FACILITATING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP
E-PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY

A STATUS REPORT WITH EXAMPLES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES
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Facilitating Active Citizenship

E-Participation in the United Kingdom and Germany

A Status Report with Examples from both Countries

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**FOREWORD**

Like most of its neighbours in Europe, the United Kingdom today is engaged in a continuous and sometimes challenging process of social change which needs to be managed carefully in order to grow a sustainable, prosperous, inclusive and creative society in the future.

As the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations, we firmly believe in the mutual benefit of an international exchange of thoughts on such processes. Consequently, one of the main aims of the British Council is to stimulate a dialogue between people in Britain and in other countries who manage, accompany or document social change, encouraging them to share experiences and good practice and to learn from each other.

Social change is a theme which inspires many of our projects, for instance in the areas of arts, education or science. It is at the very heart of our activities in what we refer to as “governance and society”. Covering themes such as modernising government, ethnicity and communities, gender, law and human rights, economy and management, we try to build resources by establishing networks and contacts, raising awareness on UK policy and initiatives at government, civil society and private sector level, and facilitating opportunities for international debate and knowledge sharing.

A major strand of our work in governance focuses on participative democracy, i.e. on the changing relationship between government and citizens and on practices of involvement and consultation which create opportunities for citizens to engage. The active participation by citizens upon which democracy is so dependent can only really come about where information, and access to it, is readily available. Participative democracy thus is closely linked to access to information in general and the appropriation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in particular as a tool for social inclusion.

The breathtaking development we have seen over the past two decades in ICT has lifted the previous logistic limits of efforts to increase civic participation, creating a whole range of options to supplement the traditional processes of representative democracy by new forms of consultation, inclusion and decision-making. These new forms are summarised under the heading of e-participation.

Building on our earlier work on information society and digital divide issues (such as our international conference series “Towards an Information Society for All”), e-participation recently has been a particular focus of our related activities in Germany. We have already worked successfully with Politik Digital in this area on several occasions, presenting individual German and British projects to experts from both countries.

The positive feedback to those activities seemed to indicate a strong interest in both professional communities for what is going on in each other’s country. This inspired us to initiate a research project which should provide a representative cross-section of e-participation projects in Germany and the UK.

The results of this study are captured in the present report. It is by no means comprehensive, but hopefully will provide a sound basis for further research. We hope that practitioners and policy makers at both ends will find it stimulating and useful, and that it will prompt further dialogue and exchange of thoughts on e-participation between Germany and the UK.

Guido Jansen
Head, Society and Knowledge

British Council Germany
Since 1998 pol-di.net e.V. / politik-digital.de has observed developments on the German-language Internet in the area of citizen-focused, political communication. How can new media be used to facilitate discussions which could be advantageous for democracy? What are some of the new ways non-governmental and public organisations use to communicate? How are the possibilities of the Internet utilised, and last but not least: Is new information technology able to support new methods for political dialogue?

The eventful history of Internet development over the years has seen cause for euphoria as well as depression. Attitudes dither between hope for a new invention of the political sphere and sniggering at online-discussions. As is often the case, truth lies somewhere in between. One thing is certain: the Internet alone is not going to change democracy nor will it replace political offline-communication. But it can support, conduct and stimulate new forms of communication.

Today we are facing a renaissance of optimism concerning the possibilities of the Internet. After weblog-culture’s euphoria, a new catchword has emerged: „web 2.0“. What it means is a new spirit for ground-breaking technologies that involves users more than ever before in evaluating and developing their own content. But this development also includes the awareness that every new technology is just as interesting as the contents which will be produced with its help.

Over the past few years diverse experiments have been undertaken in using the Internet for stronger participation by citizens in the political process. Different countries have shown different developments. The United States, as the starting place for many trends, repeatedly received considerable international attention. Surprisingly, interaction between the European players or a comparison of their efforts almost did not take place. Comparative analyses especially in e-participation are still scarce.

Our study makes an attempt to identify and characterize e-participation projects in two countries – Germany and the United Kingdom. Our aim is to show diverse developments and highlight examples of good practice so that both parties can learn from each other. Therefore this study cannot be seen as more than a snapshot of recent e-participation development.

In fact both participants in this project should attempt to see the available data as a starting point for a regular and structured documentation of further initiatives. Furthermore we aim to motivate a discussion about whether or not e-participation on the part of citizens makes sense. Our belief is that this is best achieved through the analysis of the status quo. Therefore we hope that the suggestions of this study will be accepted as a starting point for productive discussion.

Christoph Dowe
Geschäftsführer

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1. CURRENT SITUATION AND BASIS FOR ACTION

Contemporary means of political participation, assisted by information and communication technologies, offer citizens and political institutions an opportunity to establish a new administrative and decision-making culture. ‘E-participation’ offers citizens a greater share in political discourse and, in the ability to contribute their own ideas, suggestions, and requests, an as yet unrealised potential that – as far as it is supported and accepted – could modify the understanding of democratic participation.

The aim of this study is to provide an overview of e-participation projects that are either active, completed, or planned. It therefore describes e-participation projects in Germany and Great Britain according to selected criteria, thereby establishing the basis for a databank of best practice models from German and British e-participation experience. This databank provides information on the project provider, its partners and supporters, its target group, the project’s aims, a project description and (where possible) its results. This represents an initial attempt to survey the e-participation landscape and document it in a text-based databank. The databank should continue to be updated in future, as the current inquiry has surely not captured all e-participation projects.

1.1 FROM E-GOVERNMENT TO E-PARTICIPATION

To illustrate the meaning of the term ‘e-participation’ as it is understood in this study, we must first explore the concept of ‘e-government,’ the overall concept from which several terms are derived. Understanding ‘e-government’ consequently allows for clarification of the individual terms ‘e-administration’ and ‘e-democracy.’ The Society for Information Technology (GI) and the Association for Electric, Electronic, and Information Technologies¹ define e-government as: “[…] the intensive application of information technology for the realisation of public opinion- and decision-making processes or goods and services provision in the political, state, or administrative realms.” Oliver Märker² of the Fraunhofer Institute for Autonomous Intelligent Systems interprets ‘e-government’ not merely as a ‘digitalisation’ of a few selected, easily standardised and automated procedures, but rather as: “a comprehensive, technologically enabled, seamless reorganization of the processes by which the tasks of administration and governance are handled both at the interface of agencies, citizens, and politics and within and between government agencies.”

‘E-government’ thus denotes a comprehensive programme, encompassing the entire complex spectrum of internal administrative processes and procedures as well as the inclusion of citizens in political decision-making processes.³

The Bertelsmann Foundation defines ‘e-government’ as the general term for the different opportunities for interaction available to citizens⁴. Dividing the term ‘e-government’ into two equal rubrics, the Foundation differentiates between the term’s socially- and technologically-oriented component, or ‘e-administration,’ and its transparency- and participation-oriented component, or so-called ‘e-democracy.’ The term ‘e-administration’ primarily implies the information and communication technology-based processing of user-oriented services by public institutions. The term ‘e-democracy’ is understood as the resulting digital information (transparency of the political process) and exertion of political influence (participation) by citizens and businesses in the opinion-forming processes of public – state as well as non-state – institutions.

Stephen Coleman, the University of Oxford’s first professor in e-democracy, prefers to define this term as a relationship between citizens and government: “Using new digital technology to enhance the process of democratic relationships between government and governed, between representative and represented.” (The Guardian, 27.02.2003).

¹ Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. und Informationstechnische Gesellschaft im VDE, 2000, p. 3
² Märker, Oliver: Online-Mediation als Instrument für eine nachhaltige Stadt und Regionalplanung, Aachen, 2005, p. 94
³ Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. und Informationstechnische Gesellschaft im VDE, 2000, p. 4
‘True’ e-government is characterised by a balanced combination of electronic services provision and modes of electronic participation. Following this definition of ‘e-government’ yields a further division of ‘e-democracy’ into the categories ‘e-participation’ and ‘transparency.’ Oliver Märker divides the term ‘e-democracy’ into ‘e-participation’ and ‘e-voting,’ and discerns within the rubric ‘e-participation’ yet another subcategory, ‘online mediation,’ which we do not consider in this study. ‘e-participation’ does not merely concern the digitalisation of existing planning- and decision-making processes; it is rather intended, with the assistance of information and communication technologies, “to develop new means of participation and to establish itself as part of a new administrative and decision-making culture.” According to Oliver Märker, ‘e-participation’ as a technology-driven modernisation of the political system should lead to a broader basis for communication between citizens and state actors and, above all, to a broader basis for the legitimacy of political decisions. In the ‘e-participation’ model, a broad online public can take part in the traditional political process through ‘bottom-up’ channels. In the first instance, the Internet should open space for public participation. At the same time, it can create incentives for elected representatives to enhance their knowledge of constituents’ interests and to take them into greater consideration in their decision-making.

The Hansard Society associated with the British Parliament goes somewhat further, describing its e-democracy aspirations as follows: “The Hansard Society’s e-democracy programme seeks to develop innovative ways of using new interactive technologies to reconnect Parliament with citizens and encourage participation in democratic process. The e-democracy programme’s cutting edge research explores the potential for interactive technologies to create new channels of communication and participation between Parliament and the people to enable citizens to scrutinize and influence legislation and those who represent them.”

This definition, however, neglects to consider possibilities for opinion-building without the active involvement of political actors and therefore, in our opinion, falls short. According to the German constitution, political parties simply contribute to forming political opinion; they are not the only protagonists in that process.

The Bertelsmann Foundation defines the nature of political participation in a separate publication: “The means of strengthening collective responsibility lie in the political participation of as many as possible in as much as possible.” Such an ideal achieves “public opinion-making and increased transparency of decisions. Its prerequisite is the farthest possible reaching political and social equality of the participants.”

Politik-digital.de regards ‘e-participation’ as an element of ‘e-democracy’ (see Figure 1). A preliminary narrowing of the subject of this inquiry necessitates excluding from its focus those projects that are concerned with modernising administration or digitalising bureaucratic citizen services (purely ‘e-administration’ projects). Additionally, ‘e-voting,’ digital signature, or cryptology are designated as ‘e-democracy’ or ‘e-administration’ according to project content. ‘e-voting’ can only be considered as constitutive of ‘e-democracy’ if it actually fosters an increased participation in opinion-making processes and if the project can be viewed as offering more than just an expanded election service.

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5 Märker, Oliver: Online-Mediation als Instrument für eine nachhaltige Stadt und Regionalplanung, Aachen, 2005, p. 95
7 www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/notessnpc-02600.pdf
8 Bertelsmann Stiftung (Ed.): Politische Partizipation in Deutschland, 2004, p. 19
1.2 IDENTIFICATION OF E-PARTICIPATION OFFERINGS

Politik-digital.de defines ‘e-participation’ as an offering that enables private users to contribute opinions and suggestions to a (semi-)public political opinion-making process, using the Internet for purposes of information, communication, or participation. The provider of the e-participation offering must make clear to the user where his or her contribution leads. At which point the opinion-formation process occurs (before the debate [agenda setting] or during political opinion-making) is not significant. As examples of e-participation offerings in this sense, the projects ‘hearfromyourmp.com,’ ‘BBC Action Network’ or ‘kandidatenwatch.de’ might be cited.

Figure 1: From e-government to e-participation

The following chapters should answer the question of to what extent the prospect of Internet-mediated communication is used to improve the potential for participation and deliberative discourse appropriate to a 21st century democracy, or to make its implementation more practicable, using descriptive examples of e-participation offerings.
2. RESEARCH METHODS

Multiple research strategies were employed in order to get a comprehensive overview of the e-participation landscape in the United Kingdom and Germany. Besides online Internet queries, research was also conducted offline. The search for e-participation projects was conducted separately for Germany and the United Kingdom, each carried out by one individual. The search strategies for each country were principally identical. Differences arose in the choice of search terms, which differed by language, and in the choice of search engines used. The option given by some search engines to limit the search results by regional relevance was used in both cases. The research aspired to a comprehensive inquiry of all e-participation projects. Nevertheless, we cannot guarantee its exhaustiveness. In addition to this active research, a post on the politik-digital.de weblog „Metablockers“ called on bloggers to provide tips regarding e-participation projects. A total of six persons responded to this request.

2.1 ONLINE RESEARCH

The Internet research was carried out in multiple stages. As a result of an initial key word search, indications of further information sources emerged. These leads (for example, copyright information, external links, content information, references to software developers) pointed from previously identified sites to other e-participation projects relevant to the inquiry.

Research conducted in the online search category was assisted by web search engines and meta search engines, weblog search engines, bookmark searches, and the websites of central e-democracy institutions. Following each search, the results were reviewed for new key words, which were then incorporated into the ongoing research.

2.1.1 WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND META SEARCH ENGINES

Search engines geared towards the United Kingdom were intentionally sought for the purpose of identifying British e-participation projects. The information on the British Council Germany’s site served as a guide for British search engines.9 Of the search engines described there, the following were used in the search: `www.google.co.uk`, `www.searchuk.com`, `www.yell.com`, `www.ukplus.co.uk`, `http://uk.yahoo.com`, `www.google.com`. Additionally, the following meta search engines were used: `www.alltheweb.com`, `www.metager.de`, `http://metager.de/asso.html`, `www.metager2.de`.

The following terms were used (also in combination with one another) in the search engine research for British e-participation offerings: ‘e-decide,’ ‘e-participation,’ ‘participation,’ ‘e-consulting,’ ‘consulting,’ ‘have your say,’ ‘e-democracy,’ ‘democracy,’ ‘online participation,’ ‘online consulting,’ ‘online survey,’ ‘citizen participation,’ ‘Internet participation,’ ‘business participation,’ ‘Partizipation,’ ‘online,’ ‘consultation,’ ‘Internet,’ ‘Bürgerbeteiligung,’ ‘Großbritannien,’ ‘Internet communication,’ ‘Internet democracy,’ ‘e-participation objects,’ ‘e-participation projects,’ ‘digital democracy’ and ‘uk.’


9 www.britishcouncil.de/d/services/britres1.htm.
A further step in the web search was to view the web offerings of political organizations and actors (Landtag and Kreistag [state and local parliaments], political parties, party congresses, and elected representatives).

2.1.2 BOOKMARK SEARCH
The bookmark search relied on a ‘tag search’ on http://del.icio.us. The search terms used were identical to those employed for the web search engines.

2.1.3 WEBLOG SEARCH ENGINE
To obtain further leads regarding e-participation projects, an additional search was conducted on the weblog search engine www.technorati.com using the search terms listed above.

2.2 OFFLINE SEARCH
The offline search involved a literature search and explorative research by approaching experts and practitioners in the area of e-participation.

2.2.1 LITERATURE SEARCH
Further leads regarding e-participation projects were investigated with the help of a literature search. The e-participation projects specified in books and research reports were then followed up and checked online. The list of literature reviewed can be found at the end of this study.

2.2.2 EXPLORATIVE RESEARCH
Additional relevant projects could be located by directly contacting experts and practitioners in the area of e-participation.

In the United Kingdom:
- Carol Hayward (carol_hayward@bristol-city.gov.uk) – Project Manager, Local e-democracy and Digital Challenge / Chief Executive’s Office – Corporate Communications, Bristol City Council;
- Ross Ferguson (R.A.Ferguson@hansard.lse.ac.uk) – Director, e-democracy Programme, Hansard Society;
- Steven Clift (clift@publicus.net) – online strategist and public speaker focussed on the use of the Internet in democracy;
- Tom Steinberg (tom@tomsteinberg.co.uk) – Director, mySociety.org.

In Germany:
- Hans Hagedorn (hagedorn@zebralog.de) – Zebralog;
- Matthias Trénel (trenel@zebralog.de) – Zebralog;
- Oliver Märker (oliver.maerker@ais.fraunhofer.de) – Fraunhofer Institute for Autonomous Intelligent Systems;
- Rolf Lührs (luehrs@tutech.de) – Project Director, Delphi Mediation Online System (DEMOS) at the firm Tutech.
3. E-PARTICIPATION FORMATS

In applying the e-participation definition from chapter 1.2, there is the danger that the research will identify an extremely low number of e-participation projects. Therefore, a more operative level was opted for during the project selection, and all online offerings corresponding to specified participation formats were incorporated into the report.

After the research was completed, those e-participation projects containing at least one of the following participation formats were included in an annotated list of links (chapter 5). An example of each is displayed in a descriptive screenshot and the format briefly defined. The different formats that apply to an e-participation offering are indicated in the project description. Where multiple participation formats exist for a single venture, it will be specified accordingly in the project description.

3.1 MODERATED, SYNCHRONISED ONLINE CHAT

Users in a ‘moderated, synchronised chat,’ may pose questions directly to politicians and experts, who then promptly respond to them. A moderator selects the questions that are put forward. Through direct dialogue, this form of participation takes immediate effect on political opinion-making. The length of an online dialogue usually spans a period of 45 to 90 minutes.

(politik-digital.de – Chat)

3.2 THEMATICALLY OPEN, UNMODERATED DISCUSSION FORUM

Users may furnish contributions to topics of their own choosing and discuss with other users.

(Forum ‘e-democracy’)
3.3 THEMATICALLY DEFINED, UNMODERATED DISCUSSION FORUM

Users may furnish their own contributions to specified topics and discuss with other users.
(Forum ‘Budget Debate in Parliament’)

3.4 MODERATED ONLINE DIALOGUE WITH THEMATICALLY FIXED OBJECTIVES

This format offers participation in an exercise that involves the citizen in a political planning process. An online dialogue interfaces with offline events, with the aim of determining the suggestions users want to leverage against a specific problem. At the next step, the suggestions from the online dialogue are incorporated into the continuing political process. The length of the online dialogue usually spans two to four weeks.
(Online Dialogue ‘gleisdreieck-dialog.de’)

3.5 THEMATICALLY DEFINED ONLINE SURVEY

In a ‘thematically fixed online survey,’ users are requested to share their assessment of a selected issue. The poll results enter into official political discourse, so as to involve the political will of citizens in decision making.
(Survey by the Federal Environmental Agency)
3.6 COMMENT FUNCTION

The ‘comment function’ offers users the chance to provide their own suggestions or to comment on the contributions made by other users or the provider, thereby offering a share in the decision making.
(Comment Function of ‘Busroute38’)

3.7 POLITICAL SIMULATION / SCENARIO MODELLING

‘Political simulation’ provides the user the opportunity to enact a political situation online (for example, a budget programme). The effects that individual strategies could have on the situation are demonstrated in each outcome. The outcomes are not submitted to a real political process; this type of project serves much more to inform political opinion.
(Modelling Scenarios for the City of Bristol’s Budget Programme)

3.8 ONLINE PETITION

The ‘online petition’ format enables the submission of petitions over the Internet. Suggestions and complaints on topics of one’s choosing can be submitted through an online form. The content is thereupon reviewed by the organiser of the online offering and, where admissible, introduced into the political process.
(E-Petitions to the German Parliament)
3.9 ONLINE VOTING

Through the ‘online voting’ format, citizens can submit ballots electing candidates to a particular office or voting for or against a specified motion.

(Election Platform for the Youth Council Elections, Esslingen am Neckar 2001)

3.10 ONLINE RATING

The ‘online rating’ format enables citizens to appraise a particular situation or issue through its rejection or approval.

(Online Evaluation on the BBC Action Network)

3.11 DIRECT ONLINE DIALOGUE PER E-MAIL OR CONTACT FORM

Users can communicate any comment or contribution directly to a politician with the help of an online form or e-mail.

(Dialogue by Online Form)
3.12 ONLINE GOES OFFLINE

In the format ‘online goes offline,’ a combination of media is deliberately put into effect. Other channels, such as fax, telephone, offline events, or post can be used in parallel or to supplement participation through the Internet media channel.

(Opportunity to Contact the Prime Minister’s Office by Internet, Post and e-Mail)

3.13 COMMUNITY-EDITING

The participation format ‘community-editing’ enables citizens to discuss political positions in a public Content Management System (Wiki). Citizens can actively collaborate in forming a position, gathering feedback and suggestions online. Upon conclusion of the editing phase, segments of the position paper developed can be carried over into the political process.

(electofix.de-Wiki – Collective Content Production)

3.14 COMMUNITY-BUILDER

‘Community-builder’ reinvents the possibilities for networking, founding a community on geographic, interest-oriented or social bases. The collectively represented interests hereby achieve a higher political weight due to the group structure.

(Community-Builder BBC Action Network)
3.15 CAMPAIGN PLATFORM

The 'campaign platform' format offers citizens the opportunity to propagate their own issues and positions and to attract support for them.
(Campaign Platform BBC Action Network)

3.16 DIGITAL SIGNATURE COLLECTION

'Digital signature collection' enables the citizen, by entering his name and contact data, to lend an expression of support to a specified political position. The personal data gathered are then fed into political proceedings.
(Signature Collection by www.pro-information.de)
4. E-PARTICIPATION PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The selection of projects described was reached such that it reflects a cross-section of the e-participation project formats from the annotated project list (see chapter 5). To demonstrate the diversity of formats, those for detailed description were chosen for the type of participation format they exemplify.

For each of the 20 projects per country, the project provider, project supporters, stated purpose, description, participation format, and type of provider are described.

4.1 E-PARTICIPATION OFFERINGS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

4.1.1 10 DOWNING STREET

www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp

Project Provider
The project’s provider, ‘Directgov,’ is the public service provider for the British government’s e-government offerings. The website is operated by a small team of civil servants.

Project Supporters
No project supporters are indicated.

Target Group
The offering is directed towards the citizens of Great Britain.

Stated Purpose
The stated goal of the venture is to make use of the Prime Minister’s offer of dialogue. Every citizen should have the opportunity to communicate his concerns directly to the Prime Minister. An answer from the Prime Minister is assured.

Project Description
Number-10.gov.uk is the official website of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. In addition to information regarding and links to the government’s work, it offers e-mail contact to the Prime Minister’s office. The message is communicated with the office through a contact form, with assurances of a response. Whether the Prime Minister receives and answers messages personally cannot be clarified. It is suggested, however, that the Prime Minister reads and answers each message personally.

Participation Format
Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Online goes offline

Region
The offering is intended for citizens of the United Kingdom.

10 www.direct.gov.uk/
Project Provider
The project's provider is the BBC - British Broadcasting Corporation, a public radio channel in Great Britain. Contact person is Martin Vogel, the Project Director of BBC Action Network.

Project Support
The project will be continued without further support.

Stated Purpose
BBC Action Network was conceived as a media platform for citizen participation. Since October 2003, the BBC has been running the website BBC iCan, which was renamed the BBC Action Network to support citizen participation through the Internet in 2005. According to the specifications of the provider, the project is an example of complex and committed social software that is engaged in the full range of individual political activism.

Project Description
The ‘Action Network’ from BBC is an open forum for citizens who want to get engaged in political issues. In addition to providing information (such as tips for contact with the press), the website offers the campaign platform of the BBC Action Network to individual citizens for conducting online campaigns. Other participants can then rate these campaigns. The more positive a campaign’s rating, the higher the probability of finding allies for that particular campaign. The BBC links each campaign to its programme contents. Five regional reporters are responsible for observing the development of the campaigns and, should the occasion arise, reporting on them in local radio and television programmes. The Action Network’s editors determine reporting on the campaigns.

Participation Format
Campaign platform; Community-builder; Online-rating; Comment function
4.1.3 BEING HEARD
www.beingheard.org.uk

Project Provider
‘Being Heard’ is a joint initiative of the British Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Hansard Society, a public institution supported by the British Parliament.

Project Supporters
No additional project supporters are indicated on the project website.

Target Group
The project ‘Being Heard’ addresses the British population, especially youth between 11 and 14 years of age.

Stated Purpose
The project has as its goal that every person, regardless of age, nationality, and religion, have the opportunity to have his opinion heard. The project thus corresponds to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates the right to freedom of expression. Additionally, Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child holds that children and youth should have a say in adult decisions. A further aim of the website is for young people to get engaged in political and social issues. The website offers youth a space in which they can participate in a decision-making process. National decision makers should use ‘Being Heard’ as a platform for consultation to gain insight into the ideas, opinions, and experiences of young people and to make political use of this information.

Project Description
Website users can express their opinion on various topics, discuss and comment on others’ contributions in a forum. This forum can also be used by politicians to conduct a survey of the population. Each user can contact members of the British Parliament through an online form. The project ‘Being Heard’ is part of the nationally supported ‘Culture-Online’ programme of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey; Direct online dialogue by e-mail or contact form; Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum

Region
The project area is confined to the United Kingdom.
4.1.4 ASKBRISTOL
www.askbristol.com/

Project Provider
The project provider is the Bristol City Council.

Project Supporters
The venture is supported by a national public project that sponsors local e-democracy projects – the Local e-Democracy National Project – and by Local e-Gov National Projects and the private company Sift.

Target Group
‘Askbristol.com’ is directed towards citizens who are involved in the Bristol region in their daily lives.

Stated Purpose
The views and opinions of citizens living in the Bristol region should be collected and discussed. In a further step, the discussion results are forwarded to government officials and media representatives. The goal is to thereby achieve the citizen-oriented design of future plans for the Bristol region.

Project Description
‘Askbristol.com’ is a website on which all types of issues affecting life in and around Bristol can be discussed. The overall project has no time restrictions. Decision makers are integrated into the discussion next to the general public. Current consultations concern questions related to the following issue areas: future plans for the city of Bristol, the health care system in Bristol, recycling management, traffic and transport, leisure and culture, and the municipal budget. Results of the consultations are forwarded to managers, government officials, council members, and media representatives to advance the discussion toward an outcome. At its conclusion, citizens are informed about the discussion project’s results. A further online participation offering is to take part in an online petition.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey; Comment function; Online-petition;
Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum

Region
The project ‘Askbrristol.com’ is intended for the Bristol area.
Project Provider

Target Group
The project primarily addresses the bus route's passengers.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the venture is to improve bus route 38 and expand its use by adapting to customers' wishes. More precisely, it wants to improve the bus's reliability, shorten travel time, enhance the route's surroundings, improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, and make use of the bus easier and more comfortable. Completing these measures should make the bus route more attractive. Bus route 38 was chosen for the project due to the high volume of its use.

Project Description
There are currently no consultations on offer. At times when no concrete questions are asked on the site, the user can write general comments on the London bus route 38 or submit one's own suggestions.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey; Comment function

Region
The project’s target area is Greater London
4.1.6 CITY COUNCIL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

http://tunbridgewells.dialoguebydesign.net/dbyd.asp *

Project Provider
The provider is the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Project Supporters
The venture is supported by Dialogue by Design, a commercial provider of online surveys.

Target Group
The offering targets citizens of the Tunbridge Wells Borough.

Stated Purpose
The project aims to improve the quality of life in Kent (Tunbridge Wells Borough). Users’ conceptions regarding the creation of a ‘Community Plan’ are incorporated into the local development network.

Project Description
Citizens can comment on and discuss specified points contained in the so-called ‘Community Plan.’ The first Tunbridge Wells Borough Community Plan was developed in January 2004. The Community Plan consists of eight issues and one additional topic. The next online survey concerning the Community Plan is scheduled for summer 2006.

Project Results
The first community plan was entitled “Stepping in the Right Direction.” In future, it is intended that such a community plan be produced regularly. The results are published on the website of the Tunbridge Wells Borough. The website makes no reference to the application of results to the continuing political process.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
The project is intended for a local target group in the Borough of Kent.

* The indicated link is now dysfunctional as the project is completed.
Project Provider
The project provider is the Napier University Edinburgh.

Project Supporters
The Teledemocracy Centre at Napier University Edinburgh appears as the project provider. The Teledemocracy Centre contracts several different Scottish institutions to manage the International Teledemocracy Centre project. Additional supporters include: Scottish Executive, Scottish Civic Forum, Shell, British Telecom, Youth Parliament, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Confederation of British Industry, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Target Group
This online offering is directed towards the whole Scottish population.

Stated Purpose
The Scottish public should be able to articulate opinions and give suggestions on specified issues.

Project Description
Scottish citizens can state their opinions and suggestions regarding specific issues on the project website. These survey results are documented as feedback on the project site. A total of four ‘e-consultations’ have been conducted so far. Citizens were asked for their opinion, for example, on “What sort of Scotland do we want to live in?” Using the comment option, participants could take part in an online poll and an online vote on the discussion.

Project Results
The consultations are complete. The results are listed on the website of each of the respective clients. Whether the results are incorporated into the political process is not clear.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
The survey questions are concerned exclusively with Scottish areas of interest.
Project Provider
The project provider is the Scottish Parliament.

Project Supporters
The venture is overseen by the International Teledemocracy Centre at the Napier University Edinburgh, which appears as an advisor. The Napier University developed the system with the support of British Telecom Scotland.

Target Group
The target group is the Scottish population.

Stated Purpose
The submission and support of online petitions to the Scottish Parliament should facilitate citizens' personal input (both suggestions and complaints).

Project Description
The Scottish Parliament offers the option of submitting petitions online as well as supporting or commenting on the requests of other petitioners. After submitting an online petition to the Public Petitions Committee (PPC), the petitioner can review its progress on the website. In addition, the petitioner can view any feedback to his petition.

Participation Format
Online-petition

Region
The offering is relevant to Scotland.
Project Provider
The project provider for Hearfromyourmp.com is mySociety.org, a private group of political scientists and computer programmers who conceptualize and implement e-participation projects.

Project Supporters
No further project support is specified.

Target Group
The offering is oriented towards the voting public in the United Kingdom.

Stated Purpose
MySociety.org aims to improve communication between citizens and Members of Parliament.

Project Description
By entering one’s name, e-mail, and postal code, a user can determine which Member of Parliament (MP) represents his constituency. The user can select those representatives on whose politics he would like information. The inquiry is then conveyed to the representative by e-mail. The MP can furnish information to the interested citizen or discuss his policies with all registered voters from his constituency in an online forum. Viewing these forums is open to all, whereas only registered citizens from the corresponding constituency can contribute to their content.

Participation Format
Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Community-builder

Region
National, confined to the United Kingdom.
Project Provider
The project provider is the British Home Office.

Project Supporters
No further project support is specified.

Target Group
The target group is the British population.

Stated Purpose
The Home Office would like to learn what the public thinks about issues such as the ‘UK Action Plan.’ Opinions, suggestions, and criticism are intended to enter the political decision-making process as a result of the query.

Project Description
One can take part in the surveys through the official website of the Home Office. A ‘consultation paper’ must first be downloaded or printed in order to do so. The response can proceed either by e-mail or post. Responses are incorporated into the next phases of the political process. The results of previous surveys are presented on the site.

Project Results
The results of previous consultations can be viewed on the website.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
The offering is exclusive to UK citizens.
Project Provider
The project provider is the British Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Project Supporters
No further project support is specified.

Target Group
The target group for the offering is the British population.

Stated Purpose
The citizen consultation should help determine which future projects should be supported with funds absorbed through the lottery.

Project Description
The (now closed) consultation was concerned with the distribution of funds from the National Lottery for Culture, Media, Sport, and Foundations. Citizens had the opportunity to suggest uses for the lottery money. There is currently no opportunity for further participation. The website indicates a further opportunity in June 2006. At that time, the results of the previous consultation should be made available for a final consultation. The responses received are currently being evaluated.

Project Results
The consultation was closed on 28 February 2006. More than 10,000 individuals took part. A report on the measure will be available in June.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
United Kingdom
Project Provider
The project provider is the Norfolk City Council.

Project Supporters
No further project supporters are indicated.

Target Group
The target group addressed is the population of the Norfolk region.

Stated Purpose
The aim is to enable the populace to contribute opinions on political issues affecting the Norfolk region. The City Council indicates that regional public opinion is always considered during decision-making.

Project Description
The Norfolk City Council conducts surveys of its constituents on such topics as “A day in the life: Being disabled in Norfolk in 2006 - Norfolk Ambition.” Before the user takes an active part in the survey, though, he is provided information on the topic at hand. Several divisions within the City Council use the offering for consultation on the scope and emphases of their work. A thematically-oriented questionnaire is used to survey user opinion. The outcome is then incorporated into the political process. Following the conclusion of the process, the results are made public on the website. The user is granted access to individual topics through the ‘Norfolk Consultation Finder,’ which finds appropriate consultations according to input and selection criteria.

Project Results
The results of previous consultations are documented, published on the website, and utilised by several divisions of the City Council.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
The Norfolk City Council's offering is restricted to citizens living in the Norfolk region.
4.1.13 NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM
http://youth.e-consultation.org/mwiki/index.php/Main_Page

Project Provider
The offering reflects the cooperation of the e-Consultation Research Group at Queen’s University in Belfast and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.

Project Supporters
No further project supporters are indicated.

Target Group
The target group is the youth population of Northern Ireland.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the project is to develop an online platform for youth, through which they can be consulted on issues specifically relevant to them.

Project Description
Youth-specific problems, such as juvenile crime, are discussed in the offering’s forums. The youth population of Northern Ireland can choose a position on these topics and represent their views.

Project Results
The results of concluded discussions are documented on the project website. Whether the discussion results are included in the political process is not discernable from the project site.

Participation Format
Community-building; Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives

Region
Northern Ireland
4.1.14 PLEDGE BANK

www.pledgebank.com/

Project Provider
‘Pledgebank.com’ is offered by MySociety.org, a private group of political scientists and computer programmers who conceptualize e-participation projects.

Project Supporters
MySociety.org administers the project without further support.

Target Group
The project targets users worldwide who are pursuing similar goals.

Stated Purpose
The website ‘pledgebank.com’ offers a space for building communities around certain issue areas. It focuses on building networks because groups of people can achieve more than a single individual. In the process, responsibility is divided among several users, and persons with the same goals are brought together.

Project Description
Website users are offered two opportunities to participate in the venture: they can initiate their own campaigns or they can support campaigns already running with a digital signature. Apart from that, comments can be contributed to already running “pledges.” A comment function facilitates discussion. All pledges are given a deadline.

Project Results
Completed pledges might be considered the project results. These are divided into successful and unsuccessful campaigns. However, it is not possible to determine whether campaign members have kept their pledges.

Participation Format
Community-builder; Campaign platform; Comment function; Digital signature collection

Region
The project is not limited to Great Britain in scope. There are no restrictions to its use by non-British users. To date, persons from the following countries have taken part: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
Project Provider
The project is offered in cooperation by the Hansard Society and the North Lincolnshire Council.

Project Supporters
The venture is supported financially by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) within the framework of the Local e-Democracy National Project.11

Target Group
The ‘Read My Day’ offering is intended for elected representatives or government officials keen on founding an individual weblog for the purpose of improving communication with citizens.

Stated Purpose
The project’s aim is to support public decision makers in the production and management of their own private weblog and to offer them the essential know-how to do so. The weblogs are intended for communication between citizens and political actors, so that elected representatives and government officials without their own websites can communicate and confer effectively with the public, their staff, the media, and other actors.

Project Description
There is no fixed runtime for the ‘Read My Day’ project. Through the weblog’s comment function, citizens can take up direct contact with civil servants.

Participation Format
Comment function

Region
The project is mainly intended for the United Kingdom.

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11 The Local e-Democracy National Project was initiated with 4 million £ of funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to facilitate the introduction of local decision makers to new technologies relevant for democracy. The project is one of 22 national projects with a total budget of 80 million £. It aims to achieve national cooperation between local authorities, the central government, partners from the private sector, and others.
4.1.16 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATIONS
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/HaveYourSay/HaveYourSay#a3

Project Provider
The project provider, the Scottish Executive, is a coalition of the Scottish Labour Party and the Scottish Liberal Democratic Party which has existed since the Scottish parliamentary elections of 1999.

Project Supporters
The project’s supporters are: Scottish Parliament, UK Parliament, National Assembly for Wales, Northern Ireland Assembly, Openscotland, and Directgov.

Target Group
The total Scottish population.

Stated Purpose
The Scottish government aims to find out how the Scottish public views the government’s work and which suggestions citizens might offer for improving it.

Project Description
Citizens can complete and return the questionnaire on the project website by e-mail or post. In it, citizens may express their opinions and views as relates to the work of the Scottish government. The Scottish Executive enables citizens to assess its work in this way.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey; Online goes offline

Region
The project is intended for Scotland.
**Project Provider**
The project provider is the Scottish Parliament. The contact person for its implementation is Emma Armstrong, eServices Manager SPICe.

**Project Supporters**
No project supporters are indicated on the website.

**Target Group**
The project’s target group is the Scottish public.

**Stated Purpose**
The project’s aim is to consolidate the results of discussions in public forums and surveys on specified topics and make them accessible to the political process.

**Project Description**
The citizens of Scotland communicate and confer over specified topics in public forums. Additionally, a survey is carried out on the same topics over the project website.

**Project Results**
The most successful forum debate was a discussion on the issue of wind energy, which recorded 300 entries. Another debate, with 200 entries, was related to the issue of chronic back pains.

**Participation Format**
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives

**Region**
The project area is confined to Scotland.
4.1.18 TELL PARLIAMENT  
www.tellparliament.net

Project Provider  
‘Tellparliament.net’ is offered by the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Project Supporters  
The venture is supported by the Hansard Society. The firm Vohm took part in designing the offering.

Target Group  
The British general public is addressed as the target group.

Stated Purpose  
The project Tell Parliament has established as its goal to obtain a differentiated view of British users’ questions and concerns and to take these into consideration in ongoing political discourse.

Project Description  
Individual discussions take place in web forums, for which issues are prepared by parliamentary committees. Further information on the issues can be found on the project site. Users have the opportunity to formulate a statement on the specified topic and to comment on the contributions of other participants. The Parliamentary Select Committee accesses Tellparliament.net and uses its contents for consultations.

Project Results  
Completed consultations are available for direct viewing on the website, where the results of the forum are made public. British users’ questions and concerns are taken up in further political discourse.

Participation Format  
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

Region  
The project area is confined to the United Kingdom.
Project Provider

‘Bullying Online’ is a private charitable organisation with its head office in North Yorkshire. Involvement in the project is on an honorary basis. The organisation is financed by sponsors.

Project Supporters

The project is supported by the newspapers Daily Mirror and Royal Mail. Besides financial support, the newspapers also offer assistance with publicity and media. Several members of the organisation’s staff are from the press domain.

Target Group

The target group includes parents, children, and teachers affected by bullying.

Stated Purpose

The National Survey Project aims to become the largest survey on the issue of school bullying. Within a period of six months, as many students, teachers, parents and other adults as possible should be queried regarding the issue. The result should furnish a status report on the situation, and any solution to the problem should be oriented toward its finding.

Project Description

The charitable organisation ‘Bullying Online’ is managed by volunteers. The organisation’s focus is on bullying in schools. Data from the survey in progress should serve as a basis for further action. Anyone can participate anonymously in the survey via questionnaire. Participants are divided into four groups: students, parents, teachers, and other adults. In the struggle against bullying, the organisation draws on the support of the national newspapers Daily Mirror and Royal Mail. The initiative is not only limited to an Internet survey; several other formats are utilised in addition for discussing the problem.

Project Results

During Anti-Bullying Week in November 2006, the results were applied as the basis for further efforts and discussion.

Participation Format

 Thematically defined online survey; Community-builder

Region

The project area is confined to the United Kingdom.
Project Provider
The project is offered in cooperation by the Royal Borough of Kensington and the Royal Borough of Chelsea. Both providers are public authorities.

Project Supporters
The venture is supported by direct.gov.uk, the state-run provider of e-government services.

Target Group
The populations of the Kensington and Chelsea boroughs are addressed as the target group.

Stated Purpose
The local authorities want to collect the opinions of their residents on planned projects. Their diverging views should help to provide as comprehensive a view as possible on the planned projects.

Project Description
The boroughs’ consultations are administered through an online questionnaire. The user may make a selection from answer choices given. The questionnaires can vary in length. Participation is limited since, for example, in the ‘Exhibition Road’ project, users may only choose among given models rather than submitting their own for public discussion. The poll result is incorporated into the agenda of a special working group commissioned with the adoption of the consultations into the political process. Further information regarding current consultations is offered on the website. The consultations are not only limited to the Internet: every year, consultations are held on different issues with the help of different methods. The results are incorporated in the continuing political process and made available on the website.

Project Results
The completed survey results are incorporated into the political decision-making process and can be viewed on the website.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
The project is intended for the populations of Chelsea and Kensington boroughs.
4.2 E-PARTICIPATION OFFERINGS IN GERMANY

4.2.1 BIOTALK
www.biotalk.de/

Project Provider
The project ‘Biotalk’ is sponsored and provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung).
Biotalk is actualised by TuTech Innovation, the Frauenhofer Institute for Autonomous Intelligent Systems, and the Institute for Didactic in the Natural Sciences at the University of Hamburg.

Project Supporters
A collaborative partner is the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Authority for Education and Sport.

Target Group
Biotalk is a discourse for and with the youth of the city of Hamburg.

Stated Purpose
The goal of the project is to confront youth with the issue of genetically modified food and to inspire results-oriented discussion, whose findings might afterwards be presented to a broad audience.

Project Description
Biotalk is an online role-playing exercise. Participants are intended to discuss the issue of genetically modified food from different perspectives. Arguments supporting as well as opposing genetically modified food should be heard and critically discussed. The objective is that role play participants discuss the issue and have the opportunity to secure results from the proceedings. The discussion occurs in many different forums with a concluding discussion at the end of the role play.

Project Results
The results of the discussion are collected and archived on the website. More than 300 participants have submitted more than 3,000 contributions to the discussion.

Participation Format
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Political simulation / Scenario Modelling

Regional
The project is intended for all of Germany.
4.2.2 BUNDESTAG FORUM HAUSHALT 2006 (BUNDESTAG FORUM BUDGET 2006)
https://www.bundestag.de/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=15

Project Provider
The offering is provided by the German Bundestag (House of Parliament).

Project Supporters
No supporters or partners are indicated on the Bundestag’s website.

Target Group
All citizens of Germany are included in the project’s target group.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the project is to offer all citizens a space to exchange opinions on selected issues.

Project Description
The parliamentary forum on the issue of the 2006 budget offers all citizens the chance to discuss the budget programme amongst themselves and with elected representatives (one from every party represented in Parliament), who present their positions at the opening of the discourse. As the contributions are reviewed before being made public, they appear in the forum after a delay.

Project Results
On the forum website, the user can see how many responses to the representatives’ individual statements have already been composed and how many times the site has been viewed. Participant contributions and the elected representatives’ responses are published in the forum.

Participation Format
Thematicall defined, unmoderated discussion forum

Region
The project area is confined to Germany.
Project Provider
The project ‘Online-Petition’ is offered by the German Bundestag and overseen by the unit responsible for online services and parliamentary television. The person responsible is Hartwig Bierhoff on the Parliament’s Internet Service staff.

Project Supporters
The company Babiel oversees the German Bundestag’s Internet presence and serve as its technical provider. The project ‘Online-Petition’ is advised by the International Teledemocracy Centre at the Napier University Edinburgh.

Target Group
The target group for the project ‘Online-Petition’ is the German public.

Stated Purpose
Through the Bundestag’s ‘Online-Petition,’ citizens should be given the opportunity to contribute their own personal suggestions and complaints to the political process.

Project Description
The project ‘Online-Petition’ enables any person in Germany, upon entering his personal data, to submit a petition online. Alternatively, a form can be downloaded and submitted per post. With the agreement of the petitioner, submitted petitions can be published and supported.

Project Results
There are no project results available.

Participation Format
Online-petition; Comment function

Region
The project area is confined to Germany.
Project Provider
The campaign “Defuse lobbying! – Disclose discretionary earnings!” is organised by the registered association Campact. Authorised to represent the association are Christoph Bautz and Günter Metzges.

Project Supporters
The campaign is supported by Transparency Germany, More Democracy, Friends of the Earth Germany, Attac, and LobbyControl.

Target Group
No target group is indicated on the website.

Stated Purpose
The provider and its supporters call for the discretionary earnings of all parliamentarians to be disclosed to the public.

Project Description
On the website of the campaign “Defuse lobbying! – Disclose discretionary earnings!,” the user finds a web form, which upon the user’s entry of personal data and selection of a constituency is sent as an e-mail to the respective elected representative. This web form contains a prepared text calling for the obligatory disclosure of discretionary earnings. The user has the option of adding his own comments to the pre-formulated text. The representative is called upon to contact the President of the Bundestag and the respective party chairpersons to encourage that disclosure of politicians’ discretionary earnings be made obligatory.

Project Results
The number of e-mails already sent is indicated on the campaign website. Further results are not published.

Participation Format
Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Digital signature collection

Region
The project area is confined to Germany.
Project Provider
The project ‘Chat Duel’ is offered by both of the region’s Landtag (state parliament) representatives, Dr. Andreas Jürgens (Green) and Frank Williges (CDU).

Project Supporters
No supporters or further cooperation partners are indicated on the project website.

Target Group
All citizens of North Hesse belong to the project’s target group.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the venture is to establish better communication between citizens and representatives and to achieve a higher level of transparency in Hesse’s politics.

Project Description
The participation offering ‘Chat Duel’ enables the citizen to participate in a live online chat with both of their Landtag representatives, Jürgens und Williges. Each citizen has an equal opportunity to participate in the political discourse between the two representatives. Both politicians begin the discussion with an opening statement on a pre-selected topic.

Project Results
No project results are documented on the website.

Participation Format
Moderated, synchronised online chat

Region
The project focuses on North Hesse.
4.2.6 DOL2DAY
www.dol2day.com/

Project Provider
The project is offered by the dol2day Association for Multimedia Participation.

Project Supporters
Among other partners are the registered associations e-politik.de und pol-di.net, Net against Right Extremism, browsergames24.de, Cosmopolitan Germany Campaign, the youth initiative Step21, and the association Compact – Campaigns for Vigorous Democracy.

Target Group
No information regarding the target group is available on the website.

Stated Purpose
The association pursues the aim of encouraging political education over the Internet and fostering participation in a simulated Internet democracy.

Project Description
The website ‘dol2day’ offers its more than 25,000 users the opportunity to participate in a virtual democracy. Parties can be founded and governments elected. Ancillary to the virtual democracy project, the website ‘dol2day.de’ offers discussion forums and surveys on actual, everyday political issues. The website offers an electoral device, the ‘Dol-O-Mat,’ which is a tool similar to the ‘Elect-O-Mat’ offered by The Federal Agency for Civic Education. The answers provided to the questions are evaluated against the electoral programmes of the virtual parties as well as with those of real political parties.

Project Results
At regular intervals, an Internet chancellor is elected. The transcripts of the chats and the survey results are published on the website.

Participation Format
Community-builder; Moderated, synchronised online chat; Online voting; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Political simulation / Scenario Modelling

Region
The virtual democracy project is not restricted to any particular region.
4.2.7 E-DEMOKRATIE
PROJEKT DES DEUTSCHEN BUNDESTAGES (E-DEMOCRACY IN GERMAN PARLIAMENT)
www.bundestag.de/edemokratie/

Project Provider
The project ‘e-Democracy’ was an offering of the German Bundestag. Dr. Johann Bizer of the University of Frankfurt/Main was responsible for its moderation.

Project Supporters
The project was supported by IBM Germany, Sercon, LawDesign, and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt. The New Media Subcommittee of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Media arranged an editorial conference, which was responsible for the project’s implementation.

Target Group
All elected representatives and citizens belonged to the project’s target group.

Stated Purpose
The aim of ‘e-Democracy’ was to involve citizens in discussions about parliamentary legislative proceedings through forum-based online communication.

Project Description
The project offered the user participation in fixed topic forums. A simple user registration was sufficient for participation in the discussions. The ‘e-Democracy’ project was part of the ‘e-Parliament’ project that ended with the beginning of the 15th legislative session.

Project Results
Contributions to the discussion can be retrieved from the project website’s archive.

Participation Format
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives

Region
The project had no regional limitations.


Project Provider
The project was offered by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The Authority for Family and Social Policy, represented by the Director of the Office for Family, Youth and Social Policy, Dr. Vera Birtsch, was responsible for its management.

Project Supporters
The project was supported by TuTech Innovation, binary objekts, and the Institute for Development Planning and Structural Research at the University of Hannover.

Target Group
The project’s target group included the citizens of Hamburg.

Stated Purpose
The goals of the project were to provide citizens of the city of Hamburg with information about the issue of ‘Family Life in Hamburg’ and to stimulate discussion on the issue of Hamburg as a more family-friendly place to live. The discussion results were intended for consideration in further city planning.

Project Description
The project ‘Internet discussion on a more family-friendly city of Hamburg’ ran in the period of 17 October – 12 November 2005. During this time, citizens of Hamburg had the opportunity to articulate and discuss their opinions in one main forum and multiple sub-forums.

Project Results
The discussion results were summarised in a compendium “A More Family-Friendly City of Hamburg” and released to the public on 11 April 2006. This compendium is to be taken into consideration in decision making by the Hamburg Senate and other responsible authorities in all decisions influencing the family-friendliness of life in Hamburg.

Participation Format
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives

Region
The project area was confined to the city of Hamburg.
4.2.9 HOTLINE BÜROKRATIEABBAU (HOTLINE BUREAUCRACY REDUCTION (BERLIN))
www.berlin.de/sen/wirtschaft/politik/hotline.html

Project Provider
The project is provided by the Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Labour and Women’s Issues.

Project Supporters
No supporters or cooperation partners are indicated on the Senate Department’s website.

Target Group
The project’s target group includes all businesses that interact with the administration of the city of Berlin or are governed by its rules and regulations.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the project is to reduce or eliminate bureaucratic regulations that unnecessarily restrict business activity.

Project Description
On the website of the Senate Department for Economics, Labour and Women’s Issues for the city of Berlin, the user finds a questionnaire enabling him to convey problems with administrative regulations and proceedings or to articulate suggestions for their improvement. The user can formulate these freely in three text fields. The provider claims to evaluate the contributions for their viability and to publish the results on the website and in the media.

Project Results
No project results are documented on the website.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey
Project Provider
The ‘Junior Elections’ project is provided by the Kumulus Association, located in Berlin.

Project Supporters
On the technical side, the project is supported by the electoral system ‘Polyas’ by Micromata Objects out of Kassel. Additional supporters include several state governments and state agencies for civic education, as well as the Federal Agency for Civic Education. Additional partners include the Mercator Foundation, the non-profit Hertie Foundation, and the Heinz Nixdorf Foundation.

Target Group
The target group is all students and academic levels past the seventh class.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the ‘Junior Elections’ project is to contribute to the political socialization of youth. The introduction to processes of political opinion-making and preparation for future political participation stand at the centre of the project’s work. There is a junior election held in parallel to the 2006 elections to the respective Landtag in Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony-Anhalt, and Baden-Württemberg.

Project Description
The junior elections are concerned with the substantive preparation for and staging of simulated Internet elections. Partners in carrying out the elections are students and teachers. Prior to elections, teachers are trained and provided with informative materials. One week before the election, junior elections begin in the schools. On the evening of the election, the results are made known at 18 o’clock in parallel to the results of the real election.

Project Results
The project results are documented on the website www.juniorwahlen.de. In total, more than 100 schools and 20,000 pupils took part in the simulated elections to the Saxony-Anhalt and Rhineland-Palatinate Landtag.

Participation Format
Political simulation / Scenario Modelling

Region
Regionally limited to participating schools.
Project Provider
The project 'Candidate Watch' is offered by Representative Watch (abgeordnetenwatch GbR) and the Hamburg chapter of More Democracy.

Project Supporters
Like Representative Watch, this project benefits from the efforts of many volunteers. No further official supporters are indicated.

Target Group
The project targets voters in Landtag elections in Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt. Prior to the 2005 Bundestag elections, the project was directed towards all eligible voters in Germany.

Stated Purpose
Candidate Watch's stated goal is to afford a non-partisan, objective, and individual dialogue between voters and candidates seeking a direct mandate for parliament.

Project Description
On the Candidate Watch website, citizens could question the direct candidates standing election in the Landtag elections that were held in Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt on 26 March 2006. The questions and candidates' answers are available for public viewing throughout the process. The offering was already available at the time of federal Bundestag elections in 2005.

Project Results
The results of the 2005 Bundestag elections and the dialogues on the March 2006 Landtag elections are documented on the website.

Participation Format
Direct online dialogue per e-mail or web form

Region
The project is currently limited to the three Länder (federal states) of Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt. During the 2005 Bundestag elections, the project applied to the whole country.
Project Provider
In June 2004, the Kulturforum project was launched by the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development, Division for City Planning and Projects.

Project Supporters
The project was supported in its conception and implementation by Zebralog and in its technical realisation by binary objects rehkop.klima.

Target Group
The project targets citizens of the city of Berlin.

Stated Purpose
The project goal is to achieve public discussion of development at the Berlin Kulturforum and to establish a transparent decision-making process.

Project Description
The project consisted of an online discussion process in two phases (2004: online discussion of the ‘concept plan’ – 2005: online discussion of the ‘master plan’), combined with site visits and public information sessions. The discussion process was accompanied by a change in media format and an exchange between the actors involved (politicians and citizens).

Project Results
The results of the online discussion were reduced by the participants to 14 suggestions and presented to the Senate for consultation, which accorded the forum an appropriate response.

Participation Format
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Online goes offline

Region
The project area is confined to Berlin.
Project Provider
The project is provided by the Federal Environmental Agency.

Project Supporters
There are no references to further project supporters on the website of the Federal Environmental Agency.

Target Group
The project’s target group includes all citizens of Germany.

Stated Purpose
The aim of the offering is to give as many citizens as possible the opportunity to articulate the disturbances they have personally experienced due to noise.

Project Description
The Federal Environmental Agency offers a questionnaire on its website which poses various questions on the issue of ‘disturbance due to noise.’ The form can be completed without any previous registration and returned to the agency. The questionnaire is amended each month with a monthly question regarding a current, specific source of noise. The questionnaire has been online since 2002 and is open-ended.

Project Results
Since 2002, more than 10,000 persons have taken part in the survey. The survey result has demonstrated that, according to information from its administrator, that noise is increasingly perceived as bothersome.

Participation Format
Thematically defined online survey

Region
Germany.
Project Provider
The online signature campaign pro-information.de was offered jointly by poldi.net, Transparency International – Germany Chapter, Network Research, More Democracy, The Humanist Union, The German Association of Journalists (D JV), German Journalists’ Union (dju) in ver.di (the united services’ union), the law office of C.J. Partsch, and the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Project Supporters
The venture was supported by the Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Journalists, the environmental association The Better Waste Concept, Doi2day, the Internet project Big Brother, the European Academy for Freedom of Information and Data Protection, and Youth Press Germany.

Target Group
All German citizens belong to the project’s target group.

Stated Purpose
The expressed goal was the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act at federal level.

Project Description
The campaign pro-information.de offers the user the opportunity to support the undertaking by entering one’s personal data (name, address, e-mail address) in a web form. The data collected online are to be submitted together with the list of offline signatures to those responsible for the policy.

Project Results
In its total runtime, the campaign was supported by 5,360 persons. On 1 January 2006, the Freedom of Information Act came into effect.

Participation Format
Digital signature collection; Community-builder

Region
The project was confined to Germany.
Project Provider
The regional forum dialogue project is offered by the citizen office (Bürgerbüro) of the city Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen. The contact persons are B. Banse and D. Hanzlik.

Project Supporters
The project received assistance in the areas of consultation, conceptualisation, and editing (red Planet) from the Magenta Communication, Design and New Media Company and from communications designer Friedhelm Grabowski.

Target Group
To the target group belong all of those affected by the Frankfurt airport and its expansion.

Stated Purpose
The goal is to advance a dialogue in the region on questions related to the expansion of the Frankfurt airport. The issues in the dialogue forum concern the ban on nighttime flights and anti-noise pact.

Project Description
The regional dialogue forum is concerned with the effects of the Frankfurt airport on the region Rhine/Main. An online discussion forum was constructed to establish communication between citizens and members of the dialogue forum. The list of requests collected in this forum are discussed among the forum’s members and sent on to the persons politically responsible. The members of the regional dialogue forum provide citizens with information regarding the status of the process simultaneously on their website and at public events.

Project Results
The work of the regional dialogue forum is documented on the website. There exists an opportunity to subscribe via e-mail to a ‘Dialogue Brief,’ which provides information on the status of the process at regular intervals. There is no documentation regarding participation in the online discussion forum.

Participation Format
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives

Region
The offering is intended for the Rhine/Main region.
4.2.16 SIE-SCHREIBEN-DIR.DE (THEY-WRITE-YOU)
www.sie-schreiben-dir.de (starting in April)

Project Provider
The project is offered by pol-di.net based on a project idea by mySociety.org.

Project Supporters
There are currently no further cooperation partners.

Target Group
All voters in Germany are included in the project’s target group.

Project’s Stated Aims
The goal of the project is to improve communication between elected representatives and the citizens of their constituencies.

Project Description
A user can determine by entering his postal code which members of the German Bundestag represent his constituency. Furthermore, the user can select one or more representatives from his constituency with whom he would like to take up contact. Subsequently, the representatives are notified of citizens’ interest, whereupon they can establish a topic forum. Access to the forums is open to all, but only registered users may participate.

Project Results
There are no project results available yet, as the project is currently in design.

Participation Format
Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Community-builder

Region
Due to the nature of the concept, the offering is limited to the respective constituencies.
Project Provider
The project is provided by the Virtual Local Association – Working Group Social Democrats on the Internet of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Project Supporters
The project is primarily sponsored by the Member of Parliament Jörg Tauss, who in 1995 appealed for the founding of the Virtual Local Association (Virtueller Ortsverein – VOV).

Target Group
The Virtual Local Association is intended primarily for members of the SPD.

Stated Purpose
It is the Association’s goal to grant the user the status of a petitioner at federal level, so that personal resolutions might be brought into the political process. Its fundamental aims are, above all, the preservation and further advancement of political discourse on the Internet.

Project Description
The members of the Virtual Local Association are in contact with one another over public and non-public discussion forums (those organised in the form of newsgroups). All registered members can submit proposals and vote on them. VOV is organised entirely over the Internet. Elections to the VOV board of directors also take place online.

Project Results
The resolutions are presented and archived on the website.

Participation Format
Online voting; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form

Region
The project is limited nationally.
4.2.18 VIRTUELLER PARTEITAG (VIRTUAL PARTY CONGRESS)

Project Provider
The first virtual party congress was organised by the political party Alliance 90 / The Greens in Baden-Württemberg (Land representation). Responsible for its implementation were Marc Mausch and Albrecht Kurz.
A second virtual party congress was initiated by Alliance 90 / The Greens in Schleswig-Holstein (Land representation).

Project Supporters
The project was supported by various firms throughout Germany. For example, it was supported by Brokat from Stuttgart. Additional supporters were the advertising agency Salz Communication from Berlin, the Internet system vendor TODO, Berlin, the TC Trust Centre from Hamburg, a company specialising in the security of data transmission over the Internet, and VSS from Bremen.

Target Group
All registered delegates and visitors of the virtual party congress belonged to the target group.

Stated Purpose
With the organisation of the virtual party congress, the party Alliance 90 / The Greens in Baden-Württemberg set the goal for itself of fostering a new kind of democracy. The goal of the second virtual party congress was to pass a resolution on the issues that were introduced in the actual party congress.

Project Description
The virtual party congress project is an effort to organise a party congress completely online. In principle, the Internet party congress is not any different from a conventional party congress. In the ten days between 24 November and 3 December 2000, anyone had the opportunity to follow the events worldwide. All members of The Greens in Baden-Württemberg had the right to contribute a statement. It was necessary to register previously with the Land office for this purpose in order to obtain access data for active participation. In addition, guest statements could be admitted by the chair.

The Land executive committee and working groups and the local party factions were authorised to file motions; additionally, at least ten members could together file a claim. Making a motion was possible online, by upload on the party congress website, as well as by offline submission to the Land office. Authorised to vote were all delegates and the members of the Land executive committee. Voting took place over dial-in using a software certificate (digital ballot) in the party congress website’s voting module. The second virtual party congress took place from 16-27 March 2002. During this online debate, the debate was open to all interested parties. Non-party members could register using their e-mail addresses to participate in consultations on a motion or to be present during voting. In the process, unequal results were published: one set reflecting the voting procedure of the “real” delegates, the other the result including all of the vote’s participants.
Project Results
At the first virtual party congress, a resolution was conceived that was taken up by the party chair and introduced as legally binding in the Land charter. The results of voting at the second virtual party congress were published on the website.

Participation Format
Online-voting; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form

Region
Opportunities for an active say and vote during the virtual party congress were limited to members of The Greens in Baden-Württemberg (whereby passive participation was possible from all over the world). The virtual party congress of The Greens in Schleswig-Holstein focused on northern Germany.
4.2.19 METROPOLE HAMBURG – WACHSENDE STADT (EXPANDING CITY – HAMBURG)
www.wachsende-stadt.hamburg.de/index-flash.html

**Project Provider**
‘Expanding City’ is provided by the city of Hamburg.

**Project Supporters**
Technical preparation and moderation of the online dialogue are based on the project ‘DEMOS,’ which is run by the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg and the company TuTech (contact person is Rolf Lührs). The project received additional support from the advertising agency Zentropy Partners (now MRM Worldwide).

**Target Group**
Citizens of the city of Hamburg comprise the target group.

**Stated Purpose**
The goal of the discussion was to cooperate with the citizens of Hamburg to develop as many ideas as possible about the issue of urban development.

**Project Description**
Over a period of several weeks, citizens had the chance to express themselves online on the issue of emigration from the city.

**Project Results**
In total, 500 persons with 4,000 contributions took part in the online discussion. From these contributions, a jury selected five suggestions, which were presented to the persons politically responsible as well as to the press.

**Participation Format**
Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Online goes offline

**Region**
The project area is confined to Hamburg.
Project Provider
The project was offered by the party Alliance 90 / The Greens.

Project Supporters
The venture was supported by the registered association Network New Media.

Target Group
No specific target group is indicated.

Stated Purpose
The stated goal was to involve as many persons as possible in composing a position paper on the subject of information society. In a second step, the result was to be incorporated into the party’s electoral programme for the 2005 federal election.

Project Description
The project ‘Wiki Programme Discussion’ lasted five days and concluded on 4 June 2005. All those interested had the opportunity to edit and discuss a basic text on the topic of information society.

Project Results
Individual pieces of the text were incorporated into the electoral programme for the 2005 federal election.

Participation Format
Community-editing

Region
The project was organised nationally.

* The indicated link now leads to general contents as the project is completed.
5. E-PARTICIPATION PROVIDERS AND INSTITUTIONS

5.1 E-PARTICIPATION ACTORS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

**BBC Action Network**  
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E-mail: martin.vogel@bbc.co.uk

**Bullying Online**  
PO Box 552  
Harrogate, HG1 9BF  
E-mail: help@bullying.co.uk

**Home Office / 10 Downing Street Directgov**  
E-Government Unit  
Cabinet Office  
Stockley House  
130 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LQ  
Tel. 020 / 7276 3285  
E-mail: e-government.info@cabinetoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

**Highland**  
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Chief Executive's Office - Corporate Communications  
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**Bus Route 38**  
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Atkins Transport Planning  
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Tel. 020 / 7121 2329

**Delib**  
Christ Quigley  
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Tel. 0207 / 3790795,  
E-mail: chris@delib.co.uk

**Hansard Society**  
Ross Ferguson  
Director, e-democracy Programme  
Hansard Society  
40 - 43 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JA  
Tel. 020 7438 1224  
Tel. 020 7438 1222  
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**Home Office**  
Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
Tel. 0207 0354848  
Fax. 02070354745  
e-mail:Public.enquirieres@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

**Hear FromYour MP / pledgebank.com**  
Tom Steinberg  
Director MySociety.org  
Tel. 07811 / 082158  
E-mail: tom@mySociety.org

**National Lottery Shares 2009**  
Department for Culture, Media & Sport  
DCMS 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH  
DCMS Press Office  
Tel. 020 / 7211 6145  
E-mail: feedback@culture.gsi.gov.uk

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Read my day
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E-Petition Scottish Parliament
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SPiCe
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5.2 E-PARTICIPATION ACTORS IN GERMANY

Biotalk
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Referat Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Hannoversche Straße 28-30, 10115 Berlin
Tel. 01888 / 570, Fax. 01888 / 575516
E-mail: information@bmbf.bund.de
Web: www.bmbf.de

Bundestag Forum Haushalt 2006 / Bundestag Online-Petition
Deutscher Bundestag
Referat PuK4
Online-Dienste, Parlamentsfernsehen
Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin
Tel. 030 / 227 35172
Fax 030 / 227 36786
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Projekt: dol2day
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Biotalk
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Web: www.ais.fraunhofer.de

Campact “Lobbyismus entschärfen! – Nebeneinkünfte offenlegen!”
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Horst Ulrich
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Landesredaktion Berlin.de/E-government
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E-mail: horst.ulrich@skzl.berlin.de

Kandidatenwatch
Gregor Hackmack, Boris Hekele
abgeordnetenwatch GbR
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Tel. 040 / 317 69 10 26, Fax.040 / 317 69 10 28
E-mail: info@kandidatenwatch.de
Web: www.kandidatenwatch.de

Lärmumfrage des Bundesumweltamtes
Umweltbundesamt
Postfach 1406, 06813 Dessau
Tel. 0340 / 21 03-0, Fax. 0340 / 21 04-2285
Web: www.umweltbundesamt.de

Wachsende Stadt Hamburg
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Wiki-Programmdiskussion
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Virtueller Parteitag der Grünen
Marc Mausch, Albrecht Kurz
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Web: www.ba-wue.gruene.de
6. ANNOTATED LIST OF LINKS TO ALL PROJECTS

6.1 LIST OF ALL E-PARTICIPATION PROJECTS IN GREAT BRITAIN

1. 10 Downing Street
   www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp
   E-mail contact to the Prime Minister’s office. The message for the office is composed in a contact form. A response is assured. What stands out is that the project is supported by directgov.org. Whether the Prime Minister receives the message personally cannot be determined. However, it is suggested that the Prime Minister reads and responds to each message personally. Participation format: Direct online-dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

2. BBC Action Network
   www.bbc.co.uk/dna/actionnetwork/
   The BBC offers the framework and possibility of availing itself as a campaign platform free of charge. There is no exercise of influence. The offering is determined by what the user makes out of it. Participation format: Community-builder; Online-rating; Campaign platform; Comment function.

3. Being Heard
   www.beingheard.org.uk/content/
   Besides the opportunity to express one’s opinions in a forum, beingheard.org.uk provides a databank with the addresses of the Members of Parliament. The databank is organised alphabetically rather than according to constituency. Additionally, online surveys are conducted on current issues. Participation format: Direct online-dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

4. AskBristol
   www.askbristol.com/
   The website contains a wide range of offerings, including discussion forums, surveys, and a simulation game. One obtains background information on the issues on the site itself. Posts may refer not only to the specified topics, but also to one’s own topics of interest. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey; Moderated online-dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum; Political simulation / Scenario modelling.

5. Budgetsimulator Whochester Council
   www.budgetsimulator.com/whochester
   Whochester offers its constituents the opportunity to allocate budget resources independently in an online budget plan. The result shows which effects the fictitious budget plan would have for the city. Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario Modelling.

6. Bus Route 38
   www.busroute38.co.uk/haveyoursay.shtml
   This opinion survey is conducted over an online template and aims to customise bus route 38 to its riders’ preferences. In doing so, the bus route should be made more attractive. It is indeed possible to add comments, but these do not become public. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey; Comment function.

7. CampaignCreator
   www.campaigncreator.org/
   CampaignCreator is similar to the BBC Action Network. Anybody can use it to start an online campaign. Participation format: Community-builder; Campaign platform.

8. Campaign Votes at 16
   www.votesat16.org.uk/
   Online campaign with the goal of lowering the voting age. Participation format: Digital signature collection.

9. Citizen Space
   www.citizenspace.co.uk/current_consultations
   Citizenspace.co offers, jointly with delib.co, a portal for online consultations on issues such as the London Safety Plan 2005-08. The website is limited exclusively to the function of hosting various consultations. For address referral, various prizes in the framework of a contest are offered. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.
10. Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
www.corwm.org/; www.corwm.org/content-252
Through an indicator on the start site, the user is advised of the consultation on radioactive waste management. Following a short search, the user finds a discussion forum, easy to use and open to individual topics. The Committee is intended to advise the government on the question of waste disposal. Participation format: Thematicallly open, unmoderated discussion forum.

11. UK Government Consultation
www.consultations.gov.uk/
Comprehensive official website of the British government with a list of running and/or completed consultations by all government authorities. The links provided lead to the British government's Information Office or to the websites of government authorities with information regarding the consultations. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

12. Councillor
www.councillor.gov.uk/
The user's postal code is used to identify local decision makers, with whom the user can then take up contact. The project focuses exclusively on municipal level. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

13. Department for Education and Skills
www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/
Consultations on the issues of skills and education consist of a question template posing concrete questions and providing possible answer choices. Upon completing the questionnaire, an additional brief comment may be written, which will then be made public. Information on the issues is available on the website. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey; Online goes offline.

14. E-Citizen
Users can debate political issues in discussion forum format. The provider of the forum is the Norwich City Council. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

15. E-Community Council
www.ecommunitycouncil.org.uk/
The projects of several city councils are integrated under the project name ‘Ecommunitycouncil.org,’ which provides the overarching project framework. It is a Scottish project that was conceived by the Napier University Edinburgh. Currently, Bannockburn Community Council, Cambusbarron Community Council, Drymen Community Council, Stepps and District Community Council, Strathfillan Community Council, Thornhill and Blairdrummmond Community Council, and Torbrex Community Council are working with this concept. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

16. E-Consultant
http://e-consultant.org.uk/sustainability/
http://itc.napier.ac.uk/ITC/projectsindex.asp
http://itc.napier.ac.uk/e-consultant/default.asp
http://itc.napier.ac.uk/ITC/news.asp
Commentaries, opinions, and suggestions on how to increase Scotland's attractiveness are collected under the heading "What sort of Scotland do you want to live in?" The user first selects a topic area and can then submit a statement and/or comment on other articles and opinion pieces. The focus of the commentaries is how to improve everyday life. The projects listed include only those projects that have been concluded but that cannot be viewed in the project report. The International Teledemocracy Centre at Napier University Edinburgh is responsible for the project. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

17. E-mail Contact with Members of Parliament
www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolist/alms.cfm
An outstanding example of e-mail contact with MPs. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

18. The Scottish Parliament E-Petitioner
http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/default.asp
The project is overseen by the International Teledemocracy Centre at Napier University Edinburgh. The University developed the system with the support of British Telecom Scotland. Participation format: Online-petition.
19. Funky Dragon
www.funkydragon.org/
‘Funky Dragon’ addresses the youth population in Wales. The project aims to provide persons up to 25 years of age with a space for their voices to be heard. The goal is to involve young people in the national decision-making process. In so doing, the project corresponds to the UN Convention on Rights of the Child. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

20. Glasgow Council
Participation in the Glasgow Council consultation takes place by online comment or questionnaire, which can be returned to the Council by e-mail or post. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey; Online goes offline.

21. GovTalk
www.govtalk.gov.uk/
GovTalk offers an opportunity to for expression on specific topic fields within the broader subject of e-government. The topics are not freely constituted; rather, they are provided. The offering is intended to address institutions and firms keen to develop e-government standards. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

22. Guildford Borough Council – Online Forum
www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi
A combination of survey and forum. The offering is limited and local, and addresses as users only those who deal directly with this borough. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Thematically defined discussion forum.

23. HeadsUp
www.headsup.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s4_3
HeadsUp offers an online discussion space for youth under the age of 18, allowing youth to participate in the political process. Apart from the regular discussions, the youth are occasionally offered surveys on various topics. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

24. HearFromYourMP
www.hearfromyourmp.com/
The entry template prompts the user to enter name, e-mail, and postal code. Afterwards, the user is granted the opportunity to communicate by e-mail with the MP representing his constituency. As on writetothem.com, statistics are displayed as to how many queries have been made and how frequently responses are received. The project is by mySociety.org. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Community-builder; direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

25. Help the Aged
www.helptheaged.org.uk/AdviceInfo/Discussion/_default.htm?command=threads&ID=6&BoardID=6
Opportunity for comment on issues relating to the elderly. Participation format: Comment function.

26. Herefordshire Council
http://consult.herefordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti
Herefordshire Council offers on its website not only current consultations, but also the opportunity to be informed about current, completed, and upcoming consultations. Registered users (who submit their name and e-mail address) will be informed of upcoming online consultations. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

27. Heritage and Identity
www.heritageandidentity.org.uk/forum/
A discussion forum taking place under the heading “Who do you want to be?” offers a debate on the future direction and personal identity associated with Scotland. Participation format: Thematicall open, unmoderated discussion forum.

28. Highland Council
A discussion forum for the Highland region, in which issues specific to that area are discussed. Planning for the future in the realm of energy policy plays an amplified role in this forum. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

29. Home Office
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/
Comments on running consultations can be made by e-mail. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Online goes offline; thematically defined online survey.
30. IvotedForYouBecause.com
www.ivotedforyoubecause.com/
Structured similarly to notapathetic.com. The contents relate to the reasons why someone was elected and what is expected of him/her. Participation format: Comment function; Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

31. Vision for Kent – Kent County Council
http://kentvision.dialoguebydesign.net/dbyd.asp
The website’s essential offering to citizens is a share in the city’s future planning. After registration, ideas may be contributed freely as to how the city should develop in future. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

32. Lancashire Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/
Consultation by e-mail contact or online questionnaire on issues determined by the Council. The consultation is more a means of surveying opinion than a discussion between equal partners. If responding online, the user is provided an answer, which he may accept or reject. Comments can be submitted, although these will not be made public. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

33. London Borough of Hillingdon
Invitation to express one’s opinion by e-mail on issues affecting the municipality. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Online goes offline.

34. London Waste Action
http://lwa.dialoguebydesign.net/dbyd.asp
This consultation on optimising waste disposal in London is offered and supported by delib.co. Users not completing a detailed registration are unfortunately only offered information regarding the project. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

35. Melton
www.meltononline.co.uk/haveyoursay/
Discussion forum on issues affecting the city of Melton. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

36. Vote Mock Elections
www.mockelections.co.uk/
www.mockelections.co.uk/sections/newsround/default.asp
Mock Elections is engaged in the issue of elections for children. After registering, children can bring their issues all the way to the top (“If you are Prime Minister, what would be your top priority?”). Not only can users enter their own issues, but the issues raised by others can also be debated. Involved in the project are the Hansard Society, Department for Education and Skills, and the Electoral Commission. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Online voting.

37. National Lottery 2009 consultations
www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/takepart.html
More than 10,000 persons took part in the last consultation on the subject of appropriating lottery revenues. There is currently no opportunity for participation. Beginning in June 2006, the results of the last consultation should be made public. The responses of that consultation, which ended on 28 February 2006, are currently being evaluated. A report on the procedure will be available on the website in June 2006. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

38. New Forrest District Council
www.nfdc.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2367
Young people between 11 and 18 years of age are to provide the Council with their feedback, opinions, and ideas on issues such as environment, career, health, and community safety. The information collected should be incorporated into future planning. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

39. Newham Council
Due to the reconfiguration of the Newham Council homepage, the previously available discussion forum is currently inaccessible. An adequate forum for the new page is planned, however. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

40. Norfolk City Council
www.norfolk.gov.uk/consumption/
Questionnaire survey of the population. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.
41. Northern Ireland Youth Forum
http://youth.e-consultation.org/mwiki/index.php/Main_Page
Forum for Northern Ireland on the concerns of the country's youth. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

42. Not Apathetic
www.notapathetic.com/
The aim of the project is for non-voters to explain the reasons why they intend not to go to the polls. Journalists and politicians who are interested in non-voters can use the website as a platform for finding out why citizens do not go to vote. MySociety.org is engaged in the evaluation of the data and intends to make them usable for studies. Participation format: Comment function.

43. Online Hearings of the British Parliament
www.democracyforum.org.uk (no longer online)
www.commbill.net (link to holyrood.tv)
Online consultations already concluded by the British Parliament. Tellparliament.net now offers the framework for online consultations. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

44. PledgeBank
www.pledgebank.com/
Pledgebank.com provides a framework within which users can seek supporters for their own ideas. Users indicate the number of supporters with which they will bring their project to fruition. The project provider is mySociety.org. Participation format: Community-builder; Comment function; Digital signature collection.

45. Petition Point
http://petitionpoint.com
Petition Point is a platform for professional campaign organisers and individuals seeking support for their campaigns. A user may participate either if he starts his own e-petition or supports an existing one. One supports a petition by completing a contact form. A further function allows the user to invite friends and acquaintances to view and support a petition. When the petition is complete, an e-mail can be written to each supporter in which the petitioner thanks and/or updates his co-petitioners. Participation format: Community-builder; Online-petition; Comment function.

46. Read My Day
www.readmyday.co.uk/
Weblogs by elected representatives are listed in a databank. Comments written can be addressed individually. Although comprised of many different weblogs, Read My Day is a single, collective project. Upon selecting an official, the user is directed from the Read My Day website to another site, the elected official’s own pages. Participation format: Comment function.

47. Scottish Parliament – Holyrood.tv
www.holyrood.tv/board/index.asp
Scottish Parliament’s online forum. Access to the forum is unattainable without registration. More precise information can only be accessed following a binding registration. Holyrood.tv hosts an official homepage of the Scottish Parliament. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Thematically defined, moderated discussion forum.

48. Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People
www.sccyp.org.uk/webpages/fun_national_consultation.php
www.youngscot.org/loudandclear/?s=189&sr=826&id=101&a=d
Expression of opinion is possible using the comment function. The project’s thematic orientation is toward issues that improve the lives of children. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

49. Scottish Government
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/HaveYourSay/HaveYourSay#a3
The Scottish government consults with the public over this website. One can contact the government either by e-mail or post. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Online goes offline; Thematically defined online survey.

50. Scottish Youth Parliament
www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk/
The Scottish Youth Parliament works in ten commissions. Once registering on the website, one can participate in the work of the Youth Parliament through the Internet. Information on the commissions and their functions are available on the website. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.
51. Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
www.shrewsbury.gov.uk/forum/
In the Have Your Say forum, one can raise points of particular interest or comment on the topics presented by the Council. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

52. Surrey City Council
www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE RTBUF/Consultations?open document
A local project by the Surrey City Council. At the start, projects are sorted according to those running and those completed. For each completed project, a PDF file is made available containing all details. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

53. Tell Parliament
www.tellparliament.net
Individual web discussions by the British Parliament take place in forums with topics assigned. Informative opportunities on the questions can be found on the website itself. Discussion is initiated by committees from both Houses. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Thematically defined, moderated discussion forum.

54. The National Youth Agency
www.nya.org.uk/
The website offers a range of opportunities for participation. Thematically, it addresses points that young people respond to and that give them a better chance to develop. Participation format: Comment function; Thematically defined online survey; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

55. The National Bullying Survey 2006
www.thenationalsurvey.co.uk/
www.adviceguide.org.uk/n6w/index/whats_new_jan06_school_bullying_have_your_say.htm
Online questionnaire that places users in different groups from the beginning. The subject is an inquiry about bullying in schools. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

56. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
www.rbkc.gov.uk/Consultation/General/default.asp
The project by the London Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea consists of an opinion survey on current issues. Opinion can be expressed using an online questionnaire featuring given topic areas and partially limited answer choices. Informative material on the topics can be found on the site itself. The availability of participation is not restricted by locality. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

57. Training and Development Agency for Schools
Opinion survey by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in cooperation with the British Ministry for Culture. Specific issues are primarily ways to improve or optimise teacher education. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

58. City Council Tunbridge Wells
http://tunbridgewells.dialoguebydesign.net/dbyd.asp
The goal is citizen involvement in future city planning. In order to use the offering, a registration must first be completed. The offering consists of a comment option on city-related topics. The link is now dysfunctional as the project is completed. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

59. University of Bristol Union
www.ubu.org.uk/
The University of Bristol queries its students on subjects relevant to university life. Data are collected through a survey form, but these are not made public. Additionally, elections are held through the site. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

60. Who Should You Vote For?
www.whoshouldyouvotefor.com/
Great Britain’s Elect-O-Mat. On the basis of the user’s responses to particular theses, whoshouldyouvotefor.com determines which party has greatest agreement with the user’s personal preferences. It is a private offering. Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario modelling.
1. **Writetothem.com**
   www.writetothem.com/
   A selection is carried out when a postal code is entered, matching the user to his constituency. Following the selection, there is the opportunity to submit a message to the Member of Parliament, which will then be answered. MySociety initiated the project. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

2. **Young London Teens**
   www.london.gov.uk/young-london/teens/feedback/index.jsp
   Users can make known their thoughts, ideas, and opinions on London’s development. Youth are addressed as the primary target group. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

3. **YourRights.org.uk**
   www.yourrights.org.uk/cgi-bin/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=forum;f=20
   Discussion forum on the issue of citizen and human rights. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

### 6.2 LIST OF ALL E-PARTICIPATION PROJECTS IN GERMANY

1. **Abgeordnetenwatch (Representative Watch)**
   www.abgeordnetenwatch.de/
   Representative Watch is currently confined to the city of Hamburg. It offers voters the opportunity to acquire information about the work of their elected representatives, such as draft legislation, amendments, committees, individual voting records, and personal initiatives. Furthermore, the voter can write e-mails to a representative or be directly informed by newsletter on current proceedings. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

   www.aktionsprogramm2015.de/www/onlinediskurs_1_292_50_0_f.htm
   Online discourse by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on the topic “Green Gene Technology and Food Security in Developing Countries.” The topic was discussed in an online forum. The results of the concluded discussion are available on the website. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

3. **Leitbild Bad Honnef – Bürgerbeteiligung 2006 (Bad Honnef – Citizen Participation 2006)**
   www.leitbild-bad-honnef.de/
   This website arose out of the desire to provide citizens of Bad Honnef a modern form of citizen participation and, at once, to enhance the model “Bad Honnef” achieved in 2003. The pages were created on an honorary basis as a result of an independent initiative. Participation format: Comment function.

4. **Berlin-Forum des Regierenden Bürgermeisters (Mayor’s Berlin Forum)**
   www.berlin.de/forum/viewforum.php?f=2
   In the forum, the user can discuss and comment on specified topics relating to the city of Berlin. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

5. **Biotalk**
   www.biotalk.de/
   On this website, youth discuss the issue of gene technology and genetically modified food. Biotalk is a discourse on the ethical, social, and legal aspects of genetically modified foods. Participation: Political simulation / Scenario modelling.
http://staat-modern.de/Service/-,11717/Chats.htm
The website “Modern State” offers the user, in addition to numerous informative opportunities, various live chats. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

7. Bundestag Forum Haushalt 2006 (Bundestag Forum Budget 2006)
https://www.bundestag.de/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=15
The spokespersons for budgetary politics from the five parties represented in the Bundestag published their positions on the 2006 budget programme in a forum. The user can comment on these statements without registering, or can post general comments on the 2006 budget programme in an additional forum. All posts must first be cleared by the Bundestag. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

8. Bundestag Online-Konsultationen (Bundestag Online Consultations)
www.bundestag.de/dialog/konsultationen/index.html
Results and project developments from the first online survey concluded on the future Internet presence of the German Bundestag can be viewed on this site. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

9. Bundestag Online-Petition (Bundestag Online Petitions)
www.bundestag.de/dialog/petitionen.html
E-Petition function of the German Bundestag. The project is overseen by the International Teledemocracy Centre at the Napier University Edinburgh. The University in Edinburgh developed the system with the support for British Telecom Scotland. Participation format: Online-petition.

www.virtueller-parteitag.de/
The Greens’ virtual party congress in the year 2000 in Baden-Württemberg was confined to the Internet. Users’ speeches and contributions could be read and commented on over the Internet. Proposals were made and voted on in the same way. All members of the Baden-Württemberg Green Party who had obtained an authorisation prior to at the Land office were allowed access. Participation format: Online voting;Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

11. Bürgerbefragung zu Grünflächen in deutschen Städten (Citizen Surveys on Green Areas in German Cities)
www.osnabrueck-net.de/stadtnachrichten/071004b.html
www.remscheid.de/Rathaus02Oeffentlichkeitsarbeit/02Presse2004/02pm190504befragung.htm
www.leinfeldenechterdingen.de/pages/politik/content/gruenflaechen/grenflaechen_bericht.pdf
From mid-May to mid-June in approximately 100 cities, online citizen surveys were conducted on the subject “Green Areas in the City.” The goal of the consultation was to gather suggestions for improvement, expressions of satisfaction, and criticism of the issue. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

12. Bürgerhaushalt Esslingen
In 2003, the budget programme for the city of Esslingen was discussed online in two steps. The website served citizens at once as a source of information and a discussion platform. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

13. Bürgerhaushalt Lichtenberg
www.buergerhaushalt-lichtenberg.de/
The Berlin borough Lichtenberg debates the municipal budget in an online forum, where citizens have the opportunity to express suggestions or criticisms of the district’s budget programme and discuss them. This discussion was closed by an announcement of the results. The results have been forwarded to the administrative assembly for the borough. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

www.campact.de/nebenekft/abg1/abgmail
On the website of the campaign “Defuse lobbying! – Disclose discretionary earnings!” there is a web form, which once the user enters personal data and selects a constituency, is sent as an e-mail to the respective elected representative. The web form contains a prepared text calling for the obligatory disclosure of discretionary earnings. The representatives are called upon to contact the President of the Bundestag and the respective party chairpersons to encourage that disclosure of politicians’ discretionary earnings be made obligatory. Furthermore, the user has the option of changing the text or inserting boilerplate text. Participation format: Digital signature collection.

15. Campact „Gentechnik – Angriff abwehren!“ (Campact “Stop Genetic Engineering”)
www.campact.de/gentec/sn1/signer
On the website of the campaign “Stop Genetic Engineering” is a web form. Once the user enters his personal data, this form is sent as an e-mail to the Federal Minister for Agriculture. Besides the sender’s personal data, the e-mail contains a prepared text on the issue of genetic engineering. The user furthermore has the option of expanding the text by adding a personal comment. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

16. CDU Kreistagsfraktion Hochsauerland
www.cdu-hsk.de/kreistag/
On the website of its local delegation (Kreistagsfraktion), the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in the Hochsauerland district provides political information and offers a public forum that can be used by all for political discussion. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

17. Chat-Duell (Chat Duel)
www.chat-duell.de/projekt.htm
Chat Duel is offered by two members of the Landtag (state parliament) in Hessen, who regularly hold a “representatives’ duel.” Citizens can join the discussion between the two representatives in chat. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

18. Das Esslinger Stadtplanungs-Pilotprojekt (Esslingen City Planning Pilot Project)
http://forum.esslingen.de/mvnforum/mvnforum/index
In May 2000, 26 participants used the Internet to debate the design for a new construction site. Users’ 120 contributions could be documented in the results. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

19. dol2day
www.dol2day.com/
The website provides the opportunity to simulate the complete political landscape in a modelling game. Besides the political simulation, discussion forums and polls on political topics are offered. A decision guide is provided in the form of a Dol-o-Mat (electoral tool). Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario modelling: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

20. Foodwatch
www.ess-wissen.de/vig/sn1/signer
The website of the organisation Foodwatch offers a form to be filled out (with personal data), which is then sent via e-mail to the Federal Minister for Consumer Protection. There is the further option of adding one’s own commentary to the form. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

21. Freie Demokratische-Partei (FDP)
(Free Democratic Party (FDP)
http://fdp.de/webcom/show_article_portal.php/_c-548/i.html
The website of the FDP is linked with its various party subsidiaries and offers the registered user various open and unmoderated discussion forums. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

13 Project report: www.buergerhaushalt-lichtenberg.de
14 Chat example: www.cannabislegal.de/politik/spd-struck.htm. Chat with Peter Struck
22. Gleisdreieck Berlin
www.gleisdreieck-dialog.de/
The website enabled citizens to make suggestions about the redesign of Gleisdreieck (area in the centre of Berlin) and debate them online. The results of this dialogue were then processed and presented to the Senate. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

23. Günther-Martin Pauli
www.pauli-mdl.de/
Landtag representative Pauli offers voters the opportunity to inform themselves about current political issues on his website. Additionally, citizens have the chance to participate regularly in polls on specific political questions, thereby generating a detailed view of public opinion directly accessible to the representative. Furthermore, there is the opportunity to contact the representative directly through a contact form. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form; Online voting.

24. Hamburg.de – Online-Befragung zur Familienpolitik (Hamburg.de Online Poll on Family Policy)
http://fhh.hamburg.de/stadt/Aktuell/behoerden/soziales-familie/jugend-undfamilie/familienleben-hamburg.de/start.html
For four weeks, a forum allowed residents of the city of Hamburg could discuss how the city could become more attractive for families. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

25. Hotline Bürokratieabbau (Berlin) (Hotline Bureaucracy Reduction (Berlin))
www.berlin.de/sen/wirtschaft/politik/hotline.html
The Berlin Senate aims to simplify or remove bureaucratic regulations that unnecessarily restrict business activity. The user can submit suggestions through a web form. All contributions are reviewed and evaluated for their viability. In future, the results will be available on the website and through the media. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

26. Interaktive Bürgerbeteiligung Alexanderplatz (Interactive Citizen Participation Alexanderplatz)
‘Citizen Participation Alexanderplatz’ was created by the Senate Department for Urban Development in Berlin. In various forums, plans for redesigning Alexanderplatz were discussed. The results were compiled and forwarded to the persons responsible for the effort. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

27. Interaktiver Landschaftsplan Königsflutter (Interactive Landscape Plan Königsflutter)
www.koenigsflutter.de/landschaftsplan.php
This website is a discussion forum for the city of Königsflutter. The application of new media is tested in the framework of planning and voting on the landscape plan for the city of Königsflutter am Elm. Regular sessions of the advisory body accompany the online discussions in order to generate an exchange between citizens and the administration. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

28. CDUnet – Das Mitgliedsnetz (Internal Members’ Area CDU)
http://mitglied.cdu.de/
This website serves as an internal discussion forum for all CDU party members. In the year 2000, the CDU prepared a four-day miniature party congress in the internal forum. Members had the opportunity to discuss the agenda issues in advance and to build a set of opinions. The data gained from this process were then presented to the party congress. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum; Online voting.

29. Joachim Hermann
www.joachimherrmann.de/
The website of CSU Landtag representative Hermann offers the voter various opportunities to be informed about the representative’s political work and to converse with him in live chat. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

15  www.zebralog.de/de/000134.html
16  www.politik-digital.de/egovernment/bund/Alex.shtml
17  www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/13213
30. Kandidatenwatch (Candidate Watch)
www.kandidatenwatch.de/
The website kandidatenwatch.de provides a platform for Landtag candidates in Baden-Württemberg, Saxony-Anhalt and Rhineland-Palatinate to present themselves and affords voters the opportunity to pose questions online in a candidate’s personal forum. It furthermore allows access to view archived forums and the opportunity to pose questions to former candidates anew. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

31. Köln.de (Cologne)
www.koeln.de/ob-chat/chatlog.html
In addition to a broad information offering, the city of Cologne’s website offers a chat with the mayor, transcripts of which are archived and available for viewing. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

32. Kulturforum Berlin
www.kulturforum-dialog.de/
In June 2004, the Senate Department for Urban Development in Berlin initiated a broad participation programme to discuss planning and decisions related to the development of the Kulturforum with the public. Design plans for the Kulturforum in Berlin were debated online in two steps (Concept Plan and Master Plan). Contributions to each discussion were processed and presented to the Senate, which evaluated the suggestions. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Online goes offline.

33. Landtag NRW Online-Petition (Landtag NRW Online Petition)
www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/Navigation/Petitionen/Inhalt.jsp
The website of the North Rhine-Westphalia Landtag, in addition to providing various sources of information, offers the citizen the ability to submit petitions online. Participation format: Online petition.

34. Lärnumfrage des Bundesumweltamtes (Federal Environmental Agency Noise Survey)
www.umweltbundesamt.de/laermumfrage/
More than 10,000 citizens have so far taken part in the Federal Environmental Agency’s survey on noise. In spring 2002, the Agency began on its website the first continuous online survey on disturbance to the public due to noise. The clear conclusion was that “Noise remains a problem in Germany.” Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

35. Ludwigsfelde.de Stadtforum (Ludwigsfelde)
www.forum.ludwigsfelde.de/index.php
The website of the city of Ludwigsfelde provides its citizens with multiple discussion forums (among others, a forum with the mayor: “Questions for the Mayor”). Citizens can select forum topics themselves and track those topics already discussed. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

36. Mediationsgruppe Flughafen Frankfurt (Mediation Group Frankfurt Airport)
www.mediation-flughafen.de/
The mediation group concluded its work with the presentation of its final report in January 2000. One of the mediation group’s recommendations was the creation of a regional dialogue forum, which would lead a dialogue with the region on questions related to the expansion of „FRA“ (Frankfurt airport). Concerning content, the regional dialogue forum is to primarily address the details of a ban on nighttime flights and an anti-noise pact. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

37. Mediationsgruppe Flughafen Frankfurt (Regionales Dialogforum) (Mediation Group Frankfurt Airport (Regional Dialogue Forum))
www.dialogforum-flughafen.de
The regional forum dialogue addresses the Frankfurt airport and its impact on the Rhine/Main region. In order to build communication between members of the dialogue forum and residents, a citizen forum (online discussion forum) was established. The requests from citizens collected in this forum are discussed afterwards by members of the regional dialogue forum and sent on to the officials responsible. The regional dialogue forum’s members inform citizens of the status of proceedings simultaneously through their website and at public events. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

18 Tools: www.binary-objects.de/. Binary Objects made the „discourse machine“ available to this project.
38. Oberfinanzdirektion Hannover (Regional Tax Office Hannover)
www.ofd.niedersachsen.de/master/C3445177_L20_DO_I636_h1.html
The Regional Tax Office Hannover conducts an online survey on its website on the public’s “Satisfaction with the Tax Authorities.” The participant may complete a prepared questionnaire evaluating the tax authority. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

39. Bürgerforen Oberhausen-Rheinhausen (Oberhausen-Rheinhausen)
http://www.oberhausen-rheinhausen.de/113.0.html
Discussion platform by the municipality of Oberhausen-Rheinhausen. The municipality offers the user a closed forum (requiring prior registration) and an open forum. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

40. Online-Parteitag der SPD (Online SPD Party Congress)
parteitag.websozis.de/
Online coverage of the SPD party congress with the chance to participate in the discussion over forums. Additionally, there was live coverage of the day’s activities, votes, and central themes. Voting with the “i-vote” software: the software was used on a trial basis for online voting at the 2003 SPD party congress. Representatives could select the ten most well-liked Germans at different terminals. Participation format: Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

www.wahlkreis300.net/fgiw/upload/data/Esslingenbericht.pdf
In 2001 the youth of the city of Esslingen could elect the local youth council online. Participation format: Online voting.

42. Online-Wahlen „Hochschule Bremerhaven“ (Online Elections “Hochschule Bremerhaven”)
www.hs-bremerhaven.de/frame/Online-Wahlen_an_der_Hochschule_Bremerhaven.html
At the Bremerhaven University in 2001, the first binding Internet election in the land of Bremen was organised. The university’s students, faculty, and staff were called to electronically submit their votes for the Academic Senate and the Faculty Council. Votes could be submitted from one’s home PC or by machines set up at the polling stations for that purpose. Participation format: Online voting.

43. Online-Wahlen „Juniorwahl 2006“ (Online Election “Junior Election 2006”)
www.juniorwahlen.de/
Parallel to Landtag elections held in 2006 in Rhine-Land-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt, a land-wide junior election took place online. The results were announced on election Sunday at six o’clock in the evening. Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario modelling; Online voting.

44. Online-Wahlen „StuPa Osnabrück 2000“ (Online Election “StuPa Osnabrück 2000”)
www.wahlkreis300.net/fgiw/upload/data/stupa.pdf
The election to the Student Parliament at the University of Osnabrück was the first valid online election to be conducted worldwide. For the first time in history, a constitutionally legitimate representation was elected over an open net. Participation format: Online voting.

45. Online-Wahlen „Test Wahlen 2001“ (Online Election “Test Election 2001”)
www.internetwahlen.de/
Youth in Lower Saxony were called upon during the run-up to municipal elections in 2001 to conduct a virtual election in the Internet. Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario modelling; Online voting.

In 1998 a group of students organised a simulated, virtual federal election on the Internet. Participation format: Political simulation / Scenario modelling; Online voting.

19 Project report: www.crypto.ruhr-unibochum.de/imperia/md/content/seminare/itsws03_04/ausarbeitungen/seminar_e_voting_ausarbeitung.pdf
47. Ottos Weblog  
http://ottosweblog.blogg.de  
Besides multiple open forums and various surveys, the Bundestag representative Hans-Joachim Otto offers a weblog on his homepage. The representative makes available here various texts on current political issues and answers questions resulting from comments on earlier articles. The user has the opportunity to read the articles and to relate to them directly using the comment function. Participation format: Comment function.

48. Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main (Planning Association Megalopolis Frankfurt/Rhine-Main)  
The dialogue site is no longer available. The online discussion was concerned with land allocation planning for the region Rhine/Main. The results were made available to the officials responsible. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

49. politik-digital.de  
www.politik-digital.de  
The politik-digital.de website offers the user, in addition to a range of information offerings, diverse forums and live chats with politicians and experts. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat; Comment function.

50. pro-information  
www.pro-information.de/  
The website of the signature campaign in support of a freedom of information act enables the user to submit his signature online or to send in a sheet of paper printed from the Internet. Participation format: Digital signature collection; Online goes offline.

51. Projekt „Blickpunkt Bundestag online“ (Project “Focal Point Bundestag online“)  
www.bundestag.de/blickpunkt/02  
The website Focal Point Bundestag collects various political materials from Bundestag members, to which citizens may respond directly or which may serve as a basis for a “letter to the editor.” The website further serves as an information platform for a range of political topics. Participation format: Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

52. Projekt „E-Demokratie“  
www.bundestag.de/edemokratie/index169a.html  
The Bundestag’s e-democracy project offers the user a variety of discussion forums, but also the availability of an online podium discussion. The project ran in a specific timeframe and concluded with the constituent session of the 15th Bundestag. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

53. Projekt „E-Parlament“  
www.bundestag.de/eparlament/index.html  
The project aims to involve the user in the different stages through various offerings throughout the course of a legislative proceeding. During the course of a proceeding, online forums, online consultations, and online conferences are held. This type of participation offering should give the citizen the opportunity to actively follow the legislative process and to get directly involved. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

54. Projekt „Mitmischen“ (Project “Get Involved“)  
www.mitmischen.de/abstimmen_distributor.php  
Online youth forum of the German Bundestag. The website provides the opportunity to participate in various polls, the results of which are made available to elected representatives. In addition, the user can converse with the representatives directly in chat. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

55. Sie- schreiben-Dir (They-Write-You)  
www.sie-schreiben-dir.de  
The user can determine by entering his postal code which member of the Bundestag represents his constituency. The user can then select one or more representatives from his constituency with whom he would like to take up contact. The representatives will subsequently be notified of the constituent’s interest, whereupon they respond and/or may open a content forum for discussion. Anyone may view the forums, but only citizens from the particular constituencies may contribute to their contents. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum, Direct online dialogue per e-mail or contact form.

www.mediakommtransfer.de/Content/de/Homepage/__GemeinsameDokumente__de/Veranstaltungen/Leitbild_20Region_20FFM,property=dokument.pdf
56. Stadt Mainz (City of Mainz)
www.mainz.de/WGAPublisher/online/html/default/hthn-6m7bt2.de.html
The city of Mainz’s website offers its residents, in addition to periodically occurring ‘citizen chats’ (with the mayor and various department heads), the option of ordering documents for postal vote online. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

57. Stadt Weiterstadt (City of Weiterstadt)
www.weiterstadt.de/deutsch/rathaus/stadtverordnetenversammlung/index.php
The website maintains for access by any voter information and transcripts of administrative assembly meetings (voting records by party – not name). Likewise, the names of all members of the administrative assembly and their membership in the different committees (incl. e-mail address) are available. Moreover, on the first Wednesday of every month, a one-hour live chat is held with the mayor. The chat interviews derived in this way are archived and accessible to all residents online. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat.

58. Stadtgespräch Münster (“City Talk” Münster)
www.muenster.org/stadtgespraech/
This website serves as a forum for the city of Münster. All citizens can get involved in discussions online, and consultations with the mayor take place regularly. Participation format: Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum.

59. Stadtteilgestaltung in Horn-Lehe (Quarter Management Horn-Lehe)
http://web.archive.org/web/20011204050205/www.horn-lehe.de/
www.horn-lehe.de/index2.html
www.politik-digital.de/egovernment/bund/hamburg1.shtml
The district of Horn-Lehe in Bremen debated its transportation problems and the quarter’s future design online from 29 October to 3 December 2001. In all, 69 participants registered for the discussion, and 224 contributions were composed. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

60. Tagesschau
www.tagesschau.de;
www.tagesschau.de/inland;
http://forum.tagesschau.de/
The website of the television news programme Tagesschau offers various discussion forums and regular live chats with politicians and experts. Participation format: Moderated, synchronised online chat; Thematically defined, unmoderated discussion forum.

61. Virtuelle Stadtplanung (Virtual City Planning)
www.virtuelle-stadtplanung.de/start.htm
The website Virtual City Planning allows the user to tour various concepts for changing the urban landscape in two locations (Celle, Halle). Furthermore, the user has the opportunity to comment on the different design concepts online and to vote on them. Participation format: Thematically defined online survey.

62. Virtueller Ortsverein der SPD (SPD Virtual Ortsverein)
www.vov.de/
The SPD’s virtual local association (Ortsverein) is a project from 1996. The local association is recognized as a working group of the SPD and aims to promote political opinion-making over the Internet. Motions, debates, and voting take place online without exception. Participation format: Online voting; Thematically open, unmoderated discussion forum; Community builder.

63. Virtuelles Interview (Virtual Interview)
www.wegewerk.com/produkte/interviews/
www.tagesschau.de/aktuell/meldungen/0,1185,OID817150,00.html
The virtual interview format is similar in concept to a live chat. In this case, the difference is that the questions were first made public, giving users the opportunity to favour certain questions, thereby determining the ordering of the questions themselves. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives; Online rating.
4. Metropole Hamburg - Wachsende Stadt
(Expanding City Hamburg)
www.wachsende-stadt.hamburg.de/index-flash.html; http://demos.tutech.net/
Citizens of the city of Hamburg had several weeks’ time in which to express themselves on the problem of emigration from the city and to submit suggestions on more attractive arrangements for the city. From the many suggestions, five project suggestions were selected by a jury and implemented. Participation format: Moderated online dialogue with thematically fixed objectives.

65. 37sechsBlog
http://37sechsblog.de/?p=350
This weblog is a page that addresses especially those interested in such topics as shop committee, youth and trainee representation, and constitutional labour law. The site serves as an exchange of experiences. Participation format: Comment function.

66. Werkbank Deutschland
(Workbench Germany)
www.werkbankdeutschland.de/Werkbank_Deutschland:Hauptseite
In December 2005, the project Workbench Germany was officially concluded. On these pages, users could delve into relations in Germany. A new discussion method was employed for that purpose. Following this method, instead of posting opinions among one another like before, one incorporates them into an ongoing text. The advantage of this method was that each new visitor always encountered a compact text on his topic. One could therefore always quickly join in the running conversation. Participation format: Community-editing.

67. Wiki-Programmdiskussion
(Wiki Programme Discussion)
www.gruene-service.de/wiki
The project “Wiki Programme Discussion” lasted five days, ending on 4 June 2005. All those interested had the opportunity to follow the debate on the Greens’ electoral programme on the Internet and to advance the opinion-forming process themselves by writing and commenting on articles. Following the conclusion of the process, the texts and suggestions presented were reviewed in the federal board and partially agreed. The indicated link now leads to general information as the project is completed. Participation format: Community-editing.

68. Wiki Münster
http://wiki.muenster.org/index.php/Hauptseite
The Münster Wiki is a free encyclopaedia whose entries emphasise the concerns of the city of Münster. Any user can write, annotate, or edit articles. Since November 2005, 285 articles have been composed. Participation format: Community-editing.
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8. ABOUT POLITIK-DIGITAL.DE

pol-di.net e.V. was founded and incorporated as an association in 1999 for the purpose of actively contributing to the European information and knowledge society. Since then, at the centre of its mission has been the improvement of opportunities for citizens’ active democratic participation and the growth of transparency within political institutions – where use of new media plays a particular role.

pol-di.net e.V. arose from wahlkampf98.de, the then-largest online information platform for the 1998 Bundestag electoral campaign, and its successor portal politik-digital.de, which was conceived as an independent, non-partisan information-, communication-, and participation platform in the Internet.

In carrying out its mission, pol-di.net e.V. views itself as a pluralistic platform open to different users: it should provide a forum for all actors and observers of the interconnectedness of knowledge, media, and politics. The overall aim of its engagement is to lend further impulse to political participation and use of the Internet to promote the common good.

The website politik-digital.de was distinguished in 2001 for its numerous activities with the Grimme Online Award recognizing media excellence for the category „active educational offering in the Internet.” More renowned prizes were to follow: In 2002, the project „wahlthemen.de,” which politik-digital.de conceived and maintained on behalf of the Federal Agency for Civic Education, was awarded the European Commission’s „Europrix 2002” in the category „Citizens, Democracy and e-government: Empowerment and Improvement.” politik-digital.de also received the „Alternative Media Prize 2003” in the „Internet” category. In 2001 and 2003, politik-digital.de was counted among the American Internet company Politics Online’s „25 Who Are Changing the World of Internet and Politics.” In addition, its „Metablocker” weblog was nominated in 2004 for Deutsche Welle’s „Best of the Blogs Award” in the category „Best Journalistic German Blog.” In the run-up to the 2005 Bundestag election, pol-di.net e.V. initiated the project Ich-gehe-nicht-hin.de (I’m not going [to the polls]) to give non-voters a voice.

pol-di.net e.V. moreover views itself as a part of the European information society. Constituted as a Europe-wide association, pol-di.net e.V. and the website politik-digital.de are not only operating an information and communication platform in Germany. In 2001 pol-di.net e.V. additionally initiated and financed the establishment of the now independent platform europadigital.de to accompany the European integration process.

Following the German pioneers, additional sister portals have been established in France (politique-digitale.fr), Switzerland (politik-digital.ch) and The Netherlands (politiek-digitaal.nl).

In close cooperation with representatives from politics, business, and academia, pol-di.net e.V. develops solutions to the current challenges facing information and civil society. In addition to regularly updated journalistic offerings on the politik-digital.de website and online citizen consultations with well-known politicians, pol-di.net e.V. offers scholarly expertise in the form of studies, surveys, and research at the nexus of politics, communication, and the Internet.

In general, pol-di.net places the emphasis of its work along current discussions about public use of the Internet. Since its founding, it has handled many different themes, among others, basic information provision, “digital divide,” freedom of information, data protection, copyright, cultural diversity in the Internet or the role of public radio in interactive settings.
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