

# CITIZENS' INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

## I&R<sub>GB</sub>

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invitation

### **FACILITATED STUDY TRIPS WITHIN EUROPE**

#### **Citizens' direct democracy in action.** **Study and experience "in the field".**

The "citizens' initiative" and referendum, known for over a hundred years in the USA and Switzerland, have in recent decades been adopted in numerous other countries. In some cases the "recall" is used in addition. Many such procedures have been successfully carried out and a considerable bank of experience now exists among citizens, analysts and academics, politicians and civil servants.

In the British Isles these procedures are almost non-existent and so unsurprisingly most people know little about them.

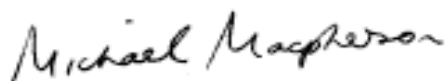
We offer opportunities for citizens and professionals to visit people, places and politics in Europe in order to learn in more detail about these effective procedures of political participation. Lectures, talks, discussions and workshops can be arranged.

Likely venues (usually one per trip) include a Swiss canton, several Lands in Germany, The Netherlands and the Italian province of Alto Adige/South Tyrol.

Study programmes can be arranged flexibly to suit the requirements of participants and background materials made available. For instance, a tour of 3-4 days would offer: a thorough introduction to direct democracy and its local history, illustrating its place in the regional and state constitution; a chance to meet citizen-exponents of initiative and referendum in a centre of active democracy – town, region or country/state; a "question-time" and feed-back session.

Individuals and groups are invited to make contact and to let us know roughly when you would like to travel.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Michael J. Macpherson  
Founder I&R ~ GB

Key words: Citizen lawmaking, direct democracy, initiative, referendum, recall, ballot issues, plebiscite, community, participation, constitution