c) a budgetary role, by which it establishes the EU budget, together with the Council, and approves the long-term budget.

3) Who can run?

How many MEPs from Romania can be elected?

How many MEPs will be elected throughout the EU?


To run for the European Parliament, a person must be a citizen of an EU member state. In addition to this condition there are a number of rules that differ from one country to another; for example, in Romania, the minimum age to run for the European Parliament is 23. Independent citizens, supported by the signature of 100,000 people, but also political parties, organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities, political alliances or electoral alliances, which need 200,000 signatures of support, can apply.

Members from Romania in the European Parliament are elected on the basis of a list vote, according to the principle of proportional representation, and on the basis of independent candidacies. For the election of members from Romania in the European Parliament, the territory of Romania constitutes a single electoral district.

For the 2024 European elections, the number of MEPs was increased from 705, in the 2019-2024 legislature, to 720, the 15 extra seats being distributed among 12 countries: France, Spain and the Netherlands (two seats each), Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Finland, Slovakia, Ireland, Slovenia and Latvia (one seat each).

This decision was based on a recent report by the European Parliament and was motivated by the demographic changes taking place in the EU since the latest elections of 2019 and after the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union. 33 MEPs will be elected from Romania, the same number as in the last elections, in 2019.

How many **Parliament members** will each EU country elect **this June**?

DE		96	CZ		21	IE		14
FR		81	SE		21	HR		12
IT		76	PT		21	LT		11
ES		61	HU		21	SI		9
PL		53	AT		20	LV		9
RO		33	BG		17	EE		7
NL		31	DK		15	CY		6
BE		22	FI		15	LU		6
EL		21	SK		15	MT		6



4) How long does the election campaign last?



photo: Pixabay

The election campaign is the activity that aims to convince voters to exercise their right to vote in favour of an election candidate. In Romania, the campaign for the European elections starts on May 10, 2024 and ends on June 8 at 7:00 a.m., one day before the opening of polling stations for the June 9, 2024 elections.

5) Who can vote and from what age?

Romanian citizens who are 18 years old or turn 18 on the election day have the right to elect members from Romania to the European Parliament, whether they live in Romania or have their domicile or residence abroad (national voters).

Citizens of the member states of the European Union who have residence or domicile in Romania (community voters) have the right to vote under the same conditions as Romanian citizens.

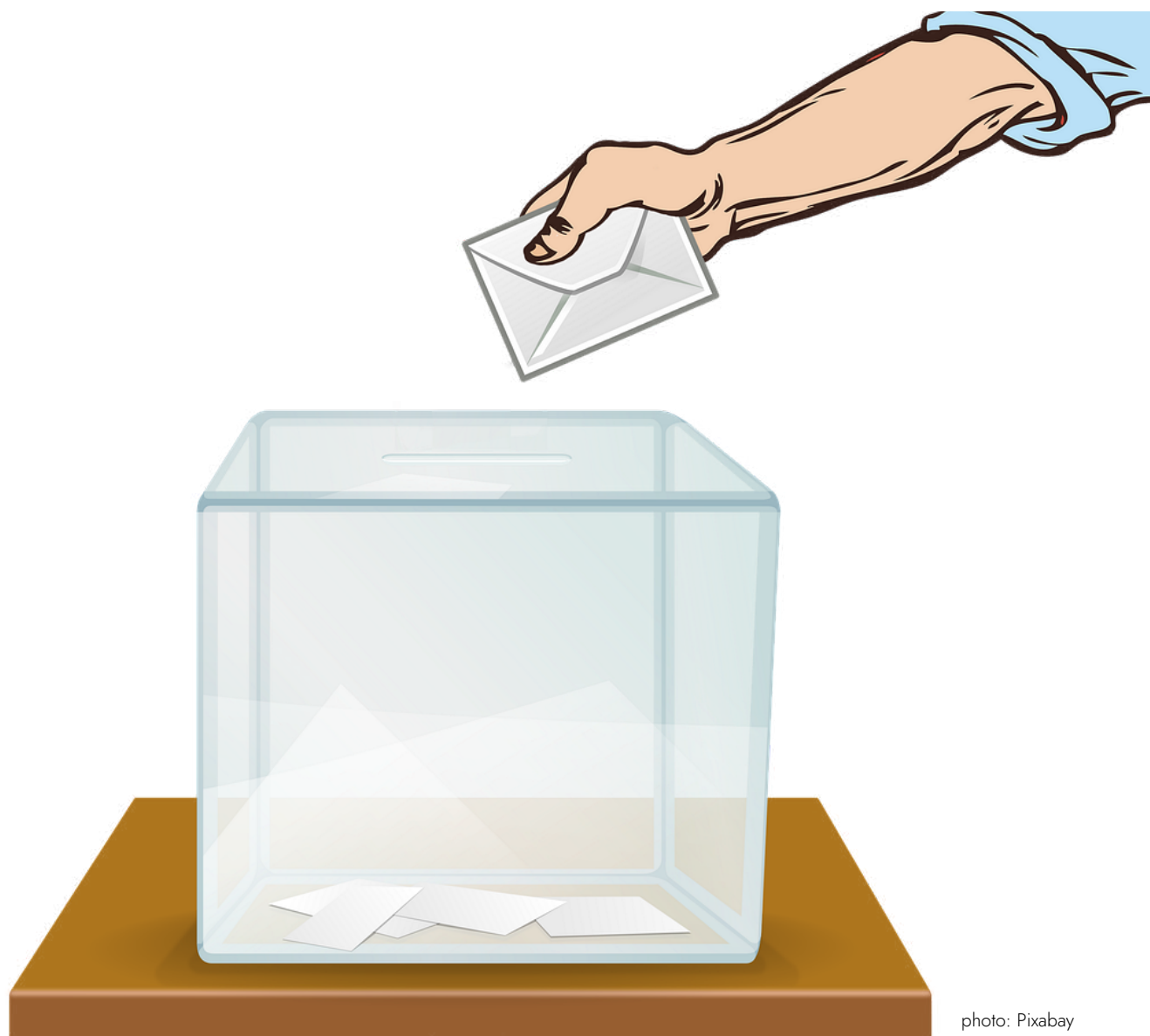


photo: Pixabay

The electoral law defines several types of voters. Community voter means any citizen of an EU member state, other than Romania, who has the right to vote in Romania for the European Parliament, having domicile or residence in Romania. A national voter is any citizen of Romania domiciled or resident in Romania or abroad with the right to vote to elect members of the European Parliament for Romania.

Voting is not mandatory in Romania.

6) What documents do I need to have with me to vote?

You need to have with you a valid identity document. In law, an identity document means any identity document issued by the Romanian state, e.g. an identity card, a temporary identity card, identity papers or a diplomatic passport, a diplomatic e-passport, a service passport, a service e-passport, a simple passport, a simple e-passport, a temporary simple passport and, in the case of students of military schools, a military service card.

A simple passport, a simple e-passport and a temporary simple passport can only be used in the exercising of the right to vote by Romanian citizens who are abroad on election day or who are domiciled abroad.

Remember to check that your identity document is still valid. If it has expired or will expire before election day, make sure you renew it as soon as possible, in order to be able to vote.



7) How many ballots do I get? Between what hours can I cast my vote?

To elect the members from Romania in the European Parliament, each national voter or community voter is entitled to one vote only.

Postal voting in the European Parliament elections to be held on June 9, 2024 is not possible.

The European Parliament elections will take place on Sunday, June 9, 2024. All polling stations, both in Romania and abroad, will be open between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time. Voters who are already inside or queuing outside of the polling station at 10 p.m. can still exercise their right to vote until 11.59 p.m. local time.



photo: Pixabay

8) Where and how do I vote if I'm in Romania?

If you are a Romanian citizen, you will be assigned a polling station depending on your domicile or place of residence. Electoral lists are compiled ahead of election day. If you are away from your place of residence/domicile on election day, you will be allowed to vote at a different polling station than the one you were initially assigned to, in which case you will be registered on supplementary electoral lists at the polling station where you cast your ballot.

If you are a citizen of another EU member state and you live in Romania, you will be able to vote provided you register in advance (at least 60 days ahead of the day of the European Parliamentary elections) on a special electoral list with the city hall of your place of residence or domicile. The voter registration application shall be submitted, in writing, to the mayor's office for the locality in which you are resident or domiciled together with a copy of a valid identity document. If you are away from your place of residence or domicile, it will still be possible to cast your vote provided the constituency election bureau confirms your registration on the special electoral list.



9) Where and how can I vote if I'm abroad?

At the polling stations set up abroad, you will only be able to vote in the elections to be held on June 9, 2024 to elect the members from Romania in the European Parliament.

Please note: if you are abroad, you will not be able to vote for mayors, local council leaders or any other local government positions.

If you are abroad on election day as a tourist, you will be able to cast your vote using a valid Romanian identity document. You can vote at any polling station set up abroad.

If you are domiciled or resident abroad and, on election day, you happen to be in a different country, other than your country of residence, then you can cast your vote at any of the polling stations set up in the country in which you find yourself on election day by presenting a valid Romanian identity document.

If you are resident abroad and, on June 9, 2024, you happen to be in Romania, then you can vote either at the polling station assigned to you based on the home address specified on your ID card or, should you not be at your place of domicile at the time, at any other polling station, in which case you will be added to a supplementary electoral register.

Therefore, any Romanian citizen who is domiciled or resident abroad, or who on the date of the elections finds themselves abroad, and who is over 18 years of age on the date of the elections and who has not been denied the right to vote and is not registered to vote in another EU member state other than Romania is eligible to cast their vote at any Romanian polling station abroad.

Please note: even if you are registered to vote in another EU member state, you can still exercise your right to vote for Romanian representatives to the European Parliament after signing a statement declaring that you have not exercised your right to vote in these same elections for members of the European Parliament from the member state in which you appear on the electoral roll.

The list of foreign polling stations for the European Parliament elections will be published at the latest on May 10, 2024 and will be accessible both via the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the website of the diplomatic mission in the country in which, on election day, you happen to be, are domiciled or are resident.



10) How can I vote as a person with a disability?



photo: Pablo Garrigos Copyright: © European Union 2013 - EP

In Romania, persons with disabilities may request assistance to be able to vote in person at the polling station or may opt to vote via mobile ballot box.

For voters who are housebound for illness or disability reasons, the head of the election bureau for each polling station may arrange, at the written request of such voters submitted no later than the day before the election and accompanied by copies of medical documents or other official documents certifying that the people in question are housebound, for a team comprising at least 2 members of the election bureau to travel with a mobile ballot box and the materials required for voting to the place where the voter is.



photo: Radio România Internațional

11) Where can I find information on the elections for the European Parliament?

The easiest and most accurate way is to get information from official sources. Here are some useful links:

Permanent Electoral Authority

<https://www.roaep.ro/prezentare/alegeri-pentru-parlamentul-europe-an-2024/> (Romanian)

<https://www.roaep.ro/prezentare/alegeri-pentru-parlamentul-europe-an-2024/#> (English)

Central Electoral Bureau

<https://europarlamentare2024.bec.ro/> (only Romanian)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.mae.ro/node/64179> (only Romanian)

European Parliament Liaison Office

<https://bucharest.europarl.europa.eu/ro> (only Romanian)

The European Commission Representation in Romania

https://romania.representation.ec.europa.eu/index_ro
(only Romanian)

6-9 June 2024 European Elections website (made by the European Parliament, available in all EU official languages)

<https://elections.europa.eu/ro/> (Romanian)

<https://elections.europa.eu/en/> (English)

12) How can one know that the elections are fair and transparent? How can one communicate with the European Parliament?

Free and fair elections are vital for the democratic process. Voters must be able to vote for the candidates of their choice, without interference and manipulation. For this reason, the EU member countries and institutions have taken measures to prevent interference, misinformation, cyber-attacks and the violation of data security throughout the EU elections.

National electoral authorities are taking steps to ensure fair European elections, without interference and manipulation. This is done in line with the EU and national legislation and with support from EU institutions. Their work includes protecting the elections from prospective attempts at manipulating information, from cyber-attacks, from data security breaches and from hybrid threats.

There are established procedures to request recounts, regardless of how the election process takes place. There are also national reporting and verification systems, as well as systems to address any technical errors, considering that irregularities and human errors may occur in any elections. The European election cooperation network brings together the authorities in member states in charge with election matters.

Each EU member country is responsible for ensuring the cyber-security of the European Parliament elections. This includes protecting the computer networks and systems used in the election process and protecting their users against cyber-attacks that may affect them, disrupting the election process and the voters. Prior to the European elections, EU member states work together to prepare for prospective cyber threats. They are supported by EU institutions, bodies and agencies such as the European Agency for Cybersecurity and the Cybersecurity Service for the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies.

Organising safe elections involves the management of personal data, such as voters' names, addresses, dates of birth or ID numbers. National electoral authorities comply with EU and national regulations in order to ensure a high level of data protection throughout the European elections. This includes the protection of personal data against unauthorised or illegal processing and accidental loss.

In Romania, the institution in charge with election integrity is the Permanent Electoral Authority (AEP), which, in preparing the elections, implemented the DIGI-EMB project ("Digitisation for enhancing transparency, ethics and integrity in the election management and the financing of political parties and election campaigns").

On the other hand, the computer system monitoring voter turnout and preventing illegal voting (SIMPV) facilitates the verification of compliance with legal requirements concerning the exercise of voting rights, red-flags illegal voting attempts, facilitates the exercise of voting rights, ensures unique entries in voter rolls and provides the Central Electoral Bureau with statistical data concerning voter turnout. The system also signals in real time whether a person present in a polling station has voted in a different station, whether they are temporarily banned from voting under a final court ruling or whether they have lost their voting rights under a final court ruling. Upon presenting their identity documents at a polling station prior to voting, a computer operator enters your personal numerical code into a safe and protected software in order to ensure a fair election process.

You can contact the European Parliament using the link below (with information available in all the EU official languages):

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/ro/contact>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en/contact>

You can contact EU institutions using the means indicated in the link below (with information available in all the EU official languages):

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu_ro (Romanian)

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu_en (English)



Democracy in action

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