



# Reconstructing Democracy in Times of Crisis: A Voter-Centred Perspective

## Inaugural workshop

SciencesPo/CEVIPOF, Paris, France  
February 5-6, 2020

### THE PROJECT

#### CONTEXT

*Reconstructing Democracy in Times of Crisis: A Voter-Centred Perspective* (REDEM) is a Horizon 2020 project funded under the Governance topic of the European Commission's Societal Challenge programme *Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies*. Coordinated by Annabelle Lever (SciencesPo – Cevipof), the project brings together 10 European universities and think tanks with the purpose of coordinating and supporting research into the ethics and politics of voting.

#### OBJECTIVES

Elections are supposed to legitimise governments. However, today it is elections themselves whose legitimacy seems to be in question. Voters are increasingly unwilling to vote, even at national elections and, when they do, are attracted to parties whose stated platforms and appeal seem flatly at odds with democratic norms of freedom and equality. These developments raise a question-mark over the long-term capacity of elections to legitimize political institutions and policies in Europe, and that question-mark is what motivates REDEM. Our project seeks to promote critical reflection on the ethics of voting and on the relationship between the moral and strategic dimensions of elections, and their consequences for voting and legitimacy.

### THE WORKSHOP

#### PURPOSE

The inaugural workshop will be the first in a series of 16 interdisciplinary workshops and conferences organised throughout the project. The workshop will introduce the REDEM project and the project partners from Leiden, Genoa, Geneva, Frankfurt, Stockholm, Aarhus, Bucharest, Barcelona, and Paris, as well as the Institute for Public Policy Research, a leading British think-tank. The workshop will present the latest social scientific and philosophical research on political abstention and alienation, populism, political parties, referenda and social inequality and their relevance to debates about electoral ethics, democratic legitimacy and the challenges posed by new technologies for political transparency, inclusion and accountability.

#### ORGANISATION

The workshop will consist of 6 panels and panellists will be drawn from the members of the consortium. Each day, time will be set aside for audience members to present their own research and its relevance to REDEM, as well as to participate in the discussion that follows each panel. Those interested in participating are therefore encouraged to register with Annabelle Lever, the workshop organiser, at [annabelle.lever@sciencespo.fr](mailto:annabelle.lever@sciencespo.fr). Further details about the event will be available on the project website before January 15, 2020 at [www.redem-h2020.eu](http://www.redem-h2020.eu).