

# POLITICAL INFORMATICS: HOW SHOULD CIVIL SOCIETY ADDRESS TECHNOCRATIC E-GOVERNANCE AND FAKE E-DEMOCRACY?

*Simon Delakorda, M.Sc., Institute for Electronic Participation*

# CONTENT

- Democratic risks of digital society
- Technocratic e-governance
- Fake e-democracy
- Two cases
- Consequences
- NGOs as e-democracy intermediaries
- Political informatics developments



# DEMOCRATIC RISKS OF DIGITAL SOCIETY

- digital inequality
- internet control
- commodification of internet
- **technocratic e-governance**
- **fake e-democracy**

# TECHNOCRATIC E-GOVERNANCE

- citizens have limited or no influence on e-government development (Misuraca 2007)
- e-government focusing on information access and top down delivered administrative services (Mayer-Schönberger and Lazer 2007)
- citizens considers as e-government consumers (Delakorda 2008)

# FAKE E-DEMOCRACY

- lacking clear statement how eParticipation will influence policies
- pre-established procedures and topics
- failing to achieve a 'critical mass' of participation
- lack of rigorous evaluation and cost-benefit analysis

(Source: Prieto-Martín et al 2012)

# I PROPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT PORTAL

- Period November 2009 - November 2010
- 1.201 proposals made by citizens, 251 proposals (27,7%) were submitted to governmental agencies as valid and 11 were accepted (4,7%).
- No report for 2011 published.

# CITIZEN'S REACTIONS

- *“I am getting a feeling that everything proposed here is rejected by government ministries.”*
- *“Unfortunately this portal is a farse for democracy enabling government to praise themselves before EU about active citizenship.”*
- *“This portal is just a sand for your eyes, an illusion enabling us to think that we are able to exercise influence.”*
- *“Responsible officials rejecting proposal think they are untouchable and are not interested into improving state performance.”*



Source: <http://predlagam.vladi.si/webroot/idea/view/3655>

DEMOCRACY  
MACEDONIA E-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

nexisense





# E-GOVERNMENT SUBPORTAL E-DEMOCRACY

The screenshot shows the 'E-demokracija' subportal on the Slovenian government website. The page is in Slovenian and features a navigation bar with 'Državljeni', 'Pravne osebe', and 'Javna uprava'. The main content area includes a welcome message, a search bar, and a section for 'Iskalnik po predpisih v postopku priprave'. This section contains a search form with fields for 'Naziv predpisa', 'Organ', 'Vrsta', 'Področje', and 'Status'. There are also sidebars with 'Novice - e-demokracija' and 'Anketa - e-demokracija'.

- Won second place in the annual UNPSA competition with the IT-supported procedure for drafting legislation project
- Weak transparency relating to submitted comments and inclusion into the final documents

# CONSEQUENCES

- Disappointment issue
- Trust issue (public image of democratic institutions)
- Disengagement issue (rise of Pirate politics)
- Alternative channels of participation (AVAAZ)
- Informal / conflict driven participation (ACTA, Wikileaks)

# NGOs AS E-DEMOCRACY INTERMEDIARIES

- NGOs advocacy
  - *watch-dogging*
  - *expertise*
  - *promotion*
  - *networking*
- NGOs as partners
  - *pilots*
  - *participatory design*
  - *citizens sourcing*
  - *sustainability (community building)*
  - *dissemination*





# POLITICAL INFORMATICS DEVELOPMENTS

## NGOs

grass-roots digital  
democracy

user participation

user centred design

user-generated content

openness

collective intelligence

collaboration

community building

crowd sourcing

## Political parties

pirate politics

swarm

liquid democracy

inner party democracy

adhocracy

political innovation

global dimension

## Governance

e-governance

citizens sourcing

citizens driven participation

co-creation

open innovation

collective opinions /  
governance

continuous engagement

living labs

life event / identity driven  
engagement

@ [www.inepa.si](http://www.inepa.si)

f [facebook.com/zavod.inepa](https://facebook.com/zavod.inepa)

t [twitter.com/Institut\\_INePA](https://twitter.com/Institut_INePA)

in [si.linkedin.com/in/simondelakorda](https://si.linkedin.com/in/simondelakorda)

**THANK YOU!**

*Simon Delakorda  
(+386) 41 365 529  
simon.delakorda@inepa.si*