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REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

Venue

Dupréel Hall - Salle Dupréel
ULB - Campus Solbosch
44 Av. Henri Jeanne
1050 Brussels

Registration

Registration can be made by sending back the registration card by mail or by fax before 19 May 2006 to:

Cevipol-ULB
Jean-Benoit PILET
Avenue FD Roosevelt, 39
1050 Brussels
Belgium
Fax: (+32) (0)2 650 30 68

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The registration fee must be paid before 19 May on account 001-2673124-74, Cevipol, Avenue Roosevelt n°39, 1050 Brussels
Please note 'congress Local Politics in Europe'

The congress book will be published by Vanden Broele in the series 'Comparative Local Politics'.

Any additional information concerning this congress can be obtained by contacting a member of the organising team.

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2nd Congress on Local Politics in Europe

ASSESSING PARTICIPATORY AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Brussels, Belgium

Friday 26
Saturday 27
may 2006

CONGRESS ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES
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VANDEN BROELE PUBLISHERS

2ND CONGRESS ON LOCAL POLITICS IN EUROPE

2ND CONGRESS ON LOCAL POLITICS IN EUROPE**ASSESSING PARTICIPATORY AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL****BRUSSELS, FRIDAY 26 MAY
SATURDAY 27 MAY**

In many countries, "participation" has become the new mantra in politics. Participatory and direct democracy were seen as a positive complement to their representative counterpart, and sometimes as its potential successor. In this context, new forms of participation such as citizens' consultative council, referenda and participatory budget were introduced.

The local level was often used as the first place to test these new institutional devices. The "closest-to-citizens" level of power appeared as an appropriate area to evaluate on a lower scale the positive and negative aspects of participatory democracy. Moreover, participation seemed easier in smaller polities.

While participatory reforms have been the framework for previous studies, lesser attention is paid to the assessment of such reforms. In this context, the conference aims to propose a series of first evaluations on how participatory democracy works at the local level in Europe. In particular, the following forms of participation (among others) will be studied:

- Open municipal councils
- Local referenda
- Citizens' consultative councils
- Participatory budget
- E-participation

The goal is to evaluate the impact of these new participation channels for European citizens in their relation with their local institutions. Proceedings of the congress will be published by Vanden Broele Publishers (Brugge) next autumn (2006).

→ FRIDAY MORNING 26TH MAY*9.00h - 10.30h Opening Session*

Chair: Pascal Delwit (Welcome speech)

Pascal Delwit, Jean-Benoit Pilet (Free University Brussels - ULB) Herwig Reynaert and Kristof Steyvers (Ghent University): "Introduction - Participatory democracy in Local Politics"

Norbert Kersting (University of Marburg): "Assessing Local Participatory and Direct Democracy in Europe"

11.00h - 12.30h Second Session

Chair: Herwig Reynaert

Yves Sintomer (University of Paris 8), Carsten Herzberg (University of Postdam - University of Paris 8) and Anja Röcke (EUI Florence - University Humboldt Berlin): "Participatory Budget and Participatory Democracy in Europe; the problem of comparison and of global dynamics"

Lawrence E. Rose (University of Oslo): "User Boards and User Control. Increment or detriment to local democracy?"

Michèle Breuillard and Stéphane Guérard (CNRS- University of Lille 2): "Participative democracy versus representative democracy? The referendum as a tool for local government reform in Britain, in France, but not in Denmark"

→ FRIDAY AFTERNOON 26TH MAY*14.00h - 15.30h First Session*

Chair: Norbert Kersting

Monique Leyenaar (Radboud University Nijmegen): "Inclusive Decision-making through Citizen's Juries"

JJC van Ostaaijen and P.W. Tops (Tilburg University): "From Interactive Policy Making Towards Vital Coalitions"

Pascal Delwit, Jean-Benoit Pilet (Free University Brussels - ULB), Dries Verlet and Thomas Block (Ghent University): "Assessing New Mechanisms of Participatory Democracy in Belgium"

16.00h - 17.30h Second Session

Chair: Lawrence E. Rose

Oscar W Gabriel and Melanie Walter-Rogg (University of Stuttgart): "Direct Democracy at the Local Level in Germany"

Colin Copus (University of Birmingham): "Public Participation in Local Representative Democracy: Exploring A Tension, Evaluating Practices and Assessing the Perspectives of the Local Political Elite"

→ SATURDAY MORNING 27TH MAY*9.00h - 10.30h First Session*

Chair: Jean-Benoit Pilet

Julien D. Talpin (European University Institute Florence): "Who governs in Participatory Democracy Institutions? The Impact of Citizens Participation in Municipal Participatory Budget in a Comparative Perspective"

José Pinheiro Neves and Joel Felizes (University of Minho) "Questioning E-participation in Portuguese Local Governements"

S. Ulas Bayraktar (University of Mersin-Turkey - IEP Paris): "A 'global-down-up' initiative against the 'centres of the periphery': Impact and the limits of the new participatory mechanisms in Turkey"

11.00h - 12.30h Second Session

Chair: Kristof Steyvers

Michael L. Smith (New School for Social Research, New York - Anglo-American College, Prague): "Greening Local Democracy: The Politics of Local Referendums in the Czech Republic"

Marina Tataram (University of Bucarest): "Bucharest Metropolitan Area: Electioneering, Fostering Participation, or State-Led Urban Development"