Comparison of e-Participation Roadmap in Industrial and Developing Countries based on Germany and Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This paper compares the E-Participation roadmaps of industrial and developing countries, based on Germany and Kenya as representatives. Therefore, the ICT roadmap of each country is described in a clear shape and with representative E-Participation projects of each country. Based on these projects, the comparison is performed on a categorical level in terms of (1) participation forms, (2) used ICT, and (3) socio-political requirements. Afterwards, the results are summarized to determine an overall view on the E-Participation situation in both countries. As a result of the comparison similarities and significant differences will be identified. The results are useful for software developing organizations that want to create ICT governance tools for industrial as well as developing countries and therefore need to consider the characteristics and requirements of both country types.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

K.4.1 [**Computers and Society**]: Public Policy Issues; K.4.3 [**Computers and Society**]: Organizational Impacts; K.5.2 [**Legal Aspects of Computing**]: Governmental Issues

General Terms

Management, Standardization, Theory

Keywords

E-Participation; Public Participation; E-Government; Digital Inclusion; Information-Communication-Technologies; Study

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we aim to analyze and compare the participation roadmaps of using internet and ICT in industrial and developing countries. We have chosen Germany and Kenya as representatives for industrial and developing country. These countries were selected because they have a so far stable political system and they already have experiences in implementing ICT in governances. Even more, these countries have a mean position in considering ICT in governances in their region, so they have no extreme conditions or positions. Our goal is the identification of similarities and differences in the E-Participation roadmaps, and possible

reasons for the existing differences. The results should give an overview on the specific behaviors in regards to ICT for governances in enterprises, but even more important, in developing countries. Furthermore it should allow software-developing organizations to consider the specific characteristics of developing countries and provide more sophisticated ICT tools.

2. E-PARTICIPATION ROADMAP IN GERMANY

In our research about ICT projects, we analyzed more than 100 projects from Germany. The selection of the projects that explained in detail in the follow was made in regards of two perspectives. The first aspect was to identify projects that cover a certain domain/aspect. The second perspective was to pick the most relevant, if many projects covering the same domain and aspect. This selection should ensure that most different existing projects and initiatives are considered, but as far as possible only the most relevant (based on references in the literature and its relevance and impact or because of regular usage by citizens) are mentioned in detail.

2.1 Abgeordnetenwatch

The internet platform Abgeordnetenwatch was founded in 2004. This was established by a volunteer initiative [1, p.250] and wins in 2013 the international democracy prize. The platform provides information about parliamentarians, for example about the age of the professionals, the qualifications, professional activities, constituency, list position, membership in committees and voting on major roll-call votes [1, p.250]. It also allows the citizens to send questions to an individual politician and the politician has the chance to answer the public questions [2, p.5]. In the focus of Abgeordnetenwatch is the dialog between the citizens and the politicians. Abgeordnetenwatch allows the transparency of elected officials. Furthermore, it offers an online interface between citizens and politicians [3, p.101][14, p.44].

2.2 Government Data

The data site GovData provides an easy single and centralized access to administrative data from federal, state and local governments. The internet platform GovData (http://www.govdata.de) was started as a part of the control project "Promotion of Open Government[1]" in February 2013. This project was a prototype of "GovData - The Data Portal for Germany". The main intention is

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[1] http://it-planungsrat.de/DE/Projekte/Steuerungsprojekte/Steuer ungsproekte_NEGS/OpenGovernment/opengovernment.html (accessed: 01/02/2014)

to collect data at a single source and improve a better use. In the sense of "Open Data" the platform aims to promote the use of open licenses and to increase the supply of machine-readable raw data. In this context, the IT representative of the Federal Government (Cornelia Rogall-Grothe) praise the improvement of the transparency and importance of standards for data, to redeployment the data in new applications under explicit terms of use.

2.3 StadtWiki Karlsruhe

The StadtWiki of Karlsruhe (http://ka.stadtwiki.net) was founded in 2004 and is now the largest[2] citiy-wiki in Germany. "The Stadtwiki Karlsruhe is to be the information portal for the city of Karlsruhe and the entire Region of middle upper Rhein". It was founded by a private person. The target groups are tourists, new residents and locals. Thematically, the wiki covers a variety of topics, such as politics and sports. The platform itself defines some key points of her existence: (a) ad-free / free knowledge, (b) consider cultural speech units / grammatical and syntactical correctness, (c) produce own content in an encyclopedia organized in a neutral context.

2.4 Haushaltsplanung Köln

The project density in the area *of* participatory budget planning is very high in Germany. A participatory budget is by definition[3] "a process for citizen participation / inside on the preparation of the municipal budget, comprising the steps of information, consultation and accountability". In the fall of 2007, the city of Cologne involved citizens in the preparation of the budget for the first time [4]. The underlying concept based on the results from the pilot project "Participatory Budget NRW" and has been adopted by Council Decision of Cologne for the municipal participatory budgeting. This was the moment in which the previously individually initiated smaller events were transferred to an overall concept for participatory budget, which led to the preparation of the first budget for 2008. The citizens had here the opportunity too, to commit suggestions, ideas and comments about the 2013/2014 budget of the city of Cologne.

2.5 Bebauungsplanung Ulm

During the reorganization of the City railway station, Ulm gave citizens the opportunity to integrate their perspective into the design process. For this a platform[4] was opened in July 2011. The station as a central transport hub should be redesigned and should also be planned as an urban center. Prior different architects developed drafts of the site. The discussion of these designs, the ratings, as well as committing new ideas was the center of the participation. The previously mentioned forms of participation were be implemented in this project with many forms of ICT. These were used on one side of the mere transmission of information and go to the other side to complex forms, which enables a collaborative exchange of participants and policy makers. Even the opinion-forming process of the participants was strongly supported by enabling an intense participation through the involvement all these ICT forms.

2.6 Korruption NRW

Germany, as a western industrialized country, is not free from corruption. Germany is in the Corruption Index on place 13 [5].

Nevertheless, the embodiment of online platforms[5] that open up the possibility of reporting corruptions is only rudimentary pronounced. One of the few systems that could be identified in the research literature is the Business Keeper Monitoring System of the State Criminal Office of Lower Saxony. With this system clues for corruptions can be reported. The system went online in 2004 with the opportunity to report own cases of corruption. The level of participation of this system is raised to the consultation level.

3. E-PARTICIPATION ROADMAP IN KENYA

In our research about ICT projects from Kenya, we analyzed more than 20 projects, which are in contrast to Germany a small number of projects, but indeed the research domain in Kenya is less developed and financially less funded than in Germany. The selection of the projects was made in regards of two perspectives. The first aspect was to identify a project that covers a certain domain/aspect. And the second aspect was to pick the most relevant, if many projects covering the same domain and aspect. This selection should ensure that most different existing projects and initiatives are considered, but as far as possible only the most relevant (based on references in the literature or usage by citizens) are explained in detail.

3.1 Mzalendo

The Internet platform "Mzalendo" (http://info.mzalendo.com) aims to educate the population about the Kenyan political system. For this purpose, profiles about politicians were created, who will be evaluated too. The evaluation criteria are, for example, the number of speeches, which they have *hold in* parliament or the expenses in the respective federal state. Furthermore, protocols of the national assemblies, as well as knowledge of democratic systems and their operations are provided. The platform provides also an interaction channel. With this citizens have the opportunity to write comments or information to politicians and share it on Twitter [6]. Furthermore, it provides the possibility of comparing candidates based on various available metrics. The platform receives among others the support of the Parliament of Kenya.

3.2 Open Data Initiative

The Kenya Open Data Initiative[6] has set since 2011 the goal to make every "key government data freely available to the public through a single online portal" – as described by President Mwai Kibaki. There are already tools and apps which use the provided data. With this platform, Kenya is the first developing country in the Sub-Saharan region and the second on the African continent after Morocco, which setup an open government data portal [7]. This project counts as one of the most important steps that Kenya has done to "to improve governance and implement the new constitutions of commission on access to information". The first records[9] were 2009 census, national and regional expenditure, and information on key public services.

3.3 Voice of Kibera

Another project is Voice of Kibera, which was launched in May 2010 and established by an initiative of Map of Kibera. Voice of Kibera is a citizen report project, with whose help the public could report about their daily life in Kibera. It uses the Ushahidi plat-

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[2] htttp://regiowiki.pnp.de/index.php/RegioWiki:Ranking (accessed: 26/03/2014)

[3] http:// koelnagenda.de/buergerhaushalt (accessed: 07/02/2014)

[4] http://ulm-citybahnhof.de/page25.html (accessed: 08/02/2014)

[5] http://business-keeper.com/whistleblowing-compliance.html (accessed: 11/03/2014)

[6] https://opendata.go.ke/page/about (accessed: 08/04/2014)

form[7] and is supported by UNICEF. Kibera is a slum of Nairobi and with over 170,000 residents one of the largest in Africa. To provide a geographical orientation, a group of young Kenyans initiated a Map of Kibera by the use of GPS devices and cameras [8, p.63]. This collection also includes the knowledge about infrastructure, such as sanitation, water or recycling centers.

3.4 I Paid a Bribe

"We all know corruption is bad" [5]. To address this problem, there are several platforms which have been created for this issue. Besides EACC / BKMS and Kuhonga [9] since December 2011 there is a new platform "I Paid a Bribe" (http://ipaidabribe.or.ke) with better functions and an easier use. "I PAID A BRIBE is a [...] Kenyan website where citizens can report when they are forced to pay 'kitu kidogo'('a little something' aka 'bribes' in Kiswahili) as well as stories when they refused to pay officials" [10]. In the reports, which can be submitted anonymously, "the nature, number, pattern, types, location, frequency and *values* of actual corrupt acts" can be recorded.

3.5 KenyaLaw

KenyaLaw[8] offers an extensive collection of information on the Kenyan law and provides an overview about the works on the laws, to current procedures and judgments at a glance. Specifically, the site follows three foundations: "(1) To monitor and report on the development of Kenya's jurisprudence through the publication of the Kenya Law Reports; (2) To revise, consolidate and publish the Laws of Kenya; and (3) To undertake such other related publications and perform other functions as may be conferred by law". "KenyaLaw Reports are the official law reports of the Republic of Kenya which may be cited in proceedings in all courts of Kenya […] [e.g.]: The Chief Justice, The Attorney-General [or] his Representative" etc. [11]. The website was initiated by the National Council for Law Reporting.

3.6 Block By Block

Block By Block[9] refers to a project, which is based on cooperation between UN Habitat and Mojang. The cooperation was initiated in 2012 and the first project took place in Nairobi. It aims to involve young people in the planning processes of development areas by giving them the opportunity to present the planners and decision makers their idea *of the* future of their city. For this purpose Minecraft (https://minecraft.net) is used, because "Minecraft is a game about breaking and placing blocks" - as the self-understanding of Minecraft responsible. The use of Minecraft has already been successfully tested in Sweden [12]. After digitalization of the Kenyan region, the servers were opened for Kenyan citizens so that they can redesign the environment by their personal behaviors. The final version is then forwarded to city planners for further steps [13].

4. COMPARISON

In the following section we compare both roadmaps based on the presented projects to identify similarities as well as significant differences. We perform our comparison on these three characteristics [15][16][17]: (1) Type of Participation form (participation forms), (2) Used ICT forms (information and communication technology forms), and (3) socio-political requirements.

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7   http://ushahidi.com/products/ushahidi-platform   (accessed: 04/02/2014)

8 http://kenyalaw.org/kl/index.php?id=115

9 http://blockbyblock.org/about (accessed: 10/05/2014)

Based on the described methodology, we explain the results of the comparison in a summarized manner. These previously collected results should now be transferred into a summarized form to get an overall picture. In Figure 1 we have performed this overall analysis. It could be illustrated that Germany and Kenya have a couple of similarities in the use of E-Participation technologies.
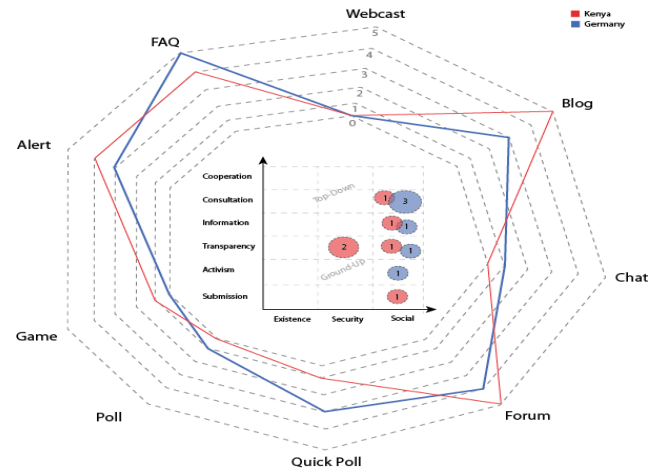

Figure 1. Overall analysis of projects and initiatives in regards of participation form, used ICT and need forms

4.1 Participation Forms

The provided participation forms are almost used in both countries. But a deeper look on the statistics shows that in Germany the focus lays on consultation and therefore on top-down engagement (initiated by the state). In Kenya, the focus lays on transparency and therefore on the bottom-up engagement (initiations by the citizens). This can be argued with the different corruption rankings (see [5]) and that in Kenya dominates a higher skepticism towards state functionaries.
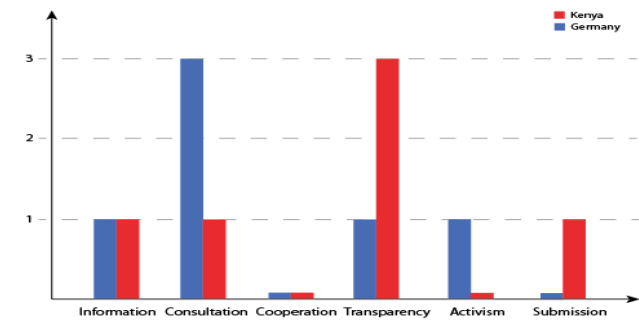

Figure 2. Provided participation forms in Kenya and Germany

4.2 ICT Forms

Most of the ICT forms are provided in Kenya as well as in Germany. Overall it seems that in Germany information and voting features are used a little more, e.g. FAQ or (Quick) Polls. In contrast, documentation and discussion forms, such as Blogs or Forums, are used a little more in Kenya. This can be an indicator that in Kenya reporting is a major feature to inform other citizens, e.g. about security incidences.
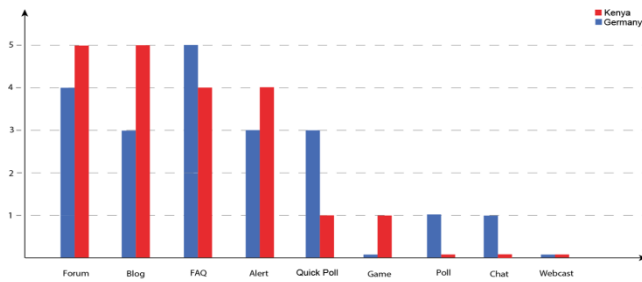
Figure 3. Provided ICT forms in Kenya and Germany

4.3 Socio-political Requirements

A significant difference could be seen in the results of supported Socio-political requirements. In Germany only the social need form is used. This can be an indicator that citizens in Germany have not almost to deal with existential or security issues. In contrast to Kenya, where the most initiatives supporting the social need too, but also the security need is supported. This can be an indicator that security is nowadays an important issue that could not be ensured by the state functionaries. The existence need is neither in Germany nor in Kenya supported, which can indicate that citizens have not to deal with existential problems in both countries.
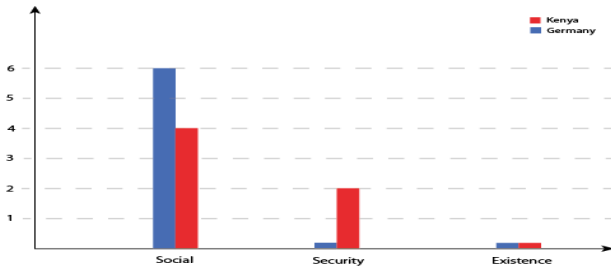

Figure 4. Supported need forms in Kenya and Germany

5. CONCLUSION

As a result of our research about ICT projects in Germany and Kenya we could identify that from the categorical point of view a couple of topics are covered in both countries similarly. Majorly in perspective of the *socio-political requirements* some differences in the purposes could be identified, as well as in the *participation form*. In Kenya are many projects *bottom-up* activities (initiated by citizens). In contrast, the most initiated projects in Germany are *bottom-up* (initiated by the state).

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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