E-voting at expatriates’ MPs elections in France: a first for a political election

E-voting. CC 2012
1. The context: MPs to be elected in eleven “new” constituencies

- Previous experiments in the election of the Assembly for French living abroad (2006 and 2009)
- The 2008 constitutional review
- The scope of e-voting in France: who and why?
2. The legislative and administrative process

• The constitutional review was implemented by several texts: an 2009 ordinance, a 2011 decree and several bilaws

• The legislative process included numerous consultations to ensure preservation of constitutional and legal principles
• The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were both contracting authorities

• The project has been built in concertation
3. E-voting system and ensuring constitutional principles

• Reminder of constitutional principles: secrecy, sincerity and accessibility of the vote

• The MFA and the MOI are in charge of ensuring the security of the data processing

• Several audits were foreseen and run before the election day

• The voting system has been certified by both ministries

• Role and composition of the e-polling station members before – during - after the election
4. Voting in practice

• A mock election organised in March enabled authorities to identify the main difficulties: accessibility to the website and reception of IDs.

• Strong efforts in communicating with e-voters were made prior to the election.
5. Lessons learnt from the election day

- The general election in the 11 constituencies proved a success: the voting system proved efficient despite difficulties.

- Participation was boosted by e-voting.

- Preserving security vs. updating the voting system after its audit.

- Efforts to be made in communicating with specialists.

- Logistics to improve.