



eParticipation

Internet and Democracy

11 July 2008: Session IV

Institut für Kommunikationswissenschaften
Universität Bonn





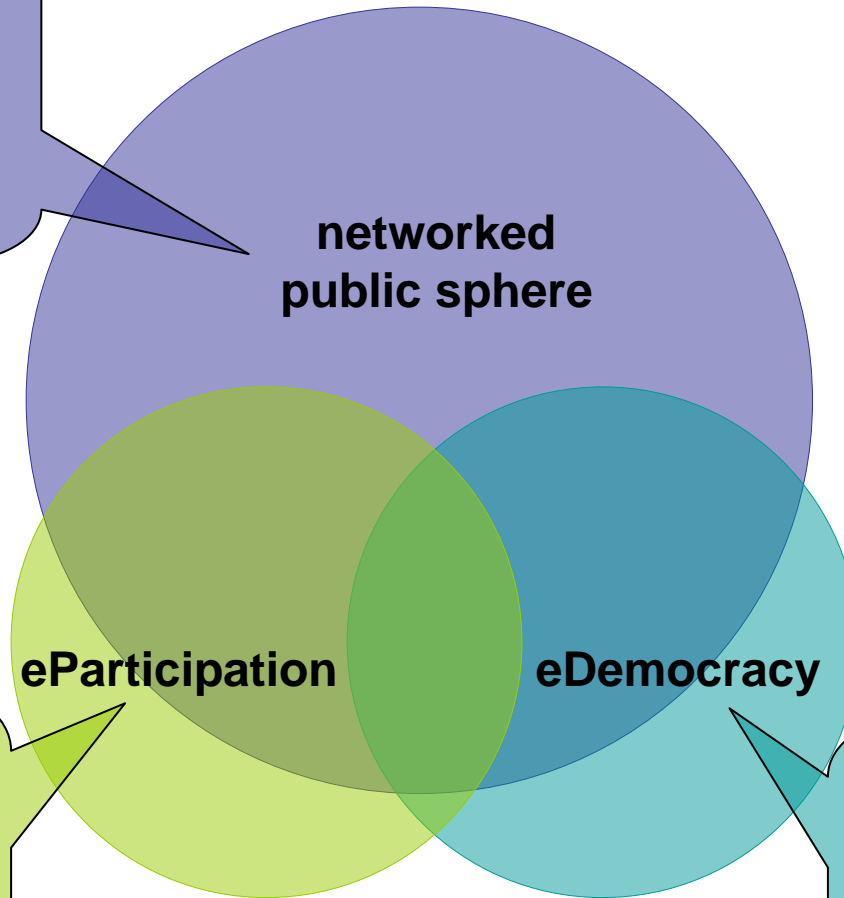
Coming up

1. trends of political participation
2. 5pm interview with Gregor Hackmack
[abgeordnetenwatch.de]
3. *Isabel: eParticipation formats*
4. reasons for eParticipation



Where we are right now ...

characteristics of this new public sphere
basis for all other efforts;
e.g. citizen journalism via blogs etc.



government-initiated efforts
focus on influencing decisions
(„Interessenvertretung“)
e.g. online deliberations & petitions

bottom-up efforts
diversity of actors; focus often on information & mobilisation;
e.g. mash-ups and transparency sites



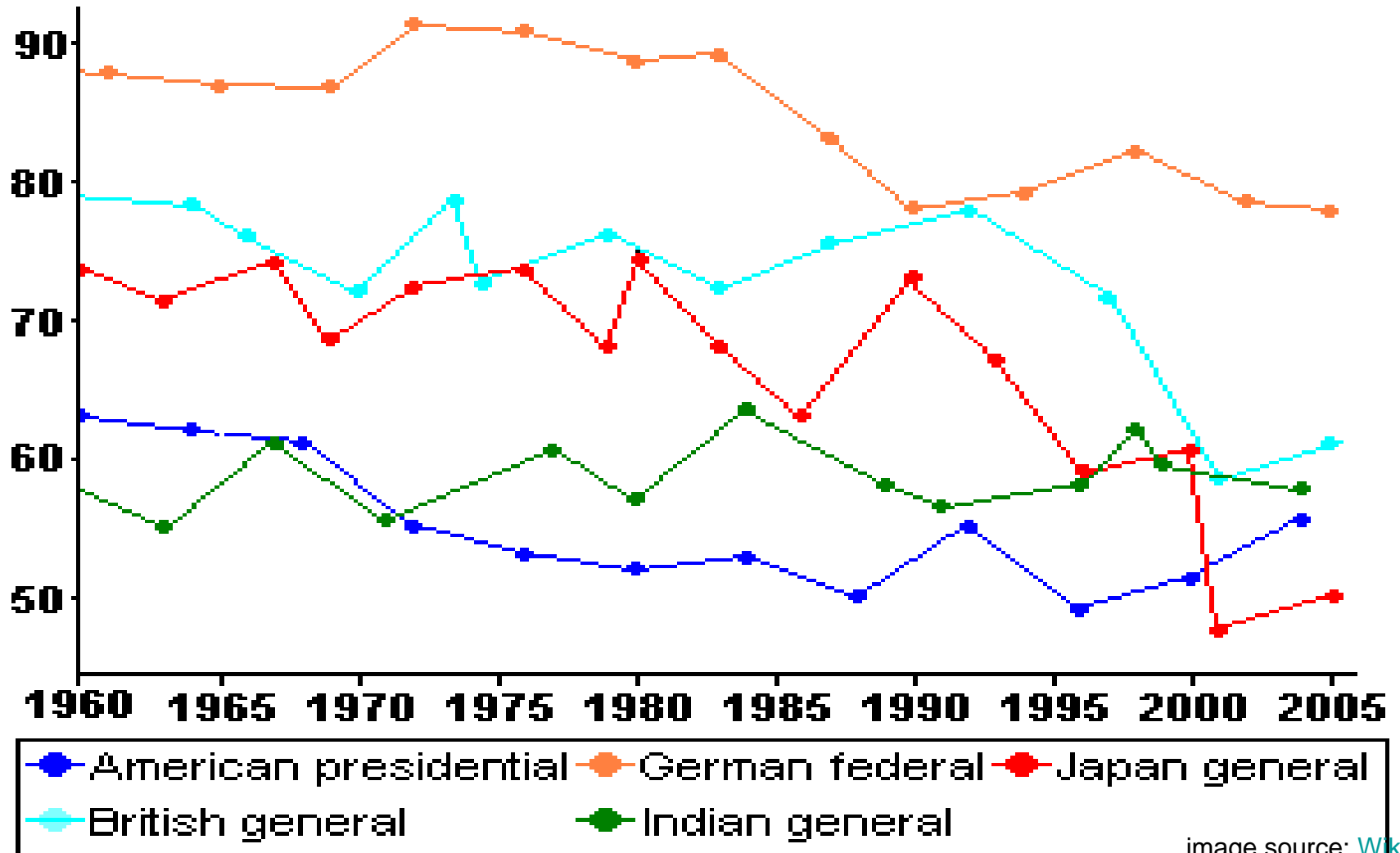
Forms of participation

- getting political information
 - newspapers
 - events
- discussion
- voting
- collective action
 - party membership
 - demonstrations
 - citizen initiative / protest group
 - petition
 - boycott
- lobbying
 - write to MP
- donation



Traditional political participation

- voter turnout at general elections

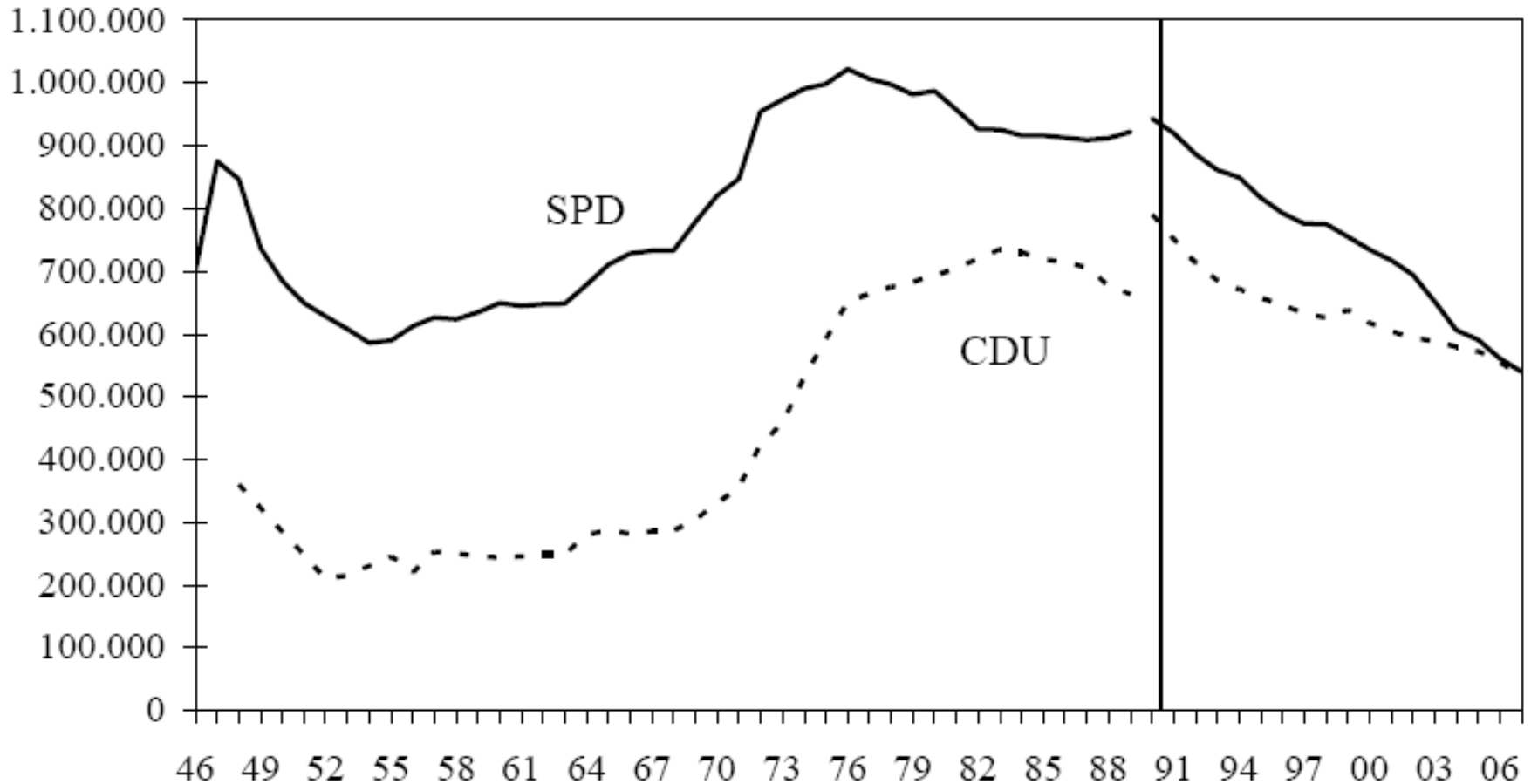




Traditional political participation

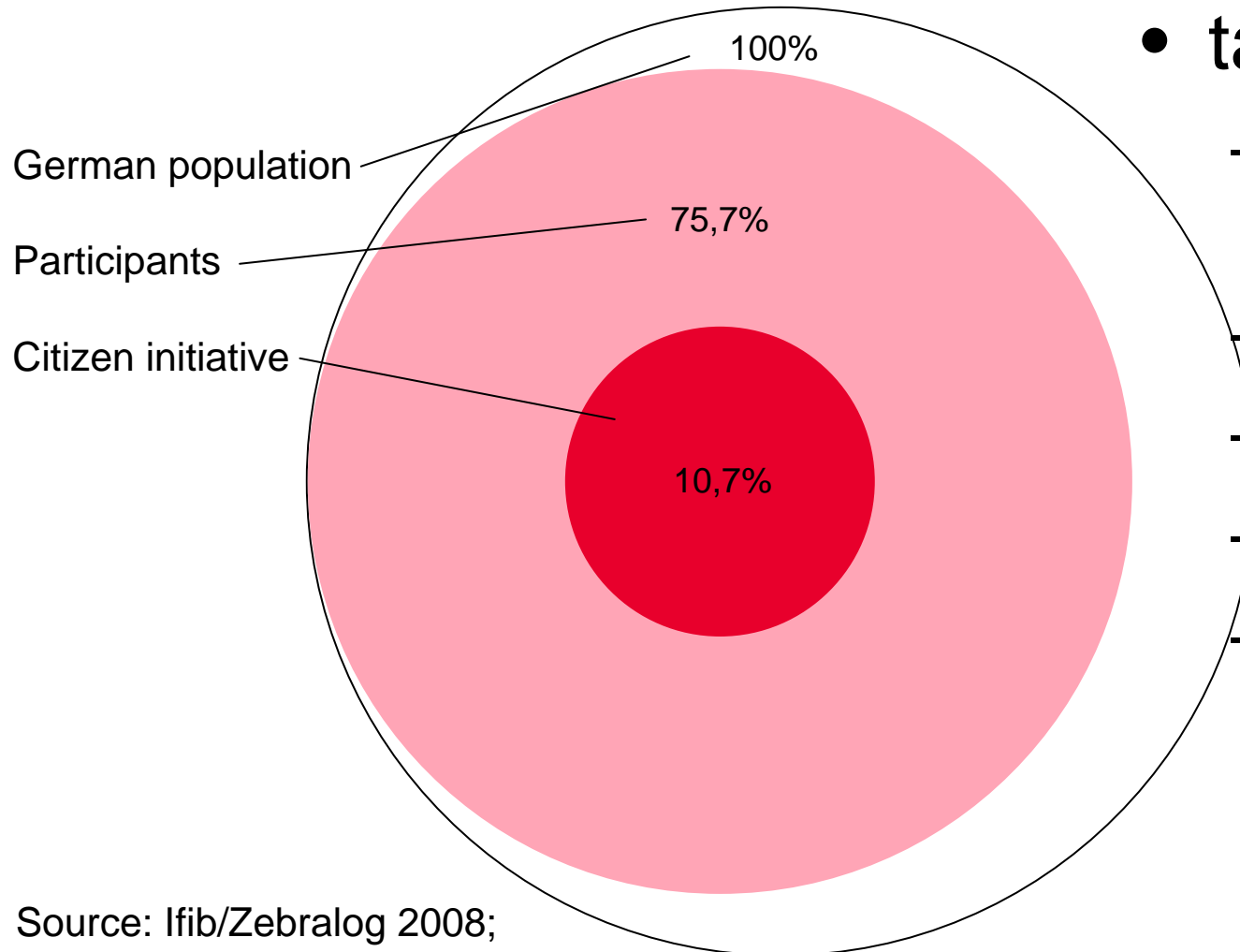
- membership 2007: CDU and SPD 540.000 each

Mitgliederentwicklung der SPD und CDU seit 1946





Germany: Degree of participation (offline)



- taken part (ever)
 - signature collection (63%)
 - citizen initiative
 - party work
 - demonstration
 - citizen assembly

Source: Ifib/Zebralog 2008;
N=1.031; age:18+



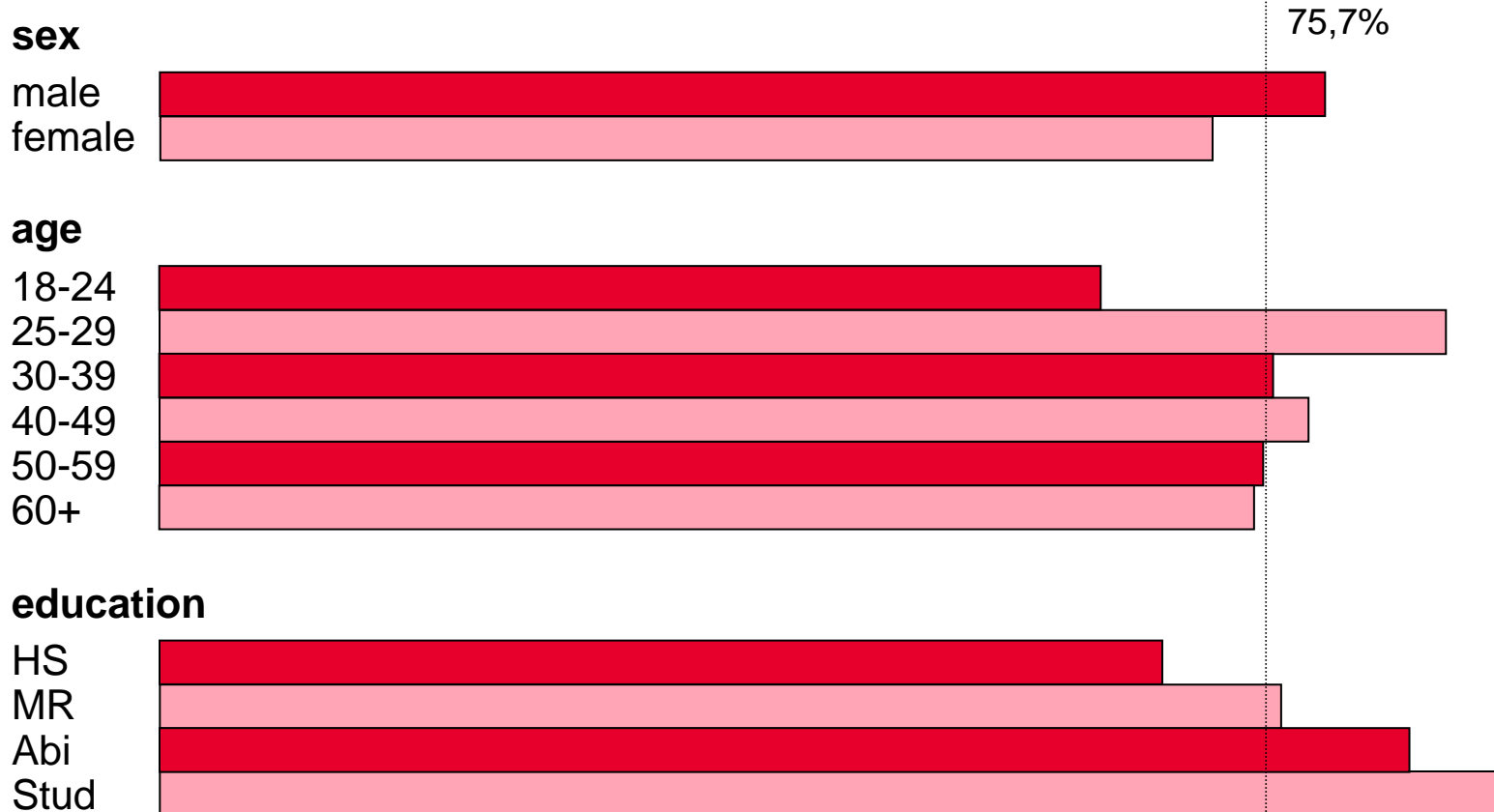
UK:

Degree of participation offline

- UK: 32% at least one political action within last 12 months (diGennaro et al 2006), e.g.
 - 21% signed a petition
 - 12% boycotted a product or service
 - 7% donate money for political cause
 - 7% contacted an MP
 - 4% take part in protest or demonstration



Germany: Who Participates offline?



Source: Ifib/Zebralog 2008; N=1.031; age:18+



UK:

Who participates offline?

- diGennaro & Dutton, 2006
- *“While the gender gap has been closing over the years in Britain, the **better educated, older people and the better off** have been found ceteris paribus to be consistently more likely to become politically involved than those with no qualifications, younger people and the worse off.”*



Internet access

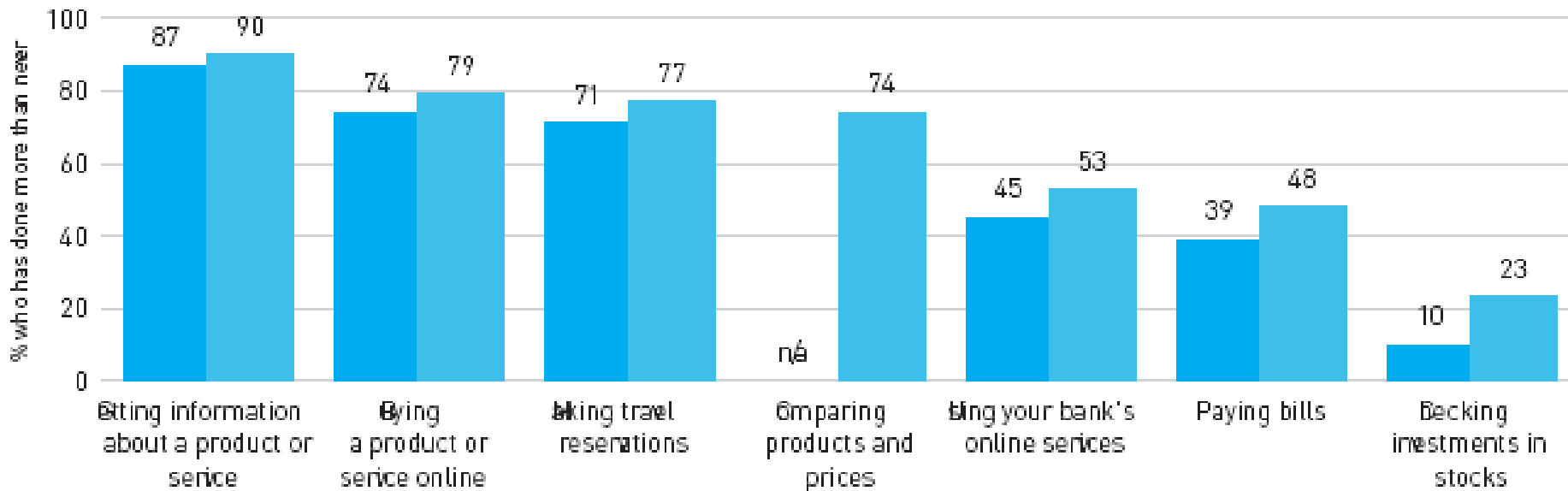
- **Germany 65%** (Initiative D21, 2008)
 - 14-29: 91%
 - 30-49: 82%
 - 50+ : 40%
- **UK 67%** (OxIS, 2007)
 - 18-24: 90%
 - 25-54: 77%
 - 55+: 40%
- **US 78%** (USC, 2007)



Internet usage

Buying and Using Services Online (QC30)

■ 2005 ■ 2007



Current users. OxiS 2005: N=1,309; OxiS 2007: N=1,578



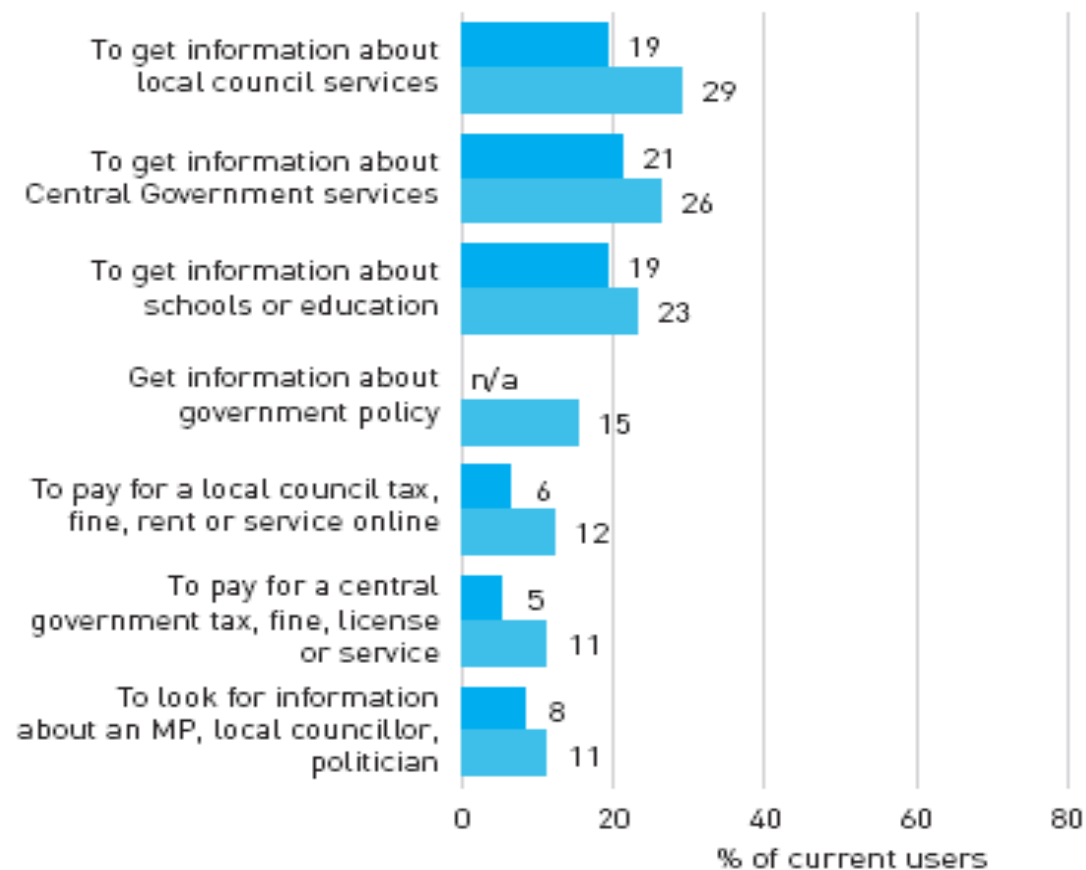
Political Internet usage

- mainly political news and information
 - e.g. US election campaign (Pew 2008):
 - 40% have read campaign news
 - 35% have watched campaign videos
 - 1 in 10 Internet users has donated money
 - Germany (Albrecht et al, 2008)
 - 30% read political news and information online
- government services



Use of Online Government Services (QC32)

■ 2005 ■ 2007



Current users. OxlS 2005: N=1,309; OxlS 2007: N=1,578

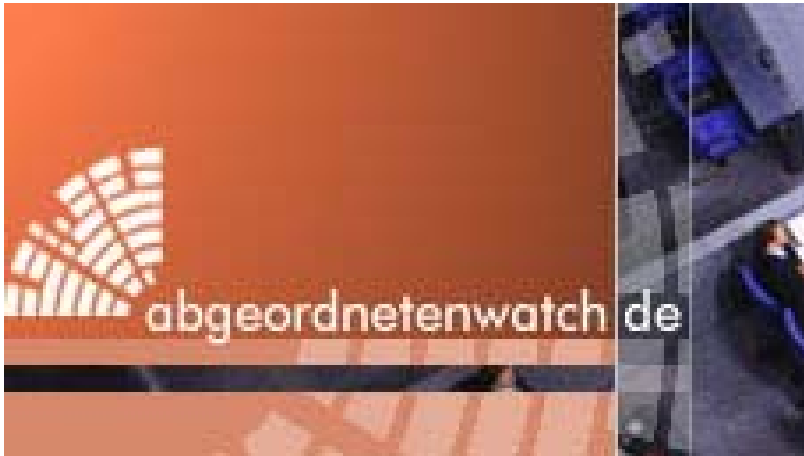


Traditional participation

- traditional forms of participation
 - all in decline
 - not inclusive
 - more male
 - higher educated
 - older
- Does the technology offer a way out?
 - high Internet usage
 - popular amongst young
- governmental & non-governmental efforts ¹⁵



Abgeordnetenwatch.de





Gregor Hackmack

- co-founder of Abgeordnetenwatch.de together with Boris Hekele
- information on members of parliament
- public questions and answers
- since launch 8.12.2006
 - 15.062 questions by citizens
 - 12.024 answers by MPs
 - 46 MPs of 612 (7.5%) do not answer at all
- funded by venture capital



Politics discovers eParticipation

„Angebote zur persönlichen Teilhabe und aktiven Beteiligung an den politischen Entscheidungsprozessen sind ein wertvolles Mittel, der zunehmenden Distanz der Bürgerinnen und Bürger zur Politik mit konkreten Maßnahmen zu begegnen.“



[Wolfgang Schäuble am 4. Juni 2008](#)



Politics discovers eParticipation

- European Union
 - [EU i2010](#) eGovernment action plan: eParticipation as one of 5 priority objectives
 - [EU eParticipation Call for Proposals 2008](#) (5mio €): *“aims at harnessing the benefits of the use of Information and Communications Technologies for better legislative and decision-making processes and enhanced public participation in such processes, at all levels of governmental decision making.”*
- Germany, federal level
 - Bundestag trial „Öffentliche Petitionen“
 - BMI study
- Germany, council level
 - Bürgerhaushalt Köln / Lichtenberg
 - consultation Berlin Tempelhof airport



Participation formats

- participation formats (Albrecht et al, 2008):
- *administration- oder politically-initiated*
 - information
 - consultation
 - co-operation
 - (elections / vote)
- *citizen-, NGO-, economy-initiated*
 - transparency by third parties
 - complaint / petition
 - activism / campaigns / lobbying
 - (referendum)



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- *In dieser Studie wird E-Partizipation verstanden als die Teilhabe von natürlichen und juristischen Personen (und ihrer Gruppierungen) an politisch-administrativen Prozessen der Entscheidungsfindung mithilfe von Informations- und Kommunikationstechnik (IKT).*
Es werden sowohl verwaltungs- und politikseitig veranlasste Beteiligungsangebote betrachtet als auch Aktivitäten, die von Bürgern, Nichtregierungsorganisationen (NROs) und der Wirtschaft ausgehen, und insgesamt sechs Beteiligungsformen unterschieden:
 - (1) *Information:* Angebote, die auf die Bereitstellung, den Zugang und die Erschließung von Informationen öffentlicher Stellen abzielen und Voraussetzung für das Gelingen von anderen Beteiligungsformen sind.
 - (2) *Transparenz durch Dritte:* Informelle Angebote, die über Handlungen der Legislative oder Exekutive berichten und so öffentliche Kontrolle ermöglichen.
 - (3) *Konsultation:* Beteiligungsformen, durch die Expertise sowie Voten zu Planungs- und Entscheidungsprozessen von Bürgerinnen und Bürgern, Interessengruppen sowie Akteuren aus Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft zu bestimmten Themen eingeholt werden.
 - (4) *Eingaben / Beschwerden / Petitionen:* Angebote, die es ermöglichen, Vorschläge oder Kritik, in der Regel über dazu eingesetzte vermittelnde Stellen, an die zur Entscheidung befugten Stellen und Behörden zu richten.
 - (5) *Kooperation:* Angebote, die auf einvernehmliche Zusammenarbeit zwischen Verwaltung, Politik, Bürgerschaft sowie Akteuren aus Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft abzielen und zu kollektiven Präferenzen und damit (auch) zu Ergebnissen führen, die von ursprünglichen Positionen abweichen.
 - (6) *Aktivismus / Kampagnen / Lobbying:* Beteiligungsformen, bei denen Einzelpersonen oder organisierte Akteure Maßnahmen ergreifen, die darauf abzielen, Aufmerksamkeit und Unterstützung für Themen und Positionen, aber auch für partikulare Interessen zu erhalten und die damit einen Beitrag zur politischen Meinungs- und Willensbildung leisten



eParticipation tools

- website
- email
- podcast / webcast
- discussion forums
- ranking/rating tools
- blogs
- RSS feeds
- virtual worlds
- chat / instant messaging
- surveys / polls
- wikis



Popular eParticipation formats

- information
- online consultations
 - UK: national and local
 - Germany: mainly council level (see Märker and Klima)
- online petitions
 - Downing Street
 - Scottish parliament
 - German Bundestag



Reasons for eParticipation

- *decline in formal political participation*
- *see networked public sphere*
 - *independent of space and time*
 - *interactivity*
 - ...
- increasing legitimacy / accountability
- leverage opinions and expertise of citizens
- inclusion
- give feeling of involvement / cohesion
- transparency
- better decisions
- improving efficiency of decision-making



EU: Reasons for eParticipation

- EU eParticipation rational
 - citizen-involvement in decision-making processes
 - transparency and accountability about legislation and decision-making process
 - communication and interaction between citizens and politicians
 - *“Increasing transparency and public participation benefits democracy and should improve the quality of legislation being adopted.”*
 - *“It is also good for the cohesion of European society because participation promotes a sense of ownership of the political process.”*
- Aims of EU eParticipation
 - greater transparency: make legislation more accessible
 - empowerment: tools for citizens to get information and interact with decision-makers
 - involvement: encourage citizens to give their views



Dr. Markus Klima

- co-founder of Binary Objects in Berlin
- political scientist and technology sociologist
- responsible for research and finance
- Discourse Machine – de facto standard for online dialogues in Germany



See you tomorrow

- Who can bring a computer tomorrow?
- please remember Markus Klima @ 10am



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