



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter: Spotlight on ideas and actions

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Dear members and friends of Democracy International,

"And the new US President is...?!" – It is not the big news on the front pages that we need to cover. Much more we must report on the people who work for more (direct) democracy as political activists and thinkers. This exchange of information will allow us to learn from each other and to network, while building an effective coalition of democracy activists around the world.

In this regard the edition of this newsletter features interviews with Andreas Gross, a Swiss mastermind of modern direct democracy and Democratie.Nu. The Belgian organization has developed "3D" as a special, digital way of democratic decision-making.

I would like to thank those who contributed and to invite everybody of you to share with us your ideas, reports and news.

All the best from Cologne,
Cora Pfafferott

1. Pro or Anti "Prop"? 176 popular votes in the United States

US Election Day on 6 November 2012 asked from voters much more than designating the next US President. 176 citizen-initiated "propositions" or "ballot measures" were decided on a wide range of themes in 38 US states.

www.democracy-international.org/election-day-usa.html

2. Digital decision-making: "3D" in the spotlight

Democratie.Nu is a Belgian democracy group, working on integrating digital technologies in democratic decision-making. We have asked the people behind the organization about "3D", a special project to combine direct with representative democracy in the digital age.

www.democracy-international.org/3d-democratienu.html

3. Interview with Andreas Gross, mastermind of modern direct democracy

Andreas Gross is the mastermind of modern movements of direct democracy. For decades he has been dealing with the question of how a federal European state with direct democracy should look like in practice. Democracy International interview Andreas Gross on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

www.democracy-international.org/interview-andreasgross.html

4. Lithuanians opt anti nuclear energy in non-binding referendum

On Sunday, 14 October Lithuanian voters rejected by referendum to build a new nuclear power plant, the Visaginas plant. With a (preliminary) voter turnout of 52 %, the referendum just reached the necessary threshold of 50% in order to be valid.

www.democracy-international.org/referendum-nuclear-lithuania.html

5. New ECI demands Sunshine Rules on Mass Media

A European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) on media pluralism has been started this summer to address the increasing concentration of ownership and power in the media sector to the detriment of freedom of speech in many European countries.

www.democracy-international.org/eci-media-pluralism.html

Obituary: Death of Franck Biancheri

We were shocked to learn about the death of Franck Biancheri, who passed away on Tuesday, 30 October 2012. Founder and honorary President of Newropeans, founder of AEGEE and one of the initiators of ERASMUS, we have lost a militant democrat who devoted his life to realizing the European idea. We would like to express our deep sympathy with his family and friends