

Best practices of citizen engagement in the Baltic Sea region

2nd June 2017

Hotel Monika, Elizabetes street 21

9.30 - 10.00	Morning coffee	
10.00 - 10.10	Introductory words by the Centre for Public Policy Providus	
10.10 - 11.00	Keynote speech	Live Stream and Recording
	Baltic sea region: overachievers or underachievers in citizen engagement? By Peter Varga, Open Government Partnership, Regional Civil Society Coordinator for Europe	
11.00 - 11.10	Coffee break	
11.10 - 13.00	Profiling impressive examples of citizen engagement in Baltic Sea region 10 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for Q&A	Live Stream and Recording
	Promoting constructive engagement between citizens and their elected representatives via internet by Frederik Rose, Representative from Abgeordnetenwatch, GERMANY	
	Innovative formats for large-scale public deliberations by Marie Louise Jørgensen, Danish Board of Technology Foundation, DENMARK	
	Combining efforts of citizens, experts and politicians to propose new legislation by Katerina Danilova, Representative from Rahvakogu initiative ESTONIA	
	How to build interpersonal trust? Engage everyday people in creative participatory performances! by Krista Burane, play and screen writer LATVIA	
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 - 16.00	World Cafe style thematic workshops	Each participant may join three World Cafe workshops
	Improving e-petitions and idea crowdsourcing tools New forms of non-internet citizen engagement Improving communication between citizens and their elected representatives Colorful and impactful protest demonstrations Citizen engagement in monitoring activities	
16.00 - 17.00	Closing Remarks and Reception	

Participants: 20 participants from Latvia and 20 participants from the Baltic sea region - Germany, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Sweden.

Conference language: English (with translation to Latvian)

Rationale: despite widespread fears that democracy is in retreat in Europe, there have recently been many inspiring new civic initiatives in the Baltic sea region – such as the ever-growing number of large-scale democracy festivals (Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia), successful experiments with online engagement of citizens in decision-making (Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia) and impactful protest demonstrations to protect the values of democracy (Poland, Latvia). The regional conference organized by Centre For Public Policy Providus aims to profile most impressive cases of citizen engagement and to bring together activists who would be interested in best practice sharing in order to create new initiatives.

The World Cafe-style workshops of the conference will provide space for activists to brainstorm new methods of citizen engagement by building upon their shared expertise regarding:

- Experience in organizing colourful and impactful protest demonstrations;
- Creating and sustaining internet e-petition and idea crowdsourcing tools;
- Finding ever-new forms and places for democratic deliberations (including festivals, theatre performances, etc.);
- Experimenting on better forms of communication between citizens and their elected representatives.