

2nd WeGov Workshop AGENDA

2nd WeGov Workshop within IFIP EGOV 2012, September 2012

Track A – EGOV: Workshop D

WeGov Toolbox – Politicians engage with Citizens

September 5th, 2012

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<i>Workshop Chairmen</i>	Prof. Maria Wimmer (University of Koblenz, Germany) & Paul Walland (IT Innovation Centre, UK)	
16:00 – 16:10	Introduction of the workshop session: Scope of the workshop and main objectives	<i>Paul Walland, IT Innovation Centre, United Kingdom</i>
16:10 – 16:30	Project background: Mission and objectives of the WeGov project	<i>Steve Taylor, IT Innovation Centre, United Kingdom</i>
16:30 – 16:50	Stakeholder engagement: User roles, feedback and methodology	<i>Timo Wandhöfer, GESIS, Germany</i>
16:50 – 17:00	Live Demo: Demonstration of the final WeGov toolkit	<i>The WeGov Consortium</i>
17:00 – 17:10	Toolbox validation: Preliminary results with policy makers	<i>Timo Wandhöfer, GESIS, Germany</i>
17:10 – 18:00	Round table discussion	<i>Workshop presenters and workshop attendees</i>
End of Workshop		

Workshop objectives: The workshop aims to present the final version of the WeGov toolbox to the scientific community of e-governance and e-government to explore potential use-cases and end-user.

WeGov field trials (use-cases) consisted of direct contact for the evaluation of the WeGov toolbox with different end-users such as members of Parliaments, the European Parliament and political parties, as well as representatives of non-profit organizations' and local authorities' (end-users). The key purpose was to evaluate the WeGov toolbox and its added value, and to investigate its usage as a complement to decision-making processes regarding any given policy-theme.

Largely, WeGov has targeted policy-makers as the primary end-user; however the WeGov solution intended to be flexible & applicable to many different use-cases. The 2nd WeGov Workshop aims to further explore new potential end-users that could benefit from adopting the WeGov toolbox. The WeGov Consortium is confident that the WeGov toolbox could be beneficial for nearly all levels of government (e.g. from the Parliament and ministries to municipalities); as well as for entirely different end-users such as NGOs or Media representatives in their efforts to engage with citizens in order to improve or influence the process of opinion-making. In the future WeGov partners even consider the prospect of addressing citizens as the WeGov toolbox's end-users enabling them to strengthen their own voice and make it heard!

WeGov toolbox: The WeGov toolbox is a website for policy makers that provide tools and techniques to engage with citizens on well-established social networking sites (SNS). Three different analysis components allow users and comments to be identified with respect to a particular topic: (i) the topic opinion analysis creates groups of words that represent the topics within a discussion; (ii) the user activity analysis predicts which posts are going to generate more attention; (iii) and the user behavior analysis classifies users according to their behavior and interactions within the SNS.

Workshop organizer: The WeGov Consortium

***About the project:** WeGov has been funded with support from the European Commission under the SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME THEME ICT 2009.7.3 ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling. The project aims to provide the tools and techniques for closing the loop between policy makers and the citizens, taking advantage of the plethora of well established social networking sites. These tools will enable policy makers to move away from limitations involved in the current practice of government hosted websites and instead to make use of the high levels of participation and rich discussions that already take place in existing social networking communities. The pilots are conducted in Germany and within the European Parliament.*

For more information please visit: <http://www.wegov-project.eu/> Email: info@wegov-project.eu