



TWIN4DEM

PRESS RELEASE

July 2026

The TWIN4DEM project has successfully completed its first period, delivering important scientific, technical and collaborative achievements that advance the project's mission of strengthening democratic resilience through Digital Twins.

Bringing together experts in political science, computational social science, artificial intelligence, data science and democratic governance, the consortium has laid the foundations for an innovative simulation environment capable of modelling how democratic systems evolve and how executive aggrandisement can gradually undermine democratic institutions.

A new framework for understanding democratic backsliding

During the first project period, researchers developed TWIN4DEM's conceptual framework for executive aggrandisement, providing a common scientific basis for all technical developments. Rather than examining isolated political events, the framework captures democratic backsliding as a gradual, system-wide process affecting the relationships between governments, parliaments, courts, media and civil society.

This work has already resulted in the project's first Policy Brief, which outlines preliminary findings and provides recommendations for EU institutions and policymakers. The recommendations emphasise earlier detection of democratic risks, broader monitoring of institutional developments and stronger collaboration between public authorities, researchers and civil society.

Building the Digital Twin

A major achievement has been the continued development of the TWIN4DEM Digital Twin. Following an initial prototype, the consortium has advanced towards a more sophisticated second version capable of simulating interactions between political actors and institutions under different democratic scenarios. The Digital Twin combines computational modelling with political science expertise to explore how institutional decisions may influence democratic resilience over time.

The next development phase will integrate real-world data from the four case-study countries, enabling increasingly realistic simulations and supporting future validation activities with policymakers and other stakeholders.

Creating the data foundation

Significant progress has therefore been made in collecting, harmonising and integrating the diverse datasets that will power the Digital Twin. These include survey data, election results, parliamentary voting records, institutional indicators, socio-economic statistics and multilingual political texts covering Czechia, France, Hungary and the Netherlands.

By combining these heterogeneous sources under common standards, TWIN4DEM is creating one of the most comprehensive data infrastructures available for studying democratic resilience through computational methods. The work follows FAIR and Open Science principles, ensuring future accessibility and reuse wherever possible.

Validating the model with stakeholders

Scientific excellence is complemented by continuous stakeholder engagement. During spring 2026, 37 stakeholders from the project's four case-study countries participated in validation workshops and provided feedback on the Digital Twin's conceptual model. Their input is helping researchers refine the model, improve its practical relevance and ensure that future simulations address the needs of policymakers, researchers and civil society organisations.

The project also reached beyond the consortium through invited scientific presentations. For example, TWIN4DEM's work on AI auditing and trustworthy Digital Twins was presented to doctoral researchers of the HYBRIDS Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network, highlighting the project's contribution to emerging discussions on AI transparency, accountability and responsible innovation.

Looking ahead

Over the coming months, TWIN4DEM will continue expanding its public resources and technical outputs.

Upcoming releases include:

- the first public multilingual corpus of parliamentary and political text collected across the four case-study countries;
- the TWIN4DEM Methodological Toolbox, which will provide open access to project datasets, software, models and technical resources through the project website;
- the first Digital Twin prototype incorporating real-world data;
- additional policy recommendations supporting evidence-based approaches to protecting democratic institutions.

These resources will strengthen collaboration between researchers, policymakers and civil society while promoting transparency, reproducibility and open science.



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