

Why (and how) strengthening our eroding democracies ?

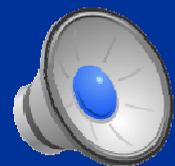
Context analysis and action frameworks

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The crises of our democracies is accompanied with a banalisation of our key political terms

- ◆ Freedom is more than the daily choice between Coca or Pepsi and Snickers or Mars
- ◆ Democracy is much more than the right to elect those who pretend to govern our society

**In modern and free societies
citizens are the subjects,
not objects of politics**

Freedom means the right, the
capacity and the possibility of
each of us to act and to
participate in the way our
common life is organized and
functions.

A Democracy provides all the rights, institutions, rules and proceedings you need :

- ◆ To be free
- ◆ To participate directly or indirectly in the law making
- ◆ That freedom is not the privilege a the few privileged
 - ◆ That the life chances are fairly distributed among all
- ◆ That the necessary conflicts can be lived without violence.

**Democracy is always an on-going, never ending process:
But today it's everywhere in a substantive degression !**

- Who thinks, he or she is really free ?
 - Are life chances fairly distributed in a state or all over the world ?
- How much violence we face every day ?

The main reasons for the on-going erosion of substantive democracies:

- The shift of power from politics to economies, from the state to the markets
- Nation-States became too small for the big things and too big for the small things
- Democracy is still limited to the nation-state

To get democracy back, to re-empower it and to make it substantive:

- ◆ We have to go transnational (continental and global constitution makings)
- ◆ Nation-states have to be decentralized – sovereignty shared
- ◆ The electoral monopole of Democracy has to be overcome

Participative Democracy is much more than just elections:

- Citizen Referenda and Initiatives
 - *Any time citizens may suppose changes which have to submitted to a referendum*
 - *Any time any law might be put to a referendum by a small part of the citizens (1%)*
- Citizen Motions to the Parliament and Constitut.Court
- Open electoral proportional systems
 - *(Candidate doubling and switching lists)*
 - *All enshrined in a constitution (local, regional, federal, transnational) which has been accepted by the majority of the concerned*

The core idea of part. Democracy: The Power is shared –

a small part of the citizens can provoke a referendum in which all are invited to decide

- Weaker forms of “participat.Dem”
like reference groups, citizen planning, participatorial budgeting, citizen juries are more forms of represent.Democracy, do not really share the power and empower people, but are part of efforts, how to govern the people better.

Without being free, involved and invited to participate:

- You can not identify yourself with your state
 - You are not able to learn
 - You can not be integrated
 - You will be manipulated
- You can't prevent conflicts to become violent
- You can't bridge the gap between society and state/political class
- The society can not realize it's civic potentials and capacities