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*Embracing Global Transformation:
Collaborative Innovations through
Social and Political Research*

7-8th September
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Faculty of Social Science and Political Science
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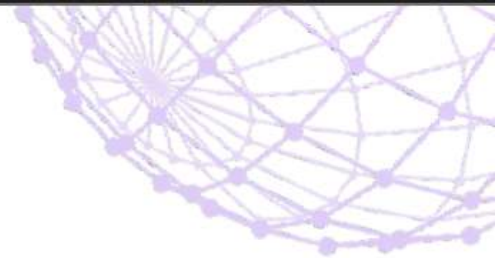
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“Embracing Global Transformation: Collaborative Innovations through Social and
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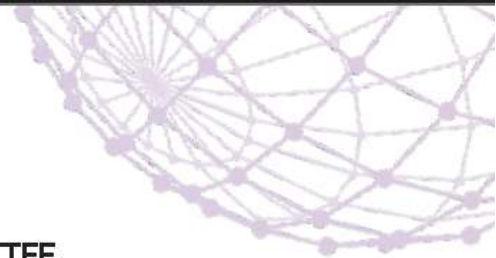
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The 7th ICISPE International Conference on Indonesian Social and Political Enquiries

"Embracing Global Transformation: Collaborative Innovations through Social and Political
Research
September 7th- 8th 2022


FOREWORD



Research should be a valuable tool for finding solutions to existing problems faced by a country. This belief is reflected to ICISPE 2022 conference. Our world is constantly being challenged by global, massive, and fast changes, starting from the development of the digital era which causes disruption in all aspects of the industry until the world suddenly stops due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But humans continue to show their ability to overcome all these problems by implementing new ideas so that problems can become opportunities. Collaboration in innovation is the key to success in the connected era. We realize that we cannot work alone, we need help from others to achieve the objectives quickly and effectively. Therefore this year's ICISPE is here to accommodate collaborative innovation ideas from various parties to accept the ongoing global transformation.

The 7th ICISPE Proceeding is a summary of the research results presented at the 2022 ICISPE Conference by academics and researchers. This activity was carried out with the cooperation of all committee members at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Diponegoro. Carrying the theme "*Embracing Global Transformation: Collaborative Innovations through Social and Political Research*", this conference was held on 7th-8th September 2022 at the Orange Faculty of Social Sciences Campus.

Over 50 articles were submitted, this year we received some collaborative works of Indonesian authors and some authors from Russia, The Philippines, Germany, Malaysia and China. All were reviewed and refined to meet scientific work standards. We hope that the articles published through this conference will contribute to the improvement and development of society in various social aspects. We would like to thank all the speakers, writers, participants, reviewers, and committee members for their contributions to this conference.



On behalf of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Diponegoro, we would like to thank all speakers, writers, participants, reviewers, and committee members for this conference.

Semarang, 8 September 2022
Dean of Social and Political Sciences Faculty
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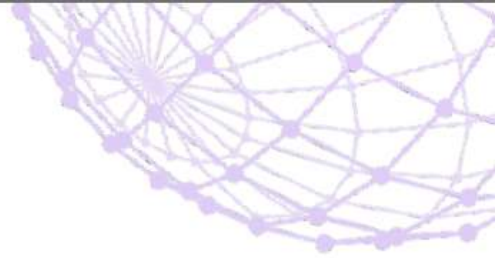
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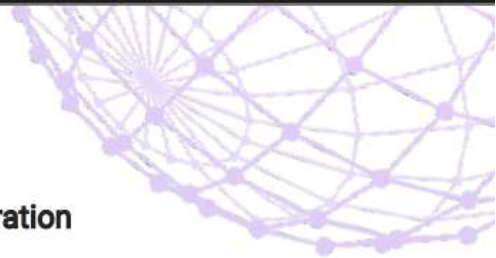
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Local Government

Challenges and Obstacles KPU in The Use of E-Recapitulation “SIREKAP” in The 2024 General Elections

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Abstract. Simultaneous General Election in 2024 and Indonesia’s first Simultaneous Regional Election. With the increasing burden of the task of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) officer, the application of information technology must be in implementing elections. The study focuses on the challenges and obstacles to General Election Commission’s (Indonesian: Komisi Pemilihan Umum/KPU) to apply recapitulation technology (SIREKAP) in the 2024 General Elections. SIREKAP is a new application already used in the 2020 Regional Elections. Although the usage of recapitulation technology has started since the 1998 Reform era elections, its use is not without problems, especially since the KPU has the desire to add the SIREKAP function as the basis for determining the results of the 2024 General Elections. This means the SIREKAP function with not limited to information on election results only. This research uses qualitative research by applying a case study approach. The research uncovers that the challenges and barriers to the preparation in using the technology are not only the factors of the lack of law and regulation and the lack of coverage of the internet network but also the complexity of the 2024 General Elections and the use of the open-list proportional representation system for the DPR and DPRD elections.

Keywords: Challenges and Obstacles, Election Commission, e-Recapitulation, The 2024 General Elections

1 Introduction

In Indonesian elections, information technology usage is still limited, and manual methods in elections still dominate. This manual method impacts the 2019 Simultaneous Elections, which were first held, namely the fatigue phenomenon of Voting Organizing Group (Indonesian: *Kelompok Penyelenggara Pemungutan Suara/KPPS*) officers at polling stations (Indonesian: *Tempat Pemungutan Suara/TPS*).

There will be the second Simultaneous General Election in 2024 and Indonesia’s first Simultaneous Regional Election. With the increasing burden of the task of the Electoral Management Body (EMB) officer, the application of information technology must be in implementing elections. Hence, the study of the KPU’s readiness for using information technology in the 2024 General Elections is relevant. One of the benefits of using information technology in elections is to reduce the heavy burden on election organizers of manual methods.

The crown of the election is the stage of voting and vote counting at polling stations. At this stage, KPPS works simultaneously for a short, laborious duration. The task of KPPS is to serve the voting from 07.00 to 13.00 and continue counting votes until it is completed at the latest end at 12.00 the next day [1]. Simultaneous elections combine legislative and presidential elections. Subsequently, the workload of the KPPS also increases. The workload allegedly caused the death of as many as 894 KPPS officers and 5,175 to become ill [2]. Therefore, the use of information technology in counting votes (e-recapitulation) will reduce the workload of KPPS.

The advantages of e-recapitulation are: (1) the duration of the vote recapitulation period is more rapid so that the election results are rapidly accepted by the public, and (2) avoiding faults and fatigue of officers [3]. The machine works without emotions and partial interests so that the results are more credible thus the information technology deployment also aims to

make the election stages have more integrity and a more reliable election process [4]. Information technology such as e-voting has been used in elections in several countries that have successfully held democratic elections. However, due to security issues and weaknesses that have caused distrust, some countries have returned to manual elections and no longer use them [5] [6] [7]. The use of information technology does promise convenience, shortening the time and result precision. But information technology also harbors weaknesses in security and reliability, and it is also not sterile from potential fraud or malpractice. This paradox is a challenge and obstacle to using information technology in elections at the regulatory level, technical implementation, and public acceptance.

In the 2024 General Elections, the KPU faces the needs and challenges of using election information technology. However, for elections in Indonesia, there is no strong legal umbrella, so the transition from manual methods to the usage of information technology requires revamping the regulations as the legal umbrella [8]. In addition, the remaining time for e-recapitulation preparations in the 2024 General Elections is short. Another challenge is the technical factors of implementing e-recapitulation “SIREKAP”, including the technical complexity of votes recapitulation and the readiness of infrastructure such as electricity and internet networks, which have not been evenly distributed between different regions [9]. The study aims to explain the KPU’s readiness to use e-recapitulation “SIREKAP” in the 2024 General Elections and its challenges or obstacles from regulatory, technical (system and data management), and public trust aspects.

Studies on the use of information technology in the general election have been carried out many times. The focus of the study is mainly on the discourse on the use of e-voting, both the implementation of e-voting in various countries [10], advantages and disadvantages [11], and models of e-voting machines in several countries [12], as well as the norms of juridical studies. There have not been many studies that specifically examine e-recapitulation “SIREKAP”. However, this information technology has practically been used by the KPU, from the most straightforward technology in the 1999 elections to those that have been increasingly well organized in the 2019 General Elections. Therefore, this research is to close the gap in the study of e-recapitulation. The literature search results have been at least two studies on e-recapitulation whose findings recommend using e-recapitulation for Indonesian elections. Based on existing research, this research focuses on the challenges or obstacles of the KPU to use e-recapitulation “SIREKAP” in the 2024 General Elections [13] [14].

2 Research Methods

This research uses qualitative methods qualitative research by applying a case study approach. Researchers expect this qualitative method to explore in-depth information to answer the formulation of research problems [15]. The informants’ selection uses the purposive sampling method, which is selected based on knowledge and experience [16]. The study used data from interviews with informants namely Hasyim Asy’ari, the KPU chairman, and secondary data from various election laws and regulations, also using several published studies or not, and online media searches. Researchers used inductive analysis in data analysis [17].

3 Result/ Findings and Discussion

Information Technology in Elections

The election process is divided into several stages, sequentially grouped into ten stages as follows: (1) determination of voter lists, (2) registration and determination of election participants, (3) allocation of seats and determination of constituencies, (4) selection and determination of candidates, (5) implementation of campaigns and reporting of election

campaign funds, (6) voting and counting of votes at polling stations (TPS), (7) recapitulation of the results of the counting of votes above polling stations, (8) determination of election results, (9) settlement of disputes over election results, and (10) determination of elected candidates. Of the ten stages, the culmination was the voting and counting of votes at polling stations which were held on one day at the same time in all parts of Indonesia (Surbakti et al. 2011). This stage is also considered a very crucial stage [18].

Elections are a means of electing leaders involving the whole people, carried out by converting the people's votes into the seat of the state organizer. Elections can be used manually or by using information technology. If the election is manual, converting people's votes uses the means of ballots (manual voting and counting systems). If the election uses information technology, it uses information technology facilities for voting and counting (electronic voting and counting system) [19].

Along with the development of the internet with the availability of its network that is evenly distributed throughout Indonesia, as well as people who are increasingly technologically literate, the use of information technology in the election process is a necessity. Under regulations, the design of the Indonesian elections is indeed manually at all stages, but over time information technology began to be used even though its function was still a tool.

Several digital innovations in the series of election stage activities have been carried out, especially since the 2014 elections. KPU has developed various applications to help the work of holding elections be more efficient and effective [20]. In the 2019 General Elections, the types of applications that the KPU has used are: (1) Political Party Information System (SIPOL), an application that aims to assist the KPU in verifying political parties for candidates for election participants; (2) Voter Data Information System (SIDALIH), is an application used by the KPU to compile and update voter lists; (3) Vote Counting Information System (SITUNG), is an application to increase the transparency of election results and provide information on election results to the public more quickly; (4) Nomination Information System (SILON); and (5) Logistics Information System (SILOG), is an application to ensure that the procurement and distribution process of election logistics is smooth, in quantity, on type, on time, and quality [21] [22]. Judging from the types, the variety of election technology used by the KPU is intended for two primary purposes: (1) facilitating the work of election organizers; (2) transparency and accountability of the election process [23].

The use of information technology for the publication of election results has been known in the Indonesian elections since the 1998 reform era elections from the simplest model and gradually the quality increasing. In the 2004 elections KPU has begun to use the simple technology of vote calculations, the KPU still used computers to tabulate votes in the 2004 elections. In the next general elections, KPU used the Informa System Counting "SITUNG", by scanning the results of the vote count at the TPS than the results of the scan are sent to the KPU website (www.kpu.go.id) for publishing [24]. Ahead of the 2024 election, the KPU improve the quality of calculations of elections through the use of technology by preparing to use Recapitulation Information System "SIREKAP", the IT technology e-recapitulation, although there is no strong legal basis.

“SITUNG” in the 2019 General Elections

The KPU started and released the information system counting “SITUNG” as a tabulation of vote gains in 2009, and SITUNG was used in the next general elections and regional elections. SITUNG is limited to functioning as a means of publication while determining election results is based on manual recapitulation of votes. The process of recapitulation of votes refers to Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, officers according to the level of counting votes in stages from TPS to KPU RI. In the 2019 General Elections, with simultaneous elections officers

counting five ballot boxes, the time for counting votes became longer. Overall, it takes 33 days from the voting time. Meanwhile, for quick count information to the public, the KPU uses SITUNG, which displays the results of the interim elections in real time.

SITUNG uses scanning technology for good recapitulation. In the working process, a copy of the Model C1 form of the election results at the polling station is scanned by the district/city KPU officers and then published on the KPU's official page. Officers in the district/city KPU, in addition to uploading the Model C1 form scan results, also entered data from the Model C1 form to be tabulated nationally so that the public had an idea of the progress of the recapitulation of the counting results. The data shown in the 2019 General Elections reached 98 percent of polling stations.

For the 2024 General Elections, the KPU prepared SIREKAP as a replacement for SITUNG. If SITUNG functions only to publish election results, SIREKAP also serves as a tool for counting votes and recapitulating tiered votes. The tiered vote counting starts from counting in the polling station, and the recapitulation of the vote count results in PPK, Kabupaten / city KPU, provincial KPU, and KPU. SIREKAP has been used in the 2020 Regional Elections in 270 regions. The acceleration of the use of SIREKAP in the 2020 Regional Elections due to the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of technology.

E-Recapitulation "SIREKAP" in the 2020 Regional Elections

The 2020 Regional Elections no longer use SITUNG but instead use SIREKAP with a broader function. SIREKAP is an information technology-based application for publishing the results of the vote count and a tool to implement the recapitulation of the results of the vote count. SIREKAP is a development of SITUNG. SITUNG still uses scan technology, while SIREKAP uses optical character recognition (OCR) and optical mark recognition (OMR) technology. For this reason, the Model C-KWK form, which contains the results of the vote count at the polling station, is designed to be read by the system by being photographed using a mobile phone with the SIREKAP application installed. SIREKAP's method starts when KPPS officers take pictures of the Model C-KWK form using a mobile phone with the SIREKAP application installed to be sent to the KPU server, which will be used as a tool in the voice recapitulation process at the next level.

There are five functions of SIREKAP, namely (1) a means of reading votes at the polling station level, (2) a means of summing the results of votes at each level of recapitulation, (3) a means of sending the results of votes at each level, (4) a means of publicizing votes, (5) a control tool and cutting opportunities for manipulation of vote recapitulation in a tiered manner [25]

Several obstacles were found based on the evaluation of SIREKAP in the 2020 Regional Elections in the field. Several shortcomings identified include: (1) there is no internet and electricity network available in several areas, (2) KPPS officers cannot open or access the SIREKAP application on their mobile phones, and (3) the KPU publication portal as a means of publishing votes at each polling station at some time cannot be accessed, and (4) because SIREKAP inaccessible, the process of recapitulation of votes at the sub-district level uses manual methods [26].

The challenges and obstacles SIREKAP in the 2024 General Elections

Hayim Asy'ari, the KPU chairman, explained that the KPU had prepared for the digitization of elections for the 2024 General Elections. The KPU has carried out preparations for strengthening the digitization of the 2024 General Elections for the 2017-2022 period; several information technologies at the stage have been used in the 2019 General Elections, and the 2020 Regional Elections and some have been replaced with new and refined or added [27].

The KPU has prepared a road map for information technology to assist in implementing

the 2024 General Elections. Based on the KPU road map, the integrated system development will be carried out from 2021 to 2022; the system can be implemented in 2023 and 2024. In the 2024 General Elections, the KPU prepared eight applications, which the KPU has developed for the 2017-2022 period [28]. The eight applications are SIPOL (Indonesian: *Sistem Informasi Partai Politik*, English: Political Party Information System), SIDALIH (Voter Data Information System), SIDAPIL (Electoral District Information System), SILON (Candidacy Information System), SILOG (Logistics Information System), SIDAKAM (Campaign Fund Information System), SIREKAP (Recapitulation Information System), and SIAKBA (KPU Member Information System and Adhoc Agency). All eight applications will be integrated into one website [29].

However, according to Hasyim Asy'ari, with the absence of revision of Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, in the 2024 General Elections, there is no imperative of attribution authority to carry out digitalization to the KPU. Law No. 7 of 2017 has not regulated the use of information technology. Therefore, the use of information technology in the 2024 General Elections is constrained by rules. This is different from Law No. 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Elections, which has regulated the provisions for the use of information technology so that in the 2020 Regional Elections, there are no regulatory obstacles found. But in the 2024 General Elections, it will be an obstacle [30].

The challenges and obstacles to the readiness to use information technology are not only factors of the regulation and the coverage of the internet network but also the complexity of the 2024 General Elections. According to Hadar Gumay, founder of the Network for Democracy and Electoral Integrity (Netgrit), the use of SIREKAP in the 2024 General Elections is more complicated and complex because there are simultaneous elections for the president, DPR, DPD, DPRD, and regional heads [31]. There are a lot of ballots that will be counted and affecting the duty complexity of the EMBs officers. This means that the challenges of using SIREKAP in the 2024 General Election are more significant than in the 2020 Regional Elections, which use a single ballot. Furthermore, The DPR and DPRD elections use the proportional open list system. In an open-list proportional system for a vote, the officer counts the parties' votes and also the candidate's vote.

4 Conclusion

The KPU has carried out preparations for strengthening the digitization of the 2024 General Elections. However, with the absence of revision of Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning elections, in the 2024 General Elections, there is no imperative of attribution authority to carry out digitalization to the KPU. Law No. 7 of 2017 has not regulated the use of information technology. Therefore, the use of information technology in the 2024 General Elections is constrained by rules.

SIREKAP has been used in the 2020 Regional Elections in 270 regions due to the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of technology. This is different from law No. 7 of 2017, the Regional Elections Law No. 10 of 2016 has regulated the provisions for the use of information technology so that in the 2020 Regional Elections, there are no regulatory obstacles found.

Based on the 2020 Regional Elections evaluation, Several obstacles to SIREKAP implementation were found in the 2020 Regional Elections in field, including there is no internet and electricity network available in several areas so the process of recapitulation of votes at the sub-district level still uses manual methods.

The study found challenges and obstacles to readiness to use information technology not only factors of the lack of a strong laws and regulations base for the IT technology used, and the lack of inclusion of the internet network in several areas, but KPU also faces challenges

of the complexity of the 2024 General Elections. Besides The 2024 General Elections is more complex because there are simultaneous elections for the president, DPR, DPD, DPRD, and also regional heads elections, the complexity also delivers from the use of the open-list proportional representation system in the DPR and DPRD elections.

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