

**Participation Now!
Citizenship Education and Democracy in Times of Change**

21-24 November 2012
Córdoba, Spain

Fact Sheet

**Forum 4
Web 2.0: Digital participation and online tools
for citizenship education**

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project / organisation	ParliamentWatch
2	Location (City / Country)	Hamburg (Germany) and partner projects in: Tunis (Tunisia), Dublin (Ireland), Luxemburg
3	Main topics / key words (select 5 max.)	Transparency, accountability, democracy, participation
4	Brief description of topic or project (max. 300 words)	<p>ParliamentWatch (in German: www.abgeordnetenwatch.de) is a civic discussion forum where citizens pose direct questions to politicians to better understand their views. The purpose of ParliamentWatch is to increase accountability and transparency in politics by creating an ongoing, respectful conversation between citizens and their elected officials, one question at a time.</p> <p>All questions and answers are recorded on the platform and stored on ParliamentWatch forever so that citizens can follow up on politicians' promises. In addition ParliamentWatch records the voting behaviour of all MPs, their extra earnings and committee memberships.</p> <p>Parliament Watch works. On average, the website counts 10,000 visitors a day and about three million page impressions per month. More than 90% of all MPs of the federal parliament answer questions through Parliament Watch. In Germany, the project covers the federal parliament, the European parliament, eight state parliaments and 20 parliaments on the communal level. All in all the digital voters' memory has counted more than 150,000 questions and 120,000 answers (as of October, 2012)</p> <p>So far partner projects of ParliamentWatch exist in Tunisia (marsad.tn), Ireland (dailwatch.ie), Austria (meinparlament.at) and Luxemburg (politikercheck.lu).</p>

5	Objectives	With its effects on voters, MPs and councillors, and the media (see graphic), parliamentwatch.org strives to increase participation in the political process and to make government more effective and citizen-friendly. It aims to increase voters' trust in politics and in democracy – a passive democracy is to become an active one.
6	Effect on relevant developments in citizenship education and human rights education concerning changing processes in democracy and citizen participation.	Our vision is an empowered society. We want to advance empowerment by creating more opportunities for citizens' participation and greater transparency and accountability in politics.
7	Target Groups	Citizens, politicians, journalist
8	Methods / Format	Website, Blog
9	Results / Evaluation / Materials	Annual Transparency report containing Key performance indicators: response rate, number of questions and answers, visits, number of donors
10	Sustainable impact of topic or project (local, regional)	Since the start of ParliamentWatch we have built the world's biggest digital voters memory.
11	Contact information of presenting persons (first name, surname, postal address, name of organisation, e-mail address, phone)	Gregor Hackmack, Parliamentwatch Mittelweg 12 20148 Hamburg Germany Website: info@abgeordnetenwatch.de, Phone: +49-40-317 69 10 55 Fax: +49-40-317 69 10 28