

EPRI Newsletter JUNE 2005 - Issue 3

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EPRI NEWS



IST NEWS

➤ A successful start: Results of the lately held EPRI knowledge workshop

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The first EPRI knowledge workshop "Beyond the web: Parliamentarians & communication" took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on May 23-24, 2005. Altogether, 24 participants from different EU countries were participating on the two days workshop. Among the participants Members of National and the European Parliament as well as representatives of the European Commission. The organisation of the EPRI workshop was supported by the EPRI Secretariat, which hereby started its activities to provide additional opportunities for exchange in the field of ICT. The first workshop was chaired by Prof. Stephen Coleman; the major questions tackled in the workshop were:

- How do we ensure the transparency of parliaments?
- Should citizens have the right to contact MPs through any channel?
- Whose responsibility is it to support the use of technology by parliamentarians?
- Should the Internet be used to consult with the public?

As a result of the discussions, consensus on the creation of a set of expectations to encourage e-participation was achieved. For parliamentarians, these involve the need to achieve closeness, mutuality, empathy, and coherence with their respective electorates. From the parliamentarian's perspective, closeness, mutuality, empathy, and coherence could be considered as a 'mission statement for online parliamentarians' which is designed to facilitate their effective use of ICT.

Expectations for eParticipation

- The use of the Internet as a means of communication by Parliamentarians should be inclusive, which leads to suggestions about the deployment of ICT infrastructure.
- MPs should be accessible online.
- Although parliaments across Europe do provide technical facilities and support for parliamentarians who wish to use the Internet as a means of communication (with the exception of party-related activity), it was agreed that MPs in countries where support is not so forthcoming should encourage their parliaments to do so.
- There is a need to further investigate what works and what does not in terms of public consultation and the role of parliaments and MPs. Best practices and case studies were discussed as the most appropriate way of carrying out this investigation.

For detailed information and material about the EPRI workshop see: <http://www.epri.org/epriweb/contents/Workshops.php>

The coming EPRI workshops are planned to take place every six months. The next one will be linked to the Ministerial eGovernment conference hosted by the British Presidency of the European Union at the end of November 2005.

- EUYOUNGART Symposium, 14.7.2005
- Euro Conference on Mobile Government, 10.-12.7.2005
- eChallenges e-2005, 19-21.10.2005
- INTELCITIES: Project of the month in March 2005

EUYOUNGART Symposium "Why Participate? Youth, Politics and the Future of Democracy in Europe", Brussels

At the EUYOUNGART Symposium, which will take place in Centre Borschette in Brussels, a new instrument to measure political participation of youth in Europe will be presented. Based on the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of previous empirical research, the EUYOUNGART consortium developed a model questionnaire. The methodological quality of the EUYOUNGART model questionnaire will contribute to the quality of future comparative research in Europe.

<http://www.sora.at/wahlen/EUYOUNGART/>

Euro Conference on Mobile Government, Brighton

The First Euro Conference on Mobile Government, Euro mGov 2005, will take place from 10-12 July 2005 in Brighton, UK. The conference will cover all aspects of mobile government, its technologies, services, implementation and implications for governments and the society from all around the world. It will feature leading m-gov implementations primarily from Europe and all around the world. The Euro mGov 2005 conference aims to become the largest forum and showcase for developments in public administration and mobile Internet technologies, services and business models, and to tie them to the existing and future m-government applications and government business models.

<http://www.icmg.mgovernment.org/euro.html>

eChallenges e-2005, Ljubljana

The eChallenges e-2005 Conference and Exhibition takes place in Ljubljana, Slovenia 19-21 October 2005. Focusing on e-business, e-government, e-work, eEurope beyond 2005 and ICT take-up by SMEs and international cooperation on IST, the goal of e-2005 is to stimulate take-up of research and technology development results by industry, in particular SMEs, and the European public sector. e-2005 will provide a forum to showcase the achievements of FP6, eEurope 2005 and regional, national and international ICT-related initiatives, and look forward by focusing on the thematic priorities of FP6 and FP7.

<http://www.echallenges.org/2005/default.asp?page=home&#>

INTELCITIES: Project of the month in March 2005

Intercities is an RTD project that pools advanced knowledge and experience of e-government, planning systems and citizen participation. The project is being led by Manchester and Siena, and brings together 18 European cities, 36 research groups and 20 ICT companies. Research has been funded under FP 6, with co-funding from the Swiss Government. The project aims to create a new and innovative set of interoperable e-Government services that will provide information to citizens and businesses about all aspects of city life via interactive city-wide internet-based applications through a multi-purpose 'eCity Platform'. The platform will demonstrate how technology can contribute to planning and administration of cities, leading to long term sustainability and successful urban environments.

<http://www.intercitiesproject.com>