

Use of digital technologies in enabling and enhancing public participation in lawmaking



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Reasons to get together

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Participation
- Supported by ICT

- OGP Legislative Openness Working Group



Digital citizens

- Active and skillful to find information they are interested in
- Socially active and networked
- More empowered to take political action
- Prefer to communicate with short messages 😊

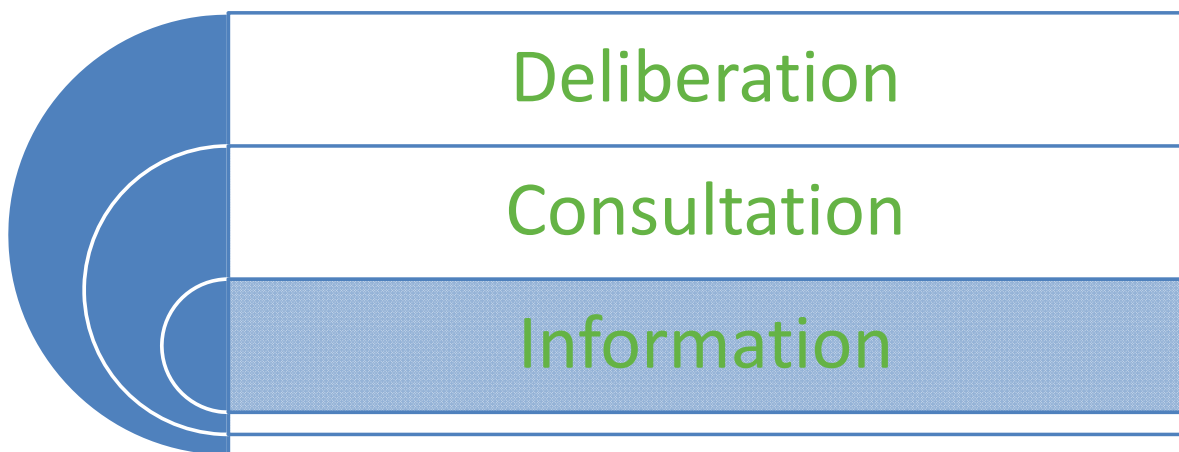
Open-minded politicians

- Recognize the active role of citizens in policymaking
- Understand that policymaking is the process of co-creation
- Use modern communication tools and platforms to be better connected with constituencies

How to get citizens involved?

- Make it easy for citizens to be informed about the legislative activities of Parliament
- Provide them with the opportunity to register for „information alerts“ on draft laws they are interested in
- Use social media to reach out and have dialogs
- Encourage individual MPs to discuss draft laws with stakeholders
- Show that citizens' input matters

At what level will citizens be involved?

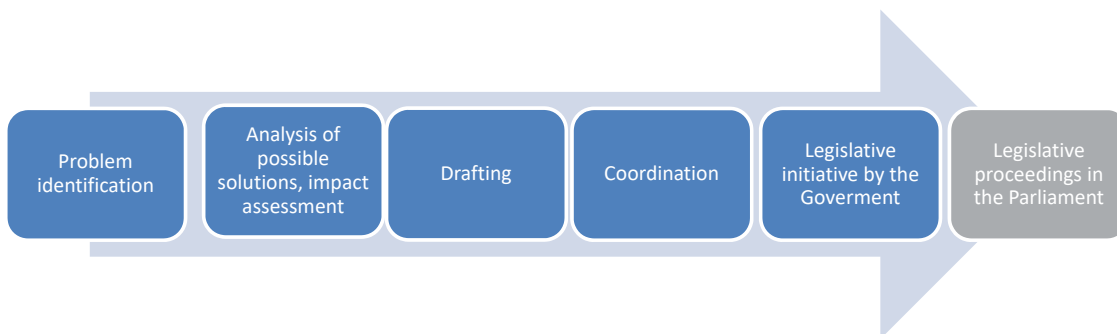


Digital platforms

Process	Functionality of platform
Information provision	Online publication of information/data (websites, social media platforms)
Consultation	Digital platforms with response/feedback functionality
Deliberation	Digital platforms enabling exchange of views between participants, consensus building

Drafting process at the Government level

Which stage is most suitable for public consultation?



Information System for legislative drafting of Estonian Government (EIS)

Eelnõude infosüsteem

Avaleht | Dokumentid

Eelnõude infosüsteem (EIS) on loodud, kus toimub dokumentide avalik-õiguslike koostööprotsesside, etapidena ja vahetuse etappide etapis ning ka avalik konsultatsioon. Peamised reguleerivad aktid on EISis avalik-õiguslikud Euroopa Liidu õigusaktide eelnõud ja need Euroopa Liidu õigusaktide eelnõud, mis on koostatud Euroopa Liidu õigusaktide eelnõude põhjal. EIS on ka koostööplatvorm, mis võimaldab avalik-õiguslike dokumentide, eriti avalik-õiguslike dokumentide ning koostööprotsesside avalik-õiguslike dokumentide kohta teha kommentaare.

Avaliku konsultatsioonide eelolevad eelnõud

Pealkiri	EIS number	Algajate nime	Algatud	Tähtaeg	Status	Liik
Tasemealsetele eelnõudele sõltuva koostööprotsessi algatamine 2013-2017 ja selle teostamise eelolevad	40413-0137	4 1-1120	31.01.2013	22.02.2013	Taotlusel	Kõrgeima eelnõu

Koostööprotsesside eelolevad eelnõud

Pealkiri	EIS number	Algajate nime	Algatud	Tähtaeg	Status	Liik
Tasemealsetele eelnõudele sõltuva koostööprotsessi algatamine 2013-2017 ja selle teostamise eelolevad	40413-0137	4 1-1120	31.01.2013	22.02.2013	Taotlusel	Kõrgeima eelnõu
Õiguskaitseametite 14. jaanuaril 2013. a määruse nr 3 „Õiguskaitseametite koostööprotsessi teostamise korra ja kriteeriumide määruse” koostamise eelolevad	40413-0244	4 1-6092	13.02.2013	27.02.2013	Taotlusel	Mittetähtsuse eelnõu
Õiguskaitseametite 13. jaanuaril 2013. a määruse nr 3 „Õiguskaitseametite koostööprotsessi teostamise korra ja kriteeriumide määruse” koostamise eelolevad	40413-0229	4 1-6092	13.02.2013	27.02.2013	Taotlusel	Mittetähtsuse eelnõu

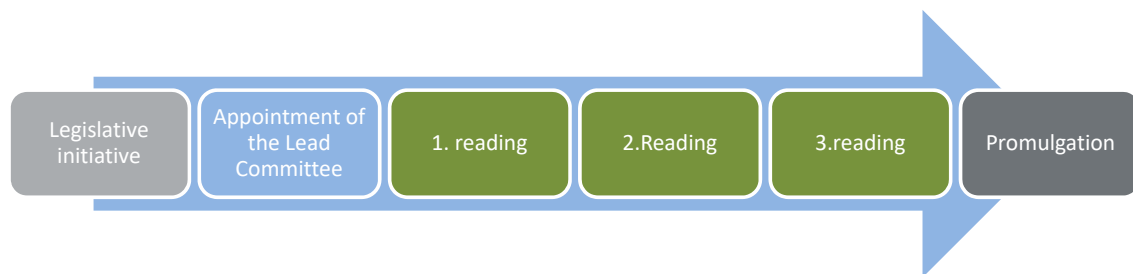


Public access to the legislative drafting process via EIS

- Open to everyone
- Different stages of drafting process are recorded and transparent
- Public consultations stage redirected to separate platform <https://www.osale.ee/>
- Identified users can add comments to the documents also at stage „Coordination“.
- Subscription to notifications by e-mail
 - New document registered
 - New public consultation started New document for coordination
 - New document submitted to the Government etc

Legislative process in the Parliament

- Which stage is most suitable for public engagement?
- Should public consultation be organized?



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Information on the legislative process

- Use-friendly chart of legislative process
- Information available on all bills at all stages of legislative process (texts, plenary and committee deliberations)
- Agendas of respective sessions available in advance

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Who decides to initiate public consultation?

- Should a public consultation be organized by the government or parliament?

Simply providing platform for online comments is not public consultation!

Online consultations

- Dedicated consultation website in use
 - Information to facilitate and encourage stakeholder input should be included
 - Conventional public consultation rules apply
 - Data protection rules have to be respected
- Online consultation could be complemented by conventional methods*

Crowdsourcing for open policy making



- Collecting ideas from the crowd
- Citizens should have a petition mechanism to influence policymaking between parliamentary elections

Law on collective proposals, 2014

- Minimum 1000 signatures
- Permanent residents of Estonia above 16 years can sign
- 30 calendar days for the Board of the Riigikogu to decide the opening of proceedings
- 6 months after the submission of petition the Lead Committee should take a decision on the petition

Decisions concerning the collective proposal

Lead committee may decide to:

- 1) initiate a bill or draft resolution or the deliberation of a matter of significant national importance;
- 2) hold a public sitting;
- 3) transmit the proposal to a competent institution for taking a position regarding the proposal and for resolving it;
- 4) transmit the proposal to the Government of the Republic for developing a position regarding the proposal and for replying to it; the position developed is also notified to the committee;
- 5) reject the proposal;
- 6) resolve the problem raised in the proposal by other means.

Platform for online collective proposals, 2016



30 petitions sent to the Riigikogu

Functions:

- Collective preparation of the text of petition
- Signing a petition electronically
- Monitoring the proceedings of petition in the Riigikogu

Reccommendations

- Define priorities to advance open lawmaking - even the most enthusiastic parliament can not do all at once
- Encourage citizens to provide rational content and not to overload parliament with emotional submissions
- Keep constructive dialog going with civil society representatives advocating for parliamentary openness

Thank you!

Questions?

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