

2021 International Democracy Days

November 11–12, 2021 Umeå & Skellefteå, Sweden

Global democracy at risk: What are the local ways forward?

Welcome to join the conversations!

Hosted by Umeå University,
Skellefteå Municipality,
Swiss Embassy in Sweden and
European Democracy Foundation



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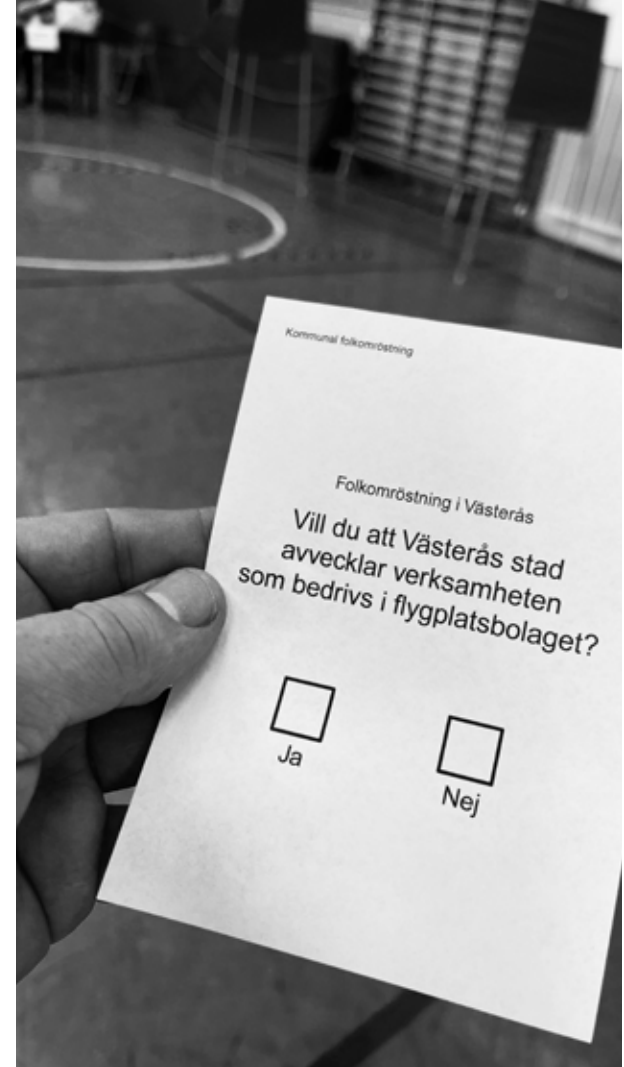
One hundred years ago, universal suffrage had its first major breakthrough in many countries, including Sweden. Today, people power remains very much contested, and at risk, from the rise of populists and the enduring power of elitists. What practical steps will help us guard against threats to democracy? What is the true state of democracy today, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally? What innovations are emerging that might democratize, and defend, our democracies?

At the 2021 International Democracy Days – hosted and co-organized by Umeå University, the City of Skellefteå, the Swiss Embassy in Sweden and the European Democracy Foundation – we will assess



the Global State of Democracy and how local communities and cities can become engines of democratization worldwide. The North of Sweden, where this onsite conference takes place, is one of the most dynamic regions in Europe, with green energy and industrial developments that protect the climate and attract people from all over the world.

We look forward to discuss big dreams, and specific implementations, in the two cities and multiple venues hosting these International Democracy Days.



Umeå University, Municipality of Skellefteå, Swiss Embassy in Sweden, European Democracy Foundation, Campus Skellefteå, Demokratiåret, UPF Umeå, Nordpol, International IDEA, V-Dem, Politforum Käfigturm, Demokratigaraget, SKR, Democracy Fitness.



DAY 1

November 11

Venue: Ljussgården
Läraryttingshuset
Universitetstorget 4
Umeå Universitet, Umeå

Global Democracy at Risk – Lunch Hearing

How Do We Meet The Global Challenges To Democracy?

11.30–12.00 The Global State of Democracy A new worldwide assessment introduced and presented by Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary General at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).



Kevin
Casas-Zamora

12.00–13.00 Hearing hosted by Umeå Association of International Affairs and Nordpol.

Panelists include Kevin Casas-Zamora (International IDEA), Giada Gianola (University of Bern) and Kelly Morrison (Varieties of Democracy) and Nils Seye-Larsen (Umeå Kommun). Moderator: Oliver Björkman, Utrikespolitiska föreningen i Umeå.



Giada
Gianola



Kelly
Morrison



Nils
Seye-Larsen

13.00–14.15 Lunch

In-Depth Afternoon Conference Moderated by Bruno Kaufmann, Global Democracy Correspondent, Swiss Broadcasting Company

21th Century Democracy Prospects: Assessments and Opportunities



Hans
Adolfsson

14.00 Opening remarks by Umeå University Vice Chancellor Hans Adolfsson. Keynote by Karlstad University Professor Malin Rönnblom “Can democracy survive neoliberal forms of governing?”



Malin
Rönnblom

14.30–15.30 Part One: The Exciting World of Modern Democracy. Inputs by and conversation with political scientists Anders Lidström (on the “Swedish Experiences”) of Umeå University, and Giada Gianola (on the “Swiss Experiences”) of Bern University.



Anders
Lidström

15.30 Democracy Fitness Democracy is not something that just is – we have to do, practice and train democracy. A coalition of danish democracy activists and the Democracy Garage Association, have identified a number of democracy muscles and developed training programs, that will make us more fit to participate in democracy. Each muscle only takes 30 minutes to activate – and when we are done, you will always remember that you and others have this muscle in your body! Today we are going to train the *deep listening* muscle. With Zakia Elvang.



Zakia
Elvang

16.00–17.00 Part Two: Living Democracy in Umeå, Västerbotten, Sapmi and Sweden Panel discussion with Camilla Sandström, professor, Political Science Department at Umeå University, Jessika Wide, Associate professor at Umeå University and Erik-Oscar Oscarsson, Chairman for the Commission on Culture at the Sami Parliament.

Reception introduced and offered by Francois Voeffray-Peyro, Swiss Ambassador to Sweden, featuring a brief description of the exhibition “*Den Moderna Direkta Demokratin – schweiziska impulser, svenska möjligheter, globala utmaningar*”.

Work still in progress after hundred years.



Camilla Sandström



Jessika Wide



Eric-Oscar Oscarsson



Francois Voeffray-Peyro

DAY 2 November 12

**Venue: Sara Kulturhus
Torggatan 9
Skellefteå**

Morning: Transfer by Bus from Umeå to Skellefteå. Departure at 07.30 from Clarion Uman Hotel (07.20 from University).

Developing the Democracy City of the Future

09.30–10.00 Arrival and coffee

10.00–10.15 How Do We Develop the Democracy City?

Welcome remarks by Umeå University Deputy Vice Chancellor Dieter Müller.

Democracy promotion in the sports movement and other similar non-profit sectors. Jonny Hjelm, Professor of History at Umeå University.

10.15–10.40 Sara Lidman – Sparkling and Exasperating.

A Remembrance. Ellenor Lindgren, cultural worker and performing artist in Skellefteå with extensive knowledge of Sara Lidman who was one of Västerbotten’s foremost writers and activists. Ellenor shares the speeches and knowledge of this important and creative thinker, whose name was given to the new cultural centre in which we are gathering.



Dieter Müller



Jonny Hjelm



Ellenor Lindgren



10.40–11.00 Jörn – A Creative Place in the Middle of the World! What happens when people get to tell their stories? What happens when people use art as a means of expression? What happens when there is someone listening? Ann-Sofi Burström is a proud resident of the Jörn village (50 km NW of Skellefteå) who is committed to the community and passionate about keeping it alive. Rose-Marie Lindfors is a cultural worker with a strong commitment to people's opportunities to express themselves and be heard.



Ann-Sofi
Burström



Rose-Marie
Lindfors

11.00–11.15 Break

11.15–12.45 Global Cities as Engines for Democratization Across the world, cities have become engines of democratic participatory innovation and resilience. In this session, we assess global and national developments on local democratizations and share practical experiences from Helsinki, Copenhagen, and Bern. Moderated by Bruno Kaufmann. Inputs and conversation with Stefanie Schüpbach (Director of Bern Democracy Center), Zakia Elvang (Director of the Copenhagen Demokratigarage), Kelly Morrison (Varieties of Democracy at Gothenburg University) and Anders Nordh (Swedish Association on Municipalities and Regions).



Bruno
Kaufmann



Stefanie
Schüpbach



Zakia
Elvang



Anders
Nordh

13.00 Lunch

13.30–15.00 Urban Planning at its Most Exciting and Democratic. Enar Nordvik, head of building permits in Skellefteå, talks about democracy in the planning and building permit process, with examples from the establishment of the battery factory, the cultural centre, and the new bridge. *Including a guided tour of the art exhibit Ditch. Dance by Sara-Vide Ericson. Guide: Johanna Ahnqvist.* <https://www.sarakulturhus.se/en/>

15.30 Bus Transfer back from Skellefteå from Sara Kulturhus.



Practical information

The 2021 International Democracy Days in Umeå and Skellefteå are an open and free on-site (no webstreaming) to everybody. However: pre-registration is essential due to limited capacity.

Registration:

For Day 1 and/or Day 2 with Bus transfer to Skellefteå: per.a.nilsson@umu.se

For Day 2 only without bus transfer: simplesignup.se/event/185433

The Democracy Days are mainly held in English but it is possible to comment in Swedish, German, French and Italian. For any other information on content please contact Bruno Kaufmann at:

bruno.kaufmann@europeandemocracy.foundation.

More information and documentation at:

internationaldemocracydays.online

<https://www.umu.se/en/events/>

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