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## About Mehr Demokratie

Mehr Demokratie was founded in Bonn in 1988 by a group of activists. Today we have 12 regional (federal state) associations and around 5,000 members and sponsors – making Mehr Demokratie the largest non-party citizens' organisation for direct democracy in the European Union. We campaign for:

- the introduction of national referendums in Germany (they exist so far only at the state [Bundesland] and local levels)
- fair rules for citizens' initiatives in the federal states and local authorities
- other democratic and parliamentary reforms, including up-to-date electoral procedures
- freedom of information
- the democratisation of the European Union

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## Our vision

Our vision: a vibrant democracy. We want to see a political culture which promotes dialogue and participation.

- Citizens' initiatives and referendums, and other forms of participation, encourage citizens to become involved in shaping political policy.
- Mehr Demokratie remains politically neutral i.e. we express a view only on procedural questions of democracy – not on specific policies.
- Our overriding goal is to try to ensure that it is the citizens themselves who make the decisions on the major issues.

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## How we work

We campaign in a variety of different ways for direct democracy at all political levels.

- Our work is carried out by a core team of professionals backed up by hundreds of volunteers.
- Our Board of Trustees – which has a complement of more than 50 people from a wide range of backgrounds in academia, the arts, the economy and politics – provides advisory support for the organisation in its work.
- Our work is financed through donations and membership fees. We receive no public funding. This guarantees our independence.

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## Activities on international level

Since 2003, Mehr Demokratie has been active also at the EU level, initially campaigning for direct democracy in general and for referendums on the Constitutional Treaty in particular.

- Our campaigning work played a significant role in ensuring that the European Citizens' Initiative was included in the Constitutional Treaty, and that a referendum on the Treaty was held in Holland.
- Our goal is a European Union whose democratic form is shaped and controlled to a much greater degree by the citizens than is presently the case.