



**SOVEREIGNTY
PROTECTION OFFICE**

**THE BRUSSELS-FUNDED
PRESSURE NETWORK IS PREPARING
MULTIPLE SCENARIOS FOR
THE POST-2026 ELECTION PERIOD**

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The patterns and information identified by the Sovereignty Protection Office indicate that preparations for a disinformation operation are being coordinated from international political pressure centres, with the aim of questioning the legality of the elections in Hungary. A narrative has already begun to be constructed that accuses the government of electoral fraud and suggests that it would not hand over power even in the event of defeat. As part of this operation, organisations financed from abroad are recruiting and training activists. Their objective is to mobilise these activists if the outcome of the election does not align with the expectations of the financiers or supporters. Through reports originating from polling stations and studies intended for international forums, they seek to challenge the legitimacy of the election. In order to intensify pressure, preparations for demonstrations and unrest have also begun. The stakes of the 2026 election are the preservation of Hungary’s sovereignty, a fundamental element of which is the exercise of popular sovereignty. The Sovereignty Protection Office draws attention to the fact that anyone who establishes, leads, or participates in an organisation whose aim is to alter Hungary’s constitutional order by force or by threatening force commits a criminal offense.

Two political pressure organisations, largely financed by the European Commission, are attempting to influence the April parliamentary elections through a disinformation narrative. The Berlin-based Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF), on the basis of the EU’s Digital Services Act,¹ sought to enforce their right of access to data against the social media platform X outside of court proceedings. In February 2026, the Berlin Regional Court ruled in their favour on appeal, stating that DRI is entitled to access publicly available platform data from X (for example, the database of the application programming interface that ranks and regulates posts, through which the spread and “scaling” of publicly available content on the platform can be tracked). They aim to see what users of X read and watch, what they like and share within their networks while using the microblogging platform. DRI and GFF are also interested in how many people are reached by posts they classify as political content, and how much engagement these posts generate on the platform. All of this is reportedly intended to assess whether the operator of X is taking sufficiently effective action against attempts at information manipulation that could potentially influence the outcome of the Hungarian elections. However, the financial background of the two political pressure organisations raises the possibility that the European Commission may be seeking to exert influence over political processes in Hungary through them.

In recent years, Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF) has indirectly received several hundred thousand euros in EU funding through a pass-through organisation called Digital Freedom Fund.² The European Commission supported Democracy Reporting International (DRI)

¹ Source: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HU-EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022R2065>

² Source: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002215-ASW_EN.html



directly already in the early years of its operation, and with substantial amounts. In 2012, the organisation received EUR 1.4 million to assist the “democratisation” of Egypt,³ and in 2013 it was granted nearly EUR 2 million to contribute to the preparation of electoral reforms in Pakistan.⁴ Between 2014 and 2023, it received more than EUR 10 million in additional EU funding, mainly for “good governance” projects outside the EU. In the past two years, it has been awarded a further EUR 4 million from the Horizon Europe and CERV programs.⁵

Democracy Reporting International (DRI), as a member of the umbrella organisation European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), has also played an active role in consultations on rule-of-law procedures.⁶ In this context, EPD cooperated with member organisations such as Article 19 (UK) and Free Press Unlimited (Netherlands), which later participated in the preparation of rule-of-law reports critical of Hungary.⁷ More recently, EPD has contributed to the preparation of a European Commission initiative aimed at establishing a so-called “European opinion police,” known as the European Democracy Shield.⁸

DRI had already framed the 2018 Hungarian parliamentary elections as an event that would affect the future of all of Europe. At that time, DRI also signed⁹ an open letter issued by political pressure organisations in Hungary, calling for the increased involvement of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), expressing “serious concern” as to “*whether the Hungarian parliamentary elections of April 8, 2018 would comply with relevant international democratic standards and requirements*”.¹⁰ In preparation for the 2024 European Parliament elections, DRI’s Executive Director published an opinion article in EUobserver stating that “*the elections in Hungary will not be democratic*”.¹¹

In addition to Democracy Reporting International (DRI), other international political pressure centres are also involved in shaping the disinformation narrative built around alleged “rule-of-law deficiencies,” aimed at questioning the legality of the Hungarian elections. For example, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), which has significant lobbying influence in Brussels, stated in its April 2025 analysis titled *Safeguarding Hungary’s 2026 Elections*¹² that the 2026 vote will be “*neither free nor fair*,” and that “*Orbán may commit widespread irregularities*

3 Source: <https://www.northdata.de/?id=5726783681069056>

4 Source: <https://www.northdata.de/?id=5572018493980672>

5 Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/913076133?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=lastModified&keywords=democracy%20reporting%20international&isExactMatch=true&type=ORGANISATION&orgType=participant>

6 Source: <https://www.lobbyfacts.eu/datacard/democracy-reporting-international?rid=769286939357-35>

7 For more details, see the analysis by the Sovereignty Protection Office titled “*The EU Wants to Silence Us – Opinion Policing Is Being Built from Billions of Euros by von der Leyen and Her Allies*”: <https://szuverenitasvedelmi hivatal.hu/dokumentumok/az-unio-el-akar-hallgattatni-euromilliardokbol-epitenekvelemenrendorseget-von-der-leyenek.pdf>

8 Source: <https://epd.eu/what-we-do/policy/european-democracy-shield>

9 Source: <https://24.hu/belfold/2018/02/19/volt-fideszes-is-felti-orbantol-a-voksolas-tisztasagat>

10 Source: https://europatarsasag.hu/sites/default/files/csatolmanyok/ebes-level_final.pdf

11 Source: <https://www.klubradio.hu/adasok/magyarorszagon-nem-lesz-demokratikus-az-ep-valasztas-143217>

12 Dániel Hegedűs: *Safeguarding Hungary’s 2026 Elections: Robust Observation is Needed*. GMF, 7 April 2025.

Forrás: <https://www.gmf.us.org/news/safeguarding-hungarys-2026-elections-robust-observation-essential>



on election day in order to tilt the outcome in his favour". Citing the "research" of Unhack Democracy,¹³ GMF considers the presence of a full-scale monitoring mission by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to be necessary in April. In addition, it calls for the suspension of Hungary's sovereignty protection law in order to *"enable the recruitment and training of a large number of independent domestic vote counters,"*¹⁴ presumably from foreign funding sources.

They would have the narrative of electoral fraud conveyed by well-trained activists

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) does not refer to the "research" of Unhack Democracy by chance. The Brussels-based organisation has been working since 2018 to undermine Hungarian voters' trust in democratic processes and in the lawful conduct of elections.¹⁵ Its activities were initially given a platform by OpenDemocracy, a portal associated with George Soros.¹⁶ Later, its operations were financed by the European Commission, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, and GMF.¹⁷

Since 2022, Unhack Democracy and its Hungarian partners have been training vote-counting activists. At that time, in cooperation with the Tiszta Választásokért Alapítvány (Foundation for Clean Elections), associated with Csaba Tordai, they coordinated the recruitment of activists under the name "20K Movement."¹⁸ The training sessions, through situational exercises, demonstrated how activists could create disruption in polling stations "if necessary."

Based on reports from the vote counters it had trained, Unhack Democracy – with the involvement of the "20K Movement," Mérték Médiaelemző Műhely (Mérték Media Analysis Group), Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Political Capital, and Társaság a Szabadságjogokért – TASZ (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union) – produced a "report" on the election, which was also presented at the European Parliament.¹⁹ Referring to this, after the 2024 European Parliament elections they stated that Hungary *"falls far short of the requirements of free and transparent elections considered fundamental in the EU."*²⁰

13 Source: <https://www.gmfus.org/news/safeguarding-hungarys-2026-elections-robust-observation-essential>

14 Source: <https://www.gmfus.org/news/safeguarding-hungarys-2026-elections-robust-observation-essential>

15 For more details, see the analysis by the Sovereignty Protection Office titled *"Foreign-Funded Organizations Have Become Active Ahead of the 2026 Elections"*: <https://szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/kulfoldrol-finanszirozott-szervezetek-aktivizaltak-magukat-a-2026-os-valasztasra.pdf>

16 Source: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/breaking-fresh-evidence-hungary-vote-rigging-raises-concerns-fraud-european-elections>

17 Source: <https://szazadveg.hu/en/cikkek/the-international-network-of-the-left-is-attacking-the-hungarian-electoral-procedure-on-political-grounds>

18 For more details, see the analysis by the Sovereignty Protection Office titled *"Foreign-Funded Organisations Have Become Active Ahead of the 2026 Elections"*: <https://szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/kulfoldrol-finanszirozott-szervezetek-aktivizaltak-magukat-a-2026-os-valasztasra.pdf>

19 Source: https://index.hu/english/2019/12/04/polling_station_officials_election_anomalies_unhack_democracy

20 Source: <https://euobserver.com/106613/hungarys-democratic-rubiks-cube>



Riots would be organised based on guidance from Ukraine, Poland, and Serbia

Political pressure organisations already began recruiting and training vote-counting activists last autumn in preparation for the April elections.²¹ The “20K Movement” has been revived, and since 2025 its activists have – based on prior developments – presumably been working for the Tisza Party.²² Seemingly independently, but pursuing similar objectives, András Jámbor, a member of parliament from Párbeszéd, also launched election mobilisation efforts in September 2025. The movement led by Jámbor, Szövetség az Igazságos Változásért (SZÍV), is likewise recruiting vote counters for the Tisza Party.²³ The recruitment of activists is supported by database-building efforts carried out by Magyarországi Európa Társaság (Hungarian Europe Society) and Magyar Európai Nők – Menők (Hungarian European Women’s Forum Association). The former organisation has previously cooperated with Democracy Reporting International, while the activities of the latter have been supported by The German Marshall Fund of the United States.²⁴ In addition, aHang, as a member of Act – Koalíció az Aktív Közösségéért (Coalition for Active Communities), is also participating in the initiative – working together with Civil Kollégium Alapítvány (Civil College Foundation), Társaság a Szabadságjogokért (TASZ), and Political Capital – and is spreading the disinformation narrative about electoral interference through local forums in rural areas.²⁵

The Szabad Magyar Nagykövetség (Freie Ungarische Botschaft – FUB) is, by its own admission, a group engaged in political pressure activities, with the declared objective of “overthrowing the Hungarian government from abroad.” The organisation had already held discussions on cooperation with Dávid Korányi during the previous parliamentary election campaign.²⁶ The Sovereignty Protection Office has, in several of its reports, examined Korányi’s role within the international pressure network and presented his involvement in the 2022 illegal campaign financing scandal.²⁷ FUB’s long-term plan is explicitly to participate in the campaign of the 2026 parliamentary elections as part of a network together with cooperating foreign organisations.²⁸ Preparations for this included a conference held in Berlin on October 22, where activists who had played key roles in mass protests in Ukraine, Poland, and Serbia shared their experiences regarding the organisation and coordination of unrest.²⁹ The organisation has recently removed the statement describing the event from its website; however, the Office had previously already documented it.

21 For more details, see the analysis by the Sovereignty Protection Office titled “*Foreign-Funded Organizations Have Become Active Ahead of the 2026 Elections*”: <https://szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/kulfoldrol-finanszirozott-szervezetek-aktivizaltak-magukat-a-2026-os-valasztasra.pdf>

22 Source: <https://www.gemist.hu/p/ezert-nem-kell-aggodni-hogy-elcsaljak>

23 Source: <https://szikra.jamborandras.hu/forms/szovetseg-az-igazsagos-valtozasert>

24 The organisations, in cooperation with aHang, launched a petition titled “For Europe, for Hungary” among mobilisable supporters of the Tisza Party. Source: <https://szabad.ahang.hu/petitions/europa-mellett-magyarorszager>

25 Source: <https://tisztaszavazas.hu/online-muhelyek>

26 Source: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sUR5pGZwui-EpTEYrW3x12Ty-SXbTEtnrvEvevoskA4>

27 For further details, see the report by the Sovereignty Protection Office titled “*Report on the Examination of Recordings Published on the X Social Media Platform*”: <https://szuverenitasvedelmihivatal.hu/dokumentumok/jelentes-az-x-kozossegi-plattformon-megjelent-felvetelekrol.pdf>

28 Source: <https://atlatzso.hu/vilagterkep/2023/04/11/jogallamot-szeretnemek-nem-hazakoltolni-berlini-civilek-a-magyar-demokraciaert>

29 Source: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1994561491341148>



The identity of the speakers at the event points to the organisation's objectives. They are professional protest organisers who, in their own countries, have already demonstrated how to cause disruption, create instability, and undermine systems – allegedly using foreign funding and acting in line with foreign interests:

- Jeva Jakubovszka was an activist in the Euromaidan uprising, which resulted in more than one hundred casualties. She is also a board member of Vitsche, a Ukrainian diaspora organisation.
- Goran Torlo is an activist of the far-left organisation CK13 based in Novi Sad, a coordinator within the Serbian pressure network, and one of the organisers of the 2025 protests.
- Franek Machowski was an activist and prominent figure in the October 2022 protest series that helped bring Donald Tusk to power, overthrowing Poland's sovereigntist government and advancing Brussels' interests.

Political destabilisation today is carried out through networks, financial channels, and narratives. Based on the information uncovered so far by the Sovereignty Protection Office, a high level of organisation, a concrete Brussels-based financial background, and a potential escalation strategy can be identified – all elements of a political pressure model.

International examples and the information presented in this report serve as a warning that, during election periods, protecting sovereignty in modern democracies primarily requires early detection, as well as increased analysis and assessment by state authorities.