

Direct Democracy Policy & Research:

The [Direct Democracy Navigator](#) is a unique tool that allows users to search the legal designs, procedures and practices of modern direct democracy worldwide at the local, regional, national and transnational levels.

It is hosted and facilitated by the Research Center of Citizen Participation/Institute for Democracy and Participation Research of the University of Wuppertal and in cooperation with Democracy International, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe, swissinfo.ch and people2power. The Navigator uses a typology which offers a coordinate system, covering all procedures of popular votes on substantive issues. This means that popular votes on persons and parties, like for example recall procedures, are not included. The basic structure of the proposed classification is based on the division of popular vote procedures into three different types: initiative, referendum and plebiscite. The aim of this typology is to classify existing procedures in a realistic and not only formal way.

The Direct Democracy Navigator currently features over 2000 legal designs across 115 countries – and counting. The most recent legal designs and practices are constantly being added to the informational platform as new research is conducted and new data becomes available.

- Research assistance for the Direct Democracy Navigator.
- This includes research into existing legal instruments of direct democracy and updating them on the navigator website.
- Researching, analysing and drafting comparisons between different legal instruments of direct democracy.
- Comparative research into how political culture influences the use of direct democracy instruments worldwide.
- Possibility to combine this with thesis research on related topics.

An internship for the Direct Democracy Navigator has a minimum duration of three months. For 2022 we are specifically looking for interns with an excellent level of German or Spanish for specific country research. Combining the internship with thesis research is possible, please contact us if you want more information on the possibilities.