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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
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
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!
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
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

- EUDO Dissemination Conference
- EUDO Web Forum
- RSCAS/EUDO Infrastructure
- EUDO Training
- EUDO Observatories
  - Political parties and Representation
  - Citizenship
  - Public Opinion, Political Elites and Media
  - Institutional Change and Reforms
EUDO in 2009

European Union Democracy Observatory

Annual Report 2009

Florence, December 2009
EUDO in 2010

- Further consolidation of internal structure
- Further consolidation of external network
- Intensive use of data gathered in 2009
- Continuous data gathering on all fronts
- New externally funded research projects
- Working Paper Series
- EUDO Data Centre
- EUDO Forum
- EUDO Dissemination Conference end of 2010
Thank you for your attention!

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