

AN E-DEMOCRACY APPLICATION: DO NOT LET MY DREAMS OF AN IDEAL UNIVERSITY STAY ONLY IN MY DREAMS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to describe and discuss data gathered from a project titled “Do not let my dreams of an ideal university stay only in my dreams”, which is an e-democracy application developed and implemented in light of the current e-democracy literature using Facebook and Twitter. The aim of the application is to develop ideas that would contribute to establishment of future higher education institutions bringing together relevant stakeholders. The project has four phases: (a) Launching, (b) Online interaction, (c) Evaluation (d) Sharing/Implementing the results. Current paper describes the structure and implementation of the application developed, and evaluates experiences on facilitating participation and interaction throughout the process with data gathered from the researcher’s diary, meeting notes, online social networking sharing, and interviews. Data showed that there are some barriers to implement e-democracy applications at higher education level in Turkey. Results highlight that developing and implementing e-democracy applications is critical to improve participatory democracy for higher education institutions in Turkey.

Key Words: E-democracy, digital culture, higher education.