

E-DEMOCRACY IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES IN LINE WITH THE LISBON STRATEGY. ESTONIAN CASE

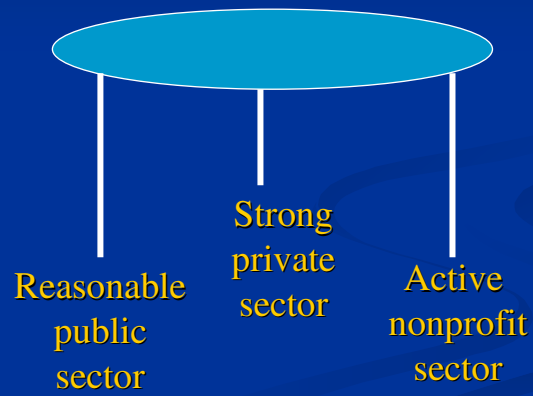
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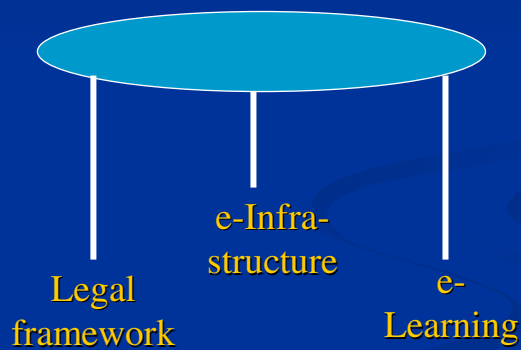
OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Civil society and e-democracy – what and why?
- Lisbon process
- Knowledge based society and economy
- e-Learning in Estonia
- e-Governance in Estonia
- e-Democracy in Estonia

CIVIL SOCIETY – WHAT?



E-DEMOCRACY – WHAT?



CIVIL SOCIETY AND E-DEMOCRACY- WHY?

- Sustainable development
- Towards knowledge and innovation based economy and society
- **Social cohesion**
- **Innovation capacity**
- Crises of welfare state
- ...

BALANCED E-STATE

Combination of electronic services and services supporting participation of citizens

E-Administration & E-Governance

Services for citizens
What services are offered
(**usefulness**)
How services are offered
(**efficiency**)

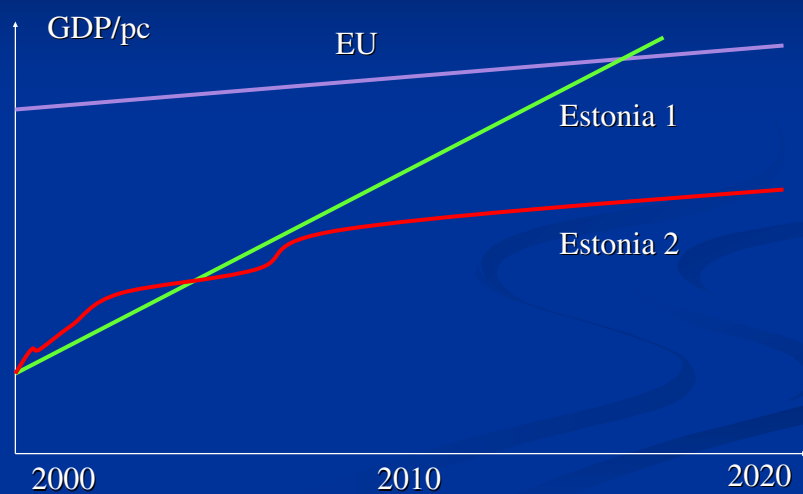
E-Democracy

How transparent is the organization
(**transparency**)
How citizen can influence the system
(**participation**)

LISBON PROCESS

- Major strategic goal for 2010 to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of **sustainable economic growth** with **more and better jobs** and **greater social cohesion**
- Radical transformation of the European economy
- Modernization of social welfare and education systems

STRATEGIC CHOICES FOR ESTONIA



TOWARDS KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION BASED DEVELOPMENT (1)

- Cheap and qualified labour as competitive advantage is not sustainable
- High degree of consensus about knowledge and innovation based development as the only reasonable alternative

TOWARDS KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION BASED DEVELOPMENT (2)

- **Innovation culture!**
- Technological and **social innovation**
- Government strategy and consorted action:
 - Sustainable Estonia 21
 - National agreement process
 - Mid-term strategies

E-LEARNING IN ESTONIA

- National programs:
 - Tiger Leap
 - e-School
 - e-University (Tiger University)
 - e-VET
- Other public and private initiatives

TIGER LEAP

- National program for computerisation of Estonian schools (1996-2000), creating e-learning environment (2001-2005), developing e-learning into an integral part of school life
- In order to achieve the goal, Tiger Leap Foundation was created in 1997 (www.tigrihype.ee)
- Main results (2005):
 - 20 pupils per computer on the average
 - 99% of the schools have online Internet connections
 - 100 e-learning courses have been developed in Estonian

LOOK INTO THE WORLD

- Initiative of two major banks and two major ICT companies
- Aim of the program (2000-2004) – to offer initial training in computer and internet literacy for 100.000 people to overcome “digital divide”
- 104.000 have participated in the program
- Supplement to governmental programs Tiger Leap and Tiger Leap Plus

E-GOVERNANCE IN ESTONIA

- e-Parliament (www.riigikogu.ee)
- e-Government (www.valitsus.ee)
- e-State (www.riik.ee)
- e-Local government(s)
- E-Governance Academy (www.ega.ee)
- ...

E-PARLIAMENT

- Web site of the Estonian Parliament
- Internal functions:
 - Preparation of legal acts in permanent committees
 - Communication of MPs, committees and staff
 - ...
- External functions:
 - Informing wider public
 - Consultations with interest groups
 - Web TV
 - ...

E-GOVERNMENT

- Launched in the year 2000
- Internal functions:
 - Preparation of the documents for the session
 - e-Sessions of the Government of the Republic
 - ...
- External functions:
 - Informing public about the proceedings of the Government
 - ...

E-STATE

- Launched in 1998 as a portal, offering public access to information from state institutions
- Offers balanced description of the functions of state institutions
- English version gives adequate picture about Estonian state institutions for the outside world
- Administered by the Department of State Information Systems of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

E-DEMOCRACY IN ESTONIA

- According to World e-Democracy Forum assessment Estonia has the most developed ICT infrastructure in Eastern Europe:
 - *Riigikogu* has decided to arrange local elections 2005 and parliamentary elections 2007 electronically
 - *Cybernetica Ltd.* has developed e-voting system based on Estonian ID card
 - Half of the population have ID cards and the rest will get it by the end of 2006
 - According to World Economic Forum assessment Estonia is second in Internet banking and third in e-Governance development

E-VOTING

- Long and painful debates in *Riigikogu* about amendments of the law on elections
- First experience in October 2005 local elections
- Three parties in favor of e-voting (Reform Party, Pro Patria, Res Publica) got 70.0% of e-votes
- Next experience will be gained in March 2007

LESSONS FROM ESTONIAN EXPERIENCE

- National strategy for sustainable development is necessary!
- Learn from the experience of developed countries, but don't copy!
- Cultural aspects (social cohesion and innovation capacity) are important!
- **The situation is excellent but not hopeless!**