



Seminar on Digital Union

Workshop IV

Version 12th January 2015

***E-democracy, e-elections, e-governance, e-participation: what are the opportunities and challenges at local, national and EU level?
Which are the main opportunities and problems to be solved concerning inequality of access, protection of privacy, ensuring transparency etc.?***

28th January 2016 from 11:30 - 13:00
Room A5G305 (in English only)
European Parliament, Alfiero Spinelli Building

Aim of the workshop:

e-democracy, e-elections, e-governance, e-participation: what are the opportunities and challenges on local, national and EU level? Which are the main opportunities and problems to be solved concerning inequality of access, protection of privacy, decreasing bureaucracy, ensuring transparency etc? How would social democrats make better use of the e-democracy and e-participation?

Experts:

- **Brando BENIFEI** - MEP EMPL- Moderator
- **Toni COWAN-BROWN** Vice-President of European Business Development at NationBuilder
- **Carsten SCHMIDT** - Project Director, Ministry of Justice of NRW, Germany
- **Kristina REINSALU** - Head of e-Democracy Domain, Estonia's E-Governance Academy
- **Serge NOVARETTI** - Policy Officer, Public Services, DG CNECT

Toni COWAN-BROWN - Vice-President of European Business Development at NationBuilder



As a digital consultant working at Burson-Marsteller she helped clients address complex problems by developing cross-practices, cross-channel and cross-media programmes - where digital and social have an increasing role to play.

As the EMEA Deputy Digital Practice Leader (then the EMEA BursonDigital lead) she worked on cross-market new business,

supported the EMEA digital team, ensured that digital was integrated throughout all activities and developed social media strategies and processes. Working at the European Commission she worked on a variety of EU policy objectives - such as the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the Connecting Europe facility (digital service infrastructures) and the Digital Agenda for Europe – that combined technology and multi-disciplinary partnerships to find long-lasting solutions that could be scaled up across Europe. This is where I discovered my passion for technology.

She is also an active European blogger, she has been asked to reflect the views of young digital entrepreneurs about the future of Europe (<http://stateoftheeu.eu/>), invited by Google to talk about trending online and brand creation, and a regular guest on BBC London 94.9 radio where she comments on the news of the day with a focus on the EU, digital communications and technology. In 2014, she was named by The Drum one of the UK's 30 under 30 in digital.

Carsten SCHMIDT - Project Director, Ministry of Justice of NRW, Germany



Senior judicial officer 1997-1999 in the public prosecutor's office in Siegen and Hagen. Senior judicial officer 1999-2003 at the insolvency court in Siegen. Deputy coordinator of the electronic land register project in North Rhine-Westphalia 2001 - 2004. During this time he was a member of the national working groups for establishing electronic court systems for insolvency-, land- and business-register.

He moved to the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, in 2004. He is the deputy head of division in the division for information technology and e-Justice and co-ordinates the e-Justice activities in the ministry. Besides that he is a member of the experts groups for e-Justice, company law and insolvency registers of the European Commission and the Working Party for e-Law/e-Justice of the council of the European Union.

Since 2013 he is the project director of the e-SENS project. This is the so called large scale project funded by the European Commission and 20 Member States and Associated Countries to establish an interoperability platform for e-Government services in Europe.

Kristina REINSALU - Head of e-Democracy Domain, Estonia's E-Governance Academy



Kristina Reinsalu is currently the Head of the e-Democracy domain at the e-Governance Academy. She is also a part-time researcher and lecturer on social communication at the Institute of Media and Communication at the University of Tartu. Along with teaching she has been involved in several local and international research and practical projects related to open governance and the use of ICT in implementing its principles, focusing in particular on e-participation and tools for its implementation at the local level.

Kristina's latest projects include 'Open governance in Estonian local governments', 'Implementation of the principles of open government in engaging citizens in decision-making processes in Moldova', 'Participatory budgeting in the City of Tartu', the

Interreg IVC project 'eCitizen II – Towards citizen-centred e-government in European cities and regions' and the 'Electoral Compass' produced for Estonia's parliamentary elections.

Serge NOVARETTI - Policy Officer, Public Services, DG CNECT



Policy and Programme manager at European Commission/Directorate-General Communications Networks Content Technologies (DG CONNECT) / Sustainable and secure Society/ "Public Services" unit (H3):

- Public Sector Modernisation policy
- Public Services Governance
- eGovernment Large Scale Pilots long term sustainability
- e-SENS Project Officer
- preparing the Connecting Europe Facility and
- monitoring eParticipation projects (Parterre, Immigration Policy, Puzzled by Policy, Ourspace)

A French university engineer. Serge began his career at the French ministry of defense, in establishing ICT networks at different administration levels (from local up to ministerial). Subsequently, in 2000, working at French Prime Minister's Office, in the framework of the inter-ministerial eGovernment initiative he set up the first French government network (ADER) before joining in 2002, as a seconded national expert, the European Commission to help building the European TESTA network. At the same time, he also launched some activities in the field of eProcurement supporting the implementation of the 2006 public procurement legislative framework. After returning to France in 2004 for two years within the ministry of culture and communication as deputy head of ICT department, he is currently working as an official for the European Commission.