

# The Challenge: E-Democracy

Gains and Risks when Implementing  
E-Democracy Instruments

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Is Electronic Democracy really the heaven  
where only citizens decide and  
nation-wide direct democracy materializes?



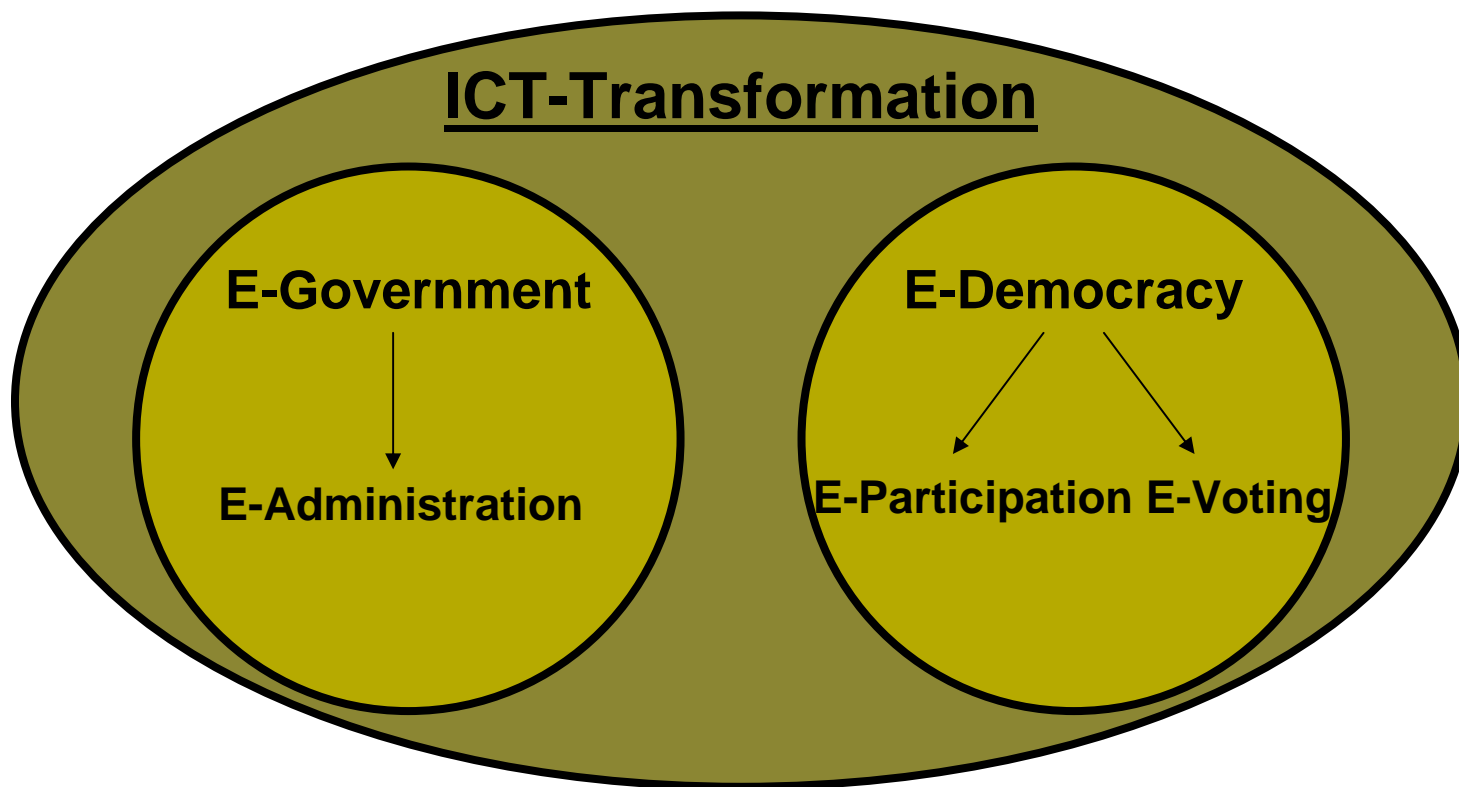
## Five Stages of Election Administration Development

1. Turn of 20th Century: Development of first election automation machines – Werner von Siemens, Thomas Edison
2. After Second Worldwar: First ideas of nationwide instant direct democracy using electronic voting
3. 1970's: Development of Electronic Direct Recording Machines, legally binding

# History (II)



4. 1990's: With Internet worldwide (trans)national remote electronic voting becomes possible. First trials.
  
5. New Millennium (2006):
  - Debates get serious; Countries with full coverage of electronic voting machines
  - first multi-national recommendations/standards available and discussed in practice
  - first legally binding national remote electronic voting
  - first trials of e-participation, research projects

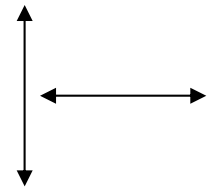
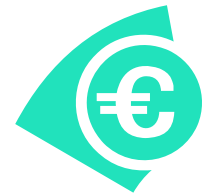
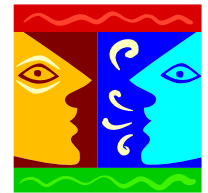


# The Transformation to an E-Nation in 5 Steps

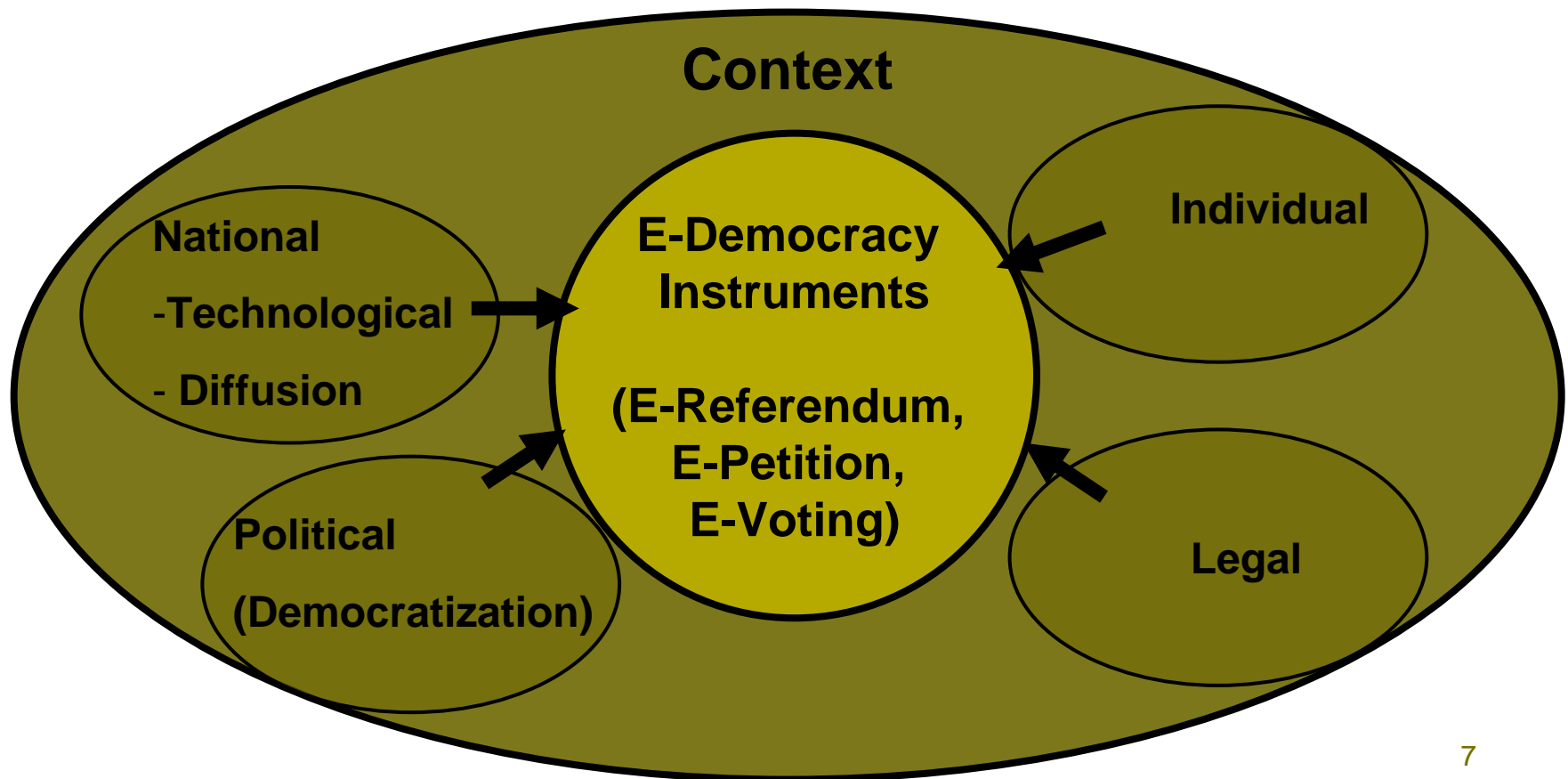


1. Offer information online
2. Enable uni-/bidirectional communication
3. Implement service and financial transactions
4. Integrate services vertical and horizontal
5. Include active citizen participation

(Moon, 2001)



# Influencing Factors for E-Democracy Instruments



# Perceived Benefits & Risks of E-Voting



## **Benefits:**

1. Fast(er)  
Counting/Results
2. Cost savings
3. Easier Accessibility  
(Anywhere => Citizens  
living abroad,  
Disabled)

## **Risks:**

1. Lack of Transparency
2. Lack of Trust
3. Lack of Understanding  
of IT
4. Digital Divide



# The Missing Link: The Politicians



- The middleman on the way to E-Democracy
  - Study of MP's of the European Parliament
    - Strong support for E-Administration, they see only problems with citizen education and technology diffusion
    - Weak to no support for E-Democracy, b/c of security risks, „junk votes“, tradition in danger
- ➔ Willingness to change a system that got them elected is low

# Summary



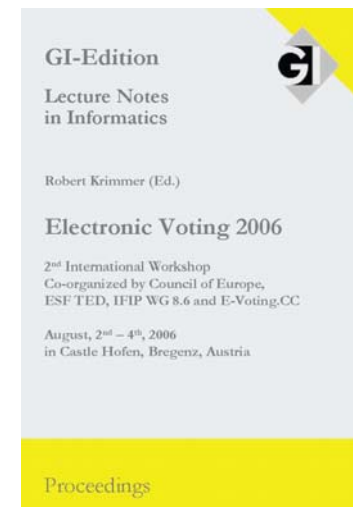
## **We are not there yet!**

- We have to raise transparency – audits & observation!
- We have to make people IT-literates
- We have to convince politicians!

- **We need to discuss**

→ **6. – 9. August 2008 Bregenz**

→ Start slowly but steadily  
with small key projects and grow by the time



# Contact



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