

ZDA ANNUAL REPORT 2009

I. <u>Prologue:</u>

The ZDA: What it is, how it came about and where it will go¹

The Centre for Democracy Aarau (Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau; ZDA) was formally established as a simple partnership under Swiss law on 16 January 2009 with the following profile: Four partners: City of Aarau, Canton Aargau, University of Zurich and University of Applied Sciences of North-Western Switzerland. Three departments: Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (c2d), "General research on democracy" (ADF) and "Civic and History Education" (PBGD). Around 37 scientific collaborators: educational, social and political scientists and lawyers. Three professors: Béatrice Ziegler, Daniel Kübler and Andreas Auer. One managerial assistant: Eliane Widmer. One location: the historically significant Villa Blumenhalde in Aarau.

A. What it is

Centre for Democracy Aarau (ZDA) – the name says it all. Each of its three components – centre, democracy and Aarau – warrants however a short comment.

1. The ZDA is a centre

The ZDA is a *research* centre primarily devoted to fundamental research. It also carries research under specific mandate. We want freely to ask any questions and to suggest answers to them, to establish connections and make distinctions, to formulate and examine hypotheses, to compare conditions and highlight different perspectives. But we also accept to carry out and, if necessary, implement specified mandates.

The ZDA is an *academic* research centre that has close ties with both the University of Zurich (UZH), across the faculties of philosophy and law, and the Pädagogischen Hochschule (College of Teacher Education) at the University of Applied Sciences of North-Western Switzerland (FHNW).

As an academic centre, *science* is at the very heart of the ZDA. Science stands apart from politics – from politics of the day, from party politics, from big time and small time politics – although it can and sometimes must exercise an indirect political function. Science likewise stands apart from activities common to advocacy groups and lobbies: of course we are interested in democracy, but we are not duty bound to ensure its success.

Speech by Andreas Auer at the inaugural me

Speech by Andreas Auer at the inaugural meeting of the "Friends of the ZDA" Association on 2 April 2009. The article expresses the personal views of the author.

However, science does not mean retreating into an ivory tower, undertaking research for the sake of research, avoiding to take sides and denying responsibility, although these positions might be quite attractive. Science means *to get involved*, to feel concerned, to acknowledge and to evaluate critically socio-political relations on the basis of solid research results, to accept different opinions; in short, to trade and to negotiate in the marketplace of scientific ideas.

For the ZDA, three scientific fields of activity are central. Political science, in particular Swiss politics, methodology, and research on elections and democracy; legal science, in particular constitutional law, institutions and procedures of direct democracy and e-voting; educational science, particularly teaching methods for civic education and history, and training strategies for politically responsible citizens.

As a research centre, the ZDA not only looks out for *new findings* but also devotes itself intensively to their implementation. Knowledge only makes sense when it can be passed on to others, when it gets to the people. Transferring knowledge must be taken seriously, through lectures, publications, conferences, training and further education.

Additionally, the ZDA actively *promotes young researchers*, in the sense that its collaborators not only engage in joint research projects, but pursue their personal scientific careers by means of dissertations, publications, teaching courses and holding lectures.

There are some 40 staff members that form the core of the ZDA. They do the job, carry out research, perform tasks, discover new perspectives and answer the questions that we are asked. Like any centre, the ZDA is but the sum of its parts – that is the team of collaborators. It must be said that they form an outstanding team that we can all be proud of.

2. The ZDA is a centre for democracy

Democracy as a form of state and government may be generally well-known, yet it is an immensely complex thing. The power of the people cannot easily be implemented. To put it simply, it needs at the outset a definition of "the people". The law must determine who belongs to the people and under what conditions men can become voters. The voters can only carry out their will through certain institutions and procedures, like elections, votes, referendums, citizens' initiatives and much more. These institutions, in turn, have a specific relationship with other basic elements of statehood such as freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of the media and the freedom to vote, but also equality, proportionality, legitimacy and separation of powers. The institutional apparatus that makes democracy possible is unable to guarantee its existence, for it must be expanded and limited by civil society. Democracy stands and falls with the vivacity of a network of social relations that allows individuals to fulfil their political, social, cultural, religious and economic goals and desires independently of the state and to act in this sense upon the state. This complex network of relationships is nurtured by certain social representations concerning its usefulness and efficiency, by an ideology or political culture that provides the whole with the necessary legitimacy.

To grasp, understand, and explore this democracy is one of the tasks of the ZDA. We do not pretend to be able to improve democracy, to expand or to change it. We have to limit ourselves to investigate democracy from the perspective of the problems that are studied within the three departments. There is, first of all, the direct relationship between democracy and civic education. Then comes direct democracy with its instruments and tools, wherever they appear. Finally we try to measure democracy, to compare its manifestations, to make it accessible to interested citizens and understandable to the

authorities. Much is still missing and many things need to be improved, but we are underway and that is the key factor. Not to arrive, but to be on the road is important, even and especially in science. Research on democracy is a process and not a product.

3. The ZDA is a centre for democracy in Aarau

Even the last component is not self-evident. The ZDA has its seat in Aarau, and not just anywhere in Aarau, but in the Villa Blumenhalde. I will shortly attempt to explain how this all came about has a number of consequences on the activities of the ZDA.

It certainly does not mean that we would have to concentrate on democracy in the City of Aarau or the canton of Aargau. Indeed, even from Aarau we examine and observe democracy worldwide, on a global scale. That we are hosted in the residence of Heinrich Zschokke does not mean that we look constantly back to the Helvetic period of Swiss history. We deal primarily with contemporary democracy, though naturally we are aware that a good understanding of history is essential.

The ZDA is located in Aarau because both the City of Aarau and the canton of Aargau support it with a substantial contribution to its financing. More than half of our budget is paid by the taxpayers of the city and the canton, and in fact, they have committed to doing so for a period of at least ten years. This must be quite unique not only in Switzerland but probably worldwide.

Being located in Aarau also means we have to do justice to this exceptional commitment. What does this mean? There might be different answers to that question. We can only reject the view that the city and canton should have any influence on and control of the scientific activities of the ZDA, according to the well-known saying that "the one who pays, commands". This would radically contradict academic freedom that applies and must apply to the ZDA as it is the basic condition for all independent research. One must likewise reject the view that all the ZDA owes the city and the canton is the uncontested quality of its scientific research work. This might be true, but it does not justify the ZDA not paying attention to the legitimate expectations of the authorities and citizens of the canton and city. We are required to report to the authorities on the use of the funds that have been made available to us. And we must give something back to the people, or at least to those interested in our activities. The launch of the yearly Aarau Democracy Days, with its scientific and cultural events, serves exactly this purpose. We are certainly prepared, however, to consider and realise other suggestions with real potential in favour of the local people.

Furthermore, to be located in Aarau means that we do not want to be a foreign element in the city and the region but would rather like to slowly become an integral part of it. To facilitate and to ensure this inclusion and embedding is the true goal of the association "Friends of the ZDA" that has been founded today.

B. How it came about

The ZDA is a product of our democracy and our federalism. The process that led to that product nicely illustrates the basic elements of these two structural principles. Parliamentary democracy, direct democracy, relationships cantons/cities, relationships between cantons, lobbies, the role of citizens and their representatives, party politics, university politics, personal actions by individuals – all these factors have played a combined role to make the outcome possible – the creation of the ZDA.

As is so often the case, its creation cannot be traced back to one person. Many people and authorities played a part. In my opinion the formation of the ZDA can only be explained by a unique combination of objective and subjective factors, of opposition and majority within democracy, of chance and necessity.

I see two objective motives. First, there was the idea in the 1970s of the creation of a university of educational sciences in Aarau. Unluckily, this idea failed in Parliament while the simultaneously-initiated suggestions for a university in Lucerne and a university in the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland were passed successfully in the 1990s. The failure left behind an understandable disappointment in the region. The second motive involved a similar disappointment when, in 2001, the canton decided to shift the FHNW to Brugg and Windisch. A certain degree of bitterness was felt by the city of Aarau and, suffering in its role as capital city of the Canton, Aarau was ready to show "them" what it was capable of. A potential third objective factor was the availability of certain financial resources that were, in a way, waiting for a new project to begin.

Subjectively, there are approximately ten people, or better, personalities to mention, who played a critical role in the birth of the ZDA. Some have introduced ideas, developed them and put them back on track. Others have supported and protected these ideas, taking them up and pushing them through. Still others have enriched these ideas, steered them in new directions or brought them back to life, while yet another group reshuffled the cards to force a breakthrough. A special mention must be made to Stephan Müller and Mark Eberhart, Nick Brändli, Heinz Schöttli and Rudolph Künzli, Marcel Guignard and Alexander Hofmann, Rainer Huber and Hans Weder, Hanspeter Kriesi and Andreas Ladner. Among these people are politicians, citizens and administrative employees, members of the city and cantonal government, parliamentarians, professors and rectors.

It is not that these personalities, and the authorities, parties and corporations they represent, harmoniously shaped, established, pursued and finally carried out the idea of a centre for democracy. Opposition and conflict were as much deciding factors as agreement and compromise. There were disagreements between so-called opposition groups and the so-called establishment, between the executive and the legislative branch, between the city and the canton, and between the left wing, right wing and centre parties. By and by the idea took shape and was finally presented to the people and their representatives to make a decision. One of the trademarks of the ZDA is that its creation is due to democracy, to the will of the people. Particularly worth mentioning are the memorable municipal referendum vote on the ZDA of 17 June 2007, the cantonal University Promotion Law enacted on 3 July 2007 and entered into force on 1 January 2008 and the credit decree of the Cantonal Parliament of 23 September 2008, which was opposed neither by popular nor by legislative referendum.

The interaction of necessity and chance should also not be underestimated. This includes the assignment of the national research programme (NCCR) "Democracy in the 21st century" to the UZH, the desire of the city and the canton to newly position themselves on the Swiss university scene, the background of the Heinrich Zschokke Society and the city working group "Uni Institut Aarau", the financial bottleneck that threatened the c2d at the University of Geneva, inciting it to look out for a new University partner, the willingness of the UZH management and the Government of Aargau to make c2d's move from Geneva to Aarau possible, the readinesss of the FHNW to put the Villa Blumenhalde at the disposal of the ZDA and to be its fourth partner – all this played an important role.

And so it came to the quite unique construction of the ZDA, supported by an ambitious city, an open-minded canton and two outstanding universities, integrated into a national

research programme of the Swiss National Fund, which gives the historically significant Blumenhalde a new life in its uncompromising commitment to democracy in all its forms and manifestations.

C. Where it will go

How should, how can things continue with the ZDA? Where is it heading? How do we propose to fulfil the high expectations legitimately set by the four partners, the academic community and *last but not least* the people? The answers can be found in the Development Plan, approved on 19 November 2009. Here are a few very personal concluding remarks:

There is no doubt that the status quo is neither institutionally nor technically sufficient. The three existing departments – c2d, ADF and PBGD – are not able to cover the topic of democracy in all its variety and complexity. For instance, a key component of our democracy is research on Parliament and this is not, as yet, part of our programme. The influence of ICTs like the Internet, e-voting and e-government on the functioning of the classical instruments of democracy and citizens behaviour is important and widely underresearched scientifically. The role of the media and of all communications sciences needs to be taken into consideration. Historical perspectives cannot be ignored. We are maybe unable to take all these research fields in due consideration. But we must thrive to make a determined steps in this direction. We will probably need to create new departments, provided that adequate financial backings can be found.

It is a basic fact that a university institute is not only dedicated to research but also involved in teaching. At the moment teaching takes but a secondary position at the ZDA. There is a good reason. Of course, number of collaborators and the directors of each department have active teaching positions at their faculties and universities. The fact remains that, within the context of the Bologna system, new courses and classes do not grow on trees. We therefore have to carefully consider at which level and with what means we wish to, and can, become involved in this system. Priorities are a programme for continued education and, in the medium term, perhaps a master's programme, though in that regard we have to be sure to find an attractive niche as there is considerable competition. However, in the area of research on democracy, both nationally and internationally, we do not need to fear any serious competition; hence the conditions for the creating democracy-oriented courses can be viewed as excellent.

With regard to premises and facilities, we find that the Blumenhalde is already close to full utilization. With a further increase of the number of collaborators due to the approval of new research projects – four of which are currently pending – new perspectives must be considered, for example an extension to the existing building or the leasing of new offices and classrooms in the area. But all this requires additional funding.

Andreas Auer

Director

II. ZDA (internal)

Partners

The partners of the ZDA are the City of Aarau, the Canton Aargau, the University of Zurich (UZH) and the University of Applied Sciences of North-Western Switzerland (FHNW).

Departments

The ZDA consists of three departments – "Allgemeine Demokratieforschung" (ADF), "Politische Bildung und Geschichtsdidaktik" (PBGD) and "Centre for Research on Direct Democracy" (c2d).

Directorship

The ZDA is run by a Board of Directors who's members head the three departments; Prof. Béatrice Ziegler (PBGD), Prof. Daniel Kübler (ADF; as of 1 April 2009) and Prof. Andreas Auer (c2d). Prof. Auer is chairman for 2009 and 2010.

Office

The office of the ZDA was run by Mrs Marlene Koeltz from January 2008 to July 2009. Ms Eliane Widmer has been responsible for the office since August 2009. She is the first point of contact for visitors and staff, assists the directors in all matters relating to the ZDA and looks after the staff employment contracts (except those in the PBGD) as well the accounting.

Employees

In the year under review the ZDA had 48 collaborators with a work quota totalling 2410.

c2d: Andreas Auer, Alexandre Baudin, Arjun Geevarghese, Beat Kuoni, Nina

Massüger, Fernando Mendez, Michael Peart, Gabriela Rohner, Uwe Serdült, Vasiliki Trigka, Ana Tornic, Yanina Welp, Jonathan Wheatley (ZDA); Beat Müller (external); Bo Chen, Maja Harris, Tatiana Lozano

(Interns)

ADF: Marc Bühlmann, Jacqueline Bürgler, David Erni, Antoinette Feh, Gabriela

Felder, Jan Fivaz, Stefani Gerber, Karin Hasler, Nico van der Heiden, Ariane Itin, Daniel Kübler, Ruth Kunz, Lisa Müller, Lisa Schaedel, Daniel

Schwarz, Urs Scheuss, Nenad Stojanovic, Isabel Vollenweider

PBGD: Dominik Allenspach, André Gloor, Andrea Höchli, Jan Hodel, Yvonne

Leimgruber, Alexander Lötscher, Sára Mészaros, Daniela Prina, Bernhard

Schär, Vera Sperisen, Monika Waldis, Corinne Wyss, Béatrice Ziegler

Financing

According to the partnership agreement, the partners pay the following basic contributions on a yearly basis (in CHF):

City of Aarau 785,000.-; Canton Aargau 800,000.-; UZH 300,000.- and 100,000.- for assistant positions; FHNW 300,000.- and 150,000.- for general administrative expenses.

Third party funding in 2009: c2d 380,000.-; ADF 220,00.-0; PBGD 511,000.-.

Premises

Since September 2007 the ZDA has been resident in the Villa Blumenhalde, belonging to the citizens' municipality (Ortsbürgergemeinde) of Aarau.

Library

The ZDA has been building up a scientific library for the three departments since January 2009. The cataloguing is carried out for by the PH FHNW. All publications are available on the publicly accessible catalogue NEBIS.

Staff Assembly

As scheduled by contract, the staff assembly was created in August 2009. It has a statute of observer within the directorship.

Board of Partners

The board of the partners of the ZDA met four times in 2009.

The <u>first meeting on 16 January 2009</u> established the ZDA as a simple partnership under Swiss law by approving the partnership agreement.

The <u>second meeting on 20 February 2009</u> elected Andreas Auer as Chairman of the directorship for 2009 and 2010, approved the objectives for 2009 and took note of the outline for the 2009 budget, the 2008 accounts and the development plan 2010/2011.

The third meeting on 3 June 2009 discussed the outline of the development plan 2010/2013, as well as a first version of the annual accounts for 2008 and took note of the different current trends and assignments of the ZDA as an institution.

The <u>fourth meeting on 19 November 2009</u> approved the development plan 2010/2013, the annual accounts for 2008 and the 2009 budget as well as the budget for 2010. Four members of a scientific advisory board were appointed.

Scientific Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Giovanni Biaggini, Lehrstuhl für Staats- Verwaltungs- und Europarecht (Chair of Constitutional, Administrative and European Law), UZH

Prof. Dr. Yannis Papadopoulos, Institut d'études politiques et internationals, Université de Lausanne (Institute of Political and International Studies, University of Lausanne)

Prof. Dr. Dietlind Stolle, Political Science, McGill University, Montréal, Québec

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Waldmann, Direktor des nationalen Zentrums, Institut für Föderalismus, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Freiburg (Director of the National Centre, Institute for Federalism, Faculty of Law, University of Freiburg)

Prof. Dr. Dirk Lange, Professur für die Didaktik der Politischen Bildung, Institut für Politische Wissenschaft, Leibnitz Universität, Hannover (Chair of the Didactics of Civic Education, Institute for Political Science, Leibnitz University, Hannover)

Prof. Peter Seixas, Director of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Education, Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

The "Friends of the ZDA" Association

The "Friends of the ZDA" Association was set up on 2 April 2009. It promotes the development of the ZDA and supports its establishment amongst the population, politics and the economy. The association is headed by Prof. Dr. Georg Müller and has approximately 200 members from around the region.

III. Research

Research Focus 1: Comparing Democracies

Current research projects

<u>Democracy Barometer</u>

ADF

As a part of the NCCR Democracy (financed by SNF; total funding: CHF 650,000 plus CHF 200,000 additional funding from the ZDA), this research project is developing an instrument to measure the quality of democracy in approximately 75 established democracies. The project runs since September 2005. The first phase will be finished in September 2009. The project has been extended to September 2013 (second phase) and may be extended further to September 2017 (third phase).

Quality of democracy in the Swiss cantons

ADF

This SNF project (total funding: CHF 184,000) is run jointly with Adrian Vatter (Institute for Political Science, UZH; from September 2009: University of Berne). It requires the work of two PhD students and its objective is to classify the quality of democracy in the Swiss cantons using a dual measuring instrument, and to describe and explain the differences between the cantons. This project has been running since May 2008 and is expected to go to August 2010. An application for extension has been submitted.

Power, Parties and Democracy

c2d

This is an internally financed research project that compares the party systems of Latin America and the former states of the Soviet Union on a broad scale. The project puts presidential referendums under the microscope and examines the influence of new information and communications technology (ICT) and the media in the relating political systems (duration September 2008 to July 2010).

Cleavages, governance and the media in European metropolitan areas

ADF

This project of the NCCR Democracy (total funding: CHF 650,000) examines conflicts, political institutions and media access in six European metropolitan areas. The project began in October 2009, runs until September 2013 and may be further extended to September 2017 (third phase).

Proposed research projects 2009

Ethnic quotas in Bosnia and Herzegovina

ADF

In October 2009, this project has been approved as part of the "SCOPES" (supporting the scientific cooperation between research groups and institutions in Switzerland and Eastern Europe, SNF/DEZA) programme. The project is run together with a research team from the University of Sarajevo and has the objective of investigating the procedures and quality of representation of minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (total funding: CHF 90,000; duration: 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012).

Research Focus 2: Institutions and Practice of Direct Democracy

Current research projects

The European referendum revisited

c2d

Financed by SNF (CHF 300,000), this research project's objective is to critically examine the democratic suitability of the around 45 referendum votes that have been held in 25 European countries since the 1970s on questions on European integration. The project has been going since April 2007 and will finish at the end of 2010.

The effectiveness of citizens' initiatives in the federal government

c2d

Since the beginning of 2009, c2d has been investigating to what extent citizens' initiatives in the Federal Government (since 1891) have been able to influence the existing system of laws; be it through the adoption of a referendum vote, direct or indirect counter proposals or the inclusion of withdrawn citizens' initiatives.

Constitutional conventions, direct democracy and institutional change

c2d

Financed by SNF (CHF 370,000), this research project aims to carry out a scientific examination of the institution of constitutional conventions around the world, having particular regard to the effects on direct democracy. Given the large number of constitutional conventions, a selection will be used (duration: September 2008 to October 2010).

Proposed research projects 2009

The effectiveness of citizens' initiatives in the cantons

c2d

Submitted to SNF in September 2009, the project is an empirical study of all validly submitted or withdrawn citizens' initiatives in the Swiss cantons since 1970.

Referendums on sovereignty issues

c2d

SNF research grant application filed September 2009: A critical reassessment of the role of the people in solving or not solving sovereignty questions through the use of referendums around the world.

Research Focus 3: Democratic Innovations

Current research projects

e-dc

The Electronic Democracy Centre (www.e-dc.ch), founded by c2d in 2003, is examining the effects of the new information and communications technology on political decision-making processes and, in particular, direct democracy institutions.

Innovations in democracy: What Europe can learn from Latin America

c2d

Funded by the Avina Foundation (CHF 200,000), this programme consists of four individual projects run by local research teams in Argentina and Brazil under the leadership of c2d, who answer specific questions on direct democracy (duration: November 2008 to October 2010).

Research Focus 4: Civic Education and Democracy

Current research projects

Expansion of professional competencies

PBGD

This SNF DORE funded interventions study (CHF 200,000) is a follow-up project to "History and politics in the classroom". The project looks at ways to encourage teachers to acquire professional knowledge within the subject of history. Of particular interest are video-supported class assessments and research-oriented work in learning groups.

Learning tasks in the learning area of history and subject-specific competency promotion

PBGD

This project (funded by a third party CHF 40,000) analyses the teaching methods "People in time and space volume 9" (a best-practice example) with regard to their support potential. There is understanding to be gained from these teaching methods as to the extent suggested competency models can be used empirically. A coding framework will be developed to record the competency promotion of teaching methods.

Effectiveness of history teaching resources

PBGD

This SNF DORE funded project (CHF 200,000) studies the effectiveness of teaching methods empirically. It examines the process of adoption of history teaching resources by teachers using the case study "Looking and enquiring. Switzerland and the national socialist era in the current context". Selection decisions affected by the process of adoption of those teaching resources will be examined, as well as the way in which the teaching resource is made available to students in class. The significance of the study for the teacher training institution will be immediately understandable, making the knowledge of teachers' the study's objective.

Civic education (NCCR Democracy: Transfer module

PBGD

This NCCR Transfer project "Civic education" is part of the NCCR Democracy (SNF) (CHF 137,000) and investigates the challenges of democracy in the 21st century. At the centre of civic education, the objective is to make the knowledge and results of the NCCR Democracy productive for civic education. Civic education should give young people the foundations to acquire a critical attitude and become actively involved in political decision-making processes and political discussions. In this way, the relationship between political science and civic education, that until now has been neglected, will be strengthened.

Teacher Empowerment to Educate Students to become Active European Citizens (TEESAEC) PBGD

In this Socrates-Comenius project, resources are being developed to promote thinking and behaving as a member of the European community. First it must be ascertained what 14-16 year old students know about Europe and the EU respectively, and what their position is on them. The resources will be made available to teachers as webquest teaching preparation, while the student control group will be given a paper copy. The intervention study examines the effectiveness of learning with webquest compared to the teaching-learning situation of conventional lessons.

The surveying of Swiss school students and the development of materials from Switzerland's perspective will enable light to be shed on the expectations and the way the EU is viewed from the outside. However, discussion with studies in EU countries will show the Swiss partners what is expected of young migrants in Switzerland who are EU citizens in terms of knowledge and basic positions, and in what ways demands are made even on Swiss schools in this regard (funding SBF, CHF 100,000).

Historical online competence, Sek I (secondary level 1) dissertation project **PBGD**

In tertiary institutions the great importance of specialist criteria for the use of information and communications technology (ICT or "new media") in research and teaching is starting to be recognised (historical online competence). In school history lessons there is, as yet, no assessment of didactics taking place using ICT. This stands in contrast to the real importance of using ICT to obtain information at Sek I. Especially in the subject of history, where original project work demands the independent search for information, the question of particular significance to be asked is how competent students cope with ICT.

Multiple perspectives on the First World War

PBGD

This Socrates-Comenius project (funding SBF, CHF 40,000) has the objective of preparing teaching materials on the First World War that replace national historical fixations in favour of a European version of the War. The chosen method of this multiple-perspective work should overcome this constraint to make a European understanding of this part of our common history possible. The critical examination of handed-down conceptions of history will make students aware that history can serve as a political necessity for legitimacy. The inclusion of the perspective of a neutral state represents a considerable broadening of the European view and makes an overall assessment of international conflicts possible.

Teaching civic education

PRGD

The objective of this project is the theory-supported development of empirically validated criteria to identify and describe teaching processes that can be described as civic education.

This is done through an analysis of a) phases of the lessons and b) factors in class occurrences, with consideration of c) the contents being discussed and d) chosen teaching forms. A basis for continuing research into the teaching of civic education is being created, including a) a description of gaps in the requirements for civic education in practice and b) identification of promising criteria and methods.

Proposed research projects 2009

Empirical class council

PBGD

The goal is to, by means of exploration, construct a social science typology of class councils where hypotheses can be made and checked in the course of the examination of data material. At the same time an examination of the effectiveness of class councils will be carried out. Here, of primary interest will be the question of to what extent the class council is viewed as "successful" and "effective" by the parties involved. The background of this project forms theoretical ideas and considerations as to its usefulness from educational policy that the class council recommends as an instrument of civic education and classroom management. The project has been approved by DORE and begins on 1 February 2010.

Teachers' beliefs PBGD

This project (submitted to SNF DORE) is called "Beliefs of Teachers about Civic Education". It aims to research the understanding of Swiss-German teachers of civic education and summarise it into a typology. The understanding of a civic education teacher is significant for their professional decisions and actions. It has just as much of an influence on the processes of their personal education as on their school lessons. In this way, the project will make a significant contribution to the foundational research in the area of teacher beliefs.

Research Focus 5: History and Theory of Democracy

Current research projects

Civil society and democracy

ZDA

A scientific study of the significance of civil society (in a broad sense) for the development and implementation of democracy.

The Swiss decision-making system in the 21st century: Institutions, power and conflict c2d

An SNF study, carried out in collaboration with the Department of Political Science at the University of Geneva, this project studies the changes in the decision-making system from the perspectives of the collective parties (December 2007 to March 2010).

IV. Teaching

In 2009, the ZDA did not, as such, run any courses. However, various staff members teach at universities in Switzerland and abroad.

Andreas Auer ran a seminar (two days) at the Blumenhalde in May 2009 on direct democracy as part of the bachelor programme of the Faculty of Law at the UZH. In the 2009 autumn semester he taught the law faculty masters course "*Direct Democracy*" with Oliver Diggelmann.

Uwe Serdült and **Fernando Mendez** taught "*Theories of Institutions and Institutional Change*" in the 2009 spring semester. In addition, **Uwe Serdült** taught a methods course "*Social Network Analysis*" in the 2009 spring semester.

Yaninia Welp has been teaching at the Catalonia Open University (Barcelona) on *The Information Society* since 2009.

Jonathan Wheatley taught "State-building, governance and regime change in the post-Soviet space" as part of the masters programme of the Political Science Institute of the UZH in the 2009 spring semester.

Marc Bühlmann taught "Introduction into empirical research on democracy" as part of the Chair of 'Comparative Political Science' at the UZH. In the 2009 autumn semester he presented a seminar "Quality of democracy – conceptual basis and empirical measurement" at the UZH and the lecture "Democracy in the municipalities" at the University of Berne.

Nico van der Heiden taught the introductory seminar course "Multi-Level Governance" as part of the Political Science bachelor programme of the Faculty of Culture and Social Science at the University of Lucerne in the 2009 autumn semester. In the same period he also taught political science in the Management Economics programme at the College of Lucerne. In the 2009 autumn semester he taught the seminar "Policy-evaluation in theory and practice" as part of the Political Science bachelor and masters programme in the Faculty of Culture and Social Science at the University of Lucerne.

Daniel Kübler taught the elective "Politics and democracy in the city" as part of the Political Science bachelor programme of the Faculty of Philosophy at the UZH. In the same period he taught the BA course "Social policy, social security and legal bases" in the Social Work bachelor programme at the FHNW (together with A. Caplazi and M. von Fellenberg). In the 2009 autumn semester he taught the core seminar "Democracy" as part of the joint Masters for Comparative and International Studies at the UZH and ETH Zurich (together with F. Schimmelfennig). At the same time he began a full year research seminar "Urban Governance" as part of the Political Science BA programme at the UZH. Since the 2009 spring semester, Daniel Kübler has been participating in courses for licentiates and doctoral students for the Institute for Political Science at the UZH.

Nenad Stojanovic was a guest professor at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo in the 2009 spring semester where, as part of the DEZA-ZDA project "Swiss contribution to the constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina", he taught the masters course "Democracy in multicultural societies". In the 2009 autumn semester he was a guest lecturer at the European University Institute in Florence (as part of the doctoral workshop "Nationalism in Theory and Practice"); at the Università degli studi di Trento (as part of the tutorial "Diritto constituzionale comparator dei gruppi e delle minoranze"); at the Istituto italiano di scienze umane in Florence (as part of the seminar "Come si fa ricerca?") and at the Institute for Research on Federalism and Regionalism in Bolzen/Bolzano (as part of the International Winter School on Federalism and Governance).

Jan Hodel teaches a semester course "The way to modernity" at the Sek I-Course, together with Monica Kalt.

Yvonne Leimgruber teaches a semester course "Didactics of civic education" at the Sek I-Course, together with Andreas Gross.

Monika Waldis taught fundamental models of learning and accompanying dissertations in the Sek I-Course in Aarau in the 2009 spring semester, in the 2009 autumn semester she taught Learning II.

Béatrice Ziegler oversees the four-semester long "*Disciplinary extension of history*" in the field of Individual and Society at the Sek I-Course of the PH FHNW, in addition to the accompanying module to work out the individual research projects of the students.

V. Databases

www.c2d.ch

The unique international online database on national and regional referendum votes in all the countries of the world since 1791 is the original core of c2d, since its formation in Geneva in 1993. In 2009 the database was brought up to a whole new level technically, to improve its expandability and user-friendliness and to guarantee the security of the data. The content of the database was added to by the *National Conference of State Legislatures* (NCSL), Washington, for all referendum votes in the individual states of the USA.

<u>Smart monitor – a legislative database</u>

Jointly funded by NCCR Democracy, the ZDA and Verein Politools (Berne) (approx. CHF 160,000), the smart monitor project as part of NCCR-IP16 pursues, in particular, the goal of building up a publicly accessible Swiss parliamentary database for research purposes.

www.politischebildung.ch

The website provides comprehensive information about civic education in Switzerland. It works together with partners (PHZ-Luzern, naturama) on this.

www.historyhelpline.ch

Sound teaching units (both in regard to content and didactically) for first year secondary school teachers are offered on this website, jointly supported by the Chair of Social Sciences, Secondary School Institute and PH FHNW.

VI. Public events in and around Aarau (6)

Aarau Democracy Days "*The challenge of HarmoS*", 2-3 April 2009, Aarau (ZDA) with four scientific panels, a panel discussion with politicians and a cultural political event.

Exhibition on HarmoS and Democracy "*Mathematics from Aargau or Zug?*", April-July 2009, put together by Stefan Müller, City Museum, Aarau.

Inaugural meeting of the "Friends of the ZDA" Association, 2 April 2009, Aarau.

ZDA opening celebration/ Open day, 4 April 2009, Aarau (ZDA).

Forum Schlossplatz, presentation by the ZDA, 11 June 2009, Aarau (ZDA management).

"Friends of the ZDA" late summer social event, presentation by the ZDA, seminar by Uwe Serdült on the topic "*Eligible voters between information*, propaganda and manipulation" followed by a panel, 31 August 2009, Aarau (ZDA).

VII. Scientific conferences organised by the ZDA (5)

The challenge of HarmoS, 1st Aarau Democracy Days, 2-4 April 2009

Introductory lecture by Prof. Lucien Criblez (UZH)

Panel 1 Regulation based on standards and tests? (Chair: Prof. Carsten Quesel

FHNW)

Panel 2 Didactical problems (Chair: Prof. Béatrice Ziegler ZDA)

Panel 3 HarmoS in the Swiss Education Constitution (Chair: Prof. Andreas Auer

ZDA)

Panel 4 HarmoS and horizontal federalism (Chair: Prof. Daniel Kübler ZDA)

Discussion panel, led by Hans Fahrländer (AZ) with Regina Aeppli, Geri Müller, Martine Brunschwig-Graf, Ulrich Schluer, Beat Zemp, Beatrice Konrad.

E-Politics: E-Inclusion, Direct Democracy and E-Participation, Schloss Münchenwiler, 12-13 March 2009 (c2d, e-dc)

Hanspeter Kriesi Symposium, Zurich, "Hot models and hard conflicts. The agenda of comparative political science in the 21st century" 26 June 2009, organised by the Political Science Institute at the UZH and the ZDA (ADF).

Empirical research history education 09: Second international conference on empirical research on history education, Old University of Basle, 3-4 September 2009, organised by PBGD.

Direct democracy in an interdisciplinary and international context, Dresden. 2-22 November 2009, organised by the Deutsches Institut für sachunmittelbare Demokratie (DISUD) (German Institute for Direct Democracy) and c2d.

VIII. <u>Scientific seminars/ workshops/ further events in Switzerland and abroad</u>

70 altogether (information on request).

IX. <u>Publications (58)</u>

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X. Newspaper articles (7)

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XI. Services

The service project "Swiss contribution to the constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina" is established with the ADF department. It is funded by the Direktion für Entwicklungs- und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA) (Management for Development and Cooperation) (CHF 170,000). The ZDA is a partner organisation, responsible for the leadership and coordination of the project (Leader: Nenad Stojanovic). As part of the project, expert advice will be offered to Bosnian party advisors, parliamentarians, journalists and progressive students of political science and jurisprudence, as part of discussions on a constitutional reform. Several ZDA staff members have become involved in the project and contribute their expertise (A. Auer, A. Tornic, J. Wheatley). Duration: September 2008 to July 2010.

Acting on the instructions of cantons and municipalities, c2d has drawn up several legal opinions, for example on questions of electoral law in Canton Lucerne (February 2009). On the instruction of Canton Aargau, the pending municipal reform was examined as to its democratic content and influence (October 2008 to May 2009).

At the request of Canton Basle City, the ADF department, in collaboration with the College of Social Work of the FHNW, is evaluating the pilot project for the introduction of integration agreements. The ZDA is responsible for Course 1 "*Policy Design*". The aim of the course is to gain an overview of the concepts and purposes of the different pilot projects for the introduction of integration agreements in five cantons (AG, BS, BL, SO, ZH). Duration: May 2009 to March 2010.

The PBGD department has taken on a mandate for civic education (B. Ziegler) as part of the Swiss-German curriculum for elementary schools, Project team BNE+ (Education for sustainable upbringing: extramural topics) (2009-2011); as well as:

175 years of elementary school in Aargau, a BKS AG consultation and further education mandate (Y. Leimgruber) that was concluded in 2009; and finally:

The study week on civic education in the Zug Kantonsschule is currently being evaluated (Dominik Allenspach) (June 2009 to March 2010). Linked to this evaluation is a small research project.

ADF and PBGD are carrying out the EuroSoc KG evaluation of an EU-role play in 35 grammar school classes in Germany. In the EU-role play, students simulate the enactment of an EU decree on energy. The student survey looks at the usefulness and advantages of the role play compared with regular school lessons, and at the eventual increase in the students interest and knowledge of politics (D. Allenspach, J Bürgler, D. Kübler, B. Ziegler) (April 2009 to February 2010).

XII. <u>International Collaboration</u>

NCCR "Challenges to democracy in the 21st century", UZH (Hanspeter Kriesi)

Deutsches Institut für Sachunmittelbare Demokratie (DISUD) (German Institute for Direct Democracy) Dresden (Peter Neumann)

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Washington

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm

European University Institute (EUI), Florence (Alexander Trechsel)

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Initiative and Referendum Institute (IRI, Bruno Kaufmann)

Avina Foundation Switzerland and Latin America

Centre pour la gouvernance démocratique (Centre for democratic governance), Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Fasò (Augustin Loada)

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Berlin Scientific Centre for Social Research) (W. Merkel, B. Wessels, H. Giebler)

University of Southern California (J. Sellers)

Univerzitet u Sarajevu (A. Mujkic)

University of Kent (P. Dardanelli)

Internationale Gesellschaft für Geschichtsdidaktik (IGGD) (International Society for History Didactics)

Konferenz für Geschichtsdidaktik, Deutschland (Conference for History Education, Germany)

Gesellschaft für Politikdidaktik und politische Jugend- und Erwachsenenbildung (GPJE) (Society for Political didactics and political education for adults and young people)

Eckert Institut für Schulbuchforschung (GEI) (Eckert Institute for Schoolbook Research) Braunschweig

University of British Columbia, Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness/Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy (P. Seixas)

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XIII. Financial Report 2009

The financial reporting (annual accounts) of the departments c2d and ADF with budget-actual-comparison is presented in separate documents. The accounting of the department PBGD is handled internally within the FHNW.

In the course of the financial year 2009 various open issues (administrative assignment UZH, legal issues, operational procedures) could be clarified and the processes for credit management, payments, clearance and controlling were established.

The main parameters of the result for the year 2009 can be summarized as follows:

• The total **administrative overhead** (cost unit "*Pool*") of CHF 485'000.— were below the budgeted CHF 520'000.—, despite the continuing growth of the ZDA. The first "Aarau Democracy Days" with a total budget of approximate CHF 40'000.— could virtually be covered by sponsorship.

According to a board decision of 19.11.2009, from the accounting surplus of the establishment period 2007/2008 CHF 50'000.— were credited to each department to cover the initial investments. A reserve of CHF 16'879.— was set aside for the redesign of the ZDA website; another CHF 150'000.— were provisioned for the evaluations regarding the additional need of working space.

As at the end of 2009 the cost unit *Pool* thus discloses a settled balance. For the accounting period 2010 overhead costs of around CHF 450'000.— are budgeted.

• In 2009 the **department c2d** has effectuated a total transaction volume of CHF 1'175'000.—; additionally to the basic funding by the canton of AG (CHF 800'000.—), third-party-funds of CHF 380'000.— were acquired (quota ca. 33%).

Even though, due to additional projects and an automatic wage adjustment of the UZH, the labour costs were unexpectedly high, the deficit from the establishment period (initial costs 2007/2008) could be reduced by half to roughly CHF 75'000.—. The residual shortfall will be balanced during the financial periods 2010/11 by adaption of the budget/costs.

 The department ADF has taken up its full operational activity in April 2009 and still has substantial financial reserves resulting from the delayed establishment of the department.

The annual turnover 2009 amounts to CHF 1'170'000.— with a basic funding by the city of Aarau of CHF 785'0000.—. In addition the UZH provides services on own account (NCCR) of CHF 285'000.—. The quota of third-party funds accounts to 20% (transaction volume CHF 220'000.—).

From the accounting surplus a provision of CHF 300'000.— was set aside for the establishment of a research focus "municipal democracy" over three years. This project answers to a explicit need from the public partners. Additional projects are planned.

XIV. Financial planning

The annual basic funding by the supporting partners will not change. To constitute a new e-democracy department, additional funding of roughly CHF 500'000.— per year must be acquired.

 City of Aarau
 785,000

 Canton Aargau
 800,000

 UZH
 300,000

 FHNW
 450,000

NN 500,000 (application made)

Total 2,735,000

The acquired third-party funds for research projects will vary significantly in an unpredictable spread. A yearly acquisition of CHF 300'000.— for research projects and services is targeted for each of the departments for the first two reporting periods; during the following reporting periods this amount should increase up to CHF 400'000.—. For the new department, third-party funding amounting to CHF 200'000.— can be scheduled from the second year onwards. A continuing moderate increment of the third-funding quota can be expected.

in CHF	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total amount of the expected third-party funding for all three (four) departments		1'200'000	1'400'000	1'500'000

* * *

Aarau, 28. January 2010

Béatrice Ziegler

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