

13 March 2014

“Deepening democracy with e-media”

Governance Committee seminar on e-democracy
Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 27 March 2014
Room 1, 14.00-16.30

Programme

Moderator: Michael REMMERT
Deputy to the Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe

1. Opening

Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, Belgium (R, SOC),
Chair of the Governance Committee

Leo AADEL, Estonia (R, ILDG) and Annemieke TRAAG, Netherlands (R, ILDG)
Governance Committee co-rapporteurs on e-democracy

2. Open Data for transparency in local government

Sian REID, Cambridge City Council, United Kingdom (L, ILDG)

Cambridge City Council is committed to being open and transparent about how they work, their decision-making processes and the services they provide. As part of this commitment they are increasing the amount of data that they make available publicly so that residents are able to hold them to account. They use the UK government's Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency www.cambridge.gov.uk/open-data-transparency-in-local-government

Debate

3. Web applications for voters

André KROUWEL, Election Compass, Netherlands

Election Compass is a web application that aims to engage voters by informing them which political party is closest to their own political preferences. It asks voters their opinion on relevant political and social issues and then compares these individual preferences to the position of all relevant parties in these issues. It informs voters about which parties that are running in the election and where these parties stand on the important issues. www.kieskompas.nl

Debate

4. Combining on-line and off-line local democracy

Kadri TILLEMANN, Chairperson, Council of the Keila Municipality, Estonia

“Online”(e-) and “offline” (traditional) democracy use a very different set of tools. E-democracy requires the creation of parallel structure(s) and that can in certain cases be expensive and time consuming to set-up. Estonian municipalities have faced, and are still facing, numerous challenges in terms of development of e-democracy for their citizens. Suggestions will be presented, based on lessons learnt from Estonian success stories, on how to effectively combine e-democracy with traditional democracy at the local level.

Debate

5. Conclusions by the co-rapporteurs

Leo AADEL, Estonia (R, ILDG) and Annemieke TRAAG, Netherlands (R, ILDG)
Governance Committee co-rapporteurs on e-democracy