

Websites review

Junta Electoral Central

<<http://www.juntaelectoralcentral.es>>

The Junta Electoral Central (Central Electoral Board) has an informative website with electoral legislation at a state, autonomous community and local level (regulations, doctrines, etc.), as well as historical information and the results of different elections (local, state and autonomous community) since they started. You can also consult the current administrative situation regarding any electoral processes underway, the electoral calendar and any candidatures announced, as well as news items concerning modifications in candidatures, objections, affairs related to the electoral register, etc. It is surprising that it does not monitor any possible referendums or popular municipal consultations that may be taking place in Spain, and that there is no mention of e-democracy experiences in general. On the other hand, it does highlight specific regulations with regard to popular legislative initiatives.

YouGov. What the world thinks

<<http://www.yougov.com>>

YouGov is a service company installed on the internet, a dot.com. It provides services for different entities, such as the media and policymakers. Principally it specialises in supplying data on audiences on the internet and opinion polls of all kinds based on samples of users online. In this respect, a large part of its surveys function using the active participation of respondents who, providing they live in the country where the corresponding YouGov delegation is located, can answer the different questionnaires with the benefit of entering a prize draw and other compensation. It is believed that one reason respondents are motivated to take part is the chance to have an effect on the reports on public opinion that other institutions will use to guide their actions.

Internet and Democracy Project

<<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/internetdemocracy?page=1>>

Internet and Democracy is a project by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, of Harvard University, focusing principally on the Middle East, examining how the internet influences the norms and modes of democracy, including its impact on civil society, citizen resources, governmental transparency and laws. Its website contains different international studies on the relation between the internet and democracy, from studies on blogs in Iran to the role of the internet in the Burma saffron revolt or the role of digital networks in the orange revolution in the Ukraine.

Observatori de la Comunicació Local (OCL)

<<http://www.portalcomunicacion.com/ocl>>

The Observatori de la Comunicació Local (Observatory of Local Communication) is an initiative by the Institut de la Comunicació (InCom-UAB), the Organisme Autònom Flor de Maig, the Comissionat de la Presidència per a la Societat del Coneixement (provincial government of Barcelona), and the Consorci Comunicació Local. The aim of the Observatory is to create a permanent structure dedicated to research, dissemination and training in subjects related to communication at a local and county level, taking Catalonia as its main area of reference, although it also pays attention to the situation of other autonomous communities in Spain and to the experiences of other regions and states in Europe. Through its website you can access documents and periodic reports produced by the Observatory on local communication in Catalonia, as well as different online texts that deal with and reflect on local communication in the press, on radio, television, the internet, etc.

i-pol: A portal on Internet and politics

<<http://www.esri.salford.ac.uk/ESRCResearchproject/index.html>>

Researchers from the British universities of Oxford, Leicester and Chester, Stephen Ward, Rachel Gibson and Wainer Lusoli, created this portal on the internet and politics that provides academic resources on this area. Their site provides access to research, publications and research projects carried out by these researchers on the internet's relationship with issues such as political representation, participation, elections, political activism, etc.

Demo-part. European foundation for participatory democracy

<<http://www.demo-part.org>>

This website is the window on an initiative promoted across Europe by the Catalan government, the authority of the Tuscany region in Italy and the French Région Poitou Charentes. The project became a branch of the European Foundation for Participative Democracy and specifically its website format started in autumn 2007 as a space for contact between the different institutional collaborators and other agents. In this respect, its content includes descriptions of the different initiatives and meetings that have been promoted, especially in the area of youth and the practice of various e-democracy tools, as well as other experiences closely related to participative budget policies. There is also a section on studies and research with publications and announcements of seminars and congresses on the area.

Observatori de Polítiques de Comunicació (OPC)

<<http://www.portalcomunicacion.com/opc/cat/home.asp>>

Through the Communication Portal (InCom-UAB) we can access the Observatori de Polítiques de Comunicació (Communication Policy Observatory). The Observatory monitors the events and news related to political intervention in the communication industry (media and telecommunications, essentially) and also promotes research into and activities to disseminate communication policy. The initial geographical scope of the Observatory's work is Spain and particularly Catalonia, although it also pays special attention to general trends recorded at a European level and in Latin America. The Observatory's portal provides access to different resources, such as a list of reference publications related to the study of communication policies (books, scientific journals, websites on current affairs), and various websites of interest (international and national policy centres, international observatories and institutes and international associations of researchers).

Ad Hoc Committee on e-democracy (CAHDE)

<http://www.coe.int/t/e/integrated_projects/democracy/02_activities/002_e-democracy/>

The Ad Hoc Committee on E-democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE) was set up in 2006 as an intergovernmental body whose members are delegated by the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, and by relevant international organisations. Among the CAHDE's objectives we can find the aim to "examine developments on e-democracy/e-participation at European and international level", "measure the effectiveness and impact of e-democracy initiatives and devices and their complementarity and interoperability with non-electronic forms of democratic engagement and participation" and "prepare appropriate reports and documentation with a view to making recommendations to the Committee of Ministers on possible further action in the field of e-democracy, in the framework of the Council of Europe's agenda on strengthening democracy and good governance". Its portal contains the documents setting up the CAHDE, information on its meetings, working documents and other resources.

Momentum E-participation

<<http://www.ep-momentum.eu/>>

This is the specific action project to support the e-participation programme of the European Commission. It contains a whole series of initiatives concerning a generic concept of "participation" (political, social, cultural...) within the reality of the European Union. Its content therefore includes links to projects such as *Lexipation* (www.lexipation.org) which aims to bring the legislative process closer to Europeans; *demos@twork* (www.demosatwork.org), starting up a pilot test of dialogue between citizens and representatives against tobacco; and *Empower* (www.ep-empower.eu) aimed at NGOs and individuals to channel participation in environmental issues.

Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet

<<http://ipdi.org/>>

The Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet (IPDI), created in 1998, belongs to the North American George Washington University and has the aim of promoting the use of the internet and new communication technologies in the political field and of enhancing democratic values and government and encouraging citizen participation; to "democratize democracy". The IPDI carries out research, publishes studies and guides on how to use new technologies better, aimed at candidates, civil servants and activists. It also organises seminars and congresses on good practices and on the democratisation of the use of the internet and other technologies. At its website you can download multimedia resources and the research carried out by the Institute, as well as obtain information on congresses, seminars and activities related to new technologies and democracy.

Access2Democracy.org (A2D)

<<http://www.access2democracy.org/content/mission-statement>>

Access2Democracy is a non-governmental organisation that functions as an international civil society organization and a research centre establishing strong links and a long-term cooperation between civil society, governmental authorities, academic community and the private sector. This organisation's main aim is the study and analysis of e-democracy issues and the involvement of citizens in this field. It also promotes the principles and practice of participatory e-democracy within the global arena. Its website provides access to resources of international research centres and institutes and different projects, articles and studies related to e-democracy and other new terms appearing with new technologies, such as *e-vote*, *e-participation*, *e-government*, *e-citizen*...

Democràcia.Web

<<http://www.democraciaweb.org>>

Democràcia.web is an internet site promoted by the Jaume Bofill Foundation with the support and collaboration of the Catalan parliament and in close collaboration with the project promoted by the Open University of Catalonia, *Parlament Obert* (<http://www.uoc.edu/parlamentobert/>). The different sections of the website aim to exploit the possibilities offered by the internet to enhance democracy. Along these lines, there is a section of letters to the parliament and also links to the website of this institution, as well as an interesting collection of applications presented as games of political simulation where users can do exercises to calculate seats, tests to evaluate your ideological profile and emulate parliament votes to see which party they would coincide with.

Politics Online

<<http://www.politiconline.com/>>

The *Politics Online* website has a wide range of content on the campaign strategies and public relations used in the US electoral campaigns. Politics Online is a project by Phil Nobel and Associates, a political and public affairs consulting firm that has taken part in online election campaigns for the last 10 years. It is therefore a website to promote the company but there are also many different resources and information that provide us with a view of the current situation of what is called e-democracy or digital politics: research reports, press cuttings, agenda of activities, newsletters, etc.

E-democracy Centre (e-DC)

<<http://edc.unige.ch/>>

The E-Democracy Centre has the support of the Research Centre on Direct Democracy (c2d) of the University of Zurich, the European University Institute (EUI) of Florence and Oxford Internet Institute (OII) of Oxford University. One of its objectives is to improve understanding of how new information and communication technologies (ICTs) are interacting with our institutions of democratic governance, and to study the outcomes that are produced as a result. Its website provides access to research and publications on methodologies that measures the use of ICTs in the new forms of participation and deliberation, *e-voting*, *e-governance*, electronic participation, online forums and the relationship between political parties and the internet.

Presupuestos Participativos TV of Seville Council

<<http://www.presupuestosparticipativos.tv>>

This website is a broadcasting platform, using the webTV format, for experiences of participatory budgets at Seville council. It contains all the information in audiovisual format for this e-democracy project that has been in operation since 2004. Specifically, the website contains specific information on each district, with a summary of the development of projects with participatory budget and with interviews with local residents taking part in the initiative. There are also other resources, such as training videos explaining how to speak in public, the budget cycle and a section where citizens can provide videos illustrating their ideas or proposals, to put them to debate.

Election Services Corporation

<<http://www.electionservicescorp.com>>

This is the website of a firm specialising in organising electoral processes for associations, companies, universities, trade unions, political parties, etc. Of particular note among the services it offers are the logistics for online voting. This product is presented precisely as a strategy to attempt to increase the electoral participation of the members of each organisation. Apart from a detailed description of the services offered and the team, the website also has some results of finished processes, with a clear favourable trend towards the use of online voting, although without the disappearance of voting in person.

Internet & Politics (ECPR)

<<http://intradociep.upmf-grenoble.fr/Spip/>>

At the start of 2009, the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) created an academic group on the internet and politics with the aim of serving as a link at an international level between the different researchers dealing with this area, creating a consolidated network and exchange for Internet research, promoting comparative and cross-national study and expanding the geographic focus of research in Europe. The research group focuses principally on the fields of e-democracy and e-governance. Its website has information on research, conferences and events related to e-democracy, as well as reviews of books, monographic journals on politics and the internet and links to institutions, projects and other websites of interest.

E-petitioner of the Scottish parliament

<<http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/>>

Awarded for eGovernment Good Practice in 2005, this initiative by the Scottish parliament is dedicated to being a channel to receive citizen proposals via the internet. The project consists of different petition initiatives started up and published on the website, so that citizens can support them by adding their signature. The evolution of the petitions is quite systemised, as once the period for gathering signatures is over, the petition enters a parliamentary administrative circuit that studies its viability by asking for reports, etc., until it can be turned into some kind of parliamentary bill.

Blogs

eDemocracia blogspot

<<http://edemocracia.blogspot.com/>>

eDemocracia is a space set up in 2003 and promoted by Antoni Gutiérrez-Rubí (political consultant) and David Casacuberta (lecturer in Philosophy at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) that aims to be a space of political and media reference on e-democracy and serves as a space to reflect on democratic systems, to enhance democracy, reform the electoral system, citizen participation processes, action, participation and political representation, within the framework of the new possibilities offered by new technologies, within the so-called cyberdemocracy, digital or e-democracy.

Other websites of interest

Channels for political parties and institutions on YouTube:

CiU: <<http://www.youtube.com/ciutv>>

PSC: <<http://www.youtube.com/psctv>>

ERC: <<http://www.youtube.com/esquerratv>>

ICV: <<http://www.youtube.com/iniciativaverds>>

PP: <<http://www.youtube.com/partidopopular>>

C's: <<http://es.youtube.com/ciudadanos>>

Blogs of members of the Catalan parliament

<<http://www.parlament.cat/portal/page/portal/pcat/IE07>>

National Centre for Digital Government (UMassAmherst)

<<http://www.umass.edu/digitalcenter/index.html>>

Information Society Project (Yale Law School)

<<http://www.law.yale.edu/intellectuallife/informationssocietyproject.htm>>

Pew Internet & American Life Project

<<http://www.pewinternet.org/topics/Politics.aspx>>

Center for the Digital Future (University of Southern California)

<<http://www.digitalcenter.org/>>

Democracies Online Newswire

<<http://www.dowire.org/>>