

A Roadmap towards e-Democracy

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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



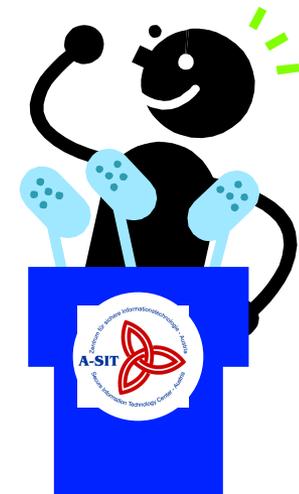
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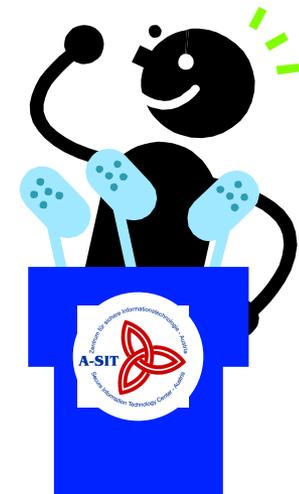
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The Basic Idea

- ◆ **Wanted:** A useful instrument 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
- ◆ Such kind of roadmap could be a useful instrument for elaborating e-Democracy as well

The Basic Idea

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

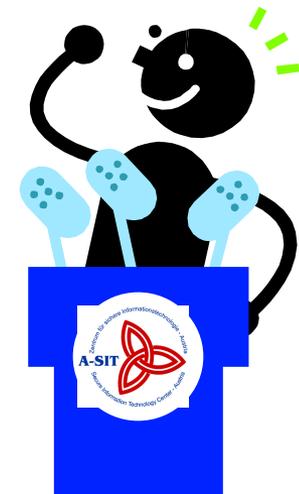
- ◆ The **roadmap should not serve:**
 - ◆ The roadmap should not recommend concrete technologies or solutions.
 - ◆ The roadmap should not dictate certain democratic processes.

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
 - ◆ Collecting good practice cases
 - ◆ Finding an appropriate level of abstraction and define the building-blocks of the roadmap
 - ◆ Identify indicators along the roadmap
 - ◆ Definition of an appropriate timeline
- ◆ A roadmap can be a useful instrument in order to bring things forward. In the field of e-Government, roadmaps are currently the tool of choice. 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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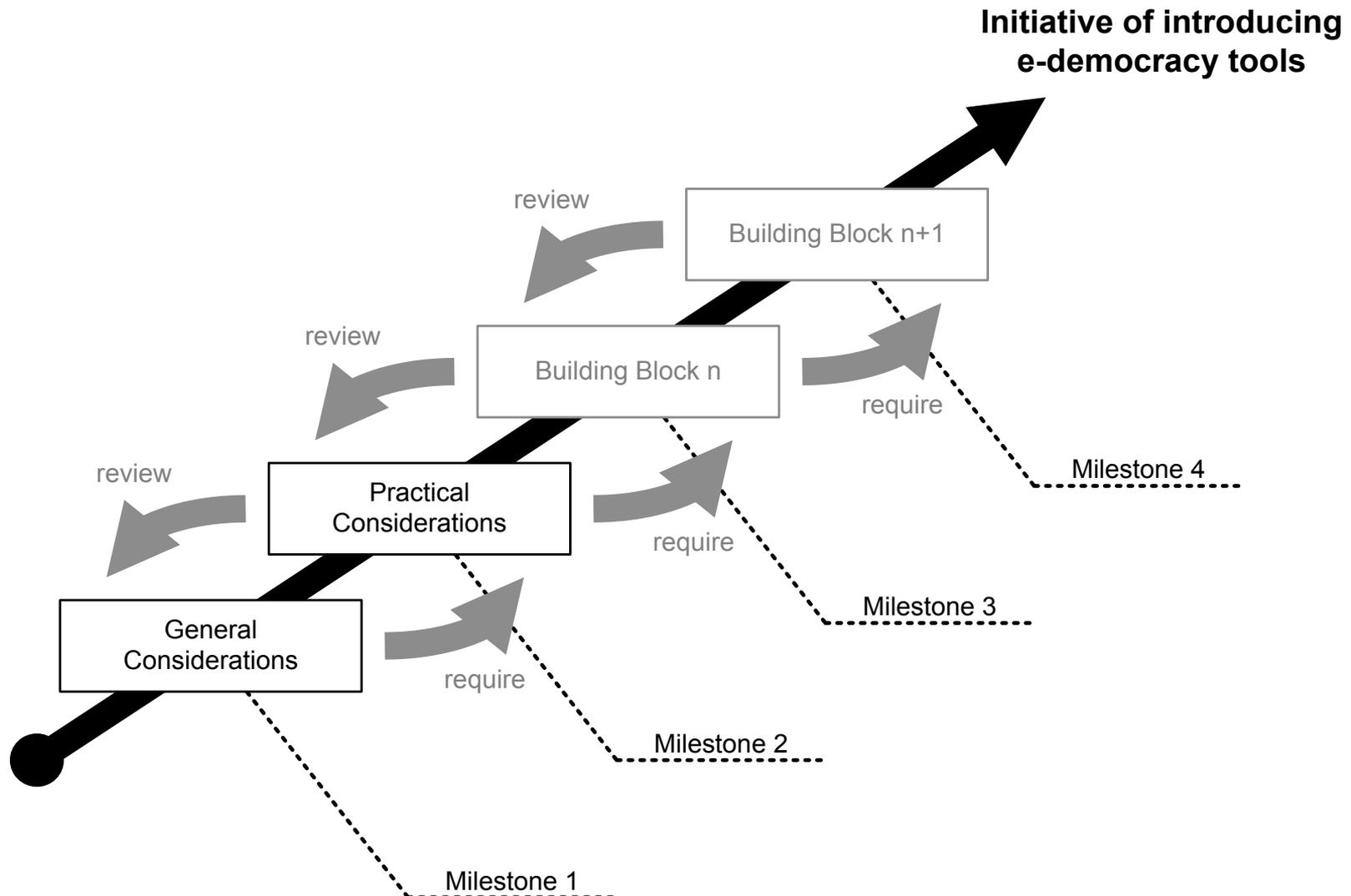
The Schema

- ◆ two methodologies of how to create this schema:
 - ◆ **top-down approach:**
 - ... steps and building-blocks are defined beginning from an aimed vision downwards to the given starting point of the roadmap.
 - ◆ **bottom-up approach:**
 - ... after defining the aimed vision at the end of the roadmap the roadmap is incrementally created from the given starting point of the roadmap.
- ◆ The **bottom-up approach**, seems to be more pragmatically since the CAHDE discussion documents available are describing e-Democracy requirements from a bottom-up view.

The Schema

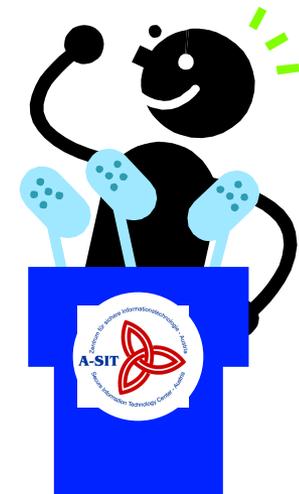
- ◆ The roadmap schema sketched is a stepwise series of building-blocks leading from a certain initial e-Democracy situation to the aimed vision of e-Democracy
- ◆ Each building-block represents a certain action, milestone or a certain set of requirements that have to be met at this certain stage.
- ◆ 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



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A Proposal

- ◆ 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 (see ⁶)

A Proposal

◆ „Disclaimer“:

- ◆ This example is a proposal 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.

A Proposal

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

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



Building-Block	
1) General-Considerations	
Requirements	None. This is the very first building block.
Intention	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.
Activities	The following list is an informative enumeration of possible actions (it does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

A Proposal

◆ Example:



Building-Block 1) General-Considerations	
Requirements	None. This is the very first building block.
Intention	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.
Activities	The following list is an informative enumeration of possible actions (it does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 lobbying 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 basic understanding of existing/possible democratic and participative processes. Furthermore, the democratic culture of society should be acquired.

Building-Block 1) Practical Considerations	
Requirements	This building block succeeds building block 1 "General Considerations". Therefore, the following requirements must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There must exist a complete description of existing and enabled democratic/participative processes. A sufficient official political commitment for elaborating an e-Democracy services/tools is required. As the introduction of e-Democracy is a long-term movement, a sustainable commitment is necessary.
Intention	Based on the result of the basis considerations of building block 1, this building-block aims to analyse the identified (conventional) democratic and participative processes in detail. It should be determined which of them can and should be converted to electronic or electronic aided processes. Furthermore, the identified processes and their semantic requirements should be well-described. This building block should bear the basis for environment related activities targeted in the succeeding building block. Thus this building block should result in a semantic definition of requirements and in a set of (semi-)formal process descriptions.
Activities	The following list is an informative enumeration of possible actions (it does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine the added value of an online (electronic) participation process in contrast or supplementary to an offline procedure in this individual case identify processes which should not be provided in an electronic form and describe why (due to legal, political or organizational reasons) describe the identified democratic/participative processes in a (semi-)formal way (preferably by using a standardized methodology) determine and describe precisely the semantic requirements for all processes considered being convertible to an electronic equivalent identify those processes which should be provided in an electronic/online form, create a list of priority if possible
Review-Criteria	The following questions should be answered (this list does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the added value of an online participation process in contrast or supplementary to an offline procedure in this individual case? Which democratic/participative processes should be realized as an electronic/online service or tool? Do you expect an overall advantage—in comparison to the expected costs/drawbacks—of introducing the identified online processes? If possible, provide a quantitative comparison. Are all identified processes qualified for being implemented as electronic/online tools/services? Are all identified processes well described? Are the descriptions complete and exhaustive? Are the semantic requirements of the identified processes complete and compliant with the legal background identified in building block 1?
Remarks	Usually, e-Democracy services and tools will be introduced stepwise following a phase plan (i.e. master plan). It is recommended to make a phase plan based on the outcome of this building-block and to make a decision regarding concrete e-Democracy (sub-)projects. After this building block concrete e-Democracy tools might be chosen.

Building-Block 1) Establish Environment	
Requirements	This building-block succeeds building block 2 "Practical Considerations". Therefore, a number of democratic/participative processes which are intended to be implemented as electronic/online services/tools are identified already. For each of them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a (semi-)formal description, preferably following a standardized methodology exists a complete description of all semantic requirements exists
Intention	This building-block aims to analyse the environment for creating online/electronic democratic and participative services/tools as identified and described in the preceding building-block. This building-block deals with the legal, non-technical and technical environment. If the existing environment lacks of essential elements, this building block should bear concrete suggestions and measurements.
Activities	The following list is an informative enumeration of possible actions (it does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reflect the semantic requirements identified in building block 2 against the given legal background; if necessary, formulate recommendations to adapt the existing legal situation according to the defined requirements reflect the semantic requirements identified in building block 2 against the given non-technical background (e.g. organizational situation); if necessary, formulate recommendations to adapt the existing situation according to the defined requirements reflect the semantic requirements identified in building block 2 against the given technical background (e.g. existing IT-infrastructure); if necessary, formulate recommendations to adapt the existing situation according to the defined requirements if necessary, create a plan containing concrete measurements in order to prepare a complete environment as required analyse citizens' technical environment (e.g. Internet coverage, etc.) and evaluate the danger of digital divide
Review-Criteria	The following questions should be answered (this list does not claim to be complete): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the targeted democratic/participative processes require modifications of the current legal situation? Is there a political commitment (majority) to enforce the proposed legal modifications? Are organizational changes required, e.g. is there a need to introduce further authorities or bodies (e.g. national registers, etc.)? if organizational changes are required, do they imply legal provisions (i.e. legal modifications) as well? Are the formulated legal and organizational modifications consistent? Is an exhaustive IT-infrastructure already in place (e.g. provided by national/regional/local e-governance initiatives)? Are special technical infrastructure components required in order to create the targeted democratic/participative services/tools and which of them exist already (e.g. electronic identity management, infrastructure, electronic delivery channels, etc.)? How many citizens are equipped with or have access to the requested infrastructural elements (e.g. Internet, electronic identities, etc.)?
Remarks	This building block ensures that the environment suits the requirements of the

initiative of introducing e-democracy tools

Thank you for your attention.....

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