



Council of Europe - CAHDE (Ad Hoc Committee for E-Democracy)



Towards eEnvironment
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Defining E-Environment

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Council of Europe

- CAHDE Mandate
- E-Environment
- Terminology Process
- All details on <http://www.ref.gv.at/CAHDE.1379.0.html>

Ad hoc Committee on E-Democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE)

- The **Ad hoc Committee on E-Democracy of the Council of Europe (CAHDE)** was established by decision of the Committee of Ministers of 24 May 2006 and started its work on 23 and 24 September 2006.
- CAHDE is primarily an intergovernmental body, whose members are delegated by the 46 Member States of the Council of Europe, and by relevant international organisations (eg EU, OSCE).

CAHDE Mandate

- to **examine developments on e-democracy/e-participation** at European and international level;
- to identify **political, social, ethical, legislative and technological issues** and their **interdependence**;
- to identify examples of **emerging good practice** which could be of interest to member states;
- to elaborate **definitions of key terms**;
- to consider in particular the issues of **measuring the effectiveness and impact** of e-democracy initiatives and devices, and their complementarity and **interoperability with nonelectronic forms of democratic engagement** and participation;
- to prepare appropriate **reports and documentation**; and
- to make **recommendations to the Committee of Ministers** on possible further action in the field of e-democracy.



CAHDE Process

- Umweltbundesamt set trigger that e-Environment is part of e-Democracy
- Collated list of terms relevant to e-Environment
- Define terms on broad basis
- Contact relevant experts
- Use BKA-Wiki for collaboration on definitions
- Create Definitions based on inputs
- Masaryk University, CNR Italy, EEA and Umweltbundesamt Dessau, Århus Secretariat



Principle 40. “E-environment is the use...”

- 87. **E-environment includes the use of ICT-based systems** for access to and the dissemination of environmental data and information as well as the establishment of ICT-supported monitoring systems and repositories for environmental knowledge. **E-environment** thus makes it possible to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and manmade factors and other pressures on the environment, and to determine the current state of the environment, which in turn makes it easier to formulate potential responses because it is possible to call on a broader, more widely disseminated knowledge base.

Principle 40. “E-environment is the use...”

- 88. **Spatial planning and spatial cohesion are both basic components** of the **e-environment** field, and ones that constitute major challenges for nation states and regional and local authorities. In May 2008, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe adopted a report and recommendation on “Electronic democracy and deliberative consultation on urban projects”.

Principle 40. “E-environment is the use...”

- 89. The **UNECE Convention on Access to Information**, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters includes provisions calling on contracting parties to use electronic information tools to provide **public access to environmental information**. To this end, the Parties to the Convention set up a task force to facilitate implementation of the Convention through the effective **use of electronic information tools designed to provide public access to environmental information**.

Definition of Terms - Process

- Use Wiki for collaboration purposes
- Agreement on terms to be defined
- Compile list of existing definitions
- Adjust and align relevant concepts from existing definitions
- Formulate definition based on existing

To Do:

- Discuss resulting definitions
- Harmonize definitions (i.e. Data and Environmental Data)
- Fine tune definitions

Definition of Terms - Sources

- IATE (Inter-Active Terminology for Europe)
- United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database
- UMTHES
- EU-Directives
- World Summit on the Information Society
- Merriam-Webster online dictionary



Current status of work available at:

<http://www.ag.bka.gv.at/index.php/Portal:EN>

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Thank you for co-operation

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