

Profiling websites bringing elections closer to citizens?

European Parliament Elections 2009



Global Forum Shaping the Future 2008. Users Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy. Session 8: Governmental Challenges - Converging Technologies / E-Democracy & E-Participation

Athens, 21st & 22nd October, 2008



Die Nationalen Forschungsschwerpunkte (NFS) sind ein Förderinstrument des Schweizerischen Nationalfonds Les Pôles de recherche nationaux (PRN) sont un instrument d'encouragement du Fonds national suisse. The National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) are a research instrument of the Swiss National Science Foundation. SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION International (PRN) sono un mezzo di sostegno del Fondo Nazionale Svizzero.



Democracy in Europe

- List of challenges to democracy in Europe is long ullet(Schmitter and Trechsel 2004, Kriesi 2007 etc.)
- In particular: break down of traditional mechanisms of • representation
 - ➤ trust ▼
 - electoral turnout
 - ➤ party identification ▼
 - \succ guardian institutions \blacktriangle
 - > etc



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Challenging the political offer:

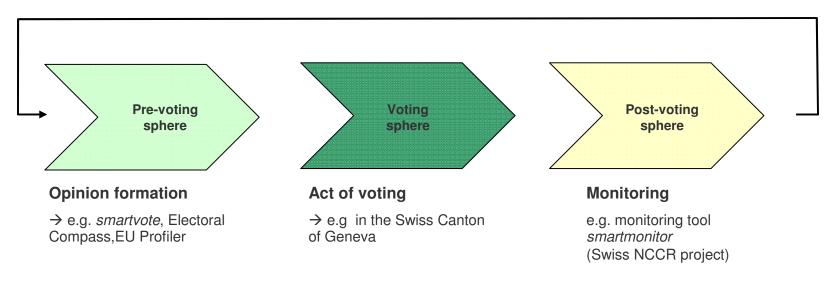
- Opaque policy positions •
- Complex, multidimensional preference mash **A** ullet
- Fragmentation
- Unholy coalition-building ullet
- Unpredictability **A** ullet



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No chance for democracy?

- Lost voters but not yet lost political curiosity! \bullet
- Its the moment of ICT giving the interested public the chance to learn more about: parties / candidates / public opinion / political behavior / campaign dynamics





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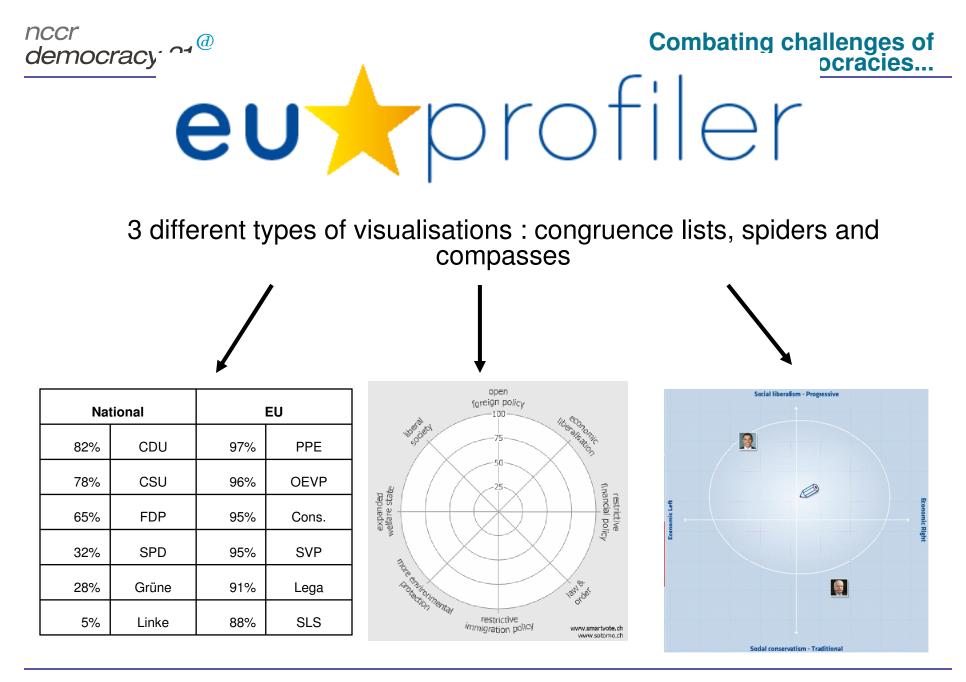


EU Parliament Elections 2009: eu profiler

- Consortium partners:
 - European University Institute, Florence (lead)
 - Kieskompas with NCCR/smartvote (technological development)
- in close coordination & collaboration with the European Election Study (EES)



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Combating challenges of democracies...

4. EU Profilers' potential on:

- **Political parties** 1.
- 2. **Public Opinion**
- 3. **Political Behavior**
- Campaigning 4.
- **Methodology** 5.
- **Other actors** 6.



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Thank you for your attention!

Gabriela Felder Contact: gabriela.felder@zda.uzh.ch

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- •FU elections 2009: www.euprofiler.eu
- Swiss elections 2004-2008: www.smartvote.ch
- •NCCR Democracy research project about *smartvote*:

www.nccr-democracy.uzh.ch/nccr/knowledge transfer/ip16



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