

25+ Shortcomings of Current Models of Democracy

Identified by more than 1000 Youth across the Globe
investing more than 4,000 person hours in
Structured Democratic Dialogues



UNDEF  The United Nations
Democracy Fund

www.reinventdemocracy.info

Copyright © 2017 Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.



Authors: **Yiannis Laouris & 105 others of the dialogues listed in page 4**

Editors: **Kevin Dye & Jordan Kent**

Project Graphics Design: **Koullis Ioannou**

Design Manager: **Acpa Ksidea**

Video Production: **Leslie Timngum Ngam**

25+ Shortcomings of Current Models of Democracy

Identified by more than 1000 Youth across the Globe investing more than 4,000 person hours in Structured Democratic Dialogues

Yiannis Laouris & 105 others

Copyright © 2017 Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.

All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-9925-554-14-0

The above face-to-face deliberations, which lasted more than 4,000 person hours were implemented using the methodology of Structured Democratic Dialogue.

Co-Authors of this report

Project and Support Staff

Yiannis Laouris: Project Director, Senior Facilitator
Maria Georgiou: Project Coordinator, Certified SDD co-Facilitator
Roxana Gardenas: Certified Senior SDD Facilitator
Kevin Dye: SDD Senior International Expert, Certified Senior SDD Facilitator, Data Analyst, Editor
Elena Aristodemou: Editor
Jordan Kent: Data Analyst and Editor
Andreas Andreou: Assistant Project Coordinator
Katerina Fotiou: Assistant Project Coordinator, Certified SDD co-Facilitator, Technology Expert
Nuri Silay: Assistant Project Coordinator
Susan Handa: Assistant Project Coordinator
Penina Lam: Local Liaison
Natasa Loizou: Assistant Project Coordinator, Local Liaison
Eleni Philippou: Technology Expert, Certified SDD co-Facilitator
Aliko Economidou: Certified SDD co-Facilitator and Assistant Project Coordinator
Nicolina Karaolia: Certified SDD co-Facilitator
Olivia Constantinou: Candidate SDD co-Facilitator
Koullis Ioannou: Project Graphics Design
Acpa Ksidea: Design Manager, Candidate SDD co-Facilitator
Leslie Timngum Ngam: Video Production
Andreas Shoshilos: Expert Advisor

Participants

European Region:

Viktoria Pomazova
Matus Balaz
Vilma querama
Vincent Chauvet
Nuri Silay
Anna Routova
Joanna Annion
Kerfala Fofana
Anastasiia Klymentenko
Nikitas Mahmudis
Nikola Pribisova
Aleksandra Ignatoski
Jagoda Banach
Xhoni Gero
Agnija Kazusa
Jakub Gornicki
Nikola Kostic
Stepan Kment
Ion Muschei

African Region:

Apollo Murigi
Georgina Mabezere
Rahab Wairimu
Paul Kasoma
Abiba Abdallah
Gideon Ayodo
Daniel Ehagi
James Gondwe
Melvis Lu-uh Kimbi
Appiah Evelyn Opoku
Eleanor Opiyo
Abel Mavura
Abdulkarim Taraja
John Oyaro
Bill Graham Osei Akome
Jedidah Millapo

MENA Region:

Fatma Younis
Houda Halwani
Bengisu Colak
Ivi Solomou
Eslam Elhossien
Ano Surmava
Karim Chalhoub
Abedalrahman ALzghoul
Deloris Saad
Ayman Abu Aishe
Incinur Yilgin
Hassan Mahareeq
Takwa Makhlof
Hazim Musleh
Eytan Shafir
Omar El menofy
Hoda Touma
Karim Chalhoub
R.M.
N.B

American Region:

Carolina Beron
Emil Rodriguez
Lina María Jaramillo Rojas
Maria Angela Regis
Francisco Villatore
Mariano Schmidt
Marcos David Dominguez
Rodrigo Ivan Avalos
Ana Figueroa
Nicolas Muñoz Arango
Nicolas Jares
Mariana Rojas
Agustina Gricolo
Jairo Iván Matus Contrera

Australasian:

Afsaneh Seifinaji
Gayan Rajapaksha
Manasvi Sathish
Mannat Dhillon
Nabeela Iqbal
Omang Agarwal
Sakshi Sharma
Shadi Rouhshahbaz
Shagun Sharma
Shivam Aggarwal
Suraj Raj Pandey
Tamzid Sikder
Uzma Gul
Rafay Iqbal Ansari
Vinayak Rajsekhar
Ajnish Ghimire
Prachin Sharma Phuyal

Introduction

This document reports challenges to current systems of democracy identified by participants of face-to-face (plus one dialogue conducted virtually) Structured Democratic Dialogues (SDDs), which took place across the globe in the context of the “Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era” project funded by the UN Democracy Fund.

The summary data is based on the collective work of about 100 young leaders from more than 50 countries who have collaborated for a total of more than 4,000 person hours in face-to-face Structured Democratic Dialogues plus unaccounted number of person hours working individually. The participants were confronted with the following Triggering Question:

What are key shortcomings of our current systems of governance that could be improved through technology?

The methodology enabled the participants to explore influence relations between the identified shortcomings, thus gradually achieving consensus as to which of those shortcomings are root challenges. In other words, the most influential challenges were not chosen using “popular voting,” but through a structured methodology in which participants explored the influence relations between pairs of challenges. In this document only the summary results are provided.

In the next pages, the Influence MAPs and Video Walls from every Region are provided.

The final section describes how the Structured Democratic Dialogue Methodology engaged the participants in multiple rounds of voting in order to gradually reach consensus as to which factors are the ones with the greatest negative influence, and which are collectively considered as the key challenges that need to be addressed. The approach used to select these deep drivers and agree on the “winning” proposals for both the video selection and the “chapters” for the e-Book is superior to popular voting.

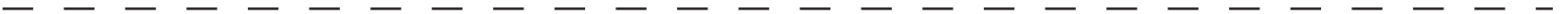
For more detailed data and also information regarding all related activities, the reader should visit:

<http://reinventdemocracy.info>

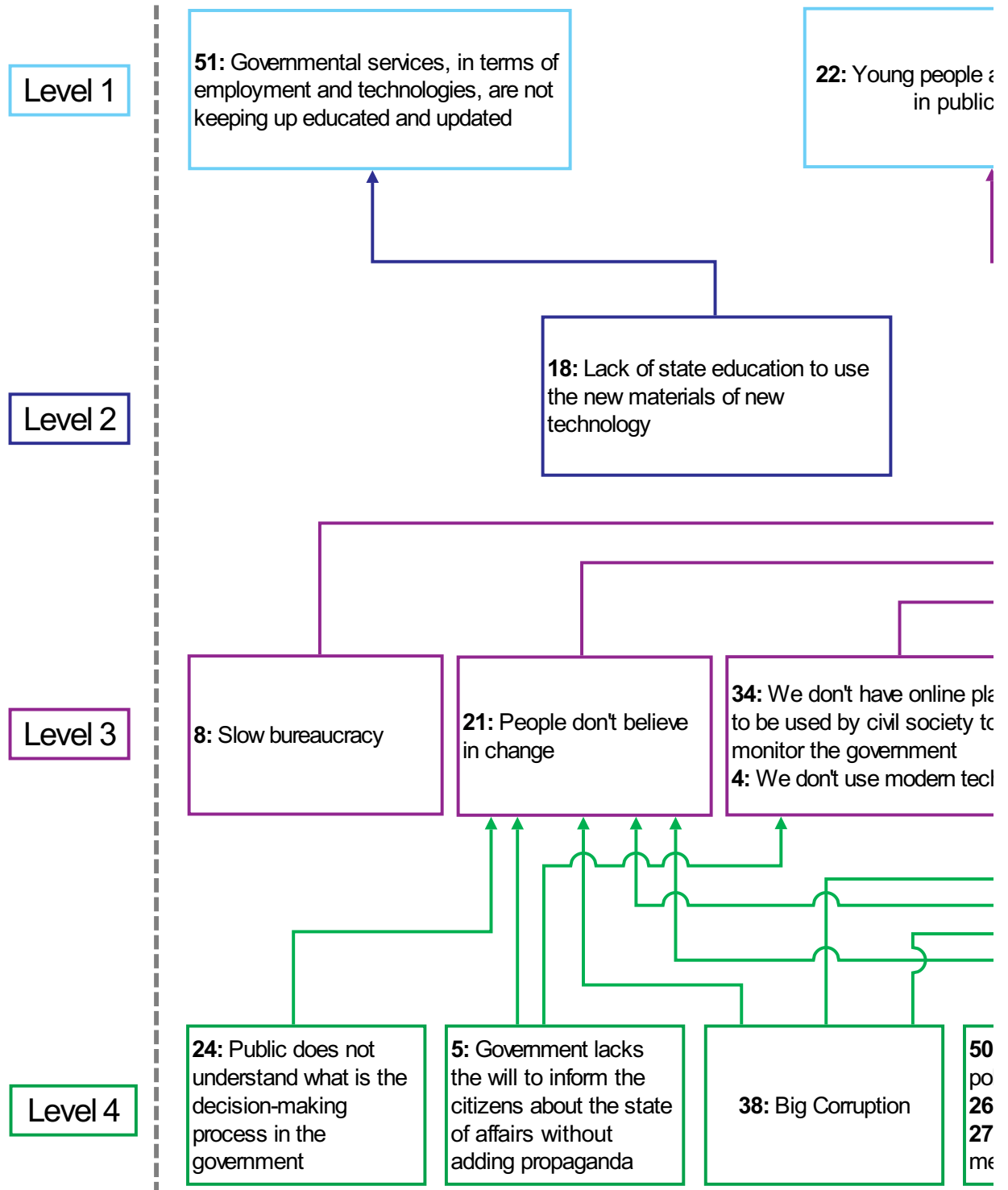
http://futureworlds.eu/wiki/Reinventing_Democracy

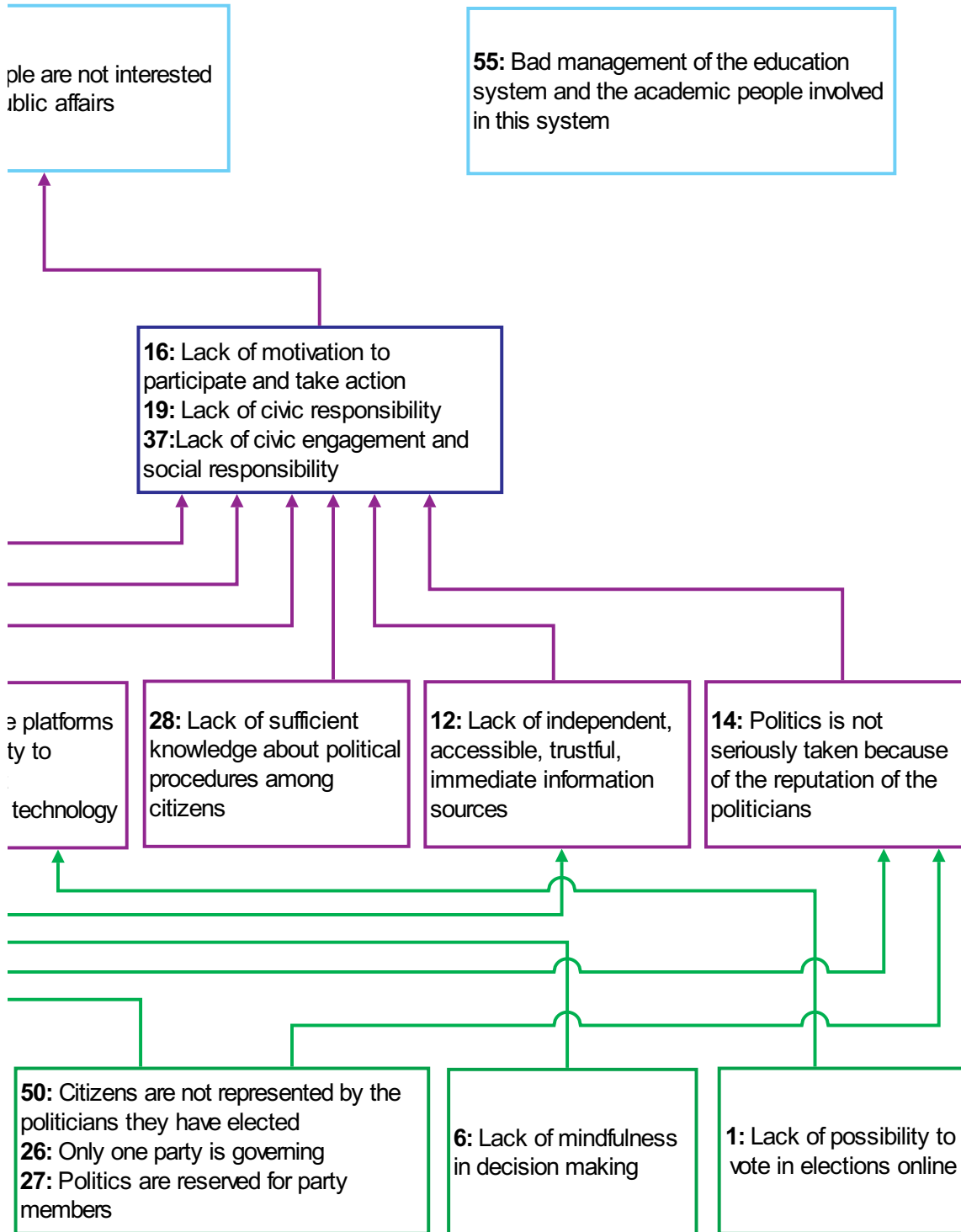
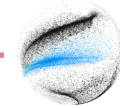
Download this and all other reports at:

http://reinventdemocracy.info/w/Reports_Depository



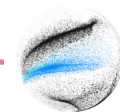
Influence MAP: European Region

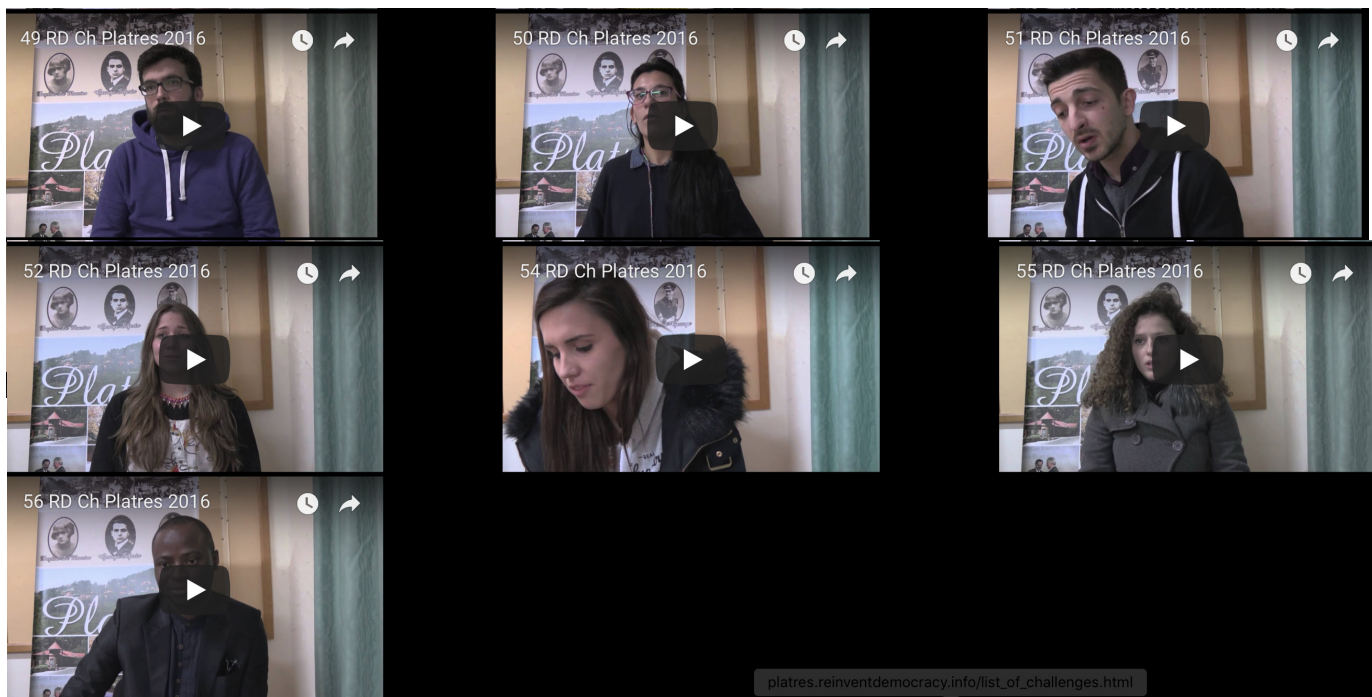




Video Wall: European Region







Below is a complete list of all proposals of shortcomings identified by the participants of the European Initiative during the face-to-face event, which took place at resort village Platres at Troodos mountains, (Cyprus) between the 8th and 12th February 2016. Links to the original video clip clarifications posted on Ideaprisim and on YouTube, as proposed by the participants during the event, are provided.

SDDP EU Challenge 2: Lack of new skills for citizens- like active positions and new initiatives
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xFhN3eQwa0>

SDDP EU Challenge 3: Citizens are not actively engaged in the democratic process
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgcWuaNgk7g>

SDDP EU Challenge 4: We don't use modern technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me6wikBsDiM>

SDDP EU Challenge 5: Government lacks the will to inform citizens about the state of affairs without adding propaganda
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjmjmYnEIVQ>

SDDP EU Challenge 6: Lack of mindfulness in decision making
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLLrUFSpBJM>

SDDP EU Challenge 7: Less educated people's votes are equal to more educated people's votes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqJ396VALPE>

SDDP EU Challenge 8: Slow Bureaucracy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5DaTFCrfdl>

SDDP EU Challenge 9: Lack of appropriate security concerning the inflow of immigrants
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5YW5JzJ2jQ>

SDDP EU Challenge 10: Lack of specific information and political

education
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ziuul_thP0

SDDP EU Challenge 11: Lack of legitimacy of political decisions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaT4fhuY3Ss>

SDDP EU Challenge 12: Lack of independent, accessible, trustful and immediate information sources
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4v06NeZIAk>

SDDP EU Challenge 13: Non-efficient decision making in terms of equality and results
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAfp9z25Kz4>

SDDP EU Challenge 14: Politics is not seriously taken because of the reputation of the politicians
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCsak_pyUwo

SDDP EU Challenge 16: Lack of motivation to participate and take action
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yze9dCiVTRw>

SDDP EU Challenge 17: Lack of control and information to people about food products entering the State and on those produced in the State
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxS6P2hwoZU>

SDDP EU Challenge 18: Lack of state education to use the new materials of new technology
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxxsL-_fkdl

SDDP EU Challenge 19: Lack of civic engagement and social responsibility
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wgZ5vuOSV8>

SDDP EU Challenge 20: Impossibility to include all stakeholders in discussions of public affairs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btEbYHaKLEk>

SDDP EU Challenge 21: People don't believe in change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYm4XujoYWA>

SDDP EU Challenge 22: Young people are not interested in public affairs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXZIMvNkoYk>

SDDP EU Challenge 23: Apathy of citizens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oS-4V9C7SZs>

SDDP EU Challenge 24: Public does not understand what is the decision making process in the government
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlfNhla-BRM>

SDDP EU Challenge 25: lack of creativity in governance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpqorQueueDg>

SDDP EU Challenge 26: Only one party is governing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVuy_ERVUaI

SDDP EU Challenge 27: Politics are reserved for party members
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeWpJsgBwZU>

SDDP EU Challenge 28: lack of sufficient knowledge about political procedures among citizens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btEbYHaKLEk>

SDDP EU Challenge 30: Bureaucracy governing instead of politicians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXTRzKtjA0>

SDDP EU Challenge 31: Lack of supervision on the functioning of the local public bodies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7WeXWIU2zc>

SDDP EU Challenge 33: Technology is mainly used by younger generation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lsgaSvduWQ>

SDDP EU Challenge 34: We don't have online platforms to be used by civil society to monitor the government
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWzGKhCx_QQ

SDDP EU Challenge 35: Not enough relevant information is being provided
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4v06NeZlAk>

SDDP EU Challenge 36: Not transparent and open diplomatic relationships and matter between politicians from different countries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axFkF1enH8c>

SDDP EU Challenge 37: Lack of civic engagement and social responsibility
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wgZ5vuOSV8>

SDDP EU Challenge 40: Citizens are too lazy to be interested in process in the state
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VniyYHtT4Go>

SDDP EU Challenge 41: Low election turn out
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0GUOr6SWHE>

SDDP EU Challenge 42: Fixed mindset of many people
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5ReO_IJ_Po

SDDP EU Challenge 43: Not enough participation both from the government and the citizens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaZtoezurOk>

SDDP EU Challenge 44: Lack of empowerment and inspiration in political expression
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOtlMk5UaP8>

SDDP EU Challenge 45: Close personal relationships on top political positions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTvExzEKv8>

SDDP EU Challenge 46: Shady background of decision making
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzJPwe82-Dc>

SDDP EU Challenge 47: Citizens are not aware of their civic duties
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DeAT-MEVuU>

SDDP EU Challenge 48: Lack of massive organisation and cooperation of citizens in order to make a change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s795KX09E0>

SDDP EU Challenge 49: Imperfect Representation of civil society by elected politicians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxUVDIdo1Tw>

SDDP EU Challenge 50: Citizens are not represented at all by the politicians they have elected
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXmZBzkoewl>

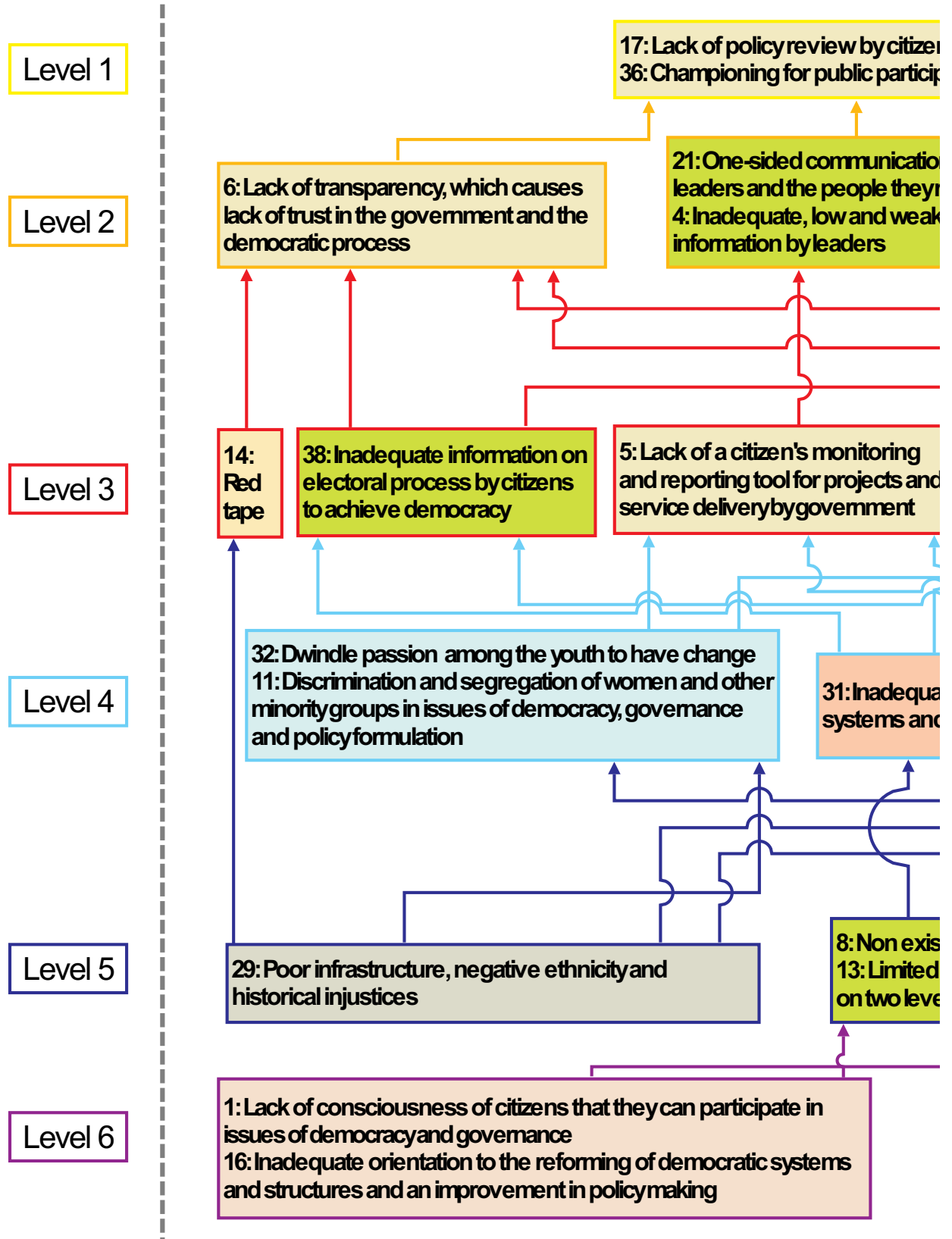
SDDP EU Challenge 52: Politics is problem of politicians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3NpL74zw2o>

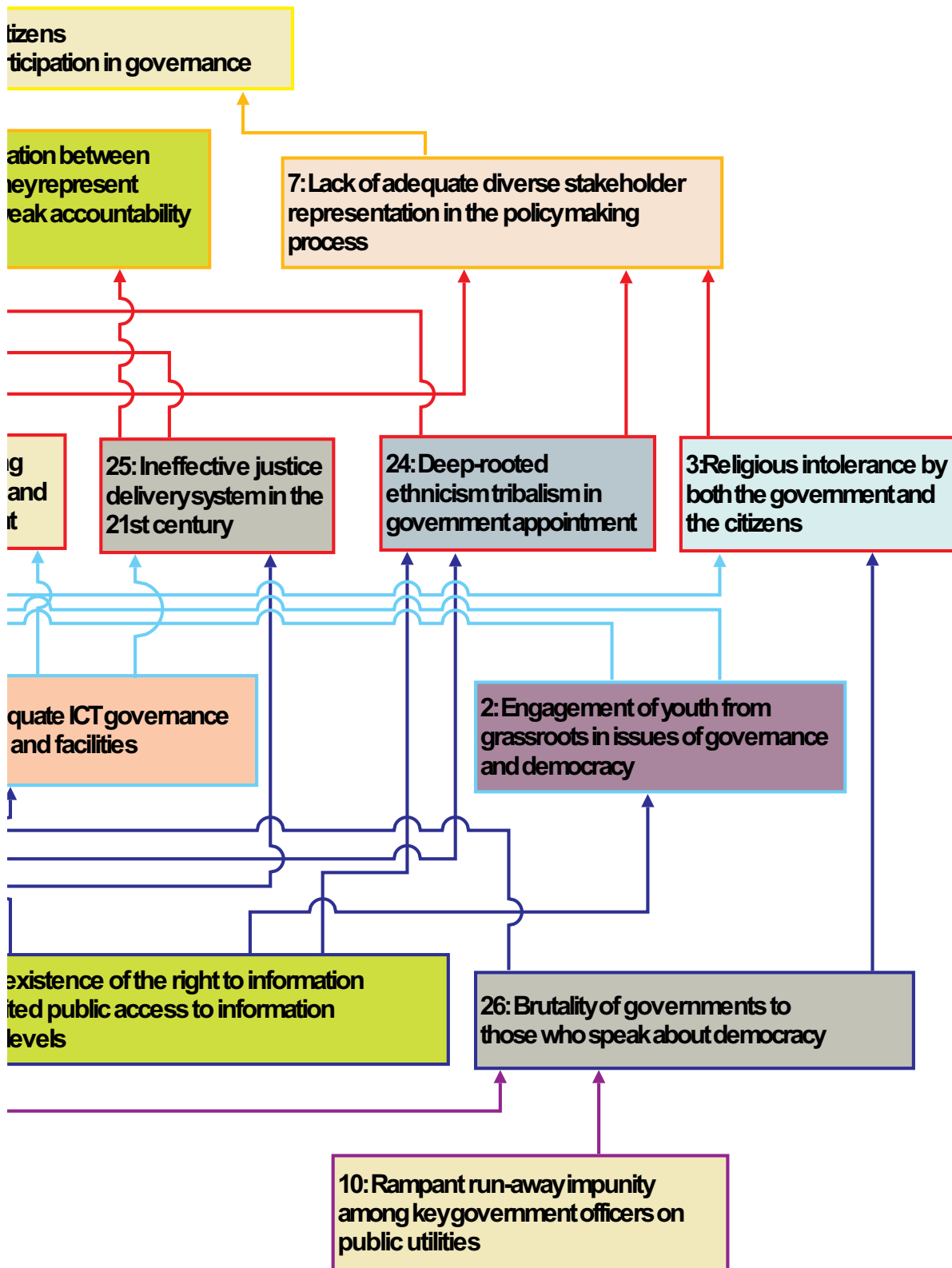
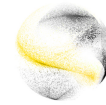
SDDP EU Challenge 54: Bad campaigns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OCpP8oXfwu>

SDDP EU Challenge 55: Bad management of education system and academic people involved in the system
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xjC1kb6Zlw>

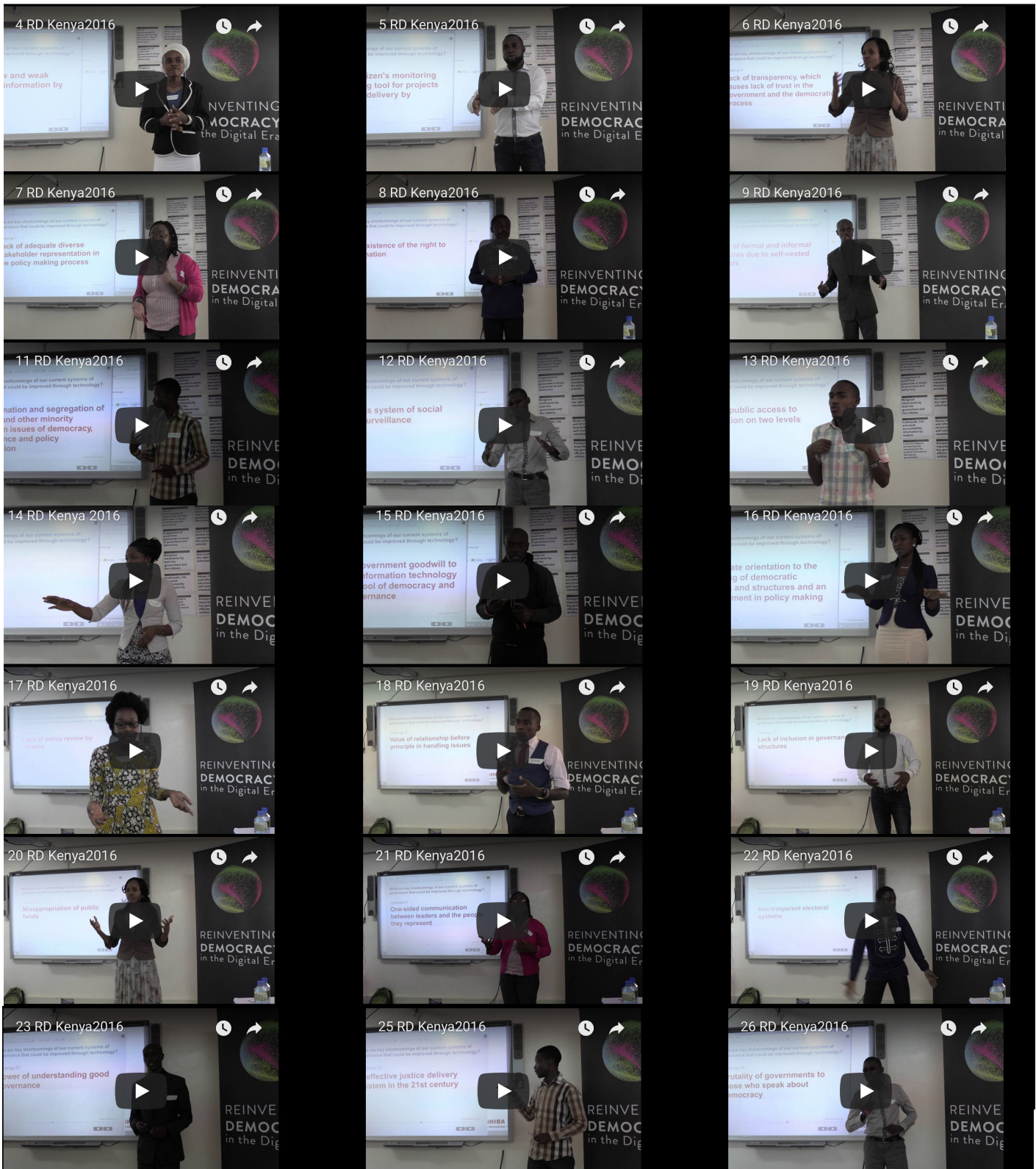
SDDP EU Challenge 56: Lack of national online platform for citizens to adopt to use of digital communications
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvCiP3zyfhY>

Influence MAP: African Region





Video Wall: African Region





Below is a complete list of all proposals of shortcomings identified by the participants of the African Initiative during the face-to-face even, which took place at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) at the Nacece Resource Center, Nairobi (Kenya) between the 9th and 13th of May 2016. Links to the original video clip clarifications posted on Ideaprisms and on YouTube, as proposed by the participants during the event, are provided.

SDDP AF Challenge 4: Inadequate, low and weak accountability information by leaders
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MEkpLdys48>

reporting tool for projects and services delivery by government
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UP8F5s4312Y>

SDDP AF Challenge 5: Lack of a citizen's monitoring and

SDDP AF Challenge 6: Lack of transparency, which causes lack of trust in the government and the democratic process

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8U2_uVzMeo

SDDP AF Challenge 7: Lack of adequate diverse stakeholder representation in the policy making process
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDc3lpL8Gnw>

SDDP AF Challenge 8: Non existence of the right to information
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihELn_a2YQI

SDDP AF Challenge 9: Non existence of the right to information
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5QbdVwjXoE>

SDDP AF Challenge 11: Discrimination and segregation of women and other minority groups in issues of democracy, governance and policy formation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOsMGJIZIXU>

SDDP AF Challenge 12: Infamous system of social media surveillance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLDlh52DQ9c>

SDDP AF Challenge 13: Limited public access to information on tow levels
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glQp_FHee28

SDDP AF Challenge 14: Red tape
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqSIaxWg7ek>

SDDP AF Challenge 15: Lack of government goodwill to support information technology as a key tool of democracy and good governance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjLZoHgsMKs>

SDDP AF Challenge 16: Inadequate orientation to the reforming of democratic systems and structures and improvement in policy making
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX_gMhsoqyU

SDDP AF Challenge 17: Lack of politics review by citizens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceaLjVcAhas>

SDDP AF Challenge 18: Value of relationship before principle in handling issues
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xY_WxLs3Ank

SDDP AF Challenge 19: lack of inclusion in governance structures
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWHe22yt7W0>

SDDP AF Challenge 20: Misappropriation of public funds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbBgx1UVnV0>

SDDP AF Challenge 21: One-sided communication between leaders and the people they represent

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js3SymtJ_uA

SDDP AF Challenge 22: Non-transparent electoral systems
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkilstHX4yM>

SDDP AF Challenge 23: Power of understanding good governance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhFiJpwy2lQ>

SDDP AF Challenge 25: Ineffective justice delivery system in the 21st century
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZRxfX87pa8>

SDDP AF Challenge 26: Brutality of government to those who speak about democracy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNP39jeRgJ0>

SDDP AF Challenge 27: Disregard of traditional terrorism as a political strategic choice
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INuTliibKDU>

SDDP AF Challenge 28: Politicalisation of governance
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0n3o_f2Jns

SDDP AF Challenge 29: Poor infrastructure, negative ethnicity and historical injustices
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUtI50_4p50

SDDP AF Challenge 30: Failure to acknowledge the need for a technological fix for democracy and governance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgh5bmt-iBQ>

SDDP AF Challenge 31: Inadequate ICT governance systems and facilities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxsQO71e0xQ>

SDDP AF Challenge 32: Dwindle passion among youth to have change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHI9BQD3gmo>

SDDP AF Challenge 34: Irresponsibility of media houses
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qENvzBGOK0>

SDDP AF Challenge 35: The timid souls
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mon9jS5TYGw>

SDDP AF Challenge 37: Media censorship and journalists harassment by government
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvX0wg5S2U>

SDDP AF Challenge 38: Inadequate information on electoral process by citizens to achieve democracy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvsCSE6Md8Q>

SDDP AF Challenge 39: lack of trust of government institution due to poor governance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2SSRpjc_ss

SDDP AF Challenge 40: Unrestrained cartels that hinder democratic processes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha1qzmz8zHf4>

SDDP AF Challenge 41: Low self esteem and self defeatist approach to governance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drYUOxAIW50>

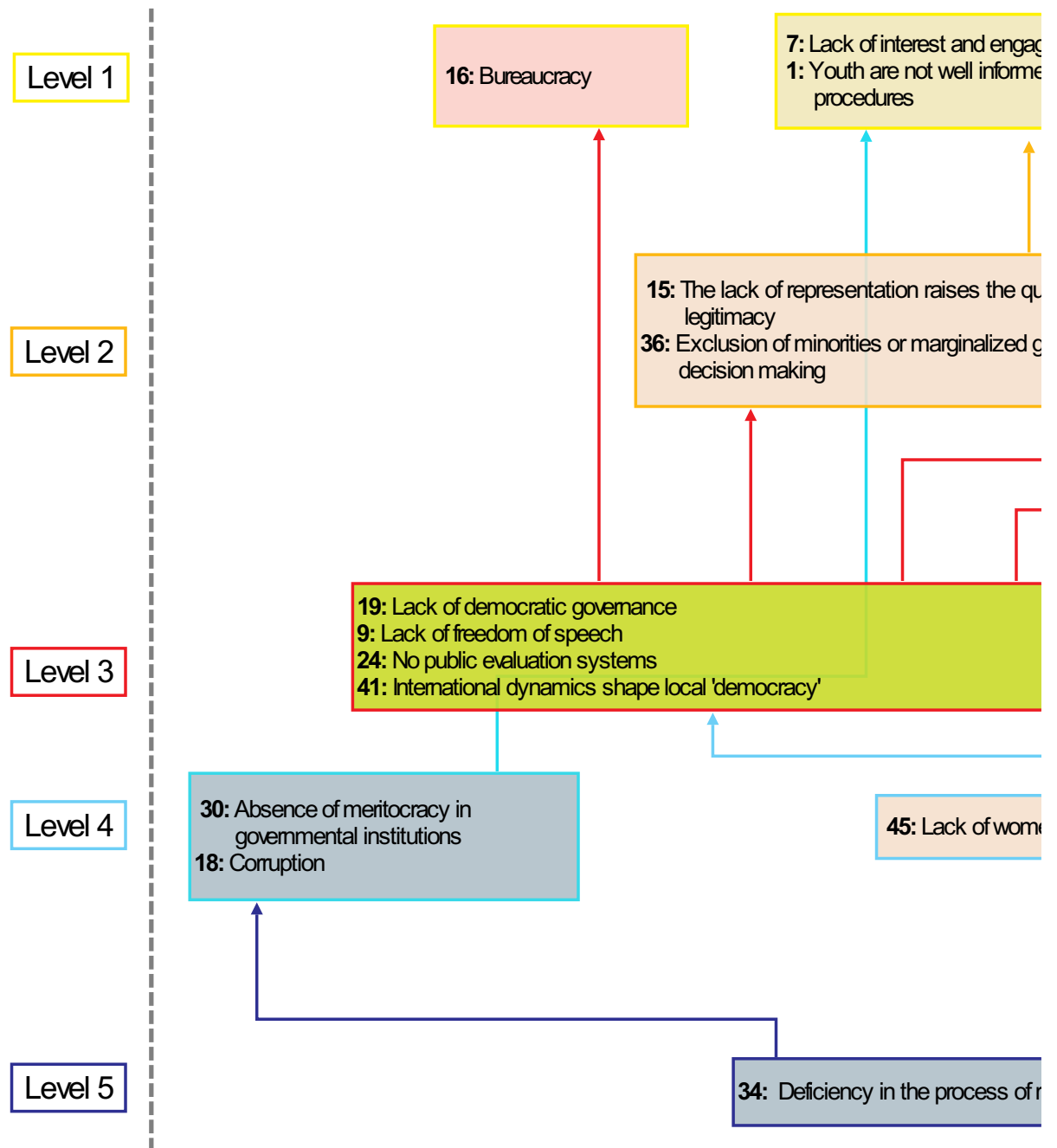
SDDP AF Challenge 42: Less information flow to the public on governance and democracy

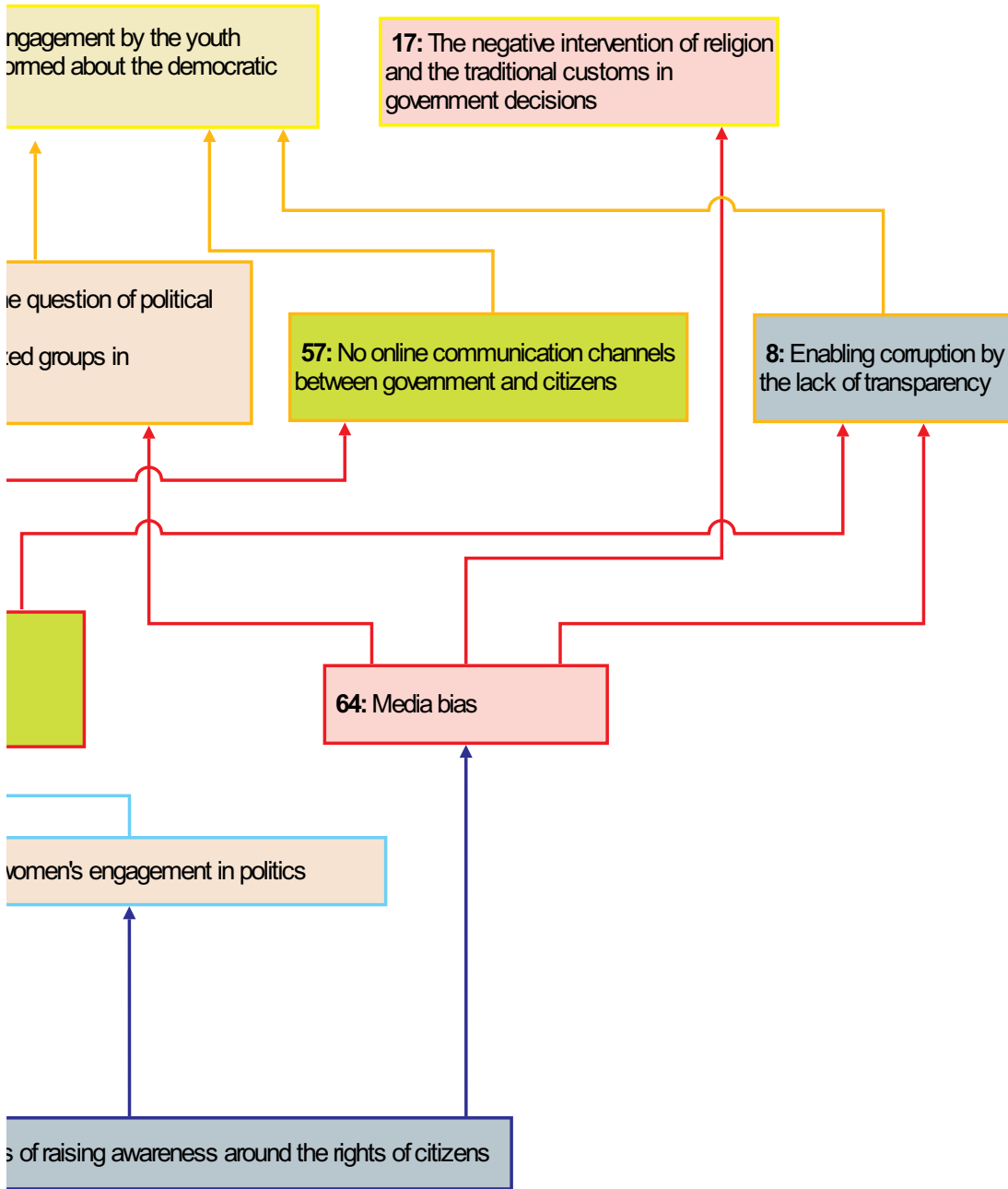
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heLfyFwYCBw>

SDDP AF Challenge 43: The love for political power to the detriment of effective implementation of democratic policies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdIMlI6P9ek>

Influence MAP: Mena Region





Video Wall: MENA Region





25+ Shortcomings to Democracy



SDDP MENA Challenge 18: Corruption
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJBCP_95Jzk

SDDP MENA Challenge 19: lack of democratic governance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nZzMb0bPNI>

SDDP MENA Challenge 20: Lack of publicity of parliamentary decisions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6C505qVeVc>

SDDP MENA Challenge 21: balance of power saves democracy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-23tLjoHbg>

SDDP MENA Challenge 23: Poverty separates us from technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UTIYKT4EL4>

SDDP MENA Challenge 24: No public evaluation systems
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIYVIT6AdwU>

SDDP MENA Challenge 25: Denying people's requirements
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2b11aHoPruQ>

SDDP MENA Challenge 27: Insufficient and unequal access to governmental information
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC6U5DaWZUK>

SDDP MENA Challenge 28: Neglect of the needs of vulnerable groups the decision making process
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9ThXVJ56Bw>

SDDP MENA Challenge 29: Lack of the access to technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qfjVITLgmU>

SDDP MENA Challenge 30: Absence of meritocracy in governmental institutions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr5IfvFxcFQ>

SDDP MENA Challenge 31: Deficiency of the rule of law which leads to a lack of trust of the population in the governments
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhL92gNRuUw>

SDDP MENA Challenge 32: Lack of the knowledge on the role of citizens
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIO8XY_cv4A

SDDP MENA Challenge 33: Lack of information
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Q3aR4Y7t8>

SDDP MENA Challenge 34: Deficiency in the process of raising awareness around the rights of citizens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvlywd2qxTg>

SDDP MENA Challenge 35: The lack of sustainable development
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQD6mC0RCvA>

SDDP MENA Challenge 36: Exclusion of minorities or marginalised groups in decision making
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3i1gxcC8ql>

SDDP MENA Challenge 37: Non application of international legislations and agreements in ministries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RccjDlak41w>

SDDP MENA Challenge 38: Education leak
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLjuaQBX3MY>

SDDP MENA Challenge 39: lack of sufficient funds to improve technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rdg8Xkd0qgQ>

SDDP MENA Challenge 40: Difficulty entering the political world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxpDbs506E0>

SDDP MENA Challenge 41: International dynamics shape local democracy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyIMVuKZYZw>

SDDP MENA Challenge 42: Lack of efficient capacity building parallel systems to prepare future leaders
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMrMPF9zSn0>

SDDP MENA Challenge 43: Equal starting conditions for each human
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA5PnFaJB20>

SDDP MENA Challenge 44: Outside interferes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_aYxgHCJDs

SDDP MENA Challenge 45: Lack of women's engagement in politics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i24ntejhlQL4>

SDDP MENA Challenge 47: Not efficient promotion and strengthening of awareness regarding the importance of education
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRNVdtKJASo>

SDDP MENA Challenge 48: Every topic is turned into a partisan issue

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Kf1DEf_KLs

SDDP MENA Challenge 49: Lack of specific information and politic education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkCLiqFZV0s>

SDDP MENA Challenge 50: Lack of transparency in parliamentary elections

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXjQV5cHqRE>

SDDP MENA Challenge 51: Submission of the judicial authority resulting to unstable and unsecured law

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p69Dh6_zobQ

SDDP MENA Challenge 52: Racial discrimination

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X7I40-kDVE>

SDDP MENA Challenge 53: People can't vote online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rue8zbQvOs>

SDDP MENA Challenge 54: No daily representation of the people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13D0lqeukIA>

SDDP MENA Challenge 55: Lack of accountability

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_YZnODJe6E

SDDP MENA Challenge 56: the wide gap between generations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1das2fFFPTw>

SDDP MENA Challenge 57: No online communication channels between government and citizens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8efhxbusxG8>

SDDP MENA Challenge 58: Traffic crowding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeS5h9XLYs8>

SDDP MENA Challenge 59: Lack of long time planning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uJ-tE94yFs>

SDDP MENA Challenge 60: Bribery and favouritism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6B1GbYIHk4>

SDDP MENA Challenge 61: Mediatisation of public stances/information

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10v8vH_X3wA

SDDP MENA Challenge 62: The rolling of places of power between the representatives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJOpn9UQeFE>

SDDP MENA Challenge 63: Self concerned intervention of states in other vulnerable states

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCkgc37crB4>

SDDP MENA Challenge 64: Media bias

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpuOBLBqSJO>

SDDP MENA Challenge 65: Lack of access to basic rights and s revise for immigrants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyXfnpMmeso>

SDDP MENA Challenge 66: lack of positive discrimination towards marginalised groups

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwEUZY65lgo>

SDDP MENA Challenge 67: Elitism in the political system

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g00ta9oYH6I>

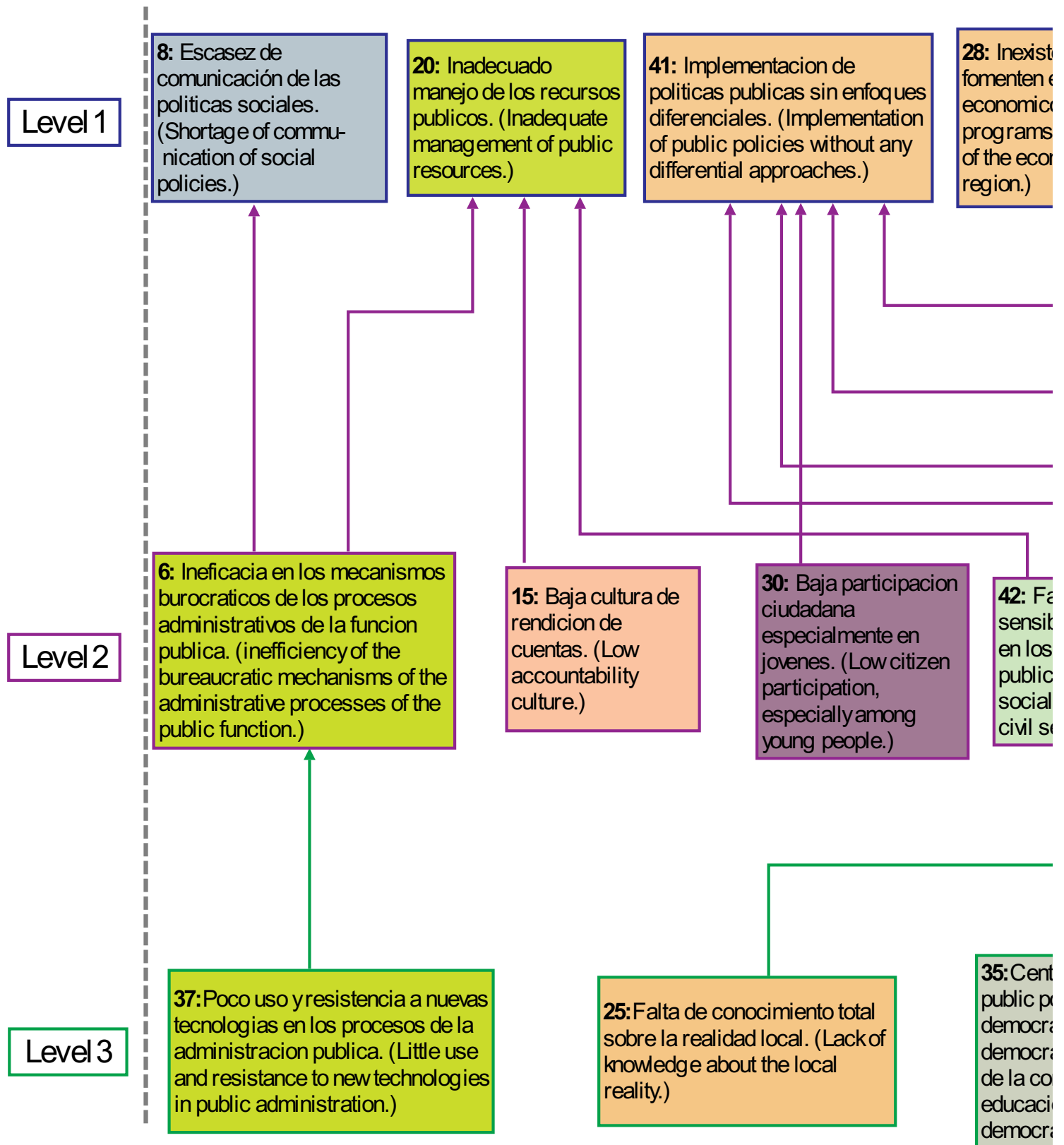
SDDP MENA Challenge 68: Lack of trust between state officials and citizens

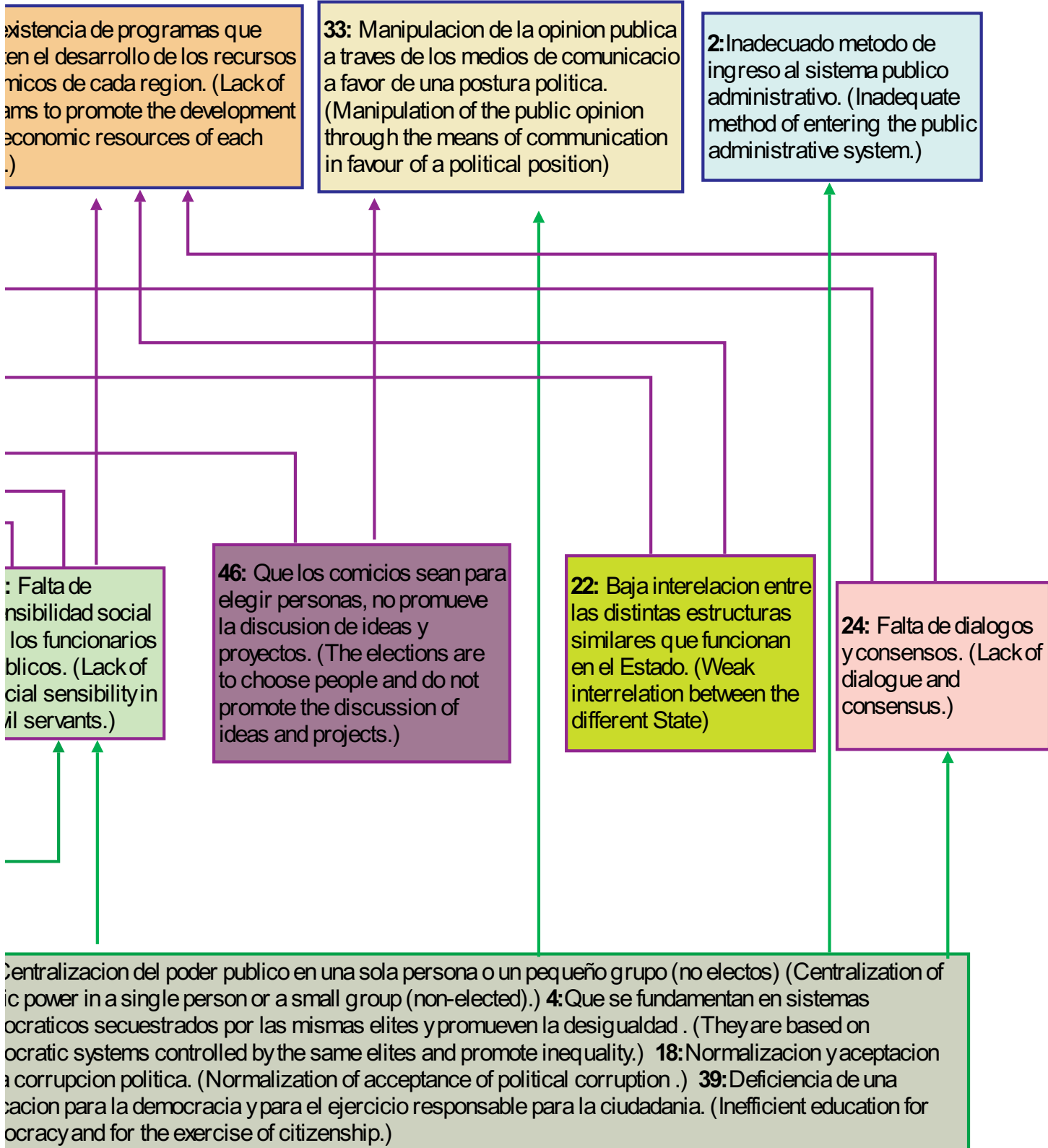
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a77y0B8QWoc>

SDDP MENA Challenge 69: Impossibility to influence decision making

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGHfNv91ec>

Influence MAP: American Region



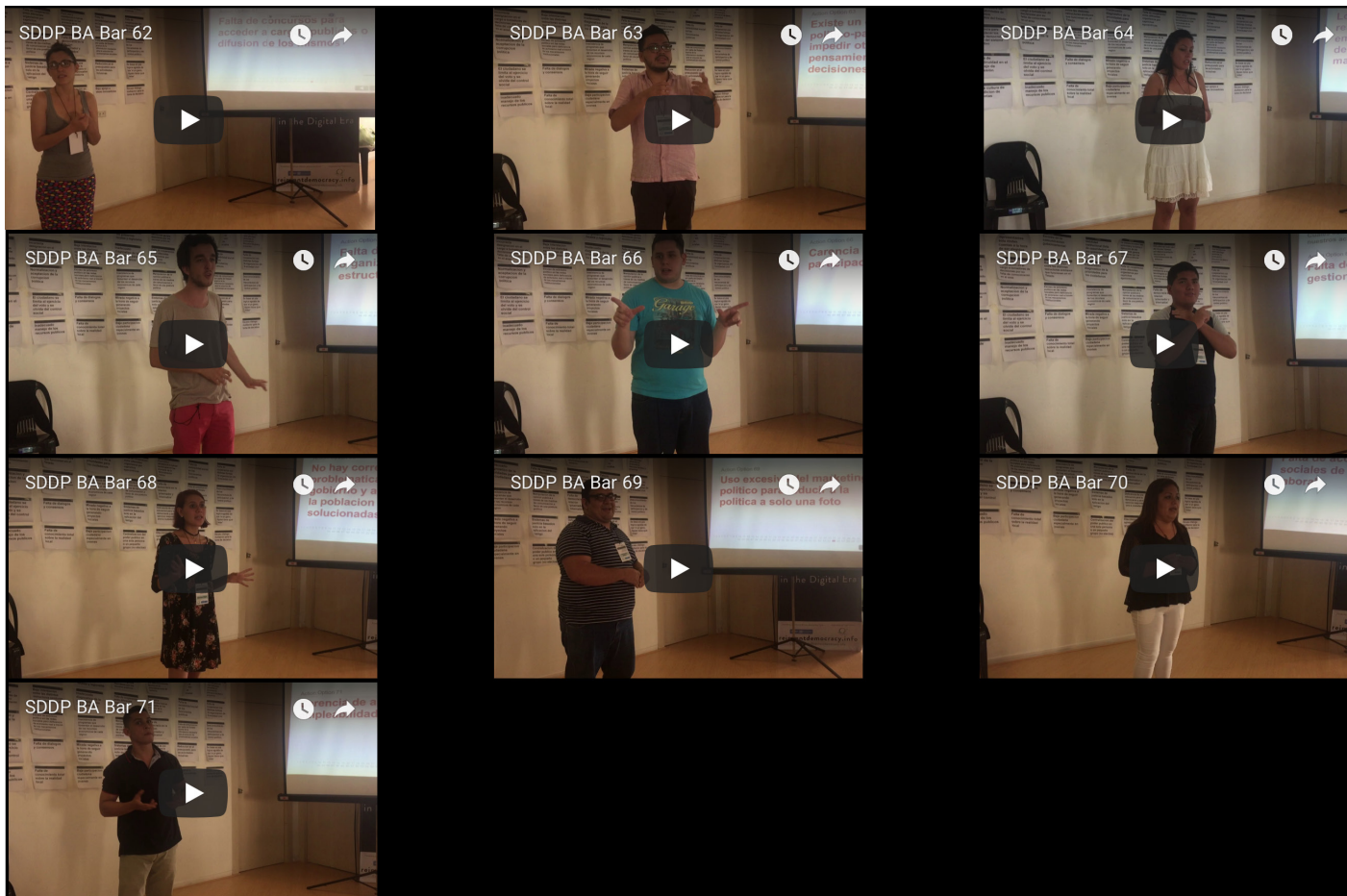


Video Wall: American Region





25+ Shortcomings to Democracy



Below is a complete list of all proposals of shortcomings identified by the participants of the American Initiative during the face-to-face event, which took place at Buenos Aires (Argentina) between the 3rd and the 7th of December 2016. Links to the original video clip clarifications posted on Ideaprism and on YouTube, as proposed by the participants during the event, are provided.

SDDP AM Challenge 1: There is distance between the votes of the people and the decisions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NRZZA26FcY>

SDDP AM Challenge 2: Inadequate method of entering the public administrative system
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPcwzMn5Njw>

SDDP AM Challenge 3: Lack of representatives
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhX7RAgt_Uc

SDDP AM Challenge 4: They are based democratic systems controlled by the same elites and promote inequality
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vU3_NmRBcf0

SDDP AM Challenge 5: Closure of spaces for citizens in local decision making

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP8c56S_sAk

SDDP AM Challenge 6: inefficiency of the bureaucratic mechanisms of the administrative processes of the public function
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFxQoT4YhBM>

SDDP AM Challenge 7: Low systematisation and availability of information in public order for the development of policies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubrATq1oFuY>

SDDP AM Challenge 8: Shortage of communication of social policies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE1Y--hPxa0>

SDDP AM Challenge 9: Distrust among stakeholders
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4k-0pkGOGs>

SDDP AM Challenge 10: Difficulty in monitoring the activities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNU55kTJKjl>

SDDP AM Challenge 11: There is no safeguard for the political participation of actors with opposing points of views to those already established
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQiJVSj5sn0>

SDDP AM Challenge 12: Inefficient communication to citizens about the responsibilities of the State
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCMXHStZq7g>

SDDP AM Challenge 13: Deficiency in reestablishing democratic values within the educational system
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dR8ltDwFOFo>

SDDP AM Challenge 14: Work on inclusion has been decreasing
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksds5sVWF7c>

SDDP AM Challenge 15: Low accountability culture
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvWAp9VJn58>

SDDP AM Challenge 16: Representatives only give account when they are elected
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ-G1CyVOjY>

SDDP AM Challenge 17: Wrongful nominations in decision making positions, due to the lack of knowledge of the people chosen in the respective positions
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjnvODBc_RO

SDDP AM Challenge 18: Normalisation of acceptance of political corruption
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr7JqNBQn40>

SDDP AM Challenge 19: People only vote, forgetting social control
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge9b-NPdkpU>

SDDP AM Challenge 20: Inadequate management of public resources
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSjO5gcRw0>

SDDP AM Challenge 21: Mistakes in terms of communicating
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJh0M4NNxP4>

SDDP AM Challenge 22: Low interrelation between the difference State structures
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjoqJp8v3as>

SDDP AM Challenge 23: Excess of political activism in social media but lack of real activism through institutional mechanisms
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDISa1e2mO0>

SDDP AM Challenge 24: Lack of dialogue and consensus
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYJMD4se_JE

SDDP AM Challenge 25: Lack of knowledge about the local reality
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wH_zqkVFLQ

SDDP AM Challenge 26: institutional weakness (lack of capabilities) in local and regional governments
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX2cMFV1GD8>

SDDP AM Challenge 27: Inadequate diagnosis of citizens priorities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoTyTDQ0QV0>

SDDP AM Challenge 28: Lack of programs to promote the development of the economic resources of each region
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii9GSIrhuCk>

SDDP AM Challenge 29: A negative look when it comes to keep on creating social projects
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH50st4wUwg>

SDDP AM Challenge 30: Low citizen participation, especially among young people
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksTafol0jDA>

SDDP AM Challenge 31: Distance between people and decision making and desist implementation create distrust in public affairs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw0bim-Wrhc>

SDDP AM Challenge 32: Lack of cooperation between different organisations, due to egocentric desires
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28XbBynNHek>

SDDP AM Challenge 33: Manipulation of the public opinion through the means of communication in favour of a political position
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQLdAW2zclk>

SDDP AM Challenge 34: Justice system based solely on punishment
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHYtPPSEQK8>

SDDP AM Challenge 35: Centralisation of public power in a

single person or a small group (non-elected)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF0iEF6YkyA>

SDDP AM Challenge 36: Difficulty in using well the resource of time, due of the ignorance of technical matters in the governments administration
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oujj6lQfvdU>

SDDP AM Challenge 38: Lack of democracy in the relation between “governor and governed”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr94SxAM9R4>

SDDP AM Challenge 39: Inefficient education for democracy and for the exercise of citizenship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydgWSObK6hc>

SDDP AM Challenge 40: Discrimination in social groups opinions
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_tEYq_naEM

SDDP AM Challenge 41: Implementation of public policies without any different approaches
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFR37ayYXSM>

SDDP AM Challenge 42: Lack of social sensibility in civil servants
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHYR_-uhqg8

SDDP AM Challenge 43: Lack of communication by the State concerning the necessary information for solving social problems
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTom1KJ0gWk>

SDDP AM Challenge 44: Decrease of the budget available for inclusive activities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c3Xrd4Jk8A>

SDDP AM Challenge 45: Low support to innovate ideas
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQMa6PfoB_w

SDDP AM Challenge 46: the elections are to choose people and do not promote the discussion of ideas and projects
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nE7l8Q3llc>

SDDP AM Challenge 47: Lack of cooperation with different forms of the civil society organisations
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTom1KJ0gWk>

SDDP AM Challenge 48: lack of knowledge on the mechanisms of political participation and control

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_OIUVk5Zs

SDDP AM Challenge 49: it is based on the selfish logic of “if I win, someone else has to lose.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAtj6H0C1Yw>

SDDP AM Challenge 50: Scarce multi stakeholder dialogue in decision making
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyHuPzzlLMA>

SDDP AM Challenge 51: improvised nomination of public servants designated in the implementation area
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz1rXklwFzU>

SDDP AM Challenge 52: Dilemma between personal interest over public interest.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9clpLlxsQZk>

SDDP AM Challenge 53: Lack of collective memory of the times when the regimes were not democratic
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpuCeB8fqIU>

SDDP AM Challenge 54: Rejection of constructive ideas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1VQupNPLSs>

SDDP AM Challenge 55: Civil society does not have sufficient information in order to participate in decision making processes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfkGLdFsmDM>

SDDP AM Challenge 56: The participation of new political actors is not encouraged
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3Cc8C1Z-WE>

SDDP AM Challenge 57: Lack of promotion of ITC as social inclusion and communication tools
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLWeF7FeJe8>

SDDP AM Challenge 58: members of the staff don't know each other
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPgjih6N6u8>

SDDP AM Challenge 59: There is no support for education, as they prefer ignorant people
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq4Wi4txZ50>

SDDP AM Challenge 60: Applicants to position of political representation can use their position to their personal interest
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrsFtb4_mJA

SDDP AM Challenge 61: Lack of contests to access public offices or dissemination of those competitions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDLkLJCxEyE>

SDDP AM Challenge 62: imposition of foreign development models that do not take into account the local social and cultural traits
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnCmZGRftGI>

SDDP AM Challenge 63: There is an excess of political party propaganda that seeks to obstruct other schools of thought in decision making
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BbDhdFdQ4Q>

SDDP AM Challenge 64: The rulers need alliances with business groups, communication groups and groups with economic power, in order to stay in power
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBivxtb6F70>

SDDP AM Challenge 65: Lack of a clear organisational method in the public structure
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjWBm-yzwQ>

SDDP AM Challenge 66: Lack of a direct citizen participation institutions
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW7eBrNrJrU>

SDDP AM Challenge 67: Lack of commitment in the administration
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcaKA8oqqco>

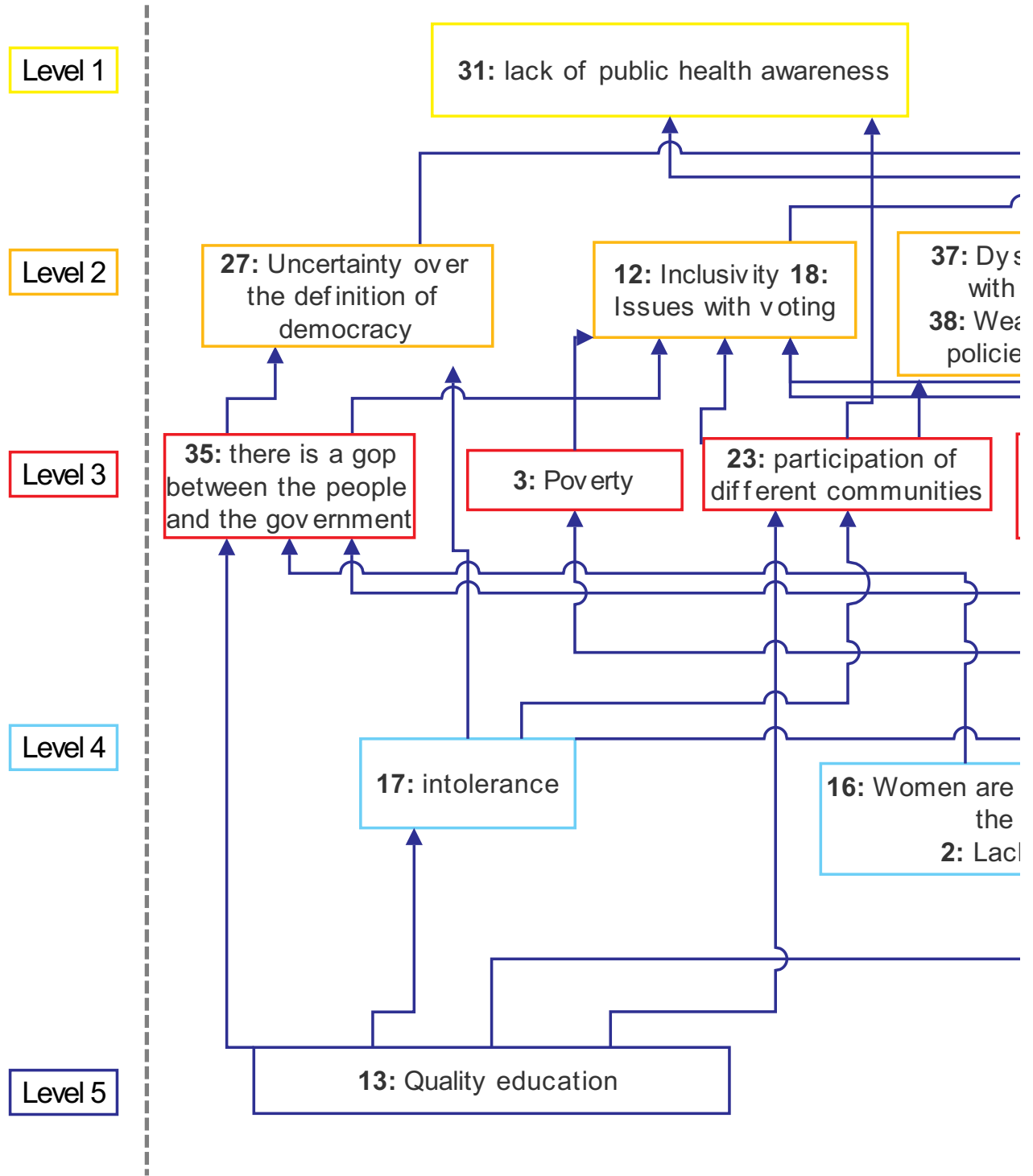
SDDP AM Challenge 68: There is no correlation between the problems addressed by the government and the ones sought by the civil society
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mL1csLw3Fc>

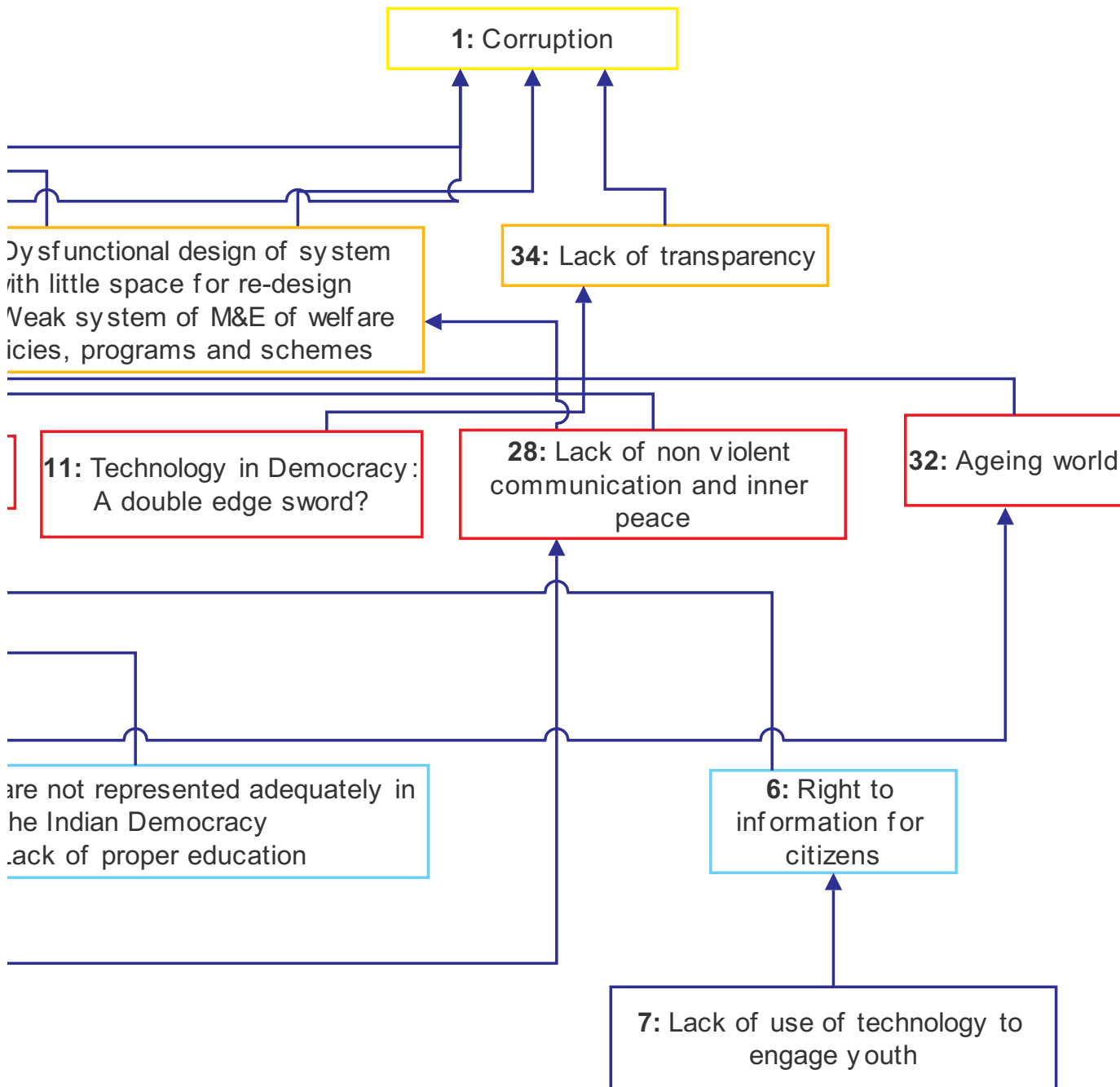
SDDP AM Challenge 69: Excessive use of political marketing that reduces politics to a single photo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDNqXSUKKz4>

SDDP AM Challenge 70: Lack of access to social programmes for labour capacity building
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD07JWzQUMY>

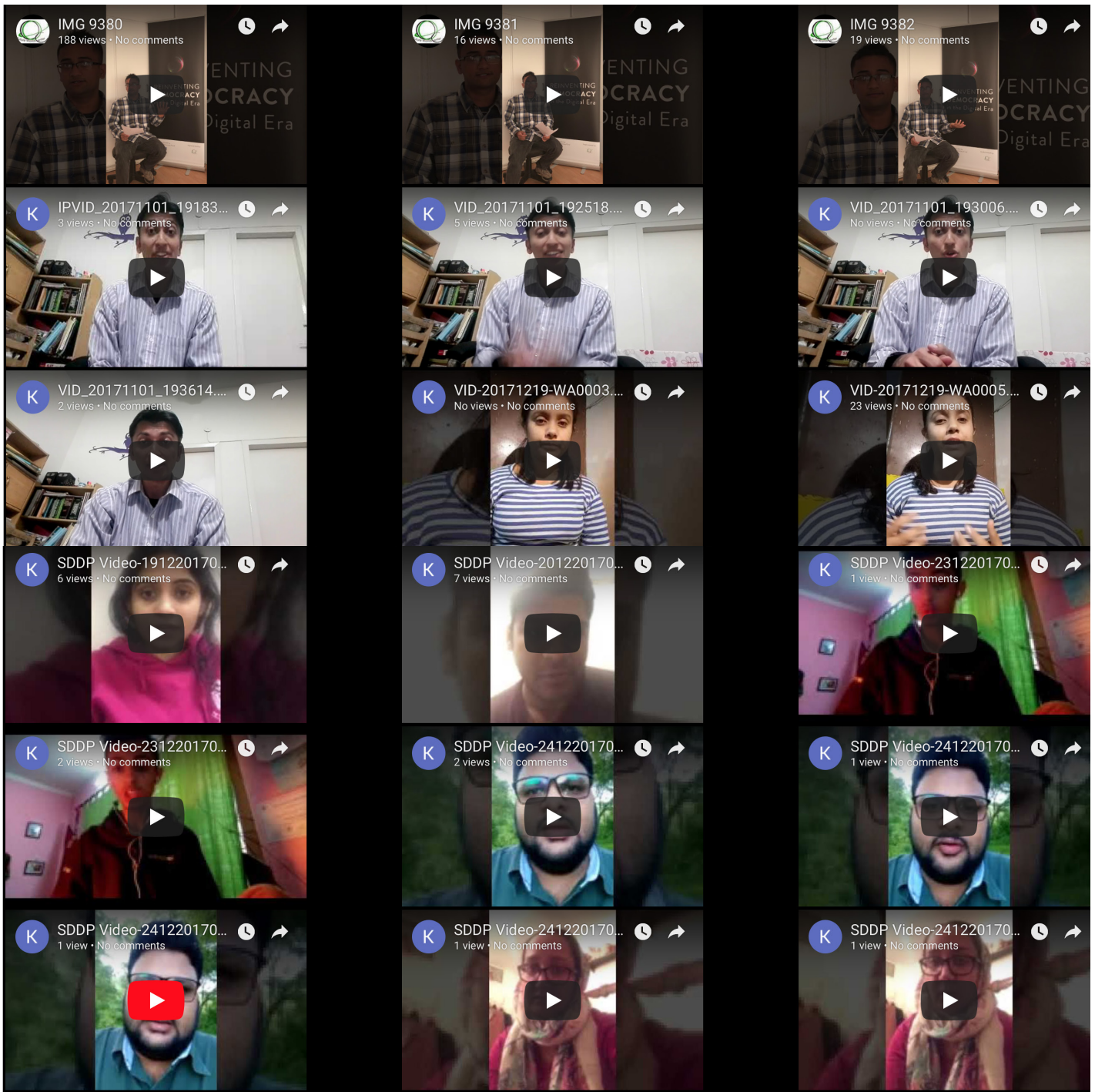
SDDP AM Challenge 71: Lack of support for youth employability
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqd4-0q7EAA>

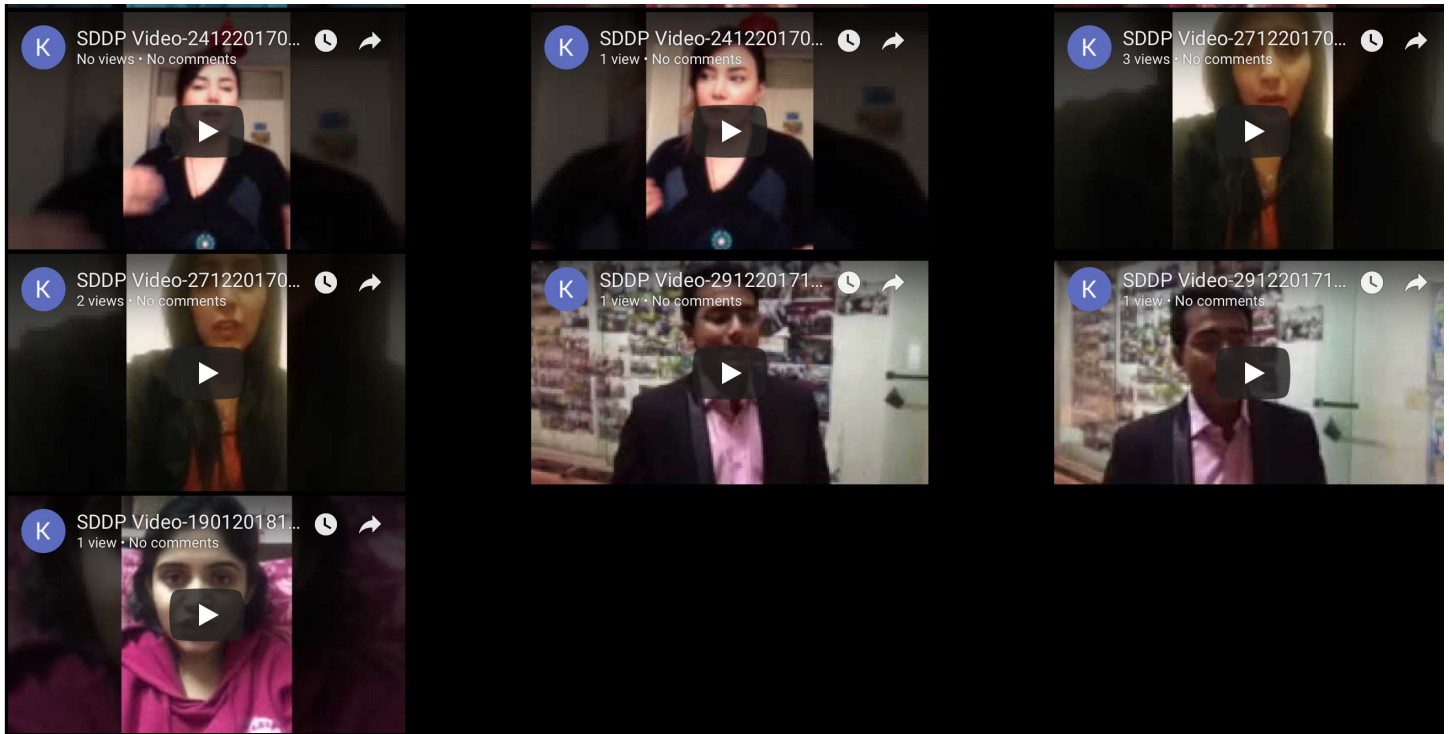
Influence MAP: Australasian Region





Video Wall: Australasian Region





Below is a complete list of all proposals of shortcomings identified by the participants of the Australasian Initiative which was implemented as a virtual event using IdeaPrism between August and October 2017.

SDDP AU Challenge 1: Corruption

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liqGnVzJaFk>

SDDP AU Challenge 2: lack of proper education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qhmx3ho4yJ8>

SDDP AU Challenge 3: Poverty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_7b2ajGyl0

SDDP AU Challenge 4: Lack of innovation in current systems of governance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myCVmYpLb4M>

SDDP AU Challenge 5: Uninvolved bureaucracy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuzRs7k-Jf4>

SDDP AU Challenge 6: Right to information for citizens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCkz6Dk5ZxE>

SDDP AU Challenge 7: Lack of use of technology to engage youth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YQjnX5bfyw>

SDDP AU Challenge 8: Constitutional structure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06UdbJ3UeLk>

SDDP AU Challenge 10: Resistance to change in masses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfPsyaHPVo4>

SDDP AU Challenge 11: Technology in Democracy: A double edged sword?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTvepjF-M90>

SDDP AU Challenge 14: Quality education in rural areas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2JlQuADAEg>

SDDP AU Challenge 18: Issues with voting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nE1vKCUJ0Hg>

SDDP AU Challenge 21: Increasing presence of special interest groups
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb8lC2pi8yU>

SDDP AU Challenge 22: Youth participation in politics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO7Hlgen2uQ>

SDDP AU Challenge 23: Participation of different communities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feV3oZ3-5V4>

SDDP AU Challenge 24: Youth participation- solution
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ex8e_0jRWpU

SDDP AU Challenge 26: Association with sensitive ideas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTiMNQ3UVHU>

SDDP AU Challenge 27: Uncertainty over the definition of Democracy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duH_m3ohUC8

SDDP AU Challenge 28: The lack of non violent communication and inner peace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE9CyZ6MZGg>

SDDP AU Challenge 29: Lack of respect for diversity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=din6gVcbLyl>

SDDP AU Challenge 32: Ageing world
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElbU-NnlhbU>

SDDP AU Challenge 33: Lack of specialisation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klugrXOdq1U>

SDDP AU Challenge 34: Problems faced by modern democracies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qoD9SxdiKY>

SDDP AU Challenge 35: problems faced by modern democracies
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rg_CfvinRJY

SDDP AU Challenge 36: Inclusivity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-QAlcB2uEQ>



Identifying Collectively the Root Challenges

The previous pages provided a complete list of all video clips in which participants from all regions identified Shortcomings of current models of democracy. The Structured Democratic Dialogue methodology applied in subsequent steps of the process, aimed to harness the collective wisdom of the participants in order to generate Influence Trees that represented their collective agreement as to which Challenges are the most influential. To do so participants were confronted with questions like:

If we make progress in addressing Challenge X
Will this help us SIGNIFICANTLY address Challenge Y?

Following vivid discussions, the participants were asked to vote “yes” or “no” and when more than two thirds agreed, an influence relation was established. The respective Influence Trees of every region, and the description of the process in detail, are available in the Full Reports referenced below.

The Ideas that made it to the root of each tree were those with the greatest influence. Taking the ideas at the root of each of the five trees the following were collectively considered, with very high statistical confidence as the most influential key Challenges. These root challenges are listed in the next pages.

Regional Dialogues Reports

Laouris, Y., Georgiou, M., Andreou, A., Philippou, E., Silay, N., Shoshilos, A., & 18 others (2017). Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era – European Initiative. Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Laouris, Y., Dye, K., Andreou, A., Philippou, E., & 20 others (2017). Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era – MENA Initiative, Future Worlds Center. Nicosia, Cyprus.

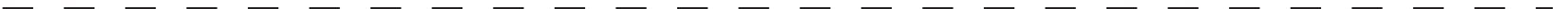
Laouris, Y., Cardenas, R., Karaolia, N., Constantinou, O., & 15 others (2017). Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era – American Initiative. Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Laouris, Y., Economidou, A., Georgiou, M., Philippou, E., & 16 others (2017). Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era – African Initiative, Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Laouris, Y., Dye, K., Fotiou, K., Kent, J., & 17 others (2017). Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era – Australasian Initiative, Future Worlds Center. Nicosia, Cyprus.

Download this and all other reports at:

http://reinventdemocracy.info/w/Reports_Depository



Selection of Key Challenges

The following sub-sections summarize the challenges at the root of each region's Influence Map.

- #24: Public does not understand what is the decision-making process in the government
- #5: Government lacks the will to inform the citizens about the state of affairs without adding propaganda
- #38: Big Corruption
- #50: Citizens are not represented by the politicians they have elected
- #6: Lack of mindfulness in decision making
- #1: Lack of possibility to vote in elections online



- #34: Deficiency in the process of raising awareness around the rights of citizens
- #45: Lack of women's engagement in politics
- #30: Absence of meritocracy in governmental institution
- #18: Corruption



- #1: Lack of consciousness of citizens that can they participate in issues of democracy and governance, Challenge 16: Inadequate orientation to the reforming of democratisystems and structures and an improvement in policy making
- #10: Rampant run-away impunity among key government officers on public utilities
- #16: Inadequate orientation to the reforming of democratic systems and structures and an improvement in policy making
- #8: Non existence of the right to information
- #13: Limited public access to information on two levels
- #29: Poor infrastructure, negative ethnicity and historical injustices
- #26: Brutality of governments to those who speak about democracy



- #37: Limited use of and resistance to new technologies in public administration processes. (Poco uso y resistencia a nuevas tecnologías en los procesos de la administración pública)
- #25 : Lack of knowledge about the local reality (Falta de conocimiento total sobre la realidad local).
- #35: Centralization of public power in a single person or a small group (non-elected) - (Centralización del poder público en una sola persona o un pequeño grupo (noelectos))
- #4: They are based on democratic systems controlled by the same elites and promote inequality (Que se fundamentan en sistemas democráticos secuestrados por las mismas élites y promueven la desigualdad).
- #18: Normalization and acceptance of political corruption. (Normalización y aceptación de la corrupción política).
- #39: Inefficient education for democracy and for the exercise of citizenship (Deficiencia de una educación para la democracia y para el ejercicio responsable para la ciudadanía).



- #12: Inclusivity
- #34: Lack of transparency
- #1: Corruption
- #7: Lack of use of technology to engage youth
- #11: Technology in Democracy: A double edged sword?
- #18 Issues with voting
- #37: Dysfunctional design of systems with the little scope of e-design



Clarifications

The clarifications of the selected key challenges are provided below.

EUROPE

Challenge 1: Lack of possibility to vote in elections online

The old method of voting - coming in person to office to give away your vote - shows ineffective. The voter turnout is getting smaller and citizens are therefore less engaged in representative democracy because they are not choosing their representative. Impossibility to vote online precludes creating broader civic society.

Challenge 5: Government lacks the will to inform the citizens about the state of affairs without adding propaganda

I believe that the freedom of information law is a law, and something which we should begin our discussion about reinventing the democracy in the digital era. Because everything starts with the information, as soon as we have the information, we change. We change our actions, we change differently, we do something different, and the government knows it too. They tend to give us information, or block the information first, or slow down the process in which we can actually obtain the information and then if the information is not in the favour of the government, they try to change its meaning; there is a difference between saying the unemployment is 8% or saying the unemployment is very low. So i am trying to figure out a way in which we can preserve and maintain the live and 24 hour access to any public information there is, without fearing that the government will block it and so on. The information serves us, the public.

Challenge 6: Lack of mindfulness in decision making

No matter what a person's position is, almost everyone is lacking the clarity of the mind that we need in order to make decisions. Everything we do, think, and say comes from the mind, so if our mind is contaminated, angry, frustrated, stressed, or distracted by gadgets, we won't be able to make good decisions.

Challenge 24: Public does not understand what is the decision-making process in the government

The public does not understand the decision-making process in the government. Its not always the government's fault. There is a simple test you can do, which is going to the street, finding a lamp or a spot, and trying to figure out who is actually responsible for repairing it, and how much time its gonna take because of all the procedures. As soon as you know the answer and know all the costs, you can actually start differently; you can say that there is no money to do it, or that the process is too long and need to be changed. Or you can say that that it could have been done but someone in the government was lazy and didn't do it. This is our obligation as citizens to not always criticise but to understand how the decision-making processes work. We don't have to like it, we can understand it. And then if we don't like it, we can change it. Because we tend to criticise things that we don't actually know how they work.

Challenge 38: Big corruption

Big corruption, always is a key shortcoming, Through technology more people can be involved in dem-

ocratic process and in this way politicians risk to not be elected in the next elections. Thus many times politicians choose to not improved such an initiative, furthermore they try to stop any actions which affect their popularity.

Challenge 50: Citizens are not represented at all by the politicians they have elected

People are not represented even if they go and vote. When someone votes, it is like delegating your ideas and needs from the society you're living in at the moment. In Italy for example, a person can vote for the party of the future prime minister not the person, and this is an issue because in the end, the person who will have the decision making power will always be influenced by main stakeholders and so the people are never represented as citizens. This needs a global change.

MENA

Challenge 18: Corruption

Corruption: In my opinion it means getting more than your rights or taking other people rights through illegal ways or defects in the laws by paying bribes or using public relations. Technology can help a lot in solving this problem by many means such as putting standards and using modern innovative ways in monitoring and evaluation of the performances. Also, using digitalised approaches will help eradicate the bureaucracy that is a major cause of corruption. Government and people both have a major role in this together.

Challenge 30: Absence of meritocracy in governmental institutions

“Wasta” is a common practice in the Middle East, and one of the most influential problems hindering the implementation of democratic governance. It is defined as a misuse of one’s own public relations for recruitment in governmental institutions, thus overlooking competence, qualifications, academic and professional backgrounds, and eligibility. In other words, it is the exact opposite concept of meritocracy, which is a system of governance whereby policy makers are chosen on the basis of their merits. The “wasta” practice has epidemically spread throughout the Arab countries, and has influenced the process of decision-making, since general managers in the ministries are usually appointed/recruited, according to the connections they have rather than the skills and the experience required for a specific position at stake. Hence, it has become a vicious circle. The latter has had an influence on the youth, as it has induced a brain drain, since young people do not believe that they can access the job market in a fair manner without having to employ their connections. Fact is, what has actually made this worse is the fact that young people are starting to get comfortable with this idea and are trying to adapt to it. They believe that no change can be made in this regard, and thus they feel obliged to integrate themselves within this corrupt meritless system. With regard to technology and the role that the latter can play in reshaping efficient democratic systems throughout the world, the implementation of a programming system that would automatically filter out the people who do not meet the requirements needed for this specific position could be much influential in addressing the absence of meritocracy. At the risk of turning the recruitment process into a mechanical process, I believe that at this stage, such a digitalized program would enhance the process of recruitment since the people who do meet the requirements will be automatically selected in as eligible candidates, whereas those who do not meet the requirements will be mechanically filtered out, in a way

that their public relations and connections would make no sense whatsoever in a digital program. Based on the above, I believe that the latter could be a good start to tackle the absence of meritocracy affecting the Arab world, and would give more opportunities to qualified young people who would usually not even make it to the job interview if they do not have the renowned “wasta”.

Challenge 34: Deficiency in the process of raising awareness around the rights of citizens

Civil actions without knowledge could account for very little, as the system (i.e. those in power) tends to manipulate people’s demands to serve the status quo rather than the change aspired. In this light, raising awareness would rank as the most vital and indispensable element in the process of change towards a ‘more’ representative democracy. However, this element is of a long-term nature, as raising awareness could not achieve its goals if it was implemented sporadically; it needs to become an essential module in the early phases of a change process without which better democracy cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, awareness raising campaigns around the rights of citizens should accompany all established democracies as their appendices to ensure that the same values that brought these democracies still hold and to provide an environment for continuous improvement. This step is key to allowing people to take advantage of their benefits as many people do not know enough about their rights as citizens, and hence their ‘ignorance’ either perpetuates the undemocratic reality, or it withdraws legitimacy and representation from the existing democracy. As such, failing to raise awareness contributes to the lack of transparency in governance and promotes ‘false’ democracies whereby citizens are not informed and do not actually participate in the decision making, thus rendering the representatives more powerful and less sympathetic to the need and demands of their constituencies.

Challenge 45: Lack of women’s engagement in politics

Unfortunately several communities still till now underestimate the power of women due to the restricted familial thinking and old mentalities. And that she can do and have the ability to participate in politics and in everything in the society, but communities most of the time set her apart from politics and do not give women the appropriate space and the equal opportunity to be involved in politics. We cannot neglect that before engaging women in politics we have to work on eliminating the gender inequalities between men and women and to achieve the equality in the house duties for example so that these duties would be divided equally on both of them and as a result she will be able to go out and involve herself into the community and to find a good job opportunity so that both of them can even share the responsibility and leadership at house. Added she can continue studying the masters, or PhD and that would be a chance to raise herself and considered as an added value to her personality and that would encourage her more to participate in public life and to be a politician. In addition to raising the awareness of women through campaigns to realize their right in beign an effective actor in the community as long as the men are and to build their confidence and assuring on supporting that awareness by government to adhere the women’s rights. Moreover giving the marginalized women the chance to express herself in the community and building their capacities to be leaders in the conflict areas where they might leave in especially that this type of women are really in need to someone who can listen to their opinions and their demands, as well as if that happended we would have been solved a part of the problem because women will feel they are sharing and benefiting their society and their communities care about them and about what they feel. The best suggested solutions for this challenge is that to prepare like a training for the women who have not finished their post secondary education and the women who do not use technology effectively so that they will be able to acquire new skills that will improve them.

AFRICA

Challenge 1: Lack of consciousness of citizens that can they participate in issues of democracy and governance

Consciousness means being aware of the power one possess to bring about change. citizens is used in general to mean members of a country but emphasis must be given to those that are marginalised or at a disadvantage especially those who do not have access to technology

it also means knowledge of citizens in democracy does not just involve voting it goes beyond that to decision making and policy implementation social media can improve this by being a tool through which information can be transmitted to citizens

Challenge 8: Non existence of the right to information

Giving citizens access to information is a prerequisite to ensuring transparency in governance. To guarantee every citizen the right to have access to any relevant information at any reasonable time , such a right must be enshrined in the constitution of the state or country. This is lacking in most developing nations. In fact, a mere mention of such a right in the national constitution is not enough. it should be backed by the enactment of an extensive law that spells out such a right and provides for the details of how to freely access such a right.

Challenge 10: Rampant run-away impunity among key government officers on public utilities

Impunity is the act where people in government do mistakes punishable by law but they escape unpunished. Many African political elites are practicing impunity even after breaking law, engage in corruption and hatespeech. when found culpable, they are not prosecuted by court of law due to their mighties and financial muscles that can bribe witness, intimidate them and at the end of it, the court dismisses the case citing lack of enough evidence. It is a rampant act in Africa particularly my country Kenya where scandles after scandles have arised and the culprits walking scotfree despite allegations. This affects the governance and democracy in many nations benefiting only but a few individuals.

Challenge 13: Limited public access to information on two levels

The two levels discussed herein are sharing information between Tue government and the public as well as the government and low ranking government officials expected to implement democratic processes.

Challenge 16: Inadequate orientation to the reforming of democratic systems and structures and an improvement in policy making

Time and change often make inventions redundant, outmoded and no more useful. In other words, the purpose for their creation have been out-lived or defeated. So the is always the need to add “re” to some words to imply an improvement over their last form or to bring something back into existence. For example, remember, recondition, reinvent.

Relating the above information to the topic under discussion, “Reinventing Democracy in the Digital Era”, I can say with no doubt that democracy has played its role in our world allowing opinions expressed by people no matter their status, but looking at our world today, there is the need to reinvent democracy to include certain measures, approaches and actions that are better suited to our world today.

To me, democracy is a people based theory which is well captured by Abraham Lincoln’s definition as “a system of government of the people, for the people and by the people” In Africa for instance, much has

not been done to reorient their approach to democracy. The big question here is “how do the people get to understand what democracy is?” because it is only then that we can successfully proceed to reinvent. Now to re-orient we can have a look at how best we can reprogram the mindset of people who are still living and practicing traditional democracy where we can also look at communication of new ideas and reforms.

Communicating here can be looked at from different dimensions.

First of all, communication can help in the process of reorienting the individuals taking into consideration the assessibility of information. This is going to help the indigent to be abreast with the changes that are been made. This can be achieved by creating platforms for easy transmission of information in a form that is well understood by the citizens. For instance, the government can put up information centers in rural areas which do not have any form of access to information to transmit information to them and by so doing these indigent will be directly or partly involved in the decision making process of the nation. Also ensuring that language barriers do not hinder the flow of information since the information transmitted will be in the local dialect of the indigents.

Challenge 26: Brutality of governments to those who speak about democracy

In many countries in Africa there is a lack of basics of democracy. But if you speak about democracy, the government may punish you. This is a large weakness of democracy.

In order the reinvent democracy, there needs to be an existing government of democracy. However, many countries lack the principles such as freedom of speech and are brutalized if they speak against the government. Something must be done so that people can speak freely, if you can not speak freely than it is not a democracy.

Challenge 29: Poor infrastructure, negative ethnicity and historical injustices

Poor infrastructure effects elections. There is a difficulty in relaying results and allows time for corruption of the votes. It also hinders access to information of political issues and causes voters to be uninformed. Negative ethnicity means that the people in power only appoint and hire similar people. This affects many things, regions that are a minority or against the government receive poor education and poor infrastructure and are not able to be political active. Historical injustices have been ignored and are not corrected through policy.

AMERICAN

Challenge 4: That are based on democratic systems hijacked by the same elites and promote inequality. The inequality that our governance system suffers is a product of the concentration of power by a few political and economic elites that perpetuate their political agendas to defend the same old interests and for their own benefit.

Challenge 18: Normalizacion y aceptacion de la corrupcion politica

Challenge 25: Lack of knowledge about the local reality

The importance of knowledge of where you work is important to know in which area further. Having this prior knowledge helps the work to be effective, but not knowing 100% local conditions detrimental to system performance.

Challenge 35: Centralization of public power in a single person or a small group (non elected)

Despite the existence of democratic mechanisms of choice at a time to plan and execute public policies it is only carried out the task by one person or a small group and excludes the whole system was democratically elected. That policy should not be characterized by the opinion of one person, but should go through the consensus of those who shape the structure of government. This allows cases of corruption or mismanagement of resources are given. The most serious problem is that often people involved in these decisions that were not democratically elected as secretaries, members of the political party of the current government that are not part of government, financiers, etc.

Challenge 37: little use and resistance to new technologies in the processes of public administration

Challenge 39: Inefficient education for democracy and for the exercise of citizenship

It needs an education focused on involving our young people, children and university and must participate. In the author's opinion, the education system does not encourage citizen participation, but it makes people afraid to participate, to consult, to exercise the role it plays in their respective places. School from what I've seen is that children are called to obey and follow rules without question, without participating, without proposing. He believes it is necessary for the democratic values that lead to participation.

AUSTRALASIAN

Challenge 1: Corruption

There is a problem with education, and I do not mean in the cities. In the main cities, one can find a huge amount and variety of organized educational institutions of good quality. At the same time, in the villages, many people are suffering from lack of education. I think the problem is due to political administration; i.e. it is a governance issue. In some places, you can find a huge improvement in the education system, in some places you can find the quality dropping low, day-to-day. And, according to my point of view, village people cannot afford the city area education. They will have to live away from their house, and think of a different job and a different society. If there is equal opportunity in the different places then it would be good for the people also. I think we need to manage this education system as sustainable development. It can be good, at the same time, if we give priority to different places: like village and city and rural areas – different places in Nepal. We have mainly three types of geographical regions in Nepal: Terai, high mountains, and hills. It will be good to give priority to all these different regions, and improve education across Nepal, so that people will not suffer, a student will not suffer. They can get their education by staying in their home, they do not have to go outside, and these conditions can make a huge difference in their life and education. In their effort to be educated some people are very unlucky and they will get out of their track. This makes it easier to be misused by different people who want cheap labour for their business,

for example. This is why these days we can find lots of teenage people or children working in hotels or in different bars for extremely low wages, an effect of 'lack of proper education'. These are people who, after they are educated, they can gradually begin to make a contribution to the further development of their place too.

Challenge 7: lack of use of technology to engage youth

The youth is not interested to take part in the political process as they feel that their voices are not being heard. There is a lack of utilization of technology such as social media platforms to connect youth to the political process.

Challenge 11: Technology in Democracy: A double edged sword?

Technology has indeed been beneficial in bringing about unprecedented changes in the government. However, the growing presence of technology can serve as a hindrance in the free and fair process of elections and hamper democracy. As has been seen in various countries, technology has served the interests of those in power, various technological inventions have been used to delegitimise elections and turn them in the favour of the elite. Further, with measures like Aadhar that provide for the complete mapping of a person, therefore enhancing the presence of the state in people's lives, which isn't conducive in a liberal society. It can be concluded that technology can serve both as a boon and a bane, if not used cautiously

Challenge 12: Inclusivity

Democracy is all about inclusivity, it is a universally accepted western liberal idea which gives importance to the individual over other things. However, it's been found that such ideas or their applicability has been in conflict with widely held beliefs practices and customs of certain communities often inviting the wrath of the very people it is meant to protect. This has led to the rise of popular support for authoritarian leaders who claim to protect their heritage. The idea of democracy and its implementation should be reviewed subject to conditions, lest it gives rise to its antagonist.

Challenge 18: Issues with voting

A lot of people do not have time to think beyond our personal lives and when it comes to voting, people often listen to TV, Radio and propaganda funding by people with bad intentions. So voters are not properly educated, and people do not read the little information out there. This leads to improper representation, and the wrong people in power.

Challenge 33: Lack of specialization

There is a lack of technical education. A BA is appointed as the minister of health, but he doesn't know about the health policies, the plans, administrative and operational procedures or issues in the field. Eventually people learn how to govern, but that is not efficient, there should be no time for the learning curve.

Challenge 34: Lack of transparency

The lack of transparency was not visible 20 or 30 years ago which reflects that democracy only got confined between the power and the money. The participation of the youth is condemned by policy makers, but it is still very important that democracy is for the people and by the people.

Challenge 37: Dysfunctional design of systems with the little scope of e-design

India is a country with a population of 1.3 billion people and there are infinite systems. With the fast-paced developments in terms of advancement of technology and other socio-eco changes taking place, the re-designing of the system which impacts the lives of millions must be at the cornerstone of democracy. There are various systems in place in terms of education, religious belief, caste and other systems since decades but there is little representation of the voices of these communities. This points to the fact that the monotony of approaching the problems is stagnant as it disregards creativity and inclusiveness. However, considering the scale of Indian society, it is a cumbersome task to investigate the mechanism of the current system, reconciliation of the apparent changes, mapping and adopting a system which can be tweaked according to future events. Hence, an attempt must be made to re-design the current system and adopt an outlook of future system which is eligible for tweaking.



25+ Shortcomings, of Current Models of Democracy

Identified by more than 1000 Youth across the Globe investing more than 4,000 person hours in Structured Democratic Dialogues

Yiannis Laouris & 105 others

Editors: Kevin Dye & Jordan Kent

ISBN: 978-9925-554-14-0

Project Graphics Design: Koullis Ioannou

Design Manager: Acpa Ksidea

Video Production: Leslie Timngum Ngam



UNDEF



The United Nations
Democracy Fund

This project was funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of Future Worlds Center and does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations, the United Nations Democracy Fund, or its Advisory Board.

Copyright © 2017 Future Worlds Center, Nicosia, Cyprus.