A Roadmap towards e-Democracy

CAHDE
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About A-SIT

Secure Information Technology Center – Austria

- **Founded:** 1999

- **Business Fields:**
  - Attestation of Certificate Service Providers according to the EU Directive on Secure Electronic Signatures (1999/93/EC)
  - Austrian E-Government Initiative
  - Consulting in questions of IT-Security
  - Attestation of Online Payment Systems

Secure Information Technology Center – Austria
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The Basic Idea

◆ **Wanted**: A useful instrument/methodology to accelerate the development of e-Democracy

◆ **Inspiring Example**: the i2010 initiative of the EC
  - leading Member States in the area of e-Government identified a vision of e-Government
  - the so called i2010 action plan points out a number of building-blocks arranged along a timeline identifying what has to be done at which time

◆ The **roadmap methodology** could be a useful instrument for elaborating e-Democracy as well
The Basic Idea

◆ Thus, a roadmap should serve:
  - …the endpoint of the roadmap should be a vision of a fully implemented e-Democracy infrastructure/tool/project/… → agreement upon a common vision/target
  - …you should be able to find your current position along the roadmap → find your status
  - …you should be able to identify next steps needed in order to make progress → make and measure your improvement

◆ The roadmap should not serve:
  - The roadmap should not recommend concrete technologies or solutions.
  - The roadmap should not dictate certain democratic processes.

it is a Methodology
The Basic Idea

- Taking lessons from the e-identity roadmap, the necessary steps in order to create a roadmap might be:
  - Defining/adapting a common terminology
  - **Defining/adapting a common typology of democracy**
  - Collecting good practice cases
  - Finding an appropriate level of abstraction and define the building-blocks of the roadmap
  - Identify indicators/criterias along the roadmap
  - Definition of an appropriate timeline

- A roadmap can be a useful **methodology** in order to bring things forward. At the end it will serve a **common understanding**, a **common view** and a **common vision**: to elaborate and improve e-Democracy.
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The Schema

◆ The roadmap schema sketched is a stepwise series of building-blocks leading from a certain initial e-Democracy situation to the aimed vision of e-Democracy.

◆ Each building-block represents a certain action, milestone or a certain set of requirements that have to be met at this certain stage.

◆ There are two relations between building-blocks:
  
  ▶ **defining requirements**
  
  …each building-block influences its succeeding building-block by demanding further requirements based on the current stage.

  ▶ **review achievements**

  …at each stage of the roadmap, the achieved results have to be reviewed against the requirements defined by the preceding building-block in order to monitor success and to control progress.
The Schema

Building Block 0

Building Block 1

Building Block n

Building Block n+1

Milestone 1

Milestone 2

Milestone 3

Milestone 4

Initiative of introducing e-democracy tools

require

review

require

require

require

simplified

(considering a linear order of activities)
The Schema

more complex

(considering recursiveness and parallelism)
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An Example

To give an example, this proposal outlines possible building-blocks of a roadmap by applying the proposed schema to the requirements given by Ulrike Kozeluh.

This example introduces three building-blocks:
- the building-block “General Considerations”
- the building-block “Practical Considerations”
- the building-block “Establish Environment”

Requirements and criteria are exemplary taken from the proposal of Ulrike Kozeluh.
An Example

◆ „Disclaimer“:
  ◆ This example is an example only and does not claim to be complete.
  ◆ Furthermore, the proposed actions and intentions may vary depending on the concrete situation.
  ◆ The proposed level of abstraction may be subject to alterations.

◆ The last building-block deals with environmental aspects and should prepare the environment as requested by the targeted e-Democracy tools.
  ◆ All succeeding building-blocks are expect to depend heavily on the concrete situation and on the targeted scenarios.
An Example

- Each building-block is described semi-formally by:

  - Building-Block Name
  - Requirements
  - Intention
  - Activities
  - Review Criteria
  - Remarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building-Block</th>
<th>1) General-Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>None. This is the very first building block.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intention</td>
<td>Discuss general aspects and formulate the motivation for introducing e-Democracy tools and services. Furthermore, it is necessary to acquire the present democratic behavior considering different aspects, whereas legal and social aspects are of utmost importance. This building block should provide a profound understanding of the current situation with respect to democratic and participative processes and movements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Activities     | The following list is an informative enumeration of possible actions (it does not claim to be complete):
  - reflect political motivation
  - determine the existing/planned concept of governance/citizenship
  - ascertain and describe existing participative processes
  - determine the influence capability of existing participative processes
  - determine and describe participative processes which are enabled by law but are not yet in place; describe the expected influence
  - analyse actors, levels and methods of negotiation and decision making, democratic deficits, power relations and lobbyism
  - analyse the general political culture, related policy fields and additional ways of democratic policy making
  - ascertain and identify the official political commitment (define expectations and discuss benefits, pros and cons for various levels) |
| Review-Criteria| The following questions should be answered (this list does not claim to be complete):
  - What is the aim of participative processes?
  - Do you want to meet the increasing demands of public accountability in general?
  - Which concept of governance / citizenship do you want to follow?
  - Are aim and consequences (i.e. duties and responsibilities) of each concept (the informed citizen, the involved, collaborative or empowered citizen) clear and transparent for all?
  - What are the traditional ways of negotiation, participation and decision making?
  - Who is entitled to define a problem which causes the need for a participative process and why?
  - Is there an official political commitment for introducing e-Democracy services/tools—not only at the level of governance setting off the process, but also on the related levels? Is it possible to guarantee a commitment independently from election periods?
  - Includes the political commitment the all identified democratic/participative processes or only some of them? |
| Remarks        | The outcome of the investigative activities requested in this building block should provide a basis understanding of existing/possible democratic and participative processes. Furthermore, the democratic culture of society should be acquired. |
# Example:

## Practical Considerations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Building-Block</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) General Considerations</td>
<td>None. This is the very first building block.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Intention of the building block 1: General Considerations (Elementary, the fundamental building block). There must exist a complete description of existing and enabled democratic/participative processes.
- A sufficient and effective political commitment for establishing an democracy is a long-term requirement, a sustainable commitment to democracy.

**Remarks**

This building block should provide a profound understanding of the current situation already in place, describe the existent democratic/participative processes in a panoramic view, whilst specifically aiming at empirical methodologies. Furthermore, the democratic culture of society should be acquired. Furthermore, the identification of political motivations or bodies (e.g. national boards, etc.)? 

### Remarks

This building block ensures that the environment suits the requirements of the environment already in place, that is to say the technical environment (e.g. provided by the network design, etc.)? 

- Are there existing democratic/participative processes? If possible, describe the identified democratic/participative processes in a panoramic view, whilst specifically aiming at empirical methodologies.
- Are the democratic/participative processes for all processes considered being considered as a (semi-) formal process description?
- Are all identified processes well described? Are the descriptions complete and exhaustive?
- Are all identified processes qualified for being implemented as democratic/participative processes?

**Remarks**

This is just an example!
Summarize

◆ **various scenarios** are imaginable

◆ the Roadmap is a **methodology** to
  - ... introduce/install a certain e-democracy project/tool
  - **... improve e-democracy in general**
  - ... plan the introduction of several tools and projects
  - ... etc.

◆ a **common understanding** is required
  - terminology
  - typology
  - vision
  - target...
Thank you for your attention.....