Full-Time Studies   Semester 1, 2
WINTER SCHOOL

Module 5 European Studies through Digital Political Science

Lecture Plan No. 5

Topic 5: The Opportunities of E-Democracy in Enhancing Citizen Participation

Part 1: Digital Tools and Platforms for Citizen Engagement

1. **Definition and Importance of E-Democracy**
   o How digital democracy enhances **transparency, accessibility, and citizen engagement**.
   o The role of **technology in modernizing democratic participation** in the EU.
2. **Key Digital Participation Tools in the EU**
   o **E-voting systems**: Estonia's i-Voting model as a case study.
   o **Online petitions and referendums**: The impact of the **European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)**.
   o **E-consultations and participatory budgeting platforms** at national and municipal levels.
3. **Social Media and Digital Campaigning for Political Engagement**
   o The role of **Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube** in mobilizing citizens.
   o How digital activism and **online communities** influence EU policy discussions.
   o The effectiveness of **hashtag movements and viral political campaigns**.
4. **Case Studies of Successful E-Democracy Initiatives in Europe**
   o Estonia's **digital governance model** and e-participation success.
   o The **Participatory Budgeting Projects** in cities like Paris and Madrid.
   o The **EU's Conference on the Future of Europe** and its digital engagement strategies.

Part 2: Future Trends and Expanding Citizen Participation in E-Democracy

1. **The Role of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in E-Democracy**
   o How **AI-driven citizen sentiment analysis** helps policymakers.
   o Using **chatbots and virtual assistants** to facilitate citizen interaction with governments.
   o The role of **big data in predicting voter behavior and policy trends**.
2. **Expanding Digital Accessibility and Inclusivity**
   o Bridging the **digital divide** to ensure equal participation for all citizens.
   o How multilingual platforms and **accessibility-friendly interfaces** improve inclusion.
   o The need for **digital literacy programs** to empower citizens.
3. **Blockchain and Secure Digital Voting Systems**
   o The potential of **blockchain-based voting** to enhance election security.
   o Case study: **Swiss trials of blockchain voting**.
   o Challenges in implementing **secure and tamper-proof digital elections**.
4. **The Future of E-Democracy in the EU**
   o Strengthening **cross-border digital participation** in EU decision-making.
   o The impact of **Metaverse and Virtual Reality (VR) town halls** in political engagement.
   o Ensuring **cybersecurity and trust in e-democratic systems**.