



Austrian Interest Groups and eVoting

outline of the basic research

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The 2nd International Workshop on Electronic Voting 2006

Lochau/Bregenz, 2006/08/02



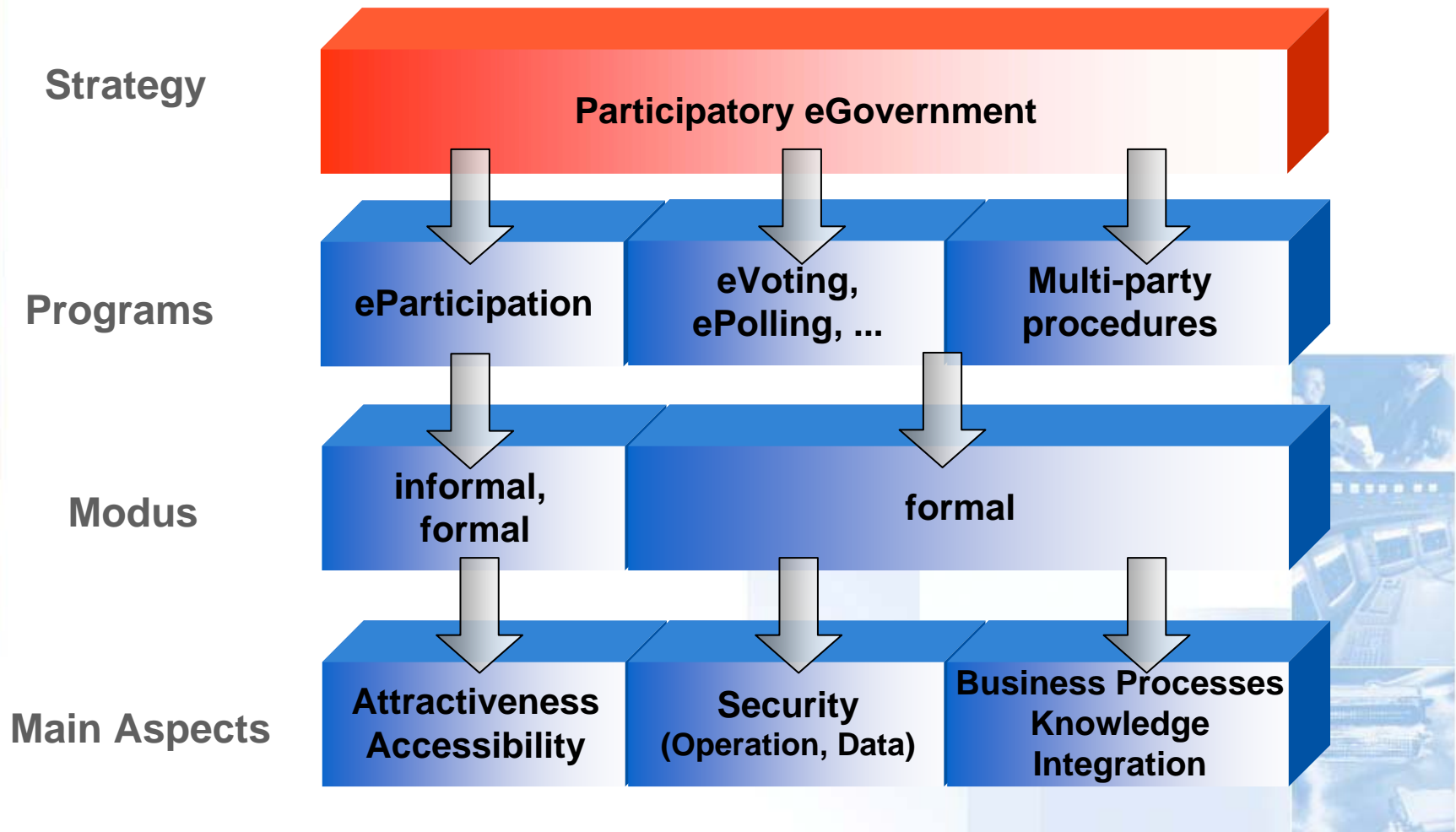
BRZ and eVoting

- **Why we are engaged in eVoting?**
 - High Security Computing Centre (Trust Centre Operations)
 - certified - ISO 27001:2005, ISO 9001:2000
 - eGovernment-partner of federal administration
 - 55% market share – strategy 70%
 - Skills and experience in development of services and their operation in the public sector for over more than 30 years

- **Positioning**
 - we are service provider and integrator NOT product producer



Strategy „Participatory eGovernment“



Basic research

- **Study “eDemocracy in Austria” - 2005**
 - Interviews with political decision makers and IT-leaders in Austria, together with the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
- **Evaluation of eVoting operational needs - 2005/2006**
 - Mathematical studies (infrastructure, CPU)
 - Recommendations on IT-architecture
- **Study “Interest Groups in Austria and eVoting” - 2006**
 - BRZ internal R&D project
 - Only direct elections



Why Interest Groups?

- **Working groups of the Ministry of Internal Affairs 2004:**
 - legal
 - technical
 - international
- **Final report of working groups to the Austrian Minister of Internal Affairs demands that first experiences in eVoting shall NOT take place in the political field (2004/11/15 – Page 15)**
 - „In Betracht kämen hierbei insbesondere Wahlen zu Interessensvertretungen oder zu Kammern.“ (Means: In particular elections of interest groups or chambers shall be considered.)



Aims and Methods

● Aims

- Evaluation of legal basis
- Building up an election schedule until 2012
- Evaluation of current election organisation
- Evaluation of voting technologies currently used (pre-processing-, voting- and post processing-phase)
- Assessing the attitude towards eVoting

● Methods

- Analysis of legal basis
- Interviews with more than 40 decision makers
- Evaluation of available statistical material



Considered organisations

- Two categories

- *Chambers and Agencies of members of free and related occupations that are governed by law* (Austrian Chambers of Commerce, Austrian Chamber for Employees' Welfare, Austrian Federation of Students,...)
- *Further direct elections in the public field* (Election of the soldiers' representation, Board of listeners and viewers of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation,...)



Summary – Organisation of Elections

- Overall election turnouts are stable (with outliers)
- Almost all interest groups allow distance voting by law (postal voting)
- Ongoing trend towards distance voting and partly to distance voting exclusively
- Election technologies for election pre-processing and post-processing are well established (except small interest groups)
- Often stated that elections of interest groups are expensive
 - time and material, information, commission members, canvassers



Summary - eVoting

- eVoting is allowed/defined by law for elections of the “Austrian Chamber of Commerce”, the “Austrian National Students Union” and the “Board of listeners and viewers of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation”
- Up to now eVoting never took place within a real application with legal effects
- Several interest groups discuss eVoting, some decision makers are well informed
- Consensus that eVoting is a logical enhancement, same as other transactional “e-”services, but it is not a priority at the moment
- Often mentioned criteria for eVoting
 - Security aspects (including trust of service)
 - Cost effectiveness
- Future challenges:
 - Evidence of security and functionality fit
 - Competitive cost-model
 - High service level



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16.08.2006