Citizen participation and **digital tools** for democracy in Iceland and beyond

Fremtidens lokaldemokrati - June 2017

Robert Bjarnason - citizens.is

Citizens Foundation Vision

For there to be trust

citizens must have a strong voice

in policymaking with

formal and persistent participation

in the political process



citizens.is

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





YOUR PRIORITIES

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



Hvordan få til et grønt forbrukerskifte?

Forbrukerrådet ønsker dine innspill til løsninger og forslag som kan bidra til økt gjenbruk av produkter, og at det tilbys mer holdbare og bærekraftige produkter. Hjelp oss å bidra til et grønt forbrukerskifte.



Q

Q 36 🔲 186 💿 86



Mest populære innlegg først Søk etter...

Påstand: Innfør momsfritak på reparasjonstjenester i Norge

I Sverige ønsker regjeringen å legge til rette for mer miliøvennig forbruk. Som



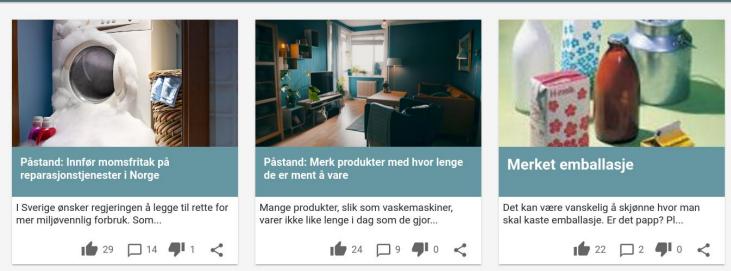
Påstand: Merk produkter med hvor lenge de er ment å vare

Mange produkter, slik som vaskemaskiner,



Merket emballasje

Det kan være vanskelig å skjønne hvor man skal kaste emballasie. Er det papp? Pl





Påstand: Vi trenger kostråd som også fokuserer på miljø

Helsedirektoratet publiserer de offisielle norske kostrådene. De er basert på hv...



Fikse-moms: 12 % moms på reparasjoner

Det MÅ bli økonomisk lurt å fikse ting, heller enn å kjøpe nytt. Det er ikke noe...



Økt tilgjengelighet

Hvis vi øker tilgjengeligheten av produkter som kan gjenbrukes (feks apoteket el...



Påstand: Innfør momsfritak på reparasjonstjenester i Norge

Gunstein Instefjord (fagdirektør Forbrukerrådet)

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I Sverige ønsker regjeringen å legge til rette for mer miljøvennlig forbruk. Som et ledd i denne planen har de fremmet et forslag i parlamentet om momsreduksjon fra 25% til 12% på reparasjonstjenester, som skomaker og reparasjon av sykler, klær og vaskemaskiner. Flere miljøorganisasjoner i Norge har foreslått noe lignende for å unngå et 'bruk- og kastsamfunn'.

Dette er en god idé fordi...

Her kan du skrive et argument for

0/500



Kjempebra incentiv for å få folk til å velge reperasjon fremfor kast!

1640

meal

Hva med å legge ned forbud mot at kjeder bytter ut hvitevarer grunnet manglende svar ifra serviceteknikker innen 14 dager. Det er prosedyren for å unngå

Dette er ikke en god idé fordi...

1 29 🔲 14 **9** 1 **<**

Her kan du skrive et argument mot

0/500



Kristin Bilden

Først og fremst bør vel se til att saker igjen produseres så de kan repareres. Deretter er det fornuftig å begynne å snakke om reparasjoner. Så lenge ting produseres som engangsprodukter, innmaten er laget i ett stykke som så er sveiset inn i plast som ikke kan åpnes og hele produktet koster mindre enn hva en reparatør tar betalt for å skrive en arbeidsordre er ikke reparasjon ett alternativ.

↑ 8 ↓ 1



Interface inspires debate



- 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



Dette er en god idé fordi...

Her kan du skrive et argument for

0/500



Kjempebra incentiv for å få folk til å velge reperasjon fremfor kast!

↑ 6 ↓ 0

meal

Hva med å legge ned forbud mot at kjeder bytter ut hvitevarer grunnet manglende svar ifra serviceteknikker innen 14 dager. Det er prosedyren for å unngå forbrukertvister. Naturlig nok ikke lovpålagt da det heter innen rimelig tid. mange serviceverksted er overlesset i arbeid som de også får veldig dårlig betalt av produsentene for å gjøre. Man er faktisk litt for godt ivaretatt av forbrukerloven generelt iallefall ettersom mye elektrisk blir byttet ut pga reklamasjon uten å engang sjekket først.

↑ 6 ↓ 0



Å legge til rette for billigere reparasjoner vil føre til at folk reparerer i motsetning til kaster. Også fordelaktig å påvirke næringslivet til å lage produkter som varer lenger ved forbrukermakt/lovgivning. Lovgivningen bør aller helst gjelde hele EU/EØS: mye større effekt! Det er ingen motsetning mellom å gjøre begge deler. I sum vil disse tiltakene få enda større effekt enn hver for sed!

Dette er ikke en god idé fordi...

Her kan du skrive et argument mot

0/500



Først og fremst bør vel se til att saker igjen produseres så de kan repareres. Deretter er det fornuftig å begynne å snakke om reparasjoner. Så lenge ting produseres som engangsprodukter, innmaten er laget i ett stykke som så er sveiset inn i plast som ikke kan åpnes og hele produktet koster mindre enn hva en reparatør tar betalt for å skrive en arbeidsordre er ikke reparasjon ett alternativ.



Jon Erland

Sverige er vårt alles sosiale laboratorium. La oss sette oss godt tilbake og se hvordan det går der før vi eventuelt gjør noe. Økonomisk teori sier at reparasjoner vil øke noe når prisene faller. Men det er lite trolig at vi idag ligger like over en slags terskelpris, slik at en masse reparasjoner vil bli utløst om prisen faller ti prosent.

↑ 1 ↓ 0



Walter van Huissteden (Forbrukerrådet)

Det er ikke rettferdig at bare reparasjonstjenester skal få momsreduksjon.

↑ 2 ↓ 7

<

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



Abuse protection



- Crowd sourced evaluation of ideas and points pushes junk and spam out of sight
- Users can notify about offending content
- We've never had to ban a user
- No content removed since 2015



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





📻 Vinsælustu hugmyndir efst 🛛 Leita að... 🔍 🤉



Fríar pappírs-tunnur. Ruslagjald á þá sem dreifa frípósti.

Við ráðum litlu um hvað kemur inn um bréfalúguna og margt fer ólesið í tunnuna. ...





Laugaveg sem göngugötu allan ársins hring

Laugavegurinn er hjarta mannlífs og menningar í miðborginni. Hans ættu gestir og...





Banna stórar rútur í miðborginni

Gatnakerfið í miðborginni ræður illa við þann aukna umferðarþunga af stórum rútu...





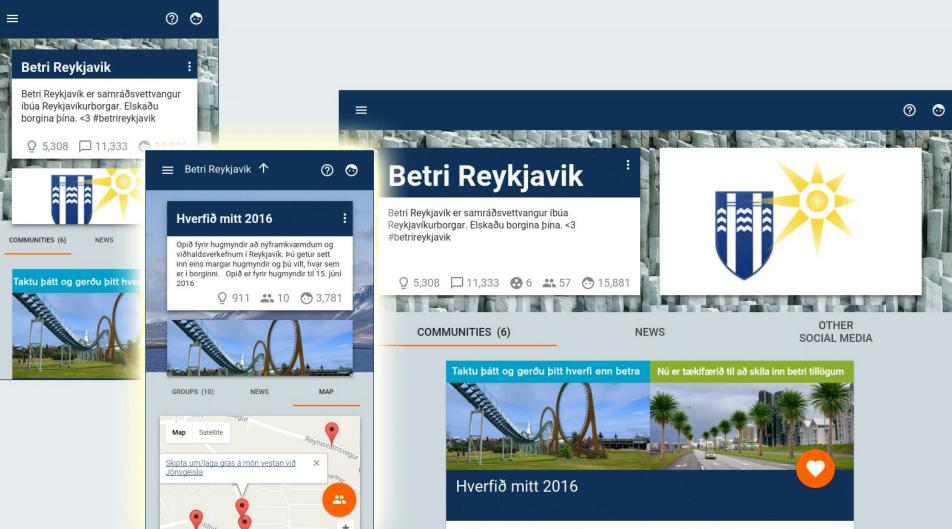


What are we gaining?



- 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





Opið fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Revkiavík. Þú

Example Projects

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 actual policies and said: 'Come to Better Reykjavik help us make policy'

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



⑦ INNSKRÁ





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📃 Betri Reykjavik Λ





FRÉTTAVEITA

KORT



Miðborg 2017

Miðborgin er sameign allra íbúanna en hún er einnig hverfi þeirra sem þar búa og ala upp sín börn. Við hvetjum alla íbúa til að leggja fram hugmyndir um hvernig hægt er að gera hverfið enn betra.

Q 111 □ 373 ⊙ 1,259



Í Grafarvogi er mikil hverfisvitund og líta margir íbúar á Grafarvog sem einskonar bæ innan borgarmarkanna. Við hvetjum alla íbúa til að leggja fram hugmyndir um hvernig hægt er að gera hverfið enn be...

Q 180 🔲 490 💿 978



Laugardalur 2017

Hverfið dregur nafn sitt af stóru íþrótta- og útivistarsvæði, sem er í miðju hverfisins. Við hvetjum alla íbúa til að leggja fram hugmyndir um hvernig hægt er að gera hverfið enn betra.







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



Education policy until 2030



- Reykjavík is currently shaping a new education policy
- Purpose is to get citizens' views on what should be the most important skills and qualifications for an 18-year-old
- Citizens in Reykjavik have opportunity to participate directly in formulating city policy



Mótum okkur menntastefnu

Hér fer fram opið samráð um áherslur í nýrri menntastefnu fram til ársins 2030. Hugmyndasöfnun hefur farið fram meðal barna, starfsfólks og stjórnenda um þá þætti sem leggja beri áherslu á í skóla- og frístundastarfnu. Þú getur tekið afstöðu til þessara þátta og sett fram þína hugmynd.

Ω 46 👪 2 💿 386



HÓPAR (2)

FRÉTTAVEITA







Sköpun og frumkvæði

Sköpun er ferli sem byggist á ímyndunaraflinu og niðurstaðan er í senn frumleg o...





Sjálfsefling

Sjálfsefling felur í sér að hafa trú á sjálfum sér og geta eflt eigin getu. Undi...



Félagsfærni

Hæfni til að sýna félagslega viðurkennda hegðun í samskiptum við aðra m.a. í lei...

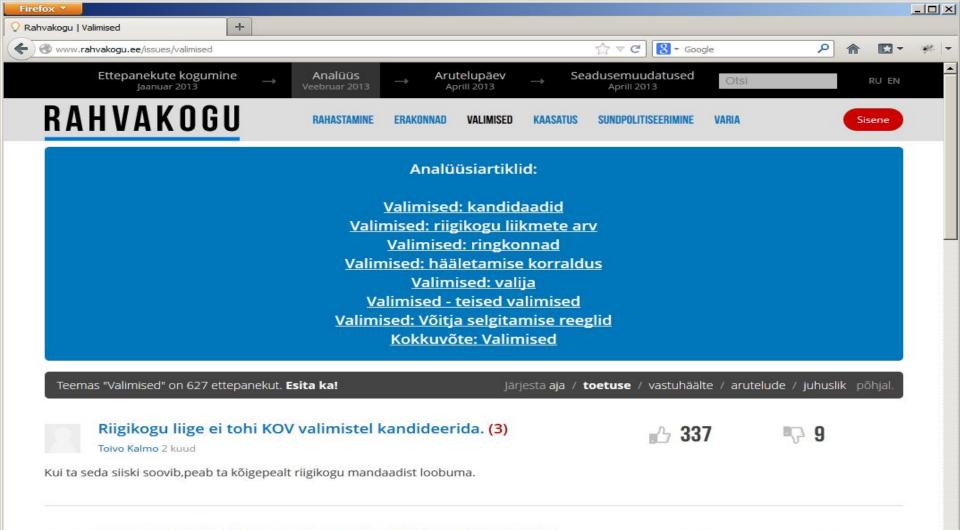


Estonian law reforms



- After political scandals in Estonia in 2012 grassroots NGOs and President of Estonia lead a law reform project
- 50.000+ people took part and sent in over 2000 proposals with Your Priorities
- 7 of the 15 top ideas are now part of Estonian law





Minu hääl peab jõudma minu poolt valitud kandidaadile (8)

D 227

Examples of law changes



- Reduced the number of members required for the establishment of a political party and candidate deposit
- Stricter sanctions for accepting prohibited donations
- More authority to the Political Party Supervision Board
- 1000 citizens can now send issues to parliament which must process them



The Estonian process



- 1. Estonian citizens put in ideas for law reforms
- 2. Citizens assembly with specialist help analysed the ideas and created law proposals
- 3. President of Estonia put the ideas before Parliament
- 4. Parliament debated and decides on law

proposals and changes

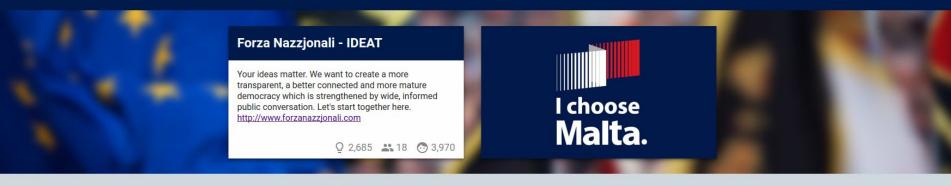


Malta / Forza Nazzjonali



- Launched 4 weeks before a snap election in Malta. FN then won close to 44% of the vote.
- Over 30.000 visited the website, that is over 10% of Malta's voting population
- Over 2.600 ideas added and 4.000 registered users





GROUPS (18)

Your Ideas

voice to be heard. This is how we truly ...

Q 2,118 2,399 3,707

NEWS



Electronic Democracy is all about Empowerment, about Joseph Muscat's Government has highlighted the serious flaws and deficiencies in our country's giving you a voice. All citizens can propose their own ideas and open them up for discussion. We want your constitutional and legal framework which have led to abuse, corruption and lack of transparency. Forza Na...

Q 41 🔲 53 🔿 338



Politics for the People

Forza Nazzjonali is committed to better the lives of the Maltese people through policies developed and aimed at addressing key issues such as the gender pay gap and gender disparity, a healthy work-I ...



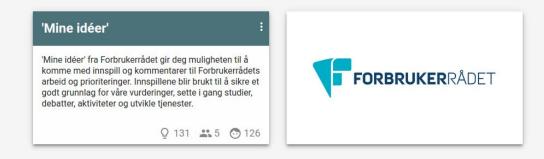


Forbrukerradet



- "Mine idéer" is a pilot project by Forbrukerrådet in Norway
- Norwegian Consumer Council is testing different participation methods using Your Priorities
- 5 different subjects of participation





ALLE SAKER (5)

TILLEGGSINFORMASJON



Dine erfaringer med kjøp og salg av bolig

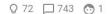
Bolighandelen burde være trygg. Det er livets viktigste handel. Din erfaring kan bidra til at vi får endret reglene. Forbrukerrådets prinsipp er at forsikringer og fagfolk som får betalt skal ha økt a...

Q 2 293 O 2



Hvordan få til en trygg bolighandel?

Boligen er livets viktigste handel for både kjøper og selger, men hele 26 % av kjøpere mener de har grunn til å klage på boligen. Forbrukerrådet mener dette tallet er for høyt, og vitner om systemsvik...





Hvordan få til et grønt forbrukerskifte?

Forbrukerrådet ønsker dine innspill til løsninger og forslag som kan bidra til økt gjenbruk av produkter, og at det tilbys mer holdbare og bærekraftige produkter. Hjelp oss å bidra til et grønt forbru...





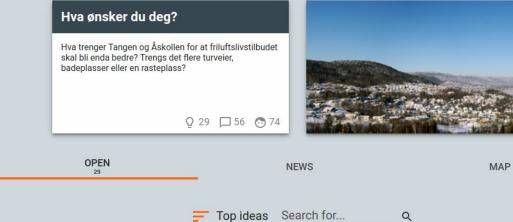


Friluftsløftet 2017



- Citizen participation project in Drammen, Norway
- Focus on outdoor recreation ideas
- In the areas of Tangen og Åskollen





Top ideas Search for ... F



Knivestranda

Opprydding og påfylling av sand på stranda. Dette vil gjøre det mer attraktivt å...





Hytte på Knutestul

Ny hytte på Knutestul





Aktivitetspark

Aktivitetspark med ulike hinder og apparater.



Girraween Public School



- A class of 11 year olds has free time every week
- They used Your Priorities to collect ideas from class who also vote on the ideas
- Top idea is done in next free school time
- 'It allows people to be heard'



"This site is democratic as it gives us the chance to embrace our opinions. It allows people to be heard. I think it is a great way to vote on things we think are beneficial for our classroom." Casey Lieu, 11 years old student, Australia.

Your Priorities e-democracy applied to class priorities in Australian school

Open Active Voting

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?

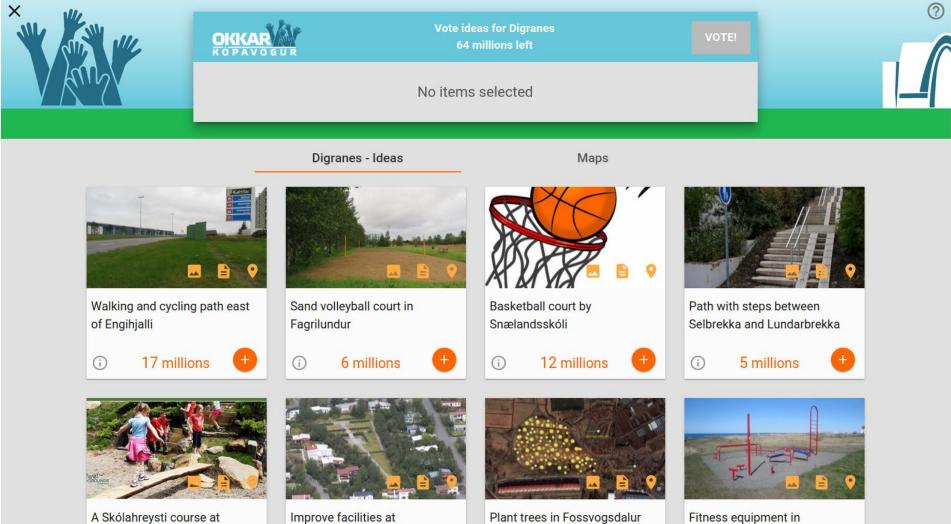
- Give citizens direct influence on part of a local government budget
- Educate citizens on how much things cost and what it means to have a budget
- Build up trust and make better decisions in cooperation with citizens







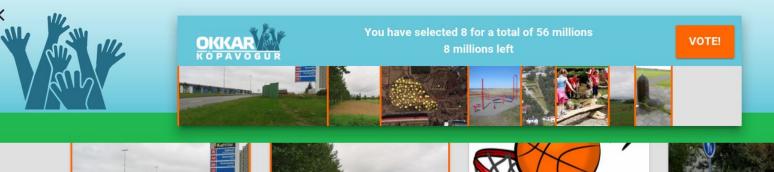




Comlandaakáli

Llíðargarður

Kápovogodolur





Walking and cycling path east of Engihjalli

X

i) 17 millions



Sand volleyball court in Fagrilundur

6 millions

4 millions



Basketball court by Snælandsskóli

(i)

(i)

12 millions 🕂



Path with steps between Selbrekka and Lundarbrekka

(

(i)

5 millions



(?)



A Skólahreysti course at Snælandsskóli





(i)



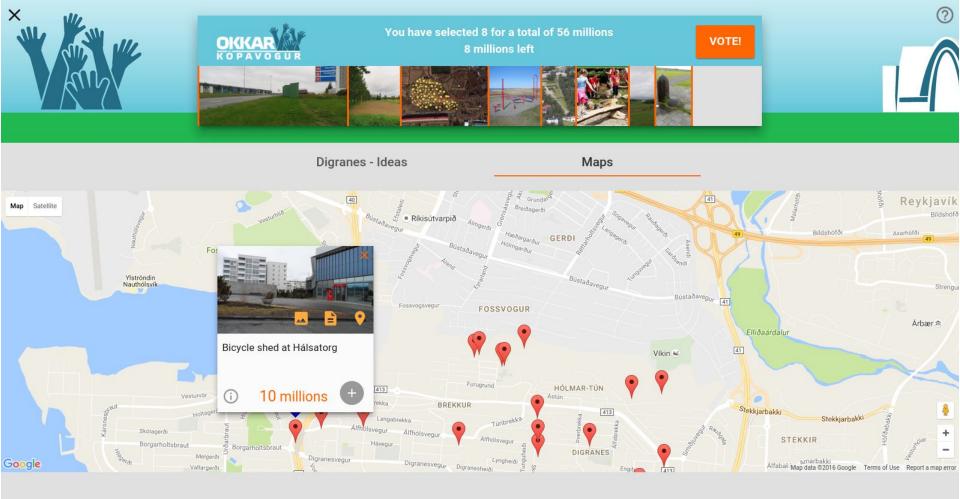
Plant trees in Fossvogsdalur

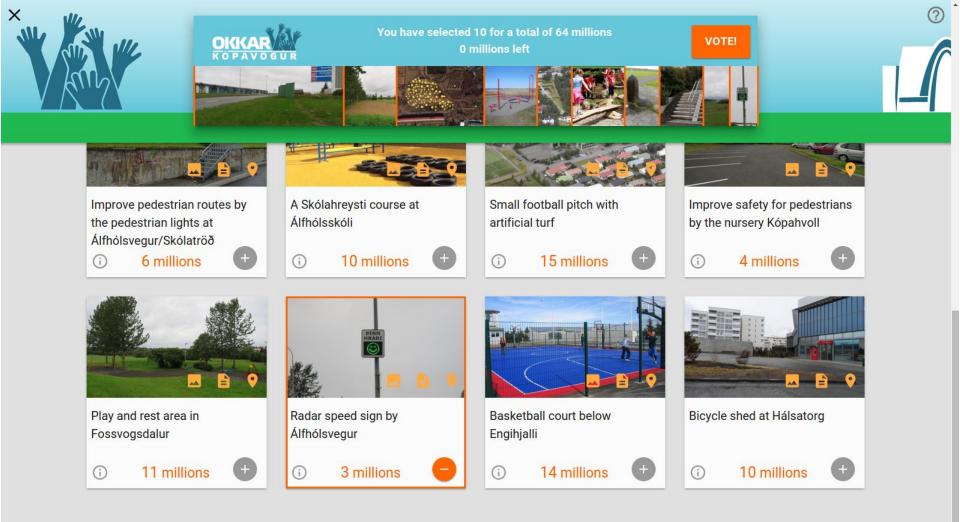
10 millions



6 millions

Fitness equipment in Kópavogsdalur







X

M

Takk fyrir þátttökuna!

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

Þú getur kosið aftur en síðasta kosning gildir. Kosningu lýkur 4. september. Niðurstöður kosninga verða birtar á heimasíðu Kópavogsbæjar.

🖆 Líkar þetta 0 🛛 Deila



Vote ideas for Kársnes peninsula

Our PB projects in Iceland

- Better Neighbourhoods in Reykjavik from 2011 to 2017
- Our Kópavogur 2016
 - 12.5% participation in voting in first year
- Our Mosó 2017
 - Over 14% participation rate



Better Neighbourhoods

- Participatory budgeting (PB) in Reykjavik, capitol of Iceland from 2011 to 2017
- 3 million Euro budget in 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
- Open Active Voting teaches citizens the realities of budgeting



Best Practice 2015

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."

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(C) + (C) +

The winner of the Nordic Best Practice Challenge category 1 "Public Communications" is the City of Reykjavik and the project "Better Districts: Citizens Prioritizing Projects"!

The project is awarded for being an innovative, small scale and transferable initiative with positive implications for the dialogue with the residents. 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. The City of Reykjavik has truly found a successful strategy to enhance public participation in the municipality.

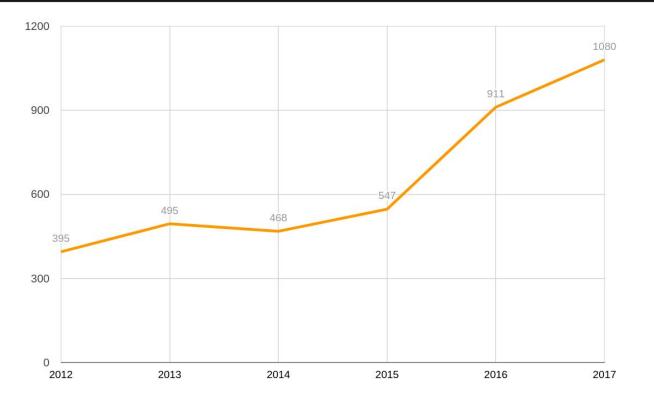
(a) + (b) + (b)

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





citizens.is



Other PB projects in Europe

• Scotland, Fife and more

- Maribor, Slovenia
- Decide Madrid, Spain Consulting
- Miskolc, Hungary
- Pula, Croatia



citizens.is

Active Citizen

Active Citizen

- **Personal Artificial Intelligence** for citizens that helps you participate effectively with little time spent
- Events that merge offline with online and combine the best features from each
- Virtual Reality for data visualization, online meetings and improved user interface



Why Active Citizen

- Empower citizens democratically with Artificial Intelligence & Virtual Reality
- Fight filter bubbles and bias to help citizens deal with their life based on their real needs
- Use Virtual Reality to connect citizens online and offline in one seamless environment



Active Citizen Al Notifications

- Reduce participation friction by sending citizens notifications on relevant issues
- Helps citizens to serve their democratic interests online, notify them about opportunities to participate
- Informative, useful but not intrusive



Active Citizen - NHS Citizen

- UK National Health Service used Your Priorities to connect with its customers
- We use Artificial Intelligence to analyze the ideas and find news stories that are relevant to them





Home

Overview

The NHS belongs to all of us. Share your thoughts & make it better.





Ideas	Categories	People			DEA	Search		
ew 🝷			Next:	Fines for m	issed app	pointments!		
All GP Patients automatically Opted Out of \triangle care.data						Vote		
Change the current NHS England proposals to automatically collect data from GP patient records unless patients 'opt out'.					DOWN 7			
This is called automatically 'opted in'. The care.data project will then harvest GP data on a monthly basis and the data could be made available to private companies.					Tweet {16			
		Add	new point					
ective of opt-out vs opt-in, Allow individual citi ent must be informed to their own data					ens onl	ine acces	5	

No data should be collected, unless the patient also has online access to all their own data. It seems totally unethical that date is collected about me and shared with 3rd parties, but I am not given access. Not only does this reduce safety for the patient, it also facilitates toe collection of data which may be inaccurate (the patient would have the motivation to ensure that their data was checked and considered accurate)



Account .



About

0 social points

Earn social points with constructive

debate. Spend social points on promotions for ideas you like at the top of the page.

Relevant news stories

Health data boom heralds new era of personalised medicine

Devon patients urged to opt out of data scheme

A&E: Some patients visit units 50 times a year

AI finds relevant news stories

COC 'to reveal NHS coverup names' ministers say

GPs voice fears over giant patient records database

NHS waiting time data for elective surgery 'unreliable'

NHS targets review pledge by Carwyn Jones

Data-sharing 'good for patients'

Patients 'uninformed on data plan' | News | Health Service Journal

Irrespectiv consent must be informed

Much clearer explanation of the benefits, and risks of the sharing of their data. Much more detail on when and how and why it will be shared, and the right to opt out again.

We should give consent to our data being collected

A basic principle of medical ethics is 'informed consent'. This means patients should always be

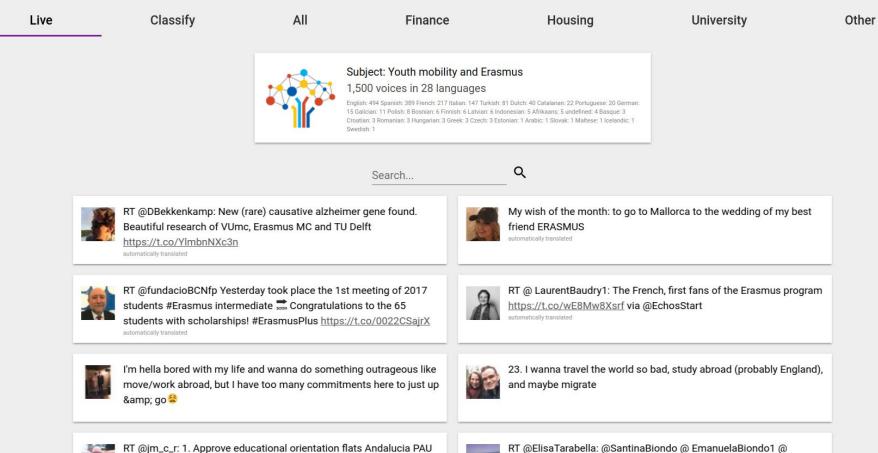
Active Citizen - Deep Linking Youth

- The DEEP-Linking Youth project brings the voices of young people to policymakers on the subjects of youth mobility and the Erasmus project
- Uses Deep Learning Neural Networks to filter relevant discussions from social media









2. 3. 4. Registering is free Grade 5. Erasmus charging pasta #totsiguals

RT @ElisaTarabella: @SantinaBiondo @ EmanuelaBiondo1 @ Lola_new8 Mario Biondo, Martina Rossi, the student of the Erammus ... even he has self-stabbed. Strano vero ??

Final words

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



Public and not for profit

- There is a danger of privatization in the extension of democracy online
- Trust is a major problem with democracy today and for-profit democracy in the cloud is not the solution
- Open source software and publicly operated servers are key for trust



Citizens Foundation's Support

- Your Priorities hosting for idea generation and crowdsourcing projects
- Support for setting up secure budget voting locally with high credibility and clear sovereignty
- Customizations for Your Priorities & Open Active Voting



Róbert Bjarnason - robert@citizens.is





Thank you