

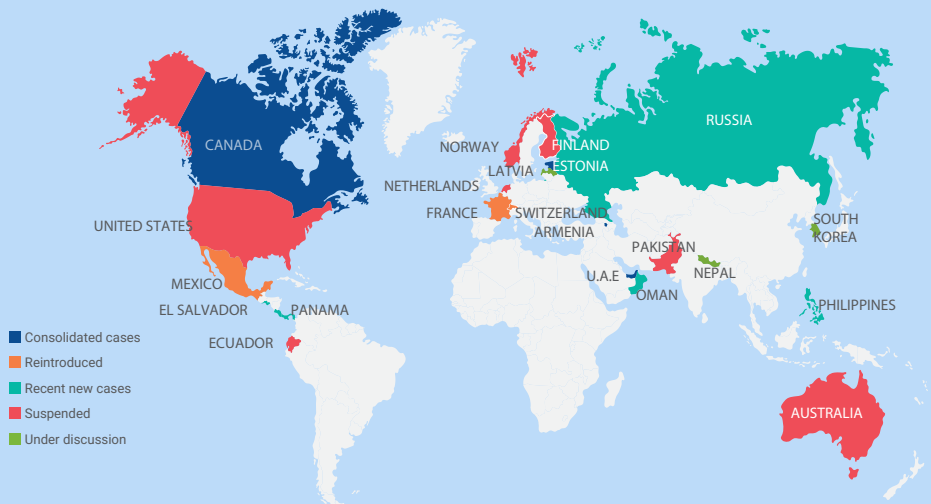
Online Voting Factsheet

WHAT

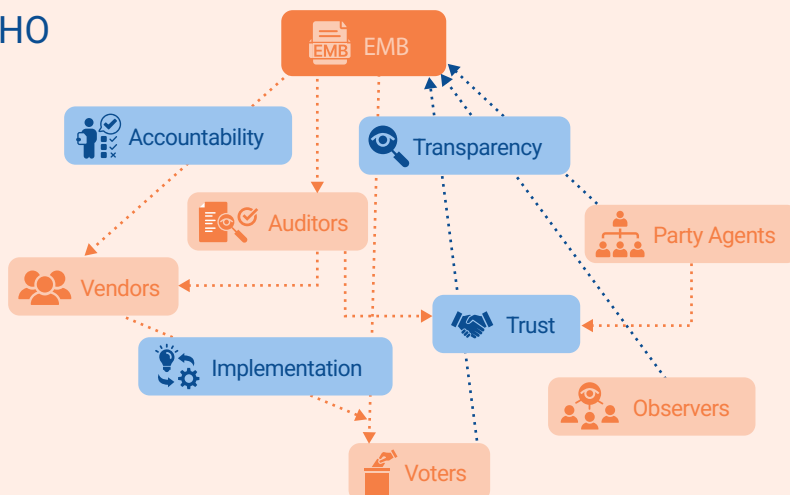
Online voting is a mechanism where digital tools are used to cast ballots remotely to a central server and to perform the relevant tally. Online voting differs from other electronic technologies, such as local voting machines, ballot scanners or ballot return systems.

WHERE

Only a small number of countries are using online voting and only Estonia has no constraints. Other cases place significant limitations, such as Armenia, mostly for diplomats; Switzerland, with percentage caps over the total amount of votes; or Canada, at sub-national level only.



WHO



HOW

Unlike other voting mechanisms, online voting has a sophisticated technical nature and therefore only experts can assess related evidence on the integrity of the results, the secrecy of the vote or other electoral principles. In any case, EMBs, observers, party representatives and voters should retain a meaningful oversight, and appropriate transparency measures should be in place to that end.

WHY

- Accessibility / inclusivity
- Integrity of the results
- Cost effectiveness
- Logistics
- Quick delivery of results
- Less human workload
- Environmental issues

KEY TRENDS

- Mostly used for Out-of-Country Voting.
- Advanced and positive features, such as End-to-End (E2E) Verifiability, remain scarce.
- Areas for improvement exist in institutional and social awareness as well as EMB ownership.
- Online voting is not a panacea for turnout, but it eases the right to vote for certain groups.

CONTEXT BASED

No solution fits all needs for all countries. A context sensitive approach based on international best practice and standards is therefore necessary to properly assess local gaps, actual feasibility in a given country, the extent to which trust exists and the appropriate calendar.

Good Practice

 First steps	- Needs assessment - Feasibility studies - Risk assessment	 Social and Institutional Requirements	- Consensus building - Legal framework/ standards - EMB strengthening
 IT Tasks	- Procurement - IT Development - IT Testing	 Trust drivers	- Voter education - Institutional awareness - Piloting
 Implementation	- Operational plan - Deployment - Graduality	 Oversight and Accountability	- Audit/ certification - Transparency - E2E verifiability
 Post-election	- Lessons learned - Evaluation	 Follow-up	- Continuous upgrading - Maintenance and security

Caveat



- Political pressures
- Vendor relations and liability
- Cost effectiveness



- Time constraints
- False expectations
- IT obsolescence