

Young People and eParticipation in Slovenia: The case of Citizen's Forum

(paper abstract)

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The article will empirically evaluate eDemocracy impact of the Citizens' Forum web project (http://www.e-participacija.si/forum_EU/) and its e-consultation effectiveness in engaging young Slovenian people in public deliberation concerning policy issues set by institutional framework of the European Parliament. The case study will derive from the e-consultation evaluation framework defined by Macintosh and Whyte (2006), which includes political criteria (objectives, citizens' influence, actors, access, decision-making stage, feedback, time range etc.), technical criteria (system design and technological context) and social criteria (depth of discussion and extent of deliberation). By using both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis, the study will focus on example of Citizens' Forum public e-debate concerning the future of the European social model with Slovenian students initiated by the Slovenian representative in the European parliament. The results of empirical study will be discussed both in terms of general situation concerning eParticipation of young people in Slovenia and current eDemocracy developments related to the European Union. Suggestions for future methodological orientations concerning evaluating eDemocracy impacts of e-consultations initiatives in Slovenia combined with guidelines for effective e-consultation implementation will be proposed.

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