

Educated democracy: creating the tools for an aware democratic system

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It is indisputable that the world it is becoming more complicated, both from a technological and societal point of view. Unfortunately, most people, even in the advanced and educated Western world, do not have the skills nor the knowledge to fully understand the current advancements and changes. Such lack of awareness reduces possibilities for most people to take advantage of innovation and ultimately to shape a better future.

Despite the irrational fear towards innovation is the most visible and hard-fought symptom, many do not realize that the lack of awareness around the usage, and the already achieved results, of given advancement, is the worst symptom. Anachronistically, this bring people to fear something they actually use, or take advantage from, often without realizing it.

In this scenario, people waste their energies fearing and fighting, while they should be concerned about understanding and deciding. Once a new technology is understood , it will be possible to decide how to best use it (or rather not); while the lack of understand leads ineluctably to delegate or designate other people with the appropriate knowledge in the decisional process.

While representativeness is at the basis of most democracies, having delegates who are part of the aforementioned people, unaware of advancements and afraid of learning, begins a vicious spiral where unaware people delegate their future and decision to equally unaware people, trusting them. Obviously, without the right understanding, also judgments and evaluations from both sides becomes impaired.

Concurrently, at the basis of democracy there is the idea that everybody, independently from educational level, richness, and personal preferences, can be a candidate and elected. This is obviously desirable, in order to represent the people in the most appropriate way. On the other hand, such a process often results in the election of people who do not possess the minimum required skills and knowledge to take decision in spite of the elector, despite being a well fitting representation of the electoral constituency.

It comes along that, in a World where excellent skills are required for most jobs, having unskilled representative is not feasible anymore, especially when we realize that the interactions, and their relevance, between companies and politicians are always increasing.

Such situation always pose companies on the strongest side, since despite not being the lawmakers, they possess enough skilled people and resources. In order to maintain and sustain a real, and not only de iure, democracy it is necessary that who has been delegated to make policy and take decisions has all the right skills and support. Given the above reasons, the most obvious and simple solution, would be to compel representatives to a (series of) course(s), following their election, in order to reach a minimum level of relevant skills and knowledge, whose successful achievement is a requirement to continue the mandate. This option would not interfere with the democratic process nor with the representativeness, and on the contrary would increase the awareness of policy makers, which could now make rational decisions due to the acquired knowledge.