

SENSE4US Project completes lifecycle

Brussels, 28/12/2016 - The official ending of the SENSE4US project is due on the 31st of December 2016, thus completing its 39 months lifetime cycle.

SENSE4US rounded off the project's activities with a final conference which took place on the 8th of December 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The conference event was titled "Policy Making in a Complex World - Can technology restore trust in European decision-making?" and it brought together parliamentarians, policy makers, academics and civil society members across Europe.



During this one day event participants addressed how new technologies can help support our democracy, revealing a novel path for the future of decision-making. The stakeholders were informed about how digital tools and technologies can enable policy makers' access and summarize a wide array of relevant data, taking into account the views of citizens on policy issues and better acknowledging the implications of proposed policies.

"Politicians nowadays have the ability to reach out to a wide array of people, but in the process of digital communication, discussion fails. Even though there are so many people who follow the latest developments, they choose not to engage in conversation, because they feel disempowered," said Oktavía Hrund Jónsdóttir, Deputy MP, Icelandic Pirate Party during her webcam participation. She continued by saying *"If politicians wish to win the trust of people, then they mustn't be afraid of saying something "wrong" online, thus motivating the people to further conduct a discussion"*.

Furthermore, the latest version of the project's toolkit was showcased to the general public combined with a demo that gave better understanding of each tool's use and possibilities. Specifically, the toolkit brings together the potential to help policy-makers and legislators gain insights through open data, social media sentiment and text analysis and policy simulation.

The project has set the ground for the future of decision making. Soon enough, we hope that the use of the SENSE4US toolkit by policy makers will provide all the necessary resources as well as access to data in order to take into consideration the views of the citizens when forming policies. This will lead in qualitative decision making.

During the project cycle, University of Southampton – IT Innovation led the consortium that was formed by The Open University – Knowledge Media Institute, University of Koblenz-Landau – Institute WeST, GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Government to you (Gov2u), Hansard Society Ltd, eGovlab (DSV- Stockholm University).

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