

workshop

LIQUID DEMOCRACY - *a chance for DiEM25?*

by

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DiEM25'S
2ND BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION &
CONVENTION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DiEM25

- **You guys are wonderful!**
- Just like the Piraten in 2009
- Just like the 5-Star-Movement in 2009
- Just like Occupy (Wall Street)
- Just like il Partito Pirata in 2011
- Just like the Teatro Valle occupation
- Just like the Volksbühne occupation
- Just like “Demokratie in Bewegung”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DIEM25

- So, how to avoid what follows?
- Please, learn from the past!
- First depressing criticism
- Then the optimistic outlook

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DIEM25

- Enough to blackmail/corrupt just one person to control vote results?
- Italy 5-Star-Movement's "Rousseau": Hacker 0rogue0 is **still** in there, can falsify anything
- It's not democracy, according to constitutional law...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DiEM25

- International non-profit association DiEM25
- “legal-political governance disconnect”
- Webmasters legally disconnected
- Electoral wing?

NGO, MOVEMENT OR PARTY?

- Activism... end up at lobbyism
- Movement? Whose movement?
- Political parties: least worst?
- How not to end up like them?
- What are they doing wrong?

PEACE & JUSTICE IN DIEM25

- Moderators are inevitable to create Safe Space for Free Speech
See “convivenza”, Partito Pirata Italiano, 2016...
- Conflict of interest: leadership also in charge of moderation
- Missing inner justice system
- Recommendation: Introduce independent Moderators and Court of Arbitration

SPOKESPERSONS

- In need of coordination!
- Should not be coordinators
- Must present agreed-upon things
- Otherwise: battles in the media
- Success story: Piraten Berlin 2011

COORDINATING COLLECTIVE

- Know secrets, in charge of strategy
- Everybody report secrets to the CC
(protection against conspiracy paranoia)
- No candidacy
- No political office
- Just coordination
- Recommend: Abstract strategic decisions → Virtual board of directors

PERMANENT ASSEMBLY

- Bottom-up and top-down
- Rapid positioning on request
- Decisions regarding finances
- Recommend Liquid Feedback...

VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bottom-up and top-down
- Rapid decision-making
- Recommend Liquid Feedback even harder...

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

- We elect “one among us”
- Fixed election periods
- Can never satisfy all expectations
- Doesn't have consensus feedback
- Might as well do as they think
- Get influenced by lobbyists
- Risk being blackmailed

PHYSICAL DIRECT DEMOCRACY

- Assemblies → Travel elite
- Social dynamics in working groups
- Anyone could be there, and yet it is always the same people
- Dominance of the actives and extroverts, personal agendas
- Non-representative decisions

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

- 2000 years of democracy:
everything has been tried.
- Internet...!?

DIGITAL DIRECT DEMOCRACY

- Maximize psychological biases like Dunning/Kruger
- Trust networks not transparent
- Influencing via Facebook?
- Troops, Trolls and Troublemakers
by Bradshaw & Howard, Oxford, 2012
- Knowledge from debates
outperforms the wisdom of crowds
by Navajas, Niella, Garbulsky, Bahrami, Sigman, 2017

COLLECTIVE RATIONALITY?

Against demagoguery:

- How to decide fact-based?
- Obligatory reasoning rather than “opinionism”
- Reference science
- Apply rapid consensus method
- Impede attacks on formal grounds
- Integrity/Validating council

LIQUID DEMOCRACY

- Participate yourself if you feel competent enough
- Abstain or delegate to a fiduciary or expert...
- In-between direct & representative
- Big difference:
Change your mind anytime

EXAMPLES OF DELEGATIONS

Foreign affairs

Dasfidanken the Dog

Education

Linus

Civil rights

<myself>

Other

Mafalda

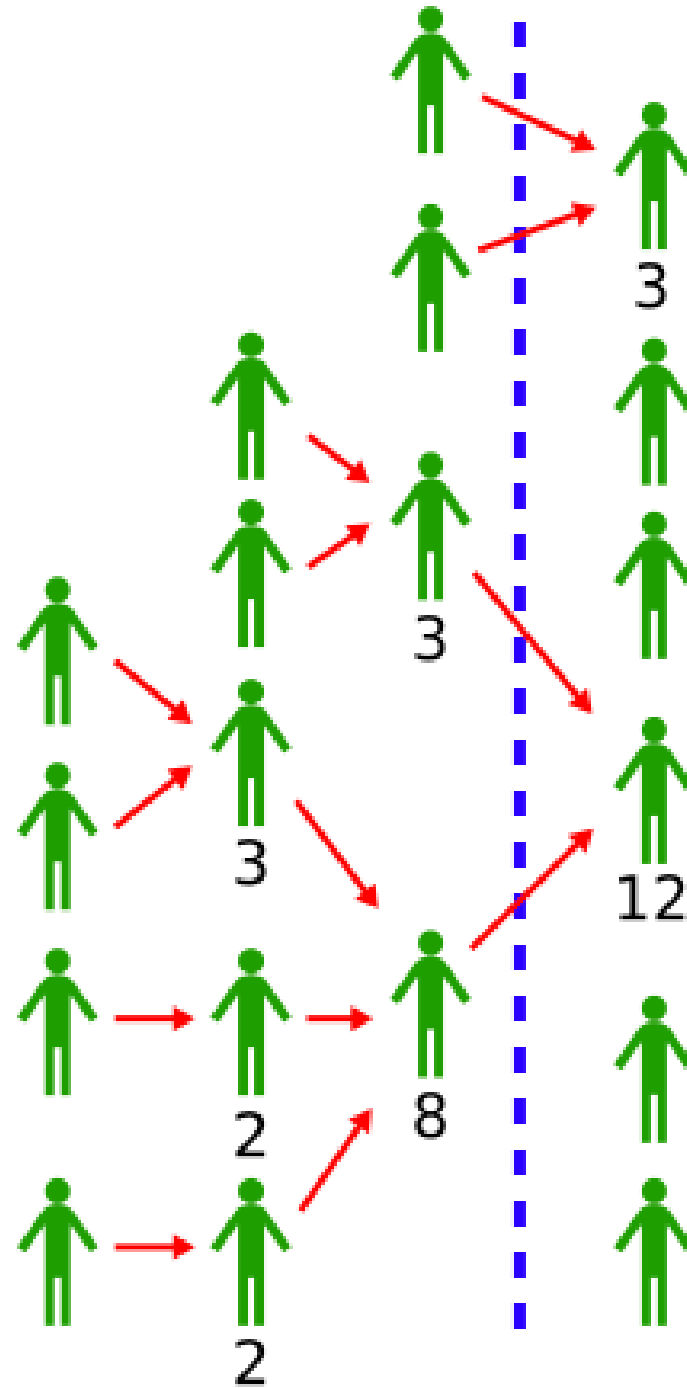
SUSPEND THE DELEGATION ANYTIME

Foreign affairs

Dasfidanken the Dog

→ But I will still participate myself
when it comes to questions of war
& peace!

TRANSITIVE DELEGATIONS



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

“Voting Behaviour and Power in Online Democracy”

by Kling, Kunegis, Hartmann, Strohmaier, Staab, 2015

→ The “super delegates” stabilize the quality of the vote

LIQUID DEMOCRACY

- Liquid Dem. protects against the Dominance of the Extroverts
- Conceived 1884 by Lewis Carroll
- Yes, Alice in Wonderland
- Creates democratic “hierarchy”
- More consensus, more delegations, more weight in debate and voting

LIQUID FEEDBACK (LQFB)

- Liquid Feedback implements more than just liquid democracy
- User-driven, self-organised process
- Anyone can start a debate if enough people are interested in it

NO CONVERSATION in LQFB

- Liquid Feedback is a tool to measure consensus
- It has no informal means of conversation → use a forum?
- Advantages: more to the point, excellent scalability
- To fix: Debate should reflect delegations & current consensus



NEW ISSUE

1st / issue quorum



DEBATING PHASE



VERIFICATION PHASE

2nd / initiative quorum



VOTING PHASE

3rd / participant quorum

LIQUID FEEDBACK POLICIES

- Durations of the 4 phases
- Quorum percentages:
- 1st to enter debate
- 2nd to move to final vote
- Majority or Consensus percentage needed to consider vote a winner

LIQUID FEEDBACK POLICIES

- Policies make the process equally accessible for all participants
- Exception: Policies with a deadline (imposed by external forces like a parliament)
- Policies are themselves decided upon by the participants

EXAMPLE: 2/3rds MOTION

NEW ISSUE	≤ 7 days
DEBATE	30 days
VERIFICATION	7 days
VOTING	12 days
1 st quorum (for the issue)	$\geq 20\%$
2 nd quorum (each proposal)	$\geq 30\%$
Required consensus	$> 2/3$ (~66.67%)

EXAMPLE: SEARCH for CONSENSUS

NEW ISSUE	unlimited
DEBATE	14 days
VERIFICATION	7 days
VOTING	14 days
1 st quorum (for the issue)	$\geq 80\%$
2 nd quorum (each proposal)	$\geq 70\%$
Required consensus	$> 80\%$

SIMPLE MAJORITIES vs CONSENSUS

- LQFB developers say, qualified and near-consensus majorities give the status quo an unfair advantage.
- Sociology says, it's more important to avoid decisions that split the group/party/movement in two.
- LQFB can be used both ways.

SECTIONS & AREAS

- Sections of participants (multiple chambers or organisations)
- Areas for topics or purposes
- Participation in an area → quora
- Delegate by area and section

AMENDMENTS (“Suggestions”)

- Authors vs supporters
- Suggest an amendment
 - “should”, “must”*
 - “should not”, “must not”*
- *Potential* support
- Continuous evaluation of democratic Consensus

SUPPORT A PROPOSAL

- All criticism is constructive:
support or *potential* support
- Against? Start a counter-proposal
- Support shows popularity and
probable passage of quorum
- To improve: Presentation and
comparison of alternative
proposals

FREQUENT BEGINNER'S MISTAKE

- Write criticism in a suggestion
- Then remove support
- *Suggestion disappears!*
- Only constructive criticism!

TRADITIONAL REFERENDUM

- SHOPPING MALL**
- PUBLIC GARDENS**
- CAMPING SITE**

Example: What to do with
the former military camp?

TRADITIONAL REFERENDUM



30% CAMPING



30% PUBLIC GARDENS



40% SHOPPING MALL

→ Shopping mall wins

CONDORCET/SCHULZE METHOD



Choose an order of preferences...

CONDORCET/SCHULZE METHOD



50% CAMPING



60% PUBLIC GARDENS



45% SHOPPING MALL

→ The public gardens win!

CONDORCET/SCHULZE METHOD

- Advantage: Maximizes satisfaction of participants
- Disadvantage: Complex calculation, not practical w/o computer/app
- Also in use by debian Linux

TRANSPARENT & VERIFIABLE

- No secret voting in LQFB
- Secret vote increases corruption!
See “Negative Vote Buying and the Secret Ballot”
by Morgan (UCB), Vardy (IMF), 2008.
- Database downloadable for checks
- Make participants get to know each other

SCALABILITY

- Hundreds of thousands of participants?
- Few clicks, little server load
- The more the better

TRANSPARENCY TOOLS

Things we could improve:

- Programs to check the results of votings
- Data mining to keep the system in check
- “Four eyes” administration practice

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

- Core in PostgreSQL
- Web interface in LUA
- API server in node.js
- Some alternative forks exist
- Distributed/P2P version feasible

“FOUR EYES” ADMINISTRATION

- PGP-signed server commands
- Two separately elected admins observing each other
- Zero root shell
- Immediate remote logging

APPLICATION of LQFB

- Associations, NGOs
- Movements, political parties
- Companies with democratic leadership
- Democratic shareholder corporations

HOW TO EMPLOY

- Transparent identified and authenticated group of participants
- You are politicians now!
- Legally binding, not just surveys!
- Choose the policies wisely!
- Gotta rewrite the Statutes / Bylaws / Organising Principles



















































HOW NOT TO EMPLOY

188.138.124.250/lf/index/index.html?tab=members&tempstor

LiquidFeedback · Servizio pubblico Search

Home Latest events Open issues Closed issues **Members**

Newest Oldest A-Z Z-A

 nellobosi	 checkmate	 Davidz70	 lallo	 Anna42
 erica	 eubal	 User10079	 User12614	 User20566
 User3844	 User16865	 andrew	 User23804	 guidigno
 User4391	 dario	 User8597	 Baia	 User16647
 User20018	 User14602	 aifxa	 User15061	 filippo
 mattino	 peperino	 Vimask	 crichill	 User17049
 User9669	 User21428	 Giancarlo Badodi	 Linotherose	 User10738
 Lafacukur	 achi	 User6916	 Gidici	 User20723
 antloz	 piero	 Marina M	 User20719	 maxboni
 combul	 algarve	 User12627	 vitomichele23967	 Saif AlDin

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35
36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68
69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

DON'T JUST 'TRY IT OUT'

- Non-binding surveys aren't representative
- At best can serve as an idea think-tank
- May not yield "collective intelligence" effect
- Two chamber system?

USE CASES

- Develop political programme
- “Remote control” parliamentary groups
- Virtualize the leadership
- Editorial office, Artistic consensus
- Transnational permanent assembly
- Constitutional

ITALIAN PIRATE PARTICIPATION

- Authenticated registration
(testimonies checking id/passport)
- Uniqueness by hashed government number
- Political transparency
- “Pirata light” for those who can’t officially participate

EVERYBODY ELSE?

- Least worst democracy
DON'T TRY PERFECTIONISM!
- Piratenpartei: FORSA survey
- More representative of population than traditional parliament!

OTHER SOFTWARE OPTIONS?

- Useless if not transparent/verifiable
- Problematic if w/o transitive liquid democracy
- LQFB still best implementation (areas, amendments...)

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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<http://my.pages.de>

<http://structure.pages.de>

for a private chat:

<http://loupsycedyglgamf.onion>