INTRODUCING INTERNET VOTING – COMPLEXITIES AND COSTS
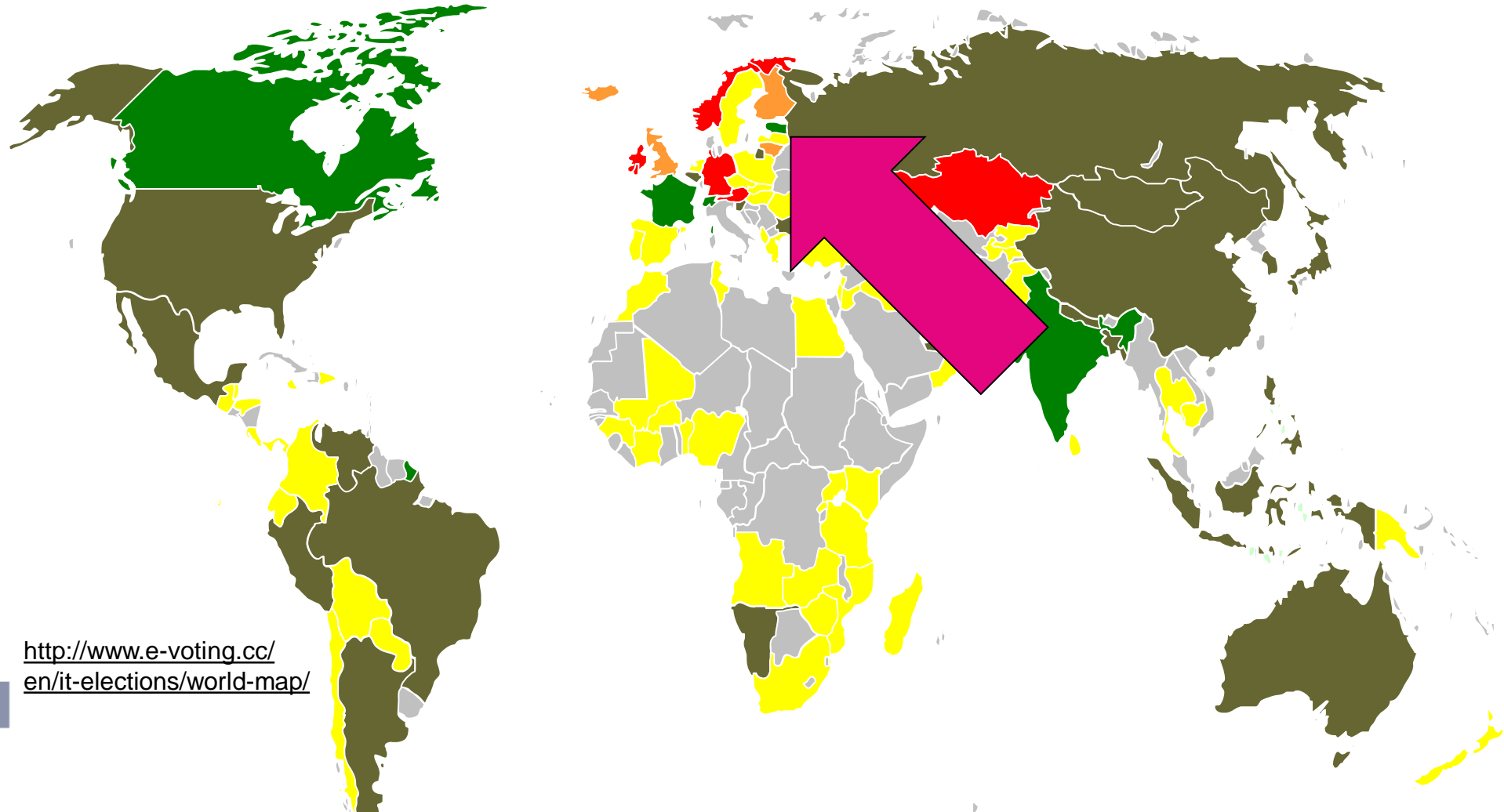
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Worldmap of E-Voting

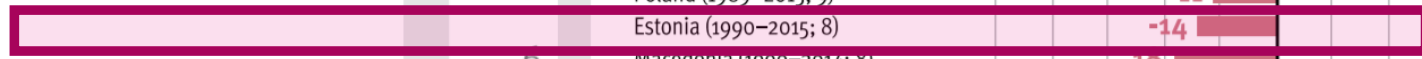http://www.e-voting.cc/
en/it-elections/world-map/
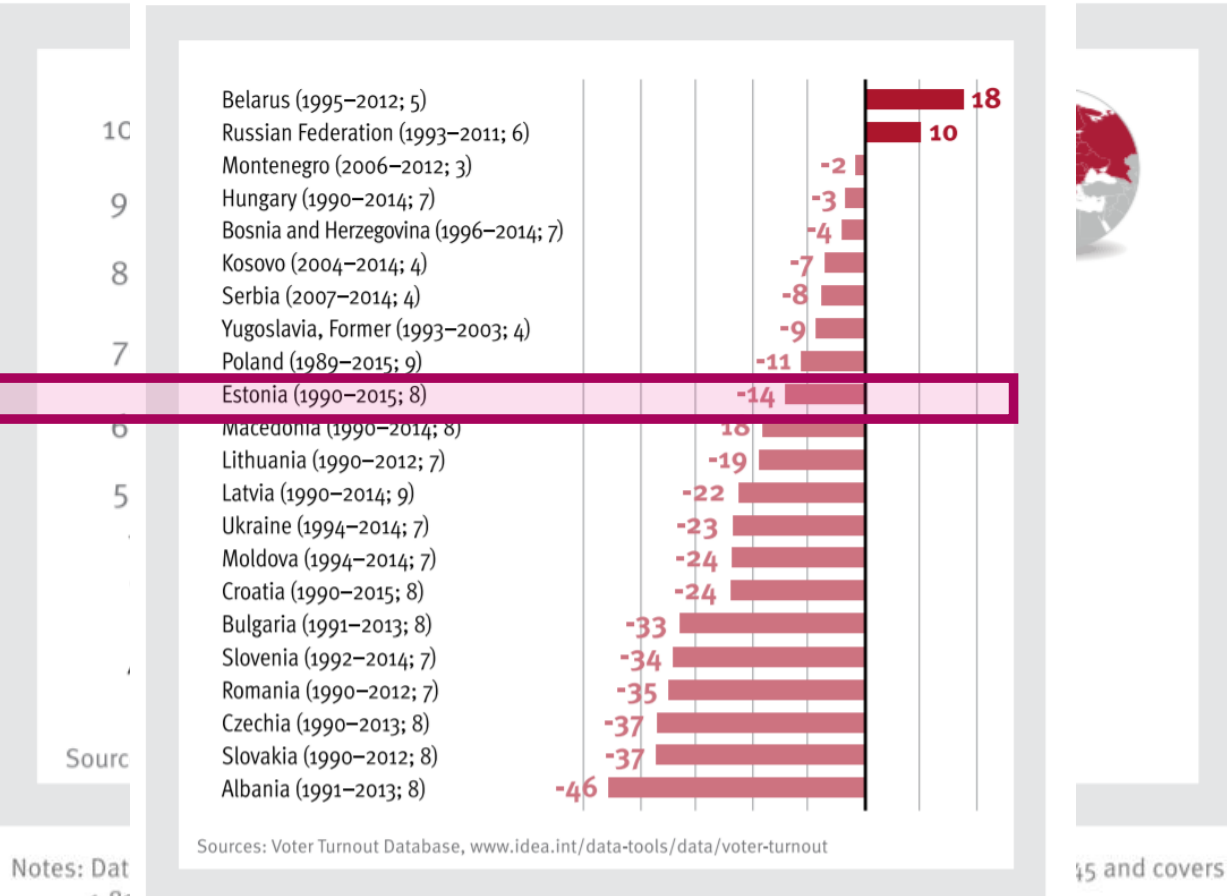
WHY REFORMING ELECTIONS?

Reason 1: Alternative Voting Systems to confront turnout decline

General tendency of declining turnouts around the globe

Yes, also in Estonia

Solijonov, A. (2016). Voter Turnout Trends around the World. *International IDEA*. https://doi.org/10.1189/jlb.1212633\rjlb.1212633

Belarus (1995–2012; 5)	18
Russian Federation (1993–2011; 6)	10
Montenegro (2006–2012; 3)	-2
Hungary (1990–2014; 7)	-3
Bosnia and Herzegovina (1996–2014; 7)	-4
Kosovo (2004–2014; 4)	-7
Serbia (2007–2014; 4)	-8
Yugoslavia, Former (1993–2003; 4)	-9
Poland (1989–2015; 9)	-11
Estonia (1990–2015; 8)	-14
Macedonia (1990–2014; 8)	18
Lithuania (1990–2012; 7)	-19
Latvia (1990–2014; 9)	-22
Ukraine (1994–2014; 7)	-23
Moldova (1994–2014; 7)	-24
Croatia (1990–2015; 8)	-24
Bulgaria (1991–2013; 8)	-33
Slovenia (1992–2014; 7)	-34
Romania (1990–2012; 7)	-35
Czechia (1990–2013; 8)	-37
Slovakia (1990–2012; 8)	-37
Albania (1991–2013; 8)	-46

Sources: Voter Turnout Database, www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout

Notes: Figures in brackets show the years in which the elections were held and the number of parliamentary elections held between those years.

HOW?

Alternative Voting Systems to confront turnout decline

General tendency of declining turnouts around the globe

Test and implementation of improvements to traditional Voting Systems, searching for the **voters' convenience**

Adapting administrative rules and procedures to allow citizens to cast their votes in different moments during the voting period

Use of different voting channels to increase the convenience of voting

Complexity

PROBLEMS WHEN INTRODUCING INTERNET VOTING

- Transformation
- Timeline
- Feasibility Studies
- Legislation
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Training
- Certification
- Oversight and Management

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BUT

Unsolved question in Estonia + Academia

Questions raised by Wolfgang Drechsler:

1) Are the effects of e-voting really beneficial for Democracy?

2) Will e-voting increase voter turnout?

3) How high are the costs really?

Drechsler, W. (2004). The Estonian e-Voting Laws Discourse: Paradigmatic Benchmarking for Central and Eastern Europe. *NISPAcee Occasional Papers,* V (2): 11-17

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5 STEPS

1. Narrowing the Electoral Cycle

2. Process Mapping, Business Process Modelling and Data Collection

3. Lists of Activities and Identifying Resource Pools

4. Attributing Costs

5. Transferring Costs

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FINDINGS

Calculation of cost-efficiency

Cost Range per Ballot (in €) for the Analysed Period		
	Min.	**Max.**
Advance Voting in County Centers	5,48	5,92
Advance Voting in Ordinary Polling Stations	16,24	17,36
Early Voting in County Centers	5,83	6,30
Election Day Voting in County Centers	4,97	5,58
Election day Voting in Ordinary Polling Stations	2,83	3,01
Internet Voting	2,17	2,26

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CONCLUSIONS

- **Proportionality?**
  New Voting Technologies **can** be applied in many ways

- While they are **new** they still have to **fulfill** the **existing commitments** and standards

- Not a uniform trend, it is not a **must**

- Trust needs to be established by **maximum transparency**

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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