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Does participation need political parties and representation?

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
Strömsborg, Stockholm ([map](#))
Wednesday, 26 April 2017 14:00-15:45

It is our pleasure to invite you to a public seminar on the future of political parties in an era of growing opportunities for citizen participation.

Today most citizens endorse democracy but expect much more than a periodic opportunity at the ballot box. These citizens have access to an expanding repertoire of mechanisms to express criticism and influence political processes. These mechanisms can be participatory, deliberative or direct. What does this mean for political parties?

The seminar will seek forward looking answers to following pertinent questions of our time:

- Is the future of democracy more participatory? If so, what does this mean for traditional political parties, and how can they capitalize on these opportunities to empower their members and voters?
- How are governments strengthening participatory mechanisms to make them more accessible and citizen-friendly?
- How can new political leaders use these mechanisms to enrich rather than to undermine democratic values and representative institutions?

The panel will offer different perspectives –politicians, activists, academia- from Switzerland, United Kingdom and Sweden:

Christian Holm Barenfeld (Sweden, Member of Parliament, The Moderate Party)

Benedict Hugosson (Sweden, Director of Voter Contact and Engagement, Swedish Social Democrats)

Bruno Kaufmann (Switzerland, Chairperson, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe and co-President of Global Forum on Direct Democracy)

Pippa Norris (United Kingdom, McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and member of the Board of Advisors, International IDEA)

Moderator: **Keboitse Machangana** (Director-Global Programme, International IDEA)

Please RSVP no later than 16:00 on 24 April 2017 by email to:

events@idea.int

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