



Customer

The Prefecture of Samos is the local government administrative unit for the island complex of Samos, consisting of the islands of Samos, Icaria and Fourni. The Prefecture is located in the central-eastern part of the Aegean Sea and has a total registered population of 43.000 people.

Situation

There is general agreement among many actors in democratic societies that there is a lack of possibilities for political participation, as demonstrated mainly by low electoral participation rates. This is attributed to the fact that on the one hand, citizens are not adequately informed and motivated and on the other hand the decision-making process is often rigid and non-inclusive, resulting in a feeling of disengagement and indifference. This situation becomes especially pronounced in the case of the Prefecture of Samos, due to its remote location and distributed nature, combined with the fact that many of the local society stakeholders are not permanently located in the region.

Solution



Figure 1: Home Page of Internet Portal

New media and the internet especially have been heralded as solutions to this problem and while the use of ICT to broaden and deepen political participation by enabling citizens to connect with one another and with their elected representatives (eParticipation) cannot replace other forms of participation and solve the democratic deficit once and for all, it can help to improve the overall democratic culture in a society.

IMC has developed and deployed a concrete eParticipation methodology and platform, powered by the advanced features of Semantic Web technology, while



Figure 2: eDeliberation Page

hiding its complexity behind a user-friendly Web2.0 facade. The methodological aspects of the solution are implemented via the use of tools such as ePolls, eSurveys, eForums, ePetitions and blogs, powered by an intuitive document and content management system. The use of a collaboration platform operating in tandem with an ontological infrastructure provides advanced features such as context provision, annotation, browsing and a sophisticated hybrid search mechanism.

Benefits

The key benefits can be summarized in the following:

- Broadening the decision-making process by actively including stakeholders, using ICT to foster a citizen-centric approach to public administration and creating a 'participation culture'.
- Increasing local government legitimacy and improving its public image, as well as promoting a shift in mentality, leading to acceptance of the need for increased engagement of citizens in the policy making process.
- Creating a new "role model" for other cities and public entities to follow, raising awareness for eParticipation and attracting media interest
- Promoting citizen confidence in regional government processes and public administration transparency.

Visit at: <http://www.samos-dialogos.gr>

Contact us to find out how you can use our eParticipation platform to empower an inclusive decision-making process at any level: local and regional government, NGOs, and any organization in need of a distributed and collaborative way to operate can benefit from this solution.

[Contact Info](#)

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