

ICT-PSP Call 3bis 2009

eParticipation Work Programme 2009

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DG Information Society and Media
Unit INFSO-H2:
ICT for Government and Public Services**

 **eParticipation**



CIP - ICT PSP Workprogramme 2009

- Objective 3.5: e-Participation - empower and involve citizens in transparent decision making in the EU*
- Funding Instrument: Pilot Type B – It is intended to support several pilot actions for up to 7 M€ of EU contribution

***This objective builds on the 2006-2008 Preparatory Action:**
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/egovernment/implementation/prep_action/index_en.htm

Focus and outcomes (I)

The overall aim is to address with ICT based solutions today's challenges in policy making. These include:

fighting the perceived democratic deficit, which requires a new relationship between politicians and citizens, and which is particularly challenging at EU level;

reconnecting citizens with politics and policy-making and sustaining citizens' involvement;

reducing the complexity of decision-making and legislation processes within the EU.

Focus and outcomes (II)

- **It is intended to support several pilots, each focusing on at least one of the following goals:**
 - - **Enabling** transparent decision and policy making by supporting the drafting of legislative texts for politicians and decision-makers. The piloted solutions should help improve the clarity and understanding of legislative texts and content for non-specialists and in a multi-lingual environment, thus facilitating citizens' participation in the process.
 - - **Enhancing** the direct participation of citizens and civil society in the decision-making process itself, and improving the access to relevant content and available options, thus enabling them to interact with decision-makers in real time and with concrete contributions.
 - - **Involving** citizens in the policy-making process by enhancing social networking capacities, using new intermediation models, creating collaborative input to policymaking (e.g. data gathering, sharing collective knowledge, Web2.0 technologies) thus enabling the provision of policy-making related services by citizens.

Conditions and characteristics (I)

- **The solutions proposed should clearly address an EU legislative, policy or decision making process and contribute to improving the process concerned and to increasing the participation of the public. Attention should be given to solutions which are easy to use and understand by citizens (rather than e.g. by ICT and other experts).**
- **- The pilot should involve a significant number of citizens from several EU Member States. The needs of decision-makers and citizens should be taken into account from a very early stage of the pilot.**
- **- The ICT solutions should enable a wider group of people to voice their opinions, provide input and get involved in politics. All projects will contribute to improving the usability of web-based and other ICT tools in the field. Accessibility21, multi-lingual and multi-cultural issues need to be taken into account as well as adapting the tool to be used by people who may have only limited knowledge of the subject area and low level IT skills.**

Conditions and characteristics (II)

- - **Proposals should demonstrate a clear understanding and definition of the institutional environment concerned and the civil society actors involved. The pilots must include and mobilise all relevant actors involved, including decision-makers, citizens, civil society groups and the private sector.**
- - **Along with the technical pilot phase, the pilots will also have to identify and develop sustainable business models that would grant financial self-sustainability to the proposed strategy in the long term.**
- - **The pilots will also have to address legal, administrative and protocol issues related to the real working and operational conditions.**

Conditions and characteristics (III)

- **The pilots will have to produce an appropriate evaluation framework so as to allow service impact assessment and, in parallel, provide an analysis of the proposed solution in terms of the costs and benefits of implementation.**
- **- The pilots should exploit the experience of other Commission-funded programmes or applications, in particular projects financed under the eParticipation Preparatory Action20.**
- **- The proposals should provide an effective dissemination plan, especially in terms of the impact at European level, including networking and ways to attract a wider audience to participate. The pilots should also provide training material and modules, and operational manuals so as to guarantee better acceptance and adoption of the proposed solutions.**

Expected impact

- - **High level of maturity in the use of ICTs in transparent, participatory and accountable decision-making.**
- - **Demonstrated improvements in policy and decision-making**
- - **Enhanced citizens' capacity to participate in EU policy and decision-making through wide scale collaboration across the EU.**