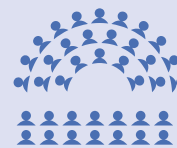


ODIHR Election Observation to the 2025 Presidential Election in Poland



Following an invitation from the Polish authorities and based on the findings of a pre-election [needs assessment mission](#) (NAM), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has sent an observation mission to the forthcoming presidential election taking place on 18 May 2025, with a potential second round on 1 June. This is the seventh time since 2007 that ODIHR is observing an election in Poland; most recently, ODIHR observed the 2023 parliamentary elections.

What is ODIHR's election observation?

ODIHR carries out election observation across the OSCE region. Election observation missions assess the extent to which fundamental freedoms are respected in the campaign and the elections are characterized by equality, universality, political pluralism, confidence, transparency and accountability. ODIHR's mandate to observe elections comes from the OSCE commitments outlined in the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, other international obligations standards for democratic elections and with national legislation. Since the Office's establishment over 30 years ago, ODIHR has deployed more than 450 missions.

What is the scope of the mission?

In line with its pre-election needs assessment, ODIHR has deployed a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to Poland. The LEOM format is used where concerns centre more on the pre-election environment, election preparations, the campaign, media coverage and the handling of election disputes, and do not focus on the voting process on election day.

To provide a comprehensive analysis of the election process, the mission will look at a wide range of activities including:

- Legal framework and its practical implementation
- Election administration, including technical preparations, voter and candidate registration, forming of election commissions, training of polling station staff, voter education and election day procedures
- Campaign environment, including online, and tone of campaign rhetoric used by parties and individual candidates, equal opportunities in the campaign and any misuse of administrative resources

- Monitoring social networks of contestants
- Campaign finance, including its regulation, transparency and accountability
- Participation of women and under-represented groups
- Coverage of elections by both private and public media and the public broadcaster's implementation of its legal obligation to offer impartial and unbiased coverage
- Resolution of election disputes
- Participation of citizen and international observers

In line with ODIHR's methodology for the LEOM observation format, observers will not carry out comprehensive observation of the voting, counting and tabulation on election day, but mission members will visit a limited number of polling stations to follow election day procedures.

As with every election observation, the team will also make a thorough assessment of the implementation of recommendations from previous ODIHR election observation missions.

Who is on the mission?

The LEOM to the 2025 Polish presidential election is led by Dunja Mijatović and has a core team of 12 experts from 9 OSCE states. There are also 16 long-term observers (LTO) from 12 states, deployed in teams of two to eight regions — Warsaw, Białystok, Gdańsk, Kraków, Łódź, Lublin, Poznań and Wrocław.

All mission members are obliged to follow ODIHR's [election observation methodology](#) and are bound by ODIHR's [code of conduct](#) for election observers. ODIHR election observation is funded by all 57 OSCE participating States.

How will the mission report its observations?

A report of the observation mission's interim findings will be published on ODIHR's website some two weeks before election day. The day after the election, a report of preliminary findings and conclusions will be published. The mission then compiles the collective observations into a final report, which also contains recommendations for the government and other institutions involved in the elections to improve the process in the future. The constructive recommendations are made in the spirit of working towards the fulfilment of the commitments made by all OSCE states to hold democratic elections.

Further Information

- Election observation in Poland: www.osce.org/odihr/elections/poland
- ODIHR election observation infographic: www.osce.org/odihr/elections/497934
- ODIHR election observation handbooks: www.osce.org/odihr/elections/handbooks



OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Ul. Miodowa 10
00-251 Warsaw
Poland

Office: +48 22 520 06 00
Fax: +48 22 520 06 05
office@odihr.pl

Follow ODIHR

