

WORKSHOP 20

20. Parliaments, Parties and Politicians in Cyberspace

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New information and communication technologies are increasingly applied within European representative democracies, affecting central institutions such as parties, parliaments and politicians. This workshop aims to focus on whether the application of these new technologies has had an impact on how representative democracy works. The purpose of the workshop is to assess not only how party organizations, parliaments and politicians in a wide range of European democracies apply the new technology when conducting their primary assignments but also, and primarily, to assess the reasons for and impact of this application. When assessing the reasons for applying the new technology, we focus in particular on the relationship between institutional characteristics and online presence. When assessing the impact, we distinguish between internal and external consequences: We want to assess how the technology may have an impact on the kind and level of activity, the assignments taken on and fulfilled, and the organizational characteristics within these political institutions. Furthermore, we want to analyse how the application of the new technology changes the relationship between parties, parliaments and politicians on the one hand, and the electorate on the other. We welcome participants from political communication, legislative studies and party research and other researchers working within this field. We invite in particular participants analyzing European countries so far not covered within this research field, as well as innovative contributions. We invite a mixture of papers, both comparative analyses and case studies, qualitative and quantitative studies as well as a combination thereof.