

# Citizen participation

Digital tools for the democratic revolution in  
Iceland and beyond

**MetaDecidim - Barcelona - Nov 2016**



**CITIZENS  
FOUNDATION**

**Robert Bjarnason - Gunnar Grímsson - [citizens.is](http://citizens.is)**

# Citizens Foundation Vision

Citizens must have a **strong voice**  
in policymaking with  
**formal and persistent participation**  
in the political process





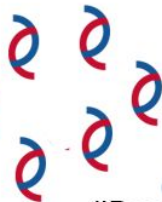
**RAHVAKOGU**



**ACTIVE CITIZEN**



**CHEST**



**#Reset Romania**

Decide Madrid



**YOUR PRIORITIES**



**CITIZENS FOUNDATION**

# The Open Source Tools



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



# Your Priorities



- **Idea and debate platform which helps people to have real influence**
- Allows large groups to speak with one voice and organise around ideas
- Open source participation software with free hosting for your group at [yrpri.org](http://yrpri.org)



# Why Your Priorities



- Build up trust between citizens and government
- Enable better decisions by crowdsourcing policy with the cooperation of citizens and government
- Simple to use app like experience



# Your Priorities highlights

- We've had **over 1 million unique visitors** since 2008
- **Scales well to big and small projects**
- Estonia, Australia, Scotland, USA, UK, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Iceland and more



# Debate and prioritization



- **Participants add ideas and points**
  - Inform others with structured debate points and become better informed in the process
- **Ideas and points are voted on by citizens**
  - With the best ideas and points for and against them visible to everyone





# Interface inspires debate



- Points for and against are in different columns which makes it hard to argue
- This encourages rational debate and positive points instead of negativity and personal attacks
- **Minority and majority views have equal weight which helps facilitate consensus**



## 100% мажоритарна избирателна система.



Замяна на досегашната пропорционална избирателна система и на хибридния ѝ мажоритарно-пропорционален вариант със 100% мажоритарна система. Обособяване на 240 мажоритарни района с приблизително еднакъв брой постоянни жители.

62 
 26 
 21

DEBATT  
12

NYHETER

PLASSERING

BILDER  
0

### Ditt poeng for ...

0/500

**Filip Filipov**

1. Предлагам да се ограничи кандидатите да имат адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район от които е издигнат. 2. Издигането да става след събиране на подписи от хора с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район (Например 5% моля и за дискусия по темата колко точно и как ще се проверяват) 3. Право на отзоваване. По инициатива на ??? от гражданите с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен регион. Се свиква локален референдум само в този мандатен регион.

↑ 9 ↓ 3

### Ditt poeng mot ...

0/500

**Nikola Penchev**

Мажоритарната система би създавала огромни проблеми: 1. Много хора ще останат без каквото и да е представителство в Народното събрание; 2. Кандидатите ще бъдат избирани почти както при пропорционалната система, само че доминиращите партии ще имат още по-изразено предимство спрямо останалите. ЗА справка последните избори с мажоритарен елемент и избраните в следствие на тях депутати. 3. Много по-лесно ще стане "влизането" в Народното събрание чрез купуване на гласове и др. И много други.

↑ 7 ↓ 0



## Your point for...

0/500

Filip Filipov



Допълнителни ограничения.

1. Предлагам да се ограничи кандидатите да имат адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район от които е издигнат. 2. Издигането да става след събиране на подписи от хора с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен район (Например 5% моля и за дискусия по темата колко точно и как ще се проверяват) 3. Право на отзоваване. По инициатива на ??% от гражданите с адресна регистрация в съответния мандатен регион. Се свиква локален референдум само в този мандатен регион.

↑ 9 ↓ 3

Симеон Михайлов



Да гласуваме за личности, а не за партии?. Текущата система осигурява на партиите монопол над властта. Практически е невъзможно независим от партиите и/или финансите човек да се кандидатира за НС. Финансовите изисквания са твърде високи. Броят подписи практически невъзможен за събиране без сериозна

## Your point against...

0/500

Nikola Penchev



Мажоритарната система има своите недостатъци. Мажоритарната система би създавала огромни проблеми: 1. Много хора ще останат без каквото и да е представителство в Народното събрание; 2. Кандидатите ще бъдат избирани почти както при пропорционалната система, само че доминиращите партии ще имат още по-изразено предимство спрямо останалите. За справка последните избори с мажоритарен елемент и избраните в следствие на тях депутати. 3. Много по-лесно ще стане "влизането" в Народното събрание чрез купуване на гласове и др. И много други.

↑ 7 ↓ 0

Deyan Vasilev



пример. Надявам се този пример да ви обясни защо 100% мажоритарната избирателна система не е приложима към настоящия момент и в настоящите условия.

↑ 4 ↓ 0

# Focused output



- **Best ideas and solutions of participants**
  - Also other useful, crowd-sorted and debated ideas
- **Increased civic knowledge of participants**
- **Higher public acceptance and satisfaction levels with use of own ideas and work**



# New version in 2016



- **A complete code rewrite using state of the art Web Components, Polymer and Material Design**
- **Open source eDemocracy software and free hosting at [yrpri.org](http://yrpri.org)**
- Greatly simplifies application development and integration with other websites





### Okkar Kópavogur - Taktu þátt!

Leggðu fram hugmynd að verkefni í þínu hverfi eða þar sem þér finnst betur megi gera í bænum. Gerum Kópavog saman að skemmtilegri og fallegri bæ. Í haust kjósa íbúar um forgangsörðun hugmynda í Kópavogi. Taktu þátt!

💡 177 💬 119 👤 667



OPEN

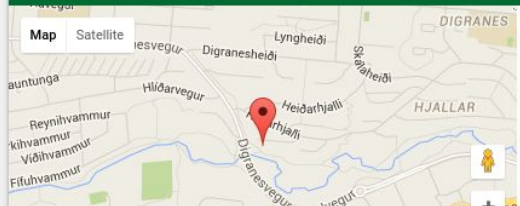
NEWS

MAP



☰ Latest posts

### Gatnamót Digranesvegur og Hlíðarhjalla



Tímanspursmál hvenær alvarlegt slys verður við þessi gatnamót. Gatnamótin bera illa það umferðarálag sem þar er.



## New idea

IDEA

POINT FOR

LOCATION

PHOTO

Select category

Title

0/60

Description

0/500

CANCEL

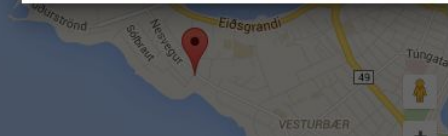
NEXT

OPEN  
1.585

MAP

Shu

map



sources, I find 11 apartments in zip 101-108. While Airbnb is a large set of apartments that are not easy to count. I feel that the capital should take themselves and simply prohibit airbnb as the Germans did in Berlin for a few months. 0





## our Kopavogur

Ask idea to project in your neighborhood or where you feel better to do in town. Do Kopavogur together in a fun and beautiful town. In the fall, residents prefer the priorities of ideas in Kópavogur. Get involved!

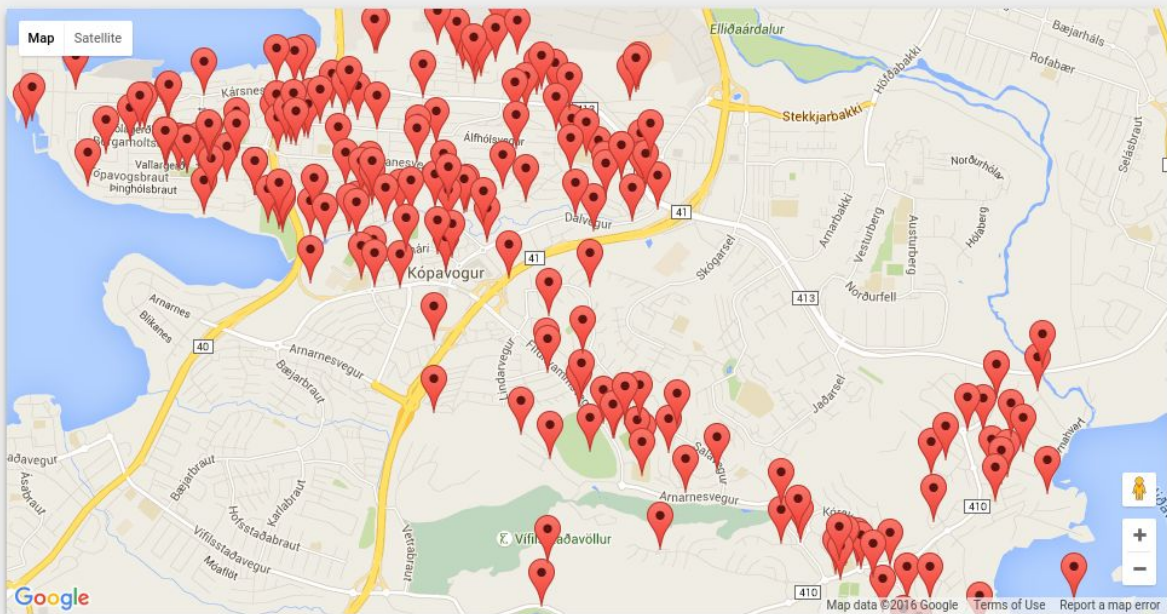
254 1 837



GROUPS (1)

NEWS

MAP





# Participation must be fun



- **Fun, 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**



# Betri Reykjavík

Betri Reykjavík er samráðsveitvangur íbúa Reykjavíkurborgar. Elskaðu borgina þína. <3 #betrireykjavik

🗨️ 5,308 💬 11,333 👤 6 👥 57 🗳️ 15,881



## COMMUNITIES (6)

## NEWS

## OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi enn betra



### Hverfið mitt 2016

Opíð fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margar hugmyndir og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opíð er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

🗨️ 911 👥 10 🗳️ 3,781

Nú er tækifærið til að skila inn betri tillögum



### Þín rödd í ráðum borgarinnar

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem unnin hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík.

🗨️ 2,528 👥 4 🗳️ 11,669

## Hverfið mitt 2016

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💡 2,528 👤 4 🗣️ 11,669

## Archived



## Betri Hverfi 2014

Betri hverfi 2015 er samráðsverkefni íbúa og stjórnarsýslu um forgangsröðun og úthlutun fjármagns.

💡 468 👤 10 🗣️ 2,013



## Betri Hverfi 2015

Betri Hverfi 2015

💡 547 👤 10 🗣️ 1,973



## Betri Hverfi 2012

Betri Hverfi 2012

💡 359 👤 10 🗣️ 1,649



## Betri Hverfi 2013

Betri Hverfi 2013

💡 495 👤 10 🗣️ 1,041

# Mobile native



- **Works smoothly on mobiles and tablets with app-like behaviour**
- All tasks at your fingertips using standard Google Android Material Design user interface



☰ ? 🗺

## Betri Reykjavík

Betri Reykjavík er samráðsvettvangur íbúa Reykjavíkurborgar. Elskaðu borgina þína. <3 #betrireykjavik

💡 5,308 💬 11,333 🗺 15,881



COMMUNITIES (6) NEWS

Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi




☰ Betri Reykjavík ↑ ? 🗺

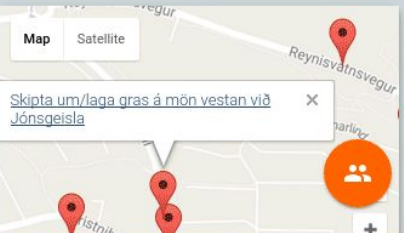
## Hverfið mitt 2016

Opið fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margar hugmyndir og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opið er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

💡 911 👤 10 🗺 3,781



GROUPS (10) NEWS MAP



Map Satellite

Skipta um/laga gras á mön vestan við Jónsgeisla

☰ ? 🗺

## Betri Reykjavík

Betri Reykjavík er samráðsvettvangur íbúa Reykjavíkurborgar. Elskaðu borgina þína. <3 #betrireykjavik

💡 5,308 💬 11,333 🗺 6 👤 57 🗺 15,881



COMMUNITIES (6) NEWS OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi enn betra

Nú er tækifærið til að skila inn betri tillögum




## Hverfið mitt 2016

Opið fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú

# What are we gaining?



- A modern standards based software environment that improves productivity
- **App like experience on mobile**
  - Mobile usage is now 46%, was 12% 2014
- **Fun and easy user experience increases participation and sharing**



# Better Reykjavík



- **Opened a week before the 2010 elections in Reykjavik, independent of political parties**
- **Over 40% of voters participated, 8% added content and over 1000 ideas were created**
- **The Best Party needed a policy and shouted out: 'Come to Better Reykjavik to tell us what to do'**



# From jokes to mayor



- **The Best party (Jón Gnarr) was topping in polls when they saw Better Reykjavik**
- **Saw a solution for their lack of policy and used supporters to help create platform**
- Many ideas became part of coalition agreement





# Betri Reykjavik

Betri Reykjavik er samráðsvettvangur íbúa Reykjavíkurborgar. Elskaðu borgina þína. <3 #betrireykjavik

🗨️ 4,465 💬 10,650 👤 6 👥 57 🗳️ 13,494



## COMMUNITIES (6)

## NEWS

## OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

Taktu þátt og gerðu þitt hverfi enn betra

Nú er tækifærið til að skila inn betri tillögum



### Hverfið mitt 2016

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🗨️ 104 👥 10 🗳️ 274



### Þín rödd í ráðum borgarinnar

Hér er að finna ýmis verkefni sem unnin hafa verið á Betri Reykjavík.

🗨️ 2,492 👥 4 🗳️ 11,573



# City collaboration



- **Formal collaboration with the city of Reykjavík since 2011, hundreds of approved and realized ideas**
- Over 70.000 people have participated with new ideas being processed every month
- Currently working with Reykjavik City on our future of citizens participation



# Reward your citizens

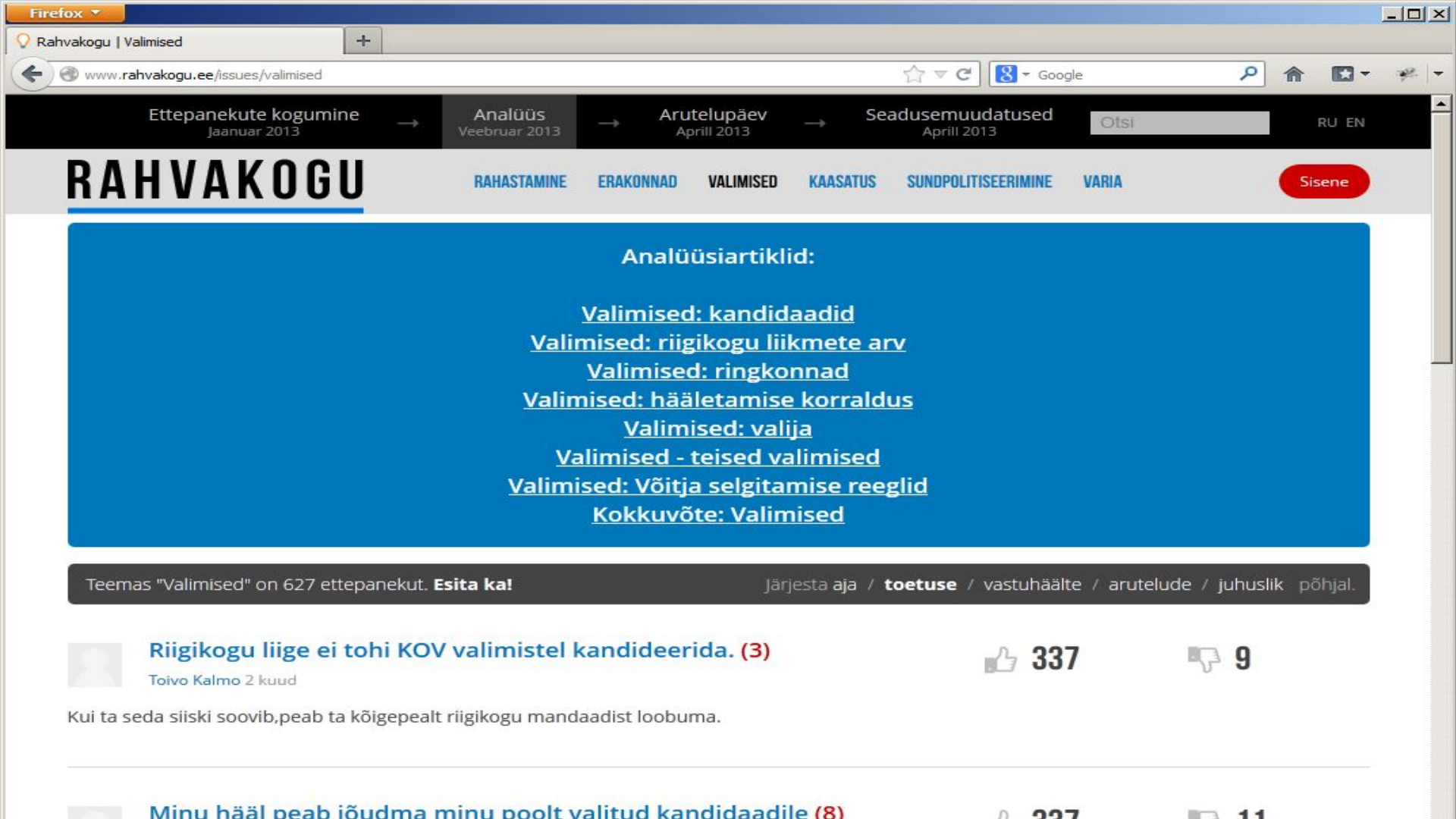


- **Use the best citizens ideas on a regular basis, not only talk about it but do it**
- Use examples of successful projects to show value, build trust and increase participation
- **If citizens don't know the results it will be hard to get more participation from them**



# Rahvakogu - Estonian reforms

- After political scandals in Estonia in 2012 grassroots NGOs and President of Estonia lead a law reform project
- **In 2014 over 50.000 people took part and sent in over 2000 proposals with Your Priorities**
- 7 of 15 top ideas are now in Estonian law



# RAHVAKOGU

- RAHASTAMINE
- ERAKONNAD
- VALIMISED
- KAASATUS
- SUNDPOLITISEERIMINE
- VARIA

Sisene

## Analüüsiartiklid:

- [Valimised: kandidaadid](#)
- [Valimised: riigikogu liikmete arv](#)
- [Valimised: ringkonnad](#)
- [Valimised: hääletamise korraldus](#)
- [Valimised: valija](#)
- [Valimised - teised valimised](#)
- [Valimised: Võitja selgitamise reeglid](#)
- [Kokkuvõte: Valimised](#)

Teemas "Valimised" on 627 ettepanekut. **Esita ka!**

Järjesta aja / **toetuse** / vastuhälte / arutelude / juhuslik põhjal.



**Riigikogu liige ei tohi KOV valimistel kandideerida. (3)**

Toivo Kalmo 2 kuud

337

9

Kui ta seda siiski soovib, peab ta kõigepealt riigikogu mandaadist loobuma.



**Minu hää! peab jõudma minu poolt valitud kandidaadile (8)**

227

11

# Pirate Party united



- **Icelandic Pirate Party called out with Your Priorities for its grassroots priorities**
- **It's members are very diverse with many very different views**
- The top ideas were then approved with a large majority at its annual meeting



## New constitution



Following the financial collapse in 2008 began a major debate about the need to create a new social contract to reflect the will of the people had made a new constitution. The process began with efforts enable the most with. Parliament called for the will of the people, followed by a referendum and got a decisive conclusion then was ignored. The modern constitution brings, among other things, power to the people was buried in authority. Time has come to respect the will of the people.



## Strengthening democracy at every level.



Public participation in decisions taken by the state, municipalities and co-owned (nk matricies) is low. Availability and access are generally bad, it is difficult to find information on how the acquisition takes place on the sandbank and thereby affect the progress. This can change the Pirate Party and had the support of núliggjandi data in this work. The proposal is that we work a frame, a kind of democracy glasses, which can be applied anywhere in the administration to assess the level of democracy and to provide redress



## Participation of young people

It is a priority to get young people to exercise their right to vote. It is



# Girraween Public School

- A class of 11 year olds has free time every week
- **They used Your Priorities to collect ideas from class who also vote on the ideas**
- Top idea is done in next free school time
- **'It allows people to be heard'**





„This site is democratic as it gives us the chance to embrace our opinions. It allows people to be heard. I think it is a great way to vote on things we think are beneficial for our classroom.”

Casey Lieu, 11 years old student, Australia.

Your Priorities e-democracy applied to class priorities in Australian school

# Open Active Voting software

- **We use a specially designed software for the voting process, Open Active Voting**
- **It's also open source, it has to be**
- Our 2016 version is mobile friendly, fun to use and play with



# Why Open Active Voting



- Give citizens direct influence on part of a government budget
- Educate citizens on how much things cost and what it means to have a budget
- Build up trust and take better decision in cooperation with citizens





# OKKAR KÓPAVOGUR

Choose a neighbourhood to cast your vote. 200 million have been allocated proportionately.

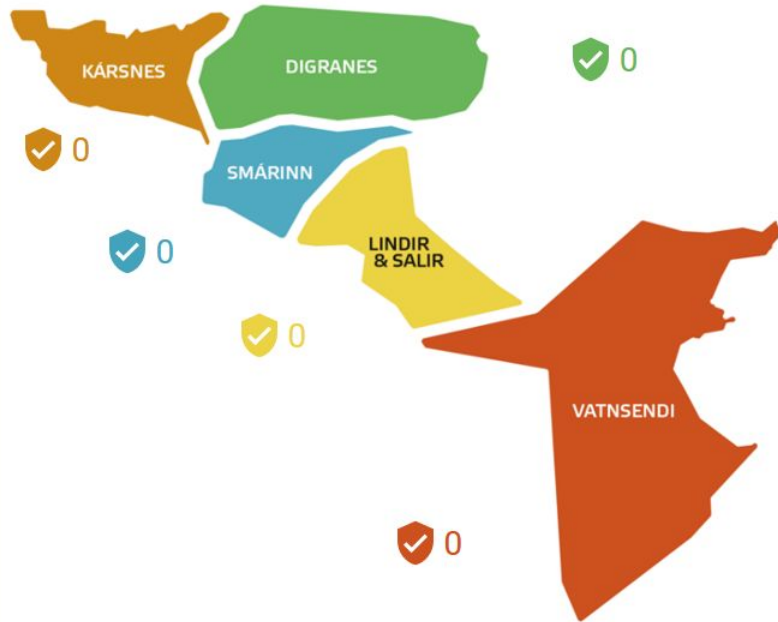
Íslenska



1 HUGMYND

2 KOSNING

3 FRAMKVÆMD





OKKAR  
KÓPAVOGUR

Vote ideas for Digranes  
64 millions left

VOTE!



No items selected

Digranes - Ideas

Maps



Walking and cycling path east of Engihjalli

17 millions



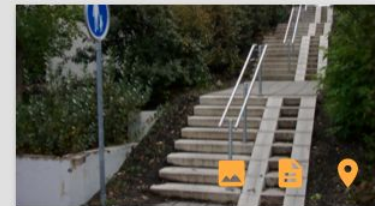
Sand volleyball court in Fagrilundur

6 millions



Basketball court by Snælandsskóli

12 millions



Path with steps between Selbrekka and Lundarbrekka

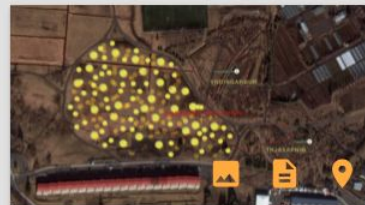
5 millions



A Skólahreysti course at Snælandsskóli



Improve facilities at Hlíðargarður



Plant trees in Fossvogsdalur



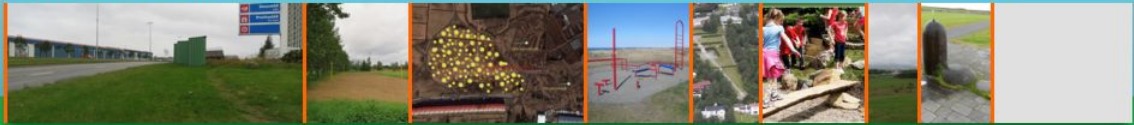
Fitness equipment in Kópavogsdalur



OKKAR  
KÓPAVOGUR

You have selected 8 for a total of 56 millions  
8 millions left

VOTE!



Walking and cycling path east of Engihjalli

17 millions



Sand volleyball court in Fagrilundur

6 millions



Basketball court by Snælandsskóli

12 millions



Path with steps between Selbrekka and Lundarbrekka

5 millions



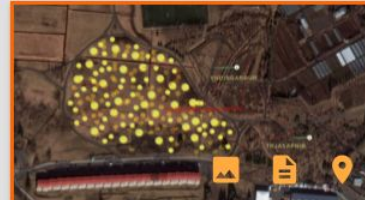
A Skólahreysti course at Snælandsskóli

6 millions



Improve facilities at Hlíðargarður

4 millions



Plant trees in Fossvogsdalur

10 millions



Fitness equipment in Kópavogsdalur

6 millions



Vote ideas for Digranes  
64 millions left

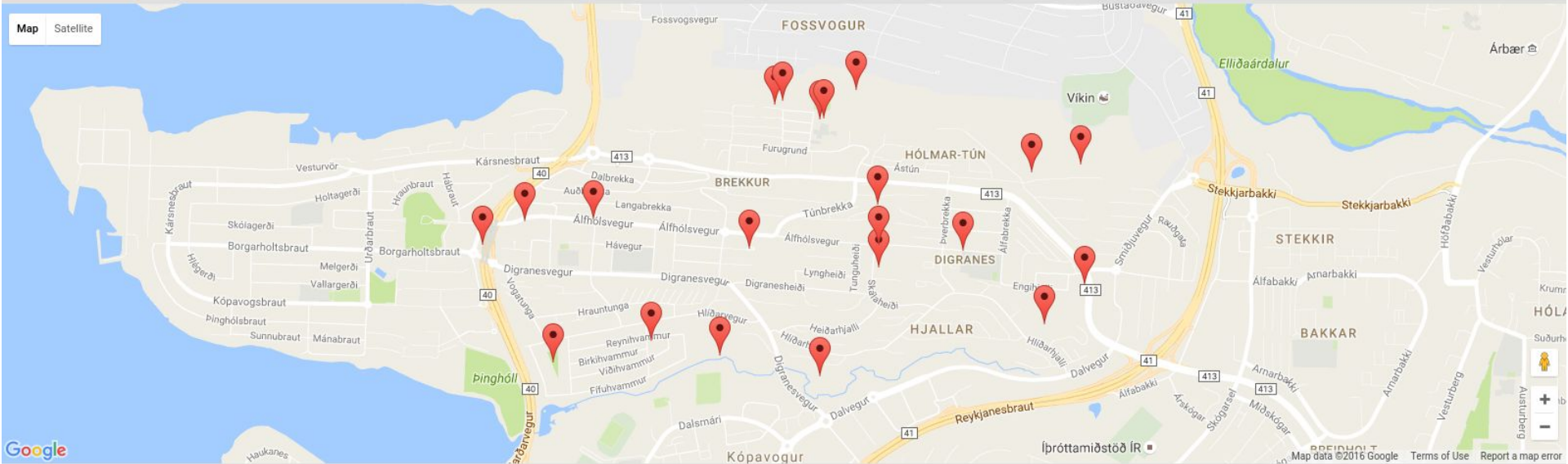
VOTE!



No items selected

### Digranes - Ideas

### Maps

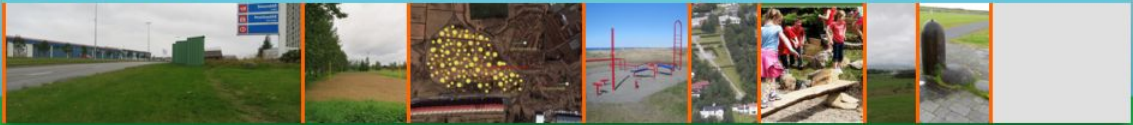




**OKKAR**  
KÓPAVOGUR

You have selected 8 for a total of 56 millions  
8 millions left

**VOTE!**



Digranes - Ideas

Maps

Map Satellite

Yströndin Nauthólsvík

Vesturhlá

Bústaðavegur

Ríkisútvarpið

Almgerði

Bústaðavegur

Fossvegur

Fossvogur

FOSSVOGUR

GERÐI

Langagerði

Bústaðavegur

Ástún

HÓLMAR-TÚN

BREKKUR

Túnbrekka

DIGRANES

STEKKIR

Stekkjarkakki

Stekkjarkakki

Árbær

Reykjavík

Bildshöfði

Axarhöfði

Strengu

Elliðaárdalur

Vikin

Malarhöfði

Álfabakk

Map data ©2016 Google

Terms of Use

Report a map error

**Bicycle shed at Hálsatorg**

10 millions

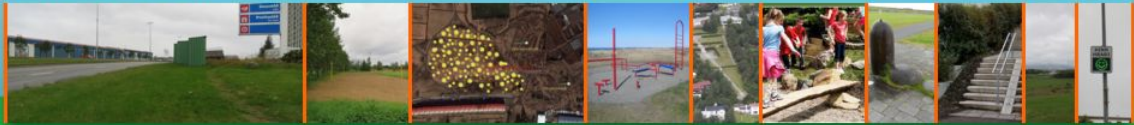
+





You have selected 10 for a total of 64 millions  
0 millions left

VOTE!



Improve pedestrian routes by the pedestrian lights at Álfrólsvegur/Skólatröð

**6 millions** +



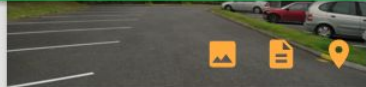
A Skólahreysti course at Álfrólsskóli

**10 millions** +



Small football pitch with artificial turf

**15 millions** +



Improve safety for pedestrians by the nursery Kópahvoll

**4 millions** +



Play and rest area in Fossvogsdalur

**11 millions** +



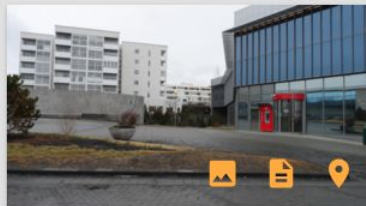
Radar speed sign by Álfrólsvegur

**3 millions** -



Basketball court below Engihjalli

**14 millions** +



Bicycle shed at Hálsatorg

**10 millions** +



## Takk fyrir þátttökuna!

Atkvæði þitt hefur verið mótttekið og þú hefur verið skráð(ur) út.

Þú getur kosið aftur en síðasta kosning gildir. Kosningu lýkur 4. september. Niðurstöður kosninga verða birtar á heimasíðu Kópavogsbæjar.

👍 Líkar þetta 0

Deila

Vote ideas for Kársnes peninsula

# PB projects in Iceland

- **Better Neighbourhoods in Reykjavik from 2011 to 2016**
- **Our Kópavogur 2016**
  - Neighbor town of Reykjavik is giving its citizens a choice for the first time
  - 12.5% participation 1st year



# PB projects in Europe

- **Scotland, Fife and more**
- Maribor, Slovenia
- **DecideMadrid, Spain**
  - Consulting not using Open Active Voting
- Miskolc, Hungary
- **Pula, Croatia**



# Better Neighbourhoods

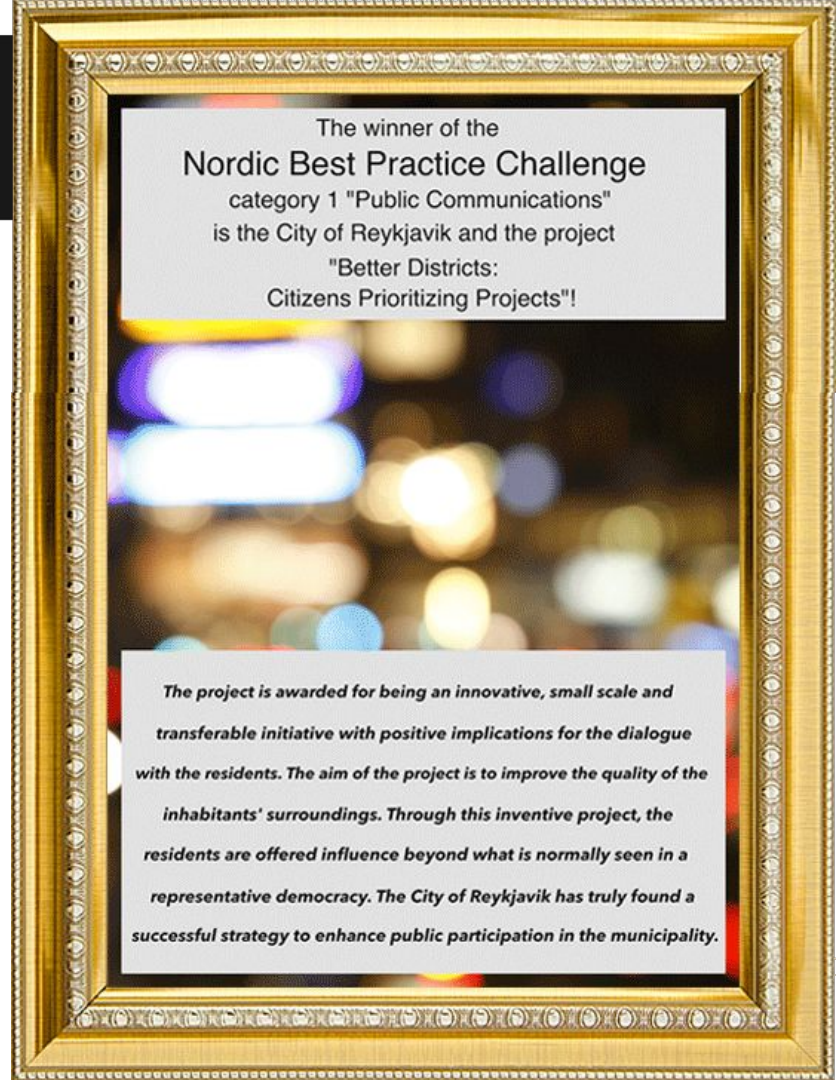
- Participatory budgeting (PB) in Reykjavik, capital of Iceland from 2011 to 2016
- **450 million ISK (3m EUR) in 2016**
- Ideas from citizens on how to improve the neighbourhoods of Reykjavik



# Best Practice 2015

## Better Neighborhoods won the Nordic Best Practice Challenge in category 1 "Public Communications"

“The aim of the project is to improve the quality of the inhabitants surroundings. Through this inventive project, the residents are offered influence beyond what is normally seen in a representative democracy.”



# Better Neighbourhoods process

- 1. Citizens submit their ideas**
2. City of Reykjavik evaluates their cost
- 3. Citizens vote on the ideas**
4. City of Reykjavik executes them
- 5. Citizens use the results**



# What is it and how does it work?

- **The mission is to improve the city of Reykjavik according to the wishes of its citizens**
- Each voter has the same budget amount as the total and chooses which projects she wants to vote for
- **Our e-voting software teaches citizens the realities of budgeting**





### Hverfið mitt 2016

Opið fyrir hugmyndir að nýframkvæmdum og viðhaldsverkefnum í Reykjavík. Þú getur sett inn eins margar hugmyndir og þú vilt, hvar sem er í borginni. Opið er fyrir hugmyndir til 15. júní 2016

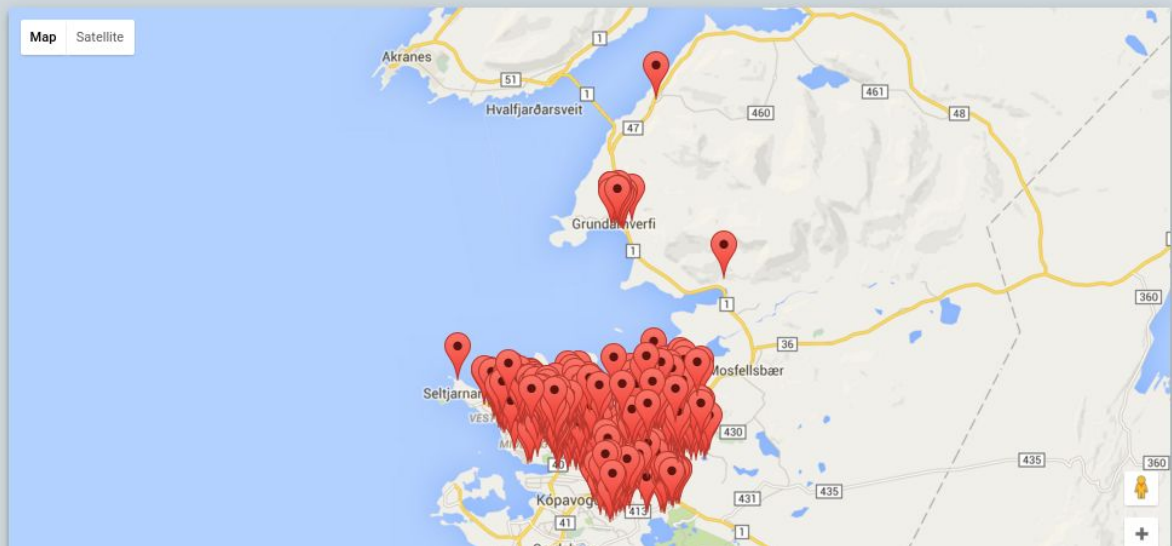
💡 760 👤 10 😊 3,175

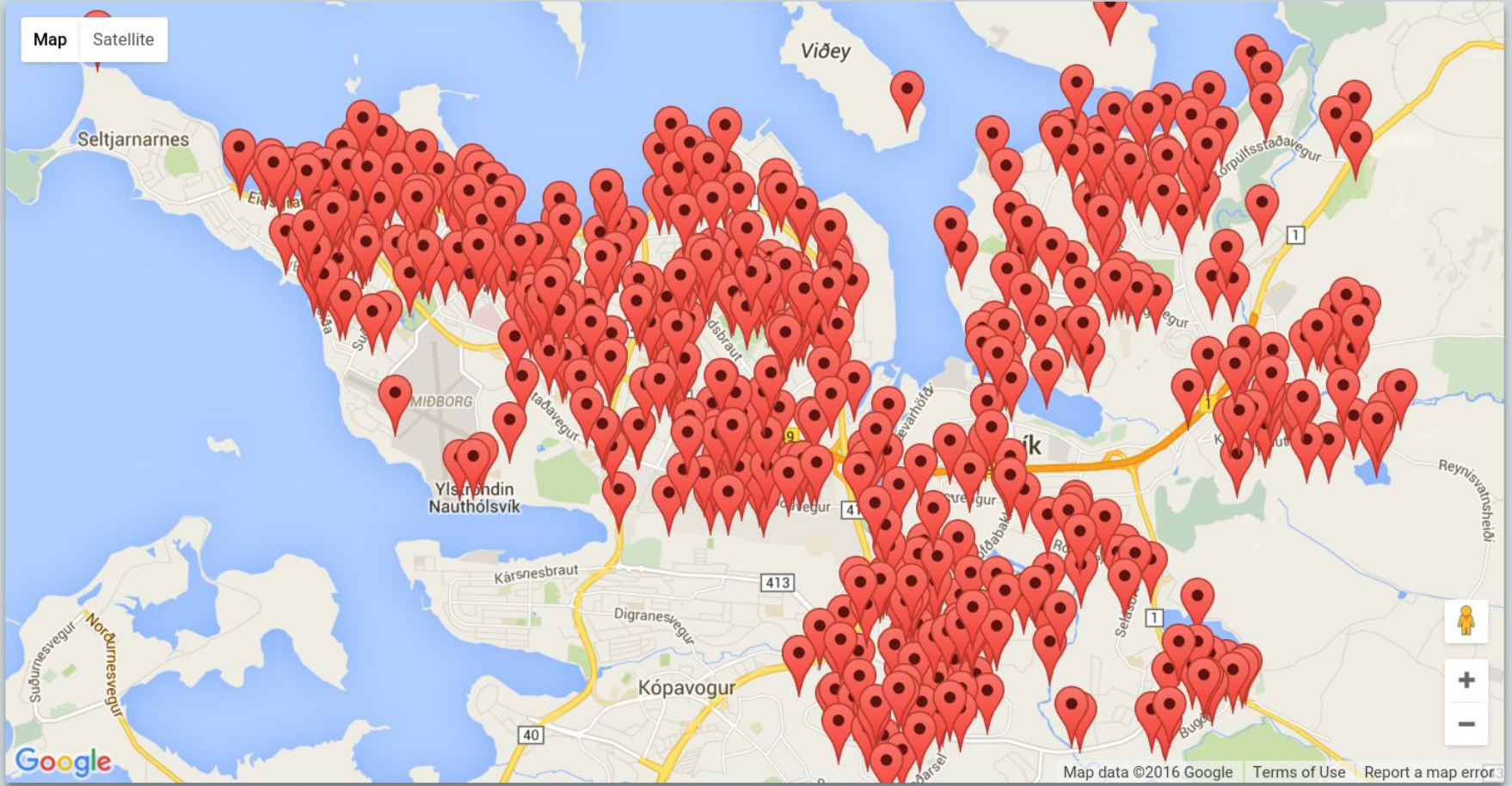


GROUPS (10)

NEWS

MAP



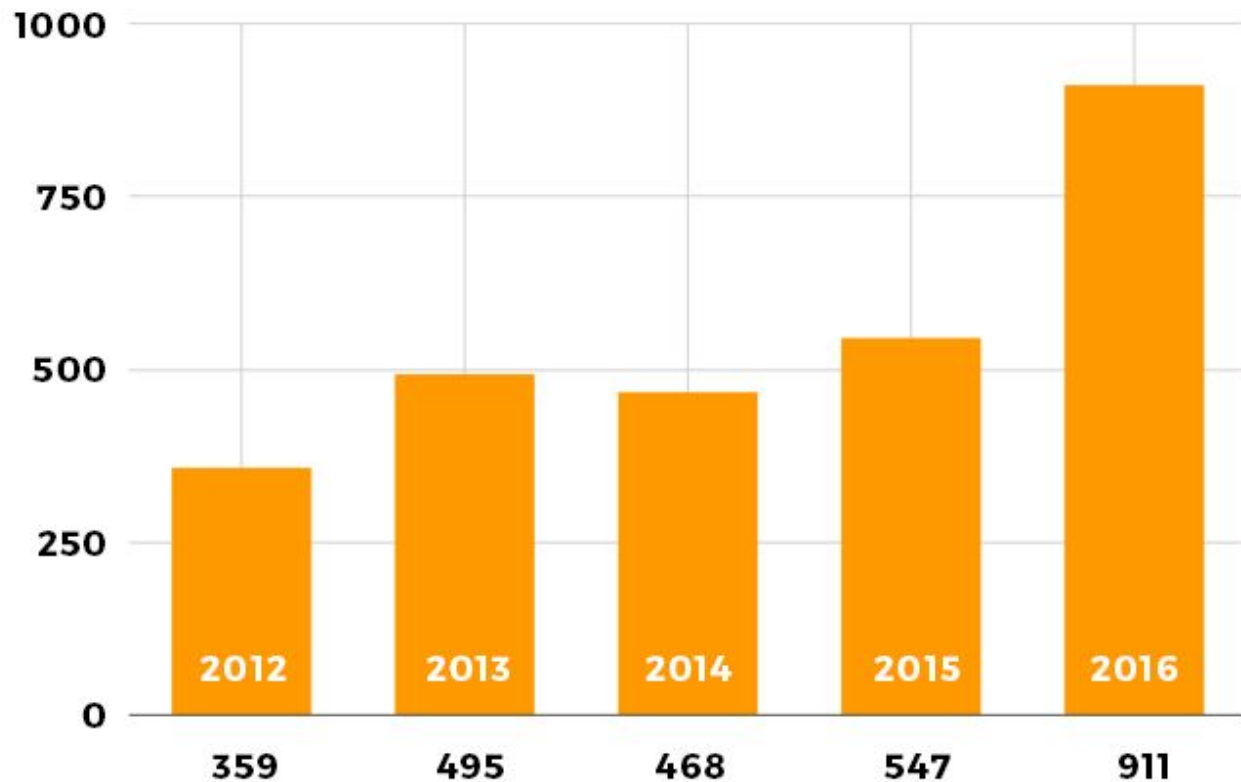


# In general

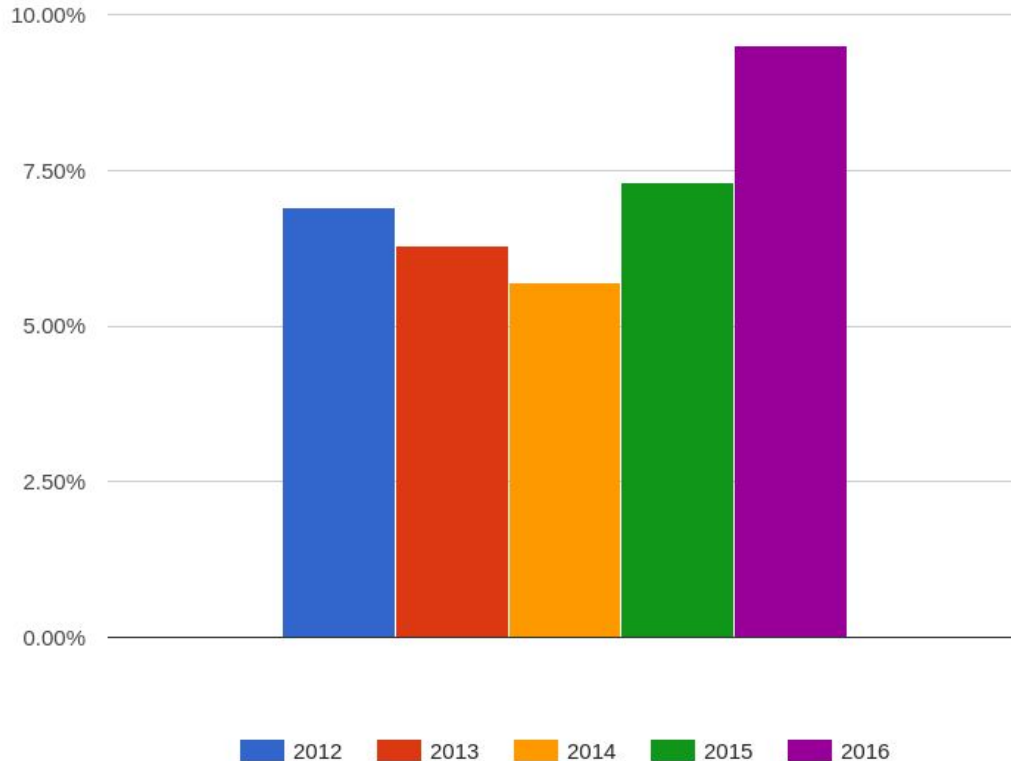
- **420 ideas have been approved by citizens in Better neighborhoods from 2012 - 2015**
- **The vote is electronic, binding and secure**
- All neighborhoods of Reykjavik have been improved visibly through Better Neighborhoods



# Better Reykjavik PB Ideas



# Participation statistics











# Active Citizen

- **Personal Artificial Intelligence** for citizens that helps you participate well with little time spent
- **Events and protests that merge offline with online** and combine the best features from each
- **Virtual Reality** for data visualization and online meetings



# Why Active Citizen



- Empower citizens democratically with Artificial Intelligence & VR
- Fight filter bubbles and biases with AI designed not to make money but to help citizens understand the world based on their real needs
- Use Virtual Reality to connect citizens



# Active Citizen AI Notifications

- Reduce participation friction by sending citizens notifications on relevant issues
- Helps citizens to serve their democratic interests online, notify them about opportunities to participate
- **Informative, useful but not intrusive**



# Active Citizen - NHS Citizen

- UK National Health Service used Your Priorities to connect with its customers
- **We use Artificial Intelligence to analyze the ideas and find news stories that are relevant to them**



Overview ▾

Next: Fines for missed appointments!



## All GP Patients automatically Opted Out of care.data

Change the current NHS England proposals to automatically collect data from GP patient records unless patients 'opt out'.

This is called automatically 'opted in'. The care.data project will then harvest GP data on a monthly basis and the data could be made available to private companies.

Add new point



Vote

UP 6

DOWN 7

Share

Tweet 16

Like 3

+1 0

Gunnar Grímsson



0 social points

Earn social points with constructive debate. Spend social points on promotions for ideas you like at the top of the page.

### Relevant news stories

Health data boom heralds new era of personalised medicine

Devon patients urged to opt out of data scheme

A&E: Some patients visit units 50 times a year

CQC 'to reveal NHS cover-up names' ministers say

GPs voice fears over giant patient records database

NHS waiting time data for elective surgery 'unreliable'

NHS targets review pledge by Carwyn Jones

Data-sharing 'good for patients'

Patients 'uninformed on data plan' | News | Health Service Journal

AI finds relevant news stories

### Irrespective of opt-out vs opt-in, consent must be informed

Much clearer explanation of the benefits, and risks of the sharing of their data. Much more detail on when and how and why it will be shared, and the right to opt out again.

### We should give consent to our data being collected

A basic principle of medical ethics is 'informed consent'. This means patients should always be

### Allow individual citizens online access to their own data

No data should be collected, unless the patient also has online access to all their own data. It seems totally unethical that data is collected about me and shared with 3rd parties, but I am not given access. Not only does this reduce safety for the patient, it also facilitates the collection of data which may be inaccurate (the patient would have the motivation to ensure that their data was checked and considered accurate)

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**CITIZENS  
FOUNDATION**

**Thank you**