



Minutes of the IPWG Workshop „Facets of Democracy“
Fall Agora Izmir, 21st of October 2005

International Politics Working Group Workshop „Facets of Democracy“ Minutes

Workshop leaders: Arleta Bojke (abojke@o2.pl)

Participants: Özge Tagizode – AEGEE-Ankara (ozgetagi@gmail.com)
Ramiya Musayeva – AEGEE-Baku (musayeva_ramiya@yahoo.com)
Ward Wenrooij – AEGEE-Minsk (wardnl@gmail.com)
Selim Kaymak – AEGEE-Ankara (kaymakselim@yahoo.com)
Ayca Taskin – AEGEE-Ankara (taskinayca@yahoo.com)
Marion van Engen – AEGEE-Groningen (m.van.engen@student.rug.nl)
Ignacio Gómez Navaro – AEGEE-Zaragoza (ignach@gmail.com)
Cristina Iancu – AEGEE-Constanta (kristinalumi@yahoo.com)
Erkartl Tairakie – AEGEE-Constanta (ceumkee_13@yahoo.com)
Christoph Hänle – AEGEE-München (chaenle@gmx.de)
Ausgar Füttver – AEGEE-Karlsruhe (afue@gmx.de)
Diego Fernández – AEGEE-Madrid (daikos27@hotmail.com)
Florian Becker – AEGEE-Münster (flobecker@online.de)
Juliane Weymann – AEGEE-Münster (kyraa@gmx.de)
Stefan Musters – AEGEE-Tilburg (blue_surfer@hotmail.com)

- 1) Short introduction of participants (name, local, why this workshop?)
- 2) Proposal of the Agenda, short discussion and agreement on the Agenda of the workshop
- 3) Brainstorming about actual “facets of democracy”

Question: **What are facets of democracy nowadays?**

- too big gap between the political class and normal people
- lack of European identity (low interest)
- lack of information
- lack of “brains” (people that have to vote)
- democracy only on the national level in the EU
- lack of representation and accountability
- bureaucracy
- national interest above the European interest
- not efficient decision-making process (leaders do not dare to take unpopular decisions)
- too much connection between business life and politics
- manipulation of the image of the EU
- manipulation of information
- lack of active citizenship



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- people choose the picture of politicians (a mask they wear)
- people are not rational actors
- too low interest in the content of political campaigns
- no clear decision if money or population should matter (what should decide about the amount of votes that countries have in the EU)
- lack of essential (political and human) rights
- mysterious link between media and politicians
- corruption
- different levels of development in different cultures
- democracy tends not to be sustainable
- politicians and people want to profit in a short term
- different efficiency of different democratic structures
- lack of power of minority groups

4) Discussion about advantages and disadvantages of centralized and decentralized system.

Question: **What are advantages of centralized and decentralized system?**

CENTRALISED	DECENTRALISED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - states are becoming more independent (the need of global institutions to solve problems) - not having a “jungle” of rules (better overview - more clear law) - the better overview of problems - more independence from lobbying and interest groups - more ability to take unpopular decisions - people more informed and more willing to take rational decisions - political leadership is more controlled by higher institutions and therefore works better - a guarantee for the poorest regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the need for identity - people better know the regional problems - people’s votes matter more - people more informed and more willing to take rational decisions - political leadership has to show more responsibility (closer to people) - political leadership has to take more efficient decisions - rules can be fit better to the structure of the region - more efficiency in the implementation of decisions - a guarantee for the poorest regions

Question: **What are disadvantages of centralized and decentralized system?**

CENTRALISED	DECENTRALISED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of interest in the upper power (feeling that there is no influence from people) - more possibility for only few people having a lot of power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of interest in the upper power (feeling that there is no influence from the upper power) - difficulties with following the rules outside your own country or region



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- capitalism doesn't really work	- more problems than solutions (migration)
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Conclusions: To particular matters particular solutions should be applied. As the system is very complexed and complicated, the same arguments can be used to defend centralization and decentralization.

5) Brainstorming for potential activities within the YPP as an alternative to conferences:

- a training “How to be a world leader?” (Eindhoven, 2nd-9th of April)
- conference with people from the countries where democracy does not really work (comparison of democracies)
- simulations of negotiation talks
- simulations of the situations that can happen – to make participants think it is true (e.g. that there is a revolution going on in USA)
- conference about solutions for the problems democracy faces
- board game
- events in countries where there are problems with functioning of democracy
- a game between AEGEE locals (people interested) – create a virtual political environment, simulations online (e.g. players have to create their programme, adverts); they have tools (e.g. bribes)
- the difference between: doing right things
doing things right