



Italy

is a regional/semi-federal system mainly based on representation, though including forms of direct democracy and citizen participation, and traces of deliberative participation.

NATIONAL LEVEL

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

According to the Constitution of 1948 2 main types of referenda can be requested:

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1- by 500,000 voters (or 5 Regional Councils, or one-fifth of Parliament) on constitutional (3 have been held since 2001).

2- by 500,000 voters (or 5 Regional Councils) only to *abolish* (not to adopt new legislation) an existing ordinary law (or part of it). Since 1974, referenda have been held on 66 different issues, with varying outcomes; in a number of cases the quorum was not met.

PARTICIPATION

Several procedures such as EIA and the *Dibattito Pubblico* aimed at tackling siting decisions allow for forms of citizen involvement, though their actual influence is weak.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

PARTICIPATION AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Regional and local administrations' Statutes often include provisions concerning citizen participation, typically according to traditional forms (petitions, hearings) but also referenda.

Several Regions (Emilia-Romagna, Puglia, Trentino) have recently introduced laws promoting local (not regional) participation.

DELIBERATIVE PARTICIPATION

Law 69/07 (then 46/13) of the Tuscany Region presents innovative features of deliberative participation.