



EUROPEAN  
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# E-participation: the key to more inclusive democracies?

## Agenda

Mercator Centre Berlin, Neue Promenade 6, 10178 Berlin  
28 June 2018

## EFC's European Democracy Network meeting - Agenda

### *Background*

We face times of democratic deficit at both a national and European level. Governments are attempting to have greater citizen involvement, while citizens are expressing a wish to be more involved. The question is can e-democracy, or more specifically e-participation be the key to reducing the democratic deficit? There are two main aspects of e-democracy: 1. Using ICT to promote democracy and; 2. making democracy evolve and adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century context. While progress is being made to increase e-participation in phases prior or following the core decision-making, the challenge with it being additional and complementary often leads to frustration. This can in turn lead to an opposite desired effect.

In order to fully understand the concept of e-democracy and e-participation, this meeting will begin with an introductory session to more fully understand what these concepts mean. We will then look at how e-participation can improve democracy looking at issues of quality, corruption and inclusiveness. We will also look at how e-participation affects the quality of democracy at a transnational and European level. These discussions will take place with the aim of understanding what is working, what is not working and where the funding gaps are that philanthropy can play a role.

### *Meeting purpose*

The purpose of the meeting is to bring together network members and others to explore what e-democracy and e-participation is, how can this improve democracy and what role philanthropy play can.

### *Desired Outcomes*

By the end of this meeting participants will have:

- i) A shared understanding of the background and rationale for the meeting so that all are starting from a common point of reference.
- ii) A greater awareness of what e-democracy and e-participation is, and what it is not.
- iii) A greater awareness of what initiatives are currently being implemented and what lessons can be learned from them. This can help identify gaps/spark ideas for synergies.
- iv) A greater awareness of what other actions the philanthropic sector could take in relation to improving the quality of democracy through e-participation so that these can inform and inspire members of the European Democracy Network.
- v) A list of immediate next steps e.g. product of lessons learned

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<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> ➤ Martin Schmid, Project Manager, Stiftung Mercator
<b>09:45 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Introductory session: What is e-democracy?</b></p> <p>Questions to answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is e-democracy? What are the opportunities? What are the challenges?</li> <li>➤ Why did we chose e-participation as focus and what role can funders have here?</li> <li>➤ What conditions are necessary for e-participation to be successful?</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Anthony Zacharzewski, Governor and Managing Partner, Democratic Society</li> <li>➤ Ira van Keulen, Senior Researcher / Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Rathenau Instituut</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Martin Schmid, Project Manager, Stiftung Mercator</li> </ul> <p>Proposal for the format: A moderated conversation among speakers clarifying concepts, challenges, risks and what already exists on the European level.</p>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Session 1: How can e-participation improve democracy?</b></p> <p>Additional question to explore: What improvement could offline participation bring if it was more mainstream/accepted/compulsory?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Elisa Lironi, Digital Democracy Manager, ECAS</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tin Gazivoda, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Foundations</li> </ul> <p>Proposal for format: Initial statements from speakers with interaction with audience. Group work could ask participants to draw a picture of democracy improving elements on the wall and take a moment to prioritise areas and highlight where philanthropy has/could play a role.</p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Session 2: How can e-participation overcome challenges of the quality of democracy at a European/transnational level?</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Christoph Bautz, Member of the Board, We Move</li> <li>➤ Imants Breidaks, CEO, Mana Balss</li> <li>➤ Nicolas Patte, Director of Communication, Cap-Collectif / Parlement et Citoyen</li> <li>➤ Citizens for Europe, Representative TBC</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inga Wachsmann, Programme Manager, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le progrès de l homme</li> </ul> <p>Proposal for format: Initial statements for speakers with interaction with audience. Group work could discuss examples that overcome challenges/risks and identify what links we see to other areas of work (e.g. shrinking space, media/fake news, and advocacy work).</p>

<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Coffee
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Group work: What are the funding gaps?</b> Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Stephen Boucher, Managing Director, Euractiv Foundation</li></ul> Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Jennifer Fitzsimons, Thematic Networks Coordinator, European Foundation Centre</li></ul>
<b>17:30</b>	Close of meeting