ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT

DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Aivar Rahno

Government Secretariat
Government Office of Estonia













Composition of the Government

There can be up to 15 members of the Government.

Currently there are 15:
the Prime Minister and the ministers of ..

- Education and Research
- Justice
- Defence
- Environment
- Culture
- Economic Affairs and Infrastructure
- Rural Affairs

- Finance
- Internal Affairs
- Social Protection
- Health and Labour
- Foreign Affairs
- Entrepreneurship
- Public Administration

There are 11 ministries:

- Education and Research
- Justice
- Defence
- Environment
- Culture
- Economic Affairs and Communications

- Agriculture
- Finance
- Internal Affairs
- Social Affairs
- Foreign Affairs

Government sessions and cabinet meetings

The Government as a collective body has two main work formats:

Government sessions (Thursdays at 10 a.m):

- Legal acts are adopted and other formal decisions taken.
- Very limited discussion of agenda items.
- Official, strict procedures.
- Formal atmosphere.

<u>Cabinet meetings</u> (Thursdays at 4 p.m, or right after a session):

- Substantial political and policy discussions.
- No officially binding decisions.
- Informal atmosphere.

Some Characteristics

- Coalition government
- Principle of consensus within the Government
 - already a tradition on the Cabinet level;
 - strong emphasis also on lower levels
- Limited formal powers of the PM
 - right to decide over the agenda

INFORMATION SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING

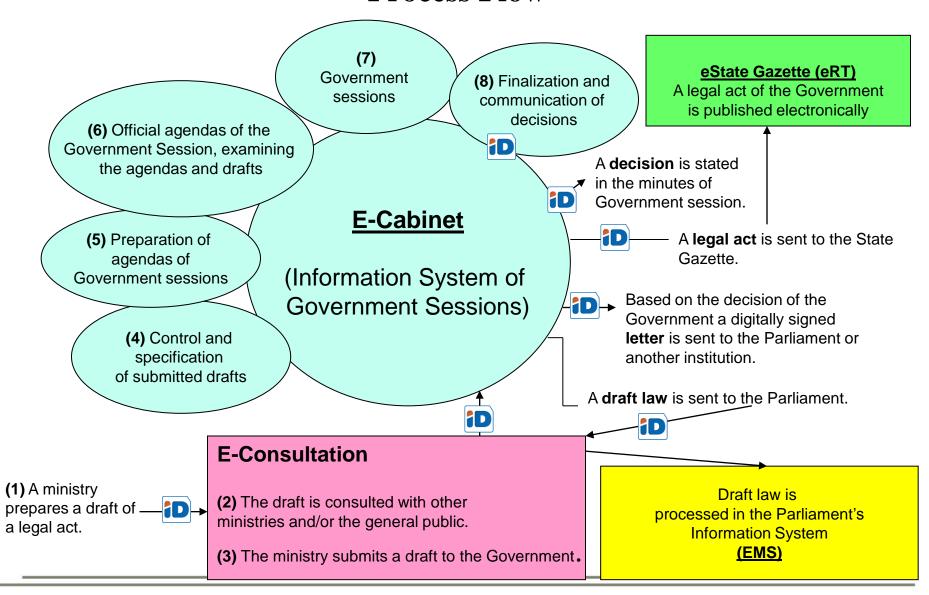
- e-Cabinet
- e-Consultation
- Data Exchange Layer X-Road
- Document Exchange Centre
- ID-card and digital signature infrastructure
- Document management systems of ministries and the Government Office
- Parliament's Information System for Draft Legal Acts
- E-State Gazette
- Government's website <u>www.gov.ee</u>

e-Consultation and e-Cabinet

Two information systems (IS) are administered by the Government Office:

- e-Consultation:
- procedures <u>before</u> a draft is submitted to the Government (public and inter-ministerial consultations, submissions)
- open system (officials and the general public)
- e-Cabinet:
- used for Government sessions
- <u>closed</u> IS (ministers and officials)

Process Flow



Advantages of ID-card / mobile ID

- Security ↑
 - information systems
 - documents
- Speed ↑
- Costs \



e-Consultation

Information System for Draft Legal Acts Eelnõude infosüsteem (EIS)

eelnoud.valitsus.ee

Both Estonian and European Union draft legal acts

Used for:

- inter-ministerial consultations,
- public consultations;
- submission of drafts to the Government and the *Riigikogu*.

- Possibilities for citizens and organizations to:
 - add their comments;
 - keep themselves informed on new drafts, changes etc.

e-Consultation

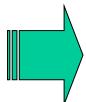
- Introduced in April 2011
- Replaced three former IS's:
 - E-õigus IS for inter-ministerial consultation of draft legal acts
 - ELIS IS for inter-ministerial consultation of EU affairs
 - E-esitamine IS system for submission of drafts to the Government
- Interlinked to the IS for public consultations (osalusveeb) www.osale.ee
- Interlinked with the State Gazette: www.riigiteataja.ee

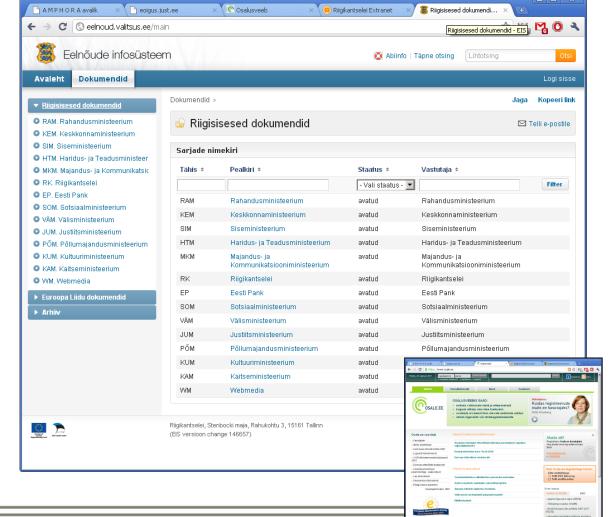
e-Consultation













Avaleht

Täpne otsing

Eelnõude infosüsteem (EIS) Eelnõude infosüsteem on töökeskkond riigisiseste õigusaktide ja muude dokumentide eelnõude ning Euroopa Liidu otsustusprotsessiga seonduvate dokumentide edastamiseks ja ri Eelnõude infosüsteemis saab dokumentidega tutvuda, nende kohta arvamust avaldada, neid kooskõlastada ning esitada.

Avalikku konsultatsiooni saadetud eelnõu toimikud Liik Pealkiri + Number + Algataja viide \$ Algatatud * Tähtaeg # Staatus # Kooskõlastamisele saadetud eelnõu toimikud Pealkiri + Number + Algatatud ▼ Tähtaeg # Staatus # Liik + Algataja viide KEM/11-Nõuded Keskkonnaametile elektroonilisel teel esitatavate dokumentide formaadi ja 06.05.2011 13.05.2011 Teostamisel Ministri määi allkirjastamise ning elektroonilise teabevahetuse kohta 0158 Kaitseväe kasutamine Eesti riigi rahvusvaheliste kohustuste täitmisel KAM/11-05.05.2011 09.05.2011 Teostamisel Riigikogu ots 0100 õhuturbemissioonil Islandil Regionaalministri 07.01.2005 määruse nr 3 "Rahvastikuregistrisse kandmiseks SIM/11-0152 1-6/101-1 12.05.2011 Teostamisel Ministri määi 05.05.2011 üleantavate andmete loetelu andmeandjate kaupa" muutmine" eelnõu. Vabariigi Valitsuse määruse "Alarm- ja jälitussõidukite loetelu ning nende tähistamise SIM/10-0824 1-6/80-1 05.05.2011 19.05.2011 Teostamisel Vabariigi Val kord" eelnõu. määruse eel "Lennundusseaduse, meresõiduohutuse seaduse ja raudteeseaduse muutmise MKM/11-05.05.2011 19.05.2011 Teostamisel Seaduseelni seaduse* 0151 Kiirgusseaduse muutmise seadus KEM/11-04.05.2011 11.05.2011 Teostamisel Seaduseelni

Esitatud eelnõu toimikud			
Pealkiri ÷	Number \$	Algataja viide	Algatatud ▼
Vabariigi Valitsuse 5. augusti 2003. a korralduse nr 484-k "Kuriteoennetuse Nõukogu koosseisu nimetamine" muutmise eelnõu	JUM/11-0157		06.05.2011
Rahandusministri kaasallkirjastatud Vabariigi Valitsuse määruste muutmine ja kehtetuks tunnistamine seoses õigusaktide revisjoniga	RAM/11-0155		05.05.2011

















Põlevkiviplokkide investeeringute toetamisest



Seisukohad Euroopa Komisjoni rohelise raamatu "Käibemaksu tuleviku kohta" suhtes













0145



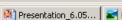


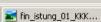


RAM/11-0153

MKM/11-0150







05.05.2011

05.05.2011



Staatus #

Esitatud

Esitatud

Esitatud

Esitatud

Using e-Consultation

- <u>Structure</u>: similar to a document registry
- <u>Access</u>: most documents are public, some are restricted (accessible to relevant officials only)
- Authentication: by ID-card or mobile-ID

Necessary in order to:

- 1) Post a comment,
- 2) Add documents, edit information,
- 3) See restricted documents.

e-Cabinet (VIIS)

Information System for the Sessions of the Government

- Used by the Government since 8
 August 2000 the Government's first session in Stenbock House
- Procured by the Government Office
- Provided by 4 Estonian IT companies
- New features added appr. once a year.

E-Cabinet is used for

- preparing the sessions of the Government:
 - sharing documents and information with ministries;
 - several preparatory meetings;
- conducting the sessions of the Government;
- keeping the digital archive of relevant documents.

In e-Cabinet a Minister can

- find session agendas, agenda items, documents (digital archive since 2000);
- read documents, summaries, decisions;
- mark his/her position and add comments for each agenda item;
- digitally sign documents.

Users of e-Cabinet

- members of the Government
- officials who are involved in the preparation of Government's decisions.

< 500 persons

Several user categories, different privileges.

Authentication

- ID-card;
- mobile ID;
- username & password.

ID-card or mobile ID:

- Preferred instruments of authentication.
- Necessary for digital signing.







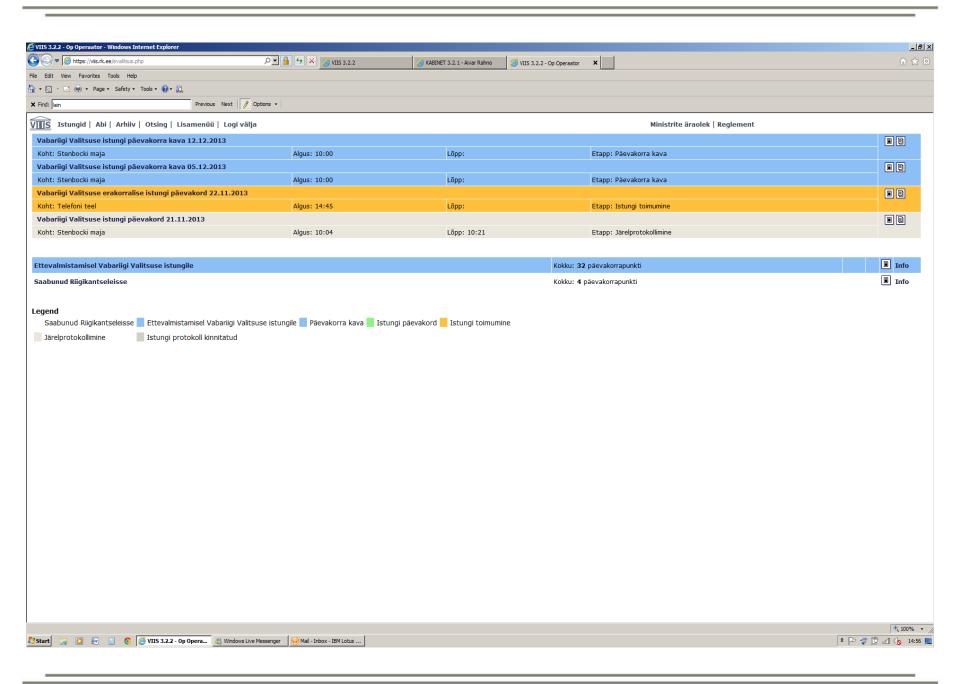
Logi sisse kasutades kasutajanime ja parooli

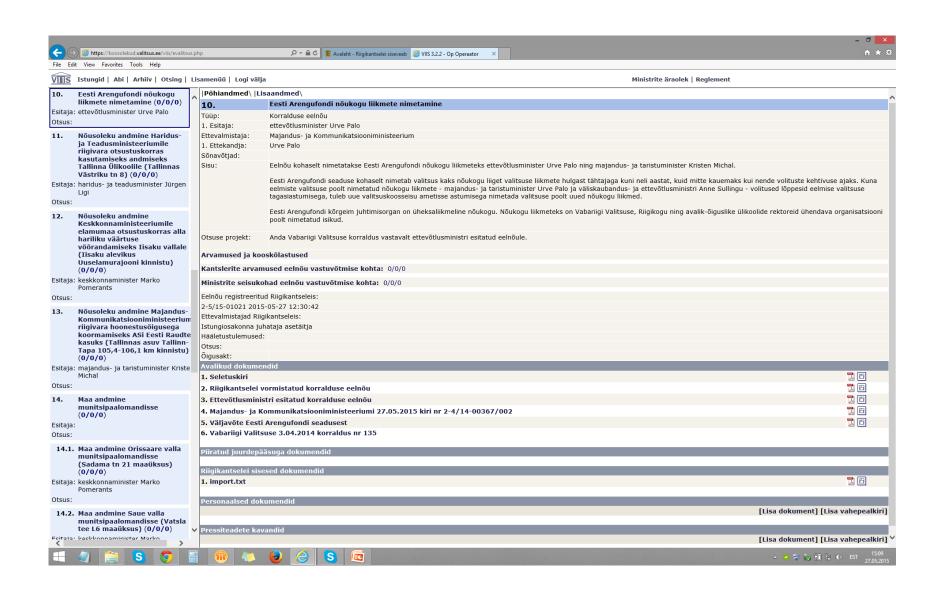
Structure

- Session agendas
 - Agenda items
 - Text fields (general information, summaries of content, draft decisions, final decisions)
 - Documents (drafts, explanatory memoranda, annexes, letters, links to legal acts and databases, background information etc).

Most documents are public, some are restricted.

Also: information on Ministers' presence/absence.





Why Was e-Cabinet Needed (Problems)?

From the Government Office's perspective:

While we used paper documents:

- 1) movement of information was slow;
- 2) occassional disorder of documents;
- 3) most agenda items were discussed;
- 4) Government meetings were too long (4-5 hrs).

What Did e-Cabinet Change?

After te introduction of e-Cabinet:

- 1) instant movement of information;
- 2) documents/information are well organised;
- 3) Government meetings are shorter (30 min);
- 4) much more preparation => very few agenda items are discussed.

Lessons Learned

- 1) Not just software, but processes: many (proven) practices have to change.
- 2) New questions emerge and have to be answered (digital archiving, data protection, user's privileges etc).
- 3) No information system is an island: it has to work together with others.

Lessons Learned

- 4) One vs many: too many information systems may become a major issue.
- 5) Keep it simple!
- 6) Influence of visible success stories: if the Ministers do, everybody should.

More on e-Cabinet

A video clip and background information in English:

https://riigikantselei.ee/en/organisation-workgovernment

THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?

