

Connecting Parliament and citizens: the challenge of openness, transparency and representation

ECPRD - ICT Working Group Meeting 2009
Rome, Senato della Repubblica - Camera dei deputati, 26-27 November 2009

The issue at hand: Growing concern with regard to citizen participation

- Many parliaments lag behind in their ability or effectiveness as public institutions to inform and interact with citizens
- Risk of erosion of public's trust in the legislative body
- Need to define new strategies and a vision that aims at:
 - Re-engaging the electorate
 - .. by interacting with citizens
 - .. by informing citizens
 - By providing multiple channels for receiving and disseminating information

Source: World e-Parliament Report 2008



Connecting with Citizens through the use of ICT

- ICT can help parliaments be more responsive to the concerns of their constituents
- New methods of communication between parliaments and citizens have become increasingly important
- Much remains to be learned about how new technologies can be employed more effectively



Five challenges for the international community (2010 – 2020)

- mobilize parliaments to establish national and international policies to create an equitable and inclusive information society
- mobilize parliaments to enhance the connection between legislatures and constituencies
- Mobilize parliaments to improve the equality of access to the law and the lawmaking process of the country



Five challenges for the international community (2010 – 2020)

- mobilize parliaments and the international community to ensure that all legislatures around the world can harness ICT tools in the service of the legislative, oversight and representative functions
- guide parliaments and the international community towards a more robust and well coordinated programme of technical assistance



Key activities that include the theme of "connecting parliaments and citizens"

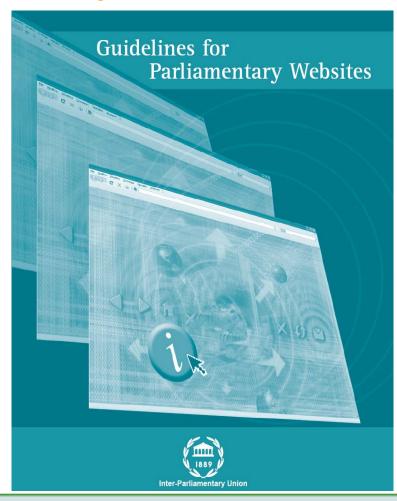
- Working Group on Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites
- 2009 Survey on ICT in Parliament
- World e-Parliament Report 2010
- World e-Parliament Conference 2009
- Future Working Group on New Media





Guidelines for Parliamentary websites

- Revision of the 2000 IPU guidelines for Parliamentary websites
- Launched in April 2008 and provides guidance on:
 - Website content in terms of general information about parliaments, and specific information on legislation, budget and oversight
 - Tools for finding, receiving, and viewing information
 - Tools for communicating and enhancing the dialogue with citizens
 - Website design in terms of usability, accessibility, and language
 - Oversight of websites i.e. management and responsibilities





Global Survey of ICT in Parliaments 2009

- 133 assemblies responded (compared to 105 in 2007)
- 48 ECPRD member chambers (including the European Parliament and observer Israel Knesset)
- Increased focus in the survey on "connecting parliaments and citizens" and social networking tools and user generated content







World e-Parliament Conference 2009

- Delegations (around 400 participants) included parliamentary Leaders, members, clerks, directors of ICT departments and information services, parliamentary IT staff
- Three plenary sessions
 - Connecting Parliaments and citizens: new technologies to foster openness, transparency, and accountability
 - How ICT can strengthen Parliaments in emerging democracies
 - Promoting democracy and inter-parliamentary cooperation: a collaborative approach to institutional building through a shared framework for e-parliament











Working Group on New Media

- Both the 2008 and 2009 World e-Parliament
 Conferences highlight the increased interest from parliaments on the use of new technologies to connect with citizens
- At the same time legislatures face serious challenges because it is not yet clear how these technologies can be employed most effectively



Issues and challenges

- Addressing the digital divide
 - Access to technology for all citizens
 - Multiple languages
 - Literacy
 - People with disabilities
- Making effective use of citizen input
 - How representative and valid are comments
 - Potential abuse of the process



Issues and challenges (cont'd)

- Responding to citizens
 - Expectations of citizens and members
 - Possibilities of overload
 - Need for tools to help assess and respond
- Evaluating what works
 - Diversity of methods
 - Directionality
 - Need for assessment studies and tools



Issues of transparency

- Has the potential to constrain innovative ideas and solutions
- Political compromise can be hard to achieve in a totally open environment
- Expectations can exceed what is possible
- Unintended consequences



Infrastructure requirements

- Reliable and efficient internal management processes
- Technical foundation
 - Affordable hardware and software
 - Staff with the necessary technical skills



Examples

...from the almost "traditional" citizen input solutions to the more interactive and popular social networking media...



Senador Virtual

Presentación

Manual de uso

Inscripción

Contáctenos

Proyectos votados

PROYECTOS EN DISCUSIÓN

| Se consideran las ideas fundamentales del proyecto de ley, con el objetivo de admitirlo o desecharlo en su conjunto. Nº boletín Período de discusión | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|------------|--|--|--|
| N Doletin | Normbre | Desde | Hasta | | | |
| 6582-11 | Normas sobre regulación de la fertilidad. _{Votar »} | 31/07/2009 | 29/10/2009 | | | |
| 6612-07 | Incorpora el uso de brazalete electrónico de vigilancia y control para condenados con penas alternativas a la cárcel. Votar » | 14/09/2009 | 30/10/2009 | | | |
| 5887-06 | Establece nueva Ley de Partidos Políticos _{Votar)} | 16/09/2009 | 12/11/2009 | | | |
| 3376-15 | Crea el sistema de licencias de conducir con puntaje. Votar ≽ | 21/07/2009 | 15/10/2009 | | | |

| | EN DISCUS | SIÓN PARTICULAR | |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| | Se considera artículo p | or artículo del proyecto de ley | / |
| N° boletín | Nombre | Período de discusión | |
| | | Desde | Hasta |





Início

Como Participar

Comunidades

Você está agui >> e-democracia : Inicial





Promover um amplo e democrático debate sobre a política nacional da juventude, bem como discutir ideias e sugestões para elaboração do Estatuto Nacional da Juventude, no âmbito da Câmara dos Deputados.



Sua Proposta

Colaboradores

1 Sistema Nacional de Juventude

- 1.1 Rede Nacional de Juventude
- 1.2 Sistema Nacional de Juventude
- 1.3 Competências do SINAJUVE
- 1.4 Fundo Nacional de Juventude
- 1.5 Acesso aos Recursos Públicos

2 Políticas Públicas da Juventude

- 2.1 Os princípios
- 2.2 Diretrizes
- 2.3 Objetivos
- 2.4 Avaliação e Acompanhamento

8.33%

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1 Sistema Nacional de Juventude

Câmara dos Deputados Comissão Especial sobre Estatuto da Juventude

DOCUMENTO BASE PARA DEBATES - PRIMEIRA FASE

YAHOO! ANSWERS Rearch for questions: Q Search Search for questions: Search

Home > Environment > Global Warming > Resolved Question



Pelosi

OFFICIAL

Resolved Question

Show me another »

Congress is working on legislation to address global warming - what would you like to see included?

Yahoo! Answers Staff note: Yahoo! Answers is a forum for people from all over the world to engage with one another and to find information on topics that interest them. This is not an endorsement. We are not siding with any candidate or party -- in general or for the 2008 US elections. We're hopeful that people from all perspectives will realize the great insights that the Answers community can have, and will turn to us for future discussions.

3 years ago

Report Abuse



Best Answer - Chosen by Voters

When it comes to the issue of global climate change it seems that most of its opponents propose that to act with environmental responsibility would be detrimental to the economy - This perspective is flawed and in implementing legislation it is increasingly important that this fault is exposed not only to our representatives in government but to the American people.

Legislation constructed to address global climate change actually offers our great nation, not only an opportunity to regain our global prestige by leading the charge on such an important global issue, but by investing in environmental technologies this will also provide us a unique opportunity to control our own economic fate. For some time



updated 12:17 a.m. EDT, Thu August 28, 2008

Pelosi takes questions from online crowd

READ IN VIDEO



iReporter questions for Pelosi 22:01

Digg CEO Jay Adelson asks House Speaker Nancy Pelosi questions sent by iReporters and selected by the Digg community.

- Politics News, Opinion and Analysis from CNN.com
- Unedited, Unfiltered, News, iReport.com

Source: CHIII | Added August 27, 2008

***WE ARE CONNECTED TO...**

Participatory Lawmaking in Brazil



By Cristiano Faria and Tiago Peixoto e-Democracia Project

ecently launched by the Brazilian House of Representatives, the e-Democracia project aims to engage its participants in the lawmaking process in order to achieve concrete legislative results. Relying on the use of social media, combined with offline legislative events (e.g. committee hearings, conferences), the initiative is intended to reach a broad public that includes citizens, parliamentarians, civil servants, researchers, nongovernmental organizations and interest groups. Such a program is driven by a belief that the lawmaking process can benefit from the convergence of political representation and citizen participation, in a virtuous cycle where one model strengthens the other.

avoid repeating mistakes, preliminary studies were conducted. In this sense, the current architecture of the e-Democracia website is the fruit of the particular needs that were identified, and a careful reflection on existing solutions and preliminary testing.

The website will be a permanent work in progress, building on identified needs, user feedback, challenges and available technology. For instance, we have opted not to implement ranking systems that are used in other collaborative initiatives, where the user is shown the level of agreement that other users have expressed in relation to submitted ideas.











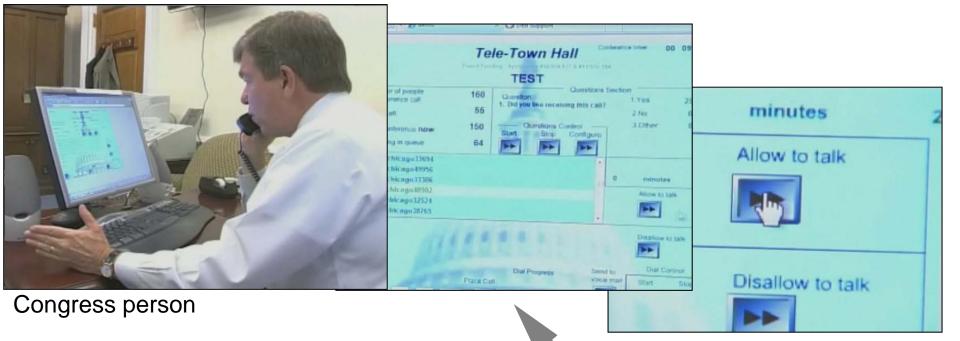




Experience from the EU Parliament as presented at the WePC2009

- Innovative and successful approach of reaching out to younger audiences
- •The use of "viral videos" to push information through online communities on the internet
- •The use of "travelling YaBs" on social networks on- and offline in the run-up to the European Elections during the first week of June





Online town halls

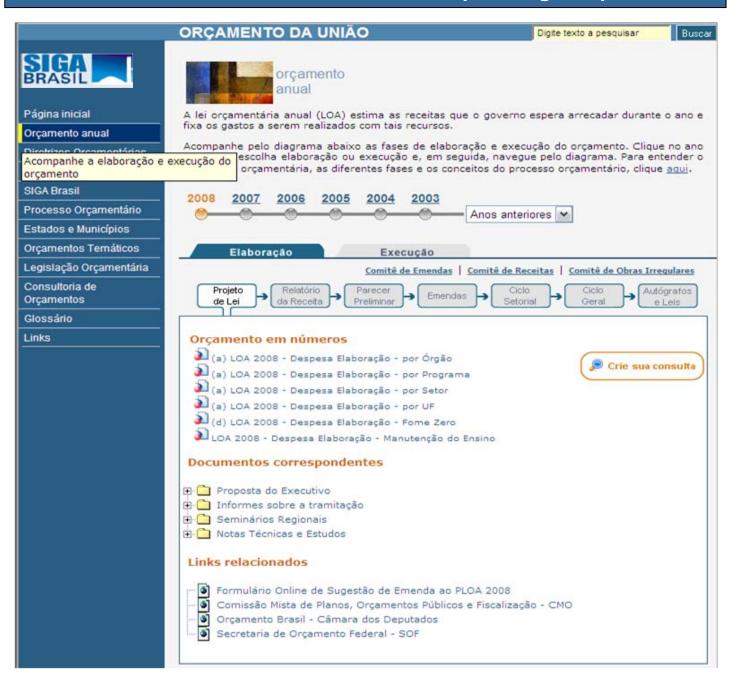
- The technology is similar to video and teleconference technology
- Enables conferencing with a larger audience (ranging from 100-500 or even more)
- Can include live online polling
- Moderators and member staff can chat in the background e.g. to prevent abusive callers
- Very cost effective and low technological entry barrier (i.e. constituents could only attend by telephone)

Tele town hall conferencing technology

Constituents



SIGA – access to federal, state and municipal budget expenditure



THANK YOU

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