Innovative democratic approaches and tools, e-democracy

ACT Stronger, CERV Project 101081349

Bordeaux June 23

Democracy

☐ The word '**democracy**' has its origins in the Greek language. It combines two shorter words: '**demos**' meaning whole citizen living within a particular city-state and '**kratos**' meaning power or rule.

☐ The term appeared in the 5th century BC in Greek city-states, notably Classical Athens, to mean **"rule of the people"**.

.

Democracy onset

Cleisthenes (/ˈklaɪsθɪniːz/ *KLYS-thin-eez*; Greek: Κλεισθένης), or **Clisthenes** (c. 570 – c. 508 BC), was an ancient Athenian lawgiver credited with reforming the constitution of ancient Athens and setting it on a democratic footing in 508 BC

Features of democracy

- **freedom of assembly,**
- **association**
- **property rights**
- **freedom of religion and speech,**
- **inclusiveness and equality,**

Features of democracy

- **citizenship,**
- **consent of the governed,**
- **voting rights,**
- **right to life and liberty,**
- **minority rights**

What are the beliefs of the new democracy Greece

New Democracy political position has been placed as center-right. The main ideologies of the party have been described as liberal-conservative, or conservative liberal, Christian democratic, and with a pro-European stance.

-

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fivQUIC7-8

Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 and explanatory memorandum

E- democracy:

- offers new opportunities to enhance public engagement and participation in democratic institutions and democratic processes;

- helps empower civil society and improve policy-making procedures;

- Its strength lies in its capacity to facilitate both bottom-up and top-down initiatives;

- its growth can contribute to a redefinition of political priorities and a transformation of the ways our local and global communities are governed.(council of Europe)

E-democracy initiatives

are underway throughout Europe at all levels of governance in an effort to enhance transparency, accountability, access and dialogue. These developments, when seen as complementary to traditional channels of democratic participation, offer a means to improve governance and consequently reinforce public confidence and trust in democratic procedures and values. The Council of Europe has long taken the lead on digital policies relating to government action as exemplified by the Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec(2004)15 on electronic governance and Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mM7k9ZokoGg
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMtqZkz8Kjk
-

Does Greece encourage innovation?

Greece aims to improve it technological and innovation footprint taking into consideration the increasing demand for automation and digitalization both in public and private sectors, taking also advantages of all available funding

This publication is a White Paper produced by the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications (IIT) of the National Centre for Scientific Research Demokritos (NCSR Demokritos), April 2020
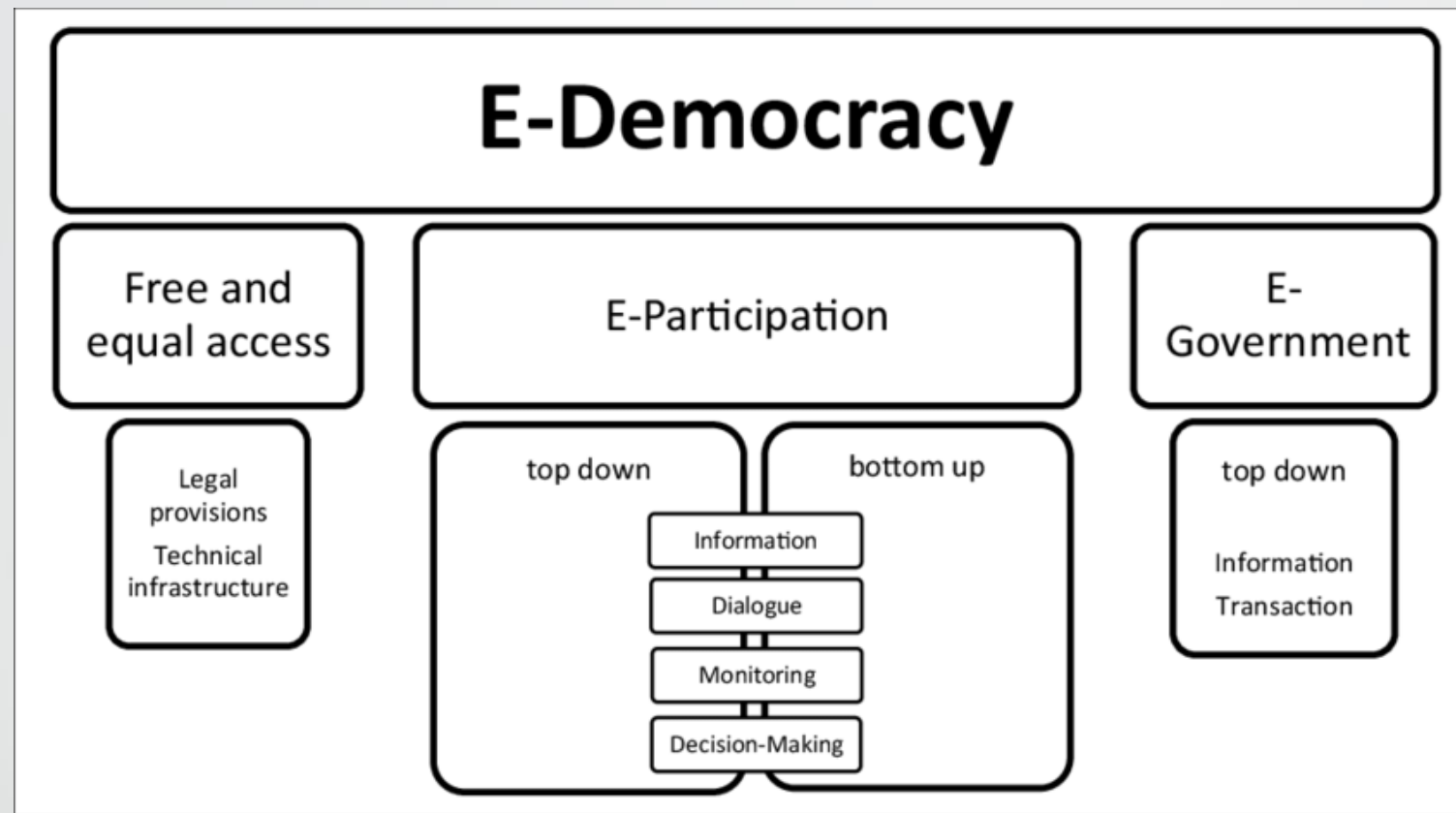
Greece aims to foster a technology-enabled future that embraces innovation and development for the benefit of all and for the common good, by innovating upon its core values that constitute the core values of Europe; the values and moral ideals of Democracy.

•

AI Greece national strategy

- The Hellenic AI Strategy is centered around the vision for Greece to become the world's laboratory for Democratizing AI in a sustainable way

- The ambition is for Greece to become the world's experimental laboratory for the sustainable Democratization of AI and the infusion of the democratic principles in AI-by-Design

-

E-democracy also known as digital democracy or Internet democracy, incorporates information and communication technology (ICT) in political and governance processes.

Electronic democracy

live broadcasts, online discussion, forums, email communication with politicians, electronic campaigns, electronic surveys, electronic polls, blogs and e-petitions apply in Greece

full electronic voting does not apply

E-democracy tools in Greece

- Diavgeia portal (European Commission, 2018).

 ensures the transparency of the functioning of the public administration by publishing all decisions taken by their authorities

E-democracy tools in Greece

- the Opengov.gr portal created to meet the information needs of citizenshttps://www.gov.gr/en/upourgeia/upourgeio-psephiakes-diakuberneses

The portal provides information on all governmental and administrative decisions and builds best practices. It is designed to serve the principles of transparency, consultation, cooperation and accountability and comprises three initiatives (European Commission, 2018)

the Opengov.gr portal initiatives

- (1) public appeals for the recruitment of civil servants

- (2) an electronic debate that allows citizens and organizations to express their views and criticisms on draft legislation and policy initiatives;

- (3) In the OpenGov Laboratory case, an open innovation initiative combines the ideas and suggestions of citizens, the public, and the private sector

Labs.OpenGov.gr

seek to connect and harness decentralized knowledge and explore new ways to solve public administration problems.

1. Geoadata.gov.gr offers open geodata and services.

2.A national open data catalogue enables the INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure provision of value-added services based on open data. Citizens can publish, access, reuse and visualize all published information free of charge (European Commission,

e-participation design at municipality level

- it is necessary to point out Trikala, was the first Greek city to introduce technology in 2006, enabling citizens to participate in both the first and second level of local decision-making and urban policymaking.

e-participation design at municipality level

- In Thessaloniki, from 2016 to 2018, a website was set up to consult citizens, as well as a page with publicly accessible information on the functioning of the city administration and other data of interest to citizens and other stakeholders (mobility data, data on the functioning of research institutions and universities, etc.) (Open Government Partnership, 2018).

Participatory budgeting

open access to budget data has been established in the Western Greek region and the possibility for citizens to express their opinions on spending on tourism, culture, and social structures. The regional government determined the fund's amount. The process took place in the period 2016-2018. Citizens were informed about the process through the YouTube channel and video-on-demand, and citizens could submit proposals through the Diavgeia portal and vote on them.

Sources

Selected proposals were discussed at 19 Rivista Trimestrale di Scienza dell'Amministrazione – http://www.rtsa.eu – ISSN 0391-190X ISSNe 1972-4942 a special regional meeting of representatives of regional authorities with citizens' representatives (Open Government Partnership, 2018)

Questions ????

- Do e-democracy tools serve the needs of people ?
- Do citizens benefit from AI ?
- What about job related issues?
- What is going to replace whom?

Thank you for your attention