



***E-voting in Europe
Standards, policy practice
and perspectives***

by

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THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- **Mission**

Promoting and protecting Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Council of Europe Summit (May 2005) Action Plan:
on e-democracy:

“We will also take initiatives so that our member states make use of the opportunities provided by the information society. In this connection the Council of Europe will examine how ICT can facilitate democratic reform and practice”.

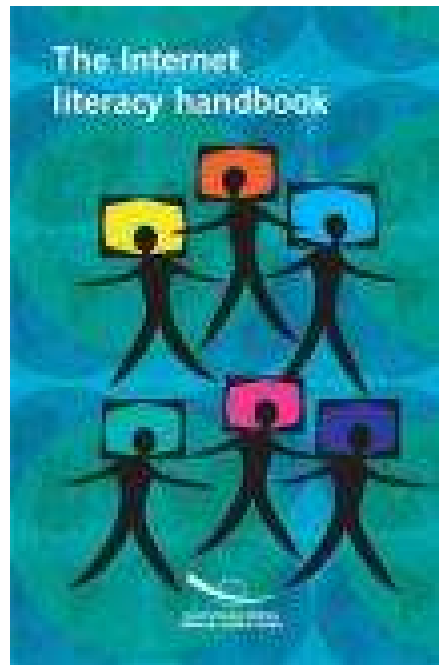
RECOMMENDATIONS / DECLARATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES

- **Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting
(*September 2004*)**
- **Recommendation Rec(2004)15 on electronic governance (« e-governance ») (*December 2004*)**

AND

- **Declaration on Human Rights and the rule of law in the information society (*May 2005*)**
- **Declaration on freedom of communication on the Internet
(*May 2003*)**

The Internet literacy handbook (2006)



Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on e-voting

- **Objectives:**

- apply the principles of democratic elections to e-voting
- provide member states with a comprehensive checklist for all stages of the electoral process
- set minimum standards for remote and non-remote e-voting
- promote and ensure the interoperability of e-voting systems

Recommendation Rec(2004)11 on e-voting

General principles:

- E-voting must be as reliable and secure as democratic elections and referendums which do not involve the use of electronic means
- E-voting should be an additional and optional voting channel

Practical experience with e-voting in Europe

Binding e-voting pilots in:

- Switzerland, Estonia, United Kingdom, France

Non-binding pilots in:

- Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain

Reports on the feasibility of e-voting and submissions to Parliament in:

- Ireland, Norway, Lithuania

Work on e-voting protection profiles for non-political elections in:

- Germany

... and their evaluation

- Pilots in different countries have shown that e-voting is feasible
- Voters who used e-enabled voting channels were content with the experience and felt that e-voting was responding to modern lifestyles
- So far popular demand for e-voting has not been very strong
- In some countries, initiatives that are critical about e-voting are forming

Trust and acceptance

Precondition for a successful and large-scale and sustainable introduction of e-voting:

A broad and open dialogue with all stakeholders (voters, politicians and public authorities), aiming at building trust and a broad acceptance of e-voting

Moving ahead (1)

- create a sound legal base for e-voting in political and non-political elections;
- continue piloting of e-voting systems on an increasing scale;
- promote the use of e-voting outside public elections, so as to familiarise people with e-voting;

Moving ahead (2)

- continue research and systems development with a view to:
 - Addressing security risks by assessing new threats, to maximise the security of e-voting systems;
 - reducing opportunities for “family voting” and vote-buying in remote voting procedures, e.g. by introducing a “reversible e-vote” mechanism;
- encourage the introduction of complementary e-tools to e-voting;

Moving ahead (3)

- promote the development of certification and accreditation schemes for e-voting systems;
- develop and agree on clear and ethical guidelines for online-campaigning;
- develop rules for the observation of e-enabled elections;

Moving ahead (4)

- develop the full potential of e-voting in facilitating the electoral participation of voters with disabilities;
- promote widespread Internet access and support the acquisition of computing knowledge and internet literacy amongst the electorate, thereby reducing the digital divide.

Follow-up to the CoE e-voting Recommendation

- Organising exchange of good practice
- Technical assistance to a limited number of e-voting projects
- The Recommendation requires the Committee of Ministers to review progress made with e-voting and the application of the Recommendation two years after its adoption:
An intergovernmental evaluation meeting will be held at the Council of Europe on 23-24 November of this year

Thank you
for your attention !

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