



TWIN4DEM

NEWSLETTER #3

SEPTEMBER 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST SEMESTER

- Developed the **initial conceptual model of executive aggrandisement**, tailored to the four case study countries.
- Developed **two versions of the TWIN4DEM Digital Twin**, laying the foundation for four country-specific models.
- Engaged **policymakers, CSOs, media and academia through focus groups** to test the Digital Twin and refine the project's approach.
- Generated **key legal and survey datasets and advanced CSS tools** to support the Digital Twin and the detection of executive aggrandisement patterns.
- Advanced the project's **ethical and policy framework**, including the Ethics Briefing Pack, algorithmic fairness guidelines and preliminary policy recommendations.



3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 15–16 June 2026, the consortium gathered in Prague for its General Assembly, hosted by Charles University. Over two days, partners reviewed progress, with discussions covering the conceptual model of executive aggrandisement, data collection and integration, the development of the Digital Twin, algorithmic fairness, stakeholder engagement and upcoming focus group activities.

1ST PERIOD CONCLUDED

TWIN4DEM has successfully concluded its first reporting period, with the project's progress officially reviewed by the European Commission. This milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on key achievements and receive valuable feedback, setting the direction for the next phase of the project.

INTERVIEW CAMPAIGN

To bring the project's work closer to its audiences, a dedicated video interview campaign was launched featuring key partners and Work Package leaders. Through the series, consortium members introduce the project's vision and provide accessible insights into the different dimensions of TWIN4DEM, from the conceptualisation of executive aggrandisement and the development of the Digital Twin to data, ethics, stakeholder engagement, and communication and exploitation activities. The campaign offers a closer look at the people and expertise behind the project, while showing how the different areas of work come together to strengthen democracy research.

Discover the full interview series on the TWIN4DEM YouTube channel here:



ONLINE FOCUS GROUPS

During spring 2026, TWIN4DEM continued its **focus group activities with external stakeholders across the four case study countries**, gathering valuable input to guide the further development of the Digital Twin. Participants highlighted the importance of making the tool **more accessible, transparent and intuitive**, with clearer explanations of the data used, simulation outcomes and the motivations behind political actors' behaviour. They also stressed the need to better illustrate how different decisions may influence democratic processes and to consider interactions between institutions and different levels of governance. The feedback further underlined the importance of **clear storytelling, practical examples and accessible guidance** to ensure the Digital Twin can effectively support its future users. These insights are now feeding directly into the next stages of the model's development and stakeholder engagement.



EVENTS

- Sociologidagarna 2026, Linnaeus University in Växjö, March 2026
- TodaySoftwareMagazine, March 2026
- The developers, Cluj-Napoca, June 2026
- "Webinar "AI Auditing, Transparency, and Accountability in the Age of Hybrid Intelligence", June 2026
- 17th European Sociological Association Conference, The "Soft" Mechanisms of Executive Aggrandizement in Hungary, August 2026

EXPLORE TWIN4DEM ON GITHUB

The TWIN4DEM GitHub repository is now open, providing a dedicated space for the project's code, tools and technical outputs. Released under the EUPL v1.2 licence, the repository supports open access, reuse and further development of TWIN4DEM's technical work.

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2ND PRESS RELEASE

In July 2026, TWIN4DEM published its second press release, presenting key achievements from the project's first period, including progress on the Digital Twin, its data foundation and stakeholder validation activities, while outlining the next steps.

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Funded by
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Project number 101178061

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