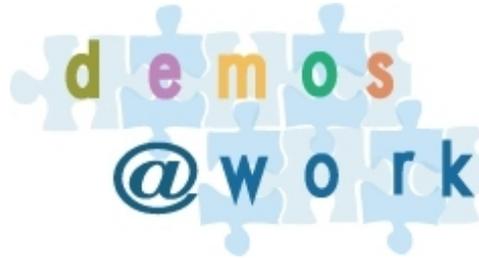


## DEMOS@WORK: DEMOS@WORK

**Enable European-wide discussion between elected representatives and civil society**



**The war on smoking is about to be stepped up in Europe. An innovative web portal will allow EU citizens to provide direct feedback on smoking issues to European parliamentarians.**

One of several projects falling under the EU's eParticipation initiative, the Demos@Work project will tap into anti-smoking sentiment for a test run in participatory democracy.

Depending on how the project pans out, it could lead to a broader involvement of ordinary people in the legislative process.

The project will make full use of the latest Web 2.0 technologies to create a web portal that will allow real-time exchanges of information and ideas between citizens and some of their elected representatives.

### Interaction with legislators

It will also have a mobile platform that will allow both citizens and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to access the project's services and applications and interact with each other.

The portal will be created through the customisation of two open-source platforms. One was developed by a completed EU-funded project and the other by a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO).

Project eRepresentative created a virtual desktop to provide mobile support to elected representatives. It worked with legislators, civil servants and other stakeholders in the European Parliament.

The other platform is Gov2DemOSS, which is a generic, informative and collaborative e-participation platform that claims to be the most advanced of its kind. The platform provides a user-friendly channel for elected officials to interact directly with their constituents, and vice versa.

### Keeping up to date

The virtual desktop gives officials the opportunity to keep constituents abreast of news and upcoming events, and to gauge public opinion by posting polls and topics for deliberation.

Registered citizen users can take part in discussion forums, tell their own stories in blogs, view topics under discussion, access related documents and vote in the polls.

The generic nature of both platforms means that the software developed for them can be extensively customised to suit the requirements of Demos@Work.

On one level, the project is about getting citizens involved in all discussions and decisions that are part of the EU's fight against smoking.

On another, it is a testbed for addressing the issue of citizen disengagement from the decision-making processes, increasing the level of awareness of parliamentary activities among citizens and leveraging existing information and communications technology (ICT) assets.

### Improving dialogue

The partners in the project anticipate Demos@Work will improve the level of dialogue between regional and national representatives, the European Parliament and citizens, while using and testing different forms and methods of civic engagement.

Like other eParticipation projects, Demos@Work will rely heavily on the latest in ICT to try and bring about a fundamental change in the way traditional democratic societies, in particular the EU and its Member States, engage both leaders and citizens.

#### Project ID card

- Funded under: [eParticipation](#)
- Total cost: €0.95m
- EU contribution: €0.71m
- Project reference: EP-07-01-035
- Execution: From 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2009
- Project status: Closed
- Contract type: eParticipation EPART

#### Links

- [Demos@Work](#)
- [eParticipation preparatory action](#)

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NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS	GREECE
GOVERNMENT TO YOU	GREECE
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS	REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
SCYTL SECURE ELECTRONIC VOTING, S.A.	SPAIN
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