



**DONAU
INSTITUT**
ZENTRUM FÜR
DEMOKRATIEFORSCHUNG



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EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK
MINISZTERIUMA

The Research Group on Participatory Democracy
of the
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University
and the
Centre for Democracy Studies at the Danube Institute of the
Andrássy University Budapest

would like to invite you to the

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on

DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION: NEW PRACTICES AND POTENTIALS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCEDURES

Place: Andrassy University Budapest, Andrassy Hall
Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Dean's Councils Room
Date: Friday, 30 October 2015, 09:00-17.10
Registration: online registration until 26 October 2015
Language: ENGLISH

Conference Topic

In recent years democracy's pre-eminence has been challenged both normatively and regarding its problem solving capacity. Other, not necessarily democratic regimes, seem to be – according to many analysts – in a better position to cope with future challenges. The financial crisis which started in 2008 also revealed the inherent strains between capitalism and democracy. The apparent inability of certain democratic regimes to protect wider sections of their population from unemployment and social distress provoked reactions of new kinds of popular movements like Occupy or Indignados. There were also experimentations to combine the new participatory procedures with more traditional processes in order to cope with the crisis as illustrated in the case of the Icelandic constitution making. At the same time it cannot be ignored that the – poor – performance of some democratic systems led to a wide-spread raise of populist parties throughout Europe, which call into question conventional politics. So far democracy's capability to cope with new challenges which go along with the intensifying processes of globalization cannot be definitely assessed.

Notwithstanding their well-known deficiencies the democratic processes also have great potential to cope with the above mentioned political challenges. A well-designed democracy has the advantage of not being exclusively dependent on output legitimation. Its core meaning – self-rule of the people – refers particularly to the participatory dimension of politics. Popular participation helps controlling elites and thereby brings policies closer to the preferences of the citizens and furthermore lessens their alienation from politics. In addition, participatory democracy also opens up the political arena to new, innovative ideas from outside the established political channels, thus enhancing the opportunities of political innovation. These instruments induce shifts in preferences of the political actors and thereby also contribute to strengthening the deliberative aspect of democracy. However, the impact of participatory instruments depends on their actual institutional design and their interaction with the political system. Therefore, they have to be evaluated within their actual institutional context.

Starting with the input side, this conference will present new participatory instruments, which make use of personal resources of the citizens and their collective intelligence to foster political innovation. On the output side case studies of policy innovations – fostered by popular participation – and instruments which help to monitor and evaluate the policies, will be examined. These two areas are connected through the procedural dimension. Therefore the third focal point will deal with new procedural tools and mechanisms, which make the political process more transparent and/or render political participation easier for the general public. The aim of this conference is to set up an inventory of new participatory instruments and mechanisms and assess their potential for democratic innovation and, ultimately, their contribution to the quality of democracy.

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PÁZMÁNY PÉTER CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (DEAN'S COUNCILS ROOM)

09.00-09.10 Welcome Address

09.10-11.45 **PANEL 1: INPUT SIDE**

Chair: Zoltán Tibor Pállinger

09.10-09.30 **Lóránt Csink** (Pázmány Péter Catholic University):
"National consultations in Hungary"

09.30-09.50 **Janina Apostolou** (Andrássy German-Speaking University):
"The introduction of participatory budgeting processes in Germany as response to the municipal debt crisis"

09.50-10.10 **Siegfried F. Franke** (Andrássy German-Speaking University):
"How to fight functional deficits of representative democracy"

10.10-10.30 Discussion

Break

10.50-11.10 **Luca Jaskó** (Pázmány Péter Catholic University; EC, member of cabinet):
"International consultations as an element of global democracy"

11.10-11.30 **Uwe Serdült** (C2D):
"E-Voting"

11.30-11.45 Discussion

11.45-13.00 **PANEL 2: PROCEDURAL INNOVATION**

Chair: László Komáromi

11.45-12.05 **Melani Barlai** (Andrássy German-Speaking University, NetPol):
"Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) – Effects, results with focus on the voting behavior"

12.05-12.25 **Csaba Madarász** (e-Democracy Workshop Association):
"Revitalizing democracy – The possibilities of online tools"

12.25-12.45 **Jonas Kaiser** (Zeppelin University)
"Between adaptation and #neuland: Political actors and the challenges of the online public sphere(s)"

12.45-13.00 Discussion

ANDRÁSSY UNIVERSITY BUDAPEST ANDRÁSSY SAAL (ANDRÁSSY HALL)

14.00-15.00 **PANEL 2 (CONTINUED): PROCEDURAL INNOVATION**

14.00-14.20 Björg Thorarensen (University of Iceland):
"Lessons from the Icelandic experiment of 'crowd-sourced' constitution-making"

14.20-14.40 Martina Trettel (EURAC):
"Deliberative and participatory democracy: a global comparative analysis"

14.40-15.00 Discussion

Break

15.30-18.00 **PANEL 3: CASE STUDIES**

Chair: Csaba Madarász

15.30-15.50 Zoltán Tibor Pállinger (Andrássy German-Speaking University):
"Direct democracy and foreign policy: The Swiss case"

15.50-16.10 Ulrich Schlie (Andrássy German-Speaking University):
"Transparency and the armed forces reform: The example of the German Bundeswehr"

16.10-16.30 Christina Griessler (Andrássy German-Speaking University, NetPol):
"Social reform through referendum: The Equality Marriage Campaign in Ireland"

16.30-16.50 László Komáromi (Pázmány Péter Catholic University):
"Flood of referendum initiatives: The case of Hungary"

16.50-17.10 Sándor Fülöp (president, EMLA Environmental Management and Law Association):
"Hungarian environmental NGOs as actors in multi-level governance"

17.10-17.30 János Zlinszky (Pázmány Péter Catholic University):
"The Open Working Group of the UN (2012-2014) as an experiment in policy development"

17.30-18.00 Discussion, Short Summary