Data Driven Policy Co-creation

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Motivation

Policies ≈ principles for and regulations of conduct
How are policies created?

- Triggered by initiatives of the stakeholders affected by those future policy

- Policy makers consult:
  - limited number of experts
  - largest directly involved stakeholders

- Issue a new policy proposal

- May leave citizens underrepresented and there may be a lack of transparency
Motivation

Policies $\approx$ principles for and regulations of conduct
Policy Co-creation

- Involve citizens and stakeholders in the policy making process.

- Aren’t politicians elected by the people to do this?

- Do politicians really know what citizens want?

- Governments want to increase:
  - citizens’ trust in institutions
  - transparency of the policy making process
  - policy acceptance
Public consultations

Consultations

This list gathers Commission public consultations in one place and replaces the former Your Voice in Europe website.

Filter by

Consultations (377)

Public consultation on post-trade in a Capital Market Union: dismantling barriers and strategy for the future
Policy area Banking and financial services
Consultation status OPEN
Consultation open from 23 August 2017 - 15 November 2017
Consultation closed by
Policy area
Consultation period 17 August 2017 - 9 November 2017

Consultation on lowering the fingerprinting age for children in the visa procedure
Policy area Migration and asylum
Consultation status OPEN
Consultation period

Engaging citizens

- Public consultations:
  - Few hundred responses
  - Mainly from lobby organizations active in the policy area
  - Failed to engage the broader public

- Improve communication and knowledge representation
  - Hard to understand the social and economic consequences for individual citizens
  - Difficult to engage citizens if they do not see how they are affected
  - Information is thus critical to make the public more aware of the implications of policies on their daily lives
Policy Co-creation Framework

Workflow Stages

1. Assessment of policy issues
2. Policy Network Map
3. Assessment of public leaning towards issues

Experts & Policy Makers

Stakeholders

Public

Policy proposal

Network science

Text Mining
Policy Co-creation Framework

Workflow Stages

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Survey or Consultation

Experts & Policy Makers

Stakeholders

Public

Policy proposal

Network science

Text Mining
Policy Co-creation Framework

Workflow Stages

1. Assessment of policy issues
   - Experts & Policy Makers
   - Survey or Consultation
   - Stakeholders
   - Infographics

2. Policy Network Map
   - Stakeholders
   - Infographics

3. Assessment of public leaning towards issues
   - Public
   - Text Mining

Policy proposal
- Network science
Policy Co-creation Framework

Workflow Stages

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Report

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Report
Visualizing Stakeholder Responses

- Visualize stakeholder preference patterns using Policy Network Maps

- Feedback to policy makers
- Medium to foster public debate on social media
Policy Networks Maps use case

Sluban, B., Balint, T., Mandel, A., Schütze, F., Zeytinoglu, H., Battiston, S.: Policy Network Maps, work in progress, 2018
Policy Networks Maps use case

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Visualizing Stakeholder Responses

- Similarity Networks

Similarity Networks use case

- Consultations of Banking and Finance

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Similarity Networks use case

Sluban, B., Smailović, J., Kralj Novak, P., Mozetič, I., Battiston, S.: 
*Mapping Organizations’ Goals and Leanings in the Lobbyist Network in Banking and Finance, Complex Networks & Their Applications VI: Proceedings of Complex Networks 2017*
Assessment of public leaning

- Spark the online public discussion by publishing the “infographics”

- From the collected tweets, posts, etc:
  - identify the major groups active in these areas,
  - detect what they were talking about,
  - assess their leaning on a selection of topics

- Example from the area of:
  - Environment, Sustainability, Energy, and Finance
Sluban, B., Smailović, J., Battiston, S., Mozetič, I.: 
Sentiment leaning of influential communities in social networks, 
Computational Social Networks 2:9, 2015
Sluban, B., Smailović, J., Battiston, S., Mozetič, I.: Sentiment leaning of influential communities in social networks, Computational Social Networks 2:9, 2015
Conclusions

- Iterative policy co-creating process, supported by network and data mining
  - Assessment of policy issues
  - Map stakeholder positions – Policy Network Maps
  - Initiate debates and model public leaning on policy issues

- Improve communication and knowledge representation → efficient policy co-creation cycle

- Feasible and sustainable policies can be co-created by the synergy of policy makers and the civic society
Thank You

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