

## **MANDATE AND COMPOSITION**

**WORKING GROUP Appointed by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, 26 May 2004**

### **“USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR VOTING IN ELECTIONS TO THE STORTING, COUNTY COUNCILS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS”**

#### **Authorization period:**

1 June 2004-31 Dec. 2005

#### **Members:**

1. Mr. Bernt Aardal – leader, The Institute for Social Research
2. Mr. Asbjørn Ausland – Oslo municipality
3. Mr. Cort A. Dreyer – The Ministry of Modernisation
4. Mr. Are Vegard Haug – University of Oslo, Section for Information Technology and Administrative Systems
5. Mr. Einar Nødtvedt – Senit AS
6. Mr. Kristian Pinaas – Intenor Solutions AS
7. Mr. Bjørn Erik Rasch – University of Oslo, Department of Political Science
8. Ms. Marianne Riise – The Ministry of Local and Regional Development
9. Mr. Gerard Skagestein – University of Oslo, Department of informatics
10. Ms. Kristin Thorud Skorpen – Drammen municipality
11. Ms. Kari Aarnes – Trondheim municipality

Mr. Rune Karlsen – secretary, The Institute for Social Research

Ms. Guro Stavn – secretary, The Institute for Social Research

#### **Mission:**

The working group shall examine fundamental issues regarding electronic voting and recommend *whether and, if appropriate, how* to introduce opportunities for electronic voting in Norway. The group shall also evaluate and recommend rules and technical standards that ought to apply to electronic voting systems.

#### **In detail:**

- Examine the significance of electronic voting in a democratic perspective, including issues of legitimacy and voter participation
- Provide an oversight of methods and systems of casting votes electronically through various channels (such as Internet, touch screen, SMS, digital TV)
- Note advantages and disadvantages of the various systems/channels

- Evaluate these systems/channels in terms of user-friendliness and security
- Evaluate whether Internet technology should be permitted to play a role in electronic voting, both inside and outside of polling places
- Examine systems and methods of identifying voters in connection with electronic voting (smart cards, ID cards, etc.)
- The potential for coercion in connection with voting outside of polling places must be given special attention; consider also the potential for coercion when voting by post
- Examine the potential for buying/selling votes and identities in connection with voting outside of polling places
- Examine whether electronic voting systems should include a verification capability; if so, recommend how it could work
- Examine the issue of open source code
- Examine the possible use of a national electronic census roll and its significance for an electronic voting system
- Examine advantages and disadvantages of electronic voting compared with ordinary voting
- Examine the costs and potential savings, in both the short and the long run, associated with large-scale electronic voting
- Examine the consequences of converting from lay supervision of the voting system to professional supervision; consider how professionalization would affect issues related to operational control, administration and competence
- Examine issues of jurisdiction and responsibility associated with local and national voting by electronic means
- Evaluate ways of certifying whether a particular electronic voting system meets electoral laws and guidelines
- Assemble research and reports related to electronic voting
- Describe international experiences with various types of voting systems

In the Council of Europe, with Norwegian participation, *a common legal and technical framework* (including the standard EML computer language) *for e-voting*, is developed. In September 2004, the Committee of Ministers adopted the recommendation on e-voting. The working group shall consider what the recommended measures mean for Norway in practice.

Beyond the specific issues listed in this mandate, the group is free to take up other questions related to the use of electronic media in voting.

## **Report**

The working group's findings and recommendations shall be presented in a report to be submitted to the Ministry by 31 Dec. 2005.

[Link to the Recommendation](#)