



Online consultations and their role in policy-making practice

Date: 8 February 2012
Time: 1:30pm – 5:30pm
Venue: NRW Landesvertretung Berlin, Hiroshimastr. 12, 10785 Berlin
Organisers: Consortium of the EU-sponsored project „IMPACT“
Local organisation: Zebralog, Fraunhofer FOKUS

Workshop Outline

Policy-making in most cases involves the consultation of experts, stakeholders and other interested parties from outside the political/administrative field. Consultations enrich the policy-making process by adding new knowledge and perspectives. They also help to improve the quality of policy drafts. However, including the information and the new perspectives from consultations in policy proposals also poses practical problems for those involved in the drafting process.

How can online consultations help to improve policy proposals? What are the best ways to integrate them in the policy-making process? And what kind of support is available to policy analysts analysing and evaluating their results?

These questions will be discussed at the workshop, together with a presentation of software prototypes for computer-supported analysis of policy argumentation. The workshop includes short presentations with discussion on the practice of online policy consultations as well as computer-supported policy argumentation as well as practical testing of software tools. Participants will hear about the latest developments in e-participation and will be able to share their experiences and views with the other participants.

Aims of the Workshop

- The workshop presents up-to-date procedures and technologies to support policy-making processes with a focus on online consultations and computer-supported policy argumentation.
- Participants test and evaluate tools for argumentation analysis currently under development in the EU-project "IMPACT" and discuss their application in policy-making.
- The workshop offers opportunities to share experiences about the practice of policy-making and available support.

Participants

- Policy-makers, policy analysts and members of public administration who are involved in policy-making and/or consultation initiatives, also from business and civil society organisations.

- There is no registration fee, but please register informally by sending e-mail to Steffen Albrecht (albrecht@zebralog.de) before 4 February 2012.

Agenda

13:30 Reception, introductions

14:00 Presentations (20min plus 10min discussion):

- Success factors for online consultations (tbc: representative of Bertelsmann Stiftung)
- Practical implementation of online consultations: the consultations on the "Bologna process" in NRW (Matthias Trénel, Zebralog, tbc: representatives of the NRW Ministry for Innovation, Science and Research)
- Computer-supported Policy Argumentation (Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Gordon, Fraunhofer FOKUS)

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Policy-making with computer-supported argumentation – a Scenario (Dr. Steffen Albrecht, Zebralog)

16:15 Practical evaluation of software tools (argument reconstruction, policy modeling structured consultation, argument visualisation) in form of a „walk through“ based on the EU’s initiative „Copyright in the Knowledge Economy“

17:00 Discussion of the tools in light of the practice of policy-making

17:30 End of the workshop

Please Note

The workshop is held in German language. Please contact us if you would like to attend but require any assistance (language or otherwise). Following the workshop, participants have the opportunity to attend the debate at the MEDIENFORUM.BERLIN on „Open Data, Open Government - Neue Regeln, neue (Medien-) Politik?“, held also at the Landesvertretung NRW.

Further information about the MEDIENFORUM.BERLIN (programme, registration details) can be found online: www.medienforum.nrw.de/berlin.html

About the IMPACT Project – www.policy-impact.eu

IMPACT (sponsored by the EU’s 7th Framework Programme) is conducting original research to develop software tools for analysing, visualising, consulting about and modeling policy arguments in support of policy deliberations. The project is lead by the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems, with the universities of Amsterdam, Leeds and Liverpool as well as UID GmbH and Zebralog GmbH & Co. KG as partners.

