



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIREKTAKRY**

Unconditional Basic Income - The Only Way Out?

One of the most important – if not THE most important – among the election promises put forward by political parties in western countries, especially the left-wing ones, is increase of employment in the following period, and even beyond. Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! - this is the magic formula most suited to seduce voters to help sending candidates into Parliament, and some of them into Government as well. It is very understandable – for most people, to go on the dole is one of the worst nightmares imaginable.

To live on social security doing nothing, what a shame! The general belief, if not always openly disclosed, has probably been that, sooner or later, if only the unemployed person tries hard enough, some sort of job is bound to be found.

However, in recent years, a new situation looms large: Jobs are becoming more and more scarce. On an increasing scale, machines and electronic programs are replacing people who have been doing the same work until now. Many young people are threatening by the spectre of life-long unemployment.

Facing this disturbing development, foresighted social scientists and thinkers are putting forward the idea of *unconditional basic income*: Every citizen should be given the right to receive from the state the means to cover his/her elementary needs – food and a modest accomodation – regardless of any other income he/she might have. An excellent presentation of this idea can be found in a booklet published in Czech by Dr. **Marek Hrubec**, director of the Centre of Global Studies (Prague) and four of his collaborators, sociologists **Dr. Zuzana Uhde** and **Dr. Martin Brabec**, **Dr. Bohumir Molnar**, a lawyer, and **Dr. Philippe Van Parijs**, a philosopher and economist.

Contrary to the promises of increased employment used by political parties as election baits, the idea of unconditional basic income is not suited for as party propaganda.. This is one of the ideas which in modern systems, together with many others, are going to make political parties redundant.

A few quotations from Business Insider:



„Are we prepared for a world where 50 to 75 percent of workers are unemployed?

It seems like a ridiculous question, but it's something economists and technologists say we seriously need to think about. It's just math.

Rice University computer science professor Moshe Vardi says that in 25 years „driving /done/ by people will look quaint, it will look like a horse and buggy.“

So there go many of the approximately 4 million driving jobs out there. Same for sanitation, and those are just a couple examples of how physical jobs will be replaced.

Smarter computers mean that any mid-paying job that involves a routine data entry, number crunching operations, and so on, will be replaced as well, which will remove a big piece of the approximately 7 million business and financial operations jobs that exist in the United States.“



INTERNATIONAL

Czech Republic

Participation at the Global Times – Interview with **Dr. Marek Hrubec**

22 March: **Marek Hrubec**, Ph.D., a world-renowned philosopher and social scientist, director of the *Centre of Global Studies*, a joint centre of the Academy of Sciences and Charles University, conceded an interview for this newsletter.

Dr. Polak: What exactly is the subject matter of the discipline called *Global Studies*?

Dr. Hrubec: The end of the cold war brought about the end of the bi-polar system and the era of a dominance of the nation states. Instead, we witnessed the emergence of a new phenomenon, generally called globalization. It is a world-wide global system integrating the former national economic, social and political systems. The task of *Global Studies* is critical trans-disciplinary research into economic, social and political sub-systems considered as a whole, as a global capitalism. It includes also a critical research into transnational corporations and their role in the globalized world. Thus, there is a global network of social scientists developing a transdisciplinary theory of global society based on sociology, philosophy, political science etc. It is their work which is called *Global Studies*.

Dr. Polak: Is there any international network or organization promoting contacts between research centres of various countries?

Dr. Hrubec: The most important is the *Global Studies Association of North America (GSA-NA)*. There is also a contact network between social scientists of GSA-NA, Australia, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, China, Brazil, etc. In Europe, the most

important research is done in Great Britain. The Czech Centre of *Global Studies* is leading in Central and Eastern Europe.

Dr. Polak: In which countries have you held lectures?

Dr. Hrubec: I gave lectures not only in the USA and the countries of the EU but also in China, India, Brazil, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran, South Korea, the New Zealand, Chile or Uruguay. I can mention my co-operation with colleagues in Brazil, for example notably Porto Alegre where the participatory budgeting procedure (a kind of economic democracy) inspired about two hundred other Brazilian towns, as well as thousands of towns in Europe and other parts of the world. Recently, I have been appointed Rector of the newly established *East Africa Star University*, located in the border region between Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo, and expected to promote development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, I will circulate between Europe and Africa in the next period of time.

Dr. Polak: Congratulations! It is a proof of the high esteem enjoyed by Czech social science and you personally. But what about the international conference on critical studies in Prague which you are scheduled to co-organize with your colleagues?

Dr. Hrubec: I'll go back to Prague for a week and take care of that too.

Dr. Polak: Have there been similar conferences in other countries?

Dr. Hrubec: Yes, especially in the USA, Germany and China. Prague has a very long tradition, we expect about one hundred participants from many countries all over the world. This year, we will address several important topics, especially *Revolution and Transformation* because of 25 years after the revolutionary events which took place in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989.

Dr. Polak: Thank you for your time and guidance!

Recently, **Mgr. Miluše Kotišová**, a prominent Czech theorist and activist, sympathizer with DD, has made a research into various economic issues. She sent a report (in Czech) to several Czech activists. Contents:

Vollgeld Initiative - attempt to organize a referendum in Switzerland concerning the monetary system – the initiators want to reserve the right to issue money for the Central Bank only, see

<http://www.vollgeld-initiative.ch>

Translation into Czech of **A. Martén's** *Metaphysical Theory of Money*

The paper *Chicago Plan Revisited* (Co-author: the Czech economist **Jaromír Beneš**)

National Development Plan of Ecuador – from political and economic point of view

Czech Donations Community (Hearth.net)

Particularly relevant is **Mgr. Kotišová's** own translation of a book written by **Alberto Martén – A Metaphysical Theory of Money**. An article about the book and **Mgr. Kotišová's** comprehensive commentary, explanations and elucidations have also been published in the journal *E-republika* (e-republika.cz). **Mgr. Kotišová** is an expert on the central American republic of Costa Rica which she has visited on several occasions. Costa Rica has no armed forces – it abolished them many years ago. In spite of this, and contrary to the militaristic ideology, it has never been attacked by any country. Imagine that the same measure would be taken by a country like Czech Republic. According to the myth, it would immediately be attacked and subdued by a strong neighbour. Do you really believe that? And what if the USA would withdraw from other countries round the world and reduce its armed forces to a minimum? Would the world be a more dangerous place? Or the contrary?

A. Martén's analysis of money has great actuality at present, when the proliferation of fiat money threatens, in the long run, to plunge the world into a new and worse economic crisis.

Slovakia

It seems that the Slovaks, the Czechs' brother nation, are even more radical than the Czechs.. Recently, we received a detailed information from which I quote:

"We had begun as New World Opposition (the first World-wide organized dissent). Recently, at a member conference, we changed the name to New World Order Opposition.

What do we want? To create a network of people with an open, NOT ENSLAVED mind. That is to say, to rally people who care about what is happening round them, who want to participate in efforts to help our society, to help all people in the world."

To achieve that, the initiative propose to take over state administration (i.e. to take over power) by pressure from below, using general strikes, blockade of financial sources of the regime's institutions, and introduction of instruments of DD.

The text is in Czech. Address: nwooo.org

USA

In February, we received a very sad news from Mrs. Fran Gottlieb: Her husband, Mr. **Lee Gottlieb**, one of our most prominent collaborators, author of *The Malfunctioning Animal – a Theory of Human Metamorphosis* and other publications, had deceased. His important contribution to our efforts will not be forgotten!



7 April: Mrs. **Sandy Heierbacher** has sent round the following information: "Hi, everyone! NCDD has quite the line-up of activities coming up, so you may want to get your calendar out! Of course, also make sure the 2014 National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation is on your calendar for October 17-19! Learn more about NCDD 2014 at www.ncdd.org/ncdd2014"

17 February, Mr. **Bruce Eggum** wrote Re AIRESIS An open source Edemocracy platform, "I would like it if there were a group: "Wisconsin USA" on E2D. Is there a way this can be done?" Mr. **Paul Nollen** replied, "I don't think that is a problem. Wisconsin

is a state. Every legislative level can work on his own I suppose."

Mr. **Bruce Eggum**: "Yes, I thought by grouping people from Wisconsin, we could develop Initiatives and Referendums to process them in Community."

Mr. **Jacopo Tolja**: "You are welcome Paul! Unfortunately we develop in Italian but we can switch if necessary in a spirit of inclusion. If you want to help producing a Canadian localization version where you and other Canadian groups can open their decisional platform let me know, it take only to find some DB file of the Canadian territorial organization.

As in Canada you communicate in two languages we can make two localizations available, but I don't think it necessary."

10 February, **I&Rgb** wrote, (excerpt) "**Campaign for Direct Democracy in Britain 2014 – POWER 2 PEOPLE - INIREF.ORG**"

"Iniref I&Rgb is also known as 'The Campaign for Direct Democracy'. Founded over ten years ago, we campaign for the introduction of direct democracy at all levels of government.

"A First Thought

We want to emphasise: Many different single-issue campaigns, charitable and protest groups, trade unions and (all) citizens could use 'tools' of direct democracy to further their 'own' cause, so we describe our project as:

THE Campaign for Activists, Campaigners and Citizens

Denmark

4 March, Mr. **Morten Holck** wrote to e2d international: "We are an upstarting initiative in Denmark called "Borgerindflydelse" (www.borgerindflydelse.dk).

Our system is almost as yours word to word, but developed independently (since we did not know of you) ...VERY interesting.

How do we get accepted to your list of E2D initiatives?

Our way is NOT to rush as a 'party', or a 'flowing democracy' but we run as a 'citizen movement'

and we have some special democratic 'twists and turns' that we would like to share if anyone is interested."

France

5 March, Mr. **Paul Nollen** wrote, (excerpt)"In collaboration with a movement for Direct Democracy in France – <http://www.article3.fr/action/petition-pour-l-instauration-du-referendum-d-initiative-citoyenne-en-france>

[https://www.facebook.com/camille.desmoulins.9/posts/678865442159260?](https://www.facebook.com/camille.desmoulins.9/posts/678865442159260?comment_id=6667374¬if_t=like)

[comment_id=6667374¬if_t=like](https://www.facebook.com/camille.desmoulins.9/posts/678865442159260?comment_id=6667374¬if_t=like)

we drafted a proposal that may be useful for a European campaign in the future. I forwarded this to Democracy international."

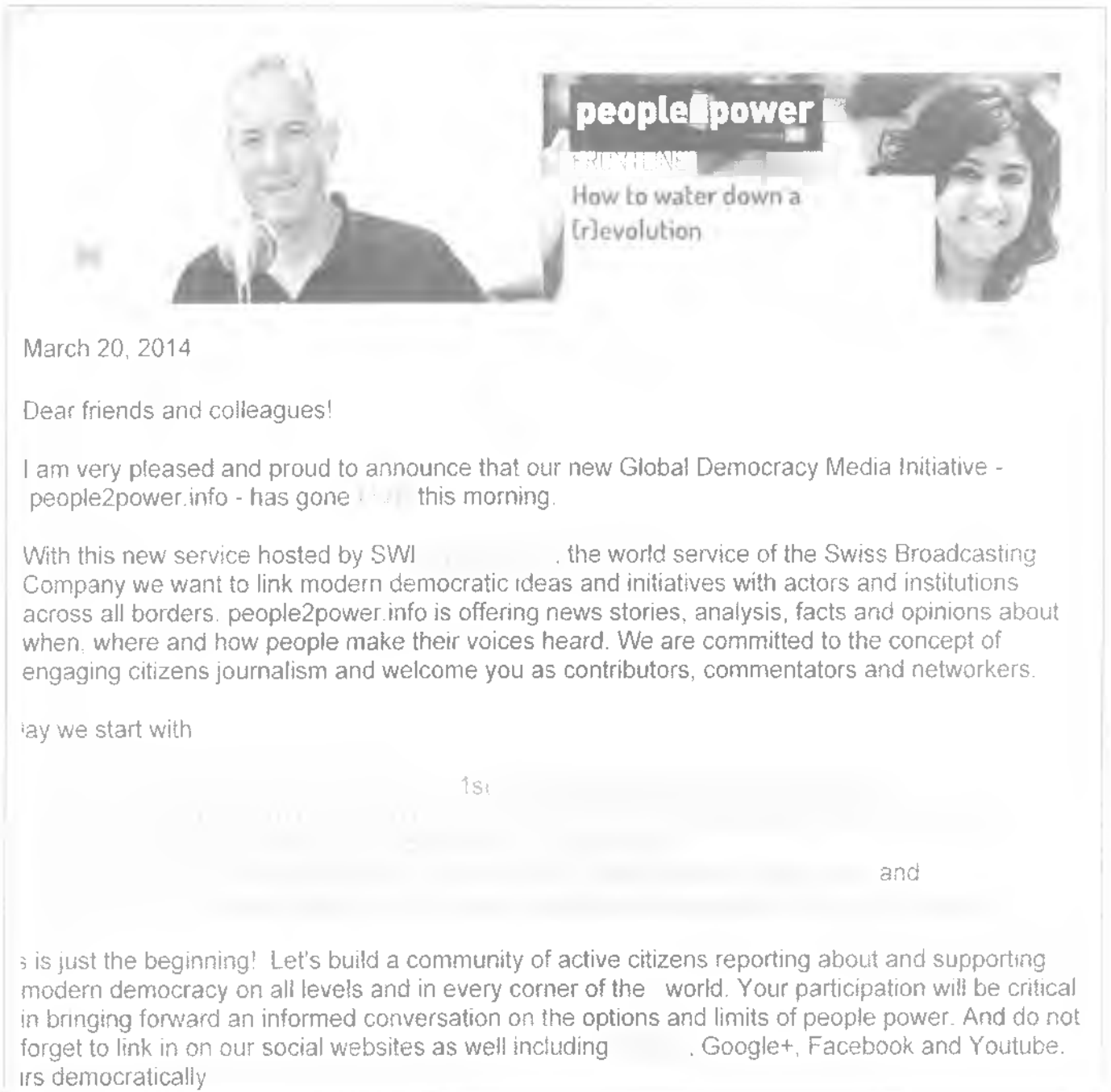
Bosnia

(Information which appeared in the *Courrier international* on 26 February – excerpt, translated): "After the riots, inhabitants of some big cities of Bosnia created citizen assemblies working according to the principles of participatory democracy. At the second plenum organized in Saraievo, they put forward their requirements: governments consisting of experts independent of the parties; reduction of the salaries of politicians and representatives" (The same principles as those put forward e.g. in the Czech Citizens Constitution. JP)

Sweden

Thanks to Dr. **Bruno Kaufmann**, one of the most prominent DD personalities globally, the town of *Falun*, where Bruno is

Chairman of the Election Commission and Democracy Council, is a sort of Swedish metropolis of democracy. On 20 March, Bruno sent round this information:



Estonia

In May 2013, Dr. **Ero Liivik**, Faculty of Social Sciences and Education, University of Tartu (Estonia) and Estonian Academy of Security Sciences (Tallin), published an article in *Baltic Journal of Law and Politics* under the heading *Direct Democracy and its Indirect Neutralization in Political Systems: Learning from the case of Estonia*.

Abstract (Excerpt)

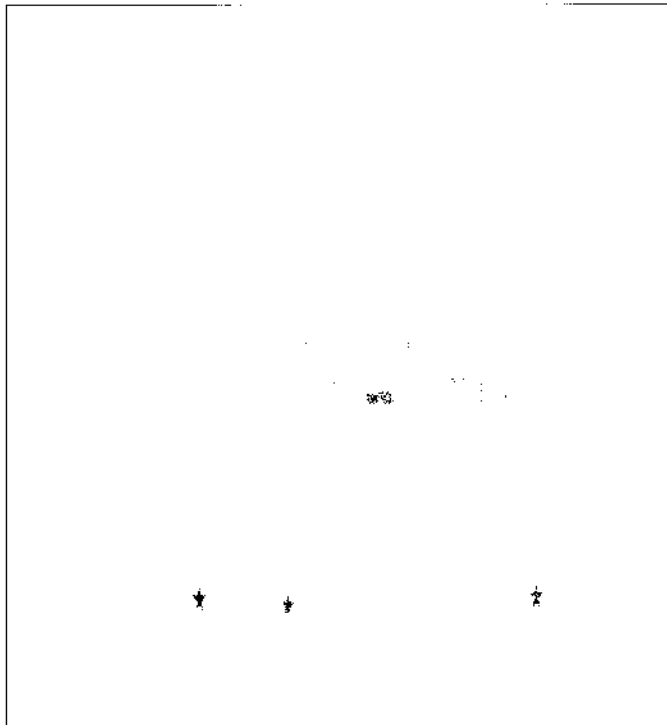
„The Estonian parliament is the only institution in the country that may call a referendum, i.e. the parliament itself can formulate the crucial question and put it forward for people to

vote. The constitution, though, lacks the institution to harness the people's initiative, giving citizens an opportunity to put some questions or draft acts to vote by themselves. A large group of MP's submitted a draft of an amendment to the constitution which would add people's initiative, with 25,000 signatures gathered, enabling them to put a draft act or question for vote. This draft act was in legislative proceedings on two separate occasions but failed to be completed and take effect within those eight years. In the parliamentary debates we could see a strong „clash of discourses“. On the one side, the proponents of direct democracy stressed different aspects of „alienation of power“; unfortunately the parliament as a representative body maintained the sole monopoly to act, while

the parliamentary elections have been media-manipulated by certain interest groups. Alternately, other speakers on the contrarian-side shared the view according to which direct democracy is unnecessary, even risky, populist means that cope with the strain of governance. Curiously, the deliberations in the parliament did not change anything; previously existing relationships of power were maintained."

Europe

19 February, Mr. **Carlo Marini**, Italy, sent us an updated „Draft of a Constitution for the European Union“. This is an excellent initiative deserving serious attention. (JP)



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For the whole text please look at www.democraticdiretti.it

17 February: Mr. **Gerald Häfner**, member of the European Parliament, sent us the following information: „Die Ernte von 5 Jahren Arbeit – Europa lernt das Zuhören: Erste Anhörung einer Bürgerinitiative vor Parlament und Kommission“

The information can be downloaded from www.right2water.eu

15 April, information from **Democracy International** (excerpt):

„Dutch national referendum law approved

Dutch citizens can trigger national referendum starting from end of 2014

Today, April 15th, the Dutch Senate approved the Consultative Referendum Law („Wet raadgevend referendum“). From the end of 2014 onwards, 300.000 Dutch citizens can trigger national non-binding referendum on laws and treaties (including EU treaties and international trade agreements like TTIP) after these pieces of legislation have been approved by the parliament. The law was co-introduced by the Referendum Platform, a Dutch organization campaigning for direct democracy that is affiliated with Democracy International.“

Canada

4 February, Mr. **Paul Nolen** wrote under the heading „Le Canada n'est pas une démocratie et ne l'a jamais été“ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVV5ogGDlts>

„Pour Francis Dupuis-Déri, la démocratie n'est pas celle que l'on croit et son histoire est encore plus méconnue. Détestée et ridiculisée pendant des siècles, la démocratie était vue comme le pire des régimes pendant des générations en Occident. Dans *Démocratie, Histoire politique d'un mot* (Lux éditeur, 2013), le professeur au Département de science politique de l'UQAM conclut avec fracas: le Canada n'est pas une démocratie et ne l'a jamais été.“

South Africa

27 April, Mr. **Jim Powell** sent us information about the DD movement emerging in his country.

Excerpts:

„Direct Democracy is a government system that ensures accountability to you, the voter!

Control your politicians after the elections; Please note that Direct democracy South Africa is not connected to the South African political party Direct Democracy Forum.“

For the whole text please go to www.directdemocracy.org.za

The World

17 February, Mr. **Jacopo Tolja** wrote to *e2d-international*: „We are not a party but we have developed an open source platform where each and every party or just a group of people, can create his group and use our proposal making structured system to develop proposals and then vote them. If there is more than one solution the schulze algorithm will come to help

Please give it a try. It takes few minutes to start a group.

You can use to test the www.airesis.us (in english) or www.airesis.fr (in french).

If you want to develop a specific localization, for example Canada, please contact us and we will make it. If you would like to ask a specific function please join the Airesis development group, the decisions are made and taken by the same platform. The platform is already available in 9 languages.“

14 April, **The WordPress Team** wrote to E2D International „Your site at <http://www.e2d-international.org> has been updated automatically to WordPress 3.7.3. For more on version 3.7.3. see the About WordPress screen: <http://www.e2d-international.org/wp-admin/about.php>

WordPress 3.8.3. is also now available. Updating is easy and only takes a few moments:

<http://www.e2d-international.org/wp-admin/update-core.php>

Keeping your site updated is important for security. It also makes the internet a safer place for you and your readers. If you experience any issues or need support, the volunteers in the WordPress support forums may be able to help <http://wordpress.org/support>

Strategy

10 April, **I&R-GB** sent round the following information: (excerpt)

„For Britain and its countries we send an update from the Campaign for Direct Democracy in Britain I&R-GB, (working towards) Citizens' Initiative and Referendum <http://www.iniref.org/>

Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Iniref I&RgB is also known as „The Campaign for Direct Democracy“. Founded over ten years ago, we campaign for the introduction of direct democracy at all levels of government.

We would like to know your opinion of the following:

A First Thought

We want to emphasise: Many different single-issue campaigns, charitable and protest groups, trade unions and (all) citizens could use 'tools' of direct democracy to further their 'own' cause, so we describe our project as: **THE Campaign for Activists, Campaigners and Citizens**

We invite all those who strive creatively for social, political and ecological change, to

BECOME PART OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN

(and elsewhere too, if you wish)

Persuade your group or organisation to publicly endorse the Iniref proposals!"

7 April, Dr. **Mike Stagman** wrote: „I want to make a suggestion regarding the expansion of Direct Democracy adherents. We desperately need **Grassroots Public Education** campaigning to spread the message and wake people up.

All too much DD people simply speak to the already converted. The true field of operation must be to **influence our General Publics**. They have forever been ignorant, passive/misled, and Oligarchies find it easy to manipulate them and maintain themselves. The general public is the key to success or failure. Very few people among the General Publics of the world have ever heard of Direct Democracy. And indeed fewer know much about it. Could not for the life of them contrast the essentials of Direct Democracy with those of (pseudo-democratic, oligarchic) Representative Democracy.

Grassroots public education campaigning is virtually costfree. Virtually **COSTFREE**.

It means leafleting (plainly written, simple&understandable, graphic & instructive, with absolutely vital instruction to **Pass-It-On**) Leafleting and Talking in colleges/universities, Leafleting & talking Door-to-Door, and Telephoning to practically everyone.

In this simple, Pass-It-On way, the Campaign is **de-centralized and self-generating**. It becomes a **Movement without leaders and organization**."

Note: Dr Stagman has produced a leaflet which I have sent electronically to my DD contacts. The paper version will be included in this newsletter issue. JP

8 April, Dr. **Mike Stagman** sent us an article under the heading **Confrontation and Defeating Powerful Multinational Corporations** (Via Grassroots Public Education campaigning)

14 April, Dr. **M. Stagman** sent us a new article called **Reasons YOU, Your Children and Grandchildren should support proposals for DIRECT DEMOCRACY**

These valuable texts are too long for this newsletter. Activists are invited to address Dr.Stagman directly at artemesium@yahoo.co.uk

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MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

JIRI POLAK, ASSARHUSAVÄGEN 64, S-24736, S. SANDBY, SWEDEN

PHONE: 046/58891, E-MAIL: JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

