



# ***The Tampere approach to eParticipation***

**Antti Leskinen**  
**City of Tampere**  
**Head of Local Democracy Unit**



## **The management model of Tampere is based on:**

- 1) purchaser/provider model**
- 2) politically elected mayor**
- 3) development of public participation**



## Why do we develop public participation?

- **To develop customer-oriented services and possibilities for the residents to influence on their environment**
- **Openness of planning and decision-making is an important aim of public organisations**
- **National laws require public participation**



## **Public participation and the Tampere City Organisation**

- **The chairman of the city council, the mayor and four vice mayors promote local democracy, public participation and user-oriented services.**
- **Local Democracy Unit in the Central Administration**



## The main tools

- ✿ **Advisory citizen committees (Alvari) in two of the five districts**
- ✿ **Valma –eParticipation system**
- ✿ **Top politicians / residents’ meetings nearly once a month**
- ✿ **Various youth and children’s forums**
- ✿ **Neighbourhood web pages “Mansetori” to increase information exchange and co-operation between inhabitants.**



## the Valma – preparation forum (1)

**eParticipation to make the city's decision-making processes more transparent:**

- **increase citizens' possibilities to follow decision-making process via Internet**
- **the city's electronic workflow system is integrated into Valma**
- **The units have to use of Valma.**





## the Valma (2)

- ✿ The city officials insert issues at an early stage of preparation/planning and ask for comments
- ✿ Everyone can look at the issues, **all official documents** and other peoples comments and insert a comment
- ✿ Registration in Valma is not necessary



## the Valma (3)

**For the registered:**

- **Possible to subscribe information on chosen issues and sub areas.**
- **Possibility to get eNewsletters from the City**





## the Valma (4)

- **Residents insert their comments via Internet**
- **The comments are sent to City committee members and to the responsible officials**
- **Comments are published in Valma**
- **The Local Democracy Unit evaluates and reports Valma use to the City Board.**



## Challenges

**Motivation of officials and residents:**

- ü **Advanced, user friendly eParticipation tools.**
- ü **Training of officials and participants**
- ü **Feedback for the participants/NGOs about their impacts on decisions**





## We are not alone!

- The Ministry of Justice with few other ministries, cities and communities in Finland launched a democracy development program in 2010.
- The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities develops public participation according its new strategy
- The biggest cities in Finland have a network of public participation professionals.
- Many other authorities have a lot of experience in public participation.

