

Democracy 2

This document, which defines the “Democracy 2” initiative, is in a draft version and is a first step towards defining a framework to implement change and openness in political systems to build a more representative democratic system.

Abstract

The main principal of democracy is that the power belongs to the people. However, in the early years of the modern age’s democracy, the major part of people was not even instructed and therefore not prepared to take wise decisions. So, it was necessary to ask them to delegate their power to a group of instructed and prepared people, capable of taking wise decisions and rule on the behalf of the all community. This is called the representative democracy. By the means of elections, the community chooses what they considered to be the more well-prepared candidates to rule for them.

However, we have been watching the degradation of this model, over the decades. The disruption of this system has been created by the influence of particular lobbies, since the system has born, because the citizens could do very little to prevent partiality in the governance of the State. Recently, this constant growing disruption has achieved big proportions, which led some countries to a point not far from the social and economic collapse.

On the other hand, today’s civilization has improved its readiness to take decisions and its knowledge level. So, there are many people claiming to have now their power back or to be directly involved in the important decisions, instead of just putting a cross on a voting paper, each 4 years.

Regarding the bad consequences and the fact that people now are more capable of doing decision-making and are claiming to be part of the key decisions for their lives, we believe the time of the representative democracy is over and it’s time to put in place a more suitable model.

What to do

The objective of this initiative is to define a new model of democracy, considering the following principals:

1. A citizen-centric model, instead of a party-centric model: get the citizens directly involved in the important political decisions of the State.
2. To have a model more suited to today's society (knowledge & information-based society).
3. A model strongly based on the information technology systems, following a faster thinking and making society.
4. Provide the citizens with a permanent system of audit and supervision of the State’s governance.

The results defined to be accomplished with this initiative are the following:

- A real proof of concept (field testing of the new model).

- A proposal to update the Constitution, to formalize the new model.
- A guideline to implement the model on the field.

About this initiative

This initiative is created by a group of citizens (enablers) open to the all community to be involved in the discussion and the final result elaboration.

The enablers will have the following responsibilities:

- Define the initiative rules (this is not about the content or results of the initiative, but how to produce/achieve them).
- Startups the initiative (create and manage the means to publish and run the initiative).
- Provide the initial version of the model (the starting point for the work in progress).
- Guarantee the accomplishment of the initiative rules.
- Guarantee the achievement of the objectives and milestones of the initiative (initially proposed by them and open to discussion).
- Update the content (publish contributions and update the in progress model, during the public discussion).
- Establish the link between the contributors.

How to do it

- Organize the initiative in 3 streams:
 - Political stream
 - To evaluate the political and legal impact of the new model. Provide the answers for the following questions:
 - In what extend is it possible to implement such model?
 - What is the main legal impact brought by this new model in the current legal framework?
 - To elaborate the political framework of the new form of democracy.
 - To elaborate the guidelines for a transaction period.
 - Social stream
 - To evaluate the social impact of the new model. Provide the answers for the following questions:
 - What could be the acceptance and rejection rate of this new model?
 - Define the necessary measures to make this model understood, accepted, elaborated and used by the citizens.
 - Technology stream
 - Define the IT model to support the new democracy – the e-Democracy platform.

- Provide the guidance to implement such platform (functional and technical domains).
 - Evaluate the readiness of the citizens to use this platform and define the necessary measures to achieve a minimal global readiness.
- Assign a moderator to each stream, responsible to conduct the stream's work.
- Centralize the initiative on an IT platform:
 - Create a web portal to publish initiative's content (the presentation of the initiative, the in progress model and other information about the initiative).
 - Publish on the most popular social networks:
 - Create a discussion group on the Facebook to support the public discussion, linked to the web portal.
 - Create an account on the Twitter.
 - A secure repository with information managed by the founders.
- Public events.
 - Public events can be organized in order to extend the digital platform.
- Establish international links, with similar foreigner initiatives.
 - The objective is to give an international visibility of the initiative.
 - Start with a common vision (core definition), but keep in mind the particular aspects of each country's implementation.
 - Select key countries with strong international impact. E.g.: Germany, Spain, UK, Sweden.
- Look out for the convergence with similar existing initiatives.
- Get the involvement of party-free and public recognized experts.
- Run a proof of concept at the local/regional level (municipalities), in more than one country at the same time (international impact).
 - Easier to do a real and valid test.
 - The guideline is to start small and show a real case study, to have more sustainability to bring this model to a national-wide level.
 - Requires having onboard 1 or 2 different municipalities.

Initiative rules

1. Independent: no connection or sponsorship of any political or economical organization, or any other kind of lobby.
2. The discussion and elaboration of the new model is public and open to all the citizens.
 - a) Public discussion must use all means possible to have the widest divulgation and participation possible.

3. Contribution model.

- a) The public discussion and elaboration are based on the ongoing draft of the model.
- b) The discussions of all the opinions and contributions must be exhausted before being rejected or accepted and therefore included in the definition of the new model.
- c) There's no predefined and partial acceptance or rejection procedure or rules.
- d) Only content (information, comments and opinions) related with the initiative's objective will be accepted. Other kind of content, like political positions will be rejected by the enablers.

4. Leadership.

- a) Any kind of leadership and manipulation of the results will not be accepted or implemented.
- b) The founders and moderators are only enablers and not privileged decision-makers of the final result.
- c) All the citizens must be at the same level of the decision making of the final result.