

## Real Democracy (Direct Democracy) & Feasible Implementation

Maybe “Indignados Movement”, “Square Movement” and “Occupy Movement” have been transferred to citizens’ committees and collectives in various neighborhoods, but their political position about the establishment of Direct Democracy is the only way to get rid of the corruption of today’s political system (You may see [here the Direct Democratic procedure for the new Constitution of Iceland](#)):

It is the most pure and fair structure of a human society (until today, August of 2011) because of the simplest reason that decisions are directly formed and taken by the people: the citizens of that human society.

In order for **Direct Democracy** to be clear, **Representative “Democracy”** will be defined.

**Democracy** simply means that people decide about their own issues.

**Indirect (Representative) “Democracy”** is a social structure where decision making is taken by elected representatives of people, not by the people themselves.

In a version of Representative “Democracy” which is today’s **Parliamentarism** decisions are taken by elected members of Parliament who are not committed by law to follow the will of citizens (for example referendums by initiative of the people or members of Parliament), not even for important issues like Education, Health and Economy.

Also, there is no accountability of Parliament Members to the people and furthermore, there is no capability for people to replace some of Parliament Members during their 4 year mandate if they are considered incapable by the people.

Finally, Parliament Members maintain “legislative immunity” so that the law cannot affect them and they remain undisturbed while they violate the laws of the society which they are supposed to serve.

**There is no real Democracy today because Parliamentarism is established** which results to Parliament Members’ lawlessness and the violation of citizens’ will.

**In Direct Democracy** every citizen:

- votes for proposals and not for representatives
- proposes and forms issues and solutions for voting

Thus, it is clear that **real Democracy is Direct Democracy** and in order for it to be established, citizens must handle all matters of their society and not to let any elected “leaders” to betray people’s trust like nowadays.

All the above analysis is about the **political dimension** of a Democratic society.

Another equally important dimension is the **economic** one which affects the production and the distribution of products and services and thus the quality of people’s life.

The current economic system is the financial one and it is called **Capitalism**.

In Capitalism, owners of large funds (capitalists/bourgeoisie) who mainly are industrialists, shipowners and big bankers control the production and work of the people, present produced wealth as their own and **always function their businesses based on profit and not on society needs**.

So, the few and financially strong decide and dictate the many and financially weaker citizens, employ people (often without insurance) and fire people according to their own interests as they do not have the obligation to care about the workers’ survival and needs.

A predictable consequence of the above is the high unemployment...

Thus, **Capitalism cancels Democracy** because in this situation citizens are forced to become hostages of financially strong in order to survive and moreover, they do not have the time to think, to express themselves and to be free for deciding about social issues.

The solution to this economic problem is the **self-organization** of society which is the collective organization of economy by working citizens using **Direct Democratic procedures** in businesses and production units.

So with this way, there is no exploitation of humans by humans and furthermore, all workers in every workplace take equal responsibility for the business to succeed, they can equally satisfy their needs with progress and co-operation with the other workplaces of society and to be more productive when they want it.

Thus, **real Democracy is Direct Democracy in politics and economy** because this way **equality, freedom, justice** are truly ensured and **honest communication, solidarity, understanding** are making progress between the people. All these with the use of current **technology** can easily bring **social prosperity and specifically education, health, entertainment and comfort for all people** on condition that citizens rule their own lives.

**There are many ways for Direct Democracy to function** and there could be more of them providing citizens to discuss with each other. An indicative way is shown below:

Citizens from across the country are organized depending on the scope of issues:

- in local level (municipalities, cities etc) for local issues (decentralization)
- in periphery level (county etc) for periphery issues
- in country level for issues of all citizens in that country

For the decision procedure in **each level, there can be applied combinations of the ways below:**

There has already been developed the “**Square Movement**” across all country (information on: <http://realdemocracygr.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/RealDemocracyGr> ).

Every local central square is now a collective organ and citizens:

1. gather and express opinions with equally distributed time
2. submit proposals and suggest changes in proposals which have already been suggested
3. vote for the final proposals which have been formed
4. for each voted proposal, some volunteers, elected or selected by drawing lots of the gathered people, take to implement it if it is decided by the assembly
5. on regular dates, for example every week, the ones who have taken to implement the decisions account to the citizens’ assembly and apologize for the results to the citizens’ assembly and some of them may **be directly replaced** if the citizens’ assembly decides so
6. the implementation groups have their own meetings related to their issue and all citizens may join them in order to ensure their correct and transparent operation

**For efficient and comprehensive participation of citizens in the Direct Democratic procedure,** there may be designated equal viewing time for each person or team in communication media (Mass Media, Internet etc) using priority order or drawing lots so that they express their proposals. The final proposals for voting are logged and gathered and a ballot paper which contains those proposals is made by a team of elected/selected people by drawing lots/volunteers. And then, **there are at least 4 complementary ways for the final decisions to be made:**

1. traditional voting using ballot box in cities, municipalities etc
2. the “Perikles Network” of the “National Technical University of Athens” which is a comprehensive proposal (information on: <http://www.ntua.gr/periklesnet/page3/page3.html> or <http://old.ntua.gr/periklesnet/page3/page3.html> )
3. terminal machines like today’s OPAP – Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports
4. e-voting (many secure ways on the Internet)

**For serious issues, citizens can demand from persons who take to implement the decisions:**

- written commitment for the completion of the implementation within a defined time interval.