



10 YEARS
2011-2021



ANNUAL REPORT



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

Democracy International is largely funded by donations of committed citizens. We are always looking for new possibilities to guarantee our independence, and in the past year, we have directed a lot of our efforts towards widening our financial base. If you have ideas or want to support us, please let us know - we are stronger together.



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Amtsgericht Köln: VR-Nr. 17139

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OUR JOURNEY IN 2021

8 JANUARY Publication of the UN75 report, which explicitly mentions a UN World Citizens' Initiative and a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

23 JANUARY Online launch event of the 'Urban Connection' project with French and German partner organisations.

13 MARCH We hold the first consultation of the year in light of the European Citizens' Initiative Forum.

1 APRIL Four people join us through the ASA-programme to help us organise our 'Ukrainian Vibes' project over the next six months.

1 APRIL The Liechtenstein Institute joins our ranks as one of the hosting organisations of the Direct Democracy Navigator.

9 MAY The Conference on the Future of Europe starts, which will among other things see 800 randomly selected citizens debate the future of the EU.

1 JULY Our European Public Sphere sets out for the 'Remember Tour,' which will take it through six countries.

3 JULY We celebrate ten years of Democracy International with an online event.

26 JULY Start of our 'Now We Will Be Heard' interactive webinar series on making global governance more democratic and inclusive.

10 SEPTEMBER The long-awaited UN report 'Our Common Agenda' is released and calls for a renewed social contract between the UN and citizens.

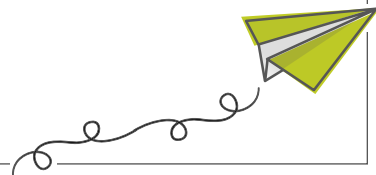
26 SEPTEMBER The first self-organised, citizen-initiated referendum takes place in Germany alongside the federal elections.

7 OCTOBER 100 randomly selected citizens, one of whom is from Cologne,

start debating global climate policy recommendations in the Global Assembly.

23 NOVEMBER Kick-off meeting with international partners to prepare the 2022 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Lucerne.

29 NOVEMBER Launch event of our DigiDEM project, which will see citizens across the EU crowdsource legislation on air pollution.



WE ADDED OVER

200

NEW LEGAL DESIGNS
IN THE DIRECT
DEMOCRACY
NAVIGATOR



PEOPLE FROM
36 COUNTRIES

PARTICIPATED IN
UKRAINIAN VIBES'
EUROPEAN PUBLIC
SPHERE DISCUSSIONS

WE WERE
JOINED BY **3** NEW TEAM
MEMBERS

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL
HOSTED **10 INTERNS**

WE RECEIVED
38 VIDEO MESSAGES
FOR OUR BIRTHDAY AND
WERE JOINED BY PEOPLE
FROM **5 CONTINENTS** FOR
OUR ONLINE CELEBRATION

WE ASSISTED
**3 CITIZENS'
ASSEMBLIES**
WITH PRESS
OUTREACH AND
OTHER SUPPORT

WE WERE
**1 OF 8 CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS**
WHO PRESENTED AT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTION

THE UN WORLD CITIZENS' INITIATIVE
WAS THE **2ND MOST VOTED PROPOSAL**
IN THE UN'S DIGITAL CONSULTATION

7 new European
Citizens' Initiatives
were registered

**2 ECIS WERE
SUCCESSFUL
AND REACHED THE
1.000.000
HURDLE**

THE ECI FORUM WAS VISITED BY
9000 VISITORS PER MONTH

TOGETHER WITH
**60 CITIZENS TAKE
OVER EUROPE PARTNERS**
WE WORKED
FOR A MORE
DEMOCRATIC
EU



**1470 PROPOSALS ON
EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY**
WERE SUBMITTED BY CITIZENS
TO THE CONFERENCE ON THE
FUTURE OF EUROPE ONLINE.
**18 DEMAND MORE DIRECT
DEMOCRACY** AND
69 MENTION PARTICIPATION.



**16 POPULAR
VOTES** WERE
HELD ON THE
NATIONAL LEVEL,
13 OF WHICH IN
SWITZERLAND

6 unofficial popular
votes were organised
by civil society around
the world



DEAR FRIENDS

This year marked the tenth anniversary of Democracy International and so for us 2021 has been both a year of reflection on our work in the past and looking forward to what the future holds.

Allow us to take you on a little time travel. On 30 June 2011, Democracy International was officially founded in the small Belgian town of Kortenberg. Activists from around the world met to formulate a mission statement. They decided it was necessary to unify “their efforts to develop, foster, strengthen and advance direct democracy and citizens’ participation on the local, national, regional, transnational and global level.”

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, they saw an increasing plight of populations everywhere for a wider and deeper democratisation. With the globalisation of markets and the emergence of global problems such as climate change, they worried about the lack of

a global democratic sphere to match.

In the past decade, we have made advances towards more direct democracy in the European Union. The European Citizens’ Initiative is more well-known and more used with every passing year. Through study trips, summer schools and our Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy we have provided a meeting space for activists, experts and practitioners working on direct democracy everywhere.

But 2021 has been a bad year for democracy. More people now live in declining democracies than in countries that are making democratic advances. We are extremely worried about developments in Tunisia, birthplace of the Arab Spring, where the Constitution that had been drafted through a participatory process in 2014 has been rendered ineffective by the President.

In Myanmar and Sudan, civilian governments have been sidelined by army coups, forcing citizens to take to the streets once again to demand a return to burgeoning democracy. In Poland, in a stark rejection of the existing understanding of the European Union, the constitutional tribunal has decided that Polish law prevails over European rules.

But we are also hopeful for the future. Even in times of a historical health crisis, we can see vibrant direct democracy at work. Voters in Switzerland could decide on the country's pandemic policy twice in a referendum this year. They endorsed the course set by the government on both occasions, while also opting to strengthen the nursing profession in a separate vote. At the time of writing, Taiwanese citizens head to the polls in a nation-wide vote for the second time ever, deciding on health, energy production, the environment and how to organise future referendums.

In those places where direct democratic and participatory rights

do not exist, we have seen civil society take the lead. Several self-organised referendums took place this year, such as the first German national vote which we helped organise. As part of a civil society-led initiative, citizens drawn by lot presented climate policy recommendations at COP26 this November.

And of course, we plan to keep working to make this world more democratic. We have been watching closely as the Conference on the Future of Europe unfolds and will continue to work for an official and inclusive European Convention process to follow it. With an important United Nations review process coming to a close, we are now also setting our sights on the 2023 Summit of the Future as a key moment to achieve more people power on the world stage.

We are incredibly grateful for the people who have been on this journey with us and we hope to have you along for the ride for many more years to come!





A BETTER EUROPE

Achieving a truly democratic Europe was one of the core motivations for founding Democracy International ten years ago. In fact, before the official foundation of Democracy International as an association, we existed as a coalition of activists working towards and obtaining the introduction of the European Citizens' Initiative, the world's first and only transnational tool of direct democracy. Since then, we have committed to making it a better, more well-known instrument. But we have also strived to put citizens at the heart of European Union (EU) decision-making in other ways: working towards a democratic EU Convention with citizens at the core and campaigning for more transparency and accountability on the European level.

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The long-awaited Conference on the Future of Europe officially launched on 9 May 2021, Europe Day, with the aim to reach out to every corner of Europe to collect and discuss citizens' ideas on the Future of Europe. The Conference is an innovative and historic exercise in European democracy, with a final report to be drafted in spring 2022. With the EU's often-cited democratic deficit, recent democratic crises and a long-standing need for fundamental

reform in mind, Democracy International strongly welcomes this initiative! However, we need to make sure that the process leads to a meaningful and effective use of the results.

Over 1.150 actors concretely make up the Conference, including randomly selected citizens, members of EU institutions and advisory bodies, members of national parliaments, and civil society. They are integrated in the Conference via a multilevel structure, which begins with the European Citizens' Panels, composed of randomly selected

citizens from across Europe who develop ideas for Europe's future. Additionally, there is the Conference Plenary, where a mix of randomly selected citizens, politicians, and civil society meet and further deliberate on the citizens' ideas. An Executive Board and an overseeing Joint Trio Presidency serve as supplementary decision-making bodies of the Conference and are responsible for drawing conclusions, publishing the final report, and deciding on the Conference follow-up. All this is supported by a Common Secretariat of limited size and ensuring equal representation of the three institutions.

Additionally, a multilingual digital platform has been set up where all Europeans are invited to submit proposals for Europe's future. Unconditional basic income? A right of initiative for the European Parliament? Citizens take the digital stage to propose ideas that serve as inspiration for the European Citizens' Panels!

The Conference is indeed a novelty in Europe's short democratic history. Unfortunately, it fails to attract much attention outside of the

usual circles of EU stakeholders. Additionally, the implementation of the Conference as well as certain procedural developments leave much to be desired. Concerns regarding the shortened timeline of the Conference are shared amongst civil society. In the meantime, we are assessing and monitoring the Conference's progress.

The question on everyone's mind: what will happen after the Conference? Democracy International recognises that the Conference should serve only as the first phase of a multi-year process of European democratic review and reform. The Conference should use its unique opportunity with citizens to review the extent of democratic reform that can take place under the current Treaties, and if necessary, propose suggestions for Treaty amendments. We hope that the Conference kickstarts a transnational democratic transformation!

Find out more on:

www.democracy-international.org/cofoe



CITIZENS AT THE HELM IN THE EU

The first European elections to directly elect the European Parliament took place in 1979. In 2012, the European Citizens' Initiative as the world's first tool of transnational democracy



800 randomly selected citizens debate EU policy at the Conference on the Future of Europe. (Photo: European Union)

entered into effect. And in September 2021, Europe's first randomly selected citizens' assembly met to discuss the future of Europe!

The European Citizens' Panels are the real innovation of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The citizens' panels are composed of 800 randomly selected citizens from across the EU and meant to represent Europe's diversity on the basis of gender, age, socioeconomic background, level of education, and geographic origin (rural or urban). Special attention was paid to the inclusion of youth with one third of the panels being reserved for young people aged 16 to 25.

From September 2021 to January 2022, participants discuss topics set by the EU institutions. 800 randomly selected citizens debate EU policy at the Conference on the Future of Europe. Panel 1 deals with economy, social justice, jobs, education, youth, culture, sports, and digital transformation; Panel 2 deals with democracy, values, rights, rule of law, and security; Panel 3 deals with climate change and the environment; and Panel 4 deals with the EU in the world and migration. Each panel meets on three separate weekends: the first one in Strasbourg, the second one online, and the third one either in Dublin, Florence, Natolin, or Maastricht.

Panel 2, which deals with democracy, decided on five subtopics: rights and non-discrimination, democracy and the rule of law, EU reform, European identity, and citizen participation. Under the last subtopic, citizen participation and direct democracy instruments including the European Citizens' Initiative and EU referenda are being discussed. The next months will tell what citizens' final recommendations for direct democracy in Europe are!

From the start, Democracy International has pushed for citizens to remain at the centre of the entire democratic experiment. We lead the efforts, together with the Citizens Take Over Europe coalition, on a monitoring index, where we assess and rate various elements of the Conference, such as how participatory, inclusive, or accessible they are. Now about halfway through the process, we welcome participatory mechanisms to ensure that the citizens' panels set their own agenda. However, the failure to include marginalised groups especially on topics such as migration raises a red flag about the actual representativeness of the panels.

We look forward to seeing what conclusions this mini-Europe formulates on reforming Europe's democratic future, and we will continue to put pressure on the institutions to take these conclusions seriously!

Read more on:
www.democracy-international.org/eu-citizens-panels



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

10 YEARS MILESTONES

2012

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ECI

110 democracy organisations and 41 Members of the European Parliament worked towards it for over a decade: the European Citizens' Initiative. The world's first transnational tool of direct democracy goes into effect in 2012. Democracy International grows out of the alliance.

THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE PICKS UP SPEED

This year saw a lively and news-worthy year for the European Citizens' Initiative! Two European citizens' initiatives joined the one million signature club: 'Save the Bees and Farmers' and 'Cohesion policy for the equality of regions and sustainability of regional cultures.' This brings the total number of successful ECIs to nine, although several are still in the verification stages.

Additionally, two successful initiatives, 'Minority SafePack' and 'End the Cage Age,' received a response by the Commission this year. Unfortunately, to the dismay of the organisers, the Commission decided not to introduce any new legislation in line with 'Minority SafePack.' Instead, they proposed to fully implement legislation and policies already in place to improve the protection of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities and strengthen cultural diversity in the Union. 'End the Cage Age,' however, received a welcome response, with the EU committing to submitting a legislative

proposal by 2024 to phase out the use of cages for farmed animals.

The individual Online Collection System of the European Citizens' Initiative will enter its final year in 2022. To help improve and inform about the remaining Commission-hosted Central Online Collection System, we organised consultations with students and current organisers to hear their perspectives.

We also continued our work on the European Citizens' Initiative Forum, the helpdesk for ECI organisers as well as all those interested in getting more information about the unique transnational instrument. With our partners at European Citizens Action Service, we organised five consultations related to the ECI including with students and current organisers regarding the Central Online Collection System, two of which were informative workshops on fundraising for an ECI.

Find out more on:

www.democracy-international.org/eci-forum



EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE: 70 YEARS OF SCHUMAN DECLARATION

Six countries, six places of remembrance and 12 Dome Talks – that was the motto of our European Public Sphere project this year. Supported by the 'Europe for Citizens' programme of the European Union, the 'Remember Tour' was a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. On 9 May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman suggested a common European Coal and Steel Community for France, Germany and other countries willing to join. Only five years after the end of the Second World War this was remarkable. It's the reason we celebrate Europe Day on 9 May every year!

To honour the starting point of what later developed into the European Union, each of the tour's 12 Dome Talks was located at an important place of remembrance. Inspired by the past, we talked about what has been achieved by the European Union and what challenges we are still facing today.



Our Remember Tour brought us to six cities in six countries this summer.

Bucharest, Copenhagen's Meatpacking district during WorldPride, the Royal Gardens of Łazienki Park in Warsaw, Prague's Žofín Palace on Slovansky Island in the Vitava River during the annual Festival of Democracy and the most South-Eastern part of the EU - Burgas' newly finished Flora Exhibition Centre in Seaside Park. This tour really gave us a new perspective on what Europe means and what we owe this one-of-a-kind construction that is the European Union. Through our discussions, we collected plenty of ideas on how to upgrade the EU and our living together!

We visited some truly inspiring places: the former border between East and West Germany at Border Museum Schiffersgrund, Kilometre 0 of Democracy at University Square in

Now that the tour is over, we are looking forward to an exciting second phase of the project! We are collecting all the inputs from our discussion in a special 'Remember' Catalogue of Ideas. In May next year, we will hand over the ideas and concerns voiced by our participants to European decision-makers. During our tour, we welcomed several MEPs, representatives of the European Commission and ministers under the Europe Dome. Some already agreed to receive the Catalogue of Ideas once it is finished.

While we pack up our dome for winter and focus on analysing the discussions, we still have something to look forward to. Every month, we share one summary video of one of our stops – so all of us get to relive some of the best moments of the tour and experience Europe and its wealth of ideas first-hand!

More info at:

www.democracy-international.org/remember

EUROPEAN PUBLIC SPHERE 2.0: UKRAINIAN VIBES

Partnering up with the ASA-volunteering programme, four young professionals from Germany and Ukraine joined us for six months to host the online European Public Sphere tour 'Ukrainian Vibes.' Together with our Ukrainian partners, the National Ecological Center of Ukraine and Change Communications, we organised seven digital stops in Ukraine, which were joined by 172 participants from 36 countries! The tour was divided into two phases. First, young Europeans aged 14 to 21 came together to learn interactively about political participation tools and ways to make Europe more sustainable. In the second phase, we organised three webinars on democracy, sustainability, and European integration geared at open dialogue between European citizens. All of this resulted in many ideas of, 26 of which we fed into the citizen platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Read the Ukrainian Vibes Catalogue of Ideas here:

www.democracy-international.org/ukrainian-vibes



DEMOCRACY AS A SCIENCE

Direct democracy and citizen participation have long been under-researched fields in political sciences. One of our main objectives is to collect academic data relating to direct democracy around the world in order to inform activism and political practice. Over the past decade, we have consistently carried out monitoring and evaluation of democratic policy processes. Through cooperations with the University of Wuppertal, the University of Oslo, the Liechtenstein Institute and many others, we were able to support democracy research and development. At the intersection of academia, activism and administration is our Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy, the largest conference in the world focusing on topics of direct democracy. And of course our flagship research project, the Direct Democracy Navigator, is the most complete database in the world collecting and contrasting instruments of direct democracy on all levels.

NAVIGATING INTO NEW WATERS

For the Direct Democracy Navigator project, 2021 was an important year. Since April, we are no longer solely working out of our Cologne office, but also from Liechtenstein. The Liechtenstein Institute has joined us in supporting the Direct Democracy Navigator! Together with Dr. Eike Hornig and Dr. Klaus Hofmann, we are actively working on the further development of the worldwide data pool and the

comparative research of direct democracy instruments. This has meant a real reinforcement to the scientific work of the project! Over the coming years, we will be especially focussed on building up a scientific network with Dr. Hornig's help.

This year, we also added many new instruments of direct democracy to the database. For example, at the regional level in South Africa or

Great Britain. Especially interesting was the analysis of instruments from England and Wales. All of this is available now on the Navigator website!

And there was even more reason to celebrate this year: for the first time we exceeded the mark of 2000 legal designs recorded in the database! The 2000th instrument to be added was a local direct democracy tool in Taipei City, Taiwan. Aside from that, we continuously take care to keep the Navigator collection up to date. This year, we renewed the information on among others Canada, the USA, the Caribbean island states.

Looking forward to next year, many exciting developments are in the making. Democracy International and the Direct Democracy Navigator approached the Institute for Democracy and Participation Research at the University of Wuppertal with a draft for a research project and could also win the RISING Global Peace Forum, Coventry as additional supporting partner.

We are also planning a conference on the topic “Balloting to Stop Bullets. The Use of Direct Democracy Instruments as a Means of Pacification or Peacemaking?” Currently, we are in the process of applying for funding to hold the event in early April 2022. The symposium will focus on the scarcely researched question of to what extent the use of instruments of direct democracy can serve as a means of pacification or peacemaking and if so, under what conditions and in what form? We are planning to hold the event both offline and online. 2022 will be an exciting year!

More information on: www.democracy-international.org/navigator

LEARNING DEMOCRACY

In 2021, Democracy International's Learning Democracy section focused specifically on the topic of crisis governance. The issue of any state's ability to act in crisis situations while at the same time guaranteeing efficient, transparent and democratic decision-

making processes gained new relevance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In cooperation with the Global Ethic Institute and the University of Tübingen, project leader Dr. Raban Fuhrmann conducted courses and organised workshops with politicians, scientists and civil society.

Raban Fuhrmann also served as a scientific advisor to the Enquete Commission on "Subsidiarity and Participation" of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. The final report was published in July and focused on the further development of the democratic toolbox. In August, we held a Summer Academy on the founding of a "School for Democracy Development."

More information: www.democracy-international.org/learning-democracy

HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS IMPACTED DEMOCRACY

Democracy International serves as a board member and civil society partner to the academic project EXCEPTIUS. This alliance of researchers analyses exceptional decision-making in 32 European countries, paying special attention to conditions for democratic resilience. The project is hosted by the University of Groningen, the University Grenoble Alpes and ZonMw and currently in the coding stage. In the run-up to publication of their findings, they hosted several webinars.

Find out more on:
www.democracy-international.org/exceptius





TRANSCENDING BORDERS

Democracy International was founded ten years ago with the specific aim to also promote transnational tools of direct democracy. It was clear to the activists and experts who set up the association that exchange and cooperation is a valuable source of strength to our movement. So in the past decade, we have paid special attention to empowering networks of activists and experts across borders through study trips and our Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy. But we have also invested in campaigning for transnational tools for direct democracy and citizen participation and we have dedicated a large part of our work to improving existing democratic infrastructure on the regional and global level.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE BY THE PEOPLES

Early this year, we joined forces with two other campaigns for a more democratic and inclusive United Nations (UN). Together with Democracy Without Borders and CIVICUS, we called for three specific reforms to the UN under the header 'We the Peoples': the introduction of a World Citizens' Initiative that would allow citizens to put items on the agenda of the UN, a Parliamentary Assembly that would allow people to directly elect their representatives at the UN

and a Civil Society Envoy, who would ensure better access to the UN system for NGOs. Over 200 organisations from around the world joined our alliance. With this strengthened, broadly based campaign we headed into an exciting year for global democracy.

2021 started with the landmark UN75 report. For its 75th anniversary in 2020, the UN undertook a yearlong consultation with over 1,5

million people in 193 countries looking to establish what people expect from the UN. The report identifies a real disparity between how important citizens find the work of the UN and how connected they feel to it. In a boost for our campaign, the UN75 report specifically mentions a World Citizens' Initiative and UN Parliamentary Assembly as possible solutions.

The rest of the year was geared towards the announced publication of the UN Secretary-General's 'Our Common Agenda' report, planned for September, which was to set out a roadmap for the future of the UN.

To get our proposals included in the report, we contacted 83 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of democratic states, urging them to take our proposals into their conversations with the Secretary-General. We also submitted our suggestions to the UN's digital consultation platform that was to inform the report. Our ideas were some of the most-voted on the platform, with the World Citizens' Initiative being



In a series of webinars, we discussed how we can make the UN more democratic.

the second most popular suggestion overall. We also organised a series of interactive webinars, focusing on ways to make global governance more inclusive.

During the election debates for the new UN President of the General Assembly, we were selected as one of eight civil society organisations allowed to pose a question. We presented the World Citizens'

Initiative to Honourable Abdullah Shahid of the Maldives, who ended up being elected. In his response, he made a firm commitment to making the UN more open to citizens and civil society.

When Guterres finally presented 'Our Common Agenda' to the General Assembly in September, we were satisfied to see that he sets a "renewed social contract" between the UN and citizens of the world as a priority. In his report, he writes that he plans to "build on recent innovations in listening to, consulting and engaging with people around the world" and proposes a "Summit of the Future" in 2023 to discuss specific ways to "upgrade the UN." We will of course keep pushing for democratic reforms and for the summit itself to be as democratic and inclusive as possible.

In another report that was presented the same week to the UN Human Rights Council, the UN independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic International Order, Livingstone Sewanyana, explicitly endorsed all three of our proposals, noting that they would make

"the United Nations more open, participatory and representative, with a view to ensuring that its responses both to the ongoing and to future global challenges are more effective."

In the meantime, we have already started to campaign to this end, reaching out to members of national parliaments around the world and EU decision-makers, asking them to endorse our campaign.

For more information have a look at www.democracy-international.org/we-the-peoples

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

10 YEARS MILESTONES

2018

THE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NAVIGATOR IN PRACTICE

The Direct Democracy Navigator has collected the details on more than 2000 local, national and regional direct democracy laws around the world. To compare how these laws influence differences in practices, seven scholars from different countries presented their conclusions at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal.

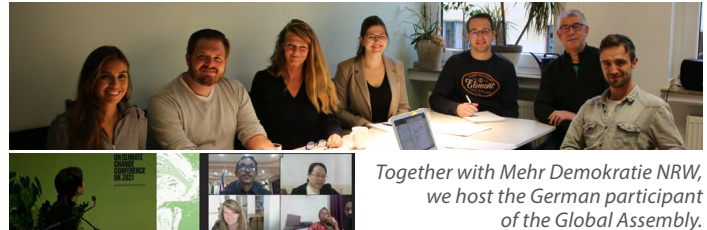


GLOBAL CITIZENS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

This year, Democracy International together with Mehr Demokratie NRW joined an alliance of organisations working on the Global Assembly, the world's first global citizens' assembly. The Assembly has seen 100 randomly selected citizens from all over the planet learn about climate change and formulate guidelines for policy.

The participants were selected in a stratified sample, which ensures that the Assembly as a whole is representative of the global population when it comes to location, age, gender, education, literacy and opinions towards climate change. Sixty of the 100 people are from Asia, 17 from Africa, half are women and 70 are people who earn ten USD a day or less. To enable participation, all members receive financial compensation.

The overall Global Assembly process is headed by a coalition of organisations, including the Innovation for Policy Foundation, the



*Together with Mehr Demokratie NRW,
we host the German participant
of the Global Assembly.*

University of Canberra and the Sortition Foundation. Democracy International has joined on as the German Community Host, meaning that we recruited the German participant and supported her technically and linguistically as she participated in the online discussion rounds.

The citizens met from October until December and presented their preliminary recommendations at COP26 in Glasgow. Their final report will be published in March 2022.

More information on:

www.democracy-international.org/2021-global-assembly

LET'S CONNECT ONLINE

One of our main aims at Democracy International is to connect those working on issues of direct democracy and citizen participation around the world. In times when it is harder to meet in real life, we have worked on providing these opportunities online. The home of our virtual network is the International Democracy Community.



We currently welcome over 100 members from all continents in our Community, who share their events through our platform. This year, we have offered numerous webinars, we regularly added interesting articles on developments regarding direct democracy and citizen participation and of course we continuously improved the features and technological possibilities on the Community!

Sign up here:
www.democracy.community

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

10 YEARS MILESTONES

2019

LOBBY TRANSPARENCY IN THE EU

After years of campaigning, the European Parliament makes it mandatory for Members of the European Parliament in special positions to disclose their meetings with lobbyists.

A GLOBAL NETWORK

Ten years ago, Democracy International grew out of a trans-European network of democracy activists and in our work we have stayed true to these roots. We believe that we can only move forward by working together and we are enormously grateful to the partner organisations that have been with us through the years. Here is just a selection of the projects we have carried out along with others in the past year.

SPACE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2021 was a difficult year for our quest to found an Initiative House for Human Rights and Democracy in Cologne. The COVID-19 pandemic, unfortunately, prevented us from carrying out many events and ideas. Moreover, financial support that had been pledged by the city of Cologne was finally withheld due to the city's tight budget situation. Despite these difficulties, this year we were able to expand our cooperation with other stakeholders in the city. Since September, thanks to the support of the city of Cologne, we also have two project staff members again.

We are all set to make some real progress towards creating a central place for human rights and democracy in Cologne in 2022!

More information:
www.initiativenhaus.de

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

10 YEARS
MILESTONES

2020

**A BIGGER ROLE FOR CITIZENS IN
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE?**

After a year-long round of discussions and consultations with over 1,5 million citizens around the globe, the UN concludes that there is a need to include citizens more closely in global decision-making. A World Citizens' Initiative is mentioned as a possible solution.

THE FIRST NATIONAL CITIZEN-INITIATED REFERENDUM IN GERMANY

This year, together with our partner organisations, we held the first self-organised referendum at national level in Germany: Abstimmung21.

Parallel to the federal elections, citizens were able to vote on four topics: the introduction of direct democracy on the national level, a climate package aimed at limiting global warming to 1,5°C, regulation of organ donation and non-profit hospitals. More than 340.000 people registered to vote, almost 160.000 participated.

In October, the results of the votes were handed over to the new government coalition together with the demand for more direct democracy in Germany.

More information:

www.democracy-international.org/abstimmung21

GERMANY'S ROLE IN THE WORLD AND CLIMATE

This year, we cooperated with two national-level citizens' assemblies: the Citizens' Assembly on Germany's Role in the World and the Climate Assembly. Both assemblies saw randomly selected citizens draw up policy recommendations for the German Bundestag. Democracy International supported these civil society-led initiatives with their international communication efforts, making sure that the information on these projects reaches beyond national borders.

More info at:

www.democracy-international.org/germanys-role-world
and www.democracy-international.org/climate-germany

MEETING ON THE OLD BORDER

While we continued work with many existing partners, we also gained some new ones. Together with the Border Museum

Schiffersgrund at the former inner-German border, we kicked-off the Summer of Democracy starting with two Dome Talks as part of the 'Remember Tour.' We are looking forward to more exciting projects sparking the discussion at this fateful place of European unity and remembrance!

THE FRENCH-GERMAN CONNECTION

We kicked off 2021 celebrating the Day of Franco-German Friendship with our friends from Verband Engagierte Zivilgesellschaft in NRW, our new partner Le Dialogue from Strasbourg and 20 French and German participants. With 'Urban Connection,' we created an interactive online guided tour through Cologne and Strasbourg on the topics of Europe, Franco-German reconciliation, human rights, and of course democracy.

Do not miss out on visiting both cities at:
[**www.democracy-international.org/urban-connection**](http://www.democracy-international.org/urban-connection)

VOLUNTEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), ASA is one of the most renowned volunteer programmes in Germany. From April until October, we participated in the ASA-Programme together with our Ukrainian partners National Ecological Center of Ukraine and Change Communications. During this time, two Ukrainian and two German young professionals joined our team for the online European Public Sphere tour "Ukrainian Vibes."

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR CLEAN AIR

We partnered up with the DigiDEM project (Digital Democratic Empowerment and Mobilisation for a Stronger EU), the first transnational project to crowdsource legislation in the European Union! Together with our partner organisations from nine EU countries, we will support EU citizens in drafting legislation on

improving air quality from 2022 onwards. In 2023, the EU is due to revise its legislation on the topic, and DigiDEM aims to ensure that citizens are significantly involved in the legislative process and that the input collected from them is incorporated into the EU's political decision-making.

Find out more: www.democracy-international.org/digidem

VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL EUROPEANS

We have endorsed the European Citizens' Initiative 'Voters Without Borders,' a youth-led initiative calling for an expansion of the voting rights of EU citizens living in another EU country, including in referendums. Due to the extension of ECI deadlines, signature collection for Voters Without Borders is ongoing until June 2022.

Sign now!

www.voterswithoutborders.eu

CITIZENS TAKE OVER EUROPE

Democracy International is a founding member of the Citizens Take Over Europe coalition, which aims to shape developments regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe and set an example for citizen participation. With the Conference officially launching in May, it has been a busy year for the coalition! We continue to lead the Advocacy and Policy working group and help monitor and draft assessments about the Conference. For the first time since the pandemic, many members of the coalition met in Palermo to draft the Palermo Climate Declaration in a bottom-up and democratic approach, showing that climate policy, too, needs democracy.



With the Citizens Take Over Europe coalition we drafted the Palermo Climate Declaration.

For more:

www.democracy-international.org/citizens-take-over-europe



AS FOR US

From our starting days as a two-person team to the ten colleagues we are today. From our Rhine-side offices in Cologne Porz, to our central Cologne headquarters with a view of the Kölner Dom. Many things have changed for our organisation in the past decade. We have grown and expanded the scope of our work and we have built new alliances. But one thing stayed the same, we see ourselves as members of a large direct democracy family, with branches that span the globe. Thank you to all the people who supported our work in one way or another over the past ten years. Thank you, dear reader, for being a part of our family!

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

2021 was a really special year for us. Ten years ago, on 30 June 2011, Democracy International was officially founded as an independent association in Germany. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we were limited to celebrating our anniversary online, but this did not spoil our fun! Our annual general assembly on 3 July was followed by an online democracy celebration in which we looked back on the successes and challenges of the last ten years together. We were

joined by many partners and friends for an interesting keynote by Prof. Dr. Matt Qvotrup and together with our board members from around the globe looked forward to the next decade.

We are extremely proud of the many things we have achieved together in the past ten years, but there is still a lot to do. Especially on the transnational level, citizens remain locked-out. In the

coming years, we want to provide new momentum with the further development of the European Citizens' Initiative and the introduction of a UN World Citizens' Initiative.

You can watch a recap of our work on the past ten years here:
www.democracy-international.org/next-decade

OUR TEAM

As a young organisation, we are always looking for people who are motivated and committed to join our ranks. We are very happy that this year we were able to hire three new colleagues on a part-time basis.



Ben and Josephine joined us as trainees to support our European work. And we are very happy that with Katharina as our graphic designer, we can spread our message even better.

At the same time, we regularly welcome interns, who really make an important contribution to our work. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Josephine, Louisa, Verna, Branislava, Hannah, Kim, Darragh, Sayd, Angel and Alina!

FUNDRAISING

To ensure our work, we have been working on diversifying our fundraising. This year, big and small donations, grants from foundations and EU funding enabled our work.

Many thanks to the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission, the Alfred Toepfer Foundation, the Franco-German Citizens' Fund and the GLS Treuhand!

A special thank you to the Swiss Democracy Foundation and the European Democracy Foundation for their long-standing support which continued throughout 2021!

This year, we also embarked on a new fundraising journey: from April until October, we participated in the six-month Ukrainian-German volunteering programme ASA funded by the German government.

But most importantly, please know that none of our work would be possible without your continuous support. Thank you very much for staying with us and making the world a more democratic place!



GOING FORWARD

We are incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished in the past ten years with your help and we in no way intend to rest on our laurels! 2022 is shaping up to be an exciting year. Here is a first teaser of what's to come.

While the outcome of the **Conference on the Future of Europe** remains to be seen in spring 2022, its success relies on a strong political response by the EU institutions. We will continue to observe and assess the Conference's developments until then and call for a strong political follow-up, including launching a process of Treaty change for fundamental democratic reform!

And of course, stay tuned for multiple successful **European Citizens' Initiatives** that are due to get verified in 2022!

For next year, we also partnered up with the traveling art exhibition '**Art of Fundamental Rights**,' which visualises the seven chapters of the EU Charter of

Fundamental Rights. We hope that art as a creator of democratic formation will once again inspire debate on our common fundamental rights, which are still under attack today.

2022 might also become a strong volunteering year for Democracy International: our participation in the 2022 edition of the **ASA-programme** is already confirmed. This means that two German and two Ukrainian young professionals will support our team for six months and organise a European Public Sphere tour through all safe regions of Ukraine.

On top of that, Democracy International has successfully completed the first steps of applying for the state-funded 'weltwärts' programme! With the support of our partner CIVICUS in Johannesburg, we are looking forward to welcoming two young volunteers from South Africa at our office in Cologne. Probably starting in May, they will reinforce our Global and European Programme for one year. Fingers crossed!

With more than 20 stops, 2022 will again be a truly busy year for the **European Public Sphere**. In addition to the 2022 'Ukrainian Vibes' tour, we are looking forward to meeting up in the Eastern German state of Saxony! Made possible through our crowdfunding campaign in 2019, we will finally get to embark upon our 'Sax it Up!' tour, that was postponed due to COVID-19.

And last but not least, we look forward to seeing all of you at our **2022 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy** in Lucerne, Switzerland. Together with the Swiss Democracy Foundation and many international partners, we are now moving full speed ahead to host the tenth edition of the world's biggest gathering focused on direct democracy and citizen participation. The Forum will take place from 21 to 25 September 2022 and will focus on 'Moving Democracy Forward.'

Mark it in your calendars!



THANK YOU

Yes, I want to support Democracy International e.V.

☐ 10 euros

☐ other amount _____ euros

☐ 20 euros

☐ 45 euros

☐ One-off

☐ 100 euros

☐ Monthly

☐ 250 euros

☐ Yearly

Tick the amount and frequency relevant to you



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THANK YOU!

