

Relink² Training School | eaRLINK Stage Research
June 29 – July 3, 2026
New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

PROGRAM

21 Montevideo Street | Building 1 | Room 212 | Room 217

Day 1 | June 29

9:30 – 11:00	Welcome Introduction of the Relink ² and the Training School Practical information Introduction of lecturers and students Jasmin Fitzpatrick Petia Gueorguieva
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Lecture 1 Starting point. Overview of conceptual and methodological mapping: Digital technologies and democracy Marco Lisi (online) Anamaria Dutceac Segesten
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Workshop 1 Presentations of students' TS projects pair feedback exchange trainers' feedback All trainers
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Workshop 2 Presentations of students' TS projects pair feedback exchange trainers' feedback All trainers
18:00 – 20:00	Training School Opening Ceremony Greetings New Bulgarian University Vice-Rector Greetings Relink ² Felix Von Nostitz Keynote speech / AI and Digital Democracy: A Perfect Match? / Anamaria Dutceac Segesten

Day 2 | June 30

9:30 – 11:00	Lecture 2 Focus group method: Grasping collective reasoning Inga Gaižauskaitė Jasmin Fitzpatrick Felix Von Nostitz
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Workshop 3 A mock focus group discussion Jasmin Fitzpatrick Inga Gaižauskaitė Felix Von Nostitz
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Lecture 3 Conducting focus group discussions: Methodological and practical guidance Felix Von Nostitz Jasmin Fitzpatrick Inga Gaižauskaitė
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Mentoring session 1 Individual and small group work on students' TS projects All trainers
18:00 – 20:00	Presentation & Discussion 1 DG CNECT: User Rights and Civil Society Empowerment under the Digital Services Act / David Klotsonis, European Commission, Platform Regulation (online) Presentation & Discussion 2 Practical Approach to Digital Tools for Civic Participation Bozhidar Bozhanov, Member of Parliament from Democratic Bulgaria, Former Minister of the Ministry of Electronic governance (2021-2022)

Day 3 | July 1

9:30 – 11:00	Lecture 4 Literature Review using the PRISMA approach Anamaria Dutceac Segesten
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Lecture 5 Methodological approaches to content analysis Felix Von Nostitz
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Workshop 4 How to apply the PRISMA approach to the literature reviews of your projects Anamaria Dutceac Segesten
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Mentoring session 2 Individual and small group work on students' TS projects (all trainers) or Testing content analysis methods on students' projects (Felix Von Nostitz)
	Free time

Day 4 | July 2

9:30 – 11:00	Lecture 6 Going beyond individual research part 1 Michał Jacuński Irma Nugrahanti
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Lecture 7 Going beyond individual research part 2 Group task activity part 1 Irma Nugrahanti Michał Jacuński
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	Workshop 5 Group task activity part 2 Irma Nugrahanti Michał Jacuński
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Mentoring session 3 What does it mean to offer meaningful project/research? World café Irma Nugrahanti
18:00 – 20:00	Farewell gathering

Day 5 | July 3

- 9:30 – 11:00** **Lecture 8** | Organizing resources for your project and dealing with grants
Irma Nugrahanti | Michał Jacuński
- 11:00 – 11:30** Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00** **Lecture 9** | Communicating research findings
Relink² Science Communication Manager (online)
- 13:00 – 14:30** Lunch break
- 14:30 – 15:30** **Workshop 6** | Students' presentations on advancement of TS projects
All trainers
- 15:30 – 16:00** Coffee break
- 16:00 – 17:00** **Training School Closing Ceremony**

TRAINERS

Dr. Anamaria Dutceac Segesten is Associate Professor in European Studies and Deputy Dean of Research for the Humanities and Theology Faculties, Lund University (Sweden). She coordinates the upcoming Horizon Europe project DEEP DIALOGUE and is partner in the Horizon Europe project OWN-EU. She has served as Associated Editor for the *Journal of Information Technology and Politics* (APSA), and as reviewer for numerous publications and publishers, including Oxford University Press, American Political Science Review, Political Communication. Her interests are European Union politics, democracy and elections, and polarization.

PD Dr. habil. Jasmin Fitzpatrick is a political scientist affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Her work focuses on political participation, organization and communication with an emphasis on digitalization. She is the Vice-Chair of COST Action CA23114 RELINK² and member of the Board of the Digitalization and Politics Working Group in the German Association for Political Research (DVPW). She is recipient of the JGU teaching award 2021 and recipient of the Sybille Kalkhof-Rose-Award 2026.

Dr. Inga Gaižauskaitė is a sociologist, affiliated with the V. Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at the Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania and the Institute of Sociology at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences. Her research interests include developments in social research methodology, research ethics, and integrity in research; democracy, trust, political participation, and solidarity in the context of the European Union (EU). She published nationally and internationally across these topics, including two co-authored methodology handbooks (in Lithuanian) and book chapters in edited volumes published by internationally recognized publishers. She serves as a board member of RC33 Logic and Methodology in Sociology of International Sociological Association.

Dr. Petia Gueorguieva is a political scientist at the Department of Political Science at the New Bulgarian University. Her research and work focuses on CEE politics, political parties, party systems, elections and comparative politics. She is the Grant Awarding Coordinator of COST Action CA23114 RELINK². She is an affiliate member and researcher at the LAREQUOI - Université de Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines - Paris Saclay; and at ESPOL- Lab; Catholic University of Lille, France. She is the

recipient of the Knight of the Order of Academic Palms award of the French Republic since 2020.

Dr. hab. Prof. Michał Jacuński is a political scientist and professor at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Wrocław. His research focuses on political communication as well as political parties and the digitalisation of politics. He is a co-founder of the Central European Journal of Communication and the Digital Parties and Politics Research Network. He has participated and coordinated numerous national and international research projects and grants. Since 2024, he has been serving as Chair of the international COST Action RELINK² research network. During his career, he has completed over 20 research stays at foreign universities and regularly presents at international conferences and publishes in Poland and abroad. In addition to his academic work, he has extensive experience as an expert, contributing to project assessment and evaluation for institutions including the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR, Poland), the Science Evaluation Committee (KEN, Poland), and European national research agencies involved in the WIDERA National Contact Points initiative. He is an active member of the research sections of numerous professional organisations, including PTNP, PTKS, APSA, ECPR, and IPSA.

Dr. Marco Lisi is Full Professor in the Department of Political Studies at Nova University of Lisbon and senior researcher at IPRI. His research interests primarily revolve around political parties, electoral behaviour, interest groups, political representation and election campaigns. He has also been involved in coordinating or participating in various national and international projects related to these areas of study. Additionally, he has contributed to numerous publications, including articles in esteemed international journals such as Political Studies, Western European Politics and Party Politics, among others.

Dr. Felix-Christopher von Nostitz is an associate professor in political science at ESPOL, Université Catholique de Lille. His research interests are political participation, parties, and elections in the digital age. He is involved in various research projects including ActEU, INES and DigiWorld/CamforS. He is the co-coordinator of the Jean Monnet CoE TransformEU.

Irma Nugrahanti is a PhD researcher at the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, examining the intersections of gender, climate change, and public finance management. Her research is informed by political economy and feminist political ecology perspectives. She is also an international development practitioner with expertise in financial management and policy

advocacy, focusing specifically on climate justice, gender equality, and democratic governance. She is an active member of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) Gender and Justice Working Group and the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE).