

The double crises of today's Democracy and the importance of Direct Democracy to overcome it

11 lessons and many more propositions

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1. European Democracies are in a deep double crises:
Many citizens feel powerless and do not really think, that they have a say in&to their lives.

Democracy means & wants:
Whenever citizens are affected by a decision they should be part of the decision making process !



2. Democracies are in crises because they are too representative and too/only national.

Citizens are able to much more than just to elect representatives: If you want to explore their capacities you need to let them participate between elections.

3. Representation has to be enlarged by Direct Democratic elements (Citizens initiatives).

This is the way to restore trust and legitimacy in democracy and to generate the democratic power you need to constitute transnational European (EU) Democracy.

4. Democracy is also a concrete promise for a fair distribution of the life chances and opportunities.

In order to be able to realise today this promise, the democratic polity has to be constituted on the same level as the main market forces:
Transnationally

5. Swiss experience I (1860-1890): Popular interests were not well respected in the liberal Parliament.

Peoples Movements used the right to revise totally their liberal constitutions for a “democratic revolution” and transformed them in to DD-Constitutions.

6. Swiss experience II (1890-2012): DD, an opposition's achievement, became the most important Swiss political identity-factor

DD, citizen-friendly designed, opened the system, diminished alienations, integrated diversity, increased learning processes, identification and wouldn't liked to be missed by over 90% of the people.

7. The enormous power of the EU needs a direct democratic legitimation.

This is only possible by a real EU-Constitution which has to be accepted by the double majorities of all Europeans and all EU-member states. Revolutionary difference to treaties !

8. If you leave Democracy to the nation state you offer nationalists the biggest trump card.

If you constitute national and transnational Direct Democracies you generate legitimacy, public spheres, integration, identification and collective learning processes.

9. By halfway restoring national Democracies by integrating Direct Democratic elements....

... you create the condition, that Democracy can really be restored and the constitution of a real European, transnational Democracy is getting possible as the fruit of a European people' movement.

10. Without modern technologies such national and European participative Democracies are not possible.

But without constituting direct democracies in which citizens get their part of sovereignty and their real share of power all new technologies can not help to restore Democracy..

11. Die ECI was born in CH: 1989-91 as a lesson of one of the most successful initiatives : eurotopia

1991 Swiss, Germans, Danes, French and Belgians founded in Rostock a citizen's movement for a European Constitution with DD-Elements, which led via the German Greens, Joschka Fischer, the Laeken-Declaration, the EU-Convent and 2 Conventioners to the ECI which served all Treaty-Refusals into the Lisbon Treaty !