

May 29th, 2009 - Maison de la Région Poitou-Charentes, Poitiers (France)

Participatory democracy and the Internet



In a context of abundant experimentations and projects which seek to improve the citizens' participation in the policy-making process, information and communication technologies (ICTs) offer **new opportunities to express opinions and to share decisions**.

Various participatory devices using ICTs usually called by the controversial term of “**electronic democracy**” may refer to, for example, blogs created by citizens, politicians or activists ; online consultations ; fora or Internet platforms facilitating democratic discussions; electronic voting; e-rulemaking.



In 2009, the 5th edition of the Europe-America conference aims to tackle the **issues** raised by the various aspects of “**e-democracy**”, with regard, in particular, to participatory democracy practices which are not based on ICT.

Citizens are thus led to talk on topics of common interest through devices which **often join offline and online procedures together**, at diverse scales (local, regional, national, European and even international level).



On the basis of both experiences of key players in the field of e-democracy and contributions from researchers who have studied e-democracy practices in several countries, three kinds of procedures strongly linked to the decision-making process will be discussed : **online participatory budgets, electronic participative assemblies and e-rulemaking**.

Registration on www.democratie-participative.fr or www.iberoamerica-sciences-po.fr

For further information, please contact Marion Ben-Hammo : m.ben-hammo@cr-poitou-charentes.fr

PROGRAM

9h30 - 10h00

Ségolène Royal

President of the Region Poitou-Charentes

Richard Descoings

Director of Sciences Po Paris

10h00 - 11h30

E-participation : opportunities and challenges

Thierry Vedel

Centre for Political Research at Sciences Po

(CEVIPOF), France

“Issues about electronic democracy”

Yanina Welp

*Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau, University of Zürich,
Switzerland*

“New and old ways of exercising power : ICTs for
Democracy in Latin America”

Benoît Thieulin

La Netscouade, France

“From *mybarackObama.com* to *WhiteHouse2.0* : a
meeting between community organising and social
Web”

Discussant : **Yves Sintomer**

Marc Bloch Centre, Berlin, Germany

11h45 - 13h00

E-participation in the legislative process

Hille Hinsberg

Chancellery of the Estonian Republic

“Engaging citizens in policy-making : e-participation
channels in Estonia”

Manuele Braghero

Tuscany Region, Italy

“E-Participation in the legislative process in Tuscany :
a guarantee of transparency and a method to take
good decision”

Discussant : **Laurence Monnoyer-Smith**

*COSTECH, University of Technology, Compiègne,
France*

14h30 - 16h00

ICTs within participatory assemblies : 21st century town meetings, e-town meetings

Carolyn Lukensmeyer

America Speaks, Washington, USA

“Engaging Citizens in Governance - 21st Century
Town Meetings and Beyond”

Julien Talpin

*Centre on Cultures and Urban Societies, University of
Paris 8, France*

“Selecting good arguments ? Benefits and limits of
deliberation in the Ideal-EU's digital gathering”

Stefan Schäfers

King Baudouin Fondation, Brussels, Belgium

“Experiences with Europe-wide online debates”

Discussant : **Gérard Loiseau**

CERTOP-CNRS, France

16h15 - 17h45

Electronic participatory budgeting

Bengt Feil

TuTech innovation GmbH, Hambourg, Germany

“Gender Mainstreaming in multi-channel Participatory
Budgeting”

Helvecio Magalhaes

Planning Secretary of Belo Horizonte's City, Brazil

“The digital participatory budget of Belo Horizonte”

Estelle Charpenay

*Director for participatory democracy in the City of
Grigny, France*

“The online participatory budget of Grigny”

Discussant : **Tiago Peixoto**

European University Institute - Florence, Italy

17h45 - 18h10

Summarization of the meeting

Loïc Blondiaux

CRPS, University of Paris 1, France