

Citizen participation and digital tools for upgrading democracy

Improving democracy - Sweden - May 2018

Robert Bjarnason - citizens.is



Þingvellir (Parliament field), Iceland
Site of the world's oldest parliament founded 930





Pots & Pans Revolution in 2008. Citizens
Foundation begins its work

Photo: Þórgnýr Thoroddsen

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





Hverfið mitt



ACTIVE
CITIZEN



DEEP-linking YOUTH

CHEST

Decide
Madrid



RAHVAKOGU



#Reset
Romania



**YOUR
PRIORITIES**



**CITIZENS
FOUNDATION**

Open source democracy tools

- **Idea generation, policy crowdsourcing and debate** with Your Priorities
- **Budget voting and civic education** with Open Active Voting
- **Empower citizens with Artificial Intelligence** with Active Citizen



Idea generation, policy crowdsourcing and debate

With Your Priorities









Betri Reykjavik

Betri Reykjavik er samráðsverkefni Reykjavíkurborgar, íbúa ses og Reykvíkinga. #betrireykjavik

7,723

17,395

12

22,740

COMMUNITIES (11)

NEWS



Hverfið mitt 2018

Óskað er eftir hugmyndum að verkefnum sem kosið verður um í hverfakosningunni Hverfið mitt í október 2018. Hugmyndirnar ...

820

10

4,114



Opið samráð

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem unnin hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík. Í þin rödd í ráðum borgarinnar verða efstu hugmyn...

2,854

4

12,212



Gufunesbær

Fristundamiðstöðin Gufunesbær var stofnuð haustið 1998 og er rekin af Skóla- og fristundasviði Reykjavíkur. Eitt mik...

16

1

43



Hverfið mitt 2017

Opið var fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík til 24. mars, kosið var um verkefnið og hér e...

1,081

10

5,467



Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi enn betra

Hverfið mitt 2016

Opið var fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík, til 15. júní 2016. Hér eru niðurstöður úr ko...

911

10

3,899



Hverfið mitt 2017

Opið var fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík til 24. mars og kosning fer fram í haust.

💡 1,080 👤 10 🗣️ 5,383



HÓPAR (10)

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.

💡 111 💬 373 🗣️ 1,259



Grafarvogur 2017

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

💡 180 💬 490 🗣️ 978



Laugardalur 2017

Hverfið dregur nafn sitt af stóru íþrótt- 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.

💡 124 💬 384 🗣️ 929



Hverfið mitt 2017

Ópið var fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík til 24. mars og kosning fer fram í haust.

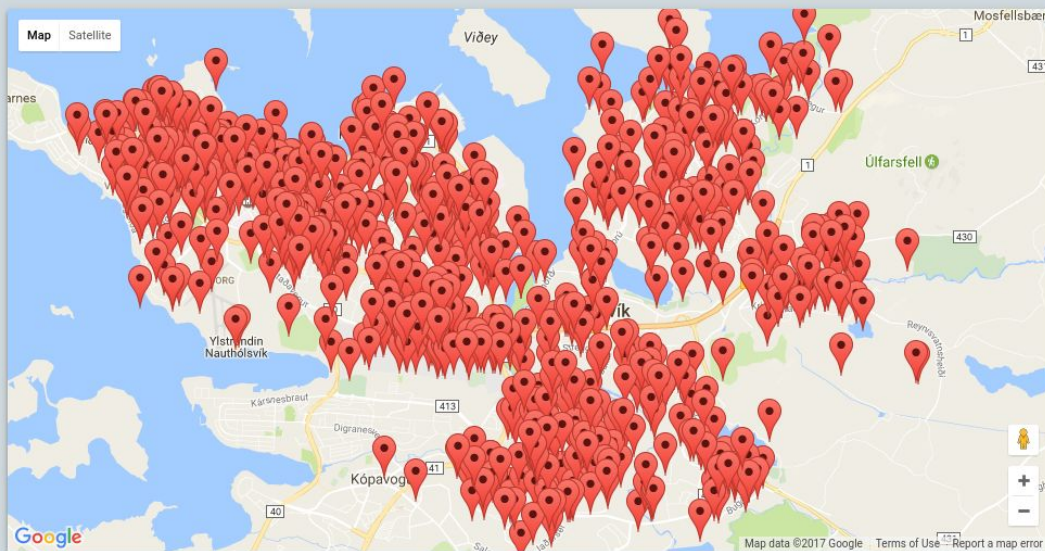
🗨 1,080 👤 10 🗳 5,383



HÓPAR (10)

FRÉTTAVEITA

KORT





Your Ideas

Electronic Democracy is all about Empowerment, about giving you a voice. All citizens can propose their own ideas and open them up for discussion. We want your voice to be heard. This is how we truly make politics by the people and for the people.

 2,121  2,403  3,714



Add new idea

POPULAR - ALL CATEGORIES

2,124

NEWS

 FILTER IDEAS

Search for... 



Trees for Streets

Planting trees along urban roads. Increasing tree-lined streets. Benefits ar...



Evidence Based Interventions For Children with Autism

The new government should look into subsidising evidence based interventions whi...



Don't Accept any ODZ applications

Malta is one of the smallest countries in the world, and the land which we haven...



Better transport infrastructure

I think traffic is getting worse everyday and it is time for Malta to upgrade it...



voters living abroad

Introduce the facility to allow voters who live abroad to vote from their stayin...



Manoel Island - National Park

The Maltese people deserve a national park similar to central park in new york t...



Green Lung in Every Locality

Kull Kunsill Lokali jiġi mitlub jidentifika post fil-lokalità fejn jistgħu jitha...



Nirringeneraw u nużaw il-bini abbandunat

Fiċ-ċentri tal-irħula hemm hafna bini abbandunat b'tali mod li jkerrah iż-żoni u...



Demolition ALL illegal boat houses

An utter abuse of public land and injustice to fellow citizens who are denied us...



0% Tax on Fruit, Vegetables & Water

This could be coupled with a sugar tax or higher tax on junk food. This is the l...



Il-bini fi triq għandu jkun kollu fuq l-istess livell

Qeghdin jingħataw permissi biex djar jitwaqqghu u minflokhom jitolgħu flats ta i...



24/7 University Library

University can be a difficult time, and I cannot understate the stress that mult...



Engineering Warrant for MCAST Engineering Graduates



It's about time to stop with the discrimination against MCAST engineering graduates who have achieved an MQF Level 6 Degree and are not given the chance to apply for the Warranted Engineer certification. This matter has dragged over the past two legislatures each side promising that they will deliver but nothing happens. MCAST graduates have been excellent at their work in the local industry, doing as well as the their University co-workers.

174
 54
 123

DEBATE
54

NEWS

PHOTOS
0

FOR

AGAINST

Why do you support this Idea?

0/500



Adriana Magro

I fully support this idea! MCAST Engineering Students have a tough course to read and put in countless hours to keep up with the volume of work they have. It is imperative that action is taken once and for all.

52
 27



Ing John

Why don't you like this Idea?

0/500



Alex Tanti

This issue should not be debated on such media. The Engineering Board is working on this issue in order to find a fair solution. "We cannot accept a situation where a student would select one educational institution over another to follow an engineering degree just because there is either the perception or the actuality that the path offered is easier than that of other institutions."

62
 32



Ing John

First and foremost I agree that the entry levels should be higher. However the MCAST engineering graduates (and students) have proven themselves in the industry countless times, showing that they are just as able to work under stressful conditions and come up with good solutions. The ratio of MCAST students to UOM students employed has gone up significantly over the last few years and I believe that is what other fellow UOM students are worried about...

↑ 22 ↓ 9 ↩



Adam Cacciottolo

I support this movement because I believe in a world where "teamwork" can drive goals, projects, ideas. I believe in an engineering team connected through diversification of both UoM & MCAST students. Engineering is all about teamwork; technical staff working for a common goal and team rewards. I hope that UoM students one day realize that we might actually be on the same team - and I thoroughly look forward to working with bright individuals, regardless of their tertiary institution.

↑ 18 ↓ 6 ↩



Debbie Farrugia

The main argument against this proposal has been the differences in entry standards and course content. I think the question we should be asking first is whether or not Maltese students who obtained their B.Eng in a UK university with lower entry standards than UoM have been able to apply for their warrant. Does the Board check the 'equality' of the course and its entry standards as strictly or does it just ensure that the degree is a Level 6 BEng?

↑ 22 ↓ 12 ↩

↑ 62 ↓ 32 ↩



Norman Zammit

As a Chamber of Engineers we have, for the last three years, followed up with the Engineering Board on this issue. A review of all degrees was conducted by the Engineering Board through the engagement of International reviewers. The results of that review show evidence of non equality that need to be addressed. It is useless hiding behind false promises when such a promise shall undoubtedly create frictions in the profession - Ing. Norman Zammit - President COE

↑ 53 ↓ 31 ↩



Andrew Borg

Currently, the UoM and MCAST courses are not on par, hence why only UoM students can obtain the warrant. If the correct changes are made and the MCAST course reaches the required criteria to acquire the warrant, only then will it be possible for MCAST students to obtain the warrant. Adding on, it is very ironic that some of the students in favour of this idea have only just dropped out of University and have gone to MCAST instead.

↑ 34 ↓ 22 ↩



Bernard Bonello

This has been assessed from foreign boards and it has been decided already that they are not equivalent. Thanks.

↑ 13 ↓ 6 ↩



Dylan Abela



Budget voting and civic education

with Open Active Voting



citizens.is

Examples of PB projects in Iceland

- **Better Neighbourhoods in Reykjavik from 2011 - 2018**
- **Our Kópavogur 2016 - 2018**
 - Record 18% participation rate
- **Our Mosó 2017**
 - Over 14% participation rate





Choose a neighbourhood to cast your vote. 450 million have been allocated proportionately.

Íslenska Polska



0:00 / 0:40





Vote ideas for Laugardalur
55 millions left

VOTE!

55 millions on offer Use + to select ideas

Laugardalur

Maps



Light-controlled crossing on Reykjavegur

13 millions



Better access to the shore on Laugarnestangi

4 millions



Smarten the drinking fountain areas in Laugardalur

3 millions



Battery charging at Laugardalslaug

5 millions



Improved lighting at Holtavegur–Langholtsvegur junction

4 millions



Improvements to basketball court by Laugalækjarskóli

6 millions



Front view of Laugardalslaug

10 millions



Information boards in Laugarnes

2 millions



Parkour area in Laugardalur

13 millions



Labelling paths in Laugardalur

2 millions



Laugardalur

Maps



Labelling paths in Laugardalur

2 millions



Parkour area in Laugardalur



13 millions



Smarten the drinking fountain areas in Laugardalur

3 millions



Front view of Laugardalslaug

10 millions



Better lighting in Laugardalur

7 millions



Better access to the shore on Laugarnestangi

4 millions



Smarten and renovate public space by Miðtún

7 millions



Improving dog park in Laugardalur

9 millions



Battery charging at Laugardalslaug

5 millions



Pedestrian crossing on Suðurlandsbraut at Möркиn

6 millions





You have selected 7 for a total of 55 millions

0 millions left

VOTE!



Laugardalur

Maps



Light-controlled crossing on Reykjavegur

13 millions



Better access to the shore on Laugarnestangi



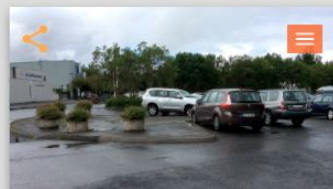
4 millions



Smarten the drinking fountain areas in Laugardalur



3 millions



Battery charging at Laugardalslaug



5 millions



Improved lighting at Holtavegur–Langholtsvegur junction



4 millions



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6 millions



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10 millions



Information boards in Laugarnes

2 millions



Parkour area in Laugardalur



13 millions



Labelling paths in Laugardalur

2 millions





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 evolution of democracy online
- **Trust is a major problem in democracy today and for-profit democracy in the cloud is not the solution**
- Open source software, decentralization and publicly operated servers are key for trust



Thank you

Róbert Bjarnason - robert@citizens.is

