

EPRI Newsletter 2006 - Issue 7

This Newsletter provides updated information on the EPRI initiative and on IST Events. Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anybody who may be interested. Subscription is possible, through our web site www.epri.org. In case you do not want to receive this Newsletter anymore just reply to this email stating "remove" and your email address will be deleted from the mailing list.



EPRI NEWS

- > **3rd EPRI workshop "Visions of future political interaction - An online hearing with Europe's National Parliamentarians" 18 - 20.07.2006, Virtual event**
- > **2nd EPRI Study: Available online**

3rd EPRI workshop "Visions of future political interaction"

This online hearing will bring together MPs, Expert, Visionaries and Jurors. Visionaries will present practical solutions and ideas to be scrutinised by a Parliamentary and Expert panel. The participants can review and scrutinise proposals or solutions, relevant to different aspects of their work. As an outcome participating MPs will undertake to experiment with or pilot any of these proposals that appeal to them. Altogether there will be 3 sessions in a period of three days. Themes will be

1. MPs relations with citizens: Developing their capacity to listen & represent;
2. Citizens initiatives: Improving their capacity to take action and influence;
3. Transparency & accountability: How to raise these in parliament & Parliamentary work.

During the sessions as well as afterwards the presentations, discussions, demos etc. will be available at the EPRI website. To get further information please contact

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2nd EPRI Study: Available online

The second EPRI study "What citizens want: How young citizens are behaving in the digital era and what parliamentarians need to know to respond" looks at things from another side: the centre are not the parliamentarians, but young citizens whose generation stands for the 'beneficiaries' or 'victims' of representation, party wooing and legislation. The aim is on the one hand to present a picture of how young people are viewing and using technologies. On the other hand the emphasis is laid on their attitude towards politics and their potential activities. This paper looks at three dimensions of our young citizens: consumers, social beings, and political actors. To present a comprehensive introduction to the so-called Generation M the study first characterizes the adolescents by using current evaluations which allows up-to-date insights into their everyday life and their behaviour in the dimensions mentioned above. In addition the paper gives a possible translation of how to deal with this conclusion of the connected young people in the field of politics in the term of a broad agenda of concrete action suggestions.

While the previous paper was designed to take things forward by setting out user needs and recommendations to aid problem areas in the wide field of parliamentarians and the use of new communications technologies, this study are designed for those politicians, parties and parliaments ready for a change when it comes to the young generation and its needs. This paper presents some of the most recent investigations, from the UK and the US, into citizens, participation, politics, and online behaviour. The full study is available at www.epri.org/epriknowledge



IST NEWS

- > **International e-Participation and Local Democracy Symposium, 26-28 July 2006, Budapest, Hungary**
- > **2nd International Workshop on electronic voting, 2-4 August 2006, Bregenz, Austria**
- > **IST Project: eRepresentatives** - A virtual desktop to support the mobile elected representative

International e-Participation and Local Democracy Symposium

The Symposium's overall objective is to discuss the evolving relationship between eGovernment and eParticipation and to critically re-examine the way in which "readiness" in these areas is defined and measured globally. Its first phase will take place in Budapest, Hungary, setting the stage for discussion and debate around the critical challenges stakeholders face as they struggle to deliver the full potential of e-government. Jointly-hosted by the Hungarian Government, the Symposium will attract delegates from Europe and beyond. Those involved will help shape the future agenda for e-Participation at a time when International institutions are searching for the way forward. A successive phase will take place in Baltimore (United States, 2-4 August 2006), so as to take the discussion further by exploring new and emerging e-applications in the country that pioneered the art of online campaigning but now faces the challenge of translating these tools into more inclusive governance. Further information available at: www.edemocracysymposium.org

2nd International Workshop on electronic voting

This workshop is co-organized by the Council of Europe. It is the international meeting point for e-voting experts from all over Europe and beyond, to hold an interdisciplinary and open discussion of all issues electronic voting involves. The main aim of this workshop is to bring together e-voting specialists working in academia, politics, government and industry in order to:

- > Discuss all forms of electronic voting;
- > Formulate the interdisciplinary issues involved (technology, law, politics and society) in designing and implementing e-voting;
- > Present new ways of solving the voting paradigm of unequivocal identification of the voter and full anonymity of the vote;
- > Report on implementations, their legal, organisational and technical framework, the project experience made, and future plans.

Further information available at: www.e-voting.cc/topics/Conference

IST Project: eRepresentative - A virtual desktop to support the mobile elected representative

eRepresentative is a research and development project that will create a virtual desktop to support the mobile Representative. The project is co-funded under the IST Programme by the European Commission. The virtual desktop will allow personalised interaction with, and integration of, relevant information for elected representatives to support their day-to-day committee work. The project includes further extensive evaluation of how well the desktop supports each Assembly's legislative process, and meets needs for inter-assembly communication. Further information available at the project website: www.eRepresentative.org