Rahvaalgatus.ee – yet another e-platform for civic engagement? No, a process of democratic renewal instead!

#rahvaalgatus

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Estonian Cooperation Assembly

is a **competence centre** under the protective wing of the President of Estonia.

We develop analyses and policy recommendations **on topics** which influence **Estonia's long term development**, such as

public sector reform, pension system reform, deliberative democracy.

More: <u>kogu.ee/en</u>

Rahvaalgatus.ee

first digital signing platform for citizen initiatives targeted to the parliament

Initiatives

About

Support the Platform

Welcome to the home of citizen initiatives!

Do you feel like some things could be done better in Estonia? Or that some regulations could be changed? Rahvaalgatus.ee enables you to compile and send collective addresses - with at least 1000 digital dignatures - to the parliament of Estonia. Also, you can follow whether your proposal will be turned into draft act.



YOU CAN MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE ESTONIAN PARLIAMENT THROUGH RAHVAALGATUS.EE (VIDEO)

GREATE AN INITIATIVE >

IN PROGRESS

11/29/2016

Ei ole vaja sotiaaltoetuste süsteemi, kui on kodaniku palk.Ka mina olen kodanik, küll sant. Saan... Matt füe

6 days left

09/07/2016

Nullkodakondsus 2,0

Natalja Kitam

06/11/2016

Kuidas paremini arutleda

Taivo Pungas

O Discussion finished

Discussion finished

03/11/2016

. .

Hädakaitse piiri ületamise eest pole vaja karistada 03/09/2016

Sotsiaalmaksu seaduse muutmine viimaks maksu arvestamise kuupõhiselt tunnipõhiseks.

The collective addresses right emerged in 2014, deriving from People's Assembly back in 2013.

People's Assembly

Deliberative Democracy Initiative in Estonia in 2013

One of the aims of the nation-wide deliberative democracy experiment was to propose more possibilities for citizens to engage into policy-making between (and in addition to) elections.

RAHVAKOGU

Sisene

Analüüsiartiklid:

Erakonnad: asutamine ja liikmelisus Erakonnad: valimised

Erakonnad: liikmemaks

Kokkuvõte: Erakondade konkurents

Teemas "Erakonnad" on 16 ettepanekut. Esita ka!

järjesta aja / toetuse / vastuhäälte / arutelude / juhuslik põhjal



Liquid democracy - loobuda parteidest, otsusi e-riigis teha sagedaste e-referendumitega. (11)





Anto Veldre peaaegu 4 aastat

Idee ei kuulu mulle, ma lihtsalt refereerin selle - vt liquidfeedback.org Parteisüsteem ei ole Eestile ei otstarbekas, jõukohane ega ühtesobiv soome-ugri väärtustega.

Põhjused - a) väike rahvaarv, mille puhul turumajandust ei teki ja poliitikute pink jääbki igavesti lühikeseks, b) olulised edusammud e-tehnoloogia vallas. Ettepanek on teha...



Erakonna alampiiriks olgu 500. Juhatuse valmised paljude kandidaatide seast. (2)



₼ 26



Mart Sonn peaaegu 4 aastat

I kandidaadiga esimehe valimsed lugeda kehtetuks. Peaministriks saanud erakonna esimees peab end sellelt kohalt taandama.

Five topics:

- openness of political landscape
- financing of the political parties
- public participation in policy making
- electoral system
- political patronage

Rahvakogu.ee within 3 weeks:

57 000 visits from 70 countries nearly 1500 posts on 5 topics ca 6000 ideas

Systemisation of ideas and impact analysis:

59 sub-categories analysed by ca 30 experts

Deliberation day:

representative random sample of 314 people 18 questions voted on

15 suggestions presented to the parliament

DIRECT RESULTS

- easier to form a political party
- two new parties in the parliament
- citizen right to address the parliament with collective initiatives

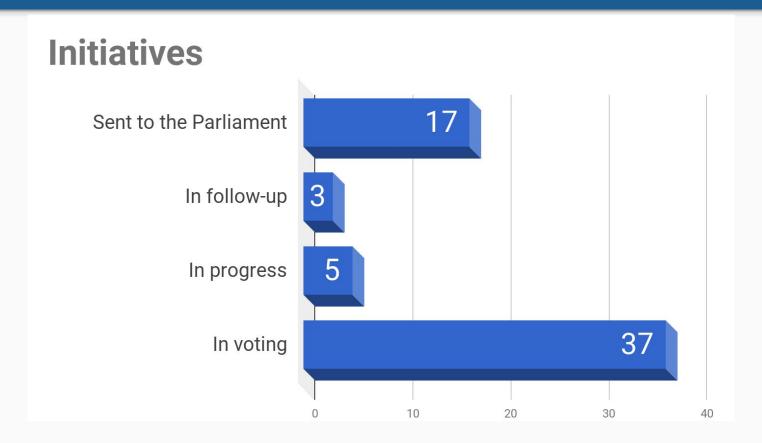
INDIRECT RESULTS

- educative impacts
- co-creation of many organisations and people
- tested method for initiating change



Rahvaalgatus.ee in numbers

Initiatives by phase



Rahvaalgatus.ee users since March 2016



Increasing amount of initiatives collect signatures

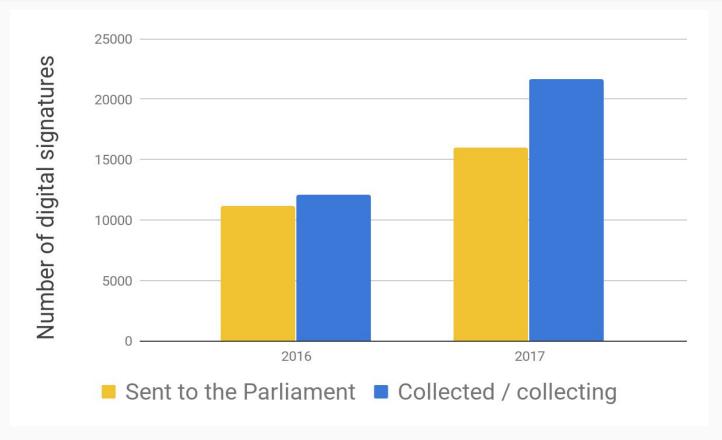


Chart 3. Number of digital signatures for initiatives on rahvaalgatus.ee (March 2018)

Topics so far: environmental, basic income, spatial planning, elderly-hood, health system

Why is rahvaalgatus.ee special? (1)

- In the world of e-participation, rahvaalgatus.ee is nothing special: a simple **beta-platform** that is constantly **developed on the basis of user feedback**.
- Around the technical features we work with spreading the word about this civic right as well as reach out to important engagement and co-creation processes that result with proposals or manifests to the parliament.

Why is rahvaalgatus.ee special? (2)

We collaborate with

researchers,
public servants,
think tanks and civic organisations

to find solutions for identified **systemic gaps**, like the low digital literacy of young people, in the never-ending work with (e-)democracy.

E-democracy is not a e-service

"E-democracy as described through everyday relationships between citizens and public servants, using **crowd wisdom**, engaging more people in solving societal issues, protecting the rights, contributing to openness and transparency of state and local governance is much more than a public service."

by Teele Pehk, published in OGP blog

It's not about infrastructure - it's about process

How to raise the belief in synergy and co-creation?

From where we started

Low trust towards the parliament and public **participation platforms** since they either run on auto-pilot, usual suspects use them, or they are not user-friendly and do not provide any value nor transparency for democracy.

Petitioning culture instead of discussion culture, increasing hate speech and false facts instead of arguments and data.

Low belief in the use of e-tools, no results seen after sending collected signatures, petitions or proposals to policy- and decision-makers, feeling of "sending them to black hole".

Two years from starting point (1)

Exemplary public participation platform created (automated information exchange, follow-up of initiatives, everyday user support and advice to campaigners, communicating results of initiatives).

Critical mass of users and diverse mix of topics ranging from environment, spatial planning to citizenship and ageing society issues.

Spreading trust: keeping the platform and the processes as open as possible, zero moderation needed so far, no hate speech nor personal insults.

Openness in communication: communicating honestly about technical errors after the launch of the beta-version of rahvaalgatus.ee.

Two years from starting point (2)

Lowering the threshold for policy-making: inserted proposals should be as simple texts as possible (write so that your grandma would understand!), structured text by default.

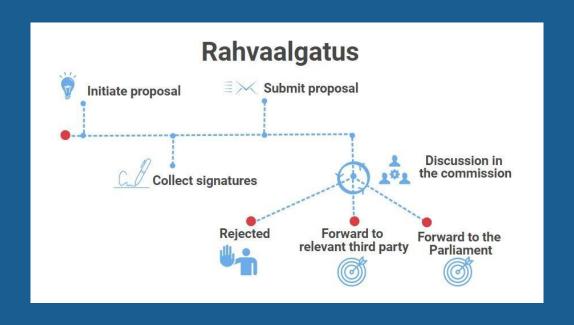
Collaboration with e-governance experts, other platforms, government bodies, civic educators – raising awareness on civic rights and offering the platform as an advocacy tool.

Negotiating with MPs about the increasing amount of collective proposals and how to eliminate the vicious circle of disappointed citizens (by actually solving the proposals).

Where to next?

What I changed with my vote?

Results monitoring, local level and strengthening collaboration network



Let's innovate democracy together!

Q&A