Democracy Day 24th March 2017

Slides from sessions

See session titles on p2 and use bookmarks to navigate to relevant section
Democracy Day – Friday 24th March
Programme
Twitter: #DemocracyDay; @changetrust

9am – 10.30am  How healthy is democracy in NI? (Room: The Factory, 6th Floor)
Launch of Building Change Trust’s ‘Beyond Voting’ report

10.40am – 11.40am  Democracy Lab series 1 – choice of events
If you’re not at the table, you could be on the menu (Corrymeela)
Room: The Lab (6th Floor)
Welfare Reform NI: Looking back – Moving forward (Advice NI)
Room: The Hub (3rd Floor)
Participatory Card Game - Pathways to Achieve and Succeed (Community Places)
Room: The Factory (6th Floor)
Debate, Deliberate, Decide: Consulting Communities. (Intergated Education Fund)
Room: The Works (3rd Floor)

11.50am - 1pm  Open Policy-Making: a new era for citizen engagement in NI? (Room: The Factory, 6th Floor)
This event, hosted by the NI Open Government Network will explore what open-policy making is and what it could look like in Northern Ireland through the lens of international case studies and experiences in other parts of the UK.

1pm - 1.45 pm  Lunch (in 6th floor foyer)

1.45 – 2.45pm  Democracy Lab series 2 – choice of events
Civic Activism in Motion (Cedar Foundation)
Room: The Hub (3rd Floor)
Not in My Back Yard (Rural Community Network)
Room: The Factory (6th Floor)
Citizen Jury: Have Your Vote (Holywell Trust)
Room: The Lab (6th Floor)
Fake News: What You Can Do about It (NI Foundation)
Room: The Works (3rd Floor)

2.50pm - 4pm  Citizen Assemblies: an answer to politicians’ inability to make tough decisions? (Room: The Factory, 6th Floor)

2.50pm - 4pm  Digital tools for democracy: experiences from Iceland, Estonia and Scotland (Room: The Factory, 6th Floor)

4pm – 6pm  Democracy on Trial: An NI Open Government Network event (Room: The Lab, 6th Floor)
Starting with wine reception
A Court case that puts Democracy on trial to determine whether it’s guilty of failing people in the UK, the US and across Europe and determine whether any longer it can be considered fit for purpose.

6.30pm – 8pm  Are we living in a post-truth democracy? A talk by Bill Adair
NB. Venue is Conor Lecture Theatre, Ulster University Belfast Campus (2mins walk from the Mac, entrance on Academy Street)
Bill Adair is the creator of Pulitzer Prize winning US fact-checking platform PolitiFact and the Knight Professor of Journalism and Public Policy at the Sanford School for Public Policy at Duke University. He is also a regular contributor and commentator on political affairs on major US news networks.

Also......

9am - 5pm Democracy cinema (Room: The Den, 6th Floor)
A quiet corner away from the hubbub of the main events with a sofa, a TV and some inspiring and intriguing short films about deliberative democracy. The films will be on a loop all day so come any time.

9am – 5pm The Wall of Ideas (6th floor foyer)
Come and share your reflections and ideas on the future of democracy in Northern Ireland and help us turn all the talk into action!

1pm - 4pm Campervan of Dreams (St Anne’s Square)
The popular ‘Campervan of Dreams’ is returning to the Belfast streets for Democracy Day, ready and waiting to hear your hopes and dreams for the future of democracy in Northern Ireland.
Bill Adair is the Knight Professor of the Practice of Journalism & Public Policy and the Director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. One of 25 Knight Chairs at universities around the country, Adair’s research and teaching focuses on fact-checking and new forms of journalism. The creator of the Pulitzer Prize-winning website PolitiFact, he has been recognized as a leader in new media and accountability journalism. He worked for 24 years as a reporter and editor for the Tampa Bay Times (formerly the St. Petersburg Times) and served as the paper’s Washington Bureau Chief from 2004 to 2013. He launched PolitiFact in 2007 and built it into the largest fact-checking effort in history, with affiliates in 11 states. In 2013, he managed the site’s first international expansion with the launch of PolitiFact Australia. His awards include the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting (with the PolitiFact staff), the Manship Prize for New Media in Democratic Discourse and the Everett Dirksen Award for Distinguished Coverage of Congress.

Bill will be the keynote speaker at “Are We Living in a Post-Truth Democracy” and will also be contributing to the “Fake News: What You Can Do about It” session.

Hille Hinsberg works with the highly respected Estonian think tank Praxis; and advises the Estonian Government Office on policy for Social Innovation. She serves on the research arm of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and carries out reviews of the implementation of national action plans in 70 countries. She was among leaders of a unique deliberation process - the People’s Assembly that crowdsourced grass root proposals to amend financing practices of political parties. And she co-authored the handbook for public participation that is widely used by Estonian civil servants and sub-national administrations. Hille has led several initiatives to promote Open Government and citizen-to government dialogue - such as introducing the code of public participation to civil servants and establishing offline and digital platforms for dialogue with civil society stakeholders. In the field of public participation, she works across cultures, and is currently engaged in bilateral projects in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova - enhancing the capacity of civil servants and civil society activists.

Hille will be contributing to the Open Policy-Making session and the Digital Tools for Democracy Session.

Róbert is the CEO of the Citizens Foundation in Iceland. A successful entrepreneur, he has extensive experience with AI algorithms and 3D software spanning over 20 years. Before co-founding the Citizens Foundation he worked in the online gaming industry where his team received many industry awards including two BAFTA awards for games. The Citizens Foundation mission is to bring people together to debate and prioritize innovative ideas to improve their communities. They believe that without participation there is no democracy. And their main goal is to help citizens get their voices heard and to encourage citizen participation in governance. Their ideas about new ways to connect people to participate in democracy, politics and civic life were born after Iceland's economic and trust collapse in 2008. Since then they’ve developed open source tools and methods to promote online, democratic debate and to increase citizens’ participation in Iceland and worldwide.

Róbert will be contributing to the Open Policy-Making session and the Digital Tools for Democracy Session.

Graham Smith is Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Westminster. Previously he was Professor of Politics and Head of Department at the University of Southampton. Graham is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam and Honorary Fellow at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity. Outside of academia, Graham is Chair of the Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development. His main research interests are in democratic theory and practice (particularly democratic innovations), climate politics and the third sector/social economy. He is author of the oft quoted book Democratic Innovations: Designing Institutions for Citizen Participation.

Graham will be contributing to the “How Healthy is Democracy in NI?” session and the Citizen Assemblies session.
Session: How healthy is Democracy in NI?

Lead organisation: Building Change Trust
Introduction

Paul Braithwaite, Building Change Trust
Explaining the framework
The deliberative system
The deliberative system

Empowered Space
Where legitimate collective decisions are taken

#RFaV
The deliberative system

Public Space
The wide range of political conversations which interact with and affect each other within the public realm

Empowered Space
Where legitimate collective decisions are taken
The deliberative system

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The wide range of political conversations which interact with and affect each other within the public realm

Empowered Space
Where legitimate collective decisions are taken

Transmission
The transmission between the public and empowered space is influenced by the development and interaction of narratives in the public space
The deliberative system

**Public Space**
The wide range of political conversations which interact with and affect each other within the public realm.

**Accountability**
The accountability of holders of power in the empowered space to the public space.

**Empowered Space**
Where legitimate collective decisions are taken.

**Transmission**
The transmission between the public and empowered space is influenced by the development and interaction of narratives in the public space.
The deliberative system

Accountability
The accountability of holders of power in the empowered space to the public space.

Private Space
The political conversations and interactions which take place everyday in spaces which are non-civic in nature.

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**Private Space**
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**Decisiveness**
The extent to which power is dissipated inside and outside the system facilitating or preventing autonomous action

**Transmission**
The transmission between the public and empowered space is influenced by the development and interaction of narratives in the public space

#RFaV
The deliberative system

**Meta-deliberation**
The system is deliberative and periodically examines the democratic qualities of the system and components.

**Private Space**
The political conversations and interactions which take place everyday in spaces which are non-civic in nature.

**Public Space**
The wide range of political conversations which interact with and affect each other within the public realm.

**Empowered Space**
Where legitimate collective decisions are taken.

**Accountability**
The accountability of holders of power in the empowered space to the public space.

**Decisiveness**
The extent to which power is disseminated inside and outside the system facilitating or preventing autonomous action.

**Transmission**
The transmission between the public and empowered space is influenced by the development and interaction of narratives in the public space.
Applying the framework to Northern Ireland

Paul Nolan
Robin Wilson
Methodology

- 25 interviews
- 7 discussion groups
- Desk research
- Advisory group/roundtable
Assembly suspensions

11 Feb - 30 May 2000
10 August 2001 (24 hour suspension)
22 September 2001 (24 hour suspension)
14 October 2002 - 7 May 2007
10 September - 29 October 2015 (in/out ministers)
16 January 2017 - ?
1. The public space

Civil society, media, citizen engagement, visible culture
NGOs

Registered charities: 5,259
Registered and unregistered: 11,000 - 17,500
Trustee positions: 34,147
Individuals in trustee position: 30,280

Source: Charity Commission, 2016
But...

Only 22% felt that government respected their independence

(Kerola and Hughes, *Independence of the Voluntary Sector*, 2016)
“We seem to have lost the ability to lead on difficult conversations”

“Some people think we are the government”
Public bodies

103 non-departmental public bodies
Public bodies

66 Executive bodies
13 Advisory bodies
13 Health and Social Care
6 Tribunals
1 Public corporation
4 others
Citizen involvement in public bodies

1,160 lay members
1,371 appointees
Diversity challenges

Gender

68% male, 32% female
Diversity challenges

People with disability: 1%
People from ethnic minority backgrounds: less than 2%
Diversity challenges

‘..our public boards are missing out on skills, knowledge and perspectives that exist throughout the community. This is not conducive to optimal performance by our boards, is potentially unfair to many people who wish to serve and feel excluded, and helps to generate a largely undeserved bad reputation for public appointments.’

Media pluralism

Mainstream media and social media
An experienced investigative journalist said BBC NI did not offer the breadth of perspective to address adequately the Irish-identifying population within the region, including in its coverage of news and current affairs in the republic, or the ‘underbelly’ of life in Northern Ireland: paramilitarism, sectarianism and racism, gender inequalities and so on.
Social media

It is the *non-deliberative* nature of the postings that is most evident.

‘Twitter is a place where tribes coalesce and shout at each other.’
Visible culture

The new cosmopolitanism
The new cosmopolitanism

- St George’s Market
- Mela
- Culture night in Belfast
- Halloween in Derry
Inclusiveness in public commemorations

Easter 1916 events in Dublin
Public Records Office programme in Northern Ireland
Street protests

- Almost entirely peaceful for past three years
- Protests almost entirely orange or green (but increased percentage of festive events)
2. The empowered space

The NI Assembly and local government
‘I don’t think you could point to a single piece of executive-initiated legislation that has had a demonstrably significant effect on the population of Northern Ireland.’

- Northern Ireland political scientist
The Assembly: input legitimacy and outcome legitimacy

Long-term decline on both measures
Do you feel the Assembly gives ordinary people more say or makes no difference?

2001 and 2007: 50% gives more say, 50% makes no difference
2016: 17% gives more say, 66% makes no difference

Northern Ireland Life and Times
Output legitimacy

In terms of **volume** the legislative programme is on a par with Scotland. In terms of **significance** the legislative programme is extremely weak.
Reasons to be cheerful

Finally, an opposition
Finally, new parties in the Assembly
Reasons to be less cheerful

Assembly collapses (again)
Reasons to be less cheerful

The quality of debate
The hold of groupthink
The use of the Petition of Concern mechanism
The quality of debate

A *sine qua non* of deliberative democracy is that one’s position is not predeter**mined** and is indeed open to change on the balance of argument.
Local government

Reform of local government has left us with an average of 150,000 citizens per council.

In November 2016 Minister for Communities decided to reverse decision to allow councils to have regeneration powers.
3. Transmission of views

How those in the empowered space engage with citizens
Communications

Outwards: 55 press officers (Scottish Parliament has 25)
Inwards: Access to committees, but blockages to information requests
Differential access for the business community and voluntary organisations
Exchange of ideas

- The Economic Research Institute closed down
- Institute of Governance at Queen’s closed down
- No think tank
- Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series a useful development
Consultation

Section 75 has rendered much of the public consultation formulaic
“Those Chinese children - were they Protestant or Catholic?”

- Community arts practitioner
4. Accountability of the empowered space

How answerable are those in power?
No transparency in the funding of political parties

“The potential for hidden payments is a serious corruption risk in politics and this should end as soon as possible.”

- Transparency International
Oversight of Assembly standards

● 11 MLAs, no lay members on Committee on Standards and Privileges
● 90% of complaints last year dismissed
● Drop off in complaints (from 54 to 14) due to ‘perception that members are marking their own homework’.
● Use of Petition of Concern to protect party members
A survey published in the *Belfast Telegraph* in December 2016 showed that politicians had the lowest trust rating in a list of 13 professions. The most trusted were doctors, nurses and teachers, with ratings between 72 and 79 per cent. Politicians generally were given a rating of 33 per cent, but Northern Ireland Assembly politicians were rated lowest of all, at 26 per cent.

*Belfast Telegraph, 15th December 2016*
Oversight of criminal justice system

- NI Policing Board
- Police Ombudsman
- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary
- Prison Ombudsman
- Criminal Justice Inspectorate
Public Service Ombudsman

170 written complaints in 2015-16, the bulk of them (115) against government departments with most (56 per cent) succeeding.

A healthy ‘culture of complaint’?
But..

this network of ombudspeople is polluted by a political culture of brokerage away from the spotlight.
Accountability in information-sharing

In the year from July 2013 to June 2014, of 420 assembly questions put to the then Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, 329 (78 per cent) were answered after the ten-day deadline for so doing.
5. The private space

The home, the school, the workplace
Citizenship education

Citizenship is given a low priority by most schools, particularly grammar schools focused on getting their charges into higher education.
The key socialising discourse of citizenship has been dulled by an education system for whom creating deliberative citizens is not seen as a recognised goal.
The reassertion of masculinity in community work

‘It’s like payback time now. It’s like saying to women community workers: get back into the kitchen.’

- Female community worker
Equality in the workplace

Ongoing skirmishes between the Equality Commission and evangelical Protestantism.
Trade unions

Membership in Northern Ireland has bucked the trend in Great Britain, being higher in the region in 2015 than 20 years earlier.
The 2011 census showed that while 17 per cent of the population could be categorised as ‘no religion’ or ‘none stated’ the equivalent figure for England and Wales is 25 per cent and for Scotland 37 per cent.
A complex relationship with democracy

“You have to remember, the churches were not set up to be democratic organisations.”
The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has historically observed democratic norms, such as the annual election of the moderator, but that tradition of electoral openness is not aligned to any particular liberal values.
6. Public examination of the qualities of the system

How the system is monitored and evaluated
Who is missing?

30% of MLAs are female
35% of Scottish MSPs female
43% of Welsh MLAs female
Digital exclusion

LSE/Ipsos Mori survey (2014) showed that 77% of the UK population was competent in basic tasks, such as using Google to search for information.

In NI the figure was 65%.
External evaluations

Report of the OECD
Solidarity among members of the Executive is evidently weak, which undermines the principle of collective responsibility in decision-making, and the concomitant role the civil service, notably in its senior ranks, ought to be playing in supporting it. This lack of political cohesion reverberates through the system with managers and staff-level civil servants focusing on their minister’s immediate term political interests rather than seeking to work collaboratively towards an outcomes-based whole of government solution.

- OECD *Governance in Northern Ireland*, 2016
7. Decisiveness

Effectiveness and control in decision-making
Devolved and reserved

Arrangements between Stormont and Westminster remain in a muddle
The non-unionist unionists

In the second phase of devolution with the DUP the largest party, the primary focus has actually been on distancing Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, in the name of an extreme social conservatism—particularly on issues touching on sexuality, sexual orientation and women’s autonomy.
North-South cooperation

The DUP has entered these relationships in such a manner as to reduce such relationships to instrumental economic co-operation, devoid of any normative ambition for wider island-wide reconciliation.
Responses to government

In the various interviews and discussion groups we co-ordinated criticisms of government tended not to distinguish very clearly between what might be laid at the door of Westminster and what properly belongs with the devolved government at Stormont. When probed, however, one distinction became clear: criticisms of Westminster politicians tended to be on ideological grounds, while the failure of Northern Ireland politicians was attributed to venality, corruption or the inability to rise above sectarianism.
And finally…

Applying the deliberative-democratic prism to the region has cast a new light on the perennial post-agreement debate about whether the glass is half-full or half-empty: should those who live in in Northern Ireland feel thankful that large-scale violence is over and that political institutions signalled in the Good Friday agreement are in place or can they legitimately expect more, nearly two decades on from the agreement?
And finally...

We have shown that these questions, rather than being an either-or choice, can in fact be simultaneously answered in the affirmative.
Session: Welfare Reform NI: Looking back – moving forward

Lead organisation: Advice NI
Telling the Story of Welfare Reform
Once upon a time ... in a land not as far away as you might think ... the Government issued a decree that financial support for the poorest people across the land was to be cut ...

The Prime Minister told his Minister for social security “We need to thread carefully ... start by reducing how benefits are uprated every year – we can say that people are still getting their benefits, it’s just that we are controlling the projected increase in future spending”.

The Social Security Minister implemented this cut and more besides, he cut Housing Benefit for those in private rented accommodation, he cut childcare support for those in low paid work, he abolished Maternity Grants for second / subsequent children, he froze Child Benefit, he raised the retirement age so that people had to wait longer to receive the more generous retirement benefits.

But the Prime Minister was still not happy ... “I need more social security savings” he roared.

So the Social Security Minister decided to completely change the social security system – implementing a new welfare reform decree across the land. The people read the decree with horror ...

- Universal Credit was to be rolled out across the land from September 2017 – starting with a small town known locally as Limavady;

Universal Credit was the pride and joy of the Social Security Minister, it abolished all working age means tested benefits such as IS, ESA, JSA, Housing Benefit and tax credits – collapsing them into a less generous, single benefit which would have a waiting period of at least 6 weeks before the first payment would be made.

“This is genius” purred the Prime Minister. “It reminds me of the workhouses that we used to have. Conditions were so horrible that people were put off going near them ... what else?”

The Social Security Minister explained the other cuts to social security:
• Over the next 3 years, We will reassess all working age DLA claimants aged 16 – 64 (as of 20th June 2016) – amounting to 125,000 people – and don’t you worry, we will ensure a harsher medical test so that not all will stay on the new benefit called Personal Independence Payment.

• We will introduce a ‘bedroom tax’ for working age people living in social housing who have extra rooms;

• We will introduce a benefit cap – so that social security claimants cannot receive over a certain amount of money per week;

“**I like it**” nodded the Prime Minister

• We will also introduce harsher sanctions for claimants who do not comply with everything we say they should do about job seeking;

“I hope people don’t ask questions about whether there are jobs for these people” said the Prime Minister worriedly.

“**Don’t worry**” said the Social Security Minister “**these people are so excluded, marginalised and forgotten that no-one will care** … and in any case let’s move from the idea of social security … to welfare … to workfare … where any work, no matter how futile or degrading, is the goal .. let’s insist that all able-bodied people not working be “set to work”;

“I like it” said the Prime Minister “**Why stop at this** … let’s do more … but let’s ensure that we control the narrative and messages in the media, how this story is told to the masses … we should emphasise that people once trapped on welfare are now to be “set free”, “liberated”, “released” from a grim dependency on welfare” … we must ensure that people think that all this is their own fault”

So the Social Security Minister issued another decree:

  - There would be a freeze to the uprating of working age benefits – taking 4 billion pounds from people on the lowest incomes;
  - The Benefit Cap would be lowered – so that social security claimants received even less money to live on;
A 2 child policy would be introduced – affecting new claimants and affecting new births – including women already pregnant;

The additional money in respect of the work-related activity component of employment and support allowance would be removed entirely for new claimants;

Current support for mortgage interest payments for benefit claimants replaced with the offer of a recoverable interest-bearing loan (saving £250 million)

The Prime Minister queried the benefit freeze – “Won’t this freeze really hurt people given that we know inflation and prices for example for food will go way up in the coming months?” The Social Security Minister shrugged and said “No-one will care”

The Prime Minister was delighted. The Social Security Minister was delighted.

However, gradually a ghastly gloom descended upon the kingdom.

The 5 Giants that many thought had been completely banished by an old hero called Beveridge, began to re-appear:

**WANT:** Too many people were now living below the **poverty line.**

**IGNORANCE:** Too many children were leaving school without any qualifications

**SQUALOR:** Many people were now homeless or living in overcrowded slums

**DISEASE:** Many people were suffering from **poor health**, enduring lengthy delays for medical treatment and could not afford a proper diet;

Finally **IDLENESS:** Unemployment was still high and caused **poverty.** Those in work often had uncertain income with zero hours contracts;
The health and well-being of the people continued to suffer …

Foodbanks and soup kitchens were set-up in order that people had access to food.

Independent Advice services found themselves stretched to the limit with people needing help with all the changes to the social security system;

Other support services were at breaking point;

But most importantly, amazingly … amid all the hardship … the people began to find their voice

- Fact checking was used to help ‘bust’ common myths and misconceptions around welfare benefits and welfare claimants.
- Citizen Reporting tools were used to collect personal stories of the current impacts of welfare reform and people’s fears/anxieties for the future.
- Citizens Report Cards collected people’s perspectives on welfare myths, the impacts of welfare reform and fears for the future.
- A Crowd-mapping tool, Ushahidi, was used to robustly map the impact of welfare reform.
- Crowdwise was used to engage benefit recipients and others with experience of welfare reform in a conversation about key welfare reform policy priorities.

The voices grew louder … the people voiced their own narrative … there was nothing left to take from them … they called for change …

The Prime Minister and the Social Security Minister were forced to introduce mitigations in the form of Welfare Supplementary Payments

- DLA to PIP reassessment (payments for loss of DLA, loss of premiums, payments for carers);
- Benefit Cap – almost fully mitigated;
- Bedroom Tax – almost fully mitigated;
• Discretionary Support Scheme – to replace abolition of CCG’s and Crisis Loans;
• Cost of Working Allowance – to assist with cuts to UC work allowances;
• Additional advice services were put in place

Once upon a time … The people enjoyed the breathing space provided by the welfare reform mitigations … but quietly … silently … relentlessly … the Prime Minister and the Social Security Minister pondered their next move.

THE END
Tracking the Impact of Welfare Reform

Using USHAHIDI
What are we tracking?

Impact of Welfare Reform in Northern Ireland

Gathering people's experiences of the changes to the benefit system

- Benefit Cap
- CB ESA WRAG time limiting
- Mandatory reconsideration
- Sanctions
- Bedroom Tax
Example Post

Very stressed
in a minute via Web
My benefits have been cut
Session: Participatory Card Game – Pathways to Achieve & Succeed

Lead organisation: Community Places
The Imagine Festival – Democracy Day

Participatory Card Game Workshop
‘Pathways to Achieve and Succeed’

Abbey Community College
The MAC
‘Pathways to Achieve and Succeed’
- Designing the Game
‘Pathways to Achieve and Succeed’
- Designing the Game
‘Pathways to Achieve and Succeed’
- Playing the Game
‘Pathways to Achieve and Succeed’
- Rules of the Game

• Treat each other with respect.
• All views or opinions matter.
• Listening is as important as speaking.
Let’s play!

1. Deal out the Quote Cards – pick two of the cards from your hand. You might choose a card that is interesting, surprising or which stands out to you.

2. Return the unused cards to the dealer.

3. Take it in turns to read out one of your chosen cards saying why you chose it. Place your card in the middle of the table. Go round twice.

4. Repeat these steps with 1. the Information Cards,
   2. the Skills Cards &
   3. the Story Cards.
Presentation of Participation Certificates
Thank you!

www.communityplanningishere.org
Session: Debate, Deliberate, Decide: Consulting Communities

Lead organisation: Integrated Education Fund
Democracy Day

Debate, Deliberate, Decide
Sam Fitzsimmons - IEF
www.menti.com

Code: 19 45 69

Wi-fi MACGuest – TheMAC1234
Introduction

Eleanor Kyle - IEF
Maddy Bridgman - IEF
as
Education Authority Representative
Education Authority – Current Provision

Population:

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children aged 4-10</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children Aged 11-18</td>
<td>1400</td>
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Religious Balance:

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Other
Primary Catholic Maintained
State Controlled Post-Primary Selective Catholic Grammar school, oversubscribed with 600 pupils (20 who travel from other areas for this school)

Non-selective Catholic Maintained school, with 150 pupils, with space for 500.

Non-selective State Controlled school, sustainable but only 650 pupils, with room for 800.
These schools present a number of problems for the EA:

- 500 extra places in the area
- Educational attainment
- Approximately 30 children travelling out of the area
Options being considered by the EA:

• Merge the two Catholic schools, creating a non-selective Catholic school.

• Keep the Catholic Grammar, but merge the two non-selective schools, creating a non-selective community school.

• Close the non-selective Catholic Maintained school and bus pupils to closest school 15 miles away (Approx. transport cost £80,000 per year).

• Another solution.
Eleanor Kyle - IEF
with
Alternative option
Oversubscribed Voluntary Grammar School
800 places, 800 enrolment

Unsustainable non-selective Controlled school
600 places, 250 enrolment

Community school
1600 places, 1590 enrolment

Popular non-selective Catholic Maintained school
600 places, 600 enrolment

Alternative option
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Educational benefits</td>
<td>• Did not retain faith schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>• More extra curricular opportunities for pupils</td>
<td>• Only possible with DE support</td>
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<td>• Long term financial savings</td>
<td>• Required short-term financial investment</td>
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<td>• Transport savings of £85,000 per year</td>
<td>• Required extensive community consultation</td>
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<td>• Positive impact on community relations</td>
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Primary Catholic Maintained State Controlled

Post-Primary Selective Catholic Grammar school, oversubscribed with 600 pupils (20 who travel from other areas for this school)

Non-selective Catholic Maintained school, with 150 pupils, with space for 500.

Non-selective State Controlled school, sustainable but only 650 pupils, with room for 800.
www.menti.com

Code: 19 45 69

Wi-fi MACGuest – TheMAC1234
Questions
Research

Kilkeel Community Audit
- Download the Main Report
- Download the Summary Report
- Report of the UK Children’s Commissioner for Northern Ireland on the Rights of the Child
- Download the Full Report

Strabane Community Audit
- Strabane Community Audit

Young People’s Voices
- Download the Full Report

Northern Ireland Audit Office – Department of Education: Sustainability of Schools
- Download the Full Report

Redefining high performance in Northern Ireland
- Download the Full Report

Integrated Education Fund NI-Wide Youth Poll (2014)
- Youth Poll 2014
Thank You

www.ief.org.uk
Session: Open Policy-Making: a new era for citizen engagement in NI?

Lead organisation: NI Open Government Network
Co-creation in policy-making and democracy

Hille Hinsberg
open governance activist
Estonia today:
e-government procedures
e-elections held 8 times
e-residency
(e-)(e-)democracy
The state of participatory democracy in Estonia. Assembly case.

Crowdsourcing enthusiasm

Participatory budgeting in more than 15 local governments
Crowdfunding platforms, lots of volunteer activities
People’s Assembly in 2013 - Rahvakogu
Five topics:
1. openness of political landscape
2. financing of the political parties
3. public participation in policy making
4. electoral system
5. political patronage
Rahvakogu.ee online participation within 3 weeks:
57 000 visits from 70 countries
nearly 1500 posts on 5 topics
ca 6000 ideas and comments

Clustering of ideas and impact analysis:
59 sub-categories analysed by ca 30 experts

Deliberation day:
representative random sample, 314 present out of 550
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 – new platform for collaborative decisions

INDIRECT RESULTS
- Citizen education and empowering
- co-creation of many organisations and people
- tested method for initiating change
Rahvaalgatus.ee petitioning platform

14 initiatives

8 sent to the parliament with total 11 000 digital signatures

72 000 users in the first year of operation

Topics so far: environmental protection, Rail Baltic infrastructure project, basic income analysis, legalizing cannabis for medical use
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 signatures - 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)

IN PROGRESS

11/29/2016
Ei ole vaja sotiaaltoetuste süsteemi, kui on kodaniku palk. Ka mina olen kodanik: kõll sant. Saan, Mait Jõe

6 days left

09/07/2016
Nullkodakondsus 2.0

Discussion finished

Natalja Kitam

06/11/2016
Kuidas paremini arutida

Discussion finished

Taivo Pungas

03/11/2016
Hädakaitse piiri üle taset eest pole vaja karistada

03/09/2016
Sotsiaalmasu seaduse muutmise viimaks maksi arvestamise kuupühiselt tunnistiseks.

Discussion finished

Jaan Nikurits
Why is rahvaalgatus.ee special?

platform to enable large-scale digital signing on 1 document (1000+)
built on the co-creation and collaborative decision-making engine CitizenOS.com

public participation platform created by a non-governmental organisation, integrated with the digital working system of Parliament
Citizen participation in open policy making

Belfast - Mar 2017

Robert Bjarnason - citizens.is
Citizens must have a strong voice in policymaking with formal and persistent participation in the political process.
Our Open Source tools

● Your Priorities
  ○ Idea generation, policy crowdsourcing and debate

● Open Active Voting
  ○ Participatory budget voting and civic education

● Active Citizen
  ○ Empower citizens with Artificial Intelligence
Better Reykjavík

- Opened a week before the 2010 elections in Reykjavik, independent of political parties
- Over 40% of voters participated, 8% added content and over 1000 ideas were created
- The Best Party needed a policy and shouted out: ‘Come to Better Reykjavik to tell us what to do’
Hverfið mitt 2016

Opíð fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkendum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margir hugmyndir og þú vílt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opíð er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

911 10 3,781

Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi enn betra

Nú er tækifærið til að skila inn betri tölugum

Hverfið mitt 2016

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Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfienn betra

Nú er tækifærið til að skila inn betri tölugum
From jokes to mayor

- The Best party (Jón Gnarr) was topping in polls when they saw Better Reykjavik
- Saw a solution for their lack of policy and used supporters to help create platform
- Many ideas became part of the coalition agreement
Hverfið mitt 2016

Opíð fyrir huggingar að nýfræmkvæðum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Bu getur sett inn eins margar huggingar og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opíð er fyrir huggingar til 15. núlí 2016

Þín röð í ráðum borgarinnar

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem unnin hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík.
Hverfið mitt 2016


Betri Hverfi 2013

Betri Hverfi 2012

Betri Hverfi 2015

Betri Hverfi 2014

Betri Hverfi 2015
Reykjavik City collaboration

- Formal collaboration with the city of Reykjavík since 2011, hundreds of approved and realized ideas
- Over 70,000 people have participated with new ideas being processed every month
- Currently working with Reykjavik City on the future of our citizens participation
Open Active Voting software

- We use a specially designed software for the voting process, Open Active Voting
- It’s also open source, it has to be if the process is to be trusted
- Our new version is mobile friendly, fun to use and play with
Why Open Active Voting?

- Give citizens direct influence on part of a local government budget
- Educate citizens on how much things cost and what it means to have a budget
- Build up trust and make better decisions in cooperation with citizens
Choose a neighbourhood to cast your vote. 200 million have been allocated proportionately.
Select 8 projects for a total of 56 million votes.

- Walking and cycling path east of Engihjallí: 17 million votes
- Sand volleyball court in Fagilundur: 6 million votes
- Basketball court by Snælandsskóli: 12 million votes
- Path with steps between Selbrekka and Lundarbrekka: 5 million votes
- A Skólahreysti course at Snælandsskóli: 6 million votes
- Improve facilities at Hlíðargarður: 4 million votes
- Plant trees in Fossvogsdalur: 10 million votes
- Fitness equipment in Köpavogsdalur: 6 million votes
You have selected 10 for a total of 64 millions
0 millions left

- Improve pedestrian routes by the pedestrian lights at Álfhólsvegur/Skölatröð
  6 millions
- A Skólahreysti course at Álfhóllskóli
  10 millions
- Small football pitch with artificial turf
  15 millions
- Improve safety for pedestrians by the nursery Kópahvoll
  4 millions
- Play and rest area in Fossvogsdalur
  11 millions
- Radar speed sign by Álfhólsvegur
  3 millions
- Basketball court below Engihjallí
  14 millions
- Bicycle shed at Hálsatorg
  10 millions
Takk fyrir þátttökuna!

Atkvæði þitt hefur verið móttekið og þú hefur verið skráð(ur) út.

Niðurstöður kosninga verða bítar á heimasíðu Kópavogsbæjar.
Better Neighbourhoods

- Participatory budgeting (PB) in Reykjavik, capitol of Iceland from 2011 to 2016
- 3 million Euro budget in 2016 & 2017
- Ideas from citizens on projects to improve the neighbourhoods of Reykjavik
What is it and how does it work?

- The mission is to improve the city of Reykjavik according to the wishes of its citizens.
- Each voter has the same budget amount as the total and chooses which projects she wants to vote for.
- Our e-voting software teaches citizens the realities of budgeting.
Better Neighborhoods won the Nordic Best Practice Challenge in category 1 "Public Communications"

“The aim of the project is to improve the quality of the inhabitants surroundings. Through this inventive project, the residents are offered influence beyond what is normally seen in a representative democracy.”
Better Neighbourhoods process

1. Citizens submit their ideas
2. City of Reykjavik evaluates their cost
3. Citizens vote on the ideas
4. City of Reykjavik executes them
5. Citizens use the results
In general

- 532 ideas have been approved by citizens in Better neighborhoods from 2012 - 2016
- The vote is electronic, binding and secure
- All neighborhoods of Reykjavik have been improved visibly through Better Neighborhoods
Better Reykjavik PB Ideas


- 2012: 359
- 2013: 495
- 2014: 468
- 2015: 547
- 2016: 911

(citizens.is)
Participation statistics

- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
Needs photos from executed projects, collage in one slide.
Governments
CSOs
&
Academia
Citizens

Open Source Democracy Software and Processes
Co-owned by all stakeholders on a global level
Innovation costs are shared widely

Democracy Innovation through bottom-up co-creation

Participatory Budgeting
Policy Debate
Agenda Setting
Citizens Juries
Corporations

For-profit privatized democracy
Privately owned with possible conflicts of interest
Costs maximized for profits

Citizens

Governments

CSOs

Democracy Innovation through top-down procurement

Participatory Budgeting

Policy Debate

Citizen Agenda setting

Citizens Panels
Participation must be fun

- Fun, easy, informative and educational
- If it’s not ‘fun’ people will rather go on Facebook, play computer games or watch a movie
- We live in a world with endless possibilities for fun activities, civic work competes with that
Reward your citizens

- Use the best citizens ideas on a regular basis, not only talk about it but do it
- Use examples of successful projects to show value, build trust and increase participation
- If citizens don’t know the results it will be hard to get more participation from them
Communication is key

- Good communication is the key to success
- We must use good, modern tools for this but tools alone are not enough
- If you listen to the people the people will listen to you
Thank you
Session: Civic Activism in Motion

Lead organisation: Cedar Foundation
Session: Not in My Back Yard

Lead organisation: Rural Community Network
This talk will look at how we can improve our more deliberative democracy for rural communities in Ireland and how to improve the relationship between civil society representatives and decision-makers.

Re-thinking NIMBYism in relation to energy developments in rural areas of Northern Ireland. This café conversation event will discuss some of the issues relating to the siting of Renewable Technology Infrastructure in rural communities. The event will draw on learning from the Re-thinking NIMBY project.
Re-thinking Nimbyism Project

IMAGINE Festival
Democracy Day
The MAC Belfast
24.03.17

Supporting Rural Communities
Agenda for this session

• Introduction to the Project & partner organisations
• PCP Methodology & work carried out
• Video with participants in the project
• Practising PCP Methodology
• Less structured discussion
• Comments & reflections
Welcome and Introduction
Exercise

• On a Post-it note

• What words do you associate with NIMBY?

• an acronym for Not In My Back Yard
PCP methodology and the project

- Purpose is dialogue & deepening understanding rather than debate & persuasion
- Complex issues - multi-layered more than just NIMBYism
- Project aim was twofold
  - Testing PCP Methodology
  - Re-thinking NIMBYism concept and digging deeper into the issues
Short video summary of project available here:
https://youtu.be/p5MQsS7iAgk

Supporting Rural Communities
Practising PCP

- Communication agreement
- Imposed today but should be negotiated with participants
- PCP methodology – see flipchart
Practising PCP

Q. How have you personally been connected to or developed an interest in the issue of renewable energy?
Practising PCP

Q. Is there something you’re willing to share about your life experience that might help others to understand your perspective on locating RET in rural communities?
Practising PCP

Q. Are there times when you felt your values conflicting, or pulled in 2 directions when thinking about the location of RET in rural communities that you are willing to speak about?
Open discussion

Supporting Rural Communities
Questions comments reflections
How did you find using PCP dialogue?
What did you like?
What would you do differently?
Can you see where this could be applied in your own work?
Thanks for listening

Further information:
Copies of the full report of the project and Executive Summary available on RCN & Community Places websites.

• Rural Community Network www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org
• Community Places www.communityplaces.info
• Building Change Trust http://www.buildingchangetrust.org/
• Public Conversations Project dialogue http://www.publicconversations.org/
• Professor Patrick Devine Wright, University of Exeter http://geography.exeter.ac.uk/staff/index.php?web_id=Patrick_Devine_Wright

Supporting Rural Communities
Session: Citizen Jury – Have Your Vote

Lead organisation: Holywell Trust
Democracy Day
24th March 2017

‘The importance of the community and voluntary sector in a divided world’

Holywell Trust
Citizen Jury
Tools

• Citizen Reporting – Fingerpost website – articles & videos
• Study Groups – collaborative approach – group tackle a theme
• Pop-up Democracy/Discussion – public space, visible spaces & community events
• Citizen Jury – hear from expert witnesses
• To tackle four themes
Motion

• In a divided world the community and voluntary sector should be more proactive to publicly challenge the status quo
Process

• Evidence – videos
• Evidence presented – Jenny McEneaney
• Evidence presented – Gerard Deane
• Open Discussion
• Motion for vote
• Next steps – present to decision-makers
Guidelines

• Actively Participate
• Listen
• Disagreement will most likely arise, but it should not be personalised
• Only one person should speak at a time
• No foul or abusive language should be used at any time
• All participants should remain focused on the issue which is being discussed
Session: Citizen Assemblies: an answer to politicians’ inability to make tough decisions?

Lead organisation: Building Change Trust
Citizens’ Assemblies
A brief introduction

Graham Smith

g.smith@westminster.ac.uk
British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly

• Over 11 months in 2004, 160 randomly-selected citizens from across BC met to learn, consult, deliberate and make a recommendation on a new electoral system.

• Why?
British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly

• Perverse electoral results in British Columbia, but disagreement between parties over reform options
• BC executive handed decision-making power to the Citizens’ Assembly
• Charged with recommending new electoral system
• Recommendation to be put to binding referendum
  – 60% popular vote
  – 60% of electoral districts
British Columbia Citizens’ Assembly

• 160 randomly-selected citizens
  – 2 from each electoral district plus 2 Aboriginal members
• Assembly worked for 11 months in 2004
  – One or two weekends per month
• Four phases:
  – education → consultation → deliberation → decision
• Recommendation: STV
• Narrowly lost binding referendum
  – 75/77 districts
  – 57.69% vote (2.31% short)
Further assemblies...

- 2006/7 Ontario Citizens’ Assembly
- 2007 Dutch Burgerforum Kiesstelsel – the Electoral System Civic Forum
Mini-publics

- Citizens’ juries
- Planning cells
- Consensus conferences
- Reference panels
- Citizens’ councils
- Deliberative polling
- Citizens’ assemblies
- G1000
Mini-publics – shared characteristics

- (Near) random selection
- Facilitated deliberation between participants
- Evidence from experts and interested parties
- Generate recommendations
  - Except deliberative polls
Recalling Ancient Athens

• Lot and rotation averted danger of rule by the rich and/or those who desired power
• Sortition = democracy
• Election = oligarchy
Lessons from mini-publics

• (Near) random selection ensures an inclusive group of citizens
  – Return to Athenian principle (c.f. jury service)
  – No social group systematically excluded
• Formal invitation to participate → buy-in
• Facilitated deliberation reduces dominance by more politically confident
• Citizens willing and able to deliberate on complex policy problems
A decade later...

- **2012-14 Irish Convention on the Constitution**
  - 66 citizens; 33 politicians
  - Same sex-marriage referendum

- **2016- Irish Citizens’ Assembly**
  - 99 citizens

- **2016 UK Democracy Matters**
  - Pilot citizens’ assemblies comparing 'pure' and 'mixed' models
Session: Digital Tools for Democracy

Lead organisation: The Democratic Society
Co-creation in policy-making and democracy

Hille Hinsberg
open governance activist
Crowdsourcing for making changes in political system

People’s Assembly platform based on Your Priorities - Rahvakogu
Five topics:
1. openness of political landscape
2. financing of the political parties
3. public participation in policy making
4. electoral system
5. political patronage
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72 000 users in 1 year of operation
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YOU CAN MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE ESTONIAN PARLIAMENT THROUGH RAHVAAALGATUS.EE (VIDEO)

IN PROGRESS

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<th>Date</th>
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Why is petition platform special?

platform to enable large-scale digital signing on 1 document (1000+)
built on the co-creation and collaborative decision-making engine CitizenOS.com
public participation platform created by a non-governmental organisation, integrated with the digital working system of Parliament

Demo of CitizenOS
Citizen budget and tax calculator
meieraha.eu

– Min of Finance has changed the methodology for collecting data and presenting public spending, started using open data

– Gyumri town in Armenia is using the platform for advocacy to make municipal spending transparent
Citizen participation

Digital tools for democracy in Iceland and beyond

Belfast - March 2017

Robert Bjarnason - citizens.is
Citizens must have a **strong voice** in policymaking with **formal and persistent participation** in the political process.
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● Open Active Voting
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● Active Citizen
  ○ Empower citizens with Artificial Intelligence
Your Priorities

- Idea and debate platform which helps people to have real influence
- Allows large groups to speak with one voice and organise around ideas
- Open source participation software with free hosting for your group at yrpri.org
Why Your Priorities?

- To build trust between citizens and government authorities
- Enable better decisions by crowdsourcing policy with the cooperation of citizens and government
- Simple to use app like experience, fun to play with in a meaningful context
Your Priorities highlights

● We’ve had over 1 million unique visitors since 2008

● Scales well to big and small projects

● Estonia, Australia, Scotland, USA, UK, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Iceland and more
Debate and prioritization

- **Citizens add ideas and points**
  - Inform others with structured debate points and become better informed in the process

- **Ideas and points are voted on by citizens**
  - The best ideas and points for and against them are visible to everyone
Широк обществен дебат за бъдещето на България

Предвид съществата се ситуация, смятам че е нужен широк обществен дебат, в който да се включи всеки, който желая да изкаже мнението си - онлайн и извън мрежата.

Гражданско Управление / Пряка Демокрация

Гражданско управление е изключително градивно и лесно приложимо устройство, което открива възможността всеки един човек да прави това което иска.

Да разпространим тази платформа ...

Чрез този сайт могат да се изгенират много добри идеи, но ако ги виждат малко хора не е достатъчно. Колкото повече хора предлагат идеи и гласуват, толкова по-голям ефект ще има. Нека покажем интелектуалци, политици, журналисти да имаме възможност да "чуем" и оценим техните предложения!
Широк обществен дебат за бъдещето на България

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100% мажоритарна избирателна система.

Замяната на досегашната пропорционална избирателна система и на хибридния мажоритарно-пропорционален вариант със 100% мажоритарна система. Обособяване на 240 мажоритарни района с приблизително еднакъв брой постоянни жители.

Why do you support this...

1. Предлагам да се ограничи кандидатите да имат адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район от който е избирател. 2. Изграждането на става след събиране на подписи от хора с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район (например 5% моля и за дискусия по темата колко точно и как ще се проверява). 3. Право на отлагане. По инициатива на 7% от гражданите с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район. Събиране на локален референдум само в този мандатен район.

Filip Filipov

Why do you oppose this...

Мажоритарната система би създала огромни проблеми. 1. Много хора ще останат без каквото и да е представителство в Народното събрание. 2. Кандидатите ще бъдат избирани почти като при пропорционалната система, само че доминиращите партии ще имат още по-изразено предимство спрямо останалите. За справка последните избори с мажоритарен елемент и избрани в следствие на тях депутати. 3. Много по-лесно ще стане "влизането" в Народното събрание чрез купуване на гласове и др. И много други.

Nikola Penchev
Points for and against are in different columns which makes it hard to argue.

This encourages rational debate and positive points instead of negativity and personal attacks.

Minority and majority views have equal weight which helps facilitate consensus.
Филип Филипов
1. Предлагам да се ограничи кандидатите да имат адреса регистрация в съответния мандатен район от което е избран. 2. Избирателите да стават след събиране на подписи от хора с адреса регистрация в съответния мандатен район (например 5% от всички). За доминиращите партии ще имат още по-изразено предимство спрямо останалите. За справка последните избори създават много въпроси за либералното събрание през купуване на гласове и др. И много други.

Симеон Михайлов
Текущата система осигурява на партиите монопол над властта. Практически е невъзможно независим от партиите и/или финансовите чужди да се кандидатира за НС. Финансовите вливания са твърде високи. Броят на подписите практически невъзможен за събиране без сериозна организация. Депутатите са твърде зависимости от лидерите си (които определят позицията им в изборните листи), вместо да са в зависими и отговорни към гражданите си.

Мартин Русков
Иван Гурийчева е известен плевен, сетеж от голяма част от проблемите. Ето каква аргументация развива той: [връзка]

Никола Пенчев
Мажоритарната система би създадо огромни проблеми. 1. Много хора ще останат без какъвто и да е представител в Народното събрание. 2. Кандидатите ще бъдат избрани почти както при пропорционалната система, само че доминиращите партии ще имат още по-изразено предимство спрямо останалите. За справка последните избори създават много въпроси за либералното събрание през купуване на гласове.

Дейян Василев
надявам се този пример да ви обясни защо 100% мажоритарната избирателна система не е приложима към настоящия момент и в настоящите условия.

Тони Гуев
И с много ниска представителност. Отворете ници и четете внимателно. [връзка]

Димитър Радев
Focused output

- Best ideas and solutions of participants
  - Also other useful, crowd-sorted and debated ideas
- Increased civic knowledge of participants
- Higher public acceptance and satisfaction levels with use of citizens ideas and work
New web app version

- A complete code rewrite using state of the art Web Components, Polymer and Material Design
- Open source eDemocracy software and free hosting at yrpri.org
- Greatly simplifies application development and integration with other websites
Gatnamót Digranesvegar og Hlíðarhjallar

Tímaspurna: Hvenær alvarlegt slyst verður við þessi gatnamót. Gatnamótin bera illa það umferðaralag sem þar er.
Ask idea to project in your neighborhood or where you feel better to do in town. Do Kopavogur together in a fun and beautiful town. In the fall, residents prefer the priorities of ideas in Kopavogur. Get involved!
What are we gaining?

- A modern standards based software environment that improves productivity
- App like experience on mobile
  - Mobile usage is now 49%, was 12% 2014
- Fun and easy user experience increases participation and sharing
Better Reykjavík

- Opened a week before the 2010 elections in Reykjavik, independent of political parties
- Over 40% of voters participated, 8% added content and over 1000 ideas were created
- The Best Party needed a policy and shouted out: ‘Come to Better Reykjavik to tell us what to do’
From jokes to mayor

- The Best party (Jón Gnarr) was topping in polls when they saw Better Reykjavik.
- Saw a solution for their lack of policy and used supporters to help create a platform.
- Many ideas became part of the coalition agreement.
Betri Reykjavík

Betri Reykjavík er samráðsvetttvangur íbúa Reykjavíkurborgar. Elskaðu borgina þína. <3
#betrireykjavik

4,465 10,650 6 57 13,494

COMMUNITIES (6)

Hverfið mitt 2016

Opíð fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margar hugmyndir og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opíð er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

104 10 274

NEWS

Þin rödd í ráðum borgarinnar

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem unnin hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík.

2,492 4 11,573

OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA
Hverfið mitt 2016

Opíð fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margar hugmyndir og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opíð er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

911 10 3,781

Þín rödd í ráðum borgarinnar

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem uninn hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík.

2,528 4 11,669

Archived

Betri Hverfi 2014

Betri Hverfi 2014 er samráðssverkefni íbúa og stjórnasýslu um forgangsfröðan og úthlutun fjármagns.

468 10 2,013

Betri Hverfi 2015

Betri Hverfi 2015

547 10 1,973

Betri Hverfi 2012

Betri Hverfi 2012

359 10 1,649

Betri Hverfi 2013

Betri Hverfi 2013

495 10 1,041
Formal collaboration with the city of Reykjavík since 2011, hundreds of approved and realized ideas

Over 70,000 people have participated with new ideas being processed every month

Currently working with Reykjavik City on the future of our citizens participation
We use a specially designed software for the voting process, Open Active Voting.

It’s also open source, it has to be if the process is to be trusted.

Our new version is mobile friendly, fun to use and play with.
Why Open Active Voting?

● Give citizens direct influence on part of a local government budget
● Educate citizens on how much things cost and what it means to have a budget
● Build up trust and make better decisions in cooperation with citizens
Choose a neighbourhood to cast your vote. 200 million have been allocated proportionately.
Icelandic
Takk fyrir þátttökuna!

Atkvæði þitt hefur verið möttekkið og þú hefur verið skráð(ur) út.

Better Neighbourhoods

- Participatory budgeting (PB) in Reykjavik, capitol of Iceland from 2011 to 2016
- 3 million Euro budget in 2016
- Ideas from citizens on projects to improve the neighbourhoods of Reykjavik
Better Neighborhoods won the Nordic Best Practice Challenge in category 1 "Public Communications"

“The aim of the project is to improve the quality of the inhabitants surroundings. Through this inventive project, the residents are offered influence beyond what is normally seen in a representative democracy.”
In general

- 532 ideas have been approved by citizens in Better neighborhoods from 2012 - 2016
- The vote is electronic, binding and secure
- All neighborhoods of Reykjavik have been improved visibly through Better Neighborhoods
Participation must be fun

- Fun, easy, informative and educational
- If it’s not ‘fun’ people will rather go on Facebook, play computer games or watch a movie
- We live in a world with endless possibilities for fun activities, civic work competes with that
Reward your citizens

- Use the best citizens ideas on a regular basis, not only talk about it but do it
- Use examples of successful projects to show value, build trust and increase participation
- If citizens don’t know the results it will be hard to get more participation from them
Communication is key

- Good communication is the key to success
  - Even if it is expensive
- We must use good, modern tools for this but tools alone are not enough
- If you listen to the people, the people will listen to you
Thank you

Róbert Bjarnason - robert@citizens.is
BETTER DEMOCRACY EVERYWHERE
RESEARCH INTO DIGITAL TOOLS

• Digital engagement is an important support for participatory budgeting processes, but cannot completely replace offline engagement.

• Ensure a wider range of voices are involved in PB processes.

• No single tool that is significantly better than the others in all situations, and no universal platform for participation.
Digital Tools for PB in Scotland Programme
WE LOOKED AT A LOT OF TOOLS…
...and selected a few recommendations...
Why Digital Engagement?

• Reach new audiences
• Involve more people in decision making
• Flexible: overcomes barriers of Time & Place
• Speeds up processes
• Harnesses the power of networks
• Economical (Time & Long Term Resource)

• Digital Divide
• Echo-Chambers
• E-Usual Suspects
• Cannot completely replace face-to-face
The Boaty McBoatface ‘Problem’
WHERE IN YOUR PARTICIPATION PROCESS COULD YOU USE DIGITAL TOOLS?

- Prioritisation
  - What are the communities priorities?

- Deliberation
  - Discussion and Deliberation of Ideas

- Allocation of budgets

- Fund Allocation

- Voting
  - Voting for ideas and projects to receive funding
Participare

world first multilingual out-of-the-box participatory budgeting platform

IDEA GENERATION & VOTING

cesar silva | cesar@changetomorrow.io
over 50 PB processes since 2010
Why Participate?

• Provides idea generation and voting
• Provides flexible and robust security
• Can implement different voting methods to suit different PB Processes
• Multilingual options
• Time to learn and experiment!
EXAMPLES OF SECURITY

Participare controls:

• All participants are registered & validated

• Registration data “fraud” patterns (suspicious)

• Many users from same IP

• Many users from same computer (digital fingerprint)
The Project so far...
Idea Generation

OVER120 IDEAS!
OVER 225 USERS BEFORE VOTING BEGAN

Robbie 2 days ago
Potentially a very exciting project in the area. It would be great to see a strong thriving football club in the area that brings more people in the community together.

Stephen Boddie 2 days ago
This would be fantastic for the Torry area! Football can not only help children stay fit and active but also develop life skills. Making new friends and developing social skills would also be brilliant for these children.

Dean McBain 3 days ago
Hopefully will have a massive impact in Torry with all Primary School pupils having access to free football. As a coach of one of the local clubs I'm very excited to hopefully see this develop!!!

Fran Smith 9 days ago
This will definitely be getting my vote! To have this kind of hard-to-access service right on the doorstep could help so many people in Tilly.
722 Online Voters
2628 voters in total
The D21 Voting System

Problem:

- For voters – how to make voting more flexible, empowering and fun.
- For government – how to promote inclusion and find consensus faster.

D21’s Solution:

1. More votes per voter (no ranking needed)
2. Both plus-votes & minus-votes

- Optimised through D21’s algorithm
- Simple & transparent for you and your voters

“Don’t just let your voters say a single word – let them say a whole sentence.”
D21 In Your Council

(1) You choose **what issue** you want feedback on, at any stage of the PB process.

(2) D21 staff will help you frame the question, set authentication steps, and **build the best poll** – or you can do it yourself.

(3) Poll can be **delivered** in-person (paper or digital), online or via smartphone.

(4) **Results & analytics** are provided to you in real-time.

(5) **D21 staff** available to debrief, answer questions and assist seven days a week.

Visit us at [www.democracy21.com](http://www.democracy21.com) or [www.d21.me](http://www.d21.me) to arrange a chat!
Welcome to The Spirit Market Place

Spirit Market Place
Spirit of Ruchill/Possilpark
Participatory Budgeting
• “The website was easy to use” – 82%
• “The website made it possible for me to participate at a time that suited me” – 84%
• “The website is a good way to take part in decision making” – 85%
• “I would consider using a website like this in the future” – 83%
Reach new audiences

Ruchill: “I don't get out alone and I won't make it to the big day day to vote. Thank You.”

Involve more people in decision making

Ruchill: 1007 people in 3 weeks, population of 8000
DEMO LINKS

