

**University of Bergamo**  
**Faculty of Economics**  
via dei Caniana 2, Bergamo (Città bassa)  
12th March 2007  
Aula 18

Demo-Net - Invitation only - Workshop on

**E-participation public policies**  
**and implications of e-participation on the decision making process**  
(proposed by Stephen Coleman, University of Leeds  
and Anna Carola Freschi, University of Bergamo)

**Workshop Agenda**

Demo-Net workshops aim to discuss research issues emerging from the white papers presented by the invited participants. The format intends to be interactive, more a round table about a common agenda, than a set of individual presentations of their own papers. The work is organized in two main sections. A draft with the starting points for the discussion will be circulated some days in advance.

**1<sup>st</sup> Session: 9:30-12:45**

**Chair: Stephen Coleman**

E-participation as a new public policy. How central today and why.  
General frameworks, institutional contexts, visions and practices,  
government/governance/technology.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session: 14:15-16:30**

**Chair: Anna Carola Freschi**

Specific research questions on e-participation/e-democracy public policies.  
Political/social actors, levels of governance, arena, comparative analysis,  
social/political/digital divide, public sphere,  
impacts on decision making processes, usual/new politics.

The workshop will be attended by:

Joachim Åström, Karin Hedström, Mikael Granberg, *Örebro University*

Mariella Berra, *University of Turin*

Stephen Coleman and Agnes Schneeberger, *University of Leeds*

Keith Culver, *University of New Brunswick and Oxford University*

Fiorella De Cindio, *University of Milano*

Arthur Edwards, *University of Rotterdam*

Leopoldina Fortunati, *University of Udine*

Anna Carola Freschi, Michela Balocchi, Luca Raffini, Giovanna Tizzi, *University of Bergamo*

Claudia Padovani, *University of Padova*

Laura Sartori, *University of Bologna*

Cristian Schneider, *University of Koblenz*

John Shaddock, *Yorkshire and Humber Information Society Unit, eRegion Adviser*

Thierry Vedel, *Fondation National de Sciences Politiques*

## CALL FOR PAPERS: INVITATION ONLY WORKSHOP on

### **E-participation public policies and implications of e-participation on the decision making process**

#### **One day workshop**

supported by DEMO-net, the eParticipation Network of Excellent

**Location:** University of Bergamo, Italy

#### **Overview**

The research community is involved in many efforts to understand political participation in the Internet age and the different ways the public institutions and citizens exploit ICTs to broaden and deepen participation in the political decision making process. DEMO\_Net – the e-participation network of excellence funded by the European Commission ([www.demo-net.org](http://www.demo-net.org)) - carried out a preliminary survey with this research community to identify the key issues in this growing and multifaceted research field.

E-participation has increasingly become an object of specific public policies, at different territorial level, adopting different perspectives and priorities. Moreover, the commitment of political actors is apparently one of the prominent elements determining models and results of public e-participation initiatives put into practice. Therefore Demo-Net proposes a workshop devoted to the discussion of these issues, paying attention to the relationships among public policy contexts/features, e-participation models, effects of e-participation on the public decision making. It is also to be noted that the field of public policies related to e-participation shows a strong inter-sectorial profile itself (e.g. dealing with technological infrastructure and its governance, e-government, institutional and decision making reforms, digital divide and education policies, communication sector governance, etc.).

Those researchers working on these topics are invited at the Demo\_Net workshop to discuss their views on the development of this research field, sharing their approaches and findings.

#### **Objectives**

The Demo\_Net workshop has the following objectives

- to facilitate close and sustainable cooperation between researchers from different academic disciplines to *better understand the field of public policies dealing with e-participation and its conditions*

- to identify *research challenges* and how to tackle

- to develop *schemes for comparative researchs*

- to develop *schemes for interdisciplinary researchs*

#### **Submissions**

The workshop will combine short presentations of white papers with co-operative discussion. Authors must submit a 2-4-page white paper for presentation at the workshop to the workshop organiser ([anna.freschi@unibg.it](mailto:anna.freschi@unibg.it))

White papers should sketch what they believe to be the key research challenges - in the field of the analysis on eParticipation public policies and implications for public decision making - in a brief form using the conventions of scientific writing, such as abstracts, literature references and logical argument, and may be regarded as prototypes for future development into full papers. Authors may be asked to revise their white paper. The final

papers will be published as a workshop brochure. Co-operation and further development of the workshop papers for submission to conferences and journals will be facilitated.

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

*Important dates (first call)*

*Deadline for submission: January 10, 2007; Notification of acceptance: January 15, 2007*

*The Demo-Net workshop on e-participation policies has been postponed to the 12th March 2007; term for submission extended to the 31st January 2007; acceptance of the proposed papers notified within 12th February.*

**Workshop: 12 March 2007**

**Program Committee**

Stephen Coleman, University of Leeds

Anna Carola Freschi, University of Bergamo (anna.freschi@unibg.it)

The University of Bergamo is 10 minutes by taxi and 30 minutes by bus from the Airport of Milano/Bergamo International Airport *Orio al Serio*

<http://www.sacbo.it/Airpor/portalProcess.jsp>