

## About the authors

**Jos Verhulst** (1949) has a PhD in quantum chemistry from the University of Leuven, Belgium, and his other studies include philosophy and economics. He is the co-founder of Democratie.nu, the Belgian movement for direct democracy. Jos Verhulst's previous titles include 'Der Glanz von Kopenhagen: Geistige Perspektiven der modernen Physik' ('Spiritual perspectives on modern physics', 1994), an Aristotelian interpretation of quantum mechanics, and 'Der Erstgeborene: Mensch und höhere Tiere in der Evolution' (1998), a non-Darwinian view of human evolution (published in 2003 in the United States with the title: 'Developmental Dynamics in Humans and Other Primates'). His work has been published in Psychological Reports, Acta Biotheoretica, the British Medical Journal, and Annals of Human Biology. He also publishes articles on various social topics in numerous newspapers and magazines. He wrote the first edition of this book in 1998.

**Arjen Nijeboer** (1974) studied Journalism and Communication at Windesheim College, Zwolle, the Netherlands, and International Relations at the University of Amsterdam. He is a co-founder of the Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe and the Referendum Platform. He has conducted various campaigns in the Netherlands for the introduction of direct democracy, including the campaign for a referendum on the European Constitution, and advises politicians, authorities and organisations concerning referendums and campaigns. He publishes articles about democratic issues in national newspapers and professional and academic magazines in various countries. He is the co-author of this extended and updated edition.

**Paul Carline** (1944) has a degree in modern languages from Manchester University. He is affiliated to the Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe and is author of many articles on democracy related issues, as well as co-editor of IRI Europe's "Guidebook to direct democracy".

# About the publishers of this work

## **Democracy International**

Democracy International is a network of movements for direct democracy that was set up in Brussels at the start of 2005. It aims to promote direct democracy both in the countries of Europe and at the level of the EU. It embraces both critics and supporters of the European Union who, despite their differences, are united in their desire for more direct democracy in Europe. Democracy International has successfully conducted campaigns to obtain referendums on the European Constitution in as many countries as possible: some 10 EU member states have announced such a referendum. Its campaign for the inclusion of direct-democratic rights in the European Constitution was partially successful: the European Citizens' Initiative was included in it. After the rejection of the European Constitution, Democracy International was one of many organisations campaigning for the separate introduction of the European Citizens' Initiative, as well as for a new Convention, directly elected by the citizens, to seek new ways for European cooperation.  
[www.democracy-international.org](http://www.democracy-international.org)

## **Democratie.nu (Democracy now)**

This Flemish movement for direct democracy was founded in 1995 as WIT ('White'). Its change of name in 2005 to Democratie.nu reflects the better understanding that a political system with no possibility of binding referendums on all political issues cannot be called real democracy. In Belgium, the movement has significantly contributed to the inclusion of direct democracy in the manifestos of many political parties and in the public debate generally. From 1995 to the end of 2003, WIT published the most interesting magazine on direct democracy, *de Witte Werf*.  
[www.democratie.nu](http://www.democratie.nu)

## **Referendum Platform**

The Referendum Platform was founded in 2000 to promote the introduction of direct democracy in the Netherlands. It campaigned successfully for a referendum on the European Constitution and for introduction of the popular initiative in the city of Amsterdam. It advises citizen groups which initiate local referendums, conducts research and publishes books, reports and articles on direct democracy in the Netherlands and abroad.  
[www.referendumplatform.nl](http://www.referendumplatform.nl)