

**Rakhimov Sherzod Saidovich**  
**S.f.f.d. (PhD), associate professor**  
**Head of the Institute of Development of Vocational Education**  
**the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, tel: 94-653-96-25;**

## **THEORIES ON THE FORMATION OF ELECTRONIC DEMOCRACY**

### **ANNOTATION**

The article provides information on issues such as theoretical ideas about e-democracy, digital democracy, participation of citizens in socio-political processes, the essence of e-democracy, the role of information and communication technologies and online platforms in increasing the political activity of citizens, participation of citizens in socio-political processes.

**Key words and terms:** civil society, e-democracy, theoretical approaches, digital democracy, advantages of e-democracy, political-social processes, mass media.

## **ЭЛЕКТРОН ДЕМОКРАТИЯНИ ШАКЛЛАНТИРИШГА ОИД**

### **НАЗАРИЯЛАР**

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

Мақолада электрон демократияга оид бўлган назарий фикрлар, рақамли демократия, фуқароларнинг ижтимоий-сиёсий жараёнларда иштироки, электрон демократиянинг мазмун моҳияти, фуқароларнинг сиёсий фаоллигини оширишда ахборот коммуникацион технологиялар ҳамда онлайн платформаларнинг ўрни, фуқароларнинг ижтимоий-сиёсий жараёнлардаги иштироки каби масалалар тўғрисида маълумот берилган.

**Калит сўзлар ва атамалар:** фуқаролик жамияти, электрон демократия, назарий ёндашувлар, рақамли демократия, электрон демократия афзалликлари, сиёсий-ижтимоий жараёнлар, ОАВ.

## **ТЕОРИИ ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ ЭЛЕКТРОННОЙ ДЕМОКРАТИИ**

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

В статье представлена информация по таким вопросам, как теоретические представления об электронной демократии, цифровой демократии, участие граждан в общественно-политических процессах, сущность электронной демократии, роль информационно-коммуникационных технологий и онлайн-платформ в повышении политической активности граждан, участие граждан в общественно-политических процессах.

**Ключевые слова и термины:** гражданское общество, электронная демократия, теоретические подходы, цифровая демократия, преимущества

электронной демократии, политико-социальные процессы, средства массовой информации.

Theorists of e-democracy differ, but most believe that some of the traditional limits to citizenship in modern liberal-democratic politics—the existing problems, the lack of time, the shrinking community, and the lack of opportunities for policy discussion—can be overcome through new forms of online communication.

The formation of theories - A particular set of ideas lays the groundwork for e-democracy, both in theory and in practice. In the 1960s, a generation of political theorists, including Benjamin Barber, C.B. McPherson, and Carol Pateman, created an agenda for participatory democracy that continued into the 21st century.

In the 1980s, many sociologists and political scientists reexamined the concept of community. Some, such as Robert Bellah (an American sociologist) and his colleagues, have called for a new collective ethic because of the increasing individualism in American society. Others, such as Amitai Etzioni, advocated strong community ties based on family and community.

A final theoretical inspiration for e-democracy is Jürgen Habermas<sup>1</sup> concept of the public sphere. He said he wanted an idealized autonomous communication sphere where citizens could engage in free debate. The idea of citizens' knowledge being discussed in freely organized associations in civil society before being brought to the level of Government is reminiscent of the direct democracy of ancient Athens, but e-democracy updates this by focusing on how political discourse is mediated. The Internet emerges as a unique communication medium for providing multiple arenas for relatively spontaneous, flexible, and, above all, self-directed public debate.

Community networks first emerged in the 1970s, but proliferated in many liberal democracies in the 1990s as the cost of software, computers, and network equipment fell. Early networks, such as the Berkeley Community Memory Project

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<sup>1</sup>Jürgen Habermas, (born June 18, 1929, Düsseldorf, Germany), the most important German philosopher of the second half of the 20th century. A highly influential social and political thinker, Habermas is generally identified with the critical social theory developed from the 1920s by the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, also known as the Frankfurt School.

near San Francisco and the Santa Monica Community Electronic Network near Los Angeles, used basic technologies such as text-based bulletin boards, stores, community centers, libraries, e-mail, and shared terminals in public spaces. Most public networks are public-private schemes that combine three main features: a high-speed network offered to households for free or at a subsidized rate; some form of community technology center, often located in a public building; emphasis on creating content specific to the local community.

Community networks are based on the idea that by empowering ordinary people to shape the production of information about their neighborhoods online, virtual communities can improve geographic communities by creating new social ties and mutual trust, components of social capital.

**From community to politics** - Some e-democracy projects have attempted to link social media to wider political processes, independent of government, parties or interest groups. First among them was Minnesota E-Democracy (later E-Democracy.org), founded in 1994 and becoming one of the world's largest subnational political discussion forums.

In the early 21st century, there was a significant shift toward attempts to connect online networks to formal political processes. Central and local government bodies, as well as legislatures, are gradually experimenting with online policy discussions and citizen consultations. These initiatives sought to bridge the gap between informal online discussions among citizens and governance structures that provide an interface with "real" decision-making processes. The discursive turn in governance has already created non-internet ways of engaging citizens in policymaking, such as citizen judges, people's panels, local policy forums, focus groups, mini-referendums, and petitions. E-democracy projects generally follow two broad models: consultative and deliberative.

Consultative approaches emphasize bringing the views of citizens to the Government. It is assumed that information is a resource that can be used to improve policy and governance. Perhaps the best example of a consultative model is the US federal government's electronic rulemaking program. It is intended to allow interest

groups and individual citizens to comment as department and agency regulations are developed.

Deliberative models involve more complex, horizontal and multidirectional interactivity. The United Kingdom's online consultation forums were early in experimental attempts to integrate them directly into policy discussions. The UK Hansard Society has run several experiments since the late 1990s, including a flood management debate, a new forum on experiences of domestic violence in an interactive discussion with over 200 women, and an online evidence and discussion forum for the Dialogue Project in 2002. It was the first real attempt to integrate the establishment of an online forum with a parliamentary committee.

E-democracy has given rise to many theoretical debates. Nevertheless, its main themes are increasingly included in political practice. They are anchored in various national and local experiences using different forms of computer communication in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and other countries.<sup>2</sup>

**Advantages of e-democracy** - There are several advantages of implementing e-government which have been discussed in various literatures. Some of these benefits include: increased efficiency, reduced costs and savings; save time; Improving government relations with businesses and citizens; online use of services; openness and transparency, less bureaucracy and electronic participation.

**Disadvantages of e-Democracy** - Despite the several advantages gained from successful e-Government implementation, there are also endless disadvantages (Ndou, 2004). Some of these disadvantages are: Lack of Equity in Internet Access, Lack of Trust and Cybercrime, Hypersurveillance, False Sense of Transparency and Accountability, and Expensive Infrastructures.

According to the sources studied, it has been pointed out and shown that offering online services to governments can save a lot of costs and resources. At the same time, some shortcomings or difficulties arising in the introduction of electronic

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/social-democracy>

Government were also highlighted. Governments should take strong measures to protect e-government.<sup>3</sup>

**implementing e-democracy is:**

- the establishment of a democratic government that fully complies with its obligations to the person, rights and freedoms, as well as the principles that regulate them;

- increases the effectiveness of democratic institutions and democratic processes;

- preserves and increases citizens' confidence in democratic institutions, mass media and democratic processes;

- promotes, ensures and enhances transparency, accountability, responsiveness, participation, discussion, inclusion, accessibility and social cohesion;

- creates opportunities for meaningful and effective public discussion and participation, taking into account the needs and priorities of the population at all stages of the democratic process;

- takes into account the challenges, risks and obstacles to e-democracy and provides an assessment and development of measures and mechanisms to solve and overcome them, in particular through reliable risk assessment and risk management mechanisms;

- transparently facilitates and improves access, usability and interoperability by open source solutions and open standards;

- mutually regulates access to citizen-oriented rules and regulatory frameworks, including regulatory documents adopted by state authorities and management bodies.

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**The following enabling factors should be considered and adopted in the introduction and implementation of e-democracy**

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<sup>3</sup>International Journal of Marketing and Technology/- September 2015/ Volume 5, Issue 9. “Advantages and disadvantages of e-government implementation: literature ethunya”- Rosie Joseph - Department of Computer Science, Botswana International University of Science engineering and Technology, Palape, Botswana

<sup>4</sup> Electronic democracy (ye-democracy) - Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 18 February 2009 and explanatory memorandum. on page 10

- political will and leadership of the government and politicians;
- developed and active civil society;
- high level of trust and transparency;
- a strategy designed to maximize e-democracy online and offline promotion, awareness and adoption;
- qualitatively and quantitatively good participation in e-democracy processes;
- participation has an effect on the result;
- interested parties who can strive to understand and address the wishes and demands of all;
- political goals other than participation for the purpose of self-expression;
- access to and wide use of technologies for persons with special needs and living in less developed areas or remote areas (e-inclusion);
- effective cooperation between different interested parties;
- electronic tools that are user-friendly, transparent, compatible, differentiated and sustainably expandable;
- user-friendly, but reliable identity authentication when necessary;
- information on how citizens' opinion was used in decision-making (feedback request).<sup>5</sup>

E-democracy (or digital democracy) is at least a different entity from e-government, that is, when compared to the management and consultation models of e-government. There is no clear definition of digital democracy, the boundaries between e-democracy and e-government are clear enough. At the same time, theoretical approaches to digital democracy are also very diverse. In this regard, Lincoln is proposed by Dahlberg (2011, p. 857) to be classified into four different "positions".<sup>6</sup>

**The first position** is the basis for representing and aggregating individual instances in representative-type decision-making processes. These include many local

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<sup>5</sup> Electronic democracy (e-democracy) - Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 18 February 2009 and explanatory memorandum. On page 31

<sup>6</sup> Emiliana DE BLASIO MICHELE SORICE LUISS Italy University, "e-Democracy and Digital Activism: From Divergent Paths Toward a New Frame" International Journal of Communication 13(2019), 5715–5733-

experiences, civil and petition-based initiatives (such as Amnesty International, Avaaz.org, Move On, etc.) and institutional initiatives of e-democracy, in particular, e-voting technologies, etc. to collect detailed information from public opinion. The same democratic ideal is here the sum of individual wills. Digital media are tools to enhance the communication of individual entities. However, this position has an impetus to reach cyber-libertarian positions.

**The second position** - controversial - is the consensus in digital media. Based on the procedures of discussion, it is expressed and the conscious use of communication tools in the Habermasian view of the social sphere.

**A third position** sees digital media as a site of conflict rather than as a tool for the individual. In fact, (Dahlberg 2011) calls and believes that the opposite public position is structural to the dynamics of inclusion. Conflict and social opposition guarantee the existence of a critical social sphere.

**the fourth position** - digital networks become a means of social democratization. Conquering Hegemony In this position, social protest through digital media, including transnational social movements, serves as a key element.

In the process of democratization of today's society, the role of electronic democracy is felt, which leads to important socio-political changes in the life of society members.