

---

# eParticipation in Administrative Procedures

*Alexander Prosser*

This presentation is based on research commissioned by the Austrian Federal Chancellery



# Why eParticipation in Administrative Procedures ?

## The Story of “Stuttgart 21”



Conversion of ground-level terminus  
to sub-terrestrial pass-through station

1994/5 Feasibility study

1995 Framework contract

1996/7 Environmental Impact  
Assessment, 13,700 complaints

2009 All legal requirements and  
financing ready

Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

## The Story of “Stuttgart 21” (cont.)



2011 Building phase started

Massive / violent protests

Grass roots movement via  
facebook, twitter etc.

New government voted in  
(Green PM for Baden-Württemberg.)

Mediation by Heiner Geißler

Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [schwaebische.de](http://schwaebische.de)

## The Story of “Stuttgart 21” (cont.)

Mediation mainly fact finding

Before mediation:

26% pro

51% against

After mediation:

54% pro

38% against

Source: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

Transparency essential in communicating large-scale projects

=> Referendum to be held



## EU Legislation

Classical Administrative Law in many European Countries defines parties to the procedures and ...

... limits rights to parties to the procedures (hearing, appeals, access to files, ...)

All other participants with limited legal position

**EU legislation blurs this distinction**

## Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2009/31/EG:

### Participation of the Public in

- Procedures
- Appeals procedures in court

“at an early stage”

incl. NGO

Relevant decisions by European Court of Justice  
in AT, DE, UK and others

25.7.2008 C-237/07 “Janecek”

Submission by German Administrative Court:

“where there is a risk that the emission limit values [...] may be exceeded, **persons directly concerned** must be in a position to require the competent national authorities to draw up an action plan.  
[...]

“Member States are obliged, subject to judicial review by the national courts, to take such measures ...”



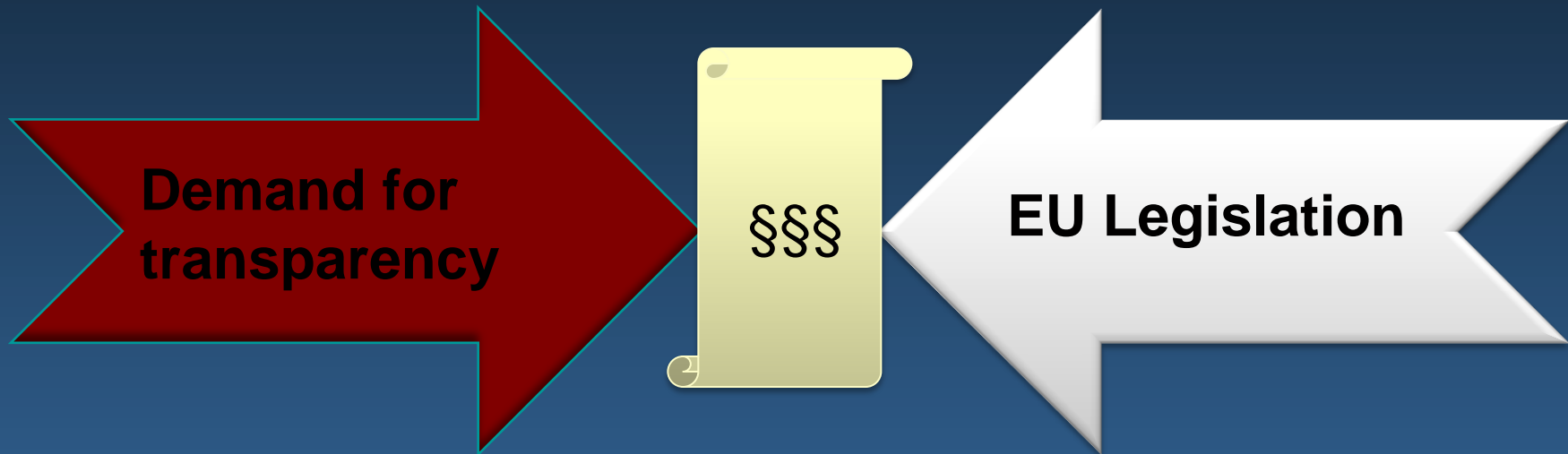
25.7.2008 C-237/07 “Janecek”

Submission by German Administrative

Does that include me  
visiting City X once a  
year ?

“where there is a risk that the emission limit values  
[...] may be exceeded, **persons directly concerned**  
must be in a position to require the competent  
national authorities to draw up an action plan.  
[...]

“Member States are obliged, subject to judicial review  
by the national courts, to take such measures ...”



## “Large Scale Procedures” in Austrian Law

- Edicts instead of individual notices possible
- Parties may inspect application and experts’ opinions
- Parties may lodge appeal
- Public hearing
- Oral procedures announced by edict, public

## How may the Internet be used for

- Edicts
- Project presentation, review by the public
- Appeals
- Public hearing

## Edicts:

- Authentic
- Central address, alert services
- Offered by the authority, advertising-free, free of external links
- Accessible
- Open (and durable) format

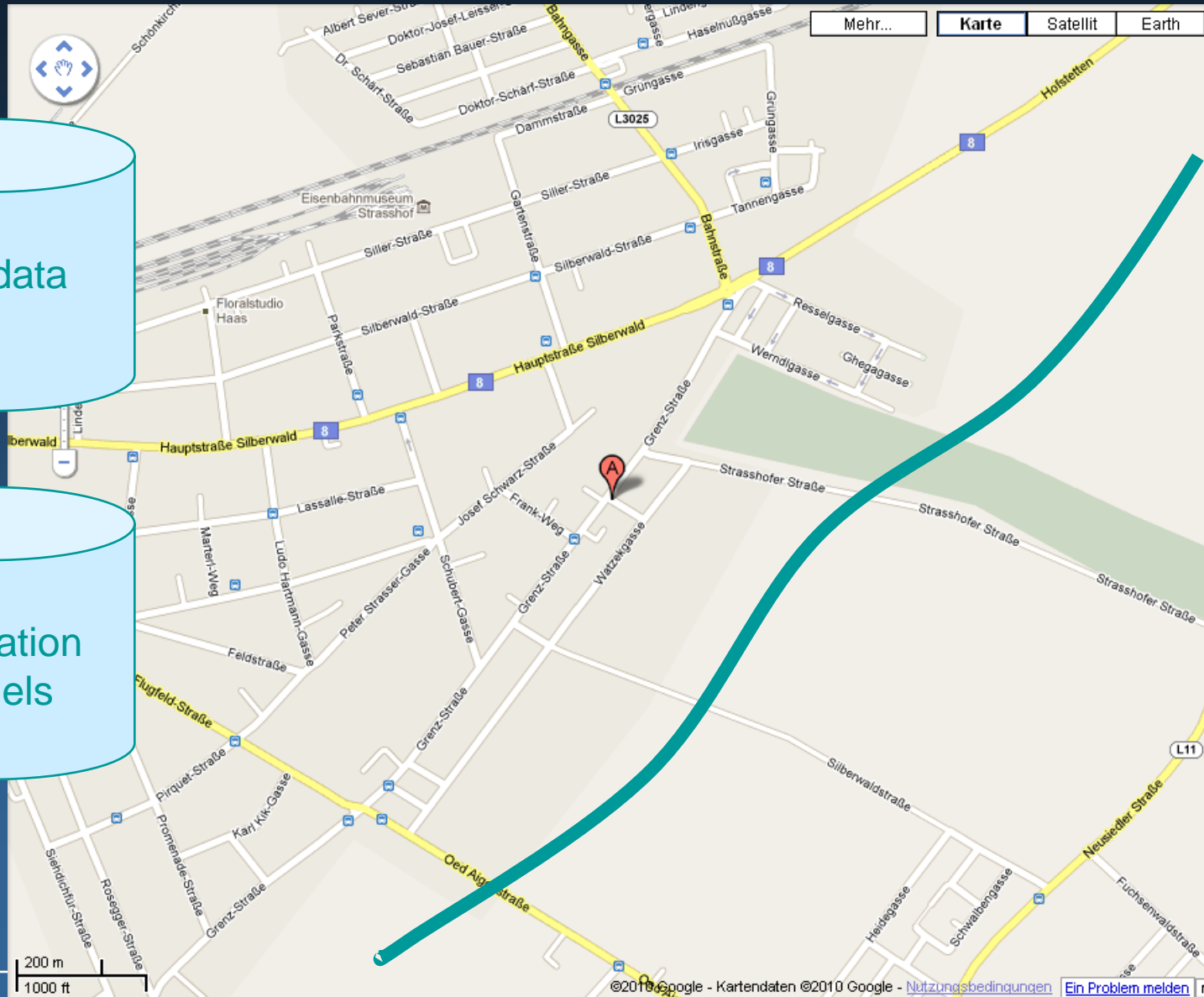
## Project Simulation:

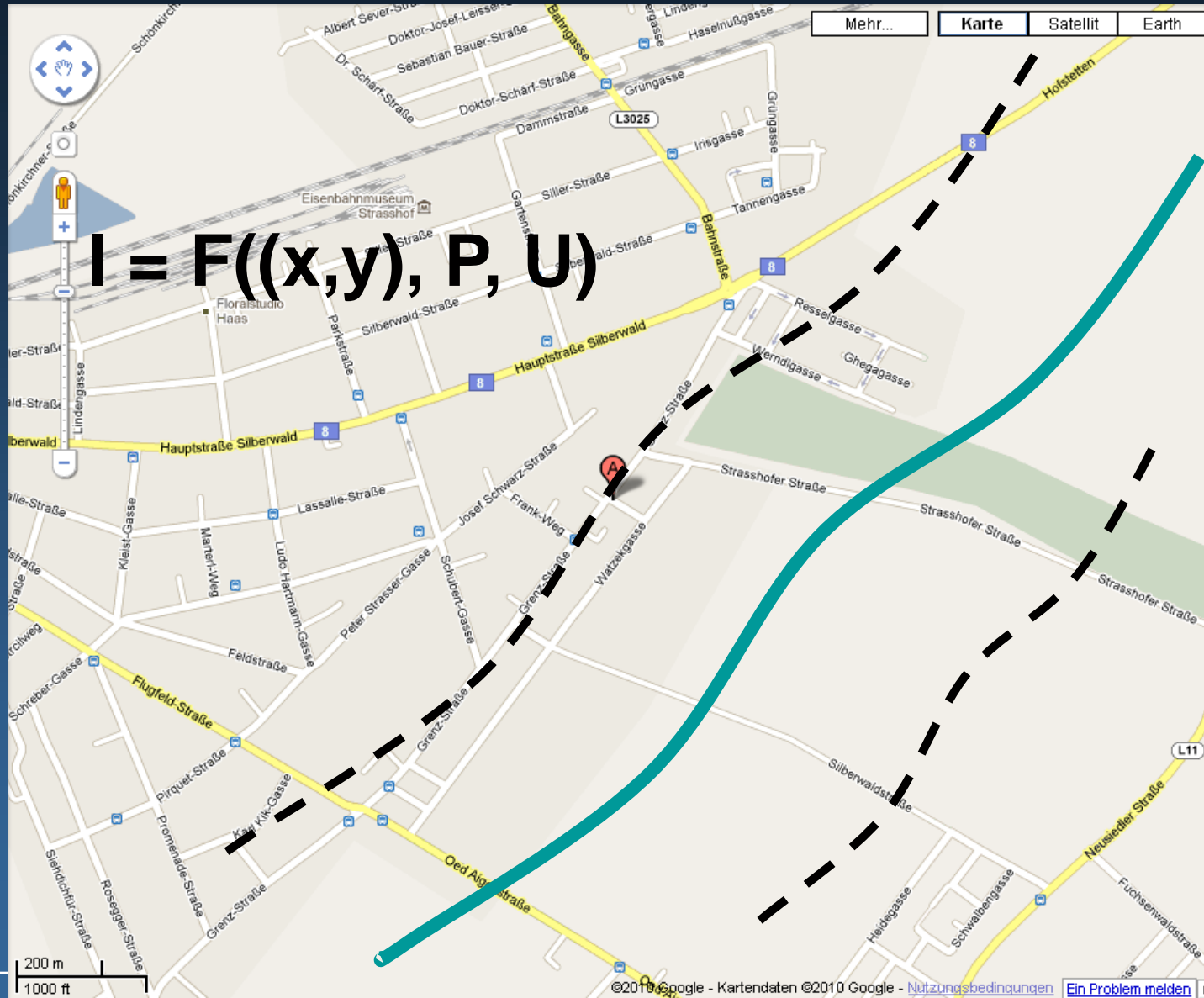
- Who is concerned?
- How? To what extent?
- Objectification of the discussion
- Fewer attendees in physical hearing(?)



Plot data

Simulation models





## Appeals / referenda:

- Authentic
  - Digital Signature / eID
  - Identity provider Government
    - Web Services / SAML
  - Identity Provider Private
  - Trusted eMail Provider

## Voting:

- Unlike political decision making, administrative procedures not typical voting case
- Very large scale projects in public sphere may end in referendum
- Identification crucial

## Public Hearing:

- Transmission of video live feed
  - Privacy?
  - Self-conscious reaction of participants not used to public speech?
- Enabling questions from outside the hearing
  - Strike a fair balance between external and physical attendees
  - Avoid spam

## Benefits:

- Better involvement of public in procedures
- Timely involvement – not after the fact
- Faster project realization
  
- If people are concerned about a project, they will organise, the question is ...



**.. via a system offered by the authorities  
conducting the procedures**

**or ...**

#unibrennt - Mozilla Firefox

http://unibrennt.at/

Meistbesuchte Seiten Erste Schritte Aktuelle Nachrichten Web Slice-Katalog

#unibrennt

Alle Unis Deutsch

28786 Facebook Fans

150161 #unibrennt Tweets

6435 Solidarisierende davon Lehrende: 830

seit 1 Jahr 196 Tagen 7 Stunden

MACH MIT & ZEIG DICH SOLIDARISCH

News unibrennt - der Film OpenBlog Mach mit! Bündnisse Termine Forderungen Kontakte Solidarisier dich! Wiki

Alle Livestreams anzeigen

NEWS

**Students united @ MAYDAY Parade ... f\*\*k die Prekarisierung!**

Wie schon rundherum seit Wochen fleißig mobilisiert wird und im Kontext einer der Grundforderungen der #unibrennt-Bewegung im Jahre 2009 (Ende der Prekarisierung im Wissenschaftsbereich!) ruft auch #unibrennt auf, am Tag der Arbeit vor allem auch die prekarierten WissensarbeiterInnen nicht zu vergessen. Generation-Praktikum, Ich-AGs ... die Realität sieht nicht unbedingt rosig auf >>> wehren wir uns dagegen und zeigen [...]

weiterlesen →

Geschrieben am 29.04.2011 1 Kommentar >

NEWS, UNI WIEN

Allgemeiner Forderungskatalog

DIESER HÖRSAAL IST BESETZT!

unisereuni.tv

Lesewettbewerb / Teilnehmer: nachricht...

Sehr sehr kurze Zusammenfassung ...

Search

Unisereuni :: Wiki  
Unisereuni :: Fotos  
Unisereuni :: Das Buch  
Unibrennt.tv

unibrennt-derfilm.at

Terminkalender



<http://e-voting.at>

---



Alexander Prosser

Univ. Economics and Business, Vienna

[prosser@wu.ac.at](mailto:prosser@wu.ac.at)

<http://e-voting.at>