



1st Workshop

27-28 April 2012, Zurich

Workshop Report by K. Bousbah & R. Welge

1. DemocracyNet.eu

The kick-off meeting and workshop took place in Zurich (Switzerland) on the 27th and 28th of April, 2012. The meeting followed a twofold strategy. On one hand, it allowed the members to meet and present own projects. On the other hand, the participants elaborated the group's leitmotiv, responsibilities, current and future aims and goals, and the strategies.

This workshop report contains a description of the workshop's discussion, decisions and a description of the common goals to be achieved by the group's members. The report is structured as follows. The first section informs about the workshop's schedule and structure, the topics covered by the workshop, and a list of the attending members and participants. The second section presents a brief summary of the individual project's presentations. The third section contains the main discussion points and results of the kick-off meeting.

2. Workshop – Schedule, aims and participants

The kick-off meeting and workshop was held at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS) of the ETH Zurich. The first part of the workshop (day 1, 27th April 2012) aimed at fostering the internal exchange among members in the form of individual project presentation. Having familiarized with each other's research interest, on the second workshop day the participants elaborated a working concept and defined short- and long-term aims and goals to be pursued by the group.

List of participants

- Antoinette Scherz (University of Zurich)
- Gemma García Albacete (University of Mannheim)
- Julia Würtz (University of Duisburg-Essen)
- Karima S. Bousbah (University of Zurich, Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau ZDA)
- Mónica Ferrín Pereira (EUI Florence)
- Rebecca Welge (ETH Zurich)

- Valeria Camia (University of St. Gallen)

3. Presentations – Individual research projects

This section presents brief summaries of the papers and/or projects presented by the participants. If you would like to know more about specific presentations, please contact the presenter directly.

Mónica Ferrín (EUI Florence): *Democrats in Europe: All the same?*

The paper focuses on Europeans' affective support for democracy. Basically: do Europeans like democracy or not? Results suggest that Europeans are not homogeneous, but they diverge both with regard to how they support democracy, and to how much they support democracy.

Rebecca Welge (ETH Zurich) and Antoinette Scherz (University of Zurich): *Citizenship in Multilateral Democracy: How Rights and Access can (dis)balance Multilevel Systems*

The paper assesses the democratic quality of EU citizenship against the theoretical background of Multilateral Democracy. The analysis shows that EU Citizenship, as now legally constructed, does not meet the ideal of Multilateral Democratic Citizenship, specifically in the light of equal rights in and equal access to the multilevel system. The core argument is that Multilateral Democracy favours EU Citizenship as an independent status additionally to national citizenship over concurring concepts.

Gema Garcia Albacete (University of Mannheim): *Too young to participate? The effect of a longer and more demanding transition to adulthood on young Europeans' political participation*

Are young Europeans participating differently due to the life-cycle stage in which they are? To answer this question the paper puts emphasis on the conceptualization and measurement of different life stages and the transition to adulthood in an equivalent way across countries and time. The life-cycle hypothesis is then tested across a large number of European countries using the European Social Survey data. The hypothesis is supported in the case of non-institutional participation, however, the relationship between the transition to adulthood and institutional political participation is not as straight forward as usually assumed.

Karima Bousbah (University of Zurich, ZDA): *Equal participation of young citizens in established democracies. Putting the articulation of young citizens' demands into context.*

The presentation gave an overview of the author's planned PhD project. Based on the concurring explanations of political abstention (as opposed to political participation) – life-cycle, generational – the project aims at analysing the effect of the socioeconomic and political context on the political

participation and articulation of young citizens' needs and concerns. In doing so the project will analyse, on one hand, to what extent electoral institutions, and characteristics of the welfare system, the labour market, and the education system affect the institutional forms of political participation. On the other hand, in analysing the supply side of the political system, the project addresses the trade-off question between forms of institutional and non-institutional political participation, and its consequences for the achievement of political equality in established democracies.

Valeria Camia (University St. Gallen)

Parties' discourse on Europe compared: Qualitative and quantitative analysis of social democrats in Great Britain, Germany and Italy

The paper presents a qualitative analysis of parties' parliamentary debates on important European affairs in Great Britain, Germany and Italy. The comparison of the discourse on Europe of social democratic parties in different nation-states, beyond the run-up to political contests, points out three outstanding results. First, it is shown the lack of a homogenous cross-territorial social democratic discourse on Europe. Second, there is evidence of increasing references to Europe as a means to cope with short terms challenges triggered by globalisation. Third, the analysis points to fundamental party's factionalism, if one excludes the Italian case. Ultimately, the paper shows that the presence of domestic specific party's challengers is a plausible factor to explain variation in the discourse on Europe of British, German and Italian social democrats.

Julia Würtz (University of Duisburg-Essen)

European value orientations of young people and its educational significance

The presentation gave an overview of the author's PhD project about European value orientations of young people and its educational significance. Based on a qualitative research method she developed different types of European value orientations of young people. In a next step she evaluated the significance of these value orientations in education. The analytical framework draws on identification structures and value dimensions and combines these with moral determination from a "eurocentric" to a "reflective" European value orientation. Value orientation is then defined as a desirable concept of Europeans living together, which can take different forms of moral determination. Making reference to Alfred Petzelt's notion of value-learning, Julia Würtz finally argues that the emancipating contribution of education to greater European integration consists in conveying a "reflecting" European value orientation with the ability of making own value judgment."

4. Working sessions– Where we stand and were we go

The future of DemocracyNet.eu- Working sessions were:

- A. Group definition and description (common grounds and goals)
- B. Common goals and future projects (meetings, workshops, common research output):
Building bridges/Sharing knowledge between:
 - Fellow academics
 - Collaborations
 - Broader public
- C. Development and use of the online platform

A. Defining and developing DemocracyNet.eu

As a starting point the workshop participants discussed the common ground to be found among their different, yet complementary, research interests in democratic citizenship in Europe.

Although starting from different angles, we are all interested in democratic citizenship in Europe. Overall, the research undertaken by DemocracyNet.eu members aims at getting a more comprehensive picture of democratic citizenship in Europe, whereas the complementary activities of DemocracyNet.eu aim at making citizenship in Europe more democratic. In doing so the group links the normative question of how democratic citizenship should be constructed with the explanatory perspective of why citizenship is realized as it is, taking into account all actors in a democratic system. The main research questions relate to several actors, affecting or affected (by) democratic citizenship: Firstly, what is understood by democratic citizenship among the political and institutional actors in Europe? Secondly, how is democratic citizenship understood by European individuals and the civil society? Thirdly, regarding institutions, the group is interested in how democratic citizenship has been implemented within Europe. Lastly, concerning the citizenry, the group investigates its political behavior; whether and how citizens make use of the different possibilities they have to participate in the decision-making process. As there are important cross-national differences all these research questions are clearly context driven.

B. Goals and future projects: Building bridges/Sharing knowledge

The first main goal is connecting young academics working in this field of democratic citizenship in Europe. The second main goal is to organize joint conference panels to establish exchange with other researchers. DemocracyNet.eu is strongly interested in collaborations that aim at transferring academic knowledge into society and fostering the exchange between academics and practitioners. The topics discussed in the workshop were related to defining common projects and goals,

establishing responsibilities within the group, plan future meetings, and the guidelines for the development of the group. Concretely, two projects have already been planned for 2012. First, DemocracyNet.eu collaborates with the Institut Franco-Allemand (dfi) to realize a chat session in which the participants of the forum "It's our Europe!" (www.its-our-europe.eu) discuss their first project ideas for institutional participation mechanisms in Europe with academic researchers. Second, DemocracyNet.eu is involved in a symposium on "creative participation" in October 2012. The event, to be held at the educational institution Haus am Maiberg (Germany), addresses interested persons from the formal and non-formal education sector.

To foster interdisciplinary exchange, DemocracyNet.eu workshops will take place twice a year - the next meeting will take place at end of October 2012. In line with the twofold objectives – internal and external exchange – the group discussed other opportunities and possible target groups for the envisioned knowledge transfer towards the broader public.

C. Development and use of the website and online platform

In fostering the internal dialogue (among DemocracyNet.eu members) and the external dialogue (among academics and the general public) a central role will be played by an online feature. Accordingly, a group website and exchange platform was launched (for more information, please consult: <http://democracynet.eu>). On one hand, the website shall inform the interested public about the group, its goals, the participating researchers (member profiles), and common future projects (e.g. workshops, podium discussions). On the other, a part of the website restricted to the group members will allow the internal exchange.

While the broad public of academia is encouraged to exchange knowledge within the framework of the group, membership in the DemocracyNet.eu group entails some responsibilities. In order to maximize the benefit from the group's work, members are expected to be willing to take over responsibilities. Participation in the group can be rescinded anytime by contacting the responsible group. This will, however, entail the loss of the access to the member area.

DemocracyNet.eu gratefully acknowledges financial support by the NCCR Democracy and the European Union Politics Group (CIS, ETH Zurich).