

Governing with the people

*The impact of Direct Democracy
and it's design requirements*

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We should overcome the banalisation of the terms Freedom, Democracy and conflicts

- ✓ Democracy is more than a choice; it enables us to be free.
- ✓ Freedom means, to act together on our common life
(« Life is not a destiny »)
- ✓ Democracy constitutes all the rules, rights and procedures necessary in order to prevent conflicts to be solved violently
- ✓ Citizens are much more than consumers

**Direct Democracy is not an alternative
to representative Democracy –
it upgrades and enlarges it and does
make it more representative !**

Representative democracy is an essential
part of any Democracy. But it should not
have the monopoly of Democracy !

A small part of the citizens should be
allowed to decide, when all citizens have
to be invited to decide !

**The democratization of Democracy is
an ongoing, never ending process:
At the beginning of the 21st century it has to
be constituted transnationally**

- *Democracy was reduced to represent. Democracy in a time, where most people couldn't read or write and were enable to make political judgments !*
- *A society in which citizens feel excluded loses a enormous amount of creative potentials, misses collective learning options and undervalues itself !*

**A well designed Direct Democracy
produces exactly, what the EU
misses most:**

- Legitimacy (in-put)
 - Integration
 - Identification
 - public spheres
- learning and knowledge
- issue based discourses,
less personali- and less party-zation
- unity and diversity

A well designed Direct Democracy helps to create what the European polity and societies need:

- ◆ European Communities
- ◆ The European Demoi as it's European constitutional base
- ◆ The public spheres participative transnational citizens processes create
- ◆ Transnational, European citizen's identities and identifications
- ◆ The conditions to re-empower politics and democracy

The design , which determines the quality of Direct Democracy , has especially to adress:

- Not more than 3 % of the electorate should be allowed to decide, if all have to be asked
- No communication-killers (Quora for minimal participation or approval)
- Interface between indirect and direct Democracy (respective counter proposals)
- Generous time frames for all (No exclusive fast food)
 - Fairness- and opportunity-rules

Specific European challenges for the Design and the concept of Direct Democracy (DD)

- The EU has to offer translations/ticket/internet-vouchers/Publicity (TTIV) to compensate the size of the EU and to prevent an oligarchisation of DD (Fairness-/Opportunity-structures)
- The more DD elements are used in the states and the regions the more credible Democracy building on the transnational level becomes.
- There is a set of specific EU-polity-respective-DD-elements to consider especially (“Constructive Referenda”; EU-”Motions”)

A bit more Direct Democracy means that you share more power with the citizens, the only source of legitimate political power

- *Nobody should have so much power, that he or she has the “privilege” not to have to learn...*
- *Sharing the political power, that means everybody has to listen more and everybody has to try to convince by increasing the dialogue which happens when everybody knows, that all might decide*
- *Politics become softer, more inclusive and more communicative !*
- *It changes the political culture and strengthens democracy as well as the EU !*