E-DEMOCRACY
AS A PRECONDITION OF DIGIDEMOCRACY**

Abstract: In this paper, author is dealing with e-democracy as a theoretical concept which precedes to digidemocracy. Special attention is paid to e-voting as a new system of voting which can enable more democratic approach than it is nowadays. The world will be changed definitely in a way to have more influence of citizens on politics which all research show.

Key words: E-democracy; e-voting; digidemocracy
1. Introduction

E-democracy is process, which considers all ways of electronic communication between administration and citizens. In narrow sense e-democracy relates on all processes which encourage electronic communication between voters and those who are elected on public functions. For that reason, e-administration can be observed as an instrument of strengthening of democracy in society.\(^1\)

Electronic voting is method which using modern technologies improve conditions improving conditions for realization of active and passive electoral right and raise quality of electoral process.\(^2\)

From creation of theory of sovereignity of people which created Jean Jacques Rousseau in 18\(^{th}\) century, polemic about legal nature of electoral right exists. Today exists three different theories about legal nature of that right.\(^3\) According to first, in which basis is Rousseau's understanding of sovereignity of people, where individuals which are people keep part of sovereignity, electoral right is individual right which belongs to each individual. According to second theory, electoral right is public function, established with constitution for expressing national will. Third theory is compromise between first two and its electoral right is in the same time, individual right and public function.\(^4\)

1.1. E-democracy

E-democracy as a new term in political and legal life, relates to all processes which encourage electronic communication between voters and those who are elected on public functions. Creation of phenomenon of E-democracy is result of more intensive using of modern technologies in daily life of ordinary citizen, and also desire of governments of different states that will usage of modern tools of communication raise participation of citizens in political life.\(^5\)

I think that e-democracy in 21st century will change political systems in a lot of developed states in order that will be broader participation of citizens in political life. In that reason institutes of direct democracy will be refreshed and politicians will be more controlled in their jobs, so corruption will diminish and ordinary citizens will have more chance to develop themselves and to be happier.

E-democracy is issue which was analyzed by professor Stephen Coleman. He gave first definition of e-democracy: „E-democracy is usage of new digital

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\(^{2}\) Ibid.

\(^{3}\) R. Marković, Ustavno pravo i političke institucije, Službeni glasnik, Beograd 1996, 272.

\(^{4}\) D. Šuput, 187.

\(^{5}\) Ibid., 188.
technologies for amelioration of democratic relations of government and those are governed, and amelioration of representatives and those who are represented."\(^6\)

More presiced definition of e-democracy was given by Steven Clift. He considers that e-democracy is usage of informatic and communicative technologies (ICT), and application of different strategies in development of that area, from „democratic sector“ which exist in space of political process which is going on in local communities, states, nations and on global level.\(^7\)

By his opinion „democratic sector“ contains several members of democratic processes: Government, Elected functioners, Medias, Political parties and interest groups, Institutions of civil society, International organisations, Citizens-voters.\(^8\)

So, it can be concluded that basic element of term e-democracy is implementation of modern technologies in democratic processes and relations. Beside that technical-technological element, exists social-political element of e-democracy which is seen in electronic participation. Electronic participation represents all possible ways how new technologies can be used in democratic processes, in order that politicians and public can be better connected in time which passes during two electoral cycles. Electronic participation considers all democratic processes which result by establishing and maintaining communication and dialogue between citizens, political parties and government.\(^9\)

According to document of British government called „In the Service of democracy“, there are four ways of electronic participation:

1. Implementation of surveys and collecting information from citizens. Example of this way of participation is online petitions implemented by Scottish parliament. There is also possibilty that about some topic which is discussed, can start online discussion on web page of parliament.\(^10\)

2. Dialogue between citizens and political representatives. Nowadays there is a lot of space for improving this dialogue using social networks, especially Facebook and Tweeter. Facebook enables creating groups which can be very well organised, and where ordinary citizens can follow how their representatives act on some important political issues. Tweeter enables quicker discussion of politicians and citizens, and also debate between people who don’t support the same political idea.

3. Dialogue between citizens and political parties. This dialogue can be better implemented via Facebook, especially because Facebook groups. It is interesting which status of that groups will be. I mean that Facebook groups


\(^8\) Ibid.

\(^9\) D. Šuput, 190.

can be opened and closed. So, in this sense it should expect that groups will be closed, mostly because political parties tend to gather all members and supporters in one place. It is very important that with social networks all people who support one political party can be connected in digital sense.

4. Dialogue between non-governmental organisation and interest groups. Also, this type of dialogue will be possible by social networks, especially via Tweeter, because this dialogue will be lead in ideological conflict.

So, it is necessary to enlight a little bit this division. E-democracy can’t exist without implementation of this four dialogues. But e-democracy can’t overcome all obstacles which are posed with system of representative democracy. For that reason, usage of social networks can be very important and relevant for creation possibilities of creating political system of direct democracy. So, direct democracy in digital era will be called digi democracy and it will be new type of political regime which will enable to any citizen in the world to participate in politics of its municipality, city, state, continent and world. But before that day comes, it is very important to develop e-democracy. In short term, e-democracy is capable by technical solutions which offer, to raise turnout of citizens on elections and to regain earlier interest of citizens for political processes.  

Electronic direct democracy (EDD), also known as direct digital democracy (DDD), is a form of direct democracy which utilizes telecommunications to facilitate public participation. Electronic direct democracy is sometimes referred to by other names, such as open source governance and collaborative governance. Entrance into the informatic society creates revolutionalchanges in all spheres of social life. Those changes are visible in democratization of process of making-decisions.

Development of informatic-communication technologies creates development of direct democracy.

EDD requires electronic voting or some way to register votes on issues electronically. As in any direct democracy, in an EDD, citizens would have the right to vote on legislation, author new legislation, and recall representatives (if any representatives are preserved).

Technology for supporting EDD has been researched and developed at the Florida Institute of Technology, where the technology is used with student’s organizations. Numerous other software development projects are underway, along with many supporting and related projects. Several of these projects are now collaborating on a cross-platform architecture, under the umbrella of the Metagovernment project.

EDD as a system is not fully implemented in a political government anywhere in the world, although several initiatives are currently forming. Ross Perot was a prominent advocate of EDD when he advocated “electronic town

\[ D. \ Šuput, 192. \]
halls” during his 1992 and 1996 presidential campaigns in the United States. Switzerland, already partially governed by direct democracy, is making progress towards such a system.

The first mainstream direct democracy party to be registered with any country’s electoral commission is the UK’s People’s Administration Direct Democracy party. The People’s Administration have developed and published the complete architecture for a legitimate reform to EDD. Established by musicians and political activists, the People’s Administration advocates using the web and telephone to enable the majority electorate to create, propose and vote upon all policy implementation. The People’s Administration’s blueprint has been published in various forms since 1998 and the People’s Administration is the first direct democracy party registered in a vote-able format anywhere in the world – making transition possible through evolution via election with legitimate majority support, instead of potentially through revolution via violence.

2. E-voting

E-voting is new phenomenon, which appeared at the end of 20st century. E-voting contains always combination of several methods for implementation of process of voting:

1. E-counting – it is used only for marking systems which electronic uses only during counting votes and not for other phases of process of voting.

2. Voting via electronic machines – it is necessary to have usage of machines for voting and counting after that. This method includes some important elements:

1) Touch screen systems – enable voters with touching of some part of screen where is option for which they want to vote. These systems are broadly implemented in The Netherlands, and they are tested experimentally in three municipalities in Great Britain.

2) Systems based on PC technology – enable voters to give vote with usage of machines which beside screen has keyboard and mouse. They are used in Brasil.

3) Static and mobile kiosks – inside these kiosks are installed PC systems or touch screen systems which enable voting.

All this three systems are named DRE (Direct Recording Electronic machines) systems. Beside that system exists RVEM system (Remote Voting by Electronic Means) which represents voting on distance by using which goes on by usage of electronic.\footnote{\textit{Ibid.}, 194.}
There are several technical solutions for implementing RVEM system:
1. Telephone voting
2. SMS voting
3. Internet voting
4. Interactive digital television (iDTV)

Basic problem which has to be solved by implementing of E-voting is weaker turnout of citizens on elections.\(^\text{13}\)

For appropriate implementation of e-democracy it is necessary to formulate some basic rights of voters, basic procedures of voting and basic standards for whole process. Committee of ministers of Council of Europe adopted recommendation on 30. September 2004. named „Legal, operative and technical standards for electronic voting” which was prepared by multidiscipline ad hoc group specialized for legal, operative and technical standards in a way with electronic voting.

This recommendation is split on three parts:
First part is related on legal standards and universal principles of freedom, equality, secrecy in relation of right of voting.
Second part is related on operative standards which are applied on all phases of electoral process.
Third part is related on technical requests in a way of possibility of access to voting, safety of voting and control of electoral process.

Recommendation is brought on basic idea that direct democracy will make it possible participation of all citizens on national, regional and local level in political processes. The objectives of the recommendations were:
1. To allow voting with seats away from the polling places,
2. Facilitating the participation in elections and referendums of all those who want to vote, particularly those who reside in abroad.
3. Providing access to the voting process to people with disabilities needs that can not be physically present at the polling stations.
4. Increasing voter turnout by allowing additional methods of voting,
5. Increasing the use of new technologies in order to develop democracy,
6. Reducing the total cost of elections and referendums,
7. More reliable and faster obtaining voting results,
8. Providing voters with better service because they can allow different ways of voting.

Legal standards recommended by the Council of Europe entitled „Legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting” are divided into legal principles and procedural issues. Legal principles outlined in this recommendation are:

\(^{13}\) Ibid., 196.
E-Democracy as a Precondition of Digidemocracy

1. Universal suffrage - voting interface of e-voting must be understandable and easily usable, and registration for e-voting shall not constitute an obstacle for voters, e-voting must be designed so that as much as possible to vote of persons with special needs, except eBallot a distance that is universally available, other forms of e-voting should they represent only an additional option for voters.

2. Suffrage in the framework of an election or referendum, a voter will be prevented from voting more than once using the electronic ballot box and power will only vote if not previously voted, the voter will be unable to vote more times KORSTEC different ways of voting, each vote given by electronic means shall be counted only once, at polling stations where used eBallot and usually vote at the same time being enlisted safe and reliable the method of determining the exact number of total votes.

3. Freedom of voting - e-voting organization shall be provided free the formation and expression of the will of the voters, the voters will be able to change their choice during e-voting before finally casting their vote, e-voting system will not permit any manipulative influence voters during voting, e-system voting must clearly show that the voter voted successfully and that the whole voting procedure is completed successfully, and email system will prevent the change will when voters have already voted.

4. Secrecy of voting - e-voting will be organized so that even where stage voting will not compromise the secrecy of voting, e-voting system shall guarantee that votes in the electronic ballot boxes remain anonymous and that it is not possible to reconstruct a link between the vote and the voter, e-voting system will be designed so that the result of the vote results in any electronic ballot box can not connect with other voters, and will be taken all measures necessary to ensure that information required during electronic processing can not be used to violate the secrecy of voting).

Procedural issues from these recommendations should provide:

1. Transparency - being undertaken all necessary measures to voters to understand the e-voting system and to have confidence in the system, information about the functioning of e-voting systems must be publicly available, voters must have the opportunity to practice a new method of e-voting before.

2. Verification of the results - with the components of electronic voting will be to inform the competent electoral authorities for inspection and certification before as an electronic voting system starts to work, and in appropriate intervals, and especially if there are some changes in the system.

3. Independently body, appointed by the electoral authorities, shall verify that the electronic system for voting is working properly and whether it has taken all necessary security measures.

4. Reliability and security of e-voting will take all necessary steps to avoid the possibility of fraud or unauthorized intervention affecting the system.
5. During the entire process of voting, e-voting system shall contain measures necessary for continuous operation of e-voting systems regardless of failures and attacks on the system, before commencing the electronic voting. Competent electoral authority shall satisfy itself that the e-voting system, an original and working properly.

6. Only a person appointed by the electoral authority shall have access to the central infrastructure, server and data source. Critical technical activities shall be performed by teams of at least two people, team composition will be changed out regular, and whenever is possible.

3. Advantages of E-voting

In life there are several advantages of e-voting such as:

1. Creation of better conditions for realization of right to vote as fundamental political right. It is easier for sick people to vote from hospitals, students from dormitories...

2. Improvement of conditions for realization of right to vote of persons who have some kind of invalidity. For example, blind people could vote by telephone for voting, which will enable to give a vote without help and presence of some other person.


5. Reducing of costs preparation and implementation elections. E-voting doesn’t request a lot of people to take care about electing box

4. Conclusion

As far as I managed to enlight some perspectives of e-democracy, it is obvious that this is future of social sciences. But somehow, there are various questions, such as security of voting. It is possible to solve it with prescribing publicity of voting as a constitutional category in every state. For appropriate implementation of e-democracy it is essential to have fulfillment of some conditions. They are: protection of fundamental democratic values, possibility of choosing various techniques of voting, decentralization of administration and strategy of implementation e-voting from perspective of education for implementation of modern technical equipment.

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But, nevertheless, e-democracy has to be only first step in process of conquering freedom for citizens. As I mentioned, digidemocracy is political regime, which will be future for humanity. Informatics’ revolution has to make an influence in social sciences. For that reason, achievements of technology and specially achievements of social networks has to be an impact for better political regime, which all citizens will have right to express their believes, and also to have power to control elected representatives with imperatival mandate. Only with refreshing institutes of direct democracy and principle of unity of power, people will feel real freedom. Influences of political parties will diminish and politics will become free, open and public for all citizens. It will be similar like political regime in Ancient Athens. With establishment of that regime, conflicts between people will disappear and love and humanity will govern. Until that day comes, all progressive people are obliged for realization of that aims, with no excuse. Their struggle will be leading force for future generations in order to live in a better world.

**Litterature:**

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E-DEMOKRATIJA
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Sažetak: U ovom radu, autor se bavi e-demokratijom kao toerijskim konceptom koji prethodi digidemokratiji. Posebna pažnja je data e-glasanju kao novom sistemu glasanja koji može da obezbedi više demokratskog pristupa nego što je to danas. Svet će se sigurno menjati u pravcu da više građani učestvuju u političkim odlukama što sva istraživanja pokazuju.

Ključne reči: E-demokratija, e-glasanje, digidemokratija