



LIETUVOS SEIMAS

# Citizens' involvement in law making process

Birutė Leonavičienė

Analyst

Department of Information Technologies and Telecommunications  
SEIMAS of the REPUBLIC of LITHUANIA

ECPRD ICT Meeting

26-27 November 2009, Rome (Italy)

# Demos@work

- Enable European-wide discussion between elected representatives and civil society (EP-07-01-035)
  - Co-financed under the 2007 eParticipation call



# Objective

- Facilitate European-wide discussion between elected representatives and civil society on emerging policy issues that have a potential impact on all countries within the European Union by making the complex political debate meaningful and interesting for all citizens.

# Reasons

- Growing demands from citizens to have a more influential role in policymaking;
- Connect elected representatives with their constituents by creating a space for collaboration on a specific policy issue of common public interest;
- Citizens' engagement in the decision making process.

# The scope

- Reconnect citizens with politics and policy making by:
  - Improving the transparency in tracking legislation;
  - Reducing the complexity of decision making process;
  - Identifying ways to visualize the impact of legislation;
  - Addressing the issue of citizen disengagement from decision making processes;
  - Improving the quality of services provided to citizens;
  - Facilitating the work of MPs;
  - Promoting the intra and extra parliamentary collaboration.

# Focus

- Focused on citizens and politicians.



# Trial

- Demos@work - environment through which elected representatives are able:
  - engage with citizens on policy issues using a semantically enriched user interface;
  - communicate and collaborate with their peers.

# Citizens' involvement

- Forums;
- Documents;
- Online petitions;
- Open letters to MPs;
- Notifications;
- Events;
- Agendas, minutes;
- Newsletters.



# Pilot discussion

- Public health – harmful effects of smoking.

# Solution

- Integrate developed platforms such as collaboration, argument visualization, natural language processing through ontology in a secure interoperable environment.
- Include semantic technology to allow the automatic categorization of posted comments.

# Platform

- Created through the customization of two open source platforms that have already achieved international recognition and the support of the European Union:
  - **eRepresentative platform** – a virtual desktop for elected representatives;
  - **Gov2DemOSS** – web content management system, online petition tool.

# In addition

- Semantic technologies based modules for understanding Natural language are integrated to the smoking ontology;
- Argument Visualization of Citizen's opinions.

# Technologies used

- Open source:
  - Redhat OS;
  - Web Server Apache Tomcat;
  - Database server MySql;
  - PHP, Java.

# Key members of user group

- Members of the National Parliament of Lithuania;
- Members of the Regional Parliament of Catalonia;
- Members of the Citizens user group:
  - Citizens;
  - Associations and Unions of citizens and enterprises;
  - Consultants / Experts;
  - Researchers;
  - Members of NGOs;
  - Civil Society Organizations.

# The Consortium

GFI



National Technical University  
of Athens



Gov2u



National Parliament of  
Lithuania



Scytl



Parliament of Catalonia



# Activities

- User requirements were analyzed.



# Localisation

- Lithuanian language was set for the end-user interface;
- Natural language analysis tools were prepared.

```
Tobacco v1.2.owl
46 <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/taqaquismo12.owl#Z-A_roll_of_tobacco -->
47
48 <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-A_roll_of_tobacco">
49   <rdfs:label xml:lang="en"
50     >Tabako ritinėlis</rdfs:label>
51   <owl:equivalentClass rdf:resource="#Z-Cigar"/>
52   <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Smoking_products"/>
53 </owl:Class>
54
55
56
57 <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/taqaquismo12.owl#Z-Adolescent_smoking -->
58
59 <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-Adolescent_smoking">
60   <rdfs:label xml:lang="en"
61     >Paauglių rūkymas</rdfs:label>
62   <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Human_smoking"/>
63 </owl:Class>
64
65
66
67 <!-- http://www.reusecompany.org/ontologies/2009/07/20/taqaquismo12.owl#Z-After_age -->
68
69 <owl:Class rdf:about="#Z-After_age">
70   <rdfs:label xml:lang="en">Pagal metus</rdfs:label>
71   <rdfs:subClassOf rdf:resource="#Z-Smoker_category"/>
72 </owl:Class>
```

# User Panel

- Staff of the Committee of the Development of Information Society;
- Staff of the Department of Information Technologies and Telecommunications;
- Selected people working outside the Parliament.

# Test case scenario

- A draft law about prohibiting of the tobacco usage in the public areas has been registered in the Secretariat of the Plenary Sittings;
- The Draft was submitted to the SEIMAS;
- Consideration procedure was started, principal committee further consideration was set;
- Deliberations in the Principal Committee were launched.
- The subject of the Draft raised many discussions and disagreements during the Committee members, it was decided to ask public opinion about the Draft.

# Demos@work MP portal

Demos@Work - DARBO APLINKA - Windows Internet Explorer  
http://demosworkmp.lrs.lt/

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS  
You Are Here » Pagrindinis

Sveiki, ivpk1  
↳ Įsiregistruoti

**Pagrindinis meniu**  
Pagrindinis  
Darbo Aplinka  
Diskusijos  
Dokumentų saugykla  
Kalendorius  
Apie

**Kalendorius**  
Lapkričio 2009

**SKYDELIS**

**Pranešimai** [Konfiguracija](#)

Antraštė	Siuntimo data	Siuntėjas	Pranešimas
Pranešimų nėra			

**Šios dienos įvykiai** [Mano įvykiai](#) [Įvykiai/renginiai, kuriuos reikia patvirtinti](#) [Kalendorius](#)

Šiandien įvykių / renginių nėra

**Naujausios forumo temos**

Temų forume nėra.

**Nauji dokumentai**

Antraštė	Data	Tipas
Ignalinos atominės elektrinės antrojo bloko	17-11-2009	Article
Ignalinos atominės elektrinės antrojo bloko darbo pratęsimo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS	17-11-2009	Other
Tabako kontrolės įstatymo pakeitimas	11-11-2009	Article
aa	10-11-2009	Learning Object
Kitas	10-11-2009	Working Paper
Naujas	10-11-2009	Animation
Projektas 1	09-11-2009	
Projektas	09-11-2009	Article
Projektas	09-11-2009	

**Visuomenės diskusijos**

Tema	Aprašymas

Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

- Notifications
- Calendar
- Today's events
- Forum
- Documents
- Public discussions

# Public discussion

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Demos@Work website. The browser title is "Demos@Work - DARBO APLINKA". The address bar shows the URL: [http://demosatworkmp.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com\\_workspace&Itemid=54&workspace=13&task=publish](http://demosatworkmp.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com_workspace&Itemid=54&workspace=13&task=publish). The page features a header with a photograph of a parliament chamber and the text "LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS". Below the header, there is a navigation menu and a table of public discussions. A red arrow points to the "Išsiregistruoti" link in the top right corner.

Pavadinimas	Temos sritis	Publikuota	Veiksmai
<a href="#">Išsiregistruoti</a>			
<a href="#">Išsiregistruoti</a>			
<a href="#">Išsiregistruoti</a>			
<a href="#">Išsiregistruoti</a>	Ignalinos atominės elektrinės darbo antrojo bloko pradžios pradžios	✓	<a href="#">Redaguoti</a> <a href="#">Ištrinti</a>
<a href="#">Išsiregistruoti</a>	Rūkyto žala	✓	<a href="#">Redaguoti</a> <a href="#">Ištrinti</a>

[ Pridėti diskusiją ]

Copyright © 2008 [demos@work.org](http://demos@work.org)  
Version 0.1b

Participación Demos@Work is a project co-financed under the 2007 eParticipation call

Opened public discussions

# Demos@workCitizens portal

Gov2Demos platforma yra atviro kodo, informacijos ir bendradarbiavimo e. dalyvavimo platforma, kuri įrodo, kad IT gali palengvinti bendravimą, keitimąsi žiniomis ir modernizuoti valdžios paslaugas. Tai moderniausia tokio pobūdžio platforma, apdovanota Europos gerosios praktikos žymekliu 2006. Platforma jau naudojama vietos ir regionų valdžios institucijų visoje Europoje ir Šiaurės Amerikoje.

**Diskusijos**

**Rūkyimo žala**  
TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS

**Ignalinos atominės elektrinės darbo pratesimas:**  
Ignalinos atominės elektrinės antrojo bloko darbo pratesimo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS

**Naujienos**

10/11/09 Teisės akto projektas pateiktas aptarimui

27/01/09 Demos@Work projektas pateiktas 2009 World e-Democracy Forum

27/01/09 First Demos@Work project Workshop coming soon !!!

**Kalendorius**

Lapkričio 2009

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Artimiausiu metu renginių nėra

→ [Sąjūdi renginį](#)

**Savivalda**

Tema:

Daugiau...+

Daugiau...+

Daugiau...+

Kontaktai Atsakomybės apribojimas

Copyright © 2008 Gov2U. All rights reserved.  
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PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

Gov2U

GFI

scytI

eParticipation

Demos@Work is a project co-financed under the 2007 eParticipation call

Internet | Protected Mode: On

Opened public discussions

# Discussions

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com\\_argument&Itemid=252&id=6&task=viewTopic&concept\\_filter=All&type](http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com_argument&Itemid=252&id=6&task=viewTopic&concept_filter=All&type). The page is titled "LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS" and features a navigation menu on the left with options like "Pagrindinis", "Darbotvarkė", "Žiniasklaida & Nuorodos", "Naujienos", and "Diskusijos". The main content area displays a discussion titled "TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS" (Tobacco Control Act Amendment Project). Below the title, there is a list of documents and a voting section with buttons for "Positive", "Negative", and "Neutral". A calendar on the right shows the date "Trečiadienis, 11 lapkričio 2009".

The discussion content includes:

**TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS**  
Užregistruotas Tabako kontrolės įstatymo 19 straipsnio papildymo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS

Susiję dokumentai:

- tabako\_19str.pdf
- [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/interidnkpaiska.susije\\_dp\\_id=357272](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/interidnkpaiska.susije_dp_id=357272)

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with "Kontaktai | Atsakomybės apribojimas |" and "Copyright © 2008 Gov2U. All rights reserved. Gov2DemOSS is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License."

Expressed opinion

Demos@Work

http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com\_argument&id=6&task=viewTopic&concept\_filter=All&ontology\_tree=remove&aid

Lietuvos Respubliko... Gmail - Gautieji (3) ... Google Patiekalai iš miltų, kr... Anglų-lietuvių k. ko... Pyragas „Šarlote“ su ... Aštri kiaulienos sriu... Kitos žymės

Hi, bileon

**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS**

**DALYVAUK!**

- Pagrindinis
- Darbotvarkė
- Žiniasklaida & Nuorodos
- Naujienos
- Diskusijos

**Vartotojo meniu**

- Apie vartotoją
- Pateikti nuorodą
- Išsiregistruoti

Pagrindinis » Diskusijos  
Argumentas pridėtas

Trečiadienis, 11 lapkričio 2009

**TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS**

Užregistruotas Tabako kontrolės įstatymo 19 straipsnio papildymo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS

Susiję dokumentai:

Tabako kontrolės įstatymo pakeitimas

- tabako\_19str.pdf
- http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/dokpaieska.susije\_1?p\_id=357272

👍 = Positive    👎 = Negative    🗑 = Neutral

Grįžti į diskusijas    + Pateikti naują argumentą

**Reitingavimas: 0**

rūkymas yra žalingas sveikatai

bileon  
20 Lap 2009

Reitingavimas: 0

Reikinguokite

Atsakyti    Ataskaita

**Reitingavimas: 1**

Aš pasisakau už

bileon  
11 Lap 2009

Reitingavimas: 1

Reikinguokite

Atsakyti    Ataskaita

Replies: 1

**Kalendorius**

Lapkričio 2009

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Artimiausiu metu renginių nėra

► Siūlyti renginį

Only registered users  
can express their  
opinion



# Analyse citizens' opinions

- Filter according to their relevant topics.
- Filter by:
  - *Type (Pro/Con/Neutral);*
  - *Rating;*
  - *Sort.*
- Argument tree.

Demos@Work - Windows Internet Explorer

http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com\_argument&Itemid=252&id=6&task=viewTopic&concept\_filter=All&type\_filter=0

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS

**DALYVAUK!**

- Pagrindinis
- Darbotvarkė
- Žiniasklaida & Nuorodos
- Naujienos
- Diskusijos

**Vartotojo meniu**

- Apie vartotoją
- Committee Workspaces
- Pateikti nuorodą
- Manage WebLinks
- Išsiregistruoti

Pagrindinis > Diskusijos

Trečiadienis, 11 lapkričio 2009

### TABAKO KONTROLĖS ĮSTATYMO PAKEITIMO PROJEKTAS

Užregistruotas Tabako kontrolės įstatymo 19 straipsnio papildymo ĮSTATYMO PROJEKTAS

Susiję dokumentai:

Tabako kontrolės įstatymo pakeitimas

- tabako\_19str.pdf
- http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/dokpaieska.susije\_?p\_id=357272

Grįžti į diskusijas

Pateikti naują argumentą

Type: Visi Rating: Visi Sort by: Data

Rodyti bendrą vaizdą  Paslėpti bendrą vaizdą  Rodyti esančius vaizdus  Rodyti argumentų medį

← Filters

↑ = Positive ↓ = Negative ⇄ = Neutral

bileon 20 Lap 2009

rūkymas yra žalingas sveikatai

Reitingavimas: 0 (0)

Reikinguokite

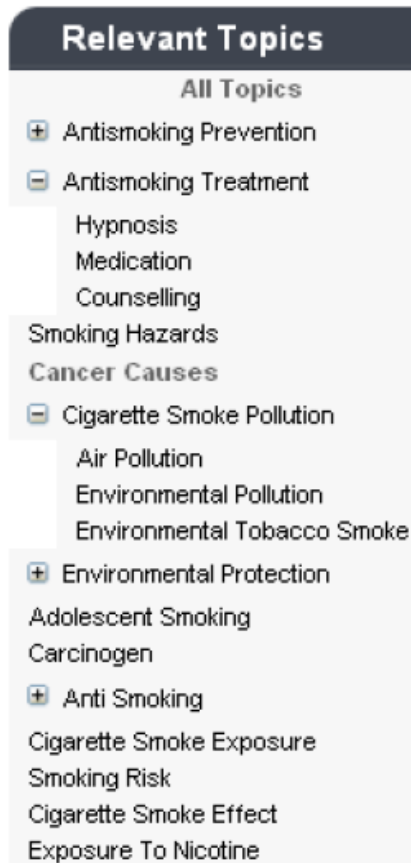
Atsakyti Pašalinti

bileon 11 Lap 2009

Aš pasisakau už

Done, but with errors on page. Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%

# Concept tree



*Relevant Topics* tree contain all the topics that the platform can automatically understand and classify.

Topics depend on the used ontology.

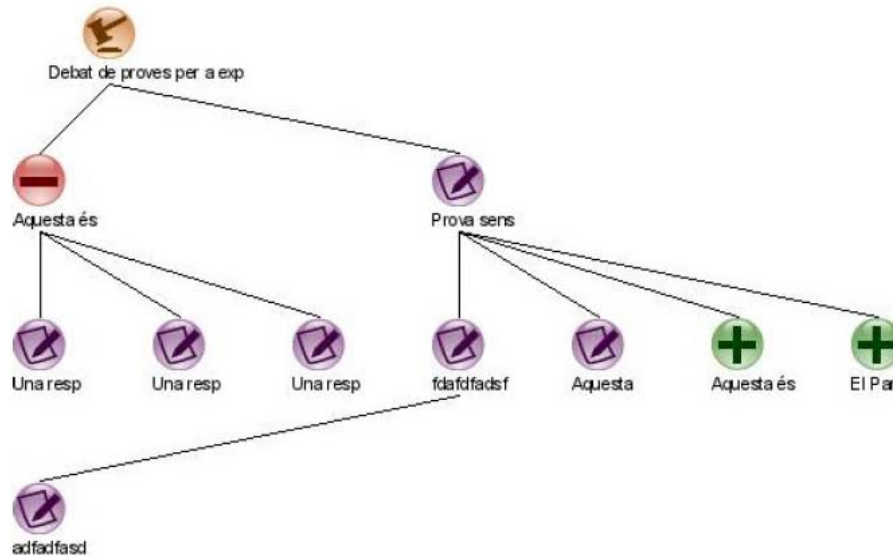
# Argument tree

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com\\_argument&tid=6&task=viewDiagram&id=6](http://demosatwork.lrs.lt/index.php?option=com_argument&tid=6&task=viewDiagram&id=6). The page displays a navigation menu on the left with categories like "DALYVAUKI" and "Vartotojo meniu". The main content area features a tree diagram titled "TABAKO KONTROLĖS (STATY)". The tree structure is as follows:

- Root node: TABAKO KONTROLĖS (STATY)
- Level 1 nodes: rūpinimas y (green plus icon), Aš pasisakau (green plus icon)
- Level 2 nodes: pritaru (purple icon), Aš pasisakau už (purple icon)

Below the tree, there is a section for "Kontaktai Atsakomybės apibrėžimas" and logos for "PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA", "Gov2U", and "GFI".

Graphical way to show the comments within the discussions. Designed to give you a good understanding of the discussions orientation.



# Conclusions

- It's a very good idea and proposed solution for citizens' engagement in decision making process.
- Geographical location has no significant influence.
- It was encountered language issues.
- Administrative work was easy and manageable.
- The platform works well, with some minor issues.
- Citizens' participation is low due limited number of topics.
- Include new topic of interest: budget, nuclear power, environment, etc.

Thank you for attention!

?

