

**CALL FOR PAPERS:
INVITATION ONLY WORKSHOP ON
Frameworks and Methods for evaluating eParticipation**

One day workshop supported by DEMO-net, the eParticipation Network of Excellence

Date: Friday, 12 October, 2007 (!! New Date!!)

Organisers: Prof. Dr. Herbert Kubicek, Barbara Lippa & Dr. Hilmar Westholm

Location: Institute for Informationmanagement Bremen, Bremen (Germany)

Background

One of DEMO-net's objectives is to improve research on eParticipation by supporting the exchange of experiences and ideas on salient issues between researchers from different disciplines and countries. One of these issues is the evaluation of eParticipation initiatives and projects. Evaluation becomes an issue when planning a participation project (ex ante) or when assessing the effects ex post, when selecting ICT-tools, or when a choice has to be made between different projects for funding. In many eParticipation projects some kind of evaluation is included, either by the project members themselves or by an external third party. But how valid are the concepts and methods applied? Do they meet the standards established for evaluation in other areas such as environment or education?

Objectives

On a one day workshop with those DEMO-net members who have marked "evaluation" as one of their research areas in the DEMO-net survey, we want to get a picture of the state of the art of evaluation in eParticipation research, exchange innovative and path making approaches and identify research challenges

Participants are asked to submit a two-page white paper addressing for example

- success criteria and indicators for the evaluation of whole projects (such as input, process, output, outcome, impact on a general level, or outreach, quality of contributions, acceleration of decision-making processes, fairness, transparency or cost-effectiveness on a more concrete level);
- criteria and methods for comparative evaluation of projects (rankings and benchmarking),
- basic issues such as stakeholder analysis und multi-perspective evaluation or the limits of neutral and objective evaluation in this field,
- quality criteria to assess technical tools (e.g. usability, accessibility, security, privacy, design) and their role in overall evaluation of projects,
- the adequacy of different tools for specific eParticipation-environments,
- the validity and reliability of methods of evaluation (internal or external evaluation, online and/or offline evaluation, qualitative and/or quantitative methods), reflecting the strengths and weaknesses with regard to different criteria and eParticipation environments.

Organization

Papers should sketch what authors believe to be either good practice of evaluation or key challenges for improving evaluation in eParticipation research. They should be scholarly, employing the usual conventions of scientific writing with references to broader theoretical and/or methodological literature.

On the workshop papers will be grouped around common subjects. The main purpose of the workshop is not presentation but discussion starting from the papers. They may be regarded as outlines of full papers, to be written after the discussion at the workshop and published as a workshop brochure. Co-operation on further development of the papers, e.g. for submission to conferences and journals will be facilitated by DEMO-net.

Funding for travel and subsistence may be available from DEMO-net in cases where funding is not available from other sources.

Important dates

Papers have to be sent to westholm@ifib.de

Submission deadline: Friday, 6 September. (!! New Date!!)

Notice of Acceptance: Friday, 13 September (!! New Date!!).