INTRODUCING INTERNET VOTING – COMPLEXITIES AND COSTS

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Why Reforming Elections?

Reason 1: Alternative Voting Systems to confront turnout decline

General tendency of declining turnouts around the globe

Yes, also in Estonia

jlb.1212633
**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
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?
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
### Calculation of cost-efficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Range per Ballot (in €) for the Analysed Period</th>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>Max.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advance Voting in County Centers</td>
<td>5,48</td>
<td>5,92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advance Voting in Ordinary Polling Stations</td>
<td>16,24</td>
<td>17,36</td>
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<td>Early Voting in County Centers</td>
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<td>6,30</td>
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<td>Election Day Voting in County Centers</td>
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<td>5,58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Election day Voting in Ordinary Polling Stations</td>
<td>2,83</td>
<td>3,01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet Voting</td>
<td>2,17</td>
<td>2,26</td>
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</table>
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*
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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