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An online orientation tool awakens a new interest in politics

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Disenchantment with politics?

Disenchantment with ...

- politicians
- presentation of politics in media
- increasing populist and personality oriented tendencies



Institute for New Culture Technologies

Research and new media practices on the intersection of art, culture, politics and information and communication technologies.

- Initiating a project to allow a playful engagement with the political content represented by political parties
- Enabling voters to identify their own political affinities



Challenges:

- finding suitable partner organizations that would ensure an extensive reach as well as a solid implementation
- combining political science and civic education with software programming



Partners:

- Gesellschaft für politische Aufklärung
- Österreichische Gesellschaft für Politikwissenschaft
- Institut für Politikwissenschaft Universität Innsbruck



Objectives and misunderstandings

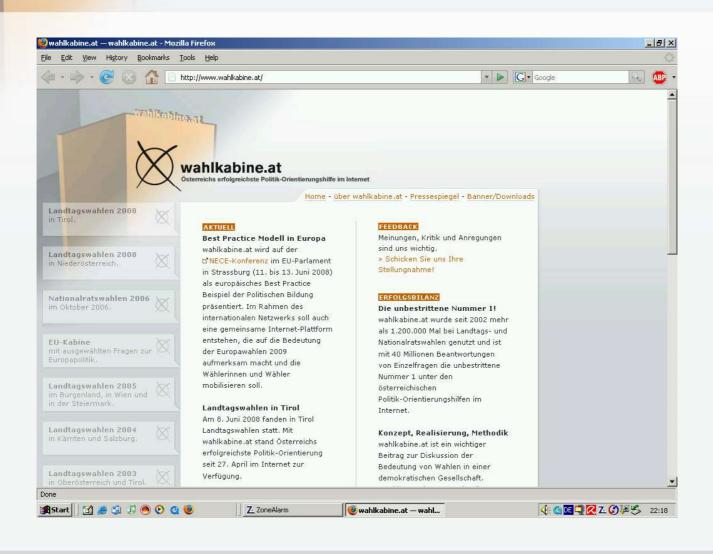
- online tool capable of awakening an interest in political content
- orientation tool that makes political positions visible
- promotes reflection and debate

- not a suitable tool to examine commitments or party membership















Facts and figures:

- 2 federal elections (2002, 2006)
- 9 regional elections (2003 2008)
- 1 non-election variant during the Austrian EU presidency (2006)
- in 2008 the first bilingual tool for the South Tyrol elections
- since 2002 the tool has been used more than 1,5 million times
- 40 millions questions answered



Advantages and difficulties:

- user-friendly
- independent and reliable
- interactive
- transparent and committed to open source principles

- technical problems (server performance)
- suspicion of political parties
- funding problems (2002 2007: 0,00 Euro)