



DEMOCRACY – POLITICS – PARTICIPATION

## An online tool for civic education

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Tomaž Pušnik (University of Ljubljana)

University of Ljubljana



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## *What is PoliPedia?*

- *PoliPedia.eu is a web 2.0 tool and a wiki-based platform for educational purposes*  
→ *new media and participatory (citizenship) education*

*The reaction of citizenship education to Web 2.0 is not dependent on new technologies, but on the approaches we shape deliberately.*

## *Web 2.0 adoption vs. active participation*

- *Passive users – consumers*
- *Lack of interest on political processes and participation*
- *Poor online searching competence, mostly relying on google*
- *Troubles finding adequate search words (colloquial language)*
- *Difficulties to navigate through documents or to identify important information*



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### *Intentions of PoliPedia:*

- *Stimulation of the interest in politics and creation of a space for participatory experiences*
- *Bridging the information gap – information quality*
- *Enhancing media literacy*
  - *The internet is often used as pull medium, only a small segment shows high media literacy*
- *Development of learning arrangements and quality orientation*
- *Young people as ,producers‘ and ,prosumers‘*
- *Consideration of young peoples perspectives and their experiences in everyday life*
  - *short-term engagement*
  - *rather issue-oriented*
  - *affinity towards unconventional kinds of participation*



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*Polipedia – Youth in Action programme*

**... aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future**

### **1.3 Youth Democracy Projects**

**... should focus on such themes as European citizenship, active participation, cultural diversity, social inclusion, or the future of Europe**

# POLIPEDIA.EU

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## *How does it work?*

- *4 partners – 4 power groups*
- *Workshops – non formal education: Trainers – Youngsters*





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- *Topics:*

- *EU democracy*

- *EU&Word*

- *Identity*

- *Multi-level citizenship*

- *Wiki - PoliPedia entries are enhanced by:*

- *Multimedia components*

- *Comments*

- *Tags*

<http://www.polipedia.eu/tiki-index.php?page=Anarchism+on+democracy>



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### *History of PoliPedia:*

- *Starting point: Austrian Democracy Initiative (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Innovative Demokratie) 2007*
- *Creation of software and interface of Polipedia.at*
- *Implementing polipedia.at in schools – Best-practice example for the integration of participatory ICTs in formal education*





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## *Advantages of PoliPedia*

- *Self-organised learning*
- *Usage of web 2.0 for creation of content*
- *Peer-to-Peer concept*
  - *Young people learn from each other (peer-to-peer)*
  - *User-generated-Content*
  - *„Prosumers“ („Producers“)*



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## *Advantages of PoliPedia*

- ***PoliPedia in the classroom:***
  - ***Possibility to address current topics***
  - ***Rigidity of formal curriculum***
  - ***Active participatory culture***
  - ***Meltdown of traditional power distance in schools***
- ***Political education competences:***
  - ***Competence to participate in political problem-solving***
  - ***Competence to choose among methods for analyzing divergent political angles and articulating one's own attitude with the help of new media***



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## *Future perspectives of PoliPedia*

- *Software Update: constantly advancing technology*
- *Implementing PoliPedia in Slovenian schools:*
  - *‘train the trainer’ – teaching seminars for teachers (Eurydice)*
  - *‘PoliPedia-School’ Award*
  - *developing content and multimedia perspective*
- *Ongoing qualitative and quantitative content improvement (widening the scope of topics and users)*
- *Cooperation with other countries and projects (Intercultural Glossary Project (IGP) for a wider wiki-based platform)*