

# Annual conference

## E-Gov session

**Synthesis of the 19th May seminar on  
« e-democracy, e-participation of citizens ;  
what roles for the Regions ? »**

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on behalf of co-organisers**

# A seminar of a full day

- **Co-organised by**
  - Wallonie,
  - Nord - Pas de Calais
  - Erisa
- **With the support of :**
  - European Commission
  - Committee of the Regions
- **Figures**
  - 7 Case studies presented
  - 97 attendees (Representing 57 Regions or Provinces)

- **The CITI call for project aims at providing associations of citizens means to integrate ICT in their daily practices**
  - **To help citizens expression ; to support citizens point of view take into account,**
  - **Focus set on reasonable integration of ICT**
  - **First call in 2004**
  - **175 k€ for about 30 projects,**

- **DREAM2 project aims at the sensitization and information of local authorities decision makers about the existing pioneer actions**

- 36 exploratory months, 340 k€ (60% ERDF I.A.)
- A cycle of seminars with cases presentations, debate and share of experience
- A web site with key documents, cases and a letter
- 5 pilot projects supported and followed up
- A learning project

# Scottish Parliament (U.K.)

- **The parliament created a portal that provide scottish citizens with a fully furnished system enabling e-petitioning**
  - A portal and a set of tools
  - Information about petition (why created, ref. docs.),
  - For each a forum « for » / « against »,
  - Transmission to parliament,
  - Transparent follow-up of petition treatment
  - all topics possibles (health, roads...)

- **The TOM programme aims at offering citizens a portal to submit ideas or thoughts about draft Acts of ministries**
  - **6 steps process**
    - submit idea,
    - commenting the idea (15 days)
    - citizens formalise their text
    - Validation and signing
    - Ministry answer during the following month
  - **Several laws voted coming from this proces**



- **The e-democracy pilot action aims at providing local authorities with a platform and a pack of software in order they can implement on line consultations**
  - **5 pilot local authorities**
  - **That do not have required skills or means**
  - **The platform enables provision of information, studies ; call for comments on proposals ; polls...**



- **The e-consultation single platform aims at offering to «institutions» a possibility to implement on line consultations :**
  - Documents to be download,
  - Fora,
  - Poll system,
  - Individualized access,
  - Many topics of the daily life

- **A project that will lead to produce and share a platform and a set of tools :**
  - **Enabling information,**
  - **Individualization,**
  - **Electronic letters,**
  - **Mailboxes,**
  - **Fora,**
  - **Documents repository,**
  - **Polls...**

# Lessons : Typology

- **Two main type of roles :**
  - For themselves (relation with their citizens),
  - Incentive policies (to support local actions).
- **Nearly shared analysis, but several angles to tackle the same object :**
  - Sensitization, information,
  - Platforms & tools development & share,
  - Support and follow up pilot actions,
  - Several players to targete & involve: citizens, local authorities...

# Lessons : impacts

- **Well implemented e-democracy reinforce representative democracy :**
  - Helps understanding and agreement on public action and projects,
  - Provide citizens with one more mean of expression,
  - Make raise new and better defined ideas or projects,
  - To date few figures, few observed increase of engagement, but clearly upper than without

# Lessons : limits

- **Acompanyaning measures :**
  - Consultations need ex-ante information & ex-post accountability
  - E-petitions, e-consultation need treatment means
  - E-consultations may create deception
  - E-Animation, mediation have to be anticipated
- **But do not dream too much :**
  - Few constructive idea merge (to react > to propose)
  - The newness effect rapidly fade,
  - ICT mainly reveal off line reality,

# Lessons : key questions

## To tackle problems and create sustainable changes :

- Start with daily life topics (attractivity to engage)
- Technologies or tools alone do not solve the core problem (distance to politics)
- Key issues are :
  - Decision makers will
  - re-organisation,
  - Pedagogy,
  - Explantions on topics, rules of the game,
  - Which is the right place for e-tools added value

# Lessons : The time

## • A long path to reach a real impact on democracy :

- To educate people, to create real changes of minds : time is needed (20, 40, 60 years ?)
- Moving forward step by step, addressing key issues, not transplanting unadapted e-tools
- Creating and developing more and more learning exercises and favouring the share of experience

- **Two 19th May 's conclusions :**
  - The Regions role in e-democracy is more and more clear and emerging
  - The Regions want to share experience
  
- **Tomorrow a collaborative project development session :**
  - To list EU project ideas & interested partners,
  - To estimate the relevance of a thematic work group under Ianis+ project
  - Action plan for following months