



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTKRAKY**

Global Threats and Pessimism - Instruments of Oppression

by Jiri Polak

Every day and every minute, western political systems are treated by all mainstream media as "democracies". No discussions, no doubts, no analyses, as if the democratic character of western systems were self-evident, not in need of improvement, except perhaps, at most, some marginal changes. As soon as there are at least two competing parties elected periodically by free elections, the country in question is considered 'democracy'. Since the fall of communism, however, under the official surface, anomalies are increasingly attracting attention.

The most important one is foreign policy. People vote for the party they believe will improve, or at least preserve, their living standard. Issues pertaining to the sphere of foreign policy play only a secondary role, if any. As a result, the leading politicians are free to start wars killing hundreds of thousands of people, including civilians, to devastate large natural areas or habitats, all that without any democratic mandate. This system, i.e. rule by parties, which maintains itself by pretending that the respective state or part of it is constantly under threat, coming from abroad or from within, is a mockery of democracy. Prof. Ted Becker, one of the most prominent contemporary political scientists, calls it *electoral oligarchy*. Owing to the dramatically improved possibility of gaining information offered by the internet since the nineties, an increasing number of people begin to understand this. The credibility of threats was responsible for the most horrific crimes in history – the two World Wars and many other wars unleashed by oligarchies without any other reason than the oligarchies' greed and power hunger. Threats guarantee the obedience of the masses who believe that the respective oligarchy is indispensable to protect them.

The oligarchies pretend that threats can only be kept at bay, never completely removed. The possibility of creating a peaceful, prosperous situation without serious conflicts is never mentioned. People have to live with constant fear and to believe that no structural

Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy

Tunisia 14 – 17 May 2015



Bruno Kaufmann

Editor-in-Chief, *peoplepower.info*,
Chairman, Election Commission in
Falkenberg, Co-President Global Forum
on Modern Direct Democracy



Amel Azouz

Tunisian Secretary of State for
International Cooperation



Andreas Gross

Director, *Atelier de la Démocratie Directe à
St. Ursanne, Switzerland*, Chairman of the
Swisslet Group in the Parliamentary
Assembly of the Council of Europe



Amir Huber

Director of Communication and Marketing and a member
of an international board of the
International Branch of the Swiss People's Party
(SVP). Presently he is leading the Debat
(DAB) for 4 years and marketing it as one of the
largest system integrators in the Middle East, and for 1
year a Business Intelligence Center



Antala Agirteola

Director, Citizen Participation
Department, *Dominica/Saint Vincent*



Samir Taieb

Homme politique et universitaire tunisien,
après la révolution de 2011, membre du
mouvement Hiradjid. Il participe alors à
l'élection de l'Assemblée constituante dans
la première circonscription de Tunis.



Aziza El Bakali Kassimi

Chargée d'étude au Ministère chargé de la
réforme. Ex-membre de la commission
nationale de dialogue National sur la
société civile et les nouvelles pratiques
constitucionnelles, Mars



Daniel Schugurensky

School of Public Affairs and the School of Social
Transformation at Arizona State University. He is
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Governance Initiative at Arizona State University
and the coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in
Participatory Governance



Julia Manuel

Journalist and Vice-President for
Communications and Events at
Catechism.com

improvement is possible. "Wars have always existed and will always exist. Peace can only be assured by maintaining the existing oligarchic rule and feed the oligarchies by taxes and weapons. No better system than rule by political parties is possible. Democracy means the possibility to vote for this or that party." Marginal improvements, such as the right to occasional I&R, do not change the core of the system. Such a

change could only be achieved by changing the Constitution. So far, Constitutions have only been written and adopted by representative, party-based bodies, never directly by the citizens. And yet, this is the only way to real democracy. Fortunately, even this begins to be understood. May it not be too late!

The Global Forum was attended by 100 participants, mostly Arabs, but also a few Europeans and Americans. Some of them are presented here above. There were 29 women, among them 4 Moslems with covered heads.

Workshops (abbreviated)

Social Media and Democracy; Chair: *Assya Kavrakova*

Women and Democratization; Chair: *Zohra Lili Chabaane*

New Citizens Movements/Parties; Chair: *Ricardo Fraccaro*

Citizens Media & Journalism; Chair: *Joe Mathews*

Direct Democracy and Islam; Chair: *Amr Huber*

Free Trade and Direct Democracy; Chair: *Roman Huber*

Infrastructure for Participative Democracy; Chair: *Anne-Marie Sigmund*

Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World? Chair: *Andi Gross*

Towards participative democracy worldwide; Chair: *Daniel Schugurenski*

The State of Local Democracy – a Global Assessment; Chair: *Matshidiso Kgohatso Semela-Serote*

Participatory Democracy: between the desirable and the possible; Chair: *Mehdi Mabrouk*

Storytelling on Modern DD activities; Chair: *Daniel Schily*

Towards participatory democracy in Morocco; Chair: *Ms. Aziza el Bakkali Kacemi*

Transparency, Participation, Petitioning; Chair: *Gregor Hackmack*

Welcome to the European Union (EU), the world's premier transnational and participatory democracy!

As an EU citizen you have the right to influence the rules which apply to more than 500 million people across 28 Member States. You may now say: that is great, but how can I make my voice heard in practice? This publication by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) answers that question directly, it's a starter kit for active citizenship and participatory democracy in Europe.

The EESC's "European Passport to Active Citizenship" links individual citizens, civil society organisations and their ideas with EU institutions and continent-wide decision-making. It offers quick guides, factsheets, backgrounds, pathfinders, navigators and toolkits for the various tools of participation, including a briefing on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) – the new and potentially very powerful mechanism of transnational, direct and digital people power established a few years ago.

The key idea of this publication is to assist and guide you in making your voice heard

by asking yourself some basic questions first: Is it a genuinely EU matter you want to address – or might it be advisable to start at the local level instead? And if going European with your idea, what is the most efficient and successful way to make it happen? A simple letter to your Member of the European Parliament may suffice – or maybe you should petition the European Parliament? Or why not join a civil society organisation or even a political party and run for office yourself?

This small booklet (which is available in 23 languages) is designed to assist you with turning (when should you become active?), teams (whom should you join forces with?) and tools (which available participatory instrument should you use?) when it comes to active citizenship and participatory democracy in the European Union.

It's your voice! It's your Europe! It's your Passport to Active Citizenship!

Global Forum Workshop Guide

Room #	Rooms	Capacity	Friday, May 15 9-10.45	11.15-13	Saturday, May 16 10-12
A	INAT Auditorium	With translations from to English/Arab (and French)			
A1	Auditorium	250 persons	WS5 Democracy and Islam (2) @Amr Huber (Swissinfo)		WS8 Why Tunisia? (3/37) And what to learn for the World? @mehdi-benmounoun (University of Carthage)
A2	Room 1	VIP (Thursday); Press room (All Days)			
B	INAT theaters				
B1	Theater Jamoussi	60 persons	WS12 Storytelling on Modern Direct Democracy (3) @Daniel Schily (Democracy International)		
B2	Theater Attami	80 persons	WS2 Women and Democratization @ZohraChabaane (UOC)	WS10 The State of Local Democracy - A Global Assessment @Matshidiso Kgohatso Semela-Serote (IDEA)	WS14 Transparency, Participation, Petitioning from Parliament Watch to change.org @GregorHackmack (Parliament Watch)
C	INAT Admin				
C1	Room 1	40 persons	WS8 Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World? (2) @Andi Gross (IRI)		WS4 Citizens Media and Journalism @Joe Mathews (Zocalo)
C2	Room 2	20 persons	WS6 Free Trade and Direct Democracy @Roman Huber (More Democracy)	WS13 Towards participatory democracy in Morocco	WS3 New Citizens Movements and Parties @Ricardo Fraccaro (MSS)
C3	Room 3	20 persons	Host Committee Back Office		
D	Maison de l'Eau-INAT				
D1	Room	30 persons	WS7 Infrastructure for Participative Democracy @Anne-Marie Sigmund (EESC)	WS9 Towards participative democracy worldwide @Daniel Schugurenski (IASU)	WS1 Social Media and Democracy @Assya Kavrakova (ECAS)
E	Outside INAT Campus				Arab Center for Research
E1					WS11 Participatory Democracy (9-12)

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MY CITIZENSHIPS
Personal Information Page

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To Active European Citizenship

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NAVIGATOR
To Local, Regional, National and Transnational People Power

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MY SAY IN EUROPE
Welcome to The Big Stage

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HOW TO GET IT RIGHT
Your Idea, Issue, Moment, Team and Tool

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EUROPEAN ISSUES
From Agriculture to Research

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PARTICIPATION TOOLKIT
Complaint, Advise, Consultation, Initiative and Other Ways

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ECI GUIDE
How to use the European Citizens' Initiative

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TRANSNATIONAL BRIDGE
The European Economic and Social Committee

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SUPPORT CENTRE
Civil Society and Citizens Media

The process of arranging Global Fora like this one started several yers ago. Global Fora have been held in Montevideo, San Francisco, Seul and Switzerland

Co-presidents of the Tunisian Global Forum have been **Joe Mathews & Bruno Kaufmann**

Czech Republic

Shortly after the fall of communism in 1989, Czechoslovakia was divided into two states - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The split was decided upon by two persons only, Prime Minister *Vaclav Klaus* for the Czech part and Minister for the Interior *Vladimír Meciar* for the Slovak part. Neither the Parliament nor the citizenry were asked whether they agreed to the split or not. There can hardly be a less democratic decision! There are reasons to believe that, as a matter of fact, the split was opposed by the majority of both Czech and Slovak citizens. After the initial euphoria, people in Czech Republic were beginning to be more and more disillusioned. The constitution adopted by Parliament after the split, without referendum, stated: „All power comes from the people. The people exerts it through political parties.“ For some time, nobody was questioning this nonsense: If all power comes from the people, nobody can order the people to use political parties as the only or main instrument of exerting it. People considered the rule by parties as the obviously democratic system. Parties were ruling in all western countries and these countries, „unquestionably“, were democracies. Nevertheless, since the nineties, improvements of the system began to be discussed and in some countries, particularly Germany, even implemented. The model was Switzerland. It was – and by the majority probably still is – believed, that to achieve democracy, it is sufficient to include I&R in the system.

However, in Czech Republic – and surely even elsewhere – some political thinkers began to understand that the inclusion of I&R in the system is not sufficient. The whole system had to be changed. How? Obviously by adopting a new, citizens' Constitution. Such a Constitution must be adopted by the citizens themselves, without any interference on the part of political parties. Several DD activists have presented drafts of a Citizens' Constitution. The most recent one is that of Eng. **Zdeněk Trinkewitz**. These drafts begin to be discussed, for the time being in small circles only. The mainstream media ignore them. Obviously, unorthodox proposals, put forward by a few individuals, are considered too insignificant to be mentioned. However, the final outcome can only be one. In the age of the internet, truth cannot be suppressed for ever.



Eng. Zdeněk Trinkewitz

An important book:



**From Misrecognition to Justice.
Critical Theory of Global Society and Politics**

The author – **Ph.D. Marek Hrubec**, is one of the most prominent contemporary philosophers, in Czech Republic and globally. He is also an active supporter of DDD.



Ph.D. Marek Hrubec

Summary: " Marek Hrubec's book articulates the basis for critical theory of global society and politics. It shows that, at present, the concept of 'global interactions' is being gradually transformed from a theme into a new paradigm. Just as earlier critical paradigms were established for labour, communicative action or recognition, more recently the critique of economic globalisation and global clashes between cultures have created the need to establish a critical concept of global interactions. This is not yet an entirely established paradigm, but it is just this that is an important challenge for philosophers and social scientists today.".....

从错误承认到正义： 全球社会和政治的批判理论

马瑞克·赫鲁贝奇

捷克共和国，布拉格，捷克科学院哲学研究所
查理士大学哲学学院

马瑞克·赫鲁贝奇的这一著作作为全球社会和政治的批判理论构建了基础。书中分析到，当前“全球交互作用”这一概念正逐渐从一个研究主题转变为一种新的范式。正像早期的批判范式为劳动、交往行为或承认范式而建构一样，近来，对经济全球化的批判和不同文化间的全球冲突，催生了构建一种新的全球交互作用的批判概念的需要。当然，对这一范式的建构还未完结，但也正因此，为今天的哲学家和社会学家提出了一个重要挑战。

最近，南希·弗雷泽和阿克塞尔·霍耐特分析了承认的悖论，并在他们合著的书中指出：“‘承认’已成为时代的关键词。”对承认的讨论确实是新近出现的，本书作者对此也有分析，但是就分析的范式问题而言，作者认为必须在全球交互作用的语境下展开讨论。今天的正义理论必须是全球正义理论。这也正是此书名为《从错误承认到正义：全球社会和政治的批判理论》的原因。当前，这就意味着，以跨国的、超国家的、跨文化的和超领土的等各种不同的形式，详细展示由国际关系到全球交互作用的转变。同时，作者也强调有必要在重新修订的原初的批判理论框架内建构这一范式。

本书的主体框架由五部分构成。在前两部分中，作者阐述了新构建的批判社会理论及其方法，在接下来的三部分中，他用这些方法阐释本书的主题。首先，在第一部分中，作者通过对批判的社会理论和政治理论的研究，运用

Now, we know that most people in Britain, voters, want more say and that in opinion surveys large majorities have approved the principle of citizen-led direct democracy. But, we also know that most politicians oppose direct democracy and that they have acted, against the will of the people, to prevent it from being introduced."

"We need methods of DIRECT DEMOCRACY which enable the electorate to:

put forward proposals to make or change law; proposals well supported by the public must be placed before the whole electorate for decision by ballot, block unwanted law or government policy, by holding a veto-referendum, recall MPs who have failed, or lost the confidence of, their constituents.

This means effective participation by people, citizens, in public decision making. It does not have to mean abolishing parliament or government; clearly for the foreseeable future this would be unwise,"

30 July INIREF wrote: (excerpts) **"Direct democracy for the United Kingdom? Elites sceptical!**

Direct democracy DD is currently (July 2015) receiving increased attention in Britain partly because of the highly popular scottish independence referendum (September 2014) and the promised ballot about membership of the European Union. Also several candidates for political office have shown support for DD."

"Direct democracy DD is not just a series of one-off events such as a referendum. Having DD implies that the political unit (country, state, city etc.) accepts that all citizens are equally entitled to exercise their power and that political power – sovereignty in the state – belongs to and may be applied by the people."

"Surveys show that most people perceive low control over elected officials and bodies. Trust in politicians and government is low and probably still sinking. Having elements of direct democracy in the UK, countries and localities, would improve quality of governance and other factors such as sense of community."

Summary in Chinese

UK

22 July, INIREF wrote (excerpts): "Congratulations to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon!!"

"Nicola, if I may, in the draft constitution (Independence Bill) for Scotland you wrote ... "the people are sovereign" (2). We argue that this is true not only in Scotland but also in any modern, democratic state. So, the people of the UK are "sovereign" too. Sovereign means owning and holding political power in the state. It means that all we citizens have political rights. These rights must be useable, they must be capable of practical expression, or the claim of sovereignty remains an empty slogan. International conventions which we in the UK have signed as a Union guarantee our rights to exercise our power, both indirectly, by electing members of parliament and directly, to decide on public issues (commonly by means of citizen-instigated referendum).

So we can see that our democracy and public governance are incomplete because the direct form of decision making by the people, with rare exceptions, has been denied to us over many years, by successive governments of different political persuasions. We are looking at a major deficit of democracy. This deficit should be corrected by adding elements of direct democracy into our system of indirect democracy. Wisely, your party the SNP has expressed support for this stronger sort of democracy (3).

Germany

mdmagazin Nr.105/3/2015 – Contents:

Editorial **Ralf-Uwe Beck**

Europa

Die erste Europäische Protestbewegung
Für wirksame Mitsprache in der EU

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Das anspruchsvolle Zentrum der Demokratie

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Antwort auf "Wer hat hier die Macht?"

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Europa-Magazin 1/2015

edito by **Paul Ruppen**

Die Krise der EU und Griechenland von **Annette Groth**

Die Bilanz des Spardiktats – <http://www.german-foreign-policy.com/>

Griechenland muss sich vom Euro befreien – Auszüge aus einem Interview mit Costas Lapavistas

20 Jahre EU-Beitritt Österreichs

Buchbesprechungen

Souveraineté du peuple et droit international: une contradiction? de Philipp Zimmermann et Esther Meier

20 Jahre EU-Beitritt Österreichs – eine Bilanz Solidar-Werkstatt, Linz

Kurzinfos

International

8 July, Mr. **Danilo D'Antonio** wrote (excerpts):

"Let us transform our TYRANNIES in DEMOCRACIES by introducing the TEMPORARY MANDATE in every PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

It is impossible to improve a world reduced to such a state of confusion without making an intellectual leap. Which is not possible without gaining a precise historical awareness. Briefly, the difference between TYRANNY and DEMOCRACY is all in the TEMPORARY MANDATE of public roles. There's nothing else that matters equally. Let us retrace history to see what happened.

The democratization process began long ago, at the dawn of the same monarchies, through the introduction of the TEMPORARY MANDATE for the members of parliaments. 70 years ago, in Italy for example, with the advent of the Democratic Republic, democracy was supposed to continue to expand itself by introducing the TEMPORARY MANDATE in every role of the Public Apparatus. But the PUBLIC CAREERISTS, the hired for life in the Public Employment according to the pre-democratic use, blocked the cultural evolution and consequently the spread of democracy to the sole purpose of preserving "their" FIXED JOB. The same identical phenomenon happened in every other "democratic" Country."

"Now we can choose: whether to continue to make confusion, to spread an inculture created by PUBLIC CAREERISTS to defend the privilege of public roles assigned for life, to remain indifferent at best doing protests that, without a valid IDEA, will be only counterproductive, or decide to become mature and responsible people who are focused on a great single goal: to complete the DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS started centuries ago and arrested 70 years ago.

Let us make democratic the Public Apparatuses (Public Administrations and Services) of our countries, of the whole world, by introducing finally the temporary mandate in every Public Employment, even the humblest. Let us understand well: the temporary hiring in the Public Employments not only serves to let operate properly both the Public and the Private sectors but (combined with a transitory income for citizenship) is just what we need to solve the urgent problem of a regular INCOME DISTRIBUTION."

5 august

8 July, Dr. **Roger Kotila**, editor, Earth Federation News & Views, wrote:

"Dear friends, I have written and criticized the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). I am a psychologist. I feel a sense of urgency. I understand the Pentagon is in psychological denial, reluctant to admit they are wrong. They claim they are protecting us yet hair trigger alert multiplies the danger to our families and our world. The generals are proud. But soon, before it is too late, they must change course.

That's why I created a petition to send a message to the Pentagon, US Dept. Of Defense, and General Martin Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, which says:

"Six minutes to decide to end the world is irresponsible and reckless. Tell the Pentagon generals to take the nuclear weapons off "launch on warning". It is a bad, unnecessary, and dangerous policy. ***This is not a western movie where two gunmen square off, and the one with the hair trigger colt .45 wins. In the real world, if the nukes go off we all lose.***"

Will you sign my petition? Simply copy and paste to the MoveOn.org site below:

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/demand-that-pentagon?source=c.fed&r_by=2917131

5 august, Mr. **Danilo Dantonio** wrote To the European Parliament (excerpts):

"Estimated Member of the European Parliament,

I am here specifically asking that the European Parliament democratize the public apparatus of the European Union.

Estimated Member, you certainly know the meaning of the two words: Res Publica. Well, the public jobs inside the organization itself of the European Union are fundamental part of an EUROPEAN RES PUBLICA: they are a common property, they can be given only temporarily. Please, let me rephrase it: the jobs of the public apparatus of the European Union cannot be given to some individuals for their whole working life."

"Estimated Member, Europe cannot be a property owned by public careerists, the known beurocrats/eurocrats. Europe belongs to all european citizens and we all must have the possibility to participate (in ordered way, for a fixed period, according to personal skills and desires) to the jobs of the public apparatus of the European Union.

Peoples of the single Countries inside the European Union have been shamefully deceived for decades by the public careerists who have inculcated us a very weak democracy that has kept the public apparatuses exactly as they were under fascism: in the eternal hands of public careerists, of tyrants. The single Countries of the European Union will think independently what to do about this."

THE MOVEMENT KEEPS DEVELOPING...



المنتدى العالمي للديمقراطية الحديثة المباشرة
اللامركزية مع خلال المشاركة

GLOBAL FORUM ON MODERN DIRECT DEMOCRACY
Decentralization by participation

FORUM MONDIAL SUR LA DÉMOCRATIE DIRECTE MODERNE
Decentralisation par la participation

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من 14 إلى 17 ماي 2015

Université de Carthage / Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie
14-17 Mai 2015

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