

Towards a Learning Democracy – vision outline

Why we need democracy to be a learning process – and how we will make it happen.

Now is the time – when catastrophes and crises make the consequences of human actions and the complexity of relationships clear to us; when our democracy is under huge pressure both internally and externally; when in many places people are increasingly separated from political institutions (politics) – now is the time to make trend-setting decisions and to choose between real alternatives; now is the time to put the self-understanding of being a **Learning Democracy** on the political agenda, to make it part of our awareness and our programs and to make it a leading theme in the media and in conversations. Fatalism, mistrust, and fear, which can lead to extremism and a turning away from democracy and freedom – all of this is gaining ground and we have to counter it with reasoned confidence: the certainty that we can do much, much better!

We can do much, much better!

We can do better because we will be able to adjust our social coexistence to new requirements and expectations. This we can only do together: it's about joint learning; every person and institution can participate with their respective strengths and concerns for the success of a democratic society – in a coproduction of common good.

Democracy as a learning process will work like successful businesses in our economy: as a learning organisation. "Employees, suppliers, and customers" constantly think together about better ways to get better results. This shared learning will be facilitated by experts in the field of development of organisations, personnel and production. If we are able to build strong companies through good procedures and smart leadership – why not our politics? Why do we not develop our democracy, our common good, in the same obvious way?

For this to happen we need developers of organisations and personnel for democracy or simply: **Democracy Developers!** They need a public mandate and will improve the political cooperation for better coproducing the common good – cooperation not only between politicians, administration and citizens, but also between parties and parliamentary groups, government agencies and organizations, businesses and unions, initiatives and NGOs, media and opinion makers, opinion leaders in education, religion, culture and other areas. Democracy developers take on key roles in a Learning Democracy and thus have to be well educated and trained, coached and assisted.

We need an Academy for Democracy – a School for Democracy Developers.

For this aim we are founding an **Academy for Democracy** in which we will develop the tools needed; we will also train and support the people to use these tools. The school will be developed in close cooperation with important political institutions of our country. It will transcend party affiliations and will be committed to the free and democratic constitution. 40 years after Willy Brandt we do not only want to "dare more democracy" – with the help of professional democracy developers we can actually do it!

We stand but at the beginning of a miracle of co-productivity, if we manage to connect the potential of more than 80 million people and 5 million organisations in Germany for the common and sustainable good and to make our democracy fit and resilient for the 21st century. **We can do much, much better – we can do it together!**

For this aim we initiate the **Offensive Lernende Demokratie**. We invite you to join in! You can take part as a patron and/or a member of the non-profit **Kompetenzgenossenschaft Lernende Demokratie**.

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