

CONFERENCE
DEMOCRACY IN AN INFORMATION SOCIETY
June 9, 2006, Viru Conference Centre

- 9:30 am Registration, morning coffee
- 10:00 am Opening of the conference, Prime Minister Andrus Ansip
- 10:10–11:45 am Session I: Information Society in Estonia – Visions and Reality**
Moderator: Tarmu Tammerk, Estonian correspondent for the AFP News Agency, Chairman of the Estonian Press Council
- Marju Lauristin, Professor at the University of Tartu – A Sociological View of the Development of the Information Society in Estonia
- Urmas Reinsalu, Chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Riigikogu – Fundamental Civil Rights and Freedoms in an Information Society
- Margus Püüa, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, head of department – Developmental Objectives for an Information Society until 2010
- 11:45 am – noon *Coffee break*
- Noon – 1:30 pm Session II: Politics in an Information Society –International Experience**
Moderator: Ivar Tallo, Director of the e-Governance Academy
- Stephen Coleman, Professor at the University of Leeds – Democracy in the Internet Age
- Isobel Harding, Director of the Centre of Excellence for e-Democracy – Centre of Excellence for e-Democracy – Europe in Partnership
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm *Lunch*
- 2:00–3:45 pm Session III: Development of e-Democracy in Estonia**
Moderator: Liia Hänni, e-Democracy Program Director at the e-Governance Academy
- Evely Illing, Participation Expert – The Present State of e-Participation at the Central Government Level
- Marko Palo, master’s candidate at the University of Tartu – The First Five Years of the Direct Democracy Portal TOM (Today I Decide)
- Nele Leosk, Project Manager at the e-Governance Academy – Reflecting Local Elections on the Websites of Rural Municipalities and Towns in 2005
- Allan Sikk, Advisor to the Department of Economic and Social Information (DESI) of the Chancellery of the Riigikogu – The

Virtual Face of the Political Parties in Estonia

Ülle Madise, Member of the Lead Committee for the Estonian e-Voting Project – Lessons from e-Voting

Eleka Rugam-Rebane, Advisor to the Communications Office of the Government of the Republic – Participation Portal: New Opportunities for Online Citizen Participation in the Development of Policies and Drafting of Legislation

3:45–4:45 pm

Workshops

1. e-Participation at the Central Government Level (Riigikogu, Government of the Republic, Ministries)

Moderator: Eveli Illing, Participation Expert

The objective of the workshop is to formulate proposals for the development of e-democracy at the central government level.

Answers will be sought to the following questions:

- How to instigate different counterparties (citizens, politicians, state officials) to e-participation?
- What should be the direction for the further development of the portal TOM (Today I Decide)?
- What can be expected from the Riigikogu website – are the existing opportunities for communicating with citizens sufficient or should they be developed further?
- What are the opportunities for participating in the formation of European Union policies through the Internet?

2. e-Participation the Local Government Level

Moderator: Hannes Astok, Local Government Program Director at the e-Governance Academy

Opportunities for developing local e-democracy will be considered in the workshop. The topics under consideration will include:

- What are the problems of the use of on-line communication channels in local governments that have been encountered to date? How have they been overcome?
- How to implement e-participation instruments in the formation of local policies?
- How could the Republic of Estonia support local government e-democracy projects?

3. ICT and Civil Initiative

Moderator: Peeter Marvet

New technologies that help the online community to have meaningful and fruitful discussion and to influence policies by civil initiative will be introduced in the workshop.

4:45–5:30 pm

Panel discussion based on the results of the workshops – What Kind of e-Democracy Do We Need?

5:30 pm

Celebration of the 5th Anniversary of the Portal TOM (Today I Decide)

The conference is organized by the e-Governance Academy in cooperation with the State Chancellery and the Chancellery of the Riigikogu.