

IOPD 2018 Workshop: report document

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| Title of the workshop | Participatory Democracy in Divided Societies: the Cases of South Tyrol and Catalonia |
| Organizer (s) | Dr. Elisabeth Alber, Senior Researcher and Research Cluster Leader “Institutional Innovation and Participatory Democracy” at the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research, South Tyrol, Italy |
| Speakers / Facilitators | <p>Speaker: Elisabeth Alber is Senior Researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism and Research Cluster Leader “Institutional Innovation and Participatory Democracy” at the Institute for Comparative Federalism, Eurac Research, South Tyrol, Italy. She holds a PhD in Comparative Politics from the University of Innsbruck (Austria) and a degree in International Sciences and Diplomacy from the University of Turin (Italy). In 2016 and 2017, she supervised and facilitated a large-scaled trilingual consultative deliberative democracy project aiming at elaborating proposals as to the revision of South Tyrol’s autonomy Statute (a constitutional law within Italy’s constitutional order) (www.konvent.bz.it). Her Email is: ealber@eurac.edu</p> <p>Speaker: Ismael Peña López, Director General on Citizen Participation of the Government of Catalonia. Formerly, he was lecturer at the School of Law and Political Science of the Open University of Catalonia, senior researcher at Open Evidence and fellow director of Open Innovation at Fundació Jaume Bofill. His main areas of work are the impact of ICTs upon society (e-Readiness, the digital divide), especially in development (e-inclusion, ICT4D), and educational (e-Learning, digital competence) and political (e-participation, e-democracy) institutions.</p> <p>Moderator: Mireia Grau Creus is Head of the Research Area of the Institut d’Estudis de l’Autogovern (Institute of Self-Government Studies) of the Government of Catalonia. She holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute (2000). She was a lecturer in public policy, public administration and intergovernmental relations in the University of Murcia. She also taught as a visiting lecturer at KU Leuven and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Her research and publications focus on self-government, intergovernmental relations and decentralization politics in Spain. She moderated the workshop in IOPD 2018.</p> |

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| | <p>Speaker: Marc Parés is Professor of Geography at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB Geography Department) and head of the Research Group on Urban Governance, Commons, Internet & Social innovation (URGOCIS) at the Institute for Government and Public Polies (IGOP).</p> <p>Speaker: Jaume López Hernández is Ph D. in Political Science (2002) and MSc. in Social and Political Theory (1996), University Pompeu Fabra. MSc. in Philosophy of Social Sciences, London School of Economics and Political Science (1997). BA. in Political Science and Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona (1993). M.A. in Documentary Filmmaking, Film School of Catalonia (ESCAC) (2004). Link to his profile: https://www.upf.edu/web/jaume_lopez</p> |
| Participants | about 30 persons joined the workshop and participated very actively in the time allocated for debate (30 minutes) |
| Summary and methodology | <p>Aim: Exchange of views on how deliberative democracy processes are and ought to be organized in plural (divided) subnational units.</p> <p>Scientific Background Note: When it comes to deliberative democracy in plural societies, the scholarly work of O’Flynn, most prominently, highlights promises and pitfalls of deliberative practices. He argues that, from a normative basis, bargaining between groups should be replaced by deliberation in order to render any divided society more sustainable, and to generate an overarching civic identity.</p> <p>Description: The workshop discussed the institutionalization and practices of deliberative democracy in South Tyrol (Italy) and Catalonia (Spain), two constituent units in need of reconciliation, even if to a different extent. South Tyrol is a consociational democracy that institutionalizes three language groups, while in Catalonia the very concept of democracy has recently been challenged with mass protests/the self-managed referendum for and against the revision of its <i>status quo</i>.</p> <p>Methodology: The speakers gave brief inputs (5 minutes each) as to the perils and pitfalls of participatory processes in Catalonia and South Tyrol. Particular attention was drawn to participatory practices that dealt</p> |



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| | <p>with highly contested issues and a multiplicity of actors, and to the challenges facilitators had in designing such practices (challenges deriving from socio-linguistic cleavages among the participants, from their various social backgrounds). Questions addressed at the workshop were: To what extent does deliberative democracy create an overarching civic identity? Can real cases live up to the expectations put forward by political theorists of deliberative democracy? What are the promises of institutionalized deliberative democracy in South Tyrol and Catalonia? What are the perils real cases do bring along?</p> <p>All participants of the workshop were invited to comment on the speakers' inputs, to challenge them in a provocative manner, to put them into their very own context, to share their experiences and to launch additional questions with regard to the field "Promises and Perils as to the Institutionalization and Implementation of Participatory Democracy in Divided Societies".</p> <p>The participants did so in the 30 minutes that were allocated for Q@A and an interactive debate between them and the input givers.</p> |
| Conclusions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberative democracy processes are ever more important in plural societies (with diverging views);• The design and methodology of deliberative democracy processes is of utmost importance; all stakeholders must be involved in designing the format and in deciding the rules a deliberative democracy process in plural societies ought to look like;• The interlink of any deliberative democracy process with the institutions of representative democracy have to be clear from the very beginning, and agreed upon by all stakeholders; it must be clear if and how the results of deliberative processes are being processed once the deliberative practice is concluded;• The role of actors other than those involved in the process itself has to be carefully taken into account (for example the media); |



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BARCELONA 2018

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