



# e-participation – the wider picture

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eDemocracy Conference 2008  
New Opportunities for Citizen Participation in an Information Society  
June 5 2008  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

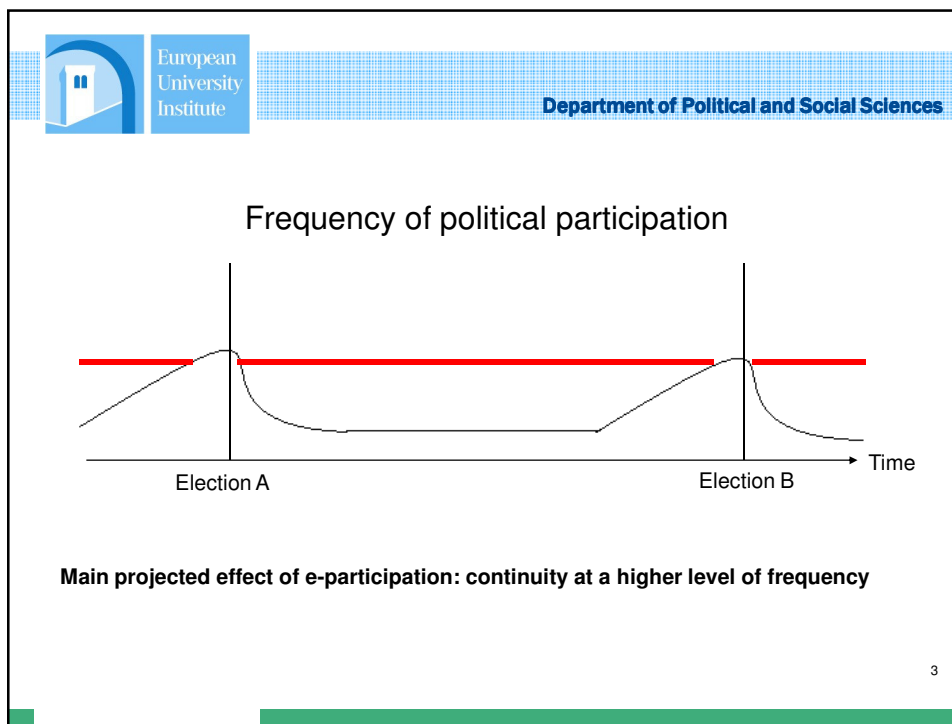
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## Structure of my talk

- Introduction
- The main effect of e-participation
- Four years back, 12 years ahead: the Virtual Electronic Platform (VEP) and its progress
- The wider picture of e-participation

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## The VEP

Originally four modules:

- The SMARTVOTE-module
- The MP-MONITORING-module
- The MULTIMEDIA-BLOG-module
- The INTERNET-VOTING-module

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## VEP effects

1. Boost electoral participation
2. Boost accountability
3. Boost civic competence
4. Boost cross-constituency politics
5. Boost citizens' demands
6. Boost shifts in the political offer

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## On the positive side...

- Democratization of access to politically relevant information
- Brings more convenience for political participation
- New forms of political participation
- Non-mediated creation of political networks
- Stimulation of political interest
- Top-down and bottom-up consultations

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## On the negative side...

- Digital elites
- Balkanisation of politics (Sunstein)
- Paparazzi Democracy
- Abuse

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## On balance...

- Change of the nature of participation
- Velocity of information diffusion

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## Conclusion

- It's still the beginning
- Variance is still huge
- Its not a panacea

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## Thank you for your attention!

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This slide features a blue header with a grid pattern. On the left, there is a logo consisting of a blue square with a white archway and a white book icon. To the right of the logo, the text 'European University Institute' is written in white. Further to the right, the text 'Department of Political and Social Sciences' is written in blue. The slide number '11' is located in the bottom right corner. A green bar is at the bottom of the slide.




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