

Prof. Dr. Julia Alekseevna Drozdova  
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### Invitation to international conference

## Online participation on the local level – a comparative perspective

Dear Prof. Drozdova,

We would like to invite you to contribute a presentation to the international conference “*Online participation on the local level – a comparative perspective*”, to be held from 13 to 15 December 2017 in Düsseldorf/Germany. The conference brings together an international group of researchers from different disciplines to provide a variety of perspectives on local online participation. In order to allow for intensive dialogue and exchange, participation is by invitation only (15-20 presenters with about 50 additional attendees) and presentations will include ample time for discussion. Your research would be a valuable contribution to the conference and we would very much welcome your participation. We offer to cover your expenses for travel and accommodation.

The main theme of the conference is to investigate the role of digital technologies in political participation with a focus on the local level, ranging from small neighbourhoods to large municipalities. This encompasses both top-down as well as bottom-up e-participation initiatives (i.e. invited as well as invented spaces). Questions of interest include, but are not limited to:

- How do the results of online participation compare with the outcomes of classic forms of participation?
- How to combine online and offline forms of participation?
- What effects are specific to particular participation formats and how do they compare to each other?
- How do institutions and their members (need to) change when adapting to digital forms of participation?
- How does the context of a particular country shape the role of local e-participation?
- What methods should be used to research the effects of e-participation?



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**Jointly organized by**

**D//D** DÜSSELDORF  
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNET  
AND DEMOCRACY

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 **NRW-FORTSCHRITTSKOLLEG  
ONLINE-PARTIZIPATION**

Web: [www.fortschrittskolleg.de](http://www.fortschrittskolleg.de)

Düsseldorf is a city located in the West of Germany near Cologne and is convenient to reach by all means of transport. The conference is jointly organized by the *Düsseldorf Institute for Internet and Democracy* (DIID) and the NRW Fortschrittskolleg *Online Participation* both at the University of Düsseldorf. One of the key aims of both institutions is to research the opportunities and challenges of using the Internet for citizen participation with a particular emphasis on enabling a dialogue across different academic disciplines and between academia and practitioners.

We would be delighted if you would accept our invitation and are looking forward to your response.

With kind regards

Prof. Dr. Michael Baurmann  
*Managing Director*  
Düsseldorf Institute for  
Internet and Democracy

Prof. Dr. Martin Mauve  
*Chairman*  
NRW Fortschrittskolleg Online Participation