Fund **Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme 2007- 2013**

Project Length **18 months starting on the 1 st of January 2009**

Project Coordination

Pierre-Jean Verrando and Nicolas Hauw

2nd Transnational Workshop Barcelona 10-12 February 2010

Workshop Report: New Media Tools and Participatory Democracy

Workshop Agenda

Wednesday 10th February

16:00 – 19:00 **Project Steering Group Meeting**

Thursday 11th February

9:15 – 9:25 **Welcome to Barcelona** – Joan Pedregosa, ITD

9:25 – 10:00 **Developing Participatory Democracy** – Haroon Saad, QeC ERAN

10:00 – 11:15 **Marry Studies**

- **Ideal-EU Project** – Francisco Molinary
  The IDEAL-EU project is supported by the efforts of the European Parliament to raise awareness on the topic of climate change and energy conservation among EU citizens, especially the younger generations, and to propose the appropriate policy responses at all institutional levels (including Member States and Regions)

- **"Virtual European Parliament"** – Mark De Colvenaer
  The objective of the project is to successfully believe to public room – the Virtual European Parliament to you – for debates between citizens and decision makers (i.e. MEP's) in the EC. The results of the project will contribute to the objective in i2010 to one goal, a single European information spas, with increased knowledge about how to bring citizens and decision makers together in written and debated dialogue form. Our project will also contribute to an improved legislative process by successfully bringing citizens and decision makers together.

- **Pen-net** – Francisco Molinary
  PEP-NET is a European network of all stakeholders activates in the field of eParticipation. PEP-NET includes public bodies, solution providers and citizens organization, as well as expert researchers and scientists. The network is open to all organizations willing and actively trying to advance the designs and use of eParticipation in Europe. The project aims to help overcome fragmentation and promote best practice by connecting established and experienced eParticipation players and networks throughout Europe, grasping a critical first step.

11:45 – 13:30 **Presentation and Debate with Zemos 98**
ZEMOS98 is an international collective of creation and cultural production based in Seville (Spain) since 1995. The members are technicians and communicators of images and sound that use Internet as a spas for communication, learning and creation. They organize the International Festival ZEMOS98, about contemporary audio-visual culture, with artists and projects like Dj Spooky, Peter Greenaway, Coldcut, Wu Ming. Web, the on-line page, is a publication specialized in contemporary culture and creation, where you can find texts, on-line television, radio and blogs about audio-visual average and art.

15:00 – 17:30 **Workshops**

- **Using Twitter** – Nathaniel Ashford, ActionAid
  This workshop is for those who are already part of the 'Why Vote' on-line Twitter group established through the workshop, and those who would like to use twitter and get connected. This will be will be "tweeting" by the swindles practical workshop and delegates the workshop ends.

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- **How to develop meaningful youth participation; why and where start?** – Rogier Elshout
  'Youth participation is the thing. Why? Because the youth is the future', is the standard reply. First of all, it's false. Young people live here and now, and thus should be dealt with in respect of that. But even then, why would you want to have them inform you? And how do you communicate with two different generations? These questions seem very logical, but are often skipped or not dealt with fully. However they are the first step to a successful project.

Friday 12th February

9:00 – 10:00 **Launch of "Why votes" for Twitter based discussion** – Nathaniel Ashford, ActionAid

10:00 – 10:30 **Average New tactical for local political participation** – David Casacuberta, Teacher of philosofy of science – UAB
New smart phones prevail with cameras, Internet Global access and Positioning System they are the perfect tools to improve political participation, facilitating movements from the real world to virtual one, and back to the real world. This talk will present several connected studies on how to use mobile phones to improve political participation as well expert some methodological and strategical hints on how to use them for this purpose.

10:30 – 11:45 **Panel Debate / discussion**
- **David Casacuberta** – Professor of philosophy of science – UAB
- **Leda Guidi** – City of Bologna
- **Antoni Gutiérrez-Rubí**
This session will contain of short inputs from the panel, followed by discussion with you, using twitter expert well expert direct interventions.

12:15 – 12:35 **"On line community of practice for an emerging civil European society."** – Jim Seger – City Mined
On-line The community of practice consists of two collaborating sides, where people share their desires, opinions and experience and a showcase side, where people show to each other and the outside world, who they are, what they do and when. Proposed instruments to facilitate you the community: real Time collaboration: chat, instant messaging, whiteboard and discussion table; voting and surveys to get quick responses and it designs a support for proposals; collaborative documents: googledocs, wiki to write together and it produces text with shared vision.

12:35 – 16:30 **Investigate and debate to yourself**
12:35 – 13:30   Session One
15:00 – 15:45   Session Two – Feedback
Issues emerging from twitter "why votes" contributions and taking the on line community of practice forward.

15:45 – 16:30 **Reflections**
- **Oscar Martínez** – ITD
  Comprehensive analysis on the main issues emerging during these 2days of meetings, by using "innovative" ways of presentation (software and comes up).

- **Haroon Saad** – QeC ERAN
  Open Mike.

16:30 **End of workshop**

European Regeneration Areas Network
Tel: +32 (0)2 524 45 45
Fax: +32 (0)2 524 44 31
Rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains 48,
B-1000 Brussels
E-mail: info@qec.skynet.be
www.qec-eran.org

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List of participants

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Workshop Report

Welcome to Barcelona – *Juan Pedregosa, ITD*

To begin with, we shall listen to Juan Pedregosa presenting ITD, the company that it represents, the event and the objectives we wish to realize.

Developing Participatory Democracy – *Haroon Saad, QeC ERAN*

Haroon Saad exhibits an approach to the possible causes of the crisis in politics that is generalized in Europe and that provokes a disaffection towards everything political and that lowers the democratic participation at a number of important levels.

Under the phrase "The politics are broken" it determines that although the economy is in crisis, so also is the politics, and that is stated for:

- The low confidence in the politicians and the organizations,
- The transformation of the politician in a career, losing the services duty to society,
- The political dialogue deteriorates,
- Non-adherence to most of the electoral promises,
- Only 43 % of the citizens exercised their right to vote in the last elections in the EU. We find the lowest percentages of participation in the countries with the largest populations in the EU (e.g. UK, 34 %)
- Bipartisanship generalized in most of the member states of the Union.
- Lacking in transparency generated by the little weight given to the opinions of the citizens in the decision making,
- "Increasing repulsion, growing alienation". The feeling of rejection increases towards the politicians, being considered as dirty and corrupt.

Which should be the realistic work lines to fight and to overcome this political crisis?

a.   To promote the vote as a duty and a responsibility.
b.   To facilitate the participation in a local environment, close to the citizen, supporting the local authorities by means of negotiation.

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Case Study – Ideal-EU Project and Pep-net – *Francisco Molinari*

Francisco Molinari has presented "Integrating the drivers of political (e) Participation: The Ideal-EU project". Ideal-EU is a European project that analyzes the participation of the young in the political projects and with a change in the forms of communication and the support of IT they can favor the inclusion of this social group in the democratic and political participation.

It has referred to the words of Richard Nixon in a Speech on the State of the Union (1/22/1971) to introduce 7 basic beginning of the democratic participation.

"Millions of frustrated does young Americans today are crying out - asking not 'what will government do for me', but 'what do I do, how do I contribute, how do I matter?'

And so let us answer them. Let us say to them and let us say to all Americans, 'We hear you. We will give you a chance. We are going to give you a new chance and more to say about the decisions that affect your future - a chance to participate in government - because we are going to provide more centers of power where what you do can make a difference that you can see and feel in your own life and the life of your whole community.'

The further away government is from people, the stronger government becomes and the weaker people become. And a nation with a strong government and a weak people is an empty shell.

I reject the patronizing idea that government in Washington D.C.., is inevitably more wise, more honest, and more efficient than government at local or State level. The honesty and efficiency of government depends on people. Government at all levels has good people and bad people. And the way to get more good people into government is to give them more opportunity to do good things.

The idea that a bureaucratic elite in Washington knows best what is best for people everywhere and that you cannot local trust governments is really a contention that you cannot trust people to govern themselves. This notion is completely foreign to the American experience. Local government is the government closest to the people, it is most responsive to the individual person. It is people's government in a far more intimate way than the Government in Washington can ever be.

People came to America because they wanted to determine their own future rather than to live in a country where others determined their future for them.

What this change means is that once again in America we are placing our trust in people.

I have faith in people. I trust the judgment of people. Let us give the people of America a chance, a bigger voice in deciding for themselves those questions that so greatly affect their lives." Richard Nixon

We see the importance of communicating with the participants, the way in which their participation has influence.

7 key steps to the beginning of participation, as iap2 (International Association for Public Participation) they are:

+ 7 Key Principles of Participation
Source: http://iap2.org

- Those who are affected by a decision have the right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- Ensure that the public's contribution will influence the final decision.
- Acknowledge and display the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Promote and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- Seek input from participants in designing how they will participate.
- Provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Communicate to participants how their input affected the decision.

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1. The public participation is based on the belief that those who turn out to be affected by a decision, have a right to be involved in the decision making process.
2. The public participation includes the promise that, the contribution of the society will influence in the decision.
3. The public participation promotes sustainable decisions, recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all the participants, including those that make the decisions.
4. The public participation looks and assists the inclusion of those who turn out to be potentially affected or interested in the decision.
5. The public participation looks for the opinion of the participants in the design of how they must take part.
6. The public participation provides to the participants, the information that they need, to take part.
7. The public participation communicates to the participants how its opinion affected the decision.

Thanks to the references to, and analysis of the results of diverse participatory processes () we are led to a series of conclusions:

In Europe, 81 % of the young people would like to be consulted before a decision is taken that concerns them, showing a tendency to the rise in what it refers to as participation and, on the other hand, low in the political participation.

In the last elections in the USA, Obama, lost in the age group from 45 to +60 years, but won, thanks to the votes and the level of participation (68 %) of the citizens in the age group 18 and 30 years. This demonstrates that a few elections can be won if it becomes possible to mobilize and to receive the vote of the young people.

The total opposite has happened in Europe, on not having been able to mobilize to the young vote, the group with least participation has been that from 18 to 30 years. From this it is clear that for the politicians it is imperative to mobilize the Young, to obtain its achievements and targets.

The following point that Francisco Molinari presents is the "Electronic Town Meeting" and the analysis of the need for the creation of a common space for the government and the society, where it is possible to debate on the problems that affect the citizens; a model imported from the USA. "Electronic Town Meeting" consists of a series of parallel meetings (Poitiers, Barcelona and Torino) connected electronically, where the participants had been trained previously, and had been given sufficient time to think and to give a mature opinion about each of the topics exposed to debate.

Francisco Molinari has ended by putting forward for the debate an idea about participation: "Which regional level would be the most appropriate to allow the potential of e-Participation to emerge?"

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Case Study – "Virtual European Parliament" – *Mark De Colvenaer*

Mark De Colvenaer has approached us, with the support of the paper "ePartipation: A waste of Time", for a project to create an arena for the debate between the citizenship and the decision makers in the European Commission. The interesting point of the project here, is the fact of not wanting to use a bespoke virtual space, but to use the already existing networks, creating what Mark calls a "Multichannel eParticipation Platform".

"Multichannel eParticipation Platform" based on the use of the Social Networks (Facebook and Twitter) to develop the environment for participation, in addition to which a series of physical meetings at local level, that promote the feeling of communication and belonging – in its ambience, in its language. Which gives participants the opportunity to speak about their likes and interests, about On-line activities that generate debate with those who could make decisions regarding specific topics. To ensure that people take part, it is very important that there are events to maintain the level of participation, and ensure that this level does not drop; and to promote the events, with the aim of increased participation.

As contact hardware, Skype is proposed. The vote would be realized by means of "Mobile Voting", and the news reported by means of a specific link. The final event would be an Electronic Town Meeting.

To date, the politicians speak about the new technologies like electioneering elements. They include them in their programs and speak or make use of them by behaving as if they were speaking in the European parliament, instead of modifying their method of communicating.

At the same time, hardware such as Twitter or Google Buzz are used to do marketing. How to use this hardware for participation?: What motivates the participant?: What are the priorities for the citizens?, the answers to these fundamental questions would give us the ability to mobilize the whole world.

Inform, Implement, Interact, Involve, Influence, Identify, Inspire, Illuminate, Integrate, Iterate,

As soon as the presentation was finished "eParticipation: A waste of Timel", a questions shift began between the assistants, the transcription follows.

He asks: In my opinion it is impossible to reach results that are supported in time unless the virtual thing and the real thing are mixed. It is very important that the people who take part on line, can be seen in person, in the real life. For example, in Italy there is a movement that is called "not Berlusconi Day" in which the people go out onto the streets of Italy to criticize Berlusconi's government. The mobilization is through the network, but so that it has a real relevancy, the physical intervention is necessary.

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Answer: To what part of the young people do we want to appeal? For example, in Italy it is very difficult to be able to vote if you are not a nationalized citizen. Much bureaucracy exists and it denies the vote to immigrants with less than 10 years in the country. The Italians who live outside of Italy, do not know for whom to vote because there is very little information about the politics of every party. On the other hand in Spain, in one municipal area, there was a person who had only spent 6 months in the country, and he could vote. It is an error to deny the right to vote.

He asks: In a web that has hundreds of accesses, it is not the user who looks for diversion, but the diversion that looks for the user. Credit debit someone who has a strong economic interest to attract these people. How does one prevent that from happening, managing to maintain the neutrality of a network without lucre fortitude?
Answer: Maintaining the web has a high cost. To start, it had an approximate cost of 1 million euros, of which, 75 % was financed by the European Union. It is necessary to find ways to maintain the project without the need to spend so much money. To realize it in the regional area might reduce these costs.

Presentation and Debate with *Zemos 98 – Pedro Jiménez*

The links to the videos which they have mentioned along with the presentation of Pedro Jiménez are as follows:

- Remix, Vjing ZEMOS98 - http://www.zemos98.org/culturavj/?p=53

The DJs have learned from the world of the movies the technique of taking a piece and of cutting the best pieces to join them in a more interesting form. With it, art is obtained: Diversion produced by the sabotage of images, Standing opposite to the society of the consumption and taking part in the politics.

- Rap Europeans - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEUXJDIgX5g

  Spanish rapper who criticizes the European elections. It is another way of taking part in politics, using the technology.

- Aznar's rap - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6OD74D-Qng

  A tool to criticize the position of the government on the war of Iraq. It was used as a political tool to show the dissatisfaction with the politics of the government.

  When we question why there is no criticism of European politicians from the point of view of society, why there is no video that mocks at Durao Barroso, realise that one reason could be the fact that the citizens do not meet him; in fact, they do not meet the European politicians, since they are not visible, society does not believe in what is done and decided in Brussels.

- ZAP War de Laura Baigorri 1997 - http://zemos98.blip.tv/file/713039

  Compilation of images of war.

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- Electoral video IU: "PP and the Spanish socialist party do not look the same, but in Europe they vote for the same"-http://vimeo.com/4826821

  IU does an electoral video in which it shows how much the PP and the Spanish socialist party vote for the same things in the EU.

Other links to videos shown along with the presentation, showing how it is possible to encourage and to motivate participation using communicative channels such as YouTube, are:

- Franco Rapeando - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3ZFmxH1DJk
- Channel Eclectic Method in Youtube - http://www.youtube.com/user/eclecticmethod
- Channel Eclectic Method in Vimeo - http://vimeo.com/eclecticmethod
- The Sims Addictive TV - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asqS5wHxzvA
- Rebirth of to Nation de Dj Spooky - http://www.djspooky.com/art.php
- Political Video Remix de Rubén Díaz - http://www.zemos98.org/spip.php?article1073
- Adolf Hitler remix 1942 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXzDyjaWgtU
- Reconstitution 2008 - http://www.reconstitution2008.com/
- German crazy child meets for Internet - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCaCGavI4OA
- Hitler does not love the right to the parody - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CK2vOojrZR4
- The Flock Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zJqihkLcGc
- Dear Antonio Canal in Youtube - http://www.youtube.com/user/queridoantonio#p/c/841A122A0D0B806E
- Paco has died - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJuzJ6nlk50

Workshop – Using Twitter – *Nathaniel Ashford, ActionAid*

Nathanel Ashford, of ActionAID, leads this workshop whose objective is the use fo Twitter to promote participation. A group Twitter is defined for this workshop that is called "#whyvote".

Some excellent Twitter concepts:
- Twitter: Service of "mike - blogging"
- Tweet: micro-earnings based on text, of a maximum length of 140 characters.
- Retweet: To forward a tweet to all your followers.
- We can write tweets using the "tweet-box" of the web page.
- Similarity between the e-mail and Twitter. Both use the symbol. In Twitter we use it to indicate that we want to order this tweet to a person in specific.
- The average of tweets that get about per day is 2.000.000
- The list of the persons who have more followers in Twitter is headed for: Ashton Kutcher, Barack Obama, Pete Cashmore, Steven Fry and Jose Manuel Barroso.
- The popularity of the hash-tag (#). It is used to group tweets.
- They can get about tweets from Twitter.com, from the mobile phone or other social networks, as it is the case of Fasbook.

The workshop consists of two parts. In the first, we begin with the use of Twitter, in the second, we initiate a debate / survey.

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To begin using Twitter. The first step is to register, filling in a form with your information. Once this is done, you are registered and can begin using Twitter. The next step is to write a tweet. On the personal Twitter page it is possible to see the definite images as well as the volume and identity of the followers of your tweets.

Debate / survey with Twitter. The first question is: *Why vote?* and by answers it has been obtained "Because there is no another way of sharing your ideas", "It is the only way of changing the politics" and "It helps to improve the life".

The second question: *Why Twitter? The* answer, "It is easy to use like the SMS, but it allows you to communicate with many more people", "It is fast and provides you with the opportunity to share your thoughts with many people", "By its very nature, participation is necessary" and "You can read tweets from interesting people, but without the need to dedicate a lot of time to it".

Twitter is democratic, because it is free, and where the whole world has a right to express themselves. Twitter is a part of the digital revolution.

Workshop – How to develop meaningful youth participation; why and where to start? – *Rogier Elshout*

Rogier Elshout leads this workshop whose target is to identify a plan of action that will help to increase the level of involvement of young people, and therefore increase their participation level in politics and in the democratic processes, inside the area of the EU.

Rogier throws a series of questions of global scale that they will help in the development of the workshop:

What is the participation of the Young people? It is the answer that we obtain having asked them what they think, transforming them into the protagonists of the environment and not the target of the same one.

Importantly what is the environment of the Young people? To answer this question, we must analyze what we understand as being "juvenile collaboration" and the amount of satisfaction that they gain from it.

The reasons for the necessity to involve the young people in politics, identified by the workgroup are the following:

- To learn to understand the political process.
- To represent the young people who do not like, or do not have an interest in politics.
- Acceptance; to legitimize the politics.
- To understand the message.
- Moral.
- "Be Popular".
- To encourage personal development.
- The best way of maintaining the young spirit.

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The following graph shows 8 levels of participation of young people.

Frequently, we facilitate a high degree of decision making and planning by the young people, but at a later stage the above mentioned decisions and/or planning are not born in mind, this increases the level of disaffection of this group for Politics and the democratic system.
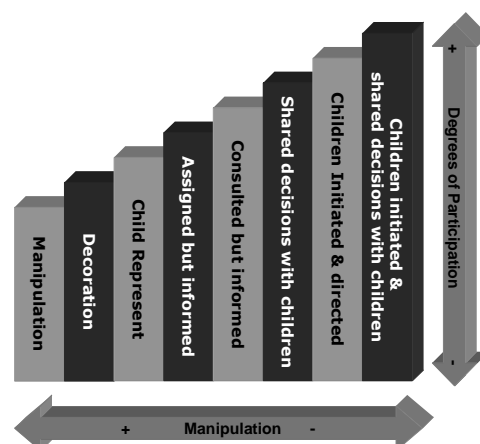
SIMPLIFICATION VS. COOPERATION
SIMPLIFICATION VS. COMMUNICATION

Rogier invites us to work on a specific point: *"Participation of young people at European level: What subject-matters should be chosen?".*

Barriers: Which topics to discuss? Who is invited?: toward that do they act in line with the parameters of the society of adults or to all?

Evolution of the Vote in the history of our society: Mostly Rich Men ⇨ Mostly Men ⇨ Mostly Men and women ⇨ Young people, Men and women. At present the profile of the person who participates in politics remains that of white race, with adult mentality and with a certain level of education.

CASE of participation of the young people: *"The public transport in our city: what measures to take to reduce traffic congestion?"*

1. The proposals to be consulted will be for models of worn out transport, by a group of people in which 50 % will be young persons and the other 50 % adults.
2. The group will be made up from different social and economic backgrounds.
3. The group will have the responsibility of generating solidarity with the rest of the population.
4. In accordance with the administration, they will receive technical support for the development of the project.
5. The proposals will be presented jointly to society and the administration.
6. Three actions are proposed:
   A. polling the juvenile population on the use of the transport
      • Schedule
      • Established trips
   B. Groups of discussion with other groups of population
   C. To encourage the young people in the good use of the public transport (permits with tickets free, etc.)

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Launch of "Why votes" for Twitter based discussion – *Nathaniel Ashford, ActionAid*

The second day of the Workshop begins with a test of connectivity where 30 users are connected simultaneously.

The basis of this workshop consists of the fact that the participants answer the different surveys that the manager places on Tweetpool.
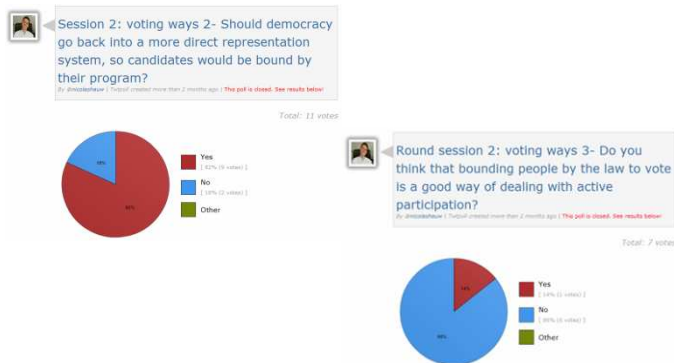
#whyvote #politicadigital "I thought we will have more politicians; nevertheless I'm pleased with what I've learnt during the past 2 days.."
3:12 AM Feb 12th via web

#whyvote "Don't simply ask for feedbacks on online project/polls: take them into account. That's true equality of dialog" #politicadigital
2:57 AM Feb 12th via web

#whyvote "IT tools change the way we organize our life, communication services and political content"
2:56 AM Feb 12th via web

datastrategia Los políticos "de antes" creen estar frente a agendas políticas determinadas. (@antonigr via @politicadigital) #politicadigital
2:31 AM Feb 12th via TweetDeck
Retweeted by NicolasHauw and 1 other

#whyvote #politicadigital Pocket politic: fast,non stop but personnalized and through different channels + giving info when people want them
2:28 AM Feb 12th via web

#whyvote #politicadigital "Politic should be politic-pocket-mobile" :)
2:25 AM Feb 12th via web

#whyvote #politicadigital citizen as agent for enhancing new poliics
2:21 AM Feb 12th via web

#whyvote Antoni Guitiérrez-Rubi has begun his presentation between old politics and new politics facing IT tools to enhance democracy
2:18 AM Feb 12th via web

Also in Facebook a group has been created called "Why Vote" where we find the KickOff of "Why Vote" and the presentation given by Haroon last December of 2009 about the use of Twitter in processes of civil participation.
What today has begun in this meeting is the start of a process, in which there is an important commitment by all the participants for it to evolve every day.

European Regeneration Areas Network
Tel: +32 (0)2 524 45 45
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New Tactical Means for local political participation - *David Casacuberta*

David Casacuberta, Professor of philosophy of science of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, presents us "New tactical means for the local participation". In his presentation, David shows us that things like the new intelligent phones prepared with cameras, Internet access and GPS are the perfect tools to improve the local political participation, facilitating the movement from the real world to the virtual one and returning to the real one. This conference presents different case studies on how the use of mobile phones can improve, not only the political participation, but also give inputs, both methodological and strategic to reach these ends.

The Tactical Means (M) is the gathering of the mass-average for the man on the street for criticizing / checking / evaluating the actions of those in power. The M are cheap, easy to use, decentralized and of massive use.

The first case where the M played a decisive role was in 1991, when George Holliday with a Camcorder took images of Rodney King, Victim of the police brutality, at the moment of the aggression. From this moment the citizen / journalist concept spread.

> Result: *Creation of Witness, an ONG sponsored by Peter Gabriel in order to train to activists pro-human rights to use camcorders to record abuses.*
> Problem: *It is unusual that an abuse of the human rights should take place before a witness and a video camera.*

The following evolution of the M there are the Mobile Tactical Means, which are much more ubiquitous, easier and easier to use, especially popular amongst young people and relatively less expensive. The MTM offers portability, tact, SMS, access to Internet and geolocalización.

The MTM contributes all its potential in 6 areas of special interest with its respective cases of success:

1. Denunciation of Abuses
   - WITNESS 2.0-> The Hub (http://hub.witness.org/)
   - Youtube and the green revolution in Iran

2. Organization of mobilizations of a decentralized form
   - The SMS as catalyst of political revolutions
   - 2001 The Philippines: mobilizations against the president Joseph Estrada.
   - On March 11 2004 mobilizations against the concealment of key information after the terrorist attack in Atocha (and a mobile as detonator).

3. Information dispersal
   - Palestine: Souktel (www.souktel.org). Souk=Mercado - Tel=Teléfono. The user believe mini-CV route SMS to look for work. It allows **to facilitate** the communication between ONGs and persons needed from help. Difficulty of access to Internet for economic or social questions (women badly seen in Internet

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coffees).
- Voices of Africa (www.voamediafoundation.org) and the formation for m - journalist
- Catalista (www.catalista.net) and the location of opportunities of voluntariado, to mention on them and to spread route mobile route

4. Political campaigns
   - Political information: Obama's famous campaign makes functional and coherent use of the tactical means. Also the precedent of Howard Dean is significant and Moveon.org
   - Political information: [www.mobilecommons.com it](www.mobilecommons.com) is a software supplier which helps in the creation of political campaigns by mobile means, communication sms, mailing of audio and links to the web.
   - Electoral observation: www.codeogh.org. In Ghana 1000 electoral centers monitored route sms with 4000 observers.

5. Town planning
   - Path intelligence gathers information of implicit form to recover information of citizens' movements across its mobiles for town planning studies

6. Environment
   - Pachube (www.pachube.com), an energy sensornet

Aspects of the privacy, the reliability, property of the information and the applicable jurisdiction in case of conflicts are aspects to resolve in the area of the MTM.

It is possible to find additional information at www.smartmobs.com, at www.mobileactive.com and in the Surowiecki publication, J. (2005) The Wisdom of Crowds. Anchor Publishing.

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Panel Debate / discussion

- **David Casacuberta** – Professor of philosophy of science – UAB
- **Leda Guidi** – City of Bologna
- **Antoni Gutiérrez-Rubí**

After the presentation of David Casacuberta began a round table in the presence of Antoni Gutiérrez-Rubí, our own David Casacuberta and Leda Guidi del Comune I gave Bologna.

Antoni Gutiérrez-Rubí had done an exhibition entitled "*New Tactical Means for local political participation - The communities development in line to encourage the democratic participation*".

With this exhibition he has analyzed the consequences that there will be in local politics with the use of mobile technologies.

According to Antoni, as a way of understanding this type of spontaneous movement it is the difference between the old woman and the new interpretation of the municipal politics: While the politicians "of earlier" become obsessed seeing more belligerent and avenging citizens, who seem to stand in opposition to very certain political agendas; the politicians adapted to this era see more active, interested communities involved in the municipal management, an authentic radar that allows detection of topics of interest, touch the general feeling or generate civil collaboration.

It presents a set of good practices that we show below:

- **MANOR LABS (**http://www.manorlabs.org/), platform that allows the citizens of the city of Manor (Texas), to collaborate with new proposals and solutions for existing problems.
- **ASKARO (**http://www.askaro.com/), web that uses a geoposicioning map to raise questions - and to offer answers - on a concrete area of a city, a quarter, a street...
- **EVERYBLOCK (**http://www.everyblock.com/), constitutes a way of creating plass to share news and information of local relevance, uniting information of all kinds generated and shared by the residents with infinite amounts of information provided by public organisms (police reports, permissions of construction, meteorological data, statistics, examinations of restaurants, etc.).
- **FIX MY STREET (**http://www.fixmystreet.com/), where the British citizens can easily inform their town halls of the problems that they observe in their immediate environment: the street where they live.
- **JE TAKES PART (**http://www.jeparticipe.be/), Aims to inform about the ways that it imposes the law and the possibilities for the general public to take part (referenda, council of youth, local advices …).

European Regeneration Areas Network
Tel: +32 (0)2 524 45 45
Fax: +32 (0)2 524 44 31
Rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains 48,
B-1000 Brussels
E-mail: info@qec.skynet.be
www.qec-eran.org

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Finally, under the concept MOVILIZ@DOS, he tells that politics must lower itself and become micro, know its own characteristics, and in this way, be of better service to the community, he calls it "politics of the pocket", an ever present politics, non-stop, personalized, itinerant and rapid.

POLÍTICA
DE BOLSILLO

▸ Ubicua
▸ Non Stop
▸ Personalizada
▸ Multicanal
▸ Itinerante
▸ Rápida

The last paper of the Panel was developed by Leda Guidi of the City of Bologna. According to Leda, Bologna started its journey on to the Internet by means of the WEB 1.0 technology, but not looked on as technology but as a new way of developing the relationship between the administration with the citizen.

Internet turned into a creative actor, put into the space between the Administration and the citizen, creating the concept of Electronic Citizenship. The first opposing problem was the latent Digital GAP between the population that it supported and the margin of the digital space.

15 years later the virtual community grows in a **specific context** ⇨ Web 2.0 and WiFi.

The problems that keep on arising in the environment of a virtual relationship between the Citizen and the Administration are of confidence, of relation and judicial:
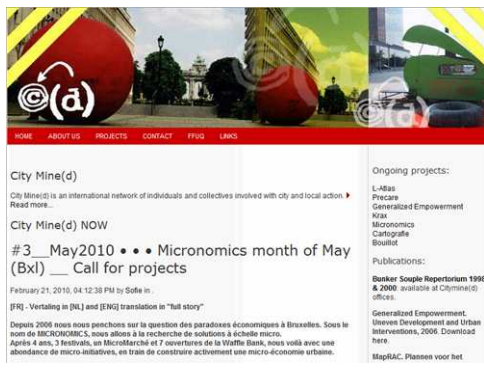
- The confidence on the part of the citizens in the contents generated by the users is low.
- Continuing suspicion and judicial gaps when we speak about Protection of Information and Copyright.
- Difficulties still exist on the part of the Administrations of connection with the electorate via the internet
- A certain incapacity on the part of the politicians to present themselves before to the electorate under the new schemes of collaboration and civil participation.

Leda Guidi states that the new technologies vastly change the ways in which we organize ourselves to communicate and generate contents in the politics. It is now not only a question of coexisting (politics, New Technologies, Administration, etc.) but of being reinvented like political and social objects of the democracy. It is not necessary, in any case, to resort to makeup operations but we must assume what the citizens say. She insists also that the politician neither has to be, nor even sound like an expert in the New Technologies, but should know how to use and integrate them in the democratic processes.

Finally, and closing the panel, she tells us that a perfect model does not exist, at the level of typology of a city, to implement content and access for the citizens to New public IT.

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On line community of practice for an emerging civil European society - *Jim Seger, City Mined*

Jim Seger, of City Mine (d), exhibits in this paper the characteristics of the communities of on-line practices, which have a collaborative side, where the people share ideas, opinions and experiences, and a demonstrative side, where the people show between themselves and to the rest of the world who they are, what they do and when they do it.

With so many things to be created, to be done or to be learned, we look on ourselves as having an impact beyond our local community. We want to share thoughts and experiences with persons of different countries and even of different time zones, and look for agreement and the same security on another side of the world. Although the technology must allow this type of collaboration, in practice rarely does it do so. Many explanations can be found, from the practice up to the politics of Google and Facebook, that watches over our shoulder. But we believe that there must be a way.

City Mine (d) (http://www.citymined.org/) is an international network of individuals and groups interested in the cities and local action. Across artistic projects, campaigns and debates, City Mine (d) puts the topics of interest to the area, at European level considering the public and political agendas and offers a frame work on which to share experiences, contacts and information. City Mine (d) thinks that "the city and its' economic development are the initiatives not only to be achieved by the official organizations, but also by the small, temporary and informal ones, yours, mine and ours that also contribute to a positive dynamics."

To this end, Jim asks us about the communications hardware that we use at present, and on which topics we want to listen and speak. This will help City Mine (d) to construct a system that allows it to maintain the focus on the pulse and the exchange of ideas and plans for the city, the economy, the democracy, the culture, the politics, the urban interventions and the things that we never think of ourselves.

European Regeneration Areas Network
Tel: +32 (0)2 524 45 45
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Rue du Vieux Marché aux Grains 48,
B-1000 Brussels
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www.qec-eran.org

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It is for it that in this paragraph, Jim Seger, requests that it is answered to the following questions:

1. Which tools are you already using?
2. How do you present yourself on these?
3. On-line, what do you want to share?
4. On-line How do you work now? And how intensely?
5. What would you use an on line community for?

Reflections - *Oscar Martínez*

"[Reflections, 2 days into New Media Tools and Participatory Democracy](#)". After two days talking about participatory democracy, on-line Internet tools and how it affects young people and politicians, we have several issues for further work:

- Think of the tools and how to use them well
- Think motivating people and how to be informed

While we have a global economic crisis and a crisis pronounced toward politics and politicians, their ways of doing and managing, disaffection. corruption … we have a chance to take control from the users on the networks.

As occurred when the dot-com bubble burst, when the Internet was going to head towards the privatization of content, users were able to seize the opportunity to return to its original network, freedom. This implies a paradigm shift in both the processes and in the channels.

The talks that are generated on the network have nothing to do with technology. Technology is not the problem. The people are the ones behind the tools, said Nicholas Hauw. The traditional political structure is in check, said Carlos Guadian.

What's left? We have much work ahead. We must work to encourage, connect, copy, process, activite networks, create new models, use tools and … share. Sharing is the key. Throughout human evolution we have relied on networks and we have shared. Participatory democracy must be based on these two paradigms to construct a new policy to and from the networks.
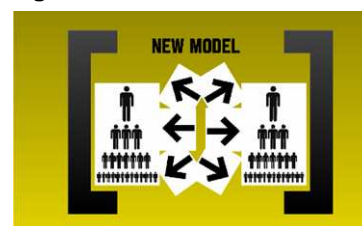
The talks that are generated in the network have nothing to do with technology. Technology is not the problem. The people are the ones behind the tools, said Nicholas Hauw. The traditional political structure is in check, said Carlos Guadian.

Closing of the Days - *Haroon Saad, QeC ERAN*

Haroon Saad closed the 2nd Transnational Workshop, "New Media tools and participatory democracy", thanking all the participants for their active collaboration and asking all of them to keep on contributing, by means of the different hardware opened for the debated objects during the 2 days, with its opinions and reflections.

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