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EUDO Launch Conference, December 3-4 2009

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# What is EUDO? Rationale, Structure and Prospects

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## Context

- **Simultaneous widening & deepening of European integration -> call for legitimacy complements the desire for efficiency**
- **Permissive consensus? Citizens, National Parliaments and Constitutional Courts emancipate themselves**
- **Democratic deficit at European level is compensated by national-level democracy -> 2005 referendums on the Constitutional Treaty**
- **Post-referendum trauma in Europe -> elites at all levels are baffled**



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## Context (II)

- **Diagnoses of the problem -> wild debates on democracy**
- **However: uninformed and unqualified pseudo-analyses abound**
- **Result: institutional stasis -> poor attempts trying to overcome the problem**
- **Lisbon entered into force, but the main democratic problems remain**



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## Rationale for EUDO

- **Lack of systematic assessments of democracy in Europe**
- **Lack of diffusion of high quality research**
- **Lack of dialogue between academia and policy makers**

**Consensus within the European University Institute:  
we can help improve this!**



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# **Birth of the “European Union Democracy Observatory” (EUDO) in 2006**

## **Main idea:**

**creation of an independent and interdisciplinary  
academic organisation dedicated to the topic of  
European democracy**



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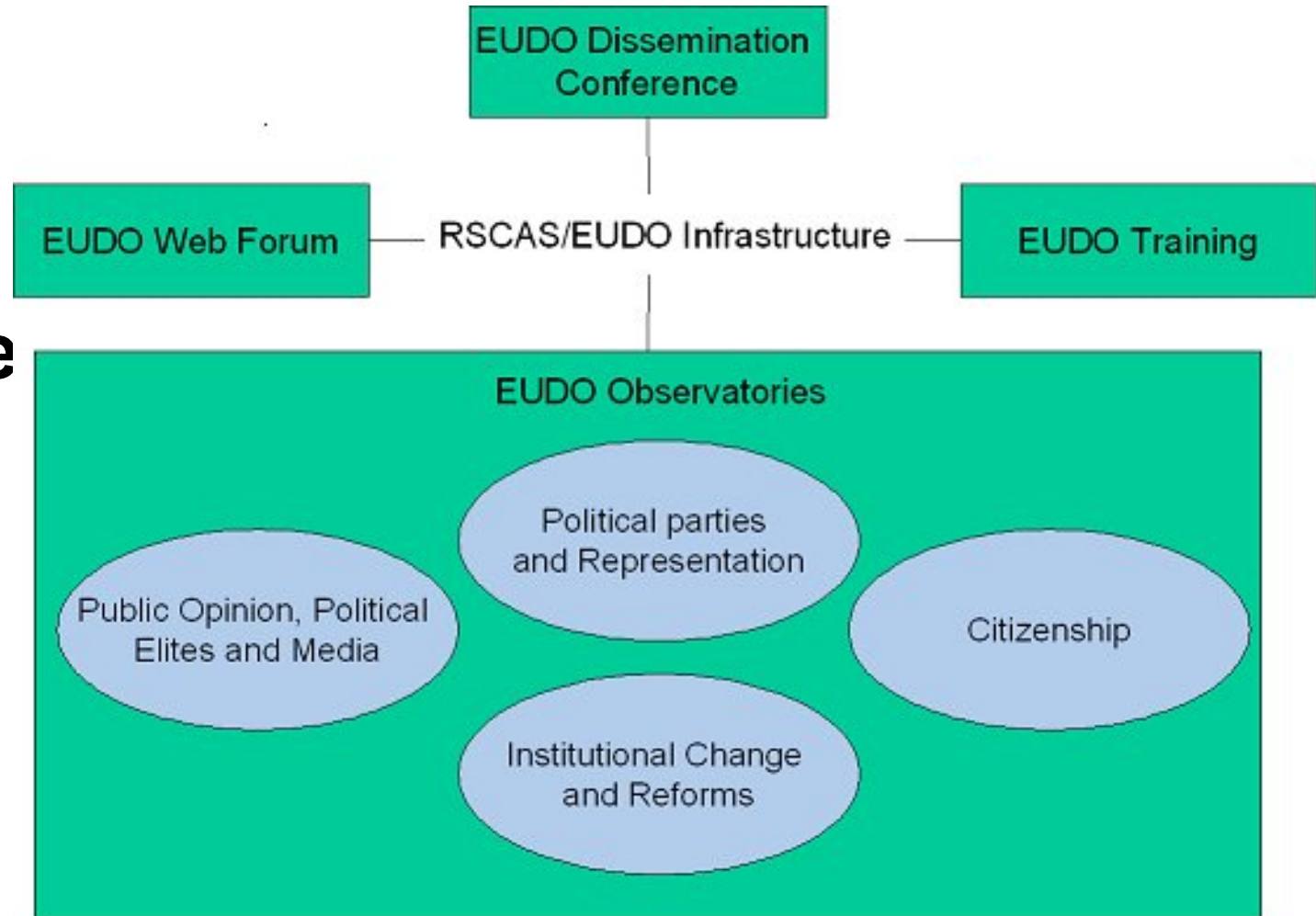
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## Goals

- **translate scientific output into policy-relevant/publicly understandable output**
- **produce permanent and periodic assessment of democratic practices within the EU**
- **propose practical suggestions for improving democratic performance in the EU**
- **offer expertise, information and policy reports**
- **create a forum to exchange ideas and best practices**

**-> In short: become a major resource for policy makers, academics and citizens on European democracy**

# Structure of EUDO



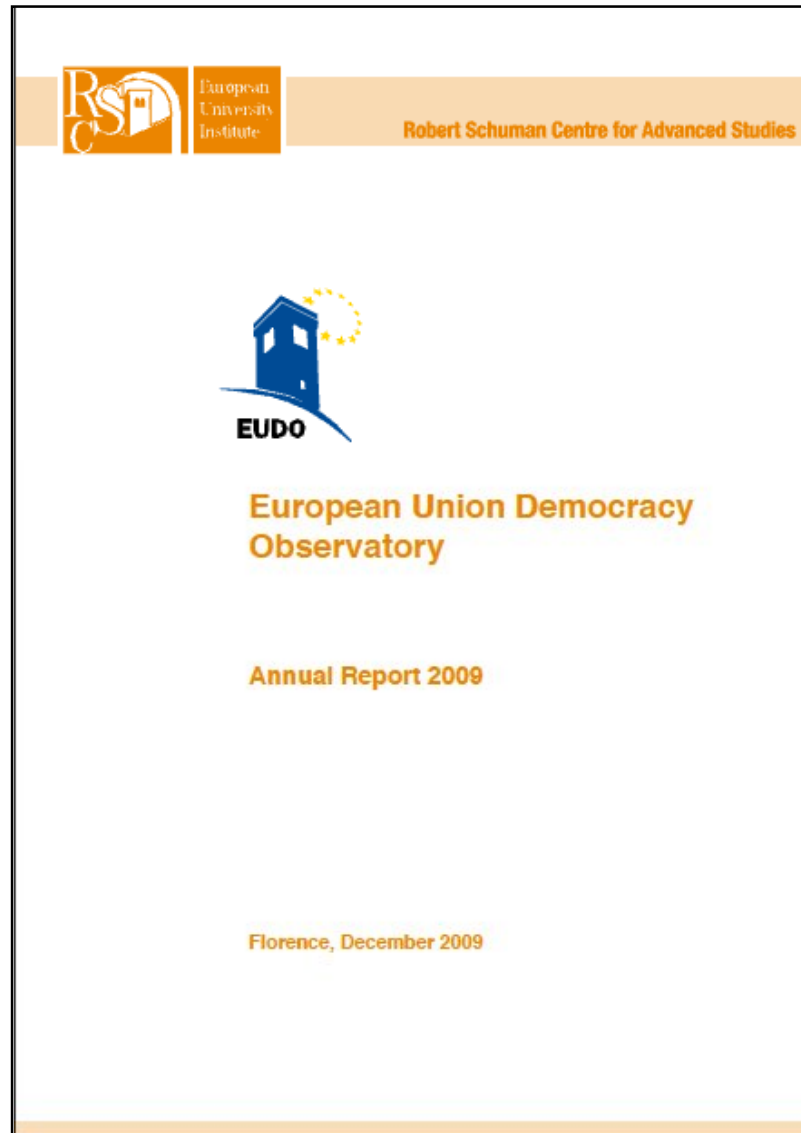


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# EUDO in 2009





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## EUDO in 2010

- **Further consolidation of internal structure**
- **Further consolidation of external network**
- **Intensive use of data gathered in 2009**
- **Continous data gathering on all fronts**
- **New externally funded research projects**
- **Working Paper Series**
- **EUDO Data Centre**
- **EUDO Forum**
- **EUDO Dissemination Conference end of 2010**



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# Thank you for your attention!

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