



Centre for  
**eGovernance**  
Development





# Re-thinking eDemocracy: Challenges of Existing Concepts and Future Approaches

**Blaž Golob**  
Director

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# About CeGD - Stakeholders

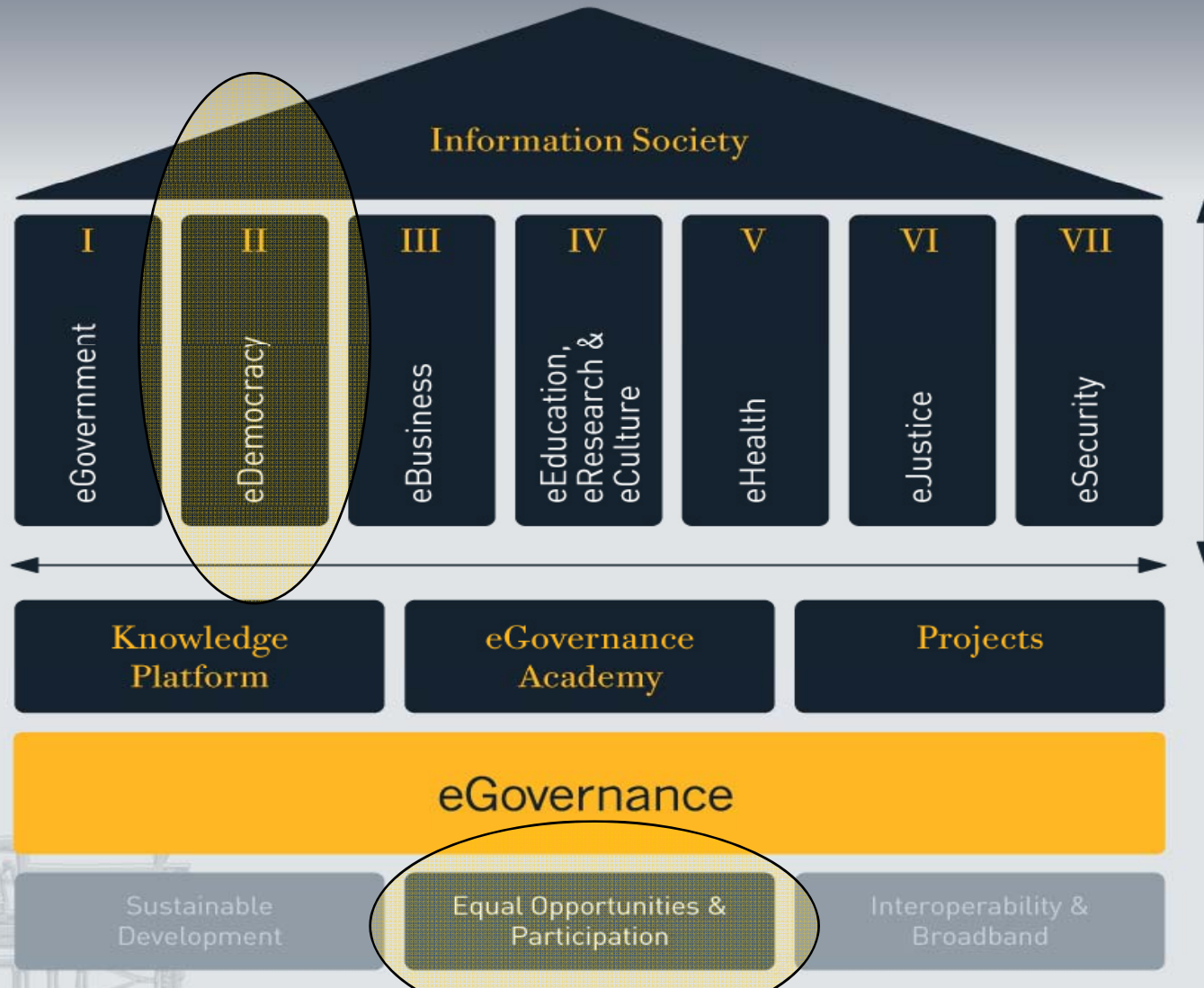
- Regional Cooperation Council (former Stability Pact)
- Government of Slovenia (EU Presidency 2008)
- UNDP
- INA Academy (Greece)
- European Foundation (Spain)
- Microsoft
- Siemens
- SRC
  
- Further enlargement envisioned

## Vision of the CeGD

**CEGD's vision is to achieve the successful development of Information Society in South East Europe (SEE), that will contribute to the future development of the European continent.**

- IS supporting the rapid development of SEE
- IS as a vehicle for integration with EU
- Confidence building, regional cooperation

# CeGD 7 ePillars Model of Single Information Space and Inclusive Information Society



# Challenges of Existing Concepts

- **Two key theoretical challenges:**
  1. The question of conceptualization of **eDemocracy** through prevailing conception of **democracy**
  2. The notion of inherently and exclusively positive effects of ICT on democratic processes

# Challenges in real time and space

- **Challenges at the level of citizens:**
- **Challenges at the level of policy decision makers:**
- **Global challenges:**

# Challenges for the region of South East Europe

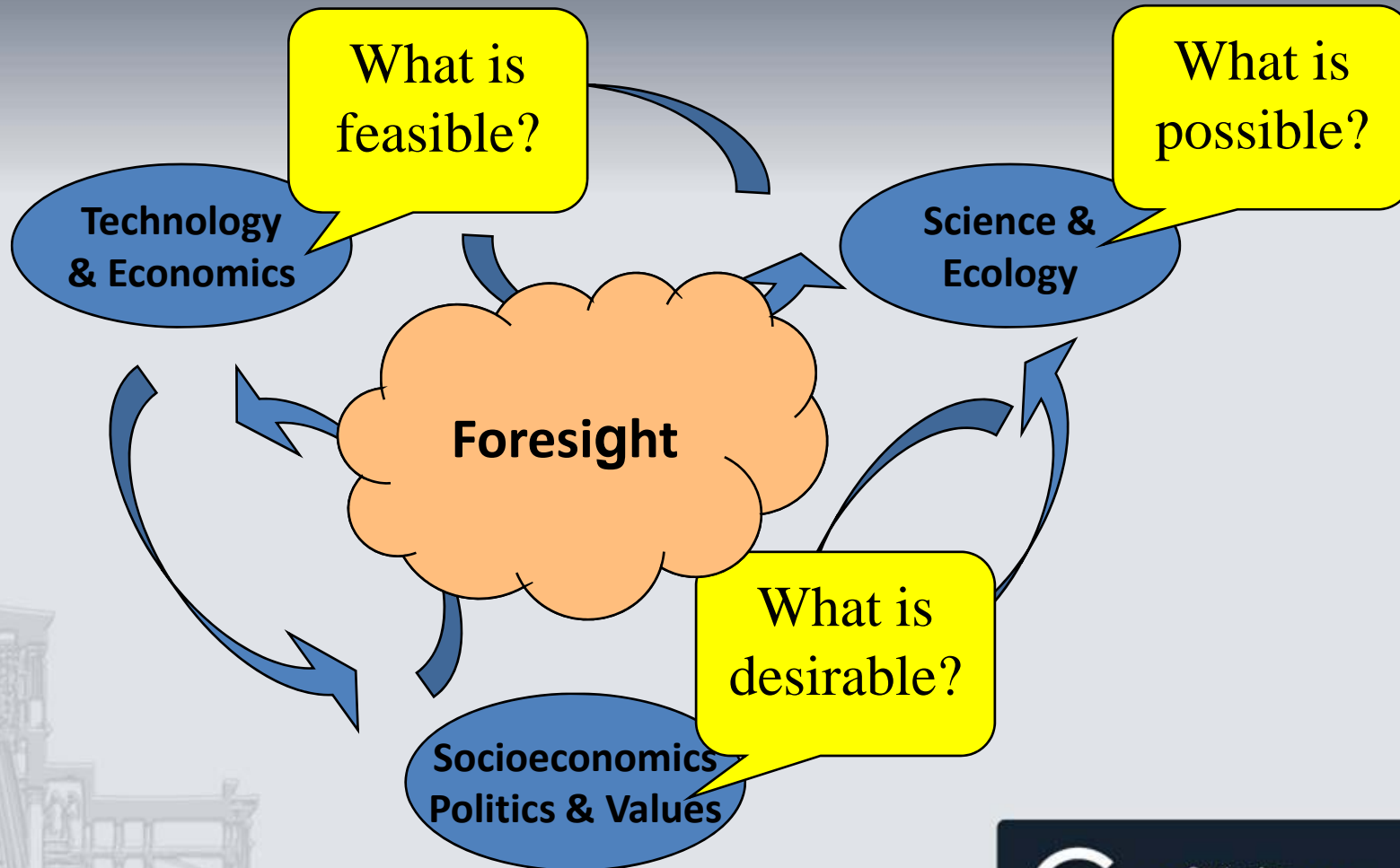
- Global economic crisis
- Potential for ICT development
- Question of poverty
- Question of marginalized groups
- Consolidation

# Future approaches

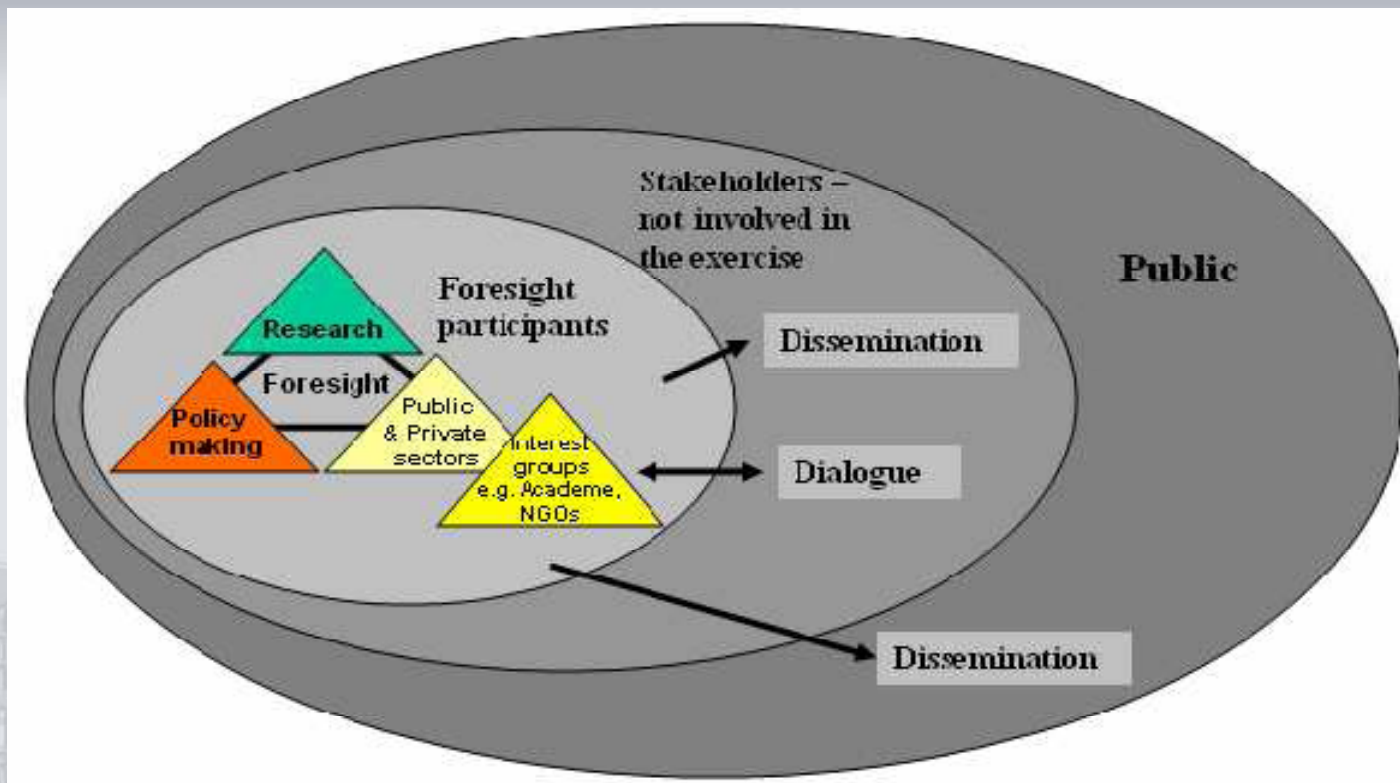
- Political will and comprehensive strategy
  1. Inclusiveness and eInclusion:
  2. Political participation:

# Questions for Foresight

Source: Saritas, 2009



Foresight is “the application of *‘systematic’, ‘participatory’, ‘future-intelligence-gathering and medium-to-long-term vision building process’* to *‘informing present-day decisions and mobilising joint actions’*” (Miles and Keenan (2002))



## Participation and communication in Foresight landscape

Source: Saritas *et al.* (2007)

# Future approaches – SEE region

## 2. Regional (SEE region)

- Political will
- Crucial importance of regional cooperation
- Identifying and understanding the needs of a region
- Complementary actions

# Re-thinking eDemocracy: Key Messages

1. eInclusion shall be perceived as a prerequisite for eParticipation (the *Belgrade Approach for eDemocracy development in SEE region*)
2. Political culture and active citizenship are the variables on which the success of eDemocracy services and its effects depends on.

Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

Blaž Golob

Email: [blaz.golob@cegd.eu](mailto:blaz.golob@cegd.eu)

Tel.: +386 41 734 734

<http://www.cegd.eu/>