

## eDem 2010 Workshop: Call for Participation

Social Networking Tools supporting constructive involvement throughout the policy-cycle: 7<sup>th</sup> May  
At the 4th International Conference on eDemocracy 2010, Danube-University Krems, Austria, 6 -7th  
May 2010 <http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/edem/>

Organisers: Ella Taylor-Smith (Edinburgh Napier University) and Ralf Lindner (Fraunhofer ISI)

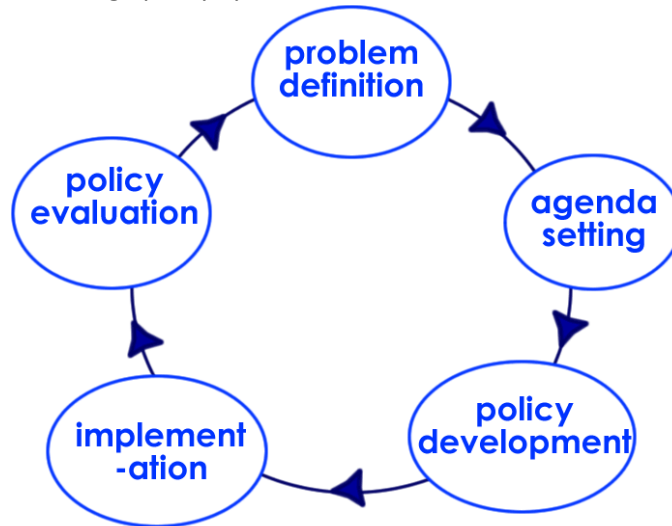
### Objectives and focus

This workshop follows on from Social Networking Tools and Widgets to Promote or Expand eParticipation Initiatives <http://itc.napier.ac.uk/huwy/snsworkshop.asp> held at eDem 09.  
The focus for our 2010 workshop is on using SN tools, specifically to support involvement (rather than enabling involvement through publicity).

- We're interested in the tools used –both brands and type.
- We're interested in the kind of involvement supported –individual or collaborative, opinions or experiences, text or media?
- We're interested in the policy-making goals – who receives the input and how can it be used?
- We'd to look at this in terms of a 5-stage policy cycle.

#### 5 Stages of Policy Cycle

*We want to find out what kinds of tools are supporting involvement at which stages in the policy cycle<sup>1</sup>*



### Who should participate?

- People involved in eParticipation or eGovernment projects that are using Social Networking tools to support the participation element of their project.
- People developing SN tools or “widgets” that could be used for this.
- People investigating eParticipation methods, involved in related research or with related experience/expertise.

### How to get involved

1. Complete our framework so that we can make an initial survey to support the workshop. See Table 1 below. We will send you this as an XL file.
2. *Optionally*, write a short position paper (2 -5 pages) about your use of social networking tools in an eParticipation context. Papers will be published in the conference proceedings, according to space, quality and relevance. Or a position paper about your related research or experience.
3. The workshop will take place in a computer lab and we'd like to see tools in context and widgets in action.

<sup>1</sup> For a brief overview over the policy cycle framework see W. Jann/K. Wegrich (2007): “Theories of the Policy Cycle”, in: F. Fischer/G.J. Miller/M.S. Sidney (eds.): *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis*, Boca Raton, p. 43-62.

**Table 1: Framework**

Project name/ URL	Tool/ widget type or brand	Citizen target	Policy- making target (type and level)	Policy life-cycle stage	How do policy- makers respond?	How do you measure its impact?	Problems so far
	e.g. RSS feed, Bebo	e.g. Young people, local people, people who use a specific service	e.g. Parliamentary Committee, Minister (National or EU), Local council	1. Problem definition 2. Agenda setting 3. Policy development 4. Policy implementation 5. Policy evaluation	e.g. using the same SN tool, provide text for response page, no method provided	e.g. usage statistics, feedback from users, change in policy.	

## More about the policy life-cycle stages

The policy cycle framework presents a simplified and ideal-type model of the policy process; it is nevertheless useful to systemise and structure the highly complex processes of policy-making:

1. **Problem definition and articulation:** Recognising a policy problem or the need for policy change and expressing the necessity of state intervention.
2. **Agenda setting:** Selection of a recognised problem and putting it on the government's (formal or informal) agenda for serious consideration of public action.
3. **Policy formulation:** Proposals and demands are transformed into government policy documents, actions or programs. This includes the definition of objectives and consideration of alternatives as well as the development of legislation and regulation.
4. **Policy implementation:** This can include the specification of program details and the execution or enforcement of a policy by the responsible agencies.
5. **Policy evaluation:** This can involve evaluation and review of the policy in action, research evidence and views of users. Here there is the possibility to loop back to stage one.

## Deadlines

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Please send position papers by 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Papers selected for publication in the proceedings will need to be ready by 29<sup>th</sup> March.

## Contact

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## HuWY: Hub Websites for Youth Participation [www.huwy.eu](http://www.huwy.eu)

This workshop is being run by the HuWY project. The HuWY project aims to get young people talking about policies and laws which affect the Internet and channel this to people in governments and parliaments, working on these policies. Young people choose the topics and questions, host the discussions on their web pages and post the results on Hubs provided by the project. HuWY partners provide information and support and involve young people and youth groups. HuWY also organise people working on Internet policies to read and use the results. The online Hubs hold supporting information, space for the results of young people's discussions and feedback from policy-makers.



eParticipation

The HuWY project is sponsored by the European Commission under the eParticipation preparatory action.