Digital (Electronic) Democracy in Russia: Issues of Further Development[*]

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Abstract

The study addresses the issues of further development of digital (electronic) democracy in Russia. Digitalization has penetrated all spheres of public life. The sphere of public administration is no exception. The authors provide various scientific interpretations of democracy as a form of exercise of state power, in which the individual is given maximum freedom to exercise their rights and freedoms and the ability to participate in the state's public life. The study employs general scientific and private scientific methods. The authors conclude that developing information and communication technologies will completely reorganise public administration systems. The advancement of scientific and technological progress makes it possible to implement the power of the people in various digital (electronic) forms. The construction of an electronic state is in full swing. To develop a highly advanced, sovereign, prosperous state, it is necessary to safely introduce the tools of digital (electronic) democracy into the country's political life.

Keywords: Information society; Electronic state; Information and communication technologies; People's power; Electronic Services

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Demokrasi Digital (Elektronik) di Rusia:
Masalah Pengembangan Lebih Lanjut

Abstrak:

Studi ini membahas masalah perkembangan lebih lanjut dari demokrasi digital (elektronik) di Rusia. Digitalisasi telah merambah ke semua bidang kehidupan masyarakat. Tidak terkecuali bidang administrasi publik. Penulis memberikan berbagai interpretasi ilmiah tentang demokrasi sebagai bentuk pelaksanaan kekuasaan negara, di mana individu diberikan kebebasan yang sebesar-besarnya untuk menjalankan hak dan kebebasannya, serta kemampuan untuk berpartisipasi dalam kehidupan publik negara. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode ilmiah umum dan ilmiah swasta. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa perkembangan teknologi informasi dan komunikasi akan mengarah pada reorganisasi sistem administrasi publik secara menyeluruh. Kemajuan kemajuan ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi memungkinkan untuk mengimplementasikan kekuatan rakyat dalam berbagai bentuk digital (elektronik). Pembangunan keadaan elektronik sedang berjalan lancar. Untuk membangun negara yang sangat maju, berdaulat, dan makmur, perangkat demokrasi digital (elektronik) perlu diperkenalkan dengan aman ke dalam kehidupan politik negara.

Kata kunci: Masyarakat informasi; keadaan elektronik; teknologi informasi dan komunikasi; kekuatan rakyat; Layanan elektronik

Цифровая (Электронная) Демократия В России:
Вопросы Дальнейшего Развития

Аннотация:

В статье рассматриваются вопросы дальнейшего развития цифровой (электронной) демократии в России. Цифровизация проникла во все сферы жизни общества. Исключением не стала и сфера государственного управления. Авторы приводят различные научные трактовки демократии как формы осуществления государственной власти, где человеку предоставлена максимальная свобода реализовывать свои права и свободы, а также способность участвовать в общественной жизни государства. В процессе исследования авторами были использованы общенаучные, так и частно-научные методы. Авторы приходят к выводу, что развитие информационно-коммуникационных технологий приведёт к полной перестройке систем государственного управления. Развитие научно-технического прогресса позволяет реализовывать власть народа в различных цифровых (электронных) формах. Полным ходом идёт построение электронного государства. Для развития высокоразвитого, суверенного, благополучного государство необходимо безопасно внедрять инструменты цифровой (электронной) демократии в политическую жизнь страны.

Ключевые Слова: Информационное Общество; Электронное Государство; Информационно-Коммуникационные Технологии; Народовластие; Электронные Услуги

A. INTRODUCTION

The impact of scientific and technological progress on the relations system between the people and the state is highly topical today. Information and communication technologies have a tremendous effect on modern life. Technology is developing rapidly, which means that society and the spheres of public life are also changing. The institution of democracy is not left aside, and the democratic political regime has changed significantly throughout its historical development. An essential role in information progress has been played by the emergence and development of the Internet, which resulted in the advent of e-democracy. However, if we consider the Concept of e-state in general, e-democracy as its part is currently the least developed.

The present paper examines the preconditions for the emergence and development of e-democracy and the projects of e-democracy in Russia and abroad. The interest arises due to the need for the renewal and improvement of the institutions of democracy and their alignment with the requirements of the rapidly developing modern world. Without a doubt, democracy implies the active participation of the people in the country's life. Therefore, using the means of interaction that high results will mark is necessary. At the present moment, the Internet has grown to become an integral part of the life of modern society, and virtual politics is developing at a rapid pace, which signifies that there is a need to form and create a model of relations between the state and society that Internet technologies would also represent. The issue under debate is whether it is appropriate to create e-democracy through information and communication technologies given that the information society of Russia is not developed at the proper level, the computer literacy of the population is not developed at all, the introduction of Internet access is uneven, and the quality of Internet access on a national scale is still at an insufficient level. Because of this, the formation of e-democracy in the Russian Federation should be carried out only after its effectiveness is proven after all the positive and negative aspects of this process concerning other methods of people's participation in public life are compared.

B. METHODS

The purpose of the present study is to identify the problems of legal regulation of relations related to the institution of e-democracy and analyze the current legislation, the practice of application, and the prospects for developing the institution of e-democracy.

The declared topic is interdisciplinary and encompasses a wide range of

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scientific and practical areas, mainly information, constitutional, and administrative law. In the current period, digitalization is translating all social processes into the cyber-physical space, forming a new scientific and technological paradigm based on digital systems. Therefore, an interdisciplinary discussion of the most significant issues of the transformation and digitalization of legal regulation of social relations is an ideal platform for solving the problems of normative-legal uncertainty in some regions of the formation of the information society in Russia and abroad.

The scientific novelty of the study stems from the lack of systemic scientific knowledge on the mechanisms of e-democracy in Russia and the trends and patterns of its development in the digital era. The expected results of the study include disclosure of the nature, necessity, and limits of e-democracy in Russia; a characteristic of preconditions for the emergence of e-democracy; determination of the current state of e-democracy in Russia; identification of the existing problems of e-democracy in Russia, the development of proposals to overcome them.

The object under study is the social relations that develop in implementing the institute of e-democracy. The subject of the study is the current Russian legislation governing the peculiarities of the implementation of the institute of e-democracy. The study uses both general scientific and private scientific methods. Available scientific methods include analysis, synthesis, generalization, and the systemic approach. The personal, scientific methods include comparative-legal, historical, and statistical research methods.

C. RESULTS

To examine the institute of e-democracy, it is first necessary to study the preconditions that led to its development. The beginning of the use of electronic technologies in the political life of society was the activation of the political activity of society by broadcasting on cable television. Live television broadcasts were first used in the United States in the election campaign of presidential candidate Ross Perot in 1991.

Lawrence C. Grossman states that "in many manifestations, television is laying the foundation of the future electronic republic" (Bondarenko, 2004, p. 171). The most decisive impetus, however, came from the explosive development of the Internet and the rapid increase in its users. Consider the phenomenon of the penetration of cyberspace into government structures, and the first incident occurred in 1993. This was when the first-of-its-kind official state website was

created, which belonged to the USA White House. It should also be pointed out that in 1995, government bodies began to get their e-mail addresses, and by 1998, a government agency having an e-mail address became a common practice. By 2000, the number of e-mails sent by American citizens to such agencies as the US White House, Congress, and Senate, reached 80 million (Maiorova, 2001). In addition, the first electronic online elections were held in 2000 in Oregon.

This initial success of information technology in improving the efficiency of the government apparatus of the United States led to the development of these technologies and the development of more and more new government instruments based on information technology. Here it is worth reviewing the theoretical foundations of the study of the Concept of e-democracy. It can be concluded that the category under consideration was developed and researched by a range of scholars. Among the most prominent representatives of the scientific community who contributed to the study of e-democracy is Y. Masuda, who formulated the very Concept of the formation of the institution of democracy relying on modern technical, scientific, and informational advancements.

Masuda argues that the intensification of mass production of information and the high speed of its transmission calls for not only the regulation of such a system but also the integration of the latter at the state level. In addition, Masuda notes that aside from symbolic objects, an information system encompasses both people and things. Another argument presented by Masuda is that representative democracy was the most effective for industrial society but is not the most effective for the information society. Concerning information society, the most effective becomes participatory democracy, which can be achieved exclusively through the latest technological and informational developments (Masuda, 1981). Masuda identifies six principles of participatory democracy that have become fundamental for information society: 1). decisions are made in agreement by a maximum number of citizens; 2). political decisions are made solely by persuasion and precisely by reaching a consensus; 3). the benefits and revenues generated in society are distributed among all citizens; 4). All political information is widely distributed and accessible; 5). there is a civic synergy that functions in terms of decisions of a political nature; 6). a considerable number of citizens, ideally all citizens, take part in political decision-making, which serves as a basis for constructing an effective state system with a maximum level of legitimacy.

Currently, the concepts of e-democracy can be divided into two types: direct democracy and communitarian democracy (Turonok, 2001).

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Representatives of the first line of thought advocate a point of view that is closer to Masuda's. Such ideas are developed in the works of B. Barber and A. Corrado, and C. Firestone (Lenta.ru, 2005). However, considering the scholars who lean more toward a communitarian democracy, a concept that departs slightly from Masuda's principles, some noteworthy researchers are A. Etzioni and H. Reinhold.

From the point of view of the approach under consideration, the Internet acts as a relatively practical and convenient meeting place where people are grouped according to their professional or consumer characteristics. Representatives of this approach also highlight some features of Internet communities: 1). the formation of some subcultures that develop into independent cultures; 2). the presence of some interactive resources that help to collect feedback in the most rapid and large-scale way, which stimulates the development of the system; 3). stability of the audience, its large size, and regular attendance.

American sociologist A. Etzioni is the founder of the Concept of te-le-democracy, the main idea of which is the assertion that the development of the modern democratic state can be realized only with the development of remote means of communication, which by their nature are mass. A. Etzioni also argues that all the reins of power must be not in the hands of the state but in the hands of society. Network societies are guided in their functioning by a different management system compared to the relations based on a hierarchy. Thus, they have the following characteristic features: complete autonomy of all members; the existence of several leaders; relationships that citizens enter into voluntarily; common goals and objectives; various levels of interaction (Etzioni, 1995).

H. Reinhold, an internationally renowned computer technology expert and American sociologist, asserts that the Internet is the great equalizer that can establish a balance between society and political feudal lords (Turonok, 2001). The most zealous proponents of this type of democracy argue for the self-governance of the people expressed by participation in electronic polls, in which anyone can express their opinion without the assistance of political communicators and other intermediaries from the authorities, which, in our view, is relatively close to anarchy. Furthermore, these supporters believe that the Internet catalyzes the publicity of state governance, making it open and accessible to anyone.

The rationale of the adherents of electronic democracy is obvious. However, shortsightedness becomes apparent upon closer analysis. The assertion that the Internet can contribute to the transition from authoritarianism

to a more democratic government regime has not been confirmed. R. Keohane, an American political scientist, believes that authoritarian states experience significant difficulties in controlling citizens regarding their access to the Internet. However, it should be noted that some countries, such as China, have found ways to resolve this problem through various methods, including both administrative and technical means.

Undoubtedly, the development of Internet resources is in the interests of commercial organizations, which constantly serve as providers of services for the modernization of public authorities' functioning. A case in point is the books by B. Gates (2000), which are filled with stories about the benefits of such technologies. However, there is also a need to introduce electronic document management in public administration. In this process, it is necessary not just to automate public administration but to completely reform it taking into account the needs of society and the individual citizen.

Because the importance of Internet technologies is often overestimated, some rather exciting conclusions are made, often left without practical confirmation. For instance, D.V. Ivanov (2015), Doctor of Sociology, states that

> in the network, both functionaries of political parties/movements and employees of state institutions and citizens communicate through technology, which in principle allows communication in a format other than a party organization or bureaucratic procedure. Thus, without real institutionalized interaction, the image of an "acting organization" or a "working state" is maintained. The intensive politicization of cyberspace demonstrates that the new politics is built on compensation for the lack of real resources and actions with abundant images. (p. 96).

The idea of the transfer of politics into the virtual world is presented as a kind of social myth with inherent definitions and patterns grounded in science. According to the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, e-democracy must include the following elements: 1). participation of citizens in the work of the parliament; 2). discussion of draft laws, voting for their adoption; 3). The openness of information of a judicial nature; 4). discussion of political proposals; 5). E-elections are voting by means of information and communication technologies and counting votes by means of innovative technologies; 6). electronic referendums; 7). collection of citizens' opinions on pressing issues; 8). acceptance of citizens' objections and their recommendations; 9). population surveys.

Here it should be pointed out that the aforementioned conditions do not exhaust the elements required for the functioning of e-democracy. For example, another element is the presence of e-government as one of the methods of

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providing services delivered by the state.

These processes refer to e-democracy and can also be considered an "effective state". This approach is necessary for forming and implementing quality public administration (Iuzhakov, 2016). This approach refers to the change in public administration with consideration of information and communication technologies through the improvement of the level of trust in the state, improvement of the quality of services provided by the state, and much more. The work of the President of the Russian Federation plays a major role in the implementation of this Concept. Based on the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of May 7, 2012, No. 601 "On the main directions of improvement of the public administration system" (President of the Russian Federation, 2012), the Government of the Russian Federation is tasked with implementing a number of measures, namely: forming a mechanism for the disclosure of information on draft laws, their discussions; providing Internet access to information from the systems of public authorities of the Russian Federation, and so on.

Along with this, in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of April 15, 2014, No. 313 "On Approval of the State Program of the Russian Federation' Information Society'" (Government of the Russian Federation, 2014), the following measures are implemented: 1). the creation of services to ensure public discussion and monitoring of the activities of public (municipal) authorities; 2). the creation and development of information systems and services that provide access to information about the work of state (municipal) authorities; 3). the development and maintenance of a universal portal for posting information on the development of draft regulations by federal executive authorities and the results of their public discussion (regulation.gov.ru), etc.

With regard to studying the prerequisites for the emergence of e-democracy, it is also worth mentioning such concepts as information technology and information and telecommunications networks. According to clauses 2 and 4 of Article 2 of Federal Law No. 149-FZ of July 27, 2006 "On Information, Information Technology, and the Protection of Information" (State Duma of the Russian Federation, 2006), information technologies are understood as "the processes and methods of retrieval, collection, storage, processing, provision, and distribution of information and the ways of carrying out such processes and methods", and an information and telecommunication network is understood as "a technological system designed for the transmission of information along communication lines accessed through computer equipment".

The "Strategy for the Development of Information Society in the Russian Federation for 2017-2030" adopted by Presidential Decree No. 203 of May 9, 2017 (President of the Russian Federation, 2017) specifies the main objectives of the use of information and communication technologies for the development of the social sphere, public administration system, and interaction between the citizens and the state: 1). development of electronic communication technologies between citizens, organizations, state bodies, and local authorities along with the preservation of the possibility of interaction between citizens and these organizations and bodies without the use of information technology; 2). the use of new technologies in the work of public authorities of the Russian Federation to improve the quality of public administration; 3). improving the mechanisms of e-democracy; 4). ensuring the possibility of using information and communication technologies in conducting surveys and censuses.

Thus, on the one hand, the development of Internet technologies plays a significant role specifically as a means of communication that promotes the discussion of political processes, while on the other, it is essential to bear in mind the significance and role of democracy, the improvement of which requires using information and communication technologies. It should also be remembered that the Internet sets certain limits in terms of reinvigorating the publicity of politics. Specifically, democratic institutions of the state not only adapt to such innovations but also try to exercise control over the introduction of technology to improve democracy. However, authoritarian systems also strive to control information and communication technologies by limiting their use by citizens and forming their types of e-government.

D. DISCUSSION

The category of e-democracy is inescapably present in any current democratic system. Thus, at the current stage of the development of society, a democratic system cannot meet the requirements of the socio-economic space without electronic governance. This state of affairs is due to the mass informatization of almost all spheres of modern society.

Recommendation CM/Rec (2009) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe states that "E-democracy is one of several strategies for supporting democracy, democratic institutions, and democratic processes and spreading democratic values" (Council of Europe, 2009). According to subparagraph "g" of paragraph 40 of the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Strategy for the Development of Information Society in the Russian Federation for 2017 - 2030", one of the main tasks of the use of

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information and communication technologies for the development of the social sphere, public administration system, and interaction between the citizens and the state is the improvement of e-democracy mechanisms. However, the institution of e-democracy is characterized by imperfect legal regulation: it contains many legislative gaps. The main problem is the lack of a definition of the Concept of "e-democracy" at the level of legislation in Russia and foreign countries. It should be noted that this Concept is equated with the synonymous "Internet democracy", "open democracy", and "information democracy" (Antonov, 2017).

Thus, we can conclude that as the term "e-democracy" is not defined even at the legislative level, it is not surprising that those involved in organizing projects related to e-democracy themselves do not quite understand what e-democracy is. At present, the Concept of e-democracy exists at the level of legal doctrine, yet there is no uniformity in its understanding among scholars. This fact can be explained as follows: the institution of e-democracy relies on the very phenomenon of democracy. However, there is still no unanimous understanding of democracy as a phenomenon that affects the essence of the organization of political and legal processes in society. Therefore, E-democracy should be studied based on the specifics of democracy itself: in direct democracy (forms of participation of people in solving political issues through electronic means) and representative democracy (electronic participation of citizens in developing and adopting decisions by state and municipal authorities).

Let us consider the features that distinguish electronic democracy as an independent scientific category. R.P. Kushniruk (2016) names as such:

> 1). understanding e-democracy within more general categories such as 'democracy' and 'society's political system'; 2). universal nature (if democracy is understood in a broader sense, that is, as a way of life of the people, then these phenomena can be included in the scope of the concept "democracy") because it does not represent any particular single phenomenon but covers all possible cases of democratic processes both at the local and municipal levels, at the ranks of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation as a whole, and at the international level; 3). composite nature denotes a set of specific forms of manifestation of democracy in cyberspace (electronic participation, voting, etc.); 4). abstract nature (a concept that signifies an attribute of an object or a relation between objects is called abstract), because the fundamental phenomenon of "democracy" is a set of characteristics of ties between the state, society, and the individual, and the adjective "electronic" denotes the property of the phenomenon under study, which consists in the use of information and communication technologies and means. (p. 43).

The first attempt to define the notion of e-democracy on the legislative level in the Russian Federation was made in the draft of the "Concept for the Development of E-Democracy Elements in the Russian Federation until 2020". This Concept offers the following definition:

> An E-democracy is a form of organization of socio-political activity of citizens, which provides a qualitatively new level of interaction of citizens with each other, with state authorities, local self-government bodies, public organizations, and commercial structures due to the wide use of information and communication technologies. (Ministry of Digital Development, 2012).

In view of the fact that information technology is becoming more and more accessible and penetrates all areas of life, there is a growing interest in e-democracy, and new publications are constantly subjected to scholarly debate. Moreover, based on the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the following elements must necessarily be included in e-democracy: 1). participation of citizens in the work of the parliament; 2). discussion of draft laws, voting for their adoption; 3). the openness of information of a judicial nature; 5). discussion of political proposals; 6). E-elections, that is, voting employing information and communication technologies and counting votes employing innovative technologies; 7). electronic referendums, 8). collection of citizens' opinions on pressing issues; 9). acceptance of citizens' objections and their recommendations; 10). population surveys.

It should be emphasized that the conditions mentioned above are not all that is necessary for e-democracy. For example, yet another element is the existence of e-government as one of the methods of providing services by the state. Let us also consider the main approaches to defining the Concept among Russian legal scholars. Ovchinnikov V.A. defines e-democracy as "a comprehensive representation of all democratic processes using information and communication technologies, which is based on the principles of electronic governance" (Ovchinnikov & Antonov, 2016, p. 5). Timofeeva L.H. (2012) gives the following definition of electronic democracy: "the mechanism of political communication based on the application of network computer technologies, which contributes to the realization of the principles of democracy and makes it possible to bring the political system into conformity with the real needs of the emerging information society" (p. 42). Lolaeva A.S. (2021b) suggests that "digital (electronic) democracy is an evolutionary transformation of traditional democracy" (p. 28).

The Concept of e-democracy is based on the fundamental concept of e-government. E-government should be understood as a way of organizing state power through local information network systems and global information

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network segments, which ensures the functioning of certain services in real time and makes the citizen's daily communication with official institutions as simple and accessible as possible (Lolaeva, 2021a). Therefore, it is worth considering and distinguishing between the main elements of e-democracy, which include such elements as e-government, electronic mediation, electronic referendums, electronic elections, e-voting, e-parliament, electronic lawmaking, e-justice, electronic initiatives, electronic petitions, electronic municipality, etc.

E-government is an information and communication system that aims to establish effective interaction between citizens on the one hand and the executive authorities on the other (Lolaeva, 2020b). Electronic mediation presents an information and communication system focused on establishing effective interaction between the interested parties, which are interested in the pre-trial resolution of specific conflicts and dispute resolution. Finally, an electronic referendum is an information and communication system that aims at establishing effective interaction between the citizens on the one hand and state departments on the other hand for effective resolution of issues concerning referendums on a wide range of topics.

Electronic elections are an information and communication system that focuses on establishing effective interaction between the citizens on the one hand and the state departments on the other on the matters of elections. Furthermore, E-voting is a type of electoral procedure that establishes citizens' political will using an information and communication system. Finally, e-parliament represents an information and communication system that aims to develop effective interaction between the stakeholders on the one hand and the state on the other to ensure a certain level of transparency in the legislative system of the Russian Federation.

Electronic lawmaking is an information and communication system that focuses on effective interaction between the interested parties on the one hand and the state on the other to provide for the lawmaking process in all its forms. E-justice refers to an information and communication system to establish the effective interaction between the interested parties on the one hand and the state on the other to ensure the organization of the most understandable and, consequently, transparent system of justice in the Russian Federation.

An electronic initiative refers to an information and communication system aimed at establishing effective interaction between the interested parties, as well as between citizens on the one hand and the state on the other, to ensure the organization of the most understandable and, consequently, transparent system of promotion of state initiatives on socially significant issues (Lolaeva,

2020a). An electronic petition is an information and communication system that aims to establish effective interaction between the interested parties, as well as citizens on the one hand and the state on the other, to ensure the organization of the most understandable and, therefore, transparent system of making collective appeals on socially significant issues (Antonov, 2016). Thus, the Russian legislation currently lacks a definition of the Concept of "e-democracy", which remains under debate even at the doctrinal level. Precise regulation of the conceptual apparatus is necessary for its most successful introduction into the system of democratic processes and for distinguishing it from similar institutions.

E. CONCLUSION

At the current moment, the introduction of information and communication technologies in the sphere of public relations related to the institutes of direct democracy is one of the most critical directions of the modernization of the mechanism for implementing the right of citizens to participate in the administration of public affairs. Within the framework of the improvement of this mechanism, a certain role is played by e-democracy – a system of democratic institutions aimed at the realization of democracy with the help of information and communication technologies. Of course, all considered elements of e-democracy (e-government, e-parliament, e-voting) have both positive and negative aspects. Still, it is safe to say that they will be in demand due to the increasing progress of information and communication technologies.

The study has fulfilled all its objectives and met its purpose – to identify the problems of legal regulation of relations related to the institution of e-democracy and analyze the current legislation, the practice of its application, and the prospects for the development of the institute of e-democracy. Currently, neither e-democracy nor the considered elements of e-democracy are adequately regulated in Russian legislation, and all attempts to enshrine them in law have so far remained mere projects. The legal regulation of e-democracy projects and e-democracy itself is rather haphazard.

The state's efforts in the formation of e-democracy regulation should be aimed at consolidating the Concept of e-democracy, its principles, function, goals, and objectives, as well as the rights and obligations of the subjects of e-democracy (public authorities, citizens of the Russian Federation), the same applies to e-government, e-parliament and e-voting and other elements of e-democracy. It is necessary to point out that e-democracy projects are becoming increasingly relevant due to the recent circumstances that have taken shape in

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the world due to the pandemic. However, there remains a major problem related to the reluctance of citizens to participate in the state's life. Despite this principle being fundamental in e-democracy, the creation and development of services often turn out to be ineffective in terms of public interest and participation. If there is no trust in the agencies and institutions that organize elections, intelligent technologies cannot restore this trust. Digital democracy will start working in Russia only when contact between the citizens and power is established at all levels, otherwise, technologies are powerless.

In addition, there are other unresolved problems: 1). Equal access to the Internet is not available in all regions of Russia, especially in remote areas. E-democracy implies equal access to the Internet. A state policy on ensuring access to the Internet needs to be developed. 2). Information protection. This problem concerns all processes that take place during the implementation of e-democracy. In this case, it is necessary to take a responsible approach to the issue of developing Russian software essential for the performance of e-democracy projects. 3). The complexity of assessing the effectiveness of the results of creating a system of e-democracy at the state level. The conclusions and suggestions formulated in the study can serve as recommendations for improving the legislation and filling the gaps in it.

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