

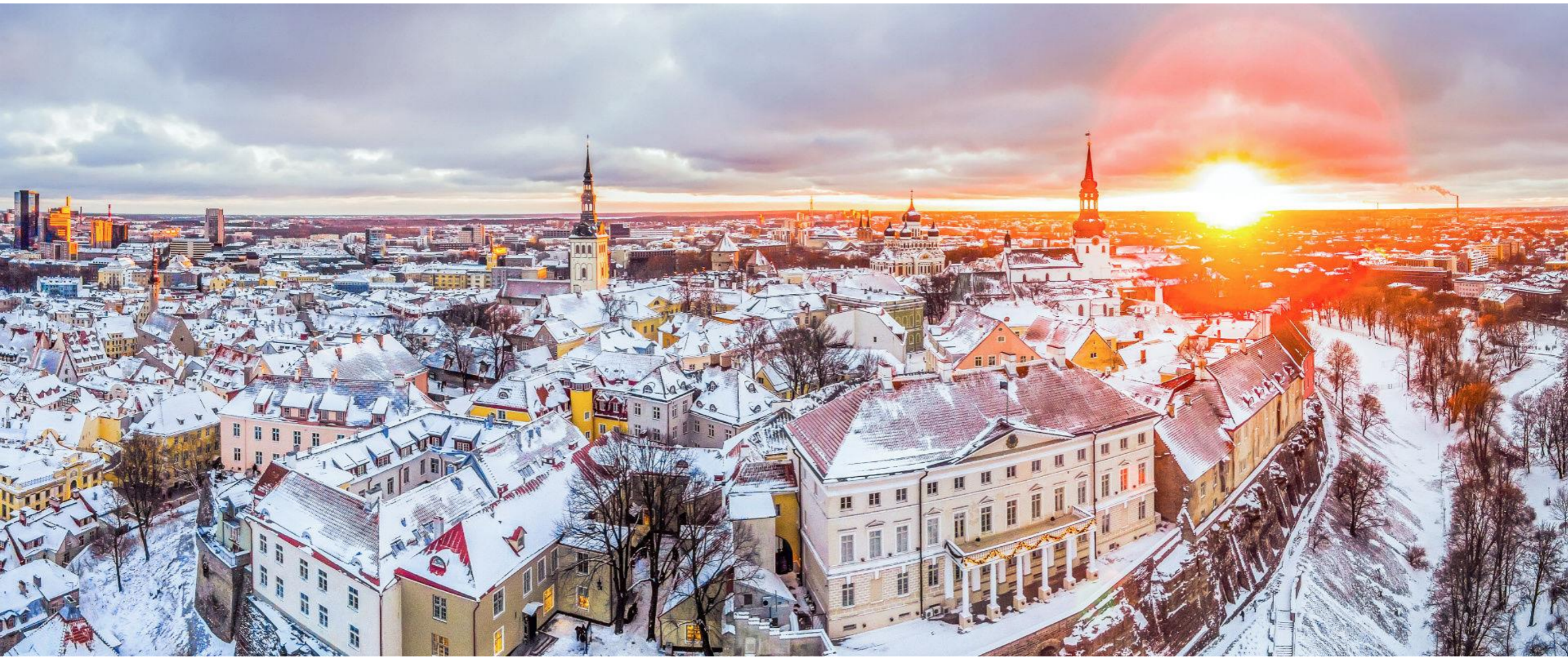
OGP in Estonia

Alari Rammo
coordinator of CSO roundtable for OGP

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- * Estonia joined OGP 2012, 4th National Action Plan (NAP) ending this summer
- * Our gift and curse has been considerably open governance already – everything is online, databased, digital ID, electronic signatures, little corruption
- * Most of “opening” has been done already before OGP, perhaps it’s more to learn from us before 2012
...
- * Thus, starred commitments hard to find as no major systematic problems – solutions more fine-tuning
- * Unique (and probably unbelievable) strength: mostly very good co-operation with Government Office and POC. Co-creation of NAP, not demands from CSOs

- * Currently starting developing new, the fifth NAP
- * Main method is crowdsourcing ideas, while similar procedures with public sector and civil society
- * First we discuss and approve the design process and time-table with both CSO roundtable and MSF
- * Then ask gensecs of ministries to look, what they could already be planning that supports OGP
- * At the same time ask the same from CSO roundtable – what should continue from previous NAP, what new expert ideas we already have
- * Organise public discussions, sometimes thematic, additional research, develop raw ideas further
- * Also have a public call for ideas for every CSO or citizen

- * Then we compare the expectations of public and third sector, try to consolidate – often same ideas
- * If new idea from CSOs, negotiations with ministries and other state institutions, could they commit to an idea – because they have money
- * Finally we approve the activities with CSO roundtable and MSF – and then we have the NAP
- * Every activity should have responsible parties from both public and third sector
- * Ideally implementation also shared, and/or oversight by CSOs
- * Progress review at least once a year, CSOs and MSF

✦ Lessons learnt so far:

- ✦ OGP 2-year cycle is annoying, doesn't take into account other processes, coalition agreements, strategy documents – hard to fit in and find the window, where activities are both new and ambitious
- ✦ Criticism from CSOs that government is not taking OGP seriously, but open governance is hard to sell as a separate objective, rather it is or should be organic way of thinking/governing.
- ✦ And some ministries, of course, do see OGP as an additional burden, trying to commit as little as possible

* Lessons learnt so far:

- * Country's tininess also gift and curse: easy access to officials and politicians, but hugely dependant on certain persons and relations – if not get along, any progress is postponed until staff changes either side
- * Very few enthusiasts from CSO side: roundtable has over 30 members, but dozen or less active
- * No interest at all from “ordinary people”, through OGP vocabulary obviously impossible to explain or relate. People just want perhaps smooth public services, no corruption and to be listened? We try to offer it.
- * Not enough resources for research to dig deeper where CSOs THINK the problem could be. Maybe it isn't?

- * With next NAP we try to:
 - * Aim a longer, 6-year target, slicing it to 2-year NAPs – in order to have more ambitious projects
 - * Try to engage more groups that are not usual suspects: youth, elderly, local communities
 - * Have less central and e-gov activities as too easy
 - * Try doing ... something for 79 local governments, but they're very autonomous and not easy to communicate (without more funding)
 - * Have more ambitious commitments: perhaps same activity, but 10x in quantity

Thanks

OGP on Estonian Government Office:

<https://www.riigikantselei.ee/en/open-government-partnership>

Me: alari@heakodanik.ee

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