# Decentralised Citizens Engagement Technologies

Finnish pilot

Joonas Pekkanen, Forum Virium Helsinki

Jaakko Korhonen, Open Knowledge Finland





#### Finnish Pilots

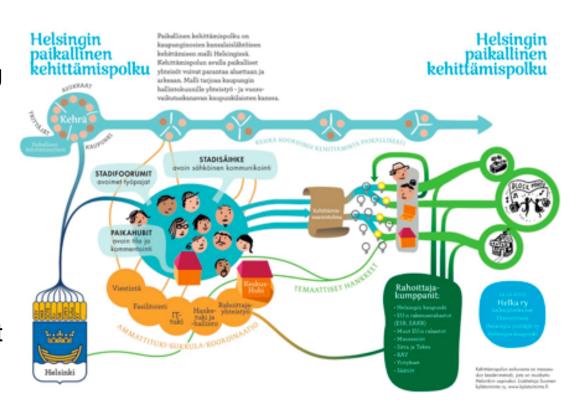
- D-CENT's collaboration with citizen collectives and initiatives in Finland has been well prepared
- Work has started with the neighbourhood / city activists through cooperation with Helka
- Preparations with other user groups (e.g. the youth activists, citizen initiative campaigns in Open Ministry, and the City of Helsinki)







- Helsinki Neighbourhoods Association
- mission to activate and bring together residents and local actors in the Helsinki City area.
- Central task of Helka is to convey information and to enhance dialogue between the City of Helsinki and its residents.
- A new model introduced, but still lacking an online platform.





#### Helka pilot user story

#### This pilot will enable citizens to:

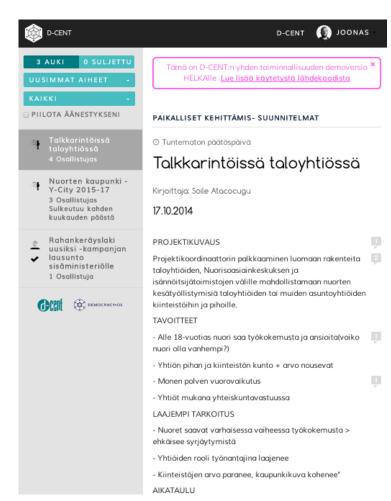
- Create projects and interest groups around certain thematic areas (e.g. municipal suggestions on how to improve the neighbourhood or the municipality, arranging a local garden party or flea market, etc).
- Invite friends and share the project (including sharing to other social media)
- Create co-edited and co-annotated documents (such as event planning documents, marketing materials, press releases, FOI requests, law proposals)
- Create and assign tasks among group members (i.e. for the campaign core group to manage their internal work flow)



### Helka pilot stages

- Helka project coordinators have been involved closely in the project - contact / meetings every 1-2 weeks throughout the project.
- Helped Helka to recruit a technical team member, who has now acquainted himself with the D-CENT project and is ready to act as local technical support to roll-out the features of the platform to test users in the neighbourhood groups as the projects matures
- A Finnish language instance of the pilot platform (based on the DemocracyOS cadebase) was set up at

<a href="http://finnish-democracyos.herokuapp.com/">http://finnish-democracyos.herokuapp.com/</a>









#### Helka pilot stages

- A pilot user group of seasoned citizen activists from different neighbourhoods accross the city gathered for the first time last week 8th Dec
- Learn fast! We received an extensive list of feature requests and bug fixes to the pilot
- The pilot users were excited about the vision of D-CENT, found the pilot annotation tool already useful and will be actively taking part in testing and inputting to the development work of D-CENT
- Next workshop with the users in Mid January

- 1. Password complexity requirement Help Text missing.
- Message-window, i.e. Toastr, location changes, and users stop to inspect the window with confusion.
- Scrolling is not fluent. People appear bored while scrolling, and forget what they were doing.
- Users cannot intuitively find annotation. The mouseover activation is not familiar to all users.
- 5. The Annotation icon lacks contrast to be noticed by elderly users.
- The text lacks contrast to be noticed by elderly users and with older laptop screens.
- Submit registration -button cannot be seen with a Windows Mobile phone with IE10.
- 8. Annotation is not saved with an enter-button.
- Annotation submission link is not recognized by user, and the text lacks in readability, especially with elderly users and with older laptop screens.
- Users stop using the service to complain they are bored with scrolling.
- Sub-headers are not formatted, so cursively parsing through the text is cognitively consuming.
- IE stretches the D-CENT logo in bottom left corner.
- Android 4.1.2 default browser would not respond when pressing the mobile menu-button.
- 14. When editing a comment, the button says "Edit" instead of "Save".
- Users get confused when same media, formatting photos, etc are not supported in all data elements, namely Annotations, Comments and Article.
- 16. When user adds a keyword, system announces "Keywords saved", but when viewing keywords in keyword list, they are not visible. This suggests Notification Engine does not have keywords to consume, and cannot deliver value for the user.
- 17. After commenting, users' Annotations are hidden, and can be only viewed if user remembers where they saved the Annotations. This results



#### Citizens Initiative user story



- Open Ministry has been helping citizen campaigns put law proposals into Parliament since a constitutional amendment made it possible in 2012.
- It has been involved in 5 of the 6 initiatives that have so far reached the 50 000 supporter threshold and have been handed into Parliament.
- On November 28th 2014 the biggest initiative to date and one launched from the Open Ministry became the first citizen initiative in history to be accepted by the Parliament.
- The Finnish Parliament voted 105 "in favour" and 92 "against" for the equal marriage law proposal giving gays and lesbians equal marriage rights.



### Citizens Initiative Campaigns

- The D-CENT tools will be rolled out to citizens planning and executing their campaigns during 2015.
- Several large campaigns including one to "Stop Irresponsible Arms Trade" to be launched in the first quarter of 2015.
- The D-CENT tools enable concerned citizens to attract others to collaborate online to plan an initiative and to execute the 6 month campaign
- The tools may be integrated to the Ministry of Justice's online signing platform at a later stage to enable smooth user experience for the general public (on the MoJ's technical roadmap)



#### Other pilot user groups

- We have worked with a large number of other pilot user groups in Helsinki to prepare the ground for wide-scale adoption of D-CENT tehnologies once Thoughtworks roll out more features
- In most Finnish use cases the grass-roots movements are linked to formal decision making (e.g. making an initiative or suggestion to parliament or the city)









# Thank you for your time

Website: dcentproject.eu

Twitter: @dcentproject

Vimeo: vimeo.com/dcentproject

**Slideshare:** slideshare.net/dcentproject

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