

OBJECTIVES: REVIEW OF 2000



Construction of the network: first steps

During 2000 we will started an analysis of the situation - i.e. an investigation - which groups do already exist in which countries.

We arranged contacts and promoted the idea of the network. There were first meetings and workshops, we met on international conferences and the network did grow.



Conference in November 10-12, 2000

In November 10-12, 2000 there was a first NDDIE-conference in Munich with 60 individuals from 19 countries. Our goals were:

to meet personally, to consolidate the network and to work on common objectives and strategies for Europe to be realized the next few years. (More information on the homepage.)



Know-how-transfer

To exchange experiences and Know-how we founded several "Competence-groups" e.g. for Public Relations, organisation,

fundraising, European activities, "DD-in depth" etc. We talked about our strategies concerning state-activities. In 2001 there will be a quarterly newsletter. The 2001 conference will be organized by our friends from The Netherlands.



Support of new initiative groups

As far as we can afford it, we want to pass the know-how of our members to new initiative groups. Therefore we will organized

work-shops in the several countries and thus support expansion and strategy on the scene. Workshops were held: Jan in Paris, France - Feb 27 in Rome, Italy - Mar 25 in Brno, Czech Republic - May 27 in Stockholm, Sweden - Oct in Madrid, Spain.

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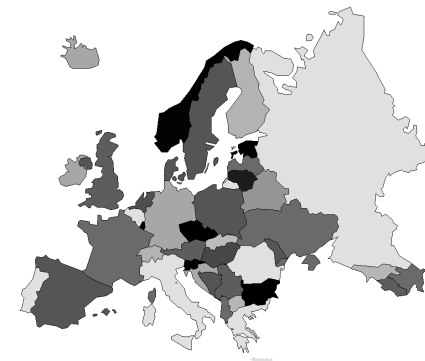
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Welcome to NDDIE



Network for Direct Democracy in Europe

www.nddie.org

Brief Information
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THE SITUATION: URGENT NEED OF ACTION



Democracy on the European level

In the development of Maastricht-Europe and the Currency Union by the European leaders there was no space to allow the creation of a European vision by the people. On the contrary: on the European level there is a serious deficit of democratic legitimation and at the same time the citizens cannot influence any decision making concerning European politics.



Democracy in the European states

Not only on the European level there is a deficit of practised democracy. Many citizens do not feel to be represented by their states through their representative systems anyway.

So it is important that the citizens have the opportunity to set topics and laws on the political agenda and put them to the vote (Initiative = „accelerator“) and to correct or stop laws which have passed the parliament (Referendum = „brake“). In reality: „*There is nothing you can do about it...*!“ became a saying among frustrated European citizens.

No easy answer but a promising approach would be the completion of the parliamentary democracy by the possibility of a strong lawmaking by the people themselves.



Networking causes synergies

To make use of synergies and to support each other, we want to find and connect existing European Direct Democracy Initiatives as well as to support the setting up of new groups.

So we are looking for movements all over Europe who:
u support the introduction or expansion of initiative and referendum on local, federal state/district and national level in their own countries, v are interested in developing a vision and specific bill for citizens' lawmaking on a European level.

INDEPENDENT GROUPS COMMON GOAL



Single point movement

The NDDIE is a cooperation-network of single, independent organisations. Point of cooperation and common interest is: to create a direct democratic sphere of influence for the citizens concerning European politics namely by initiative and referendum.

Organisations with the only purpose of supporting these instruments in their countries and who realize, that the European level must not be neglected can become members of the NDDIE which has only a coordinating und supporting function.



Cooperation with other groups

Organisations who pursue other goals on the European level and who want to support the idea of direct democracy as well, are invited to join our supporter-group. We do not want to be a competitor to existing organisations or networks who have „higher“ far-reaching goals (e.g. work towards a European constitution), but we want to concentrate merely on the aspect of direct democracy.

The decision which goals will be pursued once with this instruments - some time - (Constitution, Federal State, Europe of Nations etc.) we leave confidently to the will of the European citizens.



Worldwide contacts

We want to cultivate worldwide contacts to organisations and persons who support the idea of direct democracy in their state or somewhere else in the world. In this context we also want to reflect on how we can support each other.

ACTIVITIES ON SEVERAL LEVELS

Development

Investigation in the Internet: We use the Net to find, contact and possibly win new members and supporters.

Presentations: We participate in international conferences to make contacts and to present our network.

Cooperations: Systematically we will address several organisations and check possibilities of cooperation.

Information

Homepage: It is a homepage „to work with“. Brief information for all who are interested in the topic. Constant updating.

Printed matter: Besides a little folder which informs about our objectives and work we plan an overview about the DD-situation in the European Countries.

Mailinglist: For a constant information about the development and exchange of information there will be an open mailinglist.

Newsletter: Should the number of people increase who have no e-mail, we will offer a periodically printed newsletter.

Meeting

Workshops: If required we offer our support to our membergroups or single individuals, who want to start an initiative group. For this purpose we also organize workshops.

Conference: In autumn 2001 we will arrange a 2nd international meeting with all our member groups - organized by our Netherland member "Referendum Platform" in Amsterdam.

Financing

Fundraising: Until now the NDDIE has no financial backers. The organizers are supported by their organisations and pay a big part of the expenses by their own. That's why we have to start a professional fundraising as soon as possible.

Workshops: Workshops in several countries can only take place, when the initiative on the scene takes a part of the expenses. In this context we only talk about the cost price.